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Pak military pleaded for ceasefire: India at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's military 'pleaded' for a cessation of fighting during Operation Sindoor in May, India has said in a hard-hitting response from the United Nations General Assembly, asserting that there is "no room for any third party" to intervene in issues between New Delhi and Islamabad. "This assembly witnessed absurd theatrics in the morning from the prime minister of Pakistan, who once again glorified terrorism that is so central to their foreign policy." First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot said, delivering India's Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly Friday. Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif advanced a "bizarre" account of the recent conflict when India had launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, she said. The Resistance Front, an offshoot of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility. **P8**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



PM unveils projects worth over ₹50K-cr

PNN & AGENCIES

Jharsuguda, Sept 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth over ₹50,000 crore across telecommunications, railways, higher education, healthcare, skill development and rural housing sectors at an event in Jharsuguda, Saturday.

The PM laid the foundation stone for ₹11,000 crore worth of infrastructure expansion projects in eight ITIs—Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Jodhpur, Patna and Indore—in order to increase 12,000 seats over the next four years.

Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of a rail flyover between Sambalpur City and Sarala at an investment of ₹273 crore, and for the setting up of a semiconductor and electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) park in collaboration with IIT-Bhubaneswar.

The PM also launched the MERITE (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education) scheme, designed to improve quality, equity, research, and innovation in 275 state engineering and polytechnic institutions across the country.

He also launched the Odisha Skill Development Project Phase-II, which will establish world skill centres at an investment of ₹1,979 crore in Sambalpur and Berhampur, covering emerging sectors such as agri-tech, renewable energy, retail,



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitates Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Union Minister Jugal Oram, Deputy CMs KV Singh Deo and Pravat Parida and Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari during Seva Parv-2025 at Jharsuguda, Saturday

marine, and hospitality.

Besides, five ITIs will be upgraded into 'Utkarsh ITIs', 25 ITIs will be developed as Centres of Excellence, while a new Precision Engineering Building will provide advanced technical training.

To enhance digital education in the state, the PM dedicated Wi-Fi facilities across 130 higher education institutions at a cost of ₹90 crore, providing free daily data access to benefit more than 2.5 lakh students.

The PM also unveiled the master plan for the upgrade of the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and VIMSAR in Burla into world-class super-specialty hospitals at an investment of ₹3,000 crore.

The upgraded facilities will include enhanced bed capacity, trauma care units, dental colleges, maternal and child care services, and expanded academic infrastructure, ensuring comprehensive health services for the people of Odisha.

He also flagged off the Amrit Bharat Express connecting Berhampur with Udhna in Gujarat's Surat district.

Modi also dedicated to the nation the doubling of the 34-km Koraput-Baiguda rail line and the 82-km Manabar-Koraput-Gorapur section, built at a cost of ₹1,400 crore.

During the day, he commissioned more than 97,500 4G telecom towers built with BSNL's 'swadeshi' technology at a cost of ₹37,000 crore.

In addition, the PM also distributed sanction orders to 50,000 beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Gruha Yojana, under which pucca houses and financial assistance are given to vulnerable rural families, including persons with disabilities, widows, individuals suffering from terminal illness, and victims of natural calamities. This was the PM's sixth visit to Odisha since the BJP came to power in the state in June 2024. **MORE P3**

CM: State on development path under PM's guidance

JHARSUGUDA: Odisha is progressing rapidly under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Delivering the welcome address at 'Namo Yuva Samabesh' here in presence of Modi, Majhi said, "Your focus on Odisha's development has always remained steadfast. Odisha lies at the heart of your vision for 'Purvodaya'—the rise of eastern India."

"Last year, the PM visited the state on his birthday on September 17 and launched the 'Subhadra Yojana' for women. Under this scheme, more than one crore women are now receiving annual assistance of ₹10,000," he added.

Whenever Modi visits Odisha, he brings many gifts for the people of the state. This time, he has come during the festive period—during Navratri, Majhi added.

"Today, many transformative projects have been launched, including the new Amrit Bharat train from Berhampur to Surat, a world-class skill development project, a new semiconductor park, a port-based SEZ in Ganjam, and issuance of work orders for 50,000 Antyodaya houses for underprivileged people. These initiatives will greatly strengthen the foundation of Odisha's progress," he said.

36 killed in stampede at Vijay's rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Karur, Sept 27: Thirty-six people, including eight children, died in a stampede at actor-politician Vijay's rally in Karur, about 400 km away from Chennai, Saturday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister TN Chief Minister MK Stalin said.

The dead also include 16 women, Stalin, who convened a meeting of top state officials at the Secretariat to review the situation, said.

He also announced a Commission of Inquiry to be led by Justice Aruna Jagadeesan to probe into the deadly incident.

Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has sought a report on the stampede from the Tamil Nadu government. Union Home Minister Amit



Shah also spoke to Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi and Stalin to take stock of the situation at Karur and assured all possible Central help.

According to officials, the stampede broke out in the evening, around 7.30 pm, just as

Vijay was addressing supporters who had gathered in huge numbers in the afternoon and were waiting for hours to get a glimpse of the TVK leader, also a top movie star.

Vijay, who was addressing the massive gathering from

atop his campaign vehicle, halted his speech mid-way when many workers raised an alarm after noticing that people were fainting and falling. Many who fainted included women and children.

President Droupadi Murmu expressed anguish over the tragic loss of lives in the incident and extended her deepest condolences to the bereaved family members.

PM Modi, condoling the deaths, said: "The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured."

More P8

UNESCO tag for India's cold desert

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 27: Nestled in the heart of the Indian Himalayas, the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district has earned a prestigious new title as India's latest UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, taking the country's total UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserves to 13.

Covering nearly 7,770 square kilometres of rugged landscapes—from glacial valleys and alpine plateaus to some of the high-altitude deserts ranging from 3,300 to 6,600 metres—it encompasses the Pin Valley National Park along with Kibber and Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuaries.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of the World Congress of Biosphere



Reserves held in Hangzhou, China, a decennial event that unites scientists, policymakers, and community leaders globally to set the course for biosphere reserve management and sustainability goals.

This reserve is one of the coldest and driest ecosystems in the world, boasting a rich biodiversity that includes 732 species of vascular plants, with 30 species found only in the

Indian Himalayas. It shelters iconic wildlife such as the elusive snow leopard, Himalayan ibex, blue sheep, and the rare Himalayan wolf, while the skies above are graced by majestic birds like the golden eagle and Himalayan snowcock, said a statement from UNESCO here.

Approximately 12,000 residents in scattered villages sustain traditional livelihoods including yak and goat herding, barley cultivation, Tibetan herbal medicine, and community governance rooted in Buddhist monastic traditions. UNESCO biosphere reserves function as "living laboratories" where human activity and conservation coexist, and this reserve exemplifies this philosophy by balancing ecological preservation with sustainable community development.

SHORT TAKES

Wangchuk being probed for Pak links: Ladakh top cop

LEH: Ladakh Director General of Police SD Singh Jamwal Saturday said Sonam Wangchuk is being probed for allegedly having links with Pakistan on the back of last month's arrest of a Pakistani intelligence operative who sent videos of his protests across the border. Jamwal described Wangchuk as the key person behind Wednesday's violence that claimed the lives of four people and injured scores of others. On Friday, Wangchuk was detained under National Security Act and sent to a jail in Jodhpur in Rajasthan. The police chief also cited some of Wangchuk's foreign visits, and termed them as suspicious. "He attended an event by The Dawn in Pakistan and also visited Bangladesh," Jamwal told reporters here. **P8**

First ever India-Pakistan Asia Cup title clash today

DUBAI: India and Pakistan are set to lock horns in the final of the Asia Cup for the first time ever in the 41-year-long history of the tournament. The grand finale will be held Sunday at the same venue in Dubai, marking the third meeting between the arch-rivals in this edition alone. India has won the last two matches against Pakistan. The matches were, however, overshadowed by flash-points and feuds. It began with India's 'No Handshake Policy' in the opening clash with skipper Suryakumar Yadav turning away at the toss and post match. Pakistan's pacer Haris Rauf responded with taunts, abuses, and even an aircraft-crash gesture, igniting a storm that brought both under ICC scrutiny and 30 per cent fines. **P12**

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ARIES
You are a touchy one. People will rub you the wrong way today. But remember that getting needlessly annoyed will bring nothing but more complications. Contemplate in seclusion about the root cause of the problem. Ganesha's hint? It is closer than you imagine.

TAURUS
Your enthusiasm will be as contagious as your smile today, predicts Ganesha. People will stand charmed by your high spirits. There will be stressful moments, but things will look up later in the day. Take some time off if things get too hectic for you.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to focus on self-improvement, predicts Ganesha. Self-employed people may expect huge profits in their businesses. You may end up spending more time at work and less time with family. You need to strike a balance between work and family.

CANCER
A quintessential Scorpio that you are, sex and passion will figure at the top of your priority list today. At work, you will have a tough time holding yourself back from making a pass at good-looking colleagues. However, as the day progresses, you may start thinking from your brains again, says Ganesha.

LEO
Call it the momentary re-ignition of the spark of brilliance and energy, this day finds you at the peak of your dynamism. Ganesha predicts a fantastic day for all, especially those in the freelancing business, as your imagination and inspiration reach new heights and motivate others to excel. Recall the legendary Swami Vivekananda's words, "Arise, awake and stop not till your goal is reached."

VIRGO
Today is the day when you'll be like the Iron Man: heart of gold, nerves of steel – minus the shiny body armour, though. Tolerance, optimism and exceedingly artistic talents will rule the roost. Pursue academics in the arts, advises Ganesha. Your understanding of life will help you serve society better. Yes, like Iron Man.

LIBRA
You never let a favour go unacknowledged, or let a ridicule pass by unanswered. So, it's time to settle those old accounts that are so important to you, feels Ganesha. This will increase chances of interesting developments that will continue to surprise you throughout the day. All in all, Ganesha wishes you a vibrant day today.

SCORPIO
Ganesha warns you of a long, dreary day today. Though not completely at a loss, you may feel lost and desire to spend some time alone with yourself. The empty nest syndrome is likely to invade and hold your mental peace at ransom, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, your superiors at work are going to trust you with many complicated assignments. But, after exerting yourself, you are sure to come out with flying colors and have your work appreciated. Do not be surprised if cash incentives come your way. Such may indeed be your fortune, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
If you are a sports person, you will enjoy both good health and fame, while engineers will mull investing money in new business ventures, foresees Ganesha. But make sure you know what you are doing, a minor slip can cost you a fortune, and you would have realised by now that repenting won't undo anything. Your social standing may get stronger; people may develop a high opinion about, and your reputation may get a boost too.

AQUARIUS
Money matters are very important, and your family will demand your presence in all financial dealings. At work, things will be more comfortable. You may also get new projects. Ganesha predicts a trip in the offing.

PISCES
Your inherent dynamism and energy will sparkle forth today. Freelancers will be struck with inspiration, and will conjure masterpieces. Pleasant surprises await you in the evening, says Ganesha.



LAWRENCE SLAMS GAZA 'GENOCIDE'

American actress Jennifer Lawrence says what's happening in Gaza is "no less than a genocide" and added: "I'm terrified for my children, for all of our children." The 35-year-old actress said this when questioned about the ongoing conflict in Palestine, where more than 65,000 people have been killed.

REESE WITHERSPOON'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

The twice-divorced actress Reese Witherspoon has been quietly dating Searchlight Capital founding partner Oliver Haarmann since 2024. A source told *PEOPLE*: "She is in such a good place right now. Her relationship with Oliver is very special to her. He's not interested in the Hollywood spotlight. He's there for her,"



Triptii talks about showbiz reality

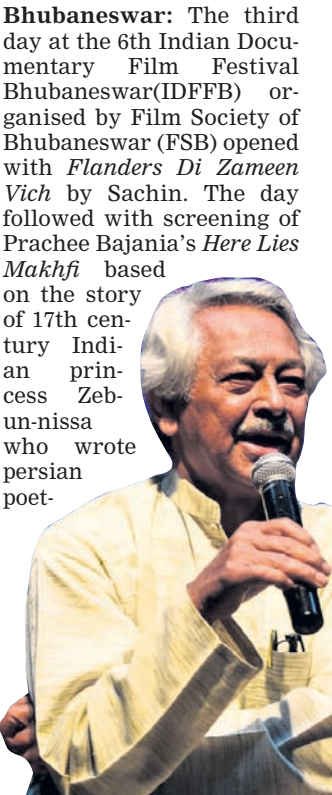
Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri recently opened up about her career, journey and reality as an actor in Bollywood in a new interview with a film magazine. The actor was asked whether it was difficult to make it as an outsider in the industry, to which she said that the challenge is the same for every actor.

During the interview, Triptii said, "But it's the same challenge for everybody. There are different phases you go through when you come here to audition, sometimes three or four in a day. That was the routine for about a year and a half."

She continued, "I'd say there has just been so much learning along the way. When you get work, then you have to bring freshness to your work always, so that your audiences don't get bored with your performance and you don't get bored with performing. So, that's the new challenge now, keeping the work fresh and exciting. But I see it as a blessing, because there are so many people who are far more talented, and they haven't yet got the chance."

Fans saw Triptii last in the Dharma Productions' film, *Dhadak 2*, directed by Shazia Iqbal. The drama recently had its OTT premiere on Netflix.

AGENCIES



Girish Kasaravalli

Bhubaneswar: The third day at the 6th Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar(IDFFB) organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB) opened with *Flanders Di Zameen Vich* by Sachin. The day followed with screening of Prachee Bajania's *Here Lies Makhfi* based on the story of 17th century Indian princess Zeb-un-nissa who wrote persian poet-ry under the pseudonym 'nom de plume Makhfi'. The film positions Zeb-un-nissa's poetic expression within the extant zeitgeist of islamophobia, neglect and selective amnesia, tracing her work. The day followed with *Seed Stories* by Chitrangada Choudhury based in the Niyamgiri mountains where ecologist Debal Deb and his team are conserving over 1000 endangered indigenous varieties of rice. Joining for a post screening conversation, Debal Deb advocated for agroecological practices in farming that are in sync with local ecological niches of the Eastern ghats. "This practice would help us recover land lost to mono-culture farming and GM seeds," he added. Post lunch, Ranajit Ray's *Putulnama* was screened which chronicles the last surviving artistes who practice 'daanger putul' (rod puppet) exclusively in South 24



Professor Sneha K in conversation with Chitrangada Choudhary and Debal Deb

Parganas, Midnapore and Howrah district of West Bengal.

Ranajit joined for a conversation with film critic Aditya Srikrishna.

Among others, Lalit Vachani's *The Battle Royale*, Sankhajit Biswas' *Beyond Boundaries* and Sunanda Bhat's *Sangama* were screened. The major highlight of the festival- a retrospective of documentary films by Girish Kasaravalli, *Ananthamurthy – Not a Biography but a Hypothesis* was screened. The maestro engaged in a question-answer session with the audience.

Speaking about the festival, Girish said, "I was pleasantly surprised at the 21-year long run film society organizing documentary festival in Bhubaneswar. As an artist I see myself more as a feature filmmaker rather than a conventional documentary creator. But I am glad that my documentaries are received with such warm regard by the festival audience."

The third day drew an enthusiastic response with participation from students of BPFTIO, members of FSB, and cinephiles.

PNN

Alia's new obsession

Mumbai: Actor Alia Bhatt has been busy for the most part of this year with the shoot of her upcoming films- *Alpha* and *Love & War*. In between this, the actor has often been spotted taking some time out to play a game of padel in Mumbai. On Saturday, the actor posted a new video on her Instagram account to share that it is a hard fact that she is obsessed with the game.

began the match, as she showed her prowess in the game in a series of shots. "Some arguments were had over my padel obsession..." she wrote in the caption. It also had the hashtag- hard facts.

Alia was last seen in the film *Jigra*, which also starred Vedang Raina. Although the film underperformed at the box office, her performance earned praise. She earned dual nominations for Best Actress at the Filmfare Awards, announced recently.

Fans will see Alia in YRF's *Alpha* alongside Sharvari. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the action thriller is the latest instalment in the YRF Spyverse also stars Sharvari and Bobby Deol. It is set to release on December 25.

AGENCIES



Abhishek's hilarious reply to Shoaib

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan recently shared a light hearted moment on social media that amused fans. During the ongoing Asia Cup, cricket commentator Shoaib Akhtar accidentally mentioned Abhishek Bachchan instead of cricketer Abhishek Sharma while discussing the India-Pakistan match. The slip-up quickly caught the attention of fans online, who shared jokes and reactions. Bachchan joined in with his usual playful humour, making the mix-up a fun and trending topic.



Known for his sharp humour and engaging presence on X (formerly Twitter), Abhishek responded with a



light-hearted quip that quickly struck a chord with netizens. He wrote, "Sir, with all due respect... don't think they'll

even manage that! And I'm not even good at playing cricket."

The actor, who is not only known for his work on screen but also as an avid sports enthusiast and owner of multiple teams across different leagues, had fans laughing with his witty remark. His playful comment added a light hearted and entertaining twist to the ongoing discussion, showcasing his humorous side and ability to keep conversations engaging while connecting with his audience beyond his professional persona.

AGENCIES

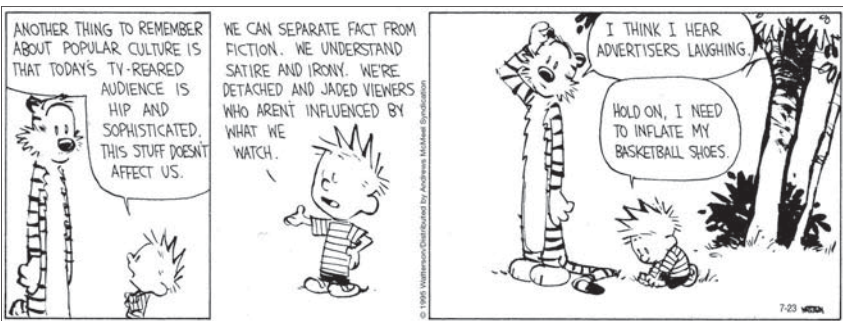
In the video, Alia was seen 'court with her racket to begin only have to put that much effort.



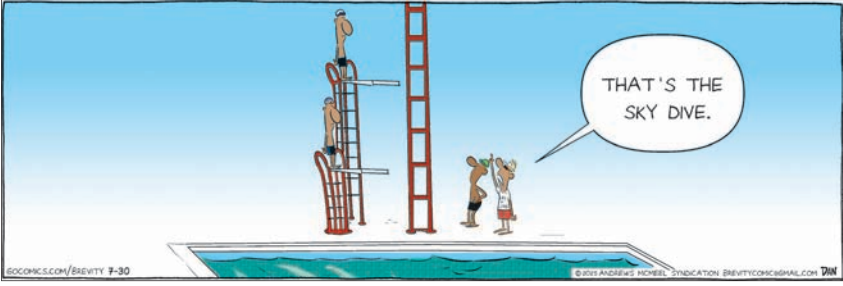
PEANUTS



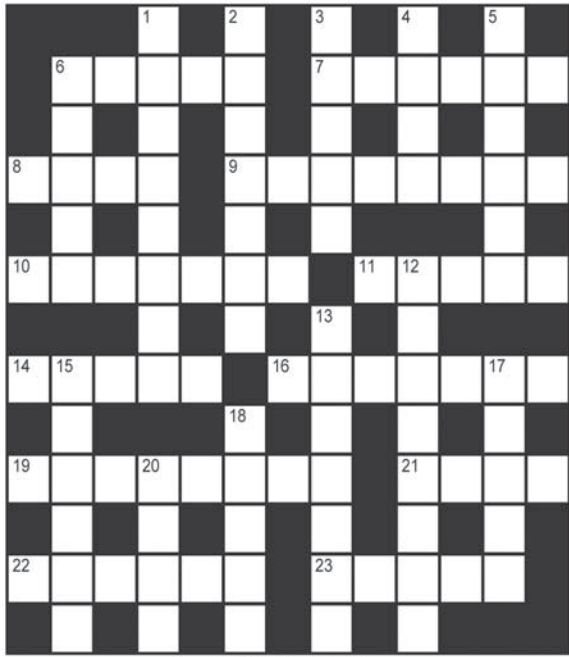
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 6 Bogus
 - 7 Large dark-red oval organ
 - 8 Ode or haiku
 - 9 Really angry (2,2,4)
 - 10 Unswerving
 - 11 Unfolds
 - 14 Greet the day
 - 16 Mandarin dialect
 - 19 Photographer's setting
 - 21 Shade of black
 - 22 Injury
 - 23 Flip over
 - Down**
 - 1 Loud harsh outcrys
 - 2 Having ceased to exist
 - 3 Savory jelly
 - 4 Dog bane
 - 5 Roaches and rats, e.g.
 - 6 Rime
 - 12 Mulled over
 - 13 Words to a sad sack (5,2)
 - 15 Explosive sound
 - 17 Reprimand
 - 18 Cougars
 - 20 Beat badly

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

C	L	A	R	E	T	A	B	H	O	R	S
O	M	M	O	R	A	I					
U	R	A	N	I	U	M					
P	T	N	I	E	W	L	I				
K	I	T	E								
O	N	A									
C	A	R	A	T	S	P	I	C	K	L	E
C	E										
A	C	Q	U	I	R	E					
S	U	N	R	I							
I	N	E	P	T							
O	S	R	H	I	N	T					
N	O	T	I	O	N						

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

CJI: Mediation offers path to transform discord into dialogue

CM Mohan Charan Majhi reiterates state's commitment to judicial reforms & alternative dispute resolution

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai Saturday said mediation and open communication offer a path to transform discord into dialogue, turning tension into collaboration and restoring harmony between parties.

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day National Mediation Conference 2025 at Lok Seva Bhawan here, the CJI said the practice of mediation continues in different societies for ages and it got the recognition through the framing of The Mediation Act, 2023.

"I would like to say that it is not the mere existence of a quarrel or disagreement that disturbs our peace. Rather what perturbs us is the refusal to listen, empathise and make a genuine effort to resolve it. Conflict, when approached constructively, can become an opportunity for growth and understanding," he said.

"Mediation and open communication offer a path to transform discord into dialogue, turning tension into collaboration and restoring harmony between parties," the CJI highlighted.



Justice Gavai said the Act ensures justice that is participatory, equitable, and accessible, while also helping reduce the ever-growing pendency of cases before courts.

Governor Hari Babu Kam-bhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Harish Kumar Tandon and Supreme Court judge, Justice Surya Kant, were among the dignitaries who were present at the function.

Inaugurating the conference, the Governor said mediation is not only about resolving disputes but also about building trust, preserving relationships and creating social harmony.

"Mediation is a timeless practice rooted in dialogue and consensus, bridging divides, healing relationships, and providing fair and lasting solutions," the Governor said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reiterated Odisha's com-

mitment to judicial reforms and alternative dispute resolution.

He said the conference will further consolidate efforts to make mediation a cornerstone of India's justice delivery system, thereby ensuring efficiency, inclusiveness, and trust in the legal process.

Justice Tandon noted that Odisha has taken meaningful steps to expand mediation services. Justice Surya Kant, who is the chairperson of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, said, "Our elders once gathered beneath the banyan tree to resolve disputes in pursuit of restored harmony. The Mediation Act, 2023 carries that spirit into our time."

"If trials deliver verdicts, mediation delivers futures, and the true measure of justice will lie not in cases decided, but in the peace it creates," he said.

Among others, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan was also present.

Odisha celebrates World Tourism Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Odisha joined the global community in celebrating World Tourism Day 2025 Saturday, observing the theme "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation." The Tourism department organised a series of vibrant programmes across the state, showcasing the vital connection between culture, community engagement, and sustainable development.

District-level celebrations included quiz competitions on sustainability and heritage, drawing enthusiastic participation from students. At Biju Patnaik International Airport, visitors were welcomed traditionally with tilak and floral offerings. Despite heavy rains, Odisha Walks organised a heritage trail at Ekamra Kshetra, where participants enjoyed storytelling around Bindusagar Lake.

KLF holds special Sharadiya edition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF), among India's premier literary and cultural events, hosted its special Sharadiya edition Saturday here at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The evening showcased eminent voices from literature and music, celebrating creativity and fostering cultural dialogue. The programme featured the distinguished presence of eminent literary figure Devdas Chhotray and renowned music maestro Ramahari Das as special guests.



The event commenced with a welcome address by Ashok Kumar Bal, Patron and Chief Executive Officer of Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF). This was followed by an inspiring address from KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Padma Vibhushan Sudarshan Sahoo, who highlighted KLF's continued contribution to the promotion of literature, art, and culture in Odisha and beyond.

The evening witnessed engaging interactions, including a conversation between Professor Yatin Nayak and Devdas Chhotray, as well as a dialogue between noted presenter Vijay Malla and music maestro Ramahari Das, both of which offered deep insights into the worlds of literature and music.

The literary session featured a story reading by Suman Das and poetry recitations by Saroj Bala, Ajay Swain, and Badal Mohanty, captivating the audience with their creative expressions.



Participants enjoyed storytelling around Bindusagar Lake.

A cultural evening at Rabin-dra Mandap saw the presence of MLA Babu Singh and senior Tourism department officials. The event featured the release of Paribrajaka 2025, the de-

partment's annual souvenir, followed by a play staged by the cultural department.

The Tourism department also engaged youth influencers to promote Odisha's culture and sustainable tourism initiatives online. A special cleanliness

drive at the Unesco World Heritage Site of Konark Sun Temple highlighted the state's commitment to responsible tourism.

The initiative emphasised the importance of preserving heritage monuments and showcased the State's strong commitment to sustainable tourism. Volunteers, students, and local stakeholders actively took part in the drive promoting the message of responsible tourism.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, in a social media message, said, "On this World Tourism Day 2025, we celebrate tourism as a force for sustainable transformation. Odisha's timeless culture, natural wonders, and warm hospitality make it a destination where every journey preserves heritage and nurtures the future."

'State poised to be key eastern trade gateway'

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Odisha, with its long coastline and rich maritime heritage, is strategically positioned to emerge as a key gateway for trade and commerce on the eastern seaboard, said Commerce and Transport department's Principal Secretary Usha Padhee.

Chairing a preparatory meeting here Saturday on Odisha's participation in India Maritime Week 2025, Padhee underlined the event's significance as a premier national platform to showcase the state's maritime strengths, investment potential, and policy initiatives.

The meeting reviewed preparations including Odisha's participation in the exhibition and thematic sessions, presentations on maritime initiatives and future investment opportunities, and coordination for the participation of ports, shipping lines, and allied sectors.

It also discussed the preparation of sectoral reports and communication materials highlighting port-led growth, along with identifying key infrastructure and policy achievements to be showcased at the event.

Emphasising the need for synergy among all ports and departments, Padhee directed the preparation of a comprehensive

action plan with clear timelines covering infrastructure readiness, stakeholder participation, and investor outreach.

She noted that India Maritime Week 2025 will not only highlight Odisha's port infrastructure but also project the state as a hub for shipbuilding, coastal shipping, inland waterways, and blue economy initiatives.

Concluding the meeting, Padhee urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure Odisha's presence at India Maritime Week 2025 is impactful, well-represented, and aligned with the state's vision for sustainable maritime development.

KIIT hosts curtain raiser & vision launch of KCIAM

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The Curtain Raiser and Vision Launch of the KIIT Centre for International Arbitration and Mediation (KCIAM) took place Saturday, drawing prominent judges, jurists, and legal experts from across the country. The gathering lauded the initiative as a landmark step aimed at strengthening India's position as a global hub for arbitration, promoting high standards of dispute resolution, and fostering international legal collaboration.

Speaking at the event, Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge of the Supreme Court, called the establishment of KCIAM a "timely and visionary initiative". He noted that it could act as a catalyst for change by offering world-class facilities,



fostering collaboration, and training future arbitrators. "KCIAM will not only serve this region but will contribute meaningfully to the larger vision of India as a global hub for arbitration and mediation," he said.

Justice Abdulqawi A Yusuf of the International Court of Justice underscored that arbitration and mediation were deeply rooted in India's history. "This new centre will mark a new era of institutionalised arbitration in the country. If it maintains the highest standards, KIIT's initiative could

stand alongside Singapore and Hong Kong," he remarked.

Echoing the sentiment, Pinky Anand, senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General, said the centre reflects India's aspirations as a fast-growing economy. "It strengthens judicial infrastructure and signals India's readiness to play a bigger role in global dispute resolution," she noted.

The event also saw the launch of KCIAM's logo and website, with KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta gracing the occasion.

BIITM's 'Jashn 2025'



Bhubaneswar: The Biju Patnaik Institute of Information Technology & Management Studies (BIITM) celebrated its annual flagship event, Jashn 2025, at the Rail Auditorium here Saturday, bringing together dignitaries, faculty, and students to mark the institute's achievements and future vision. Principal Mihir Ranjan Nayak, while presenting the Annual Report, said, "BIITM is committed to nurturing talent, fostering innovation, and preparing students for a dynamic future," he said. Chief guest Mrutyunjay Suar, Director General (R&D and Innovation), KIIT University urged students to think beyond boundaries. "Dream big, become trendsetters, and face real-world challenges with kindness and humility," he said. Guest of honour Sujit Kumar Khuntia, Director of Curriculum Development, BPUT Rourkela, lauded the institute's culture of success. The event also included an award ceremony recognising outstanding achievements of students and faculty.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit Dtd.25.09.2025 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar. I, Bebita Jena (44 years), W/o. Pramod Kumar Jena (49 years), Vill/P.O.: Patia, P.S.: Chandrasekharpur, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN - 751024 declare that my actual name is Bebita Jena as per Aadhaar Card. But my name is mentioned Babita Jena as per the Matric Certificate of my Son Chandrasekhar Jena (16 years) bearing Regn. No. B-124/15454/0044. I further declare that Bebita Jena and Babita Jena same and one person.

Cong slams Centre over Odisha neglect

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Odisha, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Saturday launched a scathing attack, accusing the BJP-led central government of systematically exploiting the state's natural resources while ignoring long-pending demands to translate development projects from words into action.

Addressing a press conference at Congress Bhawan here, former minister Debasis Nayak, senior spokesperson Sonali Sahu, Rajeeb Pattanaik, and Nalinikanth Nayak alleged that the Prime Minister has turned Odisha into a "golden goose" to favour his corporate friends.

They claimed that despite repeated assurances, the Cen-

tre has failed to set up a High Court bench in western Odisha or relocate the Western Odisha Development Council headquarters.

They also accused the double-engine government of failing to resolve the Mahanadi water dispute, despite BJP being in power in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and at the Centre.

Sonali Sahu questioned the Prime Minister's frequent visits, saying he spends crores of public money on rallies without delivering anything substantial to Odisha. She alleged that major projects have been shifted to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, leaving Odisha's industrial prospects neglected.

Congress leaders highlighted several unfulfilled promises, including the Coastal Highway, metro rail projects, and higher coal royalties.

Parija's book chronicles Cuttack's Durga puja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 27: The book 'Durga Puja, the Silvery Touch of Cuttack' by author, photographer, and administrator Raja Parija is a priceless tribute to the Millennium City, where he grew up, found love, built his career in feature writing, and chronicled Odisha's rich traditions, heritage, and culture.

Research has always defined Parija's work, and this coffee-table book shows how Cuttack's Durga Puja, rooted in royal courts, temple rituals, and Shakta traditions, predates Kolkata's puja, which later evolved into a mass socio-cultural festivity with global recognition.

"Durga Puja in Cuttack likely began in the 13th-century Barabati Fort, where the deity may have been the royal goddess. Later, when people entered the city via Gadagadia Ghat and exited through Puri Ghat, the tradition was already thriving. Historical records trace it to 1514 AD at the Binod



Bihari-Balubazaar Puja Mandap, witnessed by Sri Chaitanya. In 1916, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose initiated the puja at his ancestral Janakinath Bhawan in Odia Bazar, later continued by the Durgabari Samiti."

Parija, a son of Cuttack's historic soil, was long captivated by its silver filigree and, while working on a book about it in 2016, conceived the idea of documenting the city's Durga Puja. Founded in 989 AD, Cuttack has transformed over the centuries, yet Parija remains enchanted by

its old-world charm and actively participates in the Cuttack Heritage Walks group.

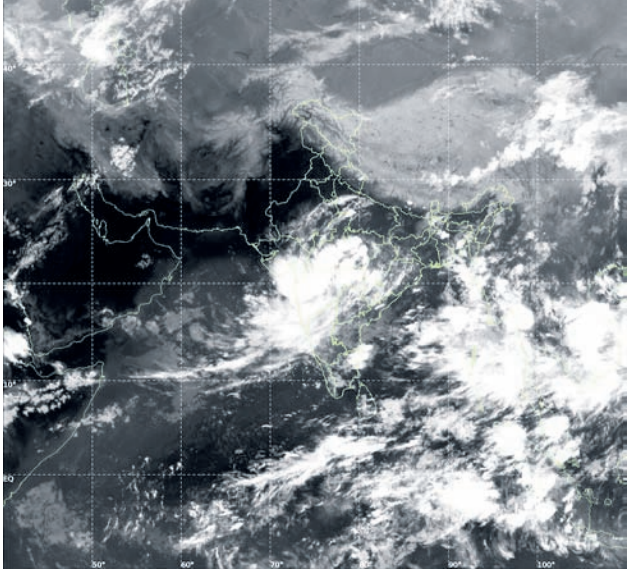
"The most striking feature of my city is its secular spirit, earning it the title 'city of brotherhood.' Its tolerance for diversity has endured for centuries, drawing people from across India. This harmony is reflected in its crafts and culture, where form and symbolism blend faiths—seen in Durga Puja decorations largely crafted by Muslim artisans," he says.

Parija notes that Odisha, a Shakti Peetha and a center of Buddhist Tantric transformation in the 6th century, has celebrated Durga Puja in its present clay idol form since the 16th century—much earlier than Kolkata's 300-year-old tradition. In Cuttack, the festival is not only devotional but also a major economic event, generating crores in transactions and jobs for hundreds of skilled and unskilled workers.


Choudhury Bazar Puja Mandap introduced the first Chandi

Medha (silver filigree tableau) in 1956, becoming a major attraction drawing crowds from within and outside Odisha. Today, 34 pandals feature these stunning silver creations, with 2-3 more expected this year. New Chandi Medhas appear almost annually, rising 20-25 feet and weighing 1-6 quintals of pure silver. Along with gold and silver filigree jewellery adorning the deities, these massive works showcase Odia craftsmanship, attracting visitors from across India and abroad.

It took Raja Parija nearly six years to document the volume, studying books and journals, visiting Odisha's Shakti Peethas and every Puja Mandap in Cuttack, consulting Puja committee members, and exploring filigree workshops to understand Chandi Medha creation firsthand. The toughest task, he says, was photographing the Chandi Medhas, which could only be done on Shasti Puja day—once the Puja begins, flowers and garlands obscure the intricate details.



WEATHER			FORECAST Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
	BBSR	CTC	
Max Temp	31.6°	30.8°	
Min Temp	25.3°	23.2°	
Humidity	97%	98%	
Rainfall	24.6mm	20.8mm	



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Bargarh Critical Care Block rots in neglect



Nearly a year has passed since the inauguration of the ₹8.10-cr critical care facility, the first of its kind in state, on Bargarh DHH premises but not a single patient has received treatment there

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 27: Healthcare services in Bargarh district are in a state of collapse with large-scale vacancies in several posts of doctors and other staffers across hospitals. The district headquarters hospital (DHH) portrays a gloomy picture as fracture patients are being treated with cardboard splints, while family planning surgeries are halted midway as crucial equipment become defunct.

The situation has further deteriorated with the closure of Bargarh Cancer Hospital, set up under the previous government and now lying locked even as the new government has completed more than one year. Adding to the crisis, equipment installed at the state's first Critical Care Block — built at a cost of more than ₹18.10 crore on the DHH premises — has gone missing less than a year after its inauguration. The facility itself remains locked. The disappearance of machinery from inside the block has

raised serious questions over the role and accountability of officials and staffers. The issue has become a matter of public debate, especially when Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling is in charge of the district.

Funded under the Centre's PM Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission, the three-storey Critical Care Block was designed with an emergency ward, minor operation theatre, dialysis and isolation units on the ground floor. The first floor houses operation theatres, a labour room and a one-stop centre, while the second floor accommodates a high dependency unit and an intensive care unit.

The block was meant to provide 50 beds, including three for dialysis, 24 for isolation, eight for HDU, 10 for ICU, two for emergency, as many for maternity and paediatric care, along with a couple of beds for post-observation. A police outpost and fire control room were also part of the plan.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had virtually inaugurated the facility October 29, 2024, in the presence of local MP Pradeep Kumar Purohit, MLAs Ashwini Sarangi, Nihar Ranjan Mahananda, Irasis Acharya, Sanat Kumar Gartia, senior health officials, Collector Aditya Goyal and then Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Nirupama Sarangi. Leaders at the event hailed it as a milestone in the BJP government's commitment to healthcare and development.

But today, not a single patient has received treatment there. Instead, the public is shocked by reports of missing equipment, eroding trust in both governance and administration.

Meanwhile, locals have questioned the role of police, demanding a high-level probe into the sorry state of affairs.

Sources said this is not the first time that equipment was stolen from the hospital premises. The hospital superintendent had lodged a complaint July 19, 2025 with Bhatli police after copper wires from the central AC, a water purifier, a water table and other health equipment were stolen, with miscreants also vandalising property.

Despite the sensitive nature of the case, police neither registered an FIR nor initiated an investigation. Owing to this alleged negligence, more items were later stolen from the facility. The superintendent again wrote to Bhatli police September 3, pointing out the earlier inaction.

Only then did police register a case September 4 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Yet the matter remains confined to paper, with no recovery or arrests made so far.



THRILLING ACTION: A glimpse from the 45th State-Level Kabaddi Tournament, organised by the Maa Ramachandi Kabaddi Association, held at Bankoi Kacheribara ground under Bolagarh block in Khurda district, Saturday

Denied mobile phone, minor dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, Sept 27: In a tragic incident reported from Poipani village under Dhenkikote police beat house in Keonjhar district, an 11-year-old boy allegedly died by suicide after his mother refused to give him her mobile phone.

The deceased has been identified as Guguli Ganesh Prasad Mahant, the only son of Arjun Charan Mahant and Jayanti Mahant. He was a student of Nirmala Convent English Medium School in Keonjhar town.

According to sources, Guguli had asked his mother for her mobile phone Friday. When she denied his request and went to the forest to collect mushrooms, the boy used a rope to hang himself inside the house. His grandmother, who was washing utensils, found him hanging around 4:30pm. She raised an alarm and neighbours rushed him to Keonjhar district hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police have registered a case (49/25) at Ghatagaon police station and further investigation is under way.

Youth sentenced to life for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 27: The Additional District and Sessions Court-cum-Fast Track and Special POCOS Court here in Mayurbhanj district Saturday handed down life imprisonment to a youth after convicting him in the 2024-rape case of a minor.

Apart from the punishment, Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict Asit Behera, a resident of Baisinga police limits. In default, Behera has to undergo an additional six months of imprisonment, the judge observed while delivering the verdict, government advocate Manoranjan Pattnaik said.

The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by the witnesses, medical and police reports. He also directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to

the survivor, the government advocate said.

The incident occurred when the minor girl was returning home from a shop around 7pm, November 4 last year.

Behera picked up the girl and took her to a deserted place, where he raped her after gagging her mouth and tying up her limbs.

Family members lodged a complaint at Baisinga after the survivor narrated her ordeal before them. Police registered a case and arrested Behera before producing him in the court.

Meanwhile, Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra sentenced Dusha Daphnia (30) of Badagambharia village under Turumunga police station to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹1,000 for raping a 13-year-old girl. The court ordered additional one year of rigorous imprisonment for non-payment of the fine amount.

Man thrashed to death by mentally unstable uncle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bantala, Sept 27: A man was allegedly beaten to death with a stick by his uncle, who was said to be mentally unstable, in Angul district late Friday night. The accused has been arrested, police said.

The victim was identified as Sudarshan Das of Barakanjani village under Inkarbandh panchayat in Angul block. The accused, Basant Kumar Das, who reportedly suffers from mental illness, had been staying near the village cremation ground. His family members used to bring food for him every day.

According to police, Sudarshan went to the cremation ground to deliver food for his uncle Friday around 10pm but did not return home. Sudarshan's wife went there searching for him Saturday morning and found his body near the cremation ground.

Villagers later tied Basant to a tree and questioned him. He allegedly confessed to beating Sudarshan to death with a stick and dumping the body about 200 metres away.

Police from Angul Sadar station recovered the body and registered a case (633/25) based on a complaint lodged by Sudarshan's younger brother, Siddheshwar Das. Station officer Mrinal Kal said the accused was in custody and further investigation was underway.

Fishers seek solution to silt buildup at Rushikulya mouth

DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

Chhatrapur, Sept 27: Fishermen from more than 11 villages under Chhatrapur and Ganjam blocks recently submitted a memorandum to the district administration Friday, urging immediate and permanent action to address the silt accumulation at the Rushikulya river mouth.

Additional District Magistrate Pramod Kumar Prusty received the letter on behalf of the Ganjam district magistrate.

The fishermen, who rely heavily on the river for their livelihood, requested excavation of the excessive silt deposits that have choked the river mouth, making fishing activities increasingly dangerous. Villages including Prayagi, Kalrabadi, Siddhantnagar, Podampeta, Kantiagada, Gokharukda, Purunabandha, Sana Nolianuagan, Bada Nolianuagan, Damodarpur and Kainchapur are severely affected.

Due to the sediment build-

up, there is little to no space left for river water to flow into the sea.

During high tide, the reduced velocity of the river water worsens the situation, making fish ingress difficult and fishing nearly impossible.

The fishermen also highlighted the rising number of deaths caused by accidents related to the hazardous conditions at the river mouth. Many families have lost their primary breadwinners and received no government compensation, particularly those from the Dhibar fishing community, who are not covered under existing relief schemes. The memorandum also requested the district administration to provide insurance coverage for fishermen and initiate immediate excavation work to restore safe fishing routes and improve livelihood opportunities.

Many fishermen have been forced to migrate to states like Goa and Tamil Nadu in search of more stable income sources.

Soumyashree death: CB files 2nd chargesheet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 27: The Crime Branch of Odisha Police filed a second chargesheet at the SD-JM court here in the alleged self-immolation case of Soumyashree Bishi, an Integrated BEd student of Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Saturday.

According to officials, the investigation is ongoing. The agency had earlier arrested the



main accused, head of the department (HoD) Sameer Sahu, former principal Dilip Ghosh, student Jyotiprakash Biswal

and student leader Subhra Sambit Nayak. All four are currently in judicial custody and lodged in the district jail.

A team led by DSP Iman Kalyan Nayak appeared before the SDJM Court in Balasore and submitted the second chargesheet Saturday. Earlier September 9, the same team had submitted a 504-page chargesheet naming 120 witnesses. Investigators said Soumy-

ashree had allegedly faced harassment at the hands of HOD Sahu. After failing to get justice, she attempted self-immolation July 12. She died two days later while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar July 14. Police arrested Sahu on the day of the incident and former principal Ghosh July 14. Later, the Crime Branch arrested Biswal and Nayak August 3 on charges of abetment of suicide.

7 football players critically injured in road accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, Sept 27: Seven football players were seriously injured in a road accident on National Highway 520 near Rengalbada under Koida police limits in Sundargarh district late Saturday evening.

The identities of the injured players were yet to be ascertained, police said at the time of filing this report. According to preliminary information, the players from Guali village

in Keonjhar district had travelled to Bandalh village under Dengula gram panchayat in Koida block to play a football match and were returning in a Scorpio when the mishap occurred. The vehicle reportedly rammed into the rear of a stationary trailer that had broken down on the highway at Rengalbada. The impact left seven players critically injured. On being informed, Koida police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to Koida hospital for treatment.

Two arrested for smuggling ivory



POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Sept 27: Forest officials here arrested two men Saturday for their alleged involvement in ivory smuggling in Angul district.

The accused, identified as Muna Behera of Kudasahi village under Thakurgarh police station and Bijay Singh of Bhangamunda village, were taken into custody by forest officials from Keonjhar and Dhandatapa. According to sources, the ivory was being smuggled from the Dhandatapa area to Keonjhar. Authorities intercepted them and recovered the elephant tusks. Muna and Bijay were arrested at the scene.

Further investigation is underway to identify other possible accomplices and the network involved in the illegal ivory trade.

Paradip Port clocks India's fastest ever 75 MMT cargo throughput

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Sept 27: Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Odisha's lone major port, Saturday announced that it clocked an unprecedented 75 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of cargo throughput in the current fiscal year, making it the fastest 75 MMT ever handled in the history of all Indian major ports.

The port has exhibited 5.03 per cent growth in cargo volume compared to the previous fiscal year, as of September 26, 2025.

The port reached this significant milestone within the first six months of the current financial year, achieving it 10 days in advance compared to the previous year.

This impressive performance is a testament to the robust strategies and dedicated efforts of Team PPA, coupled with continuous support from stakeholders.

Key cargo segments have shown significant growth.



Crude oil reached 17.22 MMT, exhibiting a growth of 19.34 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, contributing significantly to the overall volume.

Similarly, coastal thermal coal loading reached 22.51 MMT, exhibiting a growth of 4.3 per cent, while flux material volume reached 2.97 MMT, showing growth of 19 per cent.

"Together, with the unwavering

support of our dedicated workforce and strong support of our customers, we shall continue to script remarkable success stories for Paradip Port, a story that exemplifies growth, sustainability, and a brighter future for the port," PL Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, said lauding the achievement.

He further extended his appreciation to all officers, employees, user industries, stevedores, steamer agents, trade unions, and PPP operators for their continued faith and collaboration, which have been instrumental in achieving this record.

