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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

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PM to flag off Amrit Bharat Exp Saturday

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the Amrit Bharat Express connecting Berhampur with Udhna in Gujarat's Surat district via video conferencing and unveil railway projects worth over ₹1,700 crore during his Odisha visit September 27, official sources said Wednesday

They said Modi will address a public meeting at Amlipali Ground, close to Veer Surendra Sai (VSS) Airport at Jharsuguda.

Though his earlier meeting venue was fixed at Berhampur in Ganiam district. it was later changed to Jharsuguda due to a forecast of heavy rainfall in southern Odisha on the day.

During the visit, the PM will also inaugurate a 5-km flyover at Sambalpur City built at a cost of ₹273 crore.

In the state's southern region, Modi will dedicate the doubling of the 34-km Koraput-Baiguda rail line and the 82-km Manabar-Koraput–Gorapur section, built at a cost of ₹1,400 crore, officials said.

These upgrades will power mineral transport and open fresh pathways for growth in southern Odisha, benefiting industries and local communities alike, an official statement said.

As part of the 'Seva Pary' initiative, the PM is scheduled to announce the expansion of eight IITs, grant super-specialty status to MKCG medical college and hospital in Berhampur and VIMSAR in Sambalpur, launch a national skill development programme, and provide aid to 50,000 beneficiaries under the Antvodava scheme

SHORT **TAKES**

Early salary for state govt employees

Bhubaneswar: CM Mohan Charan Maihi has directed officials to disburse the month's salary of government employees September 26 in view of the upcoming festivities. Usually, the salaries are disbursed at the end of the month, but with government offices set to remain closed from September 27, the early payment will encourage employees to take part in the nationwide 'Savings Festival' after implementation of the GST 2.0 reforms, an official release said.

CBSE Class X, XII board exams to start Feb 17

New Delhi: The Central **Board of Secondary Education** (CBSE) will conduct Class X and XII board exams from February 17 next year, officials announced Wednesday. The board announced a tentative datesheet for the crucial exams. This is the first time that board exams for Class X will be conducted twice in an academic session. While the first edition will be conducted from February 17 to March 6, 2026, the second edition is scheduled from May 15 to June 1, CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Earlier, only Kashmir was disturbed. Thanks to your vision and tireless efforts, Ladakh too is

Ladakh burns for statehood; 4 dead

At least 80 injured, many critical; Centre says violence due to Wangchuk's statements



BURNING IRE: Smoke and flames billow out after a police vehicle was set ablaze by protesters amid a shutdown, in Leh, Ladakh, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Sept 24: The statehood for Ladakh movement descended into violence, arson and street clashes here Wednesday, leaving four people dead and at least 80 injured, including 40 police personnel, officials said.

As the sun set on what is arguably the worst day of violence since 1989 in the cold desert region, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk called off his fortnight-long hunger strike to press for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh, while authorities clamped curfew in the Leh district.

Groups of youths, indulging in arson and vandalism, targeted the headquarters of the BJP and the Hill Council and set ablaze vehicles. Police and paramilitary forces, deployed in strength across the town, lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control, the officials said. With at least six of those injured in a critical condition, there are fears the death toll could go up.

The Centre alleged that the mob violence was guided by the provocative statements of activist Wangchuk, and certain politically motivated individuals were not happy with the progress made in the ongoing talks between the representatives of the government and Ladakhi groups.

Wangchuk blames GenZ's frustration

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk Wednesday expressed the incidents of violence in Leh and blamed the frustration building among the Gen Z for the violence, Wangchuk said frustration had beer building among the youths as the peaceful protests were not yielding any results. Giving the equence of events, he said a large number of 'Gen Z' youths came to the protest site Wednes day, where prayers were being held. He said 2,000-5,000 youth then took to the streets, "They have been jobless for five years This is a recipe for social unrest. There is no democratic platform here," he said.

In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said barring a few unfortunate incidents that happened early Wednesday, the situation was brought under control by 4pm and asked everyone not to circulate old and provocative videos in the media and social media. The government stands committed to the aspiration of the people of Laconstitutional safeguards, the statement said.

by Wangchuk September 10, pressing the demand for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth and the Philippines.

schedule and statehood.

It is well known that the Government of India has been actively engaged with the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance. Series of meetings were held with them through formal channel of High Powered Committee (HPC) as well as sub-committee and multiple informal meetings with leaders, the statement said. However, certain politically motivated individuals were not happy with the progress made under HPC and have been trying to sabotage the dialogue process, it said.

The next meeting of the High Powered Committee has been scheduled October 6, while meetings are also planned on 25th and 26th September with the leaders from Ladakh.

Addressing an online press conference, Wangchuk said the fact that Tsering Angchuk (72) and Tashi Dolma (60) were taken to a hospital was most likely the immediate trigger for the violent protest.

With the situation worsening rapidly, he stepped in with an appeal and an dakh by providing adequate announcement that he was cutting short the fast.

The BJP alleged that the vi-The Home Ministry said olence was a part of the Conthe hunger strike was started gress' nefarious design to create situations in the country similar to Bangladesh, Nepal



UP IN SMOKE: People gather outside the burning BJP office building after it was set afire by agitators during a protest demanding statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, in Leh, Ladakh, Wednesday

CAG uncovers chinks in schemes 99.99 percentile NEET scorer dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has blown the lid off massive financial irregularities, suspected misappropriation, and shocking lapses in the execution of key welfare and development programmes in Odisha.

The findings for the period ended March 2023, presented in and irregularities in invoic-hampur became defunct the state Assembly and shared es worth ₹22.78 crore. ITDA within three years. by the Principal Accountant Paralakhemundi was found serious governance gaps.

A compliance audit of Integrated Tribal Development tioned ₹73.60 lakh. Agencies (ITDAs) revealed

accounts of engineers, with transactions including ATM and mobile recharges, raisappropriation. Additional issues included ₹3.38 crore payments without invoices, solar water systems in Bermusical instruments and costumes against a sanc-

In the urban water sector.

that ₹148.75 crore was rout- despite spending ₹2,808.27 ed through personal bank crore under AMRUT and BASUDHA, many projects remained incomplete. Wawithdrawals, UPI transfers, ter supply levels were below the mandated 135 litres per ing strong suspicion of misperson per day, with unsafe quality in multiple towns. A ₹9.79 crore treatment plant in unsupported excess ex- in Burla supplied turbid wapenditure, ₹3.23 crore in ter, and ₹1.74 crore worth of

About 35 per cent of spewith disabilities operated without registration. Under sha Abhiyan, five out of compensation.

six Model Degree Colleges built at over ₹40 crore were Chandrapur (Maha), Sept abandoned due to poor planning. A ₹11.30 crore Cluster University project collapsed over governance issues, and Utkal University distributed crore among staff instead of using it for labs.

Other losses included ₹19.64 crore in TV ad overspending, General's office, point to to have spent ₹3.74 crore on cial schools for children and ₹83.88 crore due to incor-Land valuation errors in Pu-Rashtriya Uchchatar Shik- ri led to ₹16.68 crore in excess **MORE P3**

24: A 19-year-old student from Maharashtra's Chandrapur district died by suicide Tuesday, hours before he was scheduled to leave ICT equipment worth ₹1.83 for admission to a medical college in Uttar Pradesh.

The deceased, identified as Anurag Anil Borkar, was crore in failed rubber planta- a resident of Nawargaon in tions, ₹6.44 crore from lease Sindewahi taluka. He had enforcement failures, ₹12.11 recently cleared the NEET UG 2025 (National Eligibili- to become a doctor ty-cum-Entrance Test) with and instead aspired rect stamp duty collection. an All India Rank of 1,475 in the OBC category, scoring a

official, Borkar was set to be- confirmed that it expressed gin his MBBS course at a college in Gorakhpur, but was the medical field. found hanging at his residence family members.

A suicide note recovered from his room indicated that Borkar did not wish

'Don't want to be doctor'

ness, officials said. Police

The Navargaon police early Tuesday morning by his have registered a case of accidental death

his reluctance to continue in

and an investi gation is underwav

Borkar's death drawn renewed attention to the growing pressure faced by students in In-

dia's competito pursue a career in busitive academic environment particularly those preparing

99.99 percentile, police said. have not officially released for high-stakes entrance ex-According to a senior police the contents of the note, but ams like NEET.

Self-styled 'baba' US tariff hike hits 25K prawn farmers, in soup for sexually 62 seafood traders harassing students Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: A self-styled godman, originally from Odisha and once associated with a reputed religious organisation, is at the centre of a police investigation after several female students of a management institute here accused him of sexual harassment.

Chaitanyananda Saraswati, formerly known as Swami Parthasarathy -- has so far evaded arrest despite raids and surveillance.

According to police, the accused was a sanchalak (management committee member) at the Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management in southwest Delhi. Police also found in the institute's basement a Volvo car with a forged diplomatic number plate -- 39 UN 1 used by Saraswati.

This is not the first time he has faced such allegations. Police sources said a case of fraud and molestation was lodged against him at the Defence Colony Police Station in 2009, while another molestation complaint was filed at the Vasant Kunj Po-



The accused - Swami lice Station in 2016. In the latest case, the complaint was filed August 4 at the Vasant Kunj North Police Station.

statements of 32 female PGDM (Post Graduate Diploma in Management) students with EWS scholarships were recorded. Of these, 17 alleged that Saraswati used abusive language, sent obscene messages, and made unwanted physical advances.

The investigators said statements from students, faculty members, and staff are being cross-verified. while digital evidence, including messages and call records, has been collected as part of the probe.

The allegations are serious,

and we are pursuing the case

with priority, police said.

During the inquiry, the

The minister said that the Centre, in consultation with involving multiple victims. states, is taking steps to create alternative markets.

The recent tariff hike imposed by the US on Indian goods has directly affected 62 seafood processing entrepreneurs and indirectly impacted 25,000 prawn farmers of Odisha, a state minister said Wednesday.

While replying to a written query by BJD legislator Tusharkanti Behera in the Assembly, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik said export of fish, prawn and other marine products have been partly affected, due to the additional tariff.

A steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering the United States took effect last month.

At present, a 25 per cent additional duty is already in place on Indian goods entering the US market Another 25 per cent will be slapped as a penalty for purchasing Russian crude oil and military equipment. "About 24.5 per cent of marine products exported from Odisha go to the US," Mallik said.





Date: 26th - 28th September, 2025 | Venue: KIIT Campus 3 (Kathajodi)



Prof. Mohan Munasinghe Nobel Laureate, Sri Lanka

26th Sept. 2025

Justice Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf Judge, International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague

Justice Dalveer Bhandari Judge, International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague 27th Sept. 2025

H.E. Ouided Bouchamaoui

Nobel Laureate, Tunisia

28th Sept. 2025

This year, the KIIT Convocation will be held over three days from 26th - 28th September 2025, discipline-wise, to facilitate greater participation of students and parents.

Website: www.kiit.ac.in | Email: kiit@kiit.ac.in

eisure



TOUGH TIMES ARE OVER Hollywood singer-actress Jessica Simpson is currently at ease, as the hard times are over for her, and the actress

is thankful. The actress feels blessed to have gone through the hard stuff in her life, reports Female First UK.

ANISTON REVEALS WHOM SHE **CALLS IN TIMES OF DISTRESS**

Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston has shared what she finds comfort in during tough times. The actress revealed that she leans on her loving friends and comfort food, reports Female First UK.



A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesha advises you to be prepared in vour best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you. Only Ganesha does, and he is sporting a knowing smile.

This day you are likely be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesha sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end. In spite of an initial lack of focus, you will be able to sort out your affairs and find that everything turns out in your favour.

GEMINI

Today, your enthusiasm for sports and outdoor activities is palpable. According to you, variety is the spice of life. You will keep on jumping from one venture to another You will establish a good rapport with your bosses and colleagues. It's time to taste success in your immediate and interim objectives.

CANCER

You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesha. you will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

You will spend the day with your family and friends today and feel closer to them. You will try to help others, as always. You will like to guide someone if your own situation is comfortable today. You will be able to fulfill the expectations placed upon you by someone and will garner a lot of well-wishes, says Ganesha.

VIRGO You will be the flag-bearer for

people around you, spreading hope and inspiration, Ganesha advises you to be the ideal family man today. By doing this you will radiate affection and love. This will in turn work remarkably in cultivating positive relationships.

Ganesha says that you will be more careful about your outward appearance and will try to enhance it further. Towards the evening you may impress people around you when you attend a social function. Those of you who are single can put forth a marriage proposal to their beloved today and it will be accepted Those of you who are married may have a joyous and happy married life.

SCORPIO

Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesha, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

SAGITTARIUS

Someone from the opposite sex is likely to get attracted towards you. Enjoy being in the limelight. Today, you main activity becomes hanging around with friends and cherishing their company.

CAPRICORN

You love your family and you will try your best to live up to the expectations of your family members. If you are student, you will finish up your existing projects and get on with some fresh assignments, foretells Ganesha. Don't block your imagination; give yourself some freedom so that you can test your creativity and talent.

AQUARIUS

You may have to remain indoors today. But, don't think that you will get bored. You can do a lot of things, like playing cards and other board games, reading, watching the natural world around, and what not. You will spend the day in a relax mood and look at life from a different perspective, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

You will race ahead of you competition today. No matter what field you are in, you will find yourself at an advantageous point, well ahead of your contemporaries. You will be able to complete the task at hand will lesser effort than required. Do not let this translate into arrogance as it may come to haunt you in the future, advises Ganesha

Dia: Women rise, the world rises



actress, Dia Mirza is also actively involved in various social causes, such as the environment and women's empowerment. She connected with women leaders from all sectors during

Terre Dil Mein actress shared a few sneak peeks from the event on social media. Sharing her experience, Dia wrote, "Women rise, and with them, the world rises... For People, For Planet, For Peace. At the Women Rise For All Lunch during #UNGA80, I witnessed the incredible force of women leaders who bring not just wisdom and experience, but also courage

and compassion to the table (sic).

Appreciating all the powerful women from across the globe who participated in the event, she added, "H.E. Amina Mohammed reminded us so powerfully: "In the job that gets done – the done are women. On this panel, women from across the globe brought their unparalleled power: H.E. Kristrún Frostadóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of Ethiopia, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Moderated by Caitríona Perry, Chief Anchor, BBC News.

Dia further stated that during the event, she was reminded that leadership is not about dominance, but about service, inclusion, and creating pathways for peace and

Prakruti on 'handshake' of her life

Mumbai: On Wednesday, actor Prakruti Mishra, a member of the 71st National Film Awards jury, took to Instagram to share a carousel post from the award ceremony. One picture shows Prakruti posing with Shah Rukh alongside the film jury chairperson, filmmaker Ashutosh In the caption, Prakruti wrote,

"When I was selected to be a part of the central jury panel for National Film Awards, I didn't know that I would be a part of the team of 11 who would be responsible for @ iamsrk Sir to get his much-deserved and long-awaited first-ever national award.

Borrowing SRK's famous line from Om Shanti Om, Prakruti added, "Being a part of this iconic moment



cheez ko dil se chaho toh puri kainaat usse tumse milane ki koshish mein lag jaati hai". The actor quipped that she has not washed

her hands since she shook hands with the superstar at the ceremony. "PS: I haven't washed my hands since the most special "handshake" of my life." The 30-year-old ended her note with a con-

gratulatory message for Shah Rukh. "Congratulations @iamsrk Sir on your first and honour to have been in the panel and fight for what you deserved many years ago.'

Prakruti won the National Award for her performance in the Odia film Hello Arsi. To Hindi audiences, she is best known for her starring roles in TV shows like Bitti Business Wali and Laal Ishq and the reality show Ace

FSB's 6th IDFFB from today



Bhubaneswar: The sixth edition of the Indian Documentary Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by the Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), will kick off Thursday at GKCM Odissi Research Centre auditorium, Bhubaneswar.

The four-day festival will showcase 40 documentaries, including films acclaimed at Berlin, Sundance, Rotterdam, IDSFFK, Busan and New York festivals. The opening film A Tale to Begin With by Bishwesh-

war Das portrays legendary poet Jayanta Mahapatra at 94. Other highlights include Cycle Mahesh by Suhel Banerjee, documenting a migrant's arduous pandemic journey; Our Land Our Lives by Telanga Hasa, capturing indigenous struggles; and Achal Mishra's Chaar Phool Hain Aur Duniya Hai, a portrait of writer Vinod Kumar Shukla. Roya Sadat's Afghan political thriller The Sharp Edge of Peace follows four women negotiators confronting patriarchal odds.

This year's Padma Shri awardee and 14-time National Award-winning filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli will attend the festival. His notable works, including Naadada Navaneeta, Ananthamurthy: Not a Biography but a Hypothesis, and Images and Reflections, will be screened. The festival also focuses on South Asian cinema,

presenting films from Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal, including Dhorpatan by Rajan Kathet and Sunir Pandey. Sessions with filmmakers such as Prachi Bajania, Ranajit Roy, Lalit Vachani, and academic Moinak Biswas will follow the screenings. The line-up also features Mic Drop by Kallol Muk-

herjee, about a Bundelkhandi rapper, and Bedabrata Pain's Deja Vu, chronicling small farmers in the US amid reforms. Orissa POST and Dharitri are print media part-

ners for the event.

CHARIDHAM, CHALLENGE TO LIGHT UP PUJA SCREENS

Bhubaneswar: The festive season is all set to bring not just lights and celebrations, but also fireworks at the box office with two major films—Charidham: A Journey Within starring Anubhav Mohanty, and Challenge featuring Ardhendu Sahu gearing up for a clash.

Releasing September 25, Charidham, directed by Tapas Sargharia and produced by Himadri Tanaya Das under the Camera Queen Production banner, promises a visually



rich and emotionally charged

In this action-packed spirit-

ual drama, Anubhav plays a devoted son embarking on a ailing parents' dream. The tions, including the Himalayas. as a brother-sister duo, the film

transformative pilgrimage to

India's four sacred shrines— Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri, and Rameswaram—fulfilling his

film is expected to resonate

with audiences through its emotional core and stunning visuals shot across scenic loca-

Anuradha Panigrahi, Mamata Tripathy, Sukanta Rath, and Ashish Kumar Das play other key roles in the movie that marks the third collaboration between Anubhav and Sargharia after Love in London and Prem Kumar: Salesman of the Year Hitting cinema screens Sep-

tember 26, Challenge brings intense family emotions wrapped in a high-stakes action drama. Headlined by Ardhendu and Lipi explores the unshakable bond of sibling love and the lengths one would go to protect it.

Produced by Adikanda Sahu Elina as the female lead. Adding grit to the narrative are seasoned actors Bobby Mishra and Bollywood's Puneet Issar,

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



I AM THE DOWNHILL TUMBLE AND ROLL CHAMP, KING OF THE TOAD FINDERS, CAPTAIN OF THE HIGH ALTITUDE TREE BRANCH VISTA CLUB, SECOND PLACE FINISHER IN THE 'ROUND THE YARD BACKWARD DASH, PREMIER BURPER STATE DIVISION, SODBUSTER AND WORM SCOUT FIRST ORDER, AND GENERALISSIMO OF THE MUD AND MAYHEM SOCIETY.

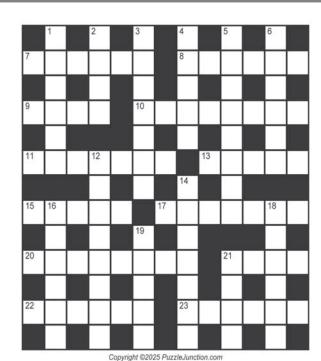




BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**



20 Scold

21 Cajole

Across 7 Business bane

(3,3)

8 Yield

9 Petrol

10 Eager beaver (4,4)

11 Salon

applications

13 Vascular growth

15 Snares

17 View

<u>Down</u>

1 Astronomer's sighting

22 Accompany to

23 Malodourous

a party

2 Cash drawer 3 Guitar relative

4 Courageous

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

12 Fake 14 Pacify 16 Go over an

5 Delay

6 Oomph

argument again 18 Delphi figure

19 After dinner candies 21 Word in French

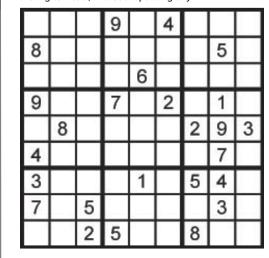
restaurant names

under Adilaxmi Entertainment and directed by Sai Kiran Man-

garaj, Challenge also features who play the villainous antagonist brothers, setting the stage for a dramatic showdown.

