

Spike in AC, TV sales as GST cut kicks in

New Delhi: As lower GST rates took effect Monday, sales of air-conditioners, TV sets surged dramatically with buyers rushing to grab cheaper deals offered by retailers at the beginning of the Navratra festival. "Trends of primary regular sales are encouraging. Till 5 pm, our dealers have reported almost double sales, compared to any other Monday," Haier India President N S Satish said.

P7

₹ falls 12 paise to close at 88.28

Mumbai: Rupee depreciated 12 paise to close at 88.28 against US dollar Monday, as investors weighed Trump's H-1B visa fee hike impact on Indian remittances amid heightened risk-averse sentiment. Forex traders said the recent hike in H-1B visa fees could contribute to equity outflows from the Indian IT sector in the near term, and could also exert pressure on the Indian rupee.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Buying Indian is vital for the country's growth... for common citizens, not for us



NATURE'S WRATH: Restoration work at Kalinga Ghat, a stretch on National Highway-157 connecting Ganjam and Kandhamal districts, was hit due to a fresh landslide Monday. The stretch was badly damaged after massive landslides September 16 **(Report P5)**

OP PHOTO

Balanga girl's death due to self-immolation: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Unveiling the findings into the death of a minor girl at Balanga in Puri, CM Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said the incident was a "case of self-immolation" and not an attack by miscreants, as initially reported.

In a written reply to a question by BJD MLA Tusharkanti Behera in the Assembly, Majhi said it was a "mistake of fact" that the 15-year-old girl was set ablaze by

unidentified persons July 19.

The victim's mother had reported at Balanga police station that some unknown persons took her daughter forcibly to a river embankment and attempted to kill her by pouring kerosene and petrol, he said.

“The victim, during the recording of her statement before the magistrate under Section 183 of BNSS, had stated that due to anger and disgust, she poured kerosene on her body and set herself on fire,” Majhi said.

Kid's death at Capital Hosp sparks protest

Bhubaneswar: Tension gripped Capital Hospital here Monday when the members of Smart City Online Auto & Taxi Association and locals fought a pitched battle with the hospital's security guards following the death of a 13-month-old boy, allegedly due to "wrong medicines". The melee resulted in injuries to a few people, according to reports. The deceased was identified as Ayushman Sahu, son of Ashish Kumar Sahu, an auto-rickshaw driver, and Ranjita Sahu of Salia Sahi in the City. **P3**

P3

Man dies in custody; cop torture alleged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 22: Raising serious questions about safety and security at police stations under the twin city Commissionerate Police, a 39-year-old man, arrested on charges of vehicle theft, died reportedly by suicide on the premises of Choudwar police station in Cuttack district late Sunday night, after being unable to withstand custodial torture by the men in khaki.

The deceased was identified as Rasananda Nayak of Shankarpur village in Dhenkanal district. Police had brought him to the station for questioning in connection with a vehicle theft case. Since the main lockup was under repair, Nayak was kept at the police barracks, about 200 metres from Choudwar police station.

According to sources, Nayak went to answer nature's call and allegedly hanged himself from a tree using his belt on the campus. Policemen at the barracks rushed an unconscious Nayak to Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack where doctors declared him dead.

While some police personnel maintained that no such incident of torture had occurred, Nayak's wife and brother alleged that he took the extreme



While some police personnel maintained that no such incident had occurred, Rasananda Nayak's wife and brother alleged that he took the extreme step after being unable to bear the "third-degree" torture in custody

Choudwar IIC among three suspended

As per a direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Biswaranjan Sahu, ACP, in charge of Choudwar police station, has been suspended in connection with the death of Nayak in custody. SI Niranjan Goda and OAPF constable Kamal Lochan Majhi were also placed under suspension for dereliction of duty.

Arun Kumar Swain and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Amarendra Panda have launched an inquiry.

While police said the actual reason behind Nayak's death will be ascertained after the postmortem, locals demanded an impartial investigation into the incident.

DSPL-275

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ସ୍ୱଦେଶୀ ବସ୍ତୁ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା

"ନେଚ୍ଚୁଟ ଜେନେରେସନ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି" ପାଇଁ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ଜୀଙ୍କୁ
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OIPR-05034/13/0011/2526

KID'S DEATH AT CAPITAL HOSP SPARKS PROTEST

A large crowd of people is gathered outside the PGIMER & Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. The crowd is dense, with many people standing and some sitting on the ground. Several police officers in uniform are visible, managing the crowd. The hospital building is in the background, with its name written in Odia and English. The scene is outdoors, with trees and a clear sky.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep sorrow over the incident and announced Rs 4 lakh financial assistance to the bereaved family.

OIPR-10003/13/0280/2526

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@HFWOdisha
http://www.health.odisha.g

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Nabarangpur vide no. 372 dated. 20.09.2025, I Smt. Jochhnanrani Nayak @ Jochhana Rani Behera, D/o - Late Radha Krushna Nayak, W/o - Susanta Kumar Behera resident of At/PO./ PS - Papadahandi state that in my son Baibhav Kumar Behera's birth certificate my name has been wrongly mentioned as Jochhnanrani Nayak. Hence Jochhnanrani Nayak and Jochhana Rani Behera is one and same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as JOCHHANA RANI BEHERA for all official purposes. Sd./- Jochhana Rani Behera

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, dated 22.09.2025, I Trinath Behera, Address:- At-Natara, P.O/P.S.-Astaranga, Dist-Puri, Odisha, Pin-752109 declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from ADHIYASHA PRIYADARSHINI to ADYASHA PRIYADARSHINI. Henceforth, she shall be known as ADYASHA PRIYADARSHINI for all purposes. TRINATH BEHERA

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Loisingha, dt. 20.09.2025, vide Sl.No.138, I Jibardhan Padhan, S/o. Late Narayan Padhan, R/O- Vill-Santika, P.O.- Nagaon (B), PS-Loisingha, Dist- Balangir, Odisha, declare that in the Aadhaar Card my name has been mentioned as Budu Padhan, S/o- Narayan Padhan instead of Jibardhan Padhan, S/o- Late Narayan Padhan. Henceforth, I shall be known as Jibardhan Padhan, S/o- Late Narayan Padhan for all purposes in any Govt. or Private Sector.

LOST

I Sultana Begam, Aged-50 years, W/o- Nizamuddin Khan, At- Hajari Nagar (Apartibindha), Po – Bhadrak, PS- Bhadrak Town, Dist-Bhadrak, state that we received sale deed in the name of my husband, Regd No. 1002, was prepared on 07-04-2000. The said document was lost somewhere while marketing in Bhadrak Town on 20-09-2025 in the evening. After searching at the place, it was not found.

CM: GST reforms to boost consumption

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said the GST reforms will boost consumption of 'swadeshi' goods and services, resulting in a resilient and stronger economy.

The GST Council, comprising the Centre and states, had decided to reduce tax rates on goods and services from September 22 – the first day of Navratri.

“Today, 22nd September 2025, is getting etched in history as an iconic date as Bharat rolls out the Next-Generation GST reforms under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji,” the CM said in a post on X.

The upgraded GST slabs bring about a welcome change in the way people produce and consume, he said.

“Easier compliances and reduced GST on MSMEs will encourage manufacturers and producers to build for India, to Make in India. The reduction in GST will ultimately boost consumption of 'swadeshi' goods and services, resulting towards a resilient and stronger economy built on the bedrock of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat,’” Majhi asserted.

“These Next-Gen GST reforms tie the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and Make in India together and form a more cohesive action plan towards 'Viksit Bharat 2047,’” he said.

The GST reforms embody the government's commitment to inclusive growth and ease of living for all, the CM said.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference here, state BJP president Manmohan Samal said the new GST rates will



immensely benefit Odisha and its people.

“The rolling out of the new GST regime is not only a gift for the people of India on the occasion of Navratri, but it also gives a new sense of self-confidence to the public,” Samal said.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) slammed the Centre's decision to observe the implementation of GST reforms as 'GST Bachat Utsav'.

Briefing media at Congress Bhawan here, party spokesperson Prashant Satpathy said demonetisation in 2016 and the flawed GST in 2017 crippled the economy, forcing 63 lakh small and medium enterprises to shut down. He pointed to worsening inequality, with just 21 billionaires now holding more wealth than 80 crore Indians, while 50 per cent of the poor own only 3 per cent. Citing government data, Satpathy said debt per farmer rose from ₹74,121 in 2021 to ₹91,231 in 2024, with 75 per cent of Odisha's farmers burdened by loans. Youth unemployment has also surged, with nearly half of people aged 20–24 jobless, he added.

“After looting ₹55 lakh crore in GST over eight years, the government is now talking of savings. This is ridiculous,” he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Diversifying animal feed management practices is crucial for enhancing animal resources and supporting rural livelihoods, said Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik here Monday.

He made the remarks during the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), the Veterinary Officers' Training Institute (VOTT), and the Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (DAH&VS).

The collaboration aims to foster innovation and strengthen coordination in animal feed management and overall livestock development.

The signing coincided with the inauguration of a five-day national workshop on “Ad-



THE WORKSHOP TO BRING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES TO THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR, CLIMATE-RESILIENT FEED PRODUCTION AND YEAR-ROUND AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY FODDER

THE EVENT SAW THE LAUNCH OF FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIAL PODCAST AND WHATSAPP CHANNEL

OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHTED THE KAMDHENU YOJANA, OFFERING UP TO ₹3.5 LAKH FOR FODDER CULTIVATION, TARGETING 15 LAKH FARMERS OVER FIVE YEARS

vancement of Animal Fodder Management in India” at CIWA, Bhubaneswar, attended by representatives from 16 states and union territories.

Minister Mallik said the workshop is expected to bring transformative changes to the livestock sector. Emphasising that proper feed management is

the cornerstone of sustainable livestock rearing, he highlighted the need for climate-resilient feed production and the year-round availability of high-quality fodder.

The event also witnessed the launch of the department's official podcast and WhatsApp channel to expand outreach to farmers. A documentary highlighting Odisha's success in livestock development was screened.

Officials underlined the benefits of the Chief Minister's Kamdhenu Yojana, which provides up to ₹3.5 lakh assistance for fodder cultivation, with a target to include 15 lakh farmers over five years.

The event was attended by Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Vijay Amruta Kulange, CIWA director Mridula Devi, CEAH Bengaluru director Mahesh, additional secretary Rina Mahapatra and other senior officials.

Cancer survivors meet Assembly Speaker

BHUBANESWAR: Every year, September 22 is observed as World Rose Day, a day dedicated to spreading love, hope, and encouragement to cancer patients. The day symbolises care and affection, aiming to boost the morale of those battling life-threatening illnesses and inspire them to embrace life with renewed strength and positivity. In a heartwarming initiative led by Swagatika Acharya of Awaaken Trust, a group of cancer survivors who



have successfully overcome the disease met Speaker Surama Paddy at the Assembly here Monday. The Speaker welcomed the survivors, presented them with bouquets of roses, and lauded their courage

and perseverance. She also wished them continued health and a life free from illness. The event was attended by Deputy Speaker Bhabanishankar Bhoi, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, MLAs Irasis Acharya and Babu Singh, along with Assembly Secretary Satyabrata Raut. Speaking on the occasion, they praised the survivors' indomitable spirit and encouraged them to remain hopeful, motivating others fighting cancer to continue their journey with determination and optimism.

Four held for cabbie's kidnap, suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The police have arrested four people for their alleged involvement in abduction and suicide of a taxi driver whose body was found on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar last week.

The deceased was identified as Bidyadhar Sahoo (35) of Khurda district's Aranga village. His body was found near Ju-

hagada village on Pitapalli-Baranga road under Chandaka police station limits Saturday.

According to police, the accused persons along with some others had kidnapped Sahoo after he allegedly cheated them of lakhs of rupees on the promise of providing jobs. They demanded a ransom of ₹1.5 crore from the wife of Sahoo.

Some others, including a woman, were allegedly in-

volved in the job fraud case, the police said.

“Sahoo had allegedly taken educational certificates and some money from the accused persons in the promise of giving them jobs. September 15, the accused persons forcefully took Sahoo to Jajpur and asked him to return their money and documents,” Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh

said here Monday.

Subsequently, he allegedly died by suicide in the house in Jajpur September 19, where he was held captive by the abductors. The accused persons later disposed of his body and abandoned his taxi near Chandaka, he said.

The driver's wife had lodged a missing person complaint at Badagada police station here September 19.

Sahid Nagar pandal to unveil 'peace & war' theme



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Sahid Nagar Durga Puja Committee marks its 48th year with the iconic pandal themed 'Peace and War'. The intricately designed setup guides visitors from India's mythological epics to contemporary global challenges, seamlessly blending tradition and modernity to convey a powerful message of resilience, harmony, and hope for a peaceful world.

The pandal's theme, 'From Dharma to Modern Mission: Guided by Ancient Wisdom, India Stands for Peace, Ready for Duty,' underscores India's identity as a peace-loving na-

THE 48TH EDITION OF THE PUJA BLENDS MYTHOLOGICAL EPICS WITH MODERN CHALLENGES, CONVEYING RESILIENCE, HARMONY, AND HOPE

THE TOWERING 80-FT-HIGH, 120-FT-WIDE PANDAL, CRAFTED BY SKILLED ARTISANS, COMBINES TRADITIONAL MOTIFS AND MODERN DESIGN TO REFLECT INDIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, PROGRESS, AND VISION OF A STRONG NATION

tion, deeply rooted in its cultural and spiritual heritage. “Just as Lord Krishna guided Arjun to uphold Dharma in the Mahabharata, India today embodies the same principles of peace, righteousness, and

service to humanity,” said committee secretary Sachinandan Nayak, adding that “India is a peace-loving nation with deep roots in spirituality and religion, but when tested by the world, it rises with courage, strength, and righteousness.”

