

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today, the stars put you on high alert... and not for nothing. You will save yourself from being swindled. Though you will easily manage to stay ahead of others, you may make a few enemies on your way. It's not a good day if you're looking to buy a house or vehicle, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

Impulsive action kicks in as you work and interact today. Do not let the pressure and strain cloud your thoughts, and instead focus on acting on the things at hand. If you find things spiralling out of control, take a break and listen to some music that soothes your heart, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI

Bosses will assign new responsibilities to you, predicts Ganesha. Your daytime distress, however, will transform into jubilation by the end of the day's work, as you will be able to produce brilliant results. Ganesha advises you to delay bidding for tenders by a few days.

CANCER

Today, it is quite possible that you have a presentiment of things that are about to happen. Scarily enough, the premonition may not be too far off the mark. All your senses, especially your sixth sense, are likely to remain highly active today. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding at work or home, says Ganesha.

LEO

Your passionate and emotional nature contributes in a big way to your sudden outbursts of emotions, says Ganesha. Today, your anger may erupt abruptly. This makes it very likely for you to get carried away irrespective of your surroundings and circumstances, both at work and at home.

VIRGO

Stay clear of a coalition when it comes to business ventures, warns Ganesha. Alone, you can manage an entire stampede. By your own you are, by far, the best administrator of your department. Today, find yourself being the general and uniting people under your banner to achieve greater success, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

Ever heard of the phrase, 'To stick one's foot in one's mouth'? Well, today you might be doing exactly the same, albeit unwittingly. You are likely to invite trouble, especially if some of those heated discussions get out of hand. A legal dispute does not seem unlikely. One can always get an out-of-court settlement, but why go through all that? Just remember to be cautious today in all that you do or say, hints Ganesha.

SCORPIO

You shall probably realise the fact that seeing is believing. Learn to trust your own eyes more than what you hear. Don't get lost in the crowd, warns Ganesha. Strive to stand out and be in the spotlight, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Round and round they tumble, the wheels of life, smoothly gliding into a routine. You may spend your day in discontent due to the rut of regular activities. Sadly, there is little hope or adventure Ganesha foresees that might make this day worthwhile for you.

CAPRICORN

A good day always begins with a good start. It will be a good day for you today as you will start the day with a positive attitude to life, says Ganesha. Your unremitting dedication and determination will not only put you ahead of others, but will also help you get an edge over them.

AQUARIUS

You are a polished diamond. Adversities come and go, yet you remain unruffled. Today, you manage to please your boss, and beloved, and that is a feat! It is yet another day of contentment. And in a cyclical process, this again rejuvenates you into giving your best, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Do not let your emotions influence your strategies in any way. Mixing business with sentiments is only for super spies. Keep a close check on your emotions and do not get carried away. Travel for business purposes is indicated, says Ganesha.



LIAM HEMSWORTH ON THE WITCHER RECASTING

Liam Hemsworth, who replaced Henry Cavill in *The Witcher*, described the transition as both daunting and thrilling amid fan backlash. The Netflix show's creators also addressed Cavill's surprising exit after three seasons, revealing that Cavill's departure was a result of conversations that had been going on 'for a while' behind the scenes.

DICAPRIO TALKS ABOUT BOX-OFFICE IMPORTANCE

Leonardo DiCaprio stressed that while streaming platforms continue to grow, the box office remains essential for preserving cinema's communal experience. Reflecting on today's content boom, he highlighted the importance of audiences filling theatres. Discussing his action thriller *One Battle After Another*, DiCaprio said the film is 'uniquely crafted and specialised' for cinemagoers.



Amar Singh Chamkila earns two Emmy nods

New Delhi: Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali and actor-musician Diljit Dosanjh have expressed joy over the two International Emmy nominations for their film *Amar Singh Chamkila*, calling it a recognition of Punjab and its artists.

The Netflix film, based on the life and times of slain Punjabi musician Amar Singh Chamkila, is nominated in the TV Movie/Mini-Series category. Dosanjh has earned a nod in the Best Performance by an Actor category. The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the nominations in New York Thursday night, with the film emerging as the lone Indian entry. *Amar Singh Chamkila* is a rare film because it has to do with the scent of the land of Panjab- its music, its socio-politics, its conflict, its aspirations, and its many problems.

"The fact that conflict creates art creates conflict was represented through the life of Amar Singh Chamkila in this film. We are all very happy that we could bring the story of Chamkila, such a unique individual, to the fore. The story of Amarjot and Chamkila is also the story of Panjab," Ali said in a statement.

At the 53rd International Emmy Awards gala, scheduled to be held in New York City November 24, the film will vie for the TV Movie/Mini-Series award alongside *Herrhausen: The Banker and the Bomb* (Germany), *Lost Boys & Fairies* (United Kingdom) and *Vencer o Morir* (Chile).

Bhumi finds courage within

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Bhumi Pednekar has opened up about her struggles with resilience, trolling, and the pressures of living in the spotlight.

Speaking candidly, the *Pati Patni Aur Woh* star admitted that online bullying is something actors grow accustomed to, but acknowledged it is especially difficult when women become the targets. "Trolling, bullying, whatever you call it, we're used to it. But when women are targeted, I don't always know how to deal with it," she confessed.

Bhumi said courage isn't something she wakes up with; rather, it is something she discovers within herself when there are no other choices. Social media, she explained, brings constant noise, criticism, and opinions, but her ambition continues to push her forward even in the toughest moments.

Reflecting on professional challenges, she admitted how painful it is when critically praised films fail commercially. "It breaks you when a film gets credibility but doesn't do numbers," she shared. However, those lonely moments also taught her she is more than just her films.

Bhumi stressed that she refuses to surrender to setbacks. "I have to pick myself up because I support an ecosystem. Nobody else puts bread on my plate, it's me," she declared.



Mo Bou Mo Gaon team celebrates Silver Lotus

Bhubaneswar: The members of *Mo Bou Mo Gaon* (My Mother My Village), an Odia documentary film that received prestigious Silver Lotus Award at the National Film Awards Tuesday, celebrated the success here at Geeta Govind Sadan, Friday.

Talking to Orissa POST director Subhash Sahoo, who is also an eminent sound designer in Bollywood from Odisha, said, "It's a huge honour for me. Through this movie, we tried to showcase the roots of our state and our traditions, which are slowly becoming extinct."

He goes on to add, "This project came as a result of demand from people and filmmakers



who wanted to see a story deeply rooted in my culture. That's how my 18-year journey to make this film began. Making this movie was a real challenge, as I not only directed it, but also narrated and acted in it. I want to thank my editor and co-producer, Suvir Nath, for helping me complete this project."

Made under the banners

of Kicksy Wickesy Films and RNV 1820 Films and produced by Suprava Sahoo, the film was previously showcased at the several international film festivals, receiving widespread acclaim.

The film explores the themes of cultural preservation and the fading traditions of rural India. It tells the story of Seba Bou, a

woman from Baluria village in Kendrapada district, who groomed girls reaching puberty in all those set skills that a young woman needs to become a good wife and daughter-in-law.

It also highlights Seba Bou's seventeen-year-long dedication to protect village customs. Shot primarily in the director's native village of Baluria and in Bhubaneswar, the 63-minute film was a monumental effort, spanning eighteen years of shooting and two years of post-production. Though Seba Bou, the film's central character, is no longer alive, the film honors her immortal spirit and her legacy of commitment to cultural heritage.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

6TH IDFFB

PC: Calcutta New York Kolkata highlight of day 2



Moinak Biswas in conversation with FSB president Subrata Beura

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:

The second day at the 6th Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB) started off with the screening of *Only if the Baby Cries* by Shadab Farooq followed by Bedabrata Pain's *Déjà vu*. The latter is based on the backdrop of farmers protest in India against the farm laws and how similar laws were introduced in USA and who benefited from it. Pain, who joined for a post screening conversation online, shared his extensive research and engaged with the audience about the free market intervention in agriculture in America.

The day followed with screening of *Election Dairies* - a series of documentaries on the 2024 General Elections produced by Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Gottingen. *Gola Dreams* by Pankaj Rishi Kumar, *A Miniscule Minority* by Avijit M Kishore, *Crescent in the Saffron Sky* by Alishan Jaffri and Omair Farooq, *State of Hope* by Anjali Monterio and KP Jayasankar and *Ruke Na Jo* by Prateek Sekhar are the other movies that were screened as part of the series. Lalit Vachani's *Encountering Hate* was also screened based on the story of Human Rights Lawyer AA

Choudhury and how he provides legal help to victims of hate crime in North India.

PC: Calcutta New York Kolkata by Moinak Biswas was the highlight of the day. Biswas tries to capture Historian and Political Theorist Partha Chatterjee through six episodes in the documentary, in relation with the cities he has inhabited and the place he calls his home. Biswas joined for a post screening conversation and shared his experience of rediscovering Kolkata through Football, Bengal Partition and refugee crisis through an anthropological lens.

Film critic Aditya Shrikrishna who is a core member of FSB said, "The audience had the opportunity to watch documentaries ranging from American agriculture crisis to 2024 General Assembly Elections. FSB will continue its effort to bring movies from different parts of South Asia to its audience and critically engage through the visual medium."

The second day drew an enthusiastic response with participation from students of Birla Global University, members of FSB, and cinephiles. OrissaPOST and *Dharitri* are serving as its official print media partners.

PNN

SUDOKU

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

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

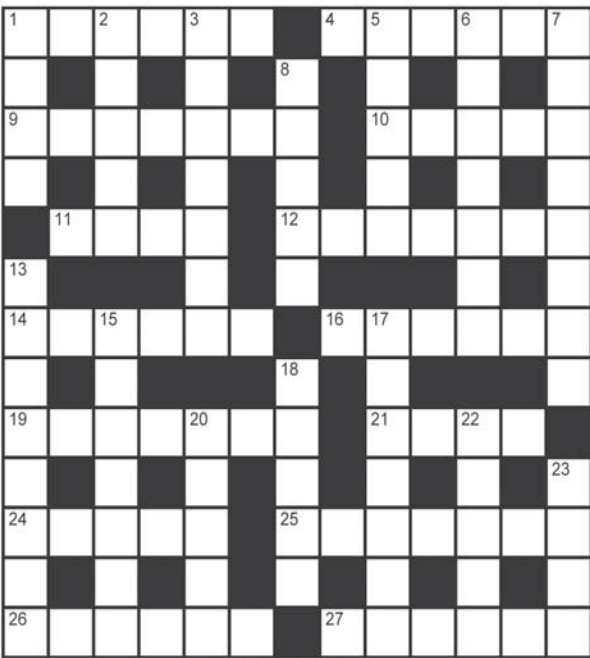
SOLUTIONS

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

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

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Bordeaux wine

4 Abominates

9 Nuclear weapons ingredient

10 Chef's wear

11 Toy with a tail

12 Hangman's venue

14 Diamond measurements

16 Predicament

- 19 Obtain

21 Vagabond

24 Bumbling

25 Dramatic scene

26 Mental picture

27 Artist's workroom

Down

- 1 Masterstroke

2 Valuable violin

3 Distinguished

5 Free-for-all

- 6 Rowboat part

7 Ominous

8 Alpha's opposite

13 Special time

15 Entreaty

17 Suppress

18 Moorage

20 Foreword, briefly

22 Recipe direction

23 Camera setting

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CBC 15502/13/0023/2526



PTI PHOTO

PM to visit state today

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26 Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the state on September 27 during which he will flag off an Amrit Bharat Express, unveil railway projects worth ₹1,700 crore and BSNL's 'Swadeshi' 4G stack.

From Jharsuguda, he will also 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 Antyodaya scheme. This will be the PM's sixth visit to Odisha in 15 months since the BJP came to power in the state in June, 2024.

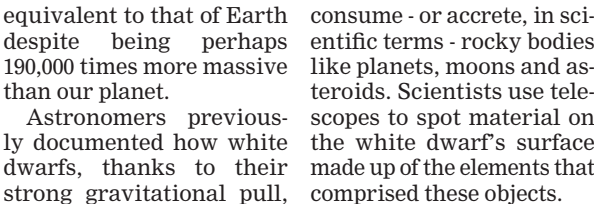
Initially, the place for his public meeting was fixed at Berhampur, but it was later changed to Jharsuguda due to a forecast of heavy rain in southern Odisha Saturday.



REUTERS

White dwarfs are among the universe's most compact objects, though not as dense as black holes. Stars with up to eight times the mass of the sun appear destined to end up as a white dwarf. They eventually burn up all the hydrogen they use as fuel. Gravity then causes them to collapse and blow off their outer layers in a 'red giant' stage, eventually leaving behind a compact core - the white dwarf.

