

Puri: College girl gangraped; 3 held

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Three months after a girl was sexually assaulted by 10 persons on Gopalpur beach, a 19-year-old college girl was allegedly gangraped near Baliharchandi temple under Brahmagiri police station in Puri, police said Monday.

Three persons have been arrested in this connection.

The incident took place around noon Saturday when the woman and her male companion had gone to a place near the temple to spend some time. A group of local youths clicked their pictures and asked for money from them. "When they refused, two persons raped the female student," Puri SP Praateek Singh said. Other members of the group had tied the hands of the male companion of the survivor before the gangrape, police said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



30K posts filled in 15 months: CM



CM Mohan Charan Majhi hands over an appointment letter to a new recruit at 11th Nijukti Mela in Bhubaneswar Monday. Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, SD&TE Minister Sampad Chandra Swain and FARD Minister Gokulananda Mallick are also seen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The state government has filled over 30,000 posts in various departments over the past 15 months through 11 recruitment drives, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said here Monday.

The CM said this at the 11th Nijukti Mela (recruitment fair)

organised at IDCO Exhibition Ground in the City wherein he handed over appointment letters to a total of 1,686 candidates who have been recruited across seven key government departments.

Health and Family Welfare department absorbed the largest number with 982 recruits, followed by Water Resources

(413), Skill Development and Technical Education (136), Finance (61), Law (37), Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (34), and Fisheries and Animal Resources (23). Addressing the new recruits, the CM said government service is not just about job security but also about serving the people with dedication and integrity.

Waqf law: SC stays Collector's powers

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 15: A little over five months after the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, received Presidential assent amid heated legal and political debate, the Supreme Court Monday put on hold some key provisions of the law. In a significant interim order, the apex court stayed the provision that empowered District Collectors to unilaterally decide whether a property qualifies as waqf, observing that such authority cannot extend to adjudicating private property rights. The bench also stayed the requirement that a person has to be a practicing Muslim for the last five years before he can dedicate a property as waqf.

"We have held that presumption is always in favour of constitutionality of a statute and intervention (can be done) only in the rarest of rare cases," a bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said in its interim order on the intensely debated issue.

The SC pressed pause on the powers given to a District Collector to adjudicate the status of waqf properties and ruled on the contentious issue of non-Muslim participation in Waqf Boards, directing



that the Central Waqf Council should not have more than four non-Muslim members out of 20, and State Waqf Boards not more than three of 11.

The CJI said the bench has considered the "prima facie challenge" to each section in the new law and found that "no case was made out to stay entire provisions of the statute".

"However some sections need some protection," he said.

The bench made it clear that its directions were prima facie and interim in nature and they would not prevent the petitioners or the government from advancing full arguments on the constitutional validity of the law at the stage of final hearing.

The detailed judgement is awaited. CJI Gavai then referred to the provisions which have been interfered with or stayed by the interim order.

"The requirement that a person has to be a practicing Muslim for the last five years before he can dedicate a property as waqf (Section 3(r)) has been stayed until the state governments rules are framed for

Will reject Bihar SIR if illegality found: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said it is presuming that the Election Commission, being a constitutional authority, is following the law during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and warned that the entire exercise would be set aside in case any illegality is found at any stage.

examining whether a person is a practicing Muslim or not. Without any such rule/mechanism, the provision will lead to an arbitrary exercise of power," the order said.

One of the most significant interventions came in relation to Section 3C, which had vested powers in designated government officers to determine the status of Waqf properties.

"Permitting the Collector to determine the rights is against the separation of powers; the executive cannot be permitted to determine the rights of citizens," it said.

The bench clarified that until the title to a property is finally adjudicated under Section 83 by the Waqf Tribunal, and subject to appeal before the High Court, neither the possession of the Waqf nor its records would be disturbed.

DSPL-261



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment
सही पोषण - देश रोशन



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



ସୁଭଦ୍ରା

ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ
ପୋଷଣ ମାସ-୨୦୨୫

୧୭ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ରୁ ୧୭ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ମେଦବହୁଳତାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ଖାଦ୍ୟରେ ଚିନି, ଲୁଣ ଓ ତେଲର ବ୍ୟବହାର କମ୍ କରିବା



ଆଦ୍ୟ ଶୈଶବ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଜରିଆରେ ୦-୩ ବର୍ଷର ଶିଶୁଙ୍କ ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ବିକାଶକୁ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ଦେବା



'ପୋଷଣ ଦି ପଢ଼ାଇ ଦି' ମାସମରେ ପ୍ରତିଟି ଶିଶୁକୁ ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ ସହ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବା



ନବଜାତ ଓ ଶିଶୁଙ୍କୁ ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ତନ୍ୟପାନ ଓ ସଠିକ୍ ଖାଦ୍ୟାଭ୍ୟାସ ବିଷୟରେ ସଚେତନ କରାଇବା



ଶିଶୁର ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ପାଇଁ ମା' ମାନଙ୍କ ଅବଦାନକୁ ସମ୍ମାନ ଦେବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ମା' ମାସରେ ଗଛଟିଏ ଲଗାଇବା



ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମା' ଓ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ଯତ୍ନ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କ ସହ ପୁରୁଷମାନଙ୍କ ସହଭାଗିତାକୁ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ଦେବା



ସମନ୍ୱୟ ମୂଳକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ସହିତ ଡିଜିଟାଲିକରଣ ଦ୍ୱାରା ସମୂହ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା



ସୁଦେଶୀ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱର - ଦୃଶ୍ୟମୂଳ ସ୍ତରରେ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ଓ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭରତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି କରିବାକୁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବା

ଉତ୍ତମ ପୋଷଣ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନ

୩୦ ଦିନ ପାଇଁ ପୋଷଣ ମାସ କରିବା ପାଳନ ପୁଷ୍ଟି ବିଷୟରେ ଆମେ ହୋଇବା ସଚେତନ

ସହାୟତା ନମ୍ବର

ପୋଲିସ୍ ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ ୧୧୨

ମହିଳା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ ୧୮୧

ଚାଇଲ୍ଡ ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ ୧୦୯୮

ସୁଭଦ୍ରା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ ୧୪୭୭୮

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may get to share your ideas and opinions with like-minded people. Ganesha says you may finally have a heart-to-heart chat with your beloved, and express your deep commitment. You may even talk of your long cherished dreams.

TAURUS
Logic may be your forte today, but in the game of life, sometimes the heart wins and sometimes the head. Your analytical skills will help you understand things better, in turn, making you wiser. You may feel an urge to spend on music cassettes, CDs and electronic gadgets.

GEMINI
Your highly competitive nature will push you to perform better and better. You don't even know what being second best means. Getting in touch with like-minded people will only make your resolve stronger. Your desire to be the best will make you take interest in everything that can help you improve. You may even study new subjects.

CANCER
Lack of support from family members will disable your efforts. Children also disappoint you. Discord or difference of opinion in family is indicated. Beware of neighbours. Yet, says Ganesha, face circumstances with a smile.

LEO
Motivating people through your own actions is one way; the other is to let your words do the talking. Both are equally effective, says Ganesha. With a bit of help from the stars, today, it is your words that shall hold more weight than your actions, as you make optimum use of your presentation skills. It seems like a good idea to keep an open mind and learn new things that will go a long way in improving your communication skills.

VIRGO
It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem-solving. Ganesha assures you that your current business ideas will work wonders.

LIBRA
Ganesha says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you in the field of interest will find themselves moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficial legal deals today for you.

SCORPIO
You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesha. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work. Do not let the ghosts of your past haunt you because some things are best left behind while making a new beginning, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Suddenly, you discover that you are fully dedicated to your family. Kith and kins form the crux of your life, says Ganesha. Showing your love and affection to your kids will give you a feeling of satisfaction. Spend some quality time with your partner!

CAPRICORN
It will be one of those mundane days with nothing remarkable happening on any front. But don't be disheartened, advises Ganesha; planetary movements indicate there may be a change coming soon, most likely a good one. So, perk up and look forward to tomorrow.

AQUARIUS
You do have a way with words and today, you may succeed with your gift of the gab! But Ganesha says that your confused feelings may come in the way of your triumphant achievement. Also, sentiments may lead to a disastrous outcome. Sounds familiar?

PISCES
The fount of your creativity spurts today like there is no tomorrow. For lesser mortals, it takes inspiration, perspiration and a lot of desperation to come up with something creative. You, on the other hand, keenly remember the lessons from your past efforts, and use them today to scale new heights, says Ganesha.



ALAN CUMMING CALLS FOR PREZ TRUMP TO JOIN THE TRAITORS US

The *Traitors US* host Alan Cumming thinks US President Donald Trump would be good at the ultimate game of betrayal and deceit. Alan quipped to reporters in the event's press room: "I'm sure our president would be very good on the show."

PARIS HILTON OWNS 10K PAIRS OF SUNGLASSES

Hotel heiress and socialite Paris Hilton has revealed she's built a spa at her home and has a whole room dedicated to housing her extensive collection of 10,000 sunglasses.



EMMY AWARDS

The Studio scripts history with 13 wins

'The Pitt' and 'Adolescence' took home the Best Drama Series, Best Limited or Anthology Series honours



The Studio actors Dewayne Perkins, Keyla Monterroso Mejia, Kathryn Hahn, Chase Sui Wonders, Seth Rogen, Ike Barinholtz and Bryan Cranston

Los Angeles: The Apple TV+ show *The Studio*'s debut season broke the all-time record for most wins for a comedy series, taking home three more prizes than when *The Bear* set the record in 2023 with 10 wins.

In addition, co-creator and star Seth Rogen tied for the record of most individual Emmy wins in one night, putting him on par with *Moira Demos* (2016), *Amy Sherman-Palladino*

mys. The Netflix drama picked up the award for Outstanding Limited Or Anthology Series, and acting honours for Stephen Graham, Erin Doherty, and Owen Cooper, with the latter at 15 becoming the youngest male winner ever at the ceremony when he scooped the Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series prize.

In addition, Philip Barantini took Best Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie and Stephen and Jack Thorne won Best Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie.

In the drama categories, *The Pitt* was named Best Drama Series, and its star Noah Wyle was named Best Actor in a Drama Series, with Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series going to co-star Katherine LaNasa.

Tramell Tillman made history as the first black winner of the Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series award, and his Severance co-star Britt Lower won Best Actress in a Drama Series.

Other notable wins at this year's Emmy Awards - which were hosted by Nate Bargatze - included *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert taking Best Talk Series, and Best Variety Special (Live) going to *SNL50: The Anniversary Special*, with showrunner Lorne Michaels noting he had picked up his first Emmy a staggering 50 years ago.

AGENCIES

Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman will be conferred on painter Baladev Maharatha and Odissi music Guru Ramhari Das

BHUBANESWAR: The Sarala Puraskar, given annually by the IMFA Charitable Trust (IMPACT) for the best literary achievement, will be presented this year to the famous poet and writer Devdas Chhotray for his short-story collection *Matinee Show* published by Timepass Publication in 2023.

The award ceremony will take place in Bhubaneswar October 26, wherein the writer will be presented with a citation, plaque and a cash award of Rs 7 lakh.