This achievement solidifies Paradip Port's position as a leading maritime gateway in India, poised for even greater heights.

With enhanced operational efficiencies and strategic infrastructure developments, PPA is confident of achieving its set target in cargo throughput for the current FY 2025-26, the major port said in a statement.

50-yr-old arrested for killing brother



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 27: A 50-year-old man was arrested Saturday for allegedly killing his brother in Kendrapara district during a fight over a trivial matter, police said.

Ranjan Sahoo, a native of Badagabapur village in the Mahakalapara police station area, slit his brother Gagan's throat September 24, they said. Gagan died September 26 while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, they added.

The accused was remanded to judicial custody as a court rejected his bail plea.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPALITY, KENDRAPARA

No.4359 Dt. : 26.09.2025
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 02/KM 2025-26
No.C-1194 : The Executive Officer, Kendrapara Municipality invites percentage wise rate bids for execution of sanitation privatization work as detailed in the DTCN from Govt. Registered Labour Contractors/organization having valid license, pan, GST registration, EPF, ESI etc as per OPWD code. The bidders should submit bids as per their eligibility Criteria shown in DTCN.
1. Total No. of work for which tender invited - 2 nos.
2. Place of execution - In Kendrapara Municipal area.
3. Estimated cost of work - Rs.1059900 to Rs.1077300 including GST.
4. Eligible class of contractor - Govt. registered labour contractors/organisation as per OPWD code.
5. The Bid documents will be available in the web-site from 11.00 A.M. on dt. 06/10/2025 to 5 P.M. Dt. 26/10/2025 for on line bidding.
6. The Technical bid documents will be opened at 11.00 A.M. on dt. 28/10/2025
7. The bidder has to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Officer
Kendrapara Municipality
OIPR-13185/11/0014/2526

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender No. MD/CHBBSLP/251001B Date: 26.09.2025
DESCRIPTION OF WORK : "TO SUPPLY MEDICINES, SURGICAL ITEMS AND CONSUMABLES WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STOCK OF CENTRAL HOSPITAL, EAST COAST RAILWAY, BHUBANESWAR & CSP HEALTH UNIT AS PER DAILY REQUIREMENT".
Approximate procurement value during the year 2024-25 : ₹ 65,00,000/-
EMD : ₹ 1,30,000/-
Validity of contract : 2 years + 6 months
E-Tender Closing Date and Time : 20.10.2025 (Monday) at 1500 hrs.
Note : The prospective vendors / drug stores are advised to registered in IREPS and visit the tender section on IREPS for detail information.
Website : www.ireps.gov.in
Additional Chief Health Director(Stores)
PR-648/Q/25-26 Central Hospital, Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY


Tender Notice No. ST/OT/EAST SEC/KUR/498, Dt. 24.09.2025
Name of the Work SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH ROAD OVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AT LEVEL CROSSING-182, JB-7, CP-09 AND KM. 370/25-27 ON NH-200 (NEW NH-53), INCLUDING UTILITY SHIFTING IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Tender Value : ₹ 1,73,33,201.83, EMD : ₹ 2,36,700/-
Bidding start date : 02.10.2025 **Date & Time of closing of tender** : at 1100 hrs. of 16.10.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/
PR-645/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF MULTI-PURPOSE & CATERING STALL
Sl. No. 1: Station & Location-Khurda Road, Platform No.-6/7, **Sl. No. 2:** Station & Location-Brahmapur, Platform No.-4 between pillar No.-11 & 12, **Sl. No. 3:** Station & Location-Brahmapur, Platform No.-2&3, **Sl. No. 4:** Station & Location-Khurda Road, Platform No.-3.
Category of Reservation: Multi-Purpose Stall (GMU) (for Sl. No.1), Catering Stall SMU (SC) (for Sl. No.2), Catering Stall SMU (Physically/Mentally Challenged) (for Sl. No.3) & Fresh Fruit & Juice Stall SMU (ST) (for Sl. No.4).
Auction Start Date & Time : 07.10.2025 from 1530 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1) & 07.10.2025 from 1100 hrs. (for Sl. No. 2 to 4).
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and check all the details regarding eligibility criteria, detail of site and any other information.
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager,
PR-641/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

The Gita is the greatest gospel of spiritual works ever yet given to the race

SRI AUROBINDO



Diplomatic Drift

‘God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform’, so goes a hymn I read in school. Or perhaps it was a line in PG Wodehouse, I forget which. But no matter, the point is that miracles usually happen outside of the knowledge of us mortals. Higher powers are at work.

Something similar is happening in India’s foreign policy. Great things have been achieved in this domain, at least according to the government publicity and the television media (which is admittedly the same thing), but one is unclear about the details.

To understand our triumphs during a week in which the United Nations held its General Assembly, I thought it might be useful to compile a list of our friends. A foreign policy panchnama, if you will, so that we can better understand precisely where New India stands in the world.

Starting with our neighbourhood, I can report that relations with Pakistan are bad. In fact we might be at ‘war’ with them because our wildly successful military operation against them stands suspended but not yet over. And ‘war’ sits under quotation marks because we have not actually declared war with them. But this is normal now.

Bangladesh also one has to put on the debit side of the ledger. It is demanding we return their prime minister so that she can be prosecuted, and we have so far refused. Its leader wants SAARC to be revived and has blamed India for making it dormant if not extinct. The language our government has used against Bangladesh is in the public domain, and the recent Asia Cup has given us insight into how many Indians view their players. This government ended the participation of Nepalis in the Indian army in 2022, with the Agnipath scheme, severing a link of 200 years. A blockade instigated by India against Nepalis in 2015 still rankles.

Sri Lanka showed more courage than us in demanding an end to the Gaza genocide. The government’s fans had sought a boycott of the Maldives some time ago because we were upset with them (I cannot remember why), and it is unclear whether we are friend with them at the moment.

Having destroyed their Chinese televisions on the instructions of our leaders, Indians can be forgiven for not knowing what the current status of our relations is. Nobody knows. Afghanistan we have warmed to of late, without explaining why the Taliban we demonised till yesterday is acceptable today. Iran’s oil we stopped buying some eight years ago on Trump’s order, but they still accept our pilgrims.

Donald Trump, for whom we hosted two giant rallies, for whom we slashed our corporate tax, for whom we interfered in US elections, tariffed Pakistan (19%) and Bangladesh (20%), less than us (25%). Then he added another 25% on us. Then he added another \$100,000 for H1B visas. Now he has added another tariff on pharma. It is safe to say America is not our friend. But Israel is. The rest of the world may have walked out of Netanyahu’s genocide-justifying speech, but India applauded.

Turkey and Azerbaijan are enemies, because they are Pakistan’s friends. The entire African continent (53 out of 54 nations, all except the old Swaziland) are part of China’s Belt and Road program and it is safe to say we no longer have much influence on them and they have little use for us. Ditto for Central Asia, and for ASEAN nations, and for the same reasons. India’s trade with ASEAN is 10% of its trade with China, and with Africa one fourth.

We have treated Russia as a transactional relationship, using it purely as a source for weaponry and now oil, and they in turn now view us as a client and not a friend, much less an ally. No amount of forced displays of affection, something we are good at, will alter this. With the populations of the Arab states, India has lost ground because of our embrace of Israel. This may not affect relations with the Arab states much, but as an increasingly marginal player in global affairs, prone to being kicked around by America and China, even the Arab dictators now see us differently.

Europe has shifted on Israel, and in value terms, we have moved away from the secular, liberal order that Europe is being forced to return to because of its youth. Our long term dependence on Russia for hardware and spares means also that we cannot side with Europe in its deranged conviction that Russia is out to conquer Poland and Germany.

Brazil, our BRICS associate, has shown backbone in defying American imperialism that we no longer have. We had hugs and words, many words, in our post-2014 period of self-inflation, but do not even have these now it seems. There has never been a moment in India’s history when it has been so adrift in the world, so confused about what it stands for and against and so humiliated.

This will help readers understand why after years of talking of globalisation and G20 leadership and Vishwaguru and all the rest of it, we are today being lectured on self-reliance. We can call this state of affairs the New New India.



Aakar Patel

We have treated Russia as a transactional relationship, using it purely as a source for weaponry and now oil, and they in turn now view us as a client and not a friend, much less an ally

WISDOM CORNER

- It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
- Bad reasoning as well as good reasoning is possible; and this fact is the foundation of the practical side of logic

CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE
- The educated are a class which exhibits alienation from its kin in an extreme form”

NIKOLA FEDOROVICH FEDOROV

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1781:** The Siege of Yorktown began, eventually leading on October 19 to the British surrender by General Lord Cornwallis and the end of the American Revolution.
- 1911:** Using the pretext of infringement of Italian interests in the Turkish provinces of Tripolitana and Cyrenaica (Libya), the Italian government issued an ultimatum to Turkey and declared war the next day.
- 1958:** Madagascar voted for autonomy within the French Community.

FOCUS OBITUARY

LAST MAN STANDING

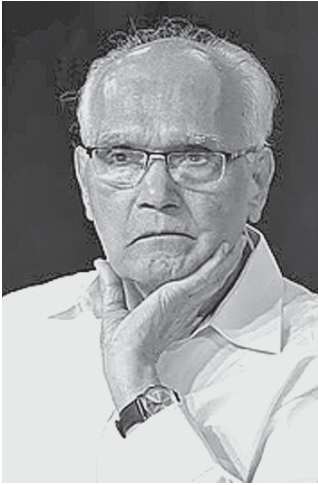


Anuwesh Satpathy

DESPITE BHYRAPPA’S PROFESSION OF BEING MOTIVATED BY FACTS AND “TRUE” HISTORY, HE ALWAYS WROTE FROM INSTINCT

It is certainly a cliché to remark that the passing of a renowned individual marks the end of an era. In the case of the Kannada novelist SL Bhyrappa, it is literally true, primarily owing to his long life of 94 years. It is a testament to his lasting popularity that glowing tributes poured in from the Karnataka chief minister and the politically active Kamal Hassan even as they clearly stood on opposing sides of the political spectrum. What made Bhyrappa so appealing?

It is hard to pen a fair adieu to a man as prolific as Bhyrappa. The nuances elucidated in his many novels can only be hinted here but not elaborately discussed. Bhyrappa was a cynical but graceful conservative who was never afraid of critiquing orthodoxy. This is evident through his early novels which attempt to illustrate the crisis between modernity and tradition. In Vamsavriksha, Bhyrappa highlights the tragedy of marriages in a transitioning society. The novel follows a traditional marriage, an unconventional marriage owing to dissatisfaction with arranged marriage and a “modern” marriage. The orthodox and religious Shrinivas Shrotri is married to the traditional Bhagiratamma. They are forced with a dilemma when their son dies leaving behind a widow who wants to pursue studies and a son. Shrotri eventually allows her daughter in law Katayani to pursue her studies and eventually re-marry as long as his grandson is raised by him, albeit with some trepidations. The point of a marriage, Shrotri opines previously in the novel, is to continue the family lineage and thus the purpose is complete in the case of his son’s marriage. Katayaniis filled with guilt of abandoning her son while facing a series of miscarries is interpreted as the consequences of straying away



It is a testament to Kannada novelist SL Bhyrappa’s lasting popularity that glowing tributes poured in from the Karnataka CM and the politically active Kamal Hassan even as they stood on opposing sides of the political spectrum

from the orthodoxy. Sadashiva Rao, the other prominent protagonist, is dissatisfied with the arrange marriage that has been foisted upon him against his will. He eventually deserts his wife Nagalaxmi for a like-minded scholar from Ceylon. Rao works incessantly to finish his magnum opus with the help of his intellectual companion even as he is gripped with despair and guilt for abandoning her wife. With Rao’s death, the scholar returns to her homeland while Nagalaxmi undergoes the rituals of a Hindu widow. Despite a brief moment of reconciliation towards the end, this act of Nagalaxmi is reflective less of her agency and more of external constraints. Bhyrappa has been accused by Prof. GS Amur of manipulating his characters to convey his points. This is indeed the case that becomes more evident in later novels. However, what this work brilliantly illustrates is the tragedy of a patriarchal society where modernity is slowly making its mark. All of the men in the novel manage to follow their goals to its triumphant end. Rao finishes his masterpiece; Shrotri finds redemption in becoming a sanyasi and the son has a late moment of closure.

All of the women, on the other hand, are doomed to tragedy regardless of whether they’re allowed to exercise their own agency. Their happiness and self-realization are impossible. Bhyrappa’s masterpiece *Parva*, which seeks to demystify Mahabharata, is another instance of straying away from orthodoxy. This text divorces itself from the fantastical world of the epic by humanizing its characters in affective and indeed subversive ways. Bhyrappa’s conservatism and sympathies for Hindu revivalism has never been secret. He had tackled with religious conversion and cow slaughter in his novels of the 60s itself. One of the novels adopted by his archnemesis Girish Karnad and starring Naseeruddin Shah, both sympathetic to leftist causes, did in fact deal with cow slaughter. His artistic merit was rarely questioned. This changed in later years as times became more polarized and Bhyrappa engaged in public debate with the two other contemporary doyens of Kannada literature: U.R. Ananthamurthy and Karnad. A nasty debate followed concerning Tipu Sultan’s merits. For Karnad, Tipu was a brave hero and for Bhyrappa he was a

fanatical bigot. This culminated in one of Bhyrappa’s last major works- the 2007 novel *Aavarana*. Ananthamurthy bashed Bhyrappa for writing like a debater than a novelist while the then-young literary star Aravind Adiga called it his weakest novel. This was true. Despite Bhyrappa’s profession of being motivated by facts and “true” history, he always wrote from instinct. It is this quality that made his novels work i.e. his attempt to empathize with people’s psyche and not his ability to distil historical scholarship. *Aavarana* reduces its characters to caricatures, “puppets” as Prof. Amur would say, with a narrative so reductionist it would make Ayn Rand blush. The brief appeal to authorities and “historical facts” are really reminiscent more of Dan Brown than Bhyrappa. In some ways, the novel was beneath him and in others, it endeared him to a completely new readership.

His political sensibilities were at least partly responsible for his late accolades of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan just as they were likely a factor for being overlooked for the Jnanpith and Moortidevi. It hardly matters since he did deserve it all, along with the Saraswati Samman that he did receive. Bhyrappa’s death closes the curtain on an entire generation of Kannada literature: -Ananthamurthy, Karnad and Shivaram Karanth. He was quite literally the last man standing. He was a man of a different generation and I doubt we will see a conservative artist of his kind anytime in future because that will require a deep understanding of culture, philosophy, music and epics as opposed to being a simple reactionary.

The writer is a columnist and a student of Global Affairs at Kings College London

SPECTRUM WAR IN UKRAINE

Values and responsibility



Maciej Gaca

FOR INDIA, THE WAR IN UKRAINE IS A REMINDER THAT IN THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE, ONE CAN NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE ILLUSION OF NEUTRALITY

The United States’ President Donald Trump has accused India and China to be the primary funders of the ongoing war in Ukraine by continuing to purchase Russian oil at his UN General Assembly address. However, the accusation is inaccurate. The war in Ukraine is an experience that reshapes the entire world, and not how the American President describes it. For Europe, it is a tragedy at its doorstep, which has shattered the belief in the stability of the international order.

For India, it is a reminder that in the global landscape, one can no longer live under the illusion of neutrality. Europe and India face a similar question today: how to defend principles in a world where force, rather than law, increasingly matters.

