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2
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0
Jansatta

1
Financial Express

I love to read. I wish I could advise more people to read. There's a whole new world in books. If you can't afford to travel, you travel mentally through reading. You can see anything and go any place you want to in reading.

- Michael Jackson


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SATURDAY
September 5, 2026
INTERNATIONAL EDITION
20 Pages

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878
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CBI raids 89 locations in three scam cases
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AAIB REPORT
Air India sacks Delhi-Phuket flight pilot
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Mistrial declared after jury deadlocks
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The sorry state of rural schools
Govt. schools struggle with teacher shortage and poor infrastructure
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Upbeat India takes on Pakistan in Asia Cup
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INSIDE

TATA CHEMICALS

Tata Chemicals ordered to close its unit in Kenya

NAIROBI
In a major setback for Tata Chemicals Ltd., Kenya has ordered the closure of Tata Chemicals Magadi Ltd., a subsidiary making soda ash, for 'non-contribution to the local economy.' » PAGE 11

3,800 saved from child labour in NCPCR campaign

NEW DELHI
The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has rescued over 3,800 children from child labour under a sustained campaign launched in June. Over 575 FIRs have also been registered in connection with these incidents. » PAGE 3

Inclusions in SIR: violence breaks out in Arunachal

GUWAHATI
The alleged inclusion of members of the Chakma and Hajong communities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls sparked violence in the Bordumsa region of Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang on Friday. » PAGE 3

ISRO launches advanced imaging satellite EOS-05

India's first dedicated imaging satellite will provide real-time imagery from about 36,000 km above earth; ISRO breathes easy after successful mission in the wake of back-to-back failures

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday successfully launched its advanced earth observation satellite EOS-05 aboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F17).

The GSLV, on its 19th flight, placed the 2,367-kg EOS-05 into the intended sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit (Sub-GTO) about 18 minutes after lifting off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 2.55 a.m.

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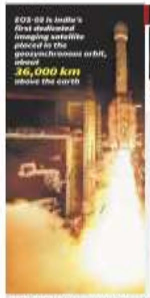
He said this was the 107th launch from the spaceport in Sriharikota and the 19th mission of the GSLV.

"The first launch of the GSLV- D1 was done with a payload of 1,536 kg. From that, we have gradually improved the performance of this vehicle by optimising the structural mass and improving the propulsion systems. Today, we have injected the heaviest satellite, a 2,367-kg satellite, using this launch vehicle," he added.

Dr. Narayanan said that once operationalised, EOS-05 would become India's first dedicated imaging satellite operating from the geosynchronous orbit, providing important strategic data for the country.



Eye in the sky

Wonder awaits: A child watches the EOS-05 launch through binoculars. PTI

At 2,367 kg, EOS-05 is the **heaviest satellite** launched by the GSLV

Key purposes: Near real-time imagery will aid agriculture, environment monitoring, and disaster management

■ **Strategic data** from the geo platform will support "national activities"

Lifespan: The satellite has an operational life of **nine years** and is equipped with multi-band operating capabilities

■ This is the **19th GSLV mission** and the 107th launch from Sriharikota

■ EOS-05 replaces the EOS-03 satellite lost in the **unsuccessful GSLV-F10 mission** in August 2021

■ **3-stage, 51.7 metre GSLV,** with its third stage being cryogenic, has a lift-off mass of 420.5 tonnes

'Operating perfectly'

"From the satellite data, we confirm that all the valves are operating perfectly, the solar panel is deployed, and the health of the satellite is perfectly all right. In the coming days, we will raise the orbit and take it to the required orbit and place the satellite in the geo platform for national activities," Dr. Narayanan said.

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A huge relief

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The space agency, following the back-to-back failures of the PSLV-C62 in January 2026 and the PSLV-C61 on May 18, 2025, had taken a cautious approach and refrained from carrying out further launches.

Though seven missions, including the GSLV-F17/EOS-05 mission, had been scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2026, ISRO did not launch any satellites during the period.

The successful launch of the 2367-kg EOS-05 also puts behind the failure ISRO had encountered in August 2021 with the GSLV-F10/EOS-03 mission.

Two rescued from Nepal tunnel after nine days

Agence France-Presse
KATHMANDU

Two hydropower workers were pulled out alive from a tunnel buried under debris in Nepal on Friday, nine days after deadly floods swept away villages in the Himalayan nation.

Rescuers cheered as one man was pulled through a muddy opening, a video released by the Energy Ministry showed. He was helped to his feet by rescuers, and later carried on the backs of the emergency workers, as they rushed him towards a helicopter. A photograph showed the second man caked in mud, his hands pressed together in prayer, as rescuers carried him on a stretcher.

"As long as there is breath, there is hope!" Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha said in a statement. "Rescue operations are continuing in all the affected tunnels. Let everyone's efforts and prayers continue. We have not lost hope."

'A miracle'

Rescuers called it a "miracle" after the August 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,325 people and left more than 5,500 missing.

Rescued worker Sanjay Sah, 30, speaking to the Nepali media shortly after his rescue, said he had survived by praying during the days in the dark. "What day is today? I was chanting *maha mantra* (Hindu prayers) inside," Mr. Sah said, adding that he believed more workers may be in the tunnel. "There were as many as 40 or 45 people... I told them and everyone to run out," he said of the moment the disaster struck.

Army personnel carrying a worker who was trapped inside Trishuli 3A tunnel in Nepal's Rasuwa district, on Friday. AFP

Both men were reported to be in a stable condition in a Kathmandu hospital. "He can talk, he is okay," said Hira Shobha Maharjan, wife of Kabir Maharjan, the other rescued worker. The rescued pair were among hundreds of hydropower workers who had been missing since the wall of mud and debris swept through the region following a glacial and rock collapse on a mountain on the China-Nepal border.

