

reveals the actor's timeless wellness routine that fuels her glow and inner strength LEISURE | P2

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 106 I www.orissapost.com

Vladimir Putin intends to keep fighting in Ukraine until the West engages on his terms for peace INTERNATIONAL | P10

D E

four-month low of \$18.78 billion during June, government data shows

TESLA DRIVES INTO INDIA Mumbai: Global EV giant Tesla Tuesday made its much-awaited

entry into India, launching its Model Y with price starting at

₹59.89 lakh while opening its first experience centre here. Tesla,

cited India's high import tariffs for the company not entering the

built unit (CBU), from its Shanghai manufacturing facility in China.

led by American tech billionaire Elon Musk who had in the past

country earlier, will be importing the Model Y as a completely

BUSINESS | P11

India captain Shubman Gill lauds allrounder Ravindra Jadeja for pushing the Lord's Test into the final session

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

category, Delhi and Mum-

bai both break into the

global top 50, highlighting

strong graduate employ-

ment prospects. Bangalore

makes the sharpest leap in

this dimension, jumping 41

places to rank 59th, while

Chennai climbs an impres-

sive 29 spots, underscoring

a growing recognition of its

graduates in the job market.

in the 2026 QS Best Student

Cities Rankings is more than a statistical bump –

it reflects a structural shift

in the country's higher ed-

ucation landscape. As we

approach the fifth anniver

sary of the National Educa

tion Policy (NEP) 2020, its

focus on global engagement,

quality enhancement, and

student-centric learning is

starting to bear fruit on the

international stage," said

Jessica Turner, CEO of QS.

sultancy QS Quacquarelli

Symonds, assesses 150 cities

worldwide. This year's edi-

tion signals a shift in the

global education landscape

with Seoul overtaking Lon-

don to be named the world's

best student city

The ranking, compiled by global higher education con-

"India's rising presence

Yemen: Indian nurse's execution postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The execution of Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse on death row in Yemen, has been postponed by Yemeni authorities, government sources said Tuesday. The execution was sched-

uled for Wednesday.

Priya, hailing from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district, has been found guilty of murdering a Yemeni citizen in July 2017.

It has been learnt that the local authorities in Yemen have postponed the execution scheduled for July 16,

the sources said. The government of India has made concerted efforts in recent days to seek more time for Priya's family to reach a "mutually agree-

able" solution with the other party, they said.

In 2020, a Yemeni court handed her the death sentence and the country's Supreme Judicial Council dismissed her appeal in November 2023.

The 38-year-old nurse is presently lodged in a jail in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital city that is under the control of Iran-backed Houthis.

The sources said the government of India has been rendering all possible assistance in the case since beginning.

Despite the sensitivities involved, Indian officials have been in regular touch with the local jail authorities and the prosecutor's office, leading to securing the postponement, the sources **P8**



BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | JULY 16, 2025

BACK HOME: Axiom-4 astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla greets as he reaches Earth with other crew members of the mission aboard the Dragon spacecraft that splashed down off California (Report P8)

Two lecturers held for 'raping' student

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 15: Two college lecturers in Dakshina Kannada district and their associate have been arrested for allegedly raping a student after 'blackmailing' her with videos and photos, police said Tuesday. One of the lecturers invited her to Bangalore, citing academic reasons, and raped her at his friend's residence, according to the student.

The accused reportedly boasted about the assault to another lecturer, who then allegedly began blackmailing her using videos and demanded sexual favours.

She further alleged that the associate also raped her, blackmailing her with videos of the initial assault. The assaults took place last month *hitting out at BJP, sought an*

Organised murder by system: Rahul

The death of a girl student of Fakir Mohan University, who was undergoing treatment following an immolation bid July 12 allegedly after enduring prolonged sexual harassment by a faculty member, late Monday night has thrust Odisha into the national spotlight. While Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi condemned the incident as an 'organised murder by system'. University Grants Commission constituted a fact-finding panel to probe the matter amid a flurry of recriminations between

repeatedly humiliated," he alleged in a post on X. political parties. Gandhi, also BJP's system continued to shield the accused and

by the system.

her voice against sexual

harassment - but instead of

delivering justice, she was

threatened, tormented, and



parties, led by the Congress, called an Odisha bandh July 17 to protest the death of the college student who set herself on fire following inaction over her sexual harassment complaint against a professor. State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das said the bandh is being supported by eight parties, including the Left. Das said the bandh has been called to seek justice for the deceased student.

it needs answers. India's daughters need safety and justice." he added.



Delhi most affordable city globally for students In the Employer Activity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai are among the world's top 130 cities for students with the national capital being ranked as the most affordable city globally for students, according to QS rankings announced on Tuesday.

All four Indian metropolises featured in the 2026 QS Best Student Cities ranking — Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai — have improved their positions, reflecting growing momentum in India's higher education appeal.

According to prestigious rankings announced by London-based QS, Mumbai has re-entered the global top 100, rising 15 places to secure the 98th position. Delhi has climbed seven spots to 104th, while Bangalore sees the most dramatic improvement among the Indian cities, soaring 22 places to 108th.

Chennai has also advanced significantly, gaining 12 positions to rank 128th.

Mumbai and Bangalore have also performed strongly on the affordability metric, placed within the top 15.

but came to light recently.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



answer and not PM's 'silence in the issue. Meanwhile, Congress-led Opposition called a state-wide bandh July 17 to protest the tragedy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sha or Manipur - the daugh-Bhubaneswar, July 15: ters of the nation are burn-Attacking the ruling BJP in ing, breaking, and dying. Odisha over the death of the And you? You remain sicollege student who set herself on fire, Leader of the Opdoesn't need your silence; position in Lok Sabha Rahul

Gandhi Tuesday alleged it was nothing less than an "organised murder by the system." "The death of a daughter

No, not a police case! He was beaten up by Kanwariyas

fighting for justice in Odisha is nothing less than a murder by the BