

DSPL-252



ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀଙ୍କ ୭୫ତମ ଜନ୍ମ ଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ

ଏକ୍ ପେଡ୍ ମା' କେ ନାମ୍ ୨.୦



“ଆଜି ସାରା ଦେଶରେ ‘ଏକ୍ ପେଡ୍ ମା’ କେ ନାମ୍’ ଅଭିଯାନ ଏକ ଜନଆନ୍ଦୋଳନରେ ପରିଣତ ହୋଇଛି । ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନର ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ୨.୭୨ କୋଟି ଚାରାଚୋପଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ‘ଏକ୍ ପେଡ୍ ମା’ କେ ନାମ୍ ୨.୦’ ଅଭିଯାନରେ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ୭.୫ କୋଟି ଚାରାଚୋପଣ ଲାଗି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ରଖାଯାଇଛି ।”

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ବୃକ୍ଷ ଆମ ଜୀବନ

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| ସବୁଜିମା | ଅମ୍ଳଜାନ ପ୍ରଦାନ | ବୃକ୍ଷପାତ |
| ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ | ପରିବେଶ ସମ୍ବଳନ | ତାପମାତ୍ରା ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ |
| ଫୁଲ, ଫଳ ଓ ଛାଇ | ଶବ୍ଦ ଓ ବାୟୁ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ | |
| ମୃତ୍ତିକା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ | ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟରୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା | |

୧୭ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫ରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବ୍ୟାପୀ ୭୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଚାରାଚୋପଣ ଅଭିଯାନ

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ‘ଏକ୍ ପେଡ୍ ମା’ କେ ନାମ୍’ ଅଭିଯାନରେ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା, ଆମ ଜନ୍ମଦାତ୍ରୀ ମା’ ପ୍ରତି ସମ୍ମାନ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିବା ସହିତ ଧରିତ୍ରୀ ମା’ର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଗଛଟିଏ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ଲଗାଇବା

**ଗଛ ଲଗାଇବା, ମିଳିମିଶି ଆମ ପରିବେଶର ଯତ୍ନ ନେବା
ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ପିଢ଼ି ପାଇଁ ଏକ ସୁନ୍ଦର ପୃଥିବୀ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବା**



ଚାରାଚୋପଣ କରି ଚାରା ସହିତ ସେଲୁଫି ନେବା, ‘ମେରି ଲାଇଫ୍’ ପୋର୍ଟାଲରେ ଅପଲୋଡ୍ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଇ-ସାର୍ବିସକେଟ୍ ବାଉନଲୋଡ୍ କରିବା ।



OIPR-08002/13/0027/2526

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST




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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES



You can make a difference to others' lives. Considerate and thoughtful, today, you will be treasured more than ever as a boss, colleague, parent or beloved. Utilise this exchange of energy to sort out difficult issues. Ganesha gives a thumbs up to mega projects.

TAURUS




Things will tend to get very difficult and complicated, says Ganesha. Be prepared for setbacks and challenges today. No matter how big the issue, your competence, your resourcefulness will see you through. Try to remain focused and alert. Be cautious and circumspect. Act coolly and sensibly.

GEMINI




Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

CANCER



Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, portends Ganesha. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat. You'll be a Pied Piper to the women, or le belle dame sans merci (the beautiful young merciless woman) to the men.

LEO



'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesha, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith.

VIRGO



Cancerian though you are, you won't bite or pinch people. Instead, you are and will be flooded with empathy. But Ganesha says that you are a bit too rigid when it comes to performing your duties, not to mention extremely principled. On the home front, get more expressive and closer to your kin, advises Ganesha.

LIBRA



You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives. But everything considered, all Ganesha has to say is, "Stop worrying and start living!"

SCORPIO



Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesha. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS




The way you keep your interests alive will keep your mind occupied. Leisure activities and by-lines will by-pass the mundane routine today, foretells Ganesha. Pamper yourself by doing what you like, be it gardening, cooking or even plain old reading. Ganesha also sees a heavy meal with friends late in the day today.

CAPRICORN



The day will be a maze of complex problems and situations, but you will find your way out in no time, says Ganesha. At work, you may love to play the leader, but that makes you accountable, for both the good as well as the poor performance of your subordinates. In all likelihood, you may be held responsible for the poor performance of your team members.

AQUARIUS



Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesha. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

PISCES



The focus is firmly on career advancement today. Business deals, which have been a long time in the making, will finally come through. Those pursuing a profession can expect pay rises or promotions. Make sure your skills are up to the mark to be able to tackle your new responsibilities satisfactorily, says Ganesha.



HOLLYWOOD ICON REDFORD NO MORE

Robert Redford, the Hollywood golden boy who became an Oscar-winning director, liberal activist and godfather for independent cinema under the name of one of his best-loved characters, died Tuesday at 89. Redford died at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah.

ELORDI, GIANNULLI SPARK RECONCILIATION RUMOURS

Jacob Elordi and Olivia Jade Giannulli have rekindled their romance shortly after their breakup was confirmed last month. The couple, who were first linked in 2021, were spotted together at the Toronto International Film Festival, sparking reconciliation rumours.



PC recounts struggles as outsider

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra, also known as PC or PeeCee to her fans, has always been open about her struggles as an outsider in Bollywood. Recently, she spoke at an event about the challenges she faced entering an industry dominated by established families, and how those experiences inspired her to launch her own production house.

Priyanka founded Purple Pebble Pictures in 2015 to create opportunities for filmmakers and actors who didn't have access to mainstream platforms. She shared, "I won a beauty pageant in 2000, which kickstarted my journey into films. I began working in Hindi and Tamil movies from 2002, but Bollywood was extremely closed off to outsiders. There were generational actors, directors, and producers, so breaking in wasn't easy. But I was ambitious, didn't like failing, and remained persistent. Somehow, I made it."

Her goal with Purple Pebble Pictures was to support smaller films and talent that deserved recognition. "I wanted to be the shoulder for entertainers around the world to get the limelight they deserve. I'm proud of the films we've been associated with—they've been wonderfully received," she added.

On the work front, Priyanka is set to return to Indian cinema with SS Rajamouli's *SSMB 29*, co-starring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran, an *Indiana Jones*-style action-adventure currently in production.

AGENCIES



Qualities Janhvi looks for in her partner

Mumbai: The cast of *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari* brought humour and energy to the film's trailer launch. Directed by Shashank Khaitan, the movie is set against the colorful backdrop of a lavish Indian wedding. Janhvi Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, and Rohit Saraf charmed the audience with witty banter and playful teasing while answering questions about their love lives and marriage plans.

When asked about her own wedding plans, Janhvi—who is reportedly dating Shikhar Pahariya—said, "My planning right now is only about films. There is a lot of time for wedding planning." She also shared that she looks for qualities like sanskar, a good sense of humour, and a big appetite in a partner.

A scene in the trailer shows Varun's character asking Janhvi's character to make a grand entry like Katrina Kaif to win back her lover. When asked who would propose to a Katrina-like Janhvi, Varun joked that no one could, as Vicky Kaushal already has. Rohit humorously added that he wouldn't want to get into trouble with Shikhar Pahariya.

The film also stars Sanya Malhotra, Akshay Oberoi, and Maniesh Paul. Produced by Dharma Productions and Mentor Disciple Entertainment, *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari* releases October 2.

AGENCIES

Keerthy on her legacy

Chennai: Keerthy Suresh has established herself as one of the notable talents in Indian cinema. In an interview with a fashion magazine, she spoke about the legacy she hopes to create and her move into Bollywood.

When asked about her career path Keerthy said, "The legacy I hope to leave behind is of being an actor who took chances and evolved. I deliberately chose not to do more biopics after *Mahanati* because I want its impact to stand on its own. I know that continuing to experiment, and taking on roles that challenge me, comes with a higher risk, but I'd much rather do that than repeat the same kind of work."

Further speaking about her transition to Bollywood she said, "This is a very exciting chapter for me. I'm here to see what's interesting, what challenges me and balance it with the work I continue to do in the South. The process, the way things work in Bollywood, the culture—it's all new and I'm enjoying absorbing it. I think I have a long way to go, and I'm in no rush. I want to get it right."

On the work front, she is set to star in *Akka* (Hindi), a revenge-thriller series backed by Yash Raj Films, which will open her up to a whole new Hindi-speaking audience.

AGENCIES

Ibrahim embraces imperfection



Mumbai: Ibrahim Ali Khan, who debuted earlier this year with *Nadaaniyan*, has embraced his imperfections in a heartfelt new ad campaign for the fashion brand *Wrogn*. In the video, he candidly discusses his speech impediment, deliberately using his natural voice—including his lisp—instead of dubbing it.

He says, "Some people are born gifted, and some, born imperfect. As for me, I was born imperfect. And that's okay, man. Perfection is just overrated yaar." Sharing the campaign on Instagram, he added, "For the longest time, I thought I had to 'get it right'. Turns out, what's real is far more powerful than what's perfect. This is me, Wrogn but real."

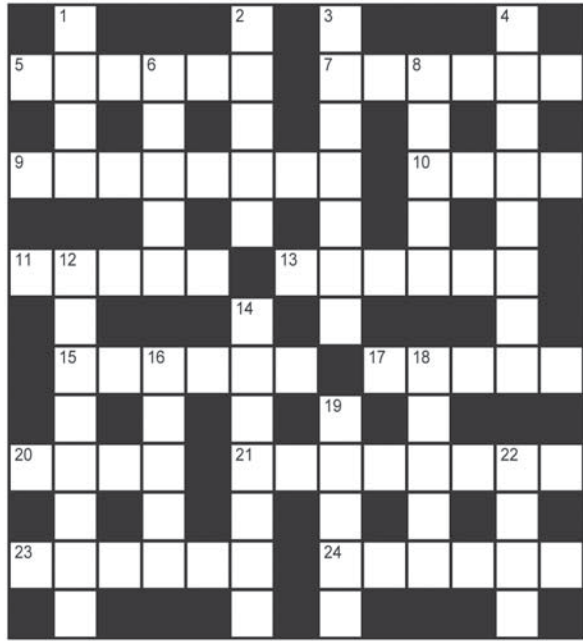
Fans responded with praise, appreciating his honesty and authenticity. Many commented that such openness is rare in campaigns, calling it inspiring and relatable. Some wrote, "In an era where filters and fakeness rule, it's refreshing to see authenticity take center stage."

