**VOLUME 15, ISSUE 175 I www.orissapost.com** 

**BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24, 2025** 

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



RAIN HAVOC IN CITY OF JOY: Vehicles ply on a waterlogged road following heavy rainfall, in Kolkata, Tuesday. At least 10 people were killed. nine of them due to electrocution, as torrential overnight rain - among the heaviest in nearly four decades- left Kolkata paralysed, disrupting air, rail and road transport, shutting down educational institutions, and forcing the state government to declare Puja holidays two days in advance. The deluge - 251.4 mm in less than 24 hours - was the highest since 1986 and sixth-highest single-day rainfall in the last 137 years.

### Indo-Pak war: Trump repeats claims at UNGA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 23: US President Donald Trump Tuesday again said he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan, repeating his claim from the podium of the United Nations to world leaders gathered here for the 80th session of the General Assembly.

"I ended seven wars, and in all cases, they were raging, with countless thousands of people being killed This includes Cambodia and Thailand, Kosovo and Serbia, the Congo and Rwanda. a vicious, violent war that was, Pakistan and India, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan," Trump added.

"We expect the rupee to

remain weak as the US visa

fee hike issue may continue

to dampen domestic market

sentiments and may result

in foreign outflows. Howev-

er, overall weakness in glob-

al crude oil prices may sup-

port the domestic curren

cy," said Anuj Choudhary,

Research Analyst, Currency and Commodities, Mirae As-

On the domestic equity

market front, Sensex de-

clined 57.87 points to settle

at 82,102.10, while the Nif-

ty dropped 32.85 points to

tutional Investors offloaded

Meanwhile, Foreign Insti-

set ShareKhan.

25,169,50.

### PATANJALI By reducing the GST rates on most of the daily use products falling in the 12-18% slab to 5%, the Prime Minister Modi ji has given a big gift of savings to crores of countrymen. Calling 'dependence on other countries as the biggest enemy of the country', he has also called upon the countrymen to make India self-reliant by adopting Swadeshi products in daily use. Let us all join hands with Patanjali, the country's largest food company and the largest Swadeshi FMCG company, and take a pledge of Swadeshi to build a prosperous India of the Prime Minister's dreams.

Patanjali is the only and largest indigenous company in the country which invests 100% of its

profits in the service of Mother India, because our only aim is to make a strong and developed India by investing the hard-earned money in charity. For Patanjali, the country is not a market but a family. Thus, take full advantage of the GST rate discount and promote Swadeshi as a movement in every village, city, street, and locality to fulfil the respected Prime Minister's resolve on nation building. PATANJALE,





#### Patanjali Cow's Ghee

900 ml Old MRP **New MRP** 

Old MRP

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450 ml Old MRP New MRI ₹420/-

1 kg Pack **Old MRP** New MRF ₹210/-

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**Doodh Biscuit** 35 g 70 g

225 g Old MRP

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Old MRP	New MRP	Old MRP	New MRP	Old MRP
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	notanial!			FIGHTENS GUME /

Aloe Vera Juice

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Nutrela Vit. B12 Chyawanprash 60 Cap Old MRP New MRP Old MRP New MRP ₹360/- ₹337/-₹165/- ₹146/-







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### **Toothbrush (Active Care)**

100g Old MRP New MRP ₹20/-₹18/-





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75g 45g Old MRP New MRP Old MRP New MRP ₹25/- ₹22/-₹10/-

#### 45g Old MRP ₹10/-

Aloevera Kanti Body Cleanser Haldi Chandan Kanti Body Cleanser Old MRP New MRP ₹9/-₹10/-

### ₹9/-**Kesh Kanti**

**Hair Cleanser Range** 180 ml

Old MRP ₹120/- ₹106/-

(Natural) 180 ml

Old MRP New MRP ₹100/-₹89/-

More than 5 crore citizens of the country, including the beneficiaries of CGHS (Central Government Employees), CAPF (Central Armed Police Force), ECHS (Ex-Servicemen) along with other citizens having cashless insurance facilities from more than 30 leading insurance companies (SBI General, Reliance Insurance, United Insurance, ICICI Lombard, HDFC ERGO, MEGMA, Aditya Birla etc) may avail reimbursement facilities at Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram, and Niramayam. For detailed information on availing free services for 1 to 2 weeks at Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram, and Niramayam, contact:

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# **₹hits record low** on tariff, visa fears

The Indian rupee tumbled 0.5% to 88.73/USD-its steepest fall in a month-after Washington signalled steeper tariffs and a spike in H-1B fees. With 5.4 million Indian expats remitting \$33 billion yearly, according to an HSBC estimate, economists warn that 80,000 fewer new visas could drain an extra \$500 million from vital inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: The rupee depreciated 45 paise to hit an all-time low of 88.73against the US dollar on Tuesday, amid sustained outflow of foreign funds on the back of a steep hike in US H-1B visa fee that is expected to give a big blow to Indian IT services exports.

rupee dwindled towards record low levels as market participants analysed the likely repercussions of the new USD 100,000 H-1B visa levy and high US tariff, which could precipitate a slowdown in remittance growth and curtail service

exports to the US

Forex traders said the

### Gold soars past ₹1.18L

NEW DELHI: Gold prices surged ₹1.18.900 per 10 grams in the global demand for the safe-haven asset, facing the brunt of US H-1B visa fee hike. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the vellow metal of 99.9 per cent 10 grams in the previous market

in domestic markets may also pressurise the rupee, they said.

At the interbank foreign against the US dollar, and finally settled for the day at

exchange, the rupee opened at 88.41, then lost further ground and touched an alltime intraday low of 88.82 88.73, registering a decline Moreover, risk aversion of 45 paise over its previto exchange data.

### equities worth ₹2,910.09 crore on Monday, according

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Two hundred and eightynine migrant labourers from Odisha died while working outside the state during the last five years, Labour and Employees' State Insurance minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assem-

bly Tuesday. While replying to a query of BJD legislator Ananta Narayan Jena, the minister said the migrant workers from Odisha died during the period 2021 to 2025 (till August).

As per the statement of the minister, deaths of 14 migrant labourers were reported in 2021, which rose to 31 in 2022, 42 in 2023 and further to 120 in the year 2024. Similarly, 82 migrant labourers died till August of the current calendar year, he said. The government has rescued a total of 5.612 distressed migrant workers from other states during the



we've no money left to buy anytying—so, no saving for us

### **Venue of PM's rally** shifted to Jharsuguda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in Odisha September 27 was shifted from Berhampur in Ganjam district to Jharsuguda district in view of the rain forecast.

The decision was announced by the CMO after the Centre approved the state government's proposal to shift the venue as the IMD predicted heavy rain in southern Odisha, including Ganjam, due to a depression, officials said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha on 27 September 2025 and address a gathering at Jharsuguda. Earlier, the PM's visit was planned for Berhampur," said a note issued by the CMO.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall, along with thunderstorms, is very likely in southern Odisha till September 27 due to the formation of a low-pressure area September 25, which will intensify into a depression, according to the IMD.

### CM: Mayurbhanj to have from state died in Ayurveda college soon five years: Minister PRESS TRUST OF INDIA jhar headquarters hospitals.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced that an Ayurveda college will be set up at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district at a cost of ₹85 crore, and the state will get eight more 'Panchakarma' centres this year. A Panchakarma centre is a facility that provides Ayurvedic healthcare services.

"It has been decided to establish a new Ayurvedic college at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district this year with the joint efforts of both the state government and the Centre. An estimated ₹85 crore will be spent for this purpose," Majhi said, while addressing a function celebrating the state-level National Ayurveda Day here.

At present, a Panchakarma unit is functioning under AYUSH in the Kendrapara district headquarters hospital, and two such units are being built in the Bargarh and Keon-

To provide more healthcare facilities, eight more Panchakarma centers will be built in various districts, he said.

"Odisha has three government Ayurvedic colleges, four government homeopathic colleges, five government Avurvedic and four government homeopathic hospitals, where new generation doctors are being trained and many patients from the state and outside are being

treated." Maihi said.

Apart from this, 1,011 AYUSH dispensaries are currently functioning, out of which 620 are Ayurvedic, 562 are homeopathic and nine are Unani dispensaries. All these medical centers are providing services to the people in villages and other neglected areas, he said. Under the National AYUSH Mission, three integrated AYUSH hospitals are being built in Dhenkanal, Berhampur and Balasore, said

### 'Bou Buttu Bhuta' now in Hindi

Mumbai, Sept 23: Dharma Productions, helmed by Karan Johar, is in the process of acquiring the remake rights of the record-breaking Odia film Bou Buttu Bhuta (2025).

The news was confirmed derivative rights. through a public notice published in Film Information magazine by Rakhee Bajpai Tiwari, Chief Legal Officer at Dharma Productions Private Limited. The acquisition includes all Indian and world languages as well as or third-party claims.

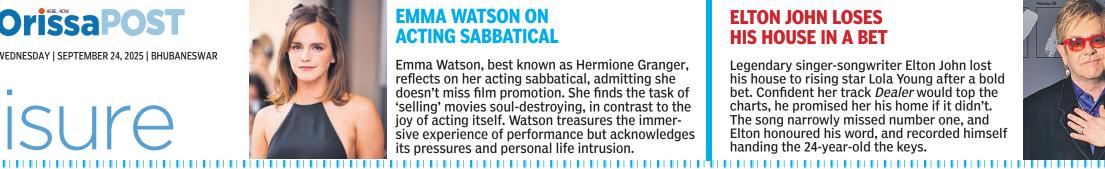


The notice further clarified that Babushaan Films Private Limited is the sole and lawful owner of all intellectual property related to Bou Buttu Bhuta. The rights are free from any encumbrances

have been asked to make their claims within 15 days of the notice to avoid waiving any rights. Bou Buttu Bhuta, released on June 12, has be come the highest-grossing Odia film of all time.

The movie stars Ba bushaan Mohanty, Archita Sahu, and Aparajita Mohanty in lead roles. Despite facing stiff competition from films like Housefull 5 and Sitaare Zameen Par. it managed to earn around ₹14 15cr at the box office.

# eisure



Emma Watson, best known as Hermione Granger, reflects on her acting sabbatical, admitting she doesn't miss film promotion. She finds the task of 'selling' movies soul-destroying, in contrast to the joy of acting itself. Watson treasures the immersive experience of performance but acknowledges its pressures and personal life intrusion.

### ELTON JOHN LOSES **HIS HOUSE IN A BET**

Legendary singer-songwriter Elton John lost his house to rising star Lola Young after a bold bet. Confident her track *Dealer* would top the charts, he promised her his home if it didn't. The song narrowly missed number one, and Elton honoured his word, and recorded himself handing the 24-year-old the keys.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You spend happy times with your loved ones today. Ganesha suggests you learn to play some musical instrument as it is a good way to express emotions. Besides, it gives you a novel method to attract new people. Do it promptly before the mood changes.

### **TAURUS**

Today, Ganesha sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with some close to you. You are likely to be swayed this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind or dispute or controversy. Confrontation is most likely to have adverse consequences.

### **GEMINI**

You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesha. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts yet cheerful, day ahead.

for swift action. Variety adds spice to life. So you may change job or trade. Ties with superiors will be good. Ganesha says this is the time for

**LEO** It is a good day to renew old

new relationships. Your friends and relatives will probably visit you today. A jovial feeling will pervade your home. You may throw a grand party for your guests, says Ganesha.

### Consummation of work and

success will be the high points today, says Ganesha. ou will gain the much needed appreciation for your dedication to work and your desire to succeed in whatever you do. A ong-awaited promotion may materialise today, and there is also the bright prospect of some monetary arrears coming

Ganesha says that today is going to be an unforgettable day for all those people who are in love or a romantic relationship. If you plan to propose to your beloved today is a good opportunity for it as success will come easily to you. You will be able to spend a day filled with joy, happiness and enjoyment. Ganesha showers his blessing on you.

### **SCORPIO**

According to Ganesha, your family and friends top your priority list today. Life looks hunky dory on personal as well as professional front. Apart from business developments, romantic relations are on the bloom. And this is evident from your blushing cheeks. Creative indulgences may give a new dimension to your life!

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesha. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business yield profits.

### **CAPRICORN**

Celebrations are in the offing and all the near and dear ones are invited to the party. Today, you will enjoy yourself to the fullest, feels Ganesha. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespective of how hard you have worked to achieve them. Realty seems a good investment option for you. With cooperative bosses and supportive colleagues, today is a good day for professionals as well.

### AQUARIUS

If the Almighty loads you with pain, He will also bless you with pleasure, assures Ganesha. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able finish them off one by one. It will drain you out, so later on the day take a hot water bath, sit back and relax, says Ganesha.

### **PISCES**

You will be able to come up trumps against the competition today. You should be wary of hidden enemies, for they might be involved in slandering you. It is best to reach out to others and make friends before they take it upon themselves to hinder your progress. Apart from this, no other significant event is indicated today, says Ganesha.

## Top honours for Rani, SRK & Vikrant

EMMA WATSON ON

ACTING SABBATICAL

Malayalam cinema icon Mohanlal receives the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

tional Film Awards celebrated the finest in Indian cinema with Hindi film 12th Fail, produced by Vinod Chopra Films and directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, winning the coveted Best Feature Film honour. Both producer and director received a cash prize of ₹3,00,000 each. The evening's most pres-

tigious honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, was conferred on Malayalam cinema icon Mohanlal by President Droupadi Murmu. Fondly known as Lalettan, Mohanlal's career spans nearly five decades and over 350 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada.

Acting honours saw fierce competition this year. Best Actor in a Leading Role was shared



by Shah Rukh Khan for Jawan and Vikrant Massey for 12th Fail. Best Actress in a Leading Role went to Rani Mukerji for

ance in Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway.

The Best Debut Film of a Director was awarded to Ashish Avinash Bende

mapamphlet, also carrying a ₹3,00,000 prize. In the popular category, Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani bagged Best Popular Film

Entertainment, bringing ₹3.00.000 each for Dharma Productions and Johar. For children's cinema,

Marathi film Naal 2, produced by Aatpat Production and Zee Studios and directed by Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti, was named Best Children's Film. The Telugu superhero blockbuster Ha*nu-Man* triumphed in the new AVGC category, with animator Jetty Venkat Kumar, producer Primeshow Entertainment, and director Prasanth Varma each receiving ₹3,00,000. Kumar further won an additional ₹2,00,000 as Best VFX Supervisor.

In direction, Sudipto Sen's Hindi film The Kerala Story earned him the Best Director award and a ₹3,00,000 prize

### **Best Odia Film** trophy for Pushkara



Bhubaneswar: In a proud moment for Odia cinema, Pushkara, produced by Tarang Cine Productions, won Best Odia Feature Film at the 71st National Film Awards Tuesday, The honour was conferred by President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan.

Directed by Subhranshu Das, the film is based on Sankar Tripathy's celebrated Odia novel Nadabindu. Starring Sabyasachi Mishra and as Sahi Jata, Kartika Purnima, and Boita Bandana. Director Subhranshu Das and Litisha Mangat

Supriya Nayak, Pushkara

delves into love, tradition,

and cultural identity

beautifully set against

Puri's sacred rituals such

Panda, Business Head of OTV Network, accepted the award and cash prize on behalf of Tarang Cine Productions. The recognition marks a milestone for Odia cinema on the national stage

### Katrina, Vicky announce pregnancy Mumbai: Bollywood star couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal on Tuesday announced that they are all set to welcome their first In a collaborative post on Instagram, Katrina and Vicky announced the news of them stepping into parenthood. The two shared a picture of a polaroid, where Katrina and Vicky are gently holding on to the actress' blossoming baby bump. On our way to start the best chapter of our lives with hearts full of joy and gratitude," the two wrote as the caption. Katrina's friends from the industry took to the comment section to congratulate the Janhvi Kapoor wrote: Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations. Ayushmann Khurrana wrote congratulations guys. Sonam Kapoor simply dropped some Varun Dhawan said that his heart is full after hearing the news. It was in 2021, when Vicky and Katrina got married in an intimate cere-

Preity's fitness Mumbai: Actress Preity

Zinta stays on top of her fitness game even at the age of 50. The Veer Zaara actress keeps on sharing fitness inspiration by dropping sneak peeks of her various workout sessions on social media. Preity was seen stretching her core in

a back strengthening exercise during her recent workout session. She slowly bent forward, stretching her back, and came back in a singular motion. Calling stretching

the gold standard for longevity and for avoiding any injury, Preity wrote in the caption, "It doesn't matter what workout vou do, stretch ing your body is the gold standard for lon-

gevity & for avoiding any injury So don't forget to incorporate stretching into your fitness routine (punch emoji) #ting (sic)."

Monday, Preity celebrated the first day of Navratri by sharing a sneak peek into her temple visit on social media. The Kal Ho Naa Ho actress

dropped a still of her sitting in a temple with her hands folded, im-

> greetings to her Insta Fam, she wrote, "Happy Navratri to all those who celebrate. Love & light always Mata #Ting.'

mersed in devo-

tion. Extending

Talking about professioncommitments, Preity is gearing up to make her comeback

into Bolwith filmmaker Raikumar Santoshi's next titled

### **PEANUTS**

was deepened.



mony in the Six Senses Fort Barwara

Hotel, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

Chatter about Katrina's pregnancy

started doing the rounds recently, how-

ever the couple remained tight-lipped.

It was during an award show, when

Vicky playfully proposed to Katrina

on stage in a scripted moment that

left Katrina blushing. However, they

crossed paths at a party hosted by film-

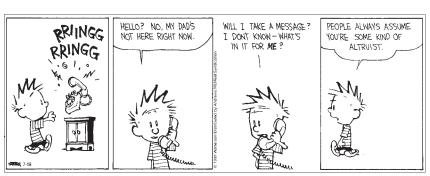
maker Karan Johar, where their bond

YES, WE'RE TRYING TO FIND A NICE HOME FOR A DOG. ACTUALLY, HE'S THE BROTHER OF OUR OWN DOG.





### CALVIN AND HOBBES

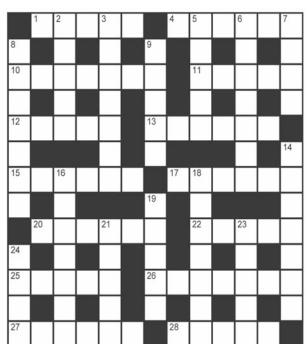


### BREVITY



### DOST

### **CROSSWORD**



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25 Targeted

27 Genuine

28 Wens

22 Deplete (3,2)

26 A nod, for one

Across

1 Blacksmith's block

4 High standards 10 Physics topic

11 Seaweed dish

12 Deep cavity

13 Frustrate 15 Swallow

17 Express

disapproval 20 Road features

stricken

5 Toothsome 6 Fire up

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

2 Poverty-

**Down** 

3 Panama has one

23 Explode

21 Bloody Mary ingredient

7 Go yachting

8 Ill-fated ship

14 Office machine

18 Clear day sight

19 Kind of orange

9 Oversight

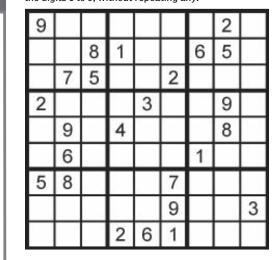
16 Epicure

(4-3)

24 Long story

### SUDOKU

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



### **SOLUTIONS**

ODELSWHEAT VANDYKE

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

SUDOKU

8 5 3 6 2 9 7 4 1

## 289 migrants from state died in 5 yrs: Min Lord's valuables shifted back to Ratna Bhandar

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: As many as 289 migrant labourers from Odisha died while working outside the state in nearly 5 years - from 2021 to 2025 (till August), Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly Tuesday.