The pandal's artwork captures the dual spirit with elephants, chariots and temple motifs, symbolising India's ancient heritage, while tanks, fighter jets and modern skylines depict the nation's progress, stability and defence readiness. Committee member Harish Prasad Rath said the design also embodies 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' — the world is one family — reflecting India's

pursuit of global peace while standing firm against injustice and aggression.

This year's majestic pandal, towering 80 feet high and 140 feet wide, has been meticulously crafted over several months by skilled artisans. Combining traditional motifs with modern design, it evokes the epic grandeur of the Ramayana and Mahabharata while reflecting a vision of a strong, progressive, and resilient India.

Over the years, the Sahid Nagar Durga Puja has earned acclaim for its grand and inventive themes. In 2024, it unveiled Myriad Palace, a 104-foot-high spectacle merging temple, castle, and Arabic architectural styles, while 2023 featured Pari Mahal (Palace of Fairies), attracting massive crowds. This year's 'Peace and War' theme encourages visitors to reflect on India's cultural heritage, spiritual wisdom, and the delicate balance between compassion and courage in today's world.

Durga Puja 2025 in Bhubaneswar promises a vibrant, culturally rich celebration, with more than 172 pandals coming up across the City, including popular hubs like Rasulgah, Nayapalli, Saheed Nagar, Baramunda, Bomikhal, and Jharpada.

CURRENCY

INDEX

VARIATION

DOLLAR

88.30 ▲ 0.15

EURO

104.02 ▲ 0.31

BOURSES

INDEX

VARIATION

SENSEX

25202.35 ▼ 124.70

NIFTY

82159.97 ▼ 466.26

COMMODITIES

INDEX

VARIATION

GOLD

₹111,786 ▲ ₹1,939

SILVER

₹133,111 ▲ ₹3,273

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	31.8°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	24.4°	22.8°	
Humidity	89%	91%	
Rainfall	15.9mm	14.0mm	

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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-94388642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

25-ft croc in Gobari river sparks panic



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 22: Panic has gripped villagers in Kendrapara district after a giant crocodile, estimated to be more than 25 feet long, was sighted at Gobari Mouth-1, the inter-junction of Baulakani, Jambu and KB Dandua panchayats near the Mahakalapara Tini Muhani ferry ghat.

Locals said the crocodile has been swimming close to ferriboats, particularly during

crossings, and has attacked goats, sheep, ducks and cattle along the riverbanks. Many villagers, who depend on fishing and crabbing in the Gobari river for their livelihood, have now stopped entering into the water out of fear. Residents also reported that crocodiles—both small and large—are commonly seen in Gobari river passing through nearby areas, including Pathanpeta, Jambu, Bena Kandha, Milan Moda, Tara-pada, Radia, Baodhi, Babar,

Itakandia, Ekalpur Ghat, Mali Ancha Ghat, Bijayanagar Ghat, Deulapada, Chandia Palli, Orat Ghat and Jalkana.

The Forest department had earlier installed wire fencing along several ghats and bathing spots, but villagers said the structures were of poor quality and have been damaged at many locations. They demanded stronger protective measures from the authorities.

Meanwhile, three crocodiles have reportedly entered

Many villagers, who depend on fishing and crabbing in the Gobari river for their livelihood, have now stopped entering into the water out of fear

the Jambu-Marshaghai main canal, creating fresh alarm among residents. “The reptiles are frequently sighted near our village canal,” said villagers Mani Biswas, Dilip Mandal and Krupasindhu Halдар of Skulgheri village.

When contacted, Mahakalapara Range Officer Shantanu Kumar Dalai said the Forest department has been carrying out awareness campaigns to caution riverside residents against entering the waters.



DEVASTATING IMPACT: A large crater was formed on the road near Mangadjhola village connecting Bonda Ghati in Khairput block of Malkangiri district after a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall washed away a major portion of the road Monday

Bike, pickup van head-on collision claims 3 of family

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, Sept 22: A 35-year-old man and his two children, aged 10 and 8 years, were critically injured when the motorcycle they were riding collided head-on with a pickup van in Kalahandi district Monday, police said.

The incident took place near Deheli in Narla police station area, an officer said, adding the family hailed from Tarlo village.

While the man and his son died on the spot, his daughter succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

The critically injured wife was rushed to Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital in Bhawanipatna.

Following the accident, locals blocked the road in Deheli, stranding hundreds of vehicles. The blockade was later lifted, he added.

In another incident, a 30-year-old man was killed Monday afternoon when his motorcycle collided with a pickup van near Alinagar Square on the Bhadrak-Chandbali state highway under Tihidi police limits.

Plans afoot for creation of ‘Indravati Fish’ brand



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 22: The state government has approved the creation of an exclusive “Indravati Fish” brand to give a distinct identity to fish produced in the Indravati reservoir of Kalahandi district.

According to official sources, J Kerketa, Joint Secretary of the state government, directed the Fisheries Director September 11 to prepare and submit a detailed report on fish farming activities in the reservoir and the proposed branding initiative.

The move follows a proposal submitted by Prateek Joshi, district coordinator of

the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) and Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), urging the government to launch the brand. Taking note of the proposal, the Chief Minister’s Office instructed Fisheries officials to prepare a detailed project report.

Officials said the Indravati reservoir offers significant potential for fishery development. Local fishermen have long depended on it, while the district fisheries department has promoted cage culture — breeding fish in enclosures placed in the reservoir. This system has helped many local farmers achieve self-reliance.

As part of an initial pilot project in Thuamul Rampur

block’s Sanchatrang area, one circular and two rectangular cages were set up in the reservoir and stocked with Amur Carp fingerlings. Within three to four months, the fish grew to 1 kg each, with yields of 30-40 kg per cubic meter, officials said.

The district has about 10,000 registered fish farmers, producing 31,000 metric tonnes of fish annually. In 2020, Kalahandi was recognised as the best-performing district in fisheries nationwide.

Officials added that demand for quality freshwater fish is rising steadily in Odisha, and the Indravati reservoir can meet both local needs and generate surplus for export to other states. If promoted under a unique brand, Indravati fish could establish Kalahandi as a fisheries hub, reducing dependence on Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Joshi expressed hope that the initiative would boost production, strengthen fisheries cooperatives, increase income for women’s self-help groups, and secure livelihoods across the district.

Vigilance arrests ex-principal of OAV for fund bungling

PNN & AGENCIES

Sonepur, Sept 22: Former principal of a government-run Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) in Subarnapur district was arrested Monday by the vigilance wing of police for allegedly misappropriating ₹55 lakh government funds.

Soumya Ranjan Kheti, former principal of OAV, Binika has been arrested for embezzling ₹55,02,610 government funds under mid-day meal, Mo School Abhijan, and girls’ hostel fund contingencies during the financial year 2021-22 to 2024-25 by abusing his official power, the Vigilance department said in a statement. The accused was found to have used ₹11 lakh out of the misappropriated amount for online betting on ‘Teenpatti’ App. Kheti was appointed principal of OAV, Binika September 29, 2021. Vigilance department said inputs were received about misappropriation of government funds by Kheti during his tenure.

Tribal couple dies in wall collapse

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, Sept 22: A tribal couple died and their daughter was injured when a portion of a mud wall collapsed on them while they were sleeping in their house in Balasore district, police said Monday.

The incident took place at Mahadev Sarani village within Basta police station limits in the district Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Pitha Murmu (35) and his wife Laxmi (30), they said.

Police said their 12-year-old daughter sustained injuries in the incident.

According to police, the mud wall was soaked with rainwater, and a portion of it caved in and fell where the couple was sleeping.

Basta police station Inspector-In-Charge Ranjeet Kumar Sahoo said they recovered the bodies and took them to the nearest hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
BAMRA WILDLIFE DIVISION, BAMRA, SAMBALPUR
At/Po:- Bamra, Dist:-Sambalpur, E-mail:dfobambw004@gmail.com
BID IDENTIFICATION No.1F-BMB/01, Dt.22.09.2025 (online)/2025-26
E-Procurement Notice
No.MM-196: No.162, Dated 22.09.2025

The Divisional Forest Officer, Bamra Wildlife Division, Bamra, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE Mode.	
1. No. of Work	- Construction of One Forest Guard Quarter, Pukuda under Jamankira WL Range
2. Estimated Cost	- Rs.13,35,935/- (Excluding 18% GST)
3. Tender Cost	- Rs.6,000/- for each project.
4. Class of Contractor	- "C" & "D" Class Contractors.
5. Period of Completion	- 03 (Three) Calendar Months (90 days)
6. Availability of bid document in the website	- 18.00 Hours of 25.09.2025 to 17.00 Hours of 16.10.2025
7. Date of Opening of Tenders	- 11.30 Hours on dt.17.10.2025
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only.	

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Bamra Wildlife Division
OIPR-08144/11/0005/2526

No. A-12023/4/2022-O/o DGTR
Government of India
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Trade Remedies
Dated: 23rd September, 2025

"Directorate General of Trade Remedies invites applications for engagement as "Individual Consultants" on contract basis in Law and Economics disciplines. Interest candidates may visit <https://www.dgtr.gov.in> under 'Career'."

CBC 05128/11/0001/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-Procurement Notice, ANGUL (R&B) DIVISION
Bid Identification No. 35 of 2025-26
e-mail ID - angulrbddivision@yahoo.co.in

1 Number of Works	: 1 (One) number of building work
2 Approximate estimated cost	: Rs.50.15 lakh
3 Period of completion	: 06 (Six) Calendar months
4 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.24.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
5 Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.09.10.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
6 Date of opening Bid	: Dt.10.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
7 Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid (R&B) Division, Angul	: Superintendent Engineer, Angul
8 The bidders must participate in ONLINE bidding only.	: Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintendent Engineer, Angul (R&B) Division

OIPR-34074/11/0034/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. ETCTEECORBS 202508, Dated: 16.09.2025

Name of Work: ULTRASONIC TESTING OF RAILS AND AT WELDS WITH DIGITAL ULTRASONIC FLAW DETECTORS (USFD) THROUGH OUTSOURCING AND REPORTING THE SAME AS PER INDIAN RAILWAY STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR ULTRASONIC TESTING OF RAILS AND WELDS (REVISED-2020) READ WITH LATEST CORRECTION SLIPS AND MANUAL FOR ULTRASONIC TESTING OF RAIL AND WELDS (REVISED-2022) READ WITH LATEST CORRECTION SLIPS ON VARIOUS IDENTIFIED ROUTES/SECTIONS IN KHURDA ROAD, SAMBALPUR AND WALTAIR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY (JV MEMBER NOT ALLOWED).

Approx Cost of the work: ₹7,10,25,915/-
EMD: ₹5,05,100/-, Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months.
Tender Closing Date & Time: 09.10.2025, 1100 hrs.

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-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any Change/ Corrigenda issued for this tender. The changes/ Corrigenda issued for the tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Dy. Chief Engineer/Track
Bhubaneswar

PR-624/Q/25-26

Fresh landslide at Kalinga Ghat hits restoration work

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Sept 22: Restoration work at Kalinga Ghat, a stretch of NH-157 connecting Ganjam and Kandhamal districts, was hit due to a fresh landslide Monday, an official said.

The stretch was badly damaged after massive landslides September 16.

While several huge rocks rolled down the hills due to fresh rainfall, other rocks were hanging precariously, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Chief Construction Engineer Bankim Chandra Panda, who was on the spot to oversee the repair work, said.

The situation is terrible now and work has been stalled, he said.

Even though we deployed heavy equipment for repair to restore traffic movement temporarily, work can't progress now, he said, adding the fresh landslide was a setback for the restoration.

He said NHAI could not give any probable date for completion of the stretch in view of heavy rain.

If rain continues for some more days, the temporary construction of the highway will be further delayed, he added.

The highway was a vital communication link between Ganjam and Kandhamal districts. The Kandhamal district administration has closed the stretch after landslides that damaged the highway.

As Kalinga Ghat has been closed, passenger buses from Berhampur were going through Daringbadi Road to reach Phulbani, while several others were travelling via Dasapalla in Nayagarh district, which take more time, officials said.

CEMENT PLANT NEAR ELEPHANT CORRIDOR NGT to hold final hearing Nov 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 22: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) will hold a final hearing November 20 over the construction of a cement grinding unit near an elephant corridor at Jhatiapada under Barchana block in Jajpur district. The project by My Home Industries Pvt. Ltd. (Maha Cement) faces allegations of violating environmental norms and threatening wildlife habitats.

The issue reached the NGT (Case No. 42/2024/EZ) following a petition by villagers including Bimal Hembram and Biswajit Mohanty. They alleged the company began construction without mandatory forest clearance. Of the 102 acres acquired, clearance exists for only 60. The plant's southern boundary reportedly overlaps forest land used by elephants,



sparking fears of human-elephant conflict. The tribunal, led by Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Judicial Member Afroz Ahmed, directed the Odisha Chief Secretary and nine officials, along with the company's deputy general manager, to file affidavits. The chief secretary complied August 24. During its September 1 review, the bench scheduled the final hearing for November 20.

Maha Cement adviser Digambar Mishra claimed the land status is under review and elephant activity has declined.