This isn't the first time Ibrahim has spoken about his speech difficulties. Earlier this year, he explained that a severe case of jaundice at birth affected his hearing and speech, requiring long-term therapy. Professionally, he was last seen in *Sarzameen*, a JioHotstar film featuring Kajol and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

AGENCIES

FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
5 Porcupine's defense
7 Spotted wildcat
9 Precious transparent stone
10 Tick off
11 They're found in books
13 Summer cooler (3,3)
15 Spiritualist
- 17 Vacant
20 Become unhinged
21 Acknowledge applause (4,1,3)
23 Fearsome fly
24 Buy the farm (4,2)
- Down**
1 Emanation
2 Jellied garnish
3 Strength
- 4 Links rental (4,4)
6 Oversight
8 Ant, in dialect
12 Reprimand
14 Shell wearers
16 Station protectors
18 Castle
19 Relative of a giraffe
22 Double-reed instrument

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

	5				8			
	6		3		7	4	1	
			4					2
				5	8	1		
				3	5	6	8	
7								
		9			5	3		
		2	9				4	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

F	L	A	N	N	E	L	A	I	S	L	E
O	R	U	O	L	H	N					
R	E	G	A	T	T	A	O	P	I	U	M
U	O	T	T	F	T	A					
M	I	N	E	R	H	U	T	A	D	S	
			E	E			K	S			
A	C	U	M	E	N	R	E	C	E	D	E
R	T		M	P							
T	U	T	L	E	A	I	S	L	E	T	
I	E	A	N	S	A	A					
S	T	R	U	T	T	R	O	U	P	S	
T	E	T	I	D	E	E					
S	E	D	G	E		S	T	E	L	L	A

SUDOKU

1	2	5	8	4	6	3	7	9
8	7	4	3	1	9	5	6	2
9	3	6	2	5	7	8	4	1
7	1	2	4	3	5	6	9	8
6	8	3	7	9	1	4	2	5
5	4	9	6	8	2	1	3	7
3	6	7	1	2	8	9	5	4
4	9	1	5	7	3	2	8	6
2	5	8	9	6	4	7	1	3



Landslide cuts off NH-157

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi/Bhanjanagar, Sept 16: Traffic on Kalinga ghat, a part of National Highway 157 connecting Kandhamal with Ganjam districts, was disrupted and power supply went off across the Kandhamal district for over two hours after a major landslide occurred on the ghat road triggered by incessant rainfall Tuesday.

Reports said the landslide washed away a bridge, causing complete suspension of vehicular movement between Phulbani, Daringbadi, Baliguda, G Udayagiri and Raikia to Berhampur, Bhanjanagar and Bhubaneswar. Hundreds of vehicles were seen stranded along the route.

Passengers in buses stuck on the route were seen facing difficulties without food and shelter due to the incessant downpour.



NATURE'S FURY: Huge boulders and soil lie on Kalinga Ghat road near Andharakuti in Kandhamal district following a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall Tuesday

Large boulders rolled down the hill Tuesday afternoon, leaving the ghat road, which is the life-line of Kandhamal district heavily damaged. A bridge collapse led to a total shutdown of the national highway-157 connecting Ranchi with Vijaywada near Andharakuti on the ghat road. On being informed, senior officials from Kandhamal and Ganjam rushed to the site. Sources said passenger buses traveling to Bhubaneswar from Daringbadi might be diverted via another route.

Power supply was also disrupted after the 132 KV line from Kanteipali in Bhanjanagar was snapped. "The entire district plunged into darkness for two hours before workers worked on wartime footing and restored the power supply," said Shivprasad Nayak, engineer of the Daringbadi electricity division.

Rain havoc: 15 killed, 16 missing in Uttarakhand | P6

Host of welfare initiatives to mark PM's 75th birthday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: Launch of a host of welfare and development initiatives Wednesday by the BJP and its governments at the Centre and in states will mark the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will kick off a fortnight-long nationwide health and nutrition campaign from Madhya Pradesh.

Modi will launch the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar and the eighth National Nutritional Month from Dhar. He will unveil several other development initiatives and address a public meeting, an official statement said.

"More than one lakh health camps will be organised, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country. Daily health camps will be held in all government health facilities nationwide," it said. The BJP's organisation will hold many such initiatives, including blood donation and health camps, across the country.

The programmes are part of the Sewa Pakhwada' that



the ruling party is observing between September 17 and October 2, which is Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, to celebrate the birthday of its leader whose stewardship has taken the BJP to new highs and made it a dominant political force for over a decade.

Swadeshi fairs to promote made-in-India goods, Modi Vikas Marathon, drawing contests on Viksit Bharat, interaction with intellectuals, blood donation and medical camps, and cleanliness campaigns will be held through the period across the country with the involvement of the party's organisation, central government or the states where it is in power.

MORE P2&3

SC raps Centre for tribunals' poor show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: The Supreme Court Tuesday attributed the disinclination of former high court judges in taking up post retirement roles in tribunals to the lack of amenities and remarked all such quasi-judicial bodies should be abolished if the government was unable to mitigate the situation.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan flagged the lack of proper facilities as the reason behind the retired judges feeling discouraged.

The apex court said if the



Centre couldn't provide the facilities, then it should abolish all the tribunals and send all matters to high courts.

"Why are they applying and appearing for the interview and then not taking charge? One of the reasons is, they then get the reality of it, what it is to be a tri-

bunal member. Some of them, if they are chairpersons, they were former chief justices of high courts, or former judges of the Supreme Court. No facility whatsoever is provided to them. Even for stationary they have to go on requesting. How are you treating the tribunals? The fault lies with you (union). You have created the tribunals," the court said.

The bench went on to tell Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, "The retired Judges feel a lot of uncertainty about housing and other amenities after the appointment order."

'Lifer' for stray dogs if they bite humans twice

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 16: In a first-of-its-kind move, the Uttar Pradesh government has ordered 'life imprisonment' for stray dogs that bite people more than once.

A dog that bites without provocation will be confined to an Animal Birth Control centre for 10 days. The same dog will spend the rest of its life at the centre if repeats the offence. An individual may adopt the dog after submitting an affidavit pledging it will never be released back on the streets.

Issued on September 10, which came to light Tuesday, by Principal Secretary Amrit Abhijat,

the directive applies to all urban and rural civic bodies across the state. Whenever a person receives anti-rabies shots after a stray-dog bite, officials must investigate the incident, seize the animal and transfer it to the nearest ABC centre.

"Once there, the stray dog will be sterilised if the procedure has not already been done. It will be kept under observation for 10 days and its behaviour will be noted. Before being released, the dog will be microchipped, which will have all its details and also enable us to trace its location," said Dr Bijay Amrit Raj, Veterinary Officer of Prayagraj Municipal Corporation.

"PM Vishwakarma will not only enhance skills of artisans and craftspeople from all over the country but the products made by them will also get new recognition in the world."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Service is the resolve,
India First the inspiration...75 years

PM Vishwakarma

and

SC-ST Hub

Mega Conclave, 2025

presided by

Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi
Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Sushri Shobha Karandlaje
Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Celebrating Two Years of PM Vishwakarma

PM Vishwakarma

- 30 Lakh Vishwakarmas successfully registered
- 23 Lakh Vishwakarmas received skill training
- Loan worth ₹4,166 crore approved for 5 lakh Vishwakarmas
- 8 lakh toolkits delivered

National SC-ST Hub Scheme

- More than 1.5 lakh SC/ST benefitted
- 36 times increase in public procurement from SC/ST units

Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- 10 lakh units received subsidy worth ₹28,333 crore
- 86 lakh employment generated

Samman | Samarthya | Samriddhi

17 September 2025 | 10:30 AM | International Convention Centre, Bodhgaya, Bihar

CBC 25113/15/0030/2526

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia chairs a review meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

PM’S WORDS THAT MOVED A NATION

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi turns 75 Wednesday, Orissa POST takes a sneak peek into how the popular leader’s life has been dedicated to principles, public service, organisation and good governance. The special supplement highlights how his slogans and quotes are not merely phrases, but instruments of mass mobilisation, national pride, and cultural symbolism. It also sheds light on how reforms in digital arena have simplified and improved the life of citizens

In Narendra Modi’s political journey, his slogans and quotes are not mere phrases, but instruments of mass mobilisation, national pride, and cultural symbolism. Blending simplicity with depth, they have redefined Indian political communication. From grassroots creativity in Gujarat to global campaigns as the Prime Minister, Modi’s words tell the story of a leader who transformed language into a movement. What makes Modi’s style iconic is not just the content, but also the cadence: short sentences, memorable imagery, and a blend of tradition with modern urgency. He can pivot from quoting saints to promising SEZs, from invoking mothers to declaring war on terror. Every phrase feels like both a personal conviction and a collective mission. His slogans and quotes demonstrate how one leader transformed language into governance, mobilising millions with simple words that convey a vision.

Humility and seva From the start of his public life, Modi shaped his identity as a servant of the people and not as a ruler. As Chief Minister, he reminded Gujaratis that his tenure was not due to personal ambition, but the blessing of the people. He framed power as seva, and himself as its custodian. “यह तीन हजार दिन तक सेवा करने का अवसर नरेन्द्र मोदी के कारण नहीं है... यह जनता, जनार्दन के आशीर्वाद के कारण है।” (Garib Kalyan Mela, Jamnagar, 2010)

When he became Prime Minister in 2014, this theme continued. In his first Independence Day speech, he coined the term Pradhan Sevaks to replace Pradhan Mantri, signalling his philosophy that leadership means serving every citizen. “मैं प्रधान मंत्री नहीं, प्रधान सेवक हूँ।” (Red Fort, 2014)

Action over rhetoric Unlike many political leaders who relied on grand declarations, Modi made it clear that he spoke only when his words were backed by resolve. In Gujarat, he often told people he never spoke about what he could not deliver, and what he promised, he would complete. “जो काम नहीं कर सकता उसके बारे में बोलता नहीं हूँ, और जिसके बारे में बोलता हूँ, वो काम पूरा किए बिना रुकता नहीं हूँ।” (Valsad, 2010)

This same approach was amplified in Delhi. As Prime Minister, he reminded the nation that every manifesto commitment was pursued with persistence, linking speech to delivery. The emphasis was always on credibility of his word translating into credibility of the government. “हमारे हर वचन को हमने कर्म से सिद्ध करने का प्रयास किया है।” (Parliament, 2025)

Mobilising society One of Modi’s signature communication strategies has been turning government programmes into people’s movements. As CM, his Garib Kalyan Melas did not just distribute benefits. They fostered healthy competition among districts, creating ‘service races’ that multiplied impact.