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

A N V I L E E T H I C S T E S L I N E R T I A CROSSWORD A C T U A L C Y S T S

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

SUDOKU

owntown

7.48L removed from ration card list: Min CAG FLAGS GAPS IN CCTNS

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The Odisha government has removed the names of 7,48,849 persons from the ration card list during the e-KYC verification process conducted across the state, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra told the Assembly Wednesday.

As many as 30,125 ineligible ration card holders, comprising 1.09.853 individuals and 6.38.996 death cases, have been removed from the ration card database since June 2024, Patra said in a written statement to the House. According to the minister's

reply, the highest of 53,964 people have been excluded from the list in Ganjam district due to death, followed by Keonjhar (46,334), Sundargarh (33,999), Koraput (33,785), Kalahandi (32,663) and Nabarangpur (30,830) among others.

Similarly, the highest of 10,862 ineligible individuals have been removed from the list in Cuttack district, while 10.577 people have been removed from the free ration scheme in Khurda district among others.

The Odisha State Food Security (Targeted Public Distribution System) Rules, 2020 clearly explain the exclusion of intending ration

card applicants on grounds of income slab.

The ration card applicants ineligible ration card holders are informed about the reason for their exclusion from their respective Ration Card Management System (RCMS) centres functioning in 314 blocks and 64 urban local bodies (ULBs)

across the state, the minister **Auction of 13L MT**

surplus rice likely

The state government will auction 13 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of surplus rice if the Food Corporation of India (FCI) fails to lift the excess stock, FS&CW Minister Krushna Chandra Patra told the Assembly Wednesday.

he Odisha government plans to construct new cold storages and Trevive defunct ones across the state in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo told the Assembly Wednesday. Replying to a question from BJD member Ranendra Pratap Swain, Singh Deo, who is also the Agriculture minister, said that the government has allocated Rs 252 crore over five years (2024-2029) for this initiative. The funds will support the construction and restoration of cold storage facilities in 85 sub-divisions across Odisha, he said. Singh Deo said the process has already begun for building new cold storages in 12 sub-divisions and reviving an existing defunct facility. "The government is actively working to ensure cold storage availability in all sub-divisions of the state," he said. He said 13 applications for cold storage construction have been received so far, with three projects already approved to proceed.

Cold storages to come up in PPP mode: Dy CM

Over 18K suffering from kidney ailments: Mahaling

Atotal of 18,305 people in Odisha are suffering from kidney ailments, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling told the Assembly Wednesday.

Sources said despite the high caseload, government hospitals have a severe shortage of kidney transplant facilities. The SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack is the state's only government-run hospital equipped to perform kidney transplants. Private and corporate hospitals are bearing the burden of transplant procedures due to this gap in government healthcare, they added. Areas in Cuttack district, especially Narasinghpur and Badamba blocks, along with parts of Dhenkanal district, are considered hotspots for chronic kidney disease.

"Diagnostic services for kidney ailments are available at medical colleges, district headquarters hospitals, and sub-divisional hospitals," Mahaling said.

For patients with chronic kidney disease, 70 hospitals offer dialysis facility with a total of 513 beds. The state government provides these services free

"Under the Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana, kidney patients receive free treatment at private and corporate hospitals. So far, 1,481 kidney transplants have been performed at both government and private hospitals in the state," the minister said.

Replying to a question from BJD legislator Pratap Keshari Deb, the minister said that the state had procured 92 lakh MT of paddy, yielding around 63 lakh MT of rice after milling.

of cost, he said.

"Out of this, 50 lakh MT were distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the FCI, leaving a surplus of 13 lakh MT," Patra said.

The minister said the state government has urged the Centre to direct FCI to lift the surplus stock and expressed hope for a positive response. "However, if FCI does not act, the government will auction the surplus rice to prevent wastage," he said.

Patra also informed the House that additional rice allocations have been made to 11 districts, and construction of new godowns with a capacity of 10 lakh MT is underway.

Responding to a supplementary question by BJD deputy leader Prasanna Acharya, Patra said the state government has so far received Rs 2,000 crore out of the pending Rs 10,000 crore for rice lifted by FCI over the last eight years.

"The state has requested the Centre to release the remaining Rs 8,000 crore in arrears, but no response has been received so far." he said.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Wednesday highlighted significant gaps in planning, implementation, and monitoring of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) in Odisha.

In its report on 'Information Technology Audit of CCTNS in Odisha for the year ended March 2023' tabled in the Assembly, the auditor evaluated the system's performance in the state from its implementation in 2013 till March 2023.

CCTNS, a flagship National e-Governance Mission Mode Project of the Union Home Ministry, was intended to modernise policing, enable digital crime records, and improve investigation and citizen services. However, the audit found that key objectives of the project have not yet been achieved, leaving scope for errors and data manipulation.

The auditor found irregularities in the tendering process

Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems

adopted by the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) that resulted in extension of undue benefit to the selected software services provider.

Data digitisation and migration was the most important activity and constitutes a major component in successful implementation of CCTNS project. As per the contract, the system integrator was to digitise old/ past records of 10 years (from 2001 to 2010) as well as open cases even if the case had been registered before 2001. "However, the SCRB decided to digitise old/past records for the period January 2003 to December 2012, which was not in compliance

with the contractual terms, the CAG noted.

The process of data migration from the system used earlier (Crime and Criminal Information System and Common Integrated Police Applica tion) was incomplete and incorrect. "This, in turn, meant that CCTNS could not be utilised for retrieval of data as intended for the period," it said.

Instances were found where FIRs were logged before General Diary (GD) entries and arrests/seizures recorded be fore FIR registration. Between 2018 and 2023, at least 412 FIRs were dated earlier than their GD entries.

"Personnel no longer handling certain cases still had digital access, raising the risk of unauthorised data changes,

Police stations continued using manual registers for case diaries, chargesheets, and court disposal memos. Of 7.44 lakh FIRs registered between 2018 and 2023, only 18,513 were entered in CCTNS.

Man gets 10-year RI for ₹14cr investment scam

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A special court, set up under the **Odisha Protection of Interests** of Depositors (OPID) Act, in Cuttack Wednesday awarded 10-vear rigorous imprisonment (RI) to the mastermind of a fraudulent investment scheme after holding him guilty of deceiving gullible investors to the tune of Rs 14 crore.

The convict - Pabitra Kumar Sahoo – was awarded the sen-

tence under relevant Sections of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, the OPID Act and IPC, Cuttack OPID Court Special Public Prosecutor Biswajit Mohapatra said.

The EOW had taken up the investigation of the case following the Orissa High Court's intervention in 2018 while the fraud was perpetrated in 2015.

According to the case records, M/s Vibgyor Allied Infrastructure Limited and its sister companies having

registered office at Kolkata opened a branch office at Suryanagar here.

"The convict, representing himself as the Odisha head of the company, deceitfully induced the public to invest money in different schemes of the companies with the assurance of higher return against the invested sum However, the company closed its office in 2013 and did not pay the maturity value," Mo hapatra said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Mahila Congress' protest over 'rising' crimes against women

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Members of the Mahila Congress Wednesday staged a 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' outside the Assembly here to protest against 'rising atrocities against women' in Odisha.

Holding party flags, leaflets and banners, the members, led by its state president Minakshi Bahinipati, took out a protest march from the Congress Bhawan towards the Assembly building. However, the Congress activists were

sembly by police personnel when they tried to cross the barricades, an official said. During the demonstration outside the

prevented from moving closer to the As-

members were detained, he said.

Bahinipati alleged that rape, murder and other crimes against women were on the rise in Odisha, and the BJP government 'has remained a mute spectator'.

"A female police constable was recently murdered in Bhubaneswar. If this is the situation in the Capital city, one can assume the situation in other parts of the state," she said. Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said, "The BJP government has failed to ensure a safe and secure environment for women in the state. It has not taken any concrete steps to improve the situation despite the rising crimes against women.

AICC leader Tulika Karma said the party would continue the fight for the safety of

Districts put on rain alert

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Normal life came to a grinding halt in Odisha Wednesday as all the 30 districts received around 60 per cent more rainfall than normal even as the IMD forecast more downpour till September 27, prompting the state government to put all districts on alert, officials said.

While the ongoing low-pressure already triggered heavy rainfall across the state, the IMD has forecast the formation of another low-pressure system Thursday, leading the authorities to take precautionary measures, they said.

"Districts under orange and yellow warnings should keep the administrative machinery ready to face any eventuality," SRC office said in a letter to all district Collectors.

The IMD has issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy accompanied rain thunderstorms and lightning with wind speed reaching 30-40kmph at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur Nuapada.

Similarly, weather office issued a yellow warning of rain and thunderstorm with lightning and wind speed reaching 30-40kmph for 27 other districts till 8.30am of Thursday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also stated that sea condition is very likely to be rough to very rough and cautioned fishermen not to venture into along and off Odisha coasts and North and Westcentral Bay of Bengal from September 24 to 28.



Orissa POST

MoUs inked to boost global skills & youth employment



Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Marking another step towards making Odisha a skilled talent hub, the Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) department, in the presence of Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, signed MoUs with three leading organisations here Wednesday

MoUs with Global Access to Talent from India (GATI) Foundation, JustJobs Network, and the Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) reaffirms the state's commitment to expanding global opportunities, strengthening evidence-based skill policies, and creating pathways in emerging industries.

Speaking on the occasion. Minister Swain said, "Under

NSIC, OYEA host MSME

SDTE signs MoUs with GATI Foundation, JustJobs Network, and FDDI to boost global skills, research-led policies, and emerging industry training in Odisha

Minister Swain highlighted the initiatives as investments in youth, aiming to create a future-ready workforce for both national and international opportunities

the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, skill development has been placed at the heart of our journey towards 'Viksit Odisha'. Our youth must be equipped not only for opportunities in our state and country but also to succeed on the global stage.

"These MoUs are more than partnerships. They are investments for the future of Odisha's young people. We are not just creating jobs but we are shap-

ing futures and building the confident, future-ready Odisha of tomorrow," he added.

Partnership with GATI Foundation will prepare Odisha's youth for international markets, positioning the state as a hub of highly-skilled global professionals. Collaboration with JustJobs Network will strengthen research-led, inclusive skilling policies to align aspirations with opportunities and with FDDI (Hyderabad Campus), Odisha will pioneer non-leather footwear skilling, opening new avenues of employment and entrepreneurship in a high-growth sector.

The MoUs were signed by **GATI Foundation CEO Arnab** Bhattacharva, JustJobs Network founder and executive director Sabina Dewan, and FDDI Hyderabad Campus executive director Narasimhugari TL Reddy.

Officials from SDTE including Commissioner-cum-Secretary Bhupendra Singh Poonia, Skill Development-cum-Employment director and OSDA & WSC CEO Rashmita Panda were present on the occasion.

ENACTING A PLAY: Students from Shailabala Women's College Sanskrit department stage the play 'Vruksha Rakshati Rakshitah' at 'Dasharupakam-2025' a three-day Sanskrit theatre festival organised by 'The Catch' at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

India Maritime Week 2025 inaugurated

Bhubaneswar. Sept Paradip Port Authority (PPA), under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) inaugurated Indian Maritime Week 2025 here Wednesday and organised a roadshow on the theme 'Navigating the Shift of Indian Maritime Sector: From Volume to Vision'.

The event was attended by Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain as chief guest, MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai, Industries department additional chief secretary Hemant Sharma and Housing and Urban Denities, and inclusive skilling,

velopment principal secretary Usha Padhee, alongside industry leaders and stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Swain highlighted Odisha's vision to be India's eastern maritime gateway, aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047. He emphasised shipbuilding, ship-recycling, blue economy opportuwhile assuring state support for Bahuda Port and Kendrapara's shipbuilding initiatives under the 'Viksit Odisha 2036' vision.

Highlighting Odisha's roadmap, Padhee said, "We aim to expand capacity from 80 MTPA to 500 MTPA by 2047 through modernisation, infrastructure

across multiple sectors. More

than one crore people have

and a proposed Odisha Mari time Board. Women's participation must rise to make growth inclusive." PPA chairman PL Haranadh said, "India Mari time Week, scheduled in Mumbai from October 27 to 31, 2025. would host over 100 maritime nations, 200 speakers, 500 ex hibitors, and one lakh delegates

"The Ministry targets MoUs worth ₹10 lakh crore, with Paradip Port aiming for over ₹1 lakh crore," he added, citing major projects like the proposed Bahuda Major Port (₹21,500 crore), Mahanadi shipbuilding hub (₹24,700 crore), and a cruise terminal at Puri.

awareness workshop POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC), in association with the Odisha Young Entrepreneur Association (OYEA), Bhubaneswar, held an awareness workshop on the MSME TEAM Initiative at Gita Govinda Sadan Wednesday. drawing strong participation from micro and small enterprises across the region.

The workshop highlighted NSIC's efforts to empower entrepreneurs through digital platforms and partnerships, focusing on facilitating trade via the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Inaugurating the event, Kamal Lochan Nayak, DGM-NSIC, said, "The TEAM Initiative is a step towards making MSMEs digitally empowered and market-ready. By bringing them onto ONDC, we are creating opportunities for growth and competitiveness.

Before the Notary Public, Bargarh, Affidavit No.726,dt.12.06.2025 I, Sayara Begum, aged about 27 years, Daughter of Sekh Aslum, Resident of Bargarh, Word No.12, Church gali, P.O./P.S./ Dist.-Bargarh. That. originally my name is 'Sayara Begum' and my actual date of Birth is 27.06.1998 and the same is mentioned in my School Certificate, Birth Certificate, Resident Certificate etc. That, I have been issued with Aadhaar Card bearing No.xxxxxxxx8451 where in my name is inadvertently mentioned as 'Sayara Bibi' in place of 'Sayara Begum", So also my date of Birth is mistakenly mentioned as '14.12.1990' in place of 27.06.1998. That, 'Sayara Begum' and "Sayara Bibi" D/O Sekh Aslum is same and one person.

IDEATE 2025 calls for inclusive leadership to empower women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar / New Delhi, Sept 24: The Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), in collaboration with FICCI. concluded the 14th edition of IDEATE on the theme "Margin to Mainstream: Empowering Women to Lead" FICCI Commission Hall, New Delhi Wednesday.

In her special address, Padma Shri Shobhana Bhartia, chairperson and editorial director of HT Media Ltd, said, "Empowering women is not charity- it is a necessity. A gender-inclusive approach is vital not only for fairness but also for India's economic future. Bridging the gender gap could add nearly a trillion dollars to our GDP.

Speaking on the occasion, BIPF founder & CEO Shaifalika Panda said, "As we move towards a Viksit Bharat 2047, Nari Shakti must be recognised not just as beneficiaries but as architects of change. Empowerment means both agency and access."

In a panel discussion on Margin to Mainstream: Strategies for Empowerment," chaired by Sara Abdullah Pilot, founder and chairperson of



key interventions in education, training, and mentorship. Pilot stressed a life-cycle approach to support girls and women at every stage of life. Other panelists included

Vijay Mahajan (Founder,

BASIX) and Aradhana Rai

Gupta (Co-Founder, Project Baala), with Roshika Singh (IFC India) moderating. Later, Padma Shri Naina Lal Kidwai (Chairperson, Rothschild & Co India) and

KARM Fellow Muskan Kushwaha held a candid conversation on building ecosystems for women's socio-economic independence. Kidwai highlighted the need

for women leaders to become enablers, saying, "Progress will come when both women and men commit to bringing equity and transforming lives

Keonjhar man sentenced to life for nephew's killing

Keonjhar: A Keonjhar court Wednesday sentenced Satrughna Naik to life imprisonment and fined him ₹10,000 for killing his nephew Kamalakant Naik in May 2022. The incident occurred in Talapada village when Kamalakant, after returning home and asking for food, verbally abused his wife, prompting Satrughna to intervene. An argument escalated, and Satrughna struck Kamalakant with a stick, leaving him unconscious. Due to lack of transport, he could not be taken to a medical center and died the next morning. Based on the complaint by Kamalakant's wife, the police filed a case, leading to

BJD brands Shreemayee Mishra 'habitual liar' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A day after suspending its firebrand woman leader Shreemayee Mishra for alleged anti-party activities, the Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday labelled her a 'habitual liar'. Addressing a press conference at Sankha Bhavan here, Biju Mahila Janata Dal (BM-JD) president Snehangini Chhuria and party spokesperson

> with false claims. "BJD is one of the most successful regional political parties in India. Under the leadership of former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, the party has been bringing transformation

Lenin Mohanty accused Mish-

ra of misleading the public

taken membership, a party known for its discipline," Ch-Three BJD members, includ-

ing Mishra, were suspended on grounds of anti-party activities

"Mishra claimed that she has not been in the party for the past one year, which is actually a blatant lie. She has regularly attended party programmes, delivered speeches, and praised the leadership. She has also been entrusted with various responsibilities at different time. Never before did she state that she was outside the party. Only after suspension she did make such misleading remarks, which confirms her habitual dishonesty," Chhuria said.

In a social media post Tuesday, Mishra said, "I have never compromised on my self-esteem and self-pride, nor will I do so in the future. As I have not renewed my membership of the party for the past one year, my suspension from it will help people to laugh."



Odisha shines at PM Mementos e-Auction 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, **Sept 24:** Odisha is making a mark at the ongoing PM Mementos e-Auction 2025, featuring 21 unique artifacts showcasing the state's rich heritage in textile craftsmanship, mythological art, and metalwork. The e-auction, running until October 2, invites citizens nationwide to bid on memorabilia presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Proceeds from the auction will support the Namami Gange Project, a flagship initiative for conserving and rejuvenating the River Ganga.

Among the highlights from Odisha is an exquisite collection of Pattachitra paintings, celebrated for their intricate detailing, vibrant natural colours, and rich mythological narratives. Crafted on traditional canvases and palm leaves, these artworks bring to life legendary tales of Lord Krishna, Radha, and Lord Ganesh, reflecting the state's centuries-old artistic heritage

Your Chance To Own A Piece of Pride, Glory & Heritage

and storytelling traditions.

Each piece not only showcases

technical mastery but also em-

bodies the cultural and spiritu-

al ethos of Odisha, preserving

a legacy that has been passed

down through generations of

Equally striking is the Silver

Peacock Memento, a testament

to Odisha's celebrated filigree

craftsmanship. The piece

captures national symbolism

while showcasing the state's

exceptional skill in this delicate

art form. Another remarkable

highlight is the Tussar Silk

Painting of Navagunjara, de-

picting the mythical nine-ani-

skilled artisans.

PM MEMENTOS



This artwork masterfully

combines mythology, wildlife,

and textile artistry, exemplify

ing Odisha's unique ability to

merge spiritual significance

with artistic innovation. Both

pieces reflect the state's rich

cultural heritage and its en-

during tradition of excellence

Organised by the Ministry of

Culture and showcased at the

National Gallery of Modern

Art in New Delhi, the PM Me-

mentos e-Auction 2025 features

over 1,300 items, including

paintings, handicrafts, tribal

art, sports memorabilia, and

ceremonial gifts presented to

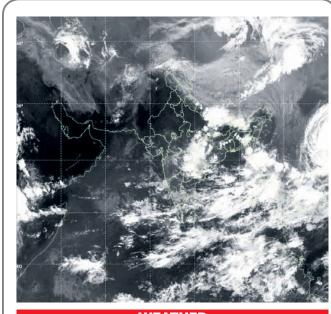
in craft and storytelling.

