

the first woman to appear on Esquire India's cover LEISURE | P2

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 101 I www.orissapost.com

for crimes against humanity during last year's uprising INTERNATIONAL | P10

**BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | JULY 11, 2025** 



Gold ETF attracts a net sum of ₹2,081 crore in June, making it the highest monthly inflow in five months

BUSINESS | P11

#### Maiden T20 series win

India script a landmark victory, clinching their first-ever Women's T20I series win against England with a dominant six-wicket triumph

SPORTS | P12

#### 12 PAGE | ₹5.00

**TENNIS PLAYER SHOT** 

Gurugram, July 10: State-lev-

el tennis player Radhika Yadav was allegedly shot dead by her

father Thursday at their home

in upscale Sushant Lok here,

shot in the back while cooking,

died on the spot, officials said.

and his .32 bore licensed pistol

recovered from his possession,

they said, adding that the rea-

Deepak allegedly fired more

Her mother was in the ground floor and Radhika, who

played tennis for Haryana, was

in the kitchen on the first floor

when the crime took place, of

A police team reached the house took the body into

"We are questioning the family members. A probe is

underway and the picture will

be clear soon," said inspector Vinod Kumar, SHO of the Sec-

The family lives in Sushant

Lok, Phase 2, Sector 57. The fa-

ther, police said, is a resident

tor 56 police station.

of Wazirabad village

son is still unclear.

than five bullets.

ficials said.

custody.

Her father, 49-year-old Deep ak Yadav, has been arrested

The 25-year-old, who was

**DEAD BY FATHER** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

police said.

#### SC to EC: Consider Aadhaar, voter ID, ration cards for SIR

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 10: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider Aadhaar. voter ID and ration cards as valid documents during its ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, set to go to polls later this year.

Calling SIR a constitutional mandate, Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi considered the submissions of senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for ECI, and permitted the poll panel to continue with the exercise in Bihar.

The SC said, "We cannot stop a constitutional body from doing what it is supposed to do. Simultaneously, we will not let them do what they are not supposed to do."

The SC noted, "After hearing both sides, we are of the opinion that three questions are involved in this case. A, the very powers of the ECI to undertake the exercise, B, the procedure and the manner in which the exercise is being undertaken, and C, the timing - including the timing given for preparation of draft electoral rolls - which is very short, considering the fact that Bihar election are due in November 2025." Underlining the need to hear

the matter, the SC posted to July 28 over 10 petitions challenging the drive. The SC took on record the ECI's statement that the list of 11 documents it had to consider for SIR was not exhaustive.

"Therefore, in our view, since the list is not exhaustive, it would be in the interest of justice if the ECI will also consider three documents - Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards," the SC ordered. Earlier in the day, regarding exclusion of Aadhaar, Dwivedi said, "Aadhaar cannot be accepted as a proof of citizenship." "But citizenship is an issue to be determined not by the ECI, but by the MHA," Justice Dhulia said. "We have powers un-



HIT BY NATURE: Locals carry daily essentials in cloudburst-damaged rural area of Seraj valley in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh, Thursday

## Drivers' stir hits life CM seeks Centre's help

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The 'quit steering' agitation by Odisha Driver Mahasangha to press for fulfilment of their demands entered third day Thursday, nearly paralysing transport services across Odisha.

With nearly five lakh members of the drivers' association participating and keeping their vehicles off the road, the strike has caused widespread disruption in public transport, even



## **27TH EASTERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEET** to open bank branches

PTI PHOTO

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar. July 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday urged the Centre to encourage banks at the apex level to open brick-and-mortar branches in unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) across Odisha. Speaking at the 27th Eastern Zonal Council (EZC) meeting,



operating in Odisha. However, these BCs face high attrition rates and limitations in service delivery and cash handling

der Article 326," Dwivedi replied.

#### **RREGULAR** by MANJUL



Do not take this bridge... our govt built this one

as long queues were witnessed at filling stations. Reports said bus services across major terminals, including Baramunda in Bhubaneswar, remained suspended, forcing commuters to endure hardship in reaching their destinations. Prices of essential commodities have reportedly started rising due to panic buying and breakdown

in transportation services. A meeting between the agitating members of drivers' association and the state government ending inconclusively has come as a double whammy for the commuters as well as the general public.

Addressing media, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra

Long queues at a filling station in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Patra said the state government is actively examining the demands of the drivers' association. "Their issues will be addressed very soon," he assured. Patra also clarified that there is no crisis regarding petrol and diesel in the state. "While 150 oil tankers have arrived in Bhubaneswar, 76 have reached Cuttack. Fuel is being dispatched to all cities," he said. The minister added that officials have been instructed to prevent black marketing of fuel. "Wherever such activities are detected, strict action will be taken," he said.

Meanwhile, the agitation took a political turn, with the Congress and the BJP trading barbs at each other ahead of the scheduled visit of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikariun Kharge to Bhubaneswar for 'Sambidhan Bachao Samavesh' Friday.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das accused the state government of deliberately delaying a resolution to the drivers' issues to sabotage the rally. The BJP, however, rejected the allegations, calling those politically motivated. "The

Opposition is trying to defame the government. In fact, it is the Opposition that is fuelling the ongoing protest," said BJP spokesperson Dilip Mallik.

PIC: BIKASH NAYAR

Later in the evening, following a request from the state Congress chief, the drivers' association as sured that Congress workers and leaders will not face hurdles in visiting Bhubaneswar to participate in Gandhi's rally. The drivers' demands include pension after 60 years and appointment of Odia drivers in at least 70 per cent of mines and business establishments in the state.

Majhi said, "I urge the Union government to take the necessary steps to address internet connectivity issues and encourage banks to open their brick-and-mortar branches in unbanked GPs in the state."

He further recommended that commercial banks increase both the fixed and variable components of commission paid to business correspondents (BCs) to curb their attrition rate.

The CM highlighted that out of the 6,794 GPs in Odisha, only 2,421 currently have brick-andmortar bank branches, leaving 4.373 GPs without such access. He noted that the geograph-

ical reach of banks in the state remains limited.

As of December 31, 2024, a total of 42,035 fixed-point BCs were

"Network issues continue to hinder their operations in re mote areas. Moreover, banks do not follow uniform guidelines regarding the services offered or commissions paid to BCs." Ma jhi pointed out. He also informed that India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has only 33 branches and 8,929 access points in Odisha, which are still insufficient to

cover all unbanked GPs.

To bridge the gap, Majhi said the state government, in collaboration with six public sector banks, has launched a scheme to provide banking services to all unbanked GPs through CSI Plus banking outlets. Later in the day, the CM announced that next year's EZC meeting will be held in Puri.

## Ancient riverbeds suggest Mars once wetter than thought

housands of miles of ancient riverbeds have been discovered in the heavily cratered southern highlands of Mars, suggesting the red planet was once a far wetter world than scientists thought.

Researchers spotted geological traces of nearly 10,000 miles (16,000km) of ancient watercourses, believed to be more than 3bn years old, in high resolution images of the rugged landscape captured by Mars orbiters, The Guardian reported.

While some of the riverbeds are relatively short, others form networks that stretch for more than 100 miles. The widespread rivers were probably replenished by regular rain or snowfall in the region, researchers said.

"Water has been found on Mars countless times before, but what's really interesting here is that this is an area where for a long time we've thought there wasn't any evidence for water," said Adam Losekoot, a PhD student at the Open University.

"What we found is that the area did have water and it was very distributed," he said, adding, "The only water source that could have sustained these rivers over such a vast area would have to be some kind of regional precipitation.

The most dramatic signs of ancient water on Mars are the huge valley networks and canyons, thought to have been carved by water flowing across the terrain. But some areas of the planet have few valleys, leading scientists to question how wet the regions once were. One region that particularly

puzzled researchers was No-



achis Terra, or Land of Noah. one of the oldest landscapes on Mars. According to computer models of the ancient Martian climate, the region should have had substantial rain or snowfall, sculpting the terrain as the water flowed

Faced with a lack of evidence for ancient riverbeds, Losekoot and his colleagues turned to high-resolution images of Noachis Terra captured by instruments onboard Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and Mars Global Surveyor. The images covered nearly 4m square miles of the planet's southern highlands, a land area much larger than Australia.

The images revealed scores of geological features called fluvial sinuous ridges, also known as inverted channels. These form when tracks of sediment carried by ancient rivers harden over time, and are later exposed when the softer ground around them erodes. While some tracks are relatively narrow, others are more than a mile wide.

"We have lots of little ridge segments, and they are usually a couple of hundred metres wide and about 3.5km long, but there are some that are much, much larger than that," Losekoot said.

In one image from the MRO, the pattern of fluvial sinuous ridges reveals a network of meandering tributaries and spots where the ancient riverbanks burst. Two rivers can be seen crossing into a crater, where water probably flowed in and filled it up before breaching the other side.

The findings, presented Thursday at the Royal Astronomical Society's national meeting in Durham, suggest an enduring presence of surface water in the Noachis Terra region of Mars about 3.7bn years ago.

In its warmer, wetter past, the planet held vast bodies of water. Mars became the arid world we know today when its magnetic field waned, allowing the solar wind to erode its atmosphere and the water to escape into space. But some water may remain, unseen. Beyond Mars's polar ice caps, an international team reported in April. a vast reservoir of water could lie hidden deep beneath the Martian surface. AGENCIES

#### **Online betting: ED** books 29 celebrities

#### AGENCIES

Hyderabad, July 10: The ED has filed a money laundering case to look into the role of at least 29 celebrities, including actors like Vijav Deverakonda Rana Daggubati and Prakash Raj, apart from some social me dia influencers and YouTubers in Telangana as part of a money laundering probe against certain online betting platforms, official sources said Thursday

These outlets are alleged to have generated 'illicit' funds worth crores of rupees through illegal betting and gambling.

The ED has taken cognisance of as many as five state police FIRs to book its case under the PMLA. These celebrities are suspected to have "endorsed online betting apps like Junglee Rummy, JeetWin, Lotus365 etc. in lieu of getting celebrity or endorsement fee, the sources said.

















# elsure



#### HUGH GRANT SLAMMED FOR SLEEPING DURING WIMBLEDON

Hugh Grant found himself at the centre of online criticism after cameras captured him appearing to fall asleep during a high-stakes Wimbledon 2025 quarterfinal match between Novak Djokovic and Flavio Cobolli. The 64-year-old, seated in the prestigious Royal Box, was spotted leaning to one side with his eyes closed.

#### **BRAD PITT, ANGELINA JOLIE'S LEGAL BATTLE INTENSIFIES**

Brad Pitt is escalating his legal fight with Angelina Jolie over Château Miraval, seeking access to her private messages regarding the sale of her stake to Stoli Group. Pitt claims the sale was malicious, while Jolie argues he conditioned a buyout on signing an NDA about alleged abuse.



#### FORTUNE FORECAST

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Today, you will try to strike a balance between work and family, says Ganesha; your sulking little ones may have prompted this move. After spending a hectic day at work you may pull out Monopoly and teach your kids a thing or two about money.

#### TAURUS

In all probability, you will come across as extremely prudent today, feels Ganesha. Your com-mon sense will prevail over your intellect this afternoon. Things will probably

change for the better during the course of the day. Loved ones will shower you with care and concern in the evening

#### GEMINI

An auspicious and progressive day awaits you. You will reflect on the problems at the work-place as well as on the homefront. You will try to understand the emotions that lie behind the troubles brewing at home and will try to resolve them. It is a good day to start new ventures in part-



nership with someone, says Ganesha.

The day begins with worship and havan. In the evening, guests will throng your house for a celebration You will feel sad as your trusted ones will not give you a vital clue or some important information promptly. Ganesha advises you keep away from other's affairs.

#### You will be worried on

account of issues related to vour business. You need to work in the right direction to solve these issues. You will be able to put an end to your concerns with the right attitude. You will be unable to finish your tasks unless you concentrate fully upon your projects, savs Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

Helping your colleagues will bring loads of good will. Your superiors will be superiorly happy with your work. Interaction with friends will be special. Revel in the company of your loved one, says Ganesha.

### LIBRA

Ganesha says that officials and colleagues will be very impressed with your working capacity and your skills and you will do your work satisfactorily with your never give up ability and your intelligence. You will be able to meet and get along with unknown people and circumstance



Indore: Actor Rajkummar Rao said Wednesday that he focuses on originality while acting and tries to avoid being inspired by old films to play any character

Rao had come to Indore to promote his action thriller *Maalik*, scheduled for theatrical release July 11.

The film stars Rao, alongside Prosenjit Chatterjee and Manushi Chhillar.

Asked if he was inspired by old films to play an action role, Rao told reporters, "Honestly, when I am shooting for a film, I try not to watch any particular kind of old film at that time (for inspiration). I want every character that I play to be completely original and emerge from my imagination and the story of the film' He said the originality of his performance would be lost if he allowed subconscious thought to try to repeat a good

scene from an old film. Known for experi menting. Rao said,





character every vear that surprises you and makes you think

#### that you did not expect this kind of perform ance

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Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra Jonas has once again made history, becoming the first woman ever to grace the cover of Esquire India. Titled "The Power of Priyanka", the landmark issue celebrates not only her global stardom but also her trailblazing influence across industries. Actor, producer, entrepreneur, and activist, Priyanka has spent over two decades breaking barriers from winning Miss World

**Priyanka** creates history

2000 to becoming a Hollywood mainstay. She shot to international fame with Quantico, becoming the first South Asian woman to lead an American network drama. Since then, her career has soared with high-profile roles in Citadel, The Matrix Resurrections, and Heads of State alongside John Cena and Idris Elba.

But her impact goes far beyond the screen. A global ambassador for Bvlgari, a regular at the MET Gala, and a fixture on TIME's and Forbes' most influential lists, Priyanka's influence spans fashion, philanthropy, and advocacy. Through the Priyanka Chopra Foundation and her outspoken stance on gender and racial equality, she continues to push for change. This Esquire India

cover is more than a first — it's a powerful statement about representation, progress, and possibility. Priyanka isn't just making history; she's paving the way so she's never the last AGENCIES

Mumbai: Actress Neha Dhupia has spoken about age, appearance, and the judgments age-shaming women often face. She said there is a need to stop putting women under a microscope for their appearance, whether they are in their 20s or 40s.

The actress addressed an audience of dermatologists at an event where she was unexpect edly questioned by a male doctor about her secrets' for looking young in her 40s.

**Neha's** 

reply to

Neha said: "I've been practicing yoga for years, and it has genuinely helped me stay balanced, calm, and healthy from the inside, which reflects on the outside too.'

The actress said 'clearly' that it is okay to follow any pattern one wishes 'to look and feel a certain way at any age, but passing judgments on how someone looks, especially a woman, is not okay."

"This is so backhanded and so normalised to ask women of what their "supposed" secret to beauty or looking younger is. I don't think such comments should be welcomed. We need to stop putting women under a microscope for their appearance, whether they are in their 20s or 40s."

Neha says she is grateful that yoga has helped her feel the way she does today

# Kriti on staying rooted

Mumbai: Kriti Kharbanda's recent interview offered a heartfelt tribute to the quiet strength and unwavering dedication of parents. Reflecting on her own upbringing, the actor spoke with deep sincerity about the values instilled in her by her family and how they continue to the shape person she is today. "I don't

think

we

give our parents enough credit for how much they do for us, and I want to be that person. I want to be like them," she shared.

Offering a glimpse into her grounded life back home in Bangalore, Kriti emphasised the role of simplicity in her world. "The simplicity I carry within me exists because life at home is still simple," she said, speaking of both her and husband Pulkit Samrat's humble family backgrounds. "Our families have always come from modest backgrounds. They never said they wanted a Mercedes or a big house."

She fondly recalled how little has changed at home despite her success. "My mom used to cross the road to buy vegetables, and even today, she still does the same," Kriti said with a smile.

And perhaps most touching of all: "When I go home. I'm just Kitoo." A simple line, but one filled with love, humility, and truth. AGENCIES

#### **SCORPIO**

A systematic organiser and a perfect planner, that's what you are, when it comes to work. According to Ganesha, this attitude of yours would help you develop fondness towards your work. You may even have the knack of solving problems and hurdles in the professional field.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

You get your rivals and competitors thinking for vour sheer smartness in the professional field. It's time to clink glasses as you have the knack to survive the cut-throat competition. Evening will be spent rejoicing with near and dear ones at a social gathering.

#### CAPRICORN

You are practical and wise. With your worldly wisdom and intellect at display, you will be able to guide your near and dear today, says Ganesha. Your belief of working in a harmonious environment will inspire you to spread the message of love, peace, and joy. The extraor-dinary management skills that you possess will ensure cordial and healthy relationships.

#### 

You possess a nice quality of eloquence. Today, you will make a speech/presentation or conduct a discussion forum where everyone will love to hear your opinions. Your communication skill will help you get through the heart of someone you like. But, don't blow your own trumpet all the time, advises Ganesha.

#### **PISCES**

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

You will be filled with extreme energy and enthusiast in the earlier half of the day. However you will feel sluggish and drained out in the afternoon. The likely reason for this will be the over-enthusiasm you show towards your work in the morning.

#### PEANUTS M DOING A REPORT YOU KNOW WHAT? DON'T KNOW FOR SCHOOL ON HOW CAN ANY ANIMALS ANIMALS, AND YOUR HELP ? STUPID DOG WON'T HELP ME!

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#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



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#### 13 Origami bird favourite (4-2) instrument 15 Durable wood 3 Vanity 22 Quarries

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

#### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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#### SOLUTIONS

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## owntown

#### **BACK IN CONG**

Sunita Biswal, daughter of former CM Hemananda Biswal, joins Congress party in the presence of OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das, senior Congress leader Jayadev Jena and others, a day after resigning from BJD, in Bhubaneswar Thursday



## **Puri titular king backs** reforms in Srimandir

Uncertain about opening shrine to non-Hindus; says govt, in consultation with stakeholders, can only take a call

gious tradition must follow the

prescribed procedure. The Ga-

japati is following that process.

The 'tamjan' is used during var-

ious yatras because of tradition. It's not a personal choice but a

religious obligation," he said.

Asked whether he personally

would prefer not to be carried

on shoulders, Deb said: "If a

change in tradition is brought

about, it must follow due pro-

cess. The temple managing

committee, the servitors, the

pundits of the Mukti Mandap,

and above all, the Shankara-

charya must be consulted. If

a change is made, I would be

happy to accept it. But any al-

teration in existing traditions

must come from religious au-

thorities and those responsible

On the signage at the Lion's

Gate of the Srimandir reading

'Only Hindus Are Allowed',

the Gajapati said this practice

it must go through proper pro-

cedures. This is a religious tra-

dition. Any modification can

only be made through consul-

tation and a final decision by

religious authorities—such as

the Shankaracharya, scholars of

the Mukti Mandap Sabha, and

He also acknowledged that

"Shree Jagannath Temple

there is a secular dimension

to the issue, which the govern-

has been a target for terrorist

threats for decades. Given the

global situation and specific

ment must consider.

geopolitical

other stakeholders," he said.

"If there is to be any change,

for upholding them.'

is over 500 years old.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Puri's titular king Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb Thursday said he supports reforms in the 800-year-old Srimandir to preserve its heritage while adapting to changing times, but remained uncertain about allowing non-Hindus into the 12th-century shrine.