Modi turns 75

“गरीब कल्याण मेला ने सेवा की स्पर्धा का वातावरण बना दिया है।” (Radhanpur, 2010)

As Prime Minister, he expanded this into a national philosophy. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was not presented as a government scheme. It was pitched as a collective duty where every household could participate. His words transformed cleanliness from a policy to a personal pledge. “स्वच्छ भारत अभियान सरकार का कार्यक्रम नहीं है, यह जन आंदोलन है।” (Red Fort, 2014)

PM Modi’s appeal to the nation to own Swadeshi and Vocal for Local also resonates among people at large. एक ही मंत्र ‘Vocal for Local’, एक ही रास्ता ‘आत्मनिर्भर भारत’, एक ही स्वप्न ‘विकसित भारत’ (Mann Ki Baat, August, 2025)

Education first Education has been a consistent motif in Modi’s speeches, described as the strongest weapon against poverty. As Chief Minister, he championed literacy drives, especially for women and rural children, framing it as the foundation of dignity and empowerment. “गरीबी के सामने बढ़ने का उनम हथियार शिक्षा है।” (Jamnagar, 2010)

As Prime Minister, this conviction led to landmark initiatives such as NEP 2020. He described students as the architects of India’s future, framing classrooms as incubators of a new India. His speeches positioned education not only as a welfare measure, but as nation-building.

bators of a new India. His speeches positioned education not only as a welfare measure, but as nation-building.



10 ways Modi tenure changed daily life

Think back a decade. Everyday life in India looked very different: Long queues at railway counters, pleading for change at shops, slipping a bribe to get a gas connection, or skipping medicines because they were unaffordable—this was normal. Now, you tap your phone to pay the sabziwala, drive through toll plazas without stopping, stream a movie on cheap data during your commute, and see your gas subsidy land directly in your account. It all feels routine now.

UPI & digital payments Street vendors now track every sale with a tap. Access to credit has opened up, transparency has deepened, and India has become the world’s undisputed leader in real-time payments. With UPI now powering cross-border transfers, migrant families are saving big on remittance costs.

Jan Dhan accounts Millions, especially women, experienced financial independence for the first time. With wages and subsidies landing directly in their accounts, households began shifting savings into the formal system, strengthening banks and fuelling credit expansion across the economy.

FASTag & transport efficiency No more endless toll queues. Fuel is saved, journeys are quicker, and supply chains are smoother. Lower logistics costs boosted India’s trade competitiveness while also setting the stage for the e-commerce culture of “next-day delivery”.

Cheap data & internet access Affordable internet transformed small towns and villages. Farmers check mandi prices on their phones, students attend online classes, and rural youth dive into coding courses. This digital wave created entirely new economies—from OTT platforms to AI startups—while deepening India’s talent pool.

At the national level, he elevated this discourse. His speeches on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and during the passage of the Women’s Reservation Bill in Parliament highlighted women not as beneficiaries, but as leaders of development. “नारी शक्ति हमारे हर प्रयास की अगदूत है।” (Parliament, 2023)

Technology and innovation Modi’s rhetoric on technology reflects both futurism and simplicity. As Chief Minister, he framed IT as a formula for India’s tomorrow: Indian Talent plus Information Technology. Gujarat’s creation of the world’s first Forensic Science University became an early symbol of his tech-led governance. “I.T. + I.T. = I.T. — Indian Talent + Information Technology = India Tomorrow.” (2010)

As Prime Minister, he scaled this narrative globally, emphasising India’s role in AI, quantum computing, and space exploration. His speeches linked cutting-edge technology with national pride and practical governance. “आज का भारत AI, क्वांटम और स्पेस टेक्नोलॉजी में विश्व का नेतृत्व करेगा।” (India AI Mission, 2024)

Democracy and nationhood As Prime Minister, he globalised this message, declaring at the UN that democracy in India is not a system but a way of life. His speeches present democracy as both India’s moral compass and its

Metro expansion From Delhi to Bengaluru, metros reclaimed lost hours of traffic and reduced pollution. Real estate thrived along metro corridors, reshaping urban growth.

Jan Aushadhi centres Affordable generics brought adherence to treatment within reach, creating a healthier, more productive workforce. Demand for generics also spurred Indian pharma to strengthen its global edge as the “pharmacy of the world”.

DigiLocker & e-Governance Endless photocopies and long queues gave way to instant digital verifications. Entrepreneurs can now access loans faster, citizens engage more confidently with the state, and a “paperless culture” is nudging schools and private firms toward digital-first practices.

QR codes in commerce From tea stalls to malls, QR codes gave small shopkeepers a financial footprint, unlocking loans, insurance, and business growth. Quietly, tax compliance rose without crackdowns.

Gig economy growth Flexible work turned into a lifeline for millions—students, women, and semi-skilled workers. The gig boom reshaped lifestyles: 10-minute grocery deliveries, app-based cabs, and food orders became the new normal, transforming consumption patterns, city logistics, and even eating habits.

Public services & behavioural change Direct Benefit Transfers cut out middlemen, ensuring money reached citizens without bribes or delays. Swachh Bharat gave women dignity with toilets and safety, while instilling civic pride in cleanliness. PIB

greatest export. “भारत में लोकतंत्र एक प्रणाली नहीं, यह जीवन शैली है।” (UNGA, 2014)

Security and resolve Only a few leaders in India have spoken as directly about national security as Modi. As Chief Minister, he refused to back down in the face of terrorism and pledged an uncompromising fight. “मैं आतंकवाद के विरुद्ध अपनी लड़ाई छोड़ने वाला नहीं हूँ।” (Rajkot, 2010)

As Prime Minister, he sharpened this resolve into a national doctrine, shown by his blunt messaging after the Balakot strikes. His words carried both deterrence and defiance, reflecting a muscular security posture. “घर में घुस कर मारेंगे।” (2019)

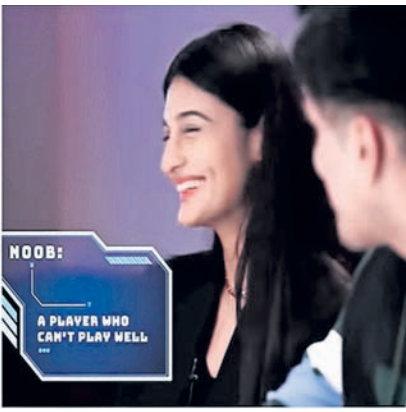
After Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister’s address sparked a wave of patriotism in the country defining New Normal for India when it comes to fighting terrorism. “ऑपरेशन सिंदूर ने आतंक के खिलाफ लड़ाई में एक नई लकीर खींच दी है एक नया पैमाना, न्यू नॉर्मल तय कर दिया है” “हम आतंक की सरपरस्त सरकार और आतंक के आकाओं को अलग अलग नहीं देखेंगे” “पानी और खून भी एक साथ नहीं बह सकता” (May 2025) PIB

Hasna Zaroori Hai – Modi’s lighter side

In politics, humour is a powerful force—an artful tool that can disarm tension, foster connection, and illuminate truth. For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, humour is far more than embellishment; it’s a vibrant thread woven into his leadership style. Whether through poetic flourishes and clever wordplay in Parliament, spirited satire in Gujarat’s public gatherings, or sparkling repartee on the global stage, his wit brings warmth and relatability to political discourse. His lighter side is ever-present, suggesting a belief that truth, when shared with a smile, resonates more deeply. What delights, endures—and in Modi’s case, humour becomes a bridge to hearts and minds alike.

Gujarat years: Satire as sword and shield When Modi became Chief Minister of Gujarat, his humour acquired a sharper edge. In crowded rallies, satire evolved into a powerful political tool. Congress leaders’ promises became caricatures, likened to Bollywood dialogues: “Congress ke neta aise vaade karte hain jaise Sholay ka Gabbar – ‘Arre O Sambha, kitne vote laaye?’”

At Garib Kalyan Melas, where welfare schemes were showcased, he lampooned his critics saying “Unko



Banter with the young With students, his jokes have entered popular culture. The spontaneous “PUBG Wala Hai Kya?” became an instant meme, reflecting his knack for speaking the youth’s idiom. Later, while learning the term “noob” from gamers, he chuckled: “Toh main bhi noob hoon kya?” - a towering leader momentarily made relatable.

The famous ‘Tubelight’ comeback A notable exchange took place in February 2020 during a Lok Sabha debate. After Rahul Gandhi made a remark that “youth will beat Modi with sticks in six months,” Modi gave a memorable response that drew widespread attention. Rahul Gandhi had declared at a rally: “Narendra Modi, who is giving speeches now, will not be able to get out of his home in six-seven months. The youth of India will beat him with sticks.” When Gandhi finally interrupted Modi’s 30-40

minute speech, the PM delivered his devastating punchline: “I have been speaking for 30-40 minutes but it took this long for the current to reach. Bahut se tubelight aise hi hotay hai.” The BJP members burst into laughter and thumped their desks in delight. Modi then mockingly said he would prepare for Gandhi’s threatened beating: “I will do more surya namaskar than you.”

Modi once joked about Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury’s frequent interruptions, saying he was “publicising the ‘Fit India’ campaign in Parliament” by constantly getting up from his seat. Similarly, when responding to unemployment criticism, Modi quipped: “I will resolve unem-

ployment in the country but not his [the Opposition’s] unemployment.” Again showcasing his wit, in another parliamentary gem, Modi told critics: “If I start answering you point by point, I’ll become like Google search,” drawing laughter from MPs across party lines.

Diplomacy with levity On the world stage, humour also became a diplomatic tool. Modi ribbed Emmanuel Macron with a cheeky, “Nowadays, you are fighting on Twitter?”

With Caribbean cricketers Chris Gayle and Darren Sammy, he bantered about six-hitting and dance moves. In these moments, diplomacy and playfulness met.

In politics, laughter is rare, but when it comes, it can be more powerful than a speech. The PM has often shown that a sharp sense of humour can disarm opponents, win hearts, and deliver truths in the most unexpected way. His witty one-liners, playful jabs, and lighthearted moments remind us that even in the heat of politics, hasna zaroori hai. PIB

1,300 ITEMS GIFTED TO PM

More than 1,300 items, including a Tanjore painting of Ram Durbar, a metallic Nataraja statue, a handwoven Naga shawl and a set of sporting memorabilia from the Paralympic Games 2024, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi are part of an e-Auction that begins here September 17, officials said Tuesday.

The start of the seventh edition of the online auction will coincide with the birthday of Modi, who turns 75 Wednesday. It will be held till October 2.

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced the launch of the latest edition of the PM’s Mementoes e-Auction at a press interaction hosted at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) here.

The first edition of the e-Auctions was held in January 2019.



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Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

KERALA
FACES
CRISIS

US tariff threatens traditional biz

Maha clears Animation, VE Policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 16: Kerala's traditional export industries are staring at one of their toughest challenges in years, with the state government warning that new penalty tariffs imposed by the United States could slash revenues, disrupt supply chains and throw thousands of workers.

Finance Minister K N Balagopal said the new tariff regime was already causing deep concern across marine products, spices, cashew, coir, tea and rubber—sectors that remain the backbone of Kerala's economy.

According to him, marine exports are among the first casualties.

Kerala accounts for around 12-13 per cent of the country's seafood exports, with shrimp its biggest earner.

"Orders are being cancelled, stocks are piling up in cold storages and the utilisation of processing plants has slumped be-



low 20 per cent," Balagopal said.

