

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
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 common 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 home-front. 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 partnership with someone, says Ganesha.

CANCER
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.

LEO
You will be worried on account of issues related to your 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, says 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 circumstances.

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 your 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 extraordinary management skills that you possess will ensure cordial and healthy relationships.

AQUARIUS
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 enthusiasts 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.



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.



I focus on originality: Rajkummar

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 experimenting, Rao said, "As an actor, I don't want to limit myself to one role. I want to play at least one character every year that surprises you and makes you think that you did not expect this kind of performance from me."

PTI

Priyanka creates history

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 2000 to becoming a Hollywood mainstay.

She shot to international fame with *Quantico*, be-

coming 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 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 unexpectedly questioned by a male doctor about her 'secrets' for looking young in her 40s.

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.

IAN S

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 shape the 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

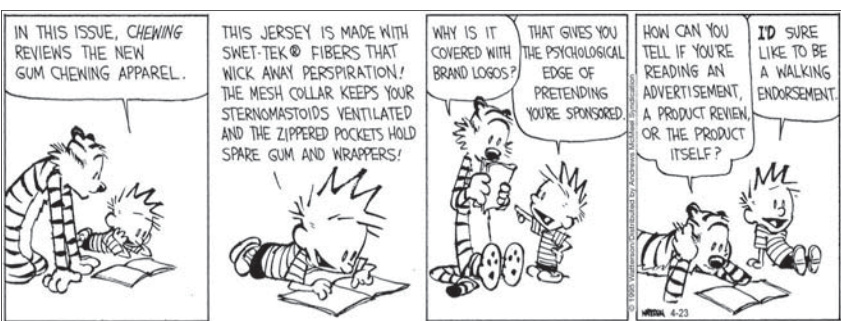
Neha's reply to age-shaming



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

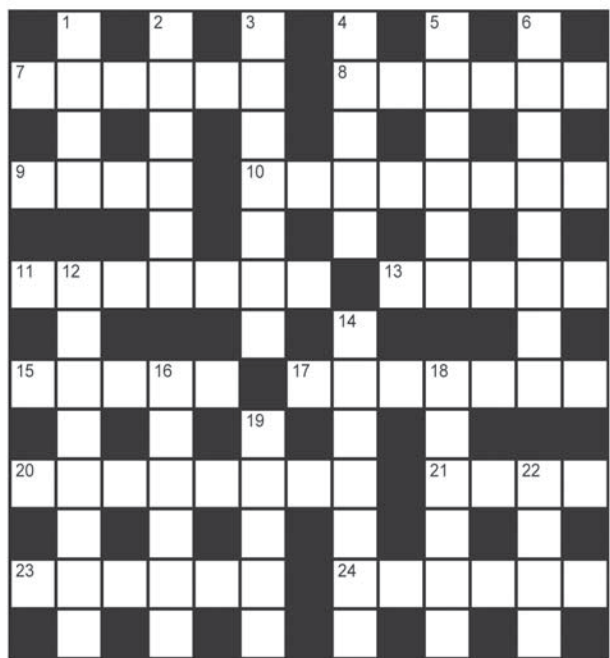


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Across | 17 Oceanic birds | 4 Barbershop request |
| 7 Artist's workshop | 20 Invigorate | 5 Marine mollusk |
| 8 Period of greatest success | 23 Sphere of influence | 6 Motherly |
| 9 Nile wader | 24 Loquacious | 12 Daniel Defoe's Crusoe |
| 10 Tooth problems | Down | 14 Entreat |
| 11 Overly agitated | 1 Ticket part | 16 Trondheim locale |
| 13 Origami bird | 2 Kind of favourite (4-2) | 18 Echo |
| 15 Durable wood | 3 Vanity | 19 Keyboard instrument |
| | | 22 Quarries |

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

J	A			C	S
A	U	B	U	R	N
N	K	I	A	A	A
H	E	N	S	C	A
A		K	M	O	U
M	U	Z	Z	L	E
A		L	H	R	
F	E	N	S	M	O
O	Z	Z	A	N	
F	I	L	I	P	I
B	B	D	U	P	Y
A	L	P	A	C	A
E	R			L	E

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

NATIONAL FISH FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION

Fish output doubles in 10 yrs: Union Min



Nationwide push for sustainable aquaculture, innovation and infrastructure under PMMSY

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.