In an interview with PTI, Deb, who has served as the first servitor of Lord Jagannath for over five decades, said, "There is always scope for improvement and reforms. This is because the temple was built more than 800 years ago. The rituals, festivals, and various arrangements were developed over centuries.'

Deb said the world and society has changed a lot over the last 800 years.

"But the system in Shree Jagannath Temple has largely remained unchanged. The heritage should continue, but certain adjustments may be made in view of the changed situations," he said.

Citing an example, the Gajapati pointed to the increasing number of pilgrims visiting Puri.

"The Mahaprasad Seva facili ty, for instance, is falling short. Ensuring a smooth 'darshan' experience for so many devotees is certainly a challenge. Even on normal days, the crowd now resembles that of festive days from earlier years," he said, urging the state government and temple administration to address these issues.

Commenting on an issue raised by 'Samajika Nyaya Abhijan, an organisation fighting for social justice, about the tradition of people carrying the Gajapati's palanguin on their shoulders during Rath Yatra, Deb said that the mater had

come to his notice.

ticularly with Pakistan-the "Yes the matter has come government must seriously to my notice. The Gajapati usevaluate whether it can ensure es a 'tamjan' to go to chariots the temple's security, which is to perform 'chhera pahanra' its primary responsibility, if non-Hindus are to be allowed ritual. This is a tradition that has continued for hundreds entry." he said Deb added that it is ultiof years. Any change in a reli-

mately up to the government to make the call. "To allow people of all reli-

gions to participate, the Rath Yatra is held every year," he explained. A foreign-educated law grad-

uate who gave up his legal career in Delhi to serve as the first servitor of Lord Jagannath, Deb said he has no interest in politics.

"From day one, I have refused to enter politics, even though my father and uncle were in politics in Odisha. Political parties have stopped approaching me for decades, and I believe my decision was the right one," he said.

On the recent stampede during the Puri Rath Yatra, in which three people died and many were injured, the Gajapati said an inquiry is underway.

"The number of devotees from Odisha and across India was far beyond expectations. I'm sure the government will look at ways to improve infrastructure and amenities for devotees. It will identify the reasons behind the incident and recommend steps to prevent such occurrences in the future," he said.

Deb emphasised the spiritual value of the festival.

"Lakhs of devotees witnessed the festival from start to finish. I'm sure they had a momentous, memorable, and spiritual experience. While the delay in chariot pulling or the stampede was unfortunate and concerning, it did not detract from the devotional spirit of the event." he said.

#### Nandankanan welcomes gaur calf

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: A female gaur at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) gave birth to a calf at Enclosure 42 Wednesday evening, officials said.

According to zoo authorities, this is the first birth in the enclosure since June 5, 2024. Both the mother and father of the newborn calf were born in the zoo and had mated in November 2024.

With the new addition, the total number of gaurs in the zoo has increased to seven – including three males, as many females, and one calf.

The gaur, also known as the Indian bison, is the largest among the wild cattle species. Its well-developed musculature, prominent forehead ridge, and light-coloured legs make it easily distinguishable.

Gaur plays a crucial ecological role in maintaining grassland ecosystems as large herbivores.

NZP deputy director Sanath Kumar Narayan said that under the Central Zoo Authority's conservation and breeding programme, coordinated efforts have been initiated with Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in Mysuru, Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai, and Bondla Zoo in Goa to support successful gaur conservation and breeding.



### **POLITICKLE by MANJUL**



### Ensure timely aid to farmers: Min to officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta Thursday asked officials to instruct insurance companies to cooperate in providing timely compensation to insured farmers.

Presiding over a meeting to discuss the effectiveness of crop loan disbursement through cooperatives and the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana here, Bal said the government is committed to the development of agriculture and farmers, and is prioritising transparency in the disbursement of agricultural loans



na Jena and Mahanga MLA Sarada Pradhan, who attended the meeting, presented their opinions during the meeting. Cooperation Commissioner and Secretary Rajesh Prabhakar

MLA Ashok Kumar Das: Ka

makhyanagar MLA Shatrugh

"Transparency will be given top priority in providing agricultural loans to farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, registered farmers who suffer crop losses will receive timely compensation from insurance companies,' he said.

Aali MLA Pratap Keshari Deb, Begunia MLA Pradip Kumar Sahu; Basudevpur Patil delivered the inaugural ad dress, while Siddharth Das, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, proposed the vote of thanks. NABARD CGM Sanjay Kumar Talukdar, AGCS Santosh

Kumar Nayak, Chief Executive Officers of all Central Cooperative Banks, and senior officers of the Cooperation Department were among those present at the meeting.

## Rahul, Kharge's rally in City today

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge are scheduled to address the 'Samvidhan Bachao

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president isation) KC Venugopal will also be present.

<sup>•</sup>Rahul Gandhi will arrive at



tion is in the near future," Das added.

Expressing concern over the ongoing strike by drivers of buses, trucks, taxis, autos and other commercial vehicles in the state, he alleged: "The state government has hatched a political conspiracy to continue the drivers' strike, preventing people from attending Gandhi's

rally. Due to their conspiracy, the people of the state are facing difficulties as transportation of essential commodities has been affected."

Das urged the state government to resolve the issue through dialogue, saying the Congress supports the drivers association.

Reacting to the allegations. BJP state spokesperson Ani Biswal accused the Congress of using the strike as an excuse

"Congress leaders have realised that people are not interested in attending their rally. So, they are taking the plea of protest by the drivers. They had announced support when the strike began, and now they are blaming the drivers' association.'



#### **ACTOR PARTHA SARATHI RAY ARRESTED**

BHUBANESWAR: Badagada Town Police Thursday arrested actor Partha Sarathi Ray following a nonbailable warrant (NBW) issued by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court. According to police sources, the warrant was issued after the actor of National Award-winning film 'Hello Arsi' allegedly failed to comply with court-mandated conditions related to an ongoing legal matter. A special police team executed the arrest and produced him before the JMFC court. Though officials have remained tight-lipped about the exact nature of the case, reliable sources indicate that the actor was skipping multiple court

mmediate action. The arrest reportedly stems from a case req

tensions—par-

Samavesh' here Friday.

AGENCIES

Bhakta Charan Das said besides Gandhi and Kharge, Congress general secretary (organ-

ago at Kharvelnagar police station, in which Ray faces serious charges including kidnapping, attempt to murder, extortion, brandishing a firearm, and circulating obscene images. Ray began his acting journey in Bollywood with roles in 'Toonpur Ka Superhero' alongside Ajay Devgn and 'Cycle Kick' directed by Subhash Ghai. He later transitioned to the Odia film industry with 'Nai Separi Kanaka Gori' and gained critical acclaim for films like, 'Phalguna Chaitra', 'Dalchini', 'Trikanya' and 'Dear Purusha'.

Bhubaneswar airport around 11:30am and then travel to Baramunda Ground, where he will meet delegations of farmers and people displaced by various

'Usually, Gandhi addresses such mega-public events in Odisha ahead of elections. However, this time, he is set to address a public meeting when no elec-

projects," Das told reporters.

After the meeting, Gand-

hi, Kharge, and Venugopal

will address the 'Samvidhan

Bachao Samavesh', the OPCC

chief said.

#### BMC plans to create 20 mini forests: Mayor

court to ord

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Enthused by the successful plantation of 8,000 trees last year using Miyawaki method, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has now set a target to create 20 such mini forests and plant 2 lakh trees across the City and nearby areas.

This was disclosed by Mayor Sulochana Das during the launch of a massive tree plantation campaign titled 'A Tree for Mother' at Nagar Bana in Kalinga Nagar area here Thursday. The campaign, jointly organised by the BMC and Forest department, aims to combat rising temperatures and environmental degradation caused by deforestation, urbanisation, and pollution, she said.

Underscoring the deep cultural and ecological significance of trees. Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, who launched the campaign, said, "Our ancestors worshipped trees, and even today, many trees are revered as sacred. Trees are like our mothers—just as a mother nurtures us with food, trees sustain our lives by providing oxygen, shelter, and sustenance. Recognizing this bond, it is our duty to plant more trees and create forests for a healthier, greener future."

BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil in emphasised planting diverse tree species to support biodiversity and maintain ecological balance.

Speaking on the ecological purpose behind the plantation drive, Patil said, "We are planting a variety of tree species not just to create forests, but also to ensure they provide food and shelter for birds and animals.

He said these forests will play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the natural environment. "Creating such green spaces is not just desirable-it is inevitable for our survival," he added. Bhubaneswar-Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, who was present on the occasion, proposed treating each planted tree as a tribute to one's mother, highlighting the symbolic and life-sustaining value of trees.



## owntown

#### NATIONAL FISH FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION

## **Fish output doubles** in 10 yrs: Union Min



*Nationwide push for* sustainable aquaculture, innovation and infrastructure

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Thursday reported a 103 per cent rise in fish production from 2014 to 2024. He stressed the need for improved infrastructure, sustainable practices, social security, and advanced training in areas like pearl culture, pabda and murrel farming, and organic aquaculture.

Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and NFDB. celebrated National Fish Farmers' Day 2025 at ICAR–CIFA in Bhubaneswar.

under PMMSY

gurated.

The Ministry of Fisheries,

Reaffirming the Centre's

commitment to transforming the fisheries sector under the Pradhan Mantri Matsva Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Singh launched 17 new fisheries clusters, taking the national total to 34. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 70 projects worth ₹105 crore

across 11 states He also unveiled the ICAR-NFDB Training Calendar, Seed Certification Guidelines, and released the book Freshwater Aquaculture Technologies by ICAR-CIFA: Innovations for Diversification and Sustainability. Several PMMSY projects were also virtually inau-

The event was attended by MoS Prof SP Singh Baghel, George Kurian, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik, several MPs, MLAs, and senior officials from ICAR, DoF. NFDB, and the Odisha Government. ICAR-CIFA director PK Sahoo hosted the programme. Mallik highlighted various schemes of both the Central Singh launched 17 new **S**fisheries clusters under PMMSY, raising the total to 34, and inaugurated/founded 70 projects worth ₹105 crore across 11 states

also unveiled the ICAR-NFDB Training Calendar, Seed Certification Guidelines. and released a book on freshwater aquaculture technologies

and state governments aimed at strengthening the fisheries sector.

MoFAH&D secretary Abhilaksh Likhi outlined key initiatives including an Aqua Park in Sambalpur, scampi hatcheries, and disaster preparedness in 18 cyclone-prone villages. He stressed Odisha's vital role in achieving India's 195 lakh tonne fish production target and highlighted focus areas like deep-sea fishing, harbour modernisation, and capacity building via ICAR.

A major highlight was the exhibition by FFPOs, startups, and women fisher groups, showcasing innovations and value-added products. Over 1,500 participants—fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders-attended, reflecting strong science-policy-industry synergy driving the Blue Revolution.

The event also marked the 1957 breakthrough in carp breeding by KH Alikunhi and HL Chaudhuri, a milestone in Indian aquaculture.

#### **335 Bengal migrants** possess fake docu

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Thursday said as many as 335 of the 444 people held in Jharsuguda district on suspicion of being Bangladeshis were found possessing fake Indian documents.

He asserted that the BJP government in the state would not allow the state to become a 'shelter home" for illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

Pujari, who held a meeting with senior officials, including the northern division revenue divisional commissioner, Jharsuguda Collector and IG of the region, told PTI, "We found that 335 of the 444 people held for verification on suspicion of being Bangladeshis were possessing fake Indian documents. They all have Aadhaar card, voter card and other documents showing them as residents of West Bengal.'

"We have decided to hand over these people to the District Collectors of their respective places to which they claim to belong in West Bengal. Let the West Bengal government take whatever action they want to,' the minister said, adding that there is a conspiracy to push illegal Bangladeshis into Odisha from the adjoining state.



The minister said that some of those held in Jharsuguda have been released after verification of their documents. He said Jharsuguda district has become a favourite destination for illegal immigrants as it is an industrially developed area.

## BJD women hit streets, demand Khatua's arrest



Women leaders lead rally from Raj Mahal to Master Canteen; protesters carry placards and raise slogans demanding

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Members of the Biju Mahila Janata Dal Thursday staged a protest here demanding the arrest of BJP MLA Santosh Khatua for allegedly making 'derogatory' remarks against senior BJD leader and general secretary Lekhasri Samantsinghar.

*justice* and action

Led by BJD's chief whip and senior vice-president Pramila Mallik, members of the women's wing of the party took part in a 'Swabhiman' (pride)

rally from Rajmahal Square to Master Canteen Square, where they also burnt an effigy of the BJP legislator. Khatua had allegedly made

derogatory remarks against Samantsing-The rally marked har last week. a strong show of unity "Such deroga by BJD's women wing, tory comments drawing attention to the need made by a BJP for accountability and equal law enforcement MLA against a woman are un-A delegation later submitted acceptable in a civilised soci-

a memorandum to the DGP, and suspension of MLA Santosh Khatua

ing they were a reaction to Samantsinghar's earlier

"Since the BJP came to pow

er, women have been subjected

to daily atrocities in the state

In the past year alone, the rate

of crimes against women has

increased alarmingly,

she alleged. In the af

ternoon, a delega

tion from the Bi

ju Mahila Jana

ta Dal met DGF

YB Khurania

and submitted

"She had called me a 'thief and a 'dacoit'. I replied in the same tone. If a woman has dignity, don't men have any prestige?" Khatua asked.

#### Odisha to host mining expo 2026 Naveen to return July 12 Puri stampede: 48 people record statements Bhubaneswar: Former Chief Minister

and BJD President Naveen Patnaik is set to return to Odisha Saturday (July 12), following his recovery from surgery. Patnaik had traveled to Mumbai June 20 for medical treatment and underwent surgery at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital June 22. Since then, he has been recuperating ir Mumbai. Senior BJD leaders announced that he will arrive at Biju Patnaik International Airport at 11:50 am. They thanked the people of Odisha for their prayers and confirmed that Patnaik has recovered well and is ready to return.

#### ASSIFIED LOST

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. Rajesh Ku. Swain issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card No. 2525107 has been found missing and/or lost on 20.06.2025. Anyone who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Bhubaneswar. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card No.2525107. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment. Date: 20.06.2025 Place : Bhubaneswar

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Odisha is set to host the 4th edition of the Mining and Infrastructure International Expo 2026 from January 8 to 11 at Baramunda Ground here, reinforcing its status as India's mineral and mining powerhouse.

The international B2B trade show, organised by Futurex Trade Fair and Events Pvt Ltd. will showcase cutting-edge innovations, mining technology, and equipment, drawing parhe added

ticipation from over 250 global companies and 25+ countries including Germany, US, UK,

Australia, Brazil, and Chile. "This expo will be a vital platform to showcase sustainable mining technologies, policy discussions, and innovation. aligning with the 'Viksit Odi sha Vision 2036'," said Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma. "It also reinforces Odisha as a preferred investment destination, especially in mining and allied sectors.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, July 10: As many as 48 people, including servitors of the Srimandir, Thursday recorded their statements at a public hearing into the June 29 stampede in Puri that left three dead and over 50 injured, officials said.

The hearing was part of the ongoing administrative inquiry being conducted by Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary



Anu Garg

This was the second public hearing, following the first held in Bhubaneswar Wednesday. In total, 65 people and organisations have recorded statements so far.

"I was present at the stampede site on the day of occurrence and recorded my statement before the development commissioner. I informed how the crowd of devotees rushed towards chariots as soon as the Pahuda' (cloth covering the front portion of chariot) was removed for 'Mangal Aarti' (early morning Aarti)," said Anath

Dasmohapatra, a servitor.

Another servitor, Binayak Dasmohapatra, described the chaos: "Devotees were sitting on a polythene sheet before the Pahuda was opened. When it was removed, people rushed forward and fell, leading to the stampede."

Garg was given responsibility of the inquiry by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi on the day of the stampede. She is mandated to submit report with the government in 30 days.

Odisha's demographic shift: Youth & migration

reporters.

BJP government.

**MARKET WATCH** 

a memorandum demanding the demanding immediate arrest ety. BJP MLAs arrest of Khatua have forgotten Khatua defended their moral values his comments, claimand ethics," Mallik told Demanding Chief Minister statements. Mohan Charan Majhi's interference, Mallik said the MLA's remark clearly indicates how unsafe women are under the

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 10: As the world marks World Population Day 2025 (July 11) with the theme "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world," Odisha stands at a crucial point in its demographic journey. With the upcoming 2027 Census—India's first-ever digital and caste-based enumeration—the spotlight is back on the state's shifting population trends, challenges, and emerging opportunities.

Odisha, with a projected 2025 population of 46.95 million (4.70 crore), ranks as India's 11th most populous state. Beyond the figures lies a complex narrative of youth aspirations, rural-urban migration, and structural challenges.

#### Youth at the crossroads

With 34 per cent of Odisha's population aged between 15 and 34, the state is experiencing what demographers call a "youth bulge." According to Naba Kishore Pujari, a social impact professional and public policy practitioner, this bulge is both a golden opportunity and a ticking policy time bomb. "Despite the potential, Odis-

ha's youth face above-average unemployment (6.8 per cent) and underemployment (10.8

#### **WORLD POPULATION DAY 2025**



per cent)," Panda notes. "In 2023 alone, 1.75 million people migrated out of the state-many driven by economic distress rather than choice," he says. Many of these youth are trapped in the informal sector or are classified as NEET (Not

in Employment, Education, or Training), signaling a critical need for inclusive skilling, quality job creation and regionally balanced development. A climate of inequality

Climate change expert Ranjan Panda emphasises how environmental degradation is deepening economic disparities.

"There are gross inequalities that mar the world now," Panda warns. "Governments are investing more in border security than in human security. Education is costly, jobs are unstable, and climate impacts are forcing rural and tribal youth to migrate in distress," he says. The rural-urban shift

While more than half the world's population lives in urban areas, Odisha lags behind with just 17 per cent urbanisation (as per the 2011 Census). But that's changing fast.

Urban planner Piyush Ranjan Rout explains, "Odisha is under-

Odisha, with a projected 2025 population of 46.95 million (4.70 crore), ranks as India's 11th most populous state

going a demographic transition. Urban population growth is now outpacing rural, driven by migration and expansion of urban boundaries. Cities are where GDP is generated and private sector jobs are created. Challenges in health, education, and livelihoods

Odisha still grapples with persistent issues-malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, under-resourced education infrastructure, and high vulnerability to natural disasters. These affect marginalised communities the most, particularly Scheduled Tribes and Castes in remote areas

Research scholar Manoranjan Panda observes, "As Odisha shifts from an agrarian economy to one driven by industry and services, it's crucial to align skill development and livelihood infrastructure. Strengthening public schools and universities is essential to building a skilled workforce.'

CURRENCY	BOURSES	COMMODITIES		
INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION		
DOLLAR 85.76 🕇 0.01	SENSEX <b>83190.28 </b> 345.80	GOLD ₹ <b>96,731                                    </b>		
EURO <b>100.60 •</b> 0.05	NIFTY <b>25355.25 </b> 120.85	SILVER <b>₹108,909                                  </b>		



#### WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.2°	31.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.9°	24.6°	with one or two spells of rain or
Humidity	82%	89%	thundershower
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil	×

#### **OUR BOOKING STATION** FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT

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#### **OrissaPOS** FRIDAY | JULY 11, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

## state



# Sundargarh factories turn death traps for migrants

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 10: Workplace accidents and fatalities. particularly those involving migrant workers, have become increasingly common at privately-owned factories in and around Rourkela in Sundargarh district.