The impact is being felt most sharply along Kerala's coastline, where lakhs depend on seafood exports for their livelihood. Women form the majority of the workforce in shrimp processing units, and their jobs are now at risk.

More than 80 per cent of India's pepper exports originate

from the state, along with cardamom, ginger, spice oils and oleoresins.

Balagopal said the US imports spice products worth over \$700 million each year.

Kerala's cashew sector faces growing competition from Vietnam, while higher tariffs are squeezing coir exporters and shutting the door on niche mar-

kets for handicrafts in the US.

Tea, another staple of the state's economy, is also vulnerable. With annual exports to the US worth around \$700 crore, growers are already seeing sharp order declines. Rising production costs and climate change impacts have pushed plantations to the edge, and the tariff shock threatens to tip them into deeper crisis, the minister said.

Rubber exports, too, are expected to suffer. Balagopal said only greater emphasis on value-added products can cushion the blow. The government's concern is not limited to revenue loss. Balagopal warned that the tariff shock could trigger wide social impacts.

In traditional industries such as cashew, coir, handloom and seafood processing, women form the vast majority of workers. Any fall in earnings, he said, will hit household security directly and create new pockets of rural distress.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 16: The Maharashtra cabinet Tuesday cleared the new Animation, Visual Effects (VE), Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Policy 2025 with a roadmap till 2050, projecting the industry to create two lakh jobs and attract Rs 50,000 crore investment over the next 20 years.

Under the policy, dedicated AVGC-XR parks will be developed with world-class infrastructure and special hubs will come up in various parts of the city, including Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Satara and Nagpur.

The state's AVGC-XR Policy 2025 was approved during a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

This is considered an important step towards making Mumbai the capital of the entertainment and tourism sector, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

The AVGC-XR sector has been granted industry and infrastructure status, it said.

AVGC-XR is an important component of India's Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry, which is projected to grow from \$27 billion to over \$100 billion by 2030, generating over 30 lakh direct jobs and 51.5 lakh indirect jobs.

Maharashtra's Economic Advisory Council (EAC), in its vision document for making the state a USD 1 trillion economy, also highlighted the importance of this sector. Recently, the central government organised the international WAVES (World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit) 2025 conference in Mumbai, during which MoUs worth Rs 8,000 crore were signed.

The EAC also recommended a dedicated policy for the sector, similar to Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Maharashtra already has more than 295 studios in the

sector - the highest in India, accounting for 30 per cent of all studios nationwide. Educational facilities for animation, VFX (visual effects) and gaming are offered by 20 institutes in Mumbai and Pune, the statement said.

The state had earlier declared this sector as an "emerging industry" under its IT & ITeS Policy 2023. Applications of AVGC-XR technology extend across healthcare (medical simulations), education, marketing (immersive branding), defence (simulation training), agriculture and real estate (3D modelling, virtual tours).

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. e-CRW-MCS-EL-5-2025

NAME OF WORK : PERIODIC OVERHAULING(POH) & MODIFICATION OF INSPECTION CARRIAGE AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP/ MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS.

Advised Value : ₹ 44,00,417.50, **EMD :** ₹ 88,000/-, **Period of Completion:** 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 19.09.2025

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 03.10.2025.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.ireps.gov.in

By, Chief Electrical Engineer/ PR-603/Q/25-26 CRW/Mancheswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. EPC-CECONIBBS 2025039, Dated : 08.09.2025

NAME OF WORK : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR 3RD AND 4TH LINE BETWEEN NERGUNDI-BARANG (22 KM.) AND KHURDA ROAD-VIZIANAGARAM (363 KM.) ON BHADRAK-VIZIANAGARAM SECTION (385 KM.) : CONSTRUCTION OF IMPORTANT BRIDGE NOS. 539 (16 X 30.5 M OPEN WEB STEEL GIRDER OVER RIVER BIRUPA AT CH. 402521 M), 544 (32 X 65.84 M OPEN WEB STEEL GIRDER OVER RIVER MAHANADIAT CH. 406305 M), 553 (18 X 45.70 M OPEN WEB STEEL GIRDER OVER RIVER KATHJORIAT CH. 411589 M), 557 (20 X 45.70 M OPEN WEB STEEL GIRDER OVER RIVER KUAKHAI AT CH. 414607 M) ON EPC MODE.

Approx. Cost of the Work : 135539.12 Lakh, **EMD :** ₹ 2,00,00,000/-, **Completion Period of the Work :** 36 (Thirty Six) Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 08.11.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-107/C/25-26 Bhubaneswar

Eminent writer Leelavathi faces online backlash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram,

Sept 16: Eminent Malayalam writer and literary critic M Leelavathi faced online criticism over her remarks expressing sympathy for children in Gaza, but received backing from both the Left and the Congress parties.

Reacting to the criticism, the 98-year-old academic said Tuesday that she bore no enmity towards anyone and regarded all children in the world as equal.

Leelavathi, popularly known as Leelavathi Teacher, recently said she did not wish to celebrate her birthday, asking how she could enjoy food while seeing the children of Gaza starving.

Her remarks did not go well with a section of netizens, allegedly from right-wing groups, who vehemently trolled and criticised the veteran writer on social media.

The critics questioned whether Leelavathi failed to see the plight of children

in other parts of the world and why she had remained silent about that.

Speaking to a television channel, the academic said she bore no enmity towards anyone who hated her, and that all children, wherever they were in the world, were equal to her. "I look at them through a mother's eyes... There is no background of religion, caste or colour attached to that," Leelavathi said.

People from various walks of life came out in support of her against the cyberattack.

Senior CPI(M) leader and General Education Minister V Sivankutty strongly condemned the incident, saying it called into question the virtue and cultural ethos of Kerala. Sharing similar views, prominent writer C Radhakrishnan said such an online attack should not have happened to anyone.

Congress leader and KPCC general secretary Pazhakulam Madhu has urged the authorities to take stringent legal ac-

tion over the cyber attack against the veteran writer and to provide her with adequate protection.

He also sent a letter to the state police chief demanding that a case be registered in this regard and that the online attacks be investigated by a special investigation team.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM to

e-Tender Notice No.:

e-Tender-Elect-G-45-25

The following modification has been made in the Tender Notice which may please be noted.

Particulars : e-Tender Notice No. and Tender Closing Date and Time :-

As Published **Now To be Read As**

e-Tender-Elect -G-45-25 e-Tender-Elect-G-49-25

26.09.2025 03.10.2025

For details the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) / PR-602/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
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F. No.: NITD/01/Admn/625/2025-26 **Dated:** 16.09.2025

ADVT. NO.: 14/2025

RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY POSITIONS

Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals for recruitment to faculty positions in various departments of NIT Delhi at different Pay Levels. Reservations shall be applicable as per the Government of India Norms.

Detailed information regarding Eligibility Criteria, Department-Wise Vacancies, Pay Levels, and other relevant instructions is available on the Institute's official website: www.nitdelhi.ac.in

● The online application portal shall remain open from 18.09.2025 to 17.10.2025.

● The hard copy of the duly filled -in and signed application form, along with all requisite self-attested supporting documents, must reach the Institute on or before 31.10.2025 (till 5.00 PM).

CBC 21275/12/0002/2526 **Sd./- Registrar**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
“e” - PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING
ENGINEER, PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI

E-mail: eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in

WORKS DEPARTMENT
SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE

Bid Identification No. SE(R&B) Puri-31/2025-26

No. B-523: The Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE from the eligible class of contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/Railways.

1. Nature of Work : Electrical Works
2. No. of Work : 3 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6000 00/- (Online)
4. Class of Bidders : MV/HT
5. Available of Bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.19.09.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt.03.10.2025
6. Last date of receipt of tender : Dt.03.10.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.04.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri

OIPR-34064/11/0042/2526



खान मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF MINES
भारत सरकार

DESIGNATED OFFICER, MINISTRY OF MINES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Room No.: 310, 'D' wing, 3rd Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001, 011-23384593

“Invitation of Bids for Sixth Tranche for Grant of Mineral Concession of Critical and Strategic Minerals”

In exercise of the power of auction conferred by Section 11(D) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to the Central Government to grant mineral concession for minerals specified in the Part D of the First Schedule and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines to undertake the auction of 23 Blocks in Sixth Tranche of Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals. The notice inviting tender (NIT) has been published on MSTC e-auction portal and on the Ministry of Mines website. The commencement of sale of tender document will begin on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. Tender document and other details can be accessed on (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/>).

CBC 26101/11/0003/2526

Flyover disrupts house balcony



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Sept 16: A viral video from Nagpur shows an under-construction flyover slicing through the balcony of a residential building, raising eyebrows over urban planning.

An official from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) told PTI Tuesday that the balcony falls under an encroached area and they have asked the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) to remove it.

The house owner, however, claimed the flyover beam was passing through the balcony but not touching the building, and was not a safety concern.

Some videos have surfaced on social media, showing a part of the under-construction Indora-Dighori flyover slicing past the residential building located at Ashok Square in Nagpur.

The house owner said a part of the flyover's rotary beam was passing through the balcony

and not touching the building.

He claimed that portion is in the no man's land of the balcony which has no utility.

The house owner said the flyover road was 14 to 15 feet above the balcony and he has no problem with it, claiming there was no safety concern.

The NHAI official said one portion of the house falls in an encroached area, and a flange portion of the rotary beam is passing through the balcony.

"Our flyover is not inside the outer balcony portion. The balcony concerned falls in an encroached area and we have already written to the NMC to remove the encroachment," he said.

The encroachment will be removed shortly, the official added. A senior NMC official said the building concerned was previously given on lease to the land owner.

The authorities will look into the status of the lease, and action to vacate the premises is expected as per the proper procedure, he added.

of the day **QUOTE**

Be it bike taxis or City Flo buses, the BJP and Shiv Sena government is resorting to privatisation

AADITYA THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) LEADER

Although the practice of jhum cultivation can't be shunned abruptly, the government has been taking steps to wean farmers away from this traditional practice gradually

LALDUHOMA | MIZORAM CM

When we came to power, only a few community headmen used to receive ₹2,000 per month. We have hiked it to ₹5,000 per month. Now, we are planning to provide the benefit to all the heads of sub tribes

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT TAKES

Dhinakaran defends walking out of NDA

Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu): Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam chief TTV Dhinakaran Tuesday defended walking out of the National Democratic Alliance and hit out at AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami. Speaking to reporters here, Dhinakaran said his party, the AMMK, had been a part of the NDA in Tamil Nadu when the AIADMK was not a part of it. After the AIADMK revived its alliance with the BJP this year in April, the AMMK continued to be with the NDA for about 4 months before finally deciding to snap ties.

Old man dies as tree falls in fish market

Lucknow: A 70-year-old man lost his life, while four others were injured when a Peepal tree uprooted and fell in Lucknow's Kaisarbagh Fish Market area Tuesday afternoon, a police official said. The deceased has been identified as Ramu Devnath, a resident of Triveninagar, Lucknow.