Besides this, the Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman, given every year by IMPACT for lifetime excellence in the field of art, has also been announced for the year 2025. Famous painter Baladev Maharatha and renowned Guru Ramhari Das will be given the award this year. As part of the award, both will be given a certificate and a plaque with a cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh each. The jury members for the awards were Dr. Adyasa Das, Sujata Mohapatra, and Sangi-



ta Panda for the performing arts section, and Panchami

Manoo Ukil, Sudarshan Patnaik, and Pradosh Swain for the visual arts section.

The IMPACT, founded by Ila Panda and Dr. Bansidhar Panda in 1980, has been instrumental in promoting Odia literature and the state's rich cultural heritage of art, music, and dance. IMPACT also instituted the Ekalabya Puraskar in 1993, which has become one of the most prestigious sports awards in Odisha, drawing parallels with several national awards.

PNN

MUMBAI: Actress-singer Saba Azad, who has smoothly moved from *Mujhse Fraaandship Karoge* to Songs of *Paradise*, *Rocket Boys* and *Bandar*, said that versatility in her career has been more of a natural progression than a forced plan.

From *Rocket Boys* to *Bandar*, she has tackled drastically different genres and eras. Asked if versatility is a conscious choice in her career, or something that's naturally unfolded, Saba told this agency: "I've tried to do projects that excite me and I'm thankful they are each different from the other cause I get to apply myself and learn with each."

Saba, who is dating Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan, has worn many creative hats such as a singer, indie artist, actor and performer.

Talking about how she has managed to retain her individuality in an industry that often tries to box people into categories, Saba said: "I try not to follow trends. I work for the joy of creating above anything else."

The actress' film *Bandar* (*Monkey in a Cage*) has been showcased at the Special Presentations section at the 50th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

IAN S



Saba works for the joy of creating

Elli's holistic lifestyle

MUMBAI: Actress Elli AvrRam has talked about her approach to fitness and shared the importance of mental well-being and "lifting heavy weights".

Elli shared: "I start my day with a 30-minute meditation session, which I practice every day. If I miss it, the entire day feels quite different compared to when I do it."

She added: "Earlier, I enjoyed doing Pilates, but at a certain stage—maybe age-related or just a natural progression—I realized the importance of lifting heavy weights, especially for women. So now I include that in my routine as well."

She talked about how she combines different forms of exercise to achieve a holistic lifestyle.

"Along with meditation and weight training, I mix in yoga and Pilates. These elements together allow me to work on both my mind and body, which I believe are deeply interconnected."

"Yoga, for me, is not just about maintaining a lean body—it's much deeper... it's about holistic well-being, nurturing both physical and mental health," she said.

Elli has also acted in Sweden, most notably in the 2008 crime-drama *Forbjuden Frukt*, where she played Selen, the teen girlfriend of the lead character.

It was in 2012, when the 35-year-old actress moved to Mumbai to pursue her career in the Hindi film industry.

IAN S



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

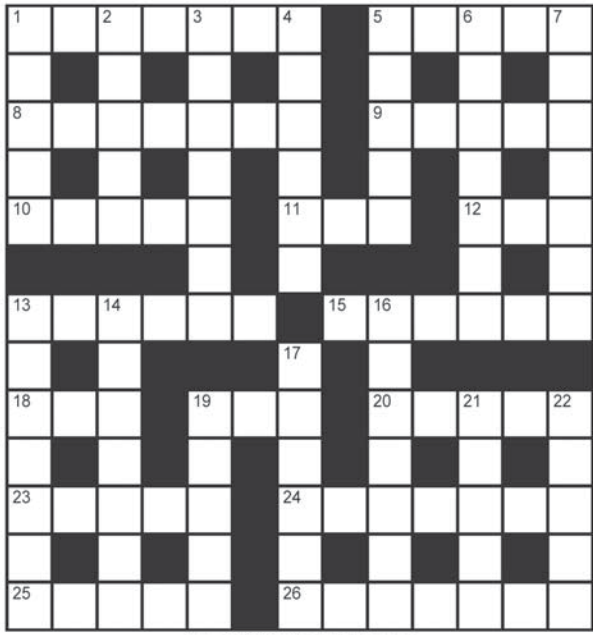


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Winter wear
- 5 Grocery section
- 8 Boat race
- 9 Poppy product
- 10 Underground worker
- 11 Shack
- 12 Infomercials, e.g.
- 13 Shrewdness
- 15 Ebb
- 18 Egyptian boy king

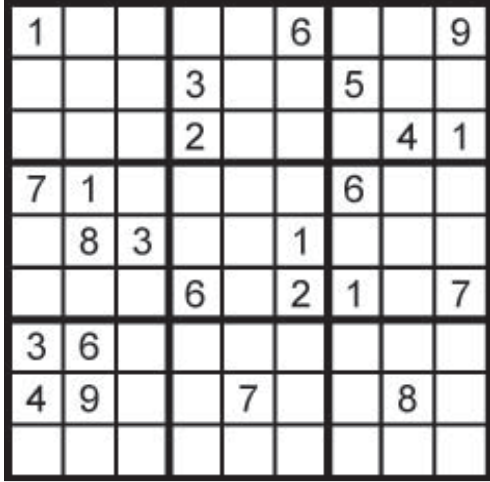
Down

- 19 Pastoral setting
- 20 Speck in the ocean
- 23 Swagger
- 24 Theatre companies
- 25 Marsh plant
- 26 Top-notch
- 1 Assembly
- 2 Vacuum tube filler

- 3 Bitter hickory, e.g. (3,4)
- 4 Despise
- 5 Up in the air
- 6 Chinese black mushroom
- 7 In one group (2,5)
- 13 Illustrators
- 14 Pronounced
- 16 TV installment
- 17 "Praying" insect
- 19 Strong espresso
- 21 Place for a pin
- 22 Stun gun

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Guv urges EV push, green drive

Governor Kambhampati urges OSPCB to set ambitious decade-long targets on green technologies, zero-waste industries and digital environmental monitoring

PNN & AGECIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Monday urged citizens to adopt electric vehicles (EVs) in the state's rapidly expanding cities, stressing their importance in reducing pollution and dependence on fossil fuels.

Speaking at the 42nd Foundation Day of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), Kambhampati emphasised the need for collective action to safeguard the environment and secure a healthier future.

He pointed out that the Raj Bhavan's official fleet has already been converted to EVs, substantially reducing its carbon footprint and setting an example for others to emulate.

The Governor also encouraged the installation of rooftop solar systems, noting that such initiatives lower electricity costs, promote clean energy,



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati launches the Odisha State Pollution Control Board's website and publications on its 42nd Foundation Day in Bhubaneswar, Monday

and enable residents to benefit from government subsidies under renewable energy schemes.

Reflecting on OSPCB's four-decade journey, Kambhampati praised the Board for serving as a regulator, guide, and partner in balancing industrial growth with ecological responsibility.

"This day is not just a milestone, but a celebration of the Board's holistic and progressive approach to protecting Odisha's environment," he said.

Highlighting the state's upcoming plantation drive September 17, under which 75 lakh saplings will be planted across Odisha, the Governor urged citizens and students to participate

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati calls for adoption of rooftop solar to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels

He praised OSPCB's 42-year journey in balancing industrial growth with ecology, while highlighting its role in air, water, and waste management

Governor launched OSPCB's website, presented awards, and called for active participation in Odisha's upcoming 75-lakh sapling plantation drive

actively. He said the initiative would expand green cover, improve air quality, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Kambhampati also com-

mended OSPCB's initiatives in air quality improvement, river restoration, and real-time monitoring of industries and water bodies.

He lauded the government's promotion of e-buses, EV subsidies, interest-free loans, and wider rooftop solar adoption under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana.

Calling pollution a grave threat to health, livelihoods, and future generations, the Governor urged people to reduce plastic use, manage e-waste, conserve water, plant trees, and embrace renewable energy. He further encouraged the OSPCB to set bold targets for the next decade, focusing on green technologies, zero-waste industries, youth engagement, and digital tools for environmental monitoring.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja stressed that tackling pollution and ensuring sustainable development demand collective responsibility. On the occasion, the Governor launched the Board's website and publications, felicitated sand artist Manas Kumar Sahoo, presented Pollution Control Excellence and Appreciation Awards, and honoured women for their contributions to nature conservation and green entrepreneurship.



SAND ART: Students from Chitkara University, Chandigarh, learn sand art from renowned artist Manas Kumar Sahoo at Puri Sea Beach, Monday

GST reform to boost state's growth: Singh

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: BJP MP Arun Singh Monday said GST Reform 2.0, aimed at boosting self-reliance and domestic production, will accelerate economic growth in states like Odisha.

Addressing reporters here, Singh hailed it as a historic Modi government decision. He said the new GST slabs, effective September 22, have been welcomed across society and will benefit ordinary citizens the most.

Farmers' conditions are expected to improve, handicrafts will grow, and zero tax on health insurance will aid families. Singh noted GST on tendu leaves has been cut from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, helping tribal collectors, while yarn tax reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent will support weavers and boost Odisha textiles.

As Odisha is agriculture-dominant, reduced GST on equipment like tractors, parts and tyres will cut production costs and strengthen farmers' livelihoods, Singh added.

Crackdown on stunts & reckless driving



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The Odisha government has launched a statewide crackdown on dangerous driving and social media stunts. Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena has directed all Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) to take strict action against offenders, including vehicle seizure, suspension of driving licenses, cancellation of registration certificates, and fines.

The enforcement, led by Principal Secretary Usha Padhee and Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, comes amid a rise in accidents caused by reckless behaviour, including viral stunt videos and unattended driving.

Notable incidents were reported from districts including Khurda, Puri, and Koraput. In Khurda, a driver filmed a reel while leaving the steering wheel unattended near a school, while in Bhubaneswar, two people performed stunts on a bike. In both cases, vehicles were seized and license suspension proceedings initiated.

Authorities will now monitor social media alongside on-road checks to identify offenders. The government has warned that violations will attract action under both the Motor Vehicles Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Citizens, particularly the youth, are urged to prioritise road safety and avoid life-threatening stunts.

PHW trails Ayurvedic legacy

Puri: The 13th Puri Heritage Walk (PHW) was held Sunday, drawing over 40 heritage enthusiasts from across the state to explore Puri's Ayurvedic legacy and the monasteries along Clarke Road.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Ganeswar Mohanty (also known as Ganeswar Behera by adoption), Son of Late Lokanath Mohanty, Resident of Lenkudipada, Nayagarh, Odisha, declare that my official and legal name for all purposes is Ganeswar Mohanty. Objections, if any, may be sent within 15 days of this publication. Sd./- Ganeswar Mohanty

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Rayagada 385/Dated 12th September 2025, I Aishwarjya Sahoo of R.K.Nagar 2nd line, Rayagada, PO/PS/Dist-Rayagada (Odisha), PIN - 765001 declare that I have changed my name from Aishwarya Sahu to Aishwarjya Sahoo. Henceforth I shall be known as Aishwarjya Sahoo for all purposes. Aishwarjya Sahoo

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Kutra, No.1533 date 15.09.25, I, Mahendra Ekka, S/o. Baiju Ekka, R/o. Village-Rajabasa, PO. Latalaga, Ps. Kutra, Dist.Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770018 declare that I have changed my name from Mahendra Kachua to Mahendra Ekka. Henceforth I shall be known as Mahendra Ekka for all purposes. Mahendra Ekka

Community-led revival restores Nuamunda Tank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Bolangir, Sept 15: A forgotten water body in Khagasikana village, Deogaon tehsil, Bolangir, has been revived. The 1.1-acre Nuamunda Tank near the sacred Swarneswar Mahadev Temple, long valued for its cultural and religious significance, has been renovated and brought back to life.