The state presents 21 unique artifacts at the auction, including Pattachitra paintings, a Silver Peacock Memento. and a Tussar Silk Painting of Navagunjara

proceeds from the auction, running until October 2, support the Namami Gange Project, allowing citizens to own a piece of India's artistic legacy while contributing to a national initiative

inception in 2019, the auction has provided a unique platform for public engagement with India's national heritage while supporting important environmental and cultural initiatives, such as the Nama mi Gange Project.

Citizens can join the auction by visiting pmmementos.gov.in and placing bids until Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, 2025. Odisha's contribution highlights the state's rich legacy of craftsmanship, spiritual storytelling, and cultural pride, giving bidders a unique opportunity to own a piece of India's artistic heritage while supporting a project of national significance



	WEATH	ER		
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST	
Max Temp	33.8°	30.6°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or	
Min Temp	24.9°	22.8°		
Humidity	79%	92%	thunderstorm.	
Rainfall	0.4mm	3.4mm		

mal form of Lord Krishna. the Prime Minister. Since its CONTACT BOOKING CLASSIFIED AD VERTISEMENTS OUR

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

Life hit as rain pounds Sambalpur

Sambalpur Collector Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar Wednesday inspected several waterlogged areas in the city



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 24: Incessant rain during the past couple of days has thrown normal life out of gear in Sambalpur town, submerging several low-lying areas and leaving residents to cope with water entering homes and

Though no loss of life or injuries has been reported, many households and business establishments suffered damage due to inundation Localities like SIT Colony, Mudipada, Deulabandha, JMJ Hospital, NH-53 and adjoining service road near Anuguliapada, Panchgachhia, Bareipali, Budharaja, Pradhanpada,

Lakshmi Talkies, Putibandha, Gumbesingha, Hirakud Colony, Charbati, Saraswat Colony, Chandan Nagar, and parts of Bada Bazaar were badly affected due to severe waterlogging.

Deulabandha residential area in Mudipada was completely submerged after the sluice gate of Dhobijora creek and the railway drain at Balibandha remained clogged for several hours, causing sewage water to backflow into homes

While rain continued overnight, showers subsided briefly around 9:30am Tuesday, allowing water to drain naturally from some pockets. Meanwhile, with rising

financial assistance

from the Odia Lan-

guage, Literature &

Culture department of

the state government.

will be provided

₹50,000, amounting

to a total grant of

aims to encourage

and support the

traditional and cul-

tural heritage of

Gajalaxmi Puja in

medha

decision

the Agriculture and Farmers

Empowerment department.

with the support of the Gates

Foundation and the joint

coordination by Palladium,

a statement issued in this

Agro Producer Company'.

which has become a symbol

of the collective strength

of small and marginal

farmers, owes credit for

the export of agro produce

through the Netaji Subhas

Chandra Bose International

ducers Company is striv-

Saptasajya Agro Pro-

vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

Airport, Kolkata.

Name of the

Borrowers

Mr. Satya Ranjan

Pradhan

Mrs. Priyanka

Dhenkanal's 'Saptasajya

regard maintained.

Each

Rs 19 lakh.

This

water levels in Hirakud reservoir, 16 gates were opened to release excess water into the Mahanadi system. As a result, drainage channels in Chandan Nagar, Mandalia Jhupudipada, Narasingh Mandir Saheb Bangla area, Kumarapada, Housing Board Colony and Dashamati Colony failed to discharge water into Mahanadi leading to flood-like situation in these areas.

However, waterlogging in some areas subsided after Sambalpur Municipal Corporation enforcement officer Sushant Singh reached Balibandha and the sluice gate at Dhobijora was opened.

Similarly, garbage was removed from a main drain at Charbati near Commissioner Colony, helping the stormwater to recede. In water had to be pumped out in Bada Bazaar, Mandalia Narasingh Temple and Saraswat Colony. Sambalpur Collector

Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar Wednesday inspected several waterlogged areas in the city.

Accompanied by Municipal Commissioner Rohan Khatri and other officials, the Collector

Colony, Gopalmal, Shantinagar, Phatak Malipada, Putibandha and other localities. He directed authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of residents and their properties.

Bondar said continuous downpour for about seven to eight hours led to waterlogging in several parts of the city as the rainwater could not be drained out immediately. Sambalpur city recorded 180mm rainfall. Dhankauda block 170 mm and Rengali 250 mm. The torrential rain caused water to enter houses in many areas. However, once the rain subsided, water receded from many places.

The Municipal Corporation officials, along with Fire Services personnel, carried out rescue operations in the affected areas. Around 120 people were evacuated and shifted to relief shelters, where they were provided with dry and cooked food, drinking water and other essential supplies.

The Collector said officials on duty have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock vigil on the situation.

Man kills son over family feud

Jajpur: A man allegedly killed his 30-year-old son over a family feud in Jajpur district, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred at Bichhakhandi Sabarsahi village under Jenapur police station Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Sambhu Nayak. Police arrested the accused,



Kanthia Nayak, 55, and seized the weapon used in the crime, an officer said. According to police, Sambhu, a daily wage earner, reached his house in an inebriated state and got into an ugly spat with his father over a domestic issue. In a fit of anger, Kanthia took an axe and hacked his son to death on the spot. Hearing screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and found Sambhu lying in a pool of blood in the courtvard of the house. Kanthia tried to flee after committing the crime but locals overpowered him. He was confined to a room, the officer added. After getting information, a team from Jenapur police station reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem examination, he said. Kanthia was arrested under relevant sections of BNS and further investigation is underway, he informed.

Train mows down two minor siblings

Woman, 4-yr-old son die of snakebite

Lahunipada: A woman and her four-year-old son died after being bitten

by a snake late Tuesday night at Barachhuan in Lahunipada block and

identified as Tulasi Kohl, 29, and her son Abinash. According to reports,

Tulasi along with Abinash, and her two other children slept on the floor

2am, Rath woke up saw a snake attempting to climb onto the cot. He

after having dinner, while her husband Rath was asleep on a cot. Around

immediately killed it and went back to sleep. After a while, he woke up to

find Tulasi and Abinash frothing at the mouth while still lying on the floor.

With help from neighbours, he rushed them to the Bonai sub-divisional

to the government hospital in Rourkela, where she later died.

hospital. Doctors there declared Abinash dead, while Tulasi was referred

Mahulpada police limits of Sundargarh district. The deceased were

Rourkela: Two boys died when they were hit by a passenger train near Basanti Colony in Rourkela, police said Wednesday. The incident took place around 2:30am when they were crossing the railway track, they said The deceased were identified as siblings Ranjan Patra, 17, and Debendra Patra, 15. The bodies were recovered from the railway track, and have been sent for postmortem, a police officer said.

College girl found dead in Polasara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Polasara, Sept 24: Police have recovered the body of a 20-year-old college student from the house of Jitendra Sahu in Chadhiapada under Polasara police station in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Sonali Behera, daughter of Suresh Behera of Balichhai village under Kabisuryanagar police station.

A police team, along with forensic experts, reached the spot and began an investigation. A case (691/25) has been registered. According to reports, Sonali, a final-year Plus III student of Polasara Science College, left home Wednesday morning, telling her family she was going to college. Sometime later, her body was found at the house of Chandan, son of Jitendra Sahu.

Alleging that Sonali had been murdered, the family lodged a complaint with police. Following this, Polasara po lice seized the body and sent it to Berhampur for postmortem. Polasara IIC Kaushik Majhi said Chandan and his father Jitendra have been de tained for questioning.

Chandbali: 500-ft ship anchor chain found

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, Sept 24: A 500-ft long ship anchor chain was unearthed Wednesday from beneath the ground during an eviction drive in this historic port town of Chandbali in Bhadrak district.

The recovery was made when an earthmoving machine was demolishing encroachments by roadside shops near the old state port office. The chain was later shifted to the tehsildar's office premises.

Tehsildar Bhabatosh Mallik and police officials were present at the site during the operation. A large crowd of curious locals was seen having a glimpse of the finding.

Residents and history enthusiasts said Chandbali was once



a flourishing trading port, and the recovered chain likely be longed to a large merchant vessel. They believe more ship parts, anchors and equipment might be buried in the area.

E- AUCTION

E-Auction Sale Notice Under Rule 8(6) of

security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

EMD / Bid ncrement Amour

₹88,77,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

tatutory dues)

₹8,87,700/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹73.35.000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹ 50,000/-

₹10,89,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹1,08,900/-/

₹ 50,000/-

₹44,02,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

atutory dues)

₹4,40,200/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹50,99,000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹5,09,900/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹16.29.000/-

(excluding

GST & other

statutory dues)

₹1,62,900/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹ 19L for Dhenkanal Laxmi Puja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A In a maiden move, the state government has decided to provide a financial assistance of ₹19 lakh for the celebration of Gajalaxmi Puja in Dhenkanal

According sources, altogether 38 medhas (tableaux) in Dhenkanal district will receive

district.

Woman, daughter killed in mishap

Ghatagaon: A woman and her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter were killed, while her husband was critically injured in a road mishap at Kolimati Kumuda Chhak on National Highway 20 under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district, Wednesday. The deceased woman was identified as Sukuti Munda of Chamui Colony near Naduan under Ghasipura police station and her daughter. Sukuti's husband. Redu Munda, sustained grievous injuries. Redu was returning home with his wife and daughter on a motorcycle from his in-laws' house when a Bolero coming from Ghasipura hit them.

Man gets 20-year RI for sodomising boy

Keonjhar: Additional District Judge-cum-Special POCSO Court Judge Monalisa Mohanty Wednesday sentenced a man of Nambira under Bamebari police station to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and slapped a fine of ₹2,000 after convicting him of having unnatural sex with a 10-year-old boy. Non-payment of penalty will attract one-year more RI. The boy was going to take a bath in a nearby dam January 5, 2023 when convict Ranjit Sethi, who was also going to the dam, called him and took him to a secluded place where he committed the crime. Ranjit threatened him against disclosing the matter with anyone. However, a friend of the boy, who witnessed the incident, informed the victim's mother, leading to police case.

Dhenkanal papaya makes way to Ireland



Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: From an importer to a vegetable exporter, the scenario in agriculture sector is showing signs of transformation with 100 kg colocasia and 320 kg green papaya from Dhenkanal district exported to far-off Ireland, state's Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department claimed Wednesday.

This success has been possible under the strong leadership of the Directorate of Horticulture under

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

Branch Name /

Contact No.

SAMANTARAPUR

Mob: 9437883406

BIJU PATTNAIK PARK

Mob: 9692218310

2.

ing to build a prosperous agricultural economy. providing fair price to the farmers for their labour and increasing the demand for the state's agricultural products in the global market. This time, by exporting high-quality colocasia to Ireland for the first time along with papava. this farmer-producer organisation (FPO) has added another milestone to its journey of success. This is not just an export, but an effort to give a global platform to the dreams of Odisha farmers, the state-

With continuous efforts in this direction, more than 140 tonne fresh vegetables and fruits have been exported to 10 international markets from 2024 by Palladium under the stewardship of the Agriculture Department. Through this export, the concerned farmers have been able to get 40 per cent to 62 per cent added value of their produce.

ment said.

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev

Vihar, Navapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 7978330922

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is", "As is What

is" & "Whatever there is" basis as per terms and conditions listed below. This public Notice will be treated as a notice to the Borrowers/

Guarantors/Mortgagors of the loan. They are hereby advised to liquidate thier entire dues before the auction date, failing which the

Vehicle Details

MARUTI SUZUKI DZIRE ZXI+,

Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-1043,

Year of Manufacturing: 2021

CITROEN C3, 1.2 PETROL,

Regd. No.: OD-02-CD-9394

Year of Manufacturing: 2022

Date of Auction: 30.10.2025 From 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M., E-Auction Portal- https://baanknet.com

Last Date of submission of EMD, Application & Documents: 25.09.2025 to 30.10.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 02.00 P.M. Terms and Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles at the premises of the stock yard as mentioned above on 25.09.2025 to 29.10.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after

bid is successful and the balance amount within 15 days failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be

This initiative will not only provide fair prices to the farmers but also enable

Reserve Price / EMD /

Bid Increment Amount

₹4,48,000/- /

₹44,800/- /

₹5,000/-

₹4.38.300/- /

₹43.830/- /

₹5,000/-

them to become self-reliant and meet the demands of the global market. This export success has become a source of inspiration for other FPOs and farmers across the state, the statement concluded.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

2025-26. Dt. 17.09.2025 Name of the work! TRO RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION TO THE WORK OF "INTERLOCKING OF 02 LEVEL CROSSING GATES (L.)-06 & L.J-11) IN LANIJGARH ROAD JUNAGARH ROAD SECTION OF

Approx cost of the work: ₹31,25,895.43, EMD: ₹62,500/-, Completion Period of the work: 09 MonthS. Date & time of Tender Closing: 09.10.2025 at

lo manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such -Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's ter head and received in time. All such ma offers shall be considered invalid and shall be jected summarily without any consideration. documents of the above e-Tenders is available in

website http://www.ireps.gov.in The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of articipating on e-tendering as per instruction. Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes, corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)

E-AUCTION SALE

OF VEHICLES

Parking Yard Details

M/s. City Investigation &

Detective, At/Mouza: Sijua, Khata No.: 158/139, Plot No.

394/605, Near King Club, PO

Patrapada, PS: Khandagiri,

Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda,

Notice is here	by given	to the	public	ir
described imm	ovable pr	ropertie	s morto	ja
Officer of Bank	k of India	, will be	e sold o	n
nereunder, for	recovery	y of ba	lance o	l

(E-Auction) Sale of secured movable / immovable Assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev

Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 7978330922

PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) / 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 n general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor that the belo

aged/charged to the Bank of India, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on Auction Date mentioned ue to the Bank of India from the Borrower as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor, amount due, short description of the immovable properties and encumbrances known thereon possession type, reserve price, earnest money deposit and Bid increment amount are also given as under Reserve Price

SI.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/	l			
No.	Co-Borrower / Guarantor/Mortgagor/ Total Dues				
1.	ARB, CUTTACK, PH.: 8249067773 /	Ī			
	Borrower: M/s Asian Trading Corporation Prop : Mr				

Jogendra Swain / Guarantor: Mrs. Sona Swain, W/o Sandhakuda, P.S: Paradeep, Tahasil/SRO: Kujanga Mr. Jogendra Swain, Both are at HIG-43, Housing Board Colony, Madhuban, Paradeep, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur PIN-754142 / Total Dues: ₹66,93,991.87 + interest costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

SAHID NAGAR BRANCH, PH.: 7008216628

1181/1910, Khata No.: 589/1374, Land Area: Ac.0.030 Borrower: Mr. Sadashiv Palatasingh / Co-Applicant Dec. i.e. 1306.8 Sqft., having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Pipili Sasan, P.S.: Pipili (Thana No.: 84), Tahasil: Pipili Mortgagor: Mrs. Dhanalaxmi Palatasingh, W/o. Mr. Sadashiv Palatasingh, Both are at Rev. Plot No.: (Tahasil: No.: 238), Dist.: Puri, Odisha, in the name of 1181/1910, Khata No.: 589/1374, Mouza: Pipili Sasan, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No.: 84, Puri-752104 / **Total** Mrs. Dhanalaxmi Palatasingh, W/o · Mr. Palatasingh, Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: 12, West Dues: ₹61,41,913.35 + interest, costs and expenses, Sup Plot No.: 14, South: Jabar Mohammad & Others less any part amount repaid. North: Road

HARIPUR BRANCH, PH.: 7008788077

Borrower: Mr. Bibhu Kishor Pradhan, S/o.: Mr Digambar Pradhan, At: Kukudajhar Sahi, PO.: Haripur Khordha, PIN-752034 / Total Dues: ₹9.74.663/interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid

Borrower: Mrs. Sulochana Biswal, W/o.: Mr. Santos Biswal, C/o.: K. Jyotibala Patra, Plot No.: 38/40 Jagannath Vihar, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999

BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH,

BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH,

Borrower: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, S/o.

Basudev Pradhan / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Kunilata

Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Both

are At: Baghamara, PO.: Pahanga, Niali, Cuttack-

and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

PH.: 9937640878 /

PH.: 9937640878 /

Borrower: M/s. Harapriya Engineering and Fabrication Work, At: Plot No.: 2273/2985, Tarol, Tangi Thana No.:45, Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / Managing Partner: Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray (Property Owner) / Partner: Mrs. Anitarani Das, Both are At BN/7, Raja Bagicha Labour Colony, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Odisha-753009 / Total Dues:

by North: Binod Bihari Sahoo, South: Brundaban Maharana, East: Govt. Road, West: Govt. Road TAMANDO BRANCH, PH.: 7008280080 /

PIN-751003 / Total Dues: ₹42,08,256/- + interest, costs No.: 2201, West: Rev. Plot No.: 3616, North: Manoj Kumar Sarangi, South: Road

₹41,23,235/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

No.: 3288/268, Land Area: Ac.0.021 Dec. i.e. 914.76 Sqft

having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Navapalli, P.S.: New Capital (Thana No.: 1), Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist. khordha, Odisha, in the name of Mrs. Sulochana Biswal

Description of the Properties

All that part and parcel of property consisting of Land and

Building situated over Khata No.: 09, Plot No.: 03, Area:

Ac.0.25 Dec. i.e. 10.890 Sqft., Kissam; Gharabari, Mouza;

situate within the Registration District of Jagatsinghpur, in

the name of Mr. Jogendra Swain, Bounded by North: Govt

Land, South: Road, East: A.K. Lenka, West: Jitendra Swair

Residential Land and G+2 Building pertaining to Plot No.

Residential Land and Building pertaining to Plot No.: 223

Khata No.: 94, Land Area: Ac.0.040 Dec. i.e. 1742.40 Sqft

having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Chhotarapur Sasan

P.S.: Banapur (Thana No.: 371), Tahasil: Chilika (Tahasil

No.: 371), Dist.: khurda, Odisha, in the name of Mr. Bibhu

Kishor Pradhan, S/o.: Mr. Digambar Pradhan, Bounded

Vacant Land pertaining to Plot No.: 1470/2971/5403, Khata

W/o.: Mr. Santosh Biswal, Bounded by East: Rev. Plot All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 620/970, Plot No.: 2273/2985, Plot Area: Ac.0.075 Dec. i.e. 3267 Sqft, Kissam: Gharabari

Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (P.S. No.: 72), Tahasil: Tangi Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of **Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray,** Bounded by North Alekha Swain, South: Babuli Barik & Ranjan Barik, East: Road, West: Ramakanta Biswal

Vacant Land situated over Khata No.: 134/21, Plot No. 205, Area: Ac. 0.160 Dec., Plot No.: 207, Area: Ac. 0.415 Dec., Total Land Area: Ac. 0.575 Dec. i.e. 25,047 sqft. Borrowers: 1) Mr. Jayasen Sahu, S/o: Mr. Gopinath having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Patharapalli, PS Sahu, 2) Mrs. Sunita Sahu, W/o: Mr. Jayasen Sahu, Both are Address: Main Road, Athagada Patna, Patharapalli, Ganjam, Odisha-761105 / Total Dues: Kabisuryanagar No.: 86, Tahasil: Kabisuryanagar No. 107. Dist.: Ganiam, Odisha, Standing in the name of ₹41,82,404.75 + interest, costs and expenses, less any Mr. Jayasen Sahu, S/o: Mr. Gopinath Sahu, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 208, West: Plot No.: 183, 196, 197 &

204, North: Plot No.: 212 & 211, South: Road (Plot No.: 533) & Plot No.: 206 G+1 Storied RCC Residential Building situated over Khata No.: 219/53, Plot No.: 410/678, Land Area: Ac. 0.150 Dec. i.e. 6534 sqft. having Kissam: Gharabari at Mouza:

Baghamara, PS: Gobindpur, Tahasil: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack Odisha in the name of Mrs. Kunilata Pradhan, W/o Mr. Prakash Chandra Pradhan, Bounded by East: Kunilata 754004 / Total Dues: ₹33,04,220.23 + interest, costs Pradhan, West: Sanjay Biswal, North: Accesible through Govt. Plot No.: 369 (Kissam: Gochar) & Plot No.: 368

₹ 50,000/-₹34.44.000/-(excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹3,44,400/-

(Kissam: Chakanala) to connected village Road, South: Maa Barunei Land Date & Time of E-Auction: 30.10.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each. Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 30.10.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 29.10.2025 with prior appointment of

the authorised officer

Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance' amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the

above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com **Authorised Officer**

forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership & statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser Successful Bidder is fully responsible for taking delivery of the vehicles from stockyard after full payment is made within a period of 15 (fifteen) days. Vehicles will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept /reject/cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. For further information & clarification contact: Mr. Rabindranath Behera, Mob.: 7978330922. This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s) of the aforesaid loan accounts for settlement of their outstanding dues with the bank and to participate in the public auction, e-auction on the above mentioned date.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 25.09.2025

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

power post





There is no greater courage than that of recognizing one's own mistakes.