NIA conducts searches in 8 states

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency Tuesday searched multiple locations across eight states in the Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh) ISIS case linked to the conspiracy to spread terror through the use of improvised explosive devices, backed by radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable youth through social media platforms, officials said.

Indore truck rampage: Death toll rises to three

Indore: The death toll in the Indore road accident where a truck ploughed into several pedestrians has gone up to three, with one more person succumbing to injuries Tuesday, police said. The incident took place Monday night when the out-of-control truck ran over pedestrians on Aerodrome Road in Indore, rammed into some vehicles, and caught fire.

Three killed, more than 120 evacuated

Mumbai: Three people have died and more than 120 were evacuated amid heavy rains in Maharashtra in the last 24 hours, the State Disaster Management Department said Tuesday. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other rescue teams were involved in evacuations in the affected districts, the department stated in a release.

Rain wreaks havoc; 15 killed in U'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Sept 16: Cloud-bursts and heavy rains overnight left a trail of destruction in Uttarakhand's capital Dehradun and several other parts of the state Tuesday as swollen rivers washed away buildings, roads and bridges, leaving 15 people dead, 16 missing, and 900 stranded in different locations in the hill state.

Of the total fatalities, Dehradun district alone reported 13 and Nainital and Pithoragarh districts one each. Sixteen people are reported missing in different parts of the state capital, the Uttarakhand Disaster Management Authority said.

Three people were also injured in the incidents, it said, adding that they are under treatment.

Search for the missing continued amid inclement weather while NDRF, SDRF and fire brigade personnel brought most of the stranded people to safety, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) here said.

It said that 900 people stranded in different locations were rescued by the SDRF, NDRF and Fire Brigade personnel.



Most rivers were in spate following the showers. The Tamsa River, also known as the Tons River, inundated the famous Tapkeshwar Temple on its bank, submerging the gigantic Hanuman statue near its entrance up to the shoulders. The temple's priest, Bipin Joshi, said that he has not seen the river waters rise so high in the past 25 to 30 years.

Luckily, there were a few devotees within the temple premises in the early morning hours when the inundation occurred, he said, adding that the priests staying at the temple are

The township project is progressing fast on the 64.475 hectares of land in Elston estate taken over by the government
PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

GOVT ASKS STATES TO IDENTIFY 16K 'OVERSTAYING' FOREIGNERS
The Centre has asked all states and Union territories to identify about 16,000 foreign nationals, mostly from African countries, who are "overstaying" in the country and could be involved in crimes including drug trafficking, official sources said Tuesday



ONLINE BETTING APP

ED summons Robin, Yuvraj, Sonu Sood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: Widening its probe into an alleged illegal online betting linked money laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned cricketers Robin Uthappa and Yuvraj Singh and actor Sonu Sood for questioning, officials said Tuesday.



Uthappa (39), Singh (43) and Sood (52) have been asked to depose beginning next week at the agency's headquarter investigation unit in Delhi and get their statements recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case linked to a platform named 1xBet, the officials said. While Uthappa has been asked to depose September 22, Singh has been called September 23 followed by Sood September 24, they said.

The federal probe agency has questioned former cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan apart from former TMC MP and actor Mimi Chakraborty over the last few weeks as part of this investigation. Bengali actor Ankush Hazra (36) appeared before the ED on Tuesday on his scheduled summons in the case, while actor Urvashi Rautela (31), the India brand ambassador of 1xBet, is yet to appear on her given date for Tuesday, the sources said.

Meghalaya CM Sangma effects cabinet reshuffle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Sept 16: Eight MLAs, including seven new faces, were inducted into the Meghalaya cabinet Tuesday as Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma effected a reshuffle in his coalition government.

The reshuffle took place after eight ministers were dropped from the cabinet.

NPP's Timothy D Shira, Sanbor Shullai of BJP, UDP's Metbah Lyngdoh took oath at a function at Raj Bhavan here.

Wailadmiki Shylla, Sosthenes Sohtun, Brening A Sangma of NPP, HSPDP's Methodious Dkhar and former home minister Lahkmen Rymbui of UDP were also inducted into the council of ministers.

Ahead of a reshuffle in the Meghalaya cabinet, eight of the total 12 ministers had resigned from their posts, the officials said. CM Sangma, who heads the NPP-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government, met Governor C H Vijayashankar at Raj Bhavan here and submitted the resignations of the ministers, they said.

"Eight ministers, who have resigned from their posts, are Ampareen Lyngdoh, Comingone Ymbon, Rakkam A Sangma and Abu Taher Mondal of the NPP, Paul Lyngdoh and Kyrmen Shylla of the UDP, Shakliar Warjri of the HSPDP and AL Hek of the BJP," another official said.

Mumbai, other civic polls to be held by Jan 31: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: Pulling up the Maharashtra State Election Commission for non-compliance of its order, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed the state local body polls, stalled since 2022, to be completed by January 31, 2026 without further extension.

The bench was irked over the failure of the state election commission (SEC) to comply with its order mandating a timely conclusion of the stalled local body elections.

"Elections of all local bodies, including Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and all municipalities shall be conducted by January 31, 2026. No further extension shall be granted to the state and the State Election Commission. In case any other logistic assistance required, application can be filed promptly before October 31, 2025. No prayer will be entertained thereafter," a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said.

The bench was informed that the delimitation for municipalities was underway and the SEC had sought an extension on grounds including insufficient EVMs besides the unavailability of school premises due to board exams.

"We are constrained to observe that SEC has failed to

take prompt action for compliance of this court's directions in the prescribed time schedule. However, as a one-time concession, we deem apt to issue following directions," it said.

The bench added, "Pending delimitation shall be completed by October 31, 2025. No further extension shall be granted. Delimitation exercise shall not be ground to defer elections."

The bench rejected the plea for postponement of polls on the ground that due to upcoming board exams, schools premises will be unavailable, saying the exams will take place in March next year.

"The Chief Secretary, Maharashtra to immediately deploy requisite staff to perform duties of returning officers and other assisting staff as may be required," it directed.

It also asked the state poll panel to submit details of staff required for polls to the chief secretary within two weeks.

It said the chief secretary in consultation with secretaries of other departments, if required, will provide requisite staff to the SEC within four weeks after the request is made by the poll panel.

"As regard to non-availability of requisite EVMs, we direct the SEC to make necessary arrangements and file a compliance affidavit regarding availability of EVMs by November 30, 2025," it ordered.

The bench was hearing petitions concerning the long-pending civic elections in Maharashtra.

In May, the court issued an interim order directing conclusion of polls within four months, which is September.

safe. Roads were breached, and several bridges were washed away in Dehradun district.

With the swollen rivers flowing over the roads, evacuating people to safety was a huge challenge. Videos shared on social media showed SDRF personnel helping stranded people

wade through the violent currents of flooded rivers in which vehicles, including cars and trucks, were left stuck. About 400-500 students trapped due to waterlogging at the Devbhoomi Institute campus in Paundha area of Dehradun were rescued by an SDRF

About 400-500 students trapped due to waterlogging at the Devbhoomi Institute campus in Paundha area of Dehradun were rescued by an SDRF team

team, said Banshidhar Tiwari, Director General, Information.

A boy clinging precariously to an electric pole, which he had climbed to save himself from the swirling waters of a river raging below, was brought to safety by an SDRF man with the help of a rope, risking his own life.

Sahastradhara, Maldevta, Santla Devi and Dalanwala were the worst-hit by the disaster, according to the district disaster management office here. Sahastradhara received 192 mm of rain, followed by Maldevta (141.5 mm), Hathi Barkala and Jolly Grant (92.5mm each) and Kalsi (83.5 mm). Several roads, houses and shops were damaged, and bridges washed away.

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



Rajnath exhorts Armed Forces to remain alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 16: Asserting that the nature of warfare is continuously evolving, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday exhorted the Armed Forces to go beyond the traditional concepts of war and remain alert and ready to deal with invisible challenges.

He said that the recent global conflicts have underlined the relevance of a "technology-friendly" military. Addressing the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) 2025 in Kolkata, the defence minister asked the Armed Forces to be ready to deal with "invisible challenges emanating from unconventional threats such as information, ideological, ecological and bi-



ological warfare." Singh emphasised the need for constant assessment of the changes taking place across the globe, and its impact on the security system of the country, in view of the turbulent global order, regional instability and the emerging security landscape.

"Wars of today are so sudden and unpredictable that it is extremely difficult to foretell their duration. It can be two months,

a year, or even five years. We need to ensure that our surge capacity remains sufficient," he said. He commended the Armed Forces for their "outstanding performance" and "exemplary professionalism" in the planning and execution of Operation Sindoor in May, that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

Stigma a 'silent epidemic' blocking mental health care: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: Stigma and lack of awareness are among the major roadblocks towards making care for mental health conditions accessible to people who require help, experts have said, while underlining that early diagnosis is key to better treatment.

"People hesitate to even acknowledge mental illness," said Dr Neerja Agarwal, a psychologist and the founder of Emoneeds, which provides care to people struggling with mental health problems.

She said it is important to recognise mental illness as a health condition and should be treated as such, not as a personality flaw. "Just as diabetes and blood pressure need lifelong treatment, so too do conditions like schizophrenia

or bipolar disorder," Dr Agarwal said.

Dr Deepika Dahima, a scientist at AIIMS, Delhi, also pointed out that stigma remains one of the greatest silent epidemics surrounding mental health in India.

Dr Agarwal emphasised the need for consistency in following medical advice for treating mental health issues. "Only then can patients live a normal life."

Her Emoneeds colleague, Dr Prerna Chaudhary, spoke of a marriage on the brink of collapse because the woman's parents stopped medication in the days leading up to her marriage.

"While on regular medication and treatment for one-and-a-half years, the woman's condition had been improving. But when her marriage was fixed,



her family members discontinued her medicines," said Dr Chaudhary.

Soon after the wedding, her illness resurfaced with symptoms becoming visible, and she was eventually sent back to her parents. "Schizophrenia requires lifelong treatment. She

has now resumed treatment with us," the doctor said.

Dr Agarwal explained that schizophrenia can cause excessive anger, delusions, slow functioning, and poor social skills. It can be trauma-induced or hereditary.

Highlighting the importance

According to experts, when mental health conditions are identified early, treatment works better

People respond faster, have fewer relapses, and regain their confidence more quickly

of early diagnosis, Dr Jitender Jakhar, a consultant psychiatrist at the Sitaram Bhartia Hospital, said when it comes to mental health, psychiatrists often use the phrase "duration of untreated illness."

According to experts, when mental health conditions are identified early, treatment works better. People respond faster, have fewer relapses, and regain their confidence more quickly. But if the illness goes untreated for years, the consequences are more serious, Dr Jakhar pointed out.