The reason: These migrant workers - many of whom are unskilled, semi-skilled, or underage, and often lack proper training - are being assigned hazardous tasks without adequate attention to safety standards, reports said.

According to the reports, Rourkela and its suburbs have been witnessing a steady rise of private factories over the years, leading to increased employment opportunities, particularly for migrant workers. Although some local labourers are engaged, the majority of workers are being recruited from other states. including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and Jharkhand. Of late, the death and injury of migrant workers at these enterprises in regular intervals has become a matter of concern.

Despite earning super profits, factory owners are allegedly offering meagre compensation to the families of deceased or injured workers in order to 'settle' cases quietly. While government-owned companies maintain records of all their labourers, gross violations are frequently reported in private units-particularly in induction, sponge iron, and boiler factories.

The highest number of such irregularities has been reported in areas like Rourkela Industrial Zone, IDC Kalunga. Kuanrmunda, Rajgangpur, and Biramitrapur, where migrant workers are widely employed. Shockingly, many of these workers have no official records

Father-son duo among 3

killed in head-on collision

Berhampur: Three persons, including

a father-son duo, were killed in a head on collision between two motorcycles

Samantarapur in Jarada police station

area. The deceased were identified as

succumbed to his injuries after being

admitted to Patrapada Hospital. The

bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. Chief Minister Mohan

deaths and announced ₹4 lakh

Dau Gouda (55), his son Sunil Kumar

Gouda (25), and Rajesh Panigrahi (25). According to the police, Sunil and Rajesh died on the spot while Dau

in Ganiam district Thursday, police

said. The accident took place near

filed with the district administration or Labour department. Even when accidents or deaths occur on-site, factories often ignore statutory reporting norms.

Sources said injured workers are often rushed to private hospitals, and efforts are being made to keep such incidents away from public attention. By the time authorities, such as Labour department, police, or factory and boiler inspectors are informed, it's often too late for meaningful intervention.

Last year, several migrant workers died after being crushed by a ladder at a private factory in Rajgangpur. Similarly, a young migrant worker from Bihar died after being trapped in a channel at a well-known factory in Kalunga Industrial Estate July 1. Multiple such incidents have been reported, highlighting blatant violations of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act.

According to labour leader Digambar Mohanty, "Any employment of out-of-state workers must be formally registered with the local administration and Labour department. "The law is being openly flouted here. These workers, especially the younger and less experienced ones, are unaware of their rights, making it easier for factory owners to exploit

them." he said. He added that even departmental officers often avoid intervening in these situations.

Most migrant workers do not receive ESI (Employees' State Insurance) or PF (Provident Fund) benefits, leaving their families without support in case of death or injury. There is little coordination between local labour unions and the migrant workforce, a gap which benefits employers, he added.

When contacted for comment, District Labour Officer Gopal Chandra Mangaraj stat ed, "Law applies equally to all workers, whether local or migrant. They are entitled to compensation in case of death, especially if covered under ESI." Mangaraj said it is mandatory for companies to report accidents to the Labour department. "Any complaints of

non-compliance will be acted upon," he added. Similarly, Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers. Bibhu Prasad, said, "Routine inspections are conducted across factories. Compensation is provided to families in case of accidental deaths. We take strict action

if any violations are reported.' However, despite such assurances, the on-ground realities point to a systemic failure to ensure worker safety and enforce labour laws in Sundargarh's growing industrial belt.

## seized during ganja check; 2 detained

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 10: In a dramatic turn during a routine check for ganja smuggling, officials of the Excise department Thursday intercepted a largescale illegal silver consignment near the Rengali tehsil square on the Biju Expressway in Sam balpur district.

The silver was being secretly transported in a Scorpio SUV fitted with a hidden compartment. Acting on suspicion of ganja smuggling Excise personnel stopped the Maharashtra-registered vehicle (MH-01-EF-0549) around 2pm and found 110 kg of silver biscuits stashed in the concealed chamber Prelim-

inary estimates value the seized silver at over ₹1.32 crore. Since the excise depart-

ment does not hold jurisdiction over precious metals, the confiscated silver was handed over to the Sambalpur City GST department for further investigation. Two individuals, identified as Chandrakant Patel and Sanjay Patel from Chhattisgarh, were detained for questioning. According to officials, the men failed to provide valid documentation for the silver. During interrogation, they admitted to transporting the consignment from Raipur in Chhattisgarh to Kolkata.

The seizure occurred during intensified checks aimed at curbing illegal ganja transport through Odisha. However, the operation unexpectedly exposed what appears to be a major case of unlicensed silver smuggling.



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 10: A new study by researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela has highlighted the urgent need for support systems for parents raising children with developmental disabilities. The research underscores the toll that longterm caregiving takes on parents' physical and emotional well-being, particularly in the absence of adequate societal and healthcare support.

The study, led by Dr Ramakrishna Biswal, associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and senior research scholar Abhijit Pathak, was published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development. It explores how sustained caregiving responsibilities affect the physical health and quality of life of parents, especially mothers, who often bear the brunt of daily care duties.

"Disability rights are rightly acknowledged, yet the invaluable contributions of caregivers often remain in the shadows. Biswal said. "Caring for a child with developmental disabilities should not rest solely on parents. It is a shared responsibility of families, neighbours, and society.

The researchers surveyed 400 parents of children with conditions such as autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities. Using culturally adapted assessment tools and advanced statistical methods, the study found that physical health significantly influences how stress affects caregivers' mental and emotional states, as well as their



**Abhijit Pathak** 

The study, published in Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development, explores how sustained caregiving responsibilities affect the physical health and quality of life of parents, especially mothers, who often bear the brunt of daily care duties

#### relationships

Symptoms such as chronic pain, ulcers, fatigue, and headaches were frequently reported — signs of how caregiving stress manifests physically. The research further pointed out that while poor physical health plays a critical role in compounding stress, financial challenges and social isolation remain pressing concerns.

In India, these issues are often worsened by societal stigma, limited access to specialised healthcare, and a lack of community awareness. Many parents feel isolated and unsupported, even by extended family, the study noted.

The team employed the bio psychosocial model, which emphasises the interconnectedness of physical, psychological, and social factors in de-

and initial protection work.

due to heavy rains. Speaking on

the occasion, Jalendra Mohalik,

Founder of Eco Walk and ROSIA

and a noted young climate activ-

ist, said, "We believe every pan-

chayat can grow its own forest.

Through collective action and in-

digenous planting, we are build-

termining overall health. This model allowed the researchers to chart how stressors interact and multiply, revealing the need for comprehensive intervention.

The study calls for integrat ing caregiver health screen ings and stress management programmes into paediatric disability services. It also rec ommends the establishment of community-based "one-stop" support centres where families can access healthcare, therapy, financial aid, and counselling under one roof.

"At its core, this study is a reminder that supporting a child with developmental disabilities means supporting the entire family," Biswal said. "Caregivers must be recognised, supported, and empowered so that both they and their children can thrive."

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. MSM-WAGON-LPG-14-2

NAME OF WORK : REPAIR OF WAGONS

## Eco Walk launches 'Mini Forest' initiative at panchayat level



Balasore, July 10: In a signif icant move towards grassroots environmental restoration. Eco Walk, a leading climate action movement in Odisha, in collaboration with local organisation ROSIA, organised a large-scale tree plantation drive Thursday at Angula Kacheri Padia under Mahumuhan panchayat of Soro block in Balasore district. The initiative aims to establish a 'Mini Forest' at the panchayat level — a biodiversity-rich green zone that will serve as a local carbon sink and educational eco-space. In the first phase of the project, 100 native trees were planted. The long-term vision includes planting over 5,000 saplings representing more than 150 indigenous species. The plantation drive witnessed

enthusiastic participation from the local community, including students, teachers, and villagers. Local schools such as Angula Government School and

LAPANGA AND OUTSTATION FOR PERIOD OF TWO YEARS Approx cost of the Work (₹ 1,31,78,768.80, EMD (₹) : 2,15,900.00 Cost of Tender Document (₹) : 5,900.00 Completion period of the work : 24 Month ly supported the digging, fencing, Tender Closing Date and Time At 1530 Hrs. of 24.07.2025. The programme was held Manual offers are not allowed against th to mark the concluding day of tender, and any such manual offe eceived shall be ignored the 76th Van Mahotsav Week which had earlier been delayed

Complete details and Tender will be available at websit https://www.ireps.gov.in **Divisional Mechanical Engine** (Frt.), Sambal PR-340/Q/25-26

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 18-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-2

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRAC MC) OF TOWER CARS FOR PERIOD OF 2 YEARS Approx. Cost : ₹ 6,54,05,542.06, EMD : ₹ 4,77,000/-, <u>Completion Period</u> : 24 Months



ing Road in Keonjhar.

and documents pertaining to the alleged financial misap propriation. The repeated raids have

resulted in seizure of huge properties owned by Chakra

# ED raids Chakra's residence

## again, seals transport office

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 10: Sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) again raided the residence of BJD leader Raja Chakra at Jagannathpur in Keonjhar and sealed his transport office Thursday.

ex-gratia to the next of kin of the de ceased, the CMO said in a post on X.

Charan Majhi expressed grief over the

#### **DDU** airl student ends life over mental stress

Keonjhar: A 20-year old girl student of Dharanidhar University (DDU) here committed suicide by hanging at her private hostel in Brahamanigaon, Thursday. The deceased was identified as Jharana Palei, 20, from Kitabeda village in Joda area of the district. She is suspected to have taken the extreme step due to mental stress following the recovery of some medicines from her room in the private hostel. Police sent her body for post-mortem and then handed it over to her family members after their arrival, Town police station IIC Srikant Sahu said. A case (71/2025) was registered in this connection and an investigation has been launched.



The raid was carried out over alleged misappropriation of money at Suakati based Gandhamardan Loading Agency owned by the BJD leader. The ED officials during the raid sealed the office of Divvanshi Transport near the Ram Mandir on the Min-

and led to his arrest, along with his associates Susant Samal alias Babula Samal, and the then president of the loading agency Manas Barik and secretary Utkal Das. All the accused are currently lodged in Balasore jail while the case hearing is underway at the EOW's Balasore court. The court has rejected the bail applications of the accused.

Chatters went abuzz after the ED again conducted raid at Chakra's residence. The ED sleuths raided Chakra's residence with the help of Central forces and local police.

Krushnachandra UP School were actively involved. More than 50 students took part in the event, planting saplings and pledging to "Plant One Tree for Mother Earth" while committing to reduce electricity use and avoid water wastage.

Mahumuhan Sarpanch Gadadhar Mahapatra inaugurated and presided over the event. Headmasters Surendra Prasad Navak and Ganesh Prasad Bhol led their student teams and emphasised the importance of environmental education. Villagers such as Gangadhar Mahanti, Prahlad Das, Gajendra Maharana, Ranjan Das, Nitvananda Das, Rabindra Pradhan, and Lucky Sahu active-

ing long-term climate resilience and reconnecting communities with nature."

The event was coordinated by a strong team of Eco Walk and RO-SIA members, including Biplab Ranjan Behera, Prabhat Behera, Sushant Behera, Biswajit Raj, Bijavanand Patra, Chiranjeevi Raul, Nabajyoti Panigrahi, Pralaya Das Mahapatra, Rashmi Ranjan Nayak, Prasanna Behera, Chinmay Pati, Debidatta Nayak, Radhakanta Das and Ajay Pradhan.

The 'Mini Forest' initiative is expected to be replicated in multiple panchayats across Odisha in the coming months as part of Eco Walk's broader mission to plant over 10 lakh trees during this monsoon season.

#### Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. on 29.07.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summaril without any consideration. Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender i

available in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers an advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteer days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigential issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/bidder car participate on e-tendering Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)

PR-343/Q/25-26

## Asadhi Festival: When Maa Tarini fasts for devotees

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 10: Thousands of devotees gathered Thursday evening to witness the Sunabesa or the golden attire of Maa Tarini at her famous shrine in Ghatagaon, about 45 km from Keonjhar town, on the occasion of Asadhi Parva.

The temple remains closed during the day on this annual occasion. which is observed on the last day of the Odia month of Asadha.

Asadhi Parva is one of the most important festivals celebrated at the Maa Tarini shrine and is also known as the festival of farming. According to tradition, farmers begin agricultural activities after this day

On this day, Maa Tarini is believed to observe a day-long fast for the well-being of the world, which is why the temple remains closed until evening.



"Due to the fasting of Maa Tarini, the temple remains closed during the day, and devotees are not allowed to have darshan," said Rajendra Pattanayak, former president of the Maa Tarini Temple Trust. "In the evening, after ritual puja, the deity is adorned with gold and the temple reopens for devotees." The temple opens from 7pm till 10pm for public darshan.

As part of the celebrations, the temple administration invites the chiefs of 22 nearby villages to participate. The village heads arrive in the evening to witness the Sunabesa and offer prayers. They also offer goats and other items to the Goddess, sources said.

Although animal sacrifice was officially discontinued years ago. goats are still brought to the temple and left in the name of Maa Tarini. In late-night rituals, sacrifices still continue, according to local belief.

Some devotees say that on this night, Maa Tarini's tiger comes to drink the blood of the sacrificed goats.

"For the safety and security of devotees at night, special arrangements have been made with the help of the temple administration." said Sanjeev Mohapatra, president of the Maa Tarini Temple Trust.



CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India Branch Office : 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Maa Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

#### POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(1) - FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation a Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned the account calling upon the respective Borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the Property mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the date mentioned against the account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under. The Borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amoun mentioned against the account along with Interest and other charges.

#### Loan Account No. : HE01SMP00000030851

<ul> <li>Loan Account No. : HE01SMP00000030851</li> <li>Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower : 1. Mukhtar Alam (Applicant) Resident of Sonapali, Near Gaushiya Mohalla, P.O Dhankauda, P.S Dhanupali, District - Sambalpur, Pin - 768 006, Odisha.</li> <li>2. M/s. MSP Civil Construction (Co-applicant), Plot No. 1205/7144, Khata No. 344/3180, Near Gousiya Masjid, Sonapali, Near Gaushiya Mohalla, P.O Dhankauda, P.S Dhanupali, District - Sambalpur, Pin - 768 006, Odisha.</li> <li>3. Tousif Raza (Co-applicant), S/o. Mukhtar Alam, Resident of Sonapali, Near Gaushiya Mohalla, P.O Dhankauda, P.S Dhanupali, District - Sambalpur, Pin - 768006, Odisha, Sonapali</li> <li>4. Sahajahan Khatun (Co-applicant), W/o. Mukhtar Alam, Resident of Sonapali, Near Gaushiya Mohalla, P.O Dhankauda, P.S Dhanupali, District - Sambalpur, Pin - 768006, Odisha, Sonapali</li> </ul>	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Plot No. 1113/7149, Khata No. 344/3185, AreaAc.0.120 Decimal, Kisam Gharbari 1, Mauza - Near Gousiya Masjid, Sonapali, Sambalpur, Town Unit No. 03 Sonapali, P.S Sambalpur Sadar, P.S. No. 23, Tahasil Sambalpur, SRO Sambalpur, District - Sambalpur, Odisha. <b>Bounded as</b> : North - Plot No. 1112, South - Road, East - Plot No. 1205 (P) & 1112, West - Plot No. 1113 (P).	Date of Demand Notice : 07.04.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 59,42,086.00 (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Eighty Six only) as on 07.04.2025 and interest thereon. Date of Symbolic Possession : 09.07.2025
Loan Account No. : HE01XBJ00000084343 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower : 1. Prasad Kumar Samal (Applicant) Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhamapur Sadar, District - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 2. Buli Samal (Co-applicant) Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhamapur Sadar, District - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 3. Samal Shopee (Co-applicant) Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhamapur Sadar, District - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002.	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Plot No. 858/2176, Khata No. 344/962, Area Ac 0.015 Decimals, Kisam Gharbari, Mauja Madhabpur, Tehsil Berhampur, SRO - Berhampur, P.S Badabajar, District - Ganjam, (O.D.), Pin - 760 002. <b>Bounded as:</b> North - Land of Chenna Babu, South- Road, East - House of Basant Rao, West - House of S. Raju.	Date of Demand Notice : 06.02.2025 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 37,17,471.00 (Ruppes Thirty Seven Lakh Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One only) as on 06.02.2025 and interest thereon. Date of Symbolic Possession : 10.07.2025
Date : 11.07.2025 Place : Sambalpur (Odisha)	Cholamandalam Investmen	Authorised Officer at And Finance Company Limited











## power post



#### FOCUS INEQUALITY

The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being SRI AUROBINDO



## The Bombing Delusion

e still do not know how much damage last month's US air strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities caused. "I believe it was total obliteration," US President Donald Trump bragged at the NATO summit in June. But an early US intelligence report suggests that Iran could begin enriching uranium again in a few months; Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has reached the same conclusion.

One thing we can say with relative confidence, however, is that the massive Israeli-US bombing campaign did not spark an uprising against the Islamic Republic - the outcome that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had hoped for. Trump even mused that regime change is the obvious solution to a government that "is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN," but without clarifying whether efforts to "MIGA" should come from within or outside the country.

The notion that bombing civilians will break their morale and turn them against their own leaders is old and mostly discredited. It didn't work during the Spanish Civil War, when the Germans and Italians bombed Guernica in 1937, or during World War II, when Hitler unleashed the blitz on Britain, or the Allies annihilated cities in Nazi Germany. Operation Rolling Thunder, which lasted from 1965-68 in North Vietnam, failed to meet this goal, as has the ongoing Israeli hombardment of Gaza

Strategic bombing, also called saturation or terror bombing, was a tactic devised between the two world wars largely by the Italian general Giulio Douhet. But during WWII, these brutal aerial attacks came to be associated with Arthur "Bomber" Harris, commander in chief of Britain's RAF Bomber Command, and Curtis Emerson LeMay, a US Air Force general. The latter, after wiping out Japanese cities in 1944-45 and killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese citizens, once admitted that if the US had lost, he would have been tried as a war criminal

Strategic bombing laid waste to urban areas, and Harris got his wish to "kill a lot of Boche" (a derisive term used for Germans). But despite its broad use in WWII, this tactic never resulted in a popular revolt. And whatever the consequences of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was no uprising against the Japanese government.

In fact, bombing can have the opposite effect: it makes people angry, which can mobilize support even for deeply unpopular governments. German efforts to demoralize Londoners in 1941 just made them more obstinate, hardening their belief that the city could withstand such assaults. Winston Churchill was of course popular. But the same response was evident among Berliners, even those who hated Hitler. People take pride in their resilience, especially when they are confronted by a common enemy.

This public stoicism tends to exist as much in dictatorships as in democracies. The North Vietnamese were forced to obey their leaders, but there is no evidence that American bombs broke their morale or caused a public mutiny. Under attack from US warplanes, Vietnamese patriotism was real.