THE MOTHER



Globalization Is Dead

'n November 1985, during their first summit in Geneva, US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev slipped away from the official proceedings to speak privately. Only years later did we learn what they discussed. Gorbachev told the broadcaster Charlie Rose that Reagan had asked him a startling question: "What would you do if the United States were suddenly attacked by someone from outer space? Would you help us?" Gorbachev replied, "No doubt about it," to which Reagan responded: "We, too." Although the two superpowers were locked in a nuclear arms race and staring each other down across Europe, they could still imagine uniting against a common existential threat.

Four decades later, humanity finds itself locked in another arms race. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports that global defense spending reached a record \$2.7 trillion in 2024 an inflation-adjusted increase of 9.4% over the previous year. After nine consecutive years of such spending increases, this surge is unprecedented since the end of the Cold War, with little indication that it will slow. Dozens of countries are expanding their militaries, and more governments are making long-term commitments to boost their defense budgets.

The reasons are many, and some are understandable. In addition to Russia's war in Ukraine, there are rising tensions in East Asia and the Middle East, as well as vulnerabilities in cyberspace and space. But more fundamentally, this escalation reflects the collapse of globalization as we knew it - meaning a rules-based order anchored in multilateralism, open trade, and international

It is easy to forget how different the mood was just a decade ago. In 2015 the high-water mark for the most recent wave of globalization – world leaders delivered three landmark agreements: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on development financing, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris climate agreement. Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Barack Obama shook hands in Washington, signaling - at least to many observers - that a new era of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient globalization was at hand.



Bertrand Badré

Today, tariffs, subsidies, industrial policies, refugee crises, and the new arms race all attest to a world where cooperation has lost its lustre

But the resulting optimism proved short-lived. Within a few years, $\,$ trade wars, nationalist and nativist politics, and geopolitical rivalries had undermined the previous consensus. Today, tariffs, subsidies, industrial policies, refugee crises, and the new arms race all attest to a world where cooperation has lost its lustre. As the French historian Arnaud Orain argues, the "end of history" thesis has given way to a world once again conceived as finite – as a pie to be divided, rather than expanded. According to this mindset, what's mine is mine, and what's yours is negotiable.

But the existential threats that inspired Reagan's thought experiment are still here, and they are more pressing than ever. Climate change, ecosystem collapse, and widening social inequalities endanger us all. They have been thoroughly documented, their consequences are already visible, and strategies to confront them have been elaborated in countless policy documents and experts' reports. Yet they are perpetually treated as secondary to the immediate fear of aggression by one's neighbours or rivals.

Future historians – if the profession still exists – will wonder why, in the mid-2020s, Homo sapiens poured unprecedented resources into preparing to fight each other, while neglecting collective action against obvious planetary threats. The sums involved are staggering. The nearly \$3 trillion devoted annually to defense could cover a significant portion of the investments needed to decarbonize our economies, adapt to climate change, and preserve biodiversity.

Instead of extending the cooperative logic of globalization to planetary survival, we are re-engineering it with walls, tariffs, and weapons. Call it "barbed-wire globalization." Humanity will remain interdependent, but relations will be managed not with common institutions but through spheres of influence. Meanwhile, the planet will recede from political consciousness

As Sophocles warned, "Evil can sometimes seem good to the one whose mind the gods are leading to ruin." It is mad to obsess over relative geopolitical power while ignoring the absolute reality of planetary boundaries. If there is to be any hope, we must invent something new: not globalization, but "planetarization" - the recognition that preserving our fragile world is the precondition for everything else. Upcoming gatherings, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, offer opportunities to advance such a perspective, even after this year's disappointing negotiations to address plastics in our oceans. But the window is closing.

Some will argue that the picture is not so bleak, because humanity is living through an extraordinary period of scientific and technological innovation. Given the progress in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, renewable energy, and advanced materials, why not place our trust in human ingenuity to see us through?

The counterargument is sobering. A century ago, revolutionary discoveries in physics, chemistry, and medicine also promised a golden future, ultimately leading to what the French called the "30 glorious years" after World War II. But before getting there, the world endured a devastating depression, fascism, and a global war waged with those new technologies. The Manhattan Project produced nuclear weapons before the energy contained within the atom had been put to civilian use; the science that gave us modern fertilizer also created chemical weapons.

Today, AI and other breakthroughs may likewise transform society. But if history is any guide, military applications will outpace civilian uses. As ever, we should "follow the money": defense budgets dwarf climate investments. The danger is not that the technology will fail, but that it will be harnessed first for conflict, not collective survival.

Unlike earlier historical turning points, this one offers no second chances. Resources are finite, the carbon budget is shrinking fast, and planetary boundaries are strained. The choice is stark: Globalization can be reorganized into a militarized array of political blocs, where resources are consumed by trade wars, culture wars, and real wars, or we can embrace "planetarization" and start pursuing strategies to survive together with dignity.

The writer, a former managing director of the World Bank, is Chair of the Project Syndicate Advisory Board.

WISDOM CORNER

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.

44 Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

Every blessing ignored becomes a curse.

DALAI LAMA

PAULO COELHO

FOCUS URBAN PLANNING

HIMALAYAN CATASTROPHE

he Himalayan states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir have been ravaged by floods and landslides this year. It's a known fact the Himalayas are not only ecologically fragile, but urbanistically vulnerable. Sadly, planners have ignored the terrain, hydrology and the culture of the mountains. The result is there for all to see -- towns expanding without direction, concrete spreading across springs and water heads and infrastructure built as if the land beneath was inert.

The tragedy in Uttarakhand's Dharali, a popular stopover on way to Gangotri, is still fresh in our minds. At same time, many major centres, including Shimla and Nainital sit on waterheads. With rapid concentration, rainfall that once soaked into the soil now rushes unchecked over hard surfaces, intensifying floods and landslides. In one of the worst disasters to hit the Doon valley in recent times, around 15 people died in rain-related incidents while a similar number were missing as torrential downpour across Dehradun district was reported earlier last week. It is estimated that over a thousand people have died in such calamities in Uttarakhand in a decade while there has been extensive loss of property.

Despite known environmental risks to the fragile Himalayan terrain, the government has been pushing for construction of all-weather roads or the widening of the existing ones. A major example is that of the Char Dham project in Uttarakhand. Costing Rs 12,595 crore, it aims to upgrade or develop 835 km of national highways linking Kedarnath. Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri. Of this, over 600 km have already been completed. Experts believe it's the most dangerous of various projects and should not have been planned or given green signal.



Since its inception in 2000, Uttarakhand has lost 50.000 hectares of rich natural forest. a hundred million-odd trees, to projects such as highways, dams and mines which offer little benefit to the locals

It's distressing to note that successive state governments in Uttarakhand aided by the Centre have mounted a sayage assault on the hills by constructing poorly designed roads, ill-conceived dams and other large projects that claim to promote so-called 'development' which has led to devastation. Since its inception in 2000, Uttarakhand has lost 50,000 hectares of rich natural forest, a hundred million-odd trees, to projects such as highways, dams and mines which offer little benefit to the locals.

There is need to focus on warning systems in place. The absence of an extensive network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and real-time monitoring means authorities are often react late, unable to evacuate or alert populations in time. According to a 2020 report by the India Meteorological Department, only 150-odd AWSs are operational across the Himalayan region, far short of the needs dictated by a vast and fragile landscape. The likes of the Char Dham project and the Joshimath eco-tourism corridor focus on infra - roads, highways, embankments, dams, and concrete channels, despite these being ecologically degrading. What takes a back seat is building retention basins, restoring natural slopes, integrating sponge zones - all of which are needed to absorb, store, slow down water and reduce flood risks.

Scientists have repeatedly warned against the indiscriminate and unplanned construction often directly in the path of potential flash floods, leaving both people and property vulnerable. But state governments have ignored such warnings and allowed construction activities to continue. Importantly, the Supreme Court has taken up cudgels in protecting a fragile ecosystem from the depredations of a fragile state. Recently, it expressed serious concern about the unregulated tourism industry in the Himalayan region, warning a state like Himachal Pradesh might just disappear altogether if infrastructure kept receiving priority over nature. Immediate ameliorative steps must include banning all constructive activity near riverbanks, moving populations away from them and disposing of large boulders and construction debris in a way these are not easily swept by rivers.

Unfortunately, current indications reveal road building in the hills is unlikely to slow down. Under Phase IV of the PMGSY launched last year. 250 habitations are likely to

be connected in the Northeast and other hill areas, indicating road construction shall accelerate in the years ahead. Additionally, unchecked growth of hotels and lodges near riverbanks, shall compound the devastation unleashed during monsoon months.

As has repeatedly been ar-

gued urban planning in the Hi-

malayan terrain must account for slope gradient, soil stability and hydrology. But it's not being followed. In fact, the highways authority has identified over 600 slope failure zones on Himalayan roads. Heavy tourist traffic in Himachal and Uttarakhand adds to the problem. While it can't be denied that tourism sustains economies, its current form overwhelms fragile systems. In Uttarakhand, the tourist influx rose by more than 60% between 2022 and 2024. Along with Himachal, it struggles to integrate geo-hydrological risks into their master plans. Finally, it needs to be asserted the Himalayas can't be treated as a land

bank for construction. It's also important to note the guidelines issued by the Central Water Commission, which monitors 902 glacial lakes between June-October through remote sensing techniques. It stresses integrating glacial lake outburst flood considerations into infrastructure planning and risk reduction strategies. Is the government listening?

Given the topography and soil gradient of the Himalayan terrain, a judicious approach must be adopted. Coordinated efforts across states to implement upstream flood control, forest conservation, and eco-sensitive development are imperative in their desire for development and facilitating religious tourism. Ecological restoration and creation of natural buffers must become standard practices in all development projects. Anything short of this shall invite tragedies.

SPECTRUM

Dhurjati Mukherjee

REPEATEDLY

BEEN ARGUED

AS HAS

URBAN

IN THE

PLANNING

HIMALAYAN

ACCOUNT

FOR SLOPE

TERRAIN MUST

GRADIENT, SOIL

STABILITY AND

HYDROLOGY

SUSTAINABILITY

The pitfalls of fast fashion



Subhasis Ray & Srijoni Das

THE FASHION INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S POLLUTION, **SECOND ONLY TO** THE OIL INDUSTRY

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000)

verything is getting 'fast' - food, communication, transport and what not. Fast fashion is the latest buzzword that refers to fast production of inexpensive clothing following the latest trends. The materials used in fast fashion are chosen primarily for their low cost, ease of manufacture and ability to mimic more expensive fabrics - the 'look' part of 'look and feel'. Synthetic fibres like polyester and nylon are petroleum-based products that allow producing cheap, durable and stretchy garments but are skin unfriendly, non-biodegradable and shed microplastics in water systems during each wash. Among other types, acrylic is an ersatz for natural and more expensive wool and elastane or spandex based lycra provides comfort when blended with natural fibres like cotton, linen or silk. Mixed fabrics like polycotton, viscose or rayon, generally, outperform natural fibres in retaining the shape apart from cost advantage but often require chemical-heavy processing. These fibres not only leave a heavy carbon footprint during their production cycle

or the supply chain, they create

a greater negative impact on

disposal. The fashion industry

accounts for about 10% of the

world's pollution, second only to the oil industry. Fast fashion accounts for about 10% of global carbon emissions, more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined! The industry produces over 92 million tons of textile waste annually, much of which ends up in landfills or is incinerated and generates 20% of all global wastewater through washing and disposal! Overconsumption of fast fashion is directly or indirectly impacting at least four Sustainable Development Goals in India, namely, Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3). Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate

Action (SDG 13). Unfortunately, most fast fashion productions are happening in developing countries across Asia, such as India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, China, Indonesia and Cambodia. The global fast fashion market is projected to grow to \$291.1 billion at 10.7% CAGR between 2024 and 2032. India is hit from all possible sides production, supply chain and consumption. Regrettably, the proliferation of fast fashion is less triggered by durability or cost advantage – a natural for an impoverished country like India – but is more influenced by impulse buying to mitigate 'fear of missing out' (FOMO). Indian populace has shifted from need-based buying to crave-laden consumption seeking instant delight from purchases rather than delayed gratification. Technologies like Facebook and Instagram Live have been a great stimulant. A recent survey has shown that 57.8% of Facebook users (216 million) have purchased a product on Facebook during a live streaming event. The method of selling via Facebook and Instagram Live is simple. The seller turns on the function of live streaming in public which anyone having Facebook account can join and purchase product during the live sales. The payment is mainly paid by transferring money to the seller's bank account. Once the seller receives the payment notification, they deliver the ordered product to the buyer via courier. While there is lack of awareness on sustainable practices or poor recycling infrastructure in India, can producers or supply chain components including Facebook and Instagram Live evade all responsibilities? Looking from the production side, average fibre mix of global popular brands like

Shein, Boohoo and H&M contains around 70% synthetics. In 2023. Shein emitted 16.7 million metric tons of CO2, contributing to 20% of global freshwater pollution and 35% of microplastics in the environment. Likewise, other global brands Zara, Fashion Nova, Primark or local brand MM Fashions augment a huge amount of non-biodegradable. They care a little to furnish the details regarding how the products are made, whether materials used are eco-friendly or what happens to returned or unsold items. The online platforms are reticent about pitfall related warnings and even mislead by greenwashing. If one adds footwear, accessories, jewellery, purses, and other fashion accessories to clothing, the problem of fast fashion only manifolds. Apart from consumer education and policy interventions, efforts must go into finding out less polluting alternatives or better recycling methods considering the volume of livelihoods the industry generates.

Subhasis Ray, a management consultant, teaches at IISWBM. Srijoni Das is a consulting manager at Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Undermining science

Sir, This refers to "Dr Trump: US Prez shares unproven medical advice on autism," Orissa POST, Sept 24. Acetaminophen, also known as Tylenol or paracetamol, is among the most widely used painkillers. Like all other medicines, it should be taken under a physician's care. But US President Donald Trump has said doctors in the country will soon be advised not to prescribe the pain reliever to pregnant women, linking the drug with autism. Medicines should, indeed, undergo review, and a section of scientists has cited rigorous studies to rule out the links between acetaminophen and autism. Another group of scientists has taken a somewhat more nuanced view on the causes of autism — they argue against singling out a medicine or a vaccine, and instead underline factors such as genetic predisposition and environmental exposure. The problem with the Trump approach is not just the refusal to engage with scientific knowledge. The US President seems to be playing on the legitimate anxieties of the American public over the growing cases of autism to target acetaminophen. Their focus on an unproven link could be a distraction in the fight against the developmental disorder. The clampdown on acetaminophen is the latest in a series of measures that could dent the credibility of American science.

Umpiring legend

Sir, In Harold 'Dicky' Bird's demise the cricketing world and sports in general has lost one of the most legendary and beloved umpires. The Yorkshire county cricket club with which he was closely associated has rightly stated that Bird has left behind a legacy of sportsmanship, personality and joy in the cricketing world that will be remembered for generations. Bird began as a cricketer and later switched onto umpiring and became an umpire par excellence. He officiated in 66 Test matches and 69 One Day Internationals, including three World Cup finals. Bird truly embodied the spirit and soul of cricket and his passing marks the end of an era

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

M Pradyu, KANNUR



TWO STATES





Sports boost for kids with special needs

RAVAN WARS LIGHT UP DELHI DUSSEHRA

TOWERING EFFIGIES, SPECIAL EFFECTS, CELEBRITY GUEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Several Ramleela committees in the city are competing to make their Ravan effigies stand out in terms of size and special ef-

Some have created elaborate stage arrangements and invited an equally spectacular list of guests, including film personalities and political leaders

With its towering effigies, a magnificent stage, a guest list of film stars and glittering devotional performances, the famous Luv Kush Ramleela at the Red Fort grounds is set to remain one of the biggest attractions in the capital this festival season.

The Luv Kush Ramleela Committee said it will install a 100-foot Ravan, along with a 90-foot Kumbh Karan and an 80-foot Meghnath.

These effigies, being set up at a cost of over Rs 1 lakh, will have mechanical movements and sound effects.

"Our effigies will have moving hands with swords in them and rotating eyeballs that will make look more life-like. We will also play the sound of 'Hey Ram' from loudspeakers," Arjun Kumar, the committee's president, told PTI.

The committee has lined up a glittering cultural programme this year.

In the previous years, popular film personalities including Kangana Ranaut, Prabhas, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Rohit Shetty, Vivek Oberoi, Janhvi Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Govinda and Hema Malini have performed here, Kumar said.



Several Bollywood personalities have been invited this year as well. The invitation cards have been designed as a tribute to the Indian Army, Navv and Air Force, showcasing their valour and sacrifice, the committee president said.

Kumar said the stage itself will be a spectacle. The committee has constructed a massive Somnath temple replica, which is 150-feet wide and 45-feet high. This was prepared by artisans

from Rajasthan and Gujarat over three months.

The set will be illuminated with special lighting and visual effects to give the audience an immersive experience of Ram's

He said preparations were in the final stage, with the use of traditional art as well as modern digital technology. Artificial Intelligence will also play a role in enhancing the visual presentation this year, he added.

The Ramleela Committee which will erect the effigies at Ramlila Maidan, said it is preparing a 90-foot Ravan, 80-foot Kumbh Karan and 70-foot Meghnath. The committee said it has spent about Rs 2 lakh on the effigies, which they manufactured themselves.

Meanwhile, the Shri Dhar-

mic Leela Committee will present a slightly smaller set -- 80 feet, 70 feet and 60 feet respectively -- at Madhavdas Park

near Red Fort grounds. Built at a cost of Rs 1 lakh their effigies will be filled with green firecrackers to reduce

'We have invited the Prime Minister, the President, the Vice-President and other lead ers including Sonia Gandhi to our Ramleela event," said Dheeraj Dhar Gupta, who heads the Shri Dharmic Leela

"With such esteemed guests, we also have to ensure strict security arrangements. That is why our effigies are relatively smaller in size. But they will be filled with green firecrackers, the bursting sounds will be played through speakers,'

New Delhi, Sept 24: Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood inaugurated the Special Olympics India National Powerlifting Championship at Maitreyi College Wednesday and announced that the city government will build a dedicated stadium and residential sports facility for children with special needs.

Speaking at the event, organised by Special Olympics Bharat-Delhi in association with the Sports Authority of India and the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sood said the Delhi government will provide cash awards of up to Rs 15 lakh to winners of Special Olympics events.

'Special Olympics winners will now be honoured with separate recognition and not clubbed under Paralympics. In-



given Rs 15 lakh, silver medal lists Rs 12 lakh and bronze med allists Rs 8 lakh. In team events winners will get between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on their performance," he said.

The minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's de cision to reduce GST on sports equipment from 12 per cent to five per cent has provided financial relief to athletes.

"His guidance, along with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's leadership, will ensure no tal ented player is held back due to lack of resources," he added

PAINTING FUTURES

Latur shelter walls come alive with stories, dreams



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latur, Sept 24: In a bid to ignite a love for learning among underprivileged children, the walls of a shelter home in Maharashtra's Latur district have been transformed into vibrant

The walls have become like a canvas of knowledge, covering a wide range of subjects -- Marathi alphabets, English grammar and vocabulary,

Monsoon exits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept

24: The southwest

monsoon has offi-

cially withdrawn

from Delhi and ad-

joining regions a

day ahead of its usu-

al schedule, the In-

dia Meteorological

Department (IMD)

earliest withdraw-

al from the capital

since 2002, when

the season ended September 20. In 2024, the withdraw-

al took place Octo-

ber 2, according to

the data.

season

This marks its

said Wednesday.

Delhi early

mathematical applications, the solar system, alongside maps of Maharashtra and India and parts of the human body, the shelter home's founder said Tuesday. Various environmental themes, animals and birds have also been vividly illustrated at 'Majha Ghar', an ashram run by Manus Pratishthan at Budhoda-Wangjewadi in the district, he said.

Cultural knowledge, too, has been woven in, with musical instruments like tabla, harmonium, dholki, and veena painted on the walls to connect children with India's rich artistic heritage, said Sharad Zare, who runs the ashram with his wife.

The walls have transformed into interactive guides, sparking curiosity and strengthening learning. Students now, without teachers, engage more deeply with their lessons, he claimed.

Witnesses can testify virtually in Maharashtra

Govt offices, banks and hospitals notified to facilitate virtual witness statements

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 24: All government and semi-government offices in Maharashtra, including public hospitals and nationalised bank branches, have been notified as 'designated places', where witnesses in criminal cases can record their statements virtually, officials said.

The move is aimed at delivering speedy justice, they said. Witnesses will also be able to

attend online court proceedings from these designated places. a senior home department official told PTI

Last year, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) by the



Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Indian Evidence Act by Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

Considering the changes in the system, which expects speedy justice for the victims, the Maharashtra government is preparing the infrastructure to fulfill the needs of the time.

While undergoing changes. the state government has taken steps to adopt modern technology in the criminal justice system, the official said.

Many times, when a witness staving in a village is unable to reach the court in time or the witness is unavailable, the judge gives the next date for

hearing, he noted.

Such things can be avoided in the near future by the use of technology, and the instances of giving the next date for the hearing can easily be avoided. the official said, adding that it will help the victim get justice in a time-bound manner.

Considering the situation the witnesses involved in any criminal case, who are not able to attend the court hearings physically, can depose through video conferencing (VC) facilitv. which has been created at the "designated places", he said

In the new setting, not only the witnesses, but the accused the police officials will also be able to record their statements through VC from these designated places, he said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SAMBALPUR FOREST DIVISION

Near Jail Chowk e-mail id - dfo.sambalpur@odisha.gov.in Tender No. 03 Dated - 23.09.2025

NOTICE TO INVITE APPLICATION FOR

LEGAL EXPERT No.MM-204: Sambalpur Forest Division requires qualified

candidates with degree in Law (LL.B)/LL.M (preferable) from a recognized university/Institution for temporary engagement as Legal Expert for handing forest/wildlife offence cases in this division. The interested candidates are requested to send their C.V (curriculum vitae) and other documents as proof of eligibility for the above post to this office by 10.10.2025. The selected candidates will be called personally by this office for interview after verification of their curriculum vitae. The interview is scheduled on 15.10.2025 at 11:00 AM at Chamber of Divisional Forest Officer Sambalpur Forest Division. Candidates are requested to submit a CV in the mail ID- dfo.sambalpur@odisha.gov.in

The application form along with detail terms and conditions shall be available on the website www.sambalpur.odisha.gov. in/ www.odishaforest.in from 26.09.2025.

OIPR-08104/11/0025/2526

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer,

REGIONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004

NOTICE

IRULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Deogarh Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowel having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general tha the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India** for an amount mentioned below & interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section

(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
DEOGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers	Liabilities Due as per Notice	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of Secured Assets	
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Sudam Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Mr. Bengali Pradhan, 2) Mrs. Sumitra Samal, W/o.: Mr. Sudam Kumar Pradhan, 3) Mr. Bengali Pradhan, S/o.: Mr.	as on 08.04.2025 + Interest &	08.04.2025 / 22.09.2025	Land and Building bearing Khata No.: 36, over Plot No.: 266, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Plot No.: 267, Area:	
Harihar Pradhan, All are At: Bhukabeda, Tainsir, Deogarh - 768108	270, Area: Ac.0.14 Dec., Plot No.: 308, Area: Ac.0.06 Dec.,			
Plot No.: 310, Area: Ac.0.05 Dec., Plot No.: 311, Area: Ac.0.01 Dec., Plot No.: 312, Area: Ac.0.01				

Dec., Plot No.: 324, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Measuring Total Area: Ac.0.51 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari situated at P.S. No.: 160, at Mouza: Bhukabeda, District: Deogarh, Odisha - 768108, in the name of Mr. Bengali Pradhan, Bounded by North: Govt Land, South: Ramesh Pradhan, East: Hemanta Pradhan, West: Road

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 24.09.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Despite the early exit, Delhi recorded a significantly wet

1 Nature of the work

At Safdarjung, the city's base observatory, the seasonal total stood at 902.6 mm – about 41 per cent above normal.

On a citywide scale, Delhi averaged 736.2 mm of rain, 37 per cent higher than the long-period normal of 536.3 mm. The IMD calculates monsoon rainfall between June and

September. "The southwest monsoon has furwithdrawn ther from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, parts of Guiarat and Rajasthan. and sections of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttara-Himachal khand, Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as of September 24," the

IMD said. The capital's seasonal tally was lower than 2023, when Delhi logged 1.029.9 mm. its seventh wettest monsoon on record.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KALAHANDI Email: eemikldbpt@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification Notice No.: SE MID BPT-03/2025-26 Dt.: 23.09.2025

No.A-670: The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Kalahandi, District-Single Cover System through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below. The bid should be submitted online in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible contractors nte to MIP under M

Total No. of works Estimated cost Class of Contractor Period of completion date and time of availability of Bid	:	Division, Kalahandi 01 (One) No. Only Rs.39.64 Lakhs Approximately "C" & "B" 04 (Four) Calendar Months
Estimated cost Class of Contractor Period of completion date and time of	:	Rs.39.64 Lakhs Approximately "C" & "B"
Class of Contractor Period of completion date and time of		"C" & "B"
Period of completion date and time of		
date and time of		04 (Four) Calendar Months
	Ι.	10.1.00., 00.0
availability of Rid	:	From 10:00 A.M. on 27.09.2025 and up
avaliability of Diu		to 5:30 P.M. on 09.10.2025
Document in portal		
_ast date / time for receipt	:	Up to 5:30 PM on 09.10.2025
of Bid Document in portal		
Date / Time of opening	:	From 11:00 A.M. on 10.10.2025 At O/o
of Bid		M.I. Division, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna
Name and Address of	:	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division,
Tender Inviting Officer		Kalahandi, Officer inviting the Bid
Mode of Payment of Bid	:	Online
cost and Bid security		
Date of Lottery (If	:	On 15.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
	1	
	late / Time of opening f Bid lame and Address of ender Inviting Officer flode of Payment of Bid ost and Bid security	late / Time of opening f Bid lame and Address of ender Inviting Officer flode of Payment of Bid ost and Bid security

Sd./- Superintending Engin OIPR-32531/11/0002/2526 M.I. Division, Kalahandi

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-671 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **KEONJHAR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KEONJHAR**

Notice Invitation of Tenders e-Procurement Notice No. - 05 (NCB) / 2025-26 on dated 24.09.2025 Email Id: eekjrirrdivn@gmail.com

: Instruments

2	No. of Works	:	1 (One) no
3	Value of Works	:	Rs. 21.18 lakhs
	Tender paper cost	:	Refer to Table-1
	EMD/Bid Security	;	Refer to Table-1
	period of Completion		Refer to Table-1
7	Class of Contractors	:	Refer to Table-1
8	Procurement officer		Executive Engineer, Keonjhar
			Irrigation Division, Keonjhar
9.	Bid Identification No.	:	KIDN-07/2025-26
10	Availability of Tender	;	From 11.30 A.M. Dt.26.09.2025
ll	for Online Bidding	-	to 5.00 P.M. Dt.14.10.2025
11	Date and Time for	:	Dt.15.10.2025 @ 11.30 A.M.
	Tender Opening	ĺ	onwards in O/o the Executive
		-	Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation
			Division, Keonjhar
12	Date and Time for	:	Dt.26.09.2025 @ 11.30 A.M. to
	seeking clarification	-	Dt.08.10.2025 @ 5 P.M. in O/o
	_	-	the Executive Engineer, Keonjhar

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Anv addendum/corrigendum cancellation of tenders can be seen from the above portal.

Irrigation Division, Keonjhar

Keonjhar

Sd./- Executive Engineer Keonjhar Irrigation Division OIPR-32476/11/0024/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.11, BERHAMPUR INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement

TENDER CALL NOTICE Bid Identification No. SC (R&B)-GM-II-15/2025-26 No.8368 Dated.16.09.2025

1) The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam [R&B] Division No.II, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in single cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE only for the work as

2) Nature of Work

Electrical work 3) No. of work 09 Nos.

Rs.6,000/-Authorised dealer / Distributor (specialized Class of Contractor

agency for fire work must with MOU with ELBO) Electrical Contractor 6) Availability of bid

documents in the website Date of opening of Bid

From 23.09.2025 10.00 A.M. to 10.10.2025 4.00 P.M. 13.10.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-34080/11/0032/2526

Sd./- S. Panigrahi Superintending Engineer Ganjam (R&B) Division No.II

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER.

KORAPUT (R&B) DIVISION. KORAPU' Bid Identification No. S.E (R&B)KPT - 14/2025-26

Building works

(Seven) Months

17.00 hours

Rs.58.89 to 89.68 Lakhs

From 26.09.2025 at 11.00

hours to 10.10.2025 upto

10.10.2025 upto 17.00 hours

13.10.2025 at 12.00 hours

Superintending Engineer,

06 (Six) Months to 07

Name of the work

Total No. of works

Estimated cost Period of completion

Date & Time of availability

of bid document in the Last date / Time for receipt

of bids in the portal Date of opening of Tender Name and address of the

OIPR-34096/11/0031/2526

Last date / time for receipt of

https://tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-34109/11/0047/2526

Name and address of the

bids in the portal

Officer inviting Bid

Officer Inviting Bid

Koraput (R&B) Division Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in

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



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO. I. BERHAMPUR

ax : (0680) 2233683, e-mail : sernb1.ganja "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. SE R&B Divn. No.I Bam. 13/2025-26 Name of work Building work

01 (One) No No. of works Approximately Rs.69.26 Lakh Estimated Cost Period of Completion Four Calendar months From 10.00 hours of 25.09.2025 to Date and time of Availability of bid document in the portal 16.00 hours of 09.10.2025

Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.I, Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal

Upto 16.00 hours of 09.10.2025

Sd./- Superintending Enginee Ganjam (R&B) Division No.I Berhampur



Department of Telecommunications Ministry of Communications Government of India

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya **Telecom Excellence Award 2025 Inviting Applications**

The Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications, Govt of India) invites online nominations for Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2025 from the citizens of India and organisations/ institutions registered in India or created by the Central/ State governments/ Union Territories for their notable and exceptional contributions in the area/ areas of Telecom Innovations, Telcom Skilling, Telecom Services, Telecom Manufacturing, or Telecom Applications in deploying telecom dependent sectoral solutions for different fields such as agriculture, commerce, health, education etc. Preference shall be given for the works done in rural / remote areas and aspirational districts.

2. Each Award shall carry a shawl, citation/ plaque and a cash amount of rupees Two Lakh per awardee. Not more than five Awards shall be given, subject to suitable candidate/s being selected by the Award Committee.

3. The awardees will be reimbursed airfare towards travelling to/from his place to the station where the Award Function is held and will also be paid a lump sum amount of 7500 Rs. towards incidental expenses.

4. Applications can be submitted online at National Award Portal, i.e., https://www.awards.gov.in. The last date of receipt of nominations is 30th October, 2025 up to 23:59 hours.

5. For more details, please refer the 'Regulations' at the website https://www. awards.gov.in

For more information please contact:

Director (SD), DOT, Room No 201, 2nd floor, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Old Minto Road, New Delhi- 110002,

Mobile: 9414001442, email: dirsde-dot@gov.in

cbc 06201/11/0001/2526

nationa



Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr S L Bhyrappa, a towering figure in Kannada literature and a Padma Bhushan awardee. He made remarkable contributions in the fields of literature, philosophy, culture, and intellectual inquiry

PASSENGER SUFFERS 'RAT **BITE' AT INDORE AIRPORT**

A passenger has claimed that he was bitten by a rat at the Indore airport. The incident at the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport follows the outrage caused by the recent deaths of two newborn girls at a government hospital after they had been bitten by rats in the ICU



liberty, equality, justice is being throttled by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Home Minister Amit Shah, the BJP, and their ideological masters in the RSS

SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

Every affected citizen will receive assistance from the government A relief package of more than ₹2,200 crore has already been approved by the state cabinet, and more aid



will follow when needed

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS I MAHARASHTRA CM

The law will take its own course.

We are urging all to come out of this type (violence) of politics MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Three Maoists killed in gunfight

Ranchi: At least three members of a banned Maoist splinter group were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Gumla district Wednesday morning, police said. The encounter between security forces, comprising the Jharkhand Jaguar and Gumla Police, and Maoists of the Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP), took place in a forest area near Kechki village within Bishnupur police station limits around 8 am.

Minor volcanic eruptions noticed

Port Blair: Minor volcanic eruptions were noticed twice in a span of eight days at Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, officials said, Barren Island holds the distinction of being India's only active volcano. The volcano erupted September 13 and 20, but the eruptions were minor in nature, officials said. Located nearly 140 km away from Port Blair by sea, this uninhabited island lies at the junction of the Indian and Burmese tectonic plates.

Rahul promises law for EBCs in Bihar

Patna: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday reached out to the numerically powerful extremely backward classes (EBCs) of Bihar, promising, among other things, a law for protection against atrocities, on the lines of the SC/ST Act, if the INDIA bloc came to power in the state. The leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha addressed the 'Ati Pichhda Nyay Sankalp' (pledge for justice to extremely backward classes) symposium, shortly after the **Congress Working Committee** meeting in the city.

HC rejects plea on Afzal Guru, Maqbool graves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Delhi High Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea seeking directions for removing the graves of terrorists Mohammad Afzal Guru and Mohammad Magbool Bhatt from Tihar Jail premises here to "prevent glorification"

The two terrorists were sentenced to death and executed in Tihar Jail. "No law or rule prohibits cremation or burial inside the jail premises,"a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said and ordered that the PIL is "dismissed as withdrawn"

Sensing the high court's indication, the petitioners' counsel had urged the court to allow him to withdraw the petition and re-file it with certain data. "For approaching the court

for a relief in a PIL, you have to show us any violation of constitutional rights, fundamental rights or statutory rights. No law or rule prohibits cremation or burial inside the jail premises," the bench said.

The court said it cannot entertain the petition to remove the graves as it was a decision taken by the government keeping in mind the law and order situation. The PIL also sought directions to the authorities concerned to relocate the mortal remains, if necessary, to a secret location to prevent "glorification of terrorism" and misuse of jail premises.

The court agreed with the submission of petitioners' counsel that graves cannot become a pilgrimage or a site for glorification but made it clear that there has to be some data on record to show that the site was being glorified.

As the counsel said it was available in the public domain and there were media reports on the issue, the bench said a PIL cannot be based on news-

The plea filed by Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh and one Jitendra Singh claimed the construction and continued existence of these graves inside a state-controlled prison was "illegal, unconstitutional, and against public interest".

Social media needs to be regulated: K'taka HC demands judicial probe



Holding that every sovereign nation regulates social media and that India's action likewise, cannot, by any stretch of constitutional imagination, be branded as unlawful, the court said none may presume to treat the Indian marketplace as a mere playground where information can be disseminated in defiance of statutes or disregard to legality PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 24: Observing that social media needs to be regulated and as a "modern amphitheatre of ideas" it cannot be left in a state of "anarchic freedom", the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday dismissed X Corp's petition against government's content takedown mechanism under Section 79 of the Information Technology act.

Holding that every sovereign nation regulates social media and that India's action likewise, cannot, by any stretch of constitutional imagination. be branded as unlawful, the court said none may presume to treat the Indian marketplace as a mere playground where information can be disseminated in defiance of statutes or disregard to legality.

"Social media needs to be regulated, and its regulation is a must, more so in cases of offences against women in particular, failing which the right to dignity, as ordained in the constitution of a citizen, gets railroaded," said the single-judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna. "The petitioner's platform is subject to a regulated regime.'

The judge also pointed out that every platform that seeks to operate within the jurisdiction of India must accept that liberty is voked with responsibility and the privilege of access. These platforms carry with it the solemn duty of accountability to hold, otherwise it will imperil both the rule of law and the fabric of social harmony, the court observed.

X Corp(formerly Twitter) had moved the court seeking a declaration that Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act does not confer the authority to issue information blocking orders, as it questioned the way the Centre and the state governments were issuing such orders.

Section 79 of the IT Act grants safe harbour protection to intermediaries, shielding them from liability for user-generated content, and Section 79(3)(b) removes the same if an intermediary fails to block/remove unlawful content upon government notification.

The social media giant contended that such orders can only be issued after following the mation Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules. It had also challenged the legality of the Centre's Sahyog' portal - an online platform used to issue content takedown orders to intermedi

Section 69 of the IT Act, 2000 grants the government the power to issue directions to intercept, monitor, or decrypt information from any computer resource in the interest of India's sovereignty, integrity, defense, security, friendly re lations with foreign states, or public order, and to prevent incitement to the commission of any cognisable offense or for the investigation of any offense.

The government also must record reasons for such an order, and the affected intermediary or person in charge of the computer resource must comply and provide necessary

The court observed that X follows the takedown orders in the US, the birthplace and footland of the social media, as it criminalises its violation.

"But the same petitioner refuses to follow the same in the shores of this nation of a similar takedown orders which are founded upon illegality. This sans countenance. The petition for all the aforesaid reasons lacking in merit stands rejected." The platform had sought a

direction to the government against taking coercive or prejudicial action against X in relation to any 'Information Blocking Orders' issued other than those issued in accordance with section 69A of the IT Act, read with the blocking rules.

X had also sought protection from any coercive action against the company, its representatives or employees, for not joining the 'Sahyog' portal.

However, the court noted that 'Sahyog' portal is an instrument of public good, conceived under the IT Act.

Pilots' grouping FIP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/ New Delhi, Sept 24: The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has urged the government to order a judicial probe into the Air India Dreamliner crash that killed 260 people, alleging that the ongoing investigation is "compromised" and should be halted. The FIP's demand comes less

than a month after Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal who was one of the pilots of the ill-fated Air India plane, sought a formal investigation by the central government even as the

probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

(AAIB) is

in progress. "A flawed domestic probe compromises India's standing in the

cial inquiry is therefore not only a matter of justice but also a necessary mechanism for the ministry to cure these profound procedural defects and mitigate its own legal and reputational exposure," FIP, which represents around 5,500 pilots, said in a letter dated September 22 to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu. Unlike the AAIB's private, administrative process, a court can compel testimony under

oath, issue summons, and de-

mand the production of any and all documents from any party, including international manu facturers like Boeing and General Electric, the letter said.