Dr Dahima is of the opinion that sustained community sensitisation can dismantle the stigma. She highlighted that at the policy level, integration of mental health services into primary healthcare through initiatives like the District Mental Health Programme is essential to close India's 70 per cent to 80 per cent treatment gap.

On making mental health care accessible, Dr Jakhar said India now has more resources for mental health care than ever before.

He said that mental health treatment is becoming more accessible through telepsychiatry and video consultations. Now, people can speak to mental health professionals from the privacy of their homes, he said, adding that many small towns now have trained psychologists and psychiatrists.

of the day

quote

Unfortunately, people in the Netherlands seem increasingly to be at logger-heads – on the street, online, at our universities, and not least in The Hague

WILLEM-ALEXANDER | DUTCH KING

Whatever faith or ideology one follows, whether rich or poor, every person is first and foremost a citizen. All rights of citizens are guaranteed in the Constitution...We -- the entire nation is a broader family. The government is committed to ensuring equal rights and dignity for all citizens

MUHAMMAD YUNUS | BANGLADESH INTERIM GOVT CHIEF ADVISER

We are managing globally a perfect storm... with food security needs going up dramatically

CARL SKAU | COO OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

SHORT TAKES

US sanctions Iranian financiers

Washington: A pair of Iranian financiers and more than a dozen people and firms across Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates were sanctioned Tuesday for allegedly coordinating \$100 million worth of cryptocurrency transfers from the sale of Iranian oil for the benefit of Iran's government and military. Treasury alleges that Iranian nationals Alireza Derakhshan and Arash Estaki Alivand facilitated the purchase of over \$100 million worth of cryptocurrency for oil sales for the Iranian government. The pair then used a network of front companies across countries to transfer the cryptocurrency funds, Treasury says. So-called "shadow banking" networks like these evade sanctions by laundering money through overseas front companies and cryptocurrency. Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence John K Hurley said in a statement that the US "will continue to disrupt these key financial streams that fund Iran's weapons programmes and malign activities in the Middle East and beyond".

Singapore buys carbon credits

Singapore: Singapore will spend SGD76.4 million to buy more than two million tonnes of nature-based carbon credits from four projects in Ghana, Paraguay and Peru, a media report said. This is the first time the commercially vibrant city state is sourcing carbon credits from nature-based projects, said the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). This is significant as it marks the first tranche of carbon credits that the city state has secured, according to a report by The Straits Times reported Tuesday. The projects aim to preserve Peruvian forests and prevent deforestation, reforest degraded pastureland in Ghana and sequester carbon in soil in the grasslands of Paraguay through sustainable management practices, said NCCS and MTI. The 2.175 million tonnes of carbon credits are equivalent to offsetting close to 4 per cent of Singapore's greenhouse gas emissions in 2022. One carbon credit represents one tonne of carbon dioxide that is either removed from the atmosphere, such as through restoration efforts, or prevented from being released, such as when a forest is saved from the axe, according to the daily report.

Israel begins Gaza ground offensive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Sept 16: The Israeli military began its ground offensive in Gaza City Tuesday, slowly closing in on the Palestinian territory's largest city, where block after block has already been destroyed in the Israel-Hamas war. Thousands of people streamed out in vehicles laden with their belongings, but hundreds of thousands more remain.

The operation marks yet another escalation in a conflict that has roiled the Middle East for nearly two years and likely pushes any ceasefire farther out of reach. The military wouldn't offer a timeline for the offensive, which it says aims to "destroy Hamas' military infrastructure," but Israeli media suggested it could take months.

It began the same day that independent experts commissioned by the United Nations' Human Rights Council accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel fiercely rejected the allegation, calling the experts' report "distorted and false."

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz declared that "Gaza is burning" as the operation began, and heavy bombardment battered the city overnight and into the morning.

Long lines of cars and trucks strapped with mattresses and other belongings stretched down Gaza's coastal road, as people fled the city. Some crowded on top of vehicles, while others made their way on foot.

On a brief visit to the region, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned that there was a "very short window of time in which a deal can happen" to end the war.

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of an-



onymity in line with military guidelines, said that the "main phase" of the Gaza City operation had begun, with troops moving in from the city's outskirts toward its centre. Air-strikes have pounded Gaza City for some time in the lead-up to the operation, knocking down towers in the city.

The official said the Israeli military believes there are approximately 2,000 to 3,000 Hamas militants left in Gaza City, as well as tunnels used by the militant group. Hamas' military capabilities have been vastly diminished over nearly two years of war, and nowadays it mainly carries out guerrilla-style attacks, with small groups of fighters planting explosives or attacking military outposts before melting away.

An estimated 1 million Palestinians were living in the Gaza City region before warnings to

evacuate began ahead of the offensive, and the Israeli military estimates 350,000 people have left the city.

A UN estimate on Monday, however, said that over 220,000 Palestinians have fled northern

Gaza over the past month.

By the end of the current operation, an Israeli military graphic suggested its troops hope to control all of the Gaza Strip except for a large swath along the coast.

IDF launches airstrikes on Yemen's port city

Aden: Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels activated their air defences after Israel launched airstrikes on the port city of Hodeida, a spokesperson for the group said. "Our air defences are currently confronting the Israeli aircraft that are launching an aggression against our country," spokesperson Yahya Saree posted on X. The Israeli military said in an update that it struck "military infrastructure" used by the Houthis at the port of Hodeida. "The Hudaydah Port is used by the Houthi terrorist regime for the transfer of weapons supplied by the Iranian regime, in order to execute attacks against the State of Israel and its allies," the statement read. Saree said in a statement that the Houthi air defences "caused great confusion" for Israeli aircraft and forced some combat formations to leave Yemeni airspace before carrying out the attacks, thwarting Israel's incursion deep into Yemen. The latest strikes came as hundreds attended funeral services for 31 Yemeni journalists who were reported killed in Israeli airstrikes last week that targeted Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

Denmark leads military exercise in Greenland

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuuk, Sept 16: Denmark is leading a military exercise with hundreds of troops from several European NATO members in Greenland, a maneuver that coincides with months of tensions over the Trump administration's desire for US jurisdiction over the vast Arctic territory.

The Arctic Light 2025 exercise, which follows maneuvers with identical or similar titles in previous years, involves more than 550 service members from Denmark and NATO allies France, Germany, Sweden and Norway, according to the Danish military.

The chief of Denmark's Joint Arctic Command pointed to wariness toward Russia as a "regional superpower" in the far north and highlighted what he called "a very good relationship with the US military".

On Monday, Danish forces trained boarding ships with special forces as military observers from the United States,



Britain, Canada, Sweden and Germany looked on. Troops descended from helicopters on ropes and climbed up from speedboats in temperatures barely above freezing.

The guests from allied nations aboard the Danish frigate Niels Juel saw Danish F-16 fighter jets fly by, as well as live-fire exercises.

The stated aim of the exercise is to strengthen the operational readiness of the Danish armed

forces and Greenland, a strategically located island that is a semiautonomous territory of Denmark.

The military says its personnel is training along with allies to reinforce "their joint response capabilities against destabilising threats to Greenland, the Kingdom of Denmark, and NATO in the North Atlantic and Arctic regions".

Denmark is moving to strengthen its military pres-

Tensions flare as Chinese, Philippine ships collide in SCS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Sept 16: China's coast guard accused a Philippine ship of deliberately ramming one of its vessels Tuesday near Scarborough Shoal, a disputed territory that both countries claim in the South China Sea.

A coast guard statement said more than 10 Philippine government ships coming from various directions entered the waters around the shoal, which is called Huangyan island in Chinese. It said it deployed water cannons against the vessels.

The encounter came six days after China announced it was designating part of Scarborough Shoal as a national nature reserve.

There was no immediate comment from the Philippines. The government in Manila said last week it was filing a diplomatic protest against the designation of a nature reserve at what it calls Bajo de Masinloc.

China and the Philippines have clashed repeatedly around outcroppings in the South China

Sea, which China claims almost in its entirety. The two countries are among several that have competing claims to territory in the waters, which are of strategic importance and home to valuable fishing grounds.

The Chinese coast guard statement blamed the Philippines for Tuesday's collision, calling its actions both provocative and egregious.

Several friendly countries have backed the Philippines on the nature reserve.

A statement from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the Chinese action "yet another coercive move to advance sweeping territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea at the expense of its neighbours."

Great Britain and Australia expressed concern about the announcement in social media posts. The Canadian Embassy in the Philippines said: "We oppose attempts to use environmental protection as a way to take control over the disputed Scarborough Shoal.



ence around Greenland and in the wider North Atlantic. In late January, the government announced a roughly 14.6 billion-kroner (\$2.3 billion) agreement with parties including the governments of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands to "improve capabilities for surveillance and maintaining sovereignty in the region."

Those will include three new Arctic naval vessels, two additional long-range surveillance drones and satellite capacity.

In the Arctic Light exercise, which started Sept 9 and ends Friday, Denmark is deploying the frigate, two helicopters, two F-16s and personnel from all three branches of the armed forces, including special forces. France is sending a naval ship, a tanker aircraft and mountain infantry equipped with drones.

The Danish military didn't mention the current tensions with Washington in announcing the exercise, and the chief of Denmark's Joint Arctic Command pointed to good relations with the American military.

"We have worked together with the US for decades, both in exercises and also operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and so on," Maj Gen Søren Andersen said on Monday. That will continue this week, because Denmark will be taking its fighter jets to the United States' Pituffik Space Base in northwestern Greenland, he added.

"So, we will land up there, and I think the pilots will have a cup of coffee with the base commander there," Andersen said. This year's Arctic Light is taking place against a backdrop of growing wariness toward Russia in the region.

"I think it's fair to say that Russia has built up in the Arctic for the last 20 years, and Russia is a regional superpower in the Arctic," Andersen said.

When the war in Ukraine ends, "I think most of us working in this business... think that Russia will start building up again other places and use their resources not in Ukraine, but other places in the world," he said.

Endangered pink river dolphins face mercury threat in Amazon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puerto Narino, Sept 16: A flash of pink breaks the muddy surface of the Amazon River as scientists and veterinarians, waist-deep in the warm current, patiently work a mesh net around a pod of river dolphins. They draw it tighter with each pass, and a spray of silver fish glistens under the harsh sun as they leap to escape the net.

When the team hauls a dolphin into a boat, it thrashes as water streams from its pink-speckled sides, and the crew quickly ferries it to the sandy riverbank where adrenaline-charged researchers lift it onto a mat. They have 15 minutes — the limit for how long a dolphin can safely be out of the water — to complete their work.

Fernando Trujillo, a marine biologist leading the effort, kneels beside the animal's head, shielding its eye with a small

cloth so it can't see what's happening. He rests his hand gently on the animal and speaks in low tones.

"They've never felt the palm of a hand. We try to calm them," said Trujillo, sporting a pink dolphin bandana. "Taking a dolphin out of the water, it's a kind of abduction."

