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भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT

Tilak shines as India lift Asia Cup

AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 28: Riding on Tilak Varma's incredible half-century, fancied India beat Pakistan by five wickets in the summit showdown to win their second Asia Cup title in the T20 format here Sunday.

India bowled out Pakistan for a modest 146 and then chased down the target of 147 with two balls remaining.

Varma smashed an unbeaten 69 in 53 balls, while Shivam Dube contributed a breezy 22-ball 33 during a vital 60-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Earlier, Kuldeep Yadav was the star of the show with excellent figures of 4/30 in four overs, while fellow spinners Varun Chakaravarthi (2/30), Axar Patel (2/26) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/25) were also among the wickets after India opted to bowl first.

Sent in, Pakistan were well-served by the opening duo of Sahibzada Farhan (57 off 38 balls) and Fakhar Zaman (46 off 35 balls), who stitched together 84 runs in under 10 overs to lay the foundation for a big total.

However, the Indian spin trio of Varun, Kuldeep and Axar suddenly picked up a few wickets to quickly tighten the screws on Pakistan, who lost their last nine wickets for just 33 runs.

This was India's third victory over Pakistan in this edition of the continental event after winning in the league and Super 4s stages.

Tilak Varma bats during the Asia Cup final between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Sunday

PHOTO: AP/PTI

Nuapada synced with Bihar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: After a gap of nearly one-and-a-half years, political parties in the state will soon sound the poll bugle, as the Election Commission of India (ECI) Sunday announced deployment of central observers for the upcoming byelection to Nuapada Assembly seat. The byelection is very likely to be held along with Bihar Assembly polls. The seat fell vacant following the demise of BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia September 8.

According to sources, the ECI announced the deployment of 470 officers, serving in various states, as central observers (general, police and expenditure) for Bihar Assembly polls and byelections in seven states, including Odisha's Nuapada segment.

"The Election Commission of India has decided to deploy 470 Officers (320 IAS, 60 from IPS and 90 from _ IRS/IRAS/ICAS etc.) serving in various states as Central Observers (General, Police and Expenditure) for the forthcoming election to the legislative assembly of Bihar and bye-elections in Jammu & Kashmir (AC- Budgam & Nagrota), Rajasthan (AC- An-ta), Jharkhand (AC-Ghatsila), Telangana (AC - Jubilee Hills), Punjab (AC - Tarn Taran), Mizoram (AC - Dampa) and Odisha (AC - Nuapada)," the press not released by the ECI reads.

The observers work under the superintendence, control and discipline of the commission from their appointment to the completion of the election process, the statement said.

They would act as eyes and ears of the commission and keep reporting to the panel periodically and on a need basis, it said.

According to the poll body, the decision was taken under the plenary powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to monitor the conduct of elections in various constituencies.

The byelection to Nuapada Assembly constituency was necessitated due to the demise of sitting MLA Rajendra Dholakia September 8 due to health-related issues. Dholakia was a four-time MLA from Nuapada constituency. He was a minister in the Naveen Patnaik Cabinet from 2022 to 2024.

With his demise, the number of Biju Janata Dal MLAs in the 147-member Assembly has come down to 50, while the BJP has 78, Congress 14, CPI (M) one, and three Independent legislators.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Stampede toll 40; TVK smells a rat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karur (Tamil Nadu), Sept 28: The toll in the stampede during a rally by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in Karur's Veluchampuram rose to 40 after a man succumbed to injuries at a government hospital, a Health official said Sunday. As the toll mounted, the TVK party led by actor-politician Vijay moved the Madras High Court Bench in Madurai seeking an independent probe into the incident.

Stopping short of alleging a conspiracy into the incident, TVK deputy general secretary Nirmal Kumar told reporters that the party had approached the High Court bench with a plea for an impartial inquiry into the incident.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We didn't deploy more police - thought they might cause a stampede

Debt-ridden Balasore farmer found dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 28: A 65-year-old farmer of Ganeshwarpur under this block in Balasore district was found dead on a roadside near Rupsa after he went missing a few days ago reportedly over mounting debt burden.

The deceased was identified as Rabin-dra Nath Sahu. According to family members, Sahu had borrowed several lakhs from a man in Dehurda village a few years ago for undertaking farming. He could not repay the debt as he suffered heavy losses.

Under pressure of the steep compound interest and alleged harassment by the moneylender, Sahu reportedly mortgaged his house and 35 decimals of land without the knowledge of his family members. As the primary breadwinner for 13 family members, he was unable to bear the financial and mental strain, his son Bhaskar alleged.

Later, Sahu went missing from home September 18. Unable to trace him, his family members lodged a complaint at Bhograi police station. While searching for him, the family members learnt that Sahu was lying unconscious on a roadside near Rupsa and was rescued by some locals. Sahu was rushed the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Balasore by the police. However, the doctors at the DHH declared him dead on arrival.

On being informed, family members and villagers placed his body outside the alleged moneylender's house, demanding compensation and the return of Sahu's mortgaged land.

As the matter escalated, a police team led by Bhograi inspector-in-charge (IIC) Rohit Kumar Bal reached the spot and pacified the protesters by assuring them of action following which they relented.

Bhaskar has filed a formal complaint holding the moneylender responsible for his father's death, police said, adding that an investigation has begun.

MITHUN MANHAS NEW BCCI PRESIDENT

Mumbai: Former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas was elected the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) unopposed along with other members, including board's secretary Devajit Saikia, during its 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its headquarters here Sunday. The 45-year-old Manhas became the 37th president of the all-powerful cricket body after he succeeded former India cricketer Roger Binny, who resigned from the post last month after turning 70. Manhas is the third consecutive First-Class cricketer to have taken over as the board's president after Binny and former captain Sourav Ganguly.

Amazon trees get bigger due to CO2

AGENCIES

Birmingham, Sept 28: Trees across Amazon rainforest are not only holding their ground, but are growing larger owing to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, according to a sweeping new study. The research, published in the 'Nature Plants' journal, found that the average size of trees in the Amazon has increased by 3.2 per cent every decade for at least the past 30 years, according to a report by 'The Independent'.

Scientists say the trend is consistent with the fertilising effect of higher concentrations of CO2, which can boost plant growth.

The findings come from the RAIN-FORE network, an international partnership of more than 60 universities in South America, the UK and elsewhere, including the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds. Almost 100 scientists monitored trees across 188 permanent forest plots to build the long-term dataset.

Beatriz Marimon, from Universidade do Mato Grosso in Brazil, who coordinated much of the data collection in southern Amazonia, said: "This is a good news story. We regularly hear how climate change and fragmentation is threatening Amazonian forests. But meanwhile the trees in intact forests have grown bigger; even the largest trees have continued to thrive despite these threats."

Both large and smaller trees were found to be increasing in size, pointing to a widespread response to higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

Adriane Esquivel-Muelbert, from the University of Cambridge and joint lead author of the paper, said the results highlight the vital role of rain-forests in tackling climate change.

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Scan to create a personalised AI festive greeting with Rohit Sharma. Also stand a chance to win ICC T20 World Cup Tickets*.

*T&C apply.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You experience a sense of freedom today. And in this mood you feel like doing all the things that you loved to do in your childhood. It is a nice time to take your family on an outing, says Ganesha. Given your mood, you may start planning for the future of your loved ones.

TAURUS
You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesha. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks. That will be bad for business. Stick to basics.

GEMINI
Today, you will realise that close relationships need care and concern to grow, predicts Ganesha. You will have new responsibilities and achieve huge profits in all your dealings. Pay special attention to your personal health.

CANCER
Ganesha says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house, and thereby invitation to guests is indicated. The chance of shifting to a new house is indicated. Ganesha expresses his best wishes.

LEO
Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesha, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights. Especially those in the media shall hit upon a new level in their imaginative capabilities.

VIRGO
Today you will find yourself delving deep into your inner self. You will reap a lot of monetary rewards, and will be generous in spending it on your near and dear ones. Ganesha says that you may make up for the pressures at work by entertaining yourself with material pleasures. You will seek the company of someone with whom you can have an intimate chat.

LIBRA
All things passionate seem to engulf you today. It is one of those moments when chance dictates every possibility of a new romantic love episode in your life. The last time a moment like this came by, Romeo met Juliet. Ganesha expects you to try hard to please your heartthrob.

SCORPIO
You may deviate a little from mundane chores and take up creative activities like cooking and gardening. Today, according to Ganesha, you wish to do smart work and not just hard work. Family joys and pleasures will replace work satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS
A paradigm shift in your temperament and your looks is on the cards today. Your personality will get better as you don some chic attire, jewellery and a rather loud perfume today. You're a magnet today, says Ganesha, and will charm your way through a crowd of admirers who will clamour for your attention.

CAPRICORN
You are not an impulsive person and this reflects in whatever you do. Money will be on your mind almost through out the day. Generally, you are a penny pincher, but during the later half of the day you will go on a spending spree. Don't ignore your pocket while spending, otherwise you may end up burning a hole in it, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
It is time to make addition in your possessions. Book your dream house or buy a vehicle, as today is a favourable day to do so. You, however, need to consider your financial resources before deciding anything because it will take a major chunk out of your savings, warns Ganesha.

PISCES
Sometimes you are so kind and charitable that you sacrifice your own well-being and happiness for the sake of others. This streak within you may emerge as you engage in a selfless deed. You will have a strong desire to do something for your family and your home.



SELENA GOMEZ, BENNY BLANCO TIE KNOT

Actress-singer Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco are now officially married. The long-time couple has also shared pictures from their wedding on Instagram. Selena shared the pictures to commemorate the day, sharing polaroids and film footage from the wedding, reports *Variety*.

MARK WAHLBERG'S MANTRA TO SUCCESS

Hollywood star Mark Wahlberg has revealed the keys to his career success and said that he feels it is discipline. The 54-year-old actor, who is famous for his early-morning wake-ups and regimented gym routine, told, "Discipline has afforded me many wonderful things in my life. It's a thing that I really attribute to all my success, both personally and professionally"



Samantha on finding true love

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is rumoured to be dating filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, recently shared a heartfelt reflection on life and self-discovery through social media. Posting a thoughtful video of herself Sunday, the actor opened up about the contrast between her twenties and thirties, while hinting at having found peace and "true love" in this phase.

In her note, Samantha spoke about societal pressures that dictate beauty and success. "The world tells you everything after thirty is downhill... as if time is running out," she wrote. Recalling her twenties, she described them as "loud and restless," admitting she constantly hurried to look and feel "enough," hiding her inner struggles behind a façade.

Turning to her thirties, Samantha revealed a sense of clarity and acceptance. "Something softened. I stopped carrying the weight of old mistakes. I stopped living two lives," she shared, adding that becoming her true self was the most alive she had ever felt. She wished every woman the same peace — to stop running, embrace wholeness, and live unapologetically.

Previously married to Naga Chaitanya, Samantha is now working with Raj & DK on *Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom*, set to premiere in 2026.

AGENCIES



Rashmika's post-shoot craving

Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna is currently in Sicily, Italy, to shoot for her much-hyped sequel, *Cocktail 2*, where she will be sharing the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.

Through her latest social media post, Rashmika revealed what her heart craves the most after wrapping up a long schedule.

Taking to the Stories section of the In-

stagram handle, Rashmika dropped a pic of a table filled with some delicious culinary treats. The photo of the lavish spread was accompanied by

the caption, "After a long schedule a big meal is a much needed!!! (red heart emoji) (sic)".

Backed by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, the story of the sequel has been penned by Luv Ranjan. The details regarding the plot of the drama have been kept under wraps for now. *Cocktail 2* is being made under the direction of Homi Adajania.

Being preoccupied with the *Cocktail 2* shoot, Rashmika missed the trailer launch event for the forthcoming horror comedy *Thamma*, co-starring Ayushmann Khurrana. Although she did share a heartfelt video message for all those present.

The movie features Ayushmann as Alok, Rashmika as Tadaka, Nawazuddin as Yakshasan, Paresh as Ram Bajaj Goyal, and Sathyaraj as Elvis Karim Prabhakar, along with others.

IAN5

FSB's 6th IDFFB concludes



Festival volunteers pose for a group photograph

PC: FSB

Bhubaneswar: The 6th Indian Documentary Film Festival, organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB) concluded here Sunday. The lineup for the day was focused on the documentaries from South Asia.

The day started with the screening of Amit Mahanti's *Inside Out*. The film explores the tussle between two regional parties in Shillong and ideas of identity during the 2024 Indian Parliamentary election. The film was part of *Election Diaries* series produced by CeMIS, University of Gottingen. *Our Symbol is?* the last movie of the series by G Kuthur and M Priya K was also screened on the final day.

The Sharp Edge of Peace by Roya Sadat in Poshto language and *Agent of Happiness*, co-directed by Arun Bhattacharai and Dorottya Zurbo in Nepali and Bhutanese language was part of the festival's *South Asian Lens* screenings. Sadat's film is a political thriller which follows four courageous women in the Afghan government's negotiating team to navigate the hard road to peace with a group of men, historically committed to denying their basic rights. The later follows the story of Amber and Guna- two Bhutanese government officials who travel through the country to measure people's happiness levels which is then used to calculate the Gross

National Happiness score. The day proceeded with *Log Kya Kahenge* by Rafina Khatun and *Music in a Village named IPB* by Surabhi Sharma. *Images/Reflections* by Girish Kasaravalli was also screened, which is focused on Adoor Gopalkrishnan's film making style and idioms.

Aashee, who volunteered at the festival said, "IDFFB'25 was full of energy. Past four days have been intense, intriguing and chaotic. With every documentary I watched, I became more inquisitive and developed the ability to raise questions."

Orissa POST and *Dharitri* served as the official print media partners.

PNN

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

	F	A	L	S	E		S	P	L	E	N
P	O	E	M		U	P	I	N	A	R	M
S	T	A	U	N	C						I
R	T		C	O							
A	R	I	S	E		C	H	I	N	E	S
E		P	E		E	D		C			
A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E			B	O
O		O	M		R	R					L
T	R	A	U	M	A		U	P	E	N	D
T	T	S		P							

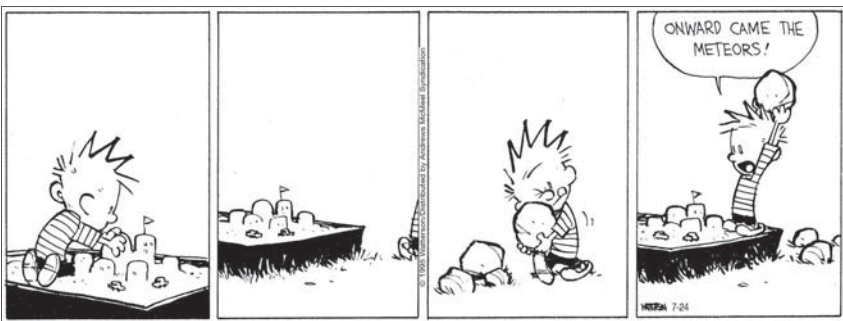
SUDOKU

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

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8			9		10	
11			12			
13			14		15	16
17			18		19	
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						

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Across

- Moving about
- Okapi relative
- Send packing
- Insect
- Plato's plaza
- Waste away
- Farewell remark in the UK
- Exam
- Like some humour
- Wedding item

Down

- Antediluvian
- Fragile
- Gemstones
- Muzzle
- Cloud type
- Library find
- Scoundrel
- Hit the slopes
- Forest female
- Loathes
- Op-ed piece

- Spoke like a lion?
- Baker's stock
- Poetic Muse
- They're found in wine bottles
- Intrudes upon
- Links audience
- U.F.O. crew
- Punctual (2,4)
- Healed
- Strength
- Plea at sea

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INTRICATE CRAFTSMANSHIP ON DISPLAY



Heavy rain forecast on Dussehra Oct 2



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Odisha is likely to experience a wet Dussehra October 2, as a low-pressure area is expected to form over the Bay of Bengal the previous day, bringing heavy rainfall in the eastern state, the IMD said.

An upper air cyclonic circulation is likely to emerge into the north Andaman Sea September 30, and under its influence, a low-pressure area will form over north and adjoining central Bay of Bengal around October 1, it said.

Heavy rain and thunderstorms, with lightning and gusty surface wind speeds of 30 to 40 kmph is likely in the

districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam October 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin.

Similar weather conditions are forecast for Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Ganjam, Gajapati, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Nayagarh, Khurda, and Puri for October 2.

Heavy downpour is also expected to lash some parts of Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, and Bargarh districts October 3, it said.

As sea conditions would be rough, the IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea October 1 and October 2.

Nobel laureates inspire at KIIT's 3-day convocation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The 21st Annual Convocation of KIIT DU concluded here Sunday, awarding degrees to 9,464 students—7,235 Bachelor's, 2,034 Master's, and 195 PhDs. For the first time, the event spanned three days to accommodate the large turnout of graduates and their families.

The convocation was graced by eminent guests, including Nobel laureate Mohan Munasinghe from Sri Lanka, Nobel Peace Prize winner HE Ouided Bouchamaoui from Tunisia, and Justice Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf, judge and former president of the International Court of Justice. Honorary Doctorate Degrees (Honoris Causa) were awarded to Fidel Reyes Lee, rector and congress member of Guatemala; Huzaiifa Khorakiwala, executive director of Wockhardt Ltd and global humanitarian; Norbert Sauer, chairman of Germany's Archaeological Park; Sunjoy Hans, founder-chairman of the Lalchand Group; SK Sachdeva, chairman and editor of Competition Success Review and Nobel laureate Ouided Bouchamaoui.



Addressing the students, Munasinghe spoke on the urgent challenges of sustainability and peace in a changing world, highlighting the "nexus of poverty, inequity, and resource scarcity."

Justice Yusuf urged graduates to embrace their role as global peace-builders and champions of justice, calling on them to "build bridges and structures of trust" across gender, caste, region, and religion, to stand up when "injustice whispers in darkness," and to carry compassion for the suffering and unheard. In her speech, Bouchamaoui expressed gratitude for the honorary doctorate, saying she felt privileged to join the ranks of 23 other Nobel laureates who have visited KIIT.

Several speakers hailed the vision of KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta for developing the institutes into world-class campuses.

"The graduating class of 2025 represents not only academic excellence but also the courage and resolve to be torchbearers of change," said KIIT-DU Chancellor Ashok Kumar Parija. Pro-Chancellor SK Acharya urged students to embrace lifelong learning, noting that education does not end with a degree. VC Saranjit Singh, Registrar JR Mohanty, and heads of various departments joined thousands of staff and students at the three-day event.

ORC, TISS ink pact to boost social research

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: In a landmark step towards promoting social research, Odisha Research Centre (ORS) signed inked a pact with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai here Sunday in presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

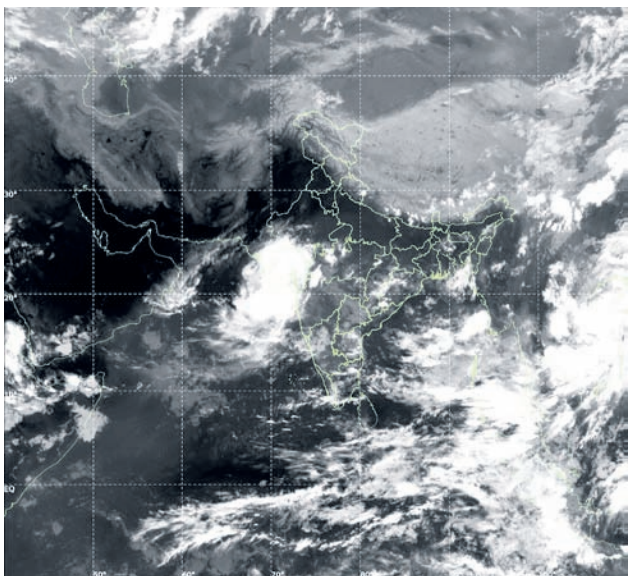
Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said the collaboration is not just an agreement between two institutions but an ambitious initiative to strengthen research, create knowledge for the youth, and open a new chapter in the state's social development.

"History is like a mirror—without remembering history, one cannot see the future,"

Pradhan remarked, citing Odisha's historic and cultural contributions. He also cited architectural brilliance of Puri Srimandir, Konark Sun Temple, and Lingaraj Temple as examples of scientific thinking and social vision of the people of Odisha.

"Odisha will mark its centenary of formation as a linguistic state in 2036 and India will mark 100 years of independence in 2047. The need of the hour is to build a New Age Economy in Odisha in line with the Purvodaya vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The signing ceremony was also graced by Education, Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.8°	31.1°	Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur
Min Temp	25.6°	23.6°	
Humidity	80%	85%	
Rainfall	2.1mm	1.2mm	

INT'L DAY OF SCIENTIFIC CULTURE RSC Bhubaneswar promotes science awareness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The Regional Science Centre (RSC) marked the International Day of Scientific Culture (IDSC) Sunday with interactive programmes to promote scientific awareness and curiosity among students and the public.

Celebrated globally September 28, the International Day of Scientific Culture highlights science and technology's role in society and encourages public engage-

ment with scientific thinking.

Marking the occasion, three new Science Park exhibits—Musical Flower, Hole in Your Palm, and Parabolic Reflector—were inaugurated by chief guest Ramakrishna Vedala, Regional Secretary of Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhubaneswar.

A key highlight of the programme was a hands-on workshop on "Sundial: An Ancient Indian Time-Keeping Device". Thirty-three students from different city schools participated,



each constructing a model of an equatorial sundial with the guidance and support of RSC

experts. The completed kits, along with certificates of participation, were handed over

to the students to encourage further learning at home.

The celebration also featured a science film screening on India's scientific culture, offering participants insights into the nation's contributions to science over the centuries.

Officials of the Regional Science Centre said the initiative was designed to inspire young minds, cultivate scientific curiosity, and strengthen the culture of science communication among the wider public.

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Visually impaired teacher cracks OCS examination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Sept 28: A 32-year-old visually challenged teacher from Jajpur district cleared the Odisha Civil Services (OCS) examination, securing 300th rank in his third attempt.

Mahes Panda, a resident of Bada Biruhan under Korei block, has been serving as a teacher at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kuleilo in Cuttack district's Athagarh since 2016.

Born with loss of vision, Panda grew up in a modest household as the youngest of five siblings, with his father sustaining the seven-member family through farming.

"Despite the best treatment and visits to several hospitals, doctors could not restore his vision. Finally, we left it to fate," his father Laxmi Narayan said.

Panda completed his matriculation at the School for the Blind in Nuapada in 2009. He later graduated from Ravenshaw University, pursued a B Ed from the Central University in Koraput, and completed his post-graduation in Odia from Utkal University.

Financial hurdles after school were overcome with help from two local benefactors, along with support from Yuga Nirman Vidya Parishad and Gayatri Mission in Cuttack, who sponsored his higher education.

On balancing his teaching job with civil services preparation, Panda said, "Days were for teaching students, nights for self-study. With technology, learning has become much easier for the visually challenged."

Elated at his success, Panda credited his family and friends for their support.

Kalinga Ghat road repair halted as landslides continue



POST NEWS NETWORK

G Udayagiri, Sept 28: Persistent rainfall triggered by back-to-back formation of low pressure areas has led to repeated landslides stalling the reconstruction of the Kalinga Ghat road for the past 13 days.

Large boulders continue to tumble from the hilltop whenever rainfall intensifies, forcing authorities to suspend work in view of the safety of labourers, said Prashant Kumar Sahu, assistant engineer of the National Highways division. Work will resume only after the water flow recedes, he added.

A massive rock slid down the slope Saturday and got stuck midway, leading to another halt in repair works. A team from Rajasthan, which is expected to clear the rocks, had yet to arrive as of Sunday, delaying removal.

Authorities said concrete lay-

ering will be done on priority to restore vehicular movement as soon as possible.

With the Kalinga Ghat route closed, commuters are facing severe inconvenience. Buses from Baliguda to Bhubaneswar are being diverted via Phulbani, while those from Baliguda to Berhampur are being rerouted through Daringbadi and Sorada, reducing direct services from G Udayagiri and Raikia.

Passengers have been forced to take longer routes at higher fares. Prices of vegetables and essentials have also surged due to transport disruption and the Dussehra market has taken a hit, traders said.

Residents have urged the government to expedite repairs. Meanwhile, local intelligentsia has warned that reopening the road before clearing the boulders could endanger commuters' lives.

MAMITA MURDER

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Family members of Gobinda Sahu, who allegedly died by suicide in jail custody in 2022, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday and demanded reopening of the case.

Sahu, the prime accused in the 2021 high profile murder case of Mamita Meher—a female teacher in Kalahandi dis-

Main accused Gobinda's kin demand fresh probe into his 'suicide' in prison



trict, reportedly died by suicide inside the Kantabanji Sub-Jail


in Bolangir district in December 20, 2022.

Suspecting "foul play" in the death of Sahu, his wife and daughter met the CM at his residence Sunday evening, and demanded reinvestigation into the case, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office.


They have submitted a memorandum to Majhi in this regard, it said.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Majhi, Sahu's daughter Lipika said, "My father had not murdered the teacher. The person who killed her also killed my father. We have been denied justice by the previous government. So, we met the Chief Minister and demanded a CBI probe into the case."


"The CM has assured us to order an inquiry," she said.



Sri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



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Sri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

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

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OIPR-10003/13/0295/2526

3 elephant tusks seized; 4 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 28: Police and Forest department personnel in Keonjhar district busted an ivory smuggling racket and arrested four suspects during a raid along with seizure of three elephant tusks.

Those arrested were identified as Birakishore Behera, 53, of Alisha Bazar in Cuttack, Arun Kumar Sahu, 35, of Parabila, Pradip Kumar Singh, 50, of Bhagamunda, and Pratap Behera, 36, of Paika Sahi in Angul district.

This was stated here by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD at a presser Sunday. The DFO said that a joint patrol team comprising police and forest personnel conducted a raid near a crusher unit in Talakaipur village under Bansapal block around 9pm September 26, following a tip-off from the police intelligence unit.

They noticed some persons engaged in suspicious activities while several



suspects fled when officers arrived. However, the joint team nabbed Birakishore and Arun from the spot and recovered three tusks from a white plastic bag in their possession. One of the tusks was 51 cm long weighing 2.026 kg, another 28 cm long and 0.600 kg, and a third 20 cm long weighing 0.387 kg. The accused failed to produce any legal documents supporting their possession of the tusks.

During interrogation, accused Arun confessed that he had purchased the seized ivory from Pradip Kumar Singh of Bhagamunda in Angul district.

Based on his statement, a joint team led by Keonjhar Assistant Conservator of Forests Sudipta Kumar Panda,

Bhuyan Juang Pirha Range Officer Nayanakanta Sahu, Sadar police Sub-Inspector Manas Ranjan Panda and forest guard Chandrakanta Mohanty of the Bhuyan Juang Pirha range proceeded to Angul. With the help of local forest officials, they arrested Pradip from his residence early Saturday morning.

During questioning, Pradip admitted to the crime and revealed the involvement of his associate, Pratap. The team later arrested Pratap from Paika Sahi village.

The Forest department registered a case (34/2025) and produced the accused persons in court. The DFO said that the accused were believed to possess four tusks, of which one is still missing. Efforts are underway to recover the remaining tusk and apprehend others involved.

Authorities have urged the public to report any suspicious activity related to wildlife crime.

Couple dies, 2 kids injured as truck runs over scooter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 28: A couple was killed and their two minor sons injured after a speeding Hyva dumper ran over the scooter they were riding near Gurudwara Square in Bargarh town Sunday afternoon.

The deceased couple was identified as Harekrushna Dunguri, 36, and his wife Kuntala, 30, of Ambabhona block in the district. They were traveling with their two children on a scooter (OD 17 AF 1757) when a dumper truck (OD 17 AC 2894) allegedly rammed into them from behind, dragging the scooter underneath its wheels and crushing the couple to death on the spot. Local residents rescued the injured children and admitted them to the district headquarters hospital in Bargarh.

Following the accident, angry locals blocked the road demanding strict action against the driver. Police later seized the truck and detained the driver for questioning. The road blockade was lifted after officials intervened.

The deceased Harekrushna was reportedly a paralysis patient, while Kuntala worked as a sanitation worker at the Ambabhona tehsil office. With both parents dead, residents have urged authorities to ensure the care and rehabilitation of the two orphaned children.


Woman hangs self after hubby refuses ₹40 for travel

PATANA: A 19-year-old woman in Patana block of Keonjhar district committed suicide by hanging Sunday after her husband refused to give her ₹40 for travel to her parents' house. The deceased was identified as Janaki Munda, wife of Bidyadhar Munda from Gohira village under Khadikapada panchayat and Patana police limits in the district. According to police, Janaki sought ₹40 from her husband towards vehicle fare to visit her parental house. However, her husband refused to pay her the amount, leading to a quarrel between the couple. An upset Janaki reportedly left the house early in the morning and was later found hanging from a mahua tree at a forest near the village, police said, citing preliminary investigation. Patana police registered a case (27/25) of unnatural death and handed over the body to the family members after a post-mortem examination at the Patana community health centre. Further investigation is underway, Patana IIC Manas Kumar Mahakul said.

NOTICE

Odisha Grameen Bank, Pratappur Branch, At/ PO- Pratappur, Dist- Mayurbhanj, PIN- 757103 is going to shift within 100 metres to its new premises.

Branch Manager
Odisha Grameen Bank,
Pratappur



CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office : Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru V I Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, T. N.

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")


The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	Loan A/C. No(S). : LAP4CU000075680 1. Mr/Mrs. Pradipta Kumar Satapathy 2. Mr/Mrs. Sitakanta Satapathy 3. Mr/Mrs. Prabhasini Satapathy Add: C/o. Dayanidhi Satapathy Birakishorepur Po-At. Garh Athgarh Nac Ward No. 9 Athagad Athgarh Outtack Odisha - 754029, Near Mahavir Plaza, Athagarh, Orissa - 754029. Also At: Plot No. 19/1973, Khata No. 212/1192, Mouza-Birakishorpur, Tahasil Athagarh, Dist. Cuttack - 754029.	Rs. 21,00,000/-	15.09.2025 Rs. 20,08,349/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Nine Only) as on 10.09.2025	District-Cuttack, Tahasil-Athagada, SRO-Athagarh, P. S. Athagada, P. S. No. 36, Mouza-Birakishorepur, Conversion Khata No. 212/1192, Plot No. 19/1973, Area Ac 0.040 dec with Status-Stilban, Kisam Gharabari (Homestead) corresponds Khata No. 2, Plot No. 19, Area Ac 0.040 dec O/o total Area Ac 0.820dec. Bounded by:- (As per Sale Deed) North: Gitamayee Das Plot, South: Rest part plot of Vendor, East: 15 feet wide Road, West: Pranabandhu Behera.


The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : Cuttack, Odisha
Date : 15.09.2025


Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ




ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା
ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ବିଶ୍ୱ ହୃଦ୍‌ପିଣ୍ଡ ଦିବସ

୨୯ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫






ପ୍ରତିଟି ହୃଦ୍‌ସ୍ପନ୍ଦନ ଜୀବନ ପାଇଁ ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ
ଏଥିପ୍ରତି ଜାଗ୍ରତ ଓ ସଚର୍କ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ

- ସରକାରୀ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରେ ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗର ଚିହ୍ନ ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ମାଗଣାରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ
- ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ ବାଲ୍‌ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅଧୀନରେ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ହୃଦ୍‌ଶିଳ୍ପ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଦେଶର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ସୁନାମଧନ୍ୟ ହର୍ଷିଚାଲରେ ବିନା ଦେୟରେ ମିଳୁଅଛି
- ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରମାନଙ୍କରେ ଅଣସଂକ୍ରାମକ ରୋଗ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଉଚ୍ଚ ରକ୍ତଚାପ ଓ ମଧୁମେହ ରୋଗର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରି ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗର ନିରାକରଣ କରାଯାଇପାରୁଛି
- ସୁକ୍ଷମ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବ୍ୟାୟାମ ଓ ନିୟମିତ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦ୍ୱାରା ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗକୁ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ

ହୃଦ୍‌ପିଣ୍ଡର ଯନ୍ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନ ଆପଣାନ୍ତୁ

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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OIPR-10003/13/0290/2526



Each new dawn brings the possibility of a new progress.

THE MOTHER

Angry Ladakh

Borderd by China to the east and Pakistan to the west, Ladakh holds immense strategic value for India. Yet, more than five years after its separation from Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, Ladakh's political future remains unclear. The promise of better governance and stronger representation that once excited its residents has, for many, turned sour. That simmering discontent boiled over on the streets in Leh on 24 September, when protesters demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards fell back into violence after two hunger strikers were hospitalised. Irate demonstrators clashed with the police and torched the local office of the ruling BJP—a striking symbol of their deepening anger. Four protesters were killed, apparently in police firing, and scores were left injured. The Centre views the agitation as untimely and disruptive. Officials accuse local leaders of acting in bad faith, pointing to climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike and suggesting foreign influence behind the unrest. The Ladakh police arrested Wangchuk, a highly respected figure in the region, under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) and shifted him to a prison in faraway Jodhpur in Rajasthan. The police are even probing Wangchuk's alleged links with Pakistan. However, the protest leaders deny all these allegations, insisting that violence was the work of fringe actors, not the organised movement. As a possibility that too cannot be summarily overruled.

When the Union government revoked Article 370 and carved Ladakh into a Union Territory (UT), the decision was greeted with much celebration in Leh. For years, the Buddhist-majority district had demanded separation from Jammu & Kashmir, where state politics was dominated by leaders from the Valley and Jammu. The creation of a UT was seen as long-awaited recognition. But enthusiasm quickly ebbed as Ladakhis realised that, unlike the new UT of Jammu & Kashmir, their UT would have no legislature. The region lost the four MLAs it had in the erstwhile J&K Assembly, and its administration was placed entirely in the hands of New Delhi-appointed bureaucrats. For many, this was worse than the pre-2019 governance structure.

This disenchantment has been compounded by fears over land rights, jobs, and the preservation of Ladakh's fragile demography, environment and culture. The changed domicile rules in Jammu & Kashmir heightened anxieties that similar policies could open Ladakh to demographic shifts. As a result, local voices quickly coalesced around demands for stronger constitutional safeguards. Calls grew for full statehood, for protections under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution — which allows the creation of Autonomous District Councils with legislative and judicial powers — as well as guarantees of jobs and political representation.

These demands are not isolated. The Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, umbrella groups representing virtually all political and social constituencies, have repeatedly pressed the Centre for these demands. They have stressed that without clear safeguards, Ladakh's tribal communities, environment, and cultural heritage face an uncertain future. Yet despite multiple rounds of dialogue, New Delhi has so far delayed concrete decisions. A fresh meeting was scheduled for 6 October, but youth groups insisted that the timeline be advanced and that discussions yield tangible outcomes. All said and done, one thing is clear that the mistrust between New Delhi and Ladakh has now widened further. This situation calls for careful, measured dialogue rather than confrontation. Ladakh is not just a borderland, it is a critical frontier whose people have always seen themselves as proud Indians. For decades, Ladakhis have defended India's borders, serving as the first line of resistance against incursions either from China or Pakistan. Branding dissenting Ladakhis as "anti-national," something this government does with all sorts of dissenters, only hardens alienation.

Ladakh's people must be assured that their democratic aspirations and cultural identity can be protected without undermining national security. The calls for statehood and Sixth Schedule protections are not unusual for they come within the Constitutional framework. What makes Ladakh unique is that these demands unite both Buddhists and Moslems—an unusual cross-community consensus in a region often portrayed as divided. That unanimity itself should compel the Centre to listen with sincerity to the demands of Ladakhis.

For New Delhi, the Ladakh unrest comes as a big challenge, especially in the wake of its botched handling of the crisis in Manipur which continues to burn even after two and a half years since ethnic violence broke out in the northeastern state. Such unrests in strategically vital regions within the borders of the country compound the problems already created due to New Delhi's misguided foreign policy.

WISDOM CORNER

They who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

If you don't stand your ground, then all that happens is people push you backwards.

JORDAN PETERSON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1829:** Through the efforts of Robert Peel, England's first professional police force, London's Metropolitan Police (often called Scotland Yard), was founded; it became a model for future police departments in various other countries, including the United States.
- 1923:** Set in motion by the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the British mandate for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine was finally approved by the Council of the League of Nations and came into force this day in 1923.
- 1941:** About 33,000 Soviet Jews were killed at the Babi Yar ravine in Kiev by the Nazis in a two-day massacre that started on this day.
- 1954:** The European Organization for Nuclear Research, popularly known as CERN, was established by 12 European governments.
- 1961:** Julia Gillard, who in 2010 became Australia's first female prime minister, was born in Wales.
- 1988:** Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, marking a resumption of NASA's space shuttle program, which had been suspended following the Challenger explosion in 1986.



Brahma Chellaney

TRUMP'S CLAIM TO HAVE ENDED SEVEN "UN-ENDABLE" WARS IS BEST UNDERSTOOD AS A CASE STUDY IN SELF-DELUSION



Shivaji Sarkar

INDIA'S 98% PLUNGE IN NET FDI INFLOWS IN MAY 2025 IS MORE THAN A STATISTICAL BLIP. IT IS A WAKE-UP CALL THAT GLOBAL CAPITAL IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY LOCKED INTO INDIA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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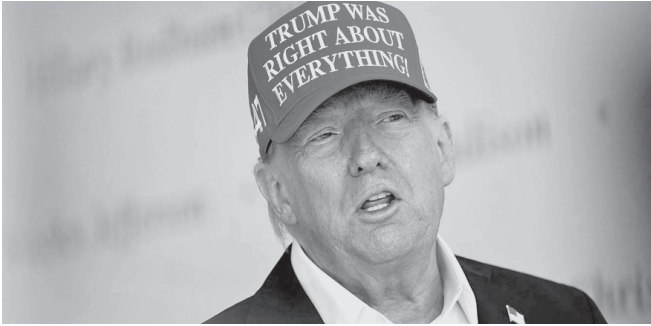
FOCUS DIPLOMACY

PEACEMAKER HYPE

“Everyone says that I should get a Nobel Peace Prize,” US President Donald Trump told the United Nations General Assembly this week, because “I ended seven un-endable wars in seven months.” The boast was classic Trump: extravagantly formulated, unironically delivered, and patently false.

A recent poll indicates that only 22 per cent of US adults believe that Trump deserves the Nobel Prize—a far cry from “everyone”—with 76 per cent of respondents stating that he does not deserve it. Perhaps this reflects the fact that Trump has not ended seven wars. Arguably, he has not even ended one. Some of Trump's claims were pure fiction. For example, he took credit for ending a war between Egypt and Ethiopia. But, although bilateral tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam have simmered for years, they have never boiled over into war. Likewise, Trump claimed to have ended a nonexistent war between Kosovo and Serbia. Despite considerable hostility—and a history of violent clashes—the two countries have not been at war since the 1990s. No war is easier to end than one that has never started.

Perhaps Trump's most risible invention was the war—“a bad one”—between Armenia and Cambodia, countries located over 4,000 miles (6,500 kilometers) apart that have never had any conflict whatsoever. Armenia did clash with neighbouring Azerbaijan this year, and Trump convinced both countries' leaders to sign a joint declaration aimed at ending their decades-long conflict. But progress on implementing that agreement has stalled, and the accord is in danger of unraveling. That Trump would consider this conflict “ended” reveals the depth of his ignorance about peacemaking.



Ending wars is among the most difficult tasks in international politics. It demands quiet diplomacy, painstaking negotiations that address the root causes of conflict, and a commitment to following through on any agreement. Trump has shown little interest in such work. All he cares about is fanfare

The same goes for the war between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Trump does have a set piece to point to: a “wonderful” US-mediated deal. But while the war may have ended on paper, deadly clashes continue.

As for Cambodia, it engaged in skirmishes with its neighbour Thailand in July over their contested border. But Trump's attempts at economic coercion did little to defuse the crisis. What brought the fighting to an end was the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' diplomacy, with this year's ASEAN chair, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, hosting the Cambodian and Thai leaders for face-to-face talks in Kuala Lumpur. While the underlying border dispute, centered largely on ownership and control of ancient Hindu temples, remains unresolved, the “immediate and unconditional” ceasefire that Anwar brokered halted the violence.

This is not the only example of Trump taking credit for others' foreign-policy acumen. After Pakistan-backed terror-

ists massacred Indian tourists in Kashmir in April, India took decisive and carefully calibrated retaliatory action, launching military strikes on Pakistani terror camps. It was this show of force that made Pakistan back down, but Trump would have the world believe that he single-handedly mediated an end to the conflict using his favourite tool: trade threats. So absurd and relentless were his boasts that Indian officials publicly refuted him.

Trump's most audacious claim, however, was that he ended the war between Israel and Iran. In reality, Trump gave Israel the green light to strike Iranian positions; deployed American military assets to help Israel shoot down Iran's missiles and drones; and ordered the bombing of Iranian nuclear sites—severely undermining the global nonproliferation regime in the process. If this is Trump's idea of peacemaking, one dreads to think what his version of war-mongering would look like.

Trump's Nobel Peace Prize campaign has followed a familiar pattern: invent or inflate a

problem, claim to have solved it, and then demand a reward. From his photo ops with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to his Middle East “peace deals” (which merely formalised existing relations between the Gulf states and Israel), Trump engages in theatre, not diplomacy—performances staged for headlines and applause. The Norwegian Nobel Committee, one suspects, will not be fooled. The same cannot be said for Trump's base.

Trump's absurd claims not only undermine US credibility abroad but also carry real risks. For starters, they trivialise genuine peacemaking. Ending wars is among the most difficult tasks in international politics. It demands quiet diplomacy, painstaking negotiations that address the root causes of conflict, and a commitment to following through on any agreement. Trump has shown little interest in such work. All he cares about is fanfare.

Moreover, false declarations of peace can mask unresolved conflicts and undermine the vigilance needed to prevent new flare-ups, which could ignite with even greater ferocity. Such proclamations can also erode accountability for diplomatic failures—and even for reckless military actions like those Trump sanctioned against Iran. Trump's claim to have ended seven “un-endable” wars is best understood as a case study in self-delusion. Branding is not leadership. Real peace depends on leaders who know the difference. But in Trump's world, peace is not the absence of war, but the presence of applause.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

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SPECTRUM

FDI

Shrinking inflows, surging outflows

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has long been considered a vital lifeline for India's growth story. It represents not just capital inflows but also a measure of global investor confidence in India's long-term prospects. That is why the news that India's net FDI inflows crashed 98% in May 2025 to a mere \$35 million—compared to \$2.1 billion in the same month last year—has set off alarm bells in economic and policy circles.

The drop was not a one-off statistical quirk. It was driven by a combination of declining gross inflows and surging repatriation of earlier investments. Gross FDI inflows in May fell 11% year-on-year to \$7.2 billion. At the same time, outflows in the form of repatriation and disinvestment soared 24% to \$5 billion. The arithmetic of shrinking inflows and expanding outflows meant that the net figure—the capital India can actually put to productive use—collapsed.

And yet, paradoxically, India's foreign exchange reserves remain healthy at \$702.57 billion, giving the impression that the overall external account is stable. The reality is more nuanced: reserves are strong, but the flow of fresh investment capital—the kind that builds industries, creates jobs, and upgrades

technology—is weakening.

FDI has historically played a catalytic role in India's development. Post-1991 liberalization, inflows accelerated as MNCs tapped India's growing market. Over the years, inflows into automobiles, telecom, consumer goods, e-commerce, and IT services helped create an ecosystem that expanded employment and enhanced productivity.

A \$35 million net inflow—barely enough to fund a single midsize industrial park—underscores that foreign investors are hedging their bets. The most troubling element is the rise in repatriation. When foreign companies accelerate the pace of sending back profits or divesting equity, it signals that the Indian market is not offering adequate returns or that the policy climate is not as attractive as it once was.

The RBI said that Singapore, Mauritius, the UAE and the US together accounted for more than three-fourths of the total FDI inflows in May 2025. Manufacturing, financial and computer services were the top recipient sectors. On the other hand, top sectors for outward FDI included transport, storage and communication services, a bit of manufacturing, and financial, insurance and business services. Major destinations

for outward FDI included Mauritius, the US and the UAE.

It is true that global headwinds are strong. But blaming global conditions alone would be misleading. Other Asian economies have managed to attract steady inflows despite the turbulence. Vietnam, for instance, continues to secure record FDI commitments in electronics and supply-chain relocation. Mexico, riding the “nearshoring” trend of US companies diversifying away from China, has surged ahead as a manufacturing hub.

The sectoral composition of FDI also tells a story. Over the last decade, much of India's inflows have been concentrated in services, IT, e-commerce, and digital platforms. Investment in manufacturing, especially in high-tech sectors, has lagged.

The surge in repatriation also reflects the maturity of earlier investments in IT and telecom. As these ventures generate profits, foreign investors understandably remit dividends. But when fresh inflows do not match or exceed these outflows, the net picture deteriorates sharply.

On the surface, the foreign exchange reserves at nearly \$702.57 billion act as a buffer. However, reserves are a stock, not a flow. They reflect past

surpluses and interventions, not the ongoing health of capital inflows.

The government is not oblivious to the challenge. It has been actively engaging with global corporations, highlighting India as a democratic, stable, and growing market. Incentives under the PLI scheme, infrastructure expansion under the Gati Shakti plan, and sectoral liberalization in defence and insurance are part of the pitch. Yet investors remain cautious.

India's 98% plunge in net FDI inflows in May 2025 is more than a statistical blip. It is a wake-up call that global capital is not automatically locked into India, despite its demographic and market advantages. The country cannot rely on domestic consumption and debt, missing the transformative impact of sustained FDI.

However, as the global investment race accelerates, India must ensure it does not sit out while others lap up opportunities. If the country can recalibrate its policies and truly unlock its potential, the current dip might yet be remembered as the turning point that spurred deeper reforms.

INFA

Sobering reality

Sir, This refers to “Diplomatic drift,” **Orissa POST**, Sept 28. The Indo-Russian relationship, often eulogized as an exemplar of historical friendship, undeniably carries the weight of shared memories—from Moscow's unstinting support during India's formative decades to New Delhi's reciprocal loyalty amidst Cold War polarities. Yet, in today's constantly evolving world order, the tenor of that friendship appears increasingly refracted through the prism of trade, energy security, and strategic expediency. The contemporary international system, defined less by sentiment than by transactional calculus, scarcely permits any partnership to rest solely upon values or fraternal solidarity. India seeks discounted Russian oil and advanced armaments; Russia, isolated by Western sanctions, seeks dependable markets and diplomatic legitimacy. The warmth of yesteryears thus finds itself overshadowed by an inward-looking pragmatism, where tangible gains displace the rhetoric of enduring camaraderie. This is not to suggest betrayal, but to underscore transformation. In a world of shifting alignments, allies are no longer bound by idealism but by the arithmetic of advantage. The Indo-Russian equation, once a symbol of trust, now exemplifies the sobering reality that in global politics, interests invariably overtake sentiment. **N Sadhasiva Reddy**, BANGALORE

Guard your heart

Sir, The heart is the life force of our body. If it is not healthy, it can severely affect both physical and mental well-being. Globally, cardiovascular diseases (CVD) continue to be a leading cause of death, claiming over 17.9 million lives each year. In the South-East Asian region, heart-related diseases are a major cause of mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every minute, eight people in this region lose their lives due to heart-related problems. World Heart Day, observed every year on 29 September, aims to raise awareness about heart health and promote preventive measures at individual and community levels. This initiative was launched in 1999 by the World Heart Federation in collaboration with the WHO. The theme for World Heart Day 2025, “Don't Skip a Beat”, urges everyone to remain vigilant about heart health. It emphasizes the importance of not ignoring warning signs, undergoing regular medical check-ups, and adopting healthy habits. **Krishna Kumar Vepakomma**, HYDERABAD

Kerala to digitise NSS activities in secondary schools

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), the technology wing of the state General Education Department, has successfully implemented comprehensive online management portals to fully digitise the activities of the NSS across the higher secondary and vocational higher secondary schools in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 28: The activities of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in Kerala's secondary schools are set to be managed through a digital platform.

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), the technology wing of the state General Education Department, has successfully implemented comprehensive online management portals to



lines operations and reduces the administrative workload for Programme Officers (POs) in schools, it said.

The officials can now directly schedule all activities based on the action plan and instantly

cord-keeping to a fully online format substantially reducing the need for extensive physical documentation," he said.

Furthermore, the portal enables comprehensive evaluation of unit activities, orientation, and community camp activities with camp and inter-district evaluations now systematically conducted by the concerned district and state authorities through the system.

To ensure successful adoption, the portal includes detailed video tutorials and step-by-step documentation to guide users.

KITE is ready to provide ongoing technical assistance to all NSS units in Kerala and is prepared to implement such digital systems in other states, if required, the official added.

Marriage registration via video KYC a hit in Kerala, benefiting NRKs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 28: Dr Anish R and Dr Prakruthi K got married in a solemn ceremony in the presence of their dear ones in Kerala's Kochi some time back.

Days later, the young doctor couple registered their marriage at a local body in Ernakulam, sitting over 1,200 km away from the home state.

They registered their wedding comfortably sitting inside their apartment in Pune in Maharashtra via online. They downloaded the marriage certificate later without any hassle.

Unlike in the past, the couple didn't need to be physically present at the corporation office and wait for hours for their turn to get their marriage registered officially and receive the certificate.

This has been the new trend of online marriage registrations catching up in Kerala for some time, which enables the couple to register their wedding from anywhere in the world and at any time without being physically present at their local body.

A path-breaking initiative by the state Local Self-Government Department, the marriage registration via video E-KYC (electronic know your customer) has been implemented through its K-SMART platform, an in-house software developed by the Information Kerala Mission (IKM).

Launched across urban local bodies in the state in January last year, it has been extended to rural areas from this April, ensuring universal access across Kerala.

Of the total 1,44,416 marriages registered between January 2024 and September 22 this year, as many as 62,524 weddings have been registered online, as per official figures.

Thrissur has the largest number of registrations using video-KYC during the period -10062, followed by Malappuram (8345) and Thiruvanthapuram (7394), it said.

Noting that the registration procedures are too simple, Babu said the couple and their witnesses can complete identity verification through video KYC using either an Aadhaar-based OTP verification or email authentication.

HONEYMOON MURDER

HC bans burning of Sonam's effigy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Sept 28: The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the authorities to ensure that no effigies of Sonam Raghuvanshi, who allegedly got her husband killed during their honeymoon, or any other individuals, are burnt during the Dussehra festivities in Indore.

Sonom's husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, went missing May 23 during the couple's honeymoon in Meghalaya, and his mutilated body was found June 2 in a deep ravine near a waterfall in the Sohra area (also known as Cherrapunji) of East Khasi Hills district. Sonam and several others, including her alleged boyfriend, have been arrested in the case.

'Paurush' (People Against Unequal Rules Used to Shelter Harassment), an Indore-based social organisation, had earlier this week stated that it was preparing an 11-headed effigy for 'Surpanakha dahan', which will feature images of women accused of heinous murders of their husbands, children, or in-laws, including Sonam Raghuvanshi.

A single bench of Justice Pranay Verma Saturday held that such an act would be impermissible in a democratic country like India, and respondents cannot violate fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The court, in its order, said, "Even if the petitioner's daughter is an accused in a criminal case and whatsoever may be the grievance of the respondent against her and her family members, it cannot be permitted to resort to such effigy burning, which would certainly violate the fundamental rights of the petitioner, her daughter, as well as her entire family."

More girls in MP choosing to marry after 21: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 28: In a notable shift in societal attitudes towards marriage, 62.5 per cent of girls in Madhya Pradesh are now preferring to marry after the age of 21, compared to 56 per cent in 2020, as per a government survey.

This change is likely due to girls prioritising education and career over marriage, and also government schemes providing support to them, experts feel.

According to the recently released Sample Registration System (SRS)-2023, 62.5 per cent of girls in MP preferred to marry after the age of 21.

These figures indicate a significant difference in attitudes towards marriage between girls in rural and urban areas. While 57.5 per cent of girls in rural areas preferred to marry after the age of 21, in urban areas the rate was 80.2 per cent.

The national average for girls marrying after the age of 21 is 72.2 per cent, and Madhya Pradesh lags behind. But, considering the SRS-2020 data, the situation in the state has improved.

While the data reflects a significant shift in the age of marriage in urban areas, there is still considerable room for improvement in rural areas.

Another aspect of this survey also indicates that there has been no significant change in the marriage rate of girls under 18.

As per the SRS-2023, girls marrying under the age of 18 was 2.0 per cent, compared to 2.1 percent in the 2020 report. Girls marrying between the



This change is likely due to girls prioritising education and career over marriage, and also government schemes providing support to them, experts feel

ages of 18 and 20 was 41.7 per cent in 2020, which dropped to 35.6 per cent in the 2023 report.

The SRS is a large-scale demographic survey that collects population-related data based on age, gender, and marital status.

Experts say the increasing trend of girls marrying after 21 indicates they are getting educated and want to become self-reliant.

"There has been a change not only in the thinking of girls but also in the thinking of their families and society. People are emphasising girls' education and skill development. Girls also want to become self-reliant before marriage," Manjula Tiwari, former deputy director of the Madhya Pradesh Women and Child Development Department, told PTI.

This is the reason for the increased percentage in the marriageable age of girls, she said.

Neha Bagga, state spokesperson of the ruling Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP), also said that whether it is family or personal, girls are prioritising standing on their own feet first.

Along with this, the state government schemes like Ladli Laxmi are encouraging them in this direction and are proving positive in preventing child marriage.

The Ladli Laxmi Yojana aims to improve girls' health and education, prevent foeticide and child marriages. The financial assistance under the scheme is given when a woman turns 21 only if she has not been married before the age of 18.

However, Tiwari said if government policies were the reason behind this change in girls' thinking, then there would be no difference between the figures in rural and urban areas.

The changing social values, rather than government policies, are a more important contributor to this, she claimed.

Congress state spokesperson Aparajita Pande also said the perspective and horizons have widened.

She claimed the increasing number of cases of domestic violence, harassment and dowry death have made women realise how important it is to be financially independent.

MP witnesses unprecedented rise in visitor numbers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 28: Tourism in Madhya Pradesh has witnessed a remarkable surge over the past five years, positioning the state as one of India's most sought-after travel destinations.

In the year 2024, the state attracted a total of 134.1 million tourists. In 2019, the state welcomed 89 million tourists. Although the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions led to a decline in footfall during 2020 and 2021, Madhya Pradesh continued to attract visitors, maintaining its reputation as a preferred destination.

With the easing of restrictions and normalisation of conditions in 2022, tourism rebounded strongly, reaching 112.1 million visitors in 2023 and climbing further to 134.1 million in 2024, according to data.

The steady rise in both domestic and international tourist arrivals reflects the growing appeal of Madhya Pradesh's di-



Representational Image

verse offerings. Last year alone, Ujjain drew over 70 million spiritual tourists, underscoring the state's prominence in religious tourism.

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav emphasised that tourism in Madhya Pradesh is guided by principles of sustainable development. He noted that while natural, cultural, spiritual, rural, and wildlife tourism remain core attractions,

emerging sectors such as sports tourism, medical tourism, water sports, agricultural tourism, and heritage tourism are gaining momentum.

Dr Yadav credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the expansion of tourism in states like Madhya Pradesh, which has contributed to enhancing India's global image. He highlighted national initiatives like Vocal for

Local, Dekho Apna Desh, and the Triple T concept—Textile, Tourism, and Technology—as transformative efforts linking tourism with economic development, employment generation, women empowerment, and cultural revival.

Madhya Pradesh has also emerged as a hub of global heritage. Of India's 69 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 18 are located in the state, including the renowned Khajuraho temple complex, Sanchi Buddhist monuments, and Bhimbetka caves.

Currently, three sites are on the permanent UNESCO list, while 15 others are on the tentative list, such as Gwalior Fort, Mandu, Orchha, Chanderi, Bhedaghat, Lameta Ghat, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Ashoka inscriptions, and the 64 Yogini temples. Tourism has become a magnet for investment in the state. Recent Regional Tourism Conclaves in Rewa and Gwalior attracted significant investor interest, with proposals exceeding ₹3,000 crore in Rewa and ₹3,500 crore in Gwalior.

In the year 2024, the state attracted a total of 134.1 million tourists. In 2019, the state welcomed 89 million tourists

Although the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions led to a decline in footfall during 2020 and 2021, Madhya Pradesh continued to attract visitors, maintaining its reputation as a preferred destination

Infrastructure development has also accelerated, with the launch of the PM Shree Tourism Air Service connecting Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Rewa, Singrauli, Ujjain, and Khajuraho.

Under a public-private partnership, helicopter services will soon link major cities, religious sites, national parks, and tourist destinations, promoting affordable and sustainable air travel. This initiative is expected to boost tourism, commerce, and employment across Madhya Pradesh, the statement said.



No.MM-

FOREST DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,

BARIPADA FOREST DIVISION

e-mail : dfo.baripada@odisha.gov.in

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. : DFO-BPD-05/2025-26


1. Number of works	: 1 (One number of work)
2. Approximate estimated cost	: 17.02 lakh
3. Period of Completion	: 90 (Ninety) days
4. Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: Dt.03.10.2025 to 15.10.2025
5. Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.15.10.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
6. Date of Opening of bid	: Dt.16.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name & address of the Office inviting bid	: O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Baripada Forest Division, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, PIN-757001

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer

Baripada Forest Division

OIPR-08065/11/0015/2526



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 08/BMID/2025-2026

E-mail ID : bmdbdh@gmail.com

No.A-681 Letter No.1422 / Date.25.09.2025


01 Name of work	: Construction of Putakheta-II Check Dam near village Putakheta of Baragaon GP in Kantamal Block of Boudh District for the year 2025-26
02 Numbers of Work	: 01 (One) No.
03 Tender Amount	: Rs.48.91 Lakh.
04 Class of Contractor	: "B"
05 Tender paper Cost (Online)	: Rs.6000/-
06 Period of Completion	: 06 (Six) Calendar Months
07 Availability of Bid Document	: From 06.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 18.10.2025 up-to 05.00 P.M. in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
08 Last date & Time of receipt of Bid	: 18.10.2025 up-to 05.00 P.M. through online
09 Date of opening of Bid Documents	: 20.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the SE, M.I. Division, Boudh
10 Date of Lottery	: 24.10.2025
11 Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	: The bidder must process compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
12 Name and address of the OIT	: Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Boudh A/P.O. : Malisahi, District : Boudh, PIN-762014

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Web-site : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

M.I. Division, Boudh

OIPR-32279/11/0021/2526



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI),

AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING DIVISION, KENDRAPARA

E-mail ID: eeag-kendrapara@gov.in

Govt. of Odisha, "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. : E.E (A), Kendrapara Division-05/2025-26

No.-L- The Executive Engineer (Agril), Agriculture Engineering Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE for 06 Numbers of Projects of Kendrapara & Jajpur district.

1. Estimated Cost: As mentioned against column No-03
2. Bid Cost: As Mentioned against each in Column-04
3. Period of Completion: Calendar Months Mentioned in Column-06
4. No. of Works (Tender): 06 Nos.
5. Class of Contractor: As Mentioned in Column-05
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From Dt.03.10.2025 at 10.00 AM to Dt.16.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt.16.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Date of submission of documents: Dt.03.10.2025 at 10.00 AM to Dt.17.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. (Except Holidays)
9. Date & Time of opening of online bids: Dt.18.10.2025 at 11.00 AM & onwards
10. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Executive Engineer (Agril), Agriculture Engineering Division, Kendrapara

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

A. All the volumes/ documents shall be uploaded in the portal by the Procurement Officer Administrator and published by Procurement Officer Publisher (Officer Inviting Tender)

B. The Tender documents published by the Tender inviting Officer (Procurement Officer Publisher) in the website "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>" will appear in the Latest.

C. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>". Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)

Agriculture Engineering Division,


Kendrapara

OIPR-01471/11/0014/2526

of the day


quote

Sangh Geet is born out of devotion to the mother-land and the austerity of life. These songs emerge from the lived experiences of Swayamsevaks. These songs are a product of devotion to the motherland



MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

Losses that become evident later - such as houses collapsing due to structural damage or crops and livestock being affected after floodwaters recede - should also be considered for compensation



SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) CHIEF

I received several calls and messages from residents of the Kothrud area Saturday. They complained that loud music was being played on the speaker system at the dandiya event since the first day of Navratri. Even cancer patients complained about the noise



MEDHA KULKARNI | BJP MP

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi meets Vice President

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday called on Vice President C P Radhakrishnan here. Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the vice president earlier this month. "Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Hon'ble Vice-President Shri C P Radhakrishnan at the Vice-President's Enclave today," the vice president's secretariat said on X.

3 held for ₹1.5cr jewellery robbery

New Delhi: Three men were arrested for allegedly carrying out a daylight robbery of jewellery worth around Rs 1.5 crore near Bharat Mandapam, following a four-day chase that included an attempt to run over a police team, officials said Sunday. On Wednesday, two people carrying gold and silver from Chandni Chowk to Bhogal Market were intercepted by two men on a blue motorcycle near Bhairon Mandir. Pointing a gun at the one of them, the pillion rider snatched a bag containing 37.061 kg of silver, 870 grams of gold, and fled.

Rekha Gupta flags off 300 new public buses

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Sunday flagged off 300 new DTC electric buses, saying their routes have been rationalised for better connectivity. The rationalisation done with the help of IIT Delhi will ensure buses are plied everywhere in the city, from border areas to its innermost parts, an official statement read. Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport and Highways, and local MP Harsh Malhotra was also present at the buses' launch.

ST tag for Dhangers: Activist won't end fast

Jalna: Activist Dipak Borhade, who has been on a hunger strike in Jalna for the past 12 days seeking Scheduled Tribe status for the Dhangar community, Sunday said his protest would continue till the Maharashtra government gives a written assurance about his demands. During the day, MLAs Arjun Khotkar and Narayan Kuche handed over an invitation letter to Borhade for talks with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis but the activist rejected it.



Laid the foundation stone of PMJKV projects for Infrastructure Development of Primary Health Centre, Jote and Multipurpose Hall at Sangring Village under Bokoriang-II Panchayat Sagalee in Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh

KIREN RIJUJU | UNION MINISTER

Cong claims benefits of GST rate cuts not reaching people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Congress Sunday cited a media report which claimed that the prices of several products were hiked by big firms before the GST rate reduction and asked what is the point if the benefits of the cuts were not reaching the common people.

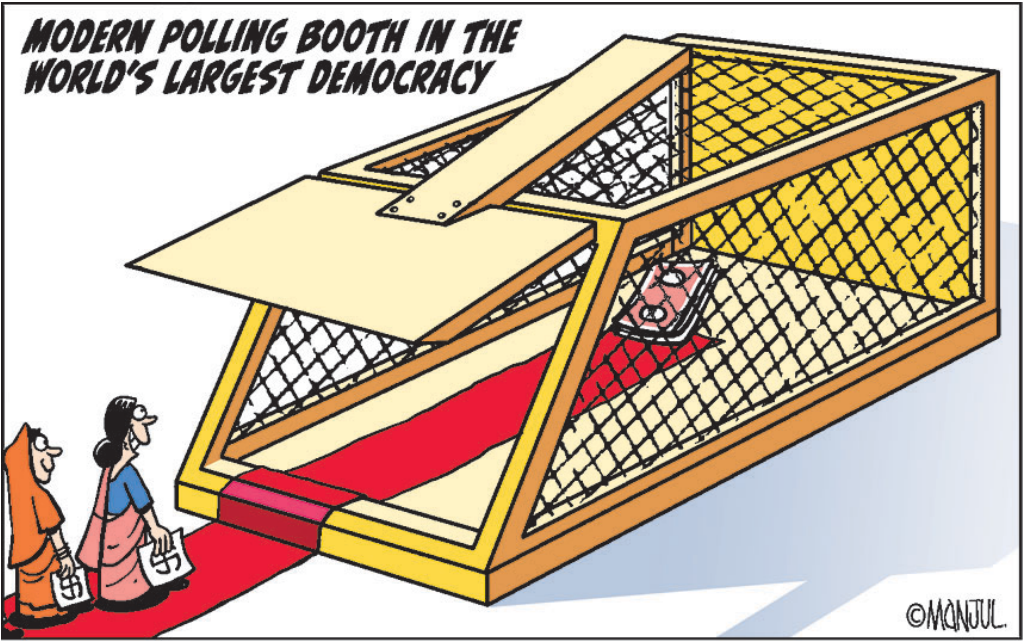
Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, shared a media report on X which said that the Centre reduced the GST rate on food items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent from September 22, and consumers should have benefited directly from this, but the reality is quite the opposite.

COACHES OF BANDRA-AMRITSAR PASCHIM EXPRESS DETACH TWICE

Two incidents of uncoupling of coaches of Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Paschim Express were reported within an hour Sunday in Maharashtra and Gujarat, raising concerns regarding the safety of passengers



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Stampede toll 40; TVK smells a rat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karur/Chennai, Sept 28: The toll in the September 27 stampede at actor-politician Vijay-led rally in Karur in western Tamil Nadu climbed to 40 Sunday with over 60 being treated as in-patients, and at least 2 were critical, officials said.

As the toll mounted, Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) moved the Madras High Court Madurai Bench seeking a CBI or an independent probe into the stampede. Vijay, facing flak from various quarters, also announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh each to the families of the victims, while expressing profound grief over the incident that left 40 dead.

Karur police booked a case under provisions including negligence against TVK offence-bearers and forensic experts commenced probe and covered spots like a sewer where a couple of bodies were allegedly found. Traders, shops and commercial establishments in Karur downed the shutters as a mark of respect to the deceased.

Ten children--5 boys and as many girls, 17 women and 13 men have died. Justice Aruna Jagadeesan, who leads the



Footwear and other belongings of people, who attended the rally lie on a road in the aftermath of a stampede

single-person Commission Of Inquiry constituted by the Tamil Nadu government, visited a Karur hospital, spoke to the affected people and also inspected the scene of stampede and inquired with officials.

Chief Minister MK Stalin, Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin and leaders of political parties including Leader of Opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami, BJP's Nainar Nagenthiran and K Annamalai, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, PMK top leader Anbumani Ramadoss visited the

hospital. Celebrities including Rajinikanth and MNM chief Kamal Haasan have condoled the deaths.

Answering a question on possibility of TVK chief Vijay's arrest, the CM said any action, to be considered, would be based on the report of the inquiry panel and asserted that he was not inclined to make any comment with a political motive.

A Tamil students' body staged a protest in front of Vijay's house in Chennai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

While the state government has announced a solatium of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh each to the injured, TVK announced Rs 20 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh each to those injured.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee announced Rs 1

crore for the families of the dead and BJP announced Rs 1 lakh each to the kin of deceased.

Meanwhile, a man injured in the stampede moved the High Court with a plea to forbear Tamil Nadu DGP from granting permission to conduct any further public meetings by the party leader until Saturday's fatal incident was fully investigated and responsibility fixed.

Stopping short of alleging a conspiracy into the incident, TVK deputy general secretary Nirmal Kumar told reporters that the party had approached the HC Bench with a plea for an impartial inquiry.

Tamil Nadu Health Secretary P Senthil Kumar, providing updates on those deceased and injured said 2 were critical and all others were stable.

The youngest victim was a 2-year old boy. A 28-year old woman and her two daughters, both aged less than 10; a 24-year old man and a 24-year old woman who were set to get married soon were among the victims.

TV child actor, brother killed in house fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Sept 28: Eight-year-old television actor Veer Sharma, who played Pushkal in SonySAB's 'Shrimad Ramayan', and his brother died allegedly due to suffocation after a fire broke out at their home in Rajasthan's Kota.

Police said Veer and his brother Shoriya Sharma (16), an engineering aspirant, were alone at home when the fire erupted.

Their father Jitendra Sharma, who teaches at a coaching centre, was attending a bhajan event and mother actor Rita Sharma was in Mumbai at the time of the incident that happened at around 2 am on Sunday, they said.

Kota (city) SP Tejeshwani Goutam, who visited the spot Sunday morning, said a short-circuit is suspected to have caused the blaze.

The fire broke out in the drawing room of the flat and the children, who were sleeping, most likely died of suffocation caused by smoke, as fire did not spread to other rooms, the SP said.

Circle Inspector Bhupendra Singh said the incident took place at a flat on the fourth floor of Deepshree building under Anantpura police station area at around 2 am.

When the neighbours noticed plumes of smoke coming out of the flat, they broke open the door and found the children in an unconscious state, he said.

10 killed in Maha amid heavy rains; over 11,800 evacuated

In Marathwada, one of the worst-hit regions, inflow into the Jayakwadi dam on the Godavari river has increased, prompting the authorities to open all its gates



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Sept 28: At least ten persons died in rain-related incidents across Maharashtra over 24 hours, and more than 11,800 were rescued from different parts of the state, officials said Sunday.

According to the state disaster management department and other officials, four persons lost their lives in Nashik district, including three due to a house collapse, two each in Dharashiv and Ahilyanagar, and one each in Jalna and Yavatmal. In Marathwada, one of the worst-hit regions, inflow into the Jayakwadi dam on the Godavari river has increased, prompting the authorities to open all its gates.

About 7,000 persons were evacuated in Paithan of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar amid fears of flooding. Harsul circle in the district recorded 196 mm of rainfall over the last 24 hours.

Heavy rains lashed pockets of other districts in the Marathwada region, including Beed, Nanded, and Parbhani. Mumbai has been witnessing heavy rains since Saturday night. On Sunday, intermittent heavy spells lashed the city and suburbs, with some areas recording more than 50 mm rainfall between 8 am and 1 pm, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

The intensity of the rains reduced post-afternoon. Vehicular and rail traffic, however, remained largely unaffected,

with smooth movement reported from key underpasses and junctions, including Hindmata, Gandhi Market, Chunnabhatti, and Malad, Dahisar, and Mankhurd underpasses.

The island city recorded an average rainfall of 47.47 mm, while the western and eastern suburbs received 53.61 mm and 37.92 mm of rain, respectively, during the five hours from 8 am to 1 pm. Thane and Palghar districts near Mumbai recorded heavy rainfall over the last 24 hours. In Bhiwandi taluka in Thane, 262 persons from 71 families were rescued, said officials.

Rain-battered Marathwada received partial relief Sunday, even as heavy rains soaked pockets of Beed, Nanded, and Parbhani districts. In Beed, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescued 12 stranded residents from Sangi temple located in Aashti, while 970 persons living within the jurisdiction of Nanded Municipal Corporation were relocated to safer places.

The Godavari river is flowing in Nanded district at a water level of about 354 metres. "The rain intensity reduced in Dharashiv from last night. So, we are now focusing on supplying aid to the affected families. Due to ongoing water discharge of 75,500 cusec from the Sina Kolegaon dam, areas in Paranda were inundated. But we have shifted 3,615 residents to safer locations", a senior district administration official told PTI.

Over 300 Delhi schools, airports hit by bomb hoax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: More than 300 schools and institutes in Delhi and several airports received bomb threats Sunday morning, which were later declared a hoax, officials said.

The mails were sent by a group 'Terrorizers111', which had earlier also sent such threatening communications.

The messages landed in the inboxes at 6.08 am of more than 300 e-mail addresses belonging to schools and institutions in Delhi. It was also sent to Delhi Airport among other airports in the country, a police officer said. The subject line of the e-mail read 'Bombs placed around your building, react



or face the disaster.' "To the administration of schools and airports, I am the leader of terroristic group also known as terrorizers 111, through heaven and earth in this accursed

world which in never anything goes as planned I alone am the untouchable one, I can't push myself to my limits because I am the limitless one, I am the child of evil, I am the mean-

Govt shuns plan to bring national litigation policy

SEEKING TO SHED THE TAG OF BEING THE BIGGEST LITIGANT, THE UNION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY TO CUT DOWN ON CASES WHERE IT, ITS DEPARTMENTS OR PSUS ARE A PARTY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The government has shunned the idea of bringing a national litigation policy that was in the works for years, and instead issued directives to Union ministries, departments and PSUs on ways to cut down on court cases.

Seeking to shed the tag of being the biggest litigant, the Union government has been working on a comprehensive policy to cut down on cases where it, its departments or PSUs are a party.

But after a lot of thinking, the Union law ministry has finally junked plans to bring out

a national litigation policy as the thought prevailed that the government cannot have a policy on curbing litigations as it can't stop people at large from filing cases.

"The term policy cannot be used if it is applicable only on the government, its ministries and departments and not on private litigations. "Something which is not universally applicable cannot be termed as policy...curbing government litigation is a very inward looking move," a top ministry functionary told PTI. The official pointed out that the term directive has been used as it has a "sense of force" and words like guide-



line were avoided as they are "generic" in nature. Another key reason for not bringing a policy was that it needs approval of the Union Cabinet. Any tweaks in it in the future would have required Cabinet approvals. The "Directive for

the efficient and effective management of litigation by the Government of India" issued by the Department of Legal Affairs in the law ministry was cleared by a committee of secretaries and will be reviewed annually for progress made and changes

required. According to the directive issued in April, the objective of the various decisions and actions is to promote public good and better governance.

In some cases, affected parties may perceive certain decisions as unfair and pursue legal recourse through litigation," it said highlighting the importance of effective implementation of decisions by central ministries, departments and PSUs. The central government is a party in nearly seven lakh cases pending across courts, according to official data. Minimising "unwarranted appeals" in courts and addressing "inconsistencies in notifications

and orders" that lead to court cases are the key measures proposed by the ministry.


The law ministry had in February told the Rajya Sabha that the Centre is a party in nearly seven lakh cases pending across courts, with the finance ministry alone being of the litigants in nearly two lakh cases.

Citing data available on the Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS), Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had said, "There are about seven lakh cases pending where the Government of India is a party. Out of these, in about 1.9 lakh cases the Ministry of Finance is mentioned as a party".

of the day

quote

Ladakhis asked for a voice. The BJP responded by killing 4 young men and jailing Sonam Wangchuk. Stop the killing. Stop the violence. Stop the intimidation



RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The Nitish Kumar government will not be able to fulfil the promises it made in the run-up to the elections, as it would cost the exchequer a staggering ₹7 lakh crore




TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

After coming to power in 2023, the Congress again spoke about the caste census, saying it had all the data but dumped it later after spending ₹174 crore. Now again they are saying they have dropped certain castes



PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY

Ladakh has lot of natural resources, it has land and solar energy. BJP wants these resources to be used by Adani. And, if they give you the representation, they cannot. — Rahul Gandhi Ji warned about BJP-Modi intentions about Ladakh in 2023

@shaandelhite

SHORT TAKES

Bihar polls: EC to deploy 470 observers

New Delhi: The Election Commission will deploy 470 officers as its observers for the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar and seven Assembly bypolls to ensure a level playing field in the electoral contest. In a statement Sunday, the poll authority said out of the 470, 320 are IAS officers, 60 are IPS and 90 are from other services. General, police and expenditure observers are deployed during elections to serve as eyes and ears of the election watchdog.

Security forces foil infiltration bid

Srinagar: Security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Keran sector Sunday, officials said. Troops noticed suspicious movement along the LoC in the Keran sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district and challenged the intruders, the officials added. In a brief exchange of fire, two infiltrators are believed to have been killed. However, their bodies have not yet been retrieved.

2 labourers fall to death

Ahmedabad: Two labourers died and one was severely injured after they fell while installing a hoarding on a residential building in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city Sunday afternoon, police said. Two labourers fell from the seventh floor of the building in the south Bopal locality, an official said. At least 10 labourers were engaged in placing a large hoarding of an advertisement agency on the terrace of the building when they lost their balance, said Nilam Goswami, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Ahmedabad rural).



Our festivals and celebrations keep India's culture alive. Chhath Puja is a sacred festival that comes after Diwali. This grand festival dedicated to the Sun God is very special

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DRONE SIGHTINGS CREATE PANIC

Reports of drones flying over different areas here over the past two to three days have triggered fear among residents, prompting police to assure the public that such activity does not indicate theft or surveillance



LEH VIOLENCE

Wangchuk's wife refutes allegations against him



People pay their respects to 24-year-old Stanzin Namgyal, who was killed in violence during recent protests for Ladakh statehood, as his mortal remains are being taken for last rites amid curfew in Leh

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Sept 28: The last rites of two of the four youths killed in the September 24 violence were performed in curfew-bound Leh town Sunday amid tight security, with no relaxation in restrictions, officials said.

"The situation remained by and large normal with no untoward incident reported from anywhere," an official said, adding mobile internet services in the town remained suspended.

Prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons also remained in force in other major parts of the Union Territory, including Kargil.

The chorus of Opposition leaders criticising the Centre's handling of the matter, including the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under NSA Friday, grew louder with for-

Denouncing the allegations of Pakistan links involving her husband, Angmo said all of Wangchuk's overseas visits were made on the invitation of reputed universities and institutions

In another development, a group of scientists Sunday condemned the detention of Wangchuk and demanded his immediate release

mer Congress president Rahul Gandhi alleging that Ladakh's people, culture, and traditions were under attack by the BJP and RSS. He battled for the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule.

The curfew was imposed in Leh town Wednesday evening following widespread violent protests during a shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) to advance talks with

Chaitanyananda sent to five-day police custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: A Delhi court Sunday remanded Chaitanyananda Saraswati, a self-styled godman and a sexual harassment accused, to five days' police custody for questioning.

The order was announced by Duty Magistrate Ravi.

Saraswati, 62, accused of sexually harassing 17 women students at a private institute here, was apprehended from a hotel in Agra Sunday morning. He was produced before the judge at 3.40 pm. During the arguments, the prosecution alleged that Saraswati had molested several women and sought sexual favours from them and that the testimonies of the victims had corroborated the allegations. "He had given them threats. (CCTV) Cameras were installed to monitor their movement – some were installed in bathrooms. Around 16 girls have complained. Several other allegations need to be verified," the prosecution alleged. The counsel for the accused countered the plea for custodial interrogation, saying all "16-20 women" women had already recorded their statements.

New Delhi, Sept 28: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday rejected the ceasefire offer given by Maoists, saying if the extremists want to surrender and lay down arms, they are most welcome to do so and security forces would not fire a single bullet on them.

"Recently, to spread confusion, a letter was written stating that what has happened so far has been a mistake, that a ceasefire should be declared, and that we (Naxals) want to surrender. I want to say there will be no ceasefire. If you want to surrender, there is no need for a ceasefire. Lay down your arms, not a single bullet will be fired," Shah said.

He said if the Naxals want to surrender, a red carpet welcome awaits them with a "lucrative" rehabilitation policy.

Addressing the valedictory session of a seminar on 'Naxal Mukti Bharat', Shah also hit out at Left parties for extending ideological support to Left Wing Extremism and dismissed their arguments that lack of development led to the Maoist violence. He said it was due to the "red terror" that development could not reach many parts of the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shah rejects ceasefire offer from Naxals



for several decades.

Shah said this in response to the offer of a ceasefire given by the CPI (Maoists) sometime back following the intensified operations carried out by security forces, including "Operation Black Forest" along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, in which several top Naxals were eliminated.

The minister said there are many people who believe that Naxals is enough to eradicate Naxalism from India.

However, he said, this is not true as Naxalism developed in India because its ideology was



A group of stray dogs rests at Shangumugham Beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

Bareilly violence: 39 held, more than 2500 booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bareilly (UP), Sept 28: Heightened security, heavy police patrolling and flag marches to restore normalcy - these were scenes from Bareilly Sunday, a day after 39 people, including local cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan, were arrested following overnight house-to-house raids in connection with the recent violence during a protest supporting the 'I love Muhammad' campaign.

The cleric's arrest on Saturday prompted administrations in neighbouring districts to go on high alert. 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 called by Raza, the founder of Ittehad-e-Millat Council, who claimed the authorities denied permission for it.

Zubeen Garg's family files complaint with Assam CID



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 28: The family of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg filed a complaint with the state CID over his death by drowning in Singapore, seeking a thorough probe into the incident.

Garg's uncle Manoj Kumar Borthakur, a signatory in the complaint, told PTI that they had sent it to the CID through email Saturday.

"We want a thorough probe into the circumstances leading to Zubeen's death," he said.

Garg's wife Garima and his sister Palme Borthakur are the other signatories.

"We have sought an investigation into those present on the yacht trip during which the fatal incident occurred, organiser of North East India Festival Shyamkanu Mahanta and others who may be associated with the incident," another family member of Garg said.

Garg was in the Southeast Asian country to participate in the festival and had drowned while swimming without a life jacket in the sea September 19 during the yacht trip, organised by members of the Singapore Assam Association.

The singer's family also urged the police to take steps to secure the copyrights of the creative works of Garg.

A senior police officer said, "We have received a complaint from Garg's family and are examining it."

He said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of CID is already probing the incidents surrounding the death of the singer-composer, and the complaint filed by the family will be taken up with it.

A SIT member visited Garg's residence in the Kahilipara area of Guwahati on Sunday,

The CID's Special Investigation Team visited the cultural icon's residence in Guwahati to record statements

he said.

"We wanted to ask certain queries, and our officers met the family. Their complete statements will be recorded once the rituals are completed," he added.

Part of the 10-member SIT, the officer spent about 30 minutes with the family members of Garg. The officer, however, did not reveal any details of the visit.

Meanwhile, three close associates of Garg - actor Nishita Goswami, singer Amritprava Mahanta and musician Shekharjyoti Goswami -appeared at the CID office here for the second consecutive day.

All of them were on the Singapore trip, with Goswami being present with Garg during the incident.

Their statements were also recorded by the investigators Saturday. Allegations of conspiracy and foul play behind Garg's death have been raised, with the government forming the SIT to probe all angles.

The SIT has issued notices to 10 people, including Mahanta, Garg's manager Siddharth Sharma and members of the Singapore Assam Association, to appear before it and record their statements.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said Saturday that lookout notices through the Interpol have been issued against Mahanta and Sharma so that they cannot leave the country.

'AI use rises in B-Schools; only 7% faculty are experts'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Only 51 per cent of faculty members are confident of a favourable impact of AI adoption on business school students, and only 7 per cent are expert users, even as the Indian B-Schools are increasingly adopting generative AI in teaching, research and curriculum design, according to a new survey.

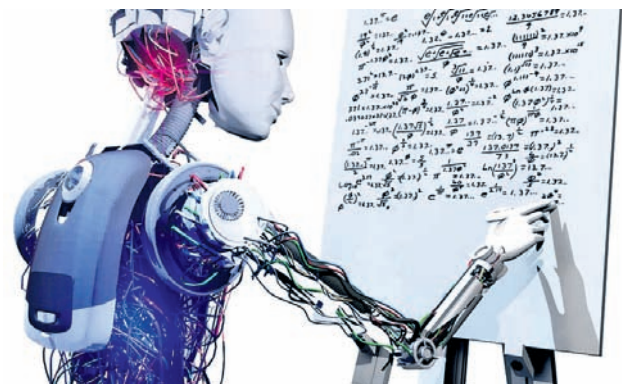
The survey conducted by MBAUniverse.com among 235 faculty members from India's top B-schools, including IIMs, IITs, ISB, XLRI, SPJIMR, MDI and NMIMS, offered a detailed look at how generative AI is shaping management education.

According to the survey, 51 per cent of faculty report a favourable impact of AI on stu-

dent learning, while over half expect AI's role in teaching, curriculum and research to increase in the next 12 months. Intermediate users make up 55 per cent of faculty, with 7 per cent identifying as experts, signalling huge opportunities for structured capacity-building programs.

"The findings reveal that faculty are using AI most in research and teaching, while applications in curriculum development are growing steadily. Administrative tasks and student assessment remain emerging areas, highlighting opportunities for structured support and capacity building," the survey report said.

The survey also sheds light on faculty perceptions of AI's impact on student learning, skill development and class-



room engagement, as well as the tools, training and policy guidance they consider most important for responsible adoption.

According to Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, AI is transforming education and must be har-

nessed responsibly to strengthen both teaching and learning. "It gives every student the freedom to ask questions and helps overcome barriers of language, background, or geography," he said.

The survey found that among AI tools, ChatGPT was rated

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, 51 PER CENT OF FACULTY REPORT A FAVOURABLE IMPACT OF AI ON STUDENT LEARNING, WHILE OVER HALF EXPECT AI'S ROLE IN TEACHING, CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH TO INCREASE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

INTERMEDIATE USERS MAKE UP 55 PER CENT OF FACULTY, WITH 7 PER CENT IDENTIFYING AS EXPERTS, SIGNALLING HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRUCTURED CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS

most relevant for teaching-related activities. This was followed by Microsoft Copilot and Perplexity, while Google Gemini and Claude received moderate ratings. Meta AI was rated lowest in relevance.

Though the majority of faculty viewed the impact of AI us-

age on student learning favourably, about 21 per cent indicated it was too early to assess, and 18 per cent observed an unfavourable impact. A smaller share of nearly 10 per cent reported no significant impact.

The leading challenge identified in research-related use of generative AI was ethical and integrity concerns, followed by inaccuracies or unreliable outputs and the lack of regulatory policy. Amit Agnihotri, Founder and Chair, Indian Management Conclave, said, "We are living in an era where AI is widely recognised as having the potential to fundamentally transform business processes, redefine jobs and competencies, and reshape the landscape of higher education. Management education stands at the frontier of this transition".

international

of the day quote

Russia has never had and does not have any such intentions of attacking European or NATO countries. However, any aggression against my country will be met with a decisive response. There should be no doubt about this among those in NATO and the EU

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

The position we're talking about is not a negotiating tactic, but rather, it is objectively and realistically not a level we are able to handle. We are not able to pay \$350 billion in cash

WI SUNG-LAC | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, SOUTH KOREA

We have got the fight of our lives ahead of us, because we've got to take on Reform. We've got to beat them, and so now is not the time for introspection or navel gazing

KEIR STARMER | PM, BRITAIN

SHORT TAKES

UK backs JLR recovery

London: The UK government Sunday announced that it will support "iconic British brand" Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) with a loan guarantee of up to 1.5 billion pounds to give certainty to the Tata Motors owned carmaker's supply chain following a devastating cyber-attack. The loan will come from a commercial bank, backed by the Department for Business and Trade's (DBT) Export Development Guarantee (EDG), provided by export credit agency UK Export Finance, to be paid back over five years. The aim is to bolster JLR's cash reserves following the production shutdown since early this month in the wake of the hack to help support firms in the supply chain, many of them small and medium enterprises (SMEs) struggling to stay afloat. "This cyber-attack was not only an assault on an iconic British brand, but on our world-leading automotive sector and the men and women whose livelihoods depend on it," said Peter Kyle, Business and Trade Secretary.

Moldovans cast ballots

Chisinau: Moldovans were voting in a parliamentary election Sunday that could have a major impact on the government's quest to join the European Union, as a pro-Russian opposition group seeks to steer the nation away from closer ties with the bloc. If neither side wins a majority in the 101-seat chamber, political horse trading is likely to follow, further unsettling one of Europe's poorest countries, buffeted by war in neighbouring Ukraine and suspected Russian meddling in politics and religion. As the poll was underway, a pro-Russian leader called for potential post-vote protests and cyber authorities reported that election infrastructure had been attacked over the past two days.

Death for bribery

Shenzhen: Tang Renjian, China's former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, was sentenced to death with reprieve for bribery at a court in Jilin province Sunday, according to state-run news agency Xinhua. Tang took bribes including cash and property worth over 268 million yuan (\$37.6 million) in various positions held from 2007 to 2024, Xinhua said. The Changchun Intermediate People's Court suspended his death sentence for two years, noting he had confessed to his crimes, it added. China's Communist Party expelled Tang in November 2024, six months after he was placed under investigation by the anti-graft watchdog and removed from his post.

Gaza carnage: Palestinian death toll tops 66K

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts saying Gaza City is experiencing famine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Sept 28: Over 66,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday, a day before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads to the White House for talks with US President Donald Trump on halting Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu has come under



heavy international pressure to end the war. Key Western allies have joined a growing list of countries recognising a Palestinian state over Israeli objections. The European Union is considering sanctions against Israel and there are growing moves for a sports and cultural

boycott against Israel. After dozens of delegates poured out of the hall, a defiant Netanyahu told fellow world leaders Friday at the UN General Assembly that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza as his military continued its

Trump sends troops to Portland to combat 'domestic terrorists'

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 28: US President Donald Trump said he was directing the US military to deploy to Portland, Oregon and to protect federal immigration facilities against "domestic terrorists", saying he was authorizing them to use "full force, if necessary."

Ordering the latest crackdown on a Democrat-led city, Trump said in a social media post that he was directing Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "to provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland, and any of our ICE Facilities under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists."

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson, who like other Oregon officials learned of Trump's order from social media, said: "The number of necessary troops is zero, in



Portland and any other American city. The president will not find lawlessness or violence here unless he plans to perpetrate it."

Violent crime in Portland has dropped in the first six months of 2025, data show. Homicides fell by 51% compared to the same period a year earlier, according to preliminary data released by the Major Cities Chiefs Association in its Mid-year Violent Crime Report.

That report showed Portland had 17 homicides in the period compared with 56 in Louisville, Kentucky, and 124 in Memphis, Tennessee, which have comparable population sizes.

REUTERS

United Nations, Sept 28: Iran's clerical rulers face one of their gravest crises since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, caught between growing discontent at home and a stalled nuclear deal that together have left the country more isolated and divided.

The United Nations reimposed sanctions on Iran Saturday after last-ditch talks between Tehran and European powers Britain, France and Germany failed to resolve the latest of decades of standoffs over Iran's nuclear program.

Without a breakthrough in talks with the West, four Iranian officials and two insiders predicted Iran's economic isolation would further intensify, stoking public fury.

Yet accepting the West's demands risks fracturing the ruling elite and sidelining the Islamic Republic's revolutionary beliefs in "not succumbing to Western pressure" that define Tehran's unbowed stance, they said.

CONCERNS MOUNT IN TEHRAN OVER POTENTIAL ISRAELI STRIKES

"The clerical establishment is trapped between a rock and a hard place. The existence of the Islamic Republic is in peril," one official said, adding that "Our people cannot handle more economic pressure or another war."

Adding to these strains are mounting concerns in Tehran over potential renewed Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear sites if nuclear diplomacy with the West fails, a second official said.

India claims Pak's reaction to UN speech confirms terrorism links

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 28: India has slammed Pakistan for responding to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's UN General Assembly remarks on terrorism, despite the neighbour not being named, describing Islamabad's reaction as an admission of its "longstanding practice of cross-border terrorism".

