

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
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 and influenced by the other in course of 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 and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

CANCER
You will have enthusiasm 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 challenges.

LEO
It is a good day to renew old acquaintances and make 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.

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

LIBRA
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.



EMMA WATSON ON ACTING SABBATICAL

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.



NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Top honours for Rani, SRK & Vikrant

Malayalam cinema icon Mohanlal receives the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

New Delhi: The 71st National 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 prestigious 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



Actors Mohanlal, Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherjee and Vikrant Massey during the presentation ceremony

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

ance in *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*.

The Best Debut Film of a Director was awarded to Ashish Avinash Bende for the Marathi film *Aat-*

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

Providing Wholesome 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 *Hanu-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.

AGENCIES

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 Subhran-shu Das, the film is based on Sankar Tripathy's celebrated Odia novel Nadabindu. Starring Sabyasachi Mishra and

Supriya Nayak, *Pushkara* delves into love, tradition, and cultural identity, beautifully set against Puri's sacred rituals such as Sahi Jata, Kartika Purnima, and Boita Bandana.

Director Subhran-shu Das and Litisha Mangat 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.

PTI

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 bundle of joy.

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 couple.

Janhvi Kapoor wrote: Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations.

Ayushmann Khurrana wrote congratulations guys.

Sonam Kapoor simply dropped some heart emojis.

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 ceremony in the Six Senses Fort Barwara Hotel, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. Chatter about Katrina's pregnancy started doing the rounds recently, however 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 filmmaker Karan Johar, where their bond was deepened.

IAN S



Preity's fitness mantra

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 you do, stretching 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, immersed in devotion.

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

Talking about her professional commitments, Preity is gearing up to make her comeback into Bollywood with filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi's next titled *Lahore 1947*.

IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

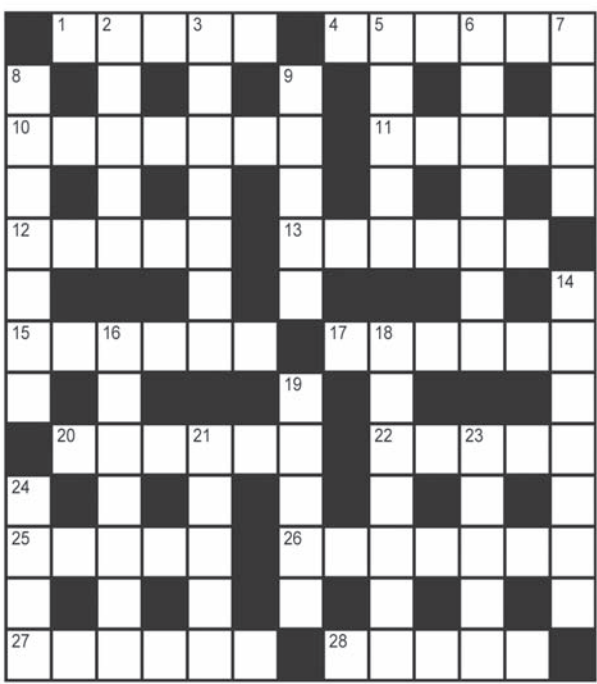


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

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

- 22 Deplete (3,2)
- 25 Targeted
- 26 A nod, for one
- 27 Genuine
- 28 Wens

Down

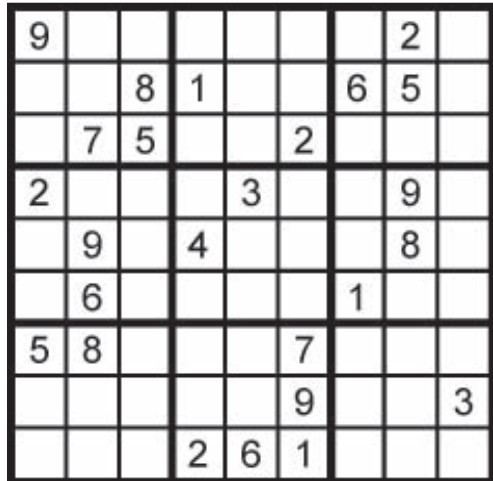
- 2 Poverty-stricken
- 3 Panama has one
- 5 Toothsome
- 6 Fire up

- 7 Go yachting
- 8 Ill-fated ship
- 9 Oversight
- 14 Office machine
- 16 Epicure
- 18 Clear day sight (4-3)
- 19 Kind of orange
- 21 Bloody Mary ingredient
- 23 Explode
- 24 Long story

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



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 Tuesday.