2 youths arrested for kidnapping minor girls

Kendrapara: The Jamboo Marine police in Kendrapara district have arrested two youths for allegedly kidnapping two minor girls. According to Soumyaranjan Biswal, IIC of Jamboo Marine police station, the incident occurred September 19 when the two girls were on their way to school. The accused reportedly sprayed a chemical substance on the girls, causing them to lose consciousness, and then abducted them in a vehicle. One of the classmates of the kidnapped girls informed a school teacher about the incident, enabling the police to act promptly. The accused, identified as Indrajeet Pal (28) and Tarun alias Buddhadeb Dehury (27) of Ramnagar village, later abandoned the girls near the school, apparently frightened by the police response. The two accused were produced before the ADJ-cum-Special POCSO Court under Sections 194, 115(2), 137(2), 142, 351(2), 351(4), 74 which sent them to judicial custody.

59-year-old ranger clinches 4 golds in Forest dept meet



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, Sept 22: Age is no barrier for sports enthusiasts as proved by a quinquagenarian range officer of the Forest department in Koraput district.


Badal Kumar Mohanty, 59, a range officer of Balda forest range comprising 12 panchayats under Nandapur

block, has proved the adage right.

Mohanty has won four gold medals in the zonal-level sports competition organised by the state Forest department in Bhawanipatna. He secured first position in the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 10,000m walking events. More than 25 forest divisions from across Odisha participated in the meet.

The Forest department has recently tightened its foot-walking rules, requiring every officer to cover a fixed distance on foot during inspections and submit reports. Mohanty's daily practice of walking through the forest and his long field experience helped him clinch victory, he said.

Set to retire March 31, 2026, Mohanty has been hailed as a "fit ranger" by colleagues. Officials from Balda range and the Koraput forest division congratulated him on his achievement.



Central Bank of India
CENTRAL TO YOU SINCE 1911

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE: 108-B, 1ST FLOOR, UNIT-VII, SURYA NAGAR, NEAR GOPABANDHU CHHAK, BHUBANESWAR-751003

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer** of the **Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices as under calling upon the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to repay the following amount mentioned in the notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular & the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address with Branch Name	Name & address of Guarantors / Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitization Notice / Possession Notice	Date of Securitization Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
BENUPUR BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) M/s KSM Agarbati Works, Plot No.: 288/1592, Jitikar Suanlo, Bhingarapur, Baliana, Khurda, PIN-752101, 2) Mr. Krupasindhu Mallick, S/o- Kailash Chandra Mallick, Qtr. No.: 2RB-13, Road No. 6, Unit No.-9, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751022.	Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mr. Kailash Chandra Mallick, S/o- Late Madhu Mallick, At/PO: Sithalo, PS: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754294.	₹14,47,556.00 as on 15.06.2025 plus interest thereon & other expenses etc.	16.06.2025 / 18.09.2025	All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Mr. Kailash Chandra Mallick, S/o- Late Madhu Mallick consisting of Regd. Sale Deed No.: 11821401037, Dated: 14.07.2014, Mouza: Jitikar Suanlo, PS: Baliana, Tehsil: Baliana, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 561/305, Plot No.: 288/1592, Area: Ac.0.117dec. Bounded by- East: Consensor, West: Vendor, South: Road, North: Bilash Behera.

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 22.09.2025

Authorised Officer,
Central Bank of India



Pak-Saudi Pact

What has been unofficial for years is now official. Saudi Arabia's landmark mutual defence pact with Pakistan signed on 17 September could come with double benefits for Pakistan. It will greatly strengthen Islamabad and help it play a major role in the geopolitical strategies planned by every other country in the Middle East, especially in the backdrop of recent tensions. India's military action under Operation Sindoor might have acted as a trigger for Pakistan while Israel's attack at Doha in Qatar on Hamas leaders might have acted similarly on the Saudis.

The Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, signed in Riyadh during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit, cements ties between the two countries in such a manner that both countries will treat an attack on one as an attack on both. Reports also indicate the pact extends to Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, allowing them to be considered part of Saudi Arabia's arsenal in case of an emergency. This implies that out of the 56 or so Islamic nations across the world, all those who sign this kind of a defence agreement with Pakistan will also benefit from a nuclear deterrent in this indirect manner.

Pakistan has emerged stronger with the pact seemingly instilling new confidence in the country's military establishment. It gets new partners, while its principal ally remains China which provides to it military support in addition to intelligence inputs. This further implies that those Islamic nations that ink a pact with Pakistan will get Chinese defence technology and intelligence as a bonus package.

The new pact comes at an opportune moment for Pakistan as its relations have improved much with the US since President Donald Trump assumed charge for the second time. It is no secret that Saudi Arabia has been supporting Pakistan's nuclear programme for many years by providing the much needed funds. It was understood that Saudi Arabia would use Pakistan's nuclear capabilities should the need arise. The new pact formalises that understanding. The fact that they are now openly declaring a collective security pact is a very significant financial achievement for a cash strapped nation like Pakistan.

The deal marks a shift in Riyadh's security calculus. It appears Saudi Arabia is now trying to expand its alliances so that it has to depend less exclusively on the US for security purposes. Israel's recent attack on Qatar, a US ally, seems to have jolted Saudi Arabia's confidence in relying on US support. It must have alarmed Riyadh that the US did not make any noise, not to speak of censuring Israel, for invading Qatar's airspace to launch a missile attack. This has apparently cast doubts about US security guarantees to the Gulf monarchies. With Israel's war in Gaza, Iran-backed Houthis flexing their military muscle and America adopting an ambivalent attitude to friendly Arab countries when it comes to supporting the Israeli offensive, Saudi Arabia seems to find in Pakistan its best bait as a security provider.

With this sudden development India finds itself in an unenviable position, especially, as it has been bragging of its successful Middle East policies with top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making frequent visits to the Arab countries in recent times. For Pakistan the pact offers strategic deterrence against India in future military confrontation, especially in response to cross border terrorism. India in its recent campaign post-Pahalgam massacre has made a virtue of its "surgical strikes" at terrorist networks inside Pakistan and declared it would repeat such strikes whenever there are non-state actors organising terror attacks in India. As per the stipulations of the pact, Saudi Arabia will construe any Indian forays into Pakistani territories as an attack on itself as well.

The Indian foreign affairs establishment is studying the implications of the pact, both its strategic and economic aspects. India is the second largest trade partner of Saudi Arabia whereas Saudi Arabia is the fifth largest trading partner of India. Also, Saudi Arabia is the third largest crude oil supplier to India. The question is whether Saudi Arabia will give more importance to its economic ties with India than its defence commitment to Pakistan under the pact should such a choice become inevitable. In a sense Saudi Arabia will have to make a balance between Pakistan providing it comfort in the defence area and India giving economic benefits including a very substantial community working in the country.

There is also the question of whether the Saudi-Pak defence pact would impact India's relationship with other Moslem countries in the Arab world such as Oman, UAE and Qatar. It could be that these countries may not look at India with the communal lens or from the perspective of India-Pakistan conflict. The Mumbai terror attack in 2008 launched by operatives from Pakistan was condemned by many of the Arab countries. India can only hope that religion or solidarity of the Arab world with Pakistan on the basis of their common Islamic faith would not influence its relations with India.

WISDOM CORNER

Some people never go crazy. What truly horrible lives they must lead

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

Each person's task in life is to become an increasingly better person

LEO TOLSTOY

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards

SØREN KIERKEGAARD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1846: This day in 1846, astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle became the first person ever to observe the planet Neptune, the existence of which had been mathematically predicted by Urbain-Jean-Joseph Le Verrier and John Couch Adams.

1889: Nintendo is founded. The Japanese gaming company was created by entrepreneur Fusajiro Yamauchi as a card company called Nintendo Koppai, which was based in Kyoto. The company originally produced and sold playing cards called Hanafuda. The release of Donkey Kong, an arcade game in 1981, brought Nintendo to the forefront of electronic and video games industry.

1932: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is founded. The Middle Eastern country was created by merging the kingdoms of Hejaz and Nejd by Ibn Saud, the king of the House of Saud. The day is celebrated as Saudi National Day in the Kingdom.

1939: Sigmund Freud, the founder of modern psychoanalysis, died in London.

1969: The American film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" had its world premiere, and it became a western classic, especially noted for the pairing of Paul Newman and Robert Redford as the titular outlaws.

1980: Jamaican musician Bob Marley, who was especially known for popularizing reggae, performed his last concert, a sold-out show in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; he died of cancer the following year.


FOCUS

COMMERCE

INDIA'S SOARING TRADE DEFICIT



In a hyper-competitive export market dominated by China and fast-emerging players such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Mexico, India risks being squeezed from all sides



Shivaji Sarkar

THE SITUATION HAS BECOME SO UNBALANCED THAT MANY INDIAN COMPANIES DEPEND ON CHINESE INPUTS TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE—FURTHER ENTRENCHING THE DEFICIT

India has been living with chronic trade deficits for nearly half a century. The last time the country recorded an overall annual trade surplus was in 1976-77 that was only the second time in its history, the first being in 1972-73. Since then, the red ink has flowed year after year. India has consistently imported far more than it has exported, with China leading the pack of deficit partners, followed by Russia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia. The inability to build an export-oriented manufacturing base while allowing low-tech imports to flood the market has locked India into a cycle of rising deficits and shrinking competitiveness.

For decades, successive governments have offered the same explanation: petroleum imports. India is indeed 85-90% dependent on imported crude, and last year's petroleum bill stood at around \$180 billion. But the argument is misleading. Petroleum is only part of the problem. Once petroleum exports are netted out, the effective share of crude and products in the total import bill falls marginally around 10 to 14%. The real issue is the explosion of non-petroleum imports—ranging from electronics and chemicals to plastics, fertilizers, and even mundane household items like cotton swabs and kitchenware. These are products that India could manufacture at home, yet they are imported in bulk, often rebranded and sold at premium prices.

In 2024-25, India's imports climbed to \$720.24 billion from \$678.21 billion a year earlier, while exports fell to \$437.42 billion. This pushed the trade deficit to \$282.83 billion, among the highest ever. Petroleum product exports, once a buffer, dropped 13.7% in value despite higher volumes, even as non-petroleum imports surged unchecked—highlighting policy lapses and frail domestic

capacity. India's manufacturing base remains shallow, fragmented, and dependent on imports for critical inputs. Consider electronics. India imported electronic goods worth over \$80 billion in 2024, making it one of the largest items in the import basket. Most domestic electronics manufacturing remains limited to assembly, with high dependence on imported components like semiconductors, displays, and microchips. The same pattern holds true in chemicals, pharmaceuticals (especially active ingredients), and machinery. Contrast this with China. In the early 1950s, its economy was smaller than India's, and it too ran trade deficits. But Beijing quickly shifted gears in the post-Mao era. It adopted performance-driven policies: building infrastructure at lightning speed, boosting industrial capacity, creating jobs, and relentlessly pushing exports. The result is a global manufacturing powerhouse that now runs surpluses year after year. From toys and textiles to power equipment and telecom gear, Chinese goods dominate Indian markets. The situation has become so unbalanced that many Indian companies depend on Chinese inputs to remain competitive—further entrenching the deficit.

India's global exports share remains 1.8%, ranking 17th worldwide. By comparison, China commands more than 14% of world exports. Even smaller economies like Vietnam and Malaysia now surpass India in certain segments. Vietnam, once devastated by war, has transformed itself into a manufacturing and export hub for electronics, textiles, and machinery. In 2023, its exports crossed \$350 billion—nearly matching India's despite a population 15 times smaller. The US remains India's largest export destination, absorbing a wide range of goods from pharmaceuticals and IT services to gems and textiles. But the ground is shifting. Since August 2025, Washington has imposed 50% tariffs on a range of Indian goods. In response, New Delhi has scrambled to put together a \$25,000-crore export support plan under its "Export Promotion Mission." Spread over six years, the initiative promises cheaper credit, insurance support, and incentives for diversification into new markets beyond the US. Yet the scale of support pales in comparison to what competitors offer. Vietnam, for instance, has provided tax holidays, cheap land, and infrastructure support to exporters, while Mexico has leveraged its proximity to the US with trade

agreements and logistics advantages.

In a hyper-competitive export market dominated by China and fast-emerging players such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Mexico, India risks being squeezed from all sides. To escape the trade trap, India must rethink its economic strategy on several fronts. First, it must curb non-essential imports through smart tariffs, quality controls, and domestic substitution. There is no reason India should import billions worth of low-tech items that can be made locally.

Second, it must build real capacity in high-value manufacturing—electronics, semiconductors (small beginning made), pharmaceuticals, and green technologies. Third, India has to reduce overdependence on the US and the EU. Fourth, it has to promote manufacturing by cutting costs on logistics, power, and smoothing regulatory systems.

Finally, India must recognise that remittances, IT services, and petroleum re-exports are no substitute for a strong goods export base. These revenue streams have cushioned the current account but cannot drive long-term prosperity.

The stakes are high. Chronic trade deficits are not just a number on a balance sheet; they represent lost jobs, lost industries, and lost opportunities. Unless India breaks out of this cycle, it risks remaining a perennial net importer—its growth hobbled, its currency under pressure, and its economic sovereignty weakened.

In 1976-77, India briefly tasted the power of a trade surplus. Nearly 50 years later, that moment is still a dream. If India is to reclaim it, the country needs more than slogans—it needs a decisive, sustained push for industrial strength and export dynamism. Otherwise, the trade trap will keep snapping shut, year after year.

INFA

SPECTRUM

CLINICAL STUDY

A last gift for all sentient beings



Peter Singer & Benjamin L. Sievers

PRODUCTIVE MEDICAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DYING CAN SAVE HUMAN LIVES, AND AT THE SAME TIME ADD MEANING TO THE LAST DAYS OF TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

At the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), a programme called Last Gift offers terminally ill patients the opportunity to help create more effective treatments. Their special circumstances transform the usual risk-benefit calculus of joining a clinical study of an untested drug. Researchers can ask them to consider consenting to being research participants in ways that they would not ask healthier people with long life expectancies, and terminally ill patients may choose to give that consent when others would be less likely to do so.