While replying to a query of BJD legislator Ananta Narayan Jena, the minister said death of 14 migrant labourers were reported in 2021, which rose to 31 in 2022, 42 in 2023 and further to 120 in 2024. Similarly, 82 migrant labourers died till August of the current calendar year.

The government has rescued a total of 5,612 distressed migrant workers from other states during the period, he said.

The minister further said that 785 migrant workers from Odisha were rescued in 2021, while the number went up to 1.196 in 2022 and 1.639 in the next year. Besides, the state government has rescued 1.055 and 937 migrant workers in 2024 and 2025 (till August).

Singkhuntia, in his statement, informed the House that the government had issued licenses to 1.037 contractors for employment of 70,142 migrant workers from Odisha in 2024. "The licenses were issued as per provisions under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act,

In 2025 (till August), 217 licenses were issued for migration of 11,051 workers from Odisha, he added.

In another reply to the Assembly, the minister said the state government has set up a high-level task force, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, for taking steps towards reduction of distress migration and mitigating the sufferings of interstate migrant workmen in Odisha. The task force has conducted three meetings with different stakeholders for further course of action.

A database of 1.09.091 migrant workers has been prepared after a survey by the National Law University in 474 GPs of 20 mi-

gration-prone blocks in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts. Survey

owntown

another 225 GPs in the districts Gajapati, Kandhamal, Koraput, Rayagada and Nabarangpur is in progress, he said.

Similarly the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' initiative is also implemented in Odisha so that the beneficiaries can get subsi-

dised food grains from any fair

price shop using their ration card with Aadhaar authentication, the minister said.

In view of private buses carrying the migrant workers to other states, the district Collectors and Superintendents of Police of 14 migration-prone districts have been instructed to initiate regular checks and

raids to curb illegal drafting of migrant workers. Singkhuntia said.

The labour officers the districts also have been directed to remain alert close watch railway in stations and bus stands. In 2024-25, 132 inspections

have been conducted under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act,

### 2.21L-HA FOREST LAND **DIVERTED IN 10 YEARS**

disha has diverted 2,21,180.826 hectares of forest land for mining, industrial and infrastructure projects over the last 10 years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question from Congress MLA Nilamadhab Hikaka, the minister said that in the last 15 months alone, 2.041,8953 hectares were diverted for mining, 210.0127 hectares for road widening, and 2,306.868 hectares for other projects.

Quoting the India State of Forest Report 2023, the minister said Odisha's forest cover stands at 33.67 per cent, registering a net gain of 277.61 sqkm compared to 2021.

The minister informed the House that the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OS-PCB) has issued several showcause notices to industries for violating pollution control norms.

Between 2021-22 and 2025-26 (up to September 16, 2025), the OSPCB issued a total of 115 notices.

Of these, 23 notices were served in 2021-22, 12 each in 2022-23 and 2023-24, 45 in 2024-25, and 23 notices so far in

In another written reply to the House, the Forest minister said 721 trees were cut down for the construction of new quarters for MLAs. The quarters are being constructed over an area of 6.54 hectares, he said.

The government has planted 4,000 saplings in the Subudhipur area, another 4,000 in Madhupur, 8,000 in Amrit Vidyapeeth and 2,000 in Ghatikia under the compensatory afforestation programme, the minister told the Assembly.

Puri, Sept 23: Valuables were shifted back to the Ratna Bhandar of Srimandir in Puri Tuesday, about a year after they were taken out for repair of the structure. officials said

Restrictions were imposed on the entry of devotees to the temple during the process, which was completed in four hours, they said. "The shifting of valuables and ornaments started at 10.55am and was completed at 2.55pm. The work has been done as per the Shri Jagannath Temple Rules, 1960 and the guidelines approved by the state government," said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Kumar Padhee.

After being taken out of the

valuables were kept in a temporary strong room within the temple premises.

On July 7, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) completed renovation and conservation of the Ratna Bhandar.

Padhee said both the cham bers of the Ratna Bhandar were locked, and the keys of the inner chamber were deposited at the district treasury as per proce dure. "All works were done per fectly and videographed in or der to maintain transparency, he said. Members of the Ratna Bhandar committee, headed by retired HC judge Biswanath Rath were present at the tem ple when the shifting was underway. District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida and SP Prateek Singh were also present.

### BJD suspends Shreemayee Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The Opposition BJD Tuesday suspended three leaders, including its firebrand women affairs general secretary Shreemayee Mishra, for 'anti-party' activities.

The other two leaders suspended by the party are its Kaptipada block ex-president Subas Chandra Sai and former Mayurbhanj district secretary Pravir Chandra Sai. according to a statement.

Mishra was in the news recently for her two social media posts that described Mahabharat characters, without naming anyone. The posts, which were seen as an attack on Naveen Patnaik's leadership and his aide VK Pandian, led to a furore in the party. Mishra, who hails from Bolangir district, was once close to the BJD's top leadership.

She pitched herself hard for a Lok Sabha ticket from the Bhubaneswar seat in the 2024 elections, but it was denied at the last moment, following which she started distancing herself from Sankha Bhawan and Naveen Niwas. Within minutes of her sus-

pension, Mishra, in a social

media post, said, "I have never compromised on my self-esteem and self-pride, nor will I do so in the future. As I have

not renewed my membership of the party for the past one year, my suspension from it will help people to laugh." "Under the misguided in-

fluence of a non-Odia, a leader who has ruled the state for so long playing with the self-es teem of an Odia daughter is hardly logical; the judgment is yours. It has now been proved that the heir of a legendary leader, who always called for giving respect to women, is not capable of taking decisions on his own To prove that I am truly an Odia daughter, I will never sacrifice my self-esteem," she said.

### 45 people, 9 elephants killed in 6 months

At least 45 people and nine elephants were killed in incidents of man-animal conflicts in Odisha in nearly six months (from April 1 to September 15), Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly Tuesday.

While seven elephant fatalities were reported due to electrocution, train accident and poaching claimed the lives of two jumbos. To prevent elephants from getting electrocuted, the Forest department has been holding regular meetings with Energy department officers at various levels, he said. "The Forest department has

also been taking steps such as insulating the electric wires in sensitive areas, fencing around transformers, maintaining proper height of elevated wires, restricting power supply in the villages during the movement of elephants, conducting foot patrols and mass public awareness campaigns in the poaching areas,' he said. Besides, regular patrols are being conducted by elephant protection teams in the areas, where tuskers are present, the minister said.

### 2,103 wild jumbos

Odisha is home to 2,103 wild elephants, according to the findings of a wildlife census carried out by the Forest department in November 2024, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly Tuesday.

Replying to a question of BJD legislator Ranendra Pratap Swain, the minister said the census was conducted across multiple forest divisions, confirming the extensive presence of elephants in both northern and central Odisha.

He noted that the updated data is vital for shaping future conservation strategies and tackling the growing challenge of human-elephant conflict in several districts.

Providing details on domesticated elephants, the minister said 21 elephants are in captivity across different divisions.

"Chandaka Wildlife Division houses eight elephants, Simlipal South Wildlife Division has three, Nandankanan Zoological Park shelters four. and the Dhenkanal Wildlife Division maintains six," he said.

### **POLITICKLE** by MANJUL









### MINOR'S RAPE: 52-YR-OLD MAN GETS

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The special POCSO court in Jajpur has awarded life imprisonment to a 52-year-old man for the rape of an eight-year-old girl in Bari-Ramachandrapur area of the

district last year, official sources said Tuesday. The court also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on the convict, identified as Arakshita Parida alias Kalia. The court further directed the District Legal Services Authority to provide ₹5 lakh to the survivor as compensation. According to the case details, the minor girl was returning home after playing when Kalia took her to a secluded place and sexually assaulted the child October 23, 2024.

Family members found the girl profusely bleeding and

rushed her to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack Later, they approached the Bari-Ramachandrapur police which registered a case October 24, 2024. Soon, police launched a probe and managed to arrest Kalia from Kendrapara.

### Retired forest ranger gets 4 years in jail

**Berhampur:** A retired forest ranger was sentenced to four years of imprisonment by a special Vigilance court in Berhampur Tuesday for receiving ₹30,000 bribe from a carpenter. The officer took the bribe from the carpenter for not registering a case against him after the seizure of some timbers from his workshop, about nine years ago. The court also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on the retired ranger, identified as Kishore Kumar Nayak. He will undergo an additional eight months of imprisonment if he fails to pay the fine, it said. The court recorded the statements of nine witnesses. Trial is at present underway in a second case of disproportionate assets registered against him in 2015.

## BJD, Cong demonstrate near Assembly

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress held demonstrations near the Assembly Tuesday, alleging that the BJP government in Odisha has curtailed the powers of elected panchayat representatives and was not taking action over the fertiliser crisis prevailing in the state.

Thousands of BJD members gathered at Mahatma Gandhi Marg and attempted to march towards the Assembly building, demanding a rollback of the decision to empower officers of the



three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions that curtailed the rights of elected representatives

They broke through two barricades, which were set up by the authorities to stop them, prompting the police to use water cannons. Soon, a scuffle broke out as police tried to detain the agitators.

Following a brief standoff, the situation was brought under control as the agitators were picked up by the police in waiting vehicles. "The BJP government is all set to destroy the panchayat system of the state. The government, in a recent decision, has increased the financial power of officers, thus demeaning the powers of the elected representatives. We are demanding a rollback of the decision," said BJD's deputy leader in Assembly Prasanna Acharya. Later, the farmer wing of Odisha Congress also attempted to gherao the Assembly, alleging that the government was not taking steps to resolve the fertiliser crisis in the state. Members of the Kisan Congress gathered at Master Canteen Square and began a march towards the Assembly. As the police stopped them, they sat on a dharna on the main road near the Assembly complex.

However, the demonstrators were later removed by the police. Odisha Kisan Congress president Abhay Sahu alleged that large-scale corruption was happening over the distribution of

"Farmers are queuing up outside fertiliser depots for hours together but are unable to get their share. They are forced to buy fertilisers at a much higher price due to black marketing," he alleged.

fertilisers in the state.



## downtown



## Youth skills shape state's future: Min



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: "By equipping youth with industry-ready skills, we are not only creating livelihoods but also shaping the future of our state," said Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain

Speaking as the chief guest at the graduation ceremony of the sixth batch of the World Skill Centre (WSC), he congratulated the 1,088 graduating students for stepping confidently into the next phase of their careers.

"This is not just a celebration, but a moment of transformation. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has emphasised skill development as a cornerstone of our journey towards a Viksit Odisha," Minister Swain added.

In his address, Minister Swain lauded the graduating batch's outstanding placement record, with over 93 per cent of students already employed in reputed companies and several more expected to secure offers

Notably, 94 students have received international job offers in the UAE from leading firms like EMRILL and Jindal SAW, reflecting the growing global recognition of the "Skilled-in-Odisha" brand.

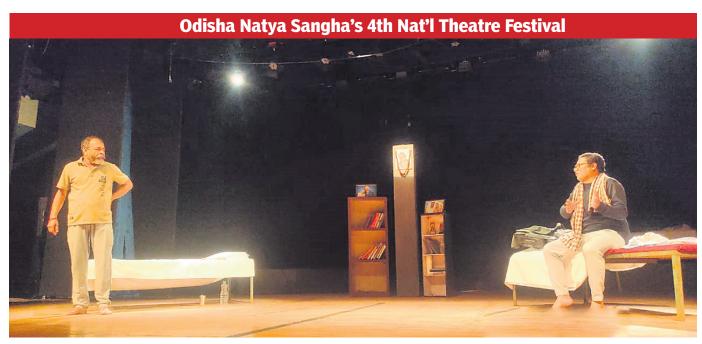
On the occasion, the minister inaugurated two state-of-the-art Centers of Excellence: the CoE in Smart Manufacturing, in partnership with FESTO, and the CoE in Industrial Automation, in collaboration with Schneider. These facilities will equip students with training at global standards, preparing

them for the rapidly evolving demands of industry.

Graduates from the School of Engineering have secured placements in reputed companies such as Johnson Lifts, Reliance Solar, Jindal Steel, Fujitec, JSW, Tata Steel, Tata Autocomp, Airtel, and Wipro Aerospace. Meanwhile, students from the School of Services have been placed with organisations including IHLC of Tata, Green Trends, VLCC, Jawed Habib, Mahindra, and Swosti. Several students have secured annual packages of up to₹5.25 lakh, highlighting both the quality of training at WSC and the ambition of Odisha's youth.

In recognition of academic excellence, 29 outstanding trainees were awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals for securing the top three positions in their respective trades.

The event was attended by SD&TE department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Bhupendra Singh Poonia and director of Skill Development-cum-Employment and CEO of OSDA & WSC Rashmita Panda. Senior corporate representatives were also present, including Ranjit Ray (VP, Calderys India Refractories Ltd.), Saroj Kumar Mohanta (GM - Head Engineering & Maintenance), Syed Sameer Ali (Park Head, Wonderla Holidays Ltd., Bhubaneswar), and Abhishek Kumar (HR Head Odisha, Bharti Airtel).



Members of Adrushya Natya Ashram, Sambalpur, staged the Odia play Tara Sesha Ichha at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday, marking the second evening of

### RDWU unveils Energy Club, holds awareness prog

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Rama Devi Women's University (RD-WU) Tuesday hosted an Energy Conservation Awareness Programme on the theme 'PM Surya Ghar Yojana and Standards & Labelling Programme', marking the launch of its new Energy Club.

The chief guest, Pyari Mohan Mishra, Chief Engineer-cum-Chief Electrical Inspector of the Energy Department's North Zone, highlighted the need for sustainable energy practices. Addressing the students, he said, "Energy conservation is not just a choice but a necessity, and youth must become the torch-



bearers of this change."

The event opened with welcoming remarks by Santosh Kumar Biswal, OIC of the Energy Audit Committee, followed by an address from Aparajita Biswal, Assistant professor in Economics who emphasised the importance of energy aware

ness among young citizens.

Registrar Manaswini Sahu highlighted nature as the ultimate source of energy and urged students to protect it, while Vice Chancellor Chandi Charan Rath, in his presidential address, encouraged active participation in national ener-

Two technical sessions were held-one on the Standards & Labelling Programme, focusing on energy efficiency labelling and consumer awareness, and another on the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, explaining the gov ernment's push for household solar power generation. The programme concluded with an interactive Q&A session, giving participants the opportunity to clarify doubts and share ideas on energy-saving practices.

The launch of the Energy Club marked a significant step in RDWU's sustainability ef forts, highlighting the pivotal role of students in promoting energy awareness and embrac ing renewable energy solutions

### Seema Meher wins 3rd prize at Nat'l Saras Fair



Women have hopes where

state is secular: Taslima

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Seema Meher, a member of Maa Gajalaxmi Self-Help Group from Sambalpur district, won third prize in the Handloom Stall category at the National Saras

Fair 2025 in New Delhi.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

achieved for females.

own experience.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Exiled

Bangladeshi author and feminist

activist Taslima Nasrin Tuesday

said women have hopes where

the state is secular and there is

a need to separate the state from

religion if true equality is to be

Asserting that feminism is

not a Western culture, Nasrin

said she was influenced by her

women have hope," the writ-

ism; rational, logical thinking

"I still believe that change is

possible if we are brave enough

and irrational, blind faith.

"Where the state is secular,

Congratulating her on the national-level achievement, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida extended best wishes via social media to Seema Meher, the Maa Gajalaxmi Self-Help Group members, and officials of the Mission Shakti department, Odisha Livelihood Mission, Handand Sambalpur district administration.

The National Saras Fair 2025 was held in New Delhi from September 5 to 22. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Odisha Livelihood Mission and the Mission Shakti department showcased seven stalls—three in Handloom, one Pattachitra, one Sabai Products, one Packaged Food Products, and one Live Food stall.

During the fair, self-help groups sold a total of 4,860 products, generating business

to ask questions," Nasrin said.

'Lajja' and 'Dwikhandita',

maintained that rigid inter-

communities, she said while

delivering the 'Siksha O Anu-

sandhan' Lecture at the SOA

Deemed to be University.

The author of books like

### BMC's unique initiative for 'Swachh Utsav'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is celebrating 'Swachha Utsav' as part of the ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, which began September 17. The initiative aims to encourage households to improve segregation of wet and dry waste, while promoting overall cleanliness in the City.

Green tokens are awarded to households that segregate 100 per cent of their waste, while red tokens are given to those still working toward this goal. Swachh Saathis are visiting homes door-to-door to distribute the tokens and raise



segregation.

A special meeting with corporators was held to encourage wider community participation. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das appealed to corporators to take the cleanliness message to every household in their wards.

At the ward level, pro-

grammes such as mass cleaning drives and beautification activities are being organised to highlight cleanliness under the Swachhata Hi Seva initiative. Employees from government and private offices, as well as the general public, are being educated through posters, banners, standees, and media campaigns.

BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana urged residents to actively participate in efforts to maintain cleanliness and greenery in the City. He noted that while Bhubaneswar's livability is being recognised globally, community support is essential to further enhance

### Kalinga Ghat remains closed till Sept 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 23: Traffic will remain suspended on Kalinga Ghat section of National Highway 157 in Kandhamal district due to heavy rain forecast. an official said Tuesday.

Traffic in the section has been suspended since September 16 due to massive landslides, they said.

"As there is a forecast of more rain in the area and the situation is very precarious due to repeated landslides, we have decided to keep the section closed for traffic till September 30," said Kandhamal Collector Vedbhushan, after assessing the ground situation.



The highway is vital for com munication between Ganjam and Kandhamal districts.

"Due to heavy rains Monday fresh landslides occurred in the area. At least 40 big stones are hanging from the hill beside the highway. There is a life risk to work in this situation as the rain has been incessant," said NHAI's chief construction edngineer Bankim Chandra Panda

"The repair works will re sume after the rains," he added

# Bronze-brass legacy of Indipur fights for survival



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 23: The 29th edition of the Dhenkanal Heritage Walks (DHW) recently turned the spotlight on Indipur village, revealing the slow decline of a 200-year-old craft. The centuries-old tradition of making bronze-brass utensils, locally called kansha pitala, is now at risk of extinction without urgent support from heritage lovers, cultural institutions, and the government.

Once an essential part of Odisha's social life, these utensils were treasured for their duraholds, bronze vessels were a common sight, and gifting a set to daughters during marriage was a cherished custom. Indipur's 200-year craft

Located in Odapada block of Dhenkanal, Indipur earned fame for its finely crafted utensils known as Petphula. For over two centuries, artisans here have produced vessels admired for their strength, intricate design, and distinct quality. During the heritage walk, organised under the patronage of Suresh Prasad Mishra, 40 participants toured 10 workshops, interacting with craftsmen and observing the intricate vessel-making process. They also visited warehouses and sales centres to understand the market's challenges.

Former sarpanch and walk explained that the craft, practiced by the Kansari community, once enjoyed thriving demand. Until the 1970s and 80s, nearly every household

relied on bronze utensils for daily use. Even during financial crises, families could mortgage or sell these items to tide over difficulties. Such was the value of kansha pitala that entire villages across Odisha gained fame for their unique designs

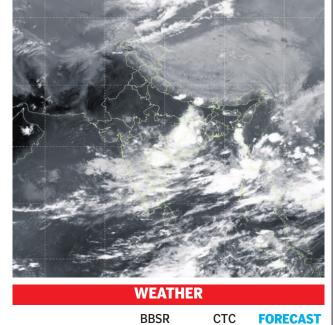
#### and superior finish. Declining craft, shrinking workforce

Today, however, the picture is bleak. Indipur, once bustling with hundreds of artisans, now has barely 30-40 families left in the trade. Escalating costs of raw materials, meagre returns for the labour-intensive process. and the flood of cheaper substitutes like stainless steel and fibre have forced younger generations to abandon the craft. Though urban consumers are showing a renewed interest in bronze utensils for health and heritage reasons, the dwindling pool of skilled workers threatens the survival of the art.