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 soon.

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.

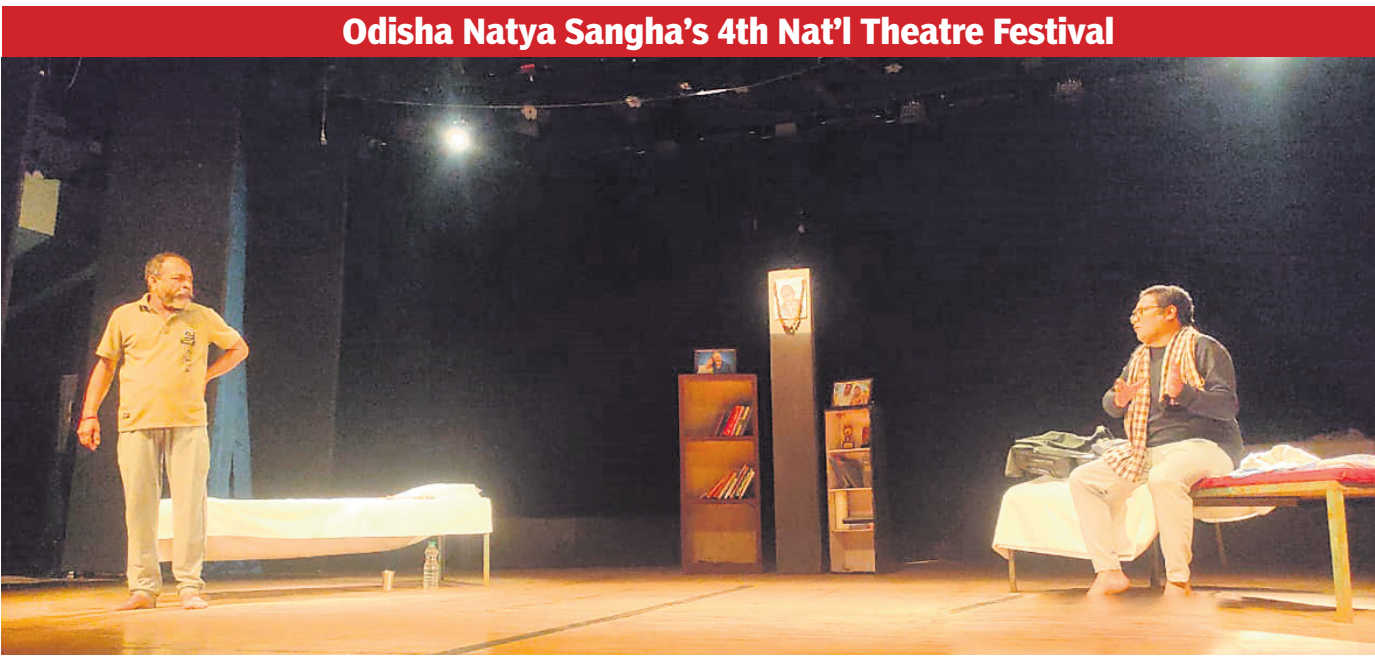
On the occasion, the minister inaugurated two state-of-the-art Centers of Excellence: the CoE in Smart Manufacturing, in partnership with FESTO, and the CoE in Industrial Automation, in collaboration with Schneider. These facilities will equip students with training at global standards, preparing

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 IHLIC 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 Aadrushya Natya Ashram, Sambalpur, staged the Odia play *Tara Sesha Ichha* at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday, marking the second evening of the five-day drama festival

RDWU unveils Energy Club, holds awareness prog

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Rama Devi Women’s University (RDWU) 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-

gy initiatives.

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 government’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 efforts, highlighting the pivotal role of students in promoting energy awareness and embracing renewable energy solutions.

Seema Meher wins 3rd prize at Nat’l Saras Fair



POST NEWS NETWORK

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.

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, Hand-

loom & Textile department, and 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 worth over ₹15 lakh.

BMC’s unique initiative for ‘Swachh Utsav’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is celebrating ‘Swachh 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



awareness about proper waste 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 its appeal.

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 communication 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 resume 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 pitla, 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 durability and health benefits. From royal kitchens to modest households, 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 coordinator Raj Kishore Sahu 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 pitla 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.