The leading United States research agencies, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health, have recently issued strong statements about moving away from testing drugs on animals. The results from such tests, they now acknowledge, do not translate well into findings relevant to humans. Terminally ill patients can offer their own bodies to contribute to this growing effort to make drug testing more human-relevant, generating data on how people, rather than beagles or mice, respond to new

treatments, while also reducing the suffering currently inflicted on laboratory animals. Before launching Last Gift, researchers at UCSD surveyed nearly 500 people about end-of-life medical research. More than half said they would be willing to give up four weeks of their life to participate in research even if they had only six months to live. Over a third said that if they had a terminal illness, they would agree to being exposed to pathogens, such as streptococcus bacteria, hepatitis C virus, and malaria, to help develop new treatments and vaccines. A desire to "give back" was also expressed by individuals receiving hospice care. For many, the idea of contributing to science brought a deeper sense of meaning to their lives. Currently, the Last Gift programme is focused on understanding where HIV hides. Participants in this study are infected with HIV as well as being terminally ill. They don't just donate their bodies for research to be conducted after their death; they also participate in invasive procedures while still alive, including biopsies, spinal taps,

and blood draws. Davey Smith, the lead investigator for the Last Gift study at UCSD, says, "It is incredible how much our study participants want to give of their time, energy, and literal body to science. They are pushing hard for us to do more, faster." For the next phase of the programme, Smith and colleagues are developing ethically and scientifically sound approaches to testing treatments and vaccines in Last Gift participants. Smith understands the great advantage that testing drugs in humans has over testing drugs in nonhuman animals: "Our physiology is just different," he says, "Thousands of drugs found promising in animals have failed in humans." The research does not need to be in an area related to the participant's illness. For example, a person with advanced cancer might volunteer for a trial of a vaccine for an infectious viral disease. The trial will involve deliberate exposure to the virus, to test whether the vaccine offers protection. It isn't difficult to imagine a programme that offers people with limited life expectancy

a choice of ongoing research projects that they can participate in, thus leaving it up to participants to decide which diseases or medical conditions matter most to them. Offering that choice restores agency to people near the end of life and actively integrates them into a broader human effort to improve human health. One doesn't have to be a researcher to make an important difference to medical research. Many patients could contribute to the development of safer drugs for curing human diseases while helping to reduce the use of animals in research. Productive medical research partnerships with the dying can save human lives, and at the same time add meaning to the last days of terminally ill patients. Initiatives like Last Gift have the potential to benefit all sentient beings – humans and animals.

Peter Singer is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Benjamin L. Sievers is a doctoral student in immunology at the National Institutes of Health.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



B-15, Rasulgah Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Eroding creativity

Sir, The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into our children's lives is beginning to cast a silent shadow over their natural creativity. While AI tools offer convenience and instant answers, they risk replacing the most vital process of childhood learning—wondering, imagining, and creating without shortcuts. Children are increasingly outsourcing their homework, essays, even artwork to AI. Instead of struggling with questions, exploring possibilities, and learning through trial and error, they are presented with ready-made solutions. This dependency weakens their capacity to think deeply, to solve problems independently, and to cultivate originality. The joy of inventing a new poem, sketching from one's own imagination, or even writing a flawed but heartfelt essay is being undone by polished, machine-generated outputs. If this continues, we may raise a generation that can consume content but not create it. Education risks turning into mere information transfer rather than a nurturing of curiosity, imagination, and critical thought—the very essence of creativity. Parents, teachers, and policymakers must intervene urgently, ensuring AI remains a tool to assist children, not a crutch that erodes their creativity..

Debashish Panda, SAMBALPUR

A special honour

Sir, The world-renowned National Geographic Magazine is set to bring smiles on the faces of India's wildlife connoisseurs as it is featuring the rare melanistic Similipal tiger on its cover in its October edition. Ace photographer Prasenjeet Yadav was able to capture the tiger through his lens after months of painstaking wait and exhaustive research at Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve. Popularly known as Nat Geo, the magazine has featured several photographs captured by Indian lensmen but this is the first time that the special melanistic tiger is being published on its cover page. Excessive production of melatonin pigment due to genetic mutation gives rise to the pseudo-melanistic condition. First found in the 1990s, there are approximately 10 melanistic tigers in the reserve. The photo on Nat Geo is also a tribute to the Odisha government's efforts in conserving the special big cats.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

of the day

quote

The geopolitical impacts did affect the sentiments of out-bound travellers, especially due to the Ukraine-Russia war, which started three years back and the Middle East tensions

MANJARI SINGHAL | CHIEF GROWTH AND BUSINESS OFFICER, CLEARTRIP

According to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, given that India plans to add around 300 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, even a modest 2-3 per cent cost reduction can free up Rs 1-1.5 lakh crore in investment capacity

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

Net-net, there may be a slight delay in the impact. But the H1B visa fee hike impact will be there, requiring reassessment of business strategies. Yes, the immediate shock has slightly diluted, and so it seems like a huge relief. It's just giving more time for the reality to set in

SAJAI SINGH | PARTNER, JSA ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS

SHORT TAKES

PepisCo expands

New Delhi: Food & beverage major PepsiCo has entered the millet-based snacking category, as it has extended its popular snack brand Kurkure in this segment. With Kurkure Jowar Puffs, PepsiCo joins the other FMCG companies, which have entered India's millet-based snacking category. India's food culture is evolving, with consumers rediscovering traditional ingredients, seeking mindful snacking options, and embracing homegrown brands that strengthen local communities and the economy, PepsiCo said, adding that Jowar is a time-honoured grain, which is deeply rooted in India's agricultural heritage. Kurkure, a brand which was born in India in 1999 and later extended to other countries by PepsiCo, has used deep consumer understanding in the development of Jowar Puffs.

UGEL to inflate LNG autofuel network

New Delhi: Ultra Gas & Energy Ltd (UGEL), an Essar venture, plans to invest Rs 900 crore in scaling up its LNG retail outlets to 100 as the country's largest private LNG station operator doubles down to expand its retail network, it said Monday. The firm already has six stations operational across major freight corridors. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is a viable fuel for trucks, particularly for long-haul transport, offering reduced emissions, quieter operation, and comparable performance to diesel. The natural gas is super-cooled and cryogenically stored in liquid form, usually in a tank on the side of the truck.

ReNew GST initiative

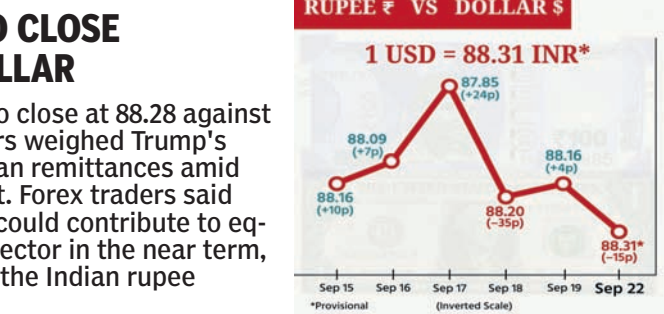
New Delhi: ReNew Energy Global Plc (ReNew) has reduced rates of its solar modules and cells in line with lower GST slab taking effect from Monday. Earlier this month, the GST Council approved slashing GST rates on a number of items. The council recommended the duty on renewable energy products to be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent to help the industry shift towards green power. In a statement, ReNew announced price reduction in its solar modules and cells, effective September 22.This development will translate into substantial savings for utility-scale developers, rooftop solar consumers, and farmers under flagship schemes like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM, further democratizing access to clean energy.

It was Modi who implemented GST, it was Modi who increased GST rates, and now it is Modi who is patting himself on the back. We were the ones who opposed when GST was increased to 18 per cent and 28 per cent. The very people who collected it all these years are now taking credit. See how cleverly they are deceiving Indians

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

RUPEE FALLS 12 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 88.28 AGAINST US DOLLAR

The rupee depreciated 12 paise to close at 88.28 against the US dollar Monday, as investors weighed Trump's H-1B visa fee hike impact on Indian remittances amid heightened risk-averse sentiment. Forex traders said the recent hike in H-1B visa fees could contribute to equity outflows from the Indian IT sector in the near term, and could also exert pressure on the Indian rupee



Gold surges ₹2,200 to hit fresh high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Gold prices surged Rs 2,200 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,16,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday buoyed by strong global cues as investors awaited key commentary from US Fed officials for policy direction.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,14,000 per 10 grams Friday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity rallied Rs 2,150 to hit a record high of Rs 1,15,650 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 1,13,500 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

"Both gold and silver traded at record levels in the domestic markets, tracking the bullish trend in international markets. "A dovish signal from the US Federal Reserve (Fed) suggests that two additional rate cuts are likely by the end of this year, which could limit gains in the US dollar and Treasury yields while bolstering precious metal prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior



Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In addition, a strong inflow into exchange-traded funds as well as continued interest from central bank has also contributed to the rise in bullion prices, Gandhi added.

The precious metal prices have added Rs 37,250 per 10 grams or 47.18 per cent in the current calendar year, climbing from Rs 78,950 per 10 grams on December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, silver prices skyrocketed by Rs 4,380 to hit an

all-time high of Rs 1,36,380 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,32,000 per kg Friday, as per the Association.

So far in this year, silver prices have zoomed Rs 46,680 per kilogram or 52.04 per cent, rallying from Rs 89,700 per kg December 31, 2024.

On the global front, spot gold rose more than 1 per cent to hit a record peak of \$3,728.43 per ounce.

"Spot gold surged further to a fresh all-time high of \$3,728

Govt issues draft rules to permit proposed CCO to regulate coal exchange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The government has come out with draft rules to form an organisation to regulate the functioning of the proposed coal exchange that will facilitate the trading of coal as a commodity.

The proposed Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) will be a subordinate office of the coal ministry. Its responsibilities include coal mine closure activities to ensure environmental sustainability, collecting and disseminating coal statistics, inspecting collieries, issuing directives on coal grades, and acting as an appellate authority for grade-related disputes.

"Ministry of coal proposes to appoint the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) to register and regulate the coal exchange(s) to be established in the country," says the draft coal

Coal production is poised to reach new heights with the country already breaching one billion tonne of production mark in the last fiscal and likely to grow beyond 1.5 billion tonne by 2030

exchange rules, 2025 on which the ministry has invited comments from stakeholders by mid-October.

The operations of the coal exchange would broadly be governed by the regulations made by CCO.

The draft further said that the recent policy reforms in the coal sector has resulted in self sufficiency and increased

Renault launches Kwid's 10th anniversary edition

BHUBANESWAR: Renault India has marked a decade of its popular hatchback with the launch of the Kwid 10th anniversary limited edition, alongside a refreshed variant lineup featuring enhanced safety, styling, and tech upgrades. The celebratory edition, limited to 500 units, is based on the Techno variant and is priced at Rs 5.14 lakh (MT) and Rs 5.63 lakh (AMT), ex-showroom pan-India. It debuts in two dual-tone shades; Fiery Red with Black Roof and Shadow Grey with Black Roof, and gets exclusive features like black Flex Wheels, anniversary decals, a yellow grille insert, illuminated scuff plates, puddle lamps, and special seat upholstery with yellow accents. "The Kwid has been instrumental in shaping Renault's journey in India, redefining the entry segment with its innovation, accessibility, and over 95% localisation," said Venkatram Mamillapalle, Managing Director, Renault India. Beyond the special edition, Renault has upgraded the entire Kwid range. The Kwid range now starts at Rs 4.29 lakh, while the AMT variant begins at Rs 4.99 lakh, making it one of the most affordable automatics in the country.



Costly H1B likely to spark offshore, local talent moves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The magnitude of the new H1B visa application fee for fresh petitions - math of which works out to \$500 million in case of 5,000 filings - may nudge IT companies to expand offshore delivery or increase local hiring, according to Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The \$100,000 fee will start to impact from FY27 onwards, when new petitions are filed. The visa applications for FY26 are already locked in.

"If an IT company were to apply for 5,000 H1Bs in FY27, the annual fee alone would amount to \$500 million (5,000x\$100,000). Given the magnitude of this fee, it is likely that Indian IT companies will avoid new H1B filings altogether, opting instead to expand offshore delivery or increase local hiring," it said.



If new H1Bs "vanish", on-site revenues will decline, but so do on-site costs.

This shift could improve operating margins, as offshore work tends to be structurally more profitable. The net effect on earnings per share could be neutral in the medium term, although topline growth could be slower, according to it.

On the evolving risk, it said the fee hike order is likely to be challenged in US courts

and may not survive in its current form.

Over the last decade, Indian IT vendors have reduced their reliance on H1B visas.

"With localisation drives in the US and higher local hiring, only about 20 per cent of employees are currently based on-site. Of this, 20-30 per cent are on H1B visas, implying that H1B holders represent just 3-5 per cent of the active workforce for a typical vendor," it noted.

For IT vendors, localisation and subcontracting are already baked into their delivery models, making them relatively better placed to adjust.

On Monday, Nasscom said that US clarification that the H1B visa fee hike will not affect current visa holders and will apply as a one-time fee only to fresh petitions, helped address the immediate ambigu-

ity surrounding eligibility and timelines. It alleviates concerns on business continuity and uncertainty for H1B holders that were outside the US, as per the association.

Further, it pointed out that Indian and India-centric companies operating in the US have significantly reduced their dependencies on H1B visas and are increasing local hirings, and added, given this "we anticipate only a marginal impact for the sector".