One person counts the dolphin's breaths. Another wets its skin with a sponge while the others conduct multiple medical tests that will help show how much mercury is coursing through the Amazon's most graceful predators.

Trujillo directs the Omacha Foundation, a conservation group focused on aquatic wildlife and river ecosystems, and leads health evaluations of river dolphins. It's a painstaking operation involving experienced fishermen, veterinarians and locals that takes months of planning and happens a couple

of times a year.

"We take blood and tissue samples to assess mercury, Trujillo told The Associated Press from the Colombian riverside town of Puerto Narino. "Basically, we're using dolphins as sentinels for the river's health."

Mercury contamination comes mainly from illegal gold mining — a growing industry across the Amazon Basin — and forest clearing that washes mercury that naturally occurs in soil into waterways.

The miners use mercury to separate gold from sediment, then dump the sludge back into rivers, where it enters fish eaten by people and dolphins. Rising global gold prices have fueled a mining boom, and mercury pollution in remote waterways has increased.

Mercury can damage the brain, kidneys, lungs and immune system and cause mood swings, memory loss and muscle weakness in people,



according to the World Health Organisation and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Pregnant women and young children are most at risk, with prenatal exposure linked to developmental delays and reduced cognitive function.

"The maximum any living being should have is 1 milligram per kilogram," Trujillo

said. "Here, we're seeing 20 to 30 times that amount."

In previous years, his team found 16 to 18 milligrams per kilogram of mercury in dolphins, which can suffer the same neurological damage, organ damage and other problems as humans. In Colombia's Orinoco River, levels in some dolphins have reached as high

as 42, levels scientists say are among the most extreme ever recorded in the species.

Trujillo said it's difficult to prove the toxin is directly killing dolphins. Further studies are underway, he added, noting that "any mammal with a huge amount of mercury will die."

When Trujillo and his team tested their own blood three years ago, his results showed more than 36 times the safe limit — 36.4 milligrams per kilogram — a level he attributes to decades working in mercury-affected areas and a diet heavy in fish. With medical assistance, his levels have dropped to about 7 milligrams.

"Mercury is an invisible enemy until it builds up to a sufficient amount, then it starts to affect the central nervous system," Trujillo told AP after his team managed to capture and test four pink dolphins. "We're already seeing evidence of it in Indigenous communities."

business

of the day quote

The growth of the medical technology sector in the country is crucial for accessible and affordable healthcare

JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA | UNION MINISTER

All the stories you hear about biofuels being harmful for engines, there's a lot of 'BS' - 'B' capital, 'S', capital, and I don't know what that means, but it's a specialist

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

India is set to attract investments worth ₹80 lakh crore, generate over 1.5 crore jobs, and accelerate green shipping practices in the coming years

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Rupee rises 7 paise

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 7 paise to close at 88.09 against the US dollar Tuesday, tracking US-India talks on the proposed trade agreement to iron out issues in the wake of steep Trump Tariffs. Forex traders said the rupee strengthened on positive domestic markets and a weak greenback, which is trading at a two-month low ahead of the two-day FOMC meeting commencing Tuesday and disappointing US economic data.

AHPI demand

New Delhi: Many member hospitals of the Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI), including some of the large tertiary care hospital chains, are facing an alarming situation, where 'Star Health Insurance' has suspended cashless services, leaving hospitals to manage distressed patients, a statement said Monday. Hospitals and nursing homes, part of the Indian Medical Association Hospital Board, also share the same concerns, AHPI said in the statement.

iPhone17 cosmic pro max out of stock

New Delhi: Apple's iPhone Pro Max 17 in cosmic orange has witnessed a considerable surge in demand, and it has gone out of stock within three days after pre-booking went live for pick up of the devices at the company's official stores in the US and India, as per information shared by company staff. In India, the entire iPhone Pro Max series is not available for pre-order with pick-up option at Apple stores, according to information sourced from the Apple India website. The cosmic orange devices were not available for pre-orders in both iPhone Pro Max and iPhone Pro series in India for the pick-up at store option.

Zepto, ClearTax to offer ITR filing services

New Delhi: Quick commerce firm Zepto Tuesday said it has partnered with ClearTax to offer income tax return filing services for its delivery workforce, enabling refunds worth over ₹1.5 crore to date. As many as 49 per cent of Zepto's delivery partners opted to file ITRs via ClearTax this year, with a significant share comprising first-time filers using a WhatsApp-based, multilingual interface available round the clock, a company statement said. The initiative helps workers to file returns through a chat-led process on WhatsApp in over seven Indian languages.



We reaffirmed our strong commitment to strengthening our Green Strategic Partnership and to an early conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement. Conveyed best wishes for Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

METTE FREDERIKSEN | DANISH PRIME MINISTER

MOTHER DAIRY PRICE CUT

Mother Dairy Tuesday announced it will pass on GST reduction benefits to consumers from September 22. Following the GST revisions, UHT milk (tetra pack) and paneer will attract zero GST instead of the earlier 5 per cent, while other dairy products and value-added horticultural items will see rates drop from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The price reductions include toned tetra pack UH milk (1 litre), double toned UHT milk (450 ml), paneer (200 gm), ghee carton pack (1 litre), and butter (100 gm)



India, ILO to advance 'International Reference Classification Occupations'

In order to fill these skill gaps, the G20 leaders during India's Presidency in 2023 committed to working towards ensuring well-managed, regular and skills-based migration pathways.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: The government has inked an initial pact with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to advance 'International Reference Classification of Occupa-

tions' and facilitate youth in availing global employment opportunities, a Labour Ministry statement said Tuesday. Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports Man-sukh Mandaviya virtually attended the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India and International Labour Organisation (ILO) for collaboration to develop 'International Reference Classification of Occupations', the ministry said. The Labour Ministry said that significant skill shortages are being faced by many countries due to demographic deficits and digitalization. In order to fill these skill



gaps, the G20 leaders during India's Presidency in 2023 committed to working towards

ensuring well-managed, regular and skills-based migration pathways.

To this end, they endorsed the development of International Reference Classification of Occupations by skill and qualification requirements. Mandaviya highlighted that the partnership between the Government of India and the ILO reflects shared commitment to shaping the future of work in times of rapid transformation. "The International Reference Classification will enhance comparability of data and promote mutual recognition of skills," he further said. Mandaviya drew attention to India's steady progress towards greater formalisation of the economy.

ILO Director General Gilbert F Hounbo noted that the MoU would have far reaching impact for countries across the globe. He further underlined the good work that India has been doing in matters related to labour mobility and social protection. During this event, Secretary (L&E), Vandana Gurnani emphasized that the MoU provides a framework for undertaking a feasibility study and pilot exercise in crucial areas such as the green, digital, and care sectors. She outlined that this MoU presents an opportunity for wider collaboration in the future, benefiting the global workforce.

DoT extends broadband gear testing deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: The telecom department's communication security wing NCCS has deferred the rollout of mandatory testing of optical fibre-based broadband gears for the third time until December 31, an official notification said. Industry body VoICE, representing domestic telecom gear makers, has alleged that the mandatory testing has been deferred again amid reluctance by foreign vendors to go for security testing but NCCS has denied the charges. The National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is responsible for the implementation of 'Communication Security Certification Scheme' (ComSec) to ensure devices installed in telecom networks are safe and secure. Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and Optical Line Terminal (OLT) products will be under Voluntary Security Certification (VSC) regime till December 31, 2025. During the VSC period, administrative fee and Security Test Evaluation Fee shall not be levied. Subsequently, from January 1, 2026, such products shall be mandatorily certified for their compliance with ITSAR under ComSec scheme," the notification dated August 29 said. ONTs are devices installed at customer premises like modems, wifi routers etc for providing broadband services while OLTs facilitate transmission of broadband signals in the



network. Voice of Indian Communication Technology, Enterprises (VoICE), Director General RK Bhatnagar said, "One of the possible reasons for the extension could be the ongoing tariff negotiation with the US which has raised the compliance as costly and cumbersome. "The issue is related to 'security' issues and we should not compromise. It will keep the door open for foreign players for more time and domestic players will be forced to share the same market with them even when they are compliance-ready," Bhatnagar said. An email query sent to foreign vendors such as Cisco, Nokia, and Ericsson did not elicit any reply. A source representing a European telecom vendor said that the industry has submitted representation to the NCCS through Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) suggesting changes in the norms. When contacted, a DoT

spokesperson denied the allegation of extension due to resistance from foreign telecom gear makers. The spokesperson said that the extension has been granted to simplify the ComSec process and to address the product grouping concerns of Indian startups, MSMEs, etc. The National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS), under DoT, has been mandated to implement security testing and certification under the ComSec scheme. As per the updated framework, OEMs, importers, and dealers who wish to sell, import, or use telecom equipment in India must ensure their products undergo security testing and certification under the said scheme. NCCS is also reviewing the ComSec process to make it simple and effective, the spokesperson said. The DoT has been deferring the mandatory testing following objections raised mainly

by foreign players on various grounds. The NCCS has already addressed concerns of foreign vendors' apprehensions over the chances of source code leaks. It has been clarified that telecom gear makers can bring the source code on their own media which will not be copied to any device in the Telecom Security Testing Lab (TSTL) while performing source code analysis. After the test, all intermediate test data will be deleted as well as there will be no manual review of source code avoiding any compromise on intellectual property. NCCS started the processes of certifying broadband gears with the commencement of voluntary security certification (VSC) of optical network terminal (ONT) from August 1, 2024, and OLTs from September 1, 2024, under which it waived the administrative fee and security test evaluation fee. The notification mandated certification for ONTs from February 1, 2025, onwards that have not undergone certification for essential requirements (ERs) proposed by the government under mandatory testing norms and were meant to be sold by OEMs or importers in India. In April 2025, the deadline for VSC was extended for the second time until August 31 from April 1, directing optical fibre-based broadband gear makers to mandatorily get their equipment and products certified under the rules. The third extension has now been given till December 31.

Stock markets rebound; Sensex jumps 595 points



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 16: Stock markets rebounded Tuesday with the benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 595 points on renewed optimism over the resumption of the India-US trade talks. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 594.95 points or 0.73 per cent to settle at 82,380.69 following buying in auto and IT shares. During the day, it surged 657.74 points or 0.80 per cent to 82,443.48. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 169.90 points or 0.68 per cent to 25,239.10. Chief negotiators of India and the US have commenced talks on the proposed trade agreement to iron out issues in the wake of steep tariffs that have created uncertainties for exporters, an official said Tuesday. A rally in Asian and US peers also instilled optimism in the domestic stock market ahead of this week's US Federal Reserve policy meeting.