Women have hopes where state is secular: Taslima

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 achieved for females.

Asserting that feminism is not a Western culture, Nasrin said she was influenced by her own experience.

“Where the state is secular, women have hope,” the writer said at a function in Bhubaneswar. She said the conflict in the world is between two ideas - secularism and fundamentalism; rational, logical thinking and irrational, blind faith.

“I still believe that change is possible if we are brave enough



to ask questions,” Nasrin said.

The author of books like ‘Lajja’ and ‘Dwikhandita’, maintained that rigid interpretations of religion were anti-woman. Religious influence in governance had a negative impact on women across all communities, she said while delivering the ‘Siksha O Anusandhan’ Lecture at the SOA Deemed to be University.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.73 ▲ 0.43	SENSEX	82102.10 ▼ 57.87	GOLD	₹113,821 ▲ ₹1591
EURO	104.72 ▲ 0.72	NIFTY	25169.50 ▼ 32.85	SILVER	₹135,170 ▲ ₹1615

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	30.2°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.1°	22.4°	
Humidity	92%	92%	
Rainfall	1.9mm	2.8mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

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 Ganjam 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 Banglaguda. The sudden surge in 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 risky crossing.

CM, Naveen condole death of weightlifter Bijay Satpathy

PNN & AGENCIES

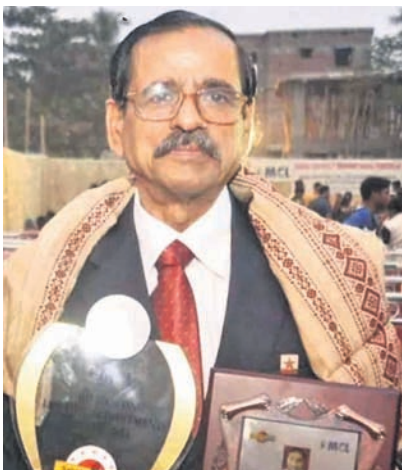
Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj Tuesday mourned the death of Arjuna awardee weightlifter Bijay Kumar Satpathy.

Satpathy passed away Monday morning at his residence in Berhampur town in Ganjam district at the age of 73 years due to old-age related ailment, family sources said.

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 this sorrow.”

Leader of Opposition in Assembly Naveen Patnaik also condoled Satpathy's demise.

“I am saddened to learn about the passing of Bijay Kumar Satpathy, a distinguished 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 continue to inspire everyone. I pray for the



eternal peace of his soul and express my condolences to his grieving family members,” Patnaik said in a social media post.

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 condolences to the bereaved family.”

Satpathy was a five-time national champion in weightlifting from 1977-78 and 1982-83.

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, Bonairgarh, and Gurundia blocks. This year, an additional 2,000 hectares in Sundar-

garh Sadar and Tangarpali blocks have also come under the organic farming.

Under the programme, farmers are provided with seeds, organic fertilisers, and financial incentives. In the first year, 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.

FERTILISER CRISIS

Farmers block NH, flee with urea bags

POST NEWS NETWORK



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 fertiliser in Sanakhemundi triggered protests Tuesday as farmers staged a road blockaded near Malabhanja 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

demanding immediate release 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 distribution.

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

UTP dies in Anandapur Sub-Jail; probe begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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-



sional hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The family has expressed doubts over the death of a healthy man, though no formal complaint has yet been

lodged from their side. Based on a report from jail authorities, 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 postmortem report comes,” Panda said

Rain cripples life in Bhograi

POST NEWS NETWORK



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 department warned fishermen not to venture into the sea until September 27. Alerts were issued at Udaypur, Talsari, Digha, Shankarpur, Mandarmani, Dagara

and other landing centres.

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

DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE, SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, DHENKANAL
Phone & Fax : 95-6762-22317/227082, E-mail : dpcdhenkssa@oepa.nic.in
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

The detailed BID document is available in the website www.dhenkanal.odisha.gov.in & www.oepa.odisha.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.