The truth is that most people don't like being bombed by foreign powers, however much they despise their own leaders. This is especially true in a proud country like Iran, with a bitter history of foreign interventions. In 1953, a coup backed by the US and the UK snuffed out a fledgling democracy. Hatred of these Western countries may have diminished, but Iranians remain suspicious of their motives. And if it is hard to imagine Iranians rallying around Trump's MIGA flag, the idea that they would regard Netanyahu as a political savior



Ian Buruma

**THE TRUTH IS THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T LIKE BEING BOMBED BY** FOREIGN **POWERS**, **HOWEVER MUCH THEY DESPISE THEIR OWN LEADERS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN A PROUD COUNTRY LIKE IRAN, WITH A BITTER HISTORY OF FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS** 



Independence, India finds itself battling a disturbing transformation. While the country has made remarkable economic strides, it is increasingly clear that the gains have not been distributed equally. A landmark study released by the World Inequality Lab in March 2024—"Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj"lays bare the uncomfortable truth: India is now among the most unequal countries in the world, with the top 1 per cent controlling an outsized share of both income and wealth.

In 2022–23, the top 1 per cent of Indians earned 22.6 per cent of the national income-surpassing their share during the colonial interwar period when the figure stood at around 21 per cent. Their share of national

wealth is even more staggering: 40.1 per cent, the highest ever recorded since modern data collection began in 1961. Meanwhile, the bottom 50 per cent of India's population holds a mere 6.1 per cent of the nation's wealth and just 13.1 per cent of income. The top 10,000 richest Indiansabout 0.001 per cent of the adult population—earn ₹48 crore annually on average, nearly 2,000 times more than the national average of ₹2.3 lakh.

These numbers tell a clear story: while India celebrates its economic growth, a large portion of that prosperity has been siphoned upwards to a

India's early decades after

But since the 1991 economic reforms, income and wealth have become increasingly concentrated. In 1991, India had only one billionaire. By 2011, the number had jumped to 52; by 2022, it had exploded to 162. Their combined wealth now equals 25 per cent of India's net national income-up from less than 1 per cent in 1991. The average billionaire's wealth rose by 280 per cent between 2014 and 2022, compared to a mere



India is at a crossroads. It can continue to embrace a growth model that disproportionately rewards a tiny elite while marginalizing the rest. Or it can choose to course-correct-through fair taxation, robust public investment, and democratic transparency-to become a more just and resilient society

which are taxed at significant-

ly lower rates and are easier to

While the report focuses on In-

dia at large, its findings resonate

deeply in Odisha. The state has

seen notable progress in tribal in-

clusion, forest-based livelihoods,

and rural welfare schemes. Yet,

Odisha too bears the scars of wid-

ening inequality. The income gap

between urban coastal regions

and the state's tribal interiors

remains stark. According to

NITI Aayog data, 29.3 per cent of

Odisha's population still lives be-

low the poverty line—above the

Low levels of literacy, limit-

ed access to private healthcare,

and underdeveloped physical

infrastructure in large parts

of the state make Odisha espe-

cially vulnerable to the nation-

al trend of top-heavy growth.

If India's inequality problem

deepens, it will only make Odi-

sha's uphill battle for inclusive

development more challenging.

A crisis of data and democratic

ing aspects of the report is the

critique of India's data environ-

ment. Since 2017, the government

has either delayed or suppressed

key surveys, including the Na-

tional Sample Survey's consump-

tion expenditure data for 2017-18.

Income tax tabulations-which

had been published regularly

since 1922-are now incomplete

The result is a fog of uncer-

tainty surrounding the eco-

nomic lives of ordinary Indi-

ans. In the absence of credible

public data, policy becomes

guesswork, and accountabili-

Perhaps one of the most alarm-

national average.

oversight

after 2020.

Odisha and the national echo

shield from taxation.

27.8 per cent growth in national income during the same period. Such trends underscore how

post-liberalization growth has disproportionately benefited those at the top, leaving the middle 40 per cent and bottom 50 per cent behind. For example, in 2022-23, the middle 40 per cent of the population earned only 29.2 per cent of national income, while the top 10 per cent earned nearly 58 per cent. Inequality by design, not default

These outcomes are not inevitable-they are the product of deliberate policy decisions. The abolition of the wealth tax in 2015 marked a sharp shift away from redistribution. Despite rising wealth concentration. India lacks a comprehensive wealth registry, making it easier for the ultra-rich to escape scrutiny and taxation.

India's public spending also reflects misplaced priorities. The government allocates just 1.2 per cent of GDP to healthcare and around 3 per cent to education-well below the levels in peer economies like China (2.7 per cent and 4.2 per cent, respectively). This chronic underinvestment exacerbates the divide in access to quality public services.

The report also raises serious concerns about the regressivity of the tax system. In contrast to the principle that those with more should pay more, evidence suggests that the wealthiest Indians contribute less in taxes (as a share of their assets) than even middle-income earners. In 2018-19, 42 per cent of all reported income came from non-labour sources such as capital gains,

ty erodes. A democratic society cannot meaningfully address inequality if it cannot measure or discuss it transparently. A path forward: Equity as

national priority

The authors of the report propose several bold but practical solutions. Chief among them is the introduction of a progressive wealth tax on the top 0.1 per cent of households. Even a modest levy could generate substantial revenue for investment in education, healthcare, and green infrastructure. Additionally, they recommend a temporary "super-tax" on billionaires—similar to the windfall taxes adopted in Argentina and parts of Europe post-COVID-to support urgent welfare programs.

Other measures include reintroducing inheritance taxes, creating a national wealth registry to track ownership of high-value assets, and restoring regular, transparent publication of official economic data. Public investment must focus on universalizing access to basic services-especially in health, education, housing, and digital infrastructure-so that the vast majority of Indians are not left behind.

#### The choice before the nation

India is at a crossroads. It can continue to embrace a growth model that disproportionately rewards a tiny elite while marginalizing the rest. Or it can choose to course-correctthrough fair taxation, robust public investment, and democratic transparency-to become

a more just and resilient society. Odisha's own experience offers hope. Its commitment to self-help groups, communitv-based forestry, and inclusive rural employment proves that equitable models of growth are not only possible but scalable. But these models need strong institutional support and financing-support that can onlv come from rebalancing the

nation's economic priorities. The rise of the "Billionaire Raj" is not merely a metaphor. It is a statistical reality. The question is whether India, and its leaders, have the courage to reverse it before inequality hollows out the promise of our democracy

The writer is postdoctoral researcher at Institute of **Energy Policy and Research** Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Malaysia.



Malayaranjan Sahoo

**THE AVERAGE BILLIONAIRE'S WEALTH ROSE BY 280 PER CENT BETWEEN** 2014 AND 2022, **COMPARED TO A MERE 27.8 PER CENT GROWTH** 

**IN NATIONAL INCOME DURING THE SAME** PERIOD

### narrow economic elite. From socialist dream to

super-rich reality Independence were marked by a steady decline in inequality. Land reforms, nationalization, and high marginal tax ratesup to 97.5 per cent in the 1970sled to a more equitable distribution of income. In 1982, the top 1 per cent share of income had fallen to 6.1 per cent, and the top 10 per cent earned just 30 per cent of national income.

is even more fanciful.

To be sure, weakening Iran's nuclear capacity is a positive development. Israel's war on Iran's proxies in Lebanon and Syria may have been a good thing, too. But as other Western military interventions in Asia and the Middle East have shown, bombing does not result in democratic change.

The defeat of  $\bar{Japan}$  and Germany in WWII, and their subsequent democratic transformations, are sometimes cited as examples to the contrary. The role of strategic bombing in those defeats is still much disputed. But democracies were constructed, or rather reconstructed, after the war, by the elites of those countries under the patronage of allied occupation. No one is suggesting that the US or Israel should occupy Iran, much less that doing so would have the same results as in Germany and Japan.

The only people who can topple Iran's sclerotic, oppressive, and often brutal theocracy are the Iranians themselves. The regime is highly unpopular: a 2023 survey found that more than 80 per cent of Iranians would prefer a democratic government. Bombing Iran may have exposed the country's military weakness, but it might also have weakened the growing opposition.

The reaction of distinguished Iranian actor Reza Kianian is instructive. A fierce critic of the government and a supporter of the anti-regime demonstrations in 2022, he would undoubtedly welcome a more democratic society. But once Israel and the US started bombing, his patriotism took over. He told the Financial Times: "One person sitting outside Iran cannot tell a nation to rise up. Iran is my country. I will decide what to do, and won't wait for you to tell me what to do in my own country.

This justifiable aversion to outside intervention may soon give way to a renewed determination. One can never tell what might happen when a regime is under pressure. But so far, the regime has clamped down harder on alleged traitors and dissidents. And Iran's military weakness increases the chances that its leaders will redouble their efforts to build a nuclear bomb. This is surely not what Netanyahu and Trump intended, or what most Iranians would want

The writer is the author of numerous books, including Year Zero: A History of 1945, The Collaborators: Three Stories of Deception and Survival in World War II, and, most recently, Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### WISDOM CORNER

If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others. AUDREY HEPBURN

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated. MAYA ANGELOU

#### SPECTRUM WORLD POPULATION DAY

## Call for action amid demographic shifts



Sameer Kumar Jena

With districts like Jharsuguda reporting a TFR as low as 1.3, lower than even Japan, **Odisha's TFR** has fallen below replacement level

disha is experiencing a major demographic shift as the world observes World Population Day on 11 July, 2025. The state, which was formerly renowned for having high rates of fertility and mortality, is currently dealing with new issues brought on by an aging population, a rapidly declining birth rate, and ever widening urban-rural gaps. Fertility is one of the most prominent changes. With districts like Jharsuguda reporting a total fertility rate (TFR) as low as 1.3. lower than even Japan, Odisha's TFR has fallen below the replacement level. This decline raises concerns about the declining school-age population,

lower enrolment rates, and potential labour shortages, even though it also reflects increased access to and awareness of reproductive health. At the same time, the number of elderly people in Odisha is drastically increasing. By 2036, the 60+ age group is projected to double from 2011 levels. With 43 per cent of the elderly suffering from chronic diseases and 75 per cent of rural elderly women facing depression, the state's healthcare and social support systems are under increasing pressure.

Another issue is urbanization. Despite making up less than 2 per cent of Odisha's land area. urban areas are home to nearly 17 per cent of

the state's population, with 22 per cent of them living in slums. With 83 per cent of its people living in villages. the state is still primarily rural despite ranking third in terms of urbanization in India. Existing disparities are exacerbated by this rural dominance -- high rates of poverty, and restricted access to services. Odisha also continues to report high mortality rates, with a crude death rate of 7.3 and an infant mortality rate of 36, both of which are among the highest in the nation. These figures show that there are still gaps in healthcare, especially in rural and tribal areas.

Additionally, the state's economic and social dynamics

are changing as a result of the demographic shift. Old-age dependency is rapidly increasing while the young-age dependency ratio is decreasing. Unless it is capitalized through suitable policies and investments, this puts the demographic dividend-the economic benefit that results from a sizable working-age population—in jeopardy. Experts emphasize that demographic change has a significant impact on the economy, governance, and social well-being in addition to population size.

The writer is Assistant Professor, PG Department of Population Studies, Fakir Mohan University, Balasore.



#### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 (0) words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: dit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Serious lapse

Sir, Signal Passed at Danger or Speed Passed at Danger (SPAD) is a serious issue. Loco pilots of trains are expected to stop at signals and if they breach this cardinal principle then it's a serious lapse because derailments and collisions may be dangerous consequences. Besides human mistakes like misjudgment and fatigue, medical conditions, mechanical factors like signal malfunction, track defects and, of course, inadequate training can lead to loco pilots overlooking signals. It is reported that there have been increasing incidences of SPAD across the railway network. Speed restrictions and braking techniques of loco pilots need to be assessed and improved upon. Competency of the drivers in driving a particular type of train is extremely crucial. Additionally, controlling the train speed at slopes and when the distance between two signals is less than one and a half km (automatic block system) are critical for safety ... Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

#### **Eternal filmmaker**

Sir, So short a life and a small list of movies made but the greatness of actor, producer, director and choreographer Guru Dutt remain evergreen even today making film lovers around the world to look at this master filmmaker in awe. The master filmmaker, whose birth centenary was marked on 9 July, dedicated his life to filmmaking. Vasanth Kumar Shivashankar Padukone and later named as Guru Dutt was born in 1925 in Bangalore. He grew up in Calcutta and later moved to Mumbai. Though his short life was marked by a lot of melancholy and losses, film lovers across the world still consider him an encyclopaedia of filmmaking. His characters are unforgettable, his direction a class apart and his picturisation of songs eternal.Guru Dutt's Pyaasa and Kaagaz ke Phool are known to be cult movies and also some of the finest movies ever made in India. In a short but remarkable career, the actor-director experimented with a magic touch blended with cinematic techniques and a poetic vision making him and his creations eternal.

M Pradyu, KANNUR



## **Relief columns deployed in landslide-hit Mandi**

Fifteen people died and five were injured, while a search is on to trace the 27 people who went missing after 10 cloudbursts, followed by flash floods and a landslide, hit Mandi on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The Indian Army has mobilised its columns across key locations in Himachal Pradesh to deliver relief material to remote villages cut off by the flood in the state's Mandi district.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu visited the district's Thunag area to assess the relief operations and shared photos of his visit in a post on X Thursday.

A brigade commander of the army is in Mandi for an operational update and interaction with the force's columns.

A meeting with the chief minister and Mandi's deputy commissioner is also planned, he said.

The army has deployed relief columns across Mandi, including in Thunag, Bagsiad and Pandoh. Its efforts are bolstered by the involvement of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities.

"The Indian Army remains committed to supporting the citizens of Himachal Pradesh during this crisis and continues to stand by the civil administration in this time of need," the brigadier said.

Since the onset of monsoon June 20, Himachal Pradesh has received 30 per cent of excess rain, and has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 740 crore, as 31



#### Sukhu announces ₹7cr relief for restoration work

hief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Thursday announced an immediate relief amount of Rs 7 crore to carry out restoration work in disaster-affected areas of Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district. On the second day of his tour, the Chief minister visited Thunag, Bagsiad, Deji, Bara and Syanj villages, and reviewed the damage caused by the recent cloudbursts. He assured all possible support from the state government to affected families. The chief minister said the state Cabinet would soon discuss and announce a special relief package for those impacted by the disaster. According to an official statement, Rs 2 crore was released earlier, and an additional Rs 2 crore each has now been allocated to the Pub lic Works Department and the Jal Shakti Department. One crore rupee will be provided to the Block Development Office to expedite restoration work. The chief minister, who interacted with affected families at the Pakhrar Panchayat Ghar, direct ed revenue officers to immediately assess all types of losses. He instructed officials to declare as "completely damaged" any houses filled with silt or debris or those deemed unsafe to live in, so that maximum compensation can be provided. The chief minister also assured compensation for damaged household goods and perished livestock, and issued special in-structions to assess losses suffered by horticulturists and apple growers. Calling the disaster "massive," the chief minister said rehabilitation would take time, but the government would provide full support to the victims. While in Bara, the chief minister said the government was considering a one-time settlement policy for resettling families displaced by natural calamities. Since 68 per cent of land in Himachal Pradesh is classified as forest land, permission from the Centre would be sought to rehabilitate affected families on forest land, he added. To ensure the education of students continues with out disruption, the chief minister said that classes for the Forestry and Horticulture College in Thunag would temporarily be held in Sundernagar, Mandi district. In Thunag, schoolgirls apprised the chief minister of the damage to their school building. Responding to their concern, he announced the opening of a CBSE-affiliated school in the area. He said major roads have been reopened and restoration of village link roads was being carried out on a war footing.

flash floods, 22 cloudbursts, and 17 landslides claimed several lives and damaged buildings, crop fields and forests.

Fifteen people died and five were injured, while a search is on to trace the 27 people who went missing after 10 cloud-

bursts, followed by flash floods and a landslide hit Mandi on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1.

At least 1,184 houses suffered extensive damage, while 780 livestock perished in the disaster. The army columns are striving to open vital routes. "A critical mule track from

Bagsiad to Thunag was successfully cleared July 6, enabling the delivery of essential supplies," the officer said.

Affected families in Thunag are being given medical assistance, provisions of first aid, and ration kits.

"In partnership with civil administration, the army has ensured delivery of relief material to remote villages cut off by the flood. And, aid has already reached Degi (July 7), Rushad (July 8), and Chapad (July 9),' the officer said.

All columns are in communication via mobile networks, with limited coverage at some locations, like Thunag. Satellite communications, including ISAT phone and other key communication systems, have been provided to ensure uninterrupt ed operational connectivity, the army said. In response to a spel of heavy rain and urban flood ing in the northeast India, the Indian Army has launched extensive relief measures under Operation Jal Rahat 2, with deployment across Nagaland. Assam, and Manipur.

These efforts are being led by Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) or HQ IGAR (N) in collaboration with local authorities

## Man, daughter show rare courage

SHIMLA: A man and his daughter from a village in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district demonstrated rare courage during the dreadful night of June 30 by not only defeating death but also saving the lives of four people.

People ran helter-skelter as gushing waters and debris started entering the houses. Twenty people took shelter in the house of Bharat

Raj while the fury of water and debris increased.

Bharat Raj, his daughter Tanuja, Twinkle, sister mother Mansa Devi, grandfather Hari Singh and another woman Radhu Devi were bogged in the de-

bris and death stared in their faces

Bharat Raj showed rare courage and pulled out Twinkle, Mansa Devi, Hari Singh and Radhu Devi from the debris but Tanuja was swept a few metres away, said villagers.

Tanuja sank chest deep in the debris. She struggled hard and finally came out with the help of a piece of a log and reached a safer location.

It was nothing but a miracle as everybody feared that she would not survive. It was a highly emotional moment when she got reunited with her family members.

All the saved persons were taken to a temporary shelter

MP PWD min to seek details

of all under-construction bridges

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Rakesh Singh Thursday said he was going to order a survey of all under construction bridges. Commenting on a controversy over his statement 'as long as there are roads, there will be potholes', he claimed he was quoted by the media out of context, and a road must remain in good condition

during its intended lifespan. But there is no technique that can ensure a

completely pothole-free road forever and even the roads in Washington and New York have potholes, he said. Talking to PTI over phone from

Delhi, Singh said a section of the media picked up his single statement

posed to me was when will potholes on roads disappear....Is there any

technique in the world by way of which potholes will stop appearing? There are potholes in Washington and New York. After the expiry date,

potholes are bound to come up. But if the life of a road is five years and

it develops potholes in four years, a probe is needed," Singh said.

as long as there are roads, there will be potholes" and presented it in a distorted way by omitting what he said before and after. "The question

at Bagsyad School and are stil there.

Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur met Bharat Raj, Tanuja and other family members and praised the father-daughter duo for the rare courage they showed.

Tanuja said that they have lost everything and have no means of livelihood which was affecting her studies. She

urged the governmen to bear the expenses of her education and take immediate steps for her family's reha bilitation.

Thakur, who has been intensively campaigning to reach out to the affected people and share their grief and provide relief for the past 10 days.

reached his native village Tandi and found that his ancestral house was also damaged. It de veloped cracks and about half of the orchard has also been washed away

He said that his Seraj constit uency was the worst affected and suffered losses to the tune of Rs 500 crore and claimed that it is likely to increase to Rs 1,000 crore. The BJP leader, who is also a former chief minis ter, said that houses, cultivable land and orchards have been washed away and the livelihood of the people was affected. He urged the government to speed up the rehabilitation works and construct prefabricated houses for homeless people.