Searches were continuing at the Trishuli 3A tunnel where the two men were rescued, as well as at multiple other sites, as at least 12 hydropower projects have been destroyed by the floods. Extra soldiers were sent on Friday to boost the search operation.

The government initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive inside the tunnels. Nepali rescuers, aided by experts from India, China and South Korea, had repeatedly hit walls of hard-packed debris in their search for survivors. Until Friday, none of the tunnel workers had been confirmed to be alive.

FLOODS IN U.P.
» PAGE 5

HarperCollins India will publish Sonia's memoir on Nov. 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ending the uncertainty over Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, HarperCollins India on Friday officially announced that it will bring out the memoir in India on November 10, the same date as its international release.

The book's domestic release had been uncertain following an "impasse" between the author's representatives and Penguin Random House India. The memoir was initially expected to be published by Penguin India. However, the publisher subsequently withdrew from the project following differences over the manuscript.

The development had triggered a political controversy, with senior Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot and Kamal Nath accusing Penguin India of bowing down to government pressure. Mr. Gehlot alleged that sections relating to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the RSS, and China's occupation of Indian territory during the Modi government's tenure had become a point of contention. The publisher, however, denied any external pressure.

The cover image of Sonia Gandhi's memoir.

With HarperCollins India now taking up the book, *Belonging* will be published in India alongside its international release by Alfred A. Knopf.

Described by HarperCollins as "one of the most anticipated political memoirs of our time", the book is a personal account of Ms. Gandhi's life and offers an insider's view of India's political journey.

The memoir covers the tragedies that shaped the Gandhi family, including the death of Sanjay Gandhi in a plane crash, the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, and the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Littered habitat

Bad neighbourhood: A spot-billed pelican swims past a pile of plastic waste in the polluted portion of the Krishnampathy Lake in Coimbatore on Friday. Despite campaigns, dumping continues in the water body, which is visited by several types of birds. R. PERIASAMY

'129 killed in Houthi offensive in Yemen'

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

A major offensive by Yemen's Houthis to seize control of the gateway to the Red Sea has left over 120 people dead, sources said on Friday, the country's deadliest clashes in years.

Fighting erupted on Thursday, after the Iran-backed Houthis launched a ground assault along with rocket and drone attacks near coastal areas, vying for control of the narrow Bab el-Mandeb strait at the Red Sea's southern entrance.

Yemen, embroiled in more than a decade of civil conflict, in July became the latest country to be drawn into the West Asia war as the Houthis upended a 2022 truce with the Saudi-backed government.

The Houthis are vying for control of the Bab el-Mandeb strait. AFP

Since then, the Houthis have imposed a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and repeatedly attacked its ships in the Red Sea. The rebels are now trying to tighten their hold over the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, which they have disrupted with attacks on passing vessels since the Gaza war broke out in 2023.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 12

Delhi Police add fresh charges to FIR against attacker after CJP stir

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday altered the FIR in the alleged assault on student activist Nisha Aazad's father, Sanjay Kumar, during a protest at Jantar Mantar, adding provisions for attempt to murder, voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons and provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The move followed hours of protest and talks between Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) representatives, including spokesperson Saurav Das, co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka and Ms. Aazad, and senior police officers at the Parliament Street police station while their supporters staged a sit-in outside the police station. Their representation sought stronger charges and action against Swatantra Bhardwaj after a video featuring him surfaced online, in which he purportedly spoke about the assault and claimed he "had not been jailed" due to "political connections".

The CJP representatives said the police had assured them of arresting the accused within 72 hours. They also sought verification of Mr. Bhardwaj's claim that Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra had "called the police to ensure that he was not arrested".

CJP leader Saurav Das at the Parliament Street Police Station. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Mr. Das alleged that other persons accompanying Mr. Bhardwaj during the incident had not been identified and claimed that some had subsequently posted videos threatening Ms. Aazad. "People have been sending me rape threats, abusing me. I have lodged a complaint against such individuals too and an FIR has been registered against them as well... After this incident, I couldn't go to school for 2-4 weeks," she said.

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Parameter	Details from the report
Satellite	**EOS-05**
Organisation	ISRO
Type	Advanced **Earth Observation / Imaging Satellite**
Launch Vehicle	**GSLV-F17**
Satellite mass	**2,367 kg**
Launch site	SDSC, **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**
Launch pad	**Second Launch Pad**
Initial orbit	**Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO)**
Intended operational region	Geosynchronous/geostationary region, ~**36,000 km**
Operational life	**9 years**
GSLV height	**51.7 metres**
GSLV lift-off mass	**420.5 tonnes**
GSLV configuration	**3-stage**
GSLV mission number	**19th GSLV mission**
Launch from Sriharikota	**107th launch**, according to report
Major applications	Agriculture, environment, disaster management
Strategic role	Geo-platform data for national activities
Earlier related satellite	**EOS-03**
EOS-03 mission	Failed aboard **GSLV-F10 in August 2021**

Why is EOS-05 Important?

The biggest feature is its ability to provide **frequent imagery from very high altitude**.

Conventional idea

Low-Earth-orbit satellite → moves rapidly around Earth → revisits a location periodically

versus

EOS-05 concept

~36,000 km region → continuous/frequent observation of a very large area → near-real-time monitoring

This makes it particularly useful for rapidly developing events.