By orders of Collector-cum-Chairperson
DEO-cum-DPC,
Samagra Shiksha, Dhenkanal

OIPR-27210/11/0004/2526

PROFORMA 10-01
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.						
Sr. No.	Line	Chainage (in Kilometers)		Length of OHE	Rly/ Div	Date of energisation
		From (Ch: w.r.t take off point of RSP line.)	To (Ch:w.r.t take off point of RSP line)			
1.	X/over in between RSP UP Line -1 & DN line-2 After ROB at 'J' cabin /BNDM end.	Loc.No.RSP-00/39 (Ch:0/980.60)	Loc.No.RSP-01/10 (Ch:01/234.00)	253.40 mtr	S.E.Rly/Chakradharpur	30.09.2025
2.	X/over in between RSP entry DN line No1 & NSPCL take-off entry line at 'J' cabin /BNDM end.	Loc. No. RSP-01/01 (Ch:01/026.50)	Loc.No. RSP-01/10 (Ch:01/234.00)	207.50 mtr		
3.	NSPCL entry line	Loc. No.NSPCL-01/1 (Ch:01/130.50)	Loc. No.NSPCL-1/18 (Ch:01/612.00)	481.50 mtr		
4.	NSPCL entry line no.2	Loc. No.NSPCL-01/06 (Ch:02/656.60)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/19 (Ch:03/480.50)	1255.50 mtr		
5.	NSPCL line no.1 (Pre- Trippler portion)	Loc. No.NSPCL-01/18 (Ch:0/678.10)	Loc. No.NSPCL-3/9 (Ch:02/059.60)	1381.50 mtr		
6.	NSPCL line no.2 (Pre- Trippler portion)	Loc. No.NSPCL-01/17 (Ch:1/706.50)	Loc. No.NSPCL-01/28 (Ch:01/936.00)	229.50 mtr		
7.	NSPCL line no.1 (Pre- Trippler portion)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/20 (Ch:2/452.10)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/34 (Ch:2/731.10)	279.00 mtr		
8.	NSPCL Line No.2(Pre-Triple portion)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/13 (Ch:2/309.50)	Loc. No.NSPCL-3/2 (Ch:3/96.00)	706.50 mtr		
9.	NSPCL line No.2 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/33 (Ch:4/05.00)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/57A (Ch:4/13.00)	408.00 mtr		
10.	X/over in Between Pre Trippler Line no.1 to Post Trippler Line no.1	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/29 (Ch:2/663.60)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/49 (Ch:2/902.10)	238.50 mtr		
11.	X/over in Between Pre Trippler Line no.1 to Post Trippler Line no.2	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/30 (Ch:1/711.50)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/01 (Ch:2/011.50)	300.00 mtr	S.E.Rly/Chakradharpur	30.09.2025
12.	NSPCL line No.1 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/32 (Ch:02/713.10)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/45 (Ch:3/783.00)	1070.00 mtr		
13.	NSPCL line No.2 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-02/47 (Ch:2/888.60)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/29 (Ch:3/488.60)	600.00 mtr		
14.	NSPCL line No.3 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/06 (Ch:3/046.10)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/28 (Ch:3/469.10)	423.00 mtr		
15.	NSPCL line No.3 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/19 (Ch:3/284.60)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/57 (Ch:3/951.60)	667.00 mtr		
16.	NSPCL line No.1 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/38 (Ch:3/388.00)	Loc. No.NSPCL-04/38 (Ch:4/305.00)	917.00 mtr		
17.	NSPCL line No.3 (Post Trippler)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/41 (Ch:3/724.50)	Loc. No.NSPCL-03/58 (Ch:3/924.50)	200.00 mtr		
18	Total (TKM)			9.7709		

Sr.Divl.Elect.Engineer (TRD) Chakradharpur 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

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

(ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself

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

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (TRD) Chakradharpur RITES/BBSR

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No : Online - 08 - OF 2025-26
E-Mail ID : rwd.padampur@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No. - 9437255440

1. Name of the work

: Building works (As per Annexure-'A') As per Annexure - 'A'

2. Amount put to Bid Excluding GST

: "D" & "C"

3. Class of contractor

: From Dt.25.09.2025 at 10.00 A.M.

4. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal

: Dt.04.10.2025 up to 05:00 P.M.

5. Last date of seeking clarification

: Dt.03.10.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.

6. Last date of technical bid opening

: Dt.06.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

7. Date & Time of technical bid opening

: Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/Po - Padampur, Dist. - Bargarh, Pin - 768036

8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid

: Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/Po - Padampur, Dist. - Bargarh, Pin - 768036

(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, Rural Works Division, Padampur

OIPR-25069/11/0036/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR
E-mail : seerads.khr@rediffmail.com
E-Procurement Notice 13
No. 6105 Date : 18.09.2025
Invitation For Bids
Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR-13/2025-26

1 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.