### 6 districts in MP among top 100 accident-prone areas



Collectors

NDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal/New Delhi, July 10: As many as six districts in Madhva Pradesh have been included among the top 100 across the country where a high number of fatal road accidents are taking place, officials said Wednesday.

The list of these 100 districts sonally inspect the identified resulting in the high number of fatal road accidents have been prepared by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, based on a survey conducted by 'Save Life Foundation'.

## MP: Asia's oldest elephant dies at Panna Tiger Reserve

Known affectionately as 'Dadi' and 'Dai Maa' among forest staff and wildlife lovers, Vatsala was more than 100-years-old and had

been battling illness for a long time INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panna, July 10: Vatsala, the

Asia's oldest female elephant, District officials of all conwho earned names -- Dadi Maa, Nani Maa in her life journey of cerned road agencies will permore than 100 years from Kerala to Madhya Pradesh, died at the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) Tuesday. The oldest and most beloved elephant of Panna, who suffered multiple organ failure and was under observation of the veterinarians, took her last breath, a senior forest official told IANS.



She spent her final days at Hithe animal kingdom. nauta camp, where she was lovingly cared for by forest staff. ite and undoubtedly, she was Upon her death, PTR Field acknowledged the pride of Panna. She was a key attraction Director Anjana Suchita Tirkey, Deputy Director Mohit for domestic and international Sood, and wildlife veterinartourists alike.

ian Sanjeev Gupta rushed to

Her last rites were conduct-

ed with solemn respect at the

camp. Born in the Nilambur

forests of Kerala, Vatsala be-

gan her journey as a working

In 1971, she was brought

to Hoshangabad in Madhya

Pradesh and later trans-

ferred to the Panna Tiger

For a decade, she played

a critical role in tracking

tigers in PTR, contributing

significantly towards con-

in 2003, but her work never

servation efforts. She retired

She dedicated her remaining

years to nurturing younger el-

ephants, offering warmth and

companionship rarely seen in

Reserve in 1993.

truly stopped.

elephant in the timber trade.

the site.

Vatsala was tourist favour-



The list includes six districts of Madhya Pradesh and these are Jabalpur, Rewa, Satna, Sagar, Khargone and Dhar -- all located on different regions in the state.

Of them. Dhar has reported the highest number of fatal road accidents

The report has been prepared according to the 2023 assessment. In view of the severity of these road accidents, the Central government has directed all district administrations under the "Zero Fatality District Programme" to identify the causes of these accidents and prepare an action plan.

Complying with Centre's direction, Madhya Pradesh Transport Department has issued detailed instructions to all Commissioners and District accident sites and road corridors as well as evaluate and document the technical and engineering causes of the ac-

In an official communication

Wednesday, the state govern-

ment told that the Chief Secre-

tary has been directed to review

the progressive steps being im-

plemented in each district.

cidents. After site inspections, the technical causes due to which accidents are occurring will be studied and low-cost and highly localised solutions will be devised by engineers of the concerned road agencies.

These findings will be presented in the District Road Safety Committee meeting through the District Collector, Nodal Officer, and road agency engineers.

For the expenses of these lowcost measures, the Public Works Department has been instructed to ensure adequate budget provisions in each district.

"Efforts will also be made to procure funds for these expenditures from the District Mineral Foundation Fund, and Member of Parliament and MLA funds," the government said.

With her death, a chapter of love, legacy, and wildlife dedication came to an end.

Known affectionately as 'Dadi' and 'Dai Maa' among forest staff and wildlife lovers, Vatsala was more than 100-years-old and had been battling illness for a long time.

Vatsala was more than just an elephant. She was an institution within the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR). Famous for her maternal in-

stincts, she became a lifelong caregiver to elephant calves and even served as a midwife, assisting in the birth of new members of the elephant herd.

Her gentle nature, iconic presence, and emotional bond with caretakers made her a symbol of PTR's commitment to ethical wildlife care.

Several tourists, who had fond memories during their visit to PTR and especially with Vatsala, shared those moments on social media along with video and photographs with her.

Vatsala's passing away marks a profound loss—not just to Panna Tiger Reserve, but to India's conservation community at large.

BJP MP from Panna Assembly constituency in Chhatarpur district. Brijendra Patap Singh, expressed his condolences on Vatsala's demise. saying that her dignity and affection were embedded in Panna Tiger Reserve.

Leasing of Land for Establishment of UAV (Drone) Testing, Training and Promotional Facility at Rangeilunda

#### Airport, Gopalpur Odisha No.JJ-29 : Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport

Department invites Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Leasing of Land fo Establishment of UAV (Drone) Testing, Training and Promotional Facilit at Rangeilunda Airport, Gopalpur Odisha" complying to all the norms as prescribed by the DGCA Ministry of Civil Aviation, Governme of India

Eligible and interested UAV OEMs and RPTOs may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer

https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app

#### https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders

Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned lates by 03:00 PM on 31.07.2025 ("Bid Due Date" or "BDD"). Bids received after the above BDD shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reaso thereof

Sd./- Special Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha OIPR-38001/11/0038/2526

#### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION. DHENKANAL**

No.1289/Dt.07.07.2025

e-Procurement Notice

#### Bid Identification No.-DMID/01/2025-26 e-mail ID : <u>eemidkl@gmail.com</u>

No.A-388 : The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage ate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the

-~-	Annexure to this bid notice.						
	Name of the work	: Civil works in Different Block of Dhenkanal					
ent		District for the year 2025-26 under Critical					
enq		& DPIW Scheme					
	No. of Works	: 19 (Nineteen) only					
	Estimated Cost	: Varies from 8.20 lakh to 17.00 lakh					
vites		(Approximately)					
the	Cost of Tender Paper	: 4000/- to 6000/-					
	Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar months					
	Availability of bid documents for	: From dt.11.07.2025, 10.00 A.M. to					
of	sale and receipt through on-line	Dt.21.07.2025, up to 5.00 P.M.					
on	Last date / time of receipt of bids	: 21.07.2025 (5.00 P.M.)					
ar	in the portal						
	Date of Technical bid opening	: on Dt.22.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the					
)	through online	Office of the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal					
	Mode of payment of Bid Cost	: Online					
		: The Bidder must possess compatible					
dar	Bidder	Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)					
3	The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website http:/						
	dowrorissa.gov.in						
dar	Name & Address of the OIT	: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation					
		Division, Dhenkanal, At/P.O/District -					
5		Dhenkanal					
dar		Ph. No / Fax No 06762-224461, Email					
		ID : eemidkl@gmail.com					
3	Further details can be seen fro	m the e-Procurement market place http://					
	tendersorissa.gov.in						
		Sd./- Superintending Engineer					
/ella	OIPR-32027/11/0016/2526	M.I.Division, Dhenkanal					

M.I.Division, Dhenkanal

#### **FAKE DEGREE SCAM**

#### ED attaches 7 properties of HP institution

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, July 10: Acting against a Himachal Pradesh university and its agents in the Rs 387-crore fake degree scam, the ED provisionally attached seven properties worth Rs 1.74 crore in Delhi, Haryana, UP and Bihar, an official said Thursday.

The properties belong to accused commission agents, namely, Abhishek Gupta, Himanshu Sharma and Ajay Kumar, involved in the scam surrounding Manav Bharti University (MBU), Solan, with proceeds of crime (POC) adding up to Rs 387 crore.

With the latest seizure, the total attachment of properties in this case stands at Rs 202 crore, said an ED of-

ficial. The assets were confiscated under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with three FIRs registered by Dharampur Police Station. Solan. under various penal provisions.

The ED investigation revealed that the accused Raj Kumar Rana, President, Manav Bharti University (MBU), Solan, in connivance with other co-accused persons, including various commission agents, was engaged in the large-scale sale of fake degrees issued in the name of MBU, said an ED statement.

The commission agents played a pivotal role in this racket by facilitating contact between prospective buyers of fake degrees and the university authorities.

#### PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, GUDVELLA E-mail ID: ori-gudvella@nic.in NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. PS-GVL-02 of 2025-26

No. i-202: The BDO. Gudvella Block, Dist.; Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in single cover system to be received in online mode only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (in Rupees)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Paper	E.M.D. (Bid Security) in Rs.	Period of Completion (Calendar Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of ACR Building for Kamasingha Primary School		"C" & "D"	6,000	9,914	Six Calendar Months
2	Construction of ACR Building for Gudvella Nodal UP School	9,91,429	"C" & "D"	6,000	9,914	Six Calendar Months
3	Construction of 50 MT Godown and Office Building at Jamut PACS	25,93,728	"B" & "C"	6,000	25,937	Six Calendar Months
Furt	her details can be seen from the	e e-procurem	ent portal - I	http://ter	dersodish	a.gov.in.
OIPR-19350/11/0003/2526 Sd./- Block Development Officer, Gudvella						





# national



The girls were then divided

into two groups. All those who

said they were menstruating

were asked to give their thumb

impression to the teachers. But

those girls who said they were

not experiencing it, were taken

Let us work together to build a Karnataka where every woman feels safe, respected, and free SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

#### **HYD TODDY TRAGEDY: TOLL GOES UP TO FOUR**

The death toll in the "adulterated" toddy tragedy has gone up to four, and 44 others were undergoing treatment in different hospitals, officials said Thursday



#### of the day uote



campaign of Pal aniswami, who has a track record of betraying

the person who introduced him (into the party), the party men, and people of the state M K STALIN | TN CM

Sanjay Gandhi, the son of Indira Gandhi, led forced sterilisation campaigns. which became a notorious example of this

SHASHI THAROOR SENIOR CONG LEADER



and after the Pahalgam attack. We all see that tourism is bouncing back in J&K. There is a message of hope

OMAR ABDULLAH J&K CM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Man held for posting voyeuristic videos

Bangalore: A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly posting voyeuristic photos and videos of women on his social media accounts, police said Thursday. Taking serious note of the incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government would take stringent action against such acts. The accused, identified as Gurdeep Singh, is a hotel management graduate from KR Puram in Bangalore.

#### 10 hurt as school bus overturns

Bijnor (UP): A school bus overturned while trying to avoid a speeding vehicle here, leaving nine children and a teacher injured, police said. The incident took place on the Kalagarh road in Afzalgarh area. The bus of Sunshine School, carrying around two dozen students from Mirapur and Baniyowala

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, July 10: Police arrested the principal of a private school and four others in Thane where girl students were allegedly made to strip to check if they were menstruat ing, officials said Thursday.

The incident occurred at the school in Shahapur area of Maharashtra's Thane district Tuesday after bloodstains were found in its toilet, they said. Speaking to PTI. Thane Zilla Parishad District Education Office Balasaheb Rakshe said a detailed inquiry has been or-

dered, which will be helmed by the Block Education Officer. The BEO has been asked to submit a report based on which the district administration will proceed further in the matter, Rakshe said.

The principal of the school, who has been arrested, was sacked following the unsavoury episode, the official informed. There are 660 students in the school, Rakshe said. The police Wednesday night

arrested the school's principal, an official from Shahapur police station said. As per the complaint lodged

by a parent of one of the students, the girls, studying in Classes V to X, were called to the school's convention hall and shown photos of blood stains in the toilet and floor by screening them through a projector. The students were asked if anyone from them was going through their menstrual cycle.



to the toilet one by one with a woman attendant checking their private parts, the complaint said. Based on the complaint, a case was registered Wednesday against the school's principal, four teachers, the

attendant and two trustees, the police said. Five persons have been arrested and remanded in INCIDENT SPARKED OUTRAGE police custody till AMONG THE GIRLS' July 15, PARENTS, WHO PROTESTED ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES the offi-AND SOUGHT ACTION cial said. AGAINST ITS MANAGEMENT When AND TEACHERS parents

INVOLVED IN THE learnt about **EPISODE** the girls being subjected to this kind of a check, they gathered at the school and demanded action against the teachers involved, Additional Superin-

tendent of Police (Thane rural) Rahul Zalte said Wednesday. "The situation turned tense for a while with the irate par-

ents demanding action. The entire incident is being probed," he said. The case was registered against the eight persons under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modestv) and 76 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe) and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said. Meanwhile, parents continued to protest out the school, which was closed for the day.

Looking at the widespread anger the incident has caused in the district and beyond, some lawyers said their colleagues are not keen to appear for the two arrested accused.

## **GUJARAT BRIDGE COLLAPSE** 18 bodies retrieved; 4 engineers suspended

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara, July 10: The death toll in the Mahisagar river bridge collapse in Gujarat's Vadodara district reached 18, officials said Thursday while adding that the search-andrescue operation at the site has

been halted for the night. It will resume Friday morning as two persons are still missing, they informed.

Several vehicles plunged into the Mahisagar river after a segment of the four-decade-old bridge, connecting Anand and Vadodara dis-

tricts, collapsed near Gambhira village close to Padra town Wednesday morning. The incident had taken place at 7am. "The death toll in the bridge

collapse incident has reached 18 with the recovery of one more dead body Thursday night. Two persons are still missing. The rescue operation has been stopped due to high tide and will resume Friday morning," said Vadodara Collector Anil Dhameliva.

The search-and-rescue operation was carried out through the day by at least 10 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other agencies. Since some vehicles, including a loaded truck, are still stuck in the muddy waters of the river, the district administration had used

a 'high-performance truck' of the Indian Army to pull them out, said a government release. To overcome the issue of mud, a temporary platform has been prepared on the river bank for the rescue teams by spreading three truck-loads of concrete mix, said the release

Gujarat Chief Minister Bh upendra Patel On Thursday suspended four engineers of the state's roads and buildings department in connection with the bridge collapse. A government release identified the officials as Executive Engineer NM Nayakawala, Deputy Executive Engineers UC Patel and RT Patel as well as Assistant Engineer JV Shah.

CM Patel, who handles the roads and buildings department, had asked experts to prepare a report on the repairs, inspections and quality checks conducted at the bridge, and the decision to suspend the four engineers was taken on the basis of this report, the release said. Meanwhile, the authorities are on the backfoot amid re-

ports that a social activist had, in August 2022, flagged the bad condition of the ill-fated bridge.

In a three-year old audio clip that went viral on social media



Roadside vendors shield themselves during rainfall in New Delhi

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Shiv Sena minister Sanjay Shirsat receives Income Tax notice

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Minister for Social Justice Sanjay Shirsat Thursday said he has received a notice from the Income Tax department seeking an explanation of the increase in his assets between the 2019 and 2024 Assembly elections. The Aurangabad (West) MLA who belongs to the Shiv Sena led by deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also told reporters outside the legislature complex here that Shinde's son, Kalyan MP Shrikant Shinde, too had received a notice. But later he corrected himself, stating he had no idea about Shrikant Shinde receiving any I-T notice, and Shiv Sena sources too categorically said that neither Shrikant nor any other member of Eknath Shinde's family had received any notice.

#### **GURU PURNIMA FESTIVAL** 2025 CONCLUDES AT PATANJALI YOGPEETH



villages, overturned into a roadside ditch, Afzalgarh Station House Officer (SHO) Sumit Rathi.

#### Fire breaks out at Patna airport

Patna: A minor fire broke out near the airline ticket counters at the Javaprakash Naravan International Airport here Thursday, officials said. There was neither any damage to the airport nor disruption of flight operations, they said. The blaze, which occurred during steel-cutting work in the Security Hold Area, was extinguished.

#### Six arrested for killing tiger cub

. . . . . . . . .

Seoni: Six persons have been arrested for killing a tiger cub through electrocution in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district and trying to sell its bones and claws, a forest official said Thursday. The Nagpur office of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) got a tip-off about some persons trying to sell a cub's body parts July 7 and contacted the MP forest department, said forest sub-divisional officer Yugesh Patel.

#### Train derails

Jammu: Two bogies of a goods train derailed Thursday due to flooding on the railway track in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, disrupting train traffic on the Jammu-Pathankot route, officials said. No loss of life was reported in the incident.

platforms after the collapse, social activist Lakhan Darbar, who runs 'Yuva Sena' outfit, can be heard urging a senior R&B official to either repair the bridge or build a new one.



#### TN police arrests Sadiq, key accused in bomb blast case

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Police's Anti Terrorism Squad Thursday said it has arrested Sadiq, a key accused in the 1998 Coimbatore bomb blast case, in which 58 people were killed and 250 others were injured. Also, a key accused in communal murder cases across Tamil Nadu, he has been absconding for 29 years and never been arrested since 1996. Acting on "specific and credible intelligence," a special team of Anti-Terrorism Squad and Coimbatore City Police arrested the accused at Vijayapura district of Karnataka, the ATS said in an official release. Sadiq, a native of Coimbatore used several aliases and it includes Raja, Tailor Raja, Valarntha Raja, Shahjahan Abdul Majid Makandar and Shahjahan Shaik.



NEW DELHI: Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission are set to return to earth from the International Space Station July 14, NASA said Thursday. "We are working with the station program, watching the Axiom-4 progress carefully. I think we need to undock that mission and the current target to undock is July 14." Steve Stitch, Manager, NASA Commercial Crew Program, told a press conference. The Axiom-4 mission was launched from the Kennedy Space Centre at Florida June 25 and the Dragon spacecraft docked at the International Space Station June 26 after a 28-hour journey.

## Govt revises SMILE scheme for beggar rehabilitation

**OFFICIALS EMPHASISED THAT THE REVISED SMILE SCHEME MARKS A SHIFT FROM PUNITIVE RESPONSES TO A RIGHTS-BASED, REHABILITATIVE APPROACH THAT OFFERS STRUCTURED SUPPORT TO HELP VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The Centre has revised its flagship rehabilitation programme for beggars to include components like dedicated shelter homes, vocational training, psychological counselling, healthcare services, and education for children.

Officials emphasised that the revised SMILE scheme marks a shift from punitive responses to a rights-based, rehabilitative approach that offers structured support to help vulnerable in-

dividuals. The updated SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme adopts a four-pronged approach: survey and identification, outreach and mobilisation, rescue and shelter, and comprehensive resettlement to promote long-term reha-

bilitation and restore social dignity to the country's most marginalised groups.

scheme will be The implemented in cities focusing on pilgrimages, sites of religious importance, historical landmarks and tourist areas across the country in partnership with

the state administration and relevant organisations. According to the revised guidelines of the scheme, religious trusts and shrine boards will also play a significant role in implementing the scheme at pilgrimage and religious sites.

The Centre has earmarked Rs 100 crore over three years for the scheme: Rs 30 crore for 2023-24, Rs 33 crore for 2024-25, and Rs 37 crore for 2025-26.

The funds will be released in three instalments: 30 per cent for survey and mobilisation. 50 per cent for shelter and rehabilitation, and 20 per cent

based on verified progress and reintegration status.

The government aims to rehabilitate 2,500 individuals in the first year, 6,000 in the second, and 8,000 in the third. Each shelter home has been allocated an annual budget of Rs 48.7 lakh to cover operational costs, including food, staffing, counselling, skilling, and awareness campaigns. Municipal bodies and district

administrations will conduct detailed surveys to profile beneficiaries based on factors such as age, gender, legal status, and health conditions.

The data collected will be uploaded to a national portal under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for real-time monitoring.

Once identified, individuals will be offered spot counselling and will be mobilised into

shelter homes, either existing facilities under the DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission) or rented shelters where required.