### **Call for revival**

Heritage walkers stressed the need for immediate government intervention, promotion through heritage tourism, and the creation of artisan cooperatives to sustain this dying tradition.





	WEATHI	ER	
	BBSR	CTC	<b>FORECAST</b>
/lax Temp	29.8°	30.2°	Generally cloudy
/lin Temp	25.1°	22.4°	sky with possibility of rain
lumidity	92%	92%	or thunderstorm
tainfall	1.9mm	2.8mm	

#### er said at a function in Bhupretations of religion were anbaneswar. She said the conflict ti-woman. Religious influence bility and health benefits. From in the world is between two ideas in governance had a negative royal kitchens to modest housecoordinator Raj Kishore Sahu secularism and fundamentalimpact on women across all

OUR Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-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-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book

#### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT BOOKING

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.

### 250gm brain tumour removed at MKCG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 23: Doctors at MKCG Medical College and Hospital here gave a new lease of life to a woman after successfully removing a 250 gram tumour from her brain.

Hospital sources said Shanti Mahankuda, 50, of Badagada area in Ganiam district had been unable to recognise people, respond to sounds, or interact normally due to the tumour. Her behavior reportedly resembled that of a mentally retarded patient. Family members brought her to MKCG Medical and Hospital September 11 for a check-up where tests confirmed the presence of a brain tumour.

She was admitted to the Neuro-Surgery department where a team of doctors led by HoD of neurosurgery, Rabi Narayan Panda, performed an eight-hour surgery to remove the tumour. The operation was declared a success

### **Eight schoolchildren** stranded in Koraput

KORAPUT: Incessant rains under the impact of a low-pressure system have thrown life out of gear in Koraput district, with Chaberi river flowing over a temporary bridge near water level caused disruptions in vehicular movement along the stretch, while at least eight children were stranded in Lendri Maliguda School Koraput Sadar Police and Kakiriguma Police are monitoring the traffic and ensuring that no untoward incident takes place. Officials have stationed personnel near the submerged bridge, where Chaberi water is flowing above five feet, to restrict any

PNN & AGENCIES

sources said.

thy's demise.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Chief Min-

ister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of

Opposition Naveen Patnaik and Sports

Minister Survabanshi Surai Tuesdav

mourned the death of Ariuna awardee

Satpathy passed away Monday morn-

ing at his residence in Berhampur town

in Ganjam district at the age of 73 years

due to old-age related ailment, family

Majhi, in a post on X, said: "I am

deeply saddened to learn about the

demise of Arjuna Award winner and

renowned sportsman Vijay Kumar

Satpathy, I pray that Lord Jagannath

grants peace to the departed soul and

provides strength to his family to bear

Leader of Opposition in Assembly

'I am saddened to learn about the

passing of Bijay Kumar Satpathy, a dis-

tinguished weightlifter honoured with

the Arjuna Award. He brought pride to

Odisha by earning fame at national and

international levels. His achievements

in the field of weightlifting will contin-

ue to inspire everyone. I pray for the

Naveen Patnaik also condoled Satpa-

weightlifter Bijay Kumar Satpathy.

# FERTILISER CRISIS Farmers block NH, flee with urea bags

Digapahandi, Sept 23: The ongoing fertiliser crisis took an ugly turn in Sanakhemundi block of Ganjam district Tuesday when some farmers stormed into a warehouse and fled with about 15 sacks of urea, even as several people including some police personnel sustained injuries during a protest, repots said.

Shortage of fertiliser has been a major issue in the state with farmers resorting to agitation, resulting in a law and order situation at several areas.

Acute crunch of urea fertilis er in Sanakhemundi triggered protests Tuesday as farmers staged a road blockaded near Malabhania village on National Highway-326 connecting Digapahandi and Rayagada Tuesday morning.

The blockade threw traffic out of gear as hundreds of vehicles were left stranded on both sides of the highway, until Digapahandi police intervened and persuaded them to withdraw the stir.

Later, farmers from Malabhanja, Radhanagar, Tileswar, Nuagarh, Ambagaon, Guma, Chanchadapalli, Kholadi Shundhipalli and other villages marched to Malabhanja Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) office



of fertilisers. When PACS secretary Bipin Sarangi arrived, they surrounded him, preventing him from alighting from his vehicle. Police had to escort him inside amid pushing and shoving by farmers.

As the situation worsened, Digapahandi IIC Prashant Kumar Patra reached the spot with a platoon of forces. Around noon, while tokens were being issued for fertiliser distribution, a group of farmers stormed the warehouse and fled with about 15 sacks of urea. In the scuffle, Sarangi, social worker Ashwini Kumar Rath and several police personnel sustained minor injuries.

Police later restored order and supervised fertiliser dis-

Sarangi said the cooperative had 226 sacks of urea in stock, with an additional 450 sacks arriving Tuesday morning for sale

### UTP dies in Anandapur Sub-Jail; probe begins

Anandapur, Sept 23: An undertrial prisoner (UTP) died under mysterious circumstances at Anandapur Sub-Jail in Keonjhar district Tuesday, sparking concern over safety and securi-

The deceased was identified as 28-year-old Abhi Munda, a native under Soso police station. His sudden death has thrown several questions. His

family members are curious about the circumstances leading to his death as Abhi had "no prior health complications".

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. According to sources, Abhi

had been lodged in the sub-jail since March 2024 in connection with a murder case. He developed fever Tuesday morning, followed by chest and abdominal pain. Jail authorities took him to the Anandapur sub-divi-



declared him dead on arrival.

The family has expressed doubts over the death of a healthy man, though no formal complaint has yet been on a report from jail author ities, police registered a case (23/25) and sent the body for postmortem.

Sub-jailor Sushil Kumar Panda said the prisoner had complained of chest and abdominal pain in the morning and was rushed to the hospital, where he died. "He had no history of illness. The exact cause of death will be clear after the postmor

tem report comes," Panda said.

### Rain cripples life in Bhograi

Bhograi, Sept 23: Relentless rain since Monday afternoon, triggered by a low-pressure system over Bay of Bengal, has paralysed life in Bhograi block of this district and neighbouring Medinipur in West Bengal.

District emergency officials said Bhograi block recorded 88 mm rain by 8am Tuesday, the highest in the district, while Bahanaga logged only 5 mm. Overall, the district received 260 mm rainfall. The weather office said the system is moving from West Bengal toward north Odisha and Jharkhand, raising fears of a seventh flood in Jalaka and Subarnarekha rivers, according to an Irrigation department official.

Most primary schools in the block were declared closed as attendance plunged, though colleges and schools holding exams continued. Roads, ponds and fields remained submerged



as standing paddy crops were battered by rainwater.

Meanwhile, Fisheries depart ment warned fishermen not to venture into the sea until Sep tember 27. Alerts were issued at Udaypur, Talsari, Digha, Shankarpur, Mandarmani, Dagara

In low-lying areas of north and south Bhograi, floodwater entered homes and village roads overflowed while markets wore a deserted look.

Heavy rain also delayed several down line trains from Howrah to Odisha, South Eastern Railway sources said.

In the Assembly, Bhograi MLA Goutam Buddha Das demanded immediate release of already sanctioned Rs 99.76 crore for stormwater drainage in 32 panchayats of south Bhograi.

The weather office also warned of another low-pressure system likely to form September 25, raising fears about a low-key Durga Puja.

Name of Work: HIRING OF TWO NOS.
MULTI UTILITY OF ROAD VEHICLE LIKE TATA 207-DI OR EQUIVALENT ALONG WITH DRIVER ROUND THE CLOCK FOR MOVEMENT OF SIGNALING STAFF AND MATERIALS UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SIGNAL)/BALUGAON, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SIGNAL) BRAHMAPUR FOR MAINTENANCE OF SIGNALING ASSETS, ATTENDING BREAKDOWN AND EN-ROUTE DETENTION

FOR PERIOD OF 33 MONTHS.

Tender Value: ₹38,94,000/-, EMD: ₹77,900/-Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,540/-

Bidding Start Date: 24.09.2025, Date & time of Tender Closing: 08.10.2025 at 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 etter head and received in time. All such manua offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-Tende documents of the above e-Tenders is available

website http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes nda issued for this tender

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) PR-623/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

### **DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE** SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, DHENKANAL

Phone & Fax : 95-6762-223175/227082, E-mail : <u>dpcdhenkssa@opepa.nic.in</u>

No.: 1715/ dtd: 23.09.2025

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)** 

No.n-165: Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed & credible manufactures/suppliers supply of 'Equipment's, TLMs and Furniture" for 09 no's Saksham Resource Centre at PM SHRI Schools of Dhenkanal District in two bid systems (technical & Commercial Bid) as detailed below

	Name of the Tender	Bid processing fees	Amount of EMD	Last Date & time of receipt of Bid	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid
	Procurement of different equipment's, TLMs & Furniture for SRC	Rs.1000/-	Rs.70000/-	14.10.2025 at 2.00 PM	15.10.2025 at 11.30 AM
ŀ	The detailed BID desurrent is quali				

gov.in. Interested and eligible manufactures/Suppliers may download BID DOCUMENT from the above website

and apply accordingly. Corrigendum / addendum, if required, will be uploaded in the above website. Hence potential bidders are requested to be in continuous touch with the above website The Tender Inviting Authority (TIA) reserves the right to accept / reject any full or part / all BID / cancel the

entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

PROFORMA 10-01

OIPR-27210/11/0004/2526

DEO-cum-DPC, Samagra Shiksha, Dhenkana



: From Dt.25.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M.

5. Last date of Time for receipt of: Dt.04.10.2025 up to 05:00 P.M.

Last date of seeking

Dt.03.10.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.

: Dt.06.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M

Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/Po

(1) Other details can be seen from DTCN available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website Sd./- Executive Engineer,

OIPR-25069/11/0036/2526

Rural Works Division, Padampur



#### INDIAN RAILWAYS SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAYS "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REGARDING ENERGISATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the complete section of the under noted section of the Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway that the 25000Volt, 50Hz AC Overhead traction wire will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated AS LIVE at all time and no unauthorized

#### person shall approach or work with proximity of the said overhead Station/Rly:- NSPCL Siding in side of RSP /ROU under CKP Division of South Eastern Railway. Name of the section Chainage (in Kilometers) Date of From (Ch: w.r.t take To (Ch;w.r.t take off off point of RSP line.) point of RSP line) gisation X/over in between RSP UP Line -1 & DN Loc No RSP-01/10 Loc No RSP-00/39 253.40 (Ch:01/234.00).

#### Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR-13/2025-26 The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate (EI work) bids in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE only. No. of work Tender Paper cost 03 Nos. works Work, to be remitted online only Class of Contractor As specified in the notice for the respective Work 10.00 hours of 25.09.2025 to 17.00 6 Availability of Bid documents in the website hours of 04.10.2025 Dt.06.10.2025 at 11:30 hours Date of opening of Technical Bid As specified in the notice to be remitted online only The Bidders shall have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://www.tendersodisha. gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject

Khariar (R&B) Division OIPR-34062/11/0041/2526

e-mail ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division

Anandapur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage ate tender through "e" Procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice Civil works in different Blocks of Keonjhar District under the Imp to CD & MIPSP for Name of the Work

he year 2025-26 No.of Works Varies from 6.61 lakhs to 33.61 lakhs Estimated Cos 4000/- & 6000/- (Non-refundable) Cost of Tender Paper Period of Completion: 3 (Three) & 4 (Four) Calendar months From dt.26.09.2025, 10.00 AM to Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through dt.10.10.2025, upto 5.00 P.M. 10.10.2025 (5.00 PM) Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal Date of Technical bid open-ing through online On dt.13.10.2025 at 10.00 AM in the Office of the S.E., M.I. Division, Anandapur Mode of payment of Bid Cost The Bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder: The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR

Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur, At/Po/ District- Keonjhar Name & Address of the OIT: Email ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in urther details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place http://tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Anandapur

(Ch:0/980.60) cabin /BNDM end. Loc. No. RSP-01/01 Loc.No. RSP-01/10 X/over in between & NSPCL take-off entry line at 'J' cabin /BNDM end. Loc. No.NSPCL-01/1 Loc. No.NSPCL-1/18 481.50 NSPCL entry line (Ch:01/612.00) (Ch:01/130.50) Loc. No.NSPCL-02/19 NSPCL entry line no.2 Loc. No.NSPCL-01/06 1255.50 (Ch:02/656.60) (Ch:03/480.50) Loc. No.NSPCL-01/18 Loc. No.NSPCL-3/9 (Ch:0/678.10) (Ch:02/059.60) (Pre- Trippler portion) NSPCL line no.2 Loc. No.NSPCL-01/17 Loc. No.NSPCL-01/28 229.50 (Ch:01/936.00) (Pre-Trippler portion) Loc. No.NSPCL-02/20 Loc. No.NSPCL-02/34 279.00 (Ch:2/452.10) (Pre- Trippler portion) (Ch:2/731.10) 706.50 NSPCL Line No.2(Pre-Loc. No.NSPCL-02/13 Loc. No.NSPCL-3/2 (Ch:2/309.50) (Ch:3/96.00) NSPCL line No.2 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/33 Loc. No.NSPCL 408.00 (Ch:4/05.00) 03/57A (Ch:4/413.00) (Post Tippler) mtr 238.50 Tippler Line no. 1 to (Ch:2/663.60) (Ch:2/902.10) mtr Post Tippler Line no.1 Loc. No.NSPCL-02/30 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/01 300.00 (Ch:1/711.50) (Ch:2/011.50) Tippler Line no.1 to mtr Post Tippler Line no.2 Loc. No.NSPCL-02/32 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/45 1070.00 (Ch:02/713.10) (Ch:3/783.00) (Post Tippler) 600.00 NSPCL line No.2 Loc. No.NSPCL-02/47 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/29 (Ch:2/888.60) (Ch:3/488.60) (Post Tippler) NSPCL line No.3 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/06 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/28 423.00 (Post Tippler) (Ch:3/046.10) (Ch:3/469.10). mtr 15. Loc. No.NSPCL-03/19 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/5 (Ch:3/284.60) (Ch:3/951.60) (Post Tippler) NSPCL line No.1 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/38 Loc. No.NSPCL-04/38 917.00 (Post Tippler) (Ch:3/388.00) (Ch:4/305.00). 17. NSPCL line No.3 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/41 Loc. No.NSPCL-03/58 200.00 (Ch:3/724.50) (Ch:3/924.50) (Post Tippler)

in between Loc No. NSPCL-01/10 to NSPCL-01/11 Sr.Divl.Elect.Engineer (TRD)

RITES/BBSR

#### PROFORMA 10-02 **INDIAN RAILWAYS INTRODUCTION OF ac 25 KV TRACTION** "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 kV ac electric traction over the section of connecting line between NSPCL in-plant yard and RSP marshalling yard at RSP plant end of NSPCL in-plant yard in side of RSP /ROU in CKP division of the S.E Railway. The height gauges have been erected at the "C' class manned level crossing between OHE Loc No. (NSPCL 2/10-NSPCL 2/12) and road crossings near Gate No.7 at between OHE Loc No. (NSPCL/1007-NSPCL/1008) and road crossing near take-off area at between OHE Loc No (NSPCL-1/5 - NSPCL 1/6) with clear height of 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances. The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows

Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway Line.

Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself

Extension of RSP marshalling yard SSP inside of RSP/ROU with 1no.CB &

1no.BM Arrangement to separate feed the power to NSPCL siding between

Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

RITES/BBSR Chakradharpur

# Organic farming opens new chapter in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 23: Agriculture, the backbone of Sundargarh's predominantly tribal population, is witnessing a new chapter with the introduction of aromatic and non-aromatic paddy cultivation by adopting organic methods.

Earlier, famers used chemical fertilisers and pesticides for a good harvest. However, these fertilisers and pesticides did more harm to the crops than increasing the yield. This prompted the state government to roll out this initiative to enhance farmers' income while promoting natural and organic methods of farming.

The new method of cultivation has so far been undertaken on 5,300 hectares of land across Lephripara, Balisankara, Bargaon, Rajgangpur, Subdega, Bonaigarh, and Gurundia blocks. This year, an additional 2,000 hectares in Sundargarh Sadar and Tangarpali blocks have also come under the organic farming.

eternal neace of his soul and express

my condolences to his grieving family

members," Patnaik said in a social me-

Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj

said: "Satpathy's demise has left an

irreplaceable void in the state's sports

arena. I pray for the eternal peace of the

departed soul and extend my heartfelt

Satpathy was a five-time national

champion in weight lifting from 1977-78

condolences to the bereaved family."

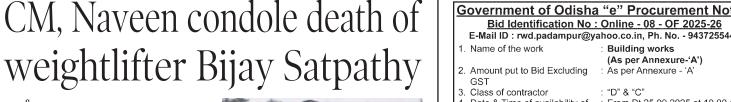
dia post.

Under the programme, farmers are provided with seeds, organic fertilisers, and financial incentives. In the first vear, each farmer receives 18 kg seeds and Rs 5,000 per hectare; in the second year, 10 kg seeds and Rs 4,000; and in the third year, 8 kg seeds along with Rs 3,500. To further secure farmer incomes, procurement is assured at a minimum support price of Rs 4.100 per quintal.

Traditional aromatic varieties such as Kala Champa, Ketaki, Juhi, Badshah Bhog, Sugandha, and Geetanjali are being cultivated under this scheme. Implementation is being carried out through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) under close supervision of chief district agriculture officer Lalbihari Mallik.

He, along with departmental officials, has been conducting frequent field visits to encourage farmers and assess ground realities. During his inspection at Pithabhui, he interacted with cultivators and expressed optimism that favourable climatic conditions this year would result in an excellent yield. He also urged farmers to make the most of the scheme and ensure its benefits are passed on to future generations.

With growing enthusiasm among farmers and the continuous guidance of agriculture officials, Sundargarh is poised to script a new horizon in organic paddy cultivation through this innovative blend of tradition and sustainability.



4. Date & Time of availability of

bids in the portal

Date & Time of technical bid

8. Name and address of the

Padampur. Dist. - Bargarh. Pin - 768036

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
KHARIAR (R.O.D.) DIVIDION (M. D.)

**KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION. KHARIAR E-Procurement Notice 13** 

**Invitation For Bids** 

any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION. ANANDAPUR e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.11\_/MIDA/2025-26

website http:/dowrorissa.gov.in.

OIPR-32108/11/0040/2526



Yoga is the union of that which has become separated in the play of the universe with its own true self, origin and universality.



SRI AUROBINDO

### Palestine Prospect

was a significant moment in the history of the struggle of Palestinian people to get a state of their own, when French President Emmanuel Macron officially recognised the Palestinian state at the United Nations on 22 September. Alongside France, which co-convened the meeting with Saudi Arabia in New York, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and Andorra said they too were recognising a Palestinian state. Leaders from Australia, Canada, Portugal and the United Kingdom, which had formally made the move to recognise Palestine a day earlier also spoke at the meeting. Macron, of course, echoed the sentiment of the leaders when he said they all gathered there because "the time has come" to do their best to preserve the possibility of a two-state solution, which almost got erased in the unprecedented offensive by Israel on Gaza in the wake of the dastardly terror attack by Hamas on innocent Israelis on 7 October, 2023. Already 147 of the 193 UN member states have formally recognised Palestinian statehood as of April. This means over 80 per cent of the international community now recognises the state of Palestine. However, the numbers do not matter much, since mere recognition is not enough. What is needed, if the goal of Palestinian statehood is to be achieved, is more action. The fact that France, England and Australia have formally endorsed the two-state solution carries some weight and makes Israel more isolated.