"Moreover, with the fee being applicable from 2026 onward, it gives companies time to further step up skilling programmes in US and enhance local hiring," the apex industry body said.

The industry is spending over \$1 billion on local upskilling and hiring in the US and the number of local hires has increased tremendously.

Sensex, Nifty plummet amid H1B visa fee hike



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 22: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended sharply lower on Monday, dragged by IT stocks amid concerns over the US President Donald Trump's decision to raise H1B visa fees to \$1,00,000 per worker.

Also, selling in blue-chip Reliance Industries took the markets down.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 466.26 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 82,159.97. During the day, it tanked 628.94 points or 0.76 per cent to 81,997.29.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 124.70 points or 0.49 per cent to 25,202.35.

From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Service, Infosys, HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Trent, Reliance Industries and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards. However, Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers. President Trump Friday signed a proclamation raising the fee on the visas used by companies to hire workers, including from India, to live and work in the US.

The H1B visa fee of \$1,00,000 would be applicable only to new applicants, a White House offi-

cial clarified Saturday.

"The domestic market traded on a lower note amid a sharp increase in H1B visa costs, which weighed on the IT index, while mid and smallcap stocks saw profit-booking following recent gains. GST rationalisation, a normal monsoon, lower interest rates, and tax incentives are expected to support consumption, narrowing the gap between valuations and growth prospects.

"Foreign investors are gradually turning buyers, driven by expectations of earnings upgrades in H2FY25, with consumption-focused sectors likely to attract attention and support the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.78 per cent and small-cap index went lower by 0.71 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT tanked 2.98 per cent, IT (2.73 per cent), tech (2.09 per cent), capital goods (0.77 per cent), industrials (0.75 per cent) and auto (0.41 per cent).

Utilities jumped 2.56 per cent, power (1.66 per cent), metal (0.39 per cent), oil & gas (0.36 per cent) and services (0.08 per cent). As many as 2,511 stocks declined while 1,775 advanced and 169 remained unchanged on the BSE.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
“e” Procurement Notice - BAID 02 OF 2025-26
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. BAID 02 OF 2025-26

1	Nature of the work	Improvement / maintenance of irrigation canal / river embankment work for the year 2025-26
2	Total No. of Package	64 Nos.
3	Tender Cost	Rs.8.46 Lakhs to 40.99 Lakhs as per DTCN
4	Bid Security	Rs.8500/- to Rs.41000/- as per DTCN
5	Cost of Tender Paper (Online)	Rs.4000/- to Rs.6000/- as per DTCN
6	Period of Completion	As per DTCN
7	Availability of Tender online for bidding	From 24.09.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 09.10.2025 up to 5.30 P.M.
8	Date and place of opening	Di.10.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada
9	Tender Inviting Authority	Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in> / www.dowrodissha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

OIPR-32439/11/0004/2526

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
MAHANADI NORTH DIVISION-I, JAGATPUR, CUTTACK
E-mail ID : exengr.mnd@gmail.com
‘e’ Procurement Notice No - MND-08/2025-26

No.A-656 : The bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of term & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. The tender submission process will be completely online.

BIDDERS REGISTERED THEMSELVES UNDER CDS PORTAL ONLY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING PROCESS AFTER 31.12.2020 AS PER WORKS DEPTT. LETTER NO-9100 DATED 17.07.2020

1.	Nature of Work	Buildings & River embankment Works
2.	Total No. of Works	5 (Five) works
3.	Bid Identification No	MND-08/2025-26
4.	Tender Cost	Approx. Rs.4.00 Lakhs to Rs.45.00 Lakhs
5.	Class of Contractor	"D", "C" & "B" Class
6.	Period of completion	1 (One) month to 4 (Four) months
7.	Other Details	As noted below
a)	Procurement Officer	Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur email : exengr.mnd@gmail.com , Ph : 0671-2491546
b)	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	10.00 Hours of 26.09.2025 to 17.30 Hours of 10.10.2025
c)	Last date & time of submission of bid document	17.30 Hours of 10.10.2025
d)	Last date & time of seeking Clarification	17.30 Hours of 10.10.2025
e)	Date, time & place of Opening of Bid	13.10.2025 at 11.30 Hours In the O/o Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur
f)	Date of Lottery (if required)	To be intimated later through email

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur

OIPR-32003/11/0022/2526

of the day

quote

As promised by our prime minister, the historic GST reforms have come into effect from today as a Diwali gift to the people

NAINAR NAGENDRAN | MEMBER OF THE TN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Today, I have come to appeal to all Saurashtra farmers to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and move towards organic farming. India is going to bring a large share of the global market for organic products to farmers

AMIT SHAH | UNION COOPERATION MINISTER

I do not want to score political points. But the Modi government should give thought that Pakistan's Military chief went and had dinner with Trump and we also see our neighbour having a trade agreement with the USA. What is happening with all these developments

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI | AIMIM CHIEF

X

POST OF THE DAY

This is Rahul Gandhi walking 14 km by foot to Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra

He could have opted for VIP visit with helicopter, but he chose the path of a true devotee. Have you ever seen any BJP leaders ditch VIP treatment even at temples?

@mr_mayank

SHORT TAKES

Student ends life after fight over splitting bill

Hyderabad: A 19-year-old engineering student allegedly died by suicide here, following a financial dispute with friends over sharing the cost of a party bill, police said Monday. The victim, a native of Adilabad district, allegedly hung himself in a room of a private hostel at Narapally Sunday night , they said. A group of friends went to a party at a bar, where an argument over splitting the bill led to an altercation, according to preliminary investigation.

Building collapse in Indore: 7 rescued

Indore: A three-storeyed building collapsed amid rains in Indore in Madhya Pradesh Monday night, following which seven persons were rescued while a few others are feared trapped under the debris, officials at the site said. The incident took place in Ranipura area, they added. 'Initial information suggests the building is 8-10 years old. A portion of the structure fell onto an adjacent building. Around 10-12 persons were said to be trapped under the debris.

Man gets life term for murdering lover

Thiruvananthapuram: A court here Monday sentenced a Kollam native to life imprisonment for strangling his lover to death at a city lodge in 2022. Additional District Sessions Court Judge Siju Shaikh sentenced Praveen to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs one lakh for the murder of Gayathri (27), who hailed from the Kattakkada area. The crime took place March 5, 2022. Police said that, though there were no eyewitnesses, circumstantial and digital evidence helped secure a conviction in the case.



The GST rates have been slashed for the welfare of entrepreneurs and the general public. India gained independence with the spirit of swadeshi

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

INDIA, MOROCCO INK DEFENCE PACT

India and Morocco Monday inked an agreement to boost military cooperation following talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart Abdeltif Loudiyi. Singh is currently on a visit to Morocco



Selective release of report irks SC



ON JUNE 12, AIR INDIA'S BOEING 787-8 AIRCRAFT OPERATING FLIGHT AI171 EN ROUTE TO LONDON'S GATWICK AIRPORT CRASHED INTO A MEDICAL HOSTEL COMPLEX SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFF FROM AHMEDABAD, KILLING 265 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 241 PASSENGERS AND CREW ON BOARD

.....

AMONG THE 241 DEAD WERE 169 INDIANS, 52 BRITONS, SEVEN PORTUGUESE NATIONALS, ONE CANADIAN AND 12 CREW MEMBERS

.....

THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE CRASH WAS VISHWASHKUMAR RAMESH, A BRITISH NATIONAL

He alleged in the probe panel constituted after the crash, three of the five-members were from the aviation regulator and there could be an issue of conflict of interest.

"There are three interesting parties—manufacturer of aircraft, airline and the DG-CA and involvement of any member of these three parties will be a conflict of interest. How can officers of the very organisation whose role is likely to be examined be part of the committee probing the incident," Bhushan said.

He said revealing information from the flight data recorder of the airplane would "clear the air" over the cause of the accident.

The bench said while the demand for free, fair and independent inquiry was understandable, the demand for information from the flight data recorder was "questionable".

While cautioning that releasing a particular information might be exploited by rival airlines, the bench suggested such information should not be released prematurely.

"We should not release the information piecemeal and maintain utmost confidentiality till the regular inquiry is taken to its logical conclusion. Then only we can say what was the actual reason," Justice Kant said.

Bhushan referred to a podcast, which claimed of having examined all aspects of the in-

AI PLANE CRASH

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Monday termed as "unfortunate and irresponsible" the selective publication of a preliminary report on the June 12 Air India crash which outlined lapses on the part of pilots and paved way for a "media narrative".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, which issued notices to the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the aspect of an independent, fair and expeditious probe of the crash, said an element of privacy and dignity of families of victims was also involved.

It took note of certain aspects of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) preliminary report issued July 12 and said "piecemeal and selective" publication of the findings which led to building of a media narrative was "unfortunate and irresponsible".

"There should be complete confidentiality of reports of this nature till the inquiry is complete. There is an element of privacy and dignity of the victims involved. That's why we should wait for the final report," the bench observed.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO 'Safety Matters Foundation', earlier said one line of the preliminary report which blamed the pilots for the crash led to building of a narrative in the media across the world.

"Unless people know what was the cause of the accident, they are in danger as no preventive steps can be taken till then. It's been over 100 days since the crash and we still don't know the reason," Bhushan said.

2nd autopsy of Zubeen's body today: Assam CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 22: A second postmortem of singer Zubeen Garg's body will be conducted Tuesday morning at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) following demands from certain sections of Assam people, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday.

The first autopsy was conducted in Singapore where Garg died by drowning September 19. His last rites will be performed on the outskirts of Guwahati Tuesday with full state honours.

Sarma said that after the post-mortem examination at GMCH, his journey to the cremation ground will begin at 9.30 am, two hours after the earlier-announced time.

It (second postmortem) is not a demand from the public but from certain fringe elements and we have decided to conduct it with his wife's consent," the chief minister said at a press conference here. "We do not want to create any controversy over Zubeen, so this decision

was taken," he said.

The CM said that he personally was not interested in 'cutting up his body' as he is a 'die-hard Zubeen fan but when a section, even if they are in a minority, demands it, my personal wish does not matter. This is democracy'.

After the Singapore doctors had conducted the postmortem, 'I don't think it was necessary for another postmortem as they have more technical expertise but there should not be any scope for any section to indulge in any kind of politics over Zubeen,' Sarma said.

The postmortem will be conducted by a team of doctors from GMCH and AIIMS, Guwahati. 'It will take around two hours in the morning and so his final journey will begin at 9.30 am instead of the earlier scheduled time of 7.30 am,' the CM said.

Garg (52) died while swimming in the sea September 19 in Singapore where he had gone to attend the North East India Festival (NEIF).

Some HC judges unable to deliver on their tasks: SC

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said though it did not want to act like a "school principal" for the high court judges but there ought to be a self-management system to ensure "files don't pile up on their desks"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Monday lamented some high court judges being unable to "deliver on their tasks" as it called for their "performance evaluation".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said though it did not want to act like a "school principal" for the high court judges but there ought to be a self-management system to ensure "files don't pile up on their desks".

"There are judges who work day and night and are giving outstanding disposal of cases. But at the same time, there are some judges who unfortunately are unable to deliver - whatever may be the reasons, good or bad, we don't know and maybe there are some circumstances,"



the bench said.

The bench added, "Suppose a judge is hearing a criminal appeal, then we don't expect him to decide 50 cases in a day and deciding one criminal appeal in a day is itself a very big achievement. But in a bail matter, if a judge says I will decide only one bail matter in

a day, that is something which requires introspection."

The top court, as a result, stressed on "performance evaluation" but underlined the question of parameters and guidelines guiding the process.

"Our intention is not to act as a school principal and there should be broad guidelines so

GST reforms will boost savings: PM

In an open letter to Indians which he posted on X, Modi said that from September 22, next generation GST reforms have begun to make their presence felt, marking the start of a 'GST Bachat Utsav' or 'GST Savings Festival' across the country



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the next generation GST reforms will boost savings and directly benefit every section of society, as he asserted that it is imperative to walk on the path of self-reliance to achieve the collective goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

In an open letter to Indians which he posted on X, Modi said that from September 22, next generation GST reforms have begun to make their presence felt, marking the start of a 'GST Bachat Utsav' or 'GST Savings Festival' across the country.

"This year, the festive season brings an added reason to rejoice. These reforms will boost savings and directly benefit every section of society, be it farmers, women, youth, poor, middle class, traders or MS-MEs. They will encourage greater growth and investments and accelerate the progress of every state and region," the prime minister said.

An important feature of the next generation GST reforms is that there will mainly be two

slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, he said.

"Daily essentials such as food, medicines, soap, toothpaste, insurance and many more items will now either be tax-free or fall in the lowest 5% tax slab. Goods that were earlier taxed at 12% have almost entirely shifted to 5%. It is greatly heartening to see various shopkeepers and traders putting up then and now boards which indicate taxes pre-reforms and post-reforms," Modi said in his letter to the people.

In the last few years, 25 crore people have risen above poverty and formed an aspirational neo-middle class, he said.

"Further, we have also strengthened the hands of our middle class with the massive income tax cuts, which ensure zero tax up to the annual income of Rs 12 lakh. If we combine the income tax cuts and the Next Generation GST reforms, they add up to savings of nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore for the people," he said.

"Your household expenses will reduce and it will be easier to fulfil aspirations such as building a home, purchasing a vehicle, purchasing appliances, eating out or planning a family vacation," the prime minister said. Noting that the nation's GST journey, which began in 2017, was a turning point in freeing citizens and businesses from the web of multiple taxes, Modi said the GST united the nation economically.

Jaishankar, US secy of State Rubio hold bilateral discussions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 22: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for bilateral discussions, as the high-level 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) kicks in.