Each shelter home, with a minimum capacity of 50 individuals, will provide food, clothing, hygiene kits, bedding, toilets, and recreational activities such as yoga.

The maximum stay in shelter homes is capped at six months, with provisions for extension in cases involving disability or family dependency.

Beyond immediate relief, the scheme prioritises education and skill development to facilitate long-term reintegration. Children will be enrolled in nearby government schools under the Samagra Shiksha scheme and offered after-school tuition and homework support.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, July 10: The festival of Guru Purnima, symbolising the Guru-Shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition, was celebrated with deep devotion and dedication at Pataniali Yogpeeth, under the divine presence of Swami Ramdev Maharaj, the Founder President, and Acharva Balkrishna Maharaj, the General Secretary. The celebration took place at the Yog Bhavan Auditorium, located in Patanjali Wellness, Yogpeeth-2.

During the event, Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna garlanded each other and extended best wishes for the Guru Purnima festival.

On this occasion, Swami Ramdev said that Guru Purnima is a festival to establish Sa natan Dharma as the Dharma of the Era. It represents the glorious Guru-Shishya tradition of India, the lineage of sages, the Vedic tradition, and Sanatan heritage. This festival reflects and upholds these traditions in their entirety.

Swami Ramdev further state ed that currently, there is a global struggle for dominance. However, true dominance should be of truth, yoga, spirituality, and justice. Due to various reasons, the world is facing intellectual, religious, materialistic, political, economic, medi cal, and educational terrorism.

In such times, the world will look toward India for direction in education, health care, economics, society, and politics. India will gain global recognition as the Vishwagu ru (World Teacher).













**The Indian Army has** consistently been a pillar of strength in promoting sports and youth engagement. The enthusiastic participation of

the people of Manipur in such initiatives reflects the deep mutual respect and the strong emotional bond between the armed forces and our society

AJAY KUMAR BHALLA MANIPUR GOVERNOR

#### **DELHI COURT DISCHARGES TMC** LEADERS O'BRIEN, GHOSE, GOKHALE

A Delhi court Thursday discharged 10 TMC leaders, including Derek O'Brien, Sagarika Ghose and Saket Gokhale, in a case linked to a protest outside the Election Commission of India despite prohibitory orders being in place last year



## day

I am deeply disturbed by the alarming news of harassment emerging from Jai Hind Colony in Vasant

Kunj, New Delhi, a settlement pre dominantly inhabited by Bengalis who built the city as part of its unorganised workforce MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Currently, India is going through its golden period under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Madhva Pradesh government is committed to providing high quality education and all facilities to the children for their bright

#### MOHAN YADAV MP CM

We will collaborate with the state government for a long-term drought management plan. Teams from

Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Rural Development will prepare strategies for crop yield improvement during drought

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER





comedian Kapil Sharma's newly inaugurated restaurant KAP'S CAFE shot at in Surrey, BC.

World Famous

Canada last night. Harjit Singh Laddi, a BKI operative, NIA's (INDIA ) most wanted terrorist has claimed this shoot out citing some remarks by Kapil @SurreyPolice

@RiteshLakhiCA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### MDMK leader Durai Vaiko apologises

Chennai: MDMK leader Durai Vaiko Thursday apologised for an incident involving

## **Relief for democracy: Cong** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The Congress Thursday said the Supreme Court's suggestion that the Election Commission (EC) should allow Aadhaar cards, voter-ID cards and ration cards in the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar has come as a "relief for democracy" and is a "significant advance" in the case.

Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal pointed out that the apex court will hear the case again later this month, while expressing hope that the EC will go with the court's suggestion. "Basically, it is a relief for

democracy. The case is again fixed for the 28th of this month," Venugopal told reporters, when asked about the Supreme Court's suggestion. "That itself is the biggest

thing coming from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has given its view through that to ensure that Aadhaar cards, ration cards and election-ID cards should be part of a verification process in a democratic set



**VOTER-LIST REVISION IN BIHAR** 

up. I think the EC will go with that suggestion of the Supreme Court. Let us wait for that," the Congress leader said.

Senior spokesperson of the party Abhishek Singhyi, who is the lead counsel in the Supreme Court for eight political parties as also for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mahua Moitra and the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) in the matter, said he will not elaborate on the merits of the

case as it is sub-judice. "Suffice it to say that after extensive arguments, the Su-



over Bihar. On the main issue, Singhvi said their contentions are significant and will be considered

by the court on a later date. The Congress leader said furthermore, it was argued in the court that the status was to be proved principally by a recourse to the birth certificates

#### Don't cry, try wooing voters: BJP to Oppn

New Delhi: The BJP Thursday said the apex court allowing the Election Commission to continue with the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar was a "set back" to the Opposition parties protesting the exercise and asked them to work hard to woo their voters, instead of raising hue and cry over it. BJP MP and the party's national spokesperson Rajiv Pratap Rudy told PTI Videos that the poll panel initiated the special intensive revision in Bihar ahead of the Assembly polls in the state to ensure that only eligible voters exercise their franchise.

either of the person concerned or of any or both parents.

The apex court Thursday al lowed the EC to continue with its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, calling it a "constitutional mandate'

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi, however, questioned the timing of the move, besides offering its prima facie view that Aadhaar cards, voter-ID cards and ration cards could be considered during the exercise.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Two students 'stab' school director to death in Hisar

Hisar (Haryana): The director of a private school in Haryana's Hisar district was allegedly stabbed to death by two students on the premises of the institute Thursday, with police claiming that the accused were reportedly angry over being reprimanded by the victim for indiscipline. The accused fled after stabbing the school director multiple times, police said. In CCTV footage, the two students are seen running out of the school building. Jagbir Singh Pannu, a resident of Putthi village, was rushed to a private hospital in Hisar, where doctors declared him dead, Hansi's Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Yashvardhan said. An initial investigation by police indicated that the accused might have been enraged for being reprimanded by the school director for not trimming their hair and on other disciplinary issues. Baas police station in-charge Inspector Mandeep said the victim was aged around 55 years. Asked if both the accused were minors, the SP said, "They are students of Classes 11 and 12 and are from Baas village, where the incident occurred."

#### Flt Lt Rishi Raj Singh, killed in Jaguar crash, dreamt of becoming fighter pilot

Jodhpur/ Jaipur: Flight Lieutenant Rishi Rai Singh, who died in a crash of a Jaguar fighter plane during a routine sortie near Churu in Rajasthan Wednesday, was fascinated by fighter planes from childhood and dreamt of becoming a fighter pilot, his family member said. Singh was one of the two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots who were killed in the crash Wednesday. He was flying with Squadron Leader Lokender, who hailed from Kheri Sadh village in Harvana's Rohtak. "He (Rishi Rai Singh) was brilliant in studies and after completing his schooling from Jodhpur, he appeared in the entrance examination for NDA. After selection, he went on to join NDA in Pune and chose the Air Force to realise his dream to become a flyer." Pratap Singh, a family member told reporters Thursday. Rishi Raj Singh, who was 23, is survived by his father Jaswant Singh, a hotelier: his mother Bhanwar Kanwar, a homemaker: and his younger brother Yuvraj Singh, who is pursuing his senior secondary education in Jodhpur.

#### SC agrees to hear plea to save Kerala nurse on death row in Yemen

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to hear a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to use diplomatic channels to save an Indian nurse facing execution for murder in Yemen July 16.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi posted the hearing July 14 before a regular bench after advocate Subhash Chandran KR said diplomatic channels need to be explored at the earliest.

Senior advocate Ragenth Basant and Chandran submitted that payment of blood money to the family of the deceased permissible under Sharia law can be explored. The family of the deceased

may pardon the Kerala nurse if blood money is paid, Basant submitted. The bench asked Chan-

## No vacancy for CM post in K'taka: Siddaramaiah

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, July 10: Amid talk of leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Thursday dismissed speculation saying there is "no vacancy" for the top post.

Siddaramaiah asserted that he would complete his fiveyear tenure as Chief Minister and brushed aside talk of him paving the way for his deputy D K Shivakumar to take over later this year.

"Is there any vacancy for chief ministership? I am very much here before you. I am the chief minister of Karnataka. That is what D K Shivakumar has said, and I am also saying it... There is no vacancy (for CM post)," he told reporters in Delhi when asked about any change of leadership in Karnataka. There has been speculation of Siddaramaiah stepping down amid some sections of MLAs pitching for Shivakumar for the CM's post later this year when the government completes 2.5 years in November.

The chief minister asserted that the Congress national general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, has categorically ruled out any such move and his deputy Shivakumar has also stated so.

"Surjewala has clearly said there is no change in the leadership. The leadership issue is not in the discussion. When he said this, why is there speculation? He is in charge of Karnataka, and when he has said there should not be any speculation, the media is still speculating. There is no discussion about this within the party, Siddaramaiah said.

The Chief Minister said that the party high command's deci-



year

pointments.

sion would be final and binding. "We agreed to it and conveyed the same multiple times.'

On questions about a poten tial power-sharing arrangement, Siddaramaiah said, "It is natural to raise such issues when the government is completing two and a half years, but it does not mean such an agreement was there. If such an agreement existed, I would not have said recently that I will be the CM for five years."

Sources said the leaders are learnt to have discussed Siddaramaiah and Shivakuappointments of chairper sons of various boards and corporations and fill up vacancies in the Legislative Council.

Meanwhile, several key ministers in the Karnataka cabinet Thursday huddled with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence in Bengaluru

Siddaramaiah earlier wondered why there was any such rumour while he was still in the post.

"Is the CM post vacant now? Then why is there such speculation? If someone shares a personal opinion, can that be the party's decision? Kharge and Rahul Gandhi should talk about this," he said.

On a cabinet reshuffle, he said, "No discussion has been done on the change of leadership and cabinet reshuffle. No discussion has taken place. D K Shivakumar (the deputy chief minister) himself said there is no vacancy for the CM post."



his party workers allegedly roughing up mediapersons during a coverage of the party event in Sattur in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district. At a meeting of the MDMK for Tirunelveli mandal July 9 held in Sattur, which was addressed by MDMK chief Vaiko, a section of journalists reportedly recorded videos of empty chairs at the meeting venue and this resulted in an argument between party workers and reporters, resulting in the mediapersons getting roughed up. It was well known that Vaiko maintained cordial ties with journalists, Durai said in a statement here.

#### HC stays release of 'Udaipur Files' film

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday stayed the release of 'Udaipur Files' movie, which is based on tailor Kanhaiya Lal murder case, and scheduled to hit the screen July 11, till the Centre decided the pleas seeking a permanent ban on the film. A division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Anish Dayal directed the petitioners to approach the Centre within two days with their grievance.

#### Army constable among 3 held in opium racket

New Delhi: An army constable, his girlfriend and an accomplice of his were arrested in Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area for smuggling opium worth ₹1 crore in an SUV Thursday, an official said. The arrested constable. Godhu Ram (31), had allegedly been on the run from the Indian Army for the past nine months and had been using his leave period to facilitate the smuggling of opium from Manipur to Raiasthan and Delhi-NCR, he said.

dran, who is the advocate on record in the case, to serve the copy of the petition to the Attorney General and sought his assistance.

"Considering the nature and urgency of the case, we request the Union of India/Central Government to apprise this Court through the Attorney General of India as to the steps taken in the case by the Government of India, if any," the bench's order said.

Nimisha Priya, 38, a nurse from Palakkad district of Kerala, was convicted of murdering her Yemeni business partner in 2017. She was sentenced to death in 2020, and her final appeal was rejected in 2023

She is currently imprisoned in a jail in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. The plea has been filed by an organisation "Save Nimisha Priya - International Action Council" which extends legal support to assist Nimishapriya.



Royal Bengal tigress Rani licks one of cubs which was born white, in their enclosure at the Nahargarh Biological

### Tharoor slams emergency as 'dark chapter'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### Thiruvananthapuram,

July 10: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has criticised the Emergency declared by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, saying the people of the country responded clearly to the excesses of that period by voting her party out of power by a large margin

mar are in the national capital

amid talk of leadership change

in Karnataka. Several minis-

ters and senior leaders in the

state have made statements

over change of guard later this

Siddaramaiah and Shivaku-

mar held a meeting in Delhi

with AICC general secretary

Suriewala and held discus-

sions over some pending ap-

In an article published on the measure, which lasted between 25 June 1975 and 21 March 1977, in the Malayalam daily 'Deepika' on Thursday, the Congress Working Committee member termed it "a dark chapter" in India's history and recalled Indira Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi's notorious acts, including forced sterilisation campaigns and the

merciless demolition of slums in New Delhi.

#### Prime Minister Indira Gand hi was seen as having endorsed harsh actions, Tharoor said, criticising the country's first woman prime minister-whom the Nehru family and the Congress regard as the Iron Lady of India—on the matter.

When asked for his views on the article. Leader of Opposi tion and senior Congress lead er V D Satheesan said only the national leadership of the party can comment on this.

Further commenting on the measures taken under Emergency, Tharoor said that ef forts undertaken for discipline and order often turned into acts of cruelty that could not be justified.

## 'Govt's big move to check inflated hosp bills due to insurers'

Healthcare costs in India are projected to rise by 13% in 2025, exceeding the global average of 10%, and up from 12% recorded a year earlier, according to professional services firm Aon's Global Medical Trend Rates Report

#### REUTERS

New Delhi, July 10: India plans to bring an existing health insurance claims portal under the finance ministry and insurance regulator to curb overcharging by healthcare providers, a government source told Reuters.

Healthcare costs in India are projected to rise by 13%

in 2025, exceeding the global average of 10%, and up from 12% recorded a year earlier, according to professional services firm Aon's Global Medical Trend Rates Report.

An analysis by the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) found that hospitals are inflating treatment costs for patients



earlier this week.

This has driven insurers to

and overcharging those with higher covers, the source said

charge higher health premiums, making coverage less affordable for some, the source said, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

India's finance and health ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

"Strict supervision" of the National Health Claims Exchange - the platform that acts as a gateway between insurers, healthcare providers and patients - will improve the "collective bargaining power" of insurance companies to set treatment rates,

the source said. Currently the exchange is overseen by the health ministry's National Health Authority and was developed in "consultation" with the insurance regulator according to the authority's website.

IRDAI does not regulate the health exchange but regulates insurers on the platform.

Annual growth in health in surance premium income has slowed to 9% in 2024-25 from over 20% a year ago, accord ing to industry data, as premiums become unaffordable for many, leading to fewer policy renewals.













international



From our point of view, it is a totally exaggerated decision to close the border again CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM PRESIDENT, MEXICO

#### **TAIWAN SHOWS OFF NEW US TANKS**

Taiwan's army Thursday displayed the fire power of its first USsourced M1A2T Abrams tanks - a traditional weapon that analysts say will need to be increasingly protected against drones in any future battle given lessons from the Ukraine war



of the day

As close partners and NATO allies, the UK and France have a deep history of defence collaboration and today's agreements take our partnership to the next level

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

We've seen these past few weeks wars, destabilisation of trade in our economies.

for us all

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE



is no place to hide ISRAEL KATZ DEFENCE MINISTER, ISRAEL

#### SHORT TAKES

#### China, Pak to step up media cooperation

Beijing: China and Pakistan on Thursday agreed on joint media cooperation to counter fake news and enhance collaboration in joint broadcasting projects. Pakistan Information and **Broadcasting Minister** Attaullah Tarar met Cao Shumin, Deputy Head of **Publicity Department of** the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), and discussed ways to boost media cooperation between the two countries, Pakistan state media reported. Tarar is in Beijing to attend the Ministerial meeting of the **Global Civilizational Dialogue** organised by the CPC. Tarar and Cao, who is also the Minister of the National Radio and Television Administration of China, agreed to explore broadening cooperation through joint productions, combating disinformation, launching training initiatives, and fostering cultural exchange, Pakistan's state-run APP news agency reported.

Iran urges UN to end bias

# **Russia bombards Kyiv**

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Thursday that the US and Russia have exchanged new ideas for peace talks after he met with his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in Malaysia

Kyiv/Rome, July 10: Russia unleashed heavy airstrikes on Ukraine Thursday before a conference in Rome at which Kyiv won billions of dollars in aid pledges, and US-Russian talks at which Washington voiced frustration with Moscow over the war.

REUTERS

Two people were killed, 23 were wounded and there was damage in nearly every part of Kviv from missile and drone attacks on the capital and other parts of Ukraine.

Addressing the Rome conference on Ukraine's reconstruction after more than three years of war. President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged allies to "more actively" use Russian assets for rebuilding and called for weapons, joint defence production and investment.

#### **\$12 BILLION PLEDGED FOR** UKRAINE

Participants pledged over 10 billion euros (\$12 billion) to help rebuild Ukraine, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said. The European Commission, the EU's executive. announced 2.3 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) in support.

US President Donald Trump has been increasingly frustrated with Vladimir Putin over the lack of progress towards ending the war raging since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and has accused the Russian president of

throwing a lot of "bullshit" at US efforts to end the conflict. At talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov while in Malaysia, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he had reinforced the message



that Moscow should show more flexibility.

"We need to see a roadmap moving forward about how this conflict can conclude," Rubio said, adding that the Trump administration had been engaging with the US Senate on what new sanctions on Russia might look like.

It was a frank conversation. It was an important one," Rubio said after the 50-minute talks in Kuala Lumpur. Moscow's foreign ministry said they had shared "a substantive and frank exchange of views".

Zelenskiy said Thursday's assault by Russia had involved around 400 drones and 18 missiles, primarily targeting the capital.

Explosions and anti-aircraft fire rattled the city. Windows were blown out, facades ravaged and cars burned to shells. In the city centre, an apartment in an eight-storey building was engulfed in flames.

This is terror because it happens every night when people are asleep," said Karyna Volf, a 25-year-old Kyiv resident



In MINISTERS

RELATED MEE

Air defences stopped all but a few dozen of the drones, authorities said, a day after Russia

launched a record 728 drones at Ukraine. **UKRAINE'S AIR DEFENCES** STRAINED

Escalating Russian strikes in recent weeks have strained Ukraine's defences at a time when its troops are facing renewed pressure on the front



Rubio meets Lavrov in Malaysia, voices frustration

Ukraine wins aid pledged at Rome conference

line, and forced residents in Kyiv and across the country into bomb shelters.

Russia's defence ministry said it had hit "military-industrial" targets in Kyiv as well as military airfields. It denies targeting civilians although

towns and cities have been hit

regularly in the war and thou

Moscow's mayor later said

Russian air defences had

brought down three Ukrainian

drones bound for the Russian

In Rome, Zelenskiy urged Eu-

ropean allies to make more use

of Russian assets frozen during

the war for reconstruction. He

was also seeking critical weap

ons, joint defence production

sands have been killed.

capital.

and investment.

## Bangladesh's tribunal indicts Hasina over killing of protesters

Hasina along with the co-accused was indicted on five charges, including mass killings, murder, and torture to tame the protestors during last year's July-August uprising

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, July 10: A special tribunal in Bangladesh Thursday indicted deposed premier Sheikh Hasina in absentia on charges of crimes against humanity in connection with a deadly crackdown on protesters during the July-August uprising last year.

The International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh (ICT-BD) has set August 3 as the date for the trial.