There has been tremendous domestic pressure on British and French governments to throw their weight behind the Palestinians' demand as Israel continues its war on Gaza, where more than 65,300 Palestinians have been killed and the enclave turned into rubble. Spain, Norway and Ireland recognised Palestinian statehood last year and Madrid imposed sanctions on Israel for its war on Gaza.

All the efforts would come to naught unless and until the US is convinced to approve the plan since it has the veto power in the UN Security Council to scuttle any move to make Palestine state a reality. This explains why Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Nentanyahu pooh-poohed the flurry of recognitions and called the exercise an encouragement to terrorists, meaning Hamas. US President Donald Trump on 23 September blasted the UN while addressing the UN General Assembly saying all that the international organisation does is "write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter. It's empty words and empty words don't solve wars.

Incidentally, the US did not attend the one-day summit hosted by France and Saudi Arabia which focused on plans for a two-state solution to the conflict. Fellow G7 states, Germany and Italy, were also absent. Japan and South Korea too are not ready to validate the twostate solution because of their ties with Israel. While pondering on this issue, it has to be kept in mind that the west European nations which have played a key role in accepting a two-state theory have problems amassed at home. The number of immigrants from the Middle East has increased in recent years, resulting in new political pressure groups forming in those countries and forcing the politicians to adopt

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas was too happy over the development and praised the countries that had recognised Palestine. He made his statement to the conference by video because he was denied a visa by the Trump administration to attend the UN-GA this week. Abbas assured the gathering that Hamas would not in any way be accommodated in the Palestinian state. Israel and the US boycotted the summit, with Israel's UN ambassador, Danny Danon, describing the event as a "circus."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the two-state solution the only viable path towards peace after years of failed negotiations and ongoing violence. He also said the statehood for Palestinians "is a right, not a reward," rejecting US and Israeli claims that it was a reward for Hamas.

Israel does not show any sign of being bothered by the fresh wave of recognition of the two-state solution which is in tatters in the face of its continued offensive in Gaza. The fact that major European powers have broken ranks may, it is hoped, at least put a halt to the ongoing attacks. On the same day as recognition was announced, at least 55 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza.

As long as it does not come with concrete actions, such as sanctions, arms embargo, and the implementation of a no-fly zone in occupied Palestine with a coalition of forces from the international community to alleviate the suffering of the people, there is no reason to believe that any tangible result would be visible. It seems highly improbable yet one has to wait and watch whether these countries will be logistically capable to take any hard action against Israel.

### WISDOM CORNER

The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.

CONFUCIUS

The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.

To the living we owe respect, but to the dead we owe only

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1869: Plummeting gold prices led to a panic known as Black Friday, when U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant, after learning of an attempt by Jay Gould and James Fisk to drive up the gold market, ordered \$4 million of government gold to be sold on the market.
- **1896:** American short-story writer and novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald—famous for his depictions of the Jazz Age, his most brilliant novel being The Great Gatsby (1925)—was born.
- **1938:** Don Budge won the U.S. Open, becoming the first player to win a Grand Slam title in tennis.
- **1948:** Honda Motor Company is founded by Soichiro Honda. The automobile manufacturer is also the world's largest producer of
- 1960: The first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Enterprise, was launched by the United States.
- 1973: Guinea-Bissau gains independence. Guinea-Bissau declared its independence from Portugal. The declaration was recognized almost a year later on September 10, 1974.
- 1991: American alternative rock group Nirvana released its breakthrough album Nevermind, which helped make grunge an international phenomenon and gave voice to Generation X.

FOCUS POLITICS

# BEATING THE FAR RIGHT

United States to Brazil and beyond, the far right is gaining ground. While the details vary from country to country, the pattern is strikingly consistent: the far right thrives when economies fail to deliver well-being, fairness, and security.

This is not a new observation. Antonio Gramsci, Karl Polanyi, and other twentieth-century thinkers diagnosed fascism as a reactionary response to capitalist instability and the progressive movements that had emerged to counter its excesses. In The Great Transformation, Polanyi argued that the "disembedding" of markets from social relations created fertile soil in which authoritarianism could take root.

In our own time, the New School for Social Research's Nancy Fraser has described how neoliberalism erodes social solidarity, fueling exclusionary populism. And other analysts stress that austerity and precarity leave citizens vulnerable to simple, scapegoat-driven narratives.

Thus, history demonstrates how mass unemployment, inflation, and declining living standards can incubate extremism, especially when combined with weak institutions, political polarization, or narratives that exploit grievance and fear. Just as the Great Depression paved the way for fascism in Europe, the 2008 global financial crisis created the conditions for nationalist backlash around the world.

Today, we face a new iteration of the same cycle. Although Germany initially proved resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine hit it especially hard. As economists Isabella M. Weber and Tom Krebs have shown, rising energy costs cascaded through the economy, with corporate price-setting amplifying inflationary pressures. As households struggled, the far-right Alternative für Deutschland surged in popularity.

In the US, decades of deindustrialization, wage stagnation, and rising inequality have eroded the idea that each generation will do better than the last. Former President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction



**Just as the Great Depression paved the** way for fascism in Europe, the 2008 global financial crisis created the conditions for nationalist backlash around the world

Act was an ambitious effort to revive industrial policy and boost green manufacturing, but its legacy proved short-lived. Donald Trump exploited the discontent over post-pandemic price increases and won the 2024 election by weaponizing alienation and grievance. scapegoating immigrants, globalization, and "urban elites."

Brazil illustrates another dynamic. Millions rose out of poverty under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's Workers' Party government in the 2000s, but many have seen those gains reversed, while others resent being excluded from social programs. The digital revolution is making work more precarious. Lula has tried to restore some of the lost gains since returning to office in 2023, but he faces a Congress dominated by the far right and its allies.

Even with Jair Bolsonaro sentenced for attempting a coup, other far-right leaders in Brazil also promise a return to order, stability, and religious faith. Their rhetoric emphasizes entrepreneurship and self-reliance. While emotionally appealing, the narrative that individuals are responsible for poverty cynically ignores the structural barriers that block socioeconomic mobility.

International shocks – pandemic-era supply-chain breakdowns, volatile energy markets, prolonged conflicts, the inflationary effects of climate change - have also fueled the rise of far-right forces. Such problems demand cooperation across borders, yet extremists exploit them to attack multilateralism, portraying it as a "globalist plot." Trump's punitive tariffs embody this response, presenting global trade as a zero-sum struggle in which foreigners are the enemies of American workers.

Such simplistic narratives

unite far-right movements more than any common set of policies. Each relies on a basic us-versusthem framing. As the Brazilian sociologist Esther Solano notes. these stories seduce those who feel abandoned, conjuring enemies out of immigrants, minorities, feminists, climate activists, and others. In a binary world of winners and losers, the complexity disappears in myths of bygone cultural purity and national greatness.

Countering these narratives requires more than a reasoned rebuttal. If the roots of the far right's ascendance are in great part economic, defeating it will be impossible without a new economic vision.

That means, for starters, tackling inflation at its source. The recent wave of inflation was less about overheated demand than about supply shocks, profiteering, and structural fragilities. Yet the economic orthodoxy still defaulted to interest-rate hikes and austerity, punishing workers and the most vulnerable. Governments must instead use fiscal tools - income support, tax relief on essentials, stronger public services - to shield households, while investing in domestic capacity in renewable energy, food security, and sustainable manufacturing. Corporate profiteering must be confronted head-on through antitrust enforcement, stronger

transparency rules, and penalties against price gouging.

A second priority is to invest massively (and strategically) in public infrastructure. From transportation and housing to health and education, the public realm must be rebuilt. Public ownership or regulation of key sectors would ensure that services are reliable, equitable, and climate-resilient. But investment alone is not enough. Institutions  $must\,be\,made\,more\,transparent,$ accountable, and participatory, restoring trust that governments are serving the many.

Third, we need a truly just transition to a low-carbon economy. Green industrial policy can generate jobs and revitalize left-behind regions while decarbonizing economic activity. But if left too much to the market, the green transition risks deepening inequalities. The energy transition must empower workers, not abandon them. Green jobs must be good jobs - secure, well-paid, unionized, and rooted in communities.

Fourth, we must restore trust in institutions. That means delivering tangible improvements in areas like affordable housing, public healthcare, and resilient infrastructure. It also means democratizing decision-making. Mechanisms like participatory budgeting, citizens' assemblies, and community-driven climate initiatives can allow people not just to witness change but to shape it.

Finally, countering the far right's simplistic narratives requires crafting bold new narratives. A message of cultural and political renewal must accompany economic reform. Where the far right offers fear, division, and scapegoats, democratic forces must offer solidarity, dignity, and hope, based on a narrative that emphasizes collective well-being, celebrates diversity, and makes progress feel possible and real. The far right feeds on despair, insecurity, and exclusion. Tinkering at the edges of neoliberalism will not deliver the security, dignity, and belonging required to starve it. For that, we need a new economic model. grounded in sustainability, justice, and solidarity

> The writer is Co-President of Global Fund for a New Economy. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Adriana Abdenur

**RIGHT FEEDS** 

ON DESPAIR,

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**THE FAR** 

**AND** 

### Don't upset your stomach: Eat dinner early



Melvin Durai

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I'VE NEVER **REALLY PAID MUCH ATTENTION** TO HOW HARD MY **STOMACH WORKS** 

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

y wife and I are trying our best to eat dinner  $\bot$  (or supper) early. This isn't easy, because we've been having late dinners for decades. We are no different from many Indian families, who are accustomed to eating dinner at 8 pm or later.

Americans, on the other hand, are used to eating dinner early — so early that it feels like a late lunch. Indian students attending American universities are often surprised to find that the dining halls begin serving dinner as early as 4 pm and stop as early as 7 pm The "Sorry, we're closed" sign is great for nearby restaurants.

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar is a big proponent of early dinners, believing it contributes to better sleep and good health. Speaking at a recent book launch. Kumar shared some of his habits, including fasting on Mondays and completing dinner by 6:30 pm. "Why is it important to eat

at 6:30 in the evening?" he asked. "It is very important for your body because when we go to sleep at night, our eyes are resting, our legs are resting, our hands are resting. every part of our body is resting. But what is not resting is your stomach because we have eaten food late." The stomach continues to digest food through the night, he said. "By the time you get up, it is time for the stomach to relax. But when we get up, we eat our breakfast and again the poor stomach is working. It is working very hard."

I have to admit that I've never really paid much attention to how hard my stomach works. When I'm hungry, I just eat. I don't say to myself, "Oh no. My stomach is not going to be happy about this."

I do know, of course, that my

stomach sometimes gets upset. But I didn't think it might be getting upset about working too hard. I didn't think it might be envious of Akshay Kumar's stomach.

When my feet are tired, I sit down and put my feet up. When my eyes are tired, I try to get some sleep. When my brain is tired, I switch to AI. But when my stomach is tired, I usually have no idea.

Many experts agree with Kumar that dinnertime should not be too close to bedtime. Valter Longo, director of the Longevity Institute at the University of Southern California in the US, advises finishing dinner at least three hours before your usual bedtime. That could be as late as 9 pm if you fall asleep at midnight. However, it's important to give your stomach a long break between meals, he says

Eating three hours before

goal for my wife and I than completing dinner by 6:30 pm, as Kumar suggests. Part of the problem is that we usually like to have a teatime snack after work, then go to the gym to work out. We don't like to exercise on a full stomach, so we eat dinner only after returning, usually around 8:30 pm,

sometimes as late as 9:30 pm.

All I can do is bend over slightly and whisper: "Dear Stomach, please don't be upset. I know I'm eating late, but I promise to not eat too much — just enough to give me the energy to watch three hours of TV. I also promise to give you a break of at least 8 hours before giving you the task of digesting breakfast. I want you to know that I appreciate you. I know you get upset sometimes, but you never stop working hard. I wish I could say the same about my brain."

### Collateral damage

are most welcome to contribute letters requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

Sir, This refers to "Pak strikes kill 24 citizens," Orissa POST, Sept 23. The hapless residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan's troubled northwestern province, are bearing the brunt of a ruthless military operation ostensibly aimed at eliminating Tehreek-e-Taliban militants. Alleged bombings by Pakistan Air Force jets in the Tirah valley have reportedly killed at least thirty civilians, including women and children. On the pretext of combating militancy, Pakistan's military and political leadership aim to undermine the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in the province. Airstrikes, abuses and displacement expose the state's readiness to treat its own territory as hostile. Ironically, a country long accused of sponsoring cross-border militancy now urges the Taliban to prevent Afghan soil being used for terror. The mayhem in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should compel India to pressure Pakistan's allies — China, the US and Turkey — to stop looking the other way and demand full accountability.

 ${\it N}$  Sadhasiva Reddy, BANĞALORE

### Security alignments

Sir, The defence pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan formalises a longstanding military and nuclear partnership, signaling a significant shift in West Asian politics. The agreement's nuclear dimension is particularly notable; Pakistan has pledged to make its nuclear programme available to Saudi Arabia. This is a continuation of a historical quid pro quo, where Saudi financial support helped Pakistan sustain its nuclear ambitions, especially during sanctions. The timing of this public announcement, coming after a perceived US-sanctioned Israeli bombing of Qatar, suggests a growing distrust among Gulf monarchies toward Washington's security guarantees. This formal alliance is a clear response to heightened security threats for Saudi Arabia, particularly from Iran-backed Houthis on its southern border. By publicly solidifying their military cooperation, Riyadh is seeking more robust deterrence capabilities, especially against potential nuclear threats. The pact's implications for India are nuanced. While it is not directly aimed at New Delhi, it could have collateral effects. The cordial relationship between India and Saudi Arabia is unlikely to change, given their strong trade ties and growing military cooperation. However, given India's friendly relations with Israel, this could potentially diminish India's strategic standing in the region's calculus.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH



## TWO STATES





### Arunachal hydro project gets environmental clearance

The project, to be developed by Oju Subansiri Hydro Power Corporation Pvt Ltd, envisages generating 2,220 megawatts of electricity through a run-of-the-river scheme with daily peaking capability

Many demanded that a fair

share of the electricity gener-

ated be provided to the local

population, according to the

The public hearing also re-

flected mistrust over whether

corporate social responsibility

funds would actually reach lo-

cal schools and health facilities.

large dams in the fragile Hima-

layan ecosystem could destabi-

lise slopes, alter riverine ecolo-

gy and endanger biodiversity.

seismic zone V, the most vul-

nerable category.

Assam.

The Subansiri basin falls in

Studies by the South Asia

Network on Dams, Rivers

and People (SANDRP) have in

the past highlighted repeated

monsoon damages at hydro-

power projects in the region,

including the Subansiri Low-

er project downstream, calling

them "ticking water bombs" for

Ecologists have warned that

minutes of the meeting.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The central government has granted environmental clearance to the Oju hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district, paving the way for the construction of one of India's largest hydropower ventures in a geologically sensitive and strategically important region bordering China.

The project, to be developed by Oju Subansiri Hydro Power Corporation Pvt Ltd, envisages generating 2,220 megawatts of electricity through a run-of-theriver scheme with daily peaking capability.

It involves a 100-metre-high concrete gravity dam, a 14.12 km headrace tunnel and an underground powerhouse complex. With an estimated cost of over ₹24,942 crore, the dam is expected to produce 8,402 million units of electricity annual-

ly, according to the minutes of the meeting of the environment ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee held September 12.

The Oju project is the largest in a series of dams proposed on the Subansiri River, often described as the lifeline of Assam, and has been in the pipeline for nearly two decades. It has stirred concerns over its social and environmental con-

The entire 750 hectares required for the project is forest land, and though only nine families are listed for displacement. the impact on local tribal communities, who constitute nearly 98 per cent of the population in the area, is expected to be sig-

The public hearing held in September 2024 saw residents flag issues ranging from inadequate compensation to risks for fisheries, ecology, and sa-

The EAC itself deliberated extensively on the risks of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), noting that potential peak discharges from upstream glacial lakes could overwhelm dam structures. It directed the developer to

include GLOF scenarios in the design flood estimates, establish a real-time early warning system and conduct community

The committee has also mandated a post-commissioning environmental impact study after

While there are no national parks or wildlife sanctuaries within 10 km of the project site, the dam will submerge 43.66 hectares of riverine forest and alter flows over an 18.6 km stretch.

Nearly 17 lakh cubic metres of muck will be generated during construction, for which disposal sites covering 93 hectares have been identified.

The project proponent claimed that mitigation measures such as compensatory afforestation on 1,500 hectares and e-flow releases higher than those recommended in cumulative impact studies will protect river ecology.

About 1,500 jobs are expected during construction, with 300 permanent posts. The project proponent says the influx of workers and development of townships will stimulate trade and allied activities in the remote district.

Environmental groups and student bodies in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have consistently campaigned against large dams on the Subansiri, warning of downstream flooding and ecological collapse.

# **Zubeen's farewell draws** record-breaking sea of grief

Guwahati, Sept 23: Singer Zubeen Garg's body was cremated with full state honours in the sylvan surroundings of Kamarkuchi on the outskirts of Assam's Guwahati Tuesday amid chanting of Vedic hymns as thousands of mourners gathered to bid farewell to the popular crooner.

His sister Palme Borthakur and music composer Rahul Gautam, a protege of the singer, lit the pyre, amid gun salutes.

They went around the pyre seven times as priests guided them, and all present at the site. most with moist eyes, stood up to pay their last respect to the singer who mesmerised people with his more than 38,000 songs over three decades.

Zubeen's wife, Garima Saikia Garg, was sitting on the side of the platform where his last rites were performed, and was seen sobbing all through the rituals as the singer's friend and Union Minister Pabitra Margherita consoled her.

Garg's 85-year-old ailing father, Mohini Mohan Borthakur, was sitting at a distance surrounded by family members.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, also a Zubeen fan, was seen standing near the platform where the pyre was lit. As the smoke from the flames

flared up, slogans like 'Zubeen, Zubeen' and 'Jai Zubeen da' reverberated in the air, and people were heard singing his song Mayabini Ratir buku'.

This continued all through the rituals held in an emo-

A large number of people gathered around the cremation site since Monday night, and the entire area reverberated with slogans like 'Long Live Zubeen', 'Jai Zubeen da'

tionally charged atmosphere.

amid chanting of Vedic hymns

The family performed certain

Vedic rituals while Union min-

isters Sarbananda Sonowal,

Kiren Rijiju and the chief min-

ister placed wood on the pyre.

A branch of the sandalwood

tree, which Zubeen had plant-

ed on his birthday in 2017, was

and blowing of conch shells.

and sounded the bugle.

and Queen Elizabeth II A large number of people

After the tributes were paid to gathered around the cremation the popular singer, the Assam site since Monday night, and Police gave him the gun salute the entire area reverberated with slogans like 'Long Live Zubeen'. 'Jai Zubeen da'. Earlier, the mortal remains People were heard humming of Garg were taken to a platform and placed on the pyre

his song 'Mayabini Ratir buku' which the singer had once said should be sung at his funeral. Meanwhile, the second post-mortem examination of

Garg's body was conducted at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital Tuesday morning. The first autopsy was con-

ducted in Singapore, where he died September 19 while swim ming in the sea.

### Rajasthan High Court: Ex-servicemen can avail job reservations only once



Jaipur, Sept 23: The Rajasthan High Court has ruled that ex-servicemen are entitled to job reservation benefits only once, clarifying that the quota is meant to support their initial transition into civilian government jobs, and not to aid in career progression.