The query sent to the ministry seeking comments on the letter did not elicit any immediate response. Meanwhile September 22, a Supreme Court bench issued notices to the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on the aspect of an independent, fair and expeditious probe of the crash, as it also mentioned that an element of

FIP's demand nity of families of victims comes less than a was also month after Pushkaraj involved Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal during hear-

who was one of the pilots of the ill-fated Air India plane, sought a formal investigation by the central government eve global aviation an independen community. A judicourt-monitored

probe into the acci dent. The FIP has said the true systemic, and unvarnished lessons of this tragedy should be learned and acted upon. "A compromised, biased investiga tion that defaults to a simplistic and convenient 'pilot error narrative is the single greatest threat to achieving that goal. It ensures that underlying dan gers -- be they in design, maintenance, or oversight -- remain hidden, only to re-emerge in a

Interest

Litigation

(PIL) seeking

Cabinet approves expansion of PG, UG medical edu capacity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Phase-III of a scheme for strengthening and upgrading existing central and state government medical colleges to increase 5,000 postgraduate seats.

It also approved the extension of the central scheme for upgradation of the existing government medical colleges to increase 5,023 MBBS seats with an enhanced cost ceiling of ₹1.50 crore per seat, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a Cabinet briefing.

This initiative will significantly augment undergraduate medical capacity, availability of specialist doctors by creating additional post-graduate seats and enable the introduction of new specialities across government medical institutions, the minister said, adding this will strengthen the overall availability of doctors in the country.

To a question, the ministry officials said that the new 5,000 medical PG seats would be increased by the year 2028-29. They added that these PG seats are being created only in the government medical colleges across the country.

The target of these schemes is to increase 5,000 PG seats and 5,023 UG seats in government institutions by 2028-2029. Detailed guidelines will be issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for implementation of the schemes, an official statement said. The total financial implication of these two schemes is ₹15,034.50 crore for a period from 2025-26 to



Indian Air Force aircraft perform aerial maneuvers during rehearsals ahead of the 'MiG-21 Operational Flying Culmination Ceremony' at Chandigarh Air Force Station (AFS), in Chandigarh. The ceremony September 26, 2025, will officially retire the legendary fighter jets after over six decades of service

Marriage becomes invalid if conversion is found illegal: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Sept 24: The Allahabad High Court has held that if conversion is illegal, a marriage based on it will be automatically invalid and the man and woman cannot be recognised as a married couple in the eyes of law.

Justice Saurabh Srivastava passed this order on a writ filed by Mohammad Bin Qasim alias Akbar seeking direction to the respondents not to interfere in their peaceful marital life.

The court, however, said that both the petitioners are entitled to perform marriage under the

Special Marriage Act. The petitioner's counsel

submitted said that Qasim belonged to Muslim community while Jainab Parveen alias Chandrakanta was Hindu. On February 22, 2025, Chandrakanta accepted Islam and Khanqahe Alia Arifia issued a certificate for this.

On May 26, 2025, both the petitioners solemnised their marriage as per rituals under the Muslim law and a marriage certificate was issued by the Quazi concerned, the counsel submitted.

However, the additional chief standing counsel vehemently opposed this on the ground that the conversion certificate allegedly issued by Khangahe Alia Arifia is a forged and ficti-



tious document, since the secretary and manager of Jamia Arifia, Saiyed Sarawan, Kaushambi stated in a reply that the institution has not issued the certificate February 22.

On this, the court observed, "After hearing rival contentions raised by the learned counsel for the parties and perusal of the entire records, one thing is clear, that con-

version on a forged document cannot determine any of the essential ingredients as men tioned in the Uttar Pradesh Unlawful Conversion Act.'

'Such,marriage solemnised between the petitioners is also not sustainable in the eyes of law since as per the Muslim Law, marriage is a contract between the follower and believer of the same religion. Once, the conversion in respect of Petitioner No 2 (Chandrakanta) is illegal, both the petitioners cannot be recognised as a married couple in the eyes of law," it said.

However, the court directed both the petitioners to register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act, which does not require any ritual of conversion.

The court also directed that till the receiving of the certificate issued under the Special Marriage Act, Petitioner No 2 will be kept in a women's protection home in Prayagraj, as she is not willing to reside with her parents and has expressed her consent to stay in the protection home. The court, in its order Tuesday, imposed an exemplary cost of ₹25,000 on the counsel for petitioners, which shall be deposited in the Mediation and Conciliation Centre within 15 days from the date of order.

MiG-21 fighter jets set to retire from IAF Sept 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

future catastrophe".

Chandigarh, Sept 24: The legendary Russian-origin MiG-21 fighter jets, which have been the backbone of Indian Air Force's combat fleet for over six decades are finally set to retire from the IAF at a decommissioning event in Chandigarh, where the iconic aircraft was first inducted over six decades ago.

The official culmination of MiG-21 operations is set for September 26 with a ceremonial flypast and decommissioning event, marking the closure of a historic chapter in India's air power.



The last of the MiG-21 jets, be longing to number 23 Squadron nicknamed "Panthers", will be given a farewell at the decom missioning ceremony at the Chandigarh Air Force station On Friday, Air Chief Marshal

A P Singh, will fly the last sortie of the Squadron with the call sign 'Badal 3'.

Dilbagh Singh, who became the IAF chief in 1981, had led the first MiG-21 Squadron here in 1963.

In a recent post on X about the retiring Mig-21s, the IAF said, "Six decades of service, countless tales of courage, a warhorse that carried pride of a nation into the skies'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, will be among those present on the occasion here Friday.

national



I have faith that I will come out clean. I am confident that I will get iustice from the high court and, if not, from the Supreme Court AZAM KHAN | SP LEADER

GROUND-LEVEL WORK FOR TIGER CENSUS BEGINS

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has begun groundlevel work to accurately and scientifically estimate the 2026 tiger population across the country and other important aspects related to the census. The institute's director Govind S Bhardwaj said that the sixth tiger census in the country is being conducted by the institute under the direction of the Union Forest Ministry and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)



Only edustand you in good stead till M K STALIN TAMIL NADU CM





The proposed tech park will support startups, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy PRIYANK KHARGE | STATE MINISTER FOR IT/BT



tem approved by Modi Ji today will heavylift India's vision of global leadership in trade and commerce. The initiative will also create plenty of job opportunities for our vouth

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

2016 arson case: SC flags delay in trial

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday flagged the delay in trial of a 2016 arson case, involving advocate Surendra Gadling, and asked the Maharashtra government for an explanation. Grilling the prosecuting agency over a person's incarceration without trial, a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi enquired about the time frame for the conclusion of trial.

Cong slams govt over 'genocide' in Gaza

Patna: The Congress Working Committee (CWC) Wednesday expressed "profound distress" over the ongoing "genocide" of innocent civilians in Gaza, and said India has always been a beacon of moral conscience but "has now shamefully been reduced to a silent spectator". The Opposition party also alleged that due to the government's policy on Gaza India's foreign policy has now "acquired a moral taint". In its political resolution passed after deliberations here, the CWC said it "expresses profound distress over the ongoing genocide of

CDS Chauhan's tenure extended by 8 months

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan's tenure has been extended up to May next year, the government said Wednesday. Gen Chauhan's current stint as the top military officer is scheduled to end September 30. The defence ministry said the government has approved the extension of service of Gen Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, up to May 30 next year or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Noted Kannada novelist S

L Bhyrappa passes away Bangalore: Popular Kannada novelist and philosopher S L Bhyrappa died due to cardiac arrest at a private hospital here Wednesday. He was 94, and is survived by wife and two sons. "The legendary Indian novelist, philosopher, Padma Shri, Padmabhushana and Saraswathi Samman awardee Shri S L Bhyrappa suffered a cardiac arrest today at 2.38 pm and reached the lotus feet of the Almighty. Om Shanti !!!, Rashtrotthana Hospital said in a statement. According to sources, Bhyrappa's mortal remains would be kept at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru for people to pay their last respects September 25, and his cremation is likely to be held September 26 in Mysuru where he lived for

many years.

Ladakh violence needs to be handled with sensitivity' unfulfilled even though we have gone about demanding it demonstrately passefully & "GoI needs to engage people in a dialogue rather than turn a blind eve from Manipur to now" Panagariya backs Simultaneous polls

New Delhi, Sept 24: As violence erupted in Ladakh over statehood and other demands, opposition parties Wednesday said it needs to be handled with sensitivity and a clinical analysis needs to be done on the ground to identify the reasons and those behind the violence.

The left, however, attacked the Modi government for being "responsible" for the violence. Congress MP and party's

senior spokesperson Manish Tewari said Ladakh is a border Union Territory and the standoff with China is not really yet over, notwithstanding the multiple disengagements. "It needs to be handled with

sensitivity and a forensic examination of why and how a peaceful protest suddenly turned violent."

"A clinical analysis of the ground situation is imperative, especially identification of the impulses that went in that turned the protest violent and who really are these violent protesters," Tewari said in a post on X. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the situation in the Leh town should be an eve-opener on how people of Jammu and Kashmir feel about the denial of

'No bias in granting

warya Bhati, appearing for the

Centre and the Army. She in-

formed that the policy decision

was being followed in grant of

the women officers, who moved

court, Bhati said the annual

confidential reports of those

officers were actually gender

neutral without an element of

women officers should not be

made to think that they will

not be considered for the per-

Bhati said it was impression sought to be created but

statistics since 1991 showed

women officers were not dis-

criminated against their male

following a very strict regime

and there is no question of dis-

crimination, as the selection

hoard does not have the name

of the officer before it," she sub-

Dealing with the arguments

of non-consideration of "cri-

teria appointment" or diffi-

cult area posting in the ACR

of women officers, Bhati said

such appointments were in-

consequential and the officers

were marked in average in the

annual confidential reports.

"In the Army, we have been

manent commission.

The bench told Bhati that

Countering the arguments of

permanent commission.

discrimination.

counterparts

statehood, even though Ladakh had not been promised one.

He was reacting after the movement for statehood to Ladakh descended into violence. arson and street clashes here on Wednesday, leaving four people dead and at least 45 injured, including 22 police personnel. "Ladakh wasn't even promised Statehood, they celebrated UT status in 2019 & they feel betrayed & angry," Abdullah posted on his X handle.

"Now try to imagine how betrayed & disappointed we in J&K feel when the promise of statehood to J&K remains democratically, peacefully & responsibly," he added.

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the situation in Ladakh has made it imperative that the Centre move beyond day-to-day crisis management and address 'It's time the Government of

India undertakes a sincere and

thorough appraisal of what has truly changed since 2019. This video isn't from the Kashmir Valley considered the epicentre of unrest but from the heart of Ladakh, where angry protesters have set police vehicles and a BJP office on fire," she said in a post on X. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said she could never imagine that a peace-loving area like Ladakh could erupt into violence and urged the government to engage with the

"I would have never imagined that the peace loving people of Ladakh would ever choose violence to have their demands heard. It is saddening to read about the protestors taking law into their own hands for their demand for statehood and the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule

blind eve from Manipur to now Ladakh," the Shiv Sena leader said. The BJP has alleged that the violence in Ladakh was part of the Congress' "nefarious design" to create situations similar to those in Bangladesh. Nepal and the Philippines.

'Today in Ladakh, an attempt was made to portray some protests as being led by 'Gen Z' but when an investigation was carried out, it was found that this was not a Gen Z protest but actually a Congress protest," BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters at the party headquarters here.

"The Congress has a nefarious design. It's Congress' conspiracy. 'Bharat tere tukde honge Inshallah, Inshallah' is the Congress' main line. This is Rahul Gandhi's plan with George Soros. Since they can not win through the people, they conspire to break the country," he charged. Groups of youths, indulging in arson and vandalism, targeted the headquarters of the BJP and the Hill Council and set ablaze vehicles Police and paramilitary forces, deployed in strength across the town, lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control, the officials said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Economists offered divergent views to a parliamentary committee on the merits of simultaneous elections Wednesday as Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariva backed the idea, while former Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia was unimpressed and instead suggested that all assemblies go to the polls together but not with the Lok Sabha.

Another economist, Surjit Bhalla, supported the "one nation, one election" (ONOE) concept as a "positive force" for democracy but proposed that all state assembly elections be held together at around mid-term of the Lok Sabha, allowing for reduced frequency of polls and still ensuring accountability and checks on political parties, sources said.

Ahluwalia, the last deputy chairman of the Planning Commission before the Modi government shut it down in 2014 and brought Niti Aayog in its place, was unsupportive of the economic arguments in favour of simultaneous elections, the sources said, as he noted that the economy has done well in the last few decades.

An MP said the economist did not support the argument that frequent elections add to the fiscal deficit and their synchronisation will boost the growth rate

He said assembly elections should be held separately from national polls, as this will allow larger issues, which dominate the agenda during the Lok Sabha campaign, not to have a bearing on states' elections

where people are guided more by local and bread-and-butter themes, the sources added.

Ahluwalia, however, agreed to the contention that frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, which is enforced during polls, adversely affects economic activities, and such guidelines should be reviewed.

Polls to all assemblies can be held together but should not be with the Lok Sabha elections he said. Favouring the ONOF proposal, Panagariya said re peated enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct interrupts poli cy-making, delays procurement and project execution, and short ens the effective reform window for governments, according to the sources. In contrast, simul taneous polls held once in ev ery five years offer a longer and clearer policy horizon for both state and central governments lowering uncertainty and cre ating stability that encourages private capital formation, he

He cited academic studies to assert that frequent elections add to the subsidy, an appar ent reference to populist measures taken around the polls and government expenditure moves away from capital expenses to revenue expenses an evidence of deterioration in the quality of expenditure Panagariya noted that sever al state assemblies were dis solved in 1957 to conduct their polls simultaneously with that of the Lok Sabha, arguing that it is reasonable to assume that had the makers of the Constitution anticipated a continuous cycle of elections, they would have opted for a law similar

permanent commission to women SSC officers' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Sept 24: The Centre Wednesday denied any discrimination in granting permanent commission to Short Service Commission (SSC) women Army officers when compared with their male counterparts while assuring the Supreme Court that all parameters were being duly followed. A bench of Justices Surva Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N Kotiswar Singh questioned Additional Solicitor General Aish-

Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait arrives to attend 'Kisan Mazdoor Mahapanchayat' in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

Election Commission rolls out e-sign feature

Those seeking removal of names or claiming objection to inclusion of names in the electoral roll will get a one-time password on their registered mobile phones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Election Commission has rolled out an e-verfication procedure to ensure that the provision to seek deletion of names from voters' list is not misused.

Those seeking removal of names or claiming objection to inclusion of names in the electoral roll will get a onetime password on their registered mobile phones.

"There could be cases where a person seeking removal of a name gives someone else's name or phone number while filing objection online. This added feature will present such a misuse," an official

explained. The feature was rolled out a week ago with poll authority officials insisting that it is not a reaction to wrongful attempts to delete names in Aland Assembly constituency in Karnataka.

The EC said although the elector of the constituency can fill Form 7 online to apply for deletion of an entry from that particular constituency, it does not mean that the entry gets automatically deleted merely by submitting the Form 7. In Aland, 6,018 Form 7 applications for deletion were submitted online.

the poll body has said. On verification, only 24 applications were found to be genuine, while 5,994 were



found to be incorrect. Accordingly, 24 applications were accepted, and the 5,994 incorrect applications were rejected.

In a post on X, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednes day claimed that the EC has put a "lock" on "vote theft" only after he raised the matter. He asked Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar when he would provide evidence to the Karnataka CID on the "deletion" of votes in Aland.

'Gyanesh ji, we caught the theft and only then did you remember to put a lock - now we'll catch the thieves too" Gandhi said.

Pahalgam attack: Man who helped terrorists arrested

to the 129th Constitutional

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amendment Bill.

Srinagar, Sept 24: Police Wednesday arrested a person from South Kashmir who had allegedly provided logistical support to terrorists responsible for the April 22 Pahalgham

terror attack, officials said here "Based on an intelligence lead, Srinagar police arrested an Over Ground Worker from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. He was identified as Mohd Yousuf Katari (26)," an official said. The officials said that he had a role in providing logistical support to the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack who were later killed during Operation Mahadev. In the July 29 encounter, the Army's elite para commandos had gunned down the three terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar

senior railway officials, station

masters, Railway Protection

Force and Government Railway

Force personnel, and other staff

concerned to ensure their time-

ly presence at assigned duties

Railway sources said the or-

igin and destination stations

fall under two different railway

zones -- Northern Railway and

North Central Railway -- and

throughout the route.

Prez to ride world's most luxurious train for Mathura visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Indian Railways will deploy one of the world's most luxurious trains -- the Maharajas' Express -- to carry President Droupadi Murmu from Safdarjung railway station in New Delhi to Vrindavan Road station near Mathura Thursday morning.

The train is operated by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for

high-end tourists during winters. 'An 18-coach train formation will comprise 12 coaches of Maharajas' Express, including a Presidential suite, deluxe suites, restaurants, lounges and

power cars for the President and her staff. It will have two standard AC coaches for senior railway staff to accompany," a railway official said.

He added. "Two locomotives will be assigned to the special train to ensure seamless services. While one will operate, the other one will be on standby to handle technical issues.'

Sources said the train will depart from Safdarjung station at around 8 am and reach Vrindavan Road station around 10 am.

"During her day-long stay at Vrindavan, the President will perform darshan and pooja at Shri Banke Bihari Temple, Nidhivan and Kubja Krishan



Mandir. She will also visit Sudama Kuti in Vrindayan and said in a statement. perform darshan and pooja at Shri Krishna Janmsthan in

Mathura," the President's office

Krishna "As the Shri Janmsthan is situated closer

President Murmu had taken the special train journey in June 2023, when she travelled from **Bhubaneswar to** her hometown, Rairangpur in Odisha

Sources said necessary in-

structions have been issued to

an official said.

to the Mathura Junction, the President will re-board the special train from there in the evening for the return journey,"

both zones have been directed

to coordinate closely to ensure smooth and secure operations President Murmu had tak en the special train journey in

June 2023, when she travelled from Bhubaneswar to her home town, Rairangpur in Odisha.

international



It is necessary to make every effort to maintain the overall social stability of Xinjiang. Build a solid people's defence line against terrorism ... and guide cadres and people of all ethnic groups to establish a correct view of the country, history, ethnicity, culture and religion

TRIO OF SPACE WEATHER SATELLITES BLAST OFF TOGETHER

A cluster of space weather satellites blasted off Wednesday morning to cast fresh eyes on solar storms that can produce stunning auroras but also scramble communications and threaten astronauts in flight. The three satellites soared from Kennedy Space Centre shortly after sunrise on the same SpaceX rocket



Typhoon Ragasa bears

down on southern China

after killing 17 in Taiwan

is that I woke up happy,

the great majority of Costa Ricans who clamor to erase the historic error of some who tried to intimidate the president of the republic, and as a result, the enormous majority of the people who

RODRIGO CHAVES | PRESIDENT, COSTA RICA

In South Asia, we consider the preservation of peace and stability to be of utmost importance. We

are pleased with the ceasefire achieved following the tensions last April between Pakistan and India, the tension which had escalated into a conflict

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY



much more dangerous place. We

have seen this before GITANAS NAUSEDA | PRESIDENT, LITHUANIA

SHORT **TAKES**

Shehbaz to meet Trump today

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will travel from New York to Washington to meet US President Donald Trump Thursday, as the two sides made a renewed push to reset their bilateral relations. Shehbaz, who is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, had an "informal exchange" with Trump Tuesday after a dialogue between the President and leaders of eight Islamic-Arab countries, including Pakistan, the foreign ministry said. The Prime Minister will briefly travel from New York to Washington to meet President Trump, The Express Tribune newspaper reported Wednesday, citing diplomatic sources. He will return to New York on the same day to continue his UNGA engagements, it added.