The Ministry of Fisheries, 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.

Reaffirming the Centre's

Singh launched 17 new fisheries clusters under PMMSY, raising the total to 34, and inaugurated/founded 70 projects worth ₹105 crore across 11 states

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

commitment to transforming the fisheries sector under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya 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 inaugurated.

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

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, start-ups, 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 justice and action

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.

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 'Swabhimana' (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 Samantsinghar last week.

"Such derogatory comments made by a BJP MLA against a woman are unacceptable in a civilised society. BJP MLAs have forgotten their moral values and ethics," Mallik told reporters.

Demanding Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's interference, Mallik said the MLA's remark clearly indicates how unsafe women are under the BJP government.

"Since the BJP came to power, 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 afternoon, a delegation from the Biju Mahila Janata Dal met DGP YB Khurania and submitted a memorandum demanding the arrest of Khatua.

Khatua defended his comments, claiming they were a reaction to Samantsinghar's earlier statements.

"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.

Naveen to return July 12

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 in 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.

CLASSIFIED
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

Odisha to host mining expo 2026

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 Bara-munda Ground here, reinforcing its status as India's mineral and mining powerhouse.

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

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 Odisha Vision 2036'," said Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma. "It also reinforces Odisha as a preferred investment destination, especially in mining and allied sectors," he added.

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 Ananth

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 Majhi on the day of the stampede. She is mandated to submit report with the government in 30 days.

Odisha's demographic shift: Youth & migration

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

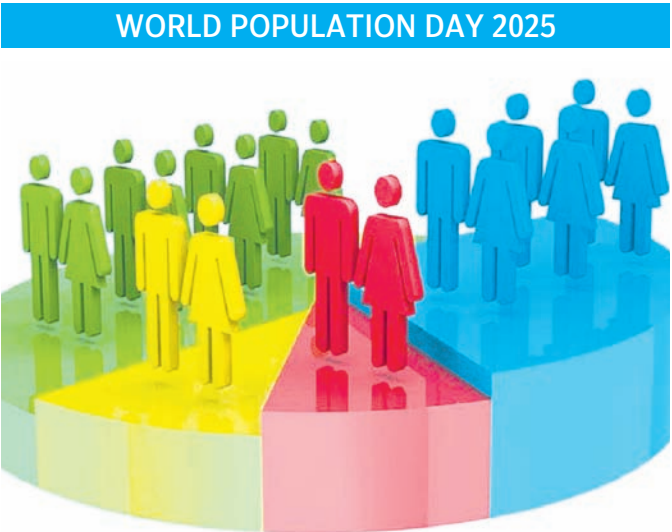
Bhubaneswar, July 10: As the world marks World Population Day 2025 (July 11) with the theme "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world," Odisha stands at a crucial point in its demographic journey. With the upcoming 2027 Census—India's first-ever digital and 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, Odisha's youth face above-average unemployment (6.8 per cent) and underemployment (10.8



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-

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."

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.76 ▲ 0.01	SENSEX	83190.28 ▼ 345.80	GOLD	₹96,731 ▲ ₹270
EURO	100.60 ▲ 0.05	NIFTY	25355.25 ▼ 120.85	SILVER	₹108,909 ▲ ₹1,644

WEATHER

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

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

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 18-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26
Dated: 07.07.2025

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (AMC) OF TOWER CARS FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.

Approx. Cost : ₹ 6,54,05,542.06, EMD : ₹ 4,77,000/-, Completion Period : 24 Months.

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 against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.irops.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenders are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
PR-34/03/25-26 **Sambalpur**

BILLIONAIRE RAJ 2.0



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

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,

which are taxed at significantly lower rates and are easier to shield from taxation.

Odisha and the national echo While the report focuses on India at large, its findings resonate deeply in Odisha. The state has seen notable progress in tribal inclusion, forest-based livelihoods, and rural welfare schemes. Yet, Odisha too bears the scars of widening 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 below the poverty line—above the national average.

Low levels of literacy, limited access to private healthcare, and underdeveloped physical infrastructure in large parts of the state make Odisha especially vulnerable to the national trend of top-heavy growth. If India's inequality problem deepens, it will only make Odisha's uphill battle for inclusive development more challenging.