The sun appears fated to end its existence as a white dwarf, billions of years from now. The white dwarf in the new study is a remnant of a star estimated to have been 50% more massive than the sun. In its current compact form, its diameter is roughly



Researchers have now detected a chemical fingerprint in this white dwarf, indicating that the object it swallowed was not primarily rocky but instead icy. They suspect the white dwarf's gravitational effects ripped apart a Pluto-like world and that its pieces then plunged onto it.

"The white dwarf likely accreted fragments from the crust and mantle of a Pluto-like icy world," said Snehalata Sahu, a postdoctoral research fellow in astrophysics at the University of Warwick in England, lead author of the study published this month in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

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STAGE SET: The Durga Puja pandal in Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar, Friday, all set to pull crowd

PICT: BIKASH NAYAK

Conman posing as cop, army officer arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhadrak, Sept 26: Odisha Police Friday arrested a man on charges of impersonating a police officer, an army officer and a Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, officials said. The man identified as Rahul S Ranawat, a resident of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, was picked up from a hotel here with fake uniforms, insignia, and a vehicle modified to resemble a police car. The arrest followed suspicion over a Jharkhand-registered vehicle parked near the hotel for several days. “On inspection, we found that the car was illegally fitted with police insignia and siren lights,” a senior police officer said. Further inquiry led to the seizure of a firearm and 38 law enforcement-related items, including uniforms of the Assam and Jharkhand Police, badges,

and other paraphernalia, he said.

Police said Ranawat introduced himself as an officer from various forces—at times claiming to be an assistant superintendent of police (ASP), and at other times posing as an army or RPF officer. This is a rare and novel case of fraud, said Additional SP Arup Abhishek Behera at a press conference here.

The accused is a conman who systematically misused the identity and authority associated with multiple uniformed services. He has been produced before court, and a detailed investigation is underway to uncover the full scope of his activities and any possible accomplices, he said.

Police are currently probing how long Ranawat had been operating in Odisha and whether he used these fake identities to gain money, favours, or sensitive information.

CM announces 2 pc DA hike for PSU staff; effective from Jan 1

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday announced a 2 per cent hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for employees of state-run Public Sector Undertak-

ings (PSUs), an official statement said. With this revision, the DA has increased from 53 per cent to 55 per cent.

The enhanced DA will be effective retrospectively from January 1, 2025, the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) said in a release.

Ama Sathi: WhatsApp chatbot launched for 120 govt services



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The state government Friday launched a unified WhatsApp chatbot that will make 120 services accessible like obtaining birth and income certificates to the people across the state.

People can also apply for driving and fertilizer licenses and access incentives such as the National Family Benefits Scheme using the chatbot named ‘Ama Sathi’ (my companion) which was launched by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, according to an official statement.

Available in Odia and English, the one-stop digital assistant is accessible via a single WhatsApp number 9437292000 and comes with voice capabil-

ities. “Through this chatbot, people can conveniently raise and track public grievances, access housing and urban development resources, and interact with general administration services,” Ahuja said adding that the chatbot also provides services related to education, agriculture and horticulture, ensuring farmers and students alike can get timely information and support.

The people of Odisha can also connect with police services for assistance, check land records and revenue details.

Along with this, a dynamic Dashboard of the Odisha Right to Public Services Act’s Central Monitoring System (CMS) was also launched by the Chief Secretary.

The Ama Sathi unified chat-

Depression nears coast; CM reviews readiness

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The state government Friday took necessary steps to tackle the impact of a depression over the Bay of Bengal that is likely to cross the south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coast around Saturday morning, officials said.

In its 8:13pm bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, “The well marked low pressure area over northwest and adjoining central Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards, concentrated into a depression. At 5:30pm, the system lay centered 60km south-southeast of Puri, 130km east of Gopalpur and 230km east-northeast of Kalin-gapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).”

“The system is very likely to cross south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts between Puri and Kalingapatnam close to Gopalpur September 27 morning,” a senior scientist at the meteorological centre, Bhubaneswar, said.

Keeping in view the IMD warnings, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is on a tour to Jharsuguda to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s programme there Saturday, held a review meeting and issued instructions to authorities to minimise damage to life and property



in wake of the depression.

Majhi spoke to the Collectors of 17 districts and asked them to remain prepared for rain September 26 and 27. He also told officials to keep a close watch on rivers and embankments as excess rain could trigger water-logging in different places.

The CM suggested operating control rooms at district and blocking levels round-the-clock for regular update of information. Collectors have been asked to take necessary actions based on evolving situations, an official statement said.

Majhi also ordered Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and fire service units and Fire Services personnel to remain prepared.

Meanwhile, the IMD issued a ‘red alert’ (take action) for the three districts of Kalahandi, Koraput and Malkangiri, predicting over 20cm of rainfall; ‘orange warning’ (be prepared) for 14 districts, forecasting 12-

20 cm precipitation and ‘yellow alert’ (be aware) for 13 districts, predicting 7-11 cm downpour till 8:30am Saturday, an official said.

Heavy rain has been lashing the coastal and southern regions of the state, including the state capital Bhubaneswar, since Friday morning.

Weather officials said wind speeds reaching up to 55 kmph is very likely to prevail over the Bay of Bengal and along and off the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha-West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts till September 26 evening.

Squally wind speeds will reach 60 kmph, along the eastern coast from the evening of September 26 till the afternoon of September 27.

As sea conditions would be very rough from the evening of September 26 till the afternoon of September 27, the fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea during the period.

Indian Army likely to adopt City IIT’s unmanned boat, underwater drone

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Indian Army is set to explore the adoption of an unmanned boat (USV – Unmanned Surface Vehicle) and an underwater drone (AUV – Autonomous Underwater Vehicle), innovated by Dr Yogesh G Bhumkar of the School of Mechanical Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar.

The USV and AUV, exhibited by Dr Bhumkar at the Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium held in Delhi September 22-23, have been shortlisted for future adoption by the Army after further enhancements and trials.

Both innovations were appreciated and awarded as part of an ongoing R&D initiative, IIT Bhubaneswar sources said.

The symposium aimed to strengthen collaboration between academia and the Armed Forces to promote indigenous defence technologies.

Defence experts reviewed research proposals and exhibits from various institutes and startups, with selected entries showcased and recognised during the event.

USVs and AUVs play a vital role in maritime surveillance. While USVs operate on the water’s surface to monitor ship traffic, detect illegal activities such as smuggling or unauthorised fishing, and relay real-time data to operators, AUVs function underwater, enabling discrete monitoring of submarines, underwater mines, and other threats.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Mamata Parida (39), W/o- Rajiba Parida, Vill- Bhakutidiha, P.O.- Badhinuapalli, P.S.- Khallikote, Ganjam have changed my name from Mamata Parida to Namita Parida vide affidavit No.- A/3485, 26.09.2025 of Executive Magistrate, Khallikote, Ganjam. Henceforth, I shall be known as Namita Parida for all future and needfull purposes.

LOST

I, Shri Ajeya Kumar Prusty, S/o of Late Kirtan Bihari Prusty do hereby like to inform that I have lost following FD certificates of HDFC LTD/HDFC BANK bearing details. 1. FD NO. BU/1045699 AMOUNT RS. 1,15,932/- 2. FD NO. BU/1182855 AMOUNT RS. 79,695/- 3. FD NO. BU/1093056 AMOUNT RS. 1,06,863/- Which were in the name of my Late mother Sulochana Prusty. If found please inform me on my mobile no. +91 9831176164

Schools to remain shut in Malkangiri, Koraput districts

BHUBANESWAR: The Malkangiri and Koraput district administrations have announced the closure of all schools Saturday. “There has been continuous rainfall in various parts of the district, leading to a situation that may be difficult for children to navigate. Therefore, to avoid any untoward situation and keeping the safety of the children in mind, all government, aided, and private schools will remain closed,” Malkangiri collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay said. Similarly, the district administrations of Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangpur have also cancelled the leaves of all the employees and instructed them to remain stationed at the headquarters in view of the changed weather situation. Officials of the Water Resources department said 5.64 lakh cusecs of water was flowing through Mundali Barrage near Cuttack at 9am.

2 Keonjhar geologists win National Geoscience Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Sept 26: Two geologists from Keonjhar district have brought laurels to Odisha after receiving the prestigious National Geoscience Award 2024 from President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi Friday.

At a special ceremony organised by the Union Ministry of Mines at the Cultural Centre of Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Murmu presented the award, trophy and citation. Union Minister for Mines and Coal G Kishan Reddy, Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey, and Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal were present.

The award was conferred on



Shradhdhanjali Subhadarshini, a native of Patana block in Keonjhar, for her significant contributions to research and exploration in coal, lignite and coal-bed methane. Subhadarshini is currently serving as the director of the Geological Sur-

vey of India (Odisha chapter). Daughter of retired headmaster Madan Mohan Dwibedi and retired teacher Kumudini Kar, she is married to petroleum geologist Shibadatta Mohapatra of Gopinathpur village. Her recognition has sparked

celebrations in her native village Swam and her in-laws’ village Gopinathpur. Local leaders, including Keonjhar MP Ananta Nayak, Patana MLA Akhil Chandra Nayak, former MLA Jagannath Nayak, former block chairman Bidyadhar Dash and several others, have congratulated her.

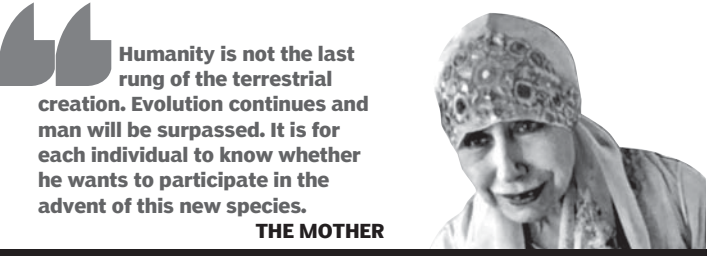
Similarly, Haramohan Mahant of Baria village in Champua block has also been awarded for his outstanding work in copper exploration. He is the son of Kala Kar Mahant and Narmada Mahant. This year, a total of 20 geoscientists across India received the National Geoscience Award. Notably, Keonjhar district alone accounted for two recipients.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.72 ▲ 0.05	SENSEX	80426.46 ▼ 733.22	GOLD	₹113,766 ▼ ₹22
EURO	103.64 ▲ 0.13	NIFTY	24654.70 ▼ 236.15	SILVER	₹142,147 ▲ ₹258

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.0°	33.0°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	25.4°	23.2°	
Humidity	93%	98%	
Rainfall	11.4mm	38.0mm	

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Stakes Are High

Rajesh Agrawal, who will soon become Commerce Secretary, is in charge of India’s trade talks with the United States, which have resumed. Agrawal, an IAS officer from the 1994 batch, is accustomed to difficult negotiations. With a career that straddles trade promotion, exports, and policy reform, he has been India’s go-to negotiator from ASEAN to Australia to the Indo-Pacific framework. He brings both data expertise and strategic intuition to the table, having earned degrees in international business, operations research, and statistics. However, this most recent round with Washington, which began on September 16 in Delhi, is not your typical exercise. Citing India’s imports of oil from Russia, the US imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods and is now seeking greater access to India’s dairy and agricultural markets. For us here, safeguarding the millions of farmers whose livelihoods depend on these industries is more important than merely enacting new laws. Therefore, the negotiation is about defining the boundary between domestic survival and international trade pressures, not just about tariffs. India’s defensive posture must be transformed into bargaining power by Agrawal to prevent the nation from giving up important territory in the name of “market access.” Agrawal will be baptised by fire as he gets ready to assume official leadership after September 30. The world is watching to see if India can change from being reactive to dictating the rules of the game, and the stakes are high and the time frame is short.

MHA prepares new faces for CAPF leadership

An unusual shuffle is about to take place at the highest levels of India’s Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). With the BSF DG scheduled to retire in November and the DGs of ITBP and CISF retiring this month, the Ministry of Home Affairs is reportedly quietly considering its options. A new generation of leaders is expected to take over since it appears that there will be no extensions for departing IPS officers. Among the probable selections, Vitul Kumar from the CRPF seems destined to head the ITBP, and B Srinivasan of the NSG appears ready to take over as CISF chief. Both are seasoned officers who possess the operational and strategic expertise that these forces require. Even that decision is up in the air, though BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary might still receive a temporary extension. The meticulous planning that goes into the choices is what really sets these changes apart. The careful balancing act between cadre, experience, and merit is being highlighted by the consideration of senior IPS officers from AGMUT, UP, and other cadres representation that the MHA must maintain. Leadership is important to the forces themselves. From border security to industrial protection, the CAPFs work in high-stakes, high-pressure situations. The stakes are far from low, even though these appointments might appear to be just another routine affair. It will be evident in the coming weeks if the MHA’s decisions can keep up with the challenges these forces encounter on the ground.