In Europe, especially in countries of the Eastern flank, the war in Ukraine is not an abstraction. In Poland, Ukrainian refugees are seen in schools, in lines to doctors, at railway stations and in work places.

Warsaw’s response is not merely an act of compassion. It reflects a deeper awareness: the knowledge of how easily

statehood can be lost and how hard it is to rebuild it. Poland’s history has taught that security is never guaranteed once and for all. Hence such strong involvement in defending Ukraine: arms deliveries, diplomatic support, the opening of borders. It acts on the conviction that defending an order based on law is not only an act of solidarity but also a way of safeguarding its own future.

India has taken a different path. It has not condemned Russia outright, avoiding gestures that could draw it into the logic of blocs. Yet this was not indifference but a conscious choice consistent with a long tradition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s words from 2022 — “this is not an era of war” — resonate as an echo of older ideas: the conviction that international politics should seek common ground, even when the world is divided into rival camps.

In practice, this meant a mixture of restraint and action. On the one hand, neutrality in voting; on the other, the spectacular “Operation Ganga,” which evacuated thousands of students from

Ukraine. India also sent humanitarian aid and in international forums attempted to act as a mediator. This is a different language of responsibility: quieter, less unambiguous, but rooted in consistent thinking about India’s place in the world.

Europe and India know that their voices matter only when rooted in values. As a medium-sized state in Europe, Poland proven that termination and solidarity can shift the boundaries of what is possible. India — as a global player outside the Cold War bloc system — demonstrates that one can preserve independence without abandoning responsibility.

In practice, this means that even states of different geopolitical weight can set standards. Poland, by opening its borders to millions of refugees, created a precedent of humanitarian engagement in the region. India, by evacuating its students from Ukraine and sending humanitarian aid, showed that neutrality can take the face of responsibility rather than indifference.

The common denominator? An understanding that the international order is fragile

and that anyone who wants to participate in it must co-create it. The war in Ukraine has proved to be a kind of test for the entire international architecture. Some — like Russia — attempt to destroy its foundations; others — like the United States — defend them, but within the logic of their own hegemony. In this world, the voices of medium-sized states that refuse to be mere bystanders are gaining importance.

Poland shows that a state without global military potential can become a moral and political voice if it speaks the language of solidarity and determination. India demonstrates that one can preserve autonomy without falling into isolation — that strategic independence can be a form of responsibility toward the international community. Together, the two countries create a story of politics that is not merely a balance of forces, but also — perhaps above all — an attempt to establish meaning in a world devoid of stable rules.

The writer is Professor at Nicolaus Copernicus University (UMK) in Toru, Poland

INFRA

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

OrissaPOST
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Bizman or leader

Sir, The US President Donald Trump’s latest trade actions underscore his deal-maker approach to global economics. He has imposed a 100% tariff on imported branded and patented pharmaceuticals — sparing generics and US-made drugs — a move impacting about \$8 billion in imports while citing \$219 billion saved last year through generics. The policy has shaken markets, with India’s Nifty 50 slipping as global pharma giants accelerate plans to shift manufacturing to the US, squeezing smaller firms abroad. Simultaneously, Washington has lifted sanctions on Iran’s Chabahar Port, affecting India’s regional connectivity strategy. Trump also finalised a \$14 billion restructuring of TikTok, under which US companies such as Oracle, Silver Lake and MGX will control operations while ByteDance retains ownership but faces strict data-sharing limits. These measures reveal Trump’s intent to secure maximum commercial and strategic leverage for the US, prioritising transactional gains over long-standing diplomatic sensitivities with partner nations. .

RS Narula, PATIALA

Time for introspection

Sir, The CM of Delhi, Ms Rekha Gupta, was just following the footsteps of Home Minister Amit Shah when she urged the students of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College to embrace Hindi. Hindi, one must honestly admit, simply can’t be the medium of learning for students of the 21st century. Irrespective of whether one opts for science/ arts/commerce/ any other stream of education, English remains the sine qua non. Leaders from the BJP in particular, have equated Hindi with love for one’s country. It is an open secret that their children have studied / or are presently studying in the best of international schools / colleges where the primary language for imparting education is English. So, next time a BJP neta makes a fervent pitch for Hindi (read, patriotism), he should be called out on two counts of hypocrisy --- one, sending his ward(s) to study abroad, and for opting for education in English medium. While taking a dig at the Opposition the PM once said “Hypocrisy ki bhi seema hoti hai”. It’s introspection time for the BJP leaders.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MP)



T'gana govt to set up spl wing for youth abroad

The Telangana government would act as a bridge for providing job opportunities in countries like Germany, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan if the youth undergo relevant training in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 27: Observing that job opportunities are available on a large scale for Indian youth in countries such as Germany and Japan if not America, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday said the state government would soon set up a special wing to facilitate jobs in foreign countries.

Speaking at an event here where he inaugurated 65 Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) which earlier functioned as Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), he said the USA is not the only country for those who

want to work abroad.

Job avenues are available on a large scale in Japan, Russia, South Korea and others, he said.

"There is no loss if one cannot go to America (for job opportunities), Developed countries like Germany, Japan and South Korea are there," he said.

The Telangana government would act as a bridge for providing job opportunities in countries like Germany, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan if the youth undergo relevant training in India, he said.

"We will create a wing in government to provide job and livelihood opportunities for



you in foreign countries. We will lay foundations for your career by establishing a wing in government to process your (applications) from passport to visa," Reddy said.

Recalling that former Prime

Minister Indira Gandhi distributed lands to the poor by taking lakhs of acres from landlords, he said lands are not available with the government anymore for distribution and that education is the weap-

on to overcome poverty.

"The government does not have lands to construct its offices. There is no land for allocating to graveyards," he said, adding that it is impossible now to provide lands as a poverty alleviation measure.

The state government is setting up a Skills University, Young India Sports University and Young India Integrated Residential Schools and is also transforming ITIs as ATCs to promote job opportunities for youth, he said.

Reddy asked state IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu to speak to Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to provide a stipend of Rs 2,000 per month to those taking admission in the ATCs from next year.

The government transformed ITIs as ATCs by collaborating with the Tata Group. While Tata Group spent Rs 2,100 crore for upgradation of the institutes, the state government spent only Rs 300 crore, he added.

Nagaland Guv calls Scouts and Guides cornerstone of youth development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, Sept 27: Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla Saturday said the Bharat Scouts and Guides has served as a cornerstone for character building and civic education of the younger generation across the world.

He was addressing the state award ceremony of the Nagaland Bharat Scouts and Guides (NBSG) at Dr Imkongliba Ao Hall, Raj Bhavan, here.

The governor, who was formally inducted as the chief patron of NBSG during the event, underlined the movement's unique role in shaping responsible citizens through discipline, service, adventure and integrity.

He said the Scouts and Guides movement has consistently produced youth of "outstanding calibre" across the globe and praised the NBSG for tirelessly furthering this mission in Nagaland.

Congratulating five Scouts and eleven Guides who re-

ceived the Rajya Puraskar (Governor's Award), the highest state-level recognition in scouting and guiding, Bhalla said the award was not merely a badge but a testament to character, leadership and commitment to the spirit of Seva.

He encouraged the recipients to pursue the President's Award, the highest national honour for Scouts and Guides.

Reaffirming his commitment as chief patron, the governor assured close cooperation with officials, leaders and volunteers to expand the reach of the NBSG across all districts.

"Together, we will strive to deepen the impact of this movement and inspire our youth to contribute to society with compassion and integrity," he said.

The ceremony also witnessed the presentation of Tritiya Sopan certificates and the felicitation of Padma Shri awardee Sano Vamuzo for her contributions.

Nagaland observes World Tourism Day with call for sustainable transformation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, Sept 27: Nagaland Tourism Commissioner and Secretary Arelna Jamir Saturday said tourism should not only be about taking from a place, but also about giving back to the people, the land, and the culture.

Speaking at a programme here on the theme 'Tourism and Sustainable Transformation' on the occasion of World Tourism Day on Saturday, Jamir said Nagaland has immense potential as the "Land of Festivals," offering a blend of culture and nature through the Hornbill Festival, Dzükou Valley, hand-woven textiles, tribal cuisines, and eco-tourism initiatives.

While tourism can create livelihoods and preserve identity, she cautioned that unchecked growth could also lead to environmental degradation, cultural dilution, and inequality.

Jamir highlighted departmental initiatives such as community-based tourism, eco-camps, skill development of youth as cultural ambassadors, eco-tourism projects with strict ecological safeguards, and digital promotion using virtual reality to manage tourist inflow.

She added that collaborations with NGOs and international agencies are being pursued to align the state's strategies with global sustainability goals.

Stressing that sustainable



transformation requires collective responsibility, Jamir called upon communities, private stakeholders, NGOs, and tourists to partner with the government.

She urged the youth to become cultural entrepreneurs and custodians of tradition, while inviting visitors to explore Nagaland with "open hearts and responsible intentions."

A highlight of the programme was the recognition of Khonoma, India's first Green Village, under the UN Tourism Best Tourism Villages Upgrade Programme 2022.

Neikedolie Hiekha, chairman of the Khonoma Upgrade Pro-

gramme, said the selection was for the village's pioneering role in community-led conservation and sustainable tourism.

Hiekha recalled Khonoma's hunting ban, forest preservation, and the establishment of the Tragopan Sanctuary, which have transformed the village into a model of conservation-based livelihoods through homestays, eco-treks, and handicrafts.

The event also featured 2024 Best Tour Operator Award winner Nino Zhasa, who shared how community-led tourism has transformed Kigwema village, empowering women entrepreneurs and preserving cultural authenticity.

Flood wrecks havoc in Hyderabad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 27: Passengers from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) in Hyderabad were rescued by Disaster Response Force teams as floods in the Musi River inundated the biggest bus station in Telangana.

A dramatic rise in the flood level in Musi after midnight due to massive discharge from the twin reservoirs of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar since Friday submerged both bridges in MGBS premises, trapping a large number of passengers.

Water from the overflowing river entered the platforms at the sprawling facility, forcing authorities to stop bus services and launch an operation to rescue trapped passengers.

Teams of Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), along with the Police and Fire Services Department, swung into action to rescue the passengers.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed authorities to safely evacuate passengers trapped in the flood.

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) diverted buses coming to MGBS from various places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to other points in the city.

Officials said it was an unprecedented situation at MGBS, said to be one of the biggest bus stations in Asia.



Musi, which flows through the city, was flowing dangerously, inundating parts of the residential colonies abutting the river. About 1,000 people from Shankar Nagar, Vinayaka Veedhi, Moosa Nagar, Padma Nagar and other areas in Chaderghat were shifted to relief camps.

Chaderghat causeway was completely submerged. Water was overflowing the old bridge at Moosarambagh, which was already closed for traffic. A new high-level bridge, which was

under construction, suffered damage due to floods. Centric iron rods and construction material stored at the site were washed away. Water entered houses in the Ambedkar Nagar area close to the bridge.

Following heavy rain over the last few days, Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs on the city outskirts received heavy inflows. Authorities opened 24 gates to release floodwater downstream. The discharge increased to 35,000 cusecs late on Friday night,

triggering floods in the river.

Officials said Musi never saw this level of flow in recent times. With rains continuing in upstream areas, the water level is likely to increase further.

About 15,000 people were killed in the Musi floods of 1908. The disaster had changed the face of Hyderabad. Mir Osman Ali Khan, the then Nizam of Hyderabad State, had drafted engineer M Visvesvaraya to build Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs upstream to prevent floods.

NFR delivers first-ever cement rake to Nagaland

MAJOR MILESTONE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Dimapur, Sept 27: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) achieved a significant milestone with the delivery of the first-ever rake of cement at Molvom railway station in Nagaland after Dimapur and Shokhuvi.

NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said that the rake, consisting of 41 wagons loaded with cement from a private company in Telangana, was successfully unloaded Wednesday.

He said that this marks the first rake movement to Molvom railway station, strengthening rail connectivity and infra-

structure in the region.

The Molvom Railway Station is a new railway station in the Chümoukedima District of Nagaland. It is part of the Dhansiri (Assam)-Zubza (in Kohima district of Nagaland) line, aiming to be the third major railway station in Nagaland after Dimapur and Shokhuvi.

The CPRO said that NFR continues its commitment to enhancing freight facilities in the Northeast supporting economic growth and sustainable logistics.

The rake carried 2,624 tonnes of cement over 2,500 km from Mellacheruvu, Telangana to Molvom railway station in Nagaland providing industries with cost effective,

eco-friendly transport and contributing to the state's socio-economic development.

According to Sharma, the 82.50 km Dimapur-Kohima railway line, spanning 2.75 km in Assam and 79.75 km in Nagaland, runs from Dhansiri in Assam to Zubza in Kohima.

It features eight stations; Dhansiri, Dhansiripar, Shokhuvi, Molvom, Pherima, Piphema, Menguzuma and Zubza along with 27 major bridges, 149 minor bridges, 5 Road Over Bridges, 15 Road Under Bridges and 20 tunnels covering 31 km.

The 16.5 km Dhansiri-Shokhuvi section was commissioned in October 2021 with passenger services from

Shokhuvi to Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh and Mendipathar in Meghalaya operational since then. The newly completed 14.64 km Shokhuvi-Molvom was commissioned in March 2025, the CPRO said.

Indian Railways, as the life-line of the nation, is dedicated to expanding its network in the Northeast. The successful placement of this first rake at Molvom reflects NFR's continuous efforts to bring reliable rail services to remote regions while reducing carbon emissions in line with the commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2030, Sharma stated.

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) operates in the northeastern states and in seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of north Bihar.

Meanwhile, Mizoram capital Aizawl became the fourth capital city in the Northeast by rail apart from Guwahati, Agartala and Itanagar after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ambitious 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang railway project on September 13.

The Prime Minister also flagged off the three new trains after the inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang new railway project. The three trains are Sairang-Anand Vihar (Delhi) Rajdhani Express (weekly), Kolkata-Sairang-Kolkata Express (tri-weekly) and Guwahati-Sairang-Guwahati Express (daily).

T'gana issues Backward Class quota in local bodies



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 27: The Telangana government Friday issued an order reserving 42 per cent seats and positions in local bodies for the Backward Classes (BCs).

The Backward Classes Welfare Department issued the Government Order (GO), which is expected to pave the way for the conduct of local body elections.

The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department and Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department will reserve

42 per cent seats for BCs before the announcement of the poll schedule.

The GO mentions that a dedicated Commission was constituted in November 2024 to conduct "a contemporaneous rigorous empirical enquiry into the nature and implication of the backwardness qua local bodies in order to specify the proportion of reservations to be provisioned".

The dedicated Commission, which also analysed the empirical data of the caste survey, submitted its report in March 2025. It observed that the BCs continue to remain relative-

ly lagging compared to their population of 56.33 per cent in the state and recommended at least 42 per cent reservation in political representations, particularly in local bodies.

The state government issued the GO as the two Bills passed by the Assembly on August 31 were still awaiting the Governor's approval.

The Telangana Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 2025, were passed to enhance BC reservation in local bodies to 42 per cent by removing the 50 per cent cap on the quota for all categories.

Earlier in March, the Assembly had passed two Bills to enhance BC reservations to 42 per cent in education, employment and local bodies.

However, the two Bills have not yet received the President's approval. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had led a protest by ministers, MPs and state legislators in Delhi, to demand that the Centre give the nod for the two Bills.

He had also stated that they also sought an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu to make a representation, but received no response from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Not a single wrongdoer involved in these processions should be spared. Scan video footage, monitor social media, and take action against every one of them

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

Yesterday, a 73-year-old 'dadi' was among 172 deported. Is anybody speaking? Modi used to call US President Donald Trump 'my friend'. What kind of friend is he? He increased the tariffs. He backs Pakistan. We have to think about this

BHAGWANT MANN | CHIEF MINISTER, PUNJAB

Known as the 'Land of the Rising Sun' and a 'Sanctuary of Faith and Spirituality', this festival beautifully blends tradition with modernity, offering inspiration for youth, opportunities for artists, and a vibrant platform for tourism and cultural exchange

PREM SINGH TAMANG | CHIEF MINISTER, SIKKIM

POST OF THE DAY

In a democracy, protests are a right of the people, that culminate in dialogue with those in power. In a dictatorship, protests are treated as rebellion that must be crushed.

@PunsterX

SHORT TAKES

EC to review Bihar poll preparedness

New Delhi: The Election Commission, led by CEC Gyanesh Kumar, will visit Patna October 4 and 5 to take stock of poll preparedness in Bihar, officials said Saturday. The term of the 243-member legislative assembly ends November 22, and assembly polls in the key state are likely to be held in November. It is usual for the poll authority to visit states before announcing the poll schedule. Officials said the Chief Election Commissioner-led team will be in the state October 4 and 5. A briefing of general, police and expenditure observers appointed by the EC for the Bihar polls is also expected to take place here October 3. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bihar is in the final stages and a final electoral roll will be published September 30.

Burglary at Mary Kom's home

Shillong: Thieves struck at the Faridabad residence of six-time world boxing champion Mary Kom while she was away in Meghalaya attending a marathon event at Sohra, officials said Saturday. Kom informed the marathon organisers that she had received news of a break-in at her house in the national capital while she was in the Northeastern state for the event. "I am scared, nervous and worried as I was supposed to return to Delhi today. The theft happened earlier this week," she told marathon organisers in Sohra. Kom said the extent of the loss would be clear only after she returned home. A close aide of the boxer, however, told PTI that CCTV footage showed the thieves had taken away a television set and other items from her residence. "Her neighbours informed her that the incident took place earlier this week. She has informed the police," the aide said.

Together, we will strive to deepen the impact of the Scouts and Guides movement and inspire our youth to contribute to society with compassion and integrity

AJAY KUMAR BHALLA | GOVERNOR, NAGALAND

BAREILLY VIOLENCE

Cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan among 39 held

The officials said that internet service has been suspended in Bareilly for the next 48 hours, beginning Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bareilly (UP), Sept 27: In a major crackdown, police arrested 39 people, including local cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan, in connection with the violence during the 'I love Muhammad' campaign after Friday prayers in Bareilly, while authorities suspended internet service in the district for 48 hours beginning Saturday.

Overnight house-to-house raids were carried out to nab the culprits and 10 cases were filed on rioting and other charges against 180 named individuals, including Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Raza who had allegedly called for the protest, and 2,500 unnamed people, officials said.

Slamming the violence during the 'I love Muhammad' campaign, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned that those trying to disrupt Hindu festivals and inciting violence and anarchy in the name of faith will not be spared.

"The main conspirator of the Bareilly unrest, Maulana Tauqeer Raza, along with seven others, have been arrested, produced in court, and sent to a 14-day judicial custody," District Magistrate Avinash Singh said while addressing a press conference along with Senior Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya. The seven other accused have been identified as Sarfaraz, Manifuddin, Azeem Ahmed, Mohammed Sharif, Mo-



ammed Aamir, Rehan and Mohammad Sarfaraz, police said.

"The police arrested 39 rioters from Friday night to Saturday," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arya said.

He said that following the violent clash in Bareilly, police teams launched a swift crackdown.

"Ten cases have been filed against 180 named and 2,500 unidentified rioters, including Maulana Tauqeer Raza, under various sections for inciting violence, vandalism, rioting, stone-pelting and hurting religious sentiments at various police stations across the city, including Kotwali, Premnagar, Baradari, Cantt, and Quila," he said.

The officials said that internet service has been suspended in Bareilly for the next 48 hours, beginning Saturday. Messages will not be forwarded on Facebook, WhatsApp and YouTube.

Meanwhile, sources at Bareilly Central Jail-2 (earlier known as the Bareilly district jail) said that Raza has been shifted to Fatehgarh Central Jail in Farrukhabad district.

Raza's arrest followed a day of tension in Bareilly, where a large crowd carrying 'I Love Muhammad' posters clashed with police outside a mosque in the Kotwali area after Friday prayers.

The crowd was reportedly angry over the cancellation of a proposed demonstration

RAHUL EMBARKS ON SOUTH AMERICA VISIT

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has embarked on a visit to four South American countries, where he is expected to interact with political leaders, students, and businessmen. Congress' media and publicity department, in charge, Pawan Khera, informed this without disclosing how many days Gandhi will be out of the country



ZUBEEN'S DEATH CASE

Lookout notices issued against NE fest organiser, manager

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 27: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Saturday that lookout notices have been issued against North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta and Zubeen Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma in the singer's death case.

Garg went to perform in the North East India Festival in Singapore where he died by drowning in the sea September 19. A large section of the people of Assam has been demanding a thorough investigation into his death.



On Facebook Live, Sarma said Mahanta and Sharma must come to Guwahati and make their statements October 6, failing which the police will intensify a search operation for them.

"We want justice for Zubeen. From the stuff out in public forums and police probe so far, Mahanta, Sharma and a few others have to answer for a lot. Through this Facebook Live, I want to tell Mahanta and Sharma, do not test public patience," he said.

The CM said that lookout notices have been issued against the two so that they cannot leave the country.

"On October six, we want you two in Assam. As the Durga Puja is there, we don't want them to come right now. But after that, they cannot escape by giving statements on Facebook or writing open letters on social media," he said.

The chief minister maintained that if they are truly innocent, they must have the courage to come and present their points.

Babbar Khalsa terrorist Pindi extradited from UAE



Pindi is a close aide of foreign-based terrorists Harwinder Singh alias Rinda and Happy Passia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 27: Babbar Khalsa International terrorist Parminder Singh alias Pindi, who was allegedly involved in multiple heinous crimes, has been extradited from the UAE, Punjab's Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Saturday.

Pindi is a close aide of foreign-based terrorists Harwinder Singh alias Rinda and Happy Passia. He has been brought from Abu Dhabi in the UAE in close coordination with the central agencies including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the DGP said.

Yadav said Pindi was involved in multiple heinous crimes, including petrol bomb attacks, violent assaults and extortions in Batala in Gurdaspur.

A resident of Harsha in Batala, Pindi is not a mere criminal but a key operative of a dangerous terror-criminal syndicate, the DGP said.

Yadav said Pindi was using different social media platforms to coordinate crimes and finance his operations.

After a red corner notice (RCN) was requested by the Batala Police, a dedicated four-member team led by a senior police officer travelled to

the UAE September 24, coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and UAE authorities, completed all legal formalities and has successfully brought the accused back to face justice.

This successful extradition underscores Punjab Police's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and organised crime as well as its advanced investigative capabilities and global reach, said the DGP.

"We are thankful to the MEA, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, CBI and other central agencies for their invaluable cooperation in this joint effort to uphold justice and strengthen national security."

Sharing more details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Batala, Suhail Qasim Mir said that given the gravity of crimes committed by Pindi and his direct links to Pakistan-based terrorists Harwinder Rinda and Happy Passia, the CBI got the red corner notice (RCN) issued against him through the Interpol.

This global alert was pivotal in tracing his movements and eventual location in Abu Dhabi, he said.

The SSP said that with the apprehension of Pindi, police dismantled a critical node in a transnational terror network.

This operation sends a strong, unequivocal message that the long arm of the law has no geographical boundaries, he added.

BMW ACCIDENT Delhi court bail to accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: A court here Saturday granted bail to Gaganpreet Kaur, the key accused in the BMW incident, saying the accident's CCTV footage showed the allegation of culpable homicide was on a "fragile foundation."

Rapping an ambulance driver and a paramedic who arrived at the spot within seconds for not showing "humanity" and failing in their professional duty, the court said the primary golden-hour lapse on the footage was because of them, who, despite being first on scene, rendered no aid.

The court also expressed astonishment that a DTC bus, which came in contact with the motorcycle, continued to drive without caring for the impact caused by the accident.

Kaur, 38, is accused of being behind the wheel of the BMW car that rammed into a two-wheeler being ridden by



Navjot Singh, a senior finance ministry official, and his wife.

The 52-year-old government employee died, while his wife was grievously injured in the incident.

Judicial Magistrate Ankit Garg said, "Considering the CCTV-established sequence of loss of control, divider impact, flip, and contact; the ambulance's immediate arrival and abrupt departure without assistance, undermining the attribution of golden-hour loss to the accused; the documentary nature of the remaining investigation; and the absence of antecedents and availability

of enforceable conditions to obviate tampering, I find that the applicant has made out a case for bail at this stage."

The court underlined the judicial precedents: presumption of innocence, and bail being the norm, and jail the exception.

"Tested on these touchstones, the present case, particularly in light of the CCTV record, tilts in favour of bail with safeguards," it said.

The court said, according to the footage, the car lost control, struck the divider, flipped, and, while flipping, came into contact with the motorcyclist. The people on the motorcycle then hit a bus, and the pillion rider fell in front of the BMW car while the driver of the motorcycle was crushed beneath it.

"Very astonishingly, the DTC bus, in whose contact the motorcycle comes, does not even stop. It slows down for a while and then carries on, without caring for the impact caused by the accident," it said.



Visitors take a selfie at the 'Khuroso Bagh', in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

First images from NISAR show forests, wetlands, islets in US

The first pictures from the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, billed as the most expensive satellite ever built, were released by NASA earlier this week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The first images from the joint NASA-ISRO satellite show a snapshot of the American landscape ranging from narrow waterways, islets dotting the fringes of an island, forests and wetlands, and large swathes of farms.

The first pictures from the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, billed as the most expensive satellite ever built, were released by NASA earlier this week.

A photograph of Mount Desert Island on the Maine coast, captured August 21, shows narrow waterways cutting across

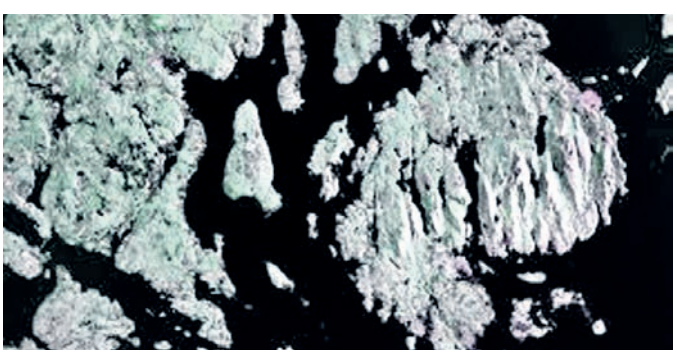
the island, as well as the islets dotting the waters around it.

The L-band SAR captured data of a portion of northeastern North Dakota straddling Grand Forks and Walsh counties August 23.

The image shows forests and wetlands on the banks of the Forest River passing through the centre of the frame from west to east and farmland to the north and south.

The dark agricultural plots show fallow fields, while the lighter colours represent the presence of pasture or crops, such as soybean and corn.

Circular patterns indicate the use of centre-pivot



irrigation, a statement from NASA said.

The images demonstrate how the L-band SAR can discern what type of land cover low-lying vegetation, trees, and

The NISAR satellite was launched from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh July 30

through growing seasons around the world.

"These initial images are just a preview of the hard-hitting science that NISAR will produce, data and insights that will enable scientists to study Earth's changing land and ice surfaces in unprecedented detail while equipping

decision-makers to respond to natural disasters and other challenges," said Nicky Fox, associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The NISAR satellite was launched from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh July 30.

The images are also a testament to the years of hard work of hundreds of scientists and engineers from both sides of the world to build an observatory with the most advanced radar system ever launched by NASA and ISRO, Fox said.



We want president Trump (to) exercise his leadership to pull North Korea to dialogue table. We are equally worried about any possible military skirmish on the Korean Peninsula

CHO HYUN | FOREIGN MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

BHAGAT SINGH'S BIRTH ANNIV

Indian freedom fighter Bhagat Singh's 118th birth anniversary was celebrated in Lahore High Court in Pakistan Saturday with a demand to award him the highest civilian honours of both the countries. Bhagat Singh was born September 27, 1907 in undivided India's Banga village of Lyallpur, which is now called Faisalbad, about 130 kms west of Lahore



of the day

quote

When multi-lateralism is under stress, BRICS has stood firm as a strong voice of reason and constructive change



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

President Zelenskyy is losing his mind to his anti-Hungarian obsession. He's now starting to see things that aren't there



PETER SZIJARTO | FOREIGN MINISTER, HUNGARY

The physical structures damaged during the recent Gen Z protests will be rebuilt—even if it requires slicing down on government expenditure



RAMESHWOR PRASAD KHANAL | FINANCE MINISTER, NEPAL

SHORT TAKES

FBI fires agents over protest kneeling

Washington: The FBI has fired agents who were photographed kneeling during a racial justice protest in Washington that followed the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, three people familiar with the matter said. The bureau last spring had reassigned the agents but has since fired them, said the people, who insisted on anonymity to discuss personnel matters with The Associated Press. The number of FBI employees terminated was not immediately clear, but two people said it was roughly 20. The photographs at issue showed a group of agents taking a knee in apparent solidarity during one of the demonstrations following the May 2020 killing of Floyd, a death that led to a national reckoning over policing and racial injustice and sparked widespread anger after millions of people saw video of the arrest.

2 die attempting to cross English Channel

Paris: Two women died Saturday morning while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the UK on board a makeshift boat carrying other migrants, French authorities said. Rescuers found the women in cardiac arrest but couldn't save them, the prefecture of the Pas-de-Calais region, in northern France, said in a statement. A couple and their child with hypothermia were transported to a hospital in Boulogne, it said. The incident happened off the coast of the small town of Neufchatel-Hardelot. Local media say over 60 migrants were rescued overnight.

UN sanctions on Iran imminent



France, Germany, UK pushed forward what diplomats refer to as “snapback” sanctions on Iran over it not cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency and not holding direct talks with US

- UN sanctions on Iran set to be reimposed Saturday
- France, Britain, US say they will continue diplomacy
- Iran recalls ambassadors from the three countries
- Sanctions to restore arms embargo, ban on uranium enrichment
- Russia, China fail to delay UN sanctions snap back

REUTERS

United Nations, Sept 27: United Nations sanctions on Iran are set to be reimposed Saturday, Britain's UN envoy said Friday after a Russian and Chinese Security Council resolution to delay them failed, prompting Tehran to warn that the West bore responsibility for any consequences.

The decision to restore sanctions by Western powers is likely to exacerbate tensions with Tehran, which has already warned that the action would be met with a harsh response and open the door to escalation.

The Russian and Chinese push to delay the return of sanctions on Iran failed at the

15-member UN Security Council after only four countries supported their draft resolution.

"This council does not have the necessary assurance that there is a clear path to a swift diplomatic solution," Britain's envoy to the United Nations, Barbara Wood, said after the vote. "This council fulfilled the necessary steps of the snapback process set out in resolution 2231, therefore UN sanctions targeting Iranian proliferation will be reimposed this week-end," she said.