The tribunal has "framed the charge against her (Hasina) alongside the home minister of her regime Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and (the then) inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun," a prose-

cution lawyer told reporters. The ICT bench, headed by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order after rejecting a defence plea to dismiss the charges. The other two members of the tribunal are Justices Md Shofiul Alam Mahmood and Md Mohitul Haq Enam Chowdhury. The prosecutors said Hasina

along with the co-accused was indicted on five charges, including mass killings, murder, and torture to tame the protestors during last year's July-August uprising.

If proven guilty, the accused



could face the death penalty According to a UN rights office report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters.

With Thursday's order, the formal trial against 72-year-old Hasina and other defendants in the case for crimes against humanity has begun for the first time.

Hasina faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted August 5 last year following a mass student-led agitation in the country, which forced her to flee Dhaka.

Mamun, the only accused appearing in person, pleaded guilty when produced before the tribunal from custody, prosecutors added

During the indictment hearing, the former police chief expressed his willingness to make a statement in the prosecution's favour at a later stage. The presiding judge said the tribunal would later decide whether to treat him as an "approver".

Mamun's lawyer told journalists that the ex-police chief agreed to become a state witness, confessing his role during the vi olent movement.

## Israeli strike hits near Gaza medical centre

The strike in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip came as Israeli and Hamas negotiators hold talks with mediators in Oatar over a proposed 60-day ceasefire and hostage



clinic to seek treatment for a throat ailment.

'They hit her with a shell Her brother went to check and he said they all died. What did they do? What's their fault? She was only getting treatment in a medical facility. Why did they kill them?" she said.

Israeli attacks on Palestinian hospitals and health facilities, detentions of medics, and restrictions on the entry of medical supplies have drawn condemnation, opens new tab from the United Nations.

**SNIPPETS** EU's von der Leyen survives parliament confidence vote Brussels: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen survived a no-confidence vote in the European Par-liament Thursday, tabled by mainly far-right lawmakers who alleged she and her team undermined trust in the EU through unlawful actions. As expected, the motion failed to get the two-thirds majority it needed to pass. Only 175

and our ability to act jointly is a key success drive



Dubai: Iran's president said Thursday the UN nuclear watchdog should drop its "double standards" if Tehran is to resume cooperation with it over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, Iranian state media reported. President Masoud Pezeshkian last week enacted a law suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the IAEA said it had pulled its last remaining inspectors out of Iran. Relations between Iran and the IAEA have worsened since the United States and Israel bombed Iranian nuclear facilities in June, saying they wanted to prevent Tehran developing an atomic weapon. Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only and denies seeking atomic weapons. "The continuation of Iran's cooperation with the agency (IAEA) depends of the latter correcting its double standards regarding the nuclear file," state media quoted Pezeshkian as telling European Council President Antonio Costa by phone.

#### Shots fired at Kapil Sharma's restaurant

Surrey (Canada): Shots were fired at comedian Kapil Sharma's newly opened restaurant in Canada's Surrey. The Surrey Police Service (SPS) said it responded to a call from a business at 1:50 am local time Thursday. It did not name the business establishment. According to reports, Sharma's Kap's Cafe was the target of the attack. There is no reaction from the Comedian's team yet. The SPS said there were no injuries to anyone at the business.

fusal to disclose text messages between von der Leyen and the chief executive of vaccine maker Pfizer during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The decision-making has become opague and discretionary, and raises fears of abuse and corruption The cost of obsessive bureaucracy of the European Union such as (tackling) climate change has been a huge one," Piperea told the parliament Monday. During the debate on her leadership, von der Leyen defended her record in parliament, rejecting criticism of her management of the pandemic and asserting that her approach ensured equal vaccine access across the EU.

ed against and 18 abstained. Romanian nationalist Gheorghe Piperea, the lead

sponsor of the motion, had criticised among other things the Commission's re-

#### Student pilot from India among 2 killed in mid-air crash in Canada

members of parliament backed the motion, while 360 vot-



Ottawa: An Indian student pilot was killed in a mid-air crash in Manitoba province of Canada, according to he Consulate General of India in Toronto, The Indian pilot, identified as Sreehari Sukesh, was killed wher his single-engine plane collided mid-air with another similar aircraft piloted by a Canadian youth, who was also killed in the accident Tues day. The Consulate General of India

Wednesday said it was "in contact with the bereaved family, the pilot training school and local police to provide all necessary assistance." "The bodies of the two student pilots were recovered in the wreckage of their single-engine planes after both crashed mid-air Tuesday morning near Steinbach, roughly 50 kilometres southeast of Winnipeg," a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) news report said. The students collided when approaching a landing strip while practising takeoffs and landings, the CBC report said, quoting Adam Penner, president of Harv's Air, the flying school where both pilots had been training

#### release deal aimed at building agreement on a lasting truce

#### REUTERS

Jerusalem/Cairo, July 10: An Israeli strike hit Palestinians near a medical centre in Gaza Thursday, killing 16 including children and wounding more people, local health authorities said, as ceasefire talks dragged on with no result expected soon.

The strike in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip came as Israeli and Hamas negotiators hold talks with mediators in Qatar over a proposed 60-day ceasefire and hostage release deal aimed at building agreement on a lasting truce.

However, a senior Israeli of-

ficial said Wednesday that an agreement was not likely to be secured for another one or two weeks

Khalil al-Degran, spokesperson for the health ministry in Gaza's Hamas-run government, said Israel had targeted a medical centre and that six of the dead were children. Many of those injured had suffered severe wounds to the head and chest, he said.

Israel's military said it had struck a militant who took part in the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. It said it was aware of

reports regarding a number of injured individuals and that the incident was under review.

Videos Thursday verified by Reuters showed a scene of carnage, with the bodies of dead and injured, mainly women and children, lying in blood amid a cloud of dust as people screamed all around, and of motionless children lying in blood on a donkey cart.

At Deir al-Balah's al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the dead and wounded were taken, Samah al-Nouri said her daughter had been killed in the morning's strike after attending the TALKS

US President Donald Trump met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week to discuss Gaza amid reports Isra el and the Palestinian militant group Hamas were nearing agreement on a US-brokered ceasefire proposal after 21 months of war.

The Israeli official who was in Washington with Netanyahu said that if the two sides agree to the ceasefire proposal, Isra el would use that time to offer a permanent truce requiring Hamas to disarm.

If Hamas refuses, "we'll proceed" with military operations in Gaza, the official said on condition of anonymity.

### Trump's 'good English' praise prompts eye rolls in Liberia, some cheers

#### REUTERS

Monrovia, July 10: Liberians reacted with a mix of anger and weary resignation Thursday after discovering that the leader of their country's closest bilateral partner does not appear to know what language they speak.

At a meeting at the White House Wednesday, US President Donald Trump responded to brief remarks from his Liberian counterpart, Joseph Boakai, by marvelling at his "beautiful" English and asking where he learned it.

English is the official language of Liberia, a country founded in 1822 as a colony for free Black Americans.

Government statements are published in standard English

while spoken Liberian English reflects influences from pidgin and indigenous languages used across the country of around 5.5 million people

Liberians sometimes refer to the US as their "big brother", but not everyone was surprised that Trump's knowledge of the country did not seem to reflect that closeness

Fatumata Binta Sall, a Liberian feminist activist who travels frequently to the US, told Reuters that Trump's amazement at Boakai's English fluency was all too familiar.

"Many times, I've had Americans ask me whether I studied abroad or where I learned to speak 'so well'," she said. Such remarks, she said, indi-

cate her country "isn't visible in the minds of many Ameri-



cans". She attended international conferences "to remind the world that Liberia exists"

William VS Tubman III, a Liberian writer and grandson of former President William Tubman, voiced frustration at what he described as Trump's lack of respect.

"Praising an African head of state for speaking English 'so beautifully' isn't a compliment, it's a reflection of how deeply colonial thinking continues to shape expectations," he said.

"What Trump said wasn't ignorance. It was disrespect and entitlement disguised as praise."

Massad Boulos, Trump's senior adviser for Africa, said no one in the room was bothered

Trump praised English of anglophone Liberia's president

Many Liberians not surprised by Trump's lack of knowledge

I iberian writer says Trump's comment shows 'disrespect'

Liberia's president took no offence, says foreign minister

by Trump's remark.

LIBERIA SCORES 'BIGLY' Some residents of the Liberian capital Monrovia also chose to highlight what they saw as the positive aspects of the visit. Boakai's inclusion on the

guest list gave him an opportunity to tout Liberia's mineral assets and history of democratic elections.

And his status as the only

anglophone - in a group that also included leaders of Sene gal, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon and Mauritania - clearly made an impression on his host

"In terms of his grammar, the way that he spoke, I think it shows that Boakai has a solid foundation in his education in Liberia," radio journalist Augustus Caine said.

A front-page story in The Analyst newspaper said Boakai had been "eloquently conveying Liberia's critical interests' and "attracting the host's admi ration".

The headline featured a rarely used English word that Trump himself was credited with reviving during his first run for the White House in 2016. "Trump's Invite of Liberia

Scores 'Bigly'", it read.











# business



## India will have to increase its

exports to become the world's third-largest economic power, and the shipping and waterways sector will play a vital role in enhancing exports SHANTANU THAKUR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

#### **GOVT TO SELL MINORITY STAKE IN LIC**

The government is working on further stake sale in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). The government currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC. It had sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of ₹902-949 a share. The share sale fetched the government around ₹21,000 crore. Sources said the government has given its approval for further share sale in LIC through the OFS route. The quantum of stake sale, price and timing would be decided in due course



#### of the day uote

nition by the government reinforces IREDA's pivotal role in accelerating renew able energy financ-

ing in the country. The tax-exempt status for our bonds will offer an attractive investment avenue for green energy projects, contributing to India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity target by 2030 PRADIP KUMAR DAS | CMD, IREDA

We need to focus on how we have a minimum degree of control over the global logistics ecosystem, which is also necessary to support our

international trade as we move to wards the 2047 Viksit Bharat goal RAJESH AGRAWAL SPECIAL SECRETARY, COMMERCE DEPT



units but as integrated innovation ecosystems

VK SARASWAT I NITI AAYOG MEMBER VK SARASWAT

#### SHORT TAKES

#### IREDA profit falls

New Delhi: Indian Renewable **Energy Development Agency** (IREDA) Thursday reported a 36 per cent decline in its net profit to Rs 247 crore in the June guarter compared to a year ago, mainly due to higher expenses. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 384 crore in the guarter ended on June 30, 2024, a BSE filing showed. However, the revenue from operations improved to Rs 1,947 crore during the quarter against Rs 1,510 crore in the year-ago period. The net worth of the company appreciated to Rs 12,042 crore from Rs 9,110 crore in FY25.

#### LIC posts growth

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New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has reported a 14.60 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in individual premium in June 2025, higher

## Sensex drops

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 10: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure Thursday due to weakness in IT and telecom stocks.Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment in the market, traders said.

30-share BSE Sensex dropped

345.80 points or 0.41 per cent to

settle at 83,190.28. As many as

2,064 stocks declined, while

1.959 advanced and 138 re-

mained unchanged on the BSE.

NSE Nifty declined 120.85 points

or 0.47 per cent to 25,355.25.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti

Airtel, Asian Paints, Infosys,

Bharat Electronics, Tech Ma-

hindra and Eternal were ma-

jor laggards. However, Maru-

ti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance,

Bajaj Finserv, Trent and Tata

Consultancy Services were

among the gainers. The BSE

midcap gauge dipped 0.28 per

In Asian markets, South

Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE

Composite Index and Hong

Kong's Hang Seng settled higher.

On similar lines, the 50-share

few years, has garnered substantial investor interest, and the consistent increase in

folio numbers serves as a testament to its

Gold, with its superlative

performance over the last

attractiveness

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: Gold Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) attracted a net sum of ₹2,081 crore in June, making it the highest monthly inflow in five months, driven by resilient prices of the yellow metal, geopolitical uncertainties and volatility in equity markets. This came following a net

inflow of ₹292 crore in May. Before this, the category witnessed a net outflow of ₹6 crore in April and ₹77 crore in March, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

With this, net inflows in Gold ETFs crossed ₹8,000 crore in the first half of the year (January-June).

The inflow led to an expansion in the category's assets under management by nearly 4 per cent to ₹64,777 crore in June from ₹62.453



crore in May

"The robust inflows in June indicate a decisive shift in sentiment, likely supported by resilient gold prices, geopolitical uncertainties, and volatility in equity and fixed income markets, which have revived gold's appeal as a safe-haven asset, Nehal Meshram, Senior Analyst-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

The inflow in June was the highest monthly inflow since January, when Gold ETFs attracted ₹3,751 crore.

In June, two new Gold ETFs were launched, collectively mobilising ₹41 crore.

"While the fund mobilisation through new launches remained modest, it adds to the broader recovery in flows and reflects steady investor interest in the asset class,' Meshram said.

Gold, with its superlative

performance over the last few years, has garnered substantial investor interest, and the consistent increase in folio numbers serves as a testament to its attractiveness.

The folio numbers in gold ETFs rose by 2.85 lakh to 76.54 lakh in the month under review from 73.69 lakh in May. This suggests a growing inclination among investors towards funds related to gold.

Gold ETFs, which aim to track the domestic physical gold price, are passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in gold bullion. In short, Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold, which may be in paper or dematerialised form.

One gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of very high puri ty. They combine the flexibility of stock investments and the simplicity of gold investments. India revises WTO tariff plan against US *The proposed suspension of concessions or other* 

obligations can take the form of an increase in tariffs on selected products originating in US

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: India has revised its proposal to impose retaliatory duties under the WTO (World Trade Organisation) norms against US over tariffs on steel and aluminium in view of the further hike in duty by the Trump administration.

US first imposed 25 per cent tariffs on imports of aluminium, steel and derivative articles on March 12. Again, on June 3, the taxes were hiked to 50 per cent.

"Without prejudice to its earlier notification to the Council for Trade in Goods and the Committee on Safeguards dated May 12, India reserves its right to adjust the products and tariff rates. This request is made in response to the increase in the tariff rate by the US from 25 per cent ad valorem to 50 per cent," the WTO has said in a communication on Wednesday.

This was circulated among WTO members at the request of India. It said that the proposed suspension of concessions or other obligations can

take the form of an increase in tariffs on selected products originating in US. The safeguard measures would affect \$7.6 billion im-

ports into the United States of the relevant products orig inating in India, on which the duty collection would be USD 3.82 billion," it said.

Accordingly, India's proposed suspension of con cessions would result in an equivalent amount of duty collected from products originating in America.

In the May 12 communication, the duty collection figure was stated as \$1.91 billion.

The first Trump administration, in 2018, imposed a 25 per cent duty on certain steel items and a 10 per cent duty on aluminium products on the grounds of national security. In retaliation, India in June 2019 slapped customs duties on 28 US products, including almonds and walnuts. India had also filed a complaint in the WTO.

The proposal assumes sig nificance as both countries are negotiating a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

### BoB hands over ₹1.10cr to deceased constable's NOK

Deputy Commissioner of Po Bhubaneswar: Lokanath Sabar was working as an OAPF lice Prakash Chandra Pal, constable in Cuttack City, died on duty. The amount was paid under the benefit scheme of Bank of Baroda- Odisha police salary package. The cheque was handed over in the presence of Commissioner of Police Suresh Dev Dutta Singh, Addl. Commissioner of Police Narasingh Bhol, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cuttack) Khilari Rishikesh Dhyandeo,

General Manager & Zonal Head of BoB Swapna Bandopadhaya, DGM-BD SP Nayak, DGM-CA VMNS Saibabu, Regional Head BoB Bhubaneswar Region Satya Ranjan Mahaptra and Regional Head of Cuttack Region Pradeep Kumar Behera, Branch Head of Navabazaar Branch Sukesh Kumar amongst others present in the program.

#### ha accelerates its transition towards a greener energy future, the state has outlined an ambitious goal in 'Odisha Vision 2036 & 2047': to emerge as a net exporter of green energy. With abundant renewable resources and a forward-looking policy framework, Odisha is actively seeking strategic partnerships to harness its solar potential at scale. At the heart of this effort

facility in Tamil Nadu. India's

largest single-location 4.3 GW

Solar Cell and Module Manu-

facturing Plant, playing a vital

Tirunelveli, July 10:As Odis-

DEEPAK KUMAR DEHURY, OP



Solar modules from Tata Power's TN plant

to lead Odisha's clean energy transition

for countless households.

Amid the increasing emphasis on DCR (Domestic Content Requirement) compliance, enhanced participation from the private sector has become vital to scaling domestic manufac-

ta Power is educating students on the importance of renewable energy, while also empowering women's self-help groups (SHGs) to become key advocates for sustainable practices within their communities. Odisha's green energy roadmap calls for a comprehensive partner capable of delivering end-to-end solar solutionsfrom manufacturing to installation and after-sales support. TP Solar Ltd. meets this need through its robust manufacturing capabilities, while Tata Power Solarroof complements it by offering affordable financing options, including minimal upfront investments starting from ₹2.499 for 1 kW. ₹4.999 for 2 kW, and ₹7,999 for 3 kW. These cost-effective solutions, paired with 25-year warranty-backed solar panels, turn solar adoption from an aspiration into a practical and economically viable choice. Following the transformation of Odisha's power distribution landscape, the state is strategically positioned to become a leader in the clean energy transition. Tata Power, through its state discoms, is actively transforming the energy landscape by enhancing grid efficiency, reducing AT&C losses,

grocery demand has shifted to

the Q-comm industry, and there

is a notable shift in consumer

preferences towards the con-

venience and comfort due to

improving power reliability, and ensuring a seamless power supply for all.

To create a future-ready workforce for this green transition, Tata Power through its Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI) is also developing four Skill Development Centres-one across each of its distribution companies in Odi sha-focused on green energy skill training. These centres will train 12,000 individuals over the next one year in var ious green skills, including solar installation, operations and maintenance. These cen tres will further strengthen Odisha's ecosystem of clean energy readiness and local





cent while the smallcap index inched higher by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, teck dropped 1.17 per cent, telecommunication (1.11 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.77 per cent), IT (0.71 per cent) and consumer durables (0.44 per cent). Realty, metal, oil & gas and utilities were the gainers.

than 12.12 per cent growth in premium income of private life insurers, Life Insurance Council data showed Thursday. In June 2025, LIC collected ₹5,313 crore in individual premium, compared to 25 private sector companies, which together accounted for ₹8,408 crore. During the month of June 2025, total policies issued by LIC stood at 12.49 lakh from 14.65 lakh in the same period last year.

#### GAIL, Oil India ink pact

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd. the nation's second largest state oil and gas producer, has signed a long-term agreement to sell natural gas produced from a Raiasthan field to GAIL (India) Ltd for 15 years. The two firms signed a gas sale and purchase agreement (GSPA) Wednesday, they said in separate but identical statements. The GSPA is an extension of a current pact. Under the agreement. up to 9.00.000 standard cubic metres per day of natural gas will be supplied from Oil India's Bakhri Tibba block in Raiasthan to a power plant operated by the state's electricity generation company.

#### TCS profit rises

Mumbai: TCS Thursday reported a 6 per cent rise in its June quarter net profit at ₹12,760 crore. The Tata group company had posted a net profit of ₹12,040 crore in the corresponding period last year. The company's revenue inched up by 1.3 per cent to ₹63,437 crore from ₹62,613 crore in the year-ago period, but was down 3 per cent. Its operating profit margin expanded 0.30 per cent on-quarter to 24.5 per cent in the April-June period. The company scrip had closed 0.06 per cent down at Rs 3,382.30 apiece on the BSE, as against a 0.41 per cent correction on the benchmark.