The judgement came from a bench headed by Justice Anand Sharma, who dismissed a petition filed by former soldier Narendra Singh

Singh had secured a govern-

ment job as a Village Development Officer (VDO) under the ex-servicemen quota and later applied for the Junior Accountant Recruitment 2023 under the same category. The petitioner argued that he should be allowed to apply again under the quota because he was serving on probation, which he claimed was a temporary position. He also highlighted that the Junior Accountant post offered a higher pay scale than his current role.

However, the court rejected these arguments, stating that probation does not equate to temporary, casual, or contractual employment.

"An employee appointed to a substantive post, even if on probation, cannot be treated as a temporary or contract employee. His appointment has been made through due process," the The bench made it clear that

the reservation for ex-servicemen is a one-time benefit to help them secure initial employment in government service. Once an ex-serviceman is regularly appointed to a post, they are no longer eligible to claim reservation benefits for other roles.

"The comparative attractiveness or higher pay of another post does not entitle a person to reuse reservation benefits that have already been exhausted," the court stated

Dismissing the petition, the court emphasised that accepting such arguments would lead to misuse of the reservation system and deprive genuinely unemployed ex-servicemen of opportunities.

The ruling underscores the principle that job reservation is meant to assist in re-employment after military service and not to provide repeated advantages in the competition for

### SALMAN KHAN'S BLACKBUCK POACHING CASE

### Rajasthan HC hears 2 crucial pleas



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 23: The long-running blackbuck poaching case, which has spanned over two decades, returned to the spotlight Tuesday as the Rajasthan High Court heard two crucial petitions -- one filed by Bollywood actor Salman Khan challenging his conviction, and the other by the state government seeking permission to appeal the acquittal of the co-accused.

The matter was heard in the court of Justice Sandeep Shah, but due to a request from the public prosecutor for more time, the court adjourned the hearing. The next date has been scheduled eight weeks from now.

The case dates back to October 1998, during the shooting of the Bollywood film 'Hum

Saath Saath Hain' near Kankani village in Jodhpur. Salman Khan was accused of poaching a blackbuck, an endangered species protected under the Wildlife Protection Act. The case was filed after a complaint by members of the Bishnoi community, which holds the blackbuck sacred and has played a major role in pursuing justice. The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court in Jodhpur found Salman Khan guilty under the Wildlife Protection Act April 5. 2018. He was sentenced to five years in prison and fined

However, five other co-accused -- Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Sonali Bendre, Neelam, and Dushvant Singh -- were acquitted due to lack of evidence. All the actors had been questioned multiple times over the years

various courts. Today's hearing involved two major petitions: Salman Khan's appeal challenging his conviction and seeking acquittal, and the state government's Leave to Appeal, which was a request to appeal the acquittal of the other co-accused.

Since "leave to appeal" is not automatically granted in cases where the accused has been acquitted, the state government must first obtain the court's permission before an appeal can move forward.

"The government believes the acquittals were unjustified and wants the High Court to re-examine the evidence," said a legal source familiar with the matter.

Both petitions were considered together for judicial efficiency, but further arguments will now take place after the court's eight-week adjourn

The matter will now resume later this year, unless further delays occur.

In the aftermath of the 1998 incident, the Bishnoi community -- known for its strong conservation values -- not only pursued the case relentlessly but also demanded a memorial at the site where the blackbuck was killed. That memorial has now been constructed and stands as a symbol of the community's deep connection to wildlife protection.

### Nagaland sets up panel to review decades-old reservation policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

placed on the pyre.

Kohima, Sept 23: The Nagaland government Monday constituted a commission to examine the decades-old reservation policy of the state, according to a notification.

The panel was set up two days after an association comprising five major tribes of the northeastern state set a 10-day ultimatum to the government to address the issue. The protestors argued that

the policy, which has been in olace since 1977, no longer reflects the current socio-economic and educational realities of the various communities in the The Commission, headed

by retired bureaucrat R Ramakrishnan, would review the job reservation policy in the government sector and recommend a framework for equitable representation of various tribes, stated the notification.

The five-member panel comprises senior officials from the Home, Law & Justice, Higher & Technical Education and the Personnel and Administrative Reforms departments.

The Commission has been tasked with wide-ranging terms of reference, including examining constitutional and statutory provisions governing reservation, assessing educational and economic parameters, reviewing the impact of the existing policy, and consulting apex tribal bodies, students' unions employees' associations, and

other stakeholders. According to the notification, the panel would also recommend criteria for determining backwardness, distribution of reservation quotas, monitoring mechanisms, and timelines for implementation. The Commis sion is expected to submit its

report within six months. The five-tribe Core Committee on Reservation Policy (CoRRP), representing the Ao Angami, Lotha, Rengma, and Sumi tribes, set a 10-day ultimatum to the state government to come forward for redressing their grievances over the mat

ter September 20. The group had warned that failure to respond within the stipulated period would compel them to impose total shut-down from October 1 in eight dis tricts inhabited by them - Ko hima, Dimapur, Mokokchung, Wokha, Niuland, Chumouked ima. Tseminyu and Zunheboto

The CoRPP has been pressing for total review of the reserva tion policy effective from the

## Sambhar Lake witnesses early arrival of migratory birds

**Experts said that** heavy monsoon rains and the inflow from seasonal rivers have raised the water level of the lake by five to seven feet at several points, which is the highest in recent years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 23: Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan has received high inflow of water due to heavy rainfall this year leading to an early arrival of migratory birds ahead of winter, experts said.

The unusual phenomenon has brought cheer to bird watchers though concerns over avian botulism, a bacterial infection, have also resurfaced. However, the forest department is on alert. officials said.

Experts said that heavy monsoon rains and the inflow from seasonal rivers have raised the water level of the lake by five to seven feet at several points. which is the highest in recent

Bird expert Gaurav Dadhich said the water level at Sambhar dam and adjoining areas is significantly high and this has created a favourable habitat for migratory birds.



"The migration that usually begins in October has already started, and currently around 40,000 to 50,000 flamingos are present. This number is expected to rise substantially in the

coming months," he claimed. The forest department said precautions are being taken to prevent avian botulism- a bacterial infection that led to the

death of thousands of birds in

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Jaipur, V Ketan Kumar said that staff have been deployed for ground patrolling and drone surveillance, while the quality of lake water is being monitored regularly.

'We are closely watching migration patterns and coordinating with NGOs and bird watchers. An SOP has also been issued to deal with any suspected case of infection," he said.

Sambhar Lake, spread over nearly 240 square kilometres across Jaipur, Nagaur and Ajmer districts, attracts thousands of migratory birds every vear. Birds include flamingos. pelicans, shovelers and waders, among others.

### WATCO OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER WATCO DIVISION-II. BHUBANESWAR

Near Rajiv Bhawan, Unit - V, Bhubanesẃar - 751001, Odisha, India Telefax: +91-674-2390322, E-mail: gmdivtwowatco@gmail.com NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** Dtd. 22.09.2025

system from Toilet Blocks, Craf Pavilion, Lingaraj Plaza & Y Junction etc. at different location under Ekamra Projects, BBSR

**B** Class

02. Estimate Cost

03. Period of Completion 04. Class of Contractor

05. Date & time of availability of

bid document in the portal bids in the portal

07. Last date & time of seeking

ww.tendersorissa.gov.in"

OIPR-13089/11/0029/2526

08. Date & time of opening of bids 09. Name and address of the

clarification Officer Inviting Bid

At 12.30 P.M. of 16.10.2025 General Manager, WATCO Division - II, BBSR

02 (Two) Months

5.00 P.M. of 15.10.2025 5.00 P.M. of 15.10.2025

5.00 P.M. of 04.10.2025

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https:// Sd./- General Manager

WATCO Division-II, Bhubaneswar

From 11.00 A.M. of Dt.25.09.25 to

# national



For India, self-reliance does not mean isolation; rather, we aim to develop strategic autonomy under Aatmanirbharta. We want to develop capabilities that allow us to defend our nation independently while maintaining engagement with global partners

### **CLIMATE CRISIS: SC SEEKS HIMACHAL PRADESH'S STAND**

The Supreme Court Tuesday directed the Himachal Pradesh government to answer whether it had a "climate change policy" aside from explaining its disaster management plans in view of the state's "fragile" ecological system



done on a war footing. There is loss of lives and assistance will be given to the kin of the deceased. The government stands firmly

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHA DY CM

The Centre should immediately announce an assistance package of Rs 10,000 crore for flood-hit Marathwada



UDDHAV THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) CHIEF

Friends. we have to start a new initiative. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inspired us with



ASHWINI VAISHNAW | INFORMATION AND

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Custodial death: SC raps CBI**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday chided the CBI for not arresting absconding police officials accused of a vouth's custodial death in Madhva Pradesh and warned of contempt action. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan was hearing a contempt plea of the mother of the 24-vearold victim alleging noncompliance of top court's May 15 order, transferring the investigation from Madhya Pradesh Police to the CBI.

### Two people dead in building collapse

Indore: Two people from a family died after a threestory building collapsed following rains in Indore's Ranipura area Monday night while 12 others were injured, officials said. A five-hour rescue operation ended early Tuesday morning, and 12 people trapped under the debris were pulled out and admitted to the governmentrun Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH).

#### **Cattle trader** beaten to death

Jaipur: A man from Madhva Pradesh's Mandsaur district died of a beating he got while he was ferrying cattle bought at a fair in Bhilwara, police Tuesday said. It was alleged that Aasif alias Sheru was thrashed by unknown men over suspicion of cow smuggling. Sheru succumbed at SMS hospital in Jaipur, where he was rushed in a wounded state, police said. His cousin, Manzoor Pemla, who was with him at the time, was also assaulted, but he managed to escape.

### **BSc student shot** in Gorakhpur

Gorakhpur (UP): A 25-yearold Bachelor of Science (BSc) student was shot at in Pathra Badgo village, leaving him critically injured, police said Tuesday. The accused has been arrested by the police. The victim, identified as Aman Maurva, was chased by a group of people Monday before they allegedly opened fire. He collapsed on the spot and was rushed to the BRD Medical College, where his condition remains serious. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhinay Tyaqi said the accused, identified as Prashant Singh (30) of Azamgarh, who fired five bullets on Maruva's back, has been arrested. Police also recovered a country-made pistol and a mobile phone from the accused.

# 10 dead as torrential rain paralyses Kolkata

Kolkata, Sept 23: Heavy overnight rainfall that continued till Tuesday morning brought Kolkata to a grinding halt, with families waking up to kneedeep water, vehicles stranded and pedestrians struggling to wade through flooded streets.

At least 10 people were killed, nine of them due to electrocution, as torrential overnight rain -- the heaviest in nearly four decades -- battered the metropolis and adjoining districts, crippling transport and forcing the state government to shut schools and advance Durga Puia holidays.

The downpour -- 251.4 mm in less than 24 hours -- was the highest since 1986 and the sixth-highest single-day rainfall in the last 137 years, only behind the record 369.6 mm in 1978, 253 mm in 1888, and 259.5

It turned arterial roads into rivers, snapping metro and train services, and throwing air travel into disarray as the city gasped for normalcy ahead of West Bengal's biggest festival, Durga Puja, next week. In some neighbourhoods

the downpour touched 332 mm within hours. Only the infamous 1978 floods, with 369.6 mm of rain, were worse.

From flooded courtyards on MG Road in the north to waterlogged lanes of Jodhpur Park in



#### Eight killed in Marathwada

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Eight persons died, while hundreds of houses were damaged over the last four days as rains wreaked havoc in the usually parched Marathwada region of Maharashtra, officials said Tuesday. The state cabinet reviewed the situation at a meeting in Mumbai, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis assuring that the government was working to provide relief to farmers and others. More than 750 houses and crops on over 33,000 hectares were damaged in Dharashiv district, where helicopters and boats had to be deployed to rescue stranded

the south, the deluge spared no corner of the city.

people, they said.

Across the city, life ground to a halt. Metro services were

suspended on major stretches, Eastern Railway halted operations on the Sealdah south section, and Circular Railway tracks lay underwater.

At the airport, at least 30 flights were cancelled and more than 30 others delayed, leaving hundreds stranded.

On the streets, EM Bypass, AJC Bose Road and Central Avenue vanished under muddy torrents, buses stalled like dead hulks and cars half-submerged in filthy floodwater.

"I had to walk nearly 3 km in waist-deep water from Lake Gardens to Rashbehari Avenue," said office worker Rupa Chatterjee, drenched and exhausted.

"I don't know how I'll get back home tonight," she added. In central Kolkata's MG Road, families carried furniture upstairs while children splashed in murky water filling their courtyards.

At College Street and Gariahat, the pavements became makeshift graveyards of livelihoods as traders, their faces etched with despair, piled sodden books that bled ink, garments dripping in limp heaps, and lifeless electronics spilling out of broken cartons, each discarded item a reminder of earnings washed away before puja. "This is the time we earn most before puja," bookseller Ashok Dutta said, adding, "Now everything is gone."

### Time has come to decriminalise defamation law: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Supreme Court has observed that the time has come to decriminalise the defamation law, while agreeing to examine a plea by the Foundation for Independent Journalism seeking to quash the summons issued to it in a criminal defamation case.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notice to former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professor Amita Singh.

The apex court passed the remark while hearing the plea of the organisation, which runs The Wire news portal, and its political affairs editor Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprashasta.

"I think time has come to decriminalise all this..." Justice Sundresh observed orally.

The top court was hearing a plea challenging a trial court order issuing summons to them in a defamation case filed by the former JNU professor over the publication of the dossier.

The complainant had argued before the lower court that the accused people had launched a hate campaign against her to malign her reputation.

This is the second round of litigation on the alleged defamatory report published by the portal. The Delhi High Court in 2023 had quashed the summons issued to them. The top court, however, reversed the order and remanded the matter for fresh consideration before the trial court. The trial court again issued a summons, and the high court also upheld it.



Pradeshik Armed Constabulary (PAC) officials during the 28th Inter-Battalion Shooting and Alarm Efficiency Race Competition of the Western Zone PAC and Shooting Competition, at Matlabpur Firing Range, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

### **SNIPPETS**

### **ED** attaches assets worth over ₹7cr against Satyendar Jain

**NEW DELHI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday said it has attached fresh assets worth Rs 7.44 crore of companies "beneficially owned and controlled" by AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain as part of an alleged "benami" assets-linked moneylaundering case. The action came after the Delhi High Court ruled in an income-tax department case recently that the AAP leader's close associates -- Ankush Jain and Vaibhav Jain -- were his "benami holders' and deposited Rs 7.44 crore "in cash" at the Bank of Baroda's Bhogal branch here as advance tax under the Income Disclosure Scheme (IDS) of 2016, the federal agency said in a statement.

### BJP MP's wife duped of ₹14L, money recovered

BANGALORE: In a swift operation, the Bengaluru police have recovered Rs 14 lakh which BJP Chikkaballapura MP K Sudhakar's wife Preeti had lost in a cyber fraud through 'digital arrest'. According to police, the incident took place August 26. Digital arrest is a cyber scam in which fraudsters impersonate police or enforcement agency officials and threaten victims through WhatsApp video calls, claiming they are booked in criminal cases. Preeti (44), resident of Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru, received a WhatsApp call from cyber fraudsters posing as officials from the Mumbai Cyber Crime Police.

### **Congress' Patna CWC to focus on Bihar poll campaign**

PATNA: As it gets battle-ready for the Bihar polls, the Congress will hold a meeting of its working committee here Wednesday, for the first time in the state in the post-Independence era, to brainstorm on the election strategy and ramp up its attack against the BJP over alleged "vote chori". It would be an extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, with permanent and special invitees, the party's chief ministers, Pradesh Congress Committee presidents and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders participating. Sources said a couple of resolutions are expected to be passed at the crucial meeting, with an eye on the upcoming Bihar polls.

# Centre assigns ministries for disaster management



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: To effectively handle disasters, the government has designated specific ministries and departments for their monitoring, early warning, prevention, mitigation and preparedness, with the aim to ensure zero or minimum inconvenience and casualties due to the disasters.

While avalanche, oil spills will be handled by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of

Earth Sciences will provide early warning for the cold wave, cyclone, tornado, earthquake, heat wave, lightning, tsunami, hail storms and heavy rainfall and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will take care biological disasters, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been given responsibility for frost and cold wave, drought, hailstorm and pest attack, the

Ministry of Jal Shakti will handle floods, glacial lake outburst flood and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will take care urban floods (excluding early warning).

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has been given the responsibility for forest fire, industrial and chemical disasters, the Ministry of Mines will handle landslides and the Department of Atomic Energy will take care nuclear and radiological emergencies.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (ha) of sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Disaster Management Act. 2005 (53 of 2005), the central government hereby notifies... the Ministries or Department of the government of India... which shall have the responsibility for monitoring, early warning, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and capacity building with regard to disaster arising from various hazards...," the notification said.

### Acharya Balkrishna ranked among top 2% scientists globally

Haridwar, Sept 23: Acharya Balkrishna has once again been recognised among the top 2% of scientists globally, according to a prestigious list published by a Stanford University research group in collaboration with Elsevier. This remarkable achievement is a proud mo ment for Patanjali, Ayurveda, and the nation, showcasing how India's ancient wisdom can be successfully blended

with modern science. Acharva's dedication to re search has led to the publication of over 300 research articles in international journals. Under his visionary leader ship, Patanjali has developed more than 100 evidence-based Avurvedic medicines, offering safe, natural alternatives to al

lopathic treatments. His authorship of over 120 books on Yoga and Avurveda as well as his work on more than 25 ancient manuscripts highlights his unwavering commitment to preserving and advancing traditional knowledge. His groundbreaking Herbal Encyclopaedia and the Herbal World in Malagon, Uttarakhand, have become valuable resources, earning international praise and raising awareness about the power of natural herbs.

Yogrishi Swami Ramdev Jee praised Acharya Jee's efforts in validating Ayurveda with sci entific rigor, stating that this recognition marks a historic step in showcasing India's re search strength and leadership in natural medicine.

Dr Anurag Varshney, Chief Scientist at Patanjali, expressed deep gratitude for Acharva's mentorship and lauded his efforts to integrate Ayurveda with modern science, inspiring a movement towards a healthier and self-reliant India.

## Poonam Pandey dropped from Ramleela role after outrage

IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO PANDEY, THE COMMITTEE SAID THE DECISION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS DISRESPECT TOWARDS HER BUT AS A STEP TO UPHOLD THE IDEALS OF LORD RAM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 23: Actress Poonam Pandey will no longer be a part of the world-famous Luv Kush Ramlila to be held at the Red Fort grounds in Delhi this year.

The actress was earlier supposed to essay the role of Mandodari, Raavan's wife. The committee announced this decision after receiving objections from various sections of society. Committee President Arjun Kumar and General Secretary Subhash Goyal stated that Poonam Pandey had initially agreed to portray Mandodari at the committee's invitation.

However, after her name was announced, several institutions and groups raised objections. According to the committee, her playing Mandodari could hinder the core purpose of the Ramlila, which is to spread the message of Lord Shri Ram to society. Therefore, the committee



unanimously decided that the role of Mandodari will instead

be performed by another artist this year.

The committee further extended best wishes for Poonam Pandev's future and expressed hope that she would understand and accept this decision.

On the 22nd of September, Poonam had shared a video talking about her participation in the Luv Kush Ram Leela this

In the clip, Poonam was heard saying, "In Delhi's Red Fort, the world-famous Love Kush Ram Leela, I am getting an opportunity to play the role of Mandodari. I am very excited and very happy." Poonam, highlighting the importance of the role, said, "Mandodari is a very important role, a very important character. Mandodari was Ravan's wife. I am looking forward to playing this beautiful character.'