All UN sanctions on Iran are due to return at 8 pm EDT Saturday (0000 GMT) after European powers, known as the E3, triggered a 30-day process accusing Tehran of violating

US revokes visa for Colombia's prez after he urges US soldiers to disobey Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 27: Tensions between the United States and Colombia have escalated with the State Department announcing it was revoking a visa for Gustavo Petro, president of the Latin American country, after he participated in a New York protest where he called on American soldiers to disobey President Donald Trump's orders.

The department said on social media that “we will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions.”

Petro was visiting for the annual UN Nations General Assembly. During a nearby protest Friday over the war in Gaza, he said “I ask all the soldiers of the United States' army, don't point your rifles against humanity” and “disobey the orders of Trump.”



It was unclear if the decision forced Petro, who returned to Colombia on Saturday, to leave the US earlier than expected. The State Department did not answer questions about whether the revocation would affect future visits.

Petro, who has a history of speaking off the cuff in meandering, ideologically charged speeches, wrote on social media that “I don't care” about the punishment because he is also a European citizen. That means he does not need a visa to travel to the US.

INHUMANE WARFARE

IBSA decries starvation tactic in Gaza

India, Brazil and South Africa ministers recalled that the Gaza Strip is an inseparable part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 27: India, Brazil and South Africa have strongly condemned the ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza and expressed grave concern over the situation in the “occupied” Palestinian territory.

The issue figured prominently at a meeting of the trilateral grouping IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) that took place on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

It was attended by External



Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and South African minister Sindisiwe Chikunga.

The IBSA's strong condemnation of the ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza came days after Canada, the UK and Australia formally recognised the Palestine state in the face of the continuing Israeli strikes on Gaza.

The trilateral grouping especially deplored the “use of starvation” as a method of warfare and reiterated its call for a permanent ceasefire, leading to the cessation of Israeli attacks, the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Strip as well as the release of remaining hostages by Hamas.

“The ministers expressed

Rare ICE discipline after officer shoves woman in NYC court

New York: A federal immigration officer who shoved an Ecuadorian woman to the floor at a Manhattan court is “being relieved of current duties”, the Department of Homeland Security has said in a rare rebuke of one of its officers. The altercation, which was captured on videos that spread quickly on social media, unfolded after the woman's husband was arrested at an immigration court in New York City. Footage shows the woman approach the immigration officer following her husband's arrest, pleading with the officer in Spanish and at one point saying “You don't care about anything,” before he pushes her into a wall and then onto the floor of a crowded hallway.

“The officer's conduct in this video is unacceptable and beneath the men and women of ICE,” Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary at DHS, which oversees immigration enforcement, said on Friday. “Our ICE law enforcement are held to the highest professional standards and this officer is being relieved of current duties as we conduct a full investigation,” she added. It is uncommon for the Trump administration's DHS to discipline immigration officers for aggressive tactics across the US.



Pak HC bars deportation of Afghan nationals with Pakistani spouses

Peshawar: A Pakistani high court has barred the deportation of 40 Afghan nationals married to Pakistani women until the country's top database and registration body decides on their citizenship application. The court's decision comes as the repatriation process for Afghan refugees, including those with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, is ongoing. Pakistan launched the campaign for undocumented Afghans in 2023, which was intensified in April this year. A division bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel on Friday passed the order while hearing 40 separate petitions filed by Pakistani women seeking Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs) for their Afghan spouses. The POC grants permanent residency status in Pakistan. More than a million Afghans have left Pakistan since November 2023, when the drive to repatriate them was launched.



Trump to declassify Amelia mystery records

The aviation pioneer was attempting to become the first woman to fly around the world when her plane was lost over the Pacific Ocean in 1937



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 27: President Donald Trump has announced that he has ordered the declassification and public release of all government records about aviator Amelia Earhart, who vanished in 1937 during an attempt to fly around the world.

Trump said on Friday that it's an “interesting story” that has “captivated millions”. He

said people have asked him whether he'd consider declassifying and making public everything the government has on her.

“She was an Aviation Pioneer, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, and achieved many other Aviation firsts,” he wrote on his social

media site. “She disappeared in the South Pacific while trying to become the first woman to fly around the World.

“Amelia made it almost three quarters around the World before she suddenly, and without notice, vanished, never to be seen again,” he continued. “Her disappearance, almost 90 years

ago, has captivated millions. I am ordering my Administration to declassify and release all Government Records related to Amelia Earhart, her final trip, and everything else about her.”

Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared while flying from New Guinea to Howland Island as part of her attempt to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe. She had radioed that she was running low on fuel.

The Navy searched but found no trace. The US government's official position has been that Earhart and Noonan went down with their plane.

Since then, theories have veered into the absurd, including abduction by aliens, or Earhart living in New Jersey under an alias. Others speculate she and Noonan were executed by the Japanese or died as castaways on an island.

business

of the day quote

Gold prices traded firm at Rs 1,14,000 with marginal gains of Rs 130 as Comex Gold held steady, while the dollar stayed slightly positive and rupee remained flat near 88.71

JATEEN TRIVEDI | VP RESEARCH ANALYST, COMMODITY AND CURRENCY, LKP SECURITIES

India is eyeing an investment of around Rs 1.82 lakh crore in the shipbuilding and maritime sector, positioning the country to emerge among the world's leading maritime nations

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

The Centre must immediately convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the US sanctions and find solutions to protect Indian exporters and jobs

VAIKO | GENERAL SECRETARY, MDMK

SHORT TAKES

Info Edge bags big award

New Delhi: Naukri.com-parent Info Edge, whose long-term bets on Indian startups ranging from Zomato to Policybazaar yielded blockbuster returns, has been named the country's most successful venture investor, cementing its reputation as a standout player in India's startup ecosystem. The firm, helmed by Sanjeev Bikhchandani - often referred to as India's Warren Buffett-invested a total capital of Rs 3,959.16 crore across platforms over the last one and a half decades. The fair market value (FMV) of these investments is several times that amount. In a report, Economic Times puts Info Edge as the country's most successful venture investor. Its investments in Zomato and Policybazaar between 2011 and 2015 are currently worth around Rs 53,000 crore. Bikhchandani's chance encounter with the internet at a Delhi trade fair 28 years ago not only sparked the creation of job portal Naukri.com but also marked the beginning of his journey as a serial investor. Investment in Zomato (12.40 per cent in Eternal - the listed entity name of the food delivery firm) and Policybazaar (19.63 per cent) proved to be as providential as IPOs of both firms went on to become big winners.

FHRAI's demand

New Delhi: Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) Saturday demanded restoration of input tax credit on room tariffs of up to Rs 7,500. The government has brought down the goods and services tax (GST) on such tariffs to 5 per cent from 12 per cent. However, before the GST cut, there was a provision for availing input tax credit (ITC), which has now been removed. Addressing a press conference here, FHRAI's newly elected President Surendra Kumar Jaiswal highlighted that 90 per cent of India's hotels operate with room tariffs below Rs 7,500, and are now subject to a 5 per cent GST without ITC. Although the recent revision in the GST rates is a continued effort to rationalise tax rates to benefit consumers, improve compliance, and support growth, it, he argued it has turned into an added cost for guests and created structural cost burdens on hotels, particularly in tier-II and tier-III cities. He stressed the withdrawal of ITC has escalated unrecoverable costs on rentals, utilities, outsourced manpower, and capital expenditure, deterring investments and threatening the growth of domestic tourism. FHRAI called for reinstating ITC at the earliest and issued a clarificatory circular to remove compliance ambiguities.



Oil India Ltd and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have been probing for hydrocarbon reserves in the Andaman Sea in the hope of finding a discovery that could help cut India's 88 per cent dependence on imports for its oil needs and 50 per cent reliance on overseas for gas requirements

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

NSE GUIDELINES TO REVAMP TECHNICAL GLITCH FRAMEWORK FOR BROKERS

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has released guidelines on the definition of a technical glitch, capacity planning, software testing and change management, following a SEBI(Security Exchange Board of India) proposal on revamping the technical glitch framework for stock brokers. The stock exchange's latest guidelines also address the definition of business continuity planning, disaster-recovery sites, and a monitoring mechanism to make the SEBI proposal operational



MOUs WORTH OVER ₹1L-CR FIX AT WORLD FOOD INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 27: Twenty-one companies have signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) on the second day of World Food India 2025, bringing the total value of agreements at the event to over Rs 1 lakh crore for investments, the government said Saturday.

Investments worth more than Rs 25,000 crore were committed by these 21 companies, an official statement said.

The second day of the summit at Bharat Mandapam saw participation from global regulators, industry leaders, startups, and policymakers, with dialogues focussing on sustainability, technology, investment, and international partnerships.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries held 13 sessions focused on the event's five pillars, addressing key topics such as pet food, nutraceuticals, specialty foods, alcoholic beverages, and plant-based foods.

The day involved sessions from partners and focus states, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Jharkhand, and Bihar, along with delegations from New Zealand, Vietnam, Japan, and Russia, the statement said.

Discussions were also hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the Ministry of AYUSH, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, and the World Bank.

As part of the summit, key government-to-government meetings were held with international counterparts of Russia and Portugal to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and food processing, the statement said.

The third Global Food Regulators Summit, organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), was also held on the sidelines, focusing on a unique platform for global regulators to discuss harmonisation of food safety standards and strengthen regulatory cooperation.

Simultaneously, the 24th India International Seafood Show, hosted by the Seafood Exporters Association of India, showcased the country's growing seafood export potential and global market linkages.

India possesses a triple strength of diversity, demand, and scale, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday at the World Food India 2025 event.

PM Modi also underscored that this strong domestic demand gives India a competitive edge and makes it a preferred destination for investors.

Seed industry seeks regulatory relief



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: India's seed industry is seeking urgent government intervention to address regulatory bottlenecks that cost the sector over Rs 800 crore annually, with the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) pushing for a unified national licensing system and removal of price controls to unlock growth.

The industry body unveiled its 'Ease of Doing Business' report at the 'Lab to Land' conference here on Friday, outlining short-term reforms that could save the sector Rs 382-708 crore by eliminating duplicative state-level procedures and delays.

The 106-page study, based on a survey of 55 companies representing about a third of the Rs 30,000-crore domestic market, highlights fragmented licensing, prolonged delays and redundant variety testing as key bottlenecks affecting the world's fifth-largest seed sector.

Regulatory friction alone accounts for over Rs 300 crore in annual costs from licensing and registration delays that cause companies to miss testing and launch windows, according to the report.

"Our survey shows that regulatory bottlenecks cost over Rs 800 crore every year. More than 54 per cent of Indian seed companies are MSMEs, for whom compliance costs average nearly Rs 64 lakh annually," FSII Chairman and Savannah Seeds CEO and MD Ajai Rana said.

The federation's immediate priorities include regulatory harmonisation under a 'One Nation, One Licence' framework to eliminate separate approvals across India's 28 states and eight Union Territories.

It has also called for launching a single-window digital platform for licensing applications to reduce paperwork that leads to delays of up to 180 days, often causing firms to miss planting seasons.

CIPET organises blood donation, free health camp



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: As part of the Government of India's Swachhata Hi Seva initiative and this year's Swachhotsav theme, CIPET: CSTS, Bhubaneswar, organised a voluntary blood donation camp and a free health check-up camp at its campus.

The blood donation drive, held in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police, saw active participation from CIPET students and faculty under the supervision of Branch Administrative Officer Jayanta Kumar Das. Around 40 donors came forward during the camp.

The programme was inaugurated by Manas Gadnayak,

Additional DCP, who lauded CIPET's effort and also addressed students in a special workshop Jeevan Zindabad on mental health and suicide prevention. To further raise awareness, ACP Akshaya Nayak from the Cyber Police Station educated students on cyber fraud protection.

In parallel, a free health camp was conducted in association with Blue Whale Hospital, offering general check-ups and lifestyle counselling for staff and students.

Branch Head B P Patro highlighted the life-saving importance of blood donation and encouraged youth to adopt healthy practices. Administrative Officer Das extended gratitude to all donors for their contribution to society.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 27: HDFC Bank has been barred from onboarding new customers at its Dubai International Financial Centre branch by the local regulator.

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, said it has initiated the necessary steps to comply with the notice of the Dubai Financial Services Authority and added that it does not see any material impact from it.

Exact details of the alleged violations leading to the action against HDFC Bank were not immediately clear.

In an exchange filing late Friday evening, HDFC Bank said it has received the "decision notice" from DFSA, which points to alleged violations pertaining to financial services

BOM Bhubaneswar Zone organises Swachhata Hi Seva campaign

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra, Bhubaneswar Zone organised a Cleaning program on the theme of Swachhotsav "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" Shramdaan under Swachhata Hi Seva campaign-2025. The cleaning program was held in Jagatpur Cuttack, Radha Krishna Mandir Park, Niladri Vihar Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, jeypore, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Rourkela. The program was organised under the guidance of Dilip Kumar Raulo, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone and Sanjib Kumar Dash, Deputy Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone. Branch heads of all local branches, senior officers and employees were present and made the program successful.



UPS OR NPS

Govt urges employees to opt scheme before Sep 30

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 27: The countdown has begun for central government employees to choose between the existing National Pension System (NPS) and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which came into effect April 1 this year.

The June 30 deadline for UPS opt-out was later moved to September 30. Nearly 23 lakh central government workers are covered by the 2004-introduced NPS and can transfer to UPS, which was announced in August 2024 in response to persistent calls for a return to guaranteed pensions.

September 2, the government gave its employees who chose UPS before September 3, the option to switch back to NPS at a later date. However, you can only do this once and won't be able to return to UPS.

Three months before voluntary retirement or at least a year before superannuation, the decision must be made.

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) allowed physical form submissions in case of technical difficulties because many employees were in a rush to submit their applications. Although the September 30 deadline is still in effect, employees who are deployed overseas or serving overseas may also turn in hard copies of their forms through



their parent companies.

Employees who chose NPS and began their government service between April 1 and August 31, 2025, are also eligible to transfer to UPS. They have to turn in their selection by September 30. The government has made UPS's taxation rules clearer. Sections 80CCD(2) and 80CCD(1) of the Income Tax Act will allow deductions for contributions made by the Centre and employees, respectively. Within certain bounds, retirement lump sum payments and partial withdrawals of up to 25 per cent will be tax-exempt. However, pension income will be subject to taxation under the "salaries" heading.

Tax laws were changed in August to give UPS and NPS equal treatment. Section 10 was amended to permit tax-free lump-sum payments equal to 10 per cent of monthly emoluments for each six months of service and to exempt up to 60 per cent of the individual's corpus at retirement.

UAE regulator bars HDFC Dubai branch from onboarding new clients



offered by the DIFC branch to customers not onboarded at the outlet, and also in the onboarding of customers at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Branch.

HDFC Bank disclosed that it has also been barred from soliciting customers, but added that it can continue to service existing customers.

The DIFC branch has 1,489 customers, including joint accounts, HDFC Bank said.

The regulatory decision will be in force till the bank gets a communication from the watchdog, amending or revoking its decision in writing, HDFC Bank said. "The bank has already initiated necessary steps to comply with the directives in the notice and is committed to working with the DFSA to promptly remediate and address DFSA concerns at the earliest," the HDFC Bank filing said.