For generations, the tank served as a site for rituals and community gatherings. Over time, however, it fell into neglect—choked with silt, weakened by eroded embankments, and abandoned by formal maintenance. Though villagers and



youths made sporadic revival attempts, a complete transformation remained elusive.

The local administration identified Nuamunda Tank under the Amrit Sarovar Mission, turning its revival into a model of community-driven development. Guided by technical experts and geo-spatial tools, and with active participation from farmers, self-help groups, PRI

members, and local sarpanch Jibani Dash, the plan was to restore the tank not just for practical use but also as a cultural and ecological landmark.

The rejuvenation project received ₹10 lakh under MGNREGA and an additional ₹5 lakh from Finance Commission grants. Led by the Panchayat Samiti, the tank was desilted and deepened to its full 10,000 cubic meter capacity, with reinforced embankments and stabilised slopes. Encroachments were cleared to restore its original expanse, while ornamental and shady trees, seating, and lighting transformed the area into a vibrant space for recreation and spiritual activities.

Odisha's rice fallows as oilseed belts

SHATADRU CHATTOPADHAYAY

In Balasore, Mahesh Pradhan, a smallholder, tried something simple. On the land left idle after the Kharif rice harvest, he sowed mustard. That one decision added about ₹45,000 to his seasonal income. One farmer's outcome is not a trend, but it signals a practical route to scale. Odisha's 11.7 lakh hectares of suitable rice fallows represent the state's most immediate, lowest-cost acreage for oilseeds, and a fertile ground to launch an Edible Oil Mission.

India produces around 44 % of the edible oil it consumes, roughly 56% is imported. Price shocks in wartime and periodic export curbs have shown how global tremors become retail pain. By 2030, this demand-supply gap could reach 141 lakh tonnes. Traditional oilseed belts in western India have limited room to expand. Eastern states must carry the load, and Odisha has the ingredients: 10 agro-climatic zones, the country's fifth-largest rice output (abundant fallows), rising cotton production for cottonseed oil, and proximity to ports and consumption hubs.

The "Seeds for Change" report by Solidaridad Asia suggests policy should sequence growth on two tracks.

Track 1: Acreage. Bring at least half of the 11.7 lakh hectares of suitable rice fallows under short-duration oilseeds in Rabi, while prioritising groundnut, mustard and sunflower. Add another 3.9 lakh hectares through intercropping: groundnut with cotton, maize or pigeon



pea; sunflower with mung. It ensures vegetable oil growth does not displace food staples but intensifies existing systems. A cluster-wise MSP for peanuts, mustard, and sunflower should help farmers feel more secure.

Track 2: Productivity. Odisha's oilseed yields trail frontier states by 58%. Closing that gap requires seed, know-how and timely water. A five-year plan should fund decentralised seed multiplication through seed entrepreneurs and farmer producer organisations (FPOs), paired with location-specific varietal pipelines via Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, ICAR institutes, and private breeders. Give FPOs more credit so they can pay for seeds, gathering, and first-mile logistics. Extension must move from sporadic advisories to hands-on demonstrations for line sowing, seed treatment, balanced fertilisation and moisture management. Oilseeds need far less water than a second paddy crop, but they do need it on time. The priority is to convert "irrigation potential created" into irrigation actually used in oilseed clusters.

Oilseeds are more beneficial to a farm's economics than second paddy. The average return might be up to 2.3 times the cost of cultivation, whereas for paddy, it is about 1.7 times. Adding oilseeds to fallows or intercropping and following fundamental agricultural practices can increase a farmer family's average revenue from ₹60,000 to ₹1.21-1.85 lakh annually. Employment gains are significant: an estimated 363 lakh additional person-days on farms per year.

A bumper harvest requires a robust post-harvest ecosystem. To handle the projected increase, the state will need at least 4 lakh tonnes of dedicated oilseed storage capacity by 2030. The plan should, therefore, be to upgrade 318 existing warehouses operated by PACS and MARKFED, and incentivise 30 new, strategically located cold storages in oilseed clusters. To process this output, the state needs a mix of large-scale, 300-tonnes-per-day (TPD) units run by FMCG companies and smaller, 20 TPD village or block-level units run by entrepreneurs or FPOs. This industrial activity is expected to create an additional 0.8 lakh man-days of employment annually in the processing sector.

To orchestrate this transformation, the report advocates the state government consider designing a dedicated, five-year Edible Oil Mission with a proposed outlay of ₹1,525 crore. It should: Constitute a small, empowered programme unit with joint ownership of agriculture and industry departments, and a results-based dashboard tied to budget releases. Back 100–150 FPOs in priority clusters to act as end-to-end managers—from seed and services to aggregation, primary processing and sales. Classify edible oils as a 'thrust sector' under the state's industrial policy, with single-window clearances via IPICOL and investor outreach through roadshows linked to the Utkarsh Odisha platform. Establish a Centre of Excellence and an Incubation Centre for oilseeds to drive varietal improvement, climate-smart agronomy, post-harvest technologies and agri-tech startups. This investment is projected to catalyse a total economic output of approximately ₹49,410 crore over five years—a 32-fold return. Furthermore, the mission is expected to contribute around ₹6,770 crore to the state exchequer while boosting Odisha's GSDP by an additional 0.2% to 1.3% annually.

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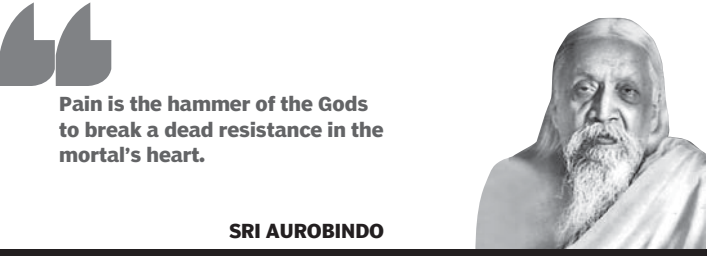
The writer is the Managing Director of Solidaridad Asia and works with farming communities for sustainable development in agriculture. Views expressed in this article are of the writer and not of Orissa POST.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.23 ▼ 0.09	SENSEX	81785.74 ▼ 118.96	GOLD	₹109,719 ▲ ₹349
EURO	103.17 ▲ 0.14	NIFTY	25069.20 ▼ 44.80	SILVER	₹129,003 ▲ ₹165

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.7°	31.4°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm.
Min Temp	25.5°	24.0°	
Humidity	94%	92%	
Rainfall	18.3mm	4.6mm	

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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



Degrading Democracy

It is the sign of the times, transcending geographical frontiers, that democracy is being grotesquely distorted giving a raw deal to the ordinary citizens for whom this form of government was supposed to be the best conceived as of now. The ruling class in several Asian and European countries has let down the people by not improving their lot, but serving the interests of the super-rich and in the process feathering their own nests too. This has prompted the people suffering from privations and colossal governmental neglect to take to the streets, resort to violence when their patience wears thin and remove by force politicians perceived to be corrupt from their high offices. Those who swear by democracy but line their own pockets and their cronies have been taking the people for granted for far too long using them only for their votes that give them the passport to state power and pelf. Now, some of them are being compelled to work for the people or else not only face the music but getting killed in the process. In Nepal after Bangladesh and earlier Sri Lanka, the people used violence to effect change of government. The severe violence engulfed politicians and also bureaucrats. In France the protesters who had launched fierce and violent street protests with a call for “Block Everything,” have sent the clear message to the government to adopt immediate corrective measures for the survival of democracy. In the face of violence organised by irate mobs, a new Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu has been appointed to replace the unpopular Francois Bayrou. He is the fifth since the start of President Emmanuel Macron’s second term and the third since the disastrous 2024 dissolution of the Assemblée Nationale. His first few words as PM only underline the rapid loss of prestige of the democratic system in place in France.

Experts are sceptical about the success of the new man entrusted with the task of restoring the people’s faith in the efficacy of democracy as is being practiced. The reason for this is the mess that the existing political parties have made in the name of democracy. A veritable political circus is going on in France. The frequent permutations and combinations of political alliances made to prop up a government have created more problems than solving them. The fragile alliance between Macron’s Centrists and the traditional right is tottering, while the new appointee’s profile does not seem to inspire any degree of confidence among the Socialists, whose support is now essential for even passing the budget. The 39-year-old new PM, whose name was announced on 9 September, is a product of the old Center-Right party, the UMP (now known as Les Republicains). His main qualification for becoming PM is his closeness to Macron, while he is little known to the French public. The Left does not trust him either as he was seen hobnobbing with Far-Right leader Marine Le Pen.

However, the Socialist leader Olivier Faure, who initially fired salvos at the new PM, does not rule out tough negotiations, which is a euphemism for hard bargaining for the benefit of the party rather than for the people. In contrast, the radical Left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon is trying to cash in on the political chaos by pushing for fresh legislative elections. He believes his party can upstage the Far-Right Rassemblement National which is now leading in opinion polls.

Democracy in France is now dangerously poised. Realising the gravity of the situation, Lecornu in his first speech as PM adopted a posture of humility and accommodation stressing the freedom the President had given him to engage in open, broad discussions – without a fixed timetable – with any political forces and social partners willing to work with him. At the same time in order to win back the people’s trust he has declared he would not pursue the policy of his immediate predecessor Bayrou who endlessly harped on debt that only deepened his unpopularity. Mere posturing is not enough. The new PM has to convince the people whether he would dump Bayrou’s draft budget, which is widely rejected in its current form. While the Right, with whom he hoped to strengthen ties, remains unyielding on tax issues, the Socialists will only agree not to censure the government if they secure real concessions on taxing the wealthiest households.

As in the case of the Asian countries that saw the spectacle of people forcing the rulers to listen to their voice, the French public, it appears, will accept a new arrangement only if they perceive it as fair. While the immediate trigger for the explosion of people’s anger in Nepal was the ban on 26 social media platforms, the case of France was that it was the proposed elimination of two public holidays which meant more work and less pay for the working people. As stand alone, these could be seen as small reasons but the resultant anger surely came from deep seated frustrations. Democratic countries like France, UK, Germany, Japan, India and so many others across the goal need to have their leaders sit up and get their ears to the ground. If they pursue the current path of neglecting people’s day to day needs, they too could end up in complete disarray and maybe even dismemberment.

WISDOM CORNER

I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.

MARK TWAIN

The first step in solving a problem is to recognize that it does exist.

ZIG ZIGLAR

Being at ease with not knowing is crucial for answers to come to you.

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1620:

Mayflower's departure for America. On this date in 1620, English colonists aboard the Mayflower set sail for America, where they founded Plymouth, Massachusetts, after 41 men, including William Bradford and Myles Standish, signed the Mayflower Compact.

1810:

A local revolt in Mexico was sparked by Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a parish priest in Dolores, who uttered the Grito de Dolores (“Cry of Dolores”), calling for the end of rule by Spanish peninsulars, for equality of races, and for redistribution of land.

1908:

General Motors Corporation is founded in Flint, Michigan by William C. Durant and Charles Stewart Mott. The company, also known as GM, was one of the world's largest manufacturers of cars and trucks. Most notably, the company manufactured Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Pontiac, and Hummer brand cars.

1963:

Malaysia is created. The Federation of Malaya united with Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore to create Malaysia. Singapore left the arrangement two years later.

1982:

Members of a right-wing Lebanese militia massacre 1500-3000 people in two Beirut-area refugee camps. The killings took over three days in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila and were led by the Lebanese Christian Phalangist militia.

power post

FOCUS CURRENCY

\$ SOFTNESS, ₹ SOFTNESS

Ajit Ranade

DE-DOLLARISATION, DONE RIGHT, IS NOT ABOUT ABANDONMENT; IT'S ABOUT OPTIONS

The US is the most indebted country in the world. The annual budget deficit is close to \$2 trillion. This is the net borrowing requirement of the US Treasury for this year. On top is the need to repay older debt that is maturing in this year. That is another \$9 trillion. Hence the gross borrowing requirement is in excess of \$10 trillion this year. It is funded by American and foreign investors, including the foreign exchange reserves of the world. Imagine the stress this puts on global dollar surpluses and savings. To attract the financial flows toward the US bonds, the risk free interest rate offered is quite high, currently close to 5%. For any other country such a high debt load would have led to a downgrade of its sovereign rating. But this is the US and its currency is still the king of the world. It still attracts capital from the rest of the world. The allure of dollar assets however is waning over time. The share of global foreign exchange reserves held in the form of dollar assets has gone down from 72% to 58% in the past 20 years. The trend is clearly downward. That is why the world is talking about “de-dollarisation.” This year there are visible effects. The dollar index which is a measure of the dollar’s strength, fell 11% in the first half of 2025. This is its steepest six-month slide in 50 years. The other big news is that of the rise of gold. For the first time, the value of the fraction of reserves in gold now exceeds that in dollar assets. This headline hides a subtler truth. According to the International Monetary Fund, 58% of the disclosed global forex reserves are still in dollars as of 2024, far ahead of any rival currency. But thanks to a historic gold rally, the market value of official gold holdings has gone above the holdings of US Treasuries presently in global reserves. That’s not the same as gold overtaking all dollar assets in reserve portfolios but it’s still symbolically powerful. The political catalyst that kicked many reserve managers

Even as the dollar has weakened against a basket of major currencies, the rupee weakened against the dollar hitting record lows near 88.7. This means that the rupee lost even more ground to the euro and the yen

because Russia did not want to sit on large, non-convertible rupee balances. The RBI has since given more leeway, by recently allowing surplus in vostro accounts to be invested fully in Indian government securities to give partners like Russia a safer home for their rupee stock. The main problem for India to scale up rupee trade and invoicing is the partner’s appetite for Indian exports and rupee assets. India is also experimenting with the RBI’s e-rupee pilot projects, and to extend UPI to foreign shores. If we can stitch together compliant, bilateral CBDC or local-currency settlements with key energy and import partners, some share of trade can circumvent dollar invoicing, clearing and settlement. But this is work in progress. The main reason that rupee trade will expand only gradually is because of heavy reliance on the US market as an export destination. The US is India’s single largest buyer of merchandise goods. It also remains central for services exports. That concentration makes it rational for Indian firms to keep dollars at the core of pricing, hedging, and funding—even as they experiment with local-currency deals elsewhere. Even as the dollar has weakened against a basket of major currencies, the rupee weakened against the dollar hitting record lows near 88.7. This means that the rupee lost even more

ground to the euro and the yen. That tells you two things: global dollar softness can coexist with rupee softness, and India’s external price signals are being driven by country-specific forces (tariffs, portfolio outflows, oil) as much as by the global dollar cycle. Trump is pressuring India to cut down the purchase of Russian crude. This is the main reason for the penal tariffs of 50% on Indian goods. And he is asking G7 too to follow suit and penalise India. Hence the rupee slid to fresh lows, as markets have factored in weaker export earnings and persistent dollar demand from importers. For India, the strategy of de-dollarisation is not to wage a crusade against the dollar; it is to build resilience and bargaining power. In practice, it means: (1) targeted local-currency invoicing where counterparties truly want Indian goods or rupee assets; (2) wider, safer channels for holding and deploying rupees abroad (the RBI’s vostro tweaks are an example); (3) continued reserve diversification, including gold and high-quality non-dollar assets; and (4) investing in payment rails (including CBDC-based ones) that let Indian banks and firms route around chokepoints when geopolitics turn rough. None of this eliminates the dollar’s centrality any time soon. But it does chip away at single-point fragility. There’s a final paradox worth stating. A weaker dollar helps US exporters, something Trump publicly wants, yet Washington has also redoubled efforts to defend dollar centrality—invoicing, clearing, and reserves—sometimes via trade threats, which makes the dollar stronger. For countries like India, the correct response isn’t ideological. It is to keep options open, deepen domestic capital markets, and make the rupee useful to foreigners—by offering scale, liquidity, and predictable rules. De-dollarisation, done right, is not about abandonment; it’s about options.

The writer is a noted economist.

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SPECTRUM WORLD OZONE DAY

Preserving Earth’s protective umbrella

Ever since an enormous hole, twice the size of the US, was discovered in the Antarctic ozone layer by members of the British Antarctic Survey team in 1985, scientists are increasingly concerned about the protection and preservation of this fragile natural atmospheric layer. We are now conclusively convinced about the role of this layer to help preserve life. Located at a height of nearly 20 to 40 km in the lower stratosphere, the ozone layer serves as an umbrella by shielding us from the harmful UV radiations showered by the Sun. However, this delicate layer is now at risk of damage mainly because of certain chemical substances released due to human activities. Although many nations have shown their commitments through various international treaties like the Montreal Protocol (1987) to phase out all Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), our goal for a secured ozone layer is not yet achieved and a lot more has to be done in this direction to safeguard this precious life saving layer.

The consequences of the thinning of ozone layer are far-reaching and catastrophic for various life forms. In humans, increased UV radiations lead to impairment of the body’s immune system, the risk of skin cancer including its most lethal form of malignant Melanoma and an eye disorder named Cortical Cataract resulting in the opacity of the eye lens. An increase of UV radiation directly affects plant growth by altering their physiological and developmental processes and also affects the cyanobacteria living in the roots of certain economically important plants like legumes and pulses that help in fixation of nitrogen required for the plant growth. In marine ecosystem, it adversely affects the operation of the carbon cycle and the phytoplankton population of the sea which are at the base of the oceanic food chain. UV radiation also affects the developmental stages of fish, shrimps, crabs and other commercially important aquatic animals that play a key role in maintaining the health and equilibrium of the entire marine ecosystem.

The various ODSs identified by scientists are chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform. CFC is the most potent source of Ozone depletion. Commonly known as freons, these are colourless, odourless, stable, non-inflammable and non-toxic substances found applications mainly as coolants in refrigerators and air-conditioning systems, solvents in cleaners for electronic circuit boards and computer components and propellants in aerosol sprays like body deodorants. Ever since their discovery in 1923 by American chemist Thomas Midgley, these substances have replaced many toxic chemicals in industries and household applications and contributed significantly in transforming our lifestyle by providing many reliable products for our comfort and enjoyment. However, once let loose, these are carried away by strong air currents to the upper atmosphere where they interact with UV rays and are broken down to release free chlorine atoms that eventually destroy and deplete ozone molecules.

Formation of ozone in the lower stratosphere is a slow and natural process and the layer will heal itself if left unhindered. By avoiding products and practices that damage the ozone layer and by lobbying for more action from government and industries to curb on ODSs, we can help to plug the hole. At personal levels, we should be careful that any deodorant, spray, solvent or cleaner we buy is CFC free. We should also replace our old refrigerators and air-conditioners having higher CFC emissions with CFC substitute systems. We should understand the fact that an Earth without ozone layer is like a house without roof.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Science & global action

Sir, It is truly remarkable to reflect on the moment forty years ago when nations united under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, taking bold steps to shield humanity and the planet from harmful ultra violet (UV) radiation. This unprecedented global collaboration led to the adoption of the Montreal Protocol, phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—the chemicals in refrigerators, aerosol sprays, and foams that were wreaking havoc on the ozone layer—and putting it firmly on the path to recovery. On World Ozone Day on 16 September, we celebrate this extraordinary achievement and renew our commitment for the future. The Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention continue to be indispensable in monitoring ozone, UV radiation, and the gradual elimination of ozone-depleting substances, including hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment. These historic treaties exemplify the power of science transforming into global action. They serve as a shining example of what the world can achieve when it unites for a common purpose, inspiring generations to confront environmental challenges boldly and decisively.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Glimmer of hope

Sir, Severe poverty and forced displacement push men and women to beg for alms. According to the 2011 census, there were more than four lakh beggars in India. Laws regulating begging like the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 have done more harm than good. Moreover, intent of banning begging to criminalise the act has not exactly passed the muster in courts. Additionally, beggar homes have not served their intended purpose. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court’s recent verdict that beggar homes in India be treated as “Constitution trust” and not charity houses offers a beacon of hope to the begging community in despair. The Court has, among other directives, made medical tests within 24 hours of admission to beggar homes and monthly check ups mandatory besides nutritional adequacy and safety of women inmates.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

FUTURE
READY

TN aims tech-savvy generation

The state launches pilot AI, robotics programme in govt schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: Exposure to Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and digital tools is no longer confined to private schools. In a significant step towards bridging the technological divide, the Tamil Nadu government has rolled out a pilot programme this academic year to train government school students in AI applications, coding and interactive online tools.

The initiative, titled Tamil Nadu Schools Programme for AI, Robotics and Knowledge of Online Tools (TN SPARK), is currently being implemented for Classes 6 to 9. It aims to create a tech-savvy generation that can keep pace with emerging trends irrespective of socio-economic background.

In Coimbatore district alone, 85 government schools have been included in the first phase. These comprise 78 middle schools, four high schools and three higher secondary schools. Dedicated bilingual textbooks in English and Tamil have been prepared for the new curriculum, and trained mathematics and science teachers are



With TN SPARK, Tamil Nadu is setting a model for integrating advanced technology training into government schools, ensuring that students from all sections of society gain equal exposure to the tools that will shape tomorrow's world

handling the sessions.

Each school has allocated one or two periods a week for TN SPARK classes. Around 880 hi-tech lab computers are being used to deliver the programme.

While the modules began with introductory sessions,

the syllabus will move into full swing from October after quarterly examinations.

The curriculum introduces students to the foundations of computer science, including algorithms, flowcharts, word processing and data visualisa-

'Anbu Karangal Scheme' to support education of orphaned children

The Tamil Nadu government has launched a new initiative, 'Anbu Karangal Scheme (Arms of Love)', aimed at ensuring that children who have lost their parents are able to continue their education without interruption. Chief Minister Stalin formally inaugurated the scheme at a function held at 'Kalaivanar Arangam' in Chennai Monday and distributed scholarships and laptops to beneficiary students. Under the programme, children who have lost both parents, or those who have lost one parent and are unable to receive support from the surviving guardian, will be provided with a monthly stipend of Rs 2,000 until they complete their school education. The objective is to prevent children from dropping out of school due to financial distress and to provide them with a secure path to higher learning and skill development.

tion. It also integrates online educational tools that offer interactive lessons across subjects such as science, geography, anatomy and languages.

Artificial Intelligence modules familiarise students with creative applications like text-to-image generation, text-to-speech, doodling, digital art, translation and animation.

Coding is introduced through beginner-friendly platforms such as Blockly, Turtle Art and Scratch, along with basics of HTML and lessons in cyber safety. Teachers report that

students are showing keen interest in these classes, often preferring them to conventional lessons.

Hi-tech labs are being effectively utilised to nurture curiosity and improve learning skills.

The programme, officials said, is designed not only to provide access to advanced technology but also to equip children with problem-solving abilities and digital literacy that will prepare them for future academic and career opportunities.



Mumbai's 'Alare Govinda' troupe form a human pyramid to break the 'dahi handi' on the occasion of 'Vilka Pindi', in Udupi, Karnataka, Monday PTI PHOTO

2026 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Sasikala calls for AIADMK unity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: Ousted former AIADMK interim general secretary VK Sasikala Monday made a fresh appeal for the unification of AIADMK factions before next year's Assembly election, asserting that party workers across Tamil Nadu longed to see a united front.

Speaking to reporters at her Poes Garden residence, Sasikala — once the closest aide of late J. Jayalalithaa — stressed that the party's electoral prospects depended on reconciliation.

"Everyone in the AIADMK wants the factions to unite before the 2026 Assembly elections. I also want it," she said, adding that unification must happen before the polls, not after.

Admitting that reconciliation would not be easy, she observed, "It is very easy to reject someone, but accepting one into the fold is a very difficult task. This takes time."

Sasikala underlined that the ultimate goal of the party was to end the DMK's rule and restore the "Amma" era under Jayalalithaa's legacy.

"My work will be oriented towards merger and the party's victory," she said.

Urging members to move forward, she added, "Let what occurred in the past be considered as over. Let what unfolds from now on be on a good note." Her remarks found resonance with senior AIADMK leader KA Sen-



Let what occurred in the past be considered as over. Let what unfolds from now on be on a good note

VK SASIKALA | OUSTED FORMER AIADMK INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

gottaiyan, who has been vocal about reconciliation.

Reiterating his earlier call for unity, the former minister said in Erode, "Let us forget and forgive. I have already said that AIADMK should be unified in order to become stronger."

Sengottaiyan had earlier set a ten-day deadline for party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami to take steps towards re-admitting expelled leaders.

Meanwhile, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam (AMMK) general secretary TTV Dhinakaran, who was also expelled

from the AIADMK, struck a more cautious note.

While welcoming unity, he categorically ruled out accepting Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2026 polls. Dhinakaran had recently severed ties with the BJP, which continues to project Palaniswami as its preferred Chief Ministerial face.

However, BJP state president K Nainar Nagendran indicated a willingness to explore a broader alliance, expressing openness to negotiations with Dhinakaran and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam to bring them back under the NDA umbrella.

With the Assembly elections just months away, the growing chorus for unity within the AIADMK underscores the high stakes — not only for the party's survival but also for Tamil Nadu's political landscape in 2026.

In the 30-minute video shot Thursday, Youtuber Caleb Friesen documented the difficulty in walking a 2.4 km stretch on Bengaluru's pedestrian paths, from Majestic bus stand to a coffee shop, capturing its alleged poor and neglected condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: A viral video recorded by a Canadian vlogger, highlighting the "neglected and poor condition" of pavements in the city, has prompted a swift response from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which joined a cleaning drive organised by an NGO.

In the 30-minute video shot Thursday, Youtuber Caleb Friesen documented the difficulty in walking a 2.4 km stretch on Bengaluru's pedestrian paths, from Majestic bus stand to a coffee shop, capturing its alleged poor and neglected condition.



The clip drew widespread public criticism against the civic authorities for the alleged negligence.

In the aftermath of the viral clip, the civic authorities, GBA jumped into swift action to repair the stretch.

Along with private volunteers, they organised a foot-

path-cleaning drive. To show support and motivate the team, Bengaluru Central City Commissioner Rajendra Cholan joined the volunteers on Saturday and shared snacks with them after the restoration work.

On September 12, the Greater Bengaluru Authority took to 'X', sharing pictures of intensive

cleaning drive in and around Majestic surroundings.

"Intensive cleaning drive was carried out around Majestic surroundings by Bengaluru central city corporation team focusing on the footpaths to ensure a clean and safe pedestrian space," it said in a post on 'X'.

Responding to the post, Friesen thanked the authorities for taking rapid action and shared the before and after pictures of the same footpath he had shot earlier.

"Thank you for listening and taking rapid action @GBAoffice no more parkour over barbed wire required by pedestrians," he added.

According to official sources, at the very spot where the foreign national had shot the video, allegedly complaining about the poor state of footpaths, after participating in the cleaning and painting drive organised by an NGO on Saturday, Bengaluru Central City Commissioner, Cholan sat down and had snacks with the volunteers who helped restore the footpath and motivated the team.

The Canadian man who highlighted the state of the footpath was also invited to the spot, where he recorded another clip praising the authorities for the swift action in undertaking the initiative to clean and clear the footpath, making it feasible for pedestrians to use.

Woman poisons hubby, blames tiger attack to claim compensation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysuru, Sept 15: A shocking incident of a woman killing her husband and falsely claiming he died in a tiger attack to seek compensation money was reported from Mysuru district of Karnataka Friday.

The incident took place in Chikkahejjur village in Hunsuru taluk of the district. The accused wife has been identified as Sallapuri, and the deceased husband is 45-year-old Venkataswamy. Police investigation revealed that the woman had poisoned her husband and later confessed that she killed him to obtain the hefty compensation provided by the government for deaths caused by wild animal attacks.

The police stated that the couple worked as labourers in areca nut fields. On Monday, a tiger was sighted in the Hejjur village. The accused claimed that her husband went missing and that the tiger might have killed him and dragged the body away to an undisclosed location.



The police and forest department sleuths launched a joint operation to track Venkataswamy's body. Since it was raining, the sleuths could not detect any tracks in the area where the deceased was last seen, as claimed by the woman. While searching in the vicinity of Venkataswamy's house, they found his body hidden in a cow dung pile behind the house.

After grilling the wife, Sallapuri confessed to the murder. She also admitted that while working at the areca nut farm, she overheard a conversation stating that the government provides Rs 15 lakh as compensation for victims of wild animal attacks, which prompted her to plan the murder.

Colossal Lord Muruga statue to adorn Coimbatore

Once completed, the Marudhamalai statue will surpass existing Muruga idols in scale and prominence, establishing TN as home to yet another world-class religious attraction

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 15: The Tamil Nadu government is moving forward with an ambitious plan to install the world's tallest statue of Lord Muruga at the Subramaniaswamy temple in Marudhamalai, with the project expected to give a major push to spiritual tourism in the region.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department has proposed a 184-foot-tall statue to be constructed at a cost of about Rs 110 crore.

The overall project, which includes allied facilities, is estimated at Rs 146.83 crore. Officials said the initiative will be funded primarily through do-



nations. Preliminary works for the project began in May 2025. Alongside the statue, a sprawling hexagon-shaped complex is planned, featuring a museum, parking space, and other amenities designed to accommodate large numbers of devotees and tourists.

To install the statue, the HR

and CE Department has been scouting suitable land in the foothills of Marudhamalai.

After multiple rounds of consultations, the department has zeroed in on 2.5 acres of vacant land located behind the local bus stand. Since the project requires additional space, plans are also in place to acquire another 2.5

acres from the adjoining area.

On Friday, senior officials from the HR and CE Department inspected the identified site. They confirmed that a formal meeting will be convened at the Coimbatore District Collectorate in the coming days to finalise land acquisition procedures. "The statue is

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department has proposed a 184-foot-tall statue to be constructed at a cost of about ₹110 crore

envisioned not just as a monumental religious symbol, but also as a cultural landmark that will draw pilgrims and tourists from across the globe," a senior official said.

Authorities believe the project will also generate significant local employment opportunities during the construction phase and boost ancillary economic activities linked to tourism.

With plans firmly underway, the Marudhamalai foothills are set to host a towering tribute to Lord Muruga, reinforcing Coimbatore's place on the country's spiritual and cultural map.

of the day

quote

Please do not take my words in the wrong light. I consider it a blot (kalank) that even after 10 years of establishment, HAM remains an unrecognised party. I have been helping the NDA for long. So, I am begging the NDA leaders (bheekh maang rahe hain) and not making a claim

JITAN RAM MANJIHI | UNION MINISTER

The taxes imposed by America majorly hit shrimp exports. It is estimated that a loss of Rs 25,000 crore would have occurred. Up to 50 per cent export orders have been cancelled

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH

Politics of extremes is taking place on the issue and an atmosphere is being created that OBC reservation is finished. This is affecting the psyche of OBC students

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

XPOST

OF THE DAY

FSSAI is a joke. This department needs to be shut down & completely privatized. Every single product should have QR codes showing how it's made. Hospitals across India are packed because there's ZERO quality control on our food. Why this is still not a national emergency?

@talk2anuradha

SHORT TAKES

4 dead as bus rams into truck

Jaunpur (UP): A bus rammed into a truck here Monday morning, leaving four pilgrims dead and nine others seriously injured, police said. The accident took place around 5 am on the Lucknow-Varanasi National Highway in Sihpur village, when the bus carrying devotees from Chhattisgarh was going from Ayodhya to Varanasi. There were 50 people on the bus, Jaunpur Superintendent of Police Kaustubh said, adding that the accident took place when the bus driver was unsuccessful in overtaking the truck and ended up colliding the bus with the truck from the side.

CBI searches premises of ex-Karnataka min

New Delhi: The CBI Monday conducted searches at the premises of former Karnataka minister B Nagendra and 15 other locations in the state and Andhra Pradesh in connection with the Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation 'scam', officials said. The case involves serious allegations of transferring government funds to personal accounts of Nagendra's relatives from the accounts of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

5 killed after vehicle falls into deep gorge

Shimla: Five people were killed and two others suffered injuries when their vehicle fell into a deep gorge here Monday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Joginder Singh (driver), a resident of Khaula village, and Rajesh, Ekender Shahi, Laxmi and Dil Bahadur, natives of Nepal.

DELHI BMW ACCIDENT

Despite repeated pleas, accused took victims to hosp 19 km away

Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Navjot Singh (52), a resident of Hari Nagar, was killed in the accident on the Ring Road near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station Sunday afternoon



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The wife of the senior government official killed in a collision between their motorcycle and a luxury car near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station had repeatedly pleaded with the accused couple to get them admitted to a nearby hospital, but to no avail, according to the FIR lodged in the case.

The woman who allegedly drove the BMW car that hit a motorcycle here, killing a senior finance ministry official, was arrested Monday, an official said. Earlier in the day, she was taken into custody after being discharged from the hospital, police said.

"The lady took us to a small hospital in GTB Nagar, far from the accident site," the bereaved woman told police in a statement, which is now part of the FIR. Meanwhile, police sources said the hospital where the victim was taken was linked to the accused. "So far, we have learned that the hospital, which is almost 19 kilometres away from the accident site, is linked to the accused. We are checking and verifying all the facts," said the sources.

Van driver Mohammad Gulfam, who rushed all four injured people to the hospital, has also made a similar claim. "I was driving a loading vehicle; I stopped and rushed the injured to a hospital in Azadpur after the man and the woman in the car asked me to take them there," he told PTI.

The police have contacted Gulfam to record his statement.



It is a revered institution where I imbibed the essence of true patriotism, discipline, camaraderie and a balanced lifestyle -- lessons that have indelibly shaped my personal and public lives

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

Rahul Gandhi visits flood-hit Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the flood-hit areas in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab Monday and interacted with those affected by the natural disaster.

After meeting the flood victims, he said "pain is clearly visible in their eyes, but their courage is unwavering".

Meanwhile, Congress leaders alleged that Gandhi was stopped by the local police from visiting Toor, a border village across the Ravi river in Gurdaspur. On the central relief package of Rs 1,600 crore for the state, the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha agreed with the state Congress leaders saying that it was far too less than what was needed.

His visit came nearly a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged areas of Punjab and reviewed the

INDIAN NAVY GETS ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHIP

The Indian Navy has received an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare ship that is expected to boost its maritime prowess against the backdrop of China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean. 'Androth', the second of the eight anti-submarine warfare-shallow water craft (ASW-SWC), has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata



situation the state. During his visit, Gandhi was accompanied by Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa, Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and other party leaders.

Upon his arrival, Gandhi was briefed by the party leaders about the extent of damage and devastation caused in Punjab due to the recent floods.

They also brought to his notice the alleged negligence of the state and central governments, which added to the

devastation. The leaders told him that timely action by the state government and the Centre could have prevented the damage by about 75 per cent.

After arriving in Amritsar this morning, Gandhi straightway headed to Ghonewal village in Ajnala and met the flood-hit people to enquire about the damage.

Ghonewal village was among several areas in Ajnala which was badly hit by floodwaters. "The flood has caused massive devastation in Punjab. Today I met the villagers in Ghonewal - ruined homes, damaged fields, shattered lives. The pain

House of Kuki leader 'torched' in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Churachandpur/Imphal, Sept 15: Tensions flared in Manipur's Churachandpur district after the residence of a Kuki leader was allegedly set on fire by a mob, officials said Monday.

The residence of Kuki National Organisation (KNO) leader Calvin Aikhenthang was torched late Sunday night, they claimed.

However, a section of locals in Churachandpur claimed that a short circuit triggered the fire.

KNO is a signatory to the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the Centre.

The residence of another Kuki leader, Ginza Vualzong,



who is the spokesperson of the Kuki Zo Council (KZC) and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), was also targeted by miscreants, but timely intervention by locals helped prevent the house from being set on fire, officials said.

Two prominent Kuki-Zo groups signed the SoO agreement with the Centre on re-negotiated terms and conditions September 4, under which they agreed to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur, re-



An enthusiast practices Garba, a traditional dance ahead of nine days long Navratri festival, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Entire Himalayan range facing ecological crisis: SC

The recent devastations in the form of high-intensity rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, variations in snowfall patterns, and receding glaciers were manifestations of climate change, an undeniable global phenomenon resulting from extensive industrialization, rising greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable practices at regional, national and global levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Monday said the issue concerning ecology and environmental conditions was not going to be limited to Himachal Pradesh only as the entire Himalayan range, which was "very violent" this time, was facing it.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said it would pass its order September 23 in the suo motu matter concerning issues relating to ecology and environmental conditions prevailing in Himachal Pradesh.

"Ultimately, it is not going to be limited to Himachal only. It is the entire Himalayan range that is facing this. This time around, it has been very very violent," Justice Mehta observed.

During the hearing, Himachal Pradesh's advocate general and additional advocate general informed the bench about a report filed by the state in the matter.

"We will give you a brief order after summarising everything so that you can get specific instructions," the bench said.

Senior advocate K Parmeshwar, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the matter, said the report filed by the state covered many aspects, including tree cover.

"The report covers a number of aspects. It might not be possible to deal with all the aspects at one go. They have covered from tree cover to mining aspect, glaciers etc," he said.

Parmeshwar flagged that there were no specifics in the report.

He said the state had con-



tended in the report that there were some concerns with glacier reduction and glacier movement but those specifics were not there.

"All that the report promises is to set up of a committee to look into these," the amicus

said, adding that the canvass was too broad.

The state's additional advocate general referred to a part of the report which said Himachal Pradesh was actively working on creation of a state-level glacier registry.

The report said the integrated studies of Himalayan cryosphere was conducted by comparing glacier inventories of period from 2016 to 2019 with year 2001-2002 for various basins in Himachal Pradesh.

"The following findings of the scientific analysis reveals that while glacier numbers have largely remained stable or shown minor increases, their total area has declined, indicating gradual shrinkage," it said.

The report said the recent devastations in the form of high-intensity rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, variations in snowfall patterns, and receding glaciers were manifestations of climate change, an undeniable global phenomenon resulting from extensive industrialization, rising greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable practices at regional, national and global levels.

On the concern raised by the court regarding destruction caused by hydropower projects, the report said such projects might not be considered the primary cause of destruction in the state.

"Recent flash floods and

cloudbursts have occurred in areas far away from hydropower installations. These destructive events were mainly caused by cloudbursts happening at higher altitudes and mountain peaks where no hydropower projects exist," it said.

The report also said national highway projects in the state were undertaken after due diligence, planning and coordination with the various stakeholder departments, and includes public consultation where applicable.

On the court's concern regarding destruction caused by deforestation due to developmental projects, the report said to rehabilitate and rejuvenate, the state through forest department undertakes tree planting in degraded area, and even on the evicted encroachment.

It said between 2018 and 2025, the state witnessed a surge in extreme weather events, with 434 incidents recorded across districts.

"These disasters claimed 123 lives and caused significant livestock losses, severely impacting rural communities reliant on agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry," the report said.

of the day

quote

The government is working to make India's automobile industry number one in the world within five years



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Our endeavour will be that we identify these products, put them in the public domain so that the manufacturers (both current and future) can look at them will give a boost to Make in India



SUNIL BARTH WAL | SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

IndiGo is the only Indian airline, currently, to announce direct flights between India and Greece. This new aviation corridor is a strategic step in IndiGo's international expansion and aligns perfectly with India's growing economy and tourism industry



PIETER ELBERS | CEO, INDIGO

SHORT TAKES

Ola files PLI claim


New Delhi: Ola Electric has filed a claim of around ₹400 crore incentives under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, reinforcing its compliance with rigorous localisation and regulatory requirements, according to sources. As per industry sources, Ola has filed the claim with eligible sales of about ₹3,000 crore for FY25, translating into an expected incentive of nearly ₹400 crore. The incentive, calculated at a rate of 13 to 14 per cent, is expected to significantly strengthen the company's liquidity position and deliver a positive impact on its financial performance in the coming quarters, the sources close to the development said. Continuing this momentum, Ola has emerged as the top achiever in PLI-eligible sales in the two-wheeler category for two consecutive years, underscoring its leadership in India's EV transformation.

Crude oil price surges

New Delhi: Crude oil prices rise ₹35 to ₹5,561 per barrel in the domestic futures market Monday after Ukraine launched large-scale drone attacks on Russia's energy infrastructure, disrupting key facilities. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil futures for September delivery increased ₹35, or 0.63 per cent, to ₹5,561 per barrel in a business turnover of 6,521 lots. In addition, crude oil futures for October delivery went up ₹28, or 0.51 per cent, to ₹5,554 per barrel in 9,107 lots. Globally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil was trading 0.30 per cent higher at \$62.88 per barrel while Brent Crude rose 0.21 per cent to \$67.13 a barrel in New York.

Merc price hike

New Delhi: Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz is looking to increase prices early next year in order to offset the impact of a weakened rupee against the euro, according to the company's MD and CEO Santosh Iyer. The automaker has already increased prices by around 3.5-4 per cent this year. The depreciation of the rupee against the Euro is close to 14-15 per cent and the company so far increased price just 3.5-4 per cent. The company has announced price cut ranging from ₹2 lakh (A-Class) to ₹10 lakh (S-Class) due to GST rate rationalisation. Mercedes-Benz sold 18,928 units in India in 2024-25, with one out of every four cars sold priced above ₹1.5 crore.



We are passing through very interesting times when the world is going through so much of turbulence, India is very stable growing at a consistent rate

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RUPEE WITNESSED RANGE-BOUND TRADING AND SETTLED HIGHER BY 6 PAISE AT 88.20 (PROVISIONAL) AGAINST THE US DOLLAR MONDAY, AS THE DOMESTIC UNIT WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN WORRIES OVER US TRADE TARIFFS AND HOPES OF A FED RATE CUT. AT THE INTERBANK FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THE RUPEE OPENED AT 88.25, THEN TOUCHED AN INTRA-DAY LOW OF 88.30 AND A HIGH OF 88.13 AGAINST THE GREENBACK DURING THE DAY



Exports rise, imports decline

According to the data released by the ministry of commerce, cumulative merchandise and services exports increased to \$69.16 billion in August, compared to \$63.25 billion in corresponding month last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: India's exports rose 6.7 per cent to \$35.1 billion in August annually, while imports declined 10.12 per cent to \$61.59 billion, according to government data released Monday.

Gold imports were down nearly 56 per cent in August, helping to trim merchandise trade deficit to \$26.49 billion in August, as against \$35.64 billion in the year-ago month.

The US was top exporting destination for India at \$6.86 billion showing a growth of 7.15 per cent year-on-year, followed by the UAE (\$3.24 billion), the Netherlands (\$1.83 billion), China (\$1.21 billion) and the UK (1.14 billion) during August.

Trade tensions have been simmering between India and the US, with the latter slapping steep tariffs on Indian goods.

On the other hand, India imported maximum goods from China at \$10.91 billion, followed by Russia (\$4.83 billion), UAE (\$4.66 billion), the US (3.6 billion), and Saudi Arabia (\$2.5 billion). According to the data released by the ministry of commerce, cumulative merchandise and services exports increased to \$69.16 billion in August, compared to \$63.25 billion in corresponding month last year.

The combined imports were valued at \$79.04 billion compared to \$84.99 billion in August 2024,



leaving a trade deficit of \$9.88 billion.

The cumulative exports (merchandise and services) during April-August 2025 estimated at \$349.35 billion, as compared to \$329.03 billion in April-August 2024, showing a growth of 6.18 per cent.

Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in August 2025 include electronic goods (\$2.93 billion), engineering goods (\$9.9 billion), gems and jewellery (\$2.31 billion), petroleum products (\$4.48 billion) and drugs and pharmaceuticals (\$2.51 billion).

As per the data, India imported vegetable oils worth \$2 billion, fertilisers worth \$1.65 billion; coal, coke and briquettes worth \$2 billion; petroleum prod-

ucts worth \$13.26 billion; chemicals worth \$2.49 billion, and electronic items worth \$9.73 billion in August.

Gold imports declined 56.67 per cent to \$5.43 billion in August from \$12.55 billion in the year-ago month.

The commerce ministry data showed non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery (gold, silver and precious metals) imports in August 2025 were \$41.02 billion compared to \$41.41 billion in August 2024. The estimated value of services export for August 2025 was \$34.06 billion as compared to \$30.36 billion in the year-ago month. Value of services imports were estimated at \$17.45 billion as compared to \$16.46 billion in August 2024.

HMSI to pass on full GST Benefits to customers



Bhubaneswar: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has announced that it will pass on the full benefit of the recent GST rate reduction to customers across its two-wheeler portfolio, covering all scooters and motorcycles up to 350cc. Following the 56th GST Council's decision, September 3 to reduce GST on two-wheelers from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, customers can now enjoy ex-showroom savings of up to ₹18,800, depending on the model. The revised rates will be effective from September 22, 2025. While the tax cut applies to scooters and motorcycles up to 350cc, HMSI is also assessing the impact of the newly introduced 40% GST slab on premium motorcycles above 350cc. The government's recent GST reform is expected to give a significant boost to the automobile sector by making two-wheelers more accessible, particularly in rural and semi-urban markets. Customers can check the exact model-wise price reduction at their nearest authorised Honda dealership. There has been increase for the sale of Honda two wheelers sectors post GST reforms.

Central Bank of India organises financial inclusion camp

Bhubaneswar: A Financial Inclusion Camp was organized by Central Bank of India, Benupur Branch at Momentz Convention, Baliana, Hanspal. Mahendra Dohare, Executive Director, Central Bank of India attended the event as the Chief Guest while Sanjaya kumar Talukdar, Chief General Manager of NABARD joined the programme as the Chief Speaker. Pankaj Kumar, Bhubaneswar Regional Head, Central Bank of India, BR Ramakrishna Naik, Raipur Zonal Head, Ajaya Behera, Lead District Manager, Khordha District, Hrusikesh Patra, Benupur Sarpanch joined the programme and discussed in detail about the need and importance of PMJIBY, PMSBY, APY, and Re-KYC schemes. Barsarani Jee, Branch Manager, Benupur branch proposed vote of thanks while Mitali Madhusmita, Assistant Manager, Priyabrata Pradhan, Head Cashier and Staff BP Singh conducted the programme. Regional Office staffs DRH Suresh Chandra, Chief Manager Mukund Karn, Sarat Mohapatra, Priyambada Nayak, Sandeep Choudhury, Aishwarya Bose, Subrat Sasmal, Subhashree Panda, Shashwati Pani, Sarojini Rath and Bandana were present on this occasion.



BOIOA Odisha conducts 44th Annual General Body Meeting



Bhubaneswar: The 44th Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of the Bank of India Officers' Association (BOIOA), Odisha Unit was held September 14 at the Railway Auditorium, Bhubaneswar. The meeting was held under the dynamic leadership of Smrutiranjana Sahoo, President, and Kamaljit Mohapatra, General Secretary BOIOA, Odisha. The event was graced by the presence of top leadership of the Federation, like Nilesh Pawar-General Secretary, G Nageshwar- President, Shvetang Trivedi- Working President, Sanjay Das- Chairman, Ganesh Pandey and Prakash Oraon. The Meeting was graced by the Senior Bank Executives Vikash Krishna, General Manager, FGMO, Bhubaneswar, Bijoy Kumar Malik, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone and Srijit Sankar Behera, Zonal Manager, Sambalpur Zone who deliberate regarding the Road Map for the Bank of India in Odisha. The 44th AGBM concluded on a high note with a collective resolve to strengthen organizational unity, intensify efforts for officers' welfare, and contribute meaningfully to the growth and reputation of BOI.

WPI INFLATION RISES TO 4-MONTH HIGH

Narrower food WPI deflation and higher core inflation have offset the deeper deflation in fuel in August, Barclays said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Sept 15: Wholesale price inflation rose to a four-month high of 0.52 per cent in August as prices of food articles and manufactured items inched up, even though fuel and power basket witnessed easing.

Reversing the deflationary trend of the past two months, (-) 0.58 in July and (-) 0.19 per cent in June, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to its highest level since April, when it was 0.85 per cent.

Wholesale price inflation was 1.25 per cent in August last year.

"Positive rate of inflation in August 2025 is primarily due to an increase in prices of food products, manufacturing, non-food articles, non-metallic mineral products and transport equipment etc," the industry ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Deflation in food articles narrowed to 3.06 per cent in August, from 6.29 per cent in the previous month. Deflation in vegetables and pulses eased to 14.18 per cent and 14.85 per cent from 28.96 per cent and 15.12 per cent, respectively.

In potato and onion, however, the deflation deepened to 44.11 per cent and 50.46 per cent in

August, from 41.26 per cent and 44.38 per cent, respectively, in July.

Narrower food WPI deflation and higher core inflation have offset the deeper deflation in fuel in August, Barclays said, adding it expects modest increases in WPI in the coming months.

In the case of manufactured products, inflation was higher at 2.55 per cent in August, as against 2.05 per cent in the month before.

Industry chamber PHDCCI President Hemant Jain said among manufactured products, major contributors to inflation were vegetable and animal oils & fats, textiles, and rubber & plastic products, which may reflect in production costs with a lag. ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said the hardening in prices was broad-based across all segments, except fuel and power, which witnessed a deeper deflation in August 2025 as compared to July 2025.

Negative inflation or deflation in the 'fuel and power' basket was 3.17 per cent in August, as against 2.43 per cent in July.

Aditya Birla Group receives 'Star Employer' award

Bhubaneswar: Aditya Birla Group was conferred the Employment Excellence Award by Govt of Odisha Monday, as 'Star Employer' for outstanding contribution in employment generation in the State in Conventional Industries category. Ardhendu Mohapatra, Head- Corp Affairs, Aditya Birla, Odisha received the felicitation from CM Mohan Charan Majhi at a state-level function at Bhubaneswar. Minister (Industries), Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) Hemant Sharma were present among others.



Vedanta organises mega health camp



Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, organised a free multispecialty health camp at Gumpur village in Kalahandi district, benefiting over 200 people from 26 villages in Thuamul Rampur and Kashipur blocks. The camp provided a wide range of medical services including orthopaedics, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, dermatology, ENT, chest and tuberculosis care, along with free distribution of medicines. The programme was inaugurated by Pradosh Kumar Panda, Block Public Health Officer (CHC Thuamul Rampur), alongside local healthcare professionals and community representatives. "Ensuring access to quality healthcare is a cornerstone of our development efforts," said Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium."

NITI report suggests AI adoption for Viksit Bharat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Accelerated adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across industries can contribute \$500-600 billion to India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2035 on the back of increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce, a NITI Aayog report said Monday.

The report titled 'AI for Viksit Bharat: The Opportunity for Accelerated Economic Growth' further said that over the next decade, the adoption of AI across sectors is expected to add \$17-26 trillion to the global economy.

"India's combination of a large STEM workforce, expanding R&D ecosystem, and growing digital and technology capabilities position the country to participate in this transformation, with the potential to capture 10-15 per cent of global AI value," it said.

According to the Aayog, projections show that while AI will create many new roles, it will also displace many existing

jobs, particularly in clerical, routine, and low-skill segments.

"Accelerated adoption of AI across industries can contribute \$500 billion -\$600 billion over and above India's current GDP growth by 2035, driven by increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce," the report said.

It said the analysis shows that financial services and manufacturing can be most impacted and might have up to 20-25 per cent of their sectoral GDP attributed to AI by 2035.

AI-led productivity and efficiency improvement could unlock \$50-55 billion in financial services, over and above the current estimated growth for the sector by 2035.

"AI could power automated compliance, fraud detection, and risk management through advanced anomaly detection techniques and privacy-preserving analytics such as secure multi-party computation and federated learning," the report said.

According to the report,



AI-enabled systems can reshape credit decisioning, collections, and portfolio management. By leveraging alternative data sources, banks can make more accurate, dynamic, and inclusive lending decisions

The report noted that potential AI opportunities for India presently include accelerating AI adoption across industries to improve productivity and efficiency, potentially bridging

30-35 per cent of the gap.

"These effects are expected to materialize across both domestic consumption and export markets," it said.

The report also observed that innovation in technology services, strengthening India's reputation as a technology services leader, contributing another 15-20 per cent to the step up could drive the development of higher-value solutions and

new business models, enhancing India's competitiveness in the global market.

In manufacturing, the report said \$85-100 billion could be driven by AI-led productivity and efficiency improvement over and above India's current growth by 2035.

At its current growth rate of 5.7 per cent, India's GDP is projected to reach \$6.6 trillion by 2035.

However, the report said under the aspirational 8 per cent growth trajectory outlined in the government's vision for the nation known as Viksit Bharat, India's GDP could increase to \$8.3 trillion, representing an incremental \$1.7 trillion compared with the current growth path.

Releasing the report, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the need for regulations that foster technology innovations for the common good, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), but not stifle them

"We do not want regulations that literally wipe out technol-

Stock markets close lower ahead of Fed rate decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 15: Benchmark Sensex dropped nearly 119 points while Nifty snapped its eight-day winning run in a volatile trade Monday due to profit-taking in IT and auto shares ahead of the US Fed policy meeting.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 118.96 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 81,785.74. During the day, it hit a high of 81,998.51 and a low of 81,744.70.

The 50-share NSE Nifty settled lower by 44.80 points or 0.18 per cent to 25,069.20, halting its eight-day uptrend.

Investors stayed on the sidelines as markets await the outcome of this week's US Federal Reserve policy meeting, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Infosys, Titan, Sun Pharma, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were the major laggards.

However, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and Reliance Industries were among the gainers. Broader markets were positive with the Smallcap gauge climbing 0.66 per cent and the Midcap index gaining 0.40 per cent. "Indian markets ended Monday's session on a muted note, with the benchmark indices slipping into the red amid volatile, range bound trade," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT dropped the most by 0.63 per cent, followed by IT (0.60 per cent), consumer durables (0.50 per cent), teck (0.45 per cent) and auto (0.32 per cent).

Cricket cold war: Handshake snub sparks Asia Cup storm

PCB alleges Code of Conduct breach in India game, wants match referee axed

The controversy erupted when India captain Suryakumar Yadav and his Pakistan counterpart Salman Agha did not engage in the customary handshake during the toss for their Group A contest and even after the end of the match in the Asia Cup tie Sunday. A handshake between captains of both teams during coin toss before matches in international cricket is a convention and not specified as a rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 15: The Indian players' refusal to exchange handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts after an Asia Cup clash here snowballed into a major controversy Monday as an irate PCB sought the removal of match referee Andy Pycroft, holding him responsible for the fiasco that has stirred fresh tensions between the two arch-rivals.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav had justified his team's stand after the seven-wicket win Sunday, stating that it was meant to show solidarity with the families of Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

This was after the team drew severe backlash for playing against the traditional foes. The Pakistan Cricket Board reacted angrily to the entire turn of events and after complaining to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), it has now sought the ICC's intervention.

Incidentally, PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi is the current head of ACC, while the ICC is helmed by India's Jay Shah. The Asia Cup, however, is not an ICC event and is managed by the ACC.

"The PCB has lodged a complaint with the ICC regarding violations by the Match Referee



of the ICC Code of Conduct and the MCC Laws pertaining to the Spirit of Cricket. The PCB has demanded an immediate removal of the Match Referee from the Asia Cup," Naqvi said on X'.

The PCB had earlier stated that Pycroft "asked (Pakistan) captain Salman Ali Agha, at the time of the toss, not to shake hands with his Indian counterpart."

Pakistan team manager Naved Cheema has also filed a complaint with the ACC alleging that it was on Pycroft's insistence that team sheets weren't exchanged between the two skippers as is the norm.

The BCCI is yet to respond to the PCB's statements but it is reliably learnt that if India make the tournament's final September 28, the players won't be sharing the presentation dais with Naqvi, who is expected to hand over the winner's trophy as ACC head.

Both teams avoided bumping

into each other during customary warm-up and then at the toss, the rival skippers handed over their respective team sheets to Pycroft.

"Team manager Naveed Cheema lodged a strong protest against Indian players' behaviour of not shaking hands. It was deemed as unsporting and against the sport of the game. As a protest we did not send our captain to the post match ceremony," read a PCB statement issued earlier.

India's stand, which will be discussed and debated for some time to come, was in stark contrast to the apolitical position that players tend to maintain when it comes to Pakistan.

"Together, we came here, we took a call and I feel we came here just to play the game. I think we gave the proper reply," Suryakumar replied to a PTI query when asked about the stance taken by his team.

When a Pakistani journalist asked whether the refusal to

shake hands with opposition players after the seven-wicket win was "politically motivated", the skipper replied: "I feel few things, few things in life are ahead of sportsman's spirit also. We stand with victims of Pahalgam terror attack and dedicate this victory to our Armed Forces."

The sentiment was echoed by head coach Gautam Gambhir while talking to the tournament broadcaster.

It is understood that BCCI and the team management got into a huddle to discuss their stance as opposition parties in India as well as the social media erupted in protest against the match, calling it a case of putting money above the sentiments of families devastated by the Pahalgam terror attack which killed 26 people in April.

Gambhir and senior players were unanimous about not shaking hands at any given time during the match. The decision wasn't an instant one and was taken after due deliberation, eventually green-lighted by senior people in the BCCI.

It must be noted that Gambhir's personal stand on playing Pakistan is quite clear -- "No sporting ties till terror activities continue on Indian soil."

It is understood that 'no handshake' is a policy decision that would be maintained throughout the course of the Asia Cup if the teams happen to meet again in a Super Four Clash next Sunday followed by a potential meeting in the final September 28.

"Look, if you read the rule book, there is no specification about shaking hands with the opposition. It is a goodwill gesture and a sort of convention not law that is followed globally across the sporting spectrum," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"If there is no law, then the Indian cricket team is not bound to shake hands with an opposition with whom there is a history of strained relationship," he added.

Historically, not shaking hands for political reasons is not a new thing in international sports.

Vaishali defends Grand Swiss crown

The Grandmaster becomes third Indian to enter Candidates 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Sept 15: Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss for the second time in a row and made it to the women's Candidates tournament after a hard-fought draw against former world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the 11th and final round here Monday.

Russian Kateryna Lagno played out a draw fairly quickly with Ulviyya Fataliyeva of Azerbaijan to end at the top of the table, along with Vaishali, on eight points out of a possible 11. Lagno became the other qualifier for the Candidates, apart from Vaishali, from here.

Vaishali had a little better tie-break score to win the tournament as she played with much higher ranked Zhongyi.

The Indian GM had also won the tournament in 2023 in Isle of Man, United Kingdom. Her victory here signifies that the Indian women are also going to hog the limelight like their male counterparts soon.



Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy have already qualified after finishing first and second respectively in the last women's World Cup. With Vaishali now joining them, it's already three Indian women in the fray to try and win the Candidates that will give them a shot at the world women's chess title.

None of the other Indians in the FIDE Grand Swiss could

make it to the Candidates, that is reserved for eight players in all and two from here.

Anish Giri was the winner in the open section as he crushed Hans Moke Niemann of United States.

The last three spots will be filled in from the World Chess Cup to be held in Goa next month. The winner of the Candidates will challenge reigning world champion D Gukesh.

Irfan, Debashish brand ambassadors of OPTL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 15: The Odisha Pro T20 League (OPTL) organised by the Odisha Cricket Association and exclusively managed by Arivaa Sports, proudly announces two icons of Indian cricket, Irfan Pathan and Debashish Mohanty, as its official brand ambassadors for the inaugural season.

Irfan Pathan, a premier fast bowler and one of India's most celebrated cricketers, brings a wealth of international experience and deep regional roots to the league and joining him is Debasish Mohanty, a trailblazer from Odisha for the sport in India. Sanjay Raul, Former International Cricketer (BCCI Match Referee) will be the match referee for the entirety of the league.

The league will be a single leg event that will be played from the September 17 to 26, with 2 matches almost every single day. A total of 18 matches will be broadcast live on Star Sports Khel and streamed live on FanCode every day at 2 pm and 7 pm respectively as per the fixtures in both Hindi and English.

Talent shines at 5th All Odisha Pickleball Open



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The 5th All Odisha Pickleball Open, conducted by the Pickleball Association of Odisha in association with the All India Pickleball Association, was held over two days, 13-14 September, and concluded with a vibrant prize distribution ceremony.

The tournament witnessed intense competition across multiple categories, highlighting the sport's increasing popularity in Odisha. With participation from seasoned players as well as emerging youngsters, the event reflected

the state's growing contribution to the national pickleball movement.

The closing ceremony was graced by Ashis Garg (MD, Group G), Soumitra Choudhary (former Odisha Ranji cricketer and eminent cricket coach), Bijoy Ketan Mishra (Vice President, Pickleball Association of Odisha), Subranshu Sarangi (Secretary), Ekalavya Mahapatra (Tournament Director), and Santosh Jena (Executive Committee Member). The dignitaries congratulated the winners and lauded the participants for their dedication and sportsmanship.

New FIH Pro League season to begin Dec 9

Lausanne: The 2025-26 season of the FIH Hockey Pro League will get underway December 9 in Argentina and Ireland, with a record 144 matches lined up across 10 host nations. The seventh edition of the "League of the Best" will feature two newcomers — Ireland women and Pakistan men — promoted from the FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2024-25. The winners of both the men's and women's leagues will directly qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Central lift Duleep Trophy after 11 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: Central Zone survived some nervous moments to beat South Zone by six wickets and clinch the Duleep Trophy after a hiatus of 11 years here Monday.

Chasing a modest target of 65, Central Zone's top-order batters were tested by South bowlers on a crumbling fifth day track at the BCCI CoE grounds, but they did not have too many runs to defend.

Akshay Wadkar (19 not out, 52 balls) and first-innings cen-



turion Yash Rathod (13 not out, 16 balls) were at crease when Central eventually went past

the target at 66 for four in 20.3 overs to annex their seventh title in Duleep Trophy.

However, South can take heart from the fight they showed in the second innings (426) and with the ball in the final innings, delaying Central's walk to victory. Left-arm spinner Ankit Sharma accounted for Danish Malewar (5) with a delivery that spun sharply and took the edge of the Central opener's bat en route to wicketkeeper Mohammed Azharuddeen.

For Patidar, it was his second title this year after guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to victory in the IPL, and he was understandably delighted.

Unstoppable Duplantis soars to new heights

The athlete breaks pole vault world record for 14th time to capture third world championship title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 15: Armand "Mondo" Duplantis broke the pole vault world record for the 14th time Monday night, clearing 6.30 meters to capture his third world championship. Duplantis, who grew up in Louisiana but competes for his mother's native Sweden, easily won his 49th straight meet and fifth straight major title, including Olympics, then kept the crowd around for another drama-rich half-hour to watch him go for the record.

He cleared his top height (20 feet, 8 inches) on his third and final try -- the bar still bouncing but not falling as he leaped off the mat and jumped into second-place finisher Emmanouil Karalis' arms to start the celebration.

Duplantis gets \$70,000 for the victory plus a \$100,000 bonus for setting the record at the world championships. The jam-packed stadium that stuck around for his finale gets a great memory.



"To give you guys this moment, it's just amazing," Duplantis said in an in-stadium interview.

The 25-year-old first broke the record February 8, 2020, clearing 6.17 meters and knocking France's 2012 Olympic

champion, Renaud Lavillenie, off the top spot.

Since then, Duplantis has improved upon the record by one centimeter every time, giving him more opportunities to pocket bonuses like the one he gets at this event.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS NEXT FOR ME AT THIS MOMENT, I DON'T CARE. I WILL JUST ENJOY THIS RIGHT NOW
ARMAND "MONDO" DUPLANTIS

As great a showman as an athlete, Duplantis shared handshakes and hugs with all those guys after Karalis missed at 6.20 meters to guarantee Duplantis the win.

He headed over to the edge of the track to consult with his coach, walked back near the runway and took a seat, then stood up, chalked up his hands and let the drama begin.

Just as he did a year ago at the Paris Olympics, Duplantis missed his first two tries, leaving himself with one, last all-or-nothing attempt.

After sitting for about five minutes, he got up, took off, reached a speed of more than 35 kilometers per hour (22 mph), then went vaulting over the highest height ever cleared -- enough room to fit a full-sized pickup truck.

Odisha men finish second in All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 15: The third All-India T10 Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, organised under the auspices of the Tennis Ball Cricket Association of India (TBCAI), was held at the Shree Jagannath Cricket Stadium Sunday.

The tournament was hosted by the Odisha T10 Tennis Cricket Association in collaboration with the Shree Jagannath Darshan Charitable Trust.

Due to rain, the men's final was delayed and played Monday morning, with Jharkhand emerging as champions while Odisha settled for the runners-up position.

After editions in Lucknow and Goa, the championship's third installment in the holy city of Puri has added a new chapter to its national-level journey. Odisha, finishing runners-up in both the men's and women's categories, left behind strong memories.

In the first men's semifinal, Jharkhand defeated AIIB by



seven wickets. The second semifinal between Odisha and Uttar Pradesh was disrupted by rain, and Odisha were declared winners.

On Monday batting first, Odisha post 76 runs for the loss of six wickets in the allotted eight overs. Chasing a target of 77, Jharkhand overhauled the score in 6.1 overs with only two wickets down.

Jharkhand's Chhotu Khan was named Player of the Match,

while Odisha's Bishal Jena won Player of the Series. Odisha's Kiran Saha was adjudged Best Batter, Muktikant Patra Best Bowler, and Niranjan Pradhan Best Fielder.

TBCAI president Daitapati Bhabani Prasad Dasmohapatra, governing body chairman Nishikant Mishra, executive secretary Santosh Kumar Pradhan and other officials presented trophies and medals to the champion and runners-up teams.