She also shared that she will be fasting for nine days to keep her mind and body clean. "I have also decided

that, since Navratri starts tomorrow, I am planning to fast for 9 days so that my hody and mind remain more cleansed, and I can play this beautiful character well. Jai Shri Ram," she revealed. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), earlier last week, had objected to Poonam Pandey portraying Mandodari, Raavan's wife in the Ramleela.

The organisation claimed her controversial public image was objectionable due to her stunts, like the 2011 promise to strip if India won the ODI World Cup and the 2024 fake death announcement, claiming that such acts could hurt the sentiments of devotees.

This year's Ramleela, beginning September 22 at the Red Fort, will feature actors such as Arya Babbar as Ravan, Kinshuk Vaidva as Ram, Rini Arva as Sita, and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari as Parashurama.

# national



56.62 per cent cesarean deliveries. This is a dangerous trend. These doctors are also, everywhere, for money. **Instead of practicing safe** delivery, they are encouraging caesarean (operations)

### HALWA, PURIS BEHIND DEATH OF 20 COWS IN HARYANA?

Over 20 stray cows were found dead here during the past three days, with health complications due to excessive consumption of food items like 'halwa', 'poori' offered by people a suspected reason behind the deaths



My meeting with Dhinakaran has been transparent I had already said that I would follow

calls by meeting him in person. Accordingly, I met him at his residence and urged him to reconsider his decision and rejoin the NDA

K ANNAMALAI | EX CHIEF OF TN BJF

important thing to make India Vishwaguru is knowledge. Every country that progresses in the world does so

because of knowledge and research. A lot of research is going on in defence, agriculture, and information technology sectors NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER



jumped to 38th rank in 2025. This indicates the potential that our people have. I am a firm believer that India will be among the top 10 countries in the next three years and dominate innovation in the world looking at the performance

and abilities of our youth AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Schoolgirl killed as e-rickshaw overturns

New Delhi: A 16-year-old schoolgirl was killed and two others injured after an e-rickshaw overturned allegedly due to rash driving in central Delhi's Paharganj area, police said Tuesday. Earlier, police had stated that three people had been injured. E-rickshaw driver Dilip, 46, a local, was caught by passersby and handed over to the police. He was ferrying one man and two schoolgirls. According to police, the accident occurred Monday at around 7.30 am in front of Paharganj Police Station.

#### AAP, BJP spar over attack on activist

Panaii: The Opposition Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday said the ruling BJP was shifting public focus from the attack on activist Rama Kankonkar by alleging AAP MLA Venzy Viegas trespassed into the saffron party's office in Panaji during a protest. Goa AAP vice-president Chetan Kamat responded to state Bharativa Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) chief Tushar Kelkar's claim that Viegas and others trespassed into the BJP office during a on Kankonkar last week.

# UP: Azam Khan walks out of jail SC flags 'stagnation' He reached his Jail Road residence in Rampur in the evening withdrawn. Without paming anyone SC flags 'stagnation' In lower judiciary



Sitapur/Lucknow, Sept 23: Samajwadi Party founder member Azam Khan was released on bail from Sitapur jail Tuesday after nearly two years, with party chief Akhilesh Yaday saying the veteran leader has "finally got justice".

Shortly after coming out of jail, Khan, a former Uttar Pradesh minister, thanked those "who prayed for him", while the SP chief vowed to withdraw all "false cases" against the senior leader if his party returned to power in the state.

"I thank all those who prayed for me," Khan told reporters in Bareilly while en route to Rampur, his hometown.

Asked if he believes that justice had been delivered, Khan said, "I can't say that."

The 77-year-old former MP also dismissed speculations about his joining the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

"Ask those who are making such claims," he said when asked about reports of him switching sides.

after 23 months. A huge crowd of supporters was present there to welcome him. It became difficult for him to reach the door of his house due to the crowd.

Khan greeted his supporters and as soon as he stood near the door of his car, people started shouting slogans 'Inquilab Zindabad'.

Upon entering Rampur district border, Khan's convoy faced barricades put up by police. Only his and his son's vehicles were allowed to proceed. The remaining

vehicles would be released after some time. the police said.

Welcoming court's order, the SP president said Khan is not only a founder member of the SP but has also played a key role in the country's socialist

movement. "Today is a moment of great joy... he has finally got justice,' Yadav told reporters in Luc-

The former chief minister alleged that "hundreds of fabricated cases" had been filed against Khan and asserted that once the SP comes to power in UP, "all false cases against

Without naming anyone, Yadav alleged that the BJP government withdrew cases against its own leaders after coming to power.

"Just like they withdrew their own cases, we will do the same for those who were falsely implicated," he said, thanking the courts for granting Khan

Meanwhile, SP national general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav rebuffed reports about Khan joining the BSP,

terming them as Akhilesh "rumours". Yadav alleged 'There is no questhat "hundreds of fabricated cases" had Azam been filed against Khan Khan sahab

joining

other

party.

remain with

the Samajwadi

and asserted that once the SP comes to power in UP, "all false cases against **Azam Khan and** He has been and others will be will always

withdrawn"

Party. The SP and its leadership have always stood by Khan sahab and will continue to do so," Shivpal told PTI from Jhansi, adding that he would meet Khan soon.

However, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said even if Khan switched to the BSP, it wouldn't have any impact on the prospects of the BJP in the 2027 Assembly polls.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Supreme Court Tuesday rued over the "stagnation" in district judiciary and underlined several "brilliant candidates" leaving service only after a few years as they don't become district judges even at the time of superannuation. A five-judge Constitution

bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices M M Sundresh, Aravind Kumar, S C Sharma and K Vinod Chandran made the observation during the hearing on a legal question that whether judicial officers, who complete seven years of practice as advocates prior to joining the bench, can be appointed as district judges under vacancies earmarked for the bar.

Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, appearing for a group of civil judges who were denied participation in direct recruitment examinations for district judge posts, argued that civil judges should also be permitted to take up exams to become district judges under bar quota.

"The reason why we are not getting very good people for the appointment of civil judges is because they feel they get completely stagnated... I will get into the service and now for a complete 15-16 years, I will not even become a district judge," he said. The CJI and Justice Sundresh said many "bright young entrants" leave the ser-

have to wait 15-16 years for promotion.

"Many brilliant candidates who join (lower judiciary).. leave in two years as they do not reach up to the principal district judge, they get retired They get stagnated in the (lower) district judiciary for years together," the CJI said. Justice Sundresh recounted the expe rience of his former law clerk

"One of my law clerks back in the High Court, I pursued her to take up the exam for the (lower) judiciary...she was a topper. Last time she met me and said she wanted to resign It is deceiving the aspirations of the young mind," Justice Sundresh said. The bench is examining questions over the interpretation of Article 233 of the Constitution that governs appointment of district judges

"Appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the Governor of the State in consul tation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State," Article 233 reads.

It adds, "A person not already in the service of the Union or of the State shall on ly be eligible to be appointed a district judge if he has been for not less than seven years an advocate or a pleader and is recommended by the high court for appointment.'

### Govt launches 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon' to push for innovation among students

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Ministry of Education and Atal Innovation Mission will conduct a 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon', a nationwide initiative to inspire innovation, creativity and problem-solving among school students, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Tuesday.

"We propose to reach

Pradhan said at a press conference. "The event brings together students, educators, and innovators to build solutions for a self-reliant India, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," he added. According to MoE officials, the Buildathon aims to inspire creative thinking for national development, promote self-reliance and sustainable growth, and engage schools in synchronized

It also aims to project India as a global innovation capital through a potential world record and celebrate young problem-solvers on national and global platforms, they said.

cess of the School Innovation Marathon 2024, which led to programs like the Student Innovator Programme (SIP) and Student Entrepreneurstart-up ventures from Atal Tinkering Labs. Students will have a window from September 23 to October 6 to register on the Viksit Bharat Buildathon portal. "This will be followed

by a preparation period for schools, from October 6 to October 13, in which teachers will guide student teams through the registration process on the portal. Students will then submit their ideas and prototypes on the portal. The core of the Buildathon, the Live Synchro nized Innovation Event, will be held on October 13," said School Education Secretary Saniav Kumar. "Following the event, students will submit their final entries from October 13 to October 31. A panel of experts will then evaluate the submissions over a two-month peri-

## E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Buildathon, the

largest ever school hackathon, will mobilise more than one crore students from 1.5 lakh schools across the country to ideate, design, and develop prototypes under four themes, he said.

out to all schools in the country with classes 6-12. and encourage every child in those schools to be a part of ideation for Viksit Bharat by 2047. Ideation will be based on four themes, namely atmanirbhar Bharat,

It builds on the suc-

#### od, from November 1 to ship Programme (SEP). swadeshi, vocal for local protest condemning the assault and samriddh Bharat," along with patents and India to test drones, counter-drone systems

The exercise will see the participation of all three services, and will take place five months after India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The armed forces will test the capabilities of some of its drones and counter-drone systems during an exercise by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) in the first week of October, a senior official said Tuesday.

It will be held somewhere in Madhya Pradesh from October 6-10, sources said. In his address at a conference on air defence systems here, Air Marshal Rakesh Sinha, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (OPS) at HQ IDS, also spoke of the



ation Sindoor and the need to "stay ahead" of the adversary in military thinking and planning. "What we have seen in Operation Sindoor is a way the battle space or battlefield is evolving. It requires our urgent attention and decisive innovation to deal with this threat that is al-

ready looming," he said. After India's precision strikes on several terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor, several drone attacks were launched as counter-offensives by the Pakistani side, targeting the western sector. "Operation

Sindoor, per se, has given

opportunity to accelerate our counter-UAS, so that we do not learn the lessons the hard way, when we are faced with the next engagement." "Therefore, we must turn our lessons into actions, collaboration, innovation and unwavering focus to enhance our operational effectiveness. Air Marshal Sinha said. Counter-UAS refers to Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems. The conference hosted in Delhi was themed on 'Counter UAVs

& Air Defence Systems:

The Future of Modern

Warfare' and saw partic-

ipation of senior military

officers, representatives

of various firms in the de-

fence industry and domain

experts. A senior official of the HQ IDS said the upcoming exercise is named 'Cold Start'. Later, interacting with PTI on the sidelines of the event, Air Marshal Sinha said the exercise will be held in the Central Sector and will see particination of all three services.

Besides, industry partners, research and development partners, academia and others will be taking part in the upcoming exercise.

The exercise comes a little over a month after 'Ran Samwad' -- a first-ofits-kind tri-service seminar on war, warfare and warfighting was held at the Army War College in Mhow in Madhya Pradesh.

Delivering the plenary address at the military seminar August 27, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasised the need to remain prepared for new innovations and unforeseen challenges while mastering existing technologies to stay ahead of the curve.

### बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ीदा Bank of Baroda

#### REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION), At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk,

Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 77520-50804

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE** 

Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 29.10.2025 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, Mortgagors & Guarantors that the below

described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "Physical / Symbolic POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/Guarantor/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME: 28.10.2025 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.

**Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL** 

Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD: 28.10.2025 latest by 6.00 P.M.

	The scheduled date of Auc	tion to be held on 29.10.2025 from 2.00 f	2.IVI. to 6.00 P.IVI.	8
SI. No.	Name & Address of Parrowers	Description of the Properties & the Owner (Type of Possession)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues
1.	TITLAGARH BRANCH (MOB.: 7682829033) / Borrower: Mrs. Anjana Barma, W/o: Sri Om Prakash Barma / Co-Borrower: Mr. Om Prakash Barma, C/o: Sri Ramgariba Barma, Both are residing At: Padmanabhapur, PO: Titlagarh, Titlagarh NAC, Ward No.: 12, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha, PIN - 767033 Sri Ramgariba Barma, Bounded by East: Mishr Manju Gupta, Type of Possession: Symbolic	measuring Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Titlagarh (Kha), Tahasil: Titlagarh, PS: Titlagarh, PS No.: 84, Dist.: Bolangir, having Khata No.: 463/1831, Plot No.: 1783/4268, standing in the name of <b>Mr. Om Prakash Barma</b> , S/o: a Babu, West: Vendor, North: Road, South:	₹25,64,700/- / / ₹2,56,470/- / / ₹50,000/-	₹ 9,58,259.37 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
2.	BARPALI BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050822) / Borrower: Mr. Gyanranjan Seth, S/o: Sri Kalakanhu Seth / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Pratibha Seth, Both are residing At: Jagannath Nagar, Barapali, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha, PIN - 768029 having MS Khata No.: 1410/3420, Plot No.: Gyanaranjan Seth, S/o: Sri Kalakanhu Seth, Bouth North: Land of Akshay Bouth Souths: Land	measuring Area: Ac. 0.10 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Barpali, PS/Tahasil: Barpali, PS No.: 51, Dist.: Bargarh, 2987/8187, standing in the name of <b>Mr.</b> ounded by East: Road, West: Land of Gopal	₹80,53,000/- / ₹8,05,300/- / ₹50,000/-	₹ 35,18,166.33 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment

Possession : Symbolic RENGALI BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050862) / Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land

Borrower: Mr. Akhila Kumar Mahana, situated at Mouza: Babuchakuli, PS S/o: Sri Siba Narayan Mahana, At: Mauli Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist. Nagar, P.O: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Sambalpur, Odisha, bearing MS Khata No. 165/307, Plot No.: 441/2416, Area: Ac. 0.15 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, standing in the name of Sri Akhila Kumar Mahana, S/o: Sri Sibanarayan Mahana., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 441, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 441

VSS MARG BRANCH (MOB.: 7682829021) / Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building Borrower: M/s. Ladies Garments, Prop.: Mr. situated at Mouza: Themara, Thana: Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Sambalpur Sadar, Thana No.: 29, Tahasil Panda / Guarantor: Mr. Bishi Keshan Panda, Maneswar No.: 248, Plot No.: / Survey No.

Odisha, PIN - 768112

S/o: Late Dibakar Panda, Both are At: Medical 7184/8688, Khata No.: 508/840 to an extent Para, P.O: Themara, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, of Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., standing in the

(P), South: Plot No.: 440, Type of Possession : Physical

name of Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Panda, Bounded by East: Open Land, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 7175

South: Plot No.: 7183, Type of Possession: Symbolic KHETRAJPUR BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050848)/ Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Borrower: Mangraj Bhatta / Co-Borrower: Mr. Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building Suryaraj Bhatta, both are resident of situated at Mouza: Jayantpur, PS: Sadar

Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Tahasil: Jujomura, Dist.: Sambalpur, bearing Chaka Khata No.: 352/149, Non Consolidable Plot No.: 1021/2204, Area: Ac. 0.070 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari and Chaka Khata No.: 352/374, Non Consolidable Plot No.: 2267/2407, Area: Ac. 0.0017 Dec. or 75 sqft., standing in the name of Sri Mangraj Bhatta, S/o: Sri Maheswar Bhatta, Khata No.: 352/149, Plot No.: 1021/2204 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1021 (P), West: Plot No.: 1020 North: Plot No.: 1021 (P), South: Plot No.: 1021/2204 (P), Khata No.: 352/374, Plot No.: 2267/2407 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 2204, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 2204, South

Plot No.: 2204, Type of Possession : Symbolic KHETRAJPUR BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050848)/ Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land Borrower: Mangraj Bhatta / Co-Borrower: Mr. situated at Mouza. Lapanga, PS No.: 11, Suryaraj Bhatta, both are resident of Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Sambalpur, Odisha, having MS Khata No. 362/818, Plot No.: 355/3423, Area: Ac. 0.090

Dec., Kissam: Gharabari and Plot No.: 354/3422, Kissam: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.010 Dec. Total Area: Ac. 0.100 Dec., standing in the name of Sri Mangraj Bhatta, S/o: Sri Maheswar Bhatta, Plot No.: 355/3423 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 354, West: Plot No.: 355, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 2472, Plot No.: 354/3422 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 354, West Plot No.: 354, North: Plot No.: 3423, South: Plot No.: 341, Type of Possession: Physical

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) AS PER **AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002** 

This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) of security interest (Enforcements)Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 22.09.2025

/ Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date



₹ 9,58,457.17

21.09.2025

plus further interest

and charges, legal

expenses thereon

till full payment

₹ 7,29,958.36

21.09.2025

plus further interest

and charges, legal

expenses thereon

till full payment

₹ 77,91,114.01

as on **21.09.2025** 

plus further interest

and charges, legal

expenses thereon

till full payment

₹ 17,49,471.84

as on

21.09.2025

plus further interest

and charges, legal

expenses thereon

till full payment

₹6,75,000/-

₹67,500/-

₹50,000/-

₹26,10,000/-

₹2,61,000/-

₹50,000/-

₹66,60,000/-

₹6,66,000/-

₹50,000/-

₹21,25,000/-

₹2,12,500/-

₹50,000/-

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

# international



I think it's important for **Europe to impose sanctions,** too. Right now, there are countries in **Europe that are still buying massive** amounts of oil and natural gas from Russia, which is absurd. I mean, they're asking for the US to impose more sanctions, but there are countries in Europe that are not doing

### **DRONES OVER AIRPORT**

A skilled drone pilot flew two to three large unidentified drones over Copenhagen Airport Monday night, shutting down the airspace for hours as the unknown perpetrator appeared to be showing off their capabilities over Scandinavia's largest airport, police said Tuesday.

Germany to attract

more military recruits

tens of thousands



entered in an age of reckless disruption and suffering... The and progress are buckling under the weight of impunity, inequality and indifference

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pakistan's defence pact

JOSÉ MANUEL ALBARES SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTEI

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### China: Defence scientist held

Beijing: A top Chinese scientist, who specialised in developing semiconductor chips for weapon systems, has been detained by anticorruption authorities, his company Zhejiang Great Microwave Technology said. The company said in a statement it had "learned on September 21 from the family of Yu Faxin, the company's actual controller and chairman, that Yu has been subjected to detention measures by the Supervisory Commission of Huangshi", the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Tuesday. Yu is also a distinguished professor at Zheiiang University's School of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Hangzhou. He is an expert in microwave and millimetre-wave radio frequency technology and has overcome technical hurdles in the areas of communication, navigation and radar tech, according to the Post report. Since he took over power in 2012. President Xi Jinping, who heads the ruling Communist Party, the military and the Presidency, has continuously carried out an anti-corruption campaign purging, punishing and sacking scores of generals of

### Nicaragua's human rights crisis deepens

Mexico City: A new United Nations report details a Nicaragua tightly in the grasp of co-Presidents Daniel Ortega and his wife Rosario Murillo, where the legislative and judicial branches answer to the executive and basic human rights protections are gone. Little of that will come as a surprise to the tens of thousands of Nicaraguans who have the fled country in recent years, but the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights discusses the Central American country's continuing deterioration in the starkest terms. The report was compiled from more than 200 interviews with victims, witnesses and other sources. The U.N. human rights office does not have access to Nicaragua and the government did not respond to its questionnaire. A major constitutional reform adopted in January reduces "the legislative and judicial branches to entities coordinated by and subordinated to the presidency," while the public prosecutor's office "was placed under direct presidential control," the

report said.

# 'Empty words don't solve wars'

United Nations, Sept 23: Standing in front of top UN officials, before more than 150 world leaders, US President Donald Trump Tuesday blasted the international organisation.