2 Nature of workSITC of CCTV Surveillance & Biometric system

3 No. of work03 Nos. works

4 Tender Paper costAs specified in the notice for the respective Work, to be remitted online only

5 Class of ContractorAs specified in the notice for the respective Work

6 Availability of Bid documents in the website10.00 hours of 25.09.2025 to 17.00 hours of 04.10.2025

7 Date of opening of Technical BidDt.06.10.2025 at 11:30 hours

8 EMD/Bid SecurityAs specified in the notice to be remitted online only

9 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 any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

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

OIPR-34062/11/0041/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, ANANDAPUR
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.11 /MIDA/2025-26
e-mail ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in

No.A-638:The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" Procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of the Work:	Civil works in different Blocks of Keonjhar District under the Imp to CD & MIPSP for the year 2025-26
No. of Works:	21 (Twenty one) Nos. only
Estimated Cost:	Varies from 6.61 lakhs to 33.61 lakhs (Approximately)
Cost of Tender Paper:	4000/- & 6000/- (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion:	3 (Three) & 4 (Four) Calendar months
Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through online	From dt.26.09.2025, 10.00 AM to dt. 10.10.2025, upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	10.10.2025 (5.00 PM)
Date of Technical bid opening 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	Online
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder:	The Bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website http://dowr.orissa.gov.in .	
Name & Address of the OIT:	Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Anandapur, At/Po/ District- Keonjhar Email ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place http://tendersorissa.gov.in	
Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Anandapur	
OIPR-32108/11/0040/2526	

SRI AUROBINDO

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



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-the-river 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 consequences.

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 significant.

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

Many demanded that a fair share of the electricity generated be provided to the local population, according to the minutes of the meeting.

The public hearing also reflected mistrust over whether corporate social responsibility funds would actually reach local schools and health facilities.

Ecologists have warned that large dams in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem could destabilise slopes, alter riverine ecology and endanger biodiversity.

The Subansiri basin falls in seismic zone V, the most vulnerable category.

Studies by the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) have in the past highlighted repeated monsoon damages at hydropower projects in the region, including the Subansiri Lower project downstream, calling them "ticking water bombs" for Assam.

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 preparedness drills.

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

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

AGENCIES

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'

According to the Limca Book of Records, Garg's last journey has been recognised as the fourth-largest public gathering globally for a funeral procession

It now stands alongside the monumental farewells accorded to Michael Jackson, Pope Francis, Princess Diana and Queen Elizabeth II

tionally charged atmosphere. After the tributes were paid to the popular singer, the Assam Police gave him the gun salute and sounded the bugle.

Earlier, the mortal remains of Garg were taken to a platform and placed on the pyre amid chanting of Vedic hymns and blowing of conch shells.

The family performed certain Vedic rituals while Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal, Kiren Rijiju and the chief minister placed wood on the pyre.

A branch of the sandalwood tree, which Zubeen had planted on his birthday in 2017, was placed on the pyre.

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'.

People were heard humming 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 conducted in Singapore, where he died September 19 while swimming in the sea.

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



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 government 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 court said.

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 government posts.

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 ₹25,000.

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

as the case progressed through 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 adjournment.

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.

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 years.

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

Sambhar in 2019.

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 year. Birds include flamingos, pelicans, shovelers and waders, among others.

Nagaland sets up panel to review decades-old reservation policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 place since 1977, no longer reflects the current socio-economic and educational realities of the various communities in the state.

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 Commission 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 matter 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 districts inhabited by them -- Kohima, Dimapur, Mokokchung, Wokha, Nuland, Chumoukedima, Tseminyu and Zunheboto.

The CoRRP has been pressing for total review of the reservation policy effective from the 1970s.

WATCO

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

WATCO DIVISION-II, BHUBANESWAR

Near Rajiv Bhawan, Unit - V, Bhubaneswar - 751001, Odisha, India

Telefax: +91-674-2390322, E-mail: gmdivtowatco@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Dtd. 22.09.2025

01. Name of the Work

02. Estimate Cost

03. Period of Completion

04. Class of Contractor

05. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal

06. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal

07. Last date & time of seeking clarification

08. Date & time of opening of bids

09. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid

Provision for Sewerage disposal system from Toilet Blocks, Craft Pavilion, Lingaraj Plaza & Y Junction etc. at different locations under Ekamra Projects, BBSR

Rs.69.38 lakhs

02 (Two) Months

B Class

From 11.00 A.M. of Dt.25.09.25 to 5.00 P.M. of 15.10.2025

5.00 P.M. of 15.10.2025

5.00 P.M. of 04.10.2025

At 12.30 P.M. of 16.10.2025

General Manager, WATCO Division - II, BBSR

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in".

