

Now, Trump imposes 100% tariff on movies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 29: US President Donald Trump Monday announced 100 per cent tariff on movies made outside the country, in a move likely to impact the Indian film industry.

“Our movie-making business has been stolen from the United States of America, by other Countries, just like stealing ‘candy from a baby’,” Trump posted on Truth Social.

Trump said California has been particularly ‘hard hit’ because of this, blaming democrat Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, for this loss, calling him ‘weak and incompetent’. “To solve this long time, never ending problem, I will be imposing a 100 per cent Tariff on any and all movies that are made outside of the United States,” Trump added.

The decision is likely to have an adverse impact on the Indi-



an film industry, as the US is one of the leading markets for Indian movies due to a large Indian diaspora in the country.

India produces movies in several languages, which are popular among the diverse Indian diaspora in the US.

According to a 2017 Forbes report, Indian language films have become big business in many places across the US and Canada. Indian movies’ earnings are ‘commonly exceeding USD 8 million and occasionally topping USD 10 million’, the report added.

Indian filmmakers and North American distributors and exhibitors alike cater well to this audience. At any given time, over 1,000 movie screens in the territory may be dedicated to showing Indian films, the report added. There has been a significant rise in the collections of Indian movies in the US since then, experts say.

Meanwhile, Trump has also decided to impose ‘substantial tariff’ on furniture imports.

“In order to make North Carolina, which has completely lost its furniture business to China, and other Countries, GREAT again, I will be imposing substantial Tariffs on any Country that does not make its furniture in the United States. Details to follow,” Trump posted on social media.

The move comes days after the Trump administration imposed tariff on pharmaceutical products.

Shirish Murmu RBI Dy Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Union government has appointed Odisha-born Shirish Chandra Murmu as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term. Murmu would replace M Rajeshwar Rao, whose extended tenure is coming to an end October 8.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment for a period of three years from the date of joining the post on or after October 9, sources said Monday.

Murmu is currently Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI), overseeing the Department of Supervision. According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank should have four deputy governors – two from within the ranks, one from the commercial banking sector, and an economist to head the monetary policy department. The other three deputy governors are T Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J and Poonam Gupta. It is worth noting that Rao was first appointed Deputy Governor in September 2020 for a period of three years and received a one-year extension in 2023, followed by another extension in 2024. Thus, Rao would complete a total of five years October 8.



NIT-Rourkela’s AI model to enhance road safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela researchers have developed a model based on artificial intelligence (AI) that aims to improve how vehicles communicate with each other in vehicular ad-hoc networks (VANETs), according to officials.

The patented model, called ‘Adaptive Contention Window Optimisation in VANETs using Multi-Agent Deep Reinforcement

Learning for Enhanced Performance Model’, focuses on addressing a key challenge in vehicular communication systems.

According to officials, the concept behind VANETs is that vehicles which are in proximity to each other will in the future be able to communicate directly with each other.

Consider a car warning other vehicles about precipitous braking or a sudden obstacle on the road. Such communication aids driving, automated traffic sys-

tems and even provides assistance to emergency services. But when multiple vehicles are contemporaneously sending out messages, the system is bound to face vehicle overcrowding.

This congestion leads to delays or lost messages, which directly compromise the viable functionality of such systems.

“We have suggested a solution to this issue involving the use of artificial intelligence. Their model utilises a system known as multi-agent deep reinforce-

ment learning. In layman’s terms, it enables each vehicle to stagger the time of its messages depending on the actions of other vehicles. Instead of communications competing, the vehicle’s system learns to sequence and give priority to messages that are time sensitive,” said Arun Kumar, Assistant Professor, NIT Rourkela.

This adaptive adjustment reduces the chances of delay and helps ensure that important alerts are transmitted reliably.

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ARIES
Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesha says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

TAURUS
You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesha. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesha advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

GEMINI
Your business rivals may compete with you in sales and deals today, warns Ganesha. Care and concern must be the two watchwords in all your dealings. Hostility may come in the way of love. Those spurned in previous romantic liaisons may get a chance to pen a new love story, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you may have to do a lot of multi-tasking at work, predicts Ganesha. And you are likely to do it with the dexterity of a juggler. You will finish your pending tasks with ease. You will make seemingly impossible tasks look as simple as blinking. You will do it all without even batting an eyelid.

LEO
Get ready to bask in applause. Well, not literally, but Ganesha does foresee you getting that long due recognition today for all the hard work you've put at your workplace. This goes hand-in-hand with the support of your colleagues and the good wishes of your seniors, especially if it is some new project that you are undertaking. Remember, a job well begun is already half done.

VIRGO
A single-headed mission to be the master of your destiny will drive you ahead. Your management skills will be immaculate, and the fire to succeed will get you up and running. Your skill in the managerial post will be accentuated by your quick decision-making and superior analytical ability, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you shall be immersed in successfully completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy.

SCORPIO
Friends in influential positions will be of much help today. You may plunge into a new business venture without much ado. Appreciation for your abilities and efforts will fly in thick and fast. Your reputation is sky-rocketing among the opposite sex.

SAGITTARIUS
Dressed to kill – this phrase is enough to describe you today, says Ganesha. Decked up from head to toe in chic attire and classy jewellery, you make a bold statement. Like a magnet, you will attract attention at a party. Don't get surprised if your list of admirers becomes longer.

CAPRICORN
If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipated, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesha. Cash inflow – and a substantial amount of it – is likely and will make you feel nice about your finances. Work will go on as usual.

AQUARIUS
Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away. What are you waiting for, asks Ganesha, in this age of communication?

PISCES
A good day for those looking for romantic liaisons, says Ganesha. You will seek the company of your sweetheart to fight feelings of solitude and boredom today. Those who are single ought to strike gold, considering how Lady Luck will be grinning at the efforts you make to win over your love.



SPIDER-MAN FILM SERIES TO HIT INDIAN BIG SCREENS

Sony Pictures Monday announced it is set to re-release all the *Spider-Man* films across the theatres of India in the months of November and December. Sony Pictures Entertainment India shared the news on its official Instagram handle with a collage of the films and the dates of each film, respectively.

ED SHEERAN ON HIS WEIGHT LOSS JOURNEY

Ed Sheeran has revealed that he is in 'the best shape' of his life. The singer has lost 20 kg. The star recently opened up about his weight loss journey during an interview. Ed revealed that his goal was originally to get six-pack abs when he began his weight loss journey.



Tamannaah defines Navratri

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia called the auspicious festival of Navratri 'a chance to return to ourselves'.

The *Baahubali* actress attended what looked like a 'Mata Ki Chowki'. The video dropped by her on her IG showed Tamannaah putting Mehendi, dancing, and praying in front of Mata Rani during a devotional evening.

Her post was further accompanied by a heartfelt note about what Navratri signifies for the diva.

Revealing that for her, Maa Durga stands for unwavering courage, Tamannaah penned on the photo-sharing app, "Navratri is not just nine nights of devotion, but it's also nine chances to return to ourselves. Each evening's a reminder that the Goddess is not only in temples or festivals, she's in every breath we take (sic)."

"Durga stands for the courage to fight the battles we have been avoiding. Lakshmi teaches us to welcome abundance, not just in wealth but in love, kindness, and possibility. Saraswati gifts the clarity to speak our truth and choose wisely when the path isn't clear. Kali burns away the fears, habits, and old stories that keep us small," the *Odela 2* actor added.

Work-wise, Tamannaah was recently seen in the web series *Do You Wanna Partner*, co-starring Diana Penty.

IAN S

Ankita on first love

Mumbai: Actress Ankita Lokhande claimed that "Acting will always remain my first love" as she embarks on a new journey as a producer.

Ankita has added a new feather to her cap - a producer. The *Pavitra Rishita* actress is stepping into production under her home banner, Legend Studios, alongside Sandeep Singh and Vicky Jain.

Talking about taking on the new challenge and if it means stepping back from acting, Ankita shared, "Acting will always remain my first love, but producing is my way of giving

back". For her, producing is not a replacement for acting but an extension of her creative journey.

"My first single-lead film came from Sandeep, and today, he has also brought me my first film as a producer. And with Vicky by my side, I feel like everything has come full circle," Ankita added.

However, Ankita definitely does not take lightly the responsibility of relaunching a cult film like *Chandni Bar*.

Expressing the same, she said, "It's a huge responsibility to recreate the magic of such an iconic film. But with Legend Studios, I believe we are going to make it truly special."

Ankita believes producing is about carrying forward a legacy, creating new opportunities, and giving back to the very industry that made her who she is today.

IAN S

Ash's warm gesture

Mumbai: Bollywood icon Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is once again set to dazzle at Paris Fashion Week. The actor, who represents L'Oréal Paris as its global brand ambassador, arrived in the French capital September 29 with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan ahead of the brand's annual Le Défilé L'Oréal Paris showcase.

Videos and pictures of the mother-daughter duo surfaced online soon after their arrival. In one widely shared clip, Aishwarya was seen comforting an emotional fan waiting outside her hotel. As the fan broke into tears while requesting a photograph, the actor embraced her, wiped her tears, and encouraged her to breathe and smile for the camera. Aaradhya, meanwhile, patiently waited for her mother in the car. The warm gesture won hearts online, with fans praising Aishwarya for her kindness. Comments poured in calling her "sweet," "caring," and "the most humble person."

For the outing, Aishwarya looked chic in a blue coat and trousers paired with a white shirt and black heels, while keeping her hair open. Known for her regular appearances at Paris Fashion Week, she continues to be one of the brand's most celebrated ambassadors.

On the film front, Aishwarya was last seen in Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan II* (2023), which grossed over Rs 344 crore worldwide.

AGENCIES

Shalini's career turning point

Mumbai: Actress Shalini Pandey, who made a striking debut with the blockbuster *Arjun Reddy*, has opened up about how the film became a turning point in her career. In an exclusive interview with this news agency, the actress reflected on its massive success. Shalini shared that the Vijay Deverakonda-starrer not only brought her into the limelight but also gave her the much-needed validation and confidence as an actor to pursue diverse roles in the industry.

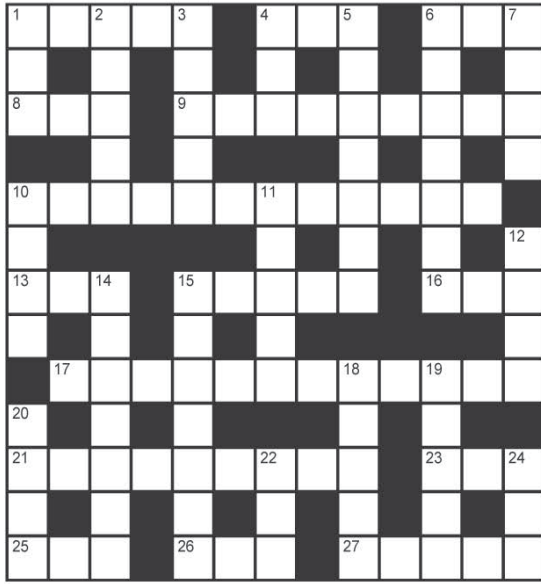
When asked about how *Arjun Reddy* shaped her experience, especially after the film's phenomenal success and widespread love from audiences, Shalini reflected on the journey with gratitude. "When *Arjun Reddy* was being made, we were all new. It was our first film, and we just wanted to do good work together. Once it was released

and received much more than I deserved, it gave me validation as an actor. I had been thinking for so long that I wanted to become an actor, and now suddenly I was getting the love for it. That validation was very important. At the time, I was so new that I didn't even know how to take pressure. I was simply enjoying everything and hoping that the work I do in the future also continues to receive the same love. That was my focus during *Arjun Reddy* and after it."

IAN S

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- Big pigs
- Rainbow's shape
- Mongrel
- Outback runner
- Actor's problem
- Change and Eng, e.g. (7,5)
- Silent
- Disreputable
- Health resort
- Pompous sort

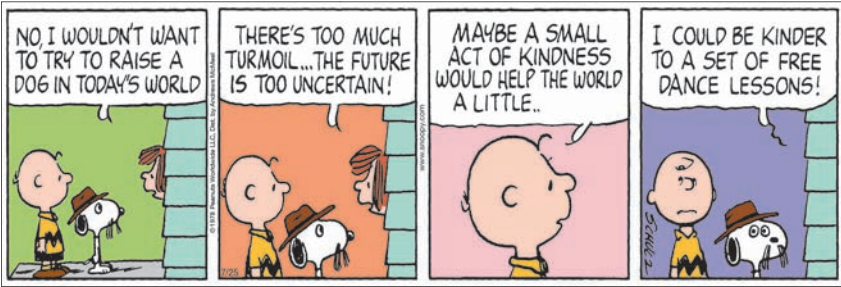
- Small aquariums
- Historic period
- Parisian way
- Study
- Petrol unit

Down

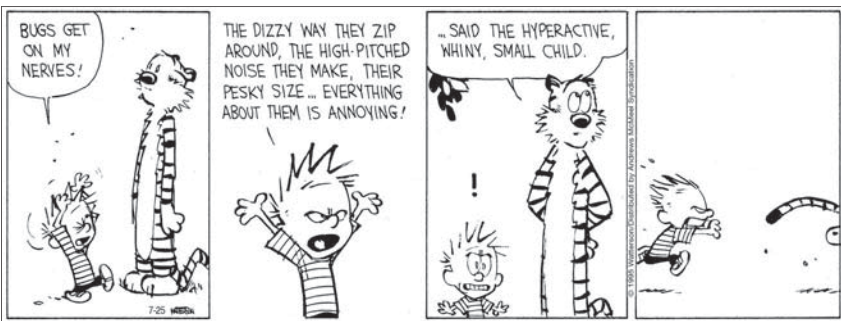
- Honey maker
- Caribbean cruise stop
- Bolivian capital
- Elbow's site
- They can be seeds

- Gaming venues
- Mantas
- Big rig
- Wipe clean
- Sentry's cry
- Leading figure of fauvism
- Studio couch
- Rope fibre
- Like helium
- Many miles off
- Triumphed
- Gibbon, for one

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

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₹ plunges to 88.75

Mumbai: Rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 88.75 against the US dollar Monday, on persistent foreign capital outflows and rise in risk-off sentiments. Forex traders said rupee is hovering near its all-time low level as investors remained concerned over global trade uncertainties and impact of US visa fee hike on India's IT services exports. Moreover, the RBI policy meeting outcome October 1, is expected to influence rupee and government bond movements.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No handshake, no trophy from you - we'll just play on the same pitch, same ground and with the same ball you touch

Primary edu gets ₹12K-cr boost

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The state Cabinet Monday approved an outlay of ₹12,000 crore to set up 2,200 primary schools under Godabarish Adarsha Vidyalaya (GAV) scheme in three years from 2025-26, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said.

In order to strengthen the primary education system in the state, the government has approved the GAV scheme, Majhi told the media after the Cabinet meeting.

He said that the objective of GAV scheme is to establish model schools at panchayat levels with emphasis on inclusive and quality education in line with the objectives of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009. This initiative is also in line with National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 and the vision of NIPUN Odisha.

In the first phase, 2,200 model schools will be constructed between 2025-26 and 2027-28 at an estimated cost of ₹12,000 crore.



While the cost for each school is estimated at around ₹5 crore, the actual cost will be determined on the basis of detailed project report (DPR) for each school, the CM said.

The CM said the Cabinet has approved ₹226 crore for beautification and peripheral development of Maa Tarini Temple at Ghatagaon. These works will be undertaken over an area of 59.206 acres and are targeted to be completed within 24 months.

It was estimated that ₹80 crore will be spent on land acquisition, while ₹146 crore will be utilised for development of various facilities including 216-bed guest

- ### KEY CABINET DECISIONS
- ₹226Cr for beautification and peripheral development of Ghatagaon Tarini Temple
 - Daily working hours enhanced from 9 to 10 hours, while the weekly cap remains at 48 hours
 - Women employees can now work during night with their written consent
- house, pilgrimage centre, interpretation centre, food plaza & watch tower, market complex, coconut store and Prasad serving room for 500 people and cloak room, he said.
- The CM also said that two proposals of the Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) department to amend existing Acts have been approved by the Cabinet to improve Ease of Doing Business.
- The government has decided to make necessary amendments to Factories Act, 1948 and Odisha Shops

and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956, he said.

As per the Cabinet decision, now, the commercial units that engage 20 or more employees will have to register under Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956.

Daily working hours has been enhanced from 9 hours to 10 hours with a rest of at least half an hour in an interval of six hours, while the weekly cap remains at 48 hours, a statement said.

Prohibition on engagement of women employees during night has been removed. Now, women employees can be engaged during night with their written consent and subject to conditions of safety, security and dignity of women as may be notified by the state government, the statement said.

Where an employee works in any establishment for more than 10 hours on any day or for more than 48 hours in any week, he will be entitled to double the ordinary rate of wages, it said.

Tale of a denied trophy, politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 29: The winner's trophy was yet to reach the winners even as politics became the sole talking point a day after one of the most acrimonious Asia Cup finales which was all about off-field hostilities between India and Pakistan, reducing cricket and its famed spirit of the game to a sidelight.

Suryakumar Yadav and his men held their nerves to win the nail-biting final by five wickets to complete a ninth title-winning campaign. But that wasn't the accomplishment which dictated the discourse although it fetched them a handsome ₹21 crore prize

ASIA CUP

fund from BCCI. The point of discussion, however, was the politics of it all as Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief Mohsin Naqvi, also the Pakistan Cricket Board boss and the Interior Minister of his country, walked away with

the trophy after the Indians refused to accept it from him.

The reason? His well-documented anti-India comments and the heightening political tensions between the two countries after 26 Indians were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Pahalgalam earlier this year.

India had retaliated with 'Operation Sindoor' and Naqvi was among the Pakistanis who mocked that action after the Indian team followed a 'No Handshake Policy' towards them.

Canada lists Bishnoi Gang as terror entity

AGENCIES

Ottawa, Sept 29: Canada Monday said it has listed the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity for creating a "climate of fear and intimidation". "Acts of violence and terror have no place in Canada, especially those that target specific communities to create a climate of fear and intimidation," an

official statement said. "Specific communities have been targeted for terror, violence and intimidation by the Bishnoi Gang. Listing this group of criminal terrorists gives us more powerful and effective tools to confront and put a stop to their crimes," Canada's Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree said Monday.



FIR blames Vijay for TN stampede

Chennai/Karur: Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor-politician Vijay "deliberately" arrived late at Velusampyapuram in Karur district, leading to overcrowding and restlessness among the people, gathered to attend his rally September 27, according to an FIR into the stampede in which at least 41 people have died and 60 were injured.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Sincere Gratitude to
Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** ji
for these visionary initiatives

Development of Bahuda Satellite Port

MoU for an SPV between
Odisha Maritime Board, Paradip Port Authority
&
Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited

5,000+ acres of salt pan land earmarked
at Chikiti in Ganjam

All-weather greenfield port
with 150 MTPA capacity

Investment of ₹21,500 Cr+

Development of National Mega Shipbuilding Cluster

MoU for an SPV between
Odisha Maritime Board
&
Paradip Port Authority

2.0-2.5 km waterfront near Mahanadi muhan
in Kendrapada with investment of ₹22,700 Cr+

World-class shipyard with
1.2 million GT annual capacity

1,500+ acres for shipyards,
ancillary industries, and R&D

Commerce & Transport Department, Government of Odisha

OIPR-02001/13/0015/2526

Over 120 platoons for twin city puja security

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The twin city Commissionerate Police has deployed over 60 platoons of personnel each in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack to ensure the smooth conduct of Durga Puja festivities, officials said Monday.

Briefing reporters, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said 61 platoons, including 20 platoons of home guards and three platoons of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), have been deployed across Bhubaneswar, where 193 Durga Puja pandals have been set up.

He added 79 women constables, 172 sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors, 33 inspectors and senior police officers have been engaged for the festivities.

For better supervision and to avoid disputes among puja committees, three DCP-rank officers have been mobilised.

In addition to that, plain-clothes police personnel have been deployed and CCTVs have been installed at all pandals to prevent crimes such as snatching, theft, and other anti-social activities, Singh said.

“A bomb detection and disposal squad and a Special Tactical Unit (STU) have also been



Goddess Durga dazzle in gold and silver on Maha Saptami at Sheikh Bazar in Cuttack, Monday

PGC RAJESHORE MOHANTY

positioned to counter any possible terror threats,” he said.

The police commissioner said drones and AI cameras will be used to monitor the crowd and its movement from the central control room.

Fire services teams and a medical unit will be present at traffic police station-1, Bhubaneswar, in case of any emergency, another officer said.

In Cuttack, as many as 160 Durga Puja pandals have been

set up by various cultural organisations and elaborate security arrangements, including CCTV surveillance, have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival and public safety, a senior police official said. “More than 60 platoons of police force, including three companies of the CAPF, one unit of STU, 1,132 traffic constables, and 70 women constables, have been deployed across the Silver City,” he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: SAI International School, Bhubaneswar, has been featured in the newly-introduced ‘Ivy League’ category of the EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR) 2025-26, earning a prestigious three-star rating. Launched this year the ‘Ivy League’ category recognises schools that consistently rank among the nation’s top institutions for overall excellence.

The Ivy League category groups top-performing schools under a shared Rank 1, using a 1-to-5 star system to indicate levels of excellence. SAI International School’s inclusion in day-cum-boarding schools category highlights its sustained strength in academics, teach-



er quality, co-curricular and sports programmes, and overall institutional performance. Additionally, SAI International Residential School, Cuttack, secured 7th place in the Co-ed Boarding Schools category, sharing the rank with Isha Home School, Coimbatore.

Odisha schools performed

strongly across multiple categories. ODM Public School, Bhubaneswar, ranked 10th among day-cum-boarding schools, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV), Budhapal (Deogarh) – 4th in State Government Day Schools, OAV Mahipani (Sundargarh) – 7th, and OAV Baripada – 10th in Government Boarding Schools while Kalin-

ga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar, secured 7th in Philanthropic Schools.

The EWISR 2024 survey evaluated over 9,500 schools across 34 cities in 22 states, using 14 parameters such as academic reputation, faculty competence, hybrid learning readiness, mental well-being support, and infrastructure.

Founder-editor of Education World Dilip Thakore described the new Ivy League category as a “natural progression” to recognise the “best of the best” and encourage healthy competition in education. Founder-director of AZ Research Partners Shubhra Mishra highlighted the improved accuracy of this year’s rankings through structured, one-on-one interviews with 9,500 respondents.

Heritage enthusiasts explore Odisha’s iconic royal palace

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Beyond Similipal and the recently highlighted Belgadia Palace, the historic headquarters town in Mayurbhanj district has many monuments to be explored by heritage enthusiasts.

The 18th edition of Mayurbhanj Heritage Walks (MHW) saw around 50 participants visiting the Mayurbhanj Palace in Baripada, the last capital of the princely state.

The event was organised under the banner of Mayurbhanj Mirror and Mayurbhanj Lovers.

Under the guidance of Kumaresh Nayak and Rushiraj Pattanaik, the heritage lovers explored the architectural style, construction history, governance system, religious beliefs, and lifestyle of the bygone era related to the palace.

Initially built in Baripada by Maharani Sumitra Devi Bhannajadeo, the palace was later renovated by other rulers.

It was built in the style of Buckingham Palace in England, with about 156 rooms. The peak of Mayurbhanj Chhau’s progress was reached in this palace, which later became Maharaja Purna Chandra College (MPCC). Apart from the bedrooms, the palace also had a Durbar Hall, the Maharaja’s room, special halls for administrative work, and more. The current college library was Maharani’s bathroom at that time, illuminated with blue light in the sunlight through Belgian blue tiles.

Apollo Hospitals marks World Heart Day 2025



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar marked World Heart Day with an awareness event at the main block lobby. The programme brought together leading medical experts and cardiac specialists to promote public understanding of cardiovascular health and highlight the importance of timely medical care.

The team of cardiologists and cardiovascular thoracic surgeons at Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar shared key messages emphasising the importance of regular heart health monitoring and early medical intervention.

The distinguished panel comprised senior consultant cardiologist and director of interventional cardiology Prasant Kumar Sahoo, senior cardiologist Brajaraj, senior consultant cardiothoracic and vascular surgery Raghunath Mohapatra, consultant cardiologist Gobinda Prasad Nayak, consultants Priyabrata Sahu, Byomakesh Dikshit and Sandeep Mohanty, and senior consultant cardiovascular & thoracic surgery Satyajit Sahoo, and the governor Hari

Babu Kambhampati also graced the occasion.

Together, the specialists highlighted the importance of recognising early warning signs, including chest pain, palpitations, dizziness, shortness of breath, and sudden weakness. They urged the public to adopt heart-healthy lifestyles, undergo regular screenings, and seek timely medical evaluations to reduce cardiovascular risks and improve outcomes.

COO & director of Medical Services Alok Srivastava highlighted the event’s theme, “Don’t Miss a Beat,” urging people to pay attention to warning signs often mistaken for minor issues like acidity. He emphasised that prompt cardiology evaluation of any suspicious symptoms is vital for prevention and reducing heart-related deaths. The event, held under the theme “Don’t Miss a Beat,” featured patient testimonials, interactive expert sessions, and community outreach. Presenters urged attendees to maintain cardiovascular health through balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and routine health screenings.

Bidanasi’s 3D tunnel gate a big crowd puller



MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: As the twin cities gear up for Durga Puja celebrations, creative pandals and vibrant light decorations are drawing crowds. The Silver City’s ‘3D tunnel gate’ is winning hearts and going viral on social media.

The 3D tunnel at Chahata Square, decorated with vibrant

lights by the Bidanasi Durga Puja Committee (BDPC), has become a major attraction. Constructed with an array of colourful decorative lights, the tunnel is drawing large crowds, including influencers and vloggers eager to capture its charm.

The committee had built a similar tunnel gate last year, which was a major draw for festival-goers and vloggers.

This year, they have enhanced the decorations to make it even more captivating.

“This gate looks stunning, and the decoration is impressive. They’ve made it even better than last year, and we feel like visiting it again and again,” said a visitor.

BDPC vice president Bijay Kumar Sethi said, “We are happy that people are enjoying this decoration. Last year, we had also created a similar one. Keeping in mind the appreciation of the people, this year, we have modified it to 3D gate. We are privileged to see that people are gathering in large numbers to get a glimpse of the gate. We have created Chandi Medha (Silver Tableau) this year with around ₹30 lakh budget which also covers the 3D tunnel gate. We want all the people to visit our pendal and seek blessings from the goddess.”

Capital glows in devotion amid pandal rush

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: On Mahasaptami, the seventh day of Durga Puja, Bhubaneswar came alive with sacred chants, elaborate rituals, and vibrant displays of art and devotion. Devotees thronged major pandals from the early hours, marking the spiritual high of the festival, even as traffic congestion and crowd management posed challenges for the City.

Mahasaptami, a key day in the Durga Puja calendar, marks the formal invocation of Goddess Durga. At sunrise, priests across Bhubaneswar’s pandals conducted traditional Saptami rituals, including Nabapatika Snan (bathing of nine plants), Shodashopachara Puja (sixteen-fold worship), and Saptami Homa, with devotees offering flowers, incense, fruits, and sweets.

Many pandals also held Kumari Puja, venerating young girls as embodiments of the Goddess, while preparations for Ashtami and Navami continued with special prayers and bhog offerings. The air echoed with Sanskrit chants, temple bells, and devotional

music, creating a vibrant mix of spiritual serenity and festive energy.

Over 172 pandals have been set up across Bhubaneswar this year, each featuring unique themes and cultural artistry. Among the most visited on Mahasaptami were those in Rasulgarh, Saheed Nagar, Nayapalli, Jharpada, and Baramunda, turning these localities into cultural hotspots that blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary themes.

Rasulgarh’s pandal, “Nature with Maa on Hills,” showcases Durga amid serene landscapes, emphasising her bond with nature. Saheed Nagar’s eco-friendly “War and Peace” theme blends Mahabharata and modern conflicts, promoting global harmony with “Vasudev Kutumbakam.” Nayapalli celebrates Kerala’s heritage with a Kathakali-inspired pandal, while Baramunda highlights social messages through contemporary designs.

Several committees followed eco-friendly guidelines issued by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), with bans on single-use plastics and provisions for waste seg-



The 62-ft idol of Goddess Durga at Tangibanta, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Monday

PGC BHASH NAYAK

regation.

As evening fell, Bhubaneswar saw huge crowds near major pandals, causing severe traffic congestion and parking challenges. Popular spots like Rasulgarh, Bomikhal, and Saheed Nagar faced parking shortages, forcing devotees to use distant roads or private spaces. Key arteries, including Cuttack-Puri Road, Kalpana Square, and areas near Vani Vihar and Bomikhal, were nearly at a standstill after 6pm.

Adding to the City’s festive spirit, the Tangibanta Durga Puja Committee in Mancheswar unveiled a 62-ft-tall idol of Goddess Durga, the tallest in the state this year.

The monumental statue has attracted large crowds, refocusing attention on the goddess amid the festival’s pandal extravaganza. Birendra Jena, committee president, noted the significance, contrasting it with Cuttack’s traditional Chandi Medhas.

As Bhubaneswar gears up for the grand celebrations of Mahashanti and Mahanavami, city officials continue to grapple with crowd management while striving to preserve the vibrant festive spirit of this beloved festival.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.91 ▲ 0.03	SENSEX	80364.94 ▼ 61.52	GOLD	₹115,495 ▲ ₹1,707
EURO	104.36 ▲ 0.55	NIFTY	24634.90 ▼ 19.80	SILVER	₹143,593 ▲ ₹1,704

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.6°	32.8°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
Min Temp	25.6°	24.2°	
Humidity	89%	89%	
Rainfall	2.1 mm	1.2 mm	

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Encroachers grab Air Force land in Bhograi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 29: Even as the Indian government pushes forward with plans to strengthen the country's military infrastructure, concerns have surfaced over alleged encroachments on land belonging to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Talsari beach in Bhogarai block of Balasore district.

In the 1990s, the IAF unit at Kalaikunda in West Midnapore district of West Bengal had test-fired missiles from the Talsari coast into the Bay of Bengal. Officials said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had initially identified 10 acres of land in the area, later expanded and acquired an additional 50 acres, Revenue officials said.

A signboard still stands there stating the property belongs to the IAF under the MoD, warning against construction, farming, garbage dumping or movement inside the zone. A small MoD outpost with four security guards remains on site. However, allegations

Locals have expressed concern over sand dunes at Talsari being sold and purchased in blatant violation of rules, demanding a high-level investigation

Some hotels near the MoD premises are run by members of minority community, including suspected Bangladeshi nationals

have emerged that influential persons have illegally occupied portions of the land, fencing it off for private use.

As per Supreme Court directives, no private party is allowed to claim land within 500 metres of the coastline under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification of 1986. Locals have expressed concern over sand dunes at Talsari being sold and purchased in blatant violation of this rule, demanding a high-level investigation.

Adding to the controversy, reports alleged that some hotels near the MoD premises are run by members of minority commu-

nity, including suspected Bangladeshi nationals. Locals also claim several Bangladeshi fishermen are staying in the area with the help of local residents. They demand verification of the suspects' Aadhaar and voter IDs by authorities to establish their nationality.

The situation has sparked heightened concern as Balasore district already hosts critical defence installations, including the Integrated Test Range (ITR) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Chandipur and the missile testing site at Wheeler Island in Bhadrak district. The Indian Navy also operates a training centre at Chilika. Meanwhile, the MoD is working to revive Rasgobindpur airbase in Mayurbhanj district.

Frequent inspections by Kalaikunda Air Force officials at Talsari, along with reports of underground power connections worth Rs 7 crore being laid at the site, have fuelled speculation that the government may be planning to set up either an Air Force base or a naval training facility at the site.

Balasore Additional District Magistrate Sudhakar Nayak told reporters that the district administration has received no official communication from the MoD regarding Talsari. However, Bhograi tehsildar Surya Kumar Nayak confirmed that all illegal encroachments on MoD land and surrounding government land would be removed.

DELIVERY AGENT ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, Sept 29: A delivery agent was electrocuted and two others were critically injured after coming in contact with an 11 KV transmission wire while unloading parcels from a vehicle near a hotel along National Highway 20 under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district Monday.

The deceased was identified as Susanta Das of Mangalpur village under Ghasipura police limits and the critically injured as Kabindra Das of Padmapur village and Ranjan Kumar of Fakirpur.

According to police, the trio was unloading goods at a courier company's warehouse when a rope attached to the vehicle accidentally touched an overhead 11-KV high-tension wire.



The vehicle became electrically charged killing Susanta on the spot while injuring Kabindra and Ranjan. The injured duo was rushed to the Anandapur sub-divisional hospital in critical condition.

Family members alleged negligence on the part of the courier company and demanded compensation for the deceased and full medical expenses for the injured workers.

Police registered a case and launched an investigation over a complaint lodged by the family members.

Kin carry body on shoulder after delay in hearse arrival



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baunsuni, Sept 29: In a tragic incident reminiscent of the infamous Dana Majhi incident, family members had to carry a person's body to their home on shoulders after the hearse did not arrive in time to the hospital under this police limits in Boudh district Sunday.

Meanwhile, personnel from Manamunda police station failed to show up even five hours after the man's death.

The deceased, identified as 50-year-old Thakur Meher, drowned in a pond

at Karamapadar village under Manamunda police limits Monday afternoon.

Family members rescued him unconscious around 12:30pm and rushed him to the Baunsuni hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

However, despite passage of five hours after the death, Manamunda police did not arrive at the hospital. The hearse was also late, leading to anger among the relatives, who eventually carried the body back home on their shoulders. Videos of the scene went viral on social

media, drawing sharp reactions from locals.

When contacted, Manamunda police station in-charge Anjali Biswal said no formal complaint had been received. "We recovered the body midway and sent it for post-mortem," she said.

Baunsuni police IIC Sarada Prasanna Das confirmed that a written intimation had been submitted but said the family had mentioned that they did not want a case registered. "We informed Manamunda police, and they will take it forward," he added.

52 elephants in Ghumsur North division create panic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Sept 29: Panic has gripped locals with as many as 52 elephants reportedly present in the North Ghumsur forest division of Ganjam district Monday. When night falls, the elephant herds leave the forest and cause extensive damage in nearby villages, residents said.

Reports said elephants blocked the Nidhia Pali-Galeri road for a long time Sunday night, leaving commuters frightened. A tusker was seen crossing National Highway 157 near Buduli, visibly disturbed as



onlookers jostled to take selfies Monday evening.

Environmentalists, including Ramesh Patra, a member of the North Ghumsur forest wildlife committee, urged the Forest department to take necessary steps to ensure safe passage for the elephants.

Forest personnel rushed to the spot and tried to drive the tusker back into the forest. At one point, the elephant charged at officials and locals, forcing them to run for safety.

The tusker's presence has disrupted traffic on the Bhanjanagar-Phulbani highway.

Major train mishap averted at Soro station

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, Sept 29: A major train accident was narrowly averted at Soro railway station in Balasore district Sunday evening, rekindling memories of the Bahanaga train tragedy.

Sources said the Howrah-Bhubaneswar Jan Shatabdi Express (12073) arrived at Soro station at 5:36pm and was scheduled to depart at 5:46pm. At the same time, the Howrah-Puri Shatabdi Express (12277)

was approaching the station at a low speed as the track had not yet been cleared.

However, due to alleged negligence by the loco pilot, the incoming train overshot the halt point near the level crossing

and entered the platform area without clearance. Acting swiftly, the station master halted the Jan Shatabdi Express at Soro station and diverted the Shatabdi Express to Markona station, pre-

venting a collision.

Railway officials later removed the loco pilot, assisted pilot and guard from duty at Markona station and replaced them with a new crew. The train eventually departed from Mar-

kona station one and a half hours behind schedule.

Senior officials arrived at the station and began questioning the three suspended staff members. An investigation into the incident is underway.

IIC assaulted for trying to clear spectators from road

Soro: Four persons were arrested and produced in court Monday for allegedly assaulting the inspector-in-charge of Soro police station in Balasore district, the previous night. Sources said the incident took place Sunday night during the Asia Cup final match. A group of youths had blocked the road opposite the Tarini Temple close to the court area while watching the match on an LED screen. Soro IIC Sudipta Kumar Sahu, who was on patrol, reached the spot and questioned them for obstructing the road. He also recorded the scene on his mobile phone. Meanwhile, one of the youths brought his own phone close to the officer's face, prompting Sahu to push his hand away. The phone fell, triggering an altercation. The youth allegedly punched the IIC and others joined in, attacking both Sahu and ASI Sameer Behera. Police later detained the accused from their homes late during the night.

NTPC Talcher-Kaniha awarded

Bhubaneswar: The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Talcher-Kaniha unit in Odisha has bagged two silver awards for excellence in corporate communication and in the corporate film category at the 9th Global Communications Conference organised by the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in Goa. This distinction reflects the organization's consistent performance and commitment to excellence in communication and stakeholder engagement, NTPC said in a statement. NTPC's award-winning initiatives covered a wide spectrum, including human resource practices, community development and CSR projects, corporate communication campaigns, digital platforms, employee engagement activities and films. With accolades spanning multiple stations and regions, the achievement highlights the strength of collaboration, innovation and NTPC's comprehensive approach to communication. NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated power utility, contributing one-fourth of the India's power requirements and has an installed capacity of 83 GW, with an additional capacity of 30.90 GW under construction, including 13.3 GW of renewable energy capacity.



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The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.



SRI AUROBINDO

U-Turn On Ukraine

During the past fortnight European states have reported a spurt in incursions into their airspace, the latest such instance being drones appearing above Danish airports 25 September. This came close on the heels of drones over Poland, Romania, Estonia and a German naval frigate in the Baltic Sea. The suspected culprit is, of course, Russia, though the latter has stoutly denied its hand in them. But the overall pattern does fit into Moscow’s long record of provocations and escalation of conflicts.

All these, however, indicate Russia is testing whether Europe is in a position to defend Ukraine in the face of its renewed attacks. Since the drones in Danish skies were seen soon after US President Donald Trump’s assertion at the UN session 23 September that Ukraine could win back its lost territory, the suspicion gets strengthened. Trump even suggested NATO countries should shoot down Russian aircraft entering their airspace. That is easier said than done.

What is important is that Trump has made a complete U-turn on his assessment of Ukraine’s ability to take on Russia. After snubbing and virtually threatening Ukraine to surrender to Russia’s aggression and annexation of its territories, Trump for the first time said at the UN session that Ukraine could, in fact, win back the one-fifth of its territory it has lost to Russia since the 2014 annexation of Crimea, the Kremlin’s support to separatists and its 2022 full-scale invasion.

The question, however, is whether one should have faith in the judgment of a man who fails to distinguish between aggressor and victim. For, earlier this year Trump said Russian President Vladimir Putin had “all the cards” and urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to make peace in terms that meant abject surrender to the aggressor. Trump has already established his credentials as a vacillating ruler.

To justify his apparent change of heart Trump even asserted that the new assessment follows a process he described as “getting to know and fully understand the Ukraine/Russia military and economic situation.” He has offered to continue supplying American weapons for NATO “to do what they want with them.”

Speculation is rife as to what has prompted President Trump to show the sudden enthusiasm for Ukrainian liberation and denunciation of Moscow’s military provocations. It would be worthwhile to note the shift in his attitude to Ukraine in varying degrees according to Putin’s warmth or coldness to him. With constant encouragement and cajoling from European leaders, Trump’s attitude to Zelenskyy has seemingly changed from contempt to courtesy tinged with a modicum of respect.

There are reasons to believe that Trump has adopted the anti-Russian posturing because Putin has taken him for a ride, joined hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and shown no interest in stopping sale of crude oil to India at concessional rates. Hence, Russia’s war in Ukraine has not in any way weakened as the US President thought his tariff war and imposition of penalty on India for its purchase of Russian crude would do. This seems to have led Trump to go on the offensive against Russia over Ukraine by pledging his support by way of arms supply and expressing the conviction that Ukraine stands to win and regain lost territories from Russia.

Skeptics and his baiters may express serious doubts about Trump’s motives. He has repeatedly shown inconsistency in pursuing his military and economic policies. Asked whether he still trusted the Russian president, Trump said he would know in a month’s time. This is more than prevarication since he is apparently leaving room for yet another volte face, if that suits him. He may again revert to his earlier position that Russia is right and Ukraine is wrong.

A crucial element in Trump’s faith in Ukraine’s ability to wrest control of its own territories from Russia is that he asserted Ukraine can do so with help from its “European allies.” He stopped short of openly declaring that he would go to the rescue of Ukraine, at least not now. This seems to be encouraging Putin to continue with his drone forays into European skies. For this reason political and military analysts are sceptical about his newfound conviction about Ukraine’s winnability.

It could also be that Trump is thinking like a businessman which he truly is. He sees and receives information that Russia’s economic situation is getting worse. The combined effect of Western sanctions, slower domestic growth, soaring inflation, budget deficits and higher interest rates has greatly affected Russia’s economy this year. The Kremlin, of course, typically responded to Trump’s post saying Russia has no choice but to continue the war and called the US President’s comment “mistaken.”

Russia may not be far from the truth. Trump is merely trying to salvage his reputation after Putin failed to live up to his expectation dashing to the ground his hope for winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

WISDOM CORNER

Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

Things are as they are. Looking out into it the universe at night, we make no comparisons between right and wrong stars, nor between well and badly arranged constellations.

ALAN WATTS

Remember your dreams and fight for them. You must know what you want from life. There is just one thing that makes your dream become impossible: the fear of failure.

PAULO COELHO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1791:** The opera The Magic Flute by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart premiered in Vienna.
- 1938:** The notorious Munich Agreement, in which Britain's Neville Chamberlain encouraged Britain and France to appease Adolf Hitler's demands in the hope of preventing World War II, was reached on this day in 1938.
- 1949:** The Berlin airlift officially ended after the Western Allied powers delivered 2,323,738 tons of food, fuel, machinery, and other supplies to West Berlin, which had been cut off from the West during the Soviet blockade of Berlin.
- 1954:** The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered vessel, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy.
- 1965:** In Indonesia a group of army conspirators known as the September 30th Movement began an abortive coup, and by the following morning they had kidnapped and murdered six army generals; the movement claimed that it had seized power to forestall a coup against President Sukarno by a council of generals.
- 1966:** Botswana gained independence from the United Kingdom.

FOCUS COMMERCE

WEATHERING TRUMP TARIFFS



Shang-Jin Wei

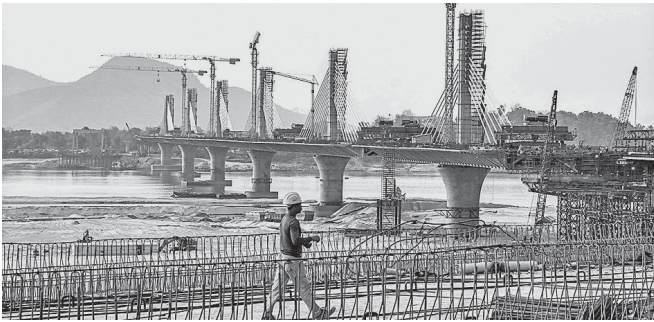
GIVEN THAT THE US IS INDIA'S LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, TRUMP'S TARIFFS WILL LIKELY HIT HARDER THAN SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER TRADE PARTNERS

India has long benefited from geopolitical arbitrage, maintaining working relationships with Russia, the United States, and Europe. But this delicate balancing act is now being tested by a series of policy shocks delivered by US President Donald Trump’s administration. These disruptions, unlikely to ease anytime soon, raise a critical question: Can India retain its status as the world’s fastest-growing major economy?

The most urgent challenge facing Indian policymakers is weathering the escalating trade war. In August, Trump imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian imports, citing the need to reduce India’s trade surplus with the US and punish the country for its massive purchases of Russian oil. Adding to the pressure, Trump has urged the European Union and other G7 countries to take even harsher steps – namely, to impose a 100 per cent tariff on imports from India and China.

Trump’s decision to hike H-1B visa fees to \$100,000 represents yet another blow to India’s economy, particularly its IT services industry – one of the country’s most dynamic growth engines. Currently, Indian nationals account for more than 70 per cent of all H-1B holders, with most of them working in IT or technology-related sectors. Given this, it’s hardly surprising that the share prices of Indian companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and Wipro, which rely heavily on H-1B visas to access the US market, declined following Trump’s announcement.

While Trump has labelled India a “dead economy,” it is unclear whether he meant this as



To mitigate the impact of US restrictions, Indian policymakers must pursue a dual strategy comprising stimulative macroeconomic policies and a concerted effort to deepen trade ties with the EU, China, and the Middle East

a statement of fact or a threat he will make good unless India offers sufficient concessions in its trade negotiations with the US. Either way, there is little evidence to suggest the Indian economy is at risk of collapsing anytime soon.

On the contrary, India is among the world’s most vibrant economies. In July, before the new US tariffs were imposed, the International Monetary Fund projected that India’s GDP will grow by 6.4 per cent in 2025 and 2026 – well ahead of America’s projected annual growth rate of 1.9 per cent. No other major economy comes close, with the exception of China, at 4.8 per cent.

Barring external shocks, India is well-positioned to sustain its rapid growth rate over the next decade and become the world’s third-largest economy by 2030. Given its vast population and growth momentum, India could even overtake China and the US to emerge as the world’s largest economy with-

in the next 50 years.

That said, the extent to which US policy shifts might affect India’s growth trajectory remains unclear. In the early 2000s, India was far less exposed to global trade than China was, with exports accounting for less than 15 per cent of its GDP, compared with China’s 20 per cent. Since then, however, India’s reliance on trade has increased significantly. Exports now make up more than 20 per cent of GDP, leaving the country more vulnerable to trade shocks.

Given that the US is India’s largest export market, Trump’s tariffs will likely hit harder than similar actions by other trade partners. Still, it is important to remember that India is a continental economy, with domestic consumption playing a far greater role than external demand. Moreover, the EU’s trade significance for India nearly matches that of the US, and China and the Middle East are also im-

SPECTRUM GOVERNANCE

Reimagining administration with AI



Pratyush Satapathy

AI EMPOWERS NON-SPECIALISTS TO HANDLE SPECIALISED TASKS BY BREAKING THEM INTO SMALLER COMPONENTS, EFFECTIVELY BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN GENERALISTS AND SPECIALISTS

Administration is the turtle—Kurma—upon whose back rests Mandar Parvat, the mountain symbolising the state itself. Administration forms the stable base upon which the dynamic processes of the state unfold, enabling the necessary churning that refines governance into effective policymaking. It is this stability when paired with adaptability that transforms a good society into a better one.

Contemporary Indian administration rests on Max Weber’s rational principles, yet its value-laden foundations can be traced to Kautilya’s Arthashastra—a blend of ancient wisdom and global best practices. As Minnowbrook Conference IV approaches in 2028, it becomes imperative to re-imagine administration for a rapidly transforming world. When Luther Gulick spoke of integrating IT with governance, AI was inconceivable. Today, with IT increasingly AI-driven, Gulick’s tenets demand fresh interpretation. India must lead the Minnowbrook IV Conference by rising to the occasion and presenting the world with an indigenous model of AI-enabled administration. In this pursuit, Odisha’s proactive measures, including digital land records under Bhulekh, and data-driven monitoring in

health and education, lay a robust foundation for advanced, intelligent administration.

Herbert A. Simon envisioned transforming non-programmable decisions into programmable ones through IT, streamlining novel problems into standardised procedures. While IT increased efficiency, AI now brings the potential for true effectiveness. For instance, Odisha’s Ama Sasan initiative for participatory governance leverages digital platforms for fast, well-documented citizen feedback. Incorporating AI allows for deeper analysis—identifying persistent issues, conducting sentiment analysis to prioritise feedback, and even automating troubleshooting.

Indian administrators often juggle multiple roles. In many Odisha blocks, ABDOs support BDOs, though a significant portion of their time goes into addressing RTI queries. Since RTI responses require only factual information, AI-powered large language models (LLMs) can automate these replies, freeing officers for higher-priority work.

AI also empowers non-specialists to handle specialised tasks by breaking them into smaller components, effectively bridging the gap between generalists and specialists. At the block and panchayat

level, IT expertise is scarce—most Custom Service Centers are run by non-coders. AI agents can guide citizens in local languages and automate data cleaning and formatting and amplify the human capacity to focus on other essential responsibilities. However, deploying AI in governance requires care; different models, such as LLMs (for text/report writing) and reasoning models (for data analysis, coding) must be matched to their optimal tasks.

Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Sevottam—governance that puts citizens first—rests on a strong grievance redressal system. Odisha is one of the few states which has made Right to Public Service an act (Orissa Right to Public Service Act, 2012)- a guarantee by the state. AI can be the silent partner in its implementation. For example, a simple search of “certified copy” in the notification for the services under ORT-PSA, one can find 15 entries. AI can simply improve the service delivery by taking on the agency of certificate verification based on the already certified copy of supporting documents existing in the system. This not only streamlines processes for citizens but also produces positive ripple effects—such as improving ease of doing business through

reduced service delivery time. As a result, Odisha can move more effectively toward its vision of becoming a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047.

AI is not without limits. Data security is a major concern, especially in governance where citizen data is sensitive. A zero-trust cybersecurity framework and the development of local, cloud-based AI integrated with systems like Odisha State Workflows Automation System can ensure both accessibility and lower costs.

Meaningful reform requires moving beyond surface-level adoption. Recent initiatives—such as NITI Aayog’s strategic focus on AI and the Odisha government’s directive for every department to adopt at least one AI tool—are promising steps towards future-ready governance. Each department must carefully assess its unique challenges and collaborate to develop an Indianised model of AI solutions, tailored to real governance needs. Customised AI tools should be preferred over the off-the-shelf AI solutions to maximise impact. With continued leadership and visionary policy decisions, Odisha is poised to become a pioneer in citizen-centric, efficient AI-powered administration.

The writer is an author and civil servant.

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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Political inexperience

Sir, The death of 41 people in the stampede at Karur in Tamil Nadu has fuelled anger against actor-politician Vijay and his party administration. A miscalculation of crowd size, Vijay’s delayed arrival, black-tinted windows on his bus, and fans in huge numbers trailing him behind his caravan – all worsened the situation. Did not Vijay know the simple fact that any delay in his arrival would result in crowd-swelling, leading to possible mishaps? Vijay’s lack of political experience, ignorance and unwillingness to recruit people with grassroots-level understanding were the major cause for the tragedy. If only he had men on the ground with organisational capacity and responsibilities, Vijay would have received early information about the tragedy that was still unfolding before his eyes.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Chessmen of Ukraine

Sir, Germany’s chancellor says President Putin resists a ceasefire because it would freeze Russia’s gains; instead Moscow prolongs the war to seize more land, wear down Ukraine and erode Western backing, boosting its bargaining power. Ukraine refuses to recognise annexations but is open to a temporary ceasefire along current lines only to stop bloodshed, treating occupied areas as “temporarily seized.” Donald Trump is shifting to support Ukraine’s full territorial recovery and shaping US aid and talks. India avoids sanctions on Russia but positions itself as a neutral mediator urging dialogue and respect for sovereignty.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Dual allegiance

Sir, The spectacle of Pakistan’s leadership parading its rare earth reserves before President Trump is hardly an act of sovereign strength—it signals a “two-daddy” foreign policy, where Islamabad courts both China and the US simultaneously. By showing off minerals at the White House, Pakistan seeks to pull Washington deeper into its orbit, even as its dependency on Beijing retains structural depth. This dual allegiance strategy is risky: China remains heavily invested in Pakistan via CPEC, infrastructure projects, and financial bailouts. A nation divided in external loyalties might end up served by neither.

Gopalswamy J, CHENNAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of the day


quote

Our government began the survey to ensure equality. The moment we started, those shouting 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' have revealed their true colours



SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

Had the honour of meeting Mr Abdullah Abu Shawesh, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to India, during his visit to Kerala. Reiterated Kerala's unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and our demand for an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza. Kerala will always stand firm for justice to the people of Palestine



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

India has a rich pool of scientific talent, but structured training in institutional management and administrative orientation is essential for those taking on leadership roles



JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

GOC reviews security situation along LoC

Jammu: The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, Monday visited forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to assess the prevailing security situation in the sector. The GOC lauded the professionalism and vigilance of the troops and urged all ranks to remain steadfast with a strong offensive posture.

Man stabbed to death in J'khand

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death and another was injured by an attacker in connection with a dispute in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday in Bhootgadhiya under the Borragarh police station limits. None was arrested in this connection till the filing of this report. The victims and the attacker were known to each other, Borragarh police station in-charge Niranjan Kumar Singh said.

Bomb threat found hoax

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad airport received a bomb threat email, which was later found to be a hoax, prompting police to register an FIR against the unidentified sender. A preliminary probe indicated the person had sent the same text about bomb threats to several other airports as well as government and private establishments in the country, Ahmedabad's Airport Police Station inspector ND Nakum said.

Heroin worth ₹2.5 cr seized

Jowai/Imphal: Two persons from Manipur were arrested and heroin worth ₹2.5 crore was seized from their possession in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district, police said. Former chief minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, said that the drug bust exposed serious issues that go beyond state borders and threaten national security.

7 trains launched

Patna: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Monday flagged off seven trains - three Amrit Bharat Expresses and four passenger trains - in Bihar. While Vaishnaw attended the function through video conference, Choudhary turned up at Patna Junction station.

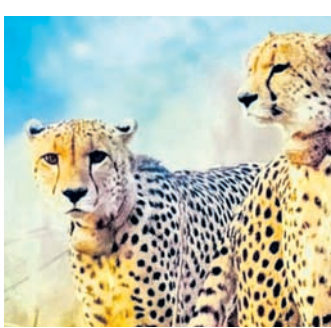


I always wish Durgamma to see that all the people living in the state should be happy and bless everybody in all ways. I wish that all the people in the state should be happy, healthy, and their income should rise

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

'INDIA-BOTSWANA TALKS TO IMPORT 8 MORE CHEETAHS IN FINAL STAGES'

Talks between India and Botswana to import eight more cheetahs from the Southern African country are in the final stages, an official from the Madhya Pradesh forest department said Monday. He said that it was too early to say whether the animals would arrive this year or the next, as the final decision would rest on the completion of talks



LAB sets preconditions for talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Sept 29: The Leh Apex Body (LAB), spearheading the agitation for statehood and constitutional safeguards in Ladakh, Monday announced suspension of talks with the Centre until a judicial inquiry into the police firing is constituted and all activists, including Sonam Wangchuk, are released unconditionally.

LAB chairman Thupstan Chhewang and co-chairman Chering Dorjay said the restoration of a "conducive atmosphere" in Ladakh was necessary before resuming dialogue.

Hardening its stand after the death of four protestors, the LAB said it would still rethink and join the talks October 6 if the demands of ordering a judicial probe headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and releasing all prisoners were met by the government.

"We will urge the Home Ministry and the UT administration to take steps to address the atmosphere of fear, grief and anger that is there," the two leaders said.

The boycott was announced hours after the fourth victim, a former army soldier, was cremated amid heavy security in the curfew-bound capital of Ladakh.

Late in the evening, the Home Ministry came out with a brief statement saying the government has always been open to dialogues on Ladakh matters with LAB and KDA.

"We would continue to welcome the discussion with Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance through the High Powered Committee on Ladakh or any such platform," the statement said, pointing out the past results which had brought development and em-

LADAKH ROW



ployment in the region.

"The dialogue mechanism... on Ladakh has yielded good results till date in the form of increased reservations to the Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh, providing women's reservation in LAHDCs and protection to local languages. The process of recruitment for 1800 posts in government has already commenced in UT of Ladakh."

"We are confident that continuous dialogue would yield the desired results in the near future," the statement said. Meanwhile, the Leh town remained subdued, with the curfew only briefly relaxed for two hours at 4 PM Monday.

Tourists who travelled to the region are stranded, confined to their hotels, and unable to move or participate in sight-seeing, with many expressing disappointment over the closed markets and suspended mobile internet services.

The ongoing unrest, which saw widespread violent protests September 24, has already dealt a fresh blow to Ladakh's tourism industry,

which stakeholders say was just recovering from earlier setbacks this season.

Chhewang, a two-time former Member of Parliament, said the decision on suspending talks was unanimous and added, "as long as peace is not restored and a conducive atmosphere is not created, we will not participate in any talks."

The LAB set clear preconditions for resuming dialogue with the Home Ministry's High Powered Committee, saying that the government must order a judicial probe by a retired Supreme Court judge into the killings and all arrested, including noted Wangchuk, who was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), must be released, besides revoking all cases.

Co-chairman Chering Dorjay warned that unless "right steps" are taken before the October 6 date, the LAB will not reconsider its decision to return to the table.

The leaders of the LAB strongly hit back at recent statements by the administra-

The ongoing unrest, which saw widespread violent protests September 24, has already dealt a fresh blow to Ladakh's tourism industry, which stakeholders say was just recovering from earlier setbacks this season

tion, which they say have levelled serious and intolerable allegations against the local populace and key figures like Wangchuk.

"The people of Ladakh will never tolerate the 'anti-national' or 'Pakistani agent' tag as they have always shown loyalty to the country," Chhewang said and demanded proof for the accusations, which reportedly suggested that protestors were "playing in the hands of foreign powers" and that Wangchuk was involved in "anti-national activities."

The leaders directly blamed the government for the violence and subsequent deaths, alleging that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) used "excessive force, killing and injuring our people and creating an atmosphere of fear, grief and anger."

Authorities have maintained that the security forces were forced to take action in self-defence as protestors indulged in violence.

The unrest is rooted in the widespread dissatisfaction with the Union Territory status granted in 2019, which the LAB claims failed to meet their expectations for justice.

Want to know what happened in Zubeen's last moments: Wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 29: Zubeen Garg's wife, Garima Saikia Garg, Monday said that the singer's family wants to know what had happened in his last moments that led to his death, and that a proper inquiry should be conducted.

"We want to know what happened to him, why it happened and how this negligence could be allowed to happen? We want answers," Garima told reporters after the conduct of the 11th day rituals for the singer here.

She said all those who were there with him on the yacht and at the event for which he had gone to Singapore "must answer this".

"Why did they not lift him from the water when they knew he was not in a condition to swim? They could have done so, as it was very easy to distract him," she said. His manager, Siddhartha Sharma, was aware that Zubeen should not go near water or fire as it could trigger his epileptic seizure, she said. Regarding the Chief Organiser of North East India Festival's (NEIF) Chief Organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garima said that she has 'nothing to say about him but he certainly had a responsibility since Zubeen had gone to attend the festival organised by him'. 'He called Zubeen his friend, but I just don't understand how he could take an artiste like him and provide no medical assistance, no security or make special arrangements for his stay, food or take care of him. He did nothing for Zubeen,' she alleged. It is evident from the singer's last moments in a video that he was



"We want to know what happened to him, why it happened and how this negligence could be allowed to happen? We want answers," Garima told reporters

'very exhausted and it was the responsibility of those who were there with him. Siddhartha, his musician Shekhar Goswami and members of the Assam Association should have brought him out of the water immediately', she said. "I want justice! I want a proper inquiry and answers to all our questions. I have full faith in the investigation process," Garima added.

She said that the family had hoped that the people accompanying him would take care of him, but "now we realise that they did not do so".

Asked whether Garg had taken the medicines prescribed, his wife said that she was not aware of that, but his medicines were sent along with him from here when he travelled to Singapore. "He has been taking only one medicine since August 2024 after he had a seizure attack and I had ensured that his medicines were there wherever he went, whether in the house, car or the studio," she said.

Three family members killed in hit-and-run case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Three members of a family were killed when their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle near Mukundpur fly-over on the Outer Ring Road in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, police said Monday.

A PCR call regarding the accident was received at the Jahangirpuri police station at 12.05 am, they said. By the time the police reached the spot, all three had succumbed to their injuries. The deceased were identified as 60-year-old Shahid, his son Faiz (28), and his daughter's son Hamza (12), all residents of north Ghonda in Delhi, a police officer said. Preliminary investigation indicates that the three were returning home on a motorcycle from Uttam Nagar when a car struck them from behind, causing them to fall, after which another vehicle ran over them. However, no eyewitnesses were found at the scene, and there is no CCTV camera in the immediate vicinity of the accident site, according to the police.



Vendors place effigies of 'Ravana' for sale at a roadside ahead of the 'Dusshera' festival, in Amritsar, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

Cardiac issues preventable with timely action: Experts

India mirrors this global emergency, they stated. Rising rates of obesity, diabetes and hypertension, combined with smoking, poor diets and increasingly sedentary routines, are pushing heart disease into younger age groups, experts said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The human heart is resilient, but is not immune to the damage caused by untreated risk factors, experts said, underlining that machines or medicines are not the greatest safeguards, but raising awareness about early warning signs and timely action are.

On World Heart Day, doctors said that the majority of premature deaths due to cardiovascular diseases can be prevented with timely screening, early treatment and healthier lifestyles.

One untreated blockage can take away a life in minutes, Dr Ashok Seth, chairman, cardiac sciences, Fortis Escorts Heart

Institute, said.

"The tragedy is that most heart attacks are not out of the blue. People often experience chest tightness, unusual breathlessness, or unexplained fatigue days or weeks in advance," Dr Seth said

The problem is that these signals are ignored until it is too late, he said, adding, "The World Heart Day should remind us all that recognising symptoms early and acting fast can make the difference between life and death."

Dr Atul Mathur, chairman, interventional cardiology and chief of Cath Lab, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, explained that the dangerous triad of obesity, diabetes and hypertension silently injures arteries over

WORLD HEART DAY



time, eventually resulting in sudden blockages.

"Yet the risk can be reversed," he said.

Dr Narender Saini, former general secretary of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said that medical advances are sav-

ing lives every day, but nothing replaces the simplest habit - listening to your body.

Dr Mohsin Wali, senior consultant, internal medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, stressed the importance of integrating preventive awareness with long-term care.

"India cannot afford to fight heart disease only inside hospitals. Prevention must start at home and in the community - through healthy eating, exercise, and early health check-ups. As a physician, I have seen countless families devastated by late recognition of heart symptoms. Our collective priority should be to build a culture where prevention and timely medical consultation are as valued as treatment." Globally,

CVD kills more than 20.5 million people every year, with 85 per cent of these deaths caused by heart attacks and strokes.

Regular physical activity, controlling weight, giving up tobacco, eating balanced diets and going for routine screenings are powerful shields against heart attacks. India needs a cultural shift from reacting to disease to preventing it, Dr Mathur stated.

Dr Praveer Aggarwal, chairman, interventional cardiology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, said that technology has improved outcomes dramatically, but speed remains critical. These advances show what is possible today. But technology only helps when patients reach hospital early he stressed.

international

of the day quote

Let the scheduled election be held on time, and let everyone remain calm and extend the necessary support and cooperation to ensure the continuity of a parliament and government chosen by the people

SUSHILA KARU | PRIME MINISTER, NEPAL

The people of Palestine are not collateral damage in a civilisation that is searching for order. They are human beings, equal in worth, entitled to the same freedoms and dignities that the rest of us take for granted

KASHIM SHETTIMA | VICE PRESIDENT, NIGERIA

China's ruling Communist Party will hold its annual leadership conclave in October to discuss the new five-year plan, challenges posed by US President Donald Trump's tariff war, his attempts to seize control of TikTok and ensuing strains on the Chinese economy

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

HK activist denied entry into Singapore

Beijing: An overseas Hong Kong activist said he was denied entry to Singapore over the weekend for what he presumes were political reasons. Nathan Law said he was detained at the Singapore airport Saturday night and told four hours later that his entry had been denied. He was going to attend a closed-door, invitation-only event, he said in a statement, without elaborating. Law, who is based in London, is one of a number of activists who have fled Hong Kong in recent years after the adoption of a National Security Law that has put others in prison. He said he had received a visa from Singapore to attend the event and departed on a flight from San Francisco. No reason was given for the denial, he said, and he boarded a plane back to San Francisco Sunday after about 14 hours in Singapore.

Top diplomats of NK, China to deepen ties

Seoul: The foreign ministers of North Korea and China agreed to deepen bilateral ties and resist hegemonism or unilateralism, a likely reference to their pushbacks against the United States. Their meeting in Beijing Sunday came about three weeks after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first summit in more than six years and pledged mutual support and enhanced cooperation. In a meeting with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui cited Kim as saying that further bolstering ties with China is North Korea's unwavering position. Choe expressed an intent to deepen and develop friendly ties with China in line with the spirits of Kim-Xi summit, the North's Korean Central News Agency reported Monday.

China sentences 11 of mafia family to death

Beijing: A Chinese court Monday convicted 39 members of a Myanmar-based family-run syndicate on multiple charges, sentencing 11 of them to death. The gang was accused of killing 14 Chinese nationals and injuring six others. The Wenzhou Intermediate People's Court in China's eastern Zhejiang province found the defendants guilty of 14 offences, such as fraud, intentional killing, and intentional injury. Sentences were handed down based on each individual's criminal acts, circumstances, and the degree of harm caused to society, the court said.

“In the last year, the world has changed, and we are not immune to that change. Whether it is wars in Europe and the Middle East, whether it is increased barriers to trade because of tariffs coming from the United States, whether it is the global cost of borrowing, we're not immune to any of those things

RACHEL REEVES | TREASURY CHIEF, UK

SINGAPORE'S POPULATION INCREASES TO 6.11 MILLION

Singapore's total population hit a new high of 6.11 million as of June 2025, an increase of 1.2 per cent in a year, mainly due to the growth in the non-resident population, mostly foreigners and migrants. This is the first time that the city-state's population exceeded 6 million



GAZA PEACE PROPOSAL

Trump meets Netanyahu

REUTERS

Washington/Cairo/Jerusalem, Sept 29: US President Donald Trump hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for pivotal talks Monday to press him to back a Gaza peace proposal aimed at ending a nearly two-year-old war that has seen Israel face growing international isolation.

In Netanyahu's fourth visit since Trump returned to office in January, the right-wing Israeli leader was looking to shore up his country's most important relationship after a slew of Western leaders formally embraced Palestinian statehood last week in defiance of the US and Israel.

Trump, who had sharply criticized the recognition moves as a prize for Hamas, was seeking Netanyahu's agreement on a framework to end the war in the Palestinian territory and free the remaining hostages held by the militants.

It marked a stepped-up diplomatic effort by a president who vowed during the 2024 presidential campaign to quickly bring the conflict to a close and has since repeatedly claimed that a deal was near, only for it to fail to materialize.



- Netanyahu makes fourth visit to White House of Trump's term
- Israeli forces keep up offensive in Gaza City
- Trump proposal calls for release of hostages within 48 hours of ceasefire

launched one of its biggest offensives of the war this month with Netanyahu saying he aims to wipe out Hamas in its final redoubts. The war has left much of Gaza in ruins and caused a major humanitarian crisis.

Arriving by limousine, Netanyahu was greeted by Trump outside the White House doors with a handshake, a stark contrast to the chilly reception when he spoke Friday before the UN General Assembly, where scores of delegates walked out in protest.

Asked about the prospects for a peace deal, Trump told reporters, "I'm very confident."

Though Netanyahu praises Trump as Israel's closest ally, there are signs of Israeli scepticism over the proposal, as well as some reservations among

TANKS HEAD DEEPER INTO GAZA CITY

Washington presented a 21-point peace plan to Arab and Muslim states on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last week, and Trump's main objective on Monday was to try to close the remaining gaps with Netanyahu.

The White House talks came as Israeli tanks on Monday thrust deeper into the heart of Gaza City, where Israel has



Houses are damaged in the aftermath of typhoon Bualoi in Thanh Hoa, Vietnam, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Not the British, but Indian soldiers liberated Haifa: Mayor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Haifa, Sept 29: The Israeli city of Haifa Monday paid tributes to fallen Indian soldiers, with the Mayor noting that the city's school history books are being changed to correct that it was Indian troops and not the British who liberated the city from Ottoman rule.

"I was born in this city and graduated from here. Constantly we were told that this city was freed by the British till somebody from the Historical Society knocked at my door one day and said that they have done a thorough research and found that it wasn't the British but the Indians who freed this city (from the Ottomans)," said Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav.

He made the remarks while addressing a gathering at the Indian cemetery of fallen soldiers during a ceremony to pay tributes to their bravery.

"In every school, we are changing the texts and saying that it wasn't the British but the Indians who liberated us," Yahav said.

During World War I, Indian cavalry regiments armed with spears and swords cleared the Ottoman forces from the rocky slopes of Mt Carmel under all odds to liberate the city, in what most war historians consider "the last great cavalry campaign in history".

Mayor Yahav had, during the first ceremony at the same venue in 2009, said that the northern coastal city's history textbooks will include the story of its liberation by Indian soldiers, and it is today a well-known fact among youngsters in the city.

The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the three brave Indian Cavalry Regiments - Mysore, Hy-



derabad and Jodhpur Lancers - that helped liberate Haifa following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade on that date in 1918.

An event to pay tributes to the brave Indian soldiers is also organised every year at the Indian soldiers' cemetery here

Pak-occupied Kashmir observes general strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 29: A general strike was observed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Monday on the call of a local action group, demanding relief for the masses and transparency in the government system, according to media reports.

The protest call was given by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JK-JAAC), represented by traders, local leaders and civil society activists.

The protest began two years ago to secure a regular and subsidised supply of flour and electricity in the region, but has now been joined by additional demands such as the reduction in privileges enjoyed by the Kashmiri elite, abolition of reserved assembly seats and free education and health facilities.

The JKJAAC alleges that the fresh protest is being held this time because the government has failed to fully implement the agreement reached two years ago.

Samaa TV reported that markets, transport, and even communication services were disrupted amid growing public frustration over unmet demands. It added that markets, commercial centres, and lorry depots across Muzaffarabad were shuttered, with transport completely absent from the roads.

Hotels and shops that normally open early remained closed. Although schools were officially open, classrooms were empty as most students did not attend.

The channel also reported that for the second consecutive day, internet and mobile phone services remained suspended across PoK.

Thailand's new PM promises to tackle Cambodia border conflict

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Sept 29: Thailand's new prime minister told lawmakers Monday that his government would address the country's economic woes, find solutions to the ongoing border conflict with Cambodia through diplomacy and push for a new and more democratic constitution.

Anutin Charnvirakul faces a self-imposed deadline. He had promised to call elections in four months in exchange for the People's Party — which holds the most seats in Parliament — supporting his bid to become prime minister. He was elected to Parliament earlier this month.

The party has a progressive platform and has long sought to change the existing constitution imposed under military rule, saying it wants to make it more democratic. Anutin had promised to call a referendum for an elected constituent assembly to draft a new charter. He said in his inaugural

Moldava's pro-EU ruling party wins parl majority



REUTERS

Chisinau, Sept 29: Moldova's pro-European ruling party won a resounding victory over its Russian-leaning rival in a key parliamentary election, results Monday showed, in a major boost for the country's bid to join the European Union and break away from Moscow's orbit.

The surprisingly strong performance Sunday by President Maia Sandu's Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) against the Patriotic Bloc was a relief for the government and its EU partners, who accused Moscow of seeking to influence the vote.

"I'm glad that our path to the EU is guaranteed. I want Moldova to be a free and democratic country," Sandu told a press conference. With all votes counted, PAS had won 50.2% versus 24.2% for the Patriotic Bloc, which had sought to steer Moldova - a small former Soviet republic that lies between Ukraine and EU member Romania - closer to Russia.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

"The people of Moldova chose democracy, reform, and a European future, in the face of pressure and interference from Russia," Antonio Costa, president of the European Council which represents the EU's 27 member states, said on X. The leaders of France, Germany and Poland, in a joint statement, also congratulated Moldova for "the peaceful conduct of the election, despite unprecedented interference by Russia, including with vote-buying schemes and disinformation". Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the election result showed that Moscow had failed to "destabilize" Moldova.

However, Moscow - which denies the accusations of meddling - accused authorities in Moldova of preventing hundreds of thousands of its citizens who live in Russia from voting by providing only two polling stations for the large diaspora. Asked whether Moscow recognised the results, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that some political forces in Moldova had spoken of violations.



speech in Parliament Monday that his government will support the referendum and public participation to uphold the country's constitutional monarchy.

Anutin also promised to tackle corruption and crime and "restore faith and happiness to the Thai people."

Anutin is constricted in what he can do by the four-month deadline, but also the terms of his deal with the People's Party, which declared it would act as the opposition in the legisla-

History textbooks in Haifa teach about the story of the liberation of Haifa by Indian soldiers from classes 3 to 5

The Haifa Historical Society has also been going around to schools in the city telling the story to youngsters over the last decade

In a symbolic gesture of friendship with Israel, India renamed the iconic Teen Murti Chowk, a memorial erected in 1922 in New Delhi to commemorate this historic deed, as "Teen Murti Haifa Chowk" during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Delhi in January 2018

Major Dalpat Singh, widely popular as the Hero of Haifa, was awarded a military cross for his bravery.

The Jodhpur Lancers lost eight men and had 34 wounded in the battle. But they also

captured over 700 prisoners, 17 field guns and 11 machine guns.

The battle was described as "almost the only occasion when a fortified town was captured by cavalry on the gallop," India's Ambassador to Israel JP Singh said during his address at the event.

Indian troops played a crucial role in the campaign, resulting in the defeat of the Ottoman forces in the region. More than 74,000 Indian troops laid down their lives during World War I, including over 4,000 in West Asia, Singh asserted.

"It was one of the last classical cavalry actions in an era that saw large-scale mechanisation of war," the Indian Ambassador said.

"These fallen soldiers represented all major faiths and regions of our country. And this tribute shows that their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten," he added.

of the day

quote

Electronics manufacturing in India is expanding rapidly with new suppliers and design capabilities emerging every week

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER, RAILWAYS AND ELECTRONICS AND IT

India's office sector is no longer just rebounding — it's evolving into a structural growth story. From contributing a third of regional activity in 2015 to becoming APAC's dominant force in 2025

ANSHUL JAIN | CHIEF EXECUTIVE INDIA, CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

India is in discussions with the US, the EU, New Zealand, Oman, Peru and Chile for free trade agreements (FTAs), while Qatar and Bahrain have also expressed interest

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

₹settles 3 paise lower against \$

Mumbai: Rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 88.75 against the US dollar Monday, on persistent foreign capital outflows and rise in risk-off sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.69 against the US dollar, and traded in the range of 88.69-88.81. It finally settled for the day at 88.75, registering a loss of 3 paise. Friday, the rupee rebounded from its all-time low to close 4 paise higher at 88.72 against the US dollar. The rupee fell to its lifetime low of 88.76 against the American currency September 25.

Tata Comm bags 'multi-crore' deal

New Delhi: Tata Communications Monday said it has bagged a "multi-crore" order from the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to build an end-to-end digital infrastructure spanning network, IoT, cloud, and security with integrated management across domains. The project, aimed at accelerating and streamlining GSTAT's operations, will enable seamless access across all benches nationwide, fortify data security, and deliver a simplified user experience, the company said in a statement. Tata Communications will deploy a secure, scalable, and intelligent digital ecosystem covering LAN, WAN, SD-WAN, video conferencing, cloud services, and advanced security.

Zomato adds 'Healthy Mode'

New Delhi: Food delivery platform Zomato Monday said it has launched a new feature for users to discover and order nutritious food via its app. 'Healthy Mode' is now available to Zomato users in Gurugram, with plans to expand to other markets soon. In a statement, Zomato said the launch is in response to increasing demand for healthy food choices across metro cities, particularly among the 18-45 age group. To assist restaurant partners, Zomato has leveraged advanced AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) to build detailed macronutrient profiles for their dishes and added a 'Healthy Score' for each dish to rank them from 'Low' to 'Super', based on the information provided by the restaurant partners.

Government's National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has received close to 3,000 complaints related to GST since the implementation of reduced taxes

NIDHI KHARE | CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY



Gold, silver prices hit new peaks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Silver prices Monday soared by ₹7,000 to hit an all-time high of ₹1.5 lakh per kilogram in the national capital, while gold also scaled a fresh peak of ₹1,19,500 per 10 grams amid strong global trends.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity climbed ₹1,500 to touch a lifetime high of ₹1,19,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at ₹1,18,000 per 10 grams Saturday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also advanced by ₹1,500 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,18,900 per 10 grams, up from ₹1,17,400 per 10 grams in the previous session.

So far this year, the yellow metal prices have risen ₹40,550, or 51.36 per cent, surging from ₹78,950 per 10 grams December 31, 2024.

Silver prices, too, witnessed a sharp rally, and climbed ₹7,000 to touch a record ₹1,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), extending gains for the fourth straight session. The white metal had ended at



₹1,43,000 per kg in the previous trade.

The white metal prices have skyrocketed by ₹60,300, or 67.22 per cent, in the current calendar year, rallying from ₹89,700 per kg on December 31, 2024.

In the overseas market, both gold and silver posted robust gains. Spot gold surged 2 per cent to hit an all-time high of \$3,831.33 per ounce, while spot silver advanced more than 2 per cent to \$47.18 per ounce.

In the domestic futures mar-

ket Monday, gold for October delivery appreciated by ₹1,702, or 1.5 per cent, to hit a record high of ₹1,15,490 per 10 grams.

The December contract for the yellow metal futures rallied by ₹1,606, or 1.4 per cent, to touch a fresh peak of ₹1,16,497 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Silver, too, witnessed gains on the MCX. The white metal futures for December delivery bounced ₹2,290, or 1.61 per cent, to hit a lifetime high of ₹1,44,179

MPC MEETING BEGINS: IS RATE CUT ON CARDS?

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 29: The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee began its three-day deliberations amid expectations of status quo on the key interest rate, but some experts think that the central bank may settle for a 25 bps cut.

The decision of the RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra-headed six-member rate-setting panel will be announced Wednesday. The meeting is taking place against the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions and the US imposing 50 per cent tariffs on Indian shipments.

The RBI reduced the key short-term lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points in three tranches; beginning in February, amid 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.

A Goldman Sachs report expects the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to hold the policy repo rate at 5.50 per cent at the October meeting, and maintain the "neutral" stance, but deliver a dovish guidance while it assesses growth conditions and awaits fuller transmission of the 100 bps easing delivered so far this cycle before considering further action.

"In our baseline, we expect another 25 bps cut in December, taking the repo rate to 5.25 per cent, supported by a benign inflation outlook, our US economists' view of a more dovish Fed path relative to market pricing, and our FX strategy team's expectation of renewed US dollar weakness.

"As a risk case, if the RBI views growth risks from trade-policy uncertainty as more skewed to the downside, or judges the pass-through of GST rate cuts to inflation as higher than our estimates, the MPC could bring forward the 25 bps cut to October," it said.

A Bajaj Broking Research report noted that in the previous MPC meeting held in August 2025, the RBI retained the repo rate at 5.5 per cent, following a 50 basis point reduction in June 2025.

"Street largely expect the RBI to maintain the repo rate at 5.50

per cent (unchanged), citing subdued inflation and potential risks to growth," it said.

Meanwhile, Praveen Sharma, CEO of Housing.com, said the festive season has traditionally been the most vibrant phase for homebuying in India.

"A rate cut by the RBI at this juncture could add further fuel to the momentum. If banks transmit the benefit fully, it would not only lift buyer sentiment and affordability, but also nudge fence-sitters to take that long-awaited decision," he added.

Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman, BLS E-Services, expects the RBI to keep its key interest rate unchanged next week.

"Given global uncertainties and the recent positive impetus from GST 2.0, the central bank may adopt a wait-and-watch approach, holding any policy changes for a later date. The strong domestic demand, which drove Q1 growth to five-quarter high, offers the necessary resilience for such a pause," Aggarwal added.

On expectations from the MPC, Ashok Kapur, Chairman, Krishna Group and Krisumi Corporation, said that while the apex bank maintained the status quo in its previous policy review, a further 25 bp reduction in the policy rate would be the icing on the cake, as inflation continues to remain within the RBI's manageable limits.

BUSINESS FINLAND PARTNERS WITH WINZO, IEIC TO BOOST GAMING TIES

Business Finland in India, the European nation's agency for trade and investment promotion, has partnered with Indian gaming firm WinZO and consumer tech think-tank Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC). The collaboration aims to leverage Finland's gaming expertise and India's expanding gaming market to co-create innovative, export-ready gaming content from India, according to a joint statement



Markets close marginally low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 29: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally lower in a volatile session Monday, extending their downtrend to the seventh day mainly due to selling in banking shares and persistent foreign fund outflows ahead of the RBI's interest rate decision later this week.

After gyrating between gains and losses in a restricted trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 61.52 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 80,364.94. During the day, it hit a high of 80,851.38 and a low of 80,248.84.

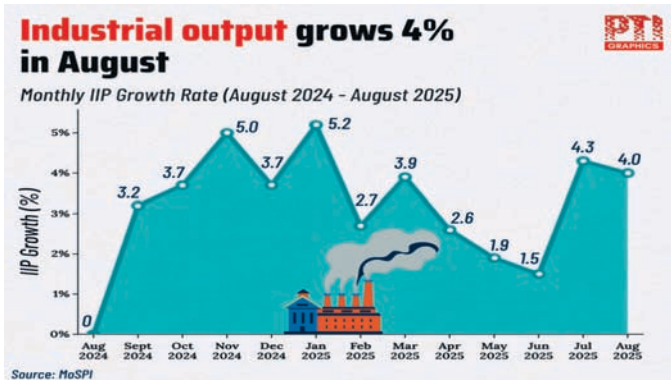
Falling for the seventh consecutive session, the 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 19.80 points or 0.08 per cent to 24,634.90. Nifty has dropped more than 3 per cent in the seven straight sessions due to selling by foreign investors.

Auto and FMCG shares retreated while realty, energy, and metal shares advanced.

Among Sensex firms, Maruti, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Adani Ports and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards.

However, Titan, State Bank of India, Eternal and Trent were among the major gainers.

IIP grows 4% in August



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: India's industrial production grew at 4 per cent in August, mainly due to better performance by the mining sector, according to government data released Monday.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth rate for July has been revised upwards to 4.3 per cent from the earlier estimate of 3.5 per cent. In August 2024, the IIP recorded flat growth. The mining sector output in August 2024 had shrunk by 4.3 per cent.

The manufacturing sector, which accounts for more than three-fourths of the index, expanded by 3.8 per cent in August this year, up from 1.2 per cent in the year-ago month.

Manufacturing of 'basic metals' and 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' reported a healthy growth of 12.2 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively.

The NSO data further showed that the growth in the electricity segment was 4.1 per cent

against a decline of 3.7 per cent in August 2024.

During the April-August period of the current fiscal, the IIP growth was slower at 2.8 per cent compared to 4.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icra, said that despite a low base, the IIP growth unexpectedly eased to 4 per cent in August 2025 from the upward revision to 4.3 per cent in July 2025. The slowdown was entirely led by manufacturing growth, which eased sharply to 3.8 per cent from 6 per cent in July 2025. In contrast, while mining output witnessed a year-on-year expansion after a gap of four months, growth in electricity generation inched up to a 5-month high, she said.

Consumer durables (or white goods production) growth slowed to 3.5 per cent from 5.4 per cent in August 2024.

In August 2025, consumer non-durables output shrank by 6.3 per cent against a contraction of 4.4 per cent in the year-ago month.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils festive offers



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of India's most trusted jewellery brands, announced its exclusive festive and Dhanteras offers at a press meet held Monday at its Soubhagya Nagar outlet, Bhubaneswar. The event was inaugurated by Bollywood artist Dhara Srabani Mohapatra in the presence of the Malabar management team, dignitaries, and well-wishers.

Offers include 30 per cent off on making charges of gold jewellery, precious stones, and uncut diamond jewellery, along with up to 30 per cent off on diamond value. The festive offer will continue till October 31, 2025 across Odisha. To make the occasion more rewarding, Malabar is al-

The BSE midcap gauge went up by 0.34 per cent while small-cap index dipped 0.17 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, teck declined 0.33 per cent, industrials (0.32 per cent), IT (0.25 per cent), auto (0.12 per cent) and capital goods (0.09 per cent).

Oil & Gas jumped 1.96 per cent, energy (1.10 per cent) realty (0.97 per cent), power (0.46 per cent), services (0.41 per cent) and metal (0.39 per cent).

In seven trading days, he BSE benchmark has tanked 2,649.02 points or 3.19 per cent, and the Nifty dived 788.7 points or 3.10 per cent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended higher Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹5,687.58 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹5,843.21 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.25 per cent to \$69.25 a barrel.

Blue Dart Express to increase prices from next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 29: Courier services provider Blue Dart Express Monday said it will increase the prices of its shipments between 9-12 per cent from January 1, 2026.

To support new customers and encourage business growth, those signing up between October 1 and December 31, will not be impacted by the upcoming General Price Increase (GPI), it said.

This pricing adjustment is essential to maintaining speed, reliability, and customer-centric solutions, while addressing the impacts of inflationary pressures, escalating airline costs, and the complexities of global supply chains, the company said.

The average shipment price is set to increase in the range of 9-12 per cent, depending on product variabilities and the customer's shipping profile, Blue Dart Express said in a statement.

In line with its annual practice, Blue Dart undertakes a comprehensive review of its pricing structure to ensure continued service excellence while fostering sustainable ecosystem collaboration, it said.

"The General Price Increase enables us to continue investing in advanced technology, greener logistics, and network expansion.

so offering a free silver coin on advance bookings for Dhanteras. Customers can secure jewellery by paying a minimum of 10 per cent of the total value, with protection against gold price fluctuations. The final billing will reflect either the booked rate or the prevailing market rate—whichever is lower.

Speaking on the occasion, M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group, said "Dhanteras holds immense cultural significance as it welcomes good health and prosperity into homes. At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, we aim to make this occasion even more special by offering unmatched value and timeless designs. Our exclusive offers are a way to express gratitude and build lasting relationships with our patrons."

'SMILES ON PEOPLE'S FACES IS OUR TROPHY'



In an unprecedented turn of events, Pak's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in his capacity as the chairman of ACC, denied Indian cricket team the Asia Cup Trophy, after it refused to accept the silverware from him

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 29: India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav responded to the Asia Cup trophy row following their five-wicket win over Pakistan in the final, stating that the team's main goal was to play good cricket and win. He emphasised that whether they received the trophy or not was unimportant, adding that seeing smiling faces back home is the real reward for the team.

After beating Pakistan in the summit clash, the Indian team refused to accept the Asia Cup trophy during the presentation ceremony from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief Naqvi, who also

serves as the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Asian Cricket Council, and Pakistan's Interior Minister.

When the presentation ceremony began, which started after a 90-minute delay, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav, opener Abhishek Sharma, and batter Tilak Varma received their individual awards from other dignitaries on stage. When Naqvi

stepped onto the dais, the Indian team made it clear they would not accept the trophy from him. Moments later, the trophy was removed from the venue, leaving the champions without their prize.

Speaking to reporters, Suryakumar reflected on the incident and said, "I think it spoke volumes. Our main focus was to win matches and play good cricket. It doesn't really matter if the trophy came or not. Smiles on the faces of people back home is our trophy."

"What matters is that my country is happy and we are celebrating. We have billboards in our name that we are the Asia Cup champions. What more do you need?"

The win in the final was India's third victory over Pakistan in the span of 15 days, which no Indian captain has achieved before Suryakumar,

who believes it was "destined" to happen.

Talking about how he manages provocative actions from the opposition, Suryakumar said, "I think there is a difference between the two sides. None of us at any point have shown any inappropriate gesture, because we wanted to play this game with dignity. We just wanted to give a nice statement out there while playing a good brand of cricket, irrespective of the result – which can go either way when you are playing."

"Back from the match, when one is talking, there should be a feeling of happiness thinking that they have given all the effort possible at the ground. I keep telling my boys that let's not get deviated from the game. Follow the situation and the game, keeping emotions aside," he further said.

SKY DONATES MATCH FEE

The captain has also announced that he will donate his entire match fee from the just-concluded Asia Cup to the country's armed forces and the victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

"I have decided to donate my match fees from this tournament to support our Armed Forces and the families of the victims who suffered from the Pahalgam terror attack. You always remain in my thoughts. Jai Hind," the 35-year-old posted on 'X' after the high-voltage win.

India players are entitled to Rs four lakh per match in the T20 format, which means that Suryakumar would be donating a total of Rs 28 lakh for the seven games played in the continental event.

Suryakumar had taken the lead in snubbing Pakistan at every opportunity during the tournament.

TIMELINE OF THE CHAOS AFTER ASIA CUP TRIUMPH



WINNING MOMENT: India chase down 147 in the final over. Rinku Singh finishes it, Tilak Varma stars with 69*. Pakistan players sulk away into their dressing room.

PAKISTAN LOCK-IN: For the next hour, Indian players and coaches give interviews while Pakistan's team refuses to emerge, delaying the presentation.

INDIA'S STANCE: India didn't want Mohsin Naqvi handing over the trophy to them. They request UAE's Khalid Al Zarooni instead, but ACC shuts it down. India denied because Naqvi did an unprofessional act by tweeting a horrible and political dig.

NAQVI ENTERS, BOOS RAIN DOWN: The ACC chief walked out to loud jeers of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." Even Pakistan's own fast bowlers face boos from the crowd. When Haris Rauf's name was announced, Indian fans cheered, "Kohli, Kohli".

MEDALS FIASCO: Naqvi refused to give Pakistan their runner-up medals. Bangladesh's board president Aminul Islam stepped in. Naqvi only passed a cheque to Salman Ali Agha, who flung it aside in protest.

INDIA BLANKED: Commentator Simon Doull was told India will not be given their medals or the trophy. Within minutes, Naqvi and ACC officials left the ground that too with the trophy with them. BCCI Chief revealed.

PODIUM CIRCUS: Groundsmen brought out the champions placard twice before being ordered to take it back. Hardik Pandya jumped on stage first to take selfies, joined by the rest of the team. Suryakumar Yadav mentioned that the "champions board" was taken away in front of them.



IMAGINARY TROPHY: Suryakumar Yadav and his men hold up invisible silverware, mocking the farce. The photos flood social media, with players adding trophy emojis as a dig at Naqvi.

CAPTAINS' TAKE: Suryakumar blasted the ACC, saying "I have never seen a champion team being denied a trophy." Salman Ali Agha, the Pakistan captain, blamed Suryakumar Yadav too and said India didn't pay respect to the sport.

BCCI HITS BACK: Secretary Devajit Saikia called the move "unsportsmanlike" and vowed to raise the matter at the ICC conference in November.



Winning 3-0 was excellent. Incredible show from the boys. They delivered what I expected from them. All the talks that we have had with them – right here in this team room that we are sitting in – have all worked and I'm very happy. Never played them three times in a single tournament. It was destined to happen

SURYAKUMAR YADAV | T20I CAPTAIN, INDIA



Chak de India! One of the most special knocks of my life: Tilak

India batter Tilak Varma unsurprisingly termed his match-winning unbeaten 69 against Pakistan in the Asia Cup final as one of the "most special knocks of his life." Tilak's half-century was the cornerstone of India's tight chase of 147. "There was pressure. They were bowling well. They were mixing the pace up. I was breathing up and trying to stay calm. One of the most special knocks of my life. Chak De India," said Tilak during the post-match presentation ceremony which was delayed by over an hour. Man of the match Tilak said he was backing his game in a tense situation as India were reeling at 10 for two when he walked in.

VETERANS HAIL INDIA'S DOMINATING SHOW



it's about courage, belief and playing for the flag Special congratulations to Tilak, who showed maturity beyond years and proved that big stages are for brave hearts. This victory belongs to each and every member of the squad

VVS LAXMAN



Tilak Verma lit it up Simply outstanding knock, holding the innings together under huge pressure and showing unbelievable maturity, then finishing it off with Shivam Dube in grand style @imkuldeep18 brilliant with the ball and @IamSanjuSamson steady as always

YUVRAJ SINGH

What a nerve-wracking game, truly befitting a final! India vs Pakistan, the stage doesn't get any bigger than this and



that too in a final. Calm, composed, and clutch under pressure, easily the best innings of his career so far! Best innings of Tilak Varma's career. Gap between India & Pakistan is huge. India is way ahead

IRFAN PATHAN



Well done India on a great nite ..under pressure a much better team with the ball and then with the bat .. These young boys are brilliant

SOURAV GANGULY

YOUNG GUNS DOMINATE WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Ojasvi Thakur won the gold medal to lead India's all-podium finish in the 10m air rifle women's event at the ISSF Junior World Cup as Hrudya Shri Kondur and Shambhavi Kshirsagar secured silver and bronze, respectively, here Monday.

Ojasvi Thakur emerged as the champion with a score of 252.7, firing two brilliant 10.9s on her 8th and 16th shots to seal the gold.

Hrudya Shri finished second with score of 250.2, while qualification leader Shambhavi completed the all-India podium with 229.4 at Karni Singh Shooting Range.

In the men's 10m air rifle final, India's Himanshu, who had topped qualification with 633.7, kept his form intact to clinch gold with a superb 250.9.

Historic bronze for India in diving

INDIVER SAIRAM, WILLSON SING CLINCH DIVING BRONZE IN ASIAN AQUATICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 29: In a historic first, India's Indiver Sairam and Willson Sing Ningthoujam bagged the 10m men's synchronized diving bronze medal on day two of the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships here Monday.

The Indian divers have never managed to clinch a medal in the past editions of this prestigious event, and the feat here has put them in strong contention to earn a berth for next year's Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.

The 18-year-old Sairam and the 32-year-old Willson Sing, both from Manipur, train at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) in Pune.

They scored a brilliant 300.66 points to bag the bronze, finishing behind China's Zhangyu Cui, Zhanhong Xu (381.75) and Malaysia's Bertrand Rhodict Lises, Enrique M. Harold (329.73).



ing behind China's Zhangyu Cui, Zhanhong Xu (381.75) and Malaysia's Bertrand Rhodict Lises, Enrique M. Harold (329.73).

Speaking about the medal-winning dive, the duo's coach Shannon Roy from Australia, said, "I've been working with them for the past two years

and honestly, they were quite behind the rest of the world and Asia.

"But over the last six months, we've really put a focus on the synchronised events, platform and 3m springboard events. We've spent a lot of time on a couple of camps overseas, in Malaysia, and World Championships in Singapore."

In swimming, as many as 12 Indian swimmers made it to the final of their respective events and two relay teams also entered the final.

However, only Kushagra Rawat won a bronze medal in the 1500m freestyle.

He stopped the clock at 15:30.88 while Huy Hoang Nguyen of Vietnam clinched the gold with a time of 15:15.01 and Ilya Sibirtsev of Uzbekistan won silver at 15:23.35.

From losing his hand to turning heads, Rinku comes a long way

The para-athlete beats world record holder compatriot Gurjar for men's javelin throw gold



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 29: India para-athlete Rinku Hooda made history for Indian javelin, winning a gold medal with a meet record to boot in the men's F46 event in the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Monday. Rinku led a 1-2 for the hosts as compatriot Sundar Singh Gurjar claimed the silver medal.

The night could have been even better for the hosts if Ajeet Singh had had a good day. Unfortunately, he finished fourth.

In the lead-up to the event, there were signs it was going to be an unforgettable event, particularly for Rinku, who set a new championship record with 66.37 on his fourth throw. His family and friends were in attendance, part of a strong, raucous crowd. Things were indeed building up to all intents and purposes.

"I'm so thankful to my supporters and my family. Their

presence encouraged me a great deal. It was my day, everything went my way, from conditions to everything else," Rinku enthused after his gold.

Many years ago, when Rinku lost his arm in a farming equipment accident, his family would not have thought there would be a day when he would be an international star, the cynosure of all eyes. "That was a dark day for us. When he lost his arm, the whole village -- Dhamar, close to Rohtak in Haryana -- fell into a sad silence for weeks. For us, it was the end of the world, but life surprises you when you see where he has reached today," Wazir Singh Hooda, Rinku's uncle, said Monday.

Born to a farming family at Dhamar village on the outskirts of Haryana's Rohtak, Rinku's left arm got stuck in a paddy-sowing machine while playing on his father's farmland when he was just three. He does not remember the incident but was told about that by his parents when he was eight.

Trailblazer Atiqa: Young Indian racer shines on global stage

10-YEAR-OLD PRODIGY PRODUCES STELLAR DRIVE FOR PODIUM FINISH IN UAE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Al Ain (UAE), Sept 29: Young Indian racer Atiqa Mir tore through the field to secure a well deserved podium in the final of RMC Invitational karting event at Al Ain Raceway here.

In qualifying, 10-year-old Atiqa was on course to finish on pole but had to settle for second place by just one tenth of a

second due to traffic on her lap. Starting on the outside row is a disadvantage here and due to that, the Akcel GP driver ended the heats in fourth place and in the pre-final she got involved in an accident that pushed her back to eighth place.

Starting from eighth on the grid for the final Sunday, Atiqa put up a storming drive, passing five cars to finish third.

The Dubai-based driver is the first Indian to be financially and technically supported by Formula 1, through its F1 Academy program.

Atiqa's podium extended her stellar run of late, having finished fourth in a round of Champions of the Future Academy (COFTA) in Slovakia and on top of the podium in DAMC series earlier this month. "I wish I didn't have the crash in Pre Final which put me back in 8th place. Starting



so far back I knew I had to be aggressive on the first two laps. I made up five places by Lap 2 but by then the leader had already pulled out a gap. I wanted to win this one but had to settle for third place," said Atiqa reflecting on her weekend.

Atiqa's father Asif Nazir Mir, who is India's first National Karting champion, was pleased with her daughter's effort considering the challenges involved.