He said they didn't reach out to him on the various wars he says he has brought to a con-

economy now is "bigger and even better" than during his first term, which he described as "the greatest ... in the history





That kind of national bragging is generally frowned upon in diplomatic settings, including at the United Nations. Trump took the same approach in his remarks recently during a state visit to the United King-

At least twice in the opening minutes of his UN speech, Trump took swipes at his predecessor, former President Joe

### Macron stopped by NY Police

New York: The New York City gridlock during the high-level UNGA session did not spare even visiting French President Emmanuel Macron, whose entourage was stopped by police due to strict traffic restrictions in place for US President Donald Trump's motorcade. A video going viral on social media shows Macron and his delegation standing on the sidewalk as a New York police official, while apologising to them, says that they cannot cross the road as traffic has been stopped for a motorcade. "I'm sorry, President, I'm really sorry. Just that everything has been frozen right now. There is a motorcade coming right now this way. I'm sorry," the police officer tells Macron. Macron told the police official that he has to go to the French embassy, pointing to the direction across the road. "If you don't see it, let me cross," Macron tells the police, who gesture that they can hear the cavalcade coming. The video then shows Macron on the phone, saying with a laugh, "How are you? Guess what, I am waiting in the street because everything is frozen for you."

a third conscripts, in 2001, Nov the government wants to raise Rostock, Sept 23: Germany

trying to persuade more people to join up and serve. More than 31/2 years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine kick-started efforts to revitalise the Bundeswehr, the challenge of strengthening the German military has grown along with fears of the threat from Moscow

has committed billions to beef-

ing up its military's equipment

after years of neglect. Now it's

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alongside the higher military spending that Germany and NA-TO allies agreed on this year, the alliance is encouraging members to increase personnel numbers. Berlin wants to add tens of thousands of service members. Chancellor Friedrich Merz savs that "because of its size and its economic strength, Germany is the country that must have the strongest conventional army in NATO on the European side".

He hasn't defined that goal in detail, but the tone underscores a shift in a country that emerged only gradually from its post-World War II military reticence after reunification in 1990. Earlier this month, the military's top brass watched as a ferry packed with armoured vehicles was escorted out of the Baltic port of Rostock, drones were intercepted in the air and on the water and fighter iets circled above. That was part of an exercise focused on moving troops and equipment to Lithuania — an ally on NA-TO's eastern flank where modern Germany is stationing a brigade abroad on a long-term basis for the first time.

"Credible deterrence requires operational readiness,' said the Bundeswehr's chief of staff, Gen Carsten Breuer, "And operational readiness requires matériel, personnel, training and ... exercising, exercising, exercising."

There's plenty to do on both matériel and personnel, in a country where the military was often viewed with indifference or suspicion given the legacy of the Nazi past. Germany suspended conscription for men in 2011 and subsequently struggled to attract large numbers of short-term volunteers.

In recent years, the number of military personnel has hovered just above 180,000 - compared with 300,000, more than it to 260,000 over the next decade, and says it will also need around 200,000 reservists, more than double the current figure.

Better pay is one way to make the Bundeswehr more attractive, said Thomas Wiegold, a defence policy expert who runs the Augen geradeaus! military blog. But a key issue is fixing the military's longstanding equipment problems, "because a force that doesn't have enough tanks, that doesn't have enough ships, that also doesn't have enough barracks, is not particularly attractive for applicants.

F-35 fighter jets, Chinook transport helicopters, Leopard 2 tanks, frigates and other hardware are on order after a 100 billion-euro (\$117 billion) special fund was set up in 2022 to modernise the Bundeswehr but they will take time to arrive. This year, Merz's new coalition enabled higher spending by loosening strict rules on incurring debt, a big step for a historically debt-averse nation

After conscription was sus pended, the Bundeswehr gave up 48 barracks. A report by the parliamentary commissioner for the military earlier this vear said that some remaining barracks and other facilities are still in a "disastrous" state after years of penny-pinching. A program to build new military accommodation now aims to

build 76 new buildings by 2031 The Cabinet last month ap proved plans for a new military service system meant to tackle the personnel challenge. It foresees more attractive pay and conditions for people who join up on a short-term basis, better training and more flexibility on

how long people can serve. The aim is to draw sufficient recruits without reviving con scription, an idea unpopular with the centre-left junior part ner in Merz's coalition, but the plan leaves the door open to do so if not enough people volunteer.

In a first step beginning next year, the government plans to send questionnaires to young men and women turning 18 about their willingness and ability to serve, which men will be required to answer Starting in mid-2027, young men will be required to un dergo medical examinations, though not to sign up for the military.

### China, India 'primary funders' of Russian war: Trump

United Nations: China and India are the 'primary funders' of the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine by continuing to purchase Russian oil, US President Donald Trump said in his UN General Assembly address Tuesday. The Trump administration has imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on New Delhi as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India by the US to 50 per cent, among the highest in the world. "China and India are the primary funders of the ongoing war by continuing to purchase Russian oil," Trump said in his address at the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. India has called the tariffs imposed by the US "unjustified and unreasonable". New Delhi said that, like any major economy, it will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security. In his address, Trump said that "inexcusably, even NATO countries have not cut off much Russian energy and Russian energy products" and he wasn't happy about this when he found this out. "Think of it, they're funding the war against themselves. Who the hell ever heard of that one? In the event that Russia is not ready to make a deal to end the war, then the US is fully prepared to impose a very strong round of powerful tariffs, which would stop the bloodshed, I believe, very quickly." Trump said that for those tariffs to be effective, European nations, "all of you are gathered here right now, would have to join us in adopting the exact same measures. I mean, you're much closer to the city. We have an ocean in between, you're right there, and Europe has to step it up. They can't be doing what they're doing. They're buying oil and gas from Russia while they're fighting Russia.

### Uganda's prez, in power since 1986, seeks reelection

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kampala, Sept 23: Uganda's authoritarian leader, who has been in power since 1986, was confirmed Tuesday as a candidate in January's presidential vote and urged supporters to back his vision for the future.

Electoral officials formal ly declared President Yoweri Museveni a candidate at an event just outside of Kampala, the Ugandan capital, after more than 2 million supporters signed on to back his bid. according to his party

Museveni's ruling National Resistance Movement controls the national assembly, which is widely seen as weak and subservient to the presidency. In 2017. lawmakers removed a constitutional age limit on the presidency, leaving room for Museveni, now 81, to run for as long as he wishes.

Museveni told supporters after he was officially nominated that his goal is "to convince the people of Uganda of what has been achieved in the past and what we are planning to do now.

### NATO's stern warning over Russia incursions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Sept 23: NATO warned Russia Tuesday that it would use all means to defend against any further breaches of its airspace after the downing earlier this month of Russian drones over Poland and Estonia's report of an intrusion of Russian fighter jets last week.

The September 10 incident in Poland was the first direct encounter between NATO and Moscow since the war in Ukraine began. It jolted leaders across Europe, raising questions about how prepared the alliance is against growing Russian aggression.

Estonia said three Russian fighter jets entered its airspace for 12 minutes on Friday without authorisation, a charge that Russia has rejected.

"Russia should be in no doubt: NATO and Allies will employ, in accordance with international law, all necessary military and non-military tools to defend ourselves and deter all threats from all directions," the alliance said in a statement.

'We will continue to respond in the manner, timing, and



domain of our choosing," the 32-member NATO said, and underlined its commitment to Article 5 of its founding treaty that an attack on any one ally must be considered an attack on them all

The allies provided no details about what measures they might take.

The statement came after Estonia requested formal con-

sultations under Article 4 of NATO's treaty that requires a meeting whenever one of the alliance members believes its territorial integrity, political independence or security is threatened.

> On Monday, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that Poland would "without discussion" shoot down flying objects when they violate Polish territory.

## Dr Trump: US Prez shares unproven medical advice on autism

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 23: President Donald Trump isn't a doctor. But he played one on TV Monday, offering copious amounts of unproven medical advice that he suggested -- often without providing evidence -might help reduce autism rates.

Trump repeatedly implored pregnant women to avoid taking the painkiller Tylenol, the bestselling form of acetaminophen. That's despite the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists long recommending acetaminophen as a safe option during pregnancy. He even weighed in on when children should be given

Speaking alongside Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., himself a vaccine sceptic, Trump stopped short of opposing all vaccines. But he said key immunisations should be delayed, or combination shots should be given separately — even though it has been proven that vaccines have no link to autism.

"Don't let them pump your baby up with the largest pile of stuff you've ever seen in your life," he said.

Trump also wildly overstated how such shots — some of which protect against four dis-– are given.

"I think it's very bad. They're pumping, it looks like they're pumping into a horse," Trump said. "You have a little child. A little fragile child. And you've got a vat of 80 different vaccines, I guess, 80 different blends, and they pump it in."

The presentation recalled the early days of the coronavirus pandemic during Trump's



first term, when the president stood for daily White House briefings and tossed out grossly inaccurate claims — including famously suggesting that injecting disinfectants could help people.

"I see the disinfectant that knocks it out in a minute, one minute. And is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside, or almost a cleaning?" Trump asked in April 2020. "As you see, it gets

in the lungs, it does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it would be interesting to check

He later claimed he'd been joking, but those briefings soon stopped. His tone stayed serious

The president suggested unspecified problems with the safe and effective MMR — measles, mumps and rubella — vaccine and advised parents to wait years later than now, until age 12, for hepatitis B vaccines to be given to children.

The theme he hit harder than any other, though, was declaring a supposed link between autism and acetaminophen, which is known in most countries outside the U.S. as paracetamol. Trump repeated, "Don't take Tylenol," with increasing urgency and

eventually shouted it.

Tylenol maker Kenvue dis-

puted any link between the drug and autism and said in a statement that if pregnant mothers don't use Tylenol when in need, they could face a choice between suffering potentially dangerous fevers or using riskier painkiller alternatives

Trump, Kennedy and many of the administration's top health officials all spoke, but largely repeated known statis tics rather than new research findings. Trump appeared to acknowledge that science might not be on his side, saying at one point, "I'm just making these statements from me.

"I'm not making them from these doctors," the president conceded. "Cause when they, uh, talk about, you know, dif ferent results, different studies, I talk about a lot of common sense. And they have that, too They have that too, a lot."

"I've always said the UN has with the Kingsuch tremendous, tremendous dom of Saudi Arapotential. But it's not even combia is a welcome ing close to living up to that podevelopment. Distential," Trump said. cussions for such "For the most part, at least an agreement were ongoing during for now, all they seem to do our time in government as well is write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter. It's empty words and empty words don't solve wars. The day that Trump wasted little time telleveryone will ing representatives of countries have recogacross the world that the US is nized the state "the hottest country anywhere of Palestine, we in the world, and there is no other country even close.' forward... I'm sure He added later that the US is And he claimed the US is that we will find someday the right "respected again" like never people for peace on the Israel side, "the best country on Earth to do business" and claimed the in the same way that we have found it in the Palestinian side

# business



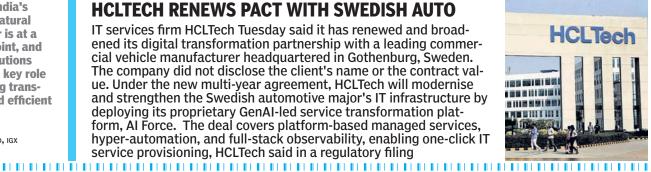
natural gas sector is at a turning point, and digital solutions will play a key role in ensuring transparent and efficient

India's

RAJESH KUMAR

### **HCLTECH RENEWS PACT WITH SWEDISH AUTO**

IT services firm HCLTech Tuesday said it has renewed and broadened its digital transformation partnership with a leading commercial vehicle manufacturer headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden. The company did not disclose the client's name or the contract value. Under the new multi-year agreement, HCLTech will modernise and strengthen the Swedish automotive major's IT infrastructure by deploying its proprietary GenAI-led service transformation platform, AI Force. The deal covers platform-based managed services, hyper-automation, and full-stack observability, enabling one-click IT service provisioning, HCLTech said in a regulatory filing



have added ₹39,950 per 10 grams,

or 50.60 per cent, rallying from

₹78,950 per 10 grams December

by ₹3,220 to hit an all-time high

of ₹1,39,600 per kilogram (in-

clusive of all taxes) Tuesday.

The white metal had ended at

₹1,36,380 per kg in the previous

session. Silver prices have ris

en ₹49,900 per kilogram or 55.63

per cent in the current calendar

year, skyrocketing from ₹89,700

Silver prices also skyrocketed



India's chem ical industry is undergoing a transformative shift, from fos sil-based produc tion to sustainable

bio manufacturing. The inauguration of the Centre of Excellence on Biochemicals is a step towards harnessing the power of biotechnology being explored for solutions of the future

R MUKUNDAN | CEO, TATA CHEMICALS

The start to this festive season has been extremely encouraging. The recent GST reduction and special festive offers have sparked an extraordinary wave of consume

SHAILESH CHANDRA | PRESIDENT, SIAM India's progress in building a robust innovaand stressed the

interest and enthusiasm

importance of positioning the country as a global brand of excellence in knowledge. science, and technology

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | EDUCATION MINISTER

Mumbai, Sept 23: India's markets regulator and its central bank are in advanced discussions to ease entry processes for new overseas investors, four sources said, at a time when foreign flows into the economy remain weak.

The changes would include fewer and standardised documentation and less scrutiny on investors that are already regulated in other countries. That will reduce the time taken to register in India to 30-60 days from nearly six months, bringing them in line with global standards, said the sources. who have direct knowledge of the matter. They declined to be named as discussions are private.

"To facilitate the ease of investments by foreign investors in India we are engaging with various stakeholders to streamline the know your customer norms across the regulators," Tuhin Kanta Pandey, India markets regulator chairman, said last week, without elabo-

The proposed changes come

India to ease entry for overseas investors, reducing registration

Regulatory changes aimed at addressing weak foreign flows and US tariff concerns

SEBI and RBI align
documentation for low-risk overseas funds

at a time when India faces harsh trade tariffs from the US, leading to uncertainty for the economy and its markets.

Overseas investors have sold a net \$10 billion in Indian equities and bonds so far in 2025, with selling intensifying in July and August because of muted corporate earnings and US tariff concerns.

India's Nifty 50 underper-

documentary requirements for regulated public retail funds brought them at par with government-owned funds. A similar relaxation has not been done by RBI yet," said one of the sources. RBI will also align norms for

foreign investors to open bank accounts with SEBI's registration requirements, a second source said. At present, RBI requires

banks to follow a risk-based assessment which includes seeking a declaration on the source of funds and proof of identity, among other requirements. SEBI has also recently

lauched a website for foreign investors, and is exploring whether it could allow them to submit registration documents directly, said one of the four sources. "Both SEBI and RBI have

been very responsive and pro-active this year in finding ways to make it easy for foreign investors to invest in India,' said Eugenie Shen, managing director. Asia Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, a lobbyist for offshore

## SEBI to ease rules for foreign investors Gold soars amid global cues

31, 2024.



New Delhi, Sept 23: Gold prices surged ₹2,700 to scale a new peak of ₹1,18,900 per 10 grams in the national capital amid sustained global demand for the safe-haven asset while rupee touching a new low facing the brunt of US H1B visa fee hike.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,16,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity rallied ₹2.650 to hit a record high of ₹1,18,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at ₹1,15,650 per 10 grams Monday. Traders said the rupee's steep

ed to the rally of the precious So far in this year, gold prices

fall against the US dollar add-

per kg on December 31, 2024. Tuesday, the rupee depreciat ed 47 paise to hit an all-time low of 88.75 against the US dollar, amid sustained outflow of for eign funds on the back of a steep hike in US H1B visa fee that is

expected to give a big blow to

In the international markets, spot gold rose more than 1 per cent to hit a record high of \$3,791.10 per ounce.

Indian IT services exports.

According to Singh, Head of commodities and currencies at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, the Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech and US PMI numbers will be closely monitored by investors later in the day for further insights on the monetary policy direction.

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Uber partners with **Indian Railways**

New Delhi: Uber has partnered with Indian Railways at Ahmedabad and Howrah stations, marking a significant step in the ride-hailing platform's railway station integration. The latest move aims to improve passenger connectivity at major transportation hubs and is in line with Uber's ongoing focus on improving multimodal mobility and simplifying how people get to and from the railway stations. The collaboration marks Uber's first-ever managed operations at railway stations in India. To enhance passenger experience, Uber operates from dedicated parking areas connected directly to station infrastructure, ensuring smooth access for riders and drivers alike, according to the company.

### Ecofy Finance, Motovolt Mobility to finance e-2W

New Delhi: Ecofy Finance Pvt Ltd Tuesday said it has partnered with electric two-wheeler maker Motovolt Mobility for end-to-end financing solutions across both retail and institutional segments. Under the partnership, Ecofy Finance, a green-only NBFC, will be the primary financing partner for Motovolt's entire electric two-wheeler range, including the newly launched MVS7 e-scooter, which comes with a battery swapping functionality supported by Indofast, the company said in a statement The collaboration is designed to break down financing barriers that limit EV adoption, not just for individual buyers, but more importantly for logistics service providers, fleet operators, and last-mile delivery companies, the

### Zealthix raises \$1.1mn

company said.

New Delhi: SaaS-based healthcare platform Zealthix Tuesday said it has raised \$1.1 million (about ₹9.7 crore) in a seed round led by Unicorn India Ventures with participation from AlphaGen Venture Capital. The funds will be deployed to drive expansion and accelerate revenue growth. A significant share of the fresh capital will be invested in strengthening technology and advancing Zealthix's vision to make India's healthcare ecosystem more digital, streamlined, and interoperable, the company said in a statement. Zealthix is a comprehensive SaaS (Software as a Service) based healthcare infrastructure platform that enables payers/ insurers to offer OPD/ comprehensive healthcare plans to their users.

### Ankura Hospital launches free genetic counselling & rare diseases clinic



Bhubaneswar: Ankura hospital for Women & Child care has launched Eastern India's first free genetic counselling & rare diseases clinic at Bapuji Nagar, near Sishubhavan bus stop, Tuesday. This landmark initiative aims to support families affected by genetic disorders and rare diseases by offering free, specialised counselling. AAYU Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to health, hope, and empowerment for women and children, joins Ankura in addressing these critical healthcare gaps. The clinic represents a major step forward in rare disease care for Odisha and beyond.

### Jaibaba Automobiles sets sales record



Bhubaneswar: Jaibaba Automobiles, the Royal Enfield showroom at Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar, achieved a record sale of 102 bikes, following the implementation of GST 2.0. September 22. Owners Madhay Lodha and Harshit Lodha said the reduction in GST has made Royal Enfield motorcycles. especially the iconic Bullet, more accessible to customers. Expressing optimism about the festive season. Lodha noted that the dealership expects significant growth in sales volumes in the coming weeks, driven by the government's decision to reduce GST under the new regime.

### UCO Bank organises MSME & Agriculture Carnival



Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar celebrated its Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival 22nd September at Auditorium of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. The event was attended by MSME, Agriculture, Resources customers, Self Help Group Members and Bank Mitras. The occasion was graced by Ankit Rana, General Manager, General Administration & Central Security Department, UCO Bank, Head Office, Kolkata. Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, Deputy General Manager & Zonal Head Bhubaneswar welcomed all the dignitaries and guests at the event. Bhakuni shared the performance highlights of the Bhubaneshwar zone for the first half of the current financial year. Ankit Rana expressed his profound gratitude to participants and customers for their long standing association with UCO Bank and future commitment for better customer service. During the event, Krishan Pal Singh, Deputy Zonal Head elaborated about the bank's latest offerings - Special attention was given to the bank's exclusive Pink Basket for women customers, featuring UCO Aparajita, UCO Jayalaxmi, and UCO Sanchayika.