OIPR-13089/11/0029/2526

Sd./ General Manager

WATCO Division-II, Bhubaneswar

of the day

quote

My meeting with Dhina-karan has been transparent. I had already said that I would follow up on my phone 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 BJP

The most 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

Recently, the Global Innovation Index was announced. In 2015, our ranking on this index was 91 but we have 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

Panaji: 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 Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) chief Tushar Kelkar's claim that Viegas and others trespassed into the BJP office during a protest condemning the assault on Kankonkar last week.

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

UP: Azam Khan walks out of jail



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Yadav 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.

He reached his Jail Road residence in Rampur in the evening 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 the 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 Lucknow. 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

Akhilesh Yadav 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 Azam Khan and others will be withdrawn"

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



SC flags 'stagnation' in lower judiciary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Supreme Court Tuesday ruled 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-

vice after realising they might 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 experience 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 consultation 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 only 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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. 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. "We propose to reach 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, swadeshi, vocal for local and samridh Bharat,"

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 innovation. 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. It builds on the success of the School Innovation Marathon 2024, which led to programs like the Student Innovator Programme (SIP) and Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP), along with patents and

start-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 Synchronized Innovation Event, will be held on October 13," said School Education Secretary Sanjay 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 period, from November 1 to December 31.



lessons drawn from Operation 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 already 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

us a warning as well as an 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 participation of senior military officers, representatives of various firms in the defence 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 participation 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-of-its-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.

<div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div>बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा</div></div><div><div>Bank of Baroda</div></div></div><div>REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION), At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 77520-50804</div><div>E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE</div></div>				
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and 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 Auction to be held on 29.10.2025 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.				
Sl. No.	BRANCH Name & Address of Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/Mortgagors & Guarantors	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: Mishra Manju Gupta, Type of Possession : Symbolic	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building 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 Mr. Om Prakash Barma, S/o: Sri Ramgariba Barma , Bounded by East: Mishra Babu, West: Vendor, North: Road, South: Manju Gupta, Type of Possession : Symbolic	₹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 Sri Kalakanhu Seth, S/o: Sri Kalakanhu Seth, Bounded by East: Road, West: Land of Gopal Rout, North: Land of Akshay Rout, South: Land of Duryodhan Behera and Others, Type of Possession : Symbolic	Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building measuring Area: Ac. 0.10 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Barpali, PS/ Tahasil: Barpali, PS No.: 51, Dist.: Bargarh, having MS Khata No.: 1410/3420, Plot No.: 2987/8187, standing in the name of Mr. Gyanaranjan Seth, S/o: Sri Kalakanhu Seth , Bounded by East: Road, West: Land of Gopal Rout, North: Land of Akshay Rout, South: Land of Duryodhan Behera and Others, Type of Possession : Symbolic	₹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
3.	RENGALI BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050862) / Borrower: Mr. Akhila Kumar Mahana, S/o: Sri Siba Narayan Mahana, At: Mauli Nagar, P.O: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768212 Sri Sibanarayan Mahana, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 441, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 441 (P), South: Plot No.: 440, Type of Possession : Physical	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land situated at Mouza: Babuchakuli, PS: Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: 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 (P), South: Plot No.: 440, Type of Possession : Physical	₹6,75,000/- ₹67,500/- ₹50,000/-	₹ 9,58,457.17 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
4.	VSS MARG BRANCH (MOB.: 7682829021) / Borrower: M/s. Ladies Garments, Prop.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Panda / Guarantor: Mr. Bishi Keshan Panda, S/o: Late Dibakar Panda, Both are At: Medical Para, P.O: Themara, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768005 Sri Bishi Keshan Panda, Bounded by East: Open Land, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 7175, South: Plot No.: 7183, Type of Possession : Symbolic	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Themara, Thana: Sambalpur Sadar, Thana No.: 29, Tahasil: Maneswar No.: 248, Plot No.: / Survey No.: 7184/8688, Khata No.: 508/840 to an extent of Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., standing in the 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	₹26,10,000/- ₹2,61,000/- ₹50,000/-	₹ 7,29,958.36 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
5.	KHETRAJPUR BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050848) / Borrower: Mangraj Bhatta / Co-Borrower: Mr. Suryaraj Bhatta, both are resident of Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768112 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	Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Jayantpur, PS: Sadar, 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	₹66,60,000/- ₹6,66,000/- ₹50,000/-	₹ 77,91,114.01 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
6.	KHETRAJPUR BRANCH (MOB.: 7752050848) / Borrower: Mangraj Bhatta / Co-Borrower: Mr. Suryaraj Bhatta, both are resident of Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768112 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.: 354, North: Plot No.: 3423, South: Plot No.: 341, Type of Possession : Physical	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land situated at Mouza: Lapanga, PS No.: 11, Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, having MS Khata No.: 362/818, Plot No.: 355/3423, Area: Ac. 0.090 Dec., 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.: 354, North: Plot No.: 3423, South: Plot No.: 341, Type of Possession : Physical	₹21,25,000/- ₹2,12,500/- ₹50,000/-	₹ 17,49,471.84 as on 21.09.2025 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com				Scan here for more details
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 / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date				
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 22.09.2025				Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