Sector	Possible use
Agriculture	Crop monitoring, vegetation assessment
Disaster Management	Cyclones, floods and other rapidly evolving disasters
Environment	Forest/vegetation and environmental monitoring
Weather-related observation	Cloud and large-scale atmospheric observation where payload capabilities permit
Water resources	Large-scale surface monitoring
National planning	Geospatial information
Strategic applications	Report says geo-platform will support "national activities"

Geostationary Orbit (GEO)	Geosynchronous Orbit
Special type of geosynchronous orbit	Broader category
Orbital period ≈ Earth's rotation period	Orbital period ≈ Earth's rotation period
Circular	May be circular or elliptical
Located over **equator**	May have inclination
Appears stationary over one longitude	May not appear completely stationary
Altitude ≈ **35,786 km** for GEO	Orbit defined primarily by period

Feature	LEO	MEO	GEO
Full form	Low Earth Orbit	Medium Earth Orbit	Geostationary Earth Orbit
Approx. altitude	~160–2,000 km	~2,000–35,786 km	35,786 km
Relative ground coverage	Smaller	Medium	Very large
Detail possible	Generally higher for comparable sensors	Intermediate	Lower spatial detail for comparable sensor design
Revisit/continuity	Depends on constellation/orbit	Depends on orbit	Continuous view of same region
Common uses	Earth observation, ISS	Navigation	Communication/weather
Example	Cartosat-type EO missions	Navigation constellations	INSAT-type missions

Parameter	GSLV-F17
Full form	Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
Mission	EOS-05
Height	51.7 m
Lift-off mass	420.5 tonnes
Number of stages	3
Mission significance	19th GSLV mission
Satellite carried	2,367 kg EOS-05

Parameter	PSLV	GSLV	LVM3
Full form	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle	Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle	Launch Vehicle Mark-3
Traditional strength	Polar/SSO & varied missions	Higher-energy/GTO missions	Heavy-lift missions
Cryogenic upper stage	No conventional cryogenic upper stage	Yes	Yes
Famous mission examples	Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission	Several communication/EO launches	Chandrayaan-2/3 launch vehicle family
Payload capability	Lower than LVM3	Intermediate	India's heavier operational launcher

EOS-03	EOS-05
Earlier imaging mission	New advanced imaging mission
Launched August 2021	Launched 2026
GSLV-F10	GSLV-F17
Mission unsuccessful	Successful launch according to report
Satellite lost	EOS-05 successfully injected
Similar broader objective of high-frequency Earth observation	Advances that imaging capability

Consider the following statements:

1. A geostationary satellite must orbit approximately over the equatorial plane.
2. Every geosynchronous satellite is necessarily geostationary.
3. GSLV uses a cryogenic upper-stage architecture.
4. EOS-05, according to the report, is an Earth-observation satellite intended for high-frequency imaging.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

INBRIEF

Army kills one terrorist in forest area of J&K's Budgam

One terrorist was killed on Friday during a joint operation by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police deep inside a forest area in Budgam district, officials said. The operation was launched based on information about the movement of a suspected group of terrorists from Pulwama district towards Budgam, the officials said. "Based on specific intelligence input, a joint search operation was launched by the Indian Army, J&K Police and CRPF in Ashdar Gali, Budgam," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X. The operation is under way as the forces are still looking for another terrorist, who is believed to be holed up in the same area. — PTI

58 patients rescued as fire erupts in Maharashtra hospital

A fire broke out at Asian Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra, following which 58 patients, including nine newborns, were rescued. According to the hospital authorities, the newborns were shifted to the nearby Ghati Hospital, MGM Hospital, and Sanjeevani Hospital. The incident occurred around 2.15 a.m. due to a short circuit in an AC unit in the NICU. "The duty staff noticed smoke coming out of AC and immediately activated the code red, using their presence of mind, and evacuated the newborns," said Shoaib Hashmi, managing director, Asian Hospital, adding that they managed to avoid a big tragedy because the hospital fire system is intact.

SC pushes for raising retirement age in district judiciary as backlog tops 5 cr.

Top court says it is 'crying need of the hour' to stop attrition of experienced judicial talent otherwise access to justice would remain a mere chimera; only 7 States have responded positively to SC's call, while others are hesitant or plain fence-sitting

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

As 5.18 crore cases lie pending in district courts across the country, the Supreme Court has sent a distress call to States to enhance the retirement age of experienced judicial officers from 60 to 62 years.

The court said the "crying need of the hour" is to stop the attrition of the experienced judicial talent lest access to justice remain a mere chimera due to unfilled posts.

Only seven States have so far responded positively to the SOS from the Supreme Court. Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have agreed to enhance the retirement age of their judicial officers.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, in a September 1 order published on Friday, directed these State governments to amend the service rules within two months. The State High Court concerned would enhance the age of superannuation to 62 years of judicial officers,

Most of the recruitment drives undertaken in the various States have not resulted in optimum recruitment or in the filling up of the sanctioned cadre strength, and a yawning gap between the sanctioned and working strength persists across the board
SUPREME COURT

subject to their suitability assessment, on their attainment of 60 years of age.

The other States and Union Territories have varied between a direct negative response to plain fence-sitting.

The court has directed them to take a decision on enhancement of retirement age of their judicial officers to 62 years in two weeks. These States include Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Keralam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry.

Their hesitation, the court discovered, was fuelled by a sense of insecurity over the financial burden the move would entail. Plus, these States apprehend that employees in other State services would also demand parity.

The Bench said the apprehensions of these States were entirely misconceived. Judicial officers do a specialised service.

Benefit to society

"The alleged financial burden that would be thrown on the State exchequer on account of the enhancement of the superannuation age as a result of the payment of the maximum salary in the pay scale to the officers for a further period of two or five years as the case may be, and on account of the higher outlay on their retiral benefits, is negligible considering the enormous advantage that the administration of justice and the society at large would derive from the enhancement in the age of retirement," the Bench quoted a 1992 judicial precedent.