2 killed, another hurt in Dallas ICE facility

Dallas: A gunman who wrote "ANTI-ICE" on an unused bullet killed two detainees and wounded another Wednesday at an Immigration and **Customs Enforcement field** office in Dallas before taking their own life, officials said. FBI Director Kash Patel posted a photo on X of what he said were the suspect's unspent shell casings that showed one with the words "ANTI-ICE" written along the side. "While the investigation is ongoing, an initial review of the evidence shows an ideological motive behind this attack.' Patel wrote. In a statement. the Department of Homeland Security said the suspect fired "indiscriminately" at the ICE building, including at a van in the building's secured entryway where the victims

Syrian Prez addresses **UN after 6 decades**

were shot.

United Nations: Turning the page on decades of distance, Syria's President Ahmad al-Sharaa addressed the UN General Assembly, marking the first time any Syrian president has done so in almost 60 years. "Syria is reclaiming its rightful place among the nations of the world," he told the assembly's annual gathering of world leaders. The Assad family dynasty's autocratic, repressive 50-year rule in Syria abruptly collapsed in December, when then-President Bashar Assad was ousted in a lightning insurgent offensive led by al-Sharaa.

Trump's Ukraine shift mistaken: Kremlin

Moscow, Sept 24: The Kremlin Wednesday flatly rejected what Donald Trump said was the rationale behind his rhetorical U-turn on the war in Ukraine, saying it appeared that the US president had been influenced by Ukraine's leader and was mistaken.

In an abrupt shift in Ukraine's favour, Trump said Tuesday after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he believed that Kyiv could recapture all of its land taken by Russia - which controls around one-fifth of the country - and that it should act now, with Moscow facing economic problems.

The Trump flip-flop was seen by some Russian nationalists as a sign he was washing his hands of the war in Ukraine after his unsuccessful attempts to broker a quick peace deal, noting he had not promised any more US help to Kyiv but had rather placed the onus on Ukraine and the European Union.

The Kremlin, which says it is keen for better ties with Washington, countered that the Russian economy was stable, despite some problems caused by Western sanctions, and that Russian forces' slow but steady advance in Ukraine was part of a deliberate strategy, with Kyiv, not Moscow, on the back foot.

"As far as we understand, President Trump's statements were made after communicat-



ing with (Ukrainian President) Zelenskyy and, apparently, under the influence of a vision set out by Zelenskyy. This vision contrasts sharply with our understanding of the current state of affairs," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"The fact that Ukraine is being encouraged in every possible way to continue hostilities and the argument that Ukraine can win something back is, in our view, a mistaken argument. The dynamics on the front lines speak for themselves," he said.

Though Russia has continued to grind forward in many areas, it has not made a major breakthrough in Ukraine for some time. Dmitry Rogozin, a nationalist Russian senator,

said he believed that the front lines were at an impasse, as parity in equipment, training and morale stalled momentum on both sides.

RUSSIA REJECTS TRUMP'S 'PAPER TIGER' COMMENT

Peskov said Russia's macroeconomic situation was stable, though data released by the Russian economy ministry Wednesday showed that the GDP growth forecast for this year had been cut to 1% from 2.5%

The finance ministry proposed raising value-added tax to fund military spending.

I think, you know, President Trump has shown he is racist, he is sexist, he is misogynistic and he's Islamophobic.

ZELENSKYY TELLS UN: STOP RUSSIA'S WAR OR FACE DESTRUCTIVE ARMS RACE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on world powers Wednesday to work together to stop Russia's war in his country, accusing Russian President Vladimir Putin of

US': ZELENSKYY Washington: Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said India is "mostly with us" and expressed hope that New Delhi will change its attitude to the Russian energy sector with US President Donald Trump's ing a question during an interview with Fox News about China and India contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine. The US has often blamed India and China for purchasing Russian, which President Trump has claimed funds Moscow's war against Ukraine. "I think India mostly with us. Yes, we have these questions with energy, but I think that President Trump can manage it with Europeans, make more close and strong relations with India," Zelenskyy said. "And I think, we have to do everything not to with-draw Indians and they will change their attitude to the Russian energy sector," the Ukrainian president said.

seeking to expand the fighting hevond Ukraine

He said in a speech to the 193-member United Nations General Assembly that the war had helped unleash the most destructive arms race in history and that Ukraine was moving to open up the export of its weapons to allies. "The facts are simple, stopping this war ... is cheaper than building underground kindergartens or massive bunkers for critical infrastructure later." he said.

He pointed to alleged airspace violatīons by Russian drones and fighter jets in NATO's Poland and Estonia as evidence that Putin was testing new boundaries in the war in Ukraine.

Hong Kong/Shenzhen, China, Sept 24: Typhoon Ragasa, the world's most powerful tropical cyclone this year, struck the southern Chinese city of Yangijang Wednesday after killing 17 people in Taiwan and lashing Hong Kong with ferocious winds and heavy rains.

The typhoon was tracking towards Maoming, one of China's biggest oil refining cities, in Guangdong province.

In Taiwan, 17 people were missing in the eastern Hualien county after a barrier lake overflowed and sent a wall of water into a town, while Ragasa brought Hong Kong to a standstill. More powerful typhoons

na due to climate change, said Benjamin Horton, dean of the School of Energy and Environment at the City University of Hong Kong, after a summer of record-breaking rainfall. "The weather experienced

are likely to hit southern Chi-

in Hong Kong this summer is only a taste of what is to come," Horton said.

GUANGDONG GIVEN RED STORM SURGE WARNING Officials in Taiwan are used

to moving people out of potential danger zones swiftly as the island is frequently hit by typhoons, but many residents in the tourist town of Guangfu said they were given insufficient warning when a lake overflowed during Tuesday's torrential rains brought by Ragasa.

In Hong Kong, where huge waves crashed over areas of the Asian financial hub's eastern and southern shoreline some roads and residential

properties were submerged. At the Fullerton Hotel on the island's south, videos on social media showed seawater surging through glass doors.

No injury has been reported,

■ 17 people dead in Taiwan, 17 missing after lake overflows

- Roads, beaches, hotel flooded in Hong Kong
- Hundreds of south China flights cancelled, shelters opaen
- Ragasa to hit China's Guangdong

the hotel told Reuters.

China's marine authority issued its highest red wave warning for the first time this year, forecasting storm surges of up to 2.8 metres (9 feet) in parts of Guangdong province, as Ragasa headed towards the densely populated Pearl River Delta.

It has since weakened, but was still powerful enough to bring down trees and power lines.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN STORM'S PATH

After passing around 100 km (60 miles) south of Hong Kong, Ragasa made landfall along the south Chinese coast. Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan and Dongguan, the largest cities in the storm's path, are home to around 50 million people.

More than 2 million people have been evacuated across Guangdong and the ministry for emergencies dispatched tens of thousands of tents, fold ing beds, lighting equipment and other rescue supplies, Chinese state media reported.

Some shops and restaurants in the province parked large rented trucks in front of storefronts in a bid to shield them from the storm, local media reported.

A crowd chasing the storm under Shenzhen Bay Bridge was moved on by traffic police

China's marine authority warned of a high risk of flood ing in Shenzhen, especially in low-lying areas, with a storm surge alert expected to remain in effect until Thursday.

Prez Paudel issues ordinance related to voter name list

A massive sinkhole opens on Samsen Road near Vajira Hospital, in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday

Kathmandu: Presideant Ramchandra Paudel Wednesday issued an ordinance related to an amendment to the voter registration act paving the way for names of new voters to be registered ahead of the March 2026 general election. The development comes after Prime Minister Sushila Karki met President Paudel to discuss matters relating to the timely conduct of the general elections. The President has issued the ordinance Wednesday in accordance with section (1) of Article 114 of the Constitution of Nepal based on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, according to a source at the President's Office. The amendment to the Voter Registration Act, 2073 Bikram Samvat will pave the way to register the names of new voters for the upcoming election scheduled to be held March 5, 2026. Karki's meeting with President Paudel at the President House, Sheetal Niwas, came a day after the prime minister discussed preparations for the general election with the Election Commission (EC) officials here. "During the meeting with Paudel, Karki discussed the current political and security situation, the upcoming House of Representatives election March 5, 2026 and the security situation prevailing in the country," a source close to the President's Office said.

Nanterre, France, Sept 24: As French President Emmanuel Macron recognised Palestine statehood earlier this week dozens of town halls across France hoisted the Palestinian flag in celebration - defying instructions by Macron's interior

ministry not to do so. By Wednesday, some had taken the flag down after regional authorities initiated legal proceedings - an episode which some mayors said undermined the message of solidarity Macron sought to make with his largely symbolic recognition.

"For me it's a complete misunderstanding," Raphael Adam, mayor of Nanterre outside Paris, told Reuters. "You can't have a government asking its representatives to oppose raising a flag at the same time it's recognising the state.

The city raised the flag in a ceremony Monday but a day later, the Nanterre administrative court ruled it should be removed after the city defied an order by the regional representative, known as the prefect, to take it down.

Under French law, public buildings cannot be used as platforms for expressing polit-



ical, religious or philosophical opinions. Local officials noted, however, that Ukrainian flags have been displayed and even projected on the Eiffel Tower.

"When we raised a Ukrainian flag, no one told us anything!"

said Gilles Poux, mayor of La Courneuve, northeast of Paris, who planned to take down the flag late Tuesday after his administration was fined for flying one earlier this year.

"Speaking of neutrality is hypocritical. Liberty, equality, fraternity: there's nothing neutral about these values, he said.

Asked about the allegations of double standards, the inte rior ministry told Reuters the Gaza war had provoked pro tests and tensions in France and that displaying Palestinian flags on public buildings could trigger public unrest.

Scientists discover new dinosaur with crocodile bone in mouth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 23: Scientists have discovered a new dinosaur from Argentina with powerful claws, feasting on an ancient crocodile bone.

The new find was possibly 23 feet (7 metres) long and hailed from a mysterious group of dinosaurs called megaraptorans. They prowled across what's now South America, Australia and parts of Asia, splitting off into different species over millions of years.

Megaraptorans were known for their stretched-out skulls

and "huge and very powerful said Lucio Ibiricu with the Patagonian Institute of Geology and Paleontology, who was part of the discovery

But it's not yet clear how these creatures hunted and where they fall on the evolutionary timeline — mainly because the fossils recovered so far were incomplete.

In a new study, researchers said they uncovered part of a skull as well as arm, leg and tail bones from the Lago Colhué Huapi rock formation in Patagonia. They noticed



unique features in the bones that made them realize this could be a new species. This latest member of the

megaraptoran clan named Joaquinraptor casali "fills a major gap by providing one of the most complete skeletons vet," Federico Agnolin with the Argentine Museum of Natural Science Bernardino Rivadavia said in an email. Agnolin was not involved with the research, which was published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications. The creature likely lived between 66 and 70 million years ago — close to the time dinosaurs went extinct - and was at least 19 years old when it died. though scientists don't

know what killed it.

The front leg bone pressed against its jaws — belonging to an ancient relative of crocodiles - could vield some clues to its diet and whether it was the top predator on the humid prehistoric flood plains. Ibiricu named the new di

nosaur in memory of his son Joaquin. While Joaquin was very young and hadn't yet developed a fascination with dinosaurs, Ibiricu still thinks he would have appreciated being named after one.

"All children love dinosaurs so he would probably be a fan too," he said.

business



We have requested allowing SEZ units to undertake reverse job work and **DTA** sales to keep factories and artisans engaged, extending export obligation periods for the US shipments, and providing an interest moratorium on packing credit and working capital loans to ease financial stress

RUPEE HITS RECORD LOW

The rupee ended 2 paise down at its lowest-ever closing level of 88.75 against the US dollar o Wednesday, weakening for the third consecutive day amid severe shock waves in the aftermath of America's sweeping tariff move against Indian exports followed by the steep hike in H-1B visa fee. Forex traders said rupee was hovering near its all-time low level on unabated withdrawal of foreign funds as investors remained concerned over global trade uncertainties and impact of US visa fee hike on India's IT services exports



India's credit landscape is evolving with resilience in semi-urban and

toward secured lending, and stable portfolio performance

BHAVESH JAIN | MD, CIC

The National Career **Service** (NCS) platform has emerged as a unique bridge be-

and job-seekers. With over 52 lakh registered employers and nearly 7.5 crore vacancies mobilised since inception, NCS has positioned itself as a one-stop solution for all employment-related services

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA I UNION MINISTER. LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT



and hawkish remarks made by

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell during his speech on Tuesday SAUMIL GANDHI | SENIOR ANALYST,

SHORT TAKES

Samsung unveils 'Al Home'

Mumbai: Samsung, Wednesday unveiled 'AI Home', entailing a connected and intuitive living space that brings together intelligence across appliances, devices, and services. The launch builds on Samsung's future living concept, where intelligence is shared across smart appliances and services. The company showcased its AI capabilities at its flagship store in Jio World Plaza, Mumbai. The company said 'AI Home' brings together Samsung's strides in Artificial Intelligence, device portfolio, and is backed by security and privacy safeguards. Illustrating the AI capabilities, the company said that for users, it would mean a connected system that automatically understands the requirements of a home. Citing AI capabilities, entail lights switching on arrival, the air conditioner adjusting to sleep or the washing machine recommending the right

cycle. Aiming towards

the system continuously

and environmental cues.

enabling convenience and

energy savings. India is at

the core of this journey, he

pointed out.

learns from user behaviour

ambient intelligence.

Suzlon's transition New Delhi: Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon Wednesday said it will transition its entire vehicular fleet to electric mobility by 2035. After committing to power all its facilities with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, Suzlon has taken another bold step in its sustainability journey by joining the global EV100 initiative of Climate Group, a company statement said. As part of this, Suzlon will transition its entire fleet to electric vehicles by 2035, further reducing carbon emissions, lowering fuel consumption, and strengthening India's march towards Net Zero, it stated. EV100 is a global initiative by Climate Group that brings together leading companies committed to accelerating the transition to electric vehicles and making electric transport the new normal by 2030. This commitment entails Suzlon electrifying 655 vehicles across its operations, covering both owned and leased vehicles in the 3.5T and 3.5-7.5T categories. This initiative directly supports the reduction of Scope one

emissions.

UPI now accepted in Qatar, Duty Free becomes first merchant

Indians are the second-largest group of international visitors to Qatar, it said, adding that this partnership will help them make real-time transactions across the country, thereby reducing the need to carry cash and eliminating currency exchange hassles

New Delhi, Sept 24: NPCI International Payments Ltd, in partnership with Qatar National Bank, has enabled the acceptance of QR codebased Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across Qatar via point-of-sale terminals for merchants acquired by QNB and powered by NETSTARS' payment solution.

This move will enable Indian travellers to make UPI payments seamlessly at major tourist attractions and Qatar Duty Free outlets, which is

the first merchant to go live on UPI, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said in a statement.

Indians are the second-largest group of international visitors to Qatar, it said, adding that this partnership will help them make real-time transactions across the country, thereby reducing the need to carry cash and eliminating currency exchange hassles.

The acceptance of UPI in Qatar promotes interoperability and expands UPI's global reach, it said.

Moreover, it is expected to



benefit Qatar's retail and tourism sectors as UPI acceptance will increase transaction volumes of merchants acquired by QNB, it said.

This will further help them in scaling their business, while offering convenience to customers, it said.

'We aim to enhance the acceptance of UPI globally and create a truly interoperable global payment network. The partnership with QNB is a step towards this journey," NPCI International MD and CEO Ritesh Shukla said.

NPCI International is a subsidiary of NPCI.

It will help millions of Indian travellers make seamless, secure digital transactions and reduce their dependence on cash, he said.

Yousef Mahmoud Al-Neama, Group Chief Business Officer, QNB, said this milestone not only enhances convenience for Indian travellers but also brings significant benefits to the Qatari market by promoting cashless transactions, boosting retail and tourism sectors, and strengthening interoperability in the payments

Importantly, it will also enable local merchants to thrive by attracting more customers and providing them with seamless digital payment.

RBI renews statement of commitment to **FX Global Code** Mumbai: The Reserve Bank

Wednesday said it has signed a renewed statement of commitment to the FX Global Code. The code is a set of global principles of good practice in the FX market developed to provide a common set of guidelines to promote the integrity and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market. It was developed by a partnership between central banks and market participants from around the globe and was first published in 2017. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed the content of the FX Global Code and acknowledges that it represents a set of principles generally recognised as good practice in the wholesale foreign exchange market, said 'Statement of Commitment to the FX Global Code'. To this end. it has taken appropriate steps. based on the size and complexity of its activities, and the nature of its engagement in the FX market, to align its activities with the principles of the code, the statement added.

Markets decline for 4th day; Sensex down 386 pts PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 24: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive day Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, auto, and capital goods shares, as well as foreign fund outflows, amid concerns over US H1B visa fees that continue to dent investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 386.47 points or 0.47 per cent to end at 81,715.63. During the day, it tanked 494.26 points or 0.60 per cent

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 112.60 points or 0.45 per cent to 25,056.90.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Axis Bank were the major laggards. However, Power Grid, Hin-

dustan Unilever, NTPC and HCL Tech were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Inves-

tors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,551.19 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data. India's relatively high valua-

tions, coupled with moderation

to lead FIIs to trim their positions, Nair added. The BSE midcap gauge

dropped 0.85 per cent and smallcap index declined 0.50 per cent. Among sectoral indices, real-

ty dropped the most by 2.47 per cent, followed by utilities (1.19) per cent), capital goods (1.09 per cent), services (1.07 per cent), power (1.06 per cent), auto (1.06 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.87 per cent). FMCG emerged as the only

gainer. In four days, the BSE benchmark tumbled 1,298.33 points or 1.56 per cent, and the Nifty declined 366.7 points or 1.44 per cent. Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. US markets ended in negative territory Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.44 per cent to \$67.93 a barrel. Meanwhile, the rupee recov-

ered from early lows to settle almost flat at 88.72 against the US dollar. The local unit slumped to 88.80 in early trade but recovered later to hit a day's high of 88.67 against the US dollar. Tuesday, the Sensex ended lower by 57.87 points or 0.07 per cent at 82,102.10. The Nifty dipped 32.85 points or 0.13 per cent to 25,169.50.

Indian-American executive named T-Mobile CEO Houston: Indian-American

executive Srini Gopalan has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of telecom operator T-Mobile, amid ongoing debates over H-1B visa policies. Gopalan's appointment, effective from November 1, comes as US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation imposing a staggering \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visas, triggering widespread panic, concern and fear among Indian professionals on the work visa. Gopalan, currently the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of T-Mobile, will succeed Mike Sievert, who has led the telecom operator since 2020. Born in Delhi. Gopalan attended Delhi Public School and St Stephen's College before earning an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad in 1992. He has held leadership roles at Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone, Bharti Airtel Capital One, and Accenture, including CEO of Deutsche Telekom's German operations. He ioined T-Mobile in early 2025 as

India fuel exports surge to multi-year highs New Delhi, Sept 24: Indian oil

refiners are increasing gasoline and diesel exports to their highest levels in several years. driven by expanded crude processing capacity and increased domestic ethanol blending that has freed up fuel supplies for overseas markets, traders and analysts said. Refiners in India, which

sources about a third of its crude from Russia, are boosting runs and redirecting surplus barrels abroad. The rise in exports is ex-

pected to help meet Europe's winter heating oil demand and support Indian refining margins, after refiners turned to discounted Russian crude when Europe and the US imposed sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022

Washington DC has accused India of profiteering by importing Russian oil at lower prices and reselling refined fuel at higher rates; India has said its purchases have stabilised markets. This year, India's crude pro-

cessing is expected to increase by 130,000 to 160,000 barrels per day to about 5.51 million bpd, with gasoline exports hitting a record high of around 400,000 bpd, according to consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

An Indian refining source, who declined to be named due to company policy, said exports are rising because of weaker domestic demand during the monsoon season and fewer scheduled maintenance outages

Data provider Kpler pegs India's 2025 gasoline exports at 387,000 bpd. mainly to Asia.

