

Zuckerberg gets **\$25 bn richer in a day** as Meta shares soar 12 pc



NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (IANS)

MARK Zuckerberg's net worth surged by an estimated \$25 billion in a single day after shares of Meta Platforms jumped nearly 12 per cent after the company announced Artificial Intelligence ambitions ahead of its

annual Meta Connect conference.

According to Forbes estimates, Zuckerberg's fortune climbed to approximately \$253.6 billion as Meta's stock extended gains during Monday's trading session. The Meta founder initially added around \$12.9 billion to his wealth in early trading, but the rally strengthened through the day, pushing his one-day increase to an estimated \$25 billion by mid-day. The sharp rise in Meta's valuation made Zuckerberg one of the biggest wealth gainers globally. As of Monday afternoon, he ranked sixth on Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires list, trailing Google co-founder Sergey Brin by roughly \$14.5 billion.

His gains also outpaced those of other top billionaires, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, whose wealth increased by an estimated \$12 billion during the session.

Rajya Sabha polls for 12 seats in 3 States on Oct 16

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

ELECTIONS to 12 Rajya Sabha seats across Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal will be held on October 16, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

The elections will cover 10 seats from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand, where the terms of the sitting members end on November 25, along with a bypoll to one seat from West Bengal.

The notification will be issued on September 29, nominations can be filed until October 6 and votes will be counted on October 16, the poll panel said.

With a clear majority in the West Bengal Assembly, the ruling BJP is set to wrest the seat from the Trinamool Congress. Based on the present Assembly arithmetic, the BJP-led alliance is expected to win eight seats, while the Samajwadi Party is projected to secure two.

At UN, Trump defends decision to start Iran war

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 22 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump returned to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday at a tumultuous moment for the world - and for his presidency - and made the case that he's shown fortitude while other leaders have equivocated.

The President started his address ticking off progress - including adding private sector jobs, stemming illegal migration and curbing crime before turning to a fulsome defence of his decision to start a war with Iran.

Trump accused Iran of stalling to make a deal to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz and negotiate an endgame to the war until after the midterm elections in the United States "I gave absolutely no credence and will not give credence to the election when it comes to Iran," Trump said. "It doesn't even enter my mind." Iran's delegation walked out as Trump railed against the Islamic Republic.

The global economy has been shaken by his decision to launch



US President Donald Trump addresses the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters, in New York on Tuesday. (UN via PTI)

a war in the Middle East. Anxiety about the social impact being wrought by Artificial Intelligence is surging. And questions linger about the future of the United Nations itself with Trump's scaling back US financial support for the United Nations.

As he arrived at the UN, Trump briefly spoke to reporters, telling them it was an honour to address the world body before his attention suddenly shifted to his resentments with the news media.

Trump signs US-Denmark-Greenland agreement

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 22 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has signed an agreement with Denmark and Greenland aimed at strengthening Arctic and North Atlantic security, easing tensions over his repeated calls for Greenland to become part of the United States.

The signing on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York comes days after Trump announced the deal to bolster US military presence on the vast, icy island but keep it under Danish control. The Governments provided few details of the agreement before the signing.

'Will use new tariff authority, if necessary, to end Ukraine war'

NEW YORK, Sept 22 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he will use, if necessary, the enormous tariff authorities provided to him under a new law to end the "disastrous war" between Russia and Ukraine.

Trump on Friday signed the "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026", which authorises the US President to impose steep tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the top five importers of crude oil and gas from Moscow, including China and India, contending that the trade has been a key source for funding the war in Ukraine.

Eagerly awaiting induction of LCA Mk-1A fighter jet: IAF Vice Chief

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

AGAINST the backdrop of slippage in the delivery schedule for the LCA Mk-1A variant of fighter jet, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, on Tuesday said that engines have been installed on the aircraft and proper and thorough testing is being done before the aircraft gets inducted.

In response to a query at a briefing on the upcoming multilateral air exercise Tarang Shakti, he said the Indian Air Force (IAF) too is “eagerly awaiting the induction of LCA Mk-1A”.

The Vice Chief was asked the status of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A.

“The HAL has clarified that in the beginning, the delay was from the engine side. We could not get enough engines. Now we have got the engines, and installed them on the aircraft. We are doing proper and thorough testing before the aircraft is inducted,” the air marshal said.

CRPF to celebrate 40th anniversary of 1st all-women battalion

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

THE Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will mark the 40th anniversary of the raising of its first all-women battalion with a special commemorative event,

officials said on Tuesday. The first such unit was raised on February 6, 1986. The force now has six all-women battalions.

The event will be held at the campus of the 88th 'Mahila Battalion' here on September

25, where CRPF Director General G P Singh, along with his wife, president of the force's family welfare association, will felicitate veteran and serving women personnel, officials said.

The force also has women

personnel in its special units, including RAF and CoBRA, besides female personnel in its other regular units.

The CRPF has more than 10,000 women personnel across its ranks. Women personnel of

the force have also received gallantry awards, including Constable Kamlesh Kumari, who was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra for thwarting the 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament.

India, OPEC agree to further strengthen energy ties

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (IANS)

INDIA and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Tuesday agreed on "the vital importance of fostering even deeper energy cooperation" between the two sides at a high-level meeting held here. The meeting was co-chaired by India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais.

Discussions focused on oil market stability, energy security, and the importance of adequate and timely investment across the oil industry. Both parties reviewed the short-, medium- and long-term outlooks, underscoring India's crucial role in global economic expansion and energy demand growth, according to an official statement. Appreciating OPEC's efforts towards promoting stability and



transparency in global energy markets during a period marked by geopolitical uncertainties and market volatility, Puri highlighted the need for OPEC and India to work closely in advancing a balanced, stable and predictable global energy market.

The Minister underlined that India and OPEC share a naturally

complementary and mutually beneficial relationship. He emphasised that India values its longstanding engagement with OPEC and its Member Countries, which has contributed significantly to mutual understanding and cooperation on key energy issues.

"As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India will

remain an important driver of global energy demand in the decades ahead. A sustained dialogue between producers and consumers is essential to support investment, strengthen energy resilience and ensure reliable energy supplies for global growth and development," the Minister said.

In his remarks, Al Ghais said: "Dialogue with India is a priority for OPEC because we recognise India's importance within the current global energy landscape and the fact that this importance only increase in the decades ahead." He added that the "OPEC-India Energy Dialogue is eleven years strong, launched in New Delhi in 2015".

The Secretary General commended India's balanced, realistic and pragmatic approach to addressing energy challenges, emphasising that "many of India's energy priorities are OPEC's priorities".