Besides, the court said simple math showed that a State, by retaining the retirement age of 60 years, would double-spend post-retiral dues of superannuated judicial officers as well as pay the salaries of the newly-appointed ones.

On the contrary, if experienced members of the judicial cadre were permitted to continue in service till the age of 62, the additional burden of bearing such post-retiral dues would stand correspondingly postponed.

Besides, the recruitment of independent and competent judicial officers was an arduous task.

"Most of the recruitment drives undertaken in the various States have not resulted in optimum recruitment or in the filling up of the sanctioned cadre strength, and a yawning gap between the sanctioned and working strength persists across the board," the court pointed out.

The Bench pointed out that most State High Courts have consented to the enhancement of the retirement age as they were face-to-face with the "crisis in dispensation of justice".

Some High Courts, including Madras, the court recorded has "wisely" introduced relevant riders so that the deadwood did not take advantage of the proposal to enhance superannuation age. These High Courts have recommended a thorough assessment of judicial work as a condition precedent to ensure that only competent officers of proven integrity were permitted to continue in the cadre.

"This suggestion is most welcome as it would balance the preservation of experienced judicial officers, while removing the clog of deadwood, blocking the entrance of young blood invigorating the system," the Supreme Court observed.

The court listed the case again on October 1.

HC seeks NTA response on UGC-NET re-test plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has sought a response from the National Testing Agency and the Centre on a plea challenging the decision to re-conduct the UGC-NET June 2026 examination for the English subject.

The English and Commerce tests will be re-conducted on September 9, while the Sociology paper on September 10.

The court's direction came in response to a plea by a candidate who appeared in the UGC-NET June 2026 examination. It also directed authorities to make a decision regarding refund of the examination fee for the concerned examination. The court listed the matter for further hearing on October 6.

Petitioner Parul Sheoran sought a direction from the court to quash the August 16 notice issued by the NTA, which directed the re-conduct of the examination for English.

It claimed that the decision to re-conduct the examination was taken without disclosing the material forming its basis and without following the procedure prescribed under the UGC-NET June 2026 Information Bulletin.

Over 17,000 shifted to safer places amid floods in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

More than 17,500 people have been evacuated from 20 flood-affected districts across Uttar Pradesh, with no loss of life or livestock reported so far, the State government said on Friday. Eight rivers are flowing above the danger mark.

The Relief Commissioner's office said around 3.53 lakh people have been affected by the floods, while 4,847 people are currently staying in relief shelters. "A total of 72,897 flood relief kits and more than 3.67 lakh lunch packets have been distributed among affected families," said Relief Commissioner's Office.

As part of health safety measures, more than 5.82 lakh chlorine tablets and over 1.67 lakh ORS packets have also been distributed to the displaced people.

NTA seeks AICTE help to establish centres for computer-based tests

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has sought the help of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to map IT infrastructure and vacant spaces in government institutions to establish standard testing centres (STCs). These centres will facilitate computer-based testing (CBT) for NTA examinations, including the high-stakes National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

The NTA plans to shift NEET to CBT mode next year. Nearly 22 lakh students appeared for the NEET-UG, 2026, which was held in a pen-and-paper format. The examination became embroiled in a paper leak controversy and had to be re-conducted, leading to widespread protests and the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister.

The NTA plans to shift NEET to CBT mode next year. The NEET-UG 2026 was held in a pen and paper format. AP

Infrastructure audit

Following the NTA's request, the AICTE wrote to Vice-Chancellors of government-run technical universities and heads of AICTE-approved government institutes on August 31 to assess their infrastructure.

The AICTE has directed all approved government engineering colleges, polytechnics, university departments, and technical as well as management institutes to submit comprehensive data regarding their facilities by September 15.

The move follows an NTA directive issued on August 8 to address the progressive migration of national-level examinations to online and CBT modes. "By establishing STCs in government institutions, the NTA seeks to create a wider, highly secure, and geographically distributed network of testing hubs," the NTA officials said.

The AICTE has emphasised that this data collection is strictly restricted to government-owned and approved institutes.

To ensure seamless exam delivery without technical glitches, the NTA and AICTE are assessing local and external networks for Internet connectivity.

Power failures during high-stakes exams lead to the risk of re-conducting exams. Hence, AICTE has stated that institutes must detail their electrical backup capabilities. Furthermore, details on surveillance systems are sought, requiring information on existing CCTV coverage across all labs and connecting corridors.

82 educators set to receive National Teachers' Awards

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

An asteroid hunter. A Maths wizard. A trailblazer in a coal mining community. A Special Olympics hockey coach. These are among the 82 educators from across the country who will receive the National Teachers' Awards on Saturday. President Droupadi Murmu will confer the awards.

Among the awardees are 48 school teachers, 21 faculty members in higher education, and 13 trainers from MSDE

Among the awardees are 48 school teachers, 21 faculty members in higher education, and 13 trainers from the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Among the faculty in higher education are proponents of Indian Knowledge Systems, including Vaastu Shastra, Bhagavad Gita, and others.

One of the awardees, Haryana-based Anil Kaushik, known as the 'Math Wizard', built a state-of-the-art physical Maths lab containing over 40 original learning models, alongside a 12-section virtual mathematics lab with 30 'Harbans puzzles'.

He has co-authored textbooks on Vedic Mathematics and published 22 teaching modules on the national DIKSHA portal.

Divyendu Sen from Rajasthan, another recipient of the award, is a teacher in a government school who bridged rural classrooms with deep-space science by training local students to track and hunt asteroids. He has pioneered low-cost solutions, including an AI-enabled Biology education model, a Virtual Biology Laboratory, and 'Tree Talk', a QR-based botanical learning system.

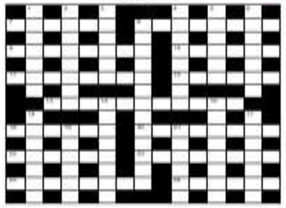
Rajasthan-based teacher Vartika Gulati is an awardee who teaches at the Government Girls Upper Primary School in Jaipur. She turns abstract concepts into everyday experiences — teaching Algebra with groundnuts and geometry with kites. Her initiative, *Prashno Se Vigyan* (Science through questions), replaces rote learning with student-led inquiry.

Odisha-based teacher Padaraj Nayak, based at the Government High School, Alipingal, is receiving the award for guiding students to build over 80 prototypes, including a low-cost automatic plate-washing machine that earned a Government of India patent.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 14891

(set by Piois Hunt)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at https://thehindu.com/crosswords



Across

7 Extremely corrupt amateur (egghead) agent missing now and then (6)
8 Forego pals? Not so casually in child's play (8)
9 Tapped stretching in workout (8)
10 Exiled man in Germany refused entry to begin with (6)
11 Doubt dead legends? (4,4)
12 Distress wriggling of a fly (3-3)
13 Ya! Count over and over in book-keeping? (11)
18 A Republican member of parliament has appeal in sweater? (6)
20 Gasp! I ran towards hiding suitor (8)
22 Elitist returns first class miniature plant (6)
23 Formless, trendy confectionery? No, pass! (8)
24 Rich Neapolitan Sauce from one of New York's Five Families (8)
25 A grave tribute? (6)

Down

1 Runner's back around end of June with Professor's reward (7)
2 Once in a while, every idiotic criminal losing it perhaps (8)
3 Live? So soon! Will I win debate finally (6)
4 Animal upset about bloomer (8)
5 Some enjoy GIF featuring revolutionary figure (6)
6 Bluff about extremely feisty char (7)
8 Kindling Spooner's conflict with a story-teller? (8,1,4)
14 Devil came through? (8)
15 Duh! These ride sharing arrangements made a mess of a school drop? (3,5)
16 Impudent when cycling around upright, humble cavalryman (7)
17 To some extent buffoons tag equilibrists in view of the audience (7)
19 Handgun's part of a blossom, we hear (6)
21 Spot alien's bag (6)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Gugga Navami

Janmashtami falls on the Ashtami thithi of Krishna Paksha in the month of Bhadrapada during the Rohini nakshatra. Sri Krishna is regarded as the eighth avatar of Vishnu. It commemorates the birth of Bala Gopal, which is believed to have taken place with miraculous celestial intervention, said Prof. Kumud Abhi.

Kamsa, the king of Mathura was the brother of Devaki. It had been prophesised that the eighth child of Devaki would lead to the death of the evil Kamsa. Therefore, Devaki and her husband Vasudev were imprisoned and all children born to them were killed. Spiritual literature states that divine intervention put Mathura to sleep and Vasudev saved baby Krishna after birth from Kamsa's clutches and handed him over to the care of Yashoda and Nanda, eventually paving the way for the destruction of Kamsa.

Usually, the day after Janmashtami is observed as Gugga Naumi (Navami), a popular folk religious festival celebrated across Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of north India. Gugga Naumi reflects the syncretic and fluid traditions of India, where He is worshipped by people of different religions and sects.

The celebration of Gugga Naumi begins on the day of the Rakhi and continues for nine days, beginning with pilgrimage to Gugga Medi village in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan. Devotional songs called 'pir ke solle' are sung by the *gugga mandlis*, prayers and fairs take place at Gugga's shrines, called *marhis*, dotted across villages in north India, reflecting Gugga's affinity with the subalterns.

SC pushes for raising retirement age in district judiciary as backlog tops 5 cr.

Top court says it is 'crying need of the hour' to stop attrition of experienced judicial talent otherwise access to justice would remain a mere chimera; only 7 States have responded positively to SC's call, while others are hesitant or plain fence-sitting

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

As 5.18 crore cases lie pending in district courts across the country, the Supreme Court has sent a distress call to States to enhance the retirement age of experienced judicial officers from 60 to 62 years.

The court said the "crying need of the hour" is to stop the attrition of the experienced judicial talent lest access to justice remain a mere chimera due to unfilled posts.

Only seven States have so far responded positively to the SOS from the Supreme Court. Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have agreed to enhance the retirement age of their judicial officers.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, in a September 1 order published on Friday, directed these State governments to amend the service rules within two months. The State High Court concerned would enhance the age of superannuation to 62 years of judicial officers, subject to their suitability assessment, on their attainment of 60 years of age.

> Most of the recruitment drives undertaken in the various States have not resulted in optimum recruitment or in the filling up of the sanctioned cadre strength, and a yawning gap between the sanctioned and working strength persists across the board
> **SUPREME COURT**

The other States and Union Territories have varied between a direct negative response to plain fence-sitting.

The court has directed them to take a decision on enhancement of retirement age of their judicial officers to 62 years in two weeks. These States include Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Keralam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry.

Their hesitation, the court discovered, was fuelled by a sense of insecurity over the financial burden the move would entail. Plus, these States apprehend that employees in other State services would also demand parity.

The Bench said the apprehensions of these States were entirely misconceived. Judicial officers do a specialised service.