The meeting at Lotte New York Palace is the first face-to-face interaction between them following President Donald Trump's imposition of an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India to 50 per cent.

They had last met in July in Washington DC for the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Their meeting takes place on the same day India and the US will hold discussions to achieve an early conclusion of a trade agreement.

A delegation led by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will meet with the US side on Monday in the city. "The delegation plans to take forward the discussions with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had said in a statement.

The statement added that during the last visit of officials from the office of the US Trade Representative to India on September 16, positive discussions were held on various aspects of the trade deal, and it was decided to intensify efforts in this regard.

Jaishankar, who arrived in New York on Sunday for the high-level UNGA week, will hold a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings on the sidelines of the session and will deliver the national statement at the General Debate on September 27 from the iconic green UNGA podium.



international

of the day quote

Certainly, trade and economy is on the top of the list ... (but also) we're very focused on our military-to-military conversations. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I'm deeply concerned that our two militaries don't communicate more

LI QIANG | PRIME MINISTER, CHINA

This new era of climate action must be about bringing our process closer to the real economy

SIMON STEILL | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UNFCCC

We remain confident that President @JMiller's support for fiscal discipline and pro-growth reforms are necessary to break Argentina's long history of decline

SCOTT BESSENT | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

4.3 magnitude quake jolts San Francisco

Berkeley: An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.3 rocked the San Francisco Bay Area early Monday, waking up many people, with more 24,000 saying they felt it, according to the United States Geological Survey. The earthquake was just east-southeast of Berkeley, the survey said. It happened shortly before 3 am PDT. People posted online that they felt their homes shake. A few stores in Berkeley had minor damage, like a broken window or some merchandise falling off shelves. Bay Area Rapid Transit posted on X that trains were running at reduced speeds as it completes safety track inspections. It told commuters to expect delays of up to 20 minutes system wide.

Egypt pardons activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah

Cairo: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi pardoned high-profile Egyptian-British activist, Alaa Abd el-Fattah, after a lengthy imprisonment and repeated hunger strikes that prompted international pleas for his release, Al Qahera news said Monday. Abd el-Fattah, 43, became Egypt's most prominent political prisoner after spending much of his adult life in and out of detention due to his activism, and a rare symbol of opposition to a far-reaching crackdown under Sisi. Despite many local and international campaigns calling for his release, most notably during the COP27 climate summit that Egypt hosted in 2022, that possibility only became tangible when Sisi ordered the relevant authorities in September to study his possible pardon.

Ecuador prison riot leaves 14 dead

Quito: A prison riot caused by gang fighting in southern Ecuador Monday left 14 people dead and another 14 wounded, according to a local police chief. Prisoners in port town Machala, south of Guayaquil, faced off with authorities, killing a guard and kidnapping officers, police chief William Calle told TV network Ecuavisa. "From the inside they were shooting, throwing bombs, grenades," Calle said. Some prisoners escaped, and 13 have been recaptured so far, he added. After about 40 minutes, authorities were able to retake control of the prison, according to Calle. Ecuador has been plagued by prison riots in recent years, with hundreds of inmates killed. The government of President Daniel Noboa, who has vowed to crack down on crime, attributes the clashes to gangs vying for territory and control.

Putin offers Trump a one-year extension to nuclear arms pact



REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 22: Russian President Vladimir Putin offered his US counterpart Donald Trump a nuclear arms control deal Monday that would extend the last treaty limiting both countries' nuclear weapons by one year while Moscow and Washington discuss what comes next.

Russia and the United States have by far the biggest nuclear arsenals in the world. The last remaining treaty between them that limits the numbers of these weapons is due to expire February 5 next year.

The New START treaty covers strategic nuclear weapons - those designed by each side to hit the enemy's centres of military, economic and political power - and caps the number

of deployed warheads at 1,550 on each side. Both are likely to breach that limit if the treaty is not extended or replaced.

PUTIN UNDER PRESSURE TO END UKRAINE WAR

Putin, who said his proposal was in the interests of global non-proliferation and could help spur dialogue with Washington about arms control, has been under pressure from Trump to agree to end the war in Ukraine, something Moscow says is part of a slew of security issues that have raised East-West tensions to their most dangerous level since the Cold War.

The offer, made at a time when Ukraine is trying to persuade Trump to impose harsher sanctions on Russia, was made public by Putin at a meeting of his Security Council.

Russia to complete deliveries of S-400 missile systems to India in 2026

Under the \$5.43 billion deal signed with India in 2018, Russia will complete deliveries of the S-400 Triumph air defence systems next year, according to a media report Monday. "Russia will complete the contract to supply India with five S-400 Triumph air defence systems in 2026. Four of these systems have been delivered to date, and the fifth will be delivered next year," a defence source was quoted as saying by the state-run TASS news agency. According to earlier media reports, the \$5.43 billion deal (Rs 40,000 crore) was formally signed October 5, 2018, ignoring the threat of US sanctions. In March 2021, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin discussed India's planned purchase of Russia's S-400 air missile system and warned that the purchase of S-400 could trigger CAATSA sanctions. So far, the US has not invoked the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act signed by President Donald Trump in his first term as the S-400 deal has not been formally completed.

Karki expands Nepal's interim cabinet

Kathmandu: Nepal's newly-appointed Prime Minister Sushila Karki Monday inducted four new ministers into her interim cabinet, raising its strength to eight. President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office to former Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, National Innovation Centre founder Mahabir Pun, journalist Jagdish Kharel and expert Madan Pariyar at a ceremony held at the presidential office, Sheetal Niwas. With the inclusion of four new ministers, the strength of the Karki-led Council of Ministers has reached eight. The Prime Minister has kept several important portfolios with her. Sinha is the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, while Kharel is the Minister for Communication and Information Technology. Pariyar is the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, while Pun is the Minister for Education and Science and Technology.

Japan's ruling party opens leadership race to choose Ishiba's successor

Tokyo: Outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling party opened official campaigning Monday to find his replacement who can restore political stability and voter support for the beleaguered Liberal Democrats. Five candidates are vying for the Liberal Democratic Party's top job ahead of a highly unpredictable vote in early October. The race has a slogan, "Change, LDP." The winner must act quickly to address rising prices if the party is to have any chance of winning back support following devastating losses to both the LDP and its junior partner Komeito in the past year that deprived their coalition of a majority in either house of parliament. Its new leader is still likely to be prime minister because the LDP remains the No. 1 party, while opposition groups are too splintered to form a coalition. Whoever becomes the LDP leader must also gain cooperation from main opposition parties or risk facing constant no-confidence motions and a cycle of short-lived leadership. The Oct 4 vote is not open to the general public. It is limited to 295 LDP parliamentarians and 1 million dues-paying grassroots party members. That's less than 1 per cent of Japan's eligible voters.

Russia revives Soviet-era tactics to quash dissent: UN expert

REUTERS

Geneva, Sept 22: Russia is reviving Soviet-era tactics such as forced psychiatric treatment to silence dissenters and anti-war voices in an increasingly repressive environment, a UN expert said Monday.

Rights groups say President Vladimir Putin's government has lurched further into authoritarianism since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than three years ago, but Moscow denies that and accuses the West of a smear campaign.

A report this month by Mariana Katzarova, the UN's special rapporteur on rights in Russia, found that state-sponsored repression is escalating and becoming systematic via national security laws and other measures.

"Punitive psychiatry has returned as a tool against anti-war voices," Katzarova told reporters in Geneva.

The Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva pointed Reuters to a September 8 statement by its foreign minister saying that Moscow does not recognise her mandate and calling her work illegitimate. Moscow has previously called criticism of its rights record unfounded.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, it has passed stronger laws to punish dissenters and perceived traitors.

Torture, criminal prosecution and coercive psychiatry were among measures being used, Katzarova said, with the latter documented in an average 23 cases annually since 2022, compared to five per



We will take the decision to shoot down flying objects when they violate our territory and fly over Poland - there is absolutely no discussion about that

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

British Indian charity, biz, entrepreneurial efforts awarded in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 22: Britain's annual Asian Achievers Awards shone the spotlight on British Indian efforts in the field of philanthropy, entrepreneurial drive, arts and culture in London, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer issuing a message in support of the "changemakers".

While India-based Neerja Birla was awarded the Woman of the Year title for her philanthropic efforts as the founder and chairperson of the Aditya Birla Education Trust, UK-based successful businessman Simon Arora was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the awards ceremony last week.

Sunny Singh Gill, Britain's first Premier League football referee of Indian heritage, won Sports Personality of the Year and popular musician Rishi Rich was honoured with a Special Award for his decades-long contribution to the arts as a pioneer of Asian-R&B fusion genre.

"British Asians are a driving force behind much of the social, cultural and economic innovation we see in Britain today," Starmer said in his message for the awards, organised by advisory firm EPG.

"This is why it is wonderful to see so many British Asian changemakers being recognised... honouring the contribution they in particular have made to public life, community service, arts, culture, business, technology and beyond," he said.

The awards, selected from hundreds of nominations, included Entrepreneurs of the Year recognition for the Solanki family, Jimal, Nishal and Devik, behind the UK's popular ethnic food brand Taj Foods.

SUPER TYPHOON RAGASA BARRELS THROUGH PHILIPPINES

Thousands of people were evacuated from northern Philippine villages and schools and offices were closed Monday in the archipelago and neighbouring Taiwan as Super Typhoon Ragasa threatened to cause flooding and landslides on the north of the country and set off storm alerts across East and Southeast Asia



Sour reaction from tech over Trump visa policy



REUTERS

New York/Bangalore, Sept 22: US President Donald Trump's new visa fees for foreign workers drew widespread condemnation from technology executives, entrepreneurs and investors across social media, with just a few outliers, as many saw it as a major blow to a sector that contributed millions to his re-election campaign.

Technology executives and investors said the new fees could add millions of dollars in costs for companies and disproportionately hurt startups, which may not be able to afford visas as part of their strategy. In a confusing set of announcements beginning late Friday, Trump and other White House officials said they would charge firms \$100,000 apiece for H1B worker temporary employment visas, used by many tech majors, including Amazon.com, Microsoft and Meta Platforms.

Many criticized the move and the chaotic roll-out that required the White House to clarify the hefty fees would be charged just once, not annually, and they would not apply to existing holders including those who happened to be overseas at the time of the announcement.

Most executives at the tech giants, many of whom have forged close relationships with the Trump White House since

- Tech sector sees visa fees as major blow to talent acquisition
- Executives criticize chaotic roll-out and potential impact on innovation
- Some support from IBM and Netflix leaders for high-value job focus

his return to office, have not commented publicly on the proposal, which could drastically change their system of attracting talent from countries such as India and China. But others weighed in.

"America's edge has always been that we attract smart, ambitious people from everywhere," said Esther Crawford, a former Twitter executive and investor who now works as director of product management at Meta according to her LinkedIn profile. The Trump administration has cracked down on immigration on a number of levels, including stepped-up border security and raids that have largely targeted lower-skilled workers, many of whom are undocumented migrants.

Most recently, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided a Georgia battery plant owned by South Korea's Hyundai Motor that angered officials in Seoul, who have raised questions about the relationship with the United States.

Pak strikes kill 24 citizens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, Sept 22: At least 24 people, including women and children, were killed and several others injured Monday when explosive materials stored at a compound owned by the Pakistani Taliban exploded in northwest Pakistan, police said.

The residents, however, claimed that air strikes hit the compound in Tirah Valley's Matur Dara area in Khyber district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan.

No official statement has been issued by the government regarding the tragedy.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's provincial branch claimed that the "jet bombing" in the Tirah Valley destroyed five houses. It said that 20 bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

The local administration denied the claims about aerial strikes by the Pakistani fighter jets on the compound, saying the explosives used in bomb making exploded, causing the death of 24 people, including 14 militants.

At least 10 civilians, includ-



ing women and children, were killed, along with 14 militants in the explosion, Station House Officer, Tirah police Station, Zafar Khan said.

The compound had been home to a large number of local militant leaders and operatives, including dozens of Afghan fighters. It was regarded as a hub for the production of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and sniper training. The locals have announced the closure of Bara Bazaar, demanding accountability and protection. Protesters accused government authorities of failing to ensure the safety of citizens and called upon elected

representatives to play an active role in addressing the community's grievances.

Mohammad Iqbal Khan Afridi, Member of the National Assembly from Khyber, expressed grief in a video message, saying women and children were among those killed in the "shelling by jets." He urged residents to protest the killings, adding that "the killing of civilians has become routine."

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) expressed concern over civilian casualties in alleged "aerial bombings" in the Tirah Valley and called for an immediate inquiry.

- Special rapport finds increasing repression in Russia
- Cases of forced psychiatric treatment rising
- Moscow denies rights criticism, says smear campaign underway

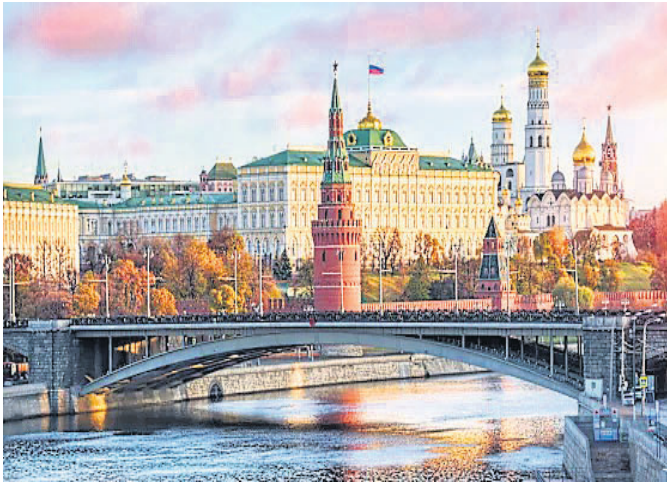
court order to undergo psychiatric assessments at a Siberian hospital. Some of the coercive psychiatry measures include invasive and unnecessary tests, and being admitted open-endedly as a psychiatric patient.

