

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Class IV girl suffers eye injury in assault by teacher; FIR filed

FAIR REPORT

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: A Class IV student of a private school here Wednesday sustained an eye injury following an alleged assault by her mathematics teacher, police said.

The family members of the student lodged a formal complaint at the Khandagiri police station seeking action against the teacher.

According to the complaint, the nine-year-old student was attending a mathematics class when the teacher allegedly struck her, causing an injury to her left eye.

“My math madam was teaching division. When asked twice, she assaulted me in my eye,” said the student. As the girl was bleeding and crying, she was rushed for medical attention soon after the incident.

The family members of the girl student took her to an eye hospital for treatment. One of the family members said, “The doctor informed us that the eyelid, retina, and lens were damaged due to the assault. Whether she can get her vision back or not can be ascertained after healing of her eyelid injury.”

“We suspect that my daughter suffered a serious eye injury as the teacher struck her strongly with the ring,” the girl’s father said.

Following the complaint, Khandagiri police registered a case and launched an inquiry into the incident, a police officer said. The accused teacher denied intentional harm, claiming she only “lightly pushed the child’s cheek” and regretted the outcome. “I didn’t mean to hurt her. It was accidental,” she said. The school management has not issued any official statement. Any kind of harassment and corporal punishment of students is prohibited under the Right to Education Act and other child protection laws.



DELHI DELUGE: People use a boat to move through a flooded area as the water level of the Yamuna River continues to rise, in New Delhi, Wednesday. More than 7,500 people have been evacuated from low-lying flooded areas as the Yamuna level rose to 207 metres at the Old Railway Bridge (ORB) Wednesday at 1 pm, officials said

America at the Edge of Recession: India’s Strategic Moment



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

Journalist

Current Signals from the U.S.
Latest Data
Inflation (July 2025): Headline 2.7% YoY, Core 3.1%
Unemployment: 4.2%
GDP: +3.3% annualized in Q2 (after -0.5% in Q1)
Fed Rate: 4.25-4.50% (unchanged July 30)
LEI: 98.7, six-month fall of -2.7%
Moody’s: “Several U.S. states already in recessionary grip”
“The American economy stands on the edge—neither collapsing nor confidently growing.”
Scenarios for 2025-26
Base Case: Growth 1-1.6%, inflation ~3%
Risk Case: Stagflation with 0% growth + 3.5% inflation
Positive Case: Inflation drops to 2-2.5%, Fed cuts support demand
India’s Mirror
Domestic Picture
CPI (July 2025): 1.55%, lowest since 2017
GDP (Q1 FY26): 7.8% YoY
Repo Rate: 5.50%, neutral stance
Services PMI (Aug): 62.9, a 15-year high

Moody’s warns of a potential U.S. downturn by late 2025. Will India withstand the global chill—or turn crisis into opportunity?

Three Outcomes for India
Soft Landing (Likely): INR 82-85
India CPI 2-3.5%
Exports stable, domestic demand strong
Recession-Lite: INR 85-87
CPI 3-4%
IT & manufacturing under pressure; oil bill eases
Adverse Shock: INR 87+
RBI intervention
Exports/IT revenues weaken; domestic cushion saves growth
Pull-Quote: “If America sneezes, the world catches a cold. This time, India may have the immunity to withstand it.”
Strategic Priorities
Hedge USD exposures (watch CPI >3.5%, unemployment >4.5%)
Diversify exports toward ASEAN, Europe, Middle East
Lock commodity input costs with fixed-price windows
Rebalance IT portfolios toward health-care, public services, cybersecurity
The U.S. economy may yet escape the worst, but uncertainty will dominate global markets through 2025-26. For India, resilience is not just a safeguard—it can be a strategic advantage. Strong domestic consumption and historically low inflation give New Delhi and Indian businesses the chance to turn global fragility into national strength.

GST RATES OVERHAULED

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi, Sept 3: Common use items from roti/paratha to hair oil, ice creams and TVs will cost less, while tax incidence on personal health and life insurance will be brought down to nil after the all-powerful GST Council Wednesday approved a complete overhaul of the tangled Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

The GST Council approved limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Almost all personal-use items will see rate cuts as the government looks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs.

Briefing reporters after a marathon day-long GST Council meeting, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said all decisions were taken unanimously, with no disagreement with any state.

The panel approved simplifying the GST from the current four slabs - 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, to a two-rate structure - 5 and 18 per cent. A special 40 per cent slab is also proposed for a select few items such as high-end cars, tobacco and cigarettes.

The new rates for all products, except pan masala, gutkha, cigarettes, chewing tobacco products like zarda, unmanufactured tobacco and bidi, will be effective September 22, she said.

While daily use food items will continue to attract nil tax rate, tax rate has been slashed to nil from 5 per cent on ultra-high temperature milk, chhena or paneer, pizza bread, khakra, plain chapati or roti.

Nil will also be the tax on paratha (currently charged at 18 per cent). Common use food and beverages ranging from butter and ghee to dry nuts, condensed milk, cheese, figs, dates, avocados, citrus fruits, sausages and meat, sugar boiled confectionery, jam and fruit jellies, tender coconut water, namkeen, drinking water packed in 20-litre bottles, fruit pulp or fruit juice, beverages containing milk, ice cream, pastry and biscuits, corn flakes and cereals, and sugar confectionery are likely to see a cut in tax rate to 5 per cent from current 12 per cent or 18 per cent. Erasers, maps, pencil sharpeners and exercise books will be charged at nil from 5 per cent.

Consumer goods such as

■ **Slabs cut to two: 5% & 18%, 40% for super luxury items**

■ **New rates, except for tobacco products, effective Sept 22**

■ **Life insurance, health policies exempted**



tooth powder, feeding bottles, tableware, kitchenware, umbrellas, utensils, bicycles, bamboo furniture and combs will see rate cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The same on shampoo, talcum powder, toothpaste, toothbrushes, face powder, soap and hair oil has been cut down from 18 per cent to 5 per cent.

She said all individual life and health insurance policies will now attract nil tax in a bid to boost coverage.

Cement will cost less with the tax rate coming down from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Petrol, LPG and CNG vehicles of less than 1,200 cc and not more than 4,000 mm length and diesel vehicles of up to 1,500 cc and 4,000 mm length would move to 18 per cent rate from the current 28 per cent.

Motorcycles up to 350 cc,

consumer electronics like ACs, dishwashers, and TVs too would be taxed at a lower GST of 18 per cent as against 28 per cent currently.

All automobiles above 1,200 cc and longer than 4,000 mm as well as motorcycles above 350 cc, yachts and aircraft for personal use, and racing cars will be charged with a 40 per cent levy. Aerated drinks containing added sugar will be taxed at 40 per cent. EVs will continue to be charged at 5 per cent.

The financial implication of the rate rationalisation would be ₹48,000 crore and this would be fiscally sustainable, Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava told reporters here.

The decision by the GST Council would bring down the overall premium as the tax component has significantly

come down.

The move to simplify the tax regime - first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech - comes as India’s exports to the US face a 50 per cent tariff - the highest in the world.

The Indian economy is heavily reliant on consumption with private consumption accounting for 61.4 per cent of the nominal GDP last fiscal.

The GST reforms are likely to boost the economy by up to 0.5 percentage point by the second year of its implementation, effectively neutralising the full impact of the US tariff, economists said.

Tobacco, gutka, tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to be charged at current 28 per cent plus a compensation cess till such time that loans taken to pay states for revenue loss is fully paid back, Sitharaman said.

The 40 per cent tax will also be levied on services by a race club, leasing or rental services, and casinos/gambling/horse racing/lottery/online money gaming. Supply of service of third-party insurance of goods carriage will now attract 5 per cent with ITC from 12 per cent with ITC.

6 of family including minor get life term

FAIR REPORT

Nabarangpur, Sept 3: A local court Wednesday handed down life imprisonment to six members of a family including a minor after convicting them in a 2022 murder case.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Bishnu Prasad Mishra here passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 25 witnesses. The judge also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convicts, apart from the punishment. In default, the convicts have to undergo an additional six months of imprisonment. This was stated here by Additional Public Prosecutor Santosh Kumar Mishra who pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government. The judge delivered the verdict after examining depositions from 25 witnesses, Mishra said.

According to case records, a land dispute escalated in Baramasi village under Kodinga police limits August 9, 2022. In the violence that ensued over land dispute, the accused assaulted another family leading to death of Damburu Pujari. Police registered a case (114/2022) and submitted a chargesheet in the court during trial. The matter was registered as Sessions Case No. 75/2022 and Juvenile Court Case No. 7/2022 and trial was held.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You gave us 22 years, give us 22 more—the country will be developed, and no rat will dare bite a newborn in hospital

Flanked by Putin, Kim, China’s Xi flexes muscles

In a first, China unveils a range of new weapons systems during its massive military parade

FAIR REPORT

Beijing, Sept 3: President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is unstoppable as the country’s military displayed for the first time some of its brand-new weapons, including hypersonic, laser and long-range ballistic missiles.

Addressing an impressive parade to commemorate the 80th anniversary of China’s victory against Japanese aggression in World War II, Xi said, the Chinese nation is never intimidated by any bullies and always forges ahead, in a veiled dig at US President Donald Trump’s tariff threats. “History cautions us that humanity rises and falls together,” he said.

He called on the People’s Lib-



eration Army (PLA) to provide strategic support for national rejuvenation and make greater contributions to world peace and development.

The Chinese military, for the first time, displayed in the parade some of its most ad-

vanced military hardware in an apparent show of strength to the world, especially the US.

Xi, who heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high command of the PLA, asked the Chinese military to build itself into a

world-class force and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

China is the second-largest defence spender after the US. Its annual defence budget this year amounted to USD 250 billion.

Besides the military hardware, the parade also showcased China’s diplomatic power as 26 foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, attended the event.

From India’s neighbourhood, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu took part in the event. India’s Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, attended the event, according to sources. Leaders from the

US and heads of the European Union, besides Japan and South Korea, have stayed away from the parade.

The presence of foreign leaders at the parade has become a diplomatic spat between Japan and China after Tokyo urged the world leaders to refrain from attending. China lodged a diplomatic protest with Japan for its request to the world leaders not to attend the event.

In his speech, Xi said victory against Japan in WWII marks China’s first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times.

At the parade, China displayed a range of new weapon systems, which included new-type DF-5C liquid-fuelled inter-continental strategic nuclear missiles.

SHORT TAKES

Managing committee okays queue system

Puri: The newly constituted Sri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (MC) Wednesday approved the introduction of a queue system in the temple. The committee also endorsed all major decisions taken by the temple administration during the past year, including arrangements for the annual Rath Yatra. The queue system will first be implemented on an experimental basis to identify shortcomings in its execution. Temple Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee said the new system, along with elevated platforms, would help devotees have an easier darshan of the deities. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has already granted approval for the initiative. A proposal to allow differently-abled and elderly devotees to use the ramp at the North Gate of the temple was also discussed.

India kills us with tariffs: Trump

New York/Washington: India kills the US with tariffs and the country has now offered “no tariffs” to America, President Donald Trump has said, amid New Delhi’s escalating tensions with Washington over his administration’s policies on trade and tariff. “They have tariffs against us. China, which kills us with tariffs. India kills us with tariffs. Brazil kills us with tariffs,” Trump said in an interview with The Scott Jennings Radio Show Tuesday. Trump added that he understands tariffs better than other countries. “I understood tariffs better than any human being in the world. And now with my tariffs, they were all dropping them. India was the most highly tariffed nation... And you know what, they’ve offered me no tariffs in India anymore. No tariffs,” Trump said.

The Padel Revolution: From Mexican Courts to Global Phenomenon

“How a 50-year-old sport is becoming the world’s fastest-growing racquet game”

FAIR REPORT

THE UNSTOPPABLE RISE OF PADEL

What began as a backyard experiment in Mexico in the 1960s has transformed into one of the world’s fastest-growing sports. Padel, a unique hybrid of tennis and squash played on an enclosed court roughly one-third the size of a tennis court, is experiencing unprecedented global expansion that shows no signs of slowing down. The International Padel Federation (FIP) reports around 30 million people playing padel worldwide - a 2.5× increase in a decade, making it one of the fastest-growing sports globally. The numbers tell a compelling story of exponential growth: the Global Padel Sports Market size was USD 225.02 Million in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 248.19 Million in 2025, ultimately rising to USD 543.74 Million by 2033, exhibiting a CAGR of 10.3%.

ORIGINS: FROM ACCIDENT TO GLOBAL SPORT

Padel’s origin story reads like a happy accident that changed the sporting world. In 1969, Mexican businessman Enrique Corcuera found himself with limited space at his Aca-pulco home and decided to modify his tennis court by adding walls. This creative

solution to a spatial constraint inadvertently created an entirely new sport that combined the strategic elements of tennis with the tactical wall play reminiscent of squash. The sport quickly caught the attention of Corcuera’s friend, Spanish Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe, who brought padel to Spain’s Marbella Club in the 1970s. From there, it spread throughout Spain and eventually across Europe and Latin America, creating the foundation for today’s global padel community.

THE ANATOMY OF DIFFERENCE

While padel shares DNA with tennis and squash, its unique characteristics set it apart from other racquet sports. Played on a court measuring 20x10 meters (compared to tennis’s 23.77x8.23 meters for singles), padel courts are enclosed by walls and mesh fencing that become integral parts of the game. Players use solid paddles without strings, and the ball can be played off the walls, creating a dynamic three-dimensional game that emphasizes strategy, placement, and teamwork over raw power.

The sport is exclusively played in doubles format, fostering a social atmosphere that has become one



of its greatest selling points. Unlike tennis, where individual strength can dominate, padel rewards tactical thinking, precise shot placement, and team coordination, making it accessible to players of varying skill levels and ages.

LATEST TRENDS SHAPING THE GAME

The padel revolution is being driven by several key trends that are reshaping the sporting landscape. Gen Z and Millennials are leading the charge, with 19% and 15% participation rates, respectively. The sport’s social aspect and smaller court size make it appealing to younger players, while technological innovations are enhancing the playing

experience. One of the most notable trends last year was the introduction of new padel rackets, implementing more and more technology in each product developed. The new rackets are designed to offer greater performance and comfort, and are helping to attract new players to the sport. Infrastructure development is another major trend, with an increasing number of courts and clubs being built globally, projected to reach 70,000 padel courts by 2026. This expansion is being fueled by both private investment and public sector support as governments recognise padel’s potential for community engagement and sports tourism.

GLOBAL EXPANSION: A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

Europe remains the epicenter of Padel’s growth, with Spain leading the charge as the sport’s spiritual home. The continent now hosts professional circuits, training academies, and world-class facilities that serve as models for expansion elsewhere. However, the sport’s reach extends far beyond European borders. In the Middle East, countries like the UAE and Qatar are investing heavily in Padel infrastructure as part of their broader sports and tourism strategies. The Americas are experiencing their own padel boom, with Mexico embracing its role as the sport’s birthplace while countries like Argen-

tina have become major players in international competition.

INDIA’S PADEL JOURNEY: BUILDING MOMENTUM

India’s relationship with Padel represents one of the sport’s most promising growth stories. The popularity is causing waiting lists for booking courts. The sport is administered by the Indian Padel Federation which is affiliated to the International Padel Federation. The federation had organised seven national ranking events as of 2023. The Indian Padel ecosystem is rapidly developing with multiple organizations working to promote the sport. The Indian Padel Federation (IPF) serves as the national governing body for padel in India, collaborating closely with the International Padel Federation (FIP) to regulate and promote the sport according to FIP standards. Several companies are pioneering Padel’s growth in India. Based in Bangalore, InPadel Sports is the First Company to introduce the sport of Padel in India by offering state-of-the-art services, while other organizations like Play Padel and Padel Park are establishing courts and academies across major cities. Padel Tennis Federation was founded in 2017 by a

team of Padel enthusiasts, professionals and Padel players from Spain and India, demonstrating the international collaboration driving the sport’s development in the country.

LEADING ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES

The global Padel ecosystem is supported by several key organisations that are driving the sport’s development and commercialisation. At the international level, the International Padel Federation (FIP) serves as the governing body, working with national federations to standardise rules and promote growth. Commercial organisations are playing crucial roles in expansion. Playtomic has emerged as a leading platform for court bookings and Padel community building, regularly publishing comprehensive reports on the sport’s growth. The World Padel Tour (WPT), established in 2014, has professionalized the sport and created a global circuit that attracts top players and sponsors.

Equipment manufacturers like Bullpadel, Head, and Babolat have developed specialized padel divisions, investing in research and development to create technology-enhanced racquets and gear that improve player performance and attract new participants.

The Future Court

As Padel continues its remarkable growth trajectory, the sport faces both opportunities and challenges. The rapid expansion has sometimes outpaced infrastructure development, creating demand that exceeds supply in many markets. However, this presents opportunities for entrepreneurs, sports facility developers, and investors looking to capitalize on one of sport’s most compelling growth stories. The sport’s inclusion in major sporting events and potential Olympic recognition could provide additional momentum, while technological innovations in equipment, court surfaces, and digital platforms continue to enhance the playing experience. With the global Padel market size forecasted to reach USD 0.87 billion by 2033 from USD 0.29 billion in 2024, registering a CAGR of 12.93%, Padel’s transformation from backyard curiosity to global phenomenon appears to be just the beginning of a much larger story. As courts multiply across continents and new players discover the unique joy of Padel’s social, strategic gameplay, Enrique Corcuera’s space-saving solution from 1969 continues to reshape the modern sporting landscape, one serve at a time.

“BIS Standards Arena” inaugurated at MNIT Jaipur Central Library

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) inaugurated the “BIS Standards Arena” at MNIT Jaipur’s Central Library. BIS DG Pramod Kumar Tiwari highlighted its role in promoting standardization and quality. The center will offer access to BIS publications and help integrate standards into academics, enhancing students’ understanding and application of technical standards in their professional careers.

NGT Imposes ₹38.70 Crore Fine on Ajmer Municipal Corporation Over Ana Sagar Lake Pollution



Ashish Vyas
Ajmer Correspondent

FAIR REPORT

Ajmer: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty of ₹38.70 crore on the Ajmer Municipal Corporation for failing to prevent untreated sewage from entering the historic Ana Sagar Lake. The tribunal found that between April 1, 2020, and July 5, 2023, untreated sewage from 13 city drains was directly discharged into the lake, despite

Untreated sewage flowed into the lake for three years; penalty calculated at 25,000 per drain per day

the corporation’s claim that no sewage was flowing in. Babu Lal Sahu, National President of the BPL Party, said the fine was determined on the basis of a detailed report submitted by the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB). The

board calculated compensation at 25,000 per drain per day, covering a total of 1,191 days. As per NGT’s order, the Ajmer Municipal Corporation must deposit the amount within 60 days through a demand draft at the RSPCB office in Kishangarh, payable to the Member Secretary, RSPCB, Jaipur. Failure to comply will result in the cancellation of all operational and establishment consent licenses. Legal proceedings will also be initiated before the NGT, with an additional

interest of 1.5% per month levied after the deadline. The tribunal further warned that criminal proceedings under the Water and Air Acts could follow, carrying penalties including imprisonment of 1.5 to 6 years along with heavy fines. In its sharp observation, the NGT noted that negligence by the municipal body has led to the continued deterioration of Ana Sagar Lake — a historic landmark and a vital source of livelihood for thousands in Ajmer.

inspections from August 30 to September 5: Unauthorized vendors fined, non-approved brands seized, stalls sealed, passenger feedback collected

NWR Launches Special Drive to Improve Catering Services



Sushil Pal
FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: To enhance passenger convenience and ensure better catering services, North Western Railway (NWR) has launched a special drive at headquarters and divisional levels from August 30 to September 5. The campaign focuses on inspecting catering units, taking action against unauthorized vendors, and banning the sale of non-approved food brands.

According to Shashi Kiran, Chief Public Relations Officer of NWR, the primary objective of this initiative is to address passenger complaints and improve food quality. Officials from Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, and Jodhpur divisions have been directed to carry out inspections. Passenger feedback is also being actively collected during the drive. On the very first day of the campaign, several unauthorized vendors

were caught and fined. Action was taken against vendors found selling food illegally in trains no. 14701, 14802, and 19611. At Beawar station, 80 boxes of non-approved packaged water and unauthorized beverages from a stall were seized, and the stall was immediately sealed. At Ajmer station too, a large quantity of non-approved water was confiscated, with Railway Protection Force (RPF) and commercial inspectors instructed to initiate necessary action. NWR has clarified that only catering brands approved by the railway are permitted for sale at stations and onboard trains. The railway will continue such inspection drives to ensure passengers receive hygienic and quality food services.

Gen Z’s AI Revolution: Learning in Lakhs, Thinking in Seconds



Aashcharya Tiwari
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Walk into any classroom today and you won’t just see books and notes, you’ll see ChatGPT on mobile screens, AI flashcard

apps, and students who can summon answers in seconds. For Gen Z, AI isn’t futuristic, it’s everyday reality. And they’re not dabbling. They’re diving in by the millions. Recent surveys confirm it: nearly 77% of Gen Z use AI weekly, and 97% have tried it at least once. From brainstorming essays to planning careers, this is a generation learning at scale, in lakhs, in real time.

WHY GEN Z LOVES AI

Ask a 20-year-old why they lean on ChatGPT, and the answers are blunt: “It saves time.” “It explains faster than

teachers.” “It helps me think when I’m stuck.” The data backs this: 51% use AI for ideas, 45% for research, 35% for proof-reading. For college students, it’s even bigger; 78% integrate AI into their studies, often using it daily for assignments, projects, and presentations.

THE SHADOW SIDE

But here’s the catch: schools and universities are lagging behind. Only half of institutions have clear AI policies. The result? Chaos. Students are left guessing: Is using ChatGPT smart, or is it

cheating? Critics worry about intellectual laziness, that Gen Z might be outsourcing thinking itself. There’s truth here: studies show AI boosts performance on assignments but doesn’t always build deeper understanding. And employers are watching. Will this generation know how to think without AI’s crutch?

THE REAL STORY

This isn’t about “cheating tools.” That debate is yesterday’s news. The sharper question is: Can India’s schools, universities and policymakers keep up with the speed at

which Gen Z has already adopted AI? Because the truth is, the genie is out of the bottle. Gen Z won’t stop using AI, they’ll only get better at it. The real risk isn’t overuse; it’s mismanagement. If institutions fail to guide AI use, they’ll raise a generation of copy-pasters instead of creators.

Where We Go From Here

Stop the Panic, Start the Policy – Clear rules on when and how AI can be used. No ambiguity. Teach AI Literacy – Not just “use it” but how to question, verify, and

build on AI outputs. Blend AI with Human Mentorship – Machines can suggest. Teachers must still inspire. Redefine Success – Grades alone won’t cut it. The next decade belongs to those who can think with AI, not just through AI. Gen Z is already ahead. They’re not waiting for permission. They’re learning, creating, and thinking in lakhs, with ChatGPT and AI as their accelerators. The challenge isn’t their dependence. The challenge is whether our education system can match their speed before it’s too late.