### Priya Nair named first woman CEO-MD, HUL PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: Priya Nair will become the first woman CEO and MD of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) effective August 1, 2025, with India's largest FMCG firm announcing her appointment Thursday.

Nair, currently President, Beauty & Wellbeing, Unilever, has been appointed for a period of five years. She replaces Rohit Jawa who will step down as CEO and MD on July 31, 2025. Jawa took over as the CEO and MD of HUL in 2023

Nair will also join the HUL Board, subject to necessary approvals, and continue to be a

member of the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE), the company added.

"Priya has had an outstanding career in HUL and Unilever. I am certain that with her deep understanding of the Indian market and excellent track record, Priya will take HUL to the next level of performance," HUL Chairman Nitin Paranjpe said.

Nair joined HUL in 1995 and held several sales and marketing roles across home care. beauty & wellbeing, and personal care businesses. Her significant contributions led her to become the Executive Director, Home Care, HUL.

of the arms of domestic rating

agency, Careedge Ratings, said.

revenue of ₹10,500 crore from

fees in FY25, which was huge

growth from ₹450 crore in FY22,

the report said, adding that the

revenues are expected to grow

to increased platform fees by

major players, resulting in

higher revenue realisation

and a substantial increase in

'This sharp increase is due

to ₹34,500 crore by FY28.

The platforms pocketed

role in powering this transition.

Tata Power is actively contributing to this vision by committing to the installation of over 3 lakh rooftop solar systems across Odisha in the next three years. Collaborating closely with the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA), Tata Power is driving awareness, localised training, and affordable financing to accelerate grassroots solar adoption. These efforts are aligned with the state's clean energy roadmap that emphasises inclusive participation and accessibility for all.

With the transformation in power distribution and strong support from the state government under initiatives like PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Odisha is rapidly emerging as a frontrunner in the clean energy revolution. Notable advancements are being made in the promotion and adoption of rooftop solar solutions, turning the aspiration of a solar-powered future into a practical reality

turing capacity, ensuring regulatory alignment, and fostering the long-term sustainability of India's solar energy landscape. TP Solar Ltd., the solar manufacturing subsidiary of Tata Power, is at the forefront of this transformation. Situated in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, it operates the nation's largest single-location solar manufacturing facility. Equipped with advanced technologies such as TOPCon and Mono PERC. the plant produces high-efficiency solar cells and modules known for their reliability and consistent performance.

In addition to its robust manufacturing capabilities, Tata Power, in strategic partnership with OREDA, is driving grassroots solar adoption through comprehensive awareness campaigns, region-specific training programs, and accessible financing solutions tailored to local communities

Through its flagship Club Enerji program—a schoolbased outreach initiative-Taemployment.

Equipped with the latest technology and automation systems, the Tirunelveli plant is proudly operated by a highly skilled, enterprising workforce-80% of which are women—underscoring Tata Power's commitment to inclu sive and sustainable growth The Tirunelveli facility is a cornerstone of India's renew able energy transition and a kev enabler of Tata Power's rooftop solar expansion in Odisha. Its DCR-compliant and ALMM-certified modules are critical in building a resilient, self-reliant solar ecosystem for Odisha and beyond.

Together, these efforts sup port the state's broader goal of sustainable development and energy independence From Tamil Nadu's advanced manufacturing lines to Odi sha's rooftops and training centres, Tata Power is committed to powering Odisha's future—cleanly, efficiently, and sustainably.

## O-comm order doubles, likely to touch ₹2L-cr by FY28

Platforms are also shifting focus from hypergrowth to revive profitability, leveraging advertising, subscriptions, private labels, and tech-led inventory optimisation

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 10: Indians ordered ₹64,000 crore of goods from quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit and Instamart in FY25, more than double from the previous fiscal year's ₹30,000 crore, a report

said Thursday The gross order value (GOV) is estimated to grow more than three-times to touch ₹2 lakh crore by FY28, the report by one

overall GOV," the report by Careedge Advisory said.

Platforms are also shifting focus from hypergrowth to revive profitability, leveraging advertising, subscriptions, private labels, and tech-led inventory optimisation, it said

The 'take rate' which is the percentage of a transaction cost retained as revenue by the platforms, has increased to up to 18 per cent in FY25, from 7-9 per cent in FY22, it said.

The arm's head Tanvi Shah said Q-comm players' focus is shifting from rapid expansion to reviving profitability and operational efficiency, and added



that tech-led innovations and penetration into tier-2 and tier-3 cities will define the next phase of growth for the sector. Only one per cent of India's

which the sector will witness a rapid growth going forward, the arm's assistant director Amir Shaikh said.

India had over 270 million online shoppers in 2024, mak ing it the second-largest e-re tail user base globally, while the e-commerce market grew 23.8 per cent in 2024 over the vear-ago period, it said, add ing India has over 1.12 billion mobile connections as of ear ly-2025 and the smartphone adoption is also growing rapid ly. Rising disposable incomes and higher spending capacity are also likely to fuel growth for Q-comm.















#### **OrissaPOS** FRIDAY | JULY 11, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

## P()R

## **Root at 99, England reach 251/4**

London, July 10: Joe Root stitched together a dogged unbeaten 99 as England shed their usual aggressive ways, resorting to classical long format batting amid sustained pressure from the Indian bowlers to reach 251 for four day one of the Lord's Test here Thursday.

At stumps, Root was one run shy of his 37th Test hundred having negated 191 balls, and was batting alongside Ben Stokes (39 batting off 102).

They have put on 79 for the unfinished fifth wicket so far.

Opting to bat in a home game only for the second time in the Bazball era, England chose to bat with plenty of patience on a slow surface than being on the offensive — their usual mode of operation under Stokes. The surface wore a green-

ish look on the eve of the game but looked flat before the toss as a sea of fans flocked to the iconic venue.

With the series locked at 1-1, the pitch had been a big talking point heading into the third Test.

India, having six bowling options, did not offer too many freebies though Edgbaston hero Akash Deep struggled to find his rhvthm in his debut game here.

After a wicketless afternoon session, Ravindra Jadeja had Ollie Pope (44 off 104) caught behind first ball after tea with a ball that turned away from length. Five overs later, Jasprit Bumrah weaved his magic as he got one to nip back to pierce Harry Brook's defense.

In the afternoon session,



Rishabh Pant had an injury scare as an angled down leg ball from Bumrah crashed into his left fingertips, forc-

India all-rounder Nitish ing him to leave the field. Dhruv Jurel substituted Kumar Reddy struck twice in his absence and did a fine in an eventful over to leave job. Pant's injury, however, England at 83 for two at is not serious and he is exlunch. On expected lines, pected to resume wicket-Prasidh Krishna made keeping duties Friday.

India kept England's run rate in check but Root and Pope chugged along to take the hosts to 153 for two at tea. England, known for their ultra-aggressive approach, had a rather subdued session by their standards with Root and Pope going back to classical Test match batting approach.

They were happy to leave balls outside the off-stump to ensure that no damage was done. A total of 70 runs were scored from 24 overs in the middle session.

way for Bumrah as the sole change in the Indian playing eleven. Ben Stokes, only for the second time in the Bazball era, opted to bat in a home game.

The trio of Bumrah, Akash Deep and Mohamed Siraj did ask a few questions but England opening duo of Ben Duckett (23 off 40) and Zak Crawley (18 off 43) survived the first hour of play, reaching 39 for no loss in 13 overs.

Due to the unique slope, the Indian bowlers understandably took some time to get used to the up and down nature of the ground while running in.

Bumrah bowled from both Pavillion End and Nursery end while Akash Deep, who took a match haul of 10 at Edgbaston, bowled with the new ball from Nurserv end

Captain Shubman Gill could have brought back Akash Deep after the first hour, instead, he gave the ball to Reddy from Nursery End and he did not disappoint.

The first breakthrough was a rather lucky one with Duckett gloving a short ball on the leg side to the wicket-keeper.

#### Tendulkar's portrait unveiled at Lord's

Root brought up his fif-

In the morning session,

ty with a boundary in the

fine-leg region.

London: A portrait of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in the MCC Museum at Lord's before the start of the third Test between India and England here Thursday. The portrait, which has been painted by Stuart Pearson Wright from a photograph taken by the artist at his home 18 years ago, will remain in the MCC Museum until later this year and will then be relocated to the Pavilion. "As the work progressed, so did Pearson Wright's approach, eventually ending with oil on abraded aluminium. The abstract background illustrates Tendulkar's timelessness, unrestricted by any era or specific location, a release said. Tendulkar was quoted as saying, "It's a huge honour. In 1983, when India won the World Cup, it was my first introduction to Lord's." "I saw our captain, Kapil Dev, lift the trophy. That momen sparked my cricketing journey. Today, with my portrait going up inside the Pavilion, feels like it's come full circle. When I reflect on my career it brings a smile to my face. This is truly special," he added. Tendulkar also rang the iconic five-minute bell to begin day one of the Lord's Test between India and England Thursday.

An initiative by the state's only home grown English daily, OrissaPOST to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the Preliminaries will take place August 9 and the Grand Finale August 10. Like in the previous years, top educational institutions of the State both from schools and higher education institutions will be competing for Prizes worth ₹3,50,000 & the Champions Title in both Junior and Senior segments.

It's time for **METTLE MEET.** 

s a reader of **OrissaPOST**, this is a chance for you to be part of the exciting Grand Finale if you can give correct answers in the daily quiz. Starting July 01,2025 there will be one question each day for you to answer till July 31, 2025. Every day two winners will be selected from correct entries. Then winners will be decided by draw of lots. The winners will be invited for the Grand Finale which will be conducted by a nationally acclaimed quizmaster. So buckle up and get set for some brainstorming.

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#### **TODAY'S QUESTION**

bserved globally, this day aims to raise awareness about a certain global issue, highlighting challenges like resource scarcity. What international day, first proposed by a senior official at the World Bank?

#### **ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S QUESTION**

Indian Institute of Science (IISc)



PISSa P

#### with their pictures. Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.

**RULES & REGULATIONS** 

Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The

names of the winners will also be announced along

• Everyone will have to mail their answers to

mettlemeet@orissapost.com

- OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a **passport** size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will not be entertained.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee or families of OrissaPOST team can be part of the competition.

#### THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



лоы MEET Vor So So

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF



Others who answered correctly are

Niranjan Nayak, Saswat Sourabh, Tanishna Bisoi, Om Prakash Rath, Anurag Samantaray, Megha Satapathy, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Tapan Kumar Mohanty, Pratyush Dhal, Pratyush Satapathy, Nivedita Naik, Anjubala Mohanty, R Sekhar Rao, Reena Ravichand Debadatta Tripathy, Y V Saimadhav, Parameswar Dalai. Bapuiee Palai. Sachin Mini Ruchismita Prusty, Ronan Slade Toppo, Jigyansa Priyadarshini & Mantu Bhuya

**INDIAN RECURVE** 

TEAMS CRASH OUT

STAGE 4 ARCHERY WORLD CUP

#### Second win for India PSG rout Real Madrid 4-0, SHORT TAKES A men's hockey team reach Club World Cup final Anisimova reach her first Grand Slam final

AGENCIES

London: Amanda Anisimova upset No 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Wimbledon Thursday to reach the first Grand Slam final of her career a little more than a year after taking a break from tennis because of burnout. "This doesn't feel real right now," Anisimova said after ending the 2 hour, 36-minute contest with a forehand winner on her fourth match point. "I don't know how I pulled it out." She will face

Eindhoven, July 10: The Iga Swiatek Saturday for the India A men's hockey team continued its impressive run in the second match of the ongoing Europe tour, securing a convincing 6-0 victory over Ireland. Uttam Singh once again opened the scoring for the India A Team, followed by captain Sanjay. Midfielder Mohammed Raheel Mouseen then scored impressive back-to-back goals, followed by a goal each by Amandeep Lakra and Varun Kumar as India A secured their second win for the country, blanking out Ireland 6-0. Soon after the match, coach Shivendra Singh said, "We've had two really good matches against



#### HI announces list for nat'l camp Bangalore: Hockey India

#### FIFA Club World Cup final Thursday (IST) here at the MetLife Stadium Ruiz struck either side of

goal

three

from

an assured Ousmane Dembele finish as PSG raced to lead bean early 3-0 📬 stitute fore sub-

New Jersey, July 10: Fa-

bian Ruiz's brace helped

Paris Saint-Germain rout

Real Madrid 4-0 to reach the

to turn the ball away after Nuno Mendes' goal-bound attempt.

The Parisian outfit went ahead in the sixth minute when Raul Asencio dithered inside Real Madrid's box and the ball fell to Ruiz. who slotted into an empty

net

after Courtois rushed off his line. Dembele then fin-

Rudiger gave the ball away in his own half. The former Barcelona forward has now scored 27 goals in 33 games for his club in 2025.

PSG was in rampant form and Ruiz made it 3-0 by firing low past Courtois following Dembele's cross.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, July 10: India made a dismal start to their Archery World Cup Stage 4 campaign, with both the recurve men's and women's teams crashing out in their respective opening-round matches here Thursday.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Rahul Baneriee's stint as the women's two-point advantage overall. An untimely eight-point arrow in the third set proved costly as France edged it 56-54 to level the match 3-3, piling pressure on the In dian women's side coached by Banerjee. Under pressure, the Indians faltered badly, shooting a wayward six-pointer to total a poor 53 in the fourth set. losing it by

clinically after Antonio

At times it looked as if PSG was toying with Real Madrid's defense. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia went close

trophy. The winner will be the eighth consecutive first-time Wimbledon women's champion. In May 2023. she took time off from the tour, saving she had been "struggling with my mental health " for nearly a year.

#### **Indian Open Para Athletics Championship from today**

Bangalore: Bangalore is set to welcome over 262 of the nation's most determined and dynamic para athletes for the 7th Indian Open Para Athletics Championship, scheduled to take place July 11 and 12 at the iconic Kanteerava Stadium. The event marks a crucial moment in Indian para sports, serving as the final selection platform for the Indian contingent heading to the New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships, set to be held later this year. The two-day event is supported by Balmer Lawrie, Association Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), Leonard Cheshire Disability and Cognizant Foiundation.

#### Radha to lead India A squad to tour Australia

New Delhi: Off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and pacer Titas Sadhu continued to chart their way back from injuries as they were included in the India A squad Thursday to tour Australia for a multiformat away series next month. India will play three T20 Internationals, as many ODIs and a four-day match between August 7 and 24. Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav will lead the sides for T20 Internationals, ODIs and the four-day contest.

Thursday named a 33-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp to be held at the SAI Centre here from July 14 till August 7. The upcoming camp is crucial for the Indian team as it gears up for two major international assignments -- the Australia tour and the allimportant Hero Asia Cup in Rajgir, scheduled to take place from August 29 to September 7.

Ireland, and I'm happy with how the players are shaping up. We'll play the French team next and hopefully deliver an equally impressive performance.' India will next play

against France, England, Belgium and hosts, the Netherlands, for the next two weeks.

Goncalo Ramos added a fourth minutes

time. The reigning French and European champions will meet Chelsea in the final at the same venue Sunday, reports Xinhua.

PSG took control from the outset in the all-European semifinal, with Ruiz cutting inside and forcing a diving save from goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

The Belgian goalkeeper was again called into action a minute later, showing sharp reflexes



to scoring again when he beat Asencio with ease in the penalty area, dancing around the center-back before lashing just wide.

Courtois prevented his team from entering halftime with a fourgoal deficit, executing a fingertip save after Mendes' dipping

shot from distance. Real Madrid moved the ball with greater fluency after the break and Kylian Mbappe sent a 20-yard attempt over the bar after a slick exchange Federico with Valverde.

recurve team coach got off to a disappointing start as his wards showed little mental composure or fighting spirit. squandering a commanding 3-1 lead to lower-seeded France to lose 3-5 in their opening fixture.

The trio of Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari and 15-year-old debutant Gatha Khadake, who earned an impressive fourth seeding in the qualifications, began strongly by dropping just two points to take the first set 58-54. However, the Indians slipped to 55 points in the second set, allowing France to draw level despite India still holding a

in red-hot form, having

handed England a re-

cord-shattering 97-run de-

feat in the series-opener be-

fore sealing a 24-run win in

Bristol, England women's

first-ever T20I loss at the

venue. They lost the third

Electing to bat first, En-

gland found themselves

under early pressure as

Indian spinners Radha

and Deepti struck within

the powerplay, removing

Stand-in captain Tammy

Beaumont, leading in the

absence of the injured Nat

Sciver-Brunt, briefly coun-

terattacked with a 16-ball

20 that included three

boundaries. But her stay

was cut short by Radha,

and five balls later. Cha-

rani trapped Alice Capsey

T20I by five runs.

both the openers.

one point and conceding the match without a fightback.

India had opened their campaign directly from the pre-quarterfinals (second round) due to their fourth seeding. France, seeded 13th, also began from the same stage. The Indian men's team, seeded ninth, fared no better, suffering an equally disappointing exit in their opening round (also the pre-quarterfinals), losing 2-6 to eighth seed Brazil.

The Indian trio of Dhiraj Bommadevara, rookie Rahul Singh and Neeraj Chauhan lost the first set 55-56 before managing just 54 in the second to fall further behind as Brazil shot 57.

## India women triumph, clinch maiden T20 series

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, July 10: India scripted a landmark victory, clinching their first-ever Women's T20I series win against England with a dominant six-wicket triumph in the fourth match, led by a stel-

lar performance from their spinners.

With this win, India took an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series, with the final game scheduled to be played in Birmingham Saturday.

India had beaten England in a lone T20I match played in Derby in 2006. Since then, the 'Women in Blue' have fallen short in every women's T20I series against England, both at home and away

Spin played a starring role in India's dominant win Wednesday as Radha Yadav (2/15), 20-year-old Shree Charani (2/30), and Deepti Sharma (1/29) combined to claim five wickets. restricting the hosts to a modest 126 for 7.

Openers Shafali Verma (32) and Smriti Mandhana (31) then chased with flair, putting on a 56-run stand that laid the foundation for the win. The visitors overhauled the target with 18 balls to spare, capping off a memorable evening.

The victory comes as a timely boost for India, helping them acclimatise to English conditions ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup scheduled to be held here next year. "We are really grateful



that we were able to do this (series win). I'm really proud of my team the way we played this series. It was really important to get that momentum and I'm really happy the way

we all contributed," India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said at the post-match presentation.

"We had very good camps back home before coming here. We worked

on all our plans, accordingly we have executed everything here. Everybody knew their role and accordingly we all played," she added.

Kaur and Co have been

leg-before, leaving England wobbling at 93 for 5.

India's bowlers were backed by a sharp fielding effort that squeezed England during the middle overs, keeping the hosts to a sub-par total.

With the bat, Shafali came out swinging, taking on the short-ball ploy with confidence and cracking six boundaries. Mandhana too joined the charge striking five fours of her own.

Though both openers fell in quick succession, the platform was well set Jemimah Rodrigues (24 not out) and Harmanpreet Kaur (26) steered India home through a boundary-less phase between overs 8 to 14 to eventually take India to the win.

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