Katzarova gave the example of journalist Maria Ponomarenko, whom she says was ordered to undergo compulsory psychiatric treatment for maintaining her anti-war stance.

Crunch time for US data this week, but are the stats still

SCARRING EXPERIENCE

In March, Reuters reviewed case materials of two female activists who described the scarring ordeal of being sent by



year from 2015-2021. "It's the old Soviet tool of getting dissidents, in this case, anti-war activists, also journalists," she said.

GST 2.0: Odisha auto industry hopes to ride the tide



The recent GST rate reduction is set to benefit primarily small and mid-segment vehicles like hatchbacks, compact SUVs, and entry-level sedans—segments where buyers are most price-sensitive. These categories are expected to see a significant demand boost due to noticeable price drops. While the new rates apply only to vehicles invoiced after the implementation date, dealers with older stock may face margin pressure. To manage this, they often rely on OEM support or run promotions. Government clarity on input tax credits will be a key to a smooth transition. The announcement has added positive momentum to the ongoing festive season, with increased footfalls, enquiries, and a strong rise in bookings—especially in the compact segment. Sales are projected to grow in double digits compared to last year. For consumers, the GST cut brings both lower prices and a more transparent tax structure, enhancing affordability and buyer confidence across the auto market.



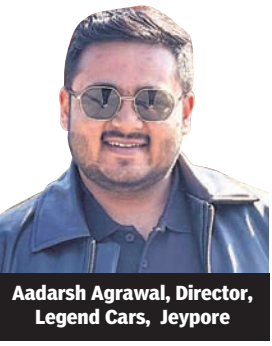
Following the recent GST reduction, demand has risen notably across the automobile sector, particularly in mass-market segments like hatchbacks and compact SUVs, which attract price-sensitive buyers. Premium vehicles with engine capacities above 1500cc, especially mid-size sedans and SUVs, are also experiencing renewed interest due to price corrections. The GST cut lowers the ex-showroom price, improving affordability and boosting consumer sentiment. However, since the revised GST rates apply only prospectively, dealers holding older stock may face margin pressure. To manage this, they might partially pass on benefits to customers or bear losses to clear inventory. OEMs may need to provide limited support during this transition to protect dealer profitability. The GST cut has encouraged hesitant buyers to make purchase decisions during this key sales period. Customers across all segments benefit from the reduced GST, either through improved affordability or substantial savings in premium models. However, the actual impact depends on how effectively OEMs and dealers transmit the tax benefits. Overall, the market response is positive.



The implementation of GST 2.0, effective September 22, 2025, has significantly reduced the tax on small petrol cars (engine ≤ 1,200cc, length < 4m) from 28 per cent to 18 per cent and eliminated the additional Cess. This move has led to substantial price cuts across entry-level models, with Maruti Suzuki reducing prices by ₹46,000 to ₹1.3 lakh on models like the Spresso, Alto K10, Celerio, WagonR, and Swift. The price reduction, coupled with the festive season, has boosted consumer sentiment and driven strong growth in vehicle sales and bookings compared to last year. However, while consumers benefit, dealers face challenges. Those holding pre-GST 2.0 inventory purchased at higher tax rates risk losses exceeding ₹2,500 crore due to the lack of a refund mechanism for the discontinued Cess. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has sought government relief on this issue. The government has mandated that all unsold inventory reflect new prices within 15 days, with penalties for non-compliance. Manufacturers are assisting by reducing wholesale billing to manage transition risks. Overall, GST 2.0 is expected to drive demand in the automotive sector, benefiting consumers and manufacturers, though short-term financial stress persists for dealers without compensation for tax paid on older stock.



The Government's revised GST rates are a positive move for the automobile sector, especially during a period of slow sales growth. While overall car registrations in August saw minimal increases (1 per cent nationally, 6 per cent in Odisha), festive demand is promising, with many customers delaying purchases until the new GST rates take effect. Small cars are expected to benefit the most from the rate cuts, while luxury cars, despite a GST hike from 28 per cent to 40 per cent, will still see a net price benefit of up to 8% due to the removal of the 20% cess. However, dealers are facing losses on existing inventory taxed under the old cess regime, and the government has denied compensation, despite FADA's efforts. Overall, market sentiment is optimistic, and the industry is expected to grow by 15 to 20 per cent under the new GST structure (GST 2.0).



The small car industry is set for notable growth following recent price cuts and GST revisions. Starting prices for small cars have been reduced to ₹3.5 lakhs, making them more affordable. The new GST structure, effective from Sept 22, applies an 18 per cent tax on vehicles with engine capacity up to 1200cc and length not exceeding 4 meters. Cars exceeding either criterion will attract a higher 40 per cent GST. This clear price differentiation is expected to influence consumer choices, encouraging buyers to select vehicles better suited to their actual needs rather than opting for larger engines due to minimal price differences before. The policy benefits consumers directly and is likely to boost demand for compact vehicles. OEMs have responded by slashing prices across their product lines and continuing attractive offers, further stimulating market interest. Positive buyer sentiment is evident through strong booking numbers and increased showroom visits. However, dealers with high input tax credits from previous cess rates may face short-term financial pressure. Despite this, the overall market outlook remains optimistic. The alignment of policy changes with market response is expected to lead to a surge in sales for small cars, reflecting a favorable shift in consumer behavior and industry dynamics.

In a landmark move towards simplifying the tax structure and easing the financial burden on citizens, the Government of India announced the new generation tax reforms. Under this, the government has reduced the Goods and Service Tax (GST) rates on two and four wheelers from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. This move is expected to make automobiles more affordable for middle-class families, thereby boosting the auto sector. In conversation with **OrissaPOST**, eminent automobile dealers across Odisha have shared their views on the recent GST update



A recent 10 per cent GST reduction on small cars—those under 4,000 mm in length with engines up to 1,200 cc—has led to significant price cuts across popular Maruti Suzuki models like the Alto K10, S-Presso, Celerio, WagonR, Swift, Brezza, and Dzire. In addition to the tax cut, Maruti Suzuki has further lowered prices on select models, resulting in total reductions ranging from 8.6 per cent to 24 per cent across variants. This double impact has made entry-level and compact cars far more affordable, with prices now comparable to 2019 levels but with more features, such as six airbags and enhanced comfort options. However, dealers are facing losses on older inventory purchased before the GST change due to lack of clarity on cess adjustment. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) is urging the Finance Ministry to allow for refunds or offsets, similar to those during the VAT-GST transition.



The recent GST cut has boosted demand in the auto sector, especially for entry-level two-wheelers (100–125cc) and small cars, where affordability is key. Premium bikes and SUVs will also benefit, though their demand is less price-sensitive. The GST cut is effective immediately, and older stock purchased at higher rates is expected to be sold gradually without major concern. A major issue is the lapse of cess, which could lead to significant dealer losses unless manufacturers or the government offer support. Dealers may need to absorb some of the cost to stay competitive. Despite this, the festive season outlook is strong. Bookings are up 15–20 per cent for two-wheelers and 10 per cent for cars, as the tax cut has encouraged buyers to finalize delayed purchases. With on-road prices and EMIs coming down, overall affordability has improved. All manufacturers are passing on the GST benefit to customers, making this one of the most significant price advantages seen so far.



The recent GST reduction has sparked a sharp rise in two-wheeler demand, especially in the commuter segment. Suzuki dealerships are reporting increased bookings and enquiries, with models like the Access 125, Burgman Street, and premium offerings such as the Gixxer 250 and V-Strom SX seeing strong traction. The price drop is most impactful in the 100cc–150cc segment, where affordability drives purchase decisions. The festive season has further amplified demand, as buyers look to capitalise on lower prices and ongoing offers. However, the transition poses challenges for dealers. With the new GST applicable only to invoices raised after the notified date, customers are still expecting lower prices on older stock billed under the previous tax rate. This puts pressure on dealers to offer discounts, potentially straining margins unless OEMs provide adequate support. In price-sensitive markets like Bhubaneswar, footfall has surged, driven by middle-class families and affordability.

Authorised Dealers for Yamaha Motor India. The Indian government's GST 2.0 reforms have reduced GST on two-wheelers below 350cc from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, making them more affordable and boosting demand, especially in rural and semi-urban markets. However, increasing GST on bikes above 350cc to 40 per cent could slow the growth of the premium segment and discourage global collaborations. Dealers face operational issues due to lack of clarity on Input Tax Credit (ITC), and the four-wheeler segment is concerned about the removal of compensation cess, which may lead to a ₹2,500 crore impact. Despite these challenges, market sentiment remains strong, festive bookings are high, and OEMs have passed on the benefits to customers. Overall, GST 2.0 is seen as a bold, people-centric reform promoting affordable and inclusive mobility.



The recent GST cut is set to boost demand for entry-level and commuter bikes like the Hero HF Deluxe and Splendor Plus, especially in rural and semi-urban markets. As most of Hero's models fall under the sub-350cc category, they will benefit from lower prices, improving affordability and attracting more buyers. Dealers have been asked to apply the new rates immediately, though older stock may require input tax adjustments over time. However, the festive season has already shown stronger inquiries and faster bookings compared to last year. Hero MotoCorp expects a 15 to 20 per cent rise in sales during Navratri-Diwali, driven by improved affordability and increased interest from first-time buyers in tier-2 and tier-3 markets.



The demand will rise for models in the 100–125cc commuter two-wheeler segment and small hatchback cars, as they become more affordable for middle-class buyers. In the 350cc+ motorcycle segment and SUVs above 1500cc, we also expect a sharp rise because the price difference post-GST reduction is significant. The government has clarified that GST reduction applies prospectively, but dealers are left with old stock purchased at higher tax rates. Unless OEMs support with credit notes or discounts, dealers may face losses when clearing this inventory. Bookings have jumped by 20–25 per cent compared to last year. Customers are rushing to buy because they expect lower prices to continue. For entry-level two-wheelers, the benefit might be ₹2,000–5,000 per unit, while for SUVs or premium motorcycles, it could be ₹20,000–50,000 or even more. This makes vehicles more attractive and benefits end user.

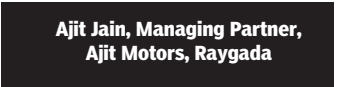


Demand for two-wheelers in both the economic and executive segments is showing a strong upward trend. A reduction in GST is expected to have a significantly positive impact on sales across these categories. The government's stance is clear — the benefits of any tax reduction must be directly passed on to customers. While this move is consumer-friendly and will likely boost buyer sentiment, it's important to note that the process of GST input and output adjustment may take considerable time for dealers to reconcile. However, the increase in customer inquiries indicates a positive market response, and vehicle buyers are expected to gain substantial benefits from this policy change.

The recent GST reduction has significantly lowered two-wheeler prices — by ₹5,837 to ₹13,978 across Honda models — making bikes and scooters more affordable, especially in the 100–125cc commuter segment. Jas Honda is already seeing a sharp rise in inquiries and bookings, with festive sales expected to grow by at least 15 per cent over last year. Dealers are fully protected, as tax adjustments are handled through input credit, ensuring no financial loss. The transition has been smooth, thanks to the government's foresight and HMSI's proactive support. To amplify the festive spirit, Jas Honda is offering assured silk gifts with every purchase. Scratch cards and lucky draws with mega prizes. Full GST benefit passed on to customers via reduced on-road prices.



The recent reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) is substantial and is expected to positively impact all vehicle segments. However, the most significant effect will be observed in the entry-level category, which had become considerably more expensive in recent times. Following the GST revision, prices in this segment are likely to decrease by approximately ₹6,000 to ₹7,000, offering meaningful relief to the common man. We fully endorse this initiative and are committed to passing on the entire benefit of the GST reduction to our customers. Although there may be certain operational challenges at the dealership level, we are prepared to address them in pursuit of the broader objective. We foresee a notable increase in demand driven by the revised pricing. This initiative is undoubtedly in the best interest of consumers, as all stakeholders—from manufacturers to dealers—are aligned in ensuring that 100 per cent of the GST reduction is transferred directly to the end user.



The implementation of GST in India streamlined multiple indirect taxes (excise, VAT, octroi, luxury tax) into a unified system, impacting automobile pricing and demand. Small cars (e.g., Maruti Swift, Hyundai i20) benefited from lower GST rates (28 per cent + 1 to 3 per cent cess), making them more affordable and boosting demand. Mid-segment vehicles like the Honda City and Hyundai Creta saw moderate price corrections, increasing competitiveness. Premium models (e.g., Toyota Fortuner, BMW) initially became cheaper, but compensation cess (15–22 per cent) offset much of the benefit. Dealers faced challenges clearing pre-GST inventory as customers expected revised prices; input tax credit offered partial relief, but losses persisted. OEMs supported dealers with discounts, affecting margins. The festive season amplified demand, with GST-led price drops and promotional offers driving higher bookings, especially in the compact SUV and hatchback segments. Overall, GST rationalised automobile taxation, boosted sales in key segments, and prompted strategic shifts in inventory and pricing management.



Cuttack's skating sensation Anahita scripts history

14-year-old roller skater Anahita Mishra strikes gold at Inline Freestyle World Cup in Portugal, becoming the first Asian to secure gold medal in the championship dominated by Europeans

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Ace roller skater Anahita Mishra has brought glory to Odisha and India by striking gold at the Faro Inline Freestyle



World Cup in Portugal. The 14-year-old Cuttack girl thus became the first Asian to

secure gold medal in the championship dominated by Europeans. Anahita, who got attracted

SHINING BRIGHT: The achievement marks Anahita's third international gold medal in 2025. Earlier this year, she had struck gold at Ketrzyn in Poland and Rennes in France, cementing her position as one of the brightest stars in the sport

to roller skating at the age of 3, outperformed the world No 4 in Speed Slalom to emerge winner Sunday. Besides the coveted medal, Anahita received a trophy and a cash award, at the prestigious event held Sunday. Anahita has established herself as one of the brightest

roller skaters not only in India but globally as well. Earlier this year, she bagged gold medals at the 13th Inline Freestyle Slalom meet in Poland's Kertzyz as well as in France's Rennes. A student of Manav Rachna International School, Noida, Anahita dreams of podium finishes as the Asian Games and World Skate Games. Roller skating in India has been witnessing a golden run, with speed skaters, artistic skaters, and inline freestyle skaters making their mark in international arenas over the past few weeks.

Blue Colts beat Pak in highly charged game

India defeated Pakistan for the second time in 24 hours, this time in a SAFF U17 Championship football clash



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 22: India maintained their stranglehold over arch-foes Pakistan across sports as the country's football team notched a 3-2 victory in a highly-charged SAFF U17 Championship match here Monday in which losing team member Muhammad Abdullah's controversial celebration attracted attention. In the game that was rendered inconsequential after both teams qualified for the semifinals, India took the lead in the 31st minute through Dalmuon Gangte.

Pakistan drew level in the 43rd minute when a penalty was converted by Abdullah, after which, he ran to the corner, sat down, and, in a unique celebration with his teammates, seemed to mimic drinking tea. But that mock-

ing celebration backfired on Pakistan as they had to eat the humble pie with India stamping their superiority in actual play. Abdullah's celebration, though, became a talking point after the match.

Gunleiba Wangkeirakpam restored India's lead in the 63rd minute, only for Hamza Yasir to equalise for Pakistan seven minutes later. Rahan Ahmed, then, stepped up to score the match-winning goal for India in the 73rd minute.

Abdullah's controversial celebrations came only a day after Pakistan cricketers Haris Rauf and Sahibzada Farham made provocative gestures during their Asia Cup Super 4s match against India in Dubai on Sunday.

India won the Asia Cup game by six wickets, before their younger footballing counterparts got the better of Pakistan at the Racecourse International Stadium in the Sri

Lanka capital. The Indian football team's breakthrough came in the 31st minute. Danny Singh Wangkhem dazzled on the flank, weaving past his marker before delivering a pinpoint ball into the path of Dalmuon Gangte. With time and space, Gangte rifled home a strike, giving India the lead.

Just as India looked to take control, a defensive lapse cost them. In the 43rd minute, Yasir's darting run into the box was halted by Thonggoumang Touthang, prompting the referee to award a penalty.

Muhammad Abdullah made no mistake from the spot, sending both sides into the interval level at 1-1.

India resumed the second half with renewed attacking flair. Gunleiba Wangkeirakpam tested the Pakistan keeper with a dangerous free-kick, before Ahmed too came close, latching onto a Gangte lay-off, only to be denied once more by Razzak.

The pressure paid off in the 63rd minute. Touthang delivered a slide-rule pass through the Pakistan defence, and Wangkeirakpam ghosted in to slot past the advancing keeper, restoring India's lead.

Seven minutes later, a speculative long-range effort from Pakistan substitute player Muhammad Awais was spilled by Baruah, and the predatory Yasir pounced on the rebound to make it 2-2.

Yet, India weren't done. In the 73rd minute, Azlaan Shah's curling effort was parried by Razzak, only for Ahmed to react quickest. He shrugged off his marker, and coolly slot home the winner.

India then managed the final phase smartly, holding on to claim a victory.

SHORT TAKES

De Kock returns from ODI retirement

Johannesburg: South Africa wicketkeeper batter Quinton de Kock Monday reversed his decision to retire from ODIs and was named in the national white-ball squads for the upcoming Pakistan tour but skipper Temba Bavuma was ruled out of the Test series due to a calf strain. The Proteas will begin their defence of the ICC World Test Championship Mace with a two-match series from October 12-24 in Lahore and Rawalpindi. De Kock, who last played white-ball cricket in 2024 T20 World Cup against South Africa in Barbados, has also been included in the squad for the one-off T20I in Namibia. The left-handed opener quit ODI cricket after the 2023 World Cup.

UP Rudras leave HIL

New Delhi: Hockey India League (HIL) franchise UP Rudras Monday said they are withdrawing from the event as financial challenges have made it "untenable" for them to carry on playing in the competition. The franchise termed it a difficult decision. "This was not an easy call," said team director Cedric D'Souza. "We value what the league has brought to Indian hockey, but sustainability challenges made continuation untenable. Our responsibility now is to direct resources where they can have the greatest long-term impact, grassroots development." The Rudras underlined that their focus going forward will be on building strong foundations for hockey in India, investing in structured programs at the school and community level, scouting and training initiatives to identify promising players early, and creating development platforms. By realigning resources, the franchise said it aims to ensure that hockey's pipeline of talent remains strong and that opportunities are accessible to players outside the league spotlight.

NO COMPETITION

SKY rubs salt on Pakistan's wounds

India and Pakistan have faced each other 15 times in T20 Internationals, with the reigning world champions winning 12 of those encounters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 22: Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav has urged everyone to stop calling the contests against Pakistan a meaningful "rivalry" given how his team has dominated the arch-foes, the most recent demolition act being the six-wicket triumph in a Super 4 match of the ongoing Asia Cup here.

After the comprehensive win Sunday night here, the proverbial question on the gulf between the two teams was thrown at Suryakumar by a senior Pakistani journalist.

"Sir, my request is that we should now stop calling India vs Pakistan matches a rivalry," Suryakumar responded with a smile. When the scribe clarified that he was referring to "standards, and not the rivalry", the Indian skipper said it hardly makes things any different.

"Sir, rivalry and standard are all the same. Now what is a rivalry? If two teams have played 15 matches and it's 8-7, that's a rivalry. Here it's 13-1 (12-3) or something. There is no contest," he said before winding up the media conference with a grin.

'Friends' New Season

The contrasting batting styles of inseparable best buddies Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill makes them a riveting "fire-and-ice" combination in India's T20 cricket set-up, feels skipper Suryakumar Yadav.



Sir, rivalry and standard are all the same. Now what is a rivalry? If two teams have played 15 matches and it's 8-7, that's a rivalry. Here it's 13-1 (12-3) or something. There is no contest

SURYAKUMAR YADAV | SKIPPER, INDIA

On Sunday, what looked like a tricky chase of 172 in the Asia Cup clash against arch foes Pakistan, became a cakewalk because the two best friends since the age of 10, conjured an eye-catching 105-run opening stand. Abhishek went on to score a scintillating 74 off 39 balls, his first fifty in the tournament while Gill shrugged off disappointment of an underwhelming league stage with a facile 47 off 28 balls.

"It's like a fire-and-ice combination. They complement each other really well. And that's what I want to see. If someone is batting brilliantly, the other

can take the back-seat and rotate the strike. It was required today to have a very good start. And they did (provide that)," Suryakumar told.

Having played together since Punjab U-12 days, they know each other's game well and switch gears and swap roles long before the opposition can figure what is unfolding.

If one looks at their scoring pattern, Abhishek prefers the aerial route while Gill bisects the fielders on both sides with a surgeon's precision. "It's really important to be very good friends off the field. When you open together, that bond matters. Sometimes you don't have to say anything in the middle," he said.

"Just a look (glance) is enough - to take a cheeky single, to complement each other if one's flying or if one's struggling. That friendship comes into the picture when they bat together," the skipper couldn't have summed it up more accurately.

Divya gets wild card for FIDE World Cup

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh, the reigning FIDE Women's World Cup champion, has been awarded a wild card for the upcoming FIDE World Cup 2025, scheduled to take place in Goa from October 31 to November 27.

The 19-year-old Nagpur-born GM was added to the field following the last-minute withdrawal of a participant, with former women's world champions Ju Wenjun and Hou Yifan having earlier declined their invitations. The move ensures India's brightest young talent a place in one of the most prestigious events on the global chess calendar.

Divya, who has made rapid strides in the past two years, most recently tested herself in the open section of the FIDE Grand Swiss 2025, where she secured two victories and six draws across 11 rounds. Though her final score was modest, the event highlighted her fighting spirit against elite opposition.

Her wild card entry adds further intrigue to the Indian challenge at the 11th edition of the World Cup, where a record 21 players from the country will compete. The contingent will be spearheaded by reigning world champion D Gukesh, who is returning home as the star attraction.



Puri Titans overpower Rourkela Titans

The team register second win in Odisha Pro T20 League

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 22: The rain affected match No 10 of Odisha Pro T20 League 2025 was reduced to 18 overs per side. In the match, Puri Titans defeated Rourkela Titans by 45 runs (DLS method). With the win Puri Titans registered their second win in the league Monday.

While chasing a target of 162 on the board, Sambit Sahoo and Akash Mohapatra opened the innings for Rourkela Steelers. They were down to 7/2 in 1.3 overs. While Amin Khan top scored for his side as he made 15 in 10 balls, Biswajit Pradhan made 11 in 24 balls. Sambit could only manage to add 10 in 13 balls. Rourkela Steelers could only manage to add 51/5 in 10.4 overs.

For Puri Titans, MD Danish was the pick of the bowlers who took 2/12 in 2 overs. Ashutosh Chhuria(1/9), Kartik Biswal(1/16) and Sushil Barik(1/1) took one wicket each in the innings.

Rourkela Steelers won the toss and elected to bowl first. Shantanu Mishra and Anurag Sarangi opened the innings for Puri Titans. While Anurag made 26 off 24 balls, Shantanu could only add 10 runs from 11 deliveries. Skipper Sandeep Pattanaik scored 20 off 12 balls.

At a stage when Puri were struggling at 68/3 in 9.2 overs, Rajesh Mohanty joined Kartik Biswal in the middle. The duo



added 81 runs for the fourth wicket before Rajesh was dismissed for 45 off 21 balls. Kartik contributed 42 from 29 deliveries. By the end of 18 overs, Puri Titans managed to post a total of 167/7.

For Rourkela Steelers,

Pradeep Pradhan was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3/29 in 4 overs. Asutosh Marn-di (1/32), Jamala Mohapatra (1/34), Biswajit Pradhan (1/15) and Sambit Baral (1/27) picked up one wicket each.

Keonjhar Miners beat Rourkela Steelers

Chasing a target of 127 on the board, skipper Govinda Poddar and Om T Munde opened the innings for Keonjhar Miners. The duo added 48 runs for the first wicket before Poddar was dismissed for 33 in 15 balls. Abhishek Yadav added 13 in 12 balls. Munde's knock of 64 in 40 balls powered his team to victory. For Rourkela Steelers Jamala Mohapatra picked 3/10 in his 3 overs. Pradeep Pradhan(1/28), Josef Behera(1/31) and Sambit Baral(1/33) took one wicket each in the innings. At the beginning of the match, after winning the toss, Keonjhar Miners elected to bowl first. For Rourkela Steelers, Saideep Mohapatra and Aashirwad Swain opened the innings. The first breakthrough came at 29 runs when Saideep was dismissed for 15 off 10 balls. In the middle overs, Saswat Mohanty contributed 25 runs from 17 deliveries. Aashirwad Swain anchored the innings and remained unbeaten till the end, scoring a solid 65* off 42 balls. At the close of their 15 overs, Rourkela Steelers posted 126/6. For Keonjhar Miners, Papu Ray impressed with figures of 3/14 from 3 overs, while Sarbeswar Mohanty also claimed 3 wickets, conceding 22 runs in his 3 overs.

REUTERS

San Francisco, Sept 22: Taylor Fritz delivered the decisive blow at the Laver Cup Sunday by beating Alexander Zverev 6-3 7-6(4) as Team World completed a 15-9 win over Team Europe to reclaim the men's team competition title in San Francisco.

The victory marked Team World's third triumph in the eight editions of the compe-

tition following back-to-back wins in 2022 and 2023, and sparked jubilant celebrations from captain Andre Agassi's side at the Chase Center.

"We're going to have a fun night. We're definitely popping champagne in the locker room in a few minutes," Fritz said.

"The energy from the team, ... the moments of winning feel so much better and the moments of losing feel so much worse. You're doing it



for all these guys. It fires me up so much. I always feel I play my best tennis in team environments.

"Seeing these guys on the

FROM TRACK TO TURF

Bolt swaps spikes for boots in India match

The sprint great to visit India for exhibition football game Oct 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 22: Sprint legend Usain Bolt will trade his running spikes for football boots as he is set to visit India for a unique exhibition match here October 1.

Bolt, one of the greatest athletes of all time with eight Olympic gold medals to his credit, will light up the pitch in an exclusive football showcase alongside footballers, Bollywood personalities and other prominent figures.

Bolt will represent both Bengaluru FC and Mumbai City FC, playing one half each bringing



fans from both camps together in PUMA's two-day celebration,

starting September 30.

This exhibition match will

be a ticketed event. "We believe sport has the power to inspire and unite communities. Football is one of the most popular sports among the youth of India, and bringing Usain Bolt to play here is our way of celebrating that momentum," PUMA India MD Karthik Balagopalan said.

Beyond the track, Bolt has always carried a deep passion for football. Growing up, he often played the sport and dreamt of showcasing his speed and skills on the pitch. After retiring from athletics, he actively pursued this love, training, playing trial matches, and even scoring goals along the way.