### Govt launches INGRAM portal for **GST** rate cut complaint resolution

New Delhi: The government Tuesday said consumers who have not received the benefits of Goods and Service Tax (GST) rate cut can register their complaints on toll free number 1915 or through WhatsApp at 8800001915. Complaints/queries can also be registered on the Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism (INGRAM) portal, the CBIC added. Effective September 22, GST has become a two-tier structure of 5 and 18 per cent. The earlier rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent have been clubbed into two rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, resulting in a reduced price of 99 per cent of daily use items. It has activated as complaints have started coming in social media that some businesses are not passing on the benefits of GST rate cut.

### EPFO adds 21.04L net members in July

forms Asian and EM peers in

cials have met over 200 global

asset managers across Europe,

Asia and the US in the last five

months to seek feedback on

ways to make Indian markets

more accessible, two of the four

Separately a delegation of

investors from six countries

met officials at the RBI, SEBI,

exchanges and finance ministry

in India earlier this month, the

As part of the changes, the

central bank will match SEBI's

more liberal documentation

needs for regulated overseas

pooled funds, such as insur-

ance and mutual funds, which

are considered to be low-risk,

Top Indian regulatory offi-

2025 so far

sources said.

two added.

the sources said.

New Delhi, Sept 23: Retirement fund body EPFO added 21.04 lakh net members during July 2025, registering an increase of 5.55 per cent year-onyear, according to the latest payroll data released Tuesday. The Employees' Provident

Fund Organization (EPFO) enrolled around 9.79 lakh new subscribers in July 2025, mainly on account of growing employment opportunities, increasing awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's successful outreach programs, a labour ministry statement said. The year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 5.55 per cent in net payroll additions compared to July 2024, signifying increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives, the statement added.

EPFO added 5.98 lakh new subscribers in the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 61.06 per cent of the total new subscribers added in July 2025. State-wise analysis of payroll data revealed that the top five statesUTs account for around 60.85 per cent of the net payroll addition, resulting in a total addition of around 12.80 lakh during the month.

Of all the states, Maharashtra is leading by adding 20.47 per cent of net payroll during the month. The statesUTs of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh individually added more than 5 per cent of the total net payroll during the month.

### Markets decline amid FII outflows, H1B concerns PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third consecutive day Tuesday in a volatile trade, dragged by selling in IT and blue-chip private banking shares and foreign fund outflows amid concerns over the steep hike in US H-1B visa fees

After oscillating between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 57.87 points or 0.07 per cent at 82,102,10. During the day, it hit a high of 82,370.38 and a low of 81,776.53, fluctuating by 593.85 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty

dipped 32.85 points or 0.13 per cent to 25,169.50.

Buying in auto and select public sector banks cushioned the losses, analysts said. Among Sensex firms, Trent,

Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Eternal and ITC were the major laggards. Selling in HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dragged the key in-

However, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and State Bank of India were among the

The domestic equity market traded rangebound and ended flat, indicating continuation of the consolidation. Broader sentiment stayed cautious, with small- and mid-cap stocks lagging the benchmarks, Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Sector-wise, autos, metals, and financials gained on signs of robust festive demand post-

### **BSE SENSEX**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2025** 



BAJAJ FINANCE	+1.94 %	TOP
MARUTI	+1.83 %	GAINER
SBIN	+1.81 %	
KOTAK BANK	+1.55 %	



GST cuts, while FMCG and realty stocks came under pressure from profit booking, Nair

The BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.35 per cent while midcap index declined 0.29 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG dropped the most by 1.28 per cent, followed by realty (0.89 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.72 per cent), consumer durables (0.66 per cent), teck (0.63 per cent) and IT (0.63 per cent).

Metal, bankex, auto, financial services and telecommunication were the gainers.

Equity markets staged a sharp rebound from the day's lows as investors took heart from expectations of a revival in domestic demand, supported by the latest GST-driven reforms. Sentiment was further lifted by optimism around the upcoming India-US trade negotiations, which fueled buying ket's near-term outlook. Despite FII outflows, strong DII buying provided a cushion. giving market participants con

at lower levels and reflected

renewed confidence in the mar-

fidence and underscoring domestic liquidity as a key anchor of stability, Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said Foreign institutional inves

tors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,910.09 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Markets in Europe were trad ing higher. US markets ended

higher Monday. the rupee Meanwhile, slumped by 52 paise to hit an all-time low of 88.82 against the US dollar in intra-day trade on

Tuesday amid sustained out flow of foreign funds. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude climbed 0.45 per cent to

### Rupee decline to impact Indian exporters

The primary and immediate impact of a depreciating rupee is on the importers who will have to shell out more for the same quantity and price. However, it is a boon for the exporters as they receive more rupees in exchange for dollars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Indian rupee slipping below the record 88.73 level against the US dollar will help enhance price competitiveness of Indian products in the international markets, but exporters cautioned that fluctuations could pose challenges at import front. Import-dependent sectors

such as gems and jewellery, petroleum and electronics may see lower benefits due to a rise in input costs, they said. The rupee depreciated 47

paise to hit an all-time low of 88.73 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, amid sustained outflow of foreign funds on the back of a steep hike in US H1B visa fee that is expected to give a big blow to Indian IT services exports. The depreciation will defi-

nitely help exporters in the

short run. But we need stability

in the value against the USD.

Federation of Indian Export Or-

C Ralhan said.

Sharing similar views, Mumbai-based exporter and Technocraft Industries Ltd Founder Chairman S K Saraf said this will benefit the country's exports as domestic goods will become little competitive at a time when the US has imposed high tariffs.

ganisations (FIEO) President S

Our hardships will get mitigated to a certain extent. I ex-

pect that the rupee will reach 100 per dollar in the next 4-5 months. I think 100 will be the new normal, Saraf said.

Another trader said that the development would make imports of items from crude oil to electronic goods, overseas education and foreign travel

costlier. The primary and immediate impact of a depreciating rupee is on the importers who will have to shell out more for the same quantity and price.

However, it is a boon for the exporters as they receive more rupees in exchange for dollars India is 85 per cent dependent on foreign oil to meet its needs for fuels, such as petrol, diesel and jet fuel.

The basket of Indian imports includes crude oil, coal, plastic material, chemicals, electronic goods, vegetable oil, fertiliser machinery, gold, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones and iron and steel.

Kanpur-based Growmore In ternational Ltd MD Yadvendra Singh Sachan said that a balanced rupee value helps both exporters and importers. Any volatility in the value is

not good for both, Sachan said.

The country's merchandise exports rose 6.72 per cent to \$35.1 billion in August. During April-August 2025-26, exports increased to \$184.13 billion while imports rose 2.13 per cent to \$306.52 billion.

### WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

# Dembélé wins Ballon d'Or Dominant India take on upbeat Bangladesh to inch closer to final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 23: Ousmane Dembélé won the Ballon d'Or for leading Paris Saint-Germain to its first Champions League title and Aitana Bonmatí received the women's award for a third successive year.

Dembélé succeeded Manchester City midfielder Rodri to become the sixth Frenchman to win it after Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini, Jean-Pierre Papin, Zinedine Zidane and Karim Benzema.

Bonmatí won ahead of her Spain teammate Mariona Caldentey. She's only the third player in the award's history to win three in a row after Platini (1983-85) and Lionel Messi (2009-12). The award capped a remarkable turn of fortune for Dembélé, who at one point last season was snubbed by PSG coach Luis Enrique for disciplinary reasons. But once repositioned as a No 9, he became a scoring machine and was inspirational in PSG's historic Champions League campaign. The French club also completed a quadruple last season.

Dembélé was praised after the Champions League final for the way he contributed to PSG's pressing and his ability to defend during the 5-0 rout of Inter Milan. He delivered 35 goals and 16 assists in 53 official matches last season. and was involved in 14 goals (8 goals, 6 assists) in the Champions League in 15 appearances.

Dembélé received the Ballon d'Or from former winner Ronaldinho and teared up during his acceptance speech in which he asked his mother to join him on the stage.

"It's incredible to win a trophy like this," he said in French. "I worked for the team to help win PSG's first Champions League (...) To then be rewarded with an individual trophy like the Ballon d'Or is

truly exceptional." Dembélé won ahead of teenage star Lamine Yamal. The forward, who turned 18 in July, helped Barcelona win La Liga and the Copa del Rey last

season and reach the Champi-

ons League semifinals. Yamal

award for the best under-21 player for the second straight year.

was given the Kopa

"I need to keep on working to win other awards the future,' Yamal through a transla-Although

Bonmati lost to England in a penalty shootout in the Women's European Championship final last summer, she was named the best player of the tournament, which she began just days after being hospitalized by viral meningitis. Bonmatí's

spot kick in the shootout was one of two saved by England's Hannah Hampton, who was voted the best wom en's goalkeeper. "Third time in a row here

and I still can't believe it," Bonmatí said "I owe Barcelona everything, this is the club of my life.

She won a domestic tre-

so reached the Champions League final.

#### Other trophies

Barcelona forward Vicky Lopez won the women's Kopa trophy and Sarina Wiegman, who led England to European victory, took the Johan Cruyff award for best



PSG was voted the best men's club and Donnarumma received the Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper. Donnarumma, whose shot-stopping in the knockout stages proved crucial to PSG's success, left for Manchester City during the offseason. Hampton was crowned the best women's goalkeeper.

The men's and women's Gerd Müller trophies for the top scorers went to Barcelona's Ewa Pajor and Viktor Gyokeres, who ioined Arsenal summer Sporting Portugal after a prolific season.





Dubai, Sept 23: Dubai will host another intriguing chapter of the Asia Cup when India meet Bangladesh in the Super

For India, the match follows yet another commanding victory over Pakistan, a contest that led captain Suryakumar Yadav to confidently assert that the word "rivalry" no longer fits. "Where is the rivalry?" he questioned, referencing India's dominant head-to-head record in recent years.

His words, which might have sounded arrogant in another context, reflected the sheer weight of India's record since the start of 2024: 32 wins in 35 T20Is, a run that has elevated them into perhaps the most formidable T20I side assembled.

Bangladesh, however, arrive in Dubai with quiet confidence. They stunned Sri Lanka in the first round, capitalising on the slow conditions to their advantage. Mahedi Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman combined superbly in that match, their 8-0-45-5 suffocating Sri Lanka's middle order and setting up a famous victory.

The challenge now is to replicate that effort against India, a team against whom Bangladesh's record is stark: 16 defeats in 17 T20Is.

Still, with the same surface expected to play slowly and the extreme heat

in Dubai, they will believe the conditions can tilt the balance in their favour.

India's top order appears immovable, with Abhishek Sharma's sparkling 74 against Pakistan underlining his explosive partnership with Shubman Gill. Tilak Varma and Survakumar add further ballast, while the experiment with Sanju Samson in the middle order continues.

Clearly, the team management wants Samson in the XI, even if it means adjusting his ed some discomfort when he faced an older ball, but another opportunity here could be revealing. Against him will be Mustafizur's variations, doubly potent on slow surfaces.

For Bangladesh, captain Lit ton Das should be fit despite a back strain that kept him

cautious in training They are also weigh ing up whether to persist with Shoriful Islam, who was ex-

pensive against Sri Lanka, or bring in Tanzim Hasan. Much will rest, however, on whether their spinners and cutters can disrupt India's rhythm through the middle overs.

The conditions in Dubai promise another slow-burn contest with scoring likely to be difficult once the ball softens. Temperatures soaring into the high 30s will add another test of stamina and concentration. The numbers still heavily favour India, but Bangladesh know they are only one inspired performance away from turning the script.

### Messi stays silent on **Inter Miami contract**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miami, Sept 23: Lionel Messi went to watch some soccer Friday. He didn't say a word about his own future.

The Inter Miami star — who is closing in on a contract extension that will keep him with his Major League Soccer club through at least the 2026 season and likely beyond - showed up to watch the global finals of the 1v1 soccer tournament that he helped create and is sponsored by a hydration drink that he His appearance came days af-

ter he and Inter Miami closed in on an extension, one that the sides have been working on for months and would assure him of being with the club when it plans to open its new stadium near Miami International Airport next year.

Messi watched both the men's and women's semifinals and then the finals of his event. He greeted the winners on stage and signed autographs for fans, even taking a large group selfie with the entire crowd at the end.

But there were no hints about the contract coming from his team on Friday and he did not address reporters

Messi only spoke behind the scenes to his team about the tournament, with his interview being sent out to members of the media afterward.

"It is really so nice to see and to share this opportunity providing a platform for the game that is 1v1," Messi said.

When asked about the extension. Inter Miami head coach Javier Mascherano said he remains hopeful.

"I hope it happens soon, because I think it's great news not only for the club but for MLS in general, right?" Mascherano said earlier Friday at the team's training base in Fort Lauderdale.



### WORLD PARA-ATHLETICS C'SHIPS

### **Sports Min reviews final** preparations at JLN Stadium

New Delhi, Sept 23: With just two days to go for the first-ever World Para-Athletics Championships 2025 in the capital, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya Tuesday visited the JLN Stadium to oversee final preparations for the marquee event. It marks a new chapter in India's ability to stage global competitions of such scale, further strengthening the nation's position as a hub for international sports.

Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Raksha Khadse also joined Mandaviya in meeting and interacting with the athletes. Several senior officials from the Local organising committee, Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), and the Sports Ministry also attended the inspection. Mandaviva took a detailed round of the stadium, including areas such as Accreditation Centre, Medical Centre, newly-laid warmup main MONDO track amongst others, which he had inaugurated August 29, 2025. The track will host some of the world's finest para-athletes from over 100



top spot from the host nation.

'Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister

during the inspection. Para-athletes, including Paris Paralympics medallist Sharad Kumar, were also present with Simran Sharma and Preeti Pal, who have been practising on the MONDO track. The tournament, set to begin with the opening cer-

countries during the championships. There will be a total of 73 para-athletes vying for the

Shri Narendra Modi ji, India has emerged as a trusted destination for hosting major international sporting events. His belief that the world is one family - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam inspires us to bring athletes from across the globe together on Indian soil," Mandaviya said

emony scheduled for September 25, marks the first time India is hosting the prestigious event.

# Samantray stars in Cuttack Panthers' win

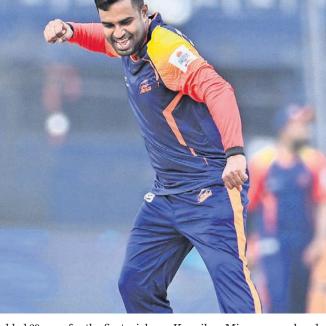
POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 23: Biplab Samantray's brilliance with both bat and ball powered Cuttack Panthers to an emphatic five-wicket victory over Keonjhar Miners at the Barabati Stadium. The Panthers chased down the target of 128 with 9 balls to spare.

Chasing 128, skipper Swastik Samal opened the innings alongside Anurag Mallick. However, both departed cheaply, with Swastik scoring just 1 run and Anurag adding 2. The experienced Biplab Samantray then took charge, steadying the innings with a crucial knock of 43 off 34 balls. Sourav Gouda anchored the chase brilliantly, top-scoring with an unbeaten 56 off 39 deliveries to guide his side to victory. Cuttack Panthers finished at 128/5 in 18.3 overs.

For Keonjhar Miners, Papu Ray was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 wickets for 20 runs in his 4 overs. He received support from Soumta Lenka (1/23) and Shekhar Majhi (1/12), who picked up one wicket each in the innings.

At the start of the game, Cuttack Panthers won the toss and elected to field first. For Keonjhar Miners, skipper Govinda Poddar and Om T Munde opened the innings. The pair



added 29 runs for the first wicket before Poddar was dismissed for 13 off 15 balls. Munde had a brief stay at the crease as he added a valuable 28 runs from 25 deliveries

Anil Parida emerged as the top scorer for his side with 36 runs off 30 balls. Towards the end of the innings, Suial Singh played a crucial knock of 22 from 21 deliveries, helping his team post a competitive total.

Keonjhar Miners were bowled out for 127 on the very last ball of the 20th over.

For Cuttack Panthers, Samantray was the standout performer with the ball, claiming an impressive 5 wickets for 18 runs in his 4 overs. Prasanta Rana took 2 for 33 in his spell, while Vageesh Sharma (1/17), Harshit Rathod (1/24) and Swayam Routray (1/12) picked up one wicket each.

### **ONLINE BETTING APP CASE**

### **ED records Yuvraj** Singh's statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh Tuesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in a money laundering case linked to an on line betting app named 1xBet, officials said.

Singh (43), wearing a white T-shirt and pant, reached the agency's office in central Delhi around 12 noon accompanied by his legal team.

The investigating officer of the case questioned the all-rounder and left-hand batter and recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the officials said. An influencer named Anveshi Jain also appeared before the ED for questioning in the same case.

The federal probe agency has questioned former cricketers Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan and Robin Uthappa apart from former TMC MP and actor Mimi Chakraborty and Benga li actor Ankush Hazra over the last few weeks as part of this investigation.

## Umpiring great Dickie Bird dies aged 92

Mumbai, Sept 23: Legendary umpire Harold 'Dickie' Bird of England passed away in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, Tuesday, aged 92. His long-time club, Yorkshire, confirmed his death Tuesday morning, stating that he died peacefully at home.

"He leaves behind a legacy of sportsmanship, humility, and joy -- and a legion of admirers across generations," Yorkshire informed in a statement Tuesday.

'The thoughts of everyone at the Yorkshire County Cricket Club are with Dickie's family and friends during this time. He will be truly missed by all at the Club, having spent an incredible amount of time in support of everyone here, and will be remembered as one of the greatest characters in Yorkshire's history," the

statement added. The most loved umpire in



the history of the game, Dickie was known as much for his fine decisions as his quirks, like early arrival for matches he officiated, and his reluctance to give players out leg before

wicket. He arrived at 6 am to the stadium for an 11 am start and was caught by the security personnel trying to scale the wall into the stadium. That was the second first-class match

he officiated, and Dickie Bird continued to maintain this habit throughout his career as a match official.

Born April 19, 1933, at Barnsley, West Riding of Yorkshire, England, Dickie officiated 66 Tests, 69 One-day Internationals, and seven Women's ODIs during an international career spanning from 1973 to 1996, when he finally hung up his white coat.

Dickie Bird took up cricket after a knee injury put paid to his aspirations as a football player, contributing to the game as a player, coach, and

A right-handed batter and right-arm off-break bowler, Dickie played 93 First-class games for Yorkshire and Leicestershire, scoring 3,314 runs, including two centuries and 14 half-centuries.

After ending his playing career, Dickie Bird coached Plym-

1968, and in Johannesburg in 1968 and 1969. He officiated his first County Championship game in 1970 and three years later, was officiating his first Test match, between England and New Zealand at Headingley in Leeds.

Dickie Bird travelled all over the cricketing world to officiate matches and earned the respect of the players and administrators. He was famously reluctant to raise his finger for lbw appeals - several of his decisions would have been quickly overturned in the age of DRS. To make up for this, he would mostly offer the benefit of the doubt to batters.

He was also frequently a victim of pranks by players, especially England stars like Allan Lamb and Ian Botham, who once went into the match with a mobile phone and then called Birdie to pass on a message to the batter on strike.

### Atiga Mir narrowly misses out on podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Orechova, (Slovakia), Sept 23: India's racing sensation Atiga Mir finished an impressive fourth after being in the running for a famous victory for the majority of the action-packed race in the Cham pions of the Future Academy (COFTA) karting series here.

Atiqa showed exemplary race

craft to put herself in a winning position before narrowly missing out on a podium finish in round 4.1 of COFTA, a series which is keenly tracked by the top brass of the F1 Academy. The 10-yearold, who won in the DAMC series in Dubai earlier this month, is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1 and is part of the F1 Academy DYD program. Atiqa fin ished just 0.32 seconds behind the race winner in the mini category, reflecting the highly competitive nature of a male dominated grid at Slovakia Karting Centre.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159