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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



CARS BECOME

MORE THAN ₹70,000 SAVINGS ON A CAR OF UP TO 1500CC

MORE THAN 1500CC CARS ALSO GET CHEAPER



Pak, Saudi Arabia ink strategic defence pact

18: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed a strategic defence agreement, which declares that any attack on either country will be considered 'an aggression against

The deal comes days after an Israeli attack on the Hamas leadership in Qatar, a key US ally in the Gulf region.

Commenting on the development, India Thursday said it will study the implications of the move for its national security as well as for regional and global stability.

The 'Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement' was signed by Prime Minister Shehbaz regional and global stability. Sharif and Saudi Crown

man Wednesday during the visit to the Gulf Kingdom, according to a joint statement.

INDIA WEIGHS IMPLICATIONS

The agreement states that 'any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both', said the statement issued by both sides

In New Delhi, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, said India will study the implications of the move for its national security as well as for

Responding to a media que-

"The government remains Islamabad/New Delhi, Sept Pakistani leader's day-long committed to protecting India's national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all do-

> The agreement came over four months after a four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan in May.

According to the Pakistan-Saudi joint statement, the pact builds on the historic partnership extending for nearly eight decades between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and is based on the bonds of brotherhood and Islamic solidarity, as well as shared strategic interests and close defence cooperation between the two



NATURE'S FURY: Rescue operation in progress after a landslide triggered by heavy rains in Nandanagar area of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, Thursday. At least two people were killed in four villages of the district in rain-related incidents (Report P9)

Election Commission person. The BJP said Gandhi's

says charges incorrect & baseless

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: After his 'vote theft' charges, Con-Thursday accused Chief Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of protecting 'vote chors' and those who have 'destroyed democracy' while citing data being systematically deleted in a targeted manner.

The Election Commission (EC), however, dubbed the charges as 'incorrect and baseless' and asserted that no deletion of votes can happen without giving an opportunity of being heard to the affected

repeated charges against constitutional institutions showed his and the Congress' lack of

Mounting another frontal attack against the EC. Gandhi said the poll panel must stop protecting 'vote chors gress leader Rahul Gandhi and provide within a week information sought by the Karnataka CID in an investigation into voter deletions.

sure that it is complicit in the murder of the Constitution," from a Karnataka Assembly Gandhi alleged at a press conare not doing their job properly and said the institutions within the country including the legal framework should step in.

that the revelations were not the 'hydrogen bomb' that he been hijacked. Democracy can within a week. had promised and he will only be saved by the people of soon reveal those details. "I

faith in Indian democracy.

"If not it will be known for am going to make a serious claim about Gvanesh Kumar. I am not saying this lightly, I am the Leader of the Oppoconstituency to claim that ference here. He also alleged sition (in Lok Sabha). The votes of Congress voters were that constitutional institutions CEC is protecting 'vote chors' and the people who have destroyed Indian democracy," creating the foundation. This Gandhi also made it clear has been going on for 10-15

the truth. The day the people realise that their democracy and Constitution have been stolen. the job will be done," he said.

He cited details of alleged attempts to delete 6,018 votes in Karnataka's Aland in the run up to 2023 Assembly polls. He also gave the example of Maharashtra's Rajura where he claimed 6,850 voters were added in a 'fraudulent' manner using automated software.

"Same system is doing this. It is doing it in Karnataka, Maharashtra, it has done it in Haryana, UP, Bihar and we have proof of it," he alleged. "Our demand is Gvanesh Kumar, do your job, you have taken an oath, you are Gandhi alleged. "I am just India's CEC, you must give evidence to the Karnataka CID," Gandhi said, asking vears. India's democracy has the EC to provide the details

About Aland, he said there were targeted deletions in India. Rahul Gandhi can show

strong Congress booths. "The top 10 booths with maximum deletions were Congress PNN & AGENCIES strongholds. Congress won eight out of the 10 booths in 2018. This was not a coinci-

dence, this was a planned operation," he alleged. Gandhi said the deletions were being done using software and not through individuals, as the process of filling the form was done within seconds and was done in the wee hours of the day.

Noting that there is an ongoing investigation in Karnation IP from where these applications were filled and OTP trails. "They are not being conducted," Gandhi are indulging in such acts.

CEC protecting 'vote chors': Rahul Cong submits no-confidence motion notice against govt "We have submitted a no-no hesitation to support the

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Congress Thursday, the first day of the Monsoon Session of the Assembly, submitted a notice for a no-confidence motion against the 15-month-old BJP government in Odisha.

A delegation of Congress MLAs, led by legislature party leader Rama Chandra Kadam, met Assembly Secnataka, he said CID has sent retary Satyabrata Rout at 18 letters to EC and asked his chamber and submitted for some facts like the desti- a petition seeking a no-con- move a no-confidence motion fidence motion against the

state government. Invoking Rule 117(1) of giving it as it will lead us the Assembly procedures, to where this operation is the party in the notice said, "That this House expresses claimed, while accusing the no confidence in the present CEC of protecting those who Council of Ministers led by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi.'

tice to the Assembly secretary addressed to the Speaker and urged her to accept it for moving a no-confidence motion. We have the signature of 14 Congress MLAs and one member of the CPI(M)," Kadam told reporters.

THE NAT'L PARTY SEEKS BJD'S HELP

He said that the party had earlier urged the principal Opposition party, BJD, to against the BJP government. "As the BJD did not make any such move in this regard, we have submitted the notice for a no-confidence motion and request the regional party to support the Congress'

move," Kadam said. He also said, "We have

BJD if it separately brings a no-confidence motion against the BJP government.'

Later, a delegation of Con gress went to the chamber of the Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, on the As sembly premises, but could not meet the BJD chief as he was absent. However, COngress members discussed the matter with two BJD MLAs present there.

Senior BJD leader Pra mila Mallik, however, said, "They (Congress) have not yet approached us. Let them do what they are doing, BJD will take its own decision.'

In the 147-member House, BJP has 78 MLAs, BJD 50 Congress 14, one CPI(M) mem ber and three Independents One seat is vacant after the demise of BJD's Nuapada MLA

42 industries owe ₹3.797cr water tax

BHUBANESWAR: As many as 42 industrial houses, including government ones, owe water cess amounting to Rs 3,797.14 crore to the state government till March this year, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Assembly Thursday. In a written reply to a query by BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, Majhi, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, said industrial houses draw water from rivers like Mahanadi. The highest of Rs 244.10 crore water tax is pending against Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd in Sambalpur, while Ballarpur Industries Ltd is yet to pay Rs 195.83 crore. Among others, Adhunik Metaliks Ltd in Sundargarh has a due of Rs 186.65 crore, Majhi said.

MANJUL



We need more shredders and faster data wiping tools, sir

Similipal black tiger graces Nat Geo magazine's cover National Geographic edi-

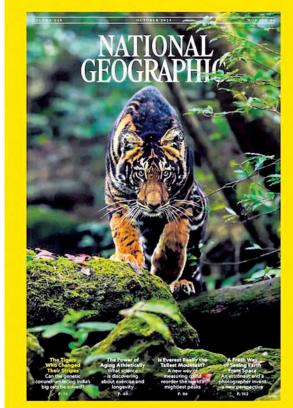
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Indian photographer Prasenjeet Yaday's image of a black tiger from Odisha's Similipal National Park has featured on the cover of National Geographic magazine's upcoming October 2025 edition.

The striking photograph, captured after months of patient tracking in the dense forests, showcases one of the world's rarest big cats. Known as pseudo-melanistic tigers. these black tigers are found only in Similipal, where almost half of the reserve's 30 tigers possess rare genetic mutation.

"Being out in the forests of Similipal as a National Geographic explorer and photographer has been a true privilege. I saw firsthand the Odisha Forest department's dedicated, on-ground management and the commitment of its officers to safeguarding the future of these majestic tigers," Yadav said in a statement.

"Photographing T12 was intense and humbling, with days and months of patience on a National Geographic ment. Now to see that story



distilled into a single mo- magazine's international cover is an honour and a re- heart," Yadav pointed out.

ollary to that success story: the tale of a great male tiger with a rare genetic mutation, which has highlighted what happens when an animal population rebounds but remains sequestered in a reserve, without access to a diverse gene pool," Lump added. also oversees the National Geographic channel in India, called the image 'an elusive and almost mythical sight' that continues the magazine's

minder of why we document

India's extraordinary wild

storytelling. The rare honour places Yaday among the select group of Indian photographers whose work has adorned the magazine's cover in its 135-year illustrious history, bringing global attention both to India's fragile ecosystems and to the people working to safe-

guard them.

The Grand Exhibition of Indian Cotton & Silk tor-in-chief Nathan Lump said Salwar: Kameez: Dress Material: Sarees, the story illustrated the com-Home Furnishing: Jewellery Gift Items Etc. plex realities of conservation. "The subject of this month's cover feature from photographer, writer, and National Geographic explorer Prasenjeet Yadav is a surprising cor-Alok Jain of JioStar, which 23rd Aug. to 28th Sep. -2025 10:30 am to 9:00 pm tradition of groundbreaking Gate No.-3 Follow us : o cottonfab_exhibition cottonfabexpo@gmail.com cottonfabexpo.in



eisure



ED REVEALS WHY HE WAS 'UNHAPPY' AT BEGINNING

Ed Sheeran revealed he was "intensely unhappy" during his career's first decade. Despite global success with 15 UK numberone singles and eight chart-topping albums since his 2011 debut, the 34-year-old said relentless 16-hour days strained his sanity as he sacrificed friendships and family for work.

TERESA PALMER TO STAR IN SUBVERSION

Berlin Syndrome actor Teresa Palmer will feature alongside Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth in the upcoming Amazon MGM Studios' film Subversion. Also starring Lily James and Michael Pena, the film is directed by Patrick Vollrath of 7500 and Ketchup Kid fame, according to The Hollywood Reporter.



accuracy • reliability • trust

Ganesha says go ahead and indulge in your artistic self today. You can reorganise your home or work place. Expenses are on the cards. If you have been longing for that expensive dressing table or a study table, buy it. Indulgence is okay sometimes.

TAURUS

The day is likely to turn out to be a difficult one. But your maturity and experience in handling adverse situations will come to your aid. You will, as the day advances, be able to sort out the problems that have cropped up and end up on an optimistic note. If you are engaged in business you are likely to fare well and will have no difficulty in concluding the day profitably.

GEMINI You are likely to work extra

hard to assert your authority at the workplace. On the work front, your seniors and colleagues will appreciate your devotion and dedication to work. Monetary gains may be expected in the evening, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha warns you of minor ailments. Don't eat very cold items. You will help others in tackling their problems. Ganesha says that you must begin by yourself any auspicious task.

You will come into some money by accident today. There is a good chance of making a huge gain in the share market today. You will be filled with a lot of self-confidence. Nobody will be able to influence your opinion today. However, your strongly expressed views may end up hurting someone, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

What you wish to do today is to overhaul the looks of your living space. You might want to add some pieces of furniture or some items of decoration that define your personality. Ganesha advises you to be ready in the evening to be a great performer or probably to lend some valuable help.

Ganesha savs you will think

of restyling or renovating your home today. You shall be able to style your house with artifacts or beautiful paintings. You will invite your friends to your home in the evening and eniov spending time with them. You may try your luck today in the share market and you can hope to make substantial gains

SCORPIO

Relationships are the crux of life, and you put in all vour efforts to maintain your personal relations, says Ganesha. Managing kids and their demands may be slightly challenging; but well, kids are after all kids. Haste makes waste; avoid taking hasty decisions or you may end up taking decisions that would benefit others more than you.

SAGITTARIUS The positivity in you might well be clouded today. Quite probably, find yourself to be at your wits' end more often than not ere the day passes. Ganesha sees you sitting together with your better half and talking things out.

CAPRICORN

You don't trust anyone easily. and because of that you have never entered into a partnership so far, but it is a different day today. Ganesha foresees a partnership for you today. You will perform exceptionally well in your job, raise the bar and eventually will win praises from everyone at work. If you are a student you will choose the path for the future today, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You are absolutely in no mood to work today! Instead, you want to indulge in leisure to recharge your batteries. If not invited to a gathering, you'll probably throw your own party. And you will go out of your way to woo and win hearts. It will work, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Dealings with foreign companies and organizations wil translate into financial gains for you today. Today is a good day when it comes to realizing your financial goals. You will also be able to help others improve upon their footing in life. This will elevate your social status. Today is a day for receiving good-will and increasing the number of your well-wishers, says Ganesha.

Ananya on friendship breakups

recently sparked curiosity on a rift. Others speculated it could social media after sharing a even be about Orry. While many fans engaged in guesscryptic post about friendship breakups. The actress posted a ing games, a few stepped in to remind others that celebrities, quote on her Instagram stories that read, "Friendship breaklike everyone else, also experiups can sometimes hurt more ence friendship fallouts, urging than romantic ones," accompeople not to overanalyse her panied by an image of a broken private life. On the professional front, heart-shaped pendant split into two halves — one inscribed with "BEST" and the other with "FRIENDS." The story quick-

ly gained attention, with

a screenshot circulating

on Reddit, where fans

began speculating if the

post hinted at tensions

within her close circle

of friends — Suhana

Khan, Shanaya Kapoor,

and Navya Naveli Nanda.

Shanava's

much-

talked-

about

Some users wondered

if Ananya's post was linked

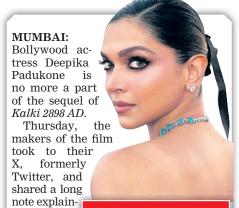
to Shanaya, recalling that she

hadn't shared anything during

Ananya has wrapped up TuMeri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri, her second collaboration with

> ter Pati Patni Aur Woh. Directed Vidhwans and backed by Dharma Entertainment, film releases later this year. She will also appear in Chand Mera Dil and Call Me Bae season

Kartik Aarvan af-



ing the pos-

sible reasons

behind her

wrote, "This

is to official-

exit.

They

Deepika dropped from Kalki sequel

ly announce that @deepikapadukone will not be a part of the upcoming sequel of #Kalki2898AD. After careful consideration, We have decided to part ways. Despite the long journey of making the first film, we were unable to find a partnership. And a film like @Kalki2898AD deserves that commitment and much more. We wish her the best with her future works".

The move has sparked a wave of speculations. IANS has learnt from its sources that the actress was under the impression that she was indispensable to the film as she had shot for a few sequences of the film during the making of Kalki 2898 AD.

A source close to the development told this news agency that the actress also demanded a raise in her remuneration thinking that the producers will cave in given she had already booked a seat for the sequel after shooting some sequences earlier.

However, the claims of her demanding vanity vans and other luxuries are still contested. After Deepika's ousting from the film, the production is going to incur extra cost but it's the price that the makers are willing to pay in the larger interest of the film. ANS

Hollywood's quiet rebel

obert Redford, the golden-haired outsider who re-wrote American Cinema, died August 18 at his Santa Fe ranch, aged 89. Born in Santa Monica and raised on the move, he surfed, sketched and acted his way to Broadway before exploding onto screens in Butch Cassidy and

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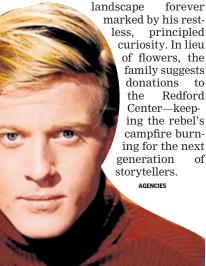
Redford's defining works

the haunt ed patriarch of Ordinary People the 1980 film that won him the directing Oscar.

Frustrated by studio timidity, he bought a snowy Utah canyon in 1978 and planted the Sundance Institute. What began as a scrappy filmmakers' lab grew into the globe's premier indie launchpad, introducing Steven Soderbergh, Quentin Tarantino, Ava DuVernay and thousands more. "Art doesn't come from formulas," he told fledgling directors; his patronage proved it.

Off-screen, Redford channeled star power into activism-founding the Redford Center for climate storytelling, fighting for clean air, Native rights and campaign-finance reform. Awards piled up: the Academy's honorary Oscar, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, France's Légion d'honneur-yet he accepted them with the same modest shrug that once dismissed his own glamour.

He is survived by wife Sibylle Szaggars, children and a cinematic



ROBERT REDFORD:1936-2025

NATYA LAHARI - DAY IV

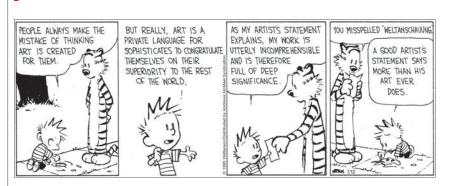


Members of Panchadhwani Natya Parishad from Bhubaneswar performed Odia play Jatha Goutamasya Ahalya at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Thursday. Written by Panchanana Dash and directed by Prakash Maharana, the play was staged on the four evening of the 5-day theatre festival organised by Bidyakanak Srujanusthan. Apart from playwright Dash, dramatists Lalatendu Rath, Ashis Bardhan and musician Pratap Chandra Rout, hosting organisation's president Sudhkar Patri and secretary Shubhakanta Padhi were in attendance.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**

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Across

1 The start of a

space trip

5 Inhumane

8 Butt in

9 Old French coin

10 Mattress

problem

11 Glowed

14 Kind of justice 15 Lacking

neatness 18 Dependable

Down 1 Dens

2 Exhaustion

5 Simple sack

20 Chest protector

24 Words to a pest

23 Squid's squirt

25 Rock bottom

26 Whinnied

3 Paddles

17 Damaged 19 Requested

21 Sandwich starter 22 Dry riverbed

4 Penny-pinching 24 Road crew

6 Bowl over

13 Opinion

14 Ardour

book

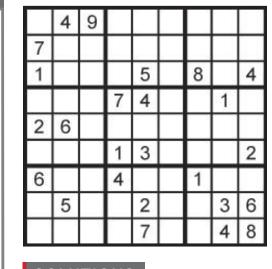
16 Put out, as a

7 Hotel department

12 Like some hands

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.

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

LEOPATRA CROSSWORD VIGNETTES OBSERVE

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

SUDOKU

3 9 1 2 4 8 5 7 6

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Thursday terminated the government-run 'Ama Bus' (OD-33-AH-0166) conductor of Root No-18, after the video of him physically assaulting a passenger in City went viral. The incident took place near Unit-8 Market bus stop. Reports said an argument broke out between the conductor and the passenger over fare issue. The viral video shows the conductor stepping out of the bus and slapping the passenger standing on the pavement before fleeing in the bus. In its X account, CRUT confirmed that the conductor was dismissed from service for slapping the passenge



42 industries owe ₹3,797cr water tax to state govt: CM

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: As many as 42 industrial houses, including government ones, owe water cess amounting to ₹3.797.14 crore to the state government till March this year, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Assembly Thursday.

In a written reply to a query by BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, Majhi, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, said industrial houses draw water from rivers like Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Indravati, Kolab, Rushikulya and Subarnarekha.

Majhi said water tax of ₹1,509.28 crore is pending against the industries drawing water from Kolab, while those getting it



tax amounting to ₹962.78 crore.

"While water tax of ₹822.76 crore is pending against the firms drawing it from Brahmani, industrial houses drawing water from Nagavali are yet to clear ₹489.08 crore as tax," as per the statement of the CM.

Moreover, water tax worth around ₹1.31 crore, ₹9.35 crore and ₹2.56 crore is pending against several industrial units getting water from Baitarani, Indravati and Rushikulya rivers, respectively, Majhi said in the statement.

In his statement, Majhi informed the House that the highest of ₹244.10 crore water tax is pending against Bhusan Power and Steel Ltd in Sambalpur, while Ballarpur Industries Ltd is yet to pay ₹195.83 crore as water tax.

"Adhunik Metaliks Ltd in Sundargarh has a due of ₹186.65 crore, while Bhusan Steel & Strips Ltd in Dhenkanal is yet to pay water tax of ₹185.05 crore, the CM's statement said.

The other major defaulters are ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd in Paradeep (Rs 108.98 crore), Viraj Steel & Energy Limited in Sambalpur (Rs 98.34 crore), Aarti Steel Ltd in Cuttack (Rs 58.36 crore), and Paradeep Phosphates Limited (Rs 45.51 crore), the statement said.

Cong seeks return of 'stolen items'

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Thursday urged Speaker Surama Padhy to ensure return of certain items allegedly stolen from them by anti-social elements during a dharna inside the House in March when Congress MLAs staged a dharna in the House, demanding formation of a House Committee to probe the alleged rising crimes against women in the state.

In his letter, CLP leader Rama Chandra Kadam said, "I'd like to draw your kind attention to the incident that happened on 26-03-2025 at around 2:30am inside the House and what action has been taken so far regarding entry of anti-social elements and theft of gold chain, watch, goggles, pant, shirt and other belongings of the members of our Congress Legislature Party.

House adjourns after obituary reference

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The first day of the Monsoon Session of the Assembly was adjourned after obituary reference was made to seven former members of the House and two personnel of the state police Thursday.

As soon as the House assembled at 11am, Speaker Surama Padhy allowed Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to move the condolence motion over the demise of sitting member Rajendra Dholakia, ex-deputy Speaker Bibhuti Bhusan Singh Mardaraj, former MLAs Prasanna Kumar Pattnaik, Kar endra Majhi, Niranjan Hermbram, Prafulla Kumar Bhanja and Mohammad Rafique and late constables Loknath Sabar and Laxman Majhi.

The Chief Minister paid rich tributes to the late members of the Assembly and police personnel. Majhi recalled working with Dholakia, Karendra Majhi

and highly praised the sacrifice made by the two constables who laid down their lives on duty.

BJD's deputy leader in the House, Prasanna Acharya, Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam and CPI(M)'s lone member Laxman Munda also conveyed their condolence to the departed leaders and police personnel.

The Speaker, on behalf of the House, also paid tributes to the departed souls and conveyed the House's condolences to the families of the ex-members and late constables. She also referred to the contribution of each former member in her condolence message

"As Rajendra Dholkia, was the sitting member of the 17th Assembly, the House will re main adjourned for the day as per tradition," the Speaker said. The MLAs also stood for a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed mem bers. The Speaker invited all the members of the Assembly to join the plantation programme held on the Assembly premises

The Monsoon Session of the Assembly will continue till September 25 with one break September 21.

Four pacts inked for women empowerment



Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: In a major boost to women empowerment, the state government Thursday signed four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with national-level organisations to strengthen self-help groups (SHGs) under Mission Shakti programme.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who attended the event as the chief guest, announced that financial assistance to the tune of ₹110.97 crore has been transferred to the accounts of 1,63,757 SHGs towards repayment of

The agreements were signed with Food Industry Capacity and Skill Initiative (FICSI), Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI), and National Commission for Women (NCW). Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Parida said, "Mission Shakti, under the guidance of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, is working to create women-led enterprises at the grassroots level. By nurturing Odisha's traditional tribal art and skills, we aim to increase the

As part of the agreements, FICSI will train 10,000 SHGs in fruit pulp processing, spice processing, oil extraction, multi-skill techniques, and fruit and vegetable dehydration. TSSC will pilot a project in 30 gram panchayats of Cuttack district with an objective to train 60 women in mobile handset repairing.

number of 'Lakhpati Didis' across the state.'

GJSCI will provide training to 1,440 SHG members in silver filigree (tarakasi) craftsmanship, linking them to e-commerce platforms and markets. NCW will offer self-defense training to SHG women in the age group of 18 to 40 in five districts, aimed at enhancing confidence, safety awareness, and group solidarity.

Additionally, under its CSR initiative, Hindustan Coca-Cola everages Pvt Ltd (HCCB) provided a transparent-door refrigerator to Subhadra Shakti Café.

Stray dog census begins

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Thursday began its street dog census across the City, an official said. The counting of stray dogs will take place in every

Odisha charts action plan to address stray cattle menace

Reaffirming commitment to building safer, smarter, and more humane commuting ways, Odisha has taken a decisive step towards addressing the challenge of stray cattle on highways and roads. A high-level meeting chaired by Commerce and Transport depart-ment Principal Secretary Usha Padhee was convened here Thursday to chart out an integrated action plan, aimed at protecting both human lives and animal welfare, while enhancing road safety across the state. Stray cattle on roads have become a major safety concern, contributing significantly to accidents and fatalities. In Odisha alone, road crash data reveals the magnitude of the challenge: in 2022, 952 accidents and 521 deaths were reported; in 2023, 1,168 accidents and 643 deaths; and in 2024, 903 accidents and 437 deaths were attributed to animal-vehicle collisions. From the year August 2022 to August 2025, 331 animals were killed due to collision with vehicles. These figures underline the urgent need for coordinated action. The meeting focused on a mission-mode strategy linking identified NHAI stretches with nearbyULBs to ensure fencing, cattle-control, and shelter-

ing through existing and new Goshalas.

street and ward across the state capital everyday between 5am to 7am, the official mentioned.

The census will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will continue till September 25, while the second phase will review whether the dogs counted are there or not, said City Mayor Sulochana

A total of 410 teams consisting of sanitation workers. sanitation supervisors, sanitary inspectors, and other officials, who will conduct the census under the supervision of qualified veterinarians, she said. BMC Commissioner Chanchal

Rana said the census will be conducted in all 67 wards of the City. "It is necessary to have a census of stray dogs

here so that necessary steps can be taken to manage their population," Rana said.





Envision & creatively express your dream of Viksit Bharat

The Ministry of Culture is inviting artists to participate in the ongoing nationwide

SEWA PARV ARTIST CAMPS!

At 75 locations across India

Till 2nd October, 2025

Participant Categories:

- Artists
- College Students
- School Children







exciting prizes!

To check the artist camp locations in your city & upload your individual entries, SCAN 6

Let us unite in this celebration of creativity and showcase our unique vision for a developed India.

To get featured on the Ministry of Culture's Social Media, upload your artworks on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' with #SewaParv

ENTRY IS FREE FOR ALL!



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Service is the resolve, India First the inspiration...75 years

Govt boosts medical edu with new appointments

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: In a significant move to strengthen medical education and healthcare services, the state government has appointed 91 assistant professors across 23 broad specialty disciplines and seven assistant professors in six super specialty disciplines in its government medical colleges. In addition, 38 professors and 27 associate professors have been promoted through departmental processes

According to Health and Family Welfare department officials, the new appointments include 15 specialists and four super specialists at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack; 19 specialists and three super specialists at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Brahmapur; six specialists at Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital, Baripada; one specialist at SLN Medical College and Hospital, Koraput; six specialists at Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital, Balasore; one specialist at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital, Bolangir: two specialists at Shri Jagannath Medical



six specialists at Government Medical College, Sundargarh.

Additionally, the appointments include five specialists at Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital, Keonjhar; seven specialists at Saheed Rendo Maihi Medical College and Hospital, Bhawanipatna; two specialists at Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital, Jajpur; eight specialists at Pabitra Mohan Pradhan Medical College and Hospital, Talcher; five specialists at Government MCH, Phulbani; and eight specialists at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

In addition, 38 professors and 27 associate professors have been appointed in the state's medical colleges through departmental promotions.

Besides, medical education and clinical services at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer, Cuttack, have

112 shops on a monthly rental

basis. The beneficiaries were

shortlisted based on a detailed

survey carried out by the Odi-

sha State Road Transport Cor-

poration (OSRTC), which pre-

viously managed the old Bara-

munda bus terminal before the

transparently, with beneficia-

ries themselves drawing tokens

from a glass box under the su-

pervision of officials. To ensure

complete fairness, the lottery

was overseen by Bhubaneswar

Smart City Limited General

Manager Purandar Nanda as

independent observer.

Itikanta Mohapatra.

The process was conducted

BSABT was built.

pointment of 10 super-specialist assistant professors in Surgical Oncology, Gynaecological Oncology, Head & Neck Surgery, Medical Oncology, and Uro-Oncology. Furthermore, one professor and two associate professors have been promoted at the institute through departmental processes

Health and Family Welfare department officials said steps are underway to appoint more specialists and super-specialists in the state's government medical colleges and hospitals The batch-wise graduation of medicos from these campuses is expected to meet the growing demand for doctors and specialists, ensuring quality universal healthcare across Odisha. Medical education and train-

ing in the state have been further strengthened with the posting of new assistant professors (specialists and super-specialists) and the functionalisation of two new medical colleges in 2025: Government Medical College & Hospital, Phulbani and Pabitra Mohan Pradhan Medical College & Hospital, Talcher. With these additions, the total number of government medical colleges in



UP IN ARMS: Teachers and employees of the Odisha State Non-Government Lecturers and Employees' Association (OSNLEA) stage a rally at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday seeking implementation of grant-in-aid policy

Min admits fertiliser hoarding; Cong stir Sept 23

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra Thursday admitted to 'black marketing' of urea amid statewide farmer outrage over fertiliser scarcity. The Kisan Congress, farmers' wing of OPCC, has called an agitation September 23 to protest the crisis.

"The Congress' Kisan cell has called for a Bidhan Sabha Gherao Tuesday to protest govern-

black marketing and hoarding of fertilisers by unscrupulous traders," a statement by the

"It is a fact that black marketing of fertilisers is going on in several places across the state. We are trying to control it and enforcement is strict at many places," Patra told reporters on the Assembly premises here.

Claiming that there is sufficient stock of fertilisers to meet the demands of farmfarmers not to panic.

"The situation is under control and we will ensure that farmers get required fertilisers," the minister said, adding that reports of urea hoarding have also come to the government's notice.

The minister alleged that some people are indulged in hoarding of fertilisers to create an artificial scarcity.

Meanwhile, the Congress said party workers and members will protests in front of District Collectors' offices,

block, cooperative societies and agriculture offices.

According to the party a procession of the Odisha Kisan Congress will start from Laksheswar Temple in Cuttack district and will reach the Congress Bhawan at Master Canteen via Rasulgarh and Vani Vihar on the national highway.

A large number of farmers leaders and workers will gather outside the Assembly and hold a meeting there, PCC Kisan cell president Abhay Sahu said

BDA conducts lottery for 112 shops at BSABT



Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Thursday conducted a lottery to allot shops to beneficiaries at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bus Terminal (BSABT). The event took place at K7 Kalyan Mandap, Kalinga Vihar in presence of BDA Secretary Manas Ranjan Padhi.

The lottery process was conducted for allotment of

Mega coastal cleanup Sept 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Odisha will observe International Coastal Cleanup Day September 20 with a large-scale cleanliness drive across 14 beaches, announced Forest. Environment and Climate Change department additional chief secretary Satyabrat Sahu. He made the announce ment while presiding over a high-level preparatory meeting recently, outlining plans to mobilise volunteers, local authorities, and environmental groups for the event.

Several senior BDA officials The state-wide campaign will begin at Puri beach from were present, including additional commissioners Snig-6:30am. The inaugural event dharani Dhal (Administration). will be graced by Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Bhabataran Sahu (Town Planning), and Manoj Kumar Swain Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, (Estate-II), along with joint Union Environment Minister commissioner (Enforcement) Bhupinder Yaday, Deputy Chief and BSABT special officer Ran-Minister Pravati Parida, Forian Kumar Jena and Manager est, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram

ODISHA TO MARK INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY WITH A DRIVE ACROSS 14 BEACHES, STARTING AT PURI AT 6:30 AM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE 'I PROTECT MY BEACH PLEDGE, PAINTING **EXHIBITION, BEACH** CLEANING AND WASTE SEGREGATION AMONG OTHERS

Singkhuntia and Puri MP Sambit Patra among others

On the occasion, dignitaries, volunteers, and participants will take the 'I Protect My Beach' pledge. A signature campaign, painting exhibition, and beach cleaning activities will also be organised. The collected waste will be segregated and handed over to the munic-

ipality and plastic recyclers. The programme will feature plastic recycling demonstrations by Odisha State Pollution Control Board, turtle hatching showcases by the Wildlife Division, and exhibitions of knowledge products by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).

With its 500 km-long coastline and iconic beaches like Puri, Konark, Gopalpur, Chandipur, and Talasari, Odisha considers the campaign not just a cleanup activity but a movement to safeguard the environment, marine life, and future generations

SOUTH ASIA FOOD POLICY DIALOGUE

Odisha's climate-resilient agriculture in spotlight

New Delhi, Sept 18: Odisha's transformative agricultural iournev took centre stage at a high-level regional policy dialogue, co-hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi recently. The event, titled 'Food Policy for a Changing World: Lessons and Priorities for South Asia,' also marked the South Asia launch of IF-PRI's 2025 Global Food Policy

Report (GFPR). Highlighting Odisha's progress, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg spoke of the state's remarkable shift and said, "Odisha's journey from districts once infamous for starfifth-largest rice producer in India shows what determined institution-building and invest ment in irrigation can achieve Today, our focus is on embed ding climate resilience into ag riculture so that this progress endures."

Further emphasising state's leadership, Agricul ture and Farmers' Empow erment department Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee detailed the state's integrated, forward-looking approach and said, "Odisha is perhaps one of the few states with both a Climate Resilience Cell and an upcoming Gender Responsive Cell. Through CRC and GRC, we've embedded the climate and gender lens from the start of our policy design."

CLASSIFIED

Affidavit (for minor) By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Badasahi, Mayurbhanj I Satyaranjan Kalia, At/Po-Singhtia. PS-Badasahi, Dist-Mavurbhani, Pin-757026, Odisha. Declare by this affidavit No. 293/07.08.2025. I have changed my daughter's name from Jasnarani Kalia to Jyotsnarani Kalia. Henceforth. She shall be known as Jyotsnarani Kalia for all future purposes. Satyaranjan Kalia

Executive Magistrate, Chandahandi I, Trilochan Bag, father of minor Mamata Bagh, permanently residing village/PO-Saradhapur, Block-Chandahandi, Dist.-Nabarangpur declare that I renounce my daughter's former name Mamata Bagh and assume her name as Mohini Bag. She shall henceforth be known as Mohini Bag for all purposes.

By affidavit before

Bomikhal Pandal to dazzle with feathered splendour

DURGA PUJA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee, one of the city's most prominent organisers, is all set to enthrall devotees with a spectacular Peacock-themed pandal this year. Designed not just to showcase artistic brilliance, the pandal also carries a strong message on wildlife conservation and the need to protect the environment, blending tradition with social awareness

Celebrating its 62nd year. the Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee is raising an impressive eco-friendly pandal, measuring 65 feet in height and 120 feet in width. The structure is being crafted with sustainable materials such as bamboo, thermocol, cloth, and decorative elements to highlight both artistry and environmental responsibility. Around 45 skilled artisans are working tirelessly on the project, which carries an estimated budget of ₹16 lakh, committee treasurer Aditya Kumar Jena said.



To ensure smooth conduct of the festivities, the committee has made elaborate security and crowd management arrangements. As many as 45 security personnel and volunteers will be deployed across the venue to regulate the flow of visitors. In addition, the committee has worked in close coordination with local police to manage the anticipated traffic congestion. particularly around the nearby overbridge, said committee sec-

retary Sailendra Kumar Jena. Adding to the splendour of the celebration, the idol of Maa Durga will be showcased on magnificent silver tableaux and adorned with dazzling jewellery worth about ₹25 lakh, lending a regal charm to the pandal. The overarching peacock themesymbolising grace, beauty,

been thoughtfully chosen to go beyond mere decoration, aiming to spark greater awareness about the urgent need to protect

nature and conserve wildlife. "Our aim is not just to honour devotion and uphold tradition, but also to foster a sense of environmental responsibility among devotees," said Jena.

The Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee has long been celebrated for its thematic brilliance, having previously mesmerised visitors with pandals inspired by Mysore's iconic Lalitha Mahal, grand French palaces, and even an entire structure crafted from betel nuts.

These past creations have not only highlighted the exceptional skills of local artisans but also transformed the pandal into a must-visit destination during Durga Puja in the City.

With its seamless blend of artistic innovation, devotion, and meaningful social messaging, Bomikhal's Durga Puja continues to stand out as one of Bhubaneswar's premier festive attractions.

DGP inaugurates gym, leads plantation drive



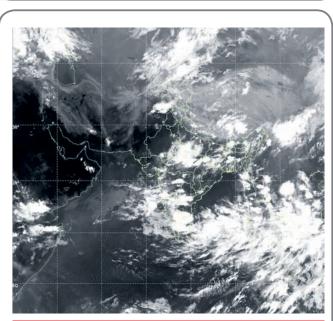
Khurda, Sept 18: DGP Yogesh Bahadur Khurania inaugurat ed a gymnasium at the 6th India Reserve Battalion (IRB) campus here recently.

As part of the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam programme, he planted a sapling and urged people to contribute to environmental protection by planting trees. He appealed to everyone to plant at least one sapling.

On the occasion, Odisha Police planted over three lakh sap lings across battalions, district headquarters, and police stations statewide. The DGP also highlighted the importance of

daily exercise for good health. Among those present were ADG (SAP) Rajesh Kumar, ADG (Headquarters) Dayal Gangwar, ADG (Law & Order) Sanjay Singh, ADG (Provisioning) Soumendra Priyadarshi, IG (Intelligence) Jayanarayan Pankaj, DIG Awinash Kumar, Khurda SP Vivekanand Sharma, and 6th Battalion Commandant Basant Kumar Navak.

BOURSES CURRENCY INDEX VARIATION INDEX VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR **88.14** • 0.26 SENSEX **83013.96** A 320.25 GOLD ₹108,975 **♦** ₹847 **104.34** ♠ 0.21 NIFTY **25423.60** ♠ 93.35 SILVER ₹126.831 **♦** ₹153



WEATHER						
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST			
/lax Temp	36.1°	35.2°	Light to			
/lin Temp	25.2°	24.6°	moderate rain or thundershower			
lumidity	73%	80%	very likely to occur			
tainfall	Nil	Nil				

BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Mining push driving jumbos into villages



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Sept 18: The ever expanding mining operations in Keonihar district have forced elephants out of their natural habitats into human habitations, leading to frequent conflicts with local communities.

Large-scale deforestation for mining has destroyed traditional elephant corridors, leaving the world's largest land mammal displaced and vulnerable. With forests shrinking, herds in search of shelter and food sources are straving into villages. leading to tension with people and resulting in loss of lives both elephant and human.

According to the Forest department, about 55 elephants are now roaming the Barbil and Champua forest ranges. As the natural habitat of the animals and their movement corridors have been completely destroyed, the herds stray into nearby villages in search of food as night

In the Balibandh forest section under Champua forest range and in Barbil forest range, 32 elephants have been sighted, while 14 were roaming in the Bamebari section. Another eight elephants have moved

under the Bansapal block to Bamebari area. A lone elephant has been spotted in Belda area

of the Joda forest range, forest

officials said. Forest department records show that thousands of hectares reserve forests, forests identified by the district level committee (DLC), and revenue forests have been diverted for mining. In Joda forest range alone, more than 2,000 hectares of forest land have been converted, while about 5,200 hectares in Barbil and Champua ranges are under mining activity.

panies purchase land through district land banks and pay the government the net present value of the trees cut, based on forest density. These legal clearances, including diversion plans approved by the state and Central governments, allow companies to convert forestland for non-forest use.

that while the system legitimises mining, it leaves wildlifeparticularly elephants-without safe habitats, intensifying man-animal conflicts across the district.

Mining companies are required to submit wildlife plans

those plans often remain buried in files, leaving large animals like elephants without their natural habitats

In place of destroyed forests, new plantations are often created with acacia saplings. Conservationists argue that such artificial forests cannot support wildlife the way natural forests do. While acacia plantations showcase official efficiency, they fail to restore habitats for wild animals.

According to Forest department sources, the state government has now directed that acacia and similar trees should not be planted. Instead, saplings of species useful to elephants — such as bamboo, kumbhi, ebony fruit, cotton tree and banyan — are being grown. More than 11,000 such saplings have already been planted this month in the Champua range, sources said.

Environmentalist Uday Shankar Acharya said the initiative is long overdue. He criticised mining companies for abandoning pits after extraction without reclamation, which prevents natural forest regeneration. In many cases, the Forest department creates plantations in vacant patches near villages rather than in mined areas.

Illegal and unregulated mining has further destroyed elephant corridors. In several places, slurry pipelines have blocked traditional migratory paths, leaving elephants unable to cross into other forests. Acharya warned that unless urgent steps are taken, elephants like many other rare species could

WOMAN CONSTABLE'S MURDER

Kin of accused's first wife level shocking allegations

Dhenkanal, Sept 18: A day after missing traffic constable Subhamitra Sahoo was found murdered, allegedly by her husband Deepak Rout, new and troubling allegations have emerged against the accused.

According to claims made Thursday by Rozalin Rout, sister of Deepak's first wife Aparna Priyadarshini, this is not the first time Deepak has been involved in a suspicious death. Rozalin alleged that Deepak had earlier married Aparna, a revenue inspector in Kandarsingha under Parjang block, and murdered her March 17, 2022, staging the incident as a road accident to claim a ₹1 crore insurance payout.

Aparna's parental residence is at Tilapada village under Sadar police limits in Dhenkanal dis-



Rozalin, speaking to reporters in Dhenkanal, said Aparna married Deepak April 25, 2018, after getting to know her through a matrimonial site. However. the marriage reportedly soured within months. Aparna had allegedly lodged online complaints with the police commissioner's office citing constant mental

harassment. Rozalin further claimed Deepak had taken loans in Aparna's name, and that Aparna suffered a miscarriage during their marriage. At the time of her death in 2022, Aparna was six months pregnant.

Deepak had informed the family that Aparna was injured in a road accident near Khuntuni in Cuttack district around 8pm March 17, 2022. He claimed she was taken to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, and later shifted to a private hospital, where she was declared dead. Rozalin accused Deepak of

manipulating the circumstances to make the death appear accidental, taking advantage of the family's limited financial means. She also alleged that Deepak encashed the life insurance policy following Aparna's death.

Man remanded

to jail for raping

13-year-old niece

Kendrapara, Sept 18: A

53-vear-old man has been ar-

rested for raping his 13-year-old

niece under Nikirai police lim

its in Kendrapara district and

remanded to judicial custody.

Nayak (53), was booked un-

advantage of the girl when she

Police said both the accused

"Abhimanyu was produced

and the victim were sent for

before the Additional District

& Sessions Judge-cum-Special

Judge (POCSO), Kendrapara,

who remanded him to jail cus-

tody," Investigating Officer

Yudhistir Sahoo said Thursday.

was alone at home.

medical examination.

The accused, Abhimanyu

der Sections

64(2), 65(1)(f),

351(2)(3), 296

of the BNS

and Section

6 of the POC-

Nayak took

According

police,

SO Act.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police, seeking a thorough investigation into Aparna's death.

The shocking allegations come amid ongoing investigations into the murder of traffic constable Subhamitra Sahoo who had been missing since September 6. Deepak has been arrested for allegedly killing Subhamitra and burying her body in a forest in Ghatagaon, Keonihar district, which was recovered Wednesday.

Following these developments, suspicion has deepened that Deepak may also be responsible for Aparna's death. Aparna's family - including her father Biranchi Rout, mother Ahalya Raut, and sisters Rozalin and Rupali - have appealed for justice. Police have intensified the investigation into both cases

Officials said mining com-

But conservationists warn

trict, while her two sisters live

in Meena Bazar and Amalapada areas of Dhenkanal town.

A formal complaint has

BJD accuses police of

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



SOG commandant injured in gun battle with Maoists



Berhampur, Sept 18: A commandant rank officer of Odisha's elite Special Operation Group (SOG) was injured in an exchange of fire between security personnel and Maoists in a forest in Kandhamal district Thursday, police said.

The gun battle took place at Indragarh jungle under Raikia police station area, bordering Ganiam district.

The injured commandant Prem Singh Majhi's fellow jawans initially rushed him to

Indragarh hospital, before police moved him to the sub-divisional hospital at Bhanjanagar. Due to the absence of a surgical specialist there, doctors were brought in from Berhampur and Aska before the injured jawan was transferred to MK-CG Medical College and Hospital here. His condition was stated to be stable. Kandhamal Superintendent

of Police Harisha BC said the SOG jawans launched a combing operation in the area after getting reliable information about the gathering of a group of around 15 Maoists in the forest. During the operation, there was an exchange of fire in which the SOG commandant suffered injuries, he said. Sources indicated traces of

blood at the site, suggesting that some Maoists may have also been injured. "Some of the Maoists might have been injured too, but it has not yet been confirmed," the SP said.

Search and combing operation was on in full swing in the area, and additional forces

Minor girl abducted by bikers found dead



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhadrak, Sept 18: A search team Thursday recovered the decomposed body of a nineyear-old girl who was abducted by bike-borne miscreants five days ago at a village in Bhadrak district, police said.

The body was found near a canal at Adia village under Basudevpur Marine police station limits, around 400 metres from

the girl's home during a joint search operation by the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and the Fire Services

department. According to police, the child was allegedly abducted around 7.30pm September 14, while walking near her home with her elder sister.

Two bike-borne unidentified men took away the girl, leaving her elder sibling in shock,

they said. She ran home and informed her mother, who is hearing impaired. Unable to react instantly, the mother panicked and fainted upon understanding the situation, prompting neighbours to alert authorities, police said. The girl's father, Sadanand

Mallik, a fisherman who was out at sea, reached home upon receiving the news. "When I reached, I found my

wife unconscious. A neighbour told me that my daughter had been abducted," he said.

Villagers launched an immediate search using flashlights and sticks, while local police were alerted.

Bhadrak Sadar SDPO Bichitranand Sethi formed four special teams to investigate the case. Bhadrak SP Manoj Kumar Rout said, "Preliminary investigations point to a possible murder, but this will be confirmed only after the post-mortem examination report is received."

The body has been sent to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for further exam-

No.MM-194

bias, demands transfer of Balichandrapur IIC PNN & AGENCIES Jajpur, Sept 18: The BJD

Thursday staged a protest outside Balichandrapur police station in Jajpur district demanding the transfer of the station's inspector in-charge (IIC), alleging a collapse of law and order in the area.

Members of Biju Janata Dal's Barchana unit gheraoed the police station and alleged that there was complete breakdown of law and order in the area since BJP came to power in the state.

There is wanton loot of minor minerals from the hills and sand from rivers across Barchana as well as spike in crimes against women in the area, BJD leader Raj Narayan Mohapatra alleged

As a public servant, the IIC is supposed to serve people, but he has turned the public office into a BJP party office and is work ing as a ruling party's agent, alleged Mohapatra.

The party also submitted a memorandum to the DGF through the Jajpur Road Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Laxmidhar Swain, who was present at the spot.

EAST COAST RAILWAY File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/72, Dt. 16.09.2025

Date: 10.09.2025 EXECUTION OF BALANCE MISCELLANEOUS WORK IN CONNECTION WITH "CONSTRUCTION OF OPERATIONAL

NEW DELHI" st of the work: \$287.22 lakh EMD: ₹2,93,600/-, Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months.

BUILDING FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY AT

Date & time of Tender Closing: 03.10.2025

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax of -Tenders even if these are submitted or rm's letter head and received in time. All such nanual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-Tenders is available

website http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advise revisit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes

orrigendum issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)

Bargarh youth scales Mt Kilimanjaro

Bargarh, Sept 18: Young mountaineer Ashirbad Mahapatra alias Anup from Kulita Tukura village of Attabira block in Bargarh district has brought pride to Odisha and India by successfully scaling Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895m), the highest peak in Africa. On reaching the summit, he unfurled the Tricolour along with the flag of Maa Samalei. the revered deity of western Odisha.

Ashirbad, the only Indian mountaineer in the expedition team, joined fellow climbers from the United Kingdom, the USA, Iran, Brazil, Germany, Australia, the Philippines, Canada, Argentina, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, China, and the UAE during his African expedition that began August 2, 2025.

Having trained at the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering, Pahalgam (Kashmir), Ashirbad has also undergone advanced training in sky diving, paragliding, skiing, CPR, search and rescue, shooting,



and survival skills. He has earlier scaled peaks like Tatakoti (4,760m), Harmukh (5,300m), Trishul (7,120m), Neelkanth (6,596m), Sunset (4,745m), Gol Top (4,420m), and Sleeping Lady Mountain (2.240m).

Expressing gratitude, Ashirbad credited Bargarh MP Pradip Purohit for his encouragement and support. "Mountaineering was my childhood dream, and today I am living it," he said after his successful ascent.

Looking ahead, Ashirbad has set his sights on climbing Mount Elbrus (5,642m), the highest peak in Europe, located in Russia. His mission is to hoist the national flag there and further elevate India's name on the global stage.

He also expressed a desire to inspire and train India's youth in mountaineering so that the nation shines worldwide in adventure sports.

Congratulations and good wishes have been pouring in from individuals and institutions across the state and

CB reopens 2023 fake cert scam, nabs Kalahandi man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Sept 18: The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police has reopened an investigation into the 2023 fake certificate scam and arrested a man from Kalahandi district, officials said Thursday.

The accused, identified as Malaya Kumar Bhoi, 37, of Kundabandh village under Kesinga police limits in Kalahandi district, was taken into custody by a three-member CB team and produced in court. Police said Bhoi allegedly purchased a forged high school certificate from Bolangir, which falsely showed he had scored more than 90 per cent marks. He later used the document to apply for the post of Gramin Dak Sevak in the Bolangir postal division in 2023.

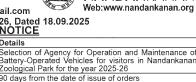
During certificate verification March 23, 2023, postal officials discovered the forgery. Then-postal superintendent Rajendra Kumar Pattanaik reported the matter to Town police station, leading to a case being registered under the direction of then Bolangir SP Nitin Kushalkar.

The CB resumed the probe after several months of dormancy. A team led by Additional SP Bikash Behura Wednes day visited the Bolangir district education office to verify records before conducting raids in Belpada and later in Kundabandh, where Bhoi was arrested.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

P.O-BARANG, DIST-KHURDA, PIN-754005

PHONE (M) 9437022023, Email: deputydirector.kanan@gmail.com Notice No.19/ PMU/NKZP/2025-26, Dated 18.09.2025 SHORT TENDER NOTICE SI.No. Particulars



Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal Date & Time of bid opening Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha
in website https://tendersodisha.gov.in / Corrigendum if any, shall only be published in the above website Sd./- Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING & TECHNOL CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (CSTS) ବେରୋଜଗାର ଇନ୍ଲୁକ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥ୍/ପ୍ରାର୍ଥ୍ନୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ନିଶୁକ୍ତ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ତାଲିମ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ

ପୃଷପୋଷକତା: ରାଭରକେଲା ଷ୍ଟିଲ ପ୍ଲାଣ୍ଡ (RSP), Rourkela

SAIL-RSP ପୃଷ୍ପୋଷକତାରେ ସିପେଟ୍:ସି.ଏସ୍.ଟି.ଏସ୍. ଭୂବନେଶ୍ୱରରେ ବେରୋଜଗାର ଯୁବକ/ଯୁବତୀମାନଙ୍କୁ NSQF ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗିତ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ଭିତ୍ତିକ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ତାଲିମର ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ଦିଆଯିବ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ରାଉରକେଲା ଇସାଁତ କାରଖାନାଁ ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବାସକରୁଥିବା ନିମ୍ନ ଆୟକାରୀ ବର୍ଗର ବେରୋଜଗାର ଯୁବକ/ଯୁବତୀମାନଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଆବେଦନ ପତ୍ର ଆହ୍ୱାନ କରାଯାଉଅଛି **।**

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ଯଥା: ଶିକ୍ଷାଗତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟତା ପ୍ରମଣପତ୍ରି, କାତିଗତ ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର, ଆଧାରକାର୍ଡ, ଆୟ ପ୍ରମାନପତ୍ର / ବିପିଏଲ୍ କିୟା ରାସନ କାର୍ଡ ଏବଂ ପାସପୋର୍ଟ ସାଇଜର % ଓ

ରଙ୍ଗିନ ଫଟୋ ସହିତ ସିଧାସ୍କଖ ସାକ୍ଷାତ୍ କରିପାରିବେ । ବି.ବୁ.: କୌଣସି କାରଣ ନଦଶାଇ, ଯେକୌଣସି ବା ସମଞ ଦରଖାୟ ନାଳଚ କରିବାର ଅଧ୍କାର କର୍ଭୂପକ୍ଷଙ୍କର ଅଛି ।

* ଅଧିକ ବିବରଣୀ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ: 9337143007



A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.

THE MOTHER



Nirupama Rao

India has stood

its ground in

the storm, the

Trump-induced

regional and

volatility is

making it

harder to

country's

treasured

strategic

autonomy

maintain the

the face of

Although

Neighbourhood Woes

lthough instability is endemic to South and Southeast Asia, it is becoming increasingly dangerous both for India's neighbours and India itself. This was reflected most recently in the violent unrest in Nepal. But that crisis is hardly an isolated case. In Bangladesh, directly to India's east, the same tensions that led to the overthrow of the government in 2024 remain unresolved. And to the southeast, Thailand is reeling from the court-ordered removal of its prime minister and a series of recent border clashes with Cambodia.

According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project, Myanmar's civil war has claimed at least 80,000 lives, both civilians and combatants, since 2021, following the military coup that ended Aung San Suu Kyi's democratic government. To India's west, a perpetually volatile Pakistan wrestles with the zombies of its history: Islamist extremist groups and poor economic and governmental performance.

To the south, Sri Lanka may have settled down following the ouster of its president three years ago, but its economy shows few signs of mounting a sustained recovery. And to the north, China's quest for regional hegemony is another source of instability.

For India, these crises are not distant concerns. Refugee flows from Bangladesh are causing social unease and disruptions in India's eastern states; the never-ending threat of cross-border terror from Pakistan nearly incited a war in Kashmir this summer; and now, Nepal's volatile politics has given China another opportunity for meddling. Since this arc of fragility is too large to ignore, the question for India's leadership is how to absorb and minimise the shockwaves, and how to steady the region.

One can start with Nepal, which has struggled to live by the ambitious constitution that was forged to end a long Maoist rebellion two decades ago. Nepalese state institutions remain fragile and contested, and hopes of stability have been repeatedly dashed by factionalism, corruption, and political leaders' inability to consolidate a system that everyone can trust. The recent spasm of shockingly brutal violence is a symptom of these deeper fault lines.

India cannot be indifferent to such instability. Our long, open border with Nepal makes us vulnerable to refugee flows and cross-border crime, and our deep cultural, ethnic, religious, and economic ties mean that the government in Kathmandu will always look over its shoulder at the government in New Delhi. Moreover, China's increasing influence in Nepal's domestic politics has, as a matter of necessity, made the country a major strategic concern for India. In Bangladesh, the interim government

that has ruled since Sheikh Hasina's ouster is failing in its efforts to restore law and order or safeguard human rights. The economy, a bright spot for decades, is under pressure from domestic political jitters and US President Donald Trump's punishing tariffs. The febrile political environment has left the country's minorities feeling increasingly insecure. The stakes for India are high, because its own efforts to manage the border, migration, and counterterrorism depend on the regime in Dhaka maintaining order.

At first glance, Thailand's turmoil and the border clashes with Cambodia may seem less urgent. But India, under its Act East policy, has been pursuing deeper economic and strategic ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' ten member states and their 600 million-plus people. Any instability within that bloc will complicate this outreach. Moreover, Thailand has long served as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia. If its institutions falter, or if disputes with Cambodia escalate despite Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's best efforts to broker a resolution, India's vision of a connected, secure Indo-Pacific corridor could become untenable.

To describe Pakistan as chronically troubled may sound dismissive, but it is an unfortunate truth. The country's civilian authorities have been consistently undermined, as when Imran Khan's elected government was ousted in 2022 at the military's behest. Extremist groups thrive when politics becomes a blood sport, and Pakistan's fragile economy only exacerbates this dynamic.

From India's perspective, Pakistan's troubles are more than a domestic issue, because they regularly threaten to spill across the Line of Control in Kashmir, fueling terrorism, destroying any prospect for regional peace, and even introducing the spectre of a nuclear catastrophe. This continuous instability chains India to the sub-continental chessboard, even when it wants to look outward. The Pakistan-China axis further complicates the status quo, which is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

All these stories point to a larger worrying trend: democracy in India's neighbourhood is in retreat. Constitutions are being rewritten, and courts politicised. Sensing weakness, too many army generals see themselves as free to intervene, including by jailing or exiling political leaders.

For India - the world's largest democracy - responding to this trend demands a more assertive regional strategy. Of course, for most of South Asia, barring Pakistan, India is the first responder when crises hit. But during periods when India's neighbours do not think they need its help, they tend to shrug off its security concerns.

And as if India's neighbourhood were not dangerous enough, the wider world adds its own layers of uncertainty. Trump's policy toward the region has been arbitrary in the extreme, leading smaller states to hedge their bets. In Japan and South Korea, debates are underway about the wisdom of acquiring nuclear weapons, now that China is flexing its

muscles and the US security umbrella has been called into question. Although India has stood its ground in the face of the storm, the regional and Trump-induced volatility is making it harder to maintain the country's treasured strategic autonomy. The task now is no longer to deepen ties with America, but to maintain the strategic, technological, and economic core of the partnership while building resistance against sudden shifts in US policy.

India is not seeking dominance in South Asia. Its goal is to build an inclusive, rules-based, and connected region - and thus transform a history of recurring crises into a future of enduring stability.

The writer is a former foreign secretary of India and former Indian ambassador to China and the United States. @Project Syndicate

WISDOM CORNER

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



Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience.

PAULO COELHO

FOCUS DECENTRALISED FINANCE

THE LURKING DANGER

here has been heightened concern in recent days on misuse of decentralised finance (De-Fi) for illicit activities, notably by terrorist groups seeking to raise finances, build infrastructure or expand their networks. Some of the emerging developments bring chilling messages and are a wakeup call for preventing the misuse of DeFi for terror and broadly a wide range of illicit activities. These come even as we see path-breaking developments in fintech. DeFi is on a roll, providing momentum and revolutionising financial services globally.

According to 'CoinLaw', a website that reports on fintech, the number of active DeFi users globally reached 14.2 million wallets by mid-2025. The DeFi market is projected to grow annually at 43%, from \$30.07 billion in 2024 to \$178.63 billion by 2029. India ranked at number three in DeFi value in the 2024 Global Crypto Adoption Index provided by Chainalysis, a blockchain data platform.

DeFi platforms operate on blockchains and offer financial products and services enabling saving, investing, lending, remittance, insurance contracts etc., without the intermediation of traditional financial institutions like banking. The transactions take place through smart contracts, open protocols, and decentralised applications, allowing direct peer to peer transactions without intermediation. A digital wallet, when integrated with DeFi, serves as a gateway, bypassing the banking network.

Access to the DeFi service does not warrant the opening of an account or identity verification. A customer can register with a password and create several crypto wallets. Most wallets do not ask for an address, phone number or email verification and one can use different DeFi exchanges or DeFi lending and borrowing platforms. A 2023 working paper of the Bank for International Settlements notes that since DeFi aims at



The borderless nature of decentralised finance and the anonymity of participants make it challenging to recover funds stolen through cyberattacks

disintermediation, and the users interact with smart contracts, rather than through an institution, the absence of traditional financial institutions or market supervisory authorities makes DeFi vulnerable to criminal activity and investor fraud.

The risks inherent in DeFi must be evaluated against the potential advantages of DeFi, which include financial inclusion, high liquidity, transparencv. lower costs of transactions. inter-operability with other applications and no requirement for permission from a central authority. There are no free lunches. Vulnerability to criminal activities is striking.

The embedded risks of DeFi unfold when mechanics are decrypted. DeFi works through self-executing smart contracts, which are vulnerable to hacking by criminals and terrorists. DeFi is governed through decentralised autonomous organisations - the group of persons who participate in its governance and decision making by virtue of their ownership of project tokens. Such a governance structure leads to regulatory uncer-

tainty and lack of accountability. The borderless nature of De-Fi and the anonymity of participants make it challenging to recover funds stolen through cyberattacks. The tracking of transactions from unverified DeFi wallets is difficult. Illicit actors can mask their tracks by using different blockchains, crypto-mixers, anonymity-enhancing tools and by using different DeFi wallets each time. The recipient of funds does not know from whom he received the funds. It is also difficult to block user accounts that have received suspicious funds.

To understand the risks in DeFi arrangements and address the potential regulatory blind spots, several jurisdictions have made their risk assessments of DeFi public. In its assessment published in April 2023, the US Treasury held that a DeFi service is liable to comply with anti-money laundering and terror financing obligations as applicable to any financial institution. but acknowledged that a lack of understanding among DeFi participants could exacerbate this risk, especially in jurisdictions that do not or inadequately apply international standards to DeFi service providers.

A January 2025 joint report by the European Banking Authority and European Securities and Management Association points to significant risks of money laundering and terror financing in DeFi protocols, as the users can transact without being identified and verified. The recent National Risk Assessment of the UK (July 2025) also underlines the same factors and underscores the inherent

vulnerabilities in DeFi proto cols, specifically about terrorist financing. A June 2025 report by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) indicates that jurisdictions continue to struggle with identifying entities in DeFi and applying the FATF Standards.

While some usefulness of the

innovative and technological features of DeFi protocols is undeniable, the risks are obvious for a jurisdiction like India. which is under constant threat of terrorism. The inclusivity benefits of DeFi are no better than the 'JAM' trinity and the UPI, which have already brought financial services into the hands of the common man. Since banning DeFi does not seem to be an option, in collaboration with the stakeholders, technology driven risk-based mitigation measures commensurate with the evolving DeFi ecosystem could offer a workable solution. India's last National Risk Assessment was carried out in 2022. While a sectoral assessment focused on DeFi, on the lines of other jurisdictions, could proffer actionable inputs for future strategy, its wider dissemination would sensitise the DeFi participants to the risks to national security

In its 2023 Mutual Evaluation Report on India, FATF recommended that India should broaden access to its National Risk Assessment and consider releasing a public version. Considering that the cross-border risks from DeFi are real and affect every citizen, an updated assessment of the DeFi sector would help flesh out a strategy in collaboration with industry participants. It is time to prevent DeFi from becoming a weapon of mass destruction, as Warren Buffett famously said of the collateralised debt obligations.

GN Bajpai is a former Chairman of LIC & SEBI. Praveen Tiwari is a former financial advisor to CFATF, a regional body of FATF, and distinguished fellow, Pahle India Foundation. ©THE BILLION PRESS

GEOPOLITICS

GN Bajpai &

IT IS TIME

Praveen Tiwari

TO PREVENT

BECOMING

A WEAPON

OF MASS

BUFFETT

DEBT

DECENTRALISED

FINANCE FROM

DESTRUCTION,

AS WARREN

FAMOUSLY

SAID OF THE

OBLIGATIONS

COLLATERALISED

Everybody likes a good war



SPECTRUM

OUITE A FEW OBSERVERS ACCUSE QATAR OF BEING BOTH 'ARSONIST' AND 'FIRE-FIGHTER'. **IT FIRST PROPS UP A TERRORIST GROUP, THEN BECOMES A NEGOTIATOR**

TO THE EDITOR

columns (between 600-1000

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he war in Gaza is reaching an alarming stage. Israel's Defence Minister, Israel Katz is saying, Gaza is burning.' From credible international sources, it was evident that famine had struck Gaza, while there was heavy exodus of Palestinians from the war zone. Now. as Israel begins the ground attack, thousands of Palestinians have begun to flee. Israel Defence Force (IDF) vows to seize the city in the latest escalation. Yet, there is no sign of any truce. Worse, Qatar which was negotiating between Palestine and Israel was bombed on 9 September. The question staring the world leadership is quo vadis (where to go from here) in Palestine. in Ukraine, and anywhere else that is gripped in armed conflict. The focus here is on Gaza.

The EU has warned that the ground offensive by IDF will add to the toll of deaths and destruction and worsen the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. EU countries are boycotting Israel in cultural programmes like Eurovision Song Contest. That is by far a mild pressure on Israel. How to stop the war is the should address?

The IDF on 9 September struck a gated compound in Doha's Leqtaifiya district that was used by Hamas political leadership. This has baffled many Middle East observers as Qatar is an ally of the US. The attack killed a senior Hamas figure, Khalil Al-Hayya, and a Qatari security officer. As per the Israel media, the military assault involved 15 fighter jets dropping 10 bombs and killing six people. The strategy was to eliminate the Hamas leadership in Qatar.

The US has upbraided Israel for striking Qatar, a close ally. Qatar hosts the largest American military base in West Asia. Doha was the centre for mediation and negotiations for Israelis and Palestinians. Americans have assured Qatar that there will be no more such attacks.

Observers contend that a ceasefire which was almost on the cards would have threatened the survival of Netanyahu's fragile government. Prolonging the war would save Netanyahu politically. The Israeli version is that Qatar was hosting terrorists. The head of Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security says. Qatar chose to host a terror group on its soil, and that had consequences." Quite a few observers accuse Qatar of being both 'arsonist' and 'fire-fighter'. It first props up a terrorist group, then becomes a negotiator and peacemaker. It has done so with Hamas as well as Taliban. Qatar's double standards

can be explained in its desire

to become a global power in mediation and negotiation like Austria and Norway. Article 7 of Qatar's Constitution promulgates mediation as a key foreign policy priority based on the principle of encouraging peaceful resolution of international disputes. Qatar promotes mediation of both Track I and Track II peacemaking and conflict resolution, involving both state and non-state actors. In this spirit, Qatar has hosted groups like Taliban, Hamas and opposition groups from Syria during the Syrian civil war.

Prime Minister Modi has condemned the violation of

Qatar's sovereignty without naming Israel. Many observers suggest that India should be more active in restoring peace and stability in West Asia. Millions of Indians live in the energy-rich region. India also has substantial trade relations with the Arab world. Modi is also friendly with Netanyahu. At UNHRC, India, on 16 September, defended Qatar's sovereignty. However, India's response is standard diplomacy. But could India do more than issuing esoteric statements? The whole world is failing to stop the wars in

Gaza and Ukraine. Reflecting the complexity of any disaster and involvement of vested interests, there is a book by award-winning journalist P. Sainath, "Everybody Likes a Good Drought," could it be that, "Everybody Likes a Good War." To be sure, this is sadism and cynicism, but one cannot help such thoughts as one hopelessly watches the deaths and destructions in Gaza and Ukraine.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions. ©INFA

Risky footpaths

Sir, Ever increasing pedestrian accidents in India is a cause for worry. About 25 per cent of road fatalities in the country are pedestrian related. The year 2023 alone saw more than 30,000 pedestrian deaths in accidents. Speeding vehicles, without a doubt, massively contribute to pedestrian accidents but poor road infrastructure is also to be blamed in equal measure. Faulty design of footpaths more often than not, is the rule. In many places, footpaths are conspicuous by their absence. In some places, footpaths end nowhere. Footpath encroachment by vendors and beggars act as obstacles for smooth pedestrian movement as a result of which the latter are forced to veer towards the edge of roads, exposing themselves to vehicles. Furthermore, non-functional street lights add to the walkers' discomfort. Having said that, even assuming there are plenty of spic and span footpaths, abject disdain for road rules and regulations by pedestrians is not a sight for sore eyes at all.

Gaza genocide

Sir, The United Nations (UN) has released a 72-page report alleging genocide in Gaza by Israel, naming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Defense Minister, and the Foreign Minister, citing extensive evidence. Israel has dismissed the findings as distorted and biased, while several United States senators and numerous countries recognise the situation as genocide, increasing international pressure on the Jewish State. Calls for a two-state solution are growing, leaving Israel more diplomatically isolated. The ongoing ground offensive in Gaza City has demolished multiple high-rise buildings, worsening the humanitarian crisis. India must respond with a measured diplomatic approach: engage both Israel and Palestine to urge restraint, provide humanitarian aid to civilians, support multilateral pressure through the UN, and promote dialogue for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Balanced messaging will safeguard India's strategic interests while highlighting its role as a responsible global actor.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





Delhi aims for canvas painting world record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The New Delhi Municipal Council (ND-MC) Friday will attempt a Guinness World Record by creating a 10-km-long live canvas painting at the lawns of Kartavya Path, with participation of over 40,000 artists, including several Padma

The event, 'Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang', is being organised in collaboration with Triveni Kala Sangam and Delhi University as part of 'Seva Parv' to commemorate 75 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an official statement of NDMC said Thursday. NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal said the effort will surpass the record of 5,084 artists painting together in Panama in 2014.

'September 19 will be a historic day when all previous records of live painting will be broken. For the first time, Padma awardees, renowned artists. students, and rural artisans will come together on one canvas," he said. Among those participating are Jatin Das, Biman B Bas, Adwaita Gadanayak, Jai Prakash, Ram Kishan Chhipa, Shanti Devi, and Paresh Rathwa, along with thousands of young and emerging artists. According to NDMC, over 41,000 registrations have been received, including 22,750 college students, 7,800 school students, and 9,300 professional artists. Nearly 60 per cent of the participants will be women.

The painting, on the theme 'Viksit Bharat", will start at 9 am and is billed as the world's

Rare & Brain-eating amoeba' claiming lives

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 18: The mother of a nine-yearold girl who died after contracting the so-called "brain-eating amoeba" says she is still struggling to comprehend the loss.

"I cannot believe my daughter is gone," a sobbing mother said, adding that there was no clear information from health authorities on how the child became infected.

The girl, hailing from Kozhikode, is among those who have succumbed in recent months to Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis, a rare but almost always fatal brain infection caused by Naegleria fowleri.

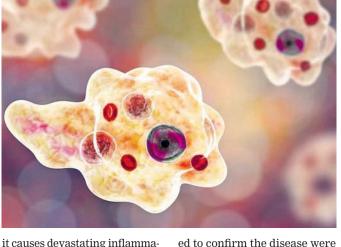
Kerala has been grappling with a rare but deadly disease that has claimed the lives of 19 people in recent months.

The culprit is a microscopic parasite known as Naegleria fowleri, more commonly called the "brain-eating amoeba", which causes a condition known as Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis, or PAM.

The infection is almost always fatal, killing more than 98 per cent of those who contract it. Over 70 cases have been reported in the state this year.

The amoeba is found in warm freshwater such as ponds, lakes, rivers and poorly maintained swimming pools.

According to health officials, it does not cause illness when swallowed, but when water enters the nose the parasite can migrate through the nasal passages into the brain, where



it causes devastating inflammation and destruction of tissue.

The disease progresses very quickly.

'What starts as a fever, headache, nausea and stiff neck soon leads to confusion, seizures and coma. Death usually occurs within one to two weeks," according to a health official.

Doctors say it is often mistaken for bacterial meningitis, and by the time the real cause is recognised it is too late to save

Kerala Health Minister Veena George told the State Assembly on Wednesday that amoebae exist in most water sources, though only some types are

She pointed out that the first case of PAM in the state was reported in 2016, and since then the government has been working on guidelines to help doctors respond more quickly. Until recently, the tests needIn Kerala, doctors now form

multi-disciplinary teams to handle confirmed cases, involving neurologists, paediatricians, infectious disease specialists and critical care experts.

Though extremely rare, the

tion is the best defence.

People are advised not to

Children should not play with hoses or sprinklers in a way that forces water up the nose, and garden hoses should be flushed before use.

Scientists warn that climate change may increase the risk of PAM. The amoeba thrives in warm water and feeds on bac teria that flourish at higher temperatures. Hotter summers may both expand the parasite's range and drive more people to seek relief in lakes and rivers, raising the chances

that accompanies the disease

disease has sparked anxiety because of its high death rate.

Experts stress that preven-

swim or dive in stagnant or poorly maintained freshwater bodies during the hot season. If swimming is unavoidable, nose clips can reduce the risk of water entering the nostrils.

Daily cleaning of paddling

pools, proper chlorination of swimming pools and using only boiled or filtered water for nasal rinsing are also recommended.

of exposure.

After the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode in 2023. Kerala made it a policy to report and investigate every instance of brain fever, including rare infections like those caused by amoeba.

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Chooralmala's struggle after landslide in Kerala



Wayanad (Kerala), Sept **18:** Living on the edge of a government-declared "no-go zone", scarred by last year's devastating landslide that claimed 298 lives, several families in Chooralmala wake each morning unsure whether their homes will withstand the next spell of rain.

Although technically outside the danger zone, by only a few metres, the residents live within earshot of tragedy and are urging the government to relocate them before another disaster strikes.

A major landslide struck the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions, 30 July 2024, almost completely decimating both areas, Entry into Mundakkai

remains tightly controlled. Former residents are permitted to return briefly to retrieve things from their now abandoned homes, while mediapersons must secure a pass and can enter only until 3 pm.

The devastated village is accessible only through a 190-foot Bailey bridge built by the Army after the landslide to move heavy machinery and ambu-

As you walk through the village, an eerie silence hangs in the air, broken only by the occasional crunch of footsteps on dried leaves and twigs All around, haunting sites of half-collapsed houses and crushed vehicles, narrate the scale of destruction.

Amid the ruins, some houses still stand with locks on their main doors --sign of families who left in haste with the hope of returning one day. Friends and family mem

bers of those who perished in the tragedy often visit the area to offer prayers or relive the memories of happier times. Among them was K Hamsa

a 54-year-old tea estate worker from Chooralmala, who lost his sister, brother-in-law, and niece in the disaster.

Living on the boundary of the no-go zone, he said, there's an impending danger. "We are living in constant

fear of what if it (landslide) happens again? Will we survive? There is an impending danger, and this is why we want to move from here, but we are not eligible," he said.

His friend and neighbour Sudheer M, 48, said due to the landslide, two schools in the area, along with some government offices, were wiped out Now they have been relocated to Meppadi, which is 13 km away

'We have to travel there ev ery day to drop off and pick up our children. It's becoming very difficult," he said.

Kerala youths save girl from choking on chewing gum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannur (Kerala), Sept 18: A young girl in this district was saved from choking after a group of young men nearby stepped in to give her first aid.

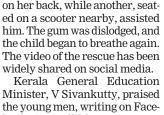
The incident took place Tuesday evening in Pallikkara.

CCTV footage of the incident, which surfaced on social media Wednesday, showed the child putting chewing gum into her mouth while standing with her bicycle.

Moments later, she appeared distressed and pedalled towards a group of men who had stopped to buy vegetables.

One of them quickly realised she was choking and carried out first aid. Visuals showed one of the youths lifting the girl, placing her across his arm and pressing on her back, while another, seated on a scooter nearby, assisted him. The gum was dislodged, and the child began to breathe again. The video of the rescue has been widely shared on social media.

the young men, writing on Facebook: "In Pallikkara, Kannur, youngsters saved a child who was choking on chewing gum. Thank you."



Netizens hailed their quick response as life-saving. The girl later told a news channel that



"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", an emotional initiative

only available at laboratories in

Chandigarh and Puducherry,

but now Kerala has established

Health authorities have

directed hospitals to suspect

PAM in any patient with sud-

den meningitis-like symptoms

and a recent history of contact

Microbiologists are to be

alerted immediately so that ce-

rebrospinal fluid samples can be

checked under the microscope

Health officials said that the

treatment remains extremely

difficult. There is no single drug

that can cure PAM, and survi-

vors worldwide are very few.

Patients who have made it

through were treated with a

combination of powerful med-

icines such as amphotericin B,

miltefosine and rifampicin, to-

gether with therapies to reduce

the dangerous brain swelling

or confirmed by PCR testing.

with freshwater.

its own diagnostic facilities.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: A female diplomat of Cameroon, who recently lost her mother, became emotional during "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" tree plantation programme organised by the Delhi government, with Chief Minister Rekha

sole her, officials said.

In a video of the incident, Gupta could be seen hugging the diplomat and trying to console her. "Flooding memories of mother...as if time stops to embrace us," the chief minister said sharing the video on social media

platform X. The tree plantation drive "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was part of Delhi government's "Sewa Pakhwada" initiatives to celebrate the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The diplomat broke down while planting a tree at the programme. The chief minister noticed her tears and immediately went over to comfort her. officials said.

The chief minister embraced the diplomat, who told her that she lost her mother 15 days ago. She also said that the gesture of planting a tree in the memory of her mother "deeply moved" her, they said.

The chief minister stayed with her for quite some time. trying to ease her grief, they added.

Seventy-five diplomats from 70 countries participated in the tree plantation drive at Central Ridge. The event was also attended by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

800 because the number of pam-

phlets is less," said Shyam, who

operates near Kirori Mal College.

Children too joined the rush for

the fake notes, clutching them

tightly even after realising they

were worthless. "I thought it was

real, but it was not. Still, I will keep it in my bag," said Rahul

Singh, a boy who had gathered

Security personnel stood

guard outside booths throughout

the day to keep the atmosphere

that no issues arise. The idea is to

keep the process smooth," said an

officer near Kirori Mal College.

With classes suspended, students

arrived in groups, some with par-

Even if you don't care who wins,

you don't want to miss this," said

By evening, the streets of

North Campus were carpeted

with trampled pamphlets, flut-

tering coupons and fake cash

slips, remnants of another Delhi

Around 2.8 lakh students are el-

igible to vote in the elections, the

results for which will be declared

Ritika, a third-year student.

'We are staying vigilant so

in check.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, At/Po-Khariar Road, Dist. Nuapada (Odisha), Pin-766104

Email:nackhrd@rediffmail.com Executive Officer-9937130262 Date:16.9.25

No.2556

Corrigendum-01

Tender ID No.(2540/KHRD/2025-26) (2025 16.09.2025 the work ORULB_118101_1 "CONSTRUCTION OF SWIMMING POOL AT WARD NO. 03 HIGH SCHOOL PADA, KHARIAR ROAD]" Read as Class of Contractor "B instead of "B & A"

The Tender ID No.2540/KHRD/2025-26][2025 ORULB 118101 2 Publish in 16.09.2025 the work name is "[CONSTRUCTION OF TURF CRICKET GROUND AT HIGH SCHOOL PADA, WARD NO- 03. KHARIAR ROAD Read as Class of Contractor "B & A" instead of "B".

OIPR-13136/11/0054/2526 Khariar Road NAC

Sd./- Executive Officer

OFFICE OF THE CDM & PHO & DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, BHADRAK **DISTRICT HEALTH MISSION**

(Department of Health & FW, Govt.of Orissa) Advt.No.22/2025 Date:18.09.2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR OUTSOURCING OF MECHANIZED LAUNDRY SERVICES

om Company (Companies Act 2013) / Partnership Firm (Indian Partnership Act pos2/Limited Liability Partnership Firm 2008)/ Society (Society Registration Act 1860)/ a Trust (Indian Trust Act 1882 & its amendment thereon) for outsourcing of Mechanized Laundry services in Govt. health institutions of Bhadrak. The eligibility criteria, terms of reference and the formats for submission of Bid are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded from the website www.bhadrak.odisha gov.in. Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal(s) (with EMD and documents as per RFP). The bidders have to submit their proposal(s) to the office of the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak. The details of proposal(s) complete in all respect superscribing "Tender for outsourcing of mechanised laundry services in Soyt, health institutions of Bhadrak" & the advertisement reference no on the envelope and should reach to the office of the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak on or before 09.10.25 (till 5.00 PM) by Speed Post, Registered Posts or Courier Only. The

technical bids shall be opened at the office of the CDM & PHO, Bhadrak on 14.10.25 at 11.00 A.M. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals thout assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-10123/11/0026/2526

Sd./- CDM & PHO, Bhadrak

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT Request For Proposal (RFP)

(Ref.No.11536 dated 17th September, 2025) "Providing Facility Management Services at Jeypore

and Utkela Airports for a period of Three Years" No.JJ-51: The Director of Aviation, Directorate of Aviation, Governmen of Odisha invites proposals from eligible service providers for performing the Facility Management Services at Jeypore and Utkela Airports in

the State, for three years extendable by another one year based or satisfactory performance. Eligible and interested agencies may download the Request

and submit their offer.

orissa_aviation@yahoo.co.in, transcivilaviation@gmail.com Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned

Sd./- Special Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department

ents and others with friends. They for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the lingered around booths, compared requirement from the following websites of Government of Odisha coupons and soaked in the carnival-like mood. https://tendersodisha.gov.in "We made a whole day out of it.

https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders The responses are to be submitted online and queries, if any may be referred in writing to the Director of Aviation, Directorate of Aviation Government of Odisha, BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar at the E-ma

latest by 03.00 PM on 16.10.2025 ("Bid Due Date" or "BDD"). Bids received after the BDD shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof

OIPR-38001/11/0044/2526 Government of Odisha

MORE CELEBRATION THAN ELECTION

DUSU ELECTION SAGA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: It was more of a festival than an election on Delhi University's North Campus on Thursday as students poured out in large numbers, campaigning vehicles crawled past polling booths and the beat of drums competed with the chatter of voters for the DU Students' Union (DUSU) polls.

of supporters handed out vada pav coupons and discount slips at traffic junctions and e-rickshaw stands. For many students, these little handouts became as much a part of the day as casting their vote. Voting for the DUSU elections began Thursday morning amid

tight security. Students started

casting their votes in two shifts

Outside colleges, groups

-- from 8.30 am to 1 pm for the day classes and from 3 pm to 7.30 pm for the evening classes. "I got a coupon and kept it as a memory. Everyone around me was rushing to grab one," said Karan, a Kirori Mal College student. Convoys of Scorpios, Thars and motorbikes cruised the streets, with young campaigners leaning out of windows and tossing

bundles of pamphlets into the

crowd. The roads became the

main battleground after the

court restricted poster pasting to the designated 'Walls of Democracy'. By polling day, even those walls were stripped bare.

The biggest spectacle came when fake Rs 500 notes marked 'Children Bank of India' were showered on bystanders. For a brief moment, students be-

lieved they had struck gold. "We thought we had become

rich, then saw every note carried the same serial number," laughed Sanya, a Daulat Ram College student, holding one up as a souvenir.

Adding to the noise were dholwalas stationed outside the college gates. "Every year we play here for someone or the other. Most of the time, we don't even know who we are playing for. The energy is high

to Rs 2,000 in a day, plus tips,' said Rakesh, a drummer outside Hindu College, before striking his instrument again. The paper trail left behind by the day also besell as scrap.

and we usually make Rs 1,000

came an opportunity. E-rickshaw drivers and ragpickers collected discarded pamphlets in sacks to "Last year, I earned Rs 2,000.

This time it may be closer to Rs

September 19.

University election day.

national



On one hand we say everything is fine, that the situation is very good and a new Jammu-Kashmir has been established, but we do not trust our own people. What would have happened if Mufti or Lone had gone there? It would not have created a storm, they would have gone there to offer condolences, pray, share a few words with Bhat's family and return

AI EXPRESS FLIGHT MAKES **EMERGENCY LANDING**

An Air India Express flight from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad with 103 passengers made an emergency landing Thursday, following an engine problem after a suspected bird hit mid-air, said an official





every part of the country this problem persists; only Bangalore is making noise D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DY CM

The aim must be to make life easier for common citizens and ensure balanced development.

Policies should focus on neglected sectors that have the potential to push Maharashtra ahead of other states DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM



₹7000 crore being earmarked in the 2025-26 state budget for for expanding and modernizing rail

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Police vehicle rams into tea stall; 1 killed

New Delhi: A 55-year-old physically challenged tea seller was killed after a police patrolling van rammed into his roadside stall in central Delhi's Mandir Marg area Thursday morning, police said. Locals claimed that the police personnel appeared to be intoxicated, and there were alcohol bottles in their car. However, police said the medical reports confirmed no traces of alcohol.

Pondy: Protesting Oppn MLAs evicted

Pondicherry: The one-day session of the Pondicherry Assembly was adjourned sine die Thursday after lasting for just 45 minutes, and witnessed eviction of Opposition legislators who protested against the short duration of the House. Proceedings began with Speaker R Selvam making obituary references for prominent Francis, former Kerala Chief Minister V S Achuthanandan, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren, and former AIADMK legislator of Pondicherry K Sivalokanathan.

Man killed after falling from flyover

New Delhi: A 49-vear-old man died after he allegedly fell from a flyover and was run over by a vehicle in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar area Thursday, police said. The incident occurred around midnight near the Manglam Cut flyover on National Highway-24, they said, adding that a PCR call regarding the accident was received at 12:03 am.

ED searches in bank 'fraud', 'benami' probe

Chennai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday conducted searches in Chennai and Hyderabad as part of a money laundering probe into an alleged ₹200 crore bank fraud and benami assets probe against Sasikala, a close aide of late Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa, and some others, officials said.

Lawyer threatened at gunpoint in Kolkata

Kolkata: A lawyer was allegedly threatened at gunpoint outside his residence by a group of men in south Kolkata's Netaji Nagar area, following which the police arrested the main accused after a clash between both sides, an officer said Thursday. The alleged incident happened late Wednesday.

Corruption case: Anil Ambani, Rana Kapoor chargesheeted

New Delhi, Sept 18: The CBI filed a chargesheet Thursday against Anil Ambani and others over alleged fraudulent transactions between the industrialist's group companies,FL and RHFL, Yes Bank and firms of the bank's former CEO Rana Kapoor's family, causing a loss of ₹2,796 crore to the bank, officials said. In its chargesheet filed be-

fore a special court in Mumbai, the federal agency has said Ambani is the chairman of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani (ADA) Group and director of Reliance Capital Limited, the holding company ofFL and No comments from the

ADA group were immediately available.

Besides Ambani, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has chargesheeted Rana Kapoor, Bindu Kapoor, Radha Kapoor, Roshni Kapoor,FL, RHFL (now Authum Investment and Infrastructure Limited). RAB Enterprises Private Limited, Imagine Estate Private Limited, Bliss House Private Limited, Imagine Habitat Private Limited, Imagine Residence Private Limited and Morgan Credits Private Limited under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC). The CBI registered two cas-

es in 2022 against Kapoor, the then managing director and CEO of the Yes Bank, Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) on a complaint from the bank's chief vigilance officer.

"Yes Bank invested around ₹2,045 crore in non-convertible debts ofFL and ₹2,965 crore in non-convertible debentures and commercial papers of RH-FL in the year 2017 on the approval of Rana Kapoor despite RELIANCE

The CBI findings have shown that funds, invested inFL and RHFL by the Yes Bank, were subsequently siphoned through multiple layers, demonstrating a systematic diversion of public money

CARE Ratings placing ADA Group financial companies 'under watch' in view of deteriorating financial standing and adverse market assessment," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The CBI findings have shown that funds, invested inFL and RHFL by the Yes Bank, were subsequently siphoned through multiple layers, demonstrating a systematic diversion of public money, the statement said.

"Investigation revealed a conspiracy between Rana Kapoor and Anil Ambani wherein Rana Kapoor abused his

substantial public funds of Yes Bank Ltd into financially-stressed ADA Group companies, while ADA Group reciprocated by sanctioning and facilitating concessional loans and investments to entities controlled by Rana Kapoor's family," it said.

As quid pro quo, Ambani got credit facilities sanctioned fromFL and RHFL at concessional rates for loss-making family entities of Kapoor -- companies owned by his wife Bindu Kapoor and daughters Radha Kapoor and Roshni Kapoor.

"This fraudulent arrangement resulted in massive wrongful loss to Yes Bank (amounting to ₹2,796.77 crore) and corresponding unlawful gain toFL, RHFL and other companies of ADA Group as well as companies owned by family members of Rana Kapoor," the CBI spokesperson said.

She said another subsidiary company of Reliance Capital Limited -- Reliance Nippon Mutual Funds -- on Ambani's instructions, invested ₹1,160 crore in 2017-18 in non-convertible debentures of Morgan Credits Private Limited, another entity owned by Kapoor's family.

"Reliance Nippon Mutual Funds also purchased ADA Group debentures worth ₹249.8 crore from Yes Bank,' she said.

In addition, Reliance Nippon Mutual Funds also invested ₹1,750 crore in unsecured debt instruments (AT1 bonds) of the Yes Bank. "These high-risk

high-reward bonds had no fixed maturity date and could either be converted into equiin case of crisis. It may be recalled that AT1 bonds rank most below other debts in the event of liquidation," the CBI has alleged.

US pulls Chabahar waiver, puts India's link to Central Asia at risk



New Delhi, Sept 18: The decision of the US government to revoke the 2018 sanctions waiver with regard to strategic Iranian port of Chabahar will have implications for India, which is engaged in the development of a terminal at the port.

The US Department of State in a statement said that in consistent with President

Trump's maximum pressure policy to isolate the Iranian regime, it has revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA)

for Afghanistan reconstruction assistance and economic development, effective September 29, 2025. "Once the revocation is ef-

fective, persons who operate the Chabahar Port or engage in other activities described in IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions under IFCA," the statement said. India will be impacted by

this decision, as it is involved in development of a terminal at the Chabahar port on the Gulf of Oman. On May 13, 2024, Inoperate the port that will help it expand trade with Central

This was the first time India will take over the management of an overseas port New Delhi had proposed to develop Chabahar port way back in 2003 -to provide Indian goods a gateway to reach landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia using a road and rail project called International

North-South Transport Corridor, bypassing Pakistan. US sanctions on Iran over

its suspected

nuclear pro-

gramme had

port on the Gulf of Oman On May 13, 2024, India signed slowed the development the port. The long-term

> agreement was signed by Indian Ports Global Limited (IPGL) and the Port & Maritime Organisation of Iran. It replaces an initial 2016

> pact, which covered India's operations at Shahid Beheshti terminal in Chabahar port and had been renewed on an annual basis.

In 2023, Chabahar port was used by India to send 20,000 tonnes of wheat aid to Afghanistan. In 2021, the same was used to supply environmentally friendly pesticides to Iran.

Stepmother can't be given family pension under IAF rules: Govt PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Centre Thursday informed the Supreme Court that pension was "not a bounty" and a stepmother couldn't be considered for family pension under the Indian Air Force (IAF) rules being distinct from the natural mother in both legal and relational terms.

Before a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N Kotiswar Singh, the Centre referred to various decisions of the top court relating to maintenance and other welfare benefits which held the term "mother" refers to the natural or biological mother alone and not to a stepmother.

"It is a settled principle of law that, although pension is not a bounty and is claimable as a matter of right, such a right is neither absolute nor unconditional. A person seek ing pensionary benefits must establish a clear entitlement under the applicable statutory provisions or regulations," the Centre said. The Centre's stand came in

Forces Tribunal order denving special family pension to one Jayashree Y Jogi. Jogi raised the deceased, who served as an airman, since he

plea challenging an Armed

was six after his biological mother passed away and the father remarried. She challenged the AFT's December 10, 2021 order on the

ground that she was a "stepmother", therefore, not eligible for the benefit of "special family pension:", admissible to the biological mother. Jogi's plea filed through ad

vocate Siddharth Sangal said her deceased son was an active airman and was dining at the Air Force Mess when he died under mysterious circumstance es April 28, 2008.

The air force claimed he died by suicide. The bench posted the matter for November 20.

Kangana faces protest in Manali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 18: Slogans of 'Go back Kangana, you are late' rent the air Thursday when the Bollywood actor and BJP MP from Mandi visited a rain-affected area in Himachal Pradesh's Manali.

Videos of locals expressing their resentment against Kangana Ranaut's visit to Patlikuhal area of Manali in Himachal's Kullu district went viral on the internet. In the video, local people holding black flags and shouting slogans are seen near the carcade

of the actor-politician. Heated arguments were also witnessed when BJP leaders and others accompanying Kangana tried to pacify the residents, and police had to intervene to restore peace.

Heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods at sever al places in Kullu and Manali August 25 and August 26, with strong currents of the Beas River washing away a multi-storey hotel and four shops

Stretches garh-Manali National Highway and Manali-Leh Highway were washed away due to the rising water level of Beas River, Right Bank Road of Manali connect ing Kullu city, bus stand and Bindu Dhank also suffered extensive damage.

A house was damaged in Ramshele area in Kullu, water entered houses in the 14 Mile area near Manali and a fish farm was damaged in Patlikuhal as rivers and drains were in spate.

Earlier in the day, Kangana visited the disaster-affected areas of Solang and Palchan in Manali subdivision, interacted with the affected people and took stock of the situation.

She was briefed about the in frastructural and other losses by BJP leader and former MLA from Manali, Govind Singh Thakur, and the residents Singh said that families of 15-16 endangered houses have been shifted to safer places.

Nitish springs surprise, drives to Patna hotel to meet Shah

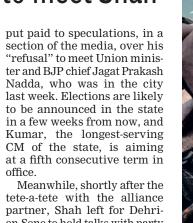
Patna, Sept 18: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Thursday sprung a surprise when he drove down to a Patna hotel to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is in the state for fine-tuning the BJP's strategy for the upcoming assembly polls.

Photographs of the JD(U)

supremo offering a bouquet of flowers to Shah, a former BJP president, were shared by the two leaders on their respective X handles. Sources in both parties refused to say anything on record, though, speaking on condition of anonymity, they said it was "a courtesy call". They, however, noted with satisfaction that the gesture from 75-year-old Kumar would

section of the media, over his "refusal" to meet Union minister and BJP chief Jagat Prakash Nadda, who was in the city last week. Elections are likely to be announced in the state in a few weeks from now, and Kumar, the longest-serving CM of the state, is aiming at a fifth consecutive term in

Meanwhile, shortly after the tete-a-tete with the alliance partner, Shah left for Dehrion-Sone to hold talks with party workers and leaders of 10 districts of the Magadh-Shahabad region, where the performance of the NDA was below par in the 2020 assembly polls and Lok Sabha elections last year.





A man collects dead fish that died due to lack of oxygen and pollution, at Pishach Mukti Kund, in Varanasi,

Tropical rainforests may warm the planet: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Important for fighting climate change, tropical rainforests could instead be contributing to the planet's warming by releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide, potentially accelerating a feedback loop, according to a new study.

Considered critical in the world's fight against climate change, tropical rainforests are equipped with natural systems to absorb excess carbon and cool the planet.

However, a continued warming of the planet is causing soils of these forests to release enormous amounts of carbon dioxide, essentially flipping the script, researchers including those from the US' Chapman University said.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, looked at the rates of

soil respiration in a Puerto Rican rainforest in response to a global warming of 4 degrees Celsius Findings show "soil respira-

tion rates were 42-204 per cent higher in (experimentally) warmed (plots) relative to ambient plots, representing some of the highest soil respiration rates reported for any terrestrial ecosystem".

"This research shows that as the planet warms, tropical soils may begin to amplify that warming," author Christine Sierra O'Connell, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, said.

The study's results position belowground ecosystems as critical players in the global climate crisis, the research-

The findings are also signif-

Considered critical in the world's fight against climate change, tropical rainforests are equipped with natural systems to absorb excess carbon and cool the planet

icant because soils store more carbon than the atmosphere and land plants combined, and soils releasing this carbon could amplify warming globally, they added.

'We are witnessing a troubling shift. The very systems we rely on to stabilise the climate may now be pushing us in the opposite direction,' O'Connell said.

"If these patterns persist

across time and regions, we may be drastically underestimating the extent to which tropical forests will lose carbon and accelerate climate change," the author added. Tropical regions of the world

are projected to experience the worst effects of climate change, should current trends in emissions and warming continue.

The researchers said that rainforests acting as carbon sources, instead of carbon sinks which absorb more carbon dioxide than they release, could accelerate global warming far faster than previously predicted.

This can affect everything from sea-level rise and extreme weather to food security and public health, the team said.

Understanding the feedback loop is essential if we are to prevent the worst impacts of a rapidly changing climate, they added.

national



We are trying for an early inauguration so that we can see it happen very soon. Right now, the date that we have decided is October 30, when we will have the inauguration and within 45 days, we can see the operations also start

KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU

ONLINE GAMING ACT LIKELY TO TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 1

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act that bans all forms of online money games, would be implemented from October 1, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Thursday



Landslides, flooding

hit Chamoli villages



always stood firmly with the Shiv Sena, and I am confident that the saffron flag will fly high over the Palghar Municipal Council in the upcoming elections **EKNATH SHINDE** MAHA DEPUTY CM

Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah declared that if they survived the blast they would again



MOHAN YADAV | MADHYA PRADESH CM

paganda theatres. Students are being forced to watch a film glorifying the PM's childhood under the pretext of 'character & responsibility K C VENUGOPAL | CONG GENERAL SECY





The market has been consolidating on a good support now.

@Akshat_World

SHORT **TAKES**

Assam flood **affects 50,000**

Guwahati: Assam is in the grip of the second wave of flood this year with a population of nearly 50,000 affected in five districts of the state following heavy rainfall, according to an official report. Golaghat, Cachar, Sonitpur, Nagaon and Bishwanath districts were hit by the deluge.

IPS officer moves CAT

Thiruvananthapuram: IPS officer and former Kerala vigilance chief Yogesh Gupta has moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) seeking release of his vigilance report so that he can be timely empanelled as a director general at the Centre. The 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer has said holding of the report by the Kerala government in the guise of a purported enquiry against him was nothing but a "sinister motive" to "hinder" his career prospects.

Criminal, wanted drug smuggler detained

Jammu: In two separate incidents, police in Samba and Jammu districts detained a criminal and a drug smuggler for their continued involvement in criminal and narcotics-related cases, officials said Thursday. In the first incident, Alex Matoo, a criminal from the Samba district with a long history of theft, snatching, assault, and gang-related offences, was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged in the district jail in Poonch, officials said. The police submitted a detailed dossier along with supporting documents to the district magistrate of Samba, who issued the formal detention

order, they added.

EC rejects Rahul's vote deletion claim

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Election Commission Thursday dubbed as incorrect and baseless the allegations made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that CEC Gyanesh Kumar is protecting "vote chors"

No deletion can take place without giving an opportunity to be heard to the affected person, the EC asserted.

Gandhi accused Chief Election Commissioner Kumar of protecting "vote chors" and people who have destroyed democracy, and cited data from a Karnataka Assembly constituency to claim that votes of Congress supporters were being systematically deleted ahead of elections. The EC highlighted that un-

successful attempts were made, and an FIR was lodged and relevant details shared with the state CID. "Allegations made by Rahul

Gandhi are incorrect and baseless. No deletion of any vote can be done online by any member of the public, as misconceived by Gandhi," it said.

The EC pointed out that in 2023, "certain unsuccessful at-

Modi to launch

plant, projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banswara nuclear

Jaipur, Sept 18: Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi will lay the

foundation stone for a nuclear

power plant Rajasthan's Ban-

swara and inaugurate several

other projects worth over Rs

1.21 lakh crore September 25,

the birth anniversary of Pandit

Modi will lay the foundation

stone for the Mahi-Banswara

Nuclear Power Plant project,

which is expected to be a his-

toric step in strengthening the

state's energy sector, Chief

Minister Bhajanlal Sharma

In addition to this, Modi will

also dedicate several clean en-

ergy projects to the nation.

Sharma chaired a high-level

review meeting here Thursday

to assess the preparations for

He instructed officials to

ensure timely coordination

and completion of necessary

according to their responsi-

bilities to ensure success of the

event," the chief minister said.

flag off Vande Bharat Express

trains connecting Bikaner-Del-

hi and Jodhpur-Delhi, and

Udaipur-?Chandigarh Express.

energy department officials to

ensure proper arrangements

for Modi's interaction with the

beneficiaries of the Pradhan

He instructed that the event

be live-streamed to connect all

district headquarters, munic-

ipal bodies and gram pancha-

Chief Secretary Sudhansh

Pant, DGP Rajeev Sharma

and senior officials from vari-

ous departments attended the

Mantri KUSUM Scheme.

Sharma further directed

Modi is also scheduled to

'Departments must work

arrangements for the event.

the prime minister's visit.

Deendayal Upadhyaya.

tempts" were made for the deletion of electors in the Aland Assembly constituency and an FIR was filed by the authority of the EC itself to investigate the matter.

"As per records, Aland Assembly Constituency was won by Subhadh Guttedar (BJP) in 2018 and BR Patil (INC) in 2023," it noted.

Separately, responding to Gandhi's demand that the evidence rela ting to the Aland case be released to the Karnataka CID, the state chief electoral officer said, "All available information with the EC has already been shared with the SP, Kalaburagi, September 6, 2023." He said the electoral registration officer of Aland received 6,018 applications in Form 7, which were submitted online using various apps such as NVSP, VHA, and GARUDA apps during December 2022.

Suspecting the genuineness of such a large number of applications submitted online for deletion of electors' names in the Aland seat, verification of each application was conducted by the poll machinery, he said. Only 24 applications were found to be genuine, and another 5,994 were found to be

incorrect, he added. Accordingly, 24 applications were accepted, and 5,994 incorNo deletion can take place without giving an opportunity to be heard to the affected person, the EC asserted

rect applications were rejected and not deleted.

Based on the inquiry findings, the ERO lodged an FIR with the Inspector of Police, Aland Police Station, Kalaburagi district February 21, 2023.

Based on the instructions given by ECI, the CEO, Karnataka, has handed over to the Superintendent of Police, Ka laburagi district, 06.09.2023, all the available information with ECI for completing the investigation."

"After providing the requested information, meetings were also conducted by the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, with the Investigating Officer and Cyber Security experts of the Police to review the progress of the investigation," the state CEO said in a statement.



alive in Kuntari Lagaphali large number of people to safe and one in Dhurma village, places last month. the State Emergency Opera-The four villages of Chamoli tion Centre (SEOC) in Dehrahit by the Thursday morning dun said. Twelve people were landslides and flooding were Kuntari Lagaphali, Kuntari injured, including the ones rescued alive, of whom those Lagasarpani, Sera and Dhurma, with serious injuries were air-Chief Minister Pushkar Singh lifted to the All India Institute Dhami told reporters after reof Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in viewing the situation. Nearly 45 houses and 15 Rishikesh, officials said.

Two bodies, one each from cowsheds were damaged due Kuntari Lagaphali and Kunto landslides and flooding in tari Lagasarpani villages were these villages, affecting more found, while the search for six than 200 people. Around 150 to 200 villagers people continued through the mounds of debris lying in the rain-ravaged villages in the Nandanagar area, the SEOC said. The bodies were identified as those of Narendra Singh (38) and Jagdamba Prasad (70), it

in Kuntari Lagaphali have been moved to safe places, the SEOC said, adding that searchand-rescue operations are being conducted by the NDRF, SDRF. ITBP, police and fire brigade personnel in the villages under the supervision of the district magistrate and superintendent of police. Those seriously injured, including a child who sustained head injuries, were airlifted to the AIIMS in Rishi-

Of the six people still missing, four are from Kuntari Lagaphali and one each is

SEOC said.

added. Four people, including

two women and a child, were

rescued alive in Kuntari Laga

Phali and one in Dhurma, the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chamoli district Thursday.

kesh, Dhami said. Facing criticism,

respects all religions PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CJI Gavai says he

New Delhi, Sept 18: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai Thursday affirmed his respect for "all religions" in the wake of the online criticism his comments garnered in a matter over the reconstruction of

a Lord Vishnu idol. "Someone told me the other day that the comments I made have been portrayed in social media...I respect all religions," he said in a statement.

A bench comprising the CJI and Justice K Vinod Chandran May 16 dismissed the plea seeking directions to reconstruct and reinstall a seven-foot idol of Lord Vish nu at the Javari Temple, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Khajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh.



A man collects water lilies from a pond in Nadia, West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Supreme Court Thursday im posed a Rs 5 lakh fine on Delhi government's Public Works Department for engaging manual sewer cleaners, including a minor, right outside the top court in violation of its orders

prohibiting the practice. A bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria expressed displeasure at the PWD's response, following reports that labourers without protective gear were made to manually clean drains outside Gate F of the top court.

The bench, while observing that its October 2023 directions had been flouted, warned directing FIRs against the erring officials upon future violations.

"It would be reasonable to impose a cost for having undertaken such work as evidenced from the photographs annexed

the court's binding directions. He pointed out that video evidence had documented the involvement of a minor and that specific details of those



with this application. Hence, we direct PWD to deposit the sum of Rs 5 lakh to the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis within four weeks," the top court directed.

In a word of caution, the top court maintained not only those from the PWD but other officials needed "to wake up from slumber" to ensure compliance of its directions "in letter and spirit"

"We make it clear that in the event of recurring, this court would be compelled to direct registration of FIR under the BNS and the BNSS.

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, said the incident clearly reflected a disregard for

been provided. "The minor was engaged, and it's specifically recorded in the video. A police complaint was sought to be lodged at Tilak Marg station but neither the police nor the PWD took appropriate action. This is not merely a labour law violation rather it is a breach of constitutional obligations. Let the fine be recovered from the officers themselves," he said. The bench, in its order, re-

forced into manual work had

ferred to its directions issued October 20, 2023 and did not agree to the submissions of the PWD counsel that it was only de-silting the covered drains for the purpose of keeping in mind the ensuing monsoon and the officials were not at fault.

Climate change may affect timing of first periods in girls: Study

Global Public Health, showed that girls across most states in India were starting to menstruate at a younger age, except those in Maharashtra, where the onset of periods among girls was found to be delayed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Climate change could be affecting when girls get their first periods, with higher humidity linked with an earlier onset and higher temperatures with a delayed

one, according to a study. Researchers from institutes

in Bangladesh, including the

North South University, analysed data gathered through 'Demographic and Health Surveys' (DHS) during 1992-93 and 2019-21, along with climate data from NASA

Over 23,000 responses from 1992 and 45,300 from 2019 were analysed.

Results of the analysis, published in the journal PLOS Global Public Health, showed that girls across most states in India were starting to menstruate at a younger age, except those in Maharashtra, where the onset of periods among girls was found to be delayed.

The authors wrote, "This study investigates the factors influencing the age of menarche in various Indian states over a quarter century from 1992 to 2019, with the aim of understanding how climate



change and demographic factors have shaped menarche timing.'

"Higher specific humidity was associated with earlier onset of menarche, whereas

higher temperatures correlated with delayed onset," they wrote.

The researchers added that the age of menarche -- start of menstruation -- is changing in girls across the world, with a younger age at menarche seen especially in the second half of the 20th century.

Previous studies have attributed the trend to varied factors -- environmental ones include climate change and air pollution, while others are related to obesity, such as BMI.

The study found that rising humidity generally advances the age of menstruation by altering underlying health con-

However, the link between higher temperatures and a delayed onset of periods among girls in Maharashtra could reflect a physiological stress due to prolonged exposure to heat, which can impact how hormones get regulated and delay puberty, the researchers said.

They called for continued monitoring of climate impacts on health, essential for understanding and mitigating the effects of environmental changes on menarche timing.

The team also found that higher education could be linked with an earlier menarche, indicating demographic

influences 'The findings highlight the

need for public health interventions that improve nutrition, healthcare access and educational programs to promote health awareness," they wrote Run by the US-based company ICF International, the DHS programme conducts nation ally representative surveys in low- and middle-income countries every five years, looking at maternal and child health. among other aspects.



write songs against the British and fight for the nation's freedom







And, there is a good 15% upside

MANUAL CLEANING OF SEWERS SC slaps ₹5L fine on PWD

international



Taiwan to China is an integral part of the post-war international order

INDIA, US BOOST SPACE TIES

India and the US signalled the beginning of a new phase of space partnership at a special event hosted by the Embassy of India in Washington DC, with officials and astronauts highlighting how decades of cooperation are now paving the way for missions to the Moon and Mars





diplomatic KAJA KALLAS I



The bond of kinshin and identity between America and the United Kingdom is price less and eternal. It's irreplaceable and unbreakable



OONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

do with the entire **European Union. all** of the Europe, including the UK. It's a pretty big deal for us

SHORT **TAKES**

India extends Maldives' \$50mn bond deadline

Male: New Delhi has rolled over, for one more year, \$50 million Maldives' government bonds as "an emergency financial assistance," the **Indian High Commission** said here Thursday. The deadline for the repayment of a \$50 million Treasury Bill (T-bill) was extended once again "on the request of the Maldives government." "Since March 2019, the Government of India has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills by the State Bank of India (SBI) and rolling them over, annually, interest-free to the Government of Maldives," the Indian High Commission said in a statement. "On the request of the Government of Maldives, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed, for one more year, a \$50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives," the statement said. The deadline for repayment was Thursday.

Bangladesh EC bars Hasina trom voting

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Election Commission (EC) Wednesday said it has "locked" the national identity cards of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, effectively barring her from voting in the general elections scheduled for February next year. "Anyone whose national identity (NID) card has been locked cannot vote from abroad," EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told reporters at his office in Nirbachon Bhavan here. "Her (Hasina's) NID is locked," he added. Though Ahmed did not mention any other name, UNB news agency and the Dhaka Tribune newspaper, quoting unnamed EC officials, reported that NIDs of Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul have also been "locked" or

Pak, China seek UN terror tag for BLA

"blocked".

United Nations: Pakistan and China have submitted a joint bid at the UN Security Council to designate the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its suicide wing - Majeed Brigade - as a terrorist entity under the Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmed said Wednesday that terrorist entities, including ISIL-K, Al-Qaeda, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, East Turkistan Islamic Movement, the BLA and its Majeed Brigade, operate from Afghan sanctuaries, with more than 60 terror camps serving as hubs for enabling crossborder attacks.

Indian citizen first to be deported from UK



The man to be deported Thursday is among the first batch of migrants detained by the UK Border Force under the new treaty, which came into force in August as a pilot scheme to run until June 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 18: An Indian national who reportedly arrived in the UK illegally on a small boat across the English Channel became the first to be deported to France under a new treaty Thursday.

The unnamed man who is said to have arrived in early August has been flown out to Paris on a commercial flight from Heathrow Airport under the so-called "one-in, one-out" deal struck recently as part of a UK-France returns treaty.

UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood dubbed it an "important first step" in the government's attempt to clamp down on soaring illegal migration perpetuated by people smugglers across the Channel.

"I will continue to challenge any last-minute, vexatious attempts to frustrate a removal in the courts. The UK will always play its part in helping those genuinely fleeing persecution, but this must be done through safe. legal, and managed routes - not dangerous crossings," she said.

Home Office sources con-

firmed that the deported man was an Indian national, who

is expected to be offered a paid-for voluntary return to his home country once back in France. He would not be able to apply for asylum and could go on to face enforced deportation if he did not take up the voluntary scheme.

The development came after official Home Office figures released in August claimed that Indian nationals in detention as part of the UK's wider crackdown on illegal immigration had almost doubled in the past year, up 108 per cent.

According to the data, 2,715Indians were logged as being in detention under the UK's immigration law breach.

The man to be deported Thursday is among the first batch of migrants detained by the UK Border Force under the new treaty, which came into force in August as a pilot scheme to run until June 2026.

While further returns or deportations are planned on flights in the coming days,

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN

- Indian nationals in detention has almost doubled in the past year, up 108 per cent
- 2,715 Indians were logged as being in detention under UK's immigration law breach
- More than 35,000 illegally living individuals have been

through the new asylum route under the reciprocal scheme are expected in

This is an important first step to the UK in the securing our borders. It coming days, sends a message to people the Home Ofcrossing in small boats: if you fice said. enter the UK illegally, we will It said the seek to remove you

new scheme en-**SHABANA MAHMOOD** I ables the UK authorities to detain

> and remove people who enter illegally via small boats, blocking their access to the country's asylum system in an effort to reduce the burden on hotel accommo-

> In return, the UK will accept an equal number of migrants through a newly established safe and legal route, subject to what the Home Office termed "rigorous documentation, eligibility, and security

"The Home Secretary has made clear that the Home Office will robustly defend legal challenges to removal. Today we will lodge an appeal to the Court of Appeal to limit the time the person has to provide evidence for reconsideration, the Home Office said.

It claims over 35,000 individuals with no legal right to remain in the UK have been returned in the past year, with returns of foreign criminals and asylum-related returns



- returned in the past year



A protester holding a CGT labour union flag stands amid tear gas during clashes with French police at a demon stration in Nantes as part of a day of nationwide strikes and protests against the government and cuts in the next budget, with supporters of the "Bloquons Tout" (Let's Block Everything) movement, France, Thursday

Russia unveils 'muscular' budget changes to counter sanctions

Moscow, Sept 18: The Russian Finance Ministry announced a new measure Thursday that it said was aimed at shielding the state budget from oil price fluctuations and Western sanctions targeting Russian energy

Under the new initiative, set to be implemented next year, the government will lower the cut-off price for oil above which oil revenues go into the fiscal reserve fund to try to ensure that the fund is sufficiently replenished

"To make our finances more resilient, we are proposing a reduction in dependence on various constraints, whether price-related or volume-relat ed, in the budget's reliance on oil and gas revenues." Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said at a public forum.

The measure comes as Russia's state oil and gas sales in September are set to fall by around 23% from a year earlier on lower prices and a stronger rouble, according to Reuters calculations.

The draft budget is expected

to be submitted to parliament September 29. Sources told Reuters that the government was considering raising the rate of value-added tax to keep the budget deficit in check and maintain reserves.

The Kremlin declined to comment on the VAT hike, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that the govern-



ment was handling the draft Key budget figures are traditionally agreed with President Vladimir Putin before the budget is made public.

Putin, who met key cabinet members this week to discuss the budget, expressed displeasure at the slow pace of economic growth, which is expected to slow to about 1%

BORDER DISPUTE

Thai police fire tear gas at Cambodian protesters

Bangkok, Sept 18: Thai police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at Cambodian civilians in a disputed border area Wednesday, authorities in both coun tries said, the most significant escalation since they declared a ceasefire to end a deadly fiveday conflict in July.

At least 23 Cambodians were injured in the incident, accord ing to Cambodian authorities while Thailand's military said an unspecified number of Thai officials had also sustained in

The clash took place at a disputed frontier settlement, which Thailand says is part of its Ban Nong Ya Kaew village in Sa Kaeo province, but Cam bodia says is part of Prey Chan village in Bantheay Meanchey province.

Thai authorities erected barbed wire fences in the area last month and for weeks there have been protests by civilians from both sides of the border

Thailand and Cambodia have for more than a century

Gaza hit by telecoms blackout as tanks advance

Cairo, Sept 18: Israeli tanks were seen in two Gaza City areas that are gateways to the city centre, residents said on Thursday, while internet and phone lines were cut off across the Gaza Strip, a sign that ground operations were likely to escalate imminently.

Israeli forces control Gaza City's eastern suburbs and in recent days have been pounding the Sheikh Radwan and Tel Al-Hawa areas, from where they would be positioned to advance on central and western areas where most of the population is sheltering.

'The disconnection of internet and phone services is a bad omen. It has always been a bad signal something very brutal is going to happen," said Ismail. who only gave one name. He

DEATH TOLL PASSES 65.000



was using an e-SIM to connect his phone, a dangerous method as it requires seeking higher ground to receive a signal.

"The situation around me is very desperate. People in tents and in houses are very worried for their lives. Many

- Previous blackouts have preceded intense Israeli
- Tanks seen in two Gaza City areas on way to city centre
- Hundreds of thousands of civilians sheltering in city

can't afford to leave, but many do not want to," he said, speaking from a coastal area in the west of the city.

At least 14 Palestinians were killed by Israeli strikes or gunfire across the Gaza Strip Thursday, including nine in Gaza City, local health authorities said.

The Palestinian Telecommunications Company said in a statement that its services had been cut off "due to the ongoing

the main network routes'

In its latest statement to me dia, the Israeli military said troops were expanding their operations in Gaza City, dismantling what it called "terror infrastructure" and "eliminating terrorists". The statement did not mention the telecoms blackout or give any details of tank movements.

It also said the military was continuing to operate in Khan Younis and Rafah in the south.

The total Palestinian death toll from the two-year war between Israel and Hamas surpassed 65,000 Wednesday, according to the Gaza health authorities. Palestinian officials and rescue workers say the true figure is likely higher as many remains are trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

ous undemarcated points along their 817 km (508 miles) land border, which was first mapped by France in 1907 when Cambo

dia was its colony.

Tensions over disputed areas spiraled into a border conflict in July, when the fiercest fighting between the neighbours in decades killed at least 48 people and temporarily displaced hun dreds of thousands.

The fighting ended after both countries agreed a ceasefire brokered in Malaysia July 28, and the border has largely re mained calm since.

'Jimmy Kimmel Live' off air after remarks about Kirk

Los Angeles, Sept 18: Walt Disney-owned ABC said Wednesday it was pulling "Jimmy Kimmel Live" off the air, after comments by the late-night show's host about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk prompted a threat by the head of the top US communica-

tions regulator against Disney. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly pressured broadcasters to stop airing content he has found objectionable, celebrated the news in a social media post. A number of Democratic lawmakers assailed the decision, saying free speech was under attack.

The suspension of Kimmel's show marked the latest action taken against media figures,

academic workers, teachers and corporate employees over their remarks about Kirk following his assassination.

Republican leaders and conservative commentators have warned Americans to mourn Kirk respectfully or suffer consequences, and some people have been fired or suspended after discussing the killing online.

Kimmel, who has frequently targeted Trump on his late-night comedy show, drew fire for remarks he made about the killing in his monologue Monday. 'We hit some new lows over

the weekend, with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them, and doing everything they can to score political points from it," Kimmel said.



Kirk, a 31-year-old activist and Trump-world celebrity known for his right-wing views and pugnacious debating style, was shot in the neck while speaking at a Utah university a week ago. A 22-year-old suspect has been charged with his murder, and his precise motive remains unclear.

Kimmel's comments led to a response from Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr, who urged lo-

cal broadcasters to stop airing "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC. Carr suggested the commission could open an investigation and that broadcasters could potentially be fined or lose their licenses if

there was a pattern of distorted comment. This is a very, very serious issue right now for Disney.

We can do this the easy way

or the hard way," Carr said in

a podcast interview with con-

servative commentator Benny

Johnson that aired Wednesday. "Disney needs to see some change here, but the individual licensed stations that are

that's

what

taking their content, Trump administration it's time for them to step up and say steps up pressure this, you know, garbage to the extent that Democrats complain

free speech is under attack comes down the pipe in the future isn't Kirk assassination something that continues to reverberate we think serves across US the needs of our lo-

TRUMP CHEERS, DEMOCRATS As broadcasters took action.

cal communities.

Trump applauded the news in a post on Truth Social while

also calling on Comcast-owned NBC to fire Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers, the hosts of latenight comedy shows on the net work who often make jokes at Trump's expense.

"Congratulations to ABC for finally having the courage to do what had to be done," Trump said. Democrats in turn criti cized the removal of Kimmel from the air, with Senator Ed Markey calling it "censorship

FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez, the FCC's only Democratic member, said US free-speech laws should prevent the FCC from telling broadcasters what they can air. "This administra tion is increasingly using the weight of government power to suppress lawful expression, she told CNN.

business



Coal continues to remain the backbone of India's energy ecosystem, meeting the needs of industries, households, and infrastructure, and driving the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat HARISH DUHAN CMD, SECL

TCS TO TRANSFORM VI BIZ

India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected by Vodafone Idea to transform its business support system through an Al-driven and future-ready platform, according to a release Thursday. The five-year engagement will help the telecom service provider unlock new capabilities in customer experience by deploying a platform focused on intelligence, automation, personalisation and accelerated launch of new products and services





age global investors and stakeholders to explore the oppor tunities that India and Maharashtra

present. Together, let us build a future of shared prosperity and sustainable growth

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Digitisation is extremely important for Indian aerospace industry to be able to scale up and position itself as a



BANMALI AGRAWALA | CHAIRMAN, TATA ADVANCED SYSTEMS

ward, there is a need to accelerate asset monetization in



railways, ports, airports. energy. petroleum and gas and logistics TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | CHIEF. SEBI

SHORT **TAKES**

Maruti reduces vehicle prices

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Thursday announced a reduction in prices of its entire model range by up to ₹1,29,600 from September 22 to pass on the GST rate cut benefit to customers. The prices of entry-level model S Presso will go down by up to ₹1,29,600; Alto K10 by up to ₹1,07,600; Celerio by to ₹94,100; Wagon-R by up to ₹79,600 and Ignis by up to ₹71,300, the auto major said. Price of premium hatchback Swift is reduced by up to ₹84,600; Baleno by up to ₹86,100; Tour S by up ₹67,200; Dzire by up to ₹87,700; Fronx by up to ₹1,12,600; Brezza by up to ₹1,12,700; Grand Vitara by up to ₹1.07 lakh; Jimny by up to ₹51,900; Ertiga by up to ₹46,400 and XL6 by up to up to ₹52,000, it added. Similarly, prices of Invicto will reduce by up to ₹61,700; Eeco by up to ₹68,000 and Super Carry LCV by up to ₹52,100, the company said.

NaBFID launches partial credit facility

Mumbai: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Thursday launched the partial credit enhancement (PCE) for help in project finance. The PCF, which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the FY26 Budget presented in February, is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure bond market and improving access to long-term capital for infrastructure projects, NaBFID's Managing Director and Chief Executive Rajkiran Rai said. The PCF instrument launched by the premier infrastructure finance entity can help give higher comfort to an investor for subscribing to a bond.

Eternal's mcap surges

New Delhi: The market valuation of Eternal Ltd, which owns the Zomato and Blinkit brands. surged to ₹3.26 lakh crore Thursday following a rally in its stock price, with the company racing ahead of firms like Hindustan Aeronautics, Titan, Avenue Supermarts and Adani Ports in the market capitalisation chart. Shares of Eterna climbed 2.96 per cent to settle at ₹337.90 apiece on the BSE. During the day, the stock jumped 3.18 per cent to ₹338.65 -- its 52-week high level. The stock has been rallying for the past four trading days, climbing 5.11 per cent. At the close of trade, the company commanded a market

valuation of Rs 3,26,085.35 crore.

Centre revamps annual return form GSTR-9



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified changes to the annual goods and service tax (GST) return form GSTR-9, making the reporting of Input Tax Credit (ITC) more comprehensive.

CBIC, September 17 notified changes to the Central GST (CGST) rules, which will come into effect on September 22 and apply to annual returns filed for the 2024-25 fiscal.

GST registered Taxpayers with aggregate turnover above ₹2 crore are required to file GSTR-9.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Raiat Mohan said "Revised structure of form makes it far more detailed, with new tables covering reversals under Rules 37, 37A, 38, 42 and 43, re-claims in subsequent years,

transitional credits, import-related ITC, and auto-populated mismatches.

Professionals and Corporates will need to wait for the revised forms and utilities from GSTN before implementing these changes in practice.

"Going forward, this measure underscores a more data-driven and preventive compliance regime, which may reduce litigation but requires disciplined documentation at the entity level," Mohan added.

Following the change, taxpayers and professionals have to undertake deeper reconciliations of GSTR-3B, GSTR-2B, and financial accounts.

"By embedding these disclosures upfront, the system aims to save taxpayers from flimsy or avoidable notices, as departmental officers will have a ready-made audit trail in the annual filing," Mohan noted.

Gold dips; Fed in focus

Reserve Wednesday lowered its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to a range of 4.00-4.25 percent, its first cut since December 2024

New Delhi, Sept 18: Gold prices fell Thursday due to profit-taking, after scaling a record peak in the previous session, as markets assessed the Federal Reserve's stance on further interest rate cuts.

Spot gold was down 0.6per cent at \$3,638.33 per ounce as of 9:41 am EDT (1341 GMT). US gold futures for December delivery fell 1.3 per cent to \$3.670.40.

Wednesday, the Fed delivered its first rate cut since December and opened the door to further easing, but tempered its message with warnings of sticky inflation, sowing doubt over the pace of future policy adjustments.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell described the policy move as a risk-management cut in response to a weakening labor market, but emphasized that the central bank is not in a hurry to begin easing.

"There was some confusion around Powell's comment



FED DELIVERED ITS FIRST RATE CUT SINCE **DECEMBER**

SPOT GOLD HITS RECORD PEAK OF \$3,707.40 WEDNESDAY

PRICE PULL BACK FROM RECORD IS CORRECTIVE IN NATURE, **ANALYST SAYS**

US WEEKLY JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL

about the rate cut being a risk-management measure. and that uncertainty prompted profit-taking," said Peter Grant, vice president and senior metals strategist at Zaner Metals.

"But, I do think (gold's) long-term bullish trend still remains and the setback from yesterday's all time high is corrective in nature... Every time gold make a new high, it just lends additional credence to the to the \$4,000 objective.'

Zero-yield gold, which tends to perform well in low-interest rate environments and during periods of uncertainty, has gained nearly 39 per cent this year.

Analysts at SP Angel in a note reiterated that the current primary driver behind gold is the diversification of dollar reserves by BRIC central banks, most notably China.

"This trend is expected to continue, supporting gold prices whilst a lower dollar is also expected to provide a sustained tailwind," the note added. Elsewhere, data showed the number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits fell last week. Among other metals, spot silver fell 0.3 per cent at \$41.51 per ounce, platinum gained 0.9per cent to \$1,376, and palladium was down 1.1 per cent at \$1.141.82

Stock markets rise; Sensex gains 320 pts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 18: Stock markets advanced for the third consecutive day Thursday; with the benchmark Sensex gaining 320 points to close above 83,000 level after the US Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate by 25 ba sis points.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 320.25 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 83,013.96. During the day, it jumped 447.5 points or 0.54 per cent to 83,141.21. The 50-share NSE Nifty

climbed 93.35 points or 0.37 per cent to 25,423.60.

Shares of pharma, IT and financial companies edged higher while realty and energy stocks ended on a muted note.

The market sentiment was bolstered primarily by the US Federal Reserve's rate cut which boosted risk sentiment globally, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Zomato-owner Eternal rose the most by 2.96 per cent on pos itive bets by brokerages. Sun Pharma, Infosys and HDFC Bank rose more than 1 per cent. HCL Tech, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, ITC and Adani Ports were also among the gainers

Tata Motors emerged as the biggest loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 1.13 per cent. Trent. Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge went up by 0.36 per cent while smallcap index ended flat, marginally lower by 0.01 per cent. Among sectoral indices, healthcare jumped 0.87 per cent; BSE Focused IT by 0.84 per cent, IT by 0.81 per cent, teck by 0.57 per cent, financial services by 0.48 per cent, and metal by 0.35 per cent.

SEBI gives clean chit to Adani **Vedanta's Project Vidya transforms lives in Kuraloi** New Delhi: The Security Exchange Board of India (Sebi)Thursday cleared bil-

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, has reinforced its commitment to advancing quality education through Project Vidya by deploying 10 additional teachers across 10 government schools in the Kuraloi region of Jharsuguda district. The event was graced by Sanatna Naik, Sarpanch of Kuraloi, along with AJKA representatives, community leaders, headmasters of beneficiary schools and members. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Education is the cornerstone of social progress, and we are committed to support it in every way possible. Through Project Vidya, we are enhancing teaching capacity in rural schools of Odisha to ensure that students gain access to quality learning opportunities. We endeavour to nurture young minds and help shape a brighter future for the communities around our operations." Sanatna Naik, Sarpanch, Kuraloi, said, "Project Vidya is a welcome step for our schools. With additional teachers being placed, students will receive more focused guidance, helping them build a stronger foundation in key subjects and gain greater confidence in learning. This initiative by Vedanta addresses critical community needs and will go a long way in improving education in our region.'

Nano Scope System

Bhubaneswar: CARE Hospitals. Bhubaneswar has set a new benchmark in advanced orthopaedic care with the introduction of Fast India's first dedicated Nano Scope System for Small Joint Repair. This breakthrough was achieved under the leadership of



Sandeep Singh, HOD, Orthopaedics & Chief Consultant, Robotic Surgery & Sports Injury, a pioneer in advanced orthopaedic surgeries Sandeep Singh said, "Nano Vision is a gamechanger. We are not

just performing surgeries. We are performing miracles with precision. Synergy Vision allows us to operate with a level of accuracy and control that brings global gold standards to Indian soil.' KislavAnand. Zonal Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, said, "This milestone reaffirms our commitment to bringing world-class healthcare innovations closer to the people of Eastern India. With the Nano Scope System, patients in this region no longer need to travel to metro cities for advanced orthopedic procedures."

CARE Bhubaneswar introduces TPCODL bags 15 awards at 7th Chapter Convention



Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL). a joint venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha has won 15 awards at the 7th Chapter Convention on Quality Concepts 2025 organized by QCFI Bhubaneswar Chapter. Out of 15 projects from uality Circle & Kaizen, 14 teams secured 'Gold' and 1 team earned 'Silver'. TPCODL competed with 210+ teams from leading organisations like NTPC, Odisha Mining Corporation, Jindal Stainless, NALCO, BALCO, Tata Power, Vedanta and more. This achievement reflects TPCODL's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation and continuous improvement. The Gold-winning teams have now qualified for the National Convention on Quality Concepts in December.

CIL announces partnership with Apollo Hospitals

Coal India Limited (CIL) has announced its collaboration with Apollo Hospitals to extend advanced healthcare facilities to serving and retired employees across 43 hospitals of the group nationwide. The partnership reflects CIL's commitment to building a healthier and stronger workforce by ensuring access to world-class medical care, preventive health services, and wellness programs. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Chennai in the presence of Vinay Ranjan, Director (HR), Coal India, and Prathap C Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals. Senior officials from both organisations were present on the occasion.

onaire Gautam Adani and his group of stock manipulation allegations made by US short-seller Hindenburg Research, saving it found no evidence that the conglomerate used related parties to route funds into its listed companies. The board said the allegations of insider trading, market manipulation, and violations of public shareholding norms were found to be unsubstantiated after a detailed investigation. Hindenburg, which has since shut down, in January 2023 published a damning report against the Adani Group, alleging Adicorp Enterprises Pvt Ltd. Milestone Tradelinks Pvt Ltd. and Rehvar Infrastructure Pvt to fund publicly listed Adani Power Ltd and Adani Enterprises Ltd.

BIITM organises industry visit

Bhubaneswar: IMBA students of Biju Patnaik Institute of Information Technology Management Studies (BIITM). accompanied by Anniaan Daash and Bijukta Moharana faculty members, embarked on an insightful industry visit to Shoukeen Industries, a multiple award-winning mattress manufacturer. September 18. The tour provided an in-depth look into advanced mattress manufacturing processes, quality control protocols, and sustainable practices that define one of India's premier sleep-product innovators.



FinMin urges employees to opt UPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Finance Ministry Thursday asked government employees to opt for shifting to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) well before the September 30 deadline to ensure the timely processing of their requests.

From April 1, 2025, the government has introduced UPS as an option under the National Pension System (NPS) for central government employees. UPS will provide assured payouts to the employees

In a statement, the Ministry said the last date for eligible employees and past retirees under NPS to opt for UPS is September 30, 2025.

'All eligible employees are urged to exercise their option well before the deadline to avoid any last-minute difficulties and to ensure timely processing of their requests. Emplovees who choose to remain in NPS cannot opt for UPS after this date," the ministry said.

Around 31,555 central government employees had opted for the UPS till July 20, and the last date to enrol under the scheme is September 30.

Also, the Finance Ministry, on August 25, introduced a one-time one-way switch facility from the newly introduced UPS to the NPS. The Finance Ministry said

it has been decided that a onetime, one-way switch facility from UPS to NPS will be made available to all Central Government employees who have opted for UPS

"This switch facility may be exercised by UPS optees any

Alongside shared disrup-

time not later than one year prior to the date of superannuation or three months prior to the deemed date of retirement in case of voluntary retirement

as applicable," it added. The government has extended the benefit of 'Retirement gratuity and Death gratuity under UPS

Further, the government employees who opt for UPS under NPS will also be eligible for the option to avail benefits under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, or the CCS (Extraordinary Pension) Rules, 2023, in the event of death of the government servant during service or his discharge on the ground of invalidation or disablement.

The government has also ex tended tax benefits to UPS as are available to NPS under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Climate-driven health risks may cost \$1.5tn to global economy

The study encourages companies to act now to protect workforce health, build operational resilience and safeguard productivity before the costs of climate adaptation become unmanageable.

New Delhi, Sept 18: Climate-related health risks can cost the global economy at least \$1.5 trillion (over ₹131 lakh crore) in lost productivity in the next 25 years due to rising illness and labour shortages across key sectors, a new study showed Thursday.

The World Economic Forum report, developed in collabora-

tion with Boston Consulting

Group, assessed climate-driv-

en health impacts in four of

the most affected economic

sectors: food and agriculture; the built environment; health and healthcare; and insurance. The \$1.5 trillion estimate

reflects losses in only the first three sectors, under a midrange scenario, suggesting the burden on the global economy could be far higher, it said.

The study encourages companies to act now to protect workforce health, build operational resilience and safeguard productivity before the costs of climate adaptation become unmanageable.

The findings highlighted that



tious diseases and other health risks accelerating due to climate change is now a strategic business imperative.

"We are entering an era in which protecting worker health is proving essential to business continuity and long-term resil-

Climate Resilience, World Eco nomic Forum.

"Every year we delay embedding resilience into business decisions, the risks to human health and productivity climb and the costs of adaptation

rise," White added.

tions, the analysis also outlined sector-specific vulnerabilities. In food and agriculture, climate health impacts could lead to \$740 billion in lost output, triggering serious consequences for global food security, according to the WEF, a Geneva-based international organisation for public-private partnership. In the built environment

sector, climate health impacts are projected to result in productivity losses of \$570 billion.

The health and healthcare sector stands to lose \$200 billion in productivity due to workforce climate health issues. while rising climate-driven disease rates among the wider population could compound demand pressures. The insurance industry, meanwhile, is projected to experience a sharp rise in climate health claims. "As temperatures rise, mil-

lions of jobs become more dangerous or disappear entirely; pushing families deeper into poverty and changing where and how people can live and thrive," said Naveen Rao, Vice-President for Health, Rockefeller Foundation, which supported this research.

However, the report also indicated that companies in vesting early in climate health adaptation can benefit beyond risk mitigation, unlocking new opportunities for innovation and growth while meeting emerging market needs.

ASIA CUP Amid handshake-gate, India, Pak to clash again

Pakistan crush UAE to set up much-anticipated Super 4s grudge match against India

On September 14, India effortlessly crushed Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2025 Group A match. On September 21, Pakistan shall get a chance to avenge it in the Super Four. That's right, both these sides entered the next round.

India did it when UAE beat Oman September 15. Now Pakistan have joined them by defeating UAE. UAE join Oman Pakistan posted 146/9 and

bowled Oman out for 105. Fakhar Zaman top-scored with 50 and Abrar Ahmed was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2/13. The 41-run win ensures that Pakistan are in the next round and have a second game with India in a week's time.

The match started an hour late as Pakistan threatened a pull-out after the handshake fiasco during the previous game against India before Salman Agha's team climbed down and showed up for the game.

Men in Blue dominate

The last time both the



teams met. India won by seven wickets and Suryakumar Yadav led by example with an unbeaten 47. Kuldeep Yadav's 3/18 kept the Pakistan

batters tied down. In four T20I encounters over the course of the Asia Cup, India have won thrice and Pakistan once.

In Asia Cup overall, India

SKY-led India will take on an embattled **Oman in their final Asia Cup group** league game that will be played Friday

have 11 wins and six losses with three no-results in 20 games vs Pakistan. In overall T20Is, India have won 11 and lost three. Team India clearly dominates the scene vs Pakistan in the big games

From calls to boycotting the September 14 game due to the Pahalgam terror attacks by

back on April 22 to Pakistan demanding the match referee be removed after India opted not to shake hands, the previous match had everything. Now India will be playing Pakistan again in a matter of days. Pakistan will be out for revenge but India will not relax one bit.

India vs Pak final on cards

There is also a chance that we could see them play each other again September 28. Two teams from the Super Four make it to the summit clash and there is certainly a chance that these two sides go through. If Asia Cup 2025 does have an India vs Pakistan final, it will be the first in Asia Cup history. India thrashed UAE before brushing Pakistan aside. Their last league game is against Oman which India should win easily. Oman lost to Pakistan and UAE to be knocked out of the Super Four race.

India are gunning to retain the title having won it in 2023. They were the first to win the T20I format in 2016 and can be the first to win it twice in this format. If India lift the Asia Cup 2025, it will be their ninth title in 16 out of 17 editions they have played. Should the opposition be Pakistan, the win will feel even better.

Neeraj loses crown

Tokyo, Sept 18: Defending champion Neeraj Chopra endured a nightmarish outing at the World Championships' men's javelin throw finals to end a disappointing eighth, outperformed by debutant compatriot Sachin Yadav who logged a personal best performance to finish a creditable fourth here Thursday.

On a day when no thrower managed to cross 90m, Chopra was ousted after the fifth and penultimate round with a best effort of 84.03m that left him eighth overall.

Chopra, who had also won a silver in the 2022 edition besides the gold in 2023, has not finished outside the top-2 since winning gold in Tokyo in 2021. After Tokyo Olympics, he has either won or finished second in 24 international events.

Known for his consistency, it was inexplicable for Chopra not to even cross the 85m mark in five attempts. His worst performance before Thursday was 82.27m while winning gold at the Federation Cup in May 2024.

Ironically, all of Sachin's five legal throws were better than Chopra's day's best of 84.03m.

The gold went to Keshorn Walcott (88.16m) of Trinidad and Tobago, followed by Grenada's Anderson Peters (87.38m) and Curtis Thompson (86.67m). Sachin was fourth with his first round effort of 86 27m

Nadeem of Pakistan, a silver-medallist in the previous edition of World Championships, was among the first set of throwers to exit in the fourth round with a best of 82.75m.

Chopra-Nadeem clash for the first time in more than a year never happened as the Thursday's final overturned the form book upside down.

Chopra and German Diamond League trophy winner Julian Javelin great fails to defend World Championship title, finishes disappointing 8th

Sachin narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth with a throw of 82.33 meters





ing right for him though he needed just one throw of 84.85m Wednesday to make it to finals. For the last four years, performances below 85m have been

London, Sept 18: Title holder

Paris Saint-Germain roared

to victory in the Champions League Wednesday, and Liv-

erpool found yet another late

winning goal in its stunning

Liverpool captain Virgil

van Dijk soared to score with a

header in the second minute of

stoppage time to seal a 3-2 win

over Atletico Madrid when it

seemed his team was going to

waste a two-goal lead seized af-

WINNING STREAK ENDS

The shock result was unexpected as the Indian fans have been used to Chopra either winning a gold medal or finishing on podium for the last four years the Tokyo Olympics gold in 2021

The 27-year-old fouled the fifth attempt to exit the competition at the same venue where he won a history-making Olympic gold back in 2021.

before regaining composure.

Cuttack Panthers clinch thriller

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 18: Sourav Gouda and Shubham Satrujit produce a nail biting finish to the very first match of Odisha Pro T20 League 2025 as Cuttack Panthers clinched a win by 3 wickets at the Barabati Stadium.

Chasing a target of 189 on the board, Swastik Samal and Panakala Sasanka opened the innings for Cuttack Panthers. The duo added 74 runs for the first wicket before Swastik was dismissed for 52 in 32 balls.

Biplab Samantaray scored 13 in 11 balls. Panakala managed to add 46 in 40 balls. Towards the end. Souray Gouda and Subham Satrujit added 50 runs for the 6th wicket. Sourav scored 34 in just 11 balls. Subham remained



unbeaten till the end and added 34* runs in 19 balls helped his team win the match. For Bhubaneswar Tigers, Badal Biswal

Sarbeswar scripts win for Keonjhar Miners

Sarbeswar Mohanty's dream spell with the ball helped Keonjhar Miners

board, Shantanu Mishra and Anurag Sarangi opened the innings for Puri

Sandeep Pattnaik added 25 in 22 balls. Kartik Biswas also had brief stay

on the crease for his 23 in 24 balls. Sawan Paharia contributed with 19

in 20 balls. They lost all their wickets for just 114 runs on the board in

18.1 overs. For Keonihar Miners, Sarbeswar Mohanty was the pick of

the bowlers, claiming 5 wickets for just 12 runs in 2.1 overs. Sayed T

Ahmed chipped in with 2 for 21 from his 3 overs. Soumva Lenka (1/9)

and Govind Poddar (1/14) picked up one wicket each. At the start of

the game, after winning the toss, Keonjhar Miners elected to bat first.

Om T Munde and Debabrata Pradhan opened the innings for their team.

Pradhan was dismissed without scoring whilst Munde made 22 runs off

balls, helping his team reach a total of 159/8 in 20 overs. For the Puri

and Ashutosh Churia (1/32) took one wicket each.

Titans, Md Danish was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4/34 in his

4 overs. Udaya Jata claimed 2/29 in 4 overs, while Rajesh Mohanty (1/22)

register a win in the second match of Odisha Pro T20 League 2025.

They defeated Puri Titans by 45 runs. Chasing a target of 160 on the

Titans. While Shantanu made 4 in 8 balls, Anurag scored 7 in 8 balls.

took 2/26 in 4 overs. Sambit Be ja(1/27), Jayant Behera(1/30), Suryakant Pradhan(1/47) and Debabrata Pradhan(1/57) took one wicket each in the innings

At the start of the game, af ter winning the toss, Cuttack Panthers elected to bowl first to kick off the Odisha Pro T20 League. For Bhubaneswar Ti gers, Prayan Prantik Samal and Gourav Choudhury opened the innings.

Interestingly, Vageesh Sharma took two wickets in the very first over of the match along with bowling a maiden. Prayan and Maroju Prasanth were dismissed before their accounts even started. After the loss of the second wicket, Gourav Choud hury was joined by Rajesh Dhupar in the middle. The duo added 130 runs for the third wicket before Gouray was dismissed for 78 in 43 balls. Bikram Samal added 34 in just 16 balls.

Rajesh Dhupar played a vital knock of 65 in 47 balls. They added 189/5 in 20 overs.

For Cuttack Panthers, Vageesh Sharma took 2/25 in his 4 overs. Soubhagya Rout picked 2/31 in 3 overs. Biplab Samatray grabbed 1/37 in his 4 overs.

Swastik Samal, Captain of Cuttack Panthers said, "It was a great victory. A perfect first and an inaugural match. We were under too much pressure at a point of time but the way Sourav Gouda batted, it was incredible, along with the way we chased down 70 runs in the

Sindhu, Sat-Chi storm into

China Masters quarterfinals

Olympic champion Arshad much-anticipated

Weber were expected to be on the podium but it was not to be. Weber finished fifth with 86.11m **DISASTER FOR CHOPRA**

Disaster struck the Indian superstar as nothing was gorare for Chopra.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

start to the season.

ter just six minutes.

18 balls. Suial Singh was the top scorer of the innings with 48 runs from 35 balls, while Anil Parida made a valuable contribution of 37 runs from 26 balls. Towards the end, Sayed T Ahmed added an unbeaten 13 off 4

since scripting history by winning

After releasing his spear, he

fell down sideways, grimaced and crossed the curved line to see the red flag from the official. In disappointment, he ripped off his waist belt, screamed and buried his face in it for a while

He had breached the 90m mark with a 90.23m throw in the Doha Diamond League in May under the tutelage of the legendary Jan Zelezny but since then his graph has seen a dip, logging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shenzhen (China), Sept 18: Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty sailed into the quarterfinals of the China Masters tournament with straight game wins here Thursday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, took just 41 minutes to get the better of sixth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thai land 21-15 21-15 while the pair of Satwik and Chirag, who recently reached the Hong Kong Open final, aced the Chinese Taipei duo of Hsiang Chieh Chiu and Wang Chi-Lin 21-13, 21-12 in 32 minutes.

By virtue of the win, Sindhu ranked 14th, improved her head to-head record against the Thai shuttler to 6-5. Sindhu will meet top seed An Se Young of Korea in the quarterfinals. An Se edged past Mia

Blichfeldt of Denmark 23-21, 21-14. Eighth seeded Satiwk and Chi rag, who recently broke a string of early losses to make the Hong Kong Open final, beat the low er-ranked Chinese Taipei pair

for the second time this year. They had defeated Chiu and Wang in three tough games at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 tournament in the round of 32

Champions League: Big guns fire early PSG cruises, Liverpool wins late yet again, Bayern and Inter also start well in Champions League



Antim wins 2nd World

Championship medal

The 21-year-old wrestler claims bronze to win India's first medal of edition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Zagreb, Sept 18: Mixing strong defence with measured attack, voung wrestler Antim Panghal won her second World Championship medal with a dominating 9-1 victory over U23 World Champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren in the bronze play-off here Thursday, ensuring that the Indian contingent won't return empty-handed from the Croatian capital.

Since the first day of competition, the Indian wrestlers have looked a hapless lot following Aman Sehrawat's shock disqualification, but Antim made sure that the country's medal winning tradition at the prestigious tournament continued.

The 21-year-old had won a bronze in the 2023 edition as well but since the 2024 Olympic Games, where she faced not just a heartbreaking first round exit but also faced the humiliation of deportation, she has been under

sive wrestler but Antim stood her defence, never letting the Swede gain any momentum.

Antim went for single leg attacks at the beginning but Malmgren thwarted both attempts, using her immense strength. Antim got on board when the Swede was put on clock for passivity.

Bayern Munich and Inter Milan both won rematches of past finals - against Chelsea and Ajax, respectively — to start their eight-game league-phase programs, and newcomers Bodo/Glimt and Pafos impressed with hard-earned draws on the Malmgren is a very aggres-

PSG cruised to a 4-0 win at home over Atalanta and had the luxury of a penalty miss by Bradley Barcola not mattering much in the end.

"It's a joy to see such a performance. I think our fans can be happy," PSG coach Luis En-

rique said. Liverpool seemed to be sail-



ing with early goals from Andy Robertson and a typically fine strike by Mohamed Salah but was pegged back by Marcos Llorente's goals in first-half stoppage time and the 81st.

Llorente also scored twice at Anfield in 2020 when Atletico eliminated the then-defending champion in the round of 16.

Bayern held off Chelsea 3-1 with two goals from Harry

Kane, whose England teammate Cole Palmer scored an impressive goal for the visitors. It was a very belated revenge for Bayern losing the 2012 final to Chelsea in its home stadium

Inter got two powerful headed goals from Marcus Thuram in its 2-0 win at Ajax, which beat the Italians in the 1972 European Cup final.

Norway's champion Bodo/

Glimt had a second-half penalty kick saved and trailed by two goals late at Slavia Prague, before rallying to level at 2-2 in the 90th.

Pafos grinded out a 0-0 draw at Olympiakos after playing with 10 men from the 26th minute. Journeyman Brazilian midfielder Bruno Felipe was sent off for a second yellow-card foul.

earlier this month.

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