A crisis of data and democratic oversight Perhaps one of the most alarming aspects of the report is the critique of India's data environment. Since 2017, the government has either delayed or suppressed key surveys, including the National Sample Survey's consumption expenditure data for 2017-18. Income tax tabulations—which had been published regularly since 1922—are now incomplete after 2020.

The result is a fog of uncertainty surrounding the economic lives of ordinary Indians. In the absence of credible public data, policy becomes guesswork, and accountability

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-correct—through 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, community-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 only 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.



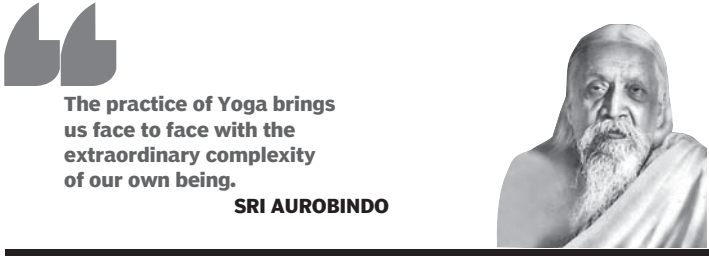
Malayaranjan Sahoo

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



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



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

SRI AUROBINDO

The Bombing Delusion

We 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 bombardment 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 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 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.

VIRGINIA WOOLF

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



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

Odisha 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.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 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: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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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

Chief 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 Public 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, directed 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 instructions 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 without 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.

6 districts in MP among top 100 accident-prone areas



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal/New Delhi, July 10: As many as six districts in Madhya 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 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'.

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

Collectors.

In an official communication Wednesday, the state government told that the Chief Secretary has been directed to review the progressive steps being implemented in each district.

District officials of all concerned road agencies will personally inspect the identified accident sites and road corridors as well as evaluate and document the technical and engineering causes of the accidents.

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 low-cost 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.

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, who earned names - Dadi Maa, Nani Maa in her life journey of more 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.

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 instincts, 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.



She spent her final days at Hinauta camp, where she was lovingly cared for by forest staff. Upon her death, PTR Field Director Anjana Suchita Tirkey, Deputy Director Mohit Sood, and wildlife veterinarian Sanjeev Gupta rushed to the site.

Her last rites were conducted with solemn respect at the camp. Born in the Nilambur forests of Kerala, Vatsala began her journey as a working elephant in the timber trade.

In 1971, she was brought to Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh and later transferred to the Panna Tiger Reserve in 1993.

For a decade, she played a critical role in tracking tigers in PTR, contributing significantly towards conservation efforts. She retired in 2003, but her work never truly stopped.

She dedicated her remaining years to nurturing younger elephants, offering warmth and companionship rarely seen in

the animal kingdom.

Vatsala was tourist favourite and undoubtedly, she was acknowledged the pride of Panna. She was a key attraction for domestic and international tourists alike.

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.

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, sister Twinkle, mother Mansa Devi, grandfather Hari Singh and another woman Radhu Devi were bogged in the debris 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

at Bagsyad School and are still 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 government to bear the expenses of her education and take immediate steps for her family's rehabilitation.

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 developed cracks and about half of the orchard has also been washed away.

He said that his Seraj constituency 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 minister, 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.

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 "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 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.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT

Request For Proposal (RFP)
(Reference No. 8350)

Leasing of Land for Establishment of UAV (Drone) Testing, Training and Promotional Facility at Rangailunda Airport, Gopalpur Odisha

No.JJ-29 : Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department invites Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Leasing of Land for Establishment of UAV (Drone) Testing, Training and Promotional Facility at Rangailunda Airport, Gopalpur Odisha" complying to all the norms as prescribed by the DGCA Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government 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 latest 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 reason 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 : seemidkl@gmail.com

No.A-388 : The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate 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 District for the year 2025-26 under Critical & DPIW Scheme
No. of Works	19 (Nineteen) only
Estimated Cost	Varies from 8.20 lakh to 17.00 lakh (Approximately)
Cost of Tender Paper	4000/- to 6000/-
Period of Completion	03 (Three) Calendar months
Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through on-line	From dt.11.07.2025, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.21.07.2025, up to 5.00 P.M.
Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	21.07.2025 (5.00 P.M.)
Date of Technical bid opening through online	on Dt.22.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the S.E., M.I. Division, Dhenkanal
Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	The Bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website http://dowr.orissa.gov.in	
Name & Address of the OIT	Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Dhenkanal, At/P.O/District - Dhenkanal Ph. No / Fax No. - 06762-224461, Email ID : seemidkl@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I.Division, Dhenkanal
OIPR-32027/11/0016/2526

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.