During his address at the UN-GA General Debate Saturday, Jaishankar, without naming Pakistan, said, "Major international terrorist attacks are traced back to that one country." Referring to a "neighbour that is an epicentre of global terrorism", he said India has confronted the challenge of terrorism since independence.

Later in the evening, in its Right of Reply, the Pakistani delegate accused India of attempting to "malign Pakistan" with



"malicious accusations" about terrorism, even though Jaishankar had not named the country in his address while talking about the scourge of terrorism.

The Pakistani delegate claimed that India's allegations were a "deliberate attempt to repeat lies".

Responding to Pakistan's Right of Reply, India said it was "telling that a neighbour who was not named chose to nevertheless respond and admit their longstanding practice of cross-border terrorism".

"Pakistan's reputation speaks for itself. Its fingerprints are so visible in terrorism across so many geographies. It is a menace not only to its

neighbours but to the entire world," said Rentala Srinivas, Second Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

"No arguments or untruths can ever whitewash the crimes of terrorististan!" Srinivas said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

The Pakistani delegate again took the floor to respond, but Srinivas walked out of the hall while the Pakistani representative was speaking.

In his address, Jaishankar had urged the international community to unequivocally condemn nations that openly declare terrorism as state policy, where terror hubs operate on an industrial scale and terrorists are glorified publicly.

He emphasised the need to "choke" the financing of terrorism and sanction prominent terrorists, warning that "relentless pressure must be applied on the entire terrorism eco-system" and that those condoning terror sponsors "will find that it comes back to bite them".

Without naming Pakistan, Jaishankar underlined that "UN's designated lists of terrorists are replete with its nationals".

We have a bunch of countries to fix, like Switzerland, Brazil, India - these are countries that need to really react correctly to America. Open their markets, stop taking actions that harm America, and that's why we're off sides with them

HOWARD LUTNICK | COMMERCE SECRETARY, US



US SHUTDOWN LOOMS

The threat of a government shutdown has become a recurring event in Washington, though most of the time lawmakers and the president are able to head it off. This time, however, prospects for a last-minute compromise look rather bleak



Drone activity near Danish forces sparks NATO Baltic vigilance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, Sept 28: The Danish defence ministry said Sunday it had again observed drones at several of its armed forces' locations overnight, a day after NATO announced it would enhance its vigilance in the Baltic Sea region.

The ministry said in a statement it had "several capacities deployed" after drone sightings from Saturday into Sunday night. It didn't offer any further details about the specifics of the deployment, the number of drones or locations.

This is the latest unexplained drone activity after several sightings last week, including over five Danish airports last week, raising concerns about security in northern Europe amid suspected growing Russian aggression.

Following a NATO meeting in Riga, Latvia, Saturday, Colonel Martin O'Donnell, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe spokesperson, announced that "we will conduct even more enhanced vigilance with new multi-domain assets in the Baltic Sea region, which includes Denmark, under Baltic Sentry."

DRONE SWARM

Kyiv endures one of war's fiercest attacks

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 28: Russia launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine early Sunday, killing at least four people and injuring dozens, in one of the most sustained attacks on the capital since the full-scale war began.

Neighbouring Poland closed its airspace near two southeastern cities and its air force scrambled jets in response until the danger had passed.

Ukraine's military said that Russia launched 595 drones and 48 missiles overnight and its air defences shot down 568 drones and 43 missiles. It noted that the main target of the strike was the capital Kyiv.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the attack, which lasted more than 12 hours, damaged a cardiology clinic, factories and residential buildings.

Russia's defence ministry said Sunday it had carried out a massive attack on Ukraine using long-range air and sea-based weapons and drones to target military infrastructure, including airfields. Moscow has denied targeting civilians in its war against Ukraine, although thousands have been killed and residential areas extensively damaged by its attacks.



Taiwanese students perform during a ceremony to mark the birthday of Confucius at the Confucian Temple in Taipei, Taiwan, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

of the day

quote

The imposition of 100 per cent tariff by the US on imports of branded and patented pharmaceutical products starting October 1, 2025 may not significantly hurt Indian drug makers

HERE NOW



ANUJ SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

India is positioned to lead the world in developing green hydrogen because of its strong asset base


HERE NOW



NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

During the first quarter of this financial year, LIC's overall market share by First Year Premium Income was 63.51 per cent

HERE NOW



R DORAISWAMY | CEO AND MD, LIC


SHORT TAKES

Bajaj Fin mkt value dips

Mumbai: The market valuation of Bajaj Finance fell by Rs 4,977.99 crore this week to Rs 6,12,914.73 crore, as India's top companies experienced sharp losses amid a bearish trend in equities. The broader market reflected similar pressures, with the BSE benchmark sliding 2,199.77 points or 2.66 per cent during the week. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) bore the brunt, losing Rs 97,597.91 crore in market valuation to Rs 10,49,281.56 crore. Reliance Industries' valuation dropped by Rs 40,462.09 crore to Rs 18,64,436.42 crore, while Infosys lost Rs 38,095.78 crore to stand at Rs 6,01,805.25 crore. Major banks were also affected, with HDFC Bank's market value falling by Rs 33,032.97 crore to Rs 14,51,783.29 crore and ICICI Bank's by Rs 29,646.78 crore to Rs 9,72,007.68 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation declined by Rs 26,030.11 crore to Rs 10,92,922.53 crore, while Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) dipped by Rs 13,693.62 crore to Rs 5,51,919.30 crore. Hindustan Unilever's mcap dropped by Rs 11,278.04 crore to Rs 5,89,947.12 crore, and State Bank of India's by Rs 4,846.07 crore to Rs 7,91,063.93 crore. Despite the losses, the most valued firm in India include HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, and LIC.

PV sales report

New Delhi: India's commercial vehicle and passenger vehicle segments get a cautiously optimistic outlook for FY2026, with moderate growth expected in both segments amidst GST rate reductions, a report said Sunday. In August, wholesale volumes of commercial vehicles increased by 6 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while retail volumes rose by 3.2 per cent, a report from ratings agency ICRA said. ICRA forecasted a 1 to 4 per cent increase in passenger vehicle volumes for FY2026, driven by new model launches and policy relief. Light commercial vehicle retail sales increased by 8.2 per cent in August and 0.8 per cent growth sequentially. The medium and heavy commercial vehicle sales saw a robust 9.2 per cent YoY increase, despite recent demand dampening by prolonged monsoons. Passenger vehicle exports have increased by 25 per cent in August and 15 per cent in the first five months of the fiscal year. SUVs maintained their dominance, representing 65 to 66 per cent of overall passenger vehicles volume.



HERE NOW

In terms of macro-economic data, markets will track RBI's interest rate decision on October 1st, the US consumer confidence data and manufacturing PMI of India, China, and the US

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, WEALTH MANAGEMENT, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

UK GOVT BACKS JLR

The UK government has announced a 1.5-billion pound (\$2 billion) loan guarantee for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to stabilise its supply chain following a cyberattack that halted production for nearly a month. The assistance comes amid small suppliers of the company informing that they had one week left at most before they ran out of cash. Tata Motors, which owns Jaguar Land Rover, operates three factories in the UK, producing approximately 1,000 vehicles daily and supporting thousands of jobs in Birmingham and Liverpool



SBI bats for another rate cut

The SBI study stated that there is merit and rationale for the RBI to reduce the key benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points in the forthcoming monetary policy, as retail inflation is expected to remain benign even in the next financial year.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 28: A SBI research report has pitched for a 25 bps rate cut, saying it is the 'best possible option' for the RBI, though some other experts opined that the central bank's rate-setting panel may again opt for status quo in its bi-monthly policy to be announced October 1.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to begin a three-day brainstorming on policy rate Monday in the backdrop of the ongoing geopolitical tensions and the US imposing 50 per cent tariffs on Indian shipments.

The decision will be announced October 1 (Wednesday).

The RBI reduced the key short-term lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points in three tranches beginning in February, amidst declining consumer price index (CPI) based inflation.

However, the central bank opted for a status quo in the August bi-monthly monetary policy, taking a wait-and-watch approach to assess the impact of US tariffs and other geopolitical developments on the domestic economy.

The SBI study stated that there is merit and rationale for the RBI to reduce the key benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points in the forthcom-



ing monetary policy, as retail inflation is expected to remain benign even in the next financial year.

On expectations from the MPC, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda said: "While we do believe that there is limited scope for any change in the repo rate in this policy, there is a market view that given the current environment, a rate cut would be warranted."

He further said that, as inflation is anyway well below the target of 4 per cent both before and after GST 2.0, this cannot be a primary consideration. Also, growth is expected to steady and be upwards of 6.5 per cent for the year and hence there is no imminent threat to this number even after taking into account the tariff effect.

"Under these conditions, we expect a status quo. A change of

stance could probably be considered to assuage sentiment and bond yields. If at all, at a later point in time, there is a package for exporters against the backdrop of tariffs, a rate cut could be considered," Sabnavis said.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said the GST rationalisation could dampen the headline CPI prints by 25-50 bps during Q3 FY2026 - Q2 FY2027 relative to ICRA's pre-GST rationalisation estimates, taking the average for FY2026 to about 2.6 per cent. While October-November 2025 may mark a fresh low for the CPI inflation, the trajectory subsequently remains upward sloping.

"GST rationalisation is unambiguously set to moderate inflation. However, this is the outcome of a policy change and will likely be accompanied by stronger demand. This suggests

Govt releases guidelines for setting up EV charging stations under PM E-DRIVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Centre has issued operational guidelines for the deployment of about 72,300 public EV charging stations across the country with Rs 2,000-crore outlay under the Rs 10,900 crore PM E-DRIVE scheme.

The norms recommend a tiered subsidy structure to be followed to support the installation of EV charging infrastructure across different locations.

Government premises such as offices, residential complexes, hospitals, and educational institutions will receive 100 per cent subsidy on both upstream infrastructure and EV charging equipment, provided the chargers offer free public access.

For locations in cities and along highways which are owned, controlled or managed by state or central governments or their public sector undertakings, the subsidy will cover 80 per cent of upstream infrastructure and 70 per cent of EV supply equipment cost, according to the guidelines.

Moreover, 80 per cent on Upstream Infrastructure will be subsidised for Cities - Streets, shopping malls, market complexes etc. along with Highways and Expressways, the norms said.

EPFO launches revised ECR facility

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has introduced a revamped electronic challan-cum-return (ECR) facility from the wage month of September, aimed at making return filing easier and error-free for employers and establishments, as per the latest notification issued by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner.

The new facility separates the process of submitting returns from payment generation. It also includes system-based validations to prevent the filing of incorrect returns.

The updated system will automatically calculate damages and interest under sections 14B and 7Q of the Employees' Provident Funds Act.

It will also make it mandatory for employers to pay interest under section 7Q along with monthly contributions.

Section 7Q requires employers to pay interest on pending dues until the date of payment, while section 14B allows EPFO to impose penalties for defaults in payment.

Despite the changes, the existing file format for returns (.txt) will remain the same. Employers will be able to file regu-

Gold, silver may extend rally amid global economic cues



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Gold and silver prices are expected to maintain their upward trajectory this week, but may see late profit-taking amid the release of a series of crucial global economic indicators, analysts said.

On the economic front, traders will closely monitor the manufacturing/ services PMI data from across regions and the US non-farm payrolls/ employment data along with consumer confidence for the month of September and speeches from several Federal Reserve officials, they added.

"... we expect the current positive momentum in both bullions to continue, however, some profit-taking cannot be ruled out towards the end of the week. Gold prices continued their positive momentum and closed the week higher by more than 3 per cent as better-than-expected economic numbers released from the US has slightly pushed back expectations of an interest rate cut," said Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM

Financial Services.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery soared by Rs 4,188 or 3.77 per cent during the week to close at Rs 1,14,891 per 10 grams Friday. The contract touched an all-time high of Rs 1,15,139 per 10 grams Tuesday.

Gold has now posted twelve consecutive weekly gains since June 27, when MCX prices stood at Rs 95,587 per 10 grams.

Central banks' tilt towards gold has also underpinned demand. Citing IMF data, Singh said the dollar's share in global reserves has fallen from 71 per cent in 1999 to 58 per cent in 2024, while gold's share rose to 24 per cent in the first quarter of 2025, the highest in three decades.

In global trade, gold futures gained \$103.2 or 2.78 per cent, ending at \$3,809 per ounce after hitting a record \$3,824.60 per ounce during the week.

NS Ramaswamy, Head of Commodity Desk & CRM at Ventura, said the gold futures have rallied from \$3,706 to \$3,809 per ounce giving an upside of 2.78 per cent has hammered the narratives that the yellow metal is "overbought, overcrowded, overdone."

"Signals of tighter monetary policy or profit-taking could trigger a correction, sovereign wealth funds, long-horizon investors and central banks are likely to sustain demand," Ramaswamy said.

He added that the rally to \$4,000 per ounce for gold in the overseas markets is on the cards sooner than expected.



lar, supplementary, or revised returns through the system.

An EPFO official said the move is part of efforts to make the organisation more user-friendly. The changes are expected to reduce data-entry errors that have made return filing cumbersome in the past.

The revamped system will also help prevent errors in pension contributions under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

For instance, employees earning more than Rs 15,000 a month are not eligible for EPS, but many employers mistakenly make contributions under this head. The new system will

flag such errors before filing, ensuring correct submissions.

Similarly, EPS membership ends at 58 years of age unless an employee opts for deferred pension.

Earlier, the system did not stop remittances into the pension fund for employees above 58, leading to grievances.

Now, the revamped ECR will automatically restrict contributions after 58 years unless specifically marked for deferred pension by the employer.

The EPFO hopes these measures will simplify compliance, reduce mistakes, and provide greater clarity to both employers and employees.

REVAMPING SERVICES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Unhappy with your LPG provider? Relief may be around the corner. In a move similar to mobile number portability, cooking gas consumers will soon be allowed to change their supplier without altering their existing connection, offering more choice and improved service.

Oil regulator The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has invited stakeholder and consumer comments on the LPG Interoperability Framework.

PNGRB, in the notice inviting comments, stated that in situations where a local distributor faces operational constraints, consumers often have limited alternatives, leading to hardship.

"There may be other reasons,

too, and the consumer needs to have the freedom of choice on the LPG company/dealer, especially when the cylinder price is the same," it said.

The then UPA government had, in October 2013, launched pilot Portability of LPG connections in 24 districts, covering 13 states, and extended it pan-India in January 2014, covering 480 districts.

However, unlike cellular services, where consumers have the option to switch between different mobile companies, LPG consumers were in 2014 allowed limited options of changing only their dealers, not the oil company.

What that meant was that a consumer of Indane Gas from Indian Oil Corporation had the option to choose from Indane Gas dealers in the vicinity. But, the consumer could not switch



to Bharat Gas of Bharat Petroleum or HPGas of Hindustan Petroleum.

Inter-company portability was not legally possible at that time, as the law provided for an LPG cylinder belonging to a particular company to be submitted to only that company for

refills. PNGRB is now seeking to allow inter-company portability as well.

"To strengthen continuity of LPG supply and safeguard consumer trust, PNGRB invites views and suggestions from consumers, distributors, civil society organisations, and

other stakeholders on measures that could facilitate timely access to refills - by enabling consumers to be served from the nearest available distributor through improved coordination and flexible delivery arrangements within the existing network, particularly during times of disruption," the regulator said. PNGRB said India has achieved near-universal LPG household coverage with over 32 crore connections as of FY25.

"However, persistent consumer grievances remain over 17 lakhs annually," it added.

"While the oil marketing companies (OMCs) do strive to address the grievances, consumers do not have the option of migrating from one OMC/ LPG dealer to another."

While interoperability has been adopted in telephony with much success, the same has not

happened in the LPG sector.

"Recent reports from various regions have highlighted a number of cases of supply disruptions and prolonged delays in LPG refill deliveries, in some cases extending to several weeks. Such service interruptions have caused hardship to households and commercial establishments, particularly in areas where local distributors face suspension or operational constraints.

"These developments underscore the importance of adopting a continuity-centric approach to safeguard consumers against service failures and to ensure uninterrupted access to this essential fuel," PNGRB said. Once comments are received, PNGRB will frame rules and guidelines for LPG portability and fix a date for its rollout.

Men in Blue on ‘Cloud Nine’

HALF-CENTURION TILAK VARMA KEEPS HIS COOL TILL THE END AS INDIA CLINCH THEIR NINTH ASIA CUP TITLE

The tension was immense due to off-field events leading up to the final but the Indian team led by Suryakumar Yadav and guided by Gautam Gambhir walked the talk when it came to upping the fearlessness quotient in a pressure cooker scenario with stands on a boiling point and fans engaging in fisticuffs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 28: Tilak Varma, the sinewy left-hander from the city of Nizams, produced a heady cocktail of chutpah and discretion to guide India to their ninth Asia Cup title, following a five-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in a thrilling final here Sunday.

Needing 10 off the last over, Tilak deposited the controversial trouble monger Haris Rauf into mid-wicket stands before Rinku Singh, getting his first hit of the tournament, sent the Indian fans into delirium with a winning boundary.

Having slumped to 20 for three inside first five overs, Tilak (69 not out off 53 balls)



was composed and audacious in equal measure with Sanju Samson (24) and Shivam Dube (33 off 21 balls) proving to be brilliant support casts as India chased down 147 in 19.4 overs.

If Kuldeep Yadav (17 wickets in tournament) wreaked havoc that saw Pakistan lose their last nine wickets for a mere 33 runs, Tilak displayed unusual calm after the team suffered its first top-order collapse.

He added 57 with Samson

Operation Sindoor on the games field. Outcome is the same - India wins! Congrats to our cricketers

NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

and another 64 runs with Dube to continue India's supremacy against Pakistan across white ball formats in the past few years. The decisive point in the game was the 15th over bowled by Haris Rauf (0/50 in

3.4 overs) which yielded as many as 17 runs.

Rauf, one of the biggest reasons for escalating tensions between two teams, was pulled into the mid-wicket stands by Dube with 17 needed off last two overs.

Abhishek, who likes to hit through the line and on the rise, was finding it difficult to connect and lobbed one to mid-on. Suryakumar Yadav (1) and Shubman Gill (12)

In a first, captains speak to different presenters at toss after PCB demand

Animosity between India and Pakistan team continued prior to the mega final of the Asia Cup with two presenters -- India's Ravi Shastri and Pakistan's Waqar Younis -- conducting the snap interviews at the toss. This is the first time in the history of international cricket that two former players will be conducting the toss interview as Pakistan didn't want to speak to Indian presenter Shastri following the bitter build-up to the title clash. It is learnt that from among the broadcasters, Shastri, who has done the toss presentation during the earlier two Indo-Pak games in the tournament, had been assigned to speak to both Suryakumar Yadav and Salman Ali Agha after the toss. However, a request was sent to the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for a neutral presenter. When the ACC went back to BCCI with the request, they had clearly mentioned that Shastri can't be replaced. As a middle-of-the-road solution, it was decided that Pakistan skipper Salman would speak to his country's pace legend Waqar, while Surya would interact with former India head coach Shastri. Also, in a departure from convention, Salman did the trophy shoot alone instead of doing alongside his Indian counterpart. As per sources in the BCCI, the ACC had never informed them about the toss photo-shoot. It must be mentioned that even during the 2024 T20 World Cup final in Barbados, there were no photoshoots involving India and South African skippers Rohit Sharma and Aiden Markram.



also perished trying to meet the slower deliveries early as India were left tottering at 20 for three.

Samson (24 off 21 balls) got into the groove with a cover drive off Shaheen while Tilak whipped a Faheem delivery outside leg-stump into the deep fine leg stand.

Earlier, a majestic Kuldeep, in the company of a wily Varun Chakravarthy and a parsimonious Axar Patel, literally ran through an inept Pakistan batting line-up skittling out the arch-rivals for a below par 146 for 19.1 overs after opting to field. To rub it in, Jasprit

Bumrah (2/25 in 3.1 overs), who was having another off day, yorked Haris Rauf and then made half a gesture of a crashing plane in a send-off that reminded one of the Pakistani pacer's controversial gesture to the Indian fans in the previous game.

BRIEF SCORES
Pakistan 146 in 19.1 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 57, Fakhar Zaman 46; Kuldeep Yadav 4-30, Jasprit Bumrah 2-25) lost to India 150/5 in 19.4 overs (Tilak Varma 69 not out, Shivam Dube 33; Faheem Ashraf 3-29, Shaheen Shah Afridi 1-20) by five wickets

Manhas elected as new BCCI president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 28: Former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas was elected the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) unopposed along with other members, including board's secretary Devajit Saikia, during its 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its headquarters here Sunday.

The 45-year-old Manhas became the 37th president of the all-powerful cricket body after he succeeded former India cricketer Roger Binny, who resigned from the post last month after turning 70.

Manhas is the third consecutive First-Class cricketer to have taken over as the board's president after Binny and former captain Sourav Ganguly.

Manhas, who featured in 157 First-Class, 130 List A and 55 IPL matches between 1997-98 and 2016-17, had emerged as the frontrunner following an informal meeting of the board's power brokers in New Delhi on September 20 ahead of the final day of nomination.

He also served as the director of a three-member ad-hoc committee formed by the BCCI to manage the affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir State Cricket Association (JKCA) due to mismanagement.



Manhas, who has an impressive tally of 9,714 First-Class runs with 27 centuries to go with 4,126 runs in List A matches, said he would rely on his experience as a player and administrator.

"It's an absolute honour to be the president of the world's finest cricket board. It's a huge responsibility as well. I give my assurance that I'll be committed to do it to the best of my ability and dedication and passion," Manhas told the media here.

The AGM also confirmed a few other key appointments with BCCI secretary Saikia and IPL Governing Council chairman Arun Dhumal retaining their posts, while former India cricketer and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Raghuram Bhat taking charge as the treasurer.

Veteran administrator Rajeev Shukla will continue as the board's vice-president while M Khairul Jamal Majumdar was named as one of the two representatives in the IPL GC along with Dhumal.

Former India internationals RP Singh and Pragyan Ojha were inducted into the men's selection panel, while ex-Tamil Nadu batter S Sharath returned to the junior selection committee. Sharath was a member of the senior selection committee till now.

The Ajit Agarkar-chaired committee now comprises former India players Shiv Sundar Das, Ajay Ratna, RP Singh and Ojha.

SHORT TAKES

Russia, Belarus regain full IPC membership

Washington: Russia and Belarus have regained full membership rights in the International Paralympic Committee after member organisations voted to lift their partial suspensions at the IPC General Assembly in Seoul. The two countries were banned from Paralympic competitions after Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, but the IPC voted the following year to allow them to compete as neutrals at the Paris Paralympic Games last year — without flags or anthems being played. Belarus has been a staging ground for Russian troops and weapons during the war.

MBSG pull out of match vs Sepahan

Kolkata: Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant have pulled out of their AFC Champions League 2 away match against Iran's Sepahan SC scheduled for Tuesday as the club's six foreign players have declined to travel to that nation following "advisories from their respective countries". After a meeting involving all the players and Indian staff, a collective decision was taken not to travel to Iran for the match, a club official told PTI Sunday. The team members were to fly out of the country for Iran Sunday morning.

Anushka shoots second gold, Adriyan hits silver



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Budding shooter Anushka Thokur added a second gold to her bag, clinching the top spot in women's 50m rifle 3-positions event even as Adriyan Karmakar won a silver in the men's section of the same event in a depleted field in the ISSF Junior World Cup here Sunday.

With these two medals, India have taken their tally to 13, including four gold, six silver and three bronze. Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) are second with three gold, one silver and two bronze, while Italy are third with two gold and a silver.

Thokur, 18, who recently returned home from the Asian Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan with a gold in 50m rifle 3-positions, continued her dream run at her home range by winning her second Junior

World Cup gold in four days.

She had taken the top spot in women's 50m rifle prone on the opening day of the competition at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges earlier this week.

The teenager shot 461.0 in the final, including a perfect 10.9 on her 35th shot in the standing position, to secure gold. The Indian had earlier qualified for the medal round with a score of 585.

She finished 6.1 points clear of Individual Neutral Athlete Anastasia Sorokina, who settled for silver with 454.9 (580 in qualification). Sorokina's teammate Mariia Kruglova took the bronze with 444.0, edging out Anastasia Gorokhova (AIN), who finished fourth on 434.3.

Among the other finalists in the event, India's Mahit Sandhu finished fifth with 422.7, followed by Croatia's Anamarija Turk (408.9).

ASIAN AQUATICS C'SHIPS

Srihari opens India's medal tally with double silver haul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 28: Ace Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj dazzled on the opening day of the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships, clinching the men's 200m freestyle and 50m backstroke silver medals while also anchoring the 4x100m medley relay team to bronze, becoming the first Indian to win two or more continental medals in a single edition of the competition, here Sunday.

This is also the first time in 16 years that India has won a medal at the elite event.

However, India's up-and-coming teenage swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu missed out on a podium spot in women's 200m freestyle, finishing fifth after qualifying for the final from Heat 1. She clocked 2:02.84 seconds.

Srihari clocked 1:48.47 seconds to finish behind 17-year-old Chinese Xu Haibo, who timed 1:46.83 seconds and was 1.64 second faster than the tall 24-year-old Indian, who has represented the country at the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 Paris Olympics.



- 24-YEAR-OLD SRIHARI NATARAJ DAZZLES IN 200M FREESTYLE, 50M BACKSTROKE
- FIRST INDIAN TO WIN TWO OR MORE CONTINENTAL MEDALS IN A SINGLE EDITION
- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 16 YEARS THAT INDIA WON A MEDAL AT THE ELITE EVENT

Srihari, however, could not improve upon the national record of 1:48.22 seconds, which is also in his name.

Hinata Ando of Japan finished with a bronze, clocking 1:48.73 seconds. Srihari

then made history by winning another silver in 50m backstroke, clocking 25.46 seconds. Rishabh Das finished second in 25.98 seconds. China's Wang Gukailai took the gold clocking 25.11 seconds.

On Saturday, India's head coach Nihar Ameen had expressed confidence in his wards winning 3-4 medals in the showpiece continental competition, and the 24-year-old Srihari achieved the feat on the opening day itself, thus setting the tone for the days to come.

FROM SETBACKS TO SUPREMACY

Marquez clinches seventh MotoGP crown

REUTERS

Tokyo, Sept 28: When Marc Marquez crossed the line at the Japanese Grand Prix Sunday, there was no longer any doubt, not about the title that felt inevitable for weeks, but that he had achieved something deeper by completing one of MotoGP's greatest comebacks.

Six years had passed since he last stood proudly on the summit of motorcycle racing - years filled with doubts, crashes, broken bones and whispers of retirement when the most dominant rider on the grid often looked like a ghost of himself.

But aboard the red Ducati that had once been his nemesis, he was not just winning races but conquering the grid as he got his hands on the elusive seventh premier class crown to go level with long-time rival and MotoGP great Valentino Rossi.

There had been a time when Marquez was untouchable, a whirlwind in Honda's red and



I'm at peace with myself ... It was the most difficult challenge of my career. I arrived in MotoGP and straight away I was winning. But then, from the glory, I was in the deepest (lowest) moment of my career with a lot of injuries ... But I never gave up!

MARC MARQUEZ

orange when he was crowned champion as a 20-year-old rookie in 2013, before the new kid on the block became the man to beat when he lifted his sixth title in 2019.

Against all odds

But a crash in the season-opener in 2020 changed everything, his arm broken and

his ambitions shattered.

Yamaha and Ducati also got their act together with superior bikes that gave Marquez a run for his money and as he desperately began riding the Honda beyond its limits, he inevitably suffered numerous crashes.

What followed was not just physical torment involving multiple surgeries, aborted

comebacks and blurred vision, but also the erosion of confidence.

Even Marquez began to wonder if it was all worth it as he pondered retirement before jumping ship to Gresini Racing.

A year with Gresini gave him a renewed sense of belief as he registered his first victory in 1,043 days and an impressive campaign on a year-old Ducati bike convinced the Italian manufacturer to give him the factory seat.

It was a match made in heaven as the best rider on the grid became one with the fastest machine and Marquez has not looked back since, claiming he was 'reborn' as he racked up wins -- even when he started on the second row.

As other riders nervously looked over their shoulders while leading races, Marquez enjoyed the thrill of the hunt, waiting for the opportune moment to pounce before he became a red speck in the distance.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Nepal upset WI for maiden win against Full ICC Member

Sharjah: Nepal etched their name in history books, defeating two-time world champions West Indies by 19 runs in the opening T20 International here for their first-ever victory against a Full ICC Member nation. Nepal had earlier beaten Afghanistan in 2014, but the latter were still an Associate Member at that time. Saturday's result, therefore, marked Nepal's biggest win yet on the international stage, and came in their maiden T20I clash against the Caribbean side and first bilateral series against a Full Member. Sent in to bat, Nepal posted 148 for 8 and then returned to restrict West Indies to 129 for nine. In reply, West Indies' chase began poorly as Kyle Mayers was run out by a sharp direct hit from Bhurtel.



Surrey debut: Leggie Rahul grabs 8/51, breaks 166-year-old record



London: India leg-spinner Rahul Chahar broke a 166-year-old record by grabbing eight wickets on his Surrey debut in county cricket. His figures of 24-7-51-8 against Hampshire were the best figures by a debutant for Surrey, going past William Mudie's mark of 7/61 set in 1859. Chahar took a match-haul of 10/118 helped Surrey defeat Hampshire by 20 runs and maintain their second spot in County Division 1 table. Chahar's match figures are also the best of his first-class career, beating his previous best of 9/148, while the 8/51 was also his finest effort in an innings so far. India all-rounder Washington Sundar appeared for Hampshire in the same match, and had figures of 3.2-0-5-3 in first innings but returned wicketless in the second essay.

Atletico scores 5 against Real Madrid for first time in 75 yrs

Barcelona: The last time Julián Alvarez faced Real Madrid, his mishap in a penalty shootout led to another painful loss for Atletico Madrid. Álvarez redeemed himself Saturday when he scored two goals to fuel a memorable 5-2 rout of Atletico's fiercest rival in a La Liga derby. It was the first time in 75 years that Atletico scored five goals against its crosstown rival. The Argentina striker stole the show from Kylian Mbappé, who scored as Madrid built a 2-1 lead. Barcelona can overtake leader Madrid with a win at Real Sociedad Sunday. Atletico moved into fourth place at six points behind Madrid.