international

of the day quote

We have entered in an age of reckless disruption and relentless human suffering... The pillars of peace and progress are buckling under the weight of impunity, inequality and indifference

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pakistan's defence pact with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a welcome development. Discussions for such an agreement were ongoing during our time in government as well

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

The day that everyone will have recognized the state of Palestine, we will have to move forward... I'm sure that we will find someday the right people for peace on the Israel side, in the same way that we have found it in the Palestinian side

JOSÉ MANUEL ALBARES | SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

China: Defence scientist held

Beijing: A top Chinese scientist, who specialised in developing semiconductor chips for weapon systems, has been detained by anti-corruption 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 Zhejiang 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 the PLA.

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’

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 conclusion.

“I’ve always said the UN has such tremendous, tremendous potential. But it’s not even coming close to living up to that potential,” Trump said.

“For the most part, at least for now, all they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter and then never follow that letter. It’s empty words and empty words don’t solve wars.”

Trump wasted little time telling representatives of countries across the world that the US is “the hottest country anywhere in the world, and there is no other country even close.”

He added later that the US is “the best country on Earth to do business” and claimed the economy now is “bigger and even better” than during his first term, which he described as “the greatest ... in the history of the world.”



And he claimed the US is “respected again” like never before.

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 Kingdom.

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

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.”

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 formally 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.

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 tens of thousands more military recruits



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rostock, Sept 23: Germany has committed billions to beefing up its military’s equipment after years of neglect. Now it’s trying to persuade more people to join up and serve.

More than 3½ 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.

Alongside the higher military spending that Germany and NATO 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 says 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 jets circled above. That was part of an exercise focused on moving troops and equipment to Lithuania — an ally on NATO’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

a third conscripts, in 2001. Now the government wants to raise 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 suspended, the Bundeswehr gave up 48 barracks. A report by the parliamentary commissioner for the military earlier this year 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 approved 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 conscription, an idea unpopular with the centre-left junior partner 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 undergo medical examinations, though not to sign up for the military.

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 painkillers.

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 diseases — 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 that.”

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

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 statistics 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, different results, different studies, I talk about a lot of common sense. And they have that, too. They have that too, a lot.”

business

of the day quote

India's chemical industry is undergoing a transformative shift, from fossil-based production 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 consumer interest and enthusiasm

SHAILESH CHANDRA | PRESIDENT, SIAM

India's progress in building a robust innovation ecosystem and stressed the importance of positioning the country as a global brand of excellence in knowledge, science, and technology

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | EDUCATION MINISTER

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 MV57 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 company said.

Zealthix raises \$1.1mn

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.



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

RAJESH KUMAR
MEDIRATTA | MD, IGC

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



SEBI to ease rules for foreign investors

REUTERS

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 elaborating.

The proposed changes come



India to ease entry for overseas investors, reducing registration time

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-

forms Asian and EM peers in 2025 so far

Top Indian regulatory officials 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 sources said.

Separately a delegation of investors from six countries met officials at the RBI, SEBI, exchanges and finance ministry in India earlier this month, the two added.