Need to shape India's economic future

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 27: When it comes to Global South, India's task is not to replace one hegemony with another, but to build a cooperative framework where Southern producers, shippers, and regulators gain dignity and competitiveness, a report has said, adding that by blending reaction with initiative contesting unfair measures while advancing corridors in shipping, warehousing, finance, and capacity the South can transform from rule-takers to rule-shapers.

When rules are matched by rails -- digital, green, and maritime -- the South is no longer walking someone else's path. It is drawing its own map.

"That is the playbook India must now carry to every platform of the Global South—from

FROM RULE TAKE TO RULE SHAPERS



BRICS to IORA, from BIMSTEC to the India-Africa Forum Summit. The time to lead is now," according to the report by India Narrative.

According to the report, for India, which has emerged as

the most credible voice of the Global South, the challenge is clear.

"If we merely react to these pressures, we risk being boxed into low-value corners of the supply chain. If we lead with

initiative, however, we can turn defensive compliance into strategic competitiveness. This is the playbook the South needs—and India is positioned to draft it," the report further stated.

A trade corridor is not just a shipping lane or a stretch of road. It is a deliberate programme: upgraded ports and railways, redesigned border posts, simplified digital platforms that replace paperwork, and harmonised product standards.

If designed around Southern comparative advantages, such corridors can unlock value chains that reflect local priorities rather than external dictates, the report mentioned.

From a "millets corridor" connecting Eastern Africa and Western India to a "green shipping micro-corridor" between

two mid-sized Southern ports, the outcomes are measurable -- faster turnaround, lower freight costs, reduced carbon footprints.

"If production is the visible part of trade, shipping and warehousing are the invisible backbone. They decide whether goods reach markets competitively or languish at bottlenecks," according to the report.

Moreover, infrastructure alone does not move goods — people do. That is why capacity building must be the accelerator of South-South cooperation.

"The Global South faces a choice. We can remain passive, adjusting endlessly to rules written elsewhere. Or we can chart our own course — designing corridors, systems, and standards that reflect our realities and ambitions," the report highlighted.

Gautam Solar releases White Paper on bifacial PV modules



Bhubaneswar: Gautam Solar, one of India's leading solar module manufacturers, released a white paper titled Glass-to-Glass (G2G) vs. Glass-to-Transparent-Backsheet (G2TBS) Solar Modules in Bhubaneswar Saturday. The document, unveiled at a press conference by the company's Marketing Manager (Technical), Abhinav Kaushik, provides a detailed comparison between the two bifacial PV module technologies and addresses misconceptions within the solar industry. Speaking on the occasion, Gautam Mohanka, CEO of Gautam Solar, said, "While bifacial modules are being rapidly adopted in the solar industry, there continues to be debate over the suitability and performance of Glass-to-Glass versus Glass-to-Transparent-Backsheet modules. Through this initiative, we aim to dispel myths and bring clarity to the industry."

Only win counts as India eye team game against bitter foes Pak

Pakistan seek revenge, Men in Blue plot a hat-trick of humiliation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 27: Winning isn't everything but for 11 Indian cricketers it would be the only thing on their minds when they take on an unpredictable Pakistan in the Asia Cup final for the first time in tournament's history here Sunday after a high-voltage build-up that has blurred the lines between on-field sport and off-field politics.

In the words of American political activist and author Mike Marqusee, it is "War Minus Shooting".

Over the years, this contest has never lacked in adrenaline, but seldom has it arrived

with such a volatile backdrop, where cricket seems inseparably knotted with off-field tension, provocative gestures, and fines slapped on both camps.

Yet, beyond the noise, the cricket itself has been compelling, headlined by Abhishek Sharma's audacious 200-plus strike rate and Kuldeep Yadav's 13 wickets on return. Sadly, even these feats have often been overshadowed by flash-points and feuds.

It began with India's "No Handshake Policy" in the opening clash, with skipper Suryakumar Yadav turning away at the toss and post match.

Pakistan's pacer Haris Rauf responded with taunts, abuses, and even an aircraft-crash gesture, igniting a storm that brought both under ICC scrutiny and 30 per cent fines. The barbs have lingered all the way to the final.



To add fuel to the fire, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who also happens to be the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Asian Cricket Council chief, has been constantly putting cryptic but provocative posts on his 'X' timeline.

On paper though, India are

Glorious history:
India are the most successful team in Asia Cup history with eight titles, while Pakistan are two-time champions

is the only match that counts."

In this fixture, pedigree counts for little. Even India's own support staff echoed the sentiment. Bowling coach Morne Morkel, dispatched for pre-match duty, admitted that aesthetics don't matter anymore: "Winning it ugly is still winning."

The final of Asia Cup 2025 is going to be a historic one as it will be the first time in

the history of the tournament that the two biggest arch-rivals of cricket will face each other in the final.

BATTING WOES

The real question is whether India's others can rally around their new talisman.

Suryakumar himself is due a commanding knock, Shubman Gill has flattered without finishing, and the likes of Sanju Samson and Tilak have only cashed in against Sri Lanka in inconsequential matches. So far, it has been Abhishek laying down platforms in the Powerplay. What happens if he fails once?

India's batting throughout the tournament in the back-10 hasn't been convincing at all and one doesn't know what is the plan B if there is a top-order collapse.

Sunday's clash may well be remembered less for the niceties and more for the outcome.

As an old adage goes, "all's

well that ends well." For India, there is only one acceptable ending: A victory over Pakistan, whether it looks pretty or a scrappy one wouldn't matter in the final analysis.

Squads:

India: Surya Kumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (WK), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh

Pakistan: Salman Ali Agha (C), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufyan Moqim.

SHORT TAKES

Kane scores 100th goal for Bayern

Munich: Harry Kane scored his 99th and 100th goals for Bayern Munich in his 104th game for the German champion as Bayern won 4-0 against Werder Bremen Friday. Kane reached 100 goals in all competitions for Bayern one game sooner than two of modern soccer's most prolific scorers. Cristiano Ronaldo needed 105 games to score 100 for Real Madrid in 2011 and Erling Haaland's 100th for Manchester City last year also came in his 105th game. "It's crazy even for me, to be honest. Obviously it's an honor to reach 100 goals for this great club," Kane told broadcaster Sky.

Hockey: Young eves continue to lose

Canberra: The Indian junior women's hockey team slumped to its second straight defeat, going down 0-5 to hosts Australia U21 side in the second match of its ongoing tour here Saturday. India, who had suffered a narrow 2-3 loss in their opening match Friday, were eager to bounce back, but Australia showed their attacking intent right from the start. The hosts struck twice in quick succession through Makayla to put India on the back foot early in the contest. With two defeats in their opening matches, the Indian team will now be aiming to regroup quickly and focus on improving execution in the upcoming fixtures. India will next face the Australian U21 side in their third match of the tour Monday.

ARMLESS YET UNSTOPPABLE

Sheetal in history books

Gwangju (South Korea), Sept 27: The 18-year-old Indian Sheetal Devi scripted history by becoming the first woman armless archer to win world championship gold in the compound individual section, and Toman Kumar replicated the title run in the corresponding men's event as India continued their good run at the Para World Archery Championships here on a riveting Saturday.

On a day when India produced two world champions and a total of five medals, Sheetal added a new page to history book, defeating Turkiye's world No.1 Oznur Cure Girdi 146-143 to claim gold.

The Jammu and Kashmir archer, the only competitor without arms in the tournament, shoots using her feet and chin.

In fact, the only previous instant of an armless archer winning gold came back in 2022 when USA's Matt Stutzman stood on top of the podium during the Dubai World Championships.

Sheetal had earlier won a mixed team bronze in the compound event with Toman Kumar, defeating Great Britain's Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.



In the compound women's open team event, Sheetal and Sarita settled for silver after losing to Turkey in the final.

Later, Toman claimed the compound men's title after fellow Indian Rakesh Kumar was forced to withdraw following a technical glitch as he lost 40-20 in an all-Indian final.

Rakesh, a Paris Paralympics bronze medalist, had to withdraw after four shots due

1 8-year-old armless Indian archer Sheetal Devi stuns No 1 Oznur Girdi 146-143 to win gold at Para World Archery Championship in Korea

History-maker Sheetal, Toman Kumar lead India to two titles at Para World Archery Championships

The third end was also tied at 29-all. Sheetal's only lapse came in the fourth end, where she scored 28 as Girdi took it by one point, yet the Indian still held a two-point lead at 116-114.

She then sealed her maiden gold with a flawless final end, hitting three perfect arrows for 30. The title clash was a repeat of the 2023 Pilsen World Championships, where Girdi had narrowly beaten Sheetal 140-138. This time, Sheetal turned the tables to avenge her defeat two years ago.

In the open team final, Sheetal and Sarita started strongly but only to lose by 148-152 to settle for silver.

There was a slight disappointment for India in the compound men's open section as Shyam Sunder Swami lost 148-141 to Nathan MacQueen of Great Britain in the bronze medal playoff as India missed a chance to make a clean sweep.

ODISHA PRO T20 LEAGUE

Cuttack Panthers crowned champions

Cuttack Panthers edge past Sambalpur Warriors by five runs in a tense final to lift the maiden trophy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 27: The inaugural Odisha Pro T20 League 2025 came to a grand conclusion Friday night at Barabati Stadium, with the Cuttack Panthers edging past Sambalpur Warriors by five runs in a tense final to lift the maiden trophy.

The Panthers held their nerve in a high-pressure clash to be crowned champions, while the Warriors finished runners-up after a spirited campaign.

The tournament, which ran from September 17 to 26 with six teams — Cuttack Panthers, Bhubaneswar Tigers, Puri Titans, Sambalpur Warriors, Rourkela Steelers, and Keonjhar Miners — saw competitive cricket and a memorable finale capped by a glittering closing ceremony.

Adding to the grandeur, former India internationals Maninder Singh, Chetan Sharma, and Narendra Hirwani were felicitated by OCA President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty and Secretary Sanjay Behera, honouring their contribution to Indian cricket. Match referees and umpires were also recognized for their efforts in ensuring the smooth conduct of the tournament, with felicitations carried out by Treasurer Bikash Pradhan and Joint Secretary Prabhat Bhol.

The glittering awards cere-

mony that followed highlighted the standout performers of the season. Raaz Yadav of Cuttack Panthers was named Player of the Final, receiving a trophy and a cheque of Rs 10,000 from OCA President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty. The Emerging Player of the League Award went to Adithya Rout of Sambalpur Warriors, who received a trophy and cheque of Rs 75,000, presented by Arivaa Sports Co-Founder Avishek Mazumder.

Among other honours, Pappu Roy of Keonjhar Miners was adjudged Best Bowler of the League and received Rs 50,000, while Gaurav Choudhary of Bhubaneswar Tigers took home the Best Batter of the League award along with Rs 50,000. The coveted Player of the League award went to veteran Biplab Samantray of Cuttack Panthers, who received a trophy and a cheque of Rs 1,00,000 from Asirbad Behera.

In the team awards, Sambalpur Warriors, the valiant finalists, received the runner-up trophy along with a cheque of Rs 25,00,000, presented by OCA officials.

The champions, Cuttack Panthers, lifted the glittering trophy and received a cheque of Rs 50,00,000, presented by OCA President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty and Secretary Sanjay Behera amid roaring applause.

High jumper Shailesh opens India's account with gold

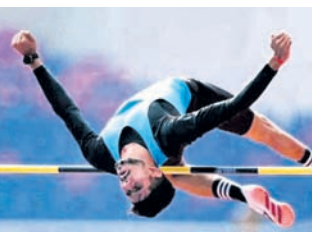
The 25-year-old shattered the Championship record and Asian record with a personal best effort of 1.91m in the T42 category to stand atop the podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: Shailesh Kumar and Varun Singh Bhati opened hosts India's account at the World Para Athletics Championships, winning the gold

and bronze medals respectively in the men's high jump T63 event here Saturday.

The 25-year-old Shailesh shattered the Championship record and Asian record with a personal best effort of 1.91m



in the T42 category to stand atop the podium.

Former Para Asian Games medallist Bhati clinched the bronze while reigning Olympic champion USA's Ezra Frech took home the silver.

Bhati and Frech both finished with a best clearance of 1.85m but the American beat the Indian on count-back.

Rahul, the third Indian in fray, finished fourth with a personal best effort of 1.78m.

Shailesh, Bhati and Rahul are T42 athletes who have single above-the-knee amputations or a disability that is comparable.

T63 classification is for athletes with single through knee or above knee limb deficiency.

T63 and T42 athletes can be combined in a single event, and the process was followed Saturday.

SAFF U17 C'ship: Blue Colts defend trophy

India stifle late Bangladesh surge to win seventh SAFF U17 title on penalties

AGENCIES

Colombo, Sept 27: In a final brimming with drama and tension, the India U17 men's national team held their nerve to defeat Bangladesh 4-1 on penalties and lift their seventh SAFF U17 Championship title at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo Saturday.

In a contest where India led 2-1 at half-time with goals from Dallamuon Gangte (4') and Azlaan Shah KH (38'), Bangladesh clawed back with a last-gasp equaliser from Ihsan Habib Riduan to level things up at 2-2 and force a shootout. But it were the Blue Colts who held their composure when it mattered most.

The penalty shootout saw India showing maturity beyond their age. Dallalmuon Gangte, Korou Meitei Konthoujam, and Indra Rana Magar converted with aplomb before Shubham Poonia slotted home the decisive fourth kick.

Bangladesh, by contrast,



crumbled under pressure. Md Ikramul Islam struck the crossbar, Md Azam Khan saw his effort saved by Manashjyoti Baruah, and although Md Manik converted their third attempt, it was too late. India erupted in celebration, reclaiming their throne in emphatic fashion.

India began the match with vigour and aggression, fully aware that Bangladesh had not conceded a single goal throughout the tournament. The break-

through came as early as the 4th minute, when Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam whipped in a cross from the left. After a Bangladeshi defender attempted to clear, the ball rebounded kindly, and Gangte made no mistake with the second attempt to give India the perfect start.

The second half saw India adopt a more pragmatic approach, content with protecting their slender lead. Bangladesh pressed forward, looking

for an equaliser, and Islam nearly made amends in the 49th minute with a glancing header from a corner, but Baruah again was alert.

While India continued to dominate possession, their inability to convert more chances into goals kept Bangladesh in the hunt. Slowly but surely, Bangladesh grew into the game and found their equaliser in the 24th minute. After a long-range attempt from Nazmul Huda Faysal forced a diving save from Baruah, Bangladesh capitalised from the resulting corner. Faysal floated the ball in, and it eventually fell to Manik, who nodded it home from close range.

Yet, the night ultimately belonged to Bibiano Fernandes' brave young side, who held their nerve under the floodlights to emerge victorious. It was the fifth SAFF title for Fernandes, and the second in less than five months, adding to the SAFF U19 crown won in Arunachal Pradesh in May.

ISSF JR WORLD CUP

Rashmika-Kapil win air pistol mixed team gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: Indian shooters dominated the 10m air pistol mixed team event, clinching the top-two podium finishes while skeet exponent Raiza Dhillon pocketed a silver as the hosts continued to shine in the ISSF Junior World Cup at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges, here Saturday.

India lead the tally with 11 medals, including three gold, five silver and three bronze. Italy are second with two gold and a silver, while Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) are third with two gold.

The pair of Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil, who recently won the men's and women's gold in 10m air pistol junior event at the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan.

The duo defeated the other Indian pair, Vanshika Chaudhary and Antony Jonathan Gavin, 16-10 in the title round.