Benefit to society

"The alleged financial burden that would be thrown on the State exchequer on account of the enhancement of the superannuation age as a result of the payment of the maximum salary in the pay scale to the officers for a further period of two or five years as the case may be, and on account of the higher outlay on their retiral benefits, is negligible considering the enormous advantage that the administration of justice and the society at large would derive from the enhancement in the age of retirement," the Bench quoted a 1992 judicial precedent.

Besides, the court said simple math showed that a State, by retaining the retirement age of 60 years, would double-spend post-retiral dues of superannuated judicial officers as well as pay the salaries of the newly-appointed ones.

On the contrary, if experienced members of the judicial cadre were permitted to continue in service till the age of 62, the additional burden of bearing such post-retiral dues would stand correspondingly postponed.

Besides, the recruitment of independent and competent judicial officers was an arduous task.

"Most of the recruitment drives undertaken in the various States have not resulted in optimum recruitment or in the filling up of the sanctioned cadre strength, and a yawning gap between the sanctioned and working strength persists across the board," the court pointed out.

The Bench pointed out that most State High Courts have consented to the enhancement of the retirement age as they were face-to-face with the "crisis in dispensation of justice".

Some High Courts, including Madras, the court recorded has "wisely" introduced relevant riders so that the deadwood did not take advantage of the proposal to enhance superannuation age. These High Courts have recommended a thorough assessment of judicial work as a condition precedent to ensure that only competent officers of proven integrity were permitted to continue in the cadre.

"This suggestion is most welcome as it would balance the preservation of experienced judicial officers, while removing the clog of deadwood, blocking the entrance of young blood invigorating the system," the Supreme Court observed.

The court listed the case again on October 1.

Point	Details
Present retirement age discussed	60 years
Proposed/enhanced age	62 years
Cases pending in district courts	5.18 crore
States that responded positively	7
Bench	3-judge Bench
Headed by	CJI Surya Kant
Objective	Retain experienced judicial officers + improve access to justice
Enhancement	Subject to suitability assessment
Rules involved	State judicial service rules
Main structural problem	Gap between sanctioned strength and working strength

No.	State
1	Chhattisgarh
2	Karnataka
3	Madhya Pradesh
4	Maharashtra
5	Sikkim
6	Tamil Nadu
7	West Bengal

Why Does the Supreme Court Want 62 Years?
Problem → Proposed solution
5.18 crore pending cases
↓
Vacancies + inadequate recruitment
↓
Experienced judges retire at 60
↓
Loss of institutional experience
↓
Greater pressure on remaining judiciary
↓
Retain suitable officers until 62
The Court emphasised that recruitment drives in many States have **not filled the sanctioned cadre strength**.

Financial Argument — Interesting Concept

Some States argued that increasing the retirement age would impose an additional financial burden.

Supreme Court's reasoning:

If an officer retires at **60**:

Government pays → Pension/retiral dues + Salary of newly appointed officer

If an experienced officer continues until **62**:

Retirement benefits are postponed + officer continues delivering judicial services

Therefore, the Court considered the claimed additional financial burden relatively small compared with the benefit to the **administration of justice and society**.

- Constitutional structure
- Union Judiciary → Articles 124–147
- High Courts → Articles 214–231
- Subordinate Courts → Articles 233–237

Article	Provision
Article 233	Appointment of **District Judges**
Article 233A	Validation of certain appointments/judgments of district judges
Article 234	Recruitment of persons **other than District Judges** to State judicial service
Article 235	**Control over subordinate courts vested in High Court**
Article 236	Interpretation/definitions
Article 237	Application to certain classes of magistrates

- **Who Appoints District Judges?** ★ ★ ★
- **Article 233**
- District Judges are appointed by:
- **Governor of the State**
- in consultation with the
- **High Court exercising jurisdiction over that State**
- **Exam Trap** 🚨
- ❌ District Judge is appointed directly by High Court.
- ❌ District Judge is appointed by Supreme Court.
- ☑ **Governor appoints in consultation with High Court.**

Level	Broad position
Supreme Court Judge	President after constitutionally prescribed parliamentary process
High Court Judge	Similar constitutional process
District/Subordinate judiciary	Governed by constitutional/service-law framework under State judicial service, with High Court control

14. Why Is District Judiciary Important?

For most citizens, the **district/subordinate judiciary is the primary point of interaction with the justice system**.

It deals with enormous volumes of:

Civil disputes | Criminal cases | Family disputes | Property disputes | Commercial disputes | Sessions trials | Other local litigation

Hence, vacancies at this level directly affect **access to justice**.

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15. Major Problem Highlighted by SC

The Court pointed to a:

> **"yawning gap between the sanctioned and working strength"**

Meaning:

Sanctioned Strength

Number of judicial posts officially approved.

Working Strength

Number of judges actually serving.

Vacancy

Vacancy = Sanctioned Strength – Working Strength

Even if posts exist on paper, justice delivery suffers if recruitment does not fill them.

- **Consider the following statements:**
  - District Judges are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
  - Control over district and subordinate courts is vested in the High Court.
  - A Supreme Court judge retires at 62 years.
  - Article 50 deals with separation of judiciary from executive.
- Which are correct?
- **A. 1 and 2 only**

B. 1, 2 and 4 only
C. 2, 3 and 4 only
D. All four

EXCHANGE'S LISTING COULD BE THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST EVER

NSE gets SEBI nod for IPO, may eye listing this month

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, September 4

THE DECKS have been cleared for what may be the country's biggest-ever listing, as the markets regulator has approved the estimated Rs 30,000 crore IPO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), over two months after it filed the papers, and about a decade after it first tried to hit the primary market.

The country's largest stock exchange may get listed as soon as this month, reports suggested.

The approval clears a key regulatory hurdle for the exchange after it had first filed its IPO papers back in June. The price band for the issue is likely to be announced on September 15, with plans to list in the week starting September 21, *Reuters* reported, citing unnamed sources.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued an observation letter with the green light to NSE on Friday. With the path now clear, the issue could end up as the country's biggest-ever IPO, surpassing Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870 crore issue in 2024. The unlisted market indicates a valuation of around Rs 5 lakh crore for the exchange.

The valuation and the amount raised now depend on the price band of the issue.

Rival BSE had raised Rs 1,243.43 crore through its public issue back in 2017. The stock has since gained nearly 29 times from its listing price, becoming among the most lucrative stocks in the market.

NSE dominates India's equity derivatives market and is the world's most active derivatives exchange by contracts traded. It also leads BSE in terms

• India's biggest IPOs

Company	Year	Amount raised
Hyundai Motor	2024	₹27,859 Cr
LIC	2022	₹20,557 Cr
Paytm	2021	₹18,300 Cr
Tata Capital	2025	₹15,512 Cr
Coal India	2010	₹15,199 Cr
HDB Financial Services	2025	₹12,500 Cr
Reliance Power	2008	₹11,544 Cr
LG Electronics India	2025	₹11,607 Cr
Swiggy	2024	₹11,327 Cr
General Insurance	2017	₹11,176 Cr

SOURCE: EXCHANGES, OFFER DOCUMENTS

liquidity. It will also be interesting to see if the regulator allows NSE's shares to trade on its own exchange through the "permitted-to-trade" route.

What is the IPO structure

The issue will entirely be an offer for sale (OFS) of 14.89 crore shares, representing around 6% of the exchange's stake.

Funds raised via OFS are pocketed by selling shareholders and are not utilised in a company's business. SBI will offload up to 2.48 crore shares in the OFS. MS Strategic (Mauritius) will sell up to 1.6 crore shares. Other major listed en-

stakes include Bank of Baroda, General Insurance Company of India, and the New India Assurance Company. Shares of many of these companies have skyrocketed in the run-up to the issue.

For example, shares of New India Assurance shot up over 18% on Friday.

In fact, the stock has gained 34% over just a month. Having bought shares early on at an average cost of under a rupee, the IPO, which targets high valuations, is expected to unlock significant cash for the likes of SBI, Bank of Baroda, and the insurance companies.

FULL REPORT ON

Parameter	Details
Institution	National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)
Regulator	SEBI
Development	SEBI gave regulatory clearance/NOC for proposed IPO
Estimated IPO size	Around ₹30,000 crore
Structure	100% Offer for Sale (OFS)
Shares proposed in OFS	14.89 crore shares
Approx. stake	Around 6% of NSE
Fresh issue	Nil, as reported
Existing biggest Indian IPO	Hyundai Motor India – ₹27,859 crore (2024)
NSE's indicated unlisted valuation	Around ₹5 lakh crore, according to the article
Rival listed exchange	BSE Ltd.
BSE IPO	2017
BSE IPO amount	About ₹1,243 crore

Parameter	NSE
Full form	National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
Type	Stock Exchange
Established	1992
Recognition as stock exchange	1993
Operations began	1994
Headquarters	Mumbai
Major benchmark index	NIFTY 50
Regulated by	SEBI
Major competitor	BSE
Important market position	Dominant in India's equity derivatives market

- Unlisted Company
- ↓
- IPO
- ↓
- Shares offered to investors
- ↓
- Listing on Stock Exchange
- ↓
- Shares become exchange-traded

Feature	Fresh Issue	Offer for Sale (OFS)
Who sells shares?	Company issues new shares	Existing shareholders sell shares
New shares created?	☑ Yes	✗ No
Money goes to	Company	Selling shareholders
Equity capital changes?	Usually increases	No new equity capital from the sale
Dilution	Existing holders' percentage can be diluted	No creation of additional shares
NSE proposal	✗	☑ OFS

6. Who May Sell NSE Shares?

The article mentions that existing institutional shareholders include:

State Bank of India (SBI)
Bank of Baroda
General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)
New India Assurance Company

It also reports that **MS Strategic (Mauritius)** could sell up to **1.6 crore shares** through the OFS.

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7. What is SEBI? ⭐⭐⭐

Securities and Exchange Board of India

Parameter	Details
Established	**1988**
Statutory status	**1992**
Main legislation	**SEBI Act, 1992**
Type	**Statutory regulatory body**
Headquarters	**Mumbai**
Broad responsibility	Securities/capital market regulation

Parameter	SEBI	RBI
Main area	Securities/capital markets	Monetary & banking system
Stock exchanges	☑	✕ Primary regulator
Mutual funds	☑	—
IPO regulation	**SEBI**	✕
Monetary policy	✕	**RBI**
Repo rate	✕	**RBI**
Currency management	✕	**RBI**
Banks	Limited market-related roles	**Primary banking regulator**

Parameter	NSE	BSE
Full name	National Stock Exchange	BSE Ltd./Bombay Stock Exchange
Established	1992	1875
Location	Mumbai	Mumbai
Major index	NIFTY 50	SENSEX
Regulator	SEBI	SEBI
Listed company itself?	Proposed listing	Yes
BSE listed	—	2017
Electronic trading	Major pioneer in nationwide screen-based trading	Older exchange later modernised

Rank*	Company	Year	Amount Raised
1	Hyundai Motor India	2024	₹27,859 Cr
2	LIC	2022	₹20,557 Cr
3	Paytm	2021	₹18,300 Cr
4	Tata Capital	2025	₹15,512 Cr
5	Coal India	2010	₹15,199 Cr
6	HDB Financial Services	2025	₹12,500 Cr
7	Reliance Power	2008	₹11,544 Cr
8	LG Electronics India	2025	₹11,607 Cr
9	Swiggy	2024	₹11,327 Cr
10	General Insurance	2017	₹11,176 Cr

Primary Market	Secondary Market
Securities are issued/offered to investors	Existing securities are traded
IPO occurs here	Normal stock-market trading occurs here
Company/existing sellers offer shares	Investors trade among themselves
Example: NSE IPO	Buying a listed NSE share later

- **Consider the following statements:**
  - SEBI is a statutory body established under the SEBI Act, 1992.
  - NIFTY 50 is associated with the National Stock Exchange.
  - In an Offer for Sale, the proceeds from shares sold by existing shareholders go to the selling shareholders.
  - NSE's proposed IPO, according to the report, consists entirely of a fresh issue of shares.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- **A. 1 and 2 only**

B. 1, 2 and 3 only
C. 2, 3 and 4 only
D. All four


100%
MONEY BACK
STOCK
MARKET
COURSE
BATCH B2
NEW BATCH STARTS
14 SEPT
FILL THE GOOGLE FORM
FOR REGISTRATION

Adobe taps Anil Chakravarthy to succeed Narayen, effective Dec 1

POULOMI CHATTERJEE
New Delhi, September 4

ADOBE HAS NAMED Anil Chakravarthy as its new president and chief executive officer (CEO), succeeding Shantanu Narayen, who will move to the role of executive chair after leading the US software major for more than 18 years.

Chakravarthy will take charge on December 1, Adobe said in an announcement on Thursday. The leadership transition comes as the company steps up its focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and its integration across its creative, productivity and customer experience businesses.

"I could not be more confident that Anil is the right person to lead Adobe's growth in an AI-driven era, and I look forward to working closely with him in my new role as executive chair," Narayen said in a statement.

SHANTANU NARAYEN,
CEO, ADOBE

I could not be more confident that Anil is the right person to lead Adobe in an AI-driven era

ANIL CHAKRAVARTHY,
PRESIDENT-CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE, ADOBE

Honoured and incredibly excited for what's ahead at Adobe

Chakravarthy currently serves as president of Adobe's customer experience orchestration business and worldwide field operations. He joined Adobe in January 2020 as executive vice-president and general manager of its digital experience business. He took on additional responsibility for worldwide field operations in September 2020, overseeing enterprise customer engagement across Adobe's portfolio, including its creativity and productivity products. He became president of digital experience and worldwide field operations in December 2021.

"Honoured and incredibly excited for what's ahead at Adobe," Chakravarthy said in a LinkedIn post, adding that customers, employees and AI innovation would remain his priorities.

The leadership change will also see the departure of David Wadhwani, president of Adobe's creativity and productivity business and one of the contenders for the CEO position. Wadhwani, who joined Adobe in 2021, announced his exit following the appointment of Chakravarthy.

Chakravarthy brings experience across enterprise software and technology businesses. Before joining Adobe, he served as CEO of enterprise cloud data management company Informatica for four years, having joined the company in 2013 as executive vice-president.

Parameter	Details
Company	Adobe
Incoming CEO	Anil Chakravarthy
Effective from	December 1, 2026
Predecessor	Shantanu Narayen
Narayen's new role	Executive Chair
Narayen's tenure leading Adobe	More than 18 years, as stated in the article
Chakravarthy's current role	President, Customer Experience Orchestration & Worldwide Field Operations
Joined Adobe	January 2020
Earlier major company	Informatica
Position at Informatica	CEO for four years
Key strategic challenge	Leading Adobe in an increasingly AI-driven era

Parameter	Shantanu Narayen	Anil Chakravarthy
Role in this transition	Outgoing CEO	Incoming CEO
New role	Executive Chair	President & CEO
Leadership association	Led Adobe for 18+ years	Joined Adobe in 2020
Background highlighted	Long-term Adobe leadership	Enterprise software, cloud/data management & customer experience
Transition date	Dec. 1, 2026	Dec. 1, 2026

Career Stage	Details
Before Adobe	Worked at Informatica
Joined Informatica	2013 as Executive Vice-President
Later role	CEO of Informatica for about four years
Joined Adobe	January 2020
Initial Adobe position	EVP & GM — Digital Experience Business
Additional responsibility	Worldwide Field Operations — September 2020
Later role	President of Digital Experience & Worldwide Field Operations — December 2021
2026 development	Selected to become Adobe CEO

Product	Main Use
Photoshop	Image editing
Illustrator	Vector graphics
Acrobat	PDF/document workflows
Premiere Pro	Video editing
After Effects	Motion graphics/VFX
Lightroom	Photography/image processing
Adobe Express	Content creation
Firefly	Generative AI for creative workflows

Executive	Company association
Satya Nadella	Microsoft
Sundar Pichai	Alphabet/Google
Arvind Krishna	IBM
Shantanu Narayen	Adobe
Anil Chakravarthy	Adobe — incoming CEO according to supplied article

CEO	Chairperson
Chief Executive Officer	Leads Board of Directors
Executive management	Board leadership
Responsible for business execution	Governance & strategic oversight
Day-to-day operational leadership	Supervises/coordinates board functioning
Usually reports to board	Board evaluates executive leadership


100%
MONEY BACK
STOCK
MARKET
COURSE
BATCH B2
NEW BATCH STARTS
14 SEPT
FILL THE GOOGLE FORM
FOR REGISTRATION

Word of the day

Boulevard:
a wide street or thoroughfare

Synonyms: avenue

Usage: *The hotel overlooks a tree-lined boulevard.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/boulevard

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbuː.ləˌvɑːd/

Thank you