Babudom or ballot?

At what point does a babu begin practising his campaign speeches and cease being a babu? That line is not only hazy in contemporary India, but it is almost imperceptible. In the name of “continuing public service,” civil servants, retired or not, are lining up to exchange their notings for netagiri. Take a look at Bihar. The state has turned into a VRS clearance sale with elections approaching. S Siddharth, a senior IAS officer who is scheduled to retire in 2025, couldn’t wait that long and is already predicted to receive a JD(U) ticket. Under the guidance of another retired police officer, six more retired IAS officers have joined Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraaaj Party. Furthermore, Bihar is not by itself. With former Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Aparajita Sarangi, K. Annamalai, and even Odisha’s V.K. Pandian, who seamlessly transitioned from an IAS officer to a BJD strategist, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections appeared to be a reunion of babus. The steel frame now resembles a springboard more. The attraction cannot be denied, though. Because of their administrative expertise, demeanour of respectability, and gravitas, parties adore these former officers. Furthermore, many people sincerely think that politics allows them to “serve the people” without being constrained by red tape. Noble words, indeed. However, honestly, many people begin soft launching their political careers while still employed, making compromises to appease their future superiors. The cornerstone of administration, neutrality, is thrown away like yesterday’s file. For this reason, it is not only desirable but also unavoidable to take a “cooling-off” period before entering politics. If not, the legendary steel frame of India runs the risk of becoming a political trampoline. And who is left to ensure that the game is fair if the referees are also players in secret?

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let’s multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- “To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.”

WILLIAM BLAKE
- “I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”

RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- “A poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness.”

ROBERT FROST

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1540: The Jesuit order, founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola, was approved by Pope Paul III.
- 1918: British forces attacked the Hindenburg Line in the final offensive on the Western Front during World War I.
- 1964: Following months of investigation into the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, the Warren Commission released its findings.

LOL

WHY MUST WE LEARN THIS?

One day our professor was discussing a particularly complicated concept. A pre-med student rudely interrupted to ask, “Why do we have to learn this pointless information?” “To save

lives.” the professor responded quickly and continued the lecture. A few minutes later, the same student spoke up again. “So how does physics save lives?” he persisted. “It keeps the ignoramuses like you out of medical school,” replied the professor.



FOCUS

H1B VISA

OPPURTUNITY TURNS TRAP

The tinderbox of growing anti-immigrant sentiment, the extreme nature of MAGA politics and bitter political wars along with mounting pressure on jobs for Americans combined together make H1B a sitting duck

The September 19 Presidential order imposing a fee of USD 100,000 per H1B visa entry and further changes in the entire process announced almost immediately thereafter are new assaults on an edifice that on the surface looked rock solid only a year ago. The order in itself hits India hard even if that is not its intention, and will deliver shock, pain and a host of challenges that cannot hide behind empty bravado. The magnitude of the disruption, its potential to derail one of India’s largest employers, the vast IT services sector, and its likely impact on the wider economy give cause for worry. Broadly, it has been estimated that the total H1B population with family and dependents in the US now is over one million. With an estimated three-quarters as Indians, this gives the magnitude of the problem and the India-centric nature of the disruption. India’s ministry of external affairs has correctly pointed out that the action will lead to “humanitarian consequences” for the workers and their families. It is clear that even if existing workers are not impacted, their future remains in doubt as their H1Bs, issued for three years at a time, come up for renewal. Sudden announcements like these mar trust and will force a withdrawal of workers over time, with complex and unforeseen consequences. The heartburn in the US on the H1B among both Republicans and Democrats has been growing, a reflection of the concern that the programme is being used to replace American workers with foreign-born workers to cut labour costs rather than to attract talent where required, as was the professed intention of the quota. While India will suffer, the problem has largely been caused more recently by large US corporations working the visa to their advantage to cut costs. Indian companies in the US have in recent years reduced dependence on the H1B and have instead shifted to hiring US workers, and so the H1B is less of a challenge though the changing climate will impact the entire sector negatively. In 2010 to 2025 period, Indian IT companies topped the list with the highest number of H1B workers (“beneficiaries approved” for the given years) in the US – TCS, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro. But just one Indian company (TCS) is in the top 10 list by number of H1B visas approved in the first half of 2025, according to the US data hub on H1Bs. All others are US-based giants – Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, Apple, Google, J P Morgan Chase, Wal-Mart, Deloitte Consulting. This tells us that the problem was coming, that the Indian firms have responded in some measure, but the forces unleashed in the process have taken on a life of their own and will now exact a price. The Indian software and IT services giants have for long been accused of running body shops, a business fashioned out of what essentially is labour arbitrage turned into a fine art. The sector has consistently denied this, arguing that they have moved up the value chain and that they compete on quality, not price. There is some truth in both statements. But there is no denying that almost three decades of growing business (if the Y2K

WE HAVE SERVED OTHERS WELL. NOW THEY APPEAR NOT TO WANT US, AND WE MAY NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO

Jagdish Rattanani

SPECTRUM

WORLD TOURISM DAY

Investing in travel’s transformative power

As the world celebrates World Tourism Day, we are invited to reflect on a powerful paradox: tourism, one of humanity’s greatest connectors, stands at a precarious crossroads. It is an industry of immense resilience and economic dynamism, a vital artery for cultural exchange and national pride. Yet, its very success threatens the treasures it depends upon. This year’s theme, “Tourism and Green Investments,” is not merely a slogan but a strategic imperative, a call to action to align our wanderlust with the well-being of our planet and its people. It is a clarion call to fund a future where travel becomes a transformative force for regeneration, preservation, and inclusive prosperity.

The economic argument for tourism is undeniable. In India, the sector contributes a significant 5.19% to the GDP, acting as a key driver of employment, foreign exchange, and national development. The government’s ambitious vision of cultivating a USD 3 trillion tourism economy by 2047, backed by a substantial budgetary allocation of over Rs. 2500 crore for infrastructure and skill development, underscores this potential. However, this very potential presents a profound dilemma. The industry that allows us to marvel at serene backwaters, majestic

wildlife, and ancient cultural sites is also vulnerable to the strains it imposes on these fragile systems. The carbon footprint of travel, the scourge of over-tourism, and the silent strain on local resources are alarming concerns that can no longer be sidelined. This duality is sharply intensified by the spectre of climate change, which is no longer a distant threat but a present reality.

This is where the imperative of green investment emerges as our most powerful tool for transformation. Green investment is far more than a buzzword; it is the strategic pivot that can align economic ambition with ecological wisdom and social equity. This involves investing in eco-friendly accommodations that harness solar power and conserve every drop of water, promoting responsible wildlife tourism that protects rather than exploits, and developing low-impact transportation networks that make sustainable travel the preferred and easiest choice. It is about building a tourism economy that is resilient by design, one that can withstand the shocks of a changing climate while nurturing its assets.

The good news is that this transformation is already underway, guided by a purposeful national strategy. India’s National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism provides

a robust framework built on interconnected pillars that move sustainability from an abstract ideal to a tangible reality. This holistic approach encompasses promoting environmental sustainability through waste reduction and renewable energy, and protecting biodiversity by conserving natural habitats and species. It champions economic sustainability by ensuring benefits are widely distributed to local communities, creating fair jobs, and supporting small businesses. It fervently promotes socio-cultural sustainability by respecting and revitalizing local cultures, engaging communities as partners, and ensuring that tourism becomes a bridge of mutual respect rather than a force of erosion.

Crucially, this strategy is operationalised through tangible initiatives. The revamped Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme focuses on developing sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist-centric approach. A proposed Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism will provide a vital benchmark, empowering travelers to make informed choices and rewarding businesses that adhere to strict ecological and ethical standards. Furthermore, the profound emphasis on IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) and Capacity Building ensures that

knowledge becomes the catalyst for change. Programs like the Travel for LiFE campaign are vital, encouraging mindful actions from tourists and businesses alike, turning every journey into a conscious act of preservation. This is all underpinned by effective governance, which fosters multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure that development is strategic, inclusive, and sustainable in the long term. These are not just policies; they are promises to future generations.

However, the true engine of this change is a collective one, powered by governments, businesses, and each individual traveler. For the traveler, green investment is a philosophy embraced with every choice. Travel, in its highest form, is an act of mutual respect: respect for nature, for culture, and for the intricate balance that sustains our world. The ancient wisdom of “Take only memories, leave only footprints” rings truer today than ever before. Through deliberate action and green investment, we can ensure that our footprints are light, our memories rich, and our legacy one of stewardship, ensuring that the beautiful pages of the world’s book remain vibrant and legible for all who wishes to read them next.

The writer is a senior officer working at the Parliament of India

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Ladakh on the boil

Sir, The killing of four people and injuries to over 60 in police firing mark a sharp escalation of Ladakh’s protests for statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards. Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who began a hunger strike on September 10, ended it after violence erupted when a mob vandalised public property, attacked security forces and a BJP office over the health of fasting protesters. Ladakhis, once supportive of Union Territory status, now demand full federal rights and tribal protections. Repeated delays in talks with the Centre have fuelled youth anger. Wangchuk’s words that ‘trouble may deteriorate further by putting him inside the jail than keeping him out’ may turn out to be true by infuriating the youth with this action in a peaceful region, he being the most popular and revered leader of Ladakh. Hence the government must address Ladakh’s genuine concerns tactfully on the table with their leaders through dialogue to nip the problem in the bud without any further delay for the safety of sensitive area with adversaries sitting at the border nearby.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Lack of etiquette

Sir, News that the Air India counter staff quizzed a Sikh of Tamil-origin by embarrassing him with undesirable questions at Delhi airport is not only shocking, it also exposes the lack of basic skills of the airline staff while dealing with the public. “Your address is in Tamil Nadu but why are you wearing a Sikh turban? Why are you going to Singapore? How much money do you have in hand? Show your bank account details.” This would have hurt anyone and when a staff member comes out with so many questions. It is not a good sign for the airline by getting into frequent controversies. As the apex court recently advised that the need for unbiased outcome in AI 171 air crash is awaited, these kinds of staff behaviour will further tarnish the image of Air India if not mended at this point of time.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

Delhi decks up for Navratri

Durga Puja with themes of Operation Sindoor and Satyajit Ray film

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: From Kashmere Gate's century-old puja to the themed pandals of Chittaranjan Park, Delhi has welcomed Navratri and Durga Puja with prayer, rhythm of dhols and festive foods.

Footfalls across major pandals have already touched thousands daily, with devotees pouring in for rituals, and cultural events, various pandal organisers across the city said.

Now in its 112th year, at the Timarpur and Civil Lines Puja Samity, the theme "Peace Through Strength" draws inspiration from the imagery of Nataraj and Buddha. The pandal features artistic installations, live performances, and exhibits focusing on literacy and discipline.

Organisers said the concept resonates with the triumph of good over evil, and draws a symbolic connection with Operation Sindoor, honouring India's soldiers.

"Just like Maa Durga brought peace after defeating demon Mahishasura, our soldiers fight to maintain peace in our country," Sukhanshu Chatterjee, president of the Samity said.

In CR Park, which hosts four pandals, the most in the city draws huge crowds. The Cooperative Ground puja, celebrating its 50th year, has designed the pandal to look like Jaisalmir's Golden Fort and themed it on Satyajit Ray's film "Sonar



Chittaranjan Park, home to a large Bengali population since the 1960s, remains the heart of the city's Durga Pujo celebrations, with four major grounds – Kali Mandir, B Block, Cooperative Ground, and Mela Ground – drawing thousands of visitors daily

Kella".

"I've been going to the Cooperative Ground puja pandal for more than 20 years. No matter how busy life gets, I always make time for it. The ambience, the music, the lights, it just brings peace," said Ankita

Dey, a Delhi resident who has been staying in the city for the past seven years.

The B Block puja, also in its golden jubilee year, has chosen "Mati" (mother soil) as its theme. The pandal features traditional village architecture, with bamboo structures, mud walls, and clay idol work by artisans from West Bengal.

"I came here with my grandparents as a child," said Amrita, another resident of the city. "There's something grounding about the place, the food, the dhaak, the rituals, it is something that I want my children to experience as well," she said.