Sl. 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	9,91,429	"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

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal - <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

OIPR-19350/11/0003/2526

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Gudvella



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

earlier this week.

This has driven insurers to

of the day

quote

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, and our ability to act jointly is a key success driver for us all



EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

Israel's long arm will reach you in Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan, and anywhere you try to threaten or harm Israel. There 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

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.

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

REUTERS

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.

Two people were killed, 23 were wounded and there was damage in nearly every part of Kyiv 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 Zelenskyy 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".

Zelenskyy 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



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 US-sourced 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



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 prosecution 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 violent movement.



who rushed out of her apartment moments before it was showered with shards of glass.

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

towns and cities have been hit regularly in the war and thousands have been killed.

Moscow's mayor later said Russian air defences had brought down three Ukrainian drones bound for the Russian capital.

In Rome, Zelenskyy urged European allies to make more use of Russian assets frozen during the war for reconstruction. He was also seeking critical weapons, joint defence production and investment.

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 Qatar over a proposed 60-day ceasefire and hostage 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-Deqran, 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

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.

TALKS

US President Donald Trump met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week to discuss Gaza amid reports Israel 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, Israel 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, indicate 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

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 Senegal, 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 admiration".

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.

of the day

quote

The recognition by the government reinforces IREDA's pivotal role in accelerating renewable energy financing 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 towards the 2047 Viksit Bharat goal



RAJESH AGRAWAL | SPECIAL SECRETARY, COMMERCE DEPT

To respond to the demands of the 21st century, our State S&T Councils must operate not only as administrative units but as integrated innovation ecosystems



VK SARASWAT | 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 quarter compared to a year ago, mainly due to higher expenses. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 384 crore in the quarter 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

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 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 Rajasthan 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 Rajasthan 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.



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



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 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On similar lines, the 50-share 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 Mahindra and Eternal were major laggards. However, Maruti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.28 per cent while the smallcap index inched higher by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, tech 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.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled higher.

Gold ETFs inflows jump

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

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 purity. They combine the flexibility of stock investments and the simplicity of gold investments.

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

Bhubaneswar: Lokanath Sagar was working as an OAPF 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,

Deputy Commissioner of Police Prakash Chandra Pal, General Manager & Zonal Head of BoB Swapna Bandopadhyaya, 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 Nayabazaar Branch Sukesh Kumar amongst others present in the program.



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.

Q-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

of the arms of domestic rating agency, Careedge Ratings, said.

The platforms pocketed 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 ₹34,500 crore by FY28.

"This sharp increase is due to increased platform fees by major players, resulting in higher revenue realisation and a substantial increase in

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



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 manufacturing 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 school-based outreach initiative—Ta-

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 solutions—from 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,



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

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

Accordingly, India's proposed suspension of concessions 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 significance as both countries are negotiating a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

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 Odisha—focused on green energy skill training. These centres will train 12,000 individuals over the next one year in various green skills, including solar installation, operations, and maintenance. These centres will further strengthen Odisha's ecosystem of clean energy readiness and local employment.

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 inclusive and sustainable growth. The Tirunelveli facility is a cornerstone of India's renewable energy transition and a key 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 support the state's broader goal of sustainable development and energy independence. From Tamil Nadu's advanced manufacturing lines to Odisha's rooftops and training centres, Tata Power is committed to powering Odisha's future—cleanly, efficiently, and sustainably.

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, making it the second-largest e-retail user base globally, while the e-commerce market grew 23.8 per cent in 2024 over the year-ago period, it said, adding India has over 1.12 billion mobile connections as of early-2025 and the smartphone adoption is also growing rapidly. Rising disposable incomes and higher spending capacity are also likely to fuel growth for Q-comm.

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