Among Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank rose the most by 2.55 per cent. Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel were also among the major gainers. Asian Paints and Bajaj Finance closed with losses. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.66 per cent and mid-cap index went up by 0.62 per cent. Among sectoral indices, services jumped the most by 1.67 per cent, followed by telecommunication (1.50 per cent), auto (1.43 per cent), teck (1.05 per cent), industrials (1.05 per cent), realty (1.02 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.96 per cent) and commodities (0.90 per cent). FMCG emerged as the only laggard. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in positive territory while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower.

JSW Group receives "Star Employment Award"



ceremony held at the OUAT Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar, Odisha in the presence of CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Minister (Industries)Sampad Chandra Swain, senior officials, industry leaders, and media.

Airtel's fight against fraud reduces financial losses

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel today announced that its anti-fraud initiatives have resulted in a significant decline in cybercrime complaints, and that this has been further endorsed by recent information from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). According to the MHA-I4C, there has been a staggering 68.7 per cent decrease in the value of financial losses and a 14.3 per cent drop in overall cybercrime incidents on the Airtel network, thereby validating the efficacy of Airtel's fraud detection solutionin curbing cybercrime and creating a safe network for its customers.The data analyzed by MHA-I4C compares key cybercrime indicators from September 2024—prior to the launch ofAirtel's Fraud & spam detection solution—with those from June 2025. Commenting on the initiative, Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Bharti Airtel, said, "We are on a mission of eliminating Spam and financial frauds for our customers.In the past one year, our AI-powered network solutions have identified over 48.3 billion spam calls and blocked 3.2 lakhs fraudulent links. However, we see this as small steps in a much larger fight. We will continue to innovate and invest heavily in this area until our networks are free of digital spam and scam." "The impact shared by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) encourages us tremendously and validates our efforts in this mission. I would like to commend the MHA I4C and DoT for their initiatives to curb spam and fraud and we will look forward to collaborating deeply with the authorities to eliminate the threats of cyber-crimes & frauds." Vittal added.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: India is creating an enabling legal framework to encourage active participation of private players in the nuclear sector, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Ajit Kumar Mohanty said Tuesday.

Addressing the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, he said India has launched the Nuclear Energy Mission with a target to increase its nuclear power capacity to 100 GW by 2047. Currently, India operates 24 nuclear power reactors with a cumulative capacity of 8,190 MWe and plans to raise it to 22 GW by 2032. Mohanty said to achieve the goal of 100 GW by 2047, India has been undertaking strategic policy interventions and

'Legal framework for private players in nuclear sector'

The Atomic Energy Commission chairman said the government has allocated more than \$2 billion for research and development on Small Modular Reactors with a plan for at least five indigenously designed and operational SMRs by 2033



making infrastructure investments with an emphasis on the development and deployment of indigenous nuclear technologies and public-private collaborations. "To encourage active participation of the private sector in this transformative initiative, the Government of India is also creating an enabling legal framework in the nuclear sector," he said. The Atomic Energy Commission chairman said the government has allocated more than \$2 billion for research and development on Small Modular Reactors with a plan for at least five indigenously designed and operational SMRs by 2033. Mohanty said that during 2024-25, the power plants of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) achieved a Plant Load Factor of 87 per cent. "For the first time in its operational history, the nuclear power plants of NPCIL have generated 50 billion units in the

last financial year," he said. Mohanty said the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre was committed to developing a light water-based 200 MWe Bharat SMR, a 55 MWe SMR and a High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor for clean hydrogen production by integrating it with a thermochemical plant. The Fast Breeder Test Reactor built by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) has completed 34 irradiation campaigns at the target power of 40 MWt, he said. The Demonstration Facility for recycling of Fast Reactor Spent Fuel was also successfully operated, Mohanty said. "India firmly believes that ensuring the safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials is a core responsibility of all member states. India affirms its support to the Agency in its resolve to provide a robust, sustainable and visible global nuclear safety and security framework," he added.

RBI guidelines for regulating payment gateways

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 16: The Reserve Bank Monday issued directions to regulate payment aggregators, which came into effect immediately. As per the Reserve Bank of India (Regulation of Payment Aggregators) Directions, 2025, payments aggregators are categorised into three categories as per the work they undertake. These categories include PA-P for physical PAs; PA-CB for cross-border and PA-O for online PAs, as per the directions. A bank does not require authorisation to carry out PA business, while for non-banks, the RBI has set specific capital requirements. "An entity seeking authorisation to commence or carry on PA business shall have a minimum net-worth of ₹15 crore at the time of tendering application for authorisation; and shall attain a minimum net-worth of ₹25 crore by the end of the third financial year of grant of authorisation," it said. The directions have provisions on escrow accounts and fund management, cross-border limits for PA-CBs and also on governance, wherein the promoters will have to adhere to the 'fit and proper' criteria, it said. The central bank in April 2024 issued draft directions on PAs; the final guidelines have been issued after getting feedback from all stakeholders.

ICC rejects Pak demand to remove Pycroft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 16: The ICC Tuesday rejected Pakistan's demand to remove match referee Andy Pycroft from the panel of officials for the ongoing Asia Cup despite the PCB's reported threat of a pullout that would cause heavy financial loss to the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had filed a complaint with the ICC alleging that Pycroft asked its captain Salman Ali Agha not to shake hands with his Indian counterpart Suryakumar Yadav at the time of toss in their Asia Cup match Sunday.

"Late last night, ICC had sent a reply to PCB stating that Pycroft won't be removed and their plea has been rejected," an ICC source told PTI.

The 69-year-old Zimbabwean is due to officiate Pakistan's final group stage game against the UAE Wednesday.

Pakistan cancelled a scheduled pre-match press conference here Tuesday with team sources saying that it was done to "avoid" questions on



the widely reported threat of a pullout.

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

After the match that India won by seven wickets, Suryakumar and his men did not exchange handshakes with their cross-border rivals as a mark of respect for the Pahalgam terror attack victims and their families.

A pullout is not an easy decision to pull off for Pakistan

which stands to lose upto USD 16 million from the Asian Cricket Council's revenue for such a move.

"Can Naqvi risk Pakistan losing around USD 16 million out of a projected budget of USD 227 million for the fiscal year? That will be roughly seven per cent of the annual PCB revenue gone," a source close to developments in PCB told PTI.

Naqvi, as the head of ACC, will also have to bear the brunt and face the ire of the official broadcaster, which can refuse to pay the agreed upon fee.

Pycroft is one of the senior-most match referees in ICC Elite Panel with 695 inter-

Apollo Tyres new jersey sponsor

New Delhi: Apollo Tyres has been locked in as the new jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team following the exit of online game platform Dream 11, a senior BCCI official told PTI Tuesday. The BCCI was left without a shirt sponsor for the team after the government banned real money gaming platforms including Dream 11 under a new legislation. The team is currently playing the Asia Cup in Dubai without a title sponsor. "The deal has been signed with Apollo Tyres. We will announce it soon," said a senior BCCI official. It is reliably learnt that the three-year deal is valued at Rs 579 crore, higher than the Rs 358 crore agreement with Dream 11 for the same duration. The deal with the tyre major covers 121 bilateral games and 21 ICC games.

national games to his credit (men and women across three formats).

Fielding, spin bowling in focus to level up against Aussies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mullanpur (Punjab), Sept 16: India's big defeat against Australia in the opening women's ODI may have come as a dampener ahead of the World Cup, but the team would look to level the series against Alyssa Healy's side with a stronger bowling and fielding effort in the second match here Wednesday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's wards did well with the bat by putting up a challenging total courtesy half-centuries from batting mainstays Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana and Hareen Deol.

But poor fielding came back to haunt them yet again in the opening game of the three-match series.

The four dropped catches let Australia, who would be India's toughest opponents apart from England in the women's World Cup scheduled later this month, off the hook and they managed to finish



the task of chasing 281 runs in double-quick time. On the eve of the second game, senior India all-rounder Deepti Sharma refused to read much into India's fielding errors.

"There was no problem as such. We have done well in past few series fielding-wise as a unit," Deepti told the media.

"There can be an off day for any team, any team can make mistakes but we will not focus much on that. We will focus on all that we did right and take it

Squads:

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Uma Chetry, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (wk), Kranti Goud, Smriti Mandhana, Pratika Rawal, Sneha Rana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sayali Satghare, Deepti Sharma, Shree Charani, Radha Yadav.

Australia: Alyssa Healy (c & wk), Tahlia McGrath, Darcie Brown, Nicole Faltum, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Charli Knott, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

forward," she said.

Australia, on the other hand, seem to be pacing their preparations in a manner which could make them unstoppable in their quest for a record-extending eighth ODI World Cup title, something the Indian team management would be aware of.

Kalinga Lancers rope in Jay Stacy as head coach

Bhubaneswar: Kalinga Lancers have roped in Australian legend Jay Stacy as the new head coach of the team, ahead of the upcoming Hockey India League season. Stacy, who represented Australia in 321 international matches and four Olympic Games, winning three medals in 1992, 1996, and 2000, takes over from German coach Valentin Altenburg, who led the side in the previous campaign. "I am excited to begin a new chapter with Vedanta Kalinga Lancers and am thrilled to be returning to the Hockey India League, which has evolved significantly since my earlier stint," Stacy said in a statement.

Norway-Israel soccer ticket money to fund Gaza aid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oslo, Sept 16: Money pledged to humanitarian work in Gaza from ticket sales at a Norway-Israel qualifying game for soccer's 2026 World Cup will go to Doctors Without Borders.

The Norwegian Football Association Monday announced its choice of a partnership with the Nobel Peace Prize-winning health NGO ahead of the sold-out October 11 game in Oslo. It's likely to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The money is earmarked for

the organisation's relief work on the ground in Gaza and the surrounding areas affected by the war," the Norwegian soccer body said.

Norway's pledge last month of soccer money to help Palestinian people comes after Israel — which has played in European soccer competitions for security reasons since joining UEFA in 1994 — has faced almost no pressure within the sport to be suspended or have games boycotted since the conflict in Gaza escalated in October 2023.

"As a member of FIFA and



UEFA," Norwegian FA Lise Klaveness said at a news conference, her federation "has to deal with Israel participating in

their competitions."

"At the same time, we cannot and will not be indifferent to the humanitarian suffering that is

taking place in the region, especially the disproportionate attacks against civilians in Gaza."

Norway has taken the political stand when its men's national team is the best for a generation and led by superstar striker Erling Haaland. It is set to qualify for a first World Cup since 1998, leading a qualifying group that includes Italy.

It's unclear how much profit the Norwegian FA will earn from sales of about 23,000 tickets for the game at Ullevaal Stadium which will have extra security for the Israel visit.

Private donor

A further 3 million Norwegian kroner (\$305,000) was promised by "one of the country's largest investment companies," the federation said, adding the donor's identity is known to Doctors Without Borders.

Norwegian soccer has long been among the most politically engaged of FIFA's 211 members. It was praised for its solidarity by the Geneva-based NGO, which is known widely by its French name Médecins Sans Frontières.

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