As part of the changes, the central bank will match SEBI's more liberal documentation needs for regulated overseas pooled funds, such as insurance and mutual funds, which are considered to be low-risk, the sources said.

EPFO adds 21.04L net members in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-on-year, 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 states/UTs 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 states/UTs 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.

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 Madhav 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 Bhubaneswar 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.

Markets decline amid FII outflows, H1B concerns

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 indices.

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

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-

Gold soars amid global cues



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 fall against the US dollar added to the rally of the precious metal.

So far in this year, gold prices

have added ₹39,950 per 10 grams, or 50.60 per cent, rallying from ₹78,950 per 10 grams December 31, 2024.

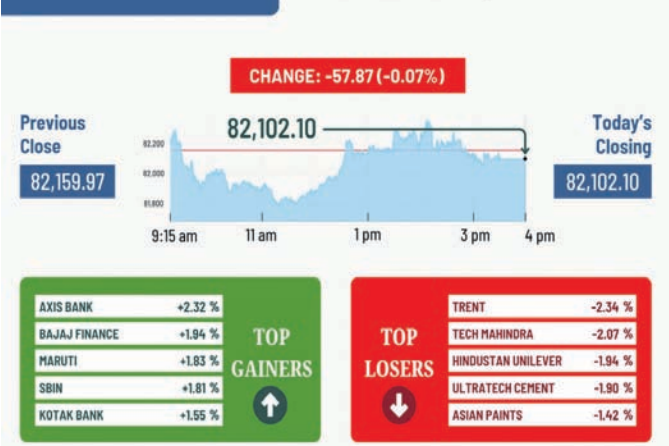
Silver prices also skyrocketed by ₹3,220 to hit an all-time high of ₹1,39,600 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Tuesday. The white metal had ended at ₹1,36,380 per kg in the previous session. Silver prices have risen ₹49,900 per kilogram or 55.63 per cent in the current calendar year, skyrocketing from ₹89,700 per kg on December 31, 2024.

Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 47 paise to hit an all-time low of 88.75 against the US dollar, 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.

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

According to Praveen 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.

BSE SENSEX SEPTEMBER 23, 2025



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

The BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.35 per cent while mid-cap 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

at lower levels and reflected renewed confidence in the market's near-term outlook.

Despite FII outflows, strong DII buying provided a cushion, giving market participants confidence 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 investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,910.09 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended higher Monday.

Meanwhile, the rupee 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 outflow of foreign funds.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.45 per cent to \$66.87 a barrel.

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 definitely help exporters in the short run. But we need stability in the value against the USD, Federation of Indian Export Or-



ganisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said.

Sharing similar views, Mumbai-based exporter and Techno-craft 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.

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 International Ltd MD Yadendra 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.

Dembélé wins Ballon d’Or

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 Bonmati 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.

Bonmati 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 Champions League semifinals. Yamal was given the Kopa award for the best under-21 player for the second straight year.

“I need to keep on working to win other awards in the future,” Yamal said through a translator.

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.

Bonmati’s spot kick in the shootout was one of two saved by England’s Hannah Hampton, who was voted the best women’s goalkeeper.

“Third time in a row here and I still can’t believe it,” Bonmati said “I owe Barcelona everything, this is the club of my life.”

She won a domestic treble with Barcelona and al-

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 women’s coach. On a great night for PSG, Luis Enrique won in the men’s category.

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 joined Arsenal this summer from Sporting Portugal after a prolific season.



Dominant India take on upbeat Bangladesh to inch closer to final



AGENCIES

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

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 Suryakumar 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 role. The early signs suggest-

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 Litton Das should be fit despite a back strain that kept him cautious in training.

They are also weighing up whether to persist with Shoriful Islam, who was expensive 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 co-founded.

His appearance came days after 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

AGENCIES

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. Mandaviya 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



countries during the championships. There will be a total of 73 para-athletes vying for the top spot from the host nation.

“Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister 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 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 ceremony 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 by 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 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.

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.

Umpiring great Dickie Bird dies aged 92

AGENCIES

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 umpire.

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-

outh College between 1966 and 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.

Atiqa Mir narrowly misses out on podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Orechova, (Slovakia), Sept 23: India’s racing sensation Atiqa Mir finished an impressive fourth after being in the running for a famous victory for the majority of the action-packed race in the Championships 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-year-old, 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 finished 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.