This year at the Kali Mandir Ground puja, organised by the CR Park Durga Puja Samiti, the Durga idol is crafted entirely from clay brought from the Ganga in Mayapur. The pandal itself is built using bamboo, fabric, and eco-friendly materials.

The celebrations include clay modelling workshops and arti

san exhibits running throughout the week.

"Pre-puja festivities began on September 1. We have also set up stalls selling handlooms and handicrafts made by female artisans to support local communities," said Prodip Ganguly, vice-president of the committee.

Among the many craftsmen who return to Delhi each year for the pujas is Gobindo, an idol-maker from West Bengal with more than 25 years of experience.

Gobindo said he has been coming to the city for years and every year he makes around 40 to 50 idols. "It's a family tradition, my father taught me, and I'm teaching my son. We use sacred clay from Mayapur. It's not just work, it's devotion," he said.

Chittaranjan Park, home to a large Bengali population since the 1960s, remains the heart of the city's Durga Pujo celebrations, with four major grounds – Kali Mandir, B Block, Cooperative Ground, and Mela Ground – drawing thousands of visitors daily.

In Kashmere Gate, Delhi's oldest puja, established in 1910, has entered its 116th year. "We are keeping it traditional, just as our forefathers did," said Shankho Mita, joint secretary of the organising committee.

The Minto Road Puja Samity has also chosen a traditional theme for the celebration, focusing on rituals and community bonding.

India's 1st Dugong sanctuary receives global recognition

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

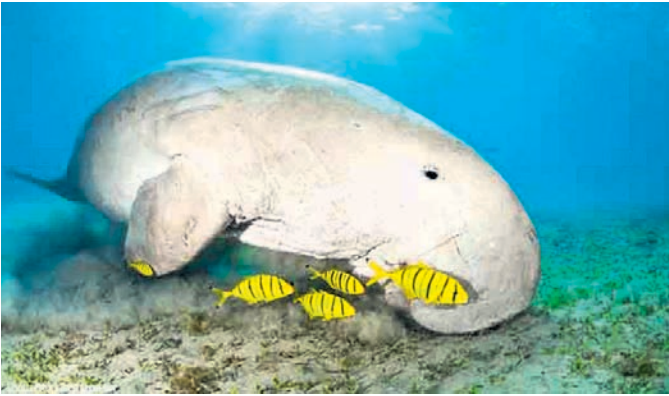
Chennai, Sept 26: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday hailed the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) formal recognition of India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, calling it a "significant global endorsement" of the state's marine conservation efforts.

Taking to X, he praised the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and conservation partners for protecting the vulnerable dugong and its fragile habitat.

The recognition came after a motion proposed by the Omcar Foundation was adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi. The proposal received overwhelming support, with 98 per cent of member governments and 94.8 per cent of NGOs, research institutions, and organisations voting in favour.

Environmentalists said the endorsement places Tamil Nadu's initiative on the global conservation map and could draw new resources and expertise to the region.

Established September 21, 2022, under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Dugong Conservation Reserve covers 448.34 square km in northern Palk Bay. The area is home to more than 12,250 hectares of rich seagrass meadows, which serve as critical feeding grounds for dugongs (Dugong dugon), a species listed as "Vulnerable to Extinction" on the IUCN Red List.



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These meadows also support a wide range of marine species, underscoring the ecological value of the reserve.

The IUCN motion flagged concerns over habitat loss, destructive fishing practices, and climate change impacts that endanger dugong populations and the broader Palk Bay ecosystem.

Members applauded the innovative restoration efforts undertaken in the reserve — including the use of bamboo and coconut rope frames to revive

seagrass meadows — which have combined scientific expertise with community participation and created a replicable model for marine protection across South Asia.

The resolution urged IUCN members to work closely with the Government of India, the Tamil Nadu government, and local groups to improve habitat monitoring, build sustainable fisheries practices, and share lessons with global dugong conservation programmes.

It further called for adapting Tamil Nadu's approach in other parts of the Indian Ocean and worldwide, where dugong populations are at risk.

Conservation experts believe the global recognition will boost technical and financial support, empower coastal communities to continue their protection work, and draw international attention to the urgent need to preserve seagrass ecosystems and save the dugong from extinction.

GCC to build shelter for rabies-affected dogs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 26: Tamil Nadu's Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has floated a tender worth Rs 7.67 crore to build two specialised shelters for rabies-affected and aggressive stray dogs in Velachery and Madhavaram, aiming to strengthen the city's stray dog management and public safety measures.

The new facilities, designed to house up to 500 dogs in total, will each have a capacity of 250 animals. They are intended to provide secure isolation for dogs suspected of rabies, canine distemper, or those identified as dangerously aggressive.

The move follows repeated requests from the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board for safe spaces to confine and monitor animals that pose a risk to public health. The GCC has identified one site in north Chennai (Madhavaram) and another in



south Chennai (Velachery) to ensure rapid access for animal control teams across the city.

Each shelter will have dedicated enclosures, quarantine sections, and basic medical facilities. The dogs will be captured and kept under observation if they show clinical signs of rabies – such as hydrophobia, uncontrolled salivation, repeated biting, and visible injuries.

While rabies-suspected dogs usually survive only a few days after showing symptoms,

the shelters will enable careful monitoring and controlled disposal of carcasses through burial or incineration, preventing environmental contamination.

The initiative marks a step forward in balancing citizen safety with humane animal care. By creating dedicated spaces for dangerous or infected animals, the civic body seeks to reduce the risk of rabies spread in densely populated areas while avoiding indiscriminate culling or unmonitored detention of strays.

New Delhi, Sept 26: Chandni Chowk's parathas, Modinagar's shikanji and the gajak stalls around the upcoming Bhaissali Namoh Bharat station would now be less than an hour away for residents of Delhi and Meerut, with the gradual opening of new RRTS corridors.

Meerut's sweet markets are also expected to attract more visitors due to the Bhaissali station on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor. Rewari and Gajak, long associated with the city's festive traditions, will become easier for outsiders to sample, according to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

Sports enthusiasts, too, stand to gain. Meerut accounts for nearly 40 per cent of India's sports

PARATHAS, SHIKANJI, GAJAK IN UNDER AN HOUR

Namoh Bharat brings Delhi, Meerut closer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



goods exports, and its main sports market on Suraj Kund Road will be connected through Begumpul station, officials said. Cricket bats, hockey sticks, gym gear and other equipment from local manufacturers are expected to see greater footfall.

The corridor is also opening access to Meerut's historic and religious sites. NCRTC said attractions such as the Shaheed

Smarak, Augharnath Temple, Shahi Jama Masjid, Shahi Eidgah and Shahpeer Sahab Ki Dargah will be reachable via stations like Meerut Central and Meerut South as they are nearly operational.

Colonial-era landmarks like St John's Church and the Digambar Jain Temple, with its hundreds of idols, will also benefit from the improved connec-

tivity. Parks and markets such as Gandhi Bagh and Sarai Lal Das will be more easily accessible once more sections become operational, it said.

The high-speed rail has reduced travel time from Anand Vihar in Delhi to Meerut South to just 35 minutes on the operational stretch. Officials said the service is making it easier for commuters to access cultural landmarks, food hubs and heritage spots across both cities, it stated.

Delhi residents can board a Namoh Bharat train to Modinagar North and visit the original Jain Shikanji outlet, serving its tangy drink since 1957, while travellers from Meerut can reach Chandni Chowk after a quick interchange at Anand Vihar and taste the stuffed parathas at Paranthi Wali Galli, it stated.

Delhi CM launches rooftop solar project to generate 55 MW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Friday launched a project to generate 55 MW electricity through the installation of rooftop solar plants on 1000 government buildings, at Rithala in North West Delhi.

She inaugurated a 25 KW solar plant installed at the sewage treatment plant (STP) at Rithala. "This work will be completed by January next year, and rooftop solar plants and work will start for installing solar plants on the rooftop of other identified government buildings," she told the reporters.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated a fire station in the area, and laid the foundation stone of a power grid project of TPDDL discom. The BJP government is writing the "golden chapter" of a clean, green Delhi by ensuring scientific disposal of waste by setting up waste-to-energy and

biogas plants, she stated.

Work on an e-waste processing plant in Tehkhand has also begun to dispose of discarded electronic items like mobile phones, chargers, batteries, among others, she announced.

The Chief Minister said that Delhi generates 11,000-12,000 metric tons of solid waste per day, while just around 7,000 metric tons is disposed of.

"How would the garbage mountains in the city be removed if the waste went on piling up. Our government started work on waste-to-energy plants and updated older ones while setting up new plants," she said. Delhi did not have any biogas plant, even 78 years after Independence, to process a huge amount of animal dung.

"There was no plant to convert dung into gas; as a result, the large quantity of it due to lakhs of livestock in the city was mixed with Yamuna water through the drains," she said.

FULFILLING ASPIRATIONS

Tamil Nadu's educational transformation

The monthly scholarship of ₹1,000 under the 'Tamil Pudhalvan' and 'Pudhumai Penn' schemes for state-run school students, along with the skilling programme under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' platform, has helped many rural children begin realising their ambitions of becoming graduates, engineers, doctors or advocates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 26: A gesture by the Tamil Nadu government has brought a significant transformation in the lives of underprivileged children, enabling them to fulfil their aspiration to pursue education.

The monthly scholarship of Rs 1,000 under the 'Tamil Pudhalvan' and 'Pudhumai Penn' schemes for state-run school students, along with the skilling programme under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' platform, has helped many rural children begin realising their ambitions of becoming graduates, engineers, doctors or advocates.

"These initiatives of the education department are making high school and higher education accessible to scores of students, fuelling their desire to study for better prospects in life," officials said.

"I stopped asking my relatives and others for money

to study. The monthly grant under 'Pudhumai Penn' has helped me to study the EEE course," said Subbalakshmi of Ranipet.

Her father, a goat rearer, and her mother, a daily wage earner, could not afford to send her to college.

"Thank you, CM (MK Stalin) sir, for providing the assistance under 'Pudhumai Penn'. I hope to complete my course and realise my ambition to become a math teacher. I wish that you extend this assistance to students pursuing PG courses," Subbalakshmi, now in her third year of college, said at a state government event to celebrate the success of the special initiatives to improve education—"Tamil Nadu Excels in Education"—held here September 25.

Immediately, the chief minister remarked, "So, you want to become a math teacher. Come here, teacher, a present



is awaiting you."

To everyone's surprise, Stalin took out his pen from his shirt pocket, handed it to her and blessed her.

An emotional Subbalakshmi bowed at the feet of the chief minister, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, seeking their blessings.

In Sathya's case, 34, the scheme encouraged her to join a CSE course in a government polytechnic institute along with her son, and both are now

in their third year.

Ramya of Thanjavur said she saved Rs 100 each month from her scholarship and, after a year, bought a hearing aid for her mother, who had hearing difficulties.

"My father is a daily wage earner. I will never let my parents down. I will succeed in life and take care of them," she said, tears welling in her eyes.

At the event, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi was seen wiping his eyes as beneficiaries shared their ordeals and expressed



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI
Phone/Fax: (06752) 296839 (E-mail: eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in)
1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 31 of 2025-26
Clause No. 10 (C) and Column 7 of Short Tender Notice is hereby substituted as below:
"Class of Bidder MV/HT, the OEM or Specialised agency may participate in the tender provided they have MoU for the specified work put to tender with electrical contractor having valid MV/HT licences".
All other terms and conditions as mentioned in the DTCN will remain unchanged.
Sd./: Superintending Engineer
Puri (R&B) Division, Puri

of the day **Quote**

Farmers are being ignored and neglected by the NDA alliance government, and their welfare remains completely overlooked

YS SHARMILA | APCC PRESIDENT

All students deprived of scholarships will have the funds sent to their accounts before Diwali. Furthermore, accountability will be fixed for those whose actions prevented students from receiving the scholarship so that such errors do not occur in the future

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Urbanisation is the most pressing need of the day, and our goal is to make citizens' lives simpler, easier, and more convenient by moving in a planned manner towards green and clean cities

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

SHORT TAKES

6 dead in steel plant collapse

Raipur: Six workers were killed and as many injured when the roof of a structure at a private steel plant collapsed in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur o Friday, police said. The incident took place at the plant of Godawari Power and Ispat Limited in Siltara area on the outskirts of the capital, Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Lal Umed Singh told PTI.

Tirupati 'laddu' row: SC stays AP HC order

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday stayed an order that faulted the CBI director for allowing an officer not from the court-appointed SIT to probe into the adulteration of ghee used in the famed Tirumala Tirupati Temple's 'laddu prasadam' (religious offerings). The Andhra Pradesh High court said the CBI director acted in violation of the top court's directions while carrying out a probe into "adulterated ghee" being used to prepare prasadam.

Vijay's TVK preps for campaign

Namakkal: Ahead of actor-politician Vijay's campaign in Namakkal and Karur Saturday, the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) has made elaborate arrangements, expecting a massive public gathering. Arterial roads are already decked with banners and party flags, and to serve the crowds that gather early to catch a glimpse of their leader, the TVK district wing is arranging free distribution of over 10,000 water bottles, starting Saturday morning.

Heavy rains cripple T'gana

Hyderabad: Heavy rains disrupted normal life in several parts of Telangana Friday morning, causing waterlogging and traffic issues, especially for commuters in Hyderabad. Narva in Narayanpet district received the highest rainfall at 44.3 mm between 8.30 am to 11 am, followed by 44 mm at Mujahidpur in Vikarabad district.

Schoolboy detained for killing rickshaw driver

Gonda (UP): It was a textbook blind murder with scarce clues, no witnesses and no apparent motive. Investigators had literally nothing to go by when called upon to solve the killing of an e-rickshaw driver, eventually traced to a schoolboy.



"We want to build a nation that is strong, prosperous, inclusive and respected across the world. For this, the maritime sector has a key role. You must play your role with dedication"

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SC RAPS RAJASTHAN OVER NON-WORKING PS CCTVS

The Supreme Court Friday posed questions to the Rajasthan government and directed it to apprise about the number of CCTV cameras installed in each police station across the state. Acting in a suo motu case, the top court asked whether any regular audit was conducted to check the functioning of the installed cameras



SCHOOL JOBS SCAM

Cal HC grants bail to Partha Chatterjee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 26: The Calcutta High Court Friday granted bail to former West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the teacher recruitment irregularities case under investigation of the CBI. Chatterjee, the prime accused in the cash-for-jobs scam in Bengal's state-run schools, which perceptively runs into several thousand crores and has rocked state politics for the past several years, was granted bail in a case on irregularities in primary school recruitment, the charge sheet on which was filed by the CBI December 27 last year.

The former minister has been behind bars for over three years now, and has already been granted bail in the other cases slapped on him by the central investigating agencies – the ED and CBI. The latest bail order makes him eligible to walk out of jail once the formalities of furnishing bail bonds are over. Lawyers, however, expressed doubts on whether the former minister would be set free ahead of the Durga Puja festival, and opined that in the wake of a Supreme Court order pertaining to a related case, Chatterjee's formalities can only be completed once the courts reopen after puja vacations.

Granting bail to Chatterjee, Justice Suvra Ghosh observed, "allegation against the petitioner involves abuse of his official position which he no longer holds. He, therefore, cannot be said to be in a position to misuse his office or commit similar offences."

Justice Ghosh directed Chatterjee to furnish a bond of Rs 10 lakh with adequate sureties of like amount each. He was also asked to surrender his passport and not leave the jurisdiction of the trial court without its permission, and appear before it on every date of hearing.

India rejects NATO claim of Modi-Putin call on Ukraine



The MEA spokesperson, strongly justifying India's continued procurement of Russian crude oil, said New Delhi will continue taking all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: India Friday described as "entirely baseless" NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte's remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi dialled Russian President Vladimir Putin and asked for the strategy on Ukraine in view of impact of Washington's punitive tariffs on India for its energy ties with Moscow.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "speculative or careless" remarks that misrepresent Modi's engagements or suggest conversations that never occurred are "unacceptable".

Strongly justifying India's continued procurement of Russian crude oil, Jaiswal said there cannot be any "double standards" in the matter against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's recent remarks that appeared to be critical of the EU and NATO nations for their energy ties with Russia.

Rutte told CNN on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York that Trump's tariffs on India are having a "big impact" on Russia and New Delhi is on the phone with Putin. "And Narendra Modi is asking him to explain his strat-

egy on Ukraine because India is being hit with tariffs," the NATO chief claimed.

Jaiswal said Rutte's statement is "factually incorrect and entirely baseless."

"At no point has Prime Minister Modi spoken with President Putin in the manner suggested. No such conversation has taken place," he said.

"We expect the leadership of an important institution like NATO to exercise greater responsibility and accuracy in public statements," he added.

Jaiswal said India's energy imports are meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. The MEA spokesperson, strongly justifying India's continued procurement of Russian crude oil, said New Delhi will continue taking all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security.

Jaiswal also appeared to dismiss the European Union's recent criticism of India's energy ties with Russia EU foreign and security policy chief Kaja Kallas last week said that India's military exercises and its purchase of Russian crude oil "stand in the way of closer ties" between the two sides.

Modi launches women's livelihood scheme in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday launched a sharp attack on the RJD, alleging that women in poll-bound Bihar had suffered immensely under its rule, and urged them to ensure that the Lalu Prasad-led party and its allies never return to power in the state.

Modi made the remarks while virtually launching the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, under which 75 lakh women in Bihar received Rs 10,000 each to support self-employment and livelihood activities. The Rs 7,500-crore scheme is an initiative of the NDA government in the state aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment.

While the PM launched the scheme virtually from Delhi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Samrat Choudhary, and several Union and state ministers joined it through video conference from Patna. A large number of women of the state also joined it virtually. "Women of Bihar suffered a lot under the RJD rule... There were no roads, law and order was pathetic... but now women feel safe and secure under the Nitish Kumar government. Hence, they must ensure that RJD and its allies never return to power," Modi said.

Stressing that the NDA government in Bihar was working for women empowerment, he said the state would soon have the maximum number of 'Lakhpati Didis' in the country.

The PM asserted that 75 lakh beneficiaries of the scheme would receive an additional



Rs 2 lakh each and training for improvement in entrepreneurial skills. Lauding the new scheme, he said it was an important step taken by the Nitish Kumar government for Bihar's women. Assembly polls in the state are due later this year.

"When any sister or daughter gets a job or becomes self-employed, her dreams get wings, and her respect in society increases even more," the PM said.

Sending money directly to the accounts of 75 lakh women was possible today because we took the resolve to set up 'Jan Dhan' accounts 11 years ago, he added. "Bihar's women now have two brothers — Nitish and Modi — who are working tirelessly for their betterment. It is a matter of great pride for me to inaugurate the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana today," he added. The 'Jeevika Nidhi Sakh Sahakari Sangh', which was launched earlier this month, will be linked with the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar' scheme as well, he said.

MODI MADE THE REMARKS WHILE VIRTUALLY LAUNCHING THE MUKHYA MANTRI MAHILA ROJGAR YOJANA, UNDER WHICH 75 LAKH WOMEN IN BIHAR RECEIVED RS 10,000 EACH TO SUPPORT SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

2,417 INDIANS DEPORTED FROM US SINCE JAN: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Over 2,400 Indians have been deported from the US since January, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday.

The issue of deportations is back in the news after American authorities repatriated Harjit Kaur, a 73-year-old Sikh woman from Punjab who had lived in the US for three decades.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India stands against illegal migration and it wants to promote pathways for legal mobility of people.

The US has deported a total of 2,417 Indian nationals between January 20 and September 25, he said. Jaiswal also noted the case of Kaur. Once the Indian nationality of any person, who is in any country

without legal status, is proved, they are taken back and this is also the case with the US, he said.

Whenever, there is a person who does not possess a legal status in any country and he or she is referred to us, we do the background check and confirm the nationality, he said.

"Because, then we are in a position to take them back. This is what has been happening with the deportations from the US. As far as visa fraud cases and other such matters are concerned, we want to promote legal migration from India," Jaiswal said.

"At the same time, we want to see how best we can clamp down on illegal migration because that undermines our efforts to promote legal migration," he said.



A potter makes a 'diya' at a workshop ahead of 'Diwali' festival in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

SC nod for green crackers; sale restricted in Delhi

A BENCH HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE B R GAVAI ALSO ASKED THE CENTRE TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THE ABSOLUTE BAN ON THE MANUFACTURE OF FIRECRACKERS IN DELHI-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The Supreme Court Friday allowed certified manufacturers to produce green crackers on the condition that their sale is not carried in Delhi-NCR without approval.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai also asked the Centre

to take a fresh look at the absolute ban on the manufacture of firecrackers in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

The bench, also comprising Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to consult all stakeholders, including the Delhi Government, manufacturers, and sellers, before arriving at a final decision. "In the meantime, we per-



mit the manufacturers who are having the certification of green crackers as certified by NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) as well as PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation) to manufacture. However, this will be subject to an undertaking by the manufacturers to this court that un-

til further orders passed by this court, they would not sell any of their crackers in the prohibited areas," it ordered.

The conditional order permitting certified manufacturers to produce green crackers till the plea is heard again October 8 on filing of the MoEFCC report on the issue assumes significance as earlier April 3,

a bench headed by former top court judge Justice A S Oka, refused to relax the ban on the manufacture, storage and sale on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR.

Justice Oka had noted that air pollution levels remained alarming for a considerable time and a large section of the population worked on streets and was the worst affected by pollution.

On Friday, the CJI-led bench battled for a balanced approach keeping in mind the right to livelihood of workers employed in such manufacturing units and the fact that such a complete ban is hardly implemented fully.

The orders were passed while hearing the 1985 PIL of MC Mehta relating to environmental concerns in Delhi-NCR.

The bench said while curbing pollution was essential, an

absolute ban was not "practical or ideal".

The court illustrated it with the prohibition on mining in Bihar, which inadvertently gave rise to powerful illegal mining mafias. "It will be appropriate that the Union of India comes forward with a solution after taking all the stakeholders, including the Delhi Government, the manufacturers and sellers of crackers, on board. As has been experienced, that despite there being a complete ban, the ban could not be implemented," the bench said.

The order went on, "As was noticed by us in one of the judgments wherein in the State of Bihar, a complete ban on mining, had led to illegal mafias engaging in the business of mining. In that view of the matter, it is necessary that a balanced approach must be adopted."

India urges Russia to release 27 more Indians recruited into its army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: India has called upon Russia to release 27 more Indian nationals who were recently recruited into the Russian military.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal Friday said New Delhi has come to know that more Indians are working with the Russian military, with new inputs coming from their families.

"As per our information, 27 Indian nationals are presently serving in the Russian army. We are also in close touch with their family members in the matter," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. "We once again strongly urge all Indian nationals to stay away from the offers being made to serve in the Russian army as they are fraught with danger and risk to life," he added.

Jaiswal said India has strongly taken up the matter with Russian authorities. "We have strongly raised this matter with Russian authorities in Moscow and with the Russian embassy in New Delhi, and asked for them to be freed as soon as possible," he said. "We are trying to get them out," he said.

There have been reports that some Indians on student and business visas were forced into joining Russian military units deployed on the frontlines of the war in Ukraine.

India has been repeatedly asking Russia to release all Indians serving as support staff, such as cooks and helpers, with Russian military units. The issue was raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Russia last year as well.

According to official data, the number of Indians recruited by the Russian military is now more than 150.

At least 12 Indians were killed while fighting on the frontlines of the conflict in Ukraine, while 96 were discharged by Russian authorities.

international

of the day quote

It is essential to American interests that business leaders and policy experts have the opportunity to discuss key issues, address concerns and maintain working relationships with Chinese leaders

LI QIANG | CHINESE PREMIER

I told the US president that if Hungary is cut off from Russian oil and natural gas, immediately, within a minute, Hungarian economic performance will drop by 4 per cent. It means the Hungarian economy would be on its knees

VIKTOR ORBAN | PRIME MINISTER, HUNGARY

Italy and India share a strategic political and economic partnership that we intend to strengthen with my further visit to India in the coming months

ANTONIO TAJANI | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, ITALY

SHORT TAKES

Palestine applies for BRICS membership

Beijing: Palestine has applied for membership of the BRICS as more countries recognised it as a state in recent weeks, a Palestinian diplomat said Friday. However, it is yet to receive a response, Palestinian Ambassador to Russia Abdel Hafiz Nofal told Russian media outlets. “We have submitted an application, but, as you know, Palestine has certain conditions. I believe Palestine will participate in the association as a guest until the conditions allow it to become a full member. We haven’t received a response yet,” Nofal said. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Trump signs order for TikTok sale approval

Washington: President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday declaring that his plan to sell Chinese-owned TikTok’s US operations to US and global investors will address the national security requirements in a 2024 law. The new US company will be valued at around \$14 billion, Vice President JD Vance said, putting a price tag on the popular short video app far below some analyst estimates. Trump Thursday delayed until January 20 enforcement of the law that bans the app unless its Chinese owners sell it amid efforts to extract TikTok’s US assets from the global platform, line up American and other investors, and win approval from the Chinese government.