"The growth in gasoline exports is supported by a rising share of ethanol blending in domestic gasoline consumption," Woodmac analyst Priti Mehta said.

The world's second-biggest crude importer and consumer up from 12 per cent in 2025 gasoline exports to hit record Refiners, high, gasoil at 4-year high -report

increased ethanol

crude

processing to rise

to 5.51 million bpd in

2025 - report

Europe to stockpile diesel from India

ahead of winter

blending in gas-

oline to 20 per

cent this year.

led by Reliance Industries and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd,

are boosting exports to capitalise on strong Asian gasoline margins, which have risen 51 per cent since the start of the year to about \$11 to \$12

Europe's diesel buying spree

India's gasoil exports are also expected to hit a fouryear high this year, with most volumes heading to Europe to meet winter heating demand, analysts said, as global supply may tighten during the fourth quarter because of heavy refinery maintenance in Europe and the Middle East.

Wood Mackenzie expects India's 2025 gasoil exports to reach 610,000-630,000 bpd while Kpler's forecast is at 560,000 bpd.

The rise in India's exports comes as shipments from Saudi Arabia are set to fall by 300,000 bpd to around 400,000 bpd in October-November

with several Aramco refineries scheduled for maintenance, according to consultancy Energy

The growth

in gasoline

supported by

of ethanol

domestic

consumption

gasoline

PRITI MEHTA I

ANALYST, WOODMAC

blending in

a rising share

exports is

In a sign of the shift, Reliance Industries in late August shipped about 2 million barrels of diesel to Europe on the Very Large Crude Carrier Atokos, an uncommon move aimed at accommodating bigger volumes, ship-tracking data showed and two Singapore-based fuel traders said. Diesel cargoes are typically moved on smaller product

The European Union said in its 18th package of sanctions against Russia in July that it will stop importing petroleum products made from Russian crude after a transitional period of six months. The exemption will continue to apply to imports from Norway. Britain, the US, Canada and Switzerland.

UAE-India Business Council sign MoU

New Delhi, Sept 24: The UAE-India Business Council has entered into strategic agreements to deepen industry engagements and amplify trade and investments between India and the UAE. As part of the three agree-

ments, UIBC and the UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC), committed to closer institutional collaboration, ensuring greater coherence in advancing objectives of the UAE-India CEPA, and deepening the UAE-India economic partnership.

UIBC and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) entered into a pact for deepening



cooperation across priority services sectors, including logistics, healthcare, IT/ITES, education, tourism, and engineering, while promoting B2B and B2G engagements and addressing market access challenges.

UIBC signed an agreement with Regional Chambers of Commerce (Bombay Industries Association, Calicut Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Gu& Industry) to harness regional strengths to institutionalise CEPA facilitation at the grassroots, expand industry participation, and strengthen state-level trade and investment linkages. Abdulnasser Alshaali, Am-

jarat Chamber of Commerce

bassador of the United Arab Emirates to India, underscored the strategic depth of the bilateral partnership. He said, "With the UAE-India

Comprehensive Economic Part nership Agreement (CEPA) as our foundation, we are unlocking new opportunities that will redefine global trade flows and strengthen the economic future of both nations.'

AM/NS India bags gold in CCQC 2025



Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Operations of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), has won four Gold Awards at the 38th Chapter Convention on Quality Concepts (CCQC 2025), organised by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) Kolkata, Wednesday. On the occasion, Suresha G, Executive Director, Odisha Asset, AM/NS India, said, "This accomplishment reflects the hard work and spirit of collaboration that define our organization. We commend our teams for their exemplary performance and draw inspiration from their success as we continue our journey towards excellence.

Dion Group partners with Ather Energy Bhubaneswar: DION Group



join hands with Ather Energy Ltd, the most renowned brand in EV two-wheeler segment, coming in Cuttack. The JV will strengthen the automobile vertical of DION Group and

also helps expanding market network of Ather Energy. MLA Sofia Firdous (Barabati) and Umesh Chaudhary Head Sales Operation and Network (Ather) graced the occasion on eve of Navratri. In 2019, DION entered the automotive sector as an authorised Tata Motors dealer, and is now having showroom at7 locations (Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Puri, Balugaon, Phulbani, Bhanjanagar) across Odisha.

TPCODL crosses 1mn e-payments

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has created history by enabling more than one million consumers through digital payments. With multiple online options such as UPI, the Mitra App, and other platforms, TPCODL has simplified electricity bill payments, allowing consumers to pay from their homes with ease and security. QR codes have also been introduced for instant and hassle-free transactions. Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, hailed the achievement, stating, "We are proud to have crossed the one-million mark in digital payment adoption. This reflects the trust of our consumers and our commitment to offering a secure and rewarding billing experience. Our aim is to empower every consumer with simple digital tools and contribute to building a cashless Odisha."



BIPF, FICCI conclude IDEATE 2025

New Delhi: The Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), in collaboration with FICCI, concluded the 14th edition of its flagship thought-leadership platform IDEATE 2025 at the FICCI Commission Hall. Centered on the theme 'Margin to Mainstream: Empowering Women to Lead', the conclave brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and changemakers to address barriers to women's leadership and chart strategies for inclusive growth. Shaifalika Panda, Founder & CEO, BIPF, stressed: "As our nation strides toward Viksit Bharat 2047, harnessing Nari Shakti is crucial. Women must be seen as architects of change, not just beneficiaries," Panels and fireside conversations featuring leaders like Sara Abdullah Pilot, Founder & Chairperson, CEQUIN and Naina Lal Kidwai highlighted systemic reforms, mentorship, and the responsibility of women leaders to elevate others.

Vedanta advances women's healthcare Rhuhaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium

is extending healthcare services

to women and families in remote areas of Rayagada and Kalahandi districts under the Government of India's Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhivaan Under the health camp programme, Vedanta organised health camps at the PHC in Nakrundi, Kalahandi, and CHC in Kashipur, Rayagada, deploying its Mobile Health Units (MHUs) with medical staff, diagnostics, and essential medicines. The camps benefitted 468 women and over 410 men and children. Upcoming camps are also planned at Ramnur and Sunger. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Healthy women are the cornerstone of healthy families and empowered communities. Through this initiative, we aim to bring quality medical care closer to women and children in remote regions." Netra Nanda Nayak, Head, CHC Kashipur. added that Vedanta's support has expanded healthcare reach and boosted women's confidence in rural areas.



Unbeaten India storm into final

ABHISHEK, SPINNERS HELP MEN IN BLUE BEAT BANGLADESH BY 41 RUNS, REACH ASIA CUP SHOWDOWN

Dubai, Sept 24: Abhishek Sharma's scintillating 75 was beautifully complemented by Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy as India comfortably hammered Bangladesh by 41 runs to enter the Asia Cup final here Wednesday.

Despite a mediocre batting show that limited India to 168 for six in their second Super 4 match, Bangladesh's batting never had the wherewithal to chase down a gettable total and were bowled out for 127 in 19.3

Opener Saif Hassan (69 off 51 balls) did his bit with some lusty hitting but most of the other batters failed to even reach double digits. Having said that, Saif was lucky to get as many as five reprieves.

Kuldeep Yadav's (3/18 in 4 overs) craft was too much for them to decode while Varun Chakravarthy (2/29 in 4 overs) also got his share of wickets on a day when Axar Patel (1/37 in 4 overs) was blasted for four sixes.

blended power with copious

amount of grace to smash a

37-ball-75 before indiscreet crick-

et from the other batters restrict-

Abhishek, who is in the

middle of a dream phase, hit

six fours and five huge sixes

He looked good for a centu-

ry but a fantastic one handed

stop and quick action throw

Cuttack, Sept 24: The

rain-delayed match between

Rourkela Steelers and Bhu-

baneswar Tigers was re-

duced to 15 overs per side.

Bhubaneswar Tigers defeated

Rourkela Steelers by 5 wickets

with 20 balls to spare, there-

by sealing their berth in the

semifinals of the Odisha Pro

T20 League 2025 at the Baraba-

Chasing a target of 92, Satya-

kam Bharadwaj and Gaurav

Choudhary opened the innings

for Bhubaneswar Tigers. De-

spite an early setback with the

score at 5, Satyakam anchored

the chase with a brilliant un-

beaten knock of 65 runs off 34

deliveries, guiding his team to victory. The Tigers reached

For Rourkela Steelers,

Pradeep Pradhan (2/24) and

Asutosh Marndi (2/17) were

After winning the toss, Bhu-

baneswar Tigers chose to bowl

first. For Rourkela Steelers,

Akash Mohapatra and Aas-

hirwad Swain came to open

the innings. Aashirwad made

92/5 in 11.4 overs.

the only wicket-takers.

ti Stadium Wednesday.

ed India to a par 168 for six.

in his sizzling effort.

Jasprit Bumrah (2/18 in 4 overs) also had a good day in office. While some of the other Bangladeshi batters didn't measure up, right-handed Saif muscled the likes of Axar and Chakravarthy for five huge sixes to keep his team interested but

had no support at the other end.

SHORT **TAKES**

Suryavanshi shines

batting performances from

Vaibhay Survayanshi, Vihaan

Malhotra, and Abhigvan Kundu.

along with skipper Avush Mhatre

taking a three-fer. India clinched

an unassailable lead in the Youth

ODI series against Australia with a

commanding 51-run victory at the

Ian Healy Oval here Wednesday.

Pushed into batting first, Kundu

top-scored with 71 off 64 balls.

while Survavanshi and Malhotra

hit knocks of 70 each for India to

also saw Survayanshi break the

record for most sixes in Youth

post 300 in 49.4 overs. The innings

ODIs, surpassing Unmukt Chand's

tally of 38. Survayanshi, 14. now

has 41 sixes from just 10 innings.

after establishing himself as the

Shreyas takes break

Tendulkar Trophy series and put in

charge of the India A team, middle-

reportedly requested a break from

home Test series against the West

Indies. The decision came shortly after Iyer stepped down as India A

captain and left the Lucknow camp

midway through the ongoing series against Australia A. According to

Ashwin to join Big Bash

New Delhi: Indian off-spin veteran

Ravichandran Ashwin is reportedly

set to join Sydney Thunder for

the upcoming Big Bash League, becoming the first highest-profile

Indian player to feature in the

Australian T20 tournament. On

recently retired from international

cricket and the IPL, listed himself

Thunder after the ILT20 concludes

in early January, playing alongside

Tiafoe smashes racket

Marton Fucsovics in the first round

suffered an upset loss. The eighth-

seeded Tiafoe struggled with his

first serve in a 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 loss to

Fucsovics and smashed his racket

against the court surface just after

the Hungarian sealed victory with

slipped to 29th in the rankings. It

was the fourth consecutive loss

for the American

a forehand winner. Tiafoe has

Tokyo: Frances Tiafoe smashed

his racket as he lost to qualifier

of the Japan Open Wednesday,

while Denis Shapovalov also

David Warner and Sam Konstas,

according to Fox Sports.

in the ILT20 auction with a base

price of \$120,000, the highest

for any player. He will join the

Tuesday, the 39-year-old, who

reports, Iyer informed the BCCI

that he is unable to play four or

more consecutive days due to

recurring physical issues.

order batter Shreyas Iyer has

red-ball cricket, ruling himself

out of the upcoming two-match

New Delhi: Ignored by the selectors for the Anderson

Youth ODIs earlier this year.

youngest and fastest centurion in

Brisbane: Powered by standout

Earlier, Abhishek Sharma



Big clash loading: Thursday's Super 4s game between Bangladesh and Pakistan is a 'virtual semi-final' and will decide India's opponent in the summit clash. If Bangladesh's batting show is any indicator, a third mouth-watering India versus Pakistan contest for the biggest continental prize is very much on the cards

from Rishad Hossan stationed at short third-man sent him back to the dugout.

At the other end, Indian batters played some poor strokes-whether it was Shubman

Bhubaneswar Tigers enter semis

22 in 17 balls. Swoop Bhuyan

remained the top scorer for his

side as he remained unbeaten

on 31* in 18 balls. Saswat Mo-

hanty made a valiant contri-

bution of 16 in 17 balls to help

his team post a total of 91/8 at

For Bhubaneswar Tigers,

Debabrata Pradhan(2/15),

Survakant Pradhan(2/13) and

Badal Biswal(2/15) picked two

the end of 15th over.

Gill, Tilak Varma or skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who was caught brilliantly down the leg-side by stand-in captain and keeper Jaker Ali.

Team management's inabil-

ity to fit Sanju Samson was apparent as he couldn't be fitted into the top seven.

Having scored 96 in first 10, India managed only 72 in next 10 overs with Axar Patel (10 off 15 balls), promoted ahead of Samson, looking out of place.

Bangladesh's most experienced T20 bowler Mustafizur was greeted by Abhishek with a six over long-on that landed near the Indian dugout and bounced into the middle tier.

BRIEF SCORES

India: 168/6 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 77, Shubman Gill 29, Hardik Pandya 38) beat Bangladesh: 127 all out in 19.3 overs (Saif Hassan 69; Kuldeep Yaday 3/18, Varun Chakrayarthy 2/29, Axar Patel 1/37) by 41 runs support staff for 2026 Asian Games PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Sept 24: Athletes

Ministry bans addl

with "real chance of winning medals" will be the only ones considered for inclusion, stated the Sports Ministry as it unveiled a stringent selection cri teria for the 2026 Asian Games which focusses on continental rankings and bars additional coaches and support staff even

at no cost to government. The five-page document uploaded on the ministry's website Wednesday makes it clear that only those among the top-six in individual and top-eight in team sports at the Asian level would be eligible for nomination from the national federations.

The Asian Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4 next

"The aim is to ensure that the athletes who have real chance of winning medal are only considered for participation in multidisciplinary sports events," stated the ministry, tightening the process that has been criticised for being haphazard and lacking in clarity in the past.

"If it comes to notice of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) that the aim is just for participation and not aiming for excellence (medal winning), names of such sportspersons and teams will not be approved after giving proper justification," it stated.

The selection criteria would also cover the Commonwealth Games (July-August, 2026), Para Asian Games, Asian Indoor games, Asian Beach Games, Youth Olympics, Asian Youth Games, and the Commonwealth Youth Games. Performances of the past 12 months will form the basis of selection.

However, the new policy excludes the Olympics and other such international competitions where athlete or team participation is determined by qualification standards set by the respective international

federations.

it stated

"The NSF (National Sports Federation) will be eligible to nominate an athlete if the athlete has matched or bettered the 6th-place performance from the last Asian Games at a competition recognised by the international sports feder ation for that sport, held within the 12 months preceding the upcoming Asian Games,

For events that were not contested at the last Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, the criteria would be a top-six finish at



KOREA MASTERS

Shuttlers bow out easy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suwon, Sept 24: HS Prannov's campaign ended in disappointment as he retired hurt due to an injury, while Ayush Shetty also bowed out as India's challenge at the Korea Masters Super 500 concluded on the opening day of the main draw here Wednesday.

Prannoy, 33, was trailing 5-8 against Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo when he suffered an injury after playing a cross-court smash and clutched his right ribs. After resumed play but appeared uncomfortable and was forced to retire at 8-16.

Ayush Shetty, the only Indian to claim a BWF title this season at the US Open Super 300, was outplayed by Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang 18-21, 18-21 in a 47-minute encounter.

Kiran George put up a spirited fight before succumbing 14-21, 22-20, 14-21 to former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

In the women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya lost 16-21, 15-21 to fourth seed and world No.

the Senior Asian Championships of that discipline event within 12 months preceding the upcoming Asian Games".

India had recorded their best-ever Asiad performance in the Hangzhou Games in 2023. clinching 106 medals, including 28 gold.

DEFYING ALL ODDS

Afghan women's refugee team ready for int'l debut



Zurich, Sept 24: The Afghan women's refugee team will take the field for the first time in an international tournament when they compete in a fourteam friendly competition in the United Arab Emirates next month, world governing body FIFA said Wednesday. The team's creation stems

from the Taliban's ban on women's sports following their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, prompting players to flee the country fearing persecution.

The "FIFA Unites: Women's Series" tournament will run from October 23-29 in Dubai and feature the nearly-formed Afghan refugee squad alongside the UAE, Chad and Lib-

va's regular teams. "Ensuring that all women The FIFA-supported \

team - which cannot vet officially represent Afghanistan in World Cup qualifying — will face the host United Arab Emirates, Chad and ber 23-29 event

Afghanistan has official women's game since return to power regime in 2021 women's sport

have access to football is a priority for FIFA and a key element in shaping the future of our sport," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

"We are aware of the potential the game has both on and off the pitch. These friendly matches represent more than just a competition; they are a symbol of hope and progress for women all over the world."

HIL AUCTION

wickets each in the innings.

Jayanta Behera(1/26) and

Subham Priyadarshi(1/16)

grabbed one wicket each in

Player of the Match Satya

kam said, "This was a do or

die match for us. I used to bat

in lower order. But today we

had a different plan and exe-

cuted it quite well to register

the innings

a win.'

Kalinga Lancers pick three Indians, 4 overseas players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Australian duo of Liam Henderson and Cooper Burns emerged as Vedanta Kalinga Lancers' costliest buy as the side added three Indians and four overseas players to its squad ahead of the new Hockey India League (HIL) season scheduled in January 2026.

Henderson and Burns were bought for 42 lakhs and Rs 34.5 lakhs respectively.

Kalinga Lancers began proceedings by acquiring Australian goalkeeper Snowden for ₹10 lakh. The 24-year-old made his senior team debut earlier this year and was part of Australia's recent Oceania Cup title-winning team.

The franchise then picked up local talent Amit Kumar Toppo at his base price of Rs. 2 lakh. He was a member of Odisha's maiden title-winning team at the Senior Hockey National Championship last year.

After a competitive bidding war with Delhi SG Pipers, the Lancers secured Australian forward Burns, 23, who was named Most Valued Player in Hockey Australia's League. He made his senior team debut in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25.

Legends relive T20 WC fairytale

SEPTEMBER 24 IS A SIGNIFICANT DATE IN INDIAN CRICKET HISTORY. ON THIS DAY IN 2007, INDIA LIFTED THE INAUGURAL T20 WORLD CUP, DEFEATING THEIR ARCH-RIVALS PAKISTAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Sept 24: On the ocassion of the 18th anniversary of India's 2007 T20 World Cup win former India cricketers Yuvrai Singh, Irfan Pathan and Robin Uthappa shared special messages to relive the historic triumph.

In the summit clash held in Johannesburg, Misbah-ul-Haq threatened to drag Pakistan back from the brink, but MS Dhoni-led side held their nerve to clinch a five-run victory and the inaugural ICC Men's T20 world Cup.

Pathan, who won the player of the match award in the final for his clutch spell of 3-16. shared throwback pictures from the game on his X handle, captioning, "What a day it was back in 2007. Where our World Cup dream was fulfilled. Beating Pakistan on regular basis started there in t20 cricket."

Uthappa, who was also part of India's playing XI alongside Pathan, wrote, "September 24th, 2007 - a day etched in my memory forever. Being part of the team that lifted the T20 World Cup was truly magical. The belief, unity, and energy we shared still feels alive today. I'm forever grateful to have repre-

ECHOES OF GLORY



sented India and cherished those unforgettable moments

with my teammates. Yuvraj, who scripted history by smashing six sixes in an over, shared a couple of pictures of the Indian team's trophy celebrations on his Instagram handle and wrote, "Some memories never fade and this is definitely one of them! A proud moment that united a nation in joy and pride. Throwback to this memorable 2007 World

Speaking of the game, India won the toss and chose to bat

first as Gautam Gambhir led with the bat. The opener played a brilliant innings, keeping the scoreboard moving even as wickets fell on the other end. He top-scored with 75 off 54 balls before Rohit Sharma provided some late impetus to help India finish at 157/5.

In the second innings, the Indian bowlers struck at regular intervals as the Pakistani bats men failed to gather momentum. However, Imran Nazir and Misbah-ul-Haq's innings under pressure helped their team inch closer to the total.

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