Pro-Russian party barred from Moldova election

Chisinau (Moldova): Moldova’s electoral commission Friday barred a pro-Russian party from participating in this weekend’s tense parliamentary election, which is beleaguered by widespread claims of Russian interference. The outcome of Sunday’s high-stakes vote could determine whether Moldova, a Soviet republic until 1991 and a candidate for European Union membership since 2022, can continue on a path toward the EU or will be brought back under Russia’s orbit. The Heart of Moldova party was one of four parties in the Russia-friendly Patriotic Electoral Bloc, or BEP, which is viewed as one of the main opponents of the ruling pro-Western Party of Action and Solidarity, in Sunday’s election.

Pak PM, Army chief meet Prez Trump



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Islamabad, Sept 26: US President Donald Trump met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House, where they discussed regional security, counter-terrorism cooperation and other issues.

Shehbaz, the first Pakistani prime minister to visit the White House in six years, described Trump as a “man of peace” for his “sincere efforts” to end conflicts around the globe and lauded his “courageous and decisive” leadership in facilitating a ceasefire between Pakistan and India, according to a statement from the PM Office.

In July 2019, then-prime minister Imran Khan travelled to Washington and met President Trump, who had accused Pakistan of lying and deceiving the US while receiving billions in aid. Trump had previously said Pakistan offers a “safe haven” to terrorists.

Trump’s successor, President Joe Biden, had completely ignored Pakistan during his tenure and never even talked to any of the prime ministers on the phone, let alone inviting them to the White House.

However, since President Trump took office in January for a second term, there has been a dramatic and unexpected shift in the Pakistan-US relationship. In June, Trump held a rare one-on-one meeting with Army chief Munir at the White House.

According to the statement from PM Office, Shehbaz “appreciated President Trump’s bold, courageous and decisive leadership that had facilitated the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, thereby helping to avert a major catastrophe in South Asia.”

Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a “full and immediate” ceasefire after a “long night” of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim nearly 50 times that he “helped settle” the tensions between India and Pakistan.

While discussing the situation in West Asia, Shehbaz lauded Trump’s initiative to invite key leaders of the Muslim world this week for a comprehensive exchange of views

Least we could do for his love for peace: Sharif

Describing Donald Trump as “a man of peace”, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday said his country nominated the US President for the Nobel Peace Prize for his “outstanding contribution” to promote peace in South Asia following the conflict with India. In his address to the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Sharif referred to the ‘Operation Sindoor’ launched by India in May in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. “Through in a position of strength, Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire facilitated by President Trump’s bold and visionary leadership. We express our deep appreciation to him and his team for their active role in bringing about the ceasefire,” Sharif claimed. India has been consistently maintaining that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two militaries. “In recognition of President Trump’s wonderful and outstanding contribution to promote peace in our part of the world, Pakistan nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize. This is the least we could do I think he truly is a man of peace,” Sharif said. He said that Trump’s efforts for peace helped avert a more threatening war in South Asia. “Had he not intervened timely and decisively, the consequences of a full-fledged war would have been catastrophic?” he added.

for the restoration of peace in the region, in particular, Gaza and the West Bank.

He also thanked President Trump for the tariff arrangement that was concluded between Pakistan and the United States earlier this year, the statement said.

While fondly recalling the longstanding partnership between the two countries, the Prime Minister expressed the confidence that under President Trump’s leadership, the Pakistan-US partnership would be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of both countries, it said.

He invited American companies to invest in Pakistan’s agriculture, IT, mines and minerals and energy sectors, the statement added.

Russia helping China to prepare for potential invasion of Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 26: Russia is selling military equipment and technology to China that could help Beijing prepare for an airborne invasion of Taiwan, according to an analysis of leaked Russian documents by a London think tank.

The authors of the analysis at the Royal United Services Institute in London obtained around 800 pages of documents, including contracts and lists of equipment to be supplied by Moscow to Beijing, from the Black Moon hacktivist group.

The mix of completed and apparent draft Russian documents references meetings between Chinese and Russian delegations — including visits to Moscow — and payment and delivery timelines for high-altitude parachute systems and amphibious assault vehicles. They suggest that Russia has begun work on the products to be delivered, but don’t contain direct evidence from the

Chinese side that Beijing has paid any money or received any equipment.

While the authors argue the equipment could be used to invade Taiwan, under Xi Jinping, China has embarked upon a broad modernisation program of its armed forces with the goal of transforming it into a “world-class” military by 2050.

EQUIPMENT COULD BE USED TO ATTACK TAIWAN

High-ranking US officials have suggested Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered his military to be prepared for a possible invasion of Taiwan as early as 2027. Beijing claims the self-governing democracy is rightfully a part of China and has not ruled out seizing the island by force.

The documents don’t mention Taiwan directly, but the RUSI analysis suggests the deal would help China gain advanced parachuting capabilities that it would need to mount an invasion, potentially

“It will make it tougher to work illegally in this country, making our borders more secure. And it will also offer ordinary citizens countless benefits, like being able to prove your identity to access key services swiftly — rather than hunting around for an old utility bill

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

Israel must finish the job: Netanyahu

Netanyahu says backing Palestinian state sends message: Murdering Jews pays off

REUTERS

United Nations, Sept 26: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sharply denounced Western countries Friday for embracing Palestinian statehood, accusing them of sending the message that “murdering Jews pays off.”

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, the Israeli leader pushed back in his harshest terms yet against a flurry of diplomatic moves by leading US allies that deepened Israel’s international isolation over its conduct of a nearly two-year-old war against Hamas militants in Gaza.

“This week, the leaders of France, Britain, Australia, Canada and other countries unconditionally recognized a Palestinian state,” he said. “They did so after the horrors committed by Hamas October 7 – horrors praised on that day by nearly 90% of the Palestinian population.”

Calling it a “mark of shame,” Netanyahu said, “You know what message the leaders who recognize the Palestinian state this week sent to the Palestinians? It’s a very clear message: murdering Jews pays off.”

With more countries joining the list of those endorsing Palestinian independence, the most right-wing government in Israeli history has made its strongest declaration in years that there will be no Palestinian state as it pushes on with its fight against Hamas following the militants’ October 7, 2023, rampage in Israel. Hamas-led



fighters killed some 1,200 people according to Israeli tallies. Israel’s military response has killed more than 65,000 people in Gaza, according to local health officials, and left much of the territory in ruins.

SCORES OF DELEGATES WALK OUT AHEAD OF SPEECH

Scores of delegates exited the hall as Netanyahu took the stage while some attendees in the balcony gave him a standing ovation. At the same time, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters blocked traffic near Times Square in New York.

“Over time, many world leaders buckled. They buckled under the pressure of a biased media, radical Islamist constituencies and antisemitic mobs. There’s a familiar saying, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Well, for many countries here, when the going got tough, you caved,” Netanyahu said.

“Behind closed doors, many of the leaders who publicly condemn us privately thank

us. They tell me how much they value Israel’s superb intelligence services that have prevented, time and again, terrorist attacks in their capitals.” Frustration over Israel’s military siege and US President Donald Trump’s unwillingness to rein Netanyahu in has spilled into the open at the annual New York gathering where, in a dramatic shift, Australia, Britain, Canada and France and several other nations embraced a Palestinian state.

They said such action was needed to preserve the prospect for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and help bring the war to a close.

Netanyahu followed to the rostrum Arab and Muslim leaders who this week accused Israel of genocide and war crimes in Gaza. The Israeli government has vehemently denied this.

The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Netanyahu for alleged war crimes in the Gaza war. Israel rejects the court’s jurisdiction and denies committing war crimes. Netanyahu rebutted Friday what he called “the false charge of genocide.”



Farmers behind a banner reading "The farmers revolt resumes in Versailles" demonstrate outside the Chateau de Versailles to protest against the planned EU-Mercosur trade deal, Friday



speeding up a timeline.

It’s not certain that China has decided to invade Taiwan, but access to Russian equipment and localised training in China means Beijing will be better equipped for a potential invasion, Danylyuk said.

The analysts say Russia’s aim is to develop as a military supplier to China and fund its war in Ukraine. But Danylyuk also suggested to AP that Moscow may want to draw Beijing into

a conflict with Washington over Taiwan, distracting the US from Russia’s war with Ukraine.

RUSSIA AGREED TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

According to a document dated September 2024, an initial agreement was reached in April 2021 with timelines for payments and delivery. Stages one and two — analysis of technical specifications, software modifications and equipment

manufacturing — have been completed, according to that document.

Russia also agreed to provide training in China and a complete set of equipment for an airborne battalion, including the ability to carry out infiltration by special forces, the analysis says.

That includes the sale of 37 light amphibious assault vehicles, 11 amphibious anti-tank self-propelled guns, and 11 airborne armoured personnel carriers, as well as command and observation vehicles. The total cost is listed as more than \$210 million. Beijing wants all the vehicles to be equipped with Chinese communication systems and to be prepared to use Chinese ammunition, the documents show.

BEIJING SEEKS HIGH-ALTITUDE PARACHUTE SYSTEMS

Russia agreed to sell China systems which are designed for parachuting up to 190 kilograms (419 pounds) from an ex-



TROPICAL STORM BUALOI SWEEPS THROUGH PHILIPPINES

The death toll from a tropical storm that swept across the central Philippines and southern Luzon has risen to 10, disaster officials said Friday, as the country’s north continued to recover from the impact of a super typhoon

UN blacklists 68 firms over ties to Israeli settlements

The United Nations has added nearly 70 more companies to a blacklist of companies from 11 countries that it says are complicit in violating Palestinian human rights through their business ties to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The new list spotlights companies that do business that’s deemed supportive of the settlements, which are considered by many to be illegal under international law. It includes an array of companies like vendors of construction materials and earth-movers, as well as providers of security, travel and financial services. The list, formally known as a “database of companies,” now contains 158 companies — the vast majority Israeli. The others are from the United States, Canada, China, Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Newcomers to the list include German building-materials company Heidelberg Materials, Portuguese rail systems provider Steconfer, and Spanish transportation engineering firm Ineco. Among those still on the list are travel-sector companies US-based Expedia Group, Booking Holdings Inc. and Airbnb, Inc. While 68 new companies were added Friday, seven were taken off. A total of 215 business enterprises were assessed in this round, but hundreds more could get a look in the future.

Hamas has offered to release all remaining hostages — only about 20 of whom are said to be alive out of a total of 48 -- in exchange for Israel agreeing to end the war and withdrawing from Gaza.

of the day

quote

Indian markets are likely to experience continued volatility over the next few quarters before settling into a more stable upward trajectory from March onwards

RISHI KOHLI | CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, JOBBLACKROCK MUTUAL FUND

Urban demand is not slowing. I see demand already there. It will accelerate from here. I think when people talk about urban consumption softening, you have to remember there are channels which are shifting also

SUNIL D'SOUZA | MD & CEO, TCPL

The market has been growing at a slower pace than we would like, but really, what makes the market an enormous opportunity is the low PC penetration. India has less than 20 per cent PC penetration

IPSITA DASGUPTA | SENIOR VP AND MD, HP INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Amazon fined \$2.5bn over Prime deception

Washington: Amazon.com will pay \$2.5 billion in fines and reimbursements to Prime subscribers to settle the Federal Trade Commission's allegations that it deceived its customers to generate subscriptions, the FTC said Thursday. While a win for consumers and the FTC, the settlement is relatively painless for Amazon: the company takes in around \$2.5 billion in sales every 33 hours. Around 35 million Prime customers will be eligible for payout from a \$1.5 billion fund, the FTC said. Amazon will pay \$1 billion in fines to the FTC. Customers who signed up for Prime between June 23, 2019 and June 23, 2025 through certain offers -- and who used few Prime benefits afterward -- will automatically receive \$51, according to court documents.

Forex reserves drop to \$702.57 billion

Mumbai: India's forex reserves dropped by \$396 million to \$702.57 billion for the week ended September 19. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had jumped by \$4.698 billion to \$702.966 billion. For the week ended September 19, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$864 million to \$586.15 billion, the data released on Friday showed. The gold reserves increased by \$360 million to \$92.779 billion during the week, the RBI said.

BRICS-backed bank plans first ₹-denominated bond

The plan comes at a time when China and India are both pushing for greater international acceptance of their currencies and as investors are seeking to diversify their assets beyond developed markets

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 26: The BRICS countries-backed New Development Bank (NDB) plans to issue its first Indian rupee-denominated bond in the domestic market before end-March 2026, three sources familiar with the matter said.

NDB, which has previously raised funds in Chinese yuan and South African rand, is in advanced stages of discussions with the Indian central bank for its debut rupee issuance, the sources said. It will look to raise between \$400 million and \$500 million through 3-5 year bonds in the first tranche, one of the sources said.

Earlier this week, China rolled out measures to support the development of yuan bonds in Hong Kong and, over the past



Every new carbon-free data centre built in India will create green jobs, boost indigenous manufacturing of renewable and storage systems, and generate new business models for digital-energy convergence

SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK | UNION MINISTER

BLOODBATH ON D-ST

Market's slide burns ₹16L-cr this week

Sensex, Nifty posted losses for all trading sessions this week, reflecting mounting investor anxiety amid geopolitical and policy uncertainty

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 26: Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the sixth consecutive session Friday, capping a volatile week in the red.

Investor sentiment took a hit after US President Donald Trump announced steep import tariffs, including a 100% duty on branded pharmaceutical products — a move that triggered a broad sell-off in pharma and IT stocks.

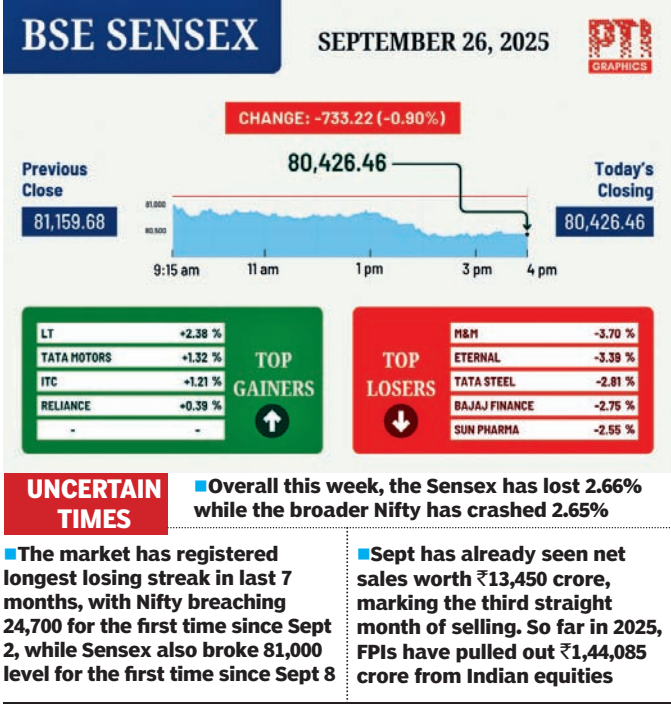
The sustained decline led to a sharp erosion in investor wealth, with the markets shedding over ₹16 lakh crore in just a week. Analysts attribute the continued weakness to global trade tensions, concerns over export-driven sectors, and persistent foreign outflows.

Investors remain cautious, with a near-term focus on domestic investment and consumption amid global uncertainty

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT INVESTMENTS

The tariff package also imposed a 50 per cent levy on kitchen cabinets, 30 per cent on upholstered furniture, and 25 per cent on heavy trucks.

The domestic indices suffered a steep decline, erasing around ₹16.03 lakh crore in BSE market capitalisation over the week. Investor wealth, as reflected in the BSE's market cap, fell to ₹450.85 lakh crore,



down from ₹466.89 lakh crore recorded on the previous Friday, September 19.

At the closing bell Friday, the Sensex shed 733.22 points, or 0.90 per cent, to settle at 80,426.46, taking its six-day losing streak to nearly 2,587 points. The Nifty50 slipped 236.15 points, or 0.95 per cent, to end at 24,654.70.

Mahindra & Mahindra led the losers on the Sensex, slipping 3.62 per cent to ₹3,400.25. Tata Steel declined 2.84 per cent, while Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, and Sun

Pharma dropped 2.83 per cent, 2.75 per cent, 2.62 per cent and 2.60 per cent, respectively.

Five stocks namely, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finance, contributed heavily to the Sensex's decline.

Overall, out of the 4,280 active stocks traded on the BSE, 1,073 closed with gains, while 3,064 ended in red and 143 remained unchanged. During the session, 132 stocks touched their 52-week highs, while 154 slipped to their 52-week lows.

Roasted Millet Unit inaugurated at UAIL



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 26: Utkal Alumina International Limited, (UAIL) a 100% subsidiary of Hindalco Industries of the Aditya Birla Group, in collaboration with Chocolaca, inaugurated a Roasted Millet Unit at Bilamal in Tikiri, Rayagada district.

This initiative aims to empower local women by creating livelihood opportunities and fostering self-reliance.

The project has been launched to benefit rural women from the vicinity. Through this unit, millets will be processed into various healthy food products with attractive packages, be marketed across

Odisha and other states, as well as international markets. Based on the success of production, the initiative will be scaled up to other areas of Kashiapur block, providing livelihood opportunities to more rural women. This is a CSR initiative by Utkal CSR in association with Chocolaca LLP.

Commending the initiative, Bijay Kumar Soy, Block Development Officer of Kashiapur, said, "This is a commendable effort by UAIL to empower women and make them self-reliant. It will provide income, and support families in the region. The project has the potential to expand further and include more women in the coming days."

Silver surges to fresh peak

The white metal stands at ₹1.41 lakh/kg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Silver prices surged ₹1,900 to hit a fresh record high of ₹1,41,900 per kilogram while gold rose by ₹330 in the national capital Friday, driven by heavy demand from stockists and robust festive buying, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity advanced ₹330 to ₹1,17,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), from ₹1,17,370 per 10 grams Thursday.

Similarly, gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed ₹400 to ₹1,17,100 per 10 grams, compared to ₹1,16,700 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

So far this year, gold prices have surged by ₹38,750 per 10 grams, or 49.08 per cent, from ₹78,950 per 10 grams December 31, 2024, underscoring the metal's strong rally amid sustained investor interest and seasonal demand.

RBI EASES DECEASED CLAIMS PROCESS

The Reserve Bank on Friday issued revised norms for the settlement of claims on deceased customers' bank accounts and lockers within a 15-day time-frame and prescribed compensation to nominees for delays in the settlement. The revised instructions are aimed at streamlining the divergent practices followed by banks in the settlement of claims in respect of deceased customers



Centre to borrow ₹6.77 lakh-cr in Oct-March period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The central government will borrow ₹6.77 lakh crore in the second half of this fiscal, reducing the total borrowing for the current financial year by ₹10,000 crore.

In the Budget for 2025-26, the government planned a gross borrowing of ₹14.82 lakh crore. However, it has borrowed ₹5,000 crore less in the first half (April-September) and lowered the estimates for H2 (October-March) by a similar amount.

Thus, the total borrowing for the current fiscal is estimated to be lower at ₹14.72 lakh crore.

"The Government of India plans to borrow ₹6.77 lakh crore in the second half of the fiscal year 2025-26 (H2: FY 2025-26) through dated securities, including ₹10,000 crore through issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs)," a finance ministry statement said.

In the first half, the government had planned to borrow ₹8 lakh crore, of which it borrowed ₹7.95 lakh crore.

The gross market borrowing of ₹6.77 lakh crore will be completed through 22 weekly auctions till March 6, 2026.

Talking to reporters, Economic Affairs Secretary Anuradha Thakur said the total gross borrowing for the year is now ₹14.72 lakh crore, a shade lower than the initial estimates.

"I would like to reemphasise that the government is committed to meeting the fiscal deficit target," Thakur said.

The government aims to bring down fiscal deficit, which is the gap between expenditure and revenue, to 4.4 per cent of GDP in FY26 from 4.8 per cent in FY25.

Jindal Steel commissions landmark Angul furnace



The company has commissioned one of India's largest blast furnaces at its integrated steel plant in Angul, doubling hot metal capacity from 4 MTPA to 9 MTPA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 26: Jindal Steel has marked a major milestone in India's steelmaking industry by blowing in a 5 MTPA blast furnace Friday.

This achievement was realised with the commissioning of the Bhagavati Subhadrika Blast Furnace – II. The ceremonial "blow-in" was led by Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel, firmly establishing Angul as the largest single-location steel facility in the country.

The Bhagavati Subhadrika Blast Furnace, with a useful volume of 5,499 m3, ranks among the world's largest and most advanced. It exemplifies Jindal Steel's commitment to setting new benchmarks in the

industry by combining scale with cutting-edge automation, a robust safety-first design, and enhanced sustainability.

"Commissioning the Bhagavati Subhadrika Blast Furnace at Angul is a proud moment for Jindal Steel and for India. By doubling Angul's capacity to 12 MTPA, we are strengthening our global competitiveness and reaffirming our commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat. Rooted in Odisha's culture and powered by cutting-edge technology, this furnace represents our vision to unite tradition with innovation," said Naveen Jindal, Chairman, Jindal Steel.

This accomplishment gives fresh momentum to Jindal Steel's long-term growth ambitions. Angul will now serve as the company's central hub for future expansion. Planned developments include a dedicated port at Paradeep, a slurry pipeline and a coal pipe conveyor to enhance supply chain efficiency, the Shreebhoomi Power Plant, and new coke oven facilities. Together, these projects will establish Angul as the cornerstone of Jindal Steel's global growth strategy.

JSW Steel hails SC verdict on Bhushan Power and Steel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: JSW Steel Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision of upholding its resolution plan for Bhushan Power and Steel, saying the verdict has reinforced the integrity and sanctity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Earlier, in the day, the Supreme Court upheld JSW Steel's ₹19,700 crore resolution plan for debt-ridden Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (BPSL), bringing down curtains to a prolonged legal battle that spanned nearly eight years.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and K Vinod Chandran upheld the February 17, 2020, verdict of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

The NCLAT had allowed JSW Steel to acquire BPSL for ₹19,700 crore by providing it immunity from prosecution by the Enforcement Directorate.

In a filing to the exchanges, JSW Steel said, "Supreme Court has delivered a landmark judgement concerning one of the largest corporate resolutions in the history of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC Code) and has preserved the integrity and sanctity of the IBC Code by upholding the finality of implemented resolution plans by successful resolution applicants."

JSW Steel said the court has today delivered its judgment in the appeals filed by the erstwhile promoters and certain operational creditors and upheld the judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal dated February 17, 2020.

BPSL was among the 12 large corporate defaulters, often referred to as the RBI's "dirty dozen", as identified in June 2017 for insolvency resolution.



Silver, which had closed at ₹1,40,000 per kilogram in the previous session, extended its record-breaking streak on the back of robust physical demand and strong investor appetite, the association said.

"Silver hit a fresh record high in the domestic market, taking bullish cues from global markets. The white metal rose

above USD 45 an ounce for the first time in 14 years, driven by strong inflows into ETFs, high demand, and tighter physical availability, Gandhi said.

The white metal's relentless rise has been attributed to the ongoing festival season, increased industrial offtake, and a surge in safe-haven buying amid global uncertainties.



NDB plans rupee-bond to provide local currency finance for Indian projects

Bond to be issued in local market, likely by March 2026, say sources

Bond seen as a step in internationalisation of rupee

The recent weakness in India's rupee, which has fallen to a record low amid pressures from US trade and tariff policies, will not be a big hindrance to investors

VIVEK RAJPAL | ASIA STRATEGIST, JB DRAX HONORE

other sources familiar with the conversations said. It is not clear if all government approvals have been received.

NDB had been planning to tap the Indian rupee bond market two years ago but two of the three sources said issuance was delayed as approvals from the

government and central bank did not materialise then.

Multilateral agencies such as the World Bank's International Finance Corporation have previously issued rupee-denominated bonds in the overseas and local markets, drawing strong investor interest.

Established in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the NDB has raised about a third of its \$11 billion bond issues in local currencies, primarily the yuan and South African rand, with plans to expand into other member currencies.

NDB has targeted to provide

Men in Blue stay unbeaten

INDIA BEAT SRI LANKA VIA SUPER OVER IN LAST SUPER 4S MATCH OF ASIA CUP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 26: Opener Pathum Nissanka's magnificent hundred went in vain as India defeated Sri Lanka via a Super Over in their inconsequential Super 4s match of the Asia Cup here Friday.

In the Super Over, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh struck twice to restrict Sri Lanka to just two runs, which India skipper knocked off in the first ball.

Earlier, sent into bat, India posted 202 for five, with in-form opener Abhishek Sharma slamming a 31-ball 61 laced with eight fours and two sixes. Tilak Varma (49 not out off 34 balls), Sanju Samson (39 off 23) and Axar Patel (21 not out off 15) also made useful contributions.

In reply, Nissanka produced a brilliant 58-ball 107 but Sri Lanka were restricted to 202 for five in 20 overs. Kusal Perera chipped in with a 32-ball 58.

Kuldeep Yadav (1/31), Varun Chakaravarthy (1/31), Hardik Pandya (1/7), Arshdeep Singh (1/46) and Harshit Rana (1/54) shared the wickets for India.

Sanju Samson gained much-needed confidence with a useful 39 after Abhishek Sharma's familiar early assault as India posted an imposing 202.

This was the highest score by any team in the current tournament, surpassing India's 188 against Oman and Afghani-

stan's same total versus Hong Kong. While Abhishek blasted his way to a 31-ball-61, Samson was finally in his element at No. 5, playing some breathtaking sixes in his 22-ball-innings. Tilak Varma anchored the innings well to finish on an unbeaten 49 off 34 balls, a knock that will do him a world of good.

Abhishek hammering the bowlers in the powerplay has become the norm of this tournament as he completed a hat-

trick of half-centuries. Friday's innings was laced with eight fours and two sixes, even as Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav were dismissed cheaply.

However, it was the third time in the tournament that Abhishek missed out on an opportunity to get a hundred, as he was caught at deep mid-wicket boundary after a half-tracker from Sri Lanka skipper Charith Asalanka.

Gill (4) was dismissed when a Maheesh Theekshana delivery stopped on him and the leading edge was accepted by the bowler.

Skipper Surya (12), who has been going through a very rough patch, wanted to sweep his way out of trouble but was trapped leg-before by Wanindu Hasaranga.

When Samson came in, it was about finding his mojo at a new batting position and for the first time, he looked in ominous touch.

He hit three sixes, but the one that stood out was the down-the-ground hit off Hasaranga's bowling. He plonked his front-foot shade outside the leg-stump to make room and muscled it straight into the sight-screen. In the next over, he smashed Dasun Shanaka over cow corner for another maximum.

Along with Tilak, he added 66 runs in 6.5 overs to prepare the launchpad for a final flourish, before Axar Patel capped off the India innings with a six.

BRIEF SCORES

India: 202 for 5 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 61, Tilak Varma 49 not out, Sanju Samson 39; Charith Asalanka 1/18) beat **Sri Lanka:** 202 for 5 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 107, Kusal Perera 58; Kuldeep Yadav 1/31).

ICC acts on Indo-Pak Asia Cup skirmishes



BCCI appeals 30% match fee fine on SKY; Rauf also fined 30%, Farhan gets warning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 26: India captain Suryakumar Yadav was fined 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments on the Pahalgam terror attack, a sanction that the BCCI has appealed against, while Pakistan's Haris Rauf also copped a similar penalty in the ICC's disciplinary action amid increasing hostilities between the two feuding sides.

Another Pakistan player Sa-hibzada Farhan was handed a warning for his gun-fire celebration during last Sunday's Asia Cup match against India by match referee Richie Richardson after a hearing here on Friday.

"The ICC will not issue any official release on the sanctions till end of the tournament given the sensitivity of the matter," a tournament source said.

It could come Monday, while the tournament final is scheduled to be played here Sunday between the arch rivals, who have so far clashed twice in the ongoing event with India winning on both occasions.

The ICC was scheduled to issue a press release about the sanctions, but it was decided

that the global body will wait till the end of the tournament.

It is understood that the BCCI doesn't agree with Richardson's assertion that Suryakumar has breached the Code of Conduct by standing for his country's Army and victims of terror attack.

"If the BCCI is unable to defend its captain, who stood by the Indian Army, it would be very poor optics. BCCI as an organisation shouldn't even accept a warning which would also mean that Surya is guilty," a source in the know of developments said.

Pakistan had filed a complaint against Suryakumar after he dedicated his team's win over the arch foes September 14 to the victims of Pahalgam terror attack and the Indian armed forces.

Rauf, on the other hand, has been penalised for his provocative actions, which included use of "abusive language" and hand gestures to mock the falling of planes during the game Sunday.

Rauf maintained that there was nothing political about his actions but they were nonetheless deemed "abusive and aggressive" by the match referee.

Farhan, on the other hand, also pleaded not guilty to any code of conduct violation, claiming that the gun-fire celebration that he did after his half century Sunday is a "traditional way of celebrating in his ethnic Pakhtun tribe".

SHORT TAKES

Rahul, Sudharsan slam centuries

Lucknow: KL Rahul and B Sai Sudharsan struck sublime hundreds as India A registered a stunning five-wicket win over Australia A while hunting down a target of 413 to seal the two-match unofficial Test series 1-0 here Friday. It was the sixth highest successful run chase in the country's first-class history, and Rahul's form (176 not out, 210 balls, 16x4, 4x6) is an ominous sign for the West Indians ahead of the two-match Test series, starting next month. The highest chase remains in the name of West Zone when they overhauled South Zone's target of 536 in the 2010 Duleep Trophy final. Starting the fourth and final day from their overnight 169 for two, India lost Manav Suthar at the total of 189. But Sudharsan (100, 172 balls) and skipper Dhruv Jurel (56) added 78 runs for the fourth wicket to keep India A in the chase of a daunting 412. Sudharsan fetched his eighth first-class hundred in 170 balls, vindicating his call-up for the upcoming home Tests against the West Indies.

Indian junior women's hockey team loses

Canberra: The Indian junior women's hockey team suffered a 2-3 loss to Australia's U21 side at the National Hockey Centre here Friday. Lalhantluangi (47th minute) and Sonam (54th) were the scorers for India, while Bianca Zurrer (36th), Evie Sransby (45th) and Sammy Love (59th) struck for Australia. The first half remained goalless as both sides couldn't manage to break the deadlock in a tight contest. In the 36th minute, Australia found the opening goal through a penalty corner conversion by Zurrer.

Sandhu best Indian after first round in Taiwan

New Taipei City: Yuvraj Sandhu carded a two-over 74 to emerge as the best-placed Indian after the opening round of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters held at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club here Friday. He was placed T-31 along with Indian American player Manav Shah at the Asian Tour event. The other Indians in the field are Shiv Kapur at T-66 (76), Rashid Khan at T-77 (77), SSP Chowrasia at T-100 (79), Ajeetesh Sandhu at T-100 (79), Rahil Gangjee at T-108 (80) and Viraj Madappa at T-117 (82).

Teenager Jonathan steals limelight with gold; Rashmika claims silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: India's 16-year-old Jonathan Gavin Antony stole the limelight on day two of the ISSF Junior World here by winning the men's 10m air pistol title with a flawless performance.

The young Indian, who had topped qualification with 586-19x, carried his form into the finals, shooting 21 of 24 shots in the 10s to secure gold with a commanding margin of 8.5 points.

Italy's Luca Arrighi took silver with 236.3 (572-21x), while Spain's Lucas Sanchez Tome claimed bronze on 215.1 (573-11x).

The final also witnessed the tournament's first shoot-off, where Iran's Hosein Gohari edged out Italy's Gabriele Aldo Villani for sixth place, after both were tied on 156.8. The Iranian went on to finish fifth with 174.8 (572-12x).

Individual Neutral Athlete Vladislav Makarov (194.3)



and Igor Tupitsym (134.9) finished fourth and seventh respectively. India's Chirag Sharma, who had entered the finals second with 578-15x, finished eighth with 115.6.

In the junior women's 10m air pistol final, Individual Neutral Athlete Evelina Shi-ena delivered a composed performance, leading from start to finish to secure gold with 240.9.

India's Rashmika Sahgal, who had qualified fifth with 573-17x, battled hard but fell short, taking silver with 236.1, 4.8 points behind Evelina.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: Cuttack Panthers registered a hard-fought victory in the second semifinal of the Odisha Pro T20 League 2025, defeating Puri Titans by 24 runs at the Barabati Stadium to book their place in the final. They will now face Sambalpur Warriors in the summit clash.

Batting first after being invited, Cuttack Panthers posted a competitive total of 187/8 in 20 overs. Swastik Samal and Dinesh Kumar Majhi opened the innings, with Majhi contributing 19 off 16 balls and Samal scoring 6 off 3. Biplab Samantray top-scored with a fluent 48 off 28 deliveries, while Subham Satrujit added a steady 32 off 27 balls. Sourav Gouda played a brisk knock of 41 off 22 balls, and Abhisek Rout remained unbeaten on a valuable 33* off 16 balls, guiding the Panthers to a strong finish.

For Puri Titans, Rajesh Mohanty (2/25) and Shubham



Bisht (2/28) were the most effective bowlers, while Ashutosh Chhuria (1/32) and Sushil Barik (1/31) chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Chasing 188 for victory, Puri Titans had a promising start through openers Shantanu Mishra and Anurag Sarangi. Shantanu scored a brisk 33 off 24 balls, while Anurag added 17 off 12. Skipper Sandeep Pattnaik kept the chase alive with a splendid 66 off just 39 deliveries,

ies, supported by Sawan Pahariya, who struck 25 off 15 balls. However, the middle and lower order faltered under pressure, and the Titans were eventually restricted.

For Cuttack Panthers, Biplab Samantray shone with the ball as well, claiming 4/19 in his three overs. Harshit Rathod delivered an impressive spell of 3/23 in four overs, while Prasanta Rana picked up 2/50 in his quota of four overs.

India eyes best ever show in biggest World Para Athletics C'ships

With 2200 athletes and officials from 104 countries participating in the nine-day showpiece, the New Delhi edition is the biggest in history, with India joining Qatar (2015), UAE (2019) and Japan (2024) as the fourth nation to host the prestigious event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Some of the globe's best para athletes, including blade runners, prosthetic jumpers and wheelchair-bound competitors, will showcase their awe-inspiring grit and resilience on the sporting field when the biggest ever World Para Athletics Championships begins here Saturday. India, a rising power in para sports, including para athletics, has rolled out top-class facilities for the 12th edition of the showpiece, which will run till October 5 at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The para athletes, numbering over 1500, will compete across 186 medal events, 15 more than the 2024 edition in Kobe, Japan.

The championships promise top-class performances as over 100 medalists who altogether won 308 medals in Paris Paralympics, including 112 gold, 96 silver, and 100 bronze, are set to test their mettle on the grandest para athletics stage.

There will be 101 events for men, 84 for women, and one mixed in the championship. World Para Athletics President Paul Fitzgerald said new world records will be made and new champions will be crowned, and praised India for providing top-class facilities for the event.

"This edition will be the largest single event para championships in history and credit to India for hosting this," he said. "Spectators inside the stadium and a global audience



around the world will experience the brilliance of the athletes competing in newly renovated facilities designed to maximise their skill, speed and strength."

The centre-piece of the event is the Mondo track laid at the competition venue as well as the warm-up area, considered to be the first instance of the high performance surface at

both the arenas. The track, which is made of two-layered vulcanized rubber, has been widely lauded for its uniform elasticity, shock absorption, and anti-slip qualities, that enhance the performance of athletes and reduce the risk of injury.

The warm-up area has also been fitted with LED floodlights so that the athletes can also do

practice after sunset or early in the morning.

A top-class fitness centre has also been built beside the warm-up area for the use of athletes before competition.

Para athletics stars

A number of world's best para athletes will vie for the top honours and among them will be 'Blade Jumper' Markus Rehm of Germany, wheelchair racer Catherine Debrunner of Switzerland and fastest para sprinter Petrucio Ferreira of Brazil.

Rehm, a four-time Paralympic champion and seven-time world champion in the men's long jump T64, holds a world record that surpasses every Olympic gold medal jump this century.

Debrunner, who made headlines with five gold and a silver across six events in the 2024 Paris Paralympics, will compete in five races in New Delhi, aiming to replicate her monumental success in the last edition.

India's pride, Sumit Antil (left leg amputated following

an accident), is a two-time Paralympic gold-medallist and defending champion in men's javelin F64. Praveen Kumar (born with a congenital impairment resulting in a shorter leg) is Paris Paralympics champion in men's T64 high jump. He is eager to complete his medal collection with a World Para Athletics Championships gold on home soil.

India hoping for top-5 finish

Fielding its largest ever contingent of 74 athletes, India is aiming to finish in the top five in the medal tally. The Paralympic Committee of India is hoping for more than 20 medals for the country on the back of consistently improving performances in the last two editions and the Paris Paralympics.

India won nine medals (2 gold, 2 silver, 5 bronze) in the 2019 edition in Dubai, 10 (3 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze) in 2023 in Paris and 17 (6 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze) in 2024 in Kobe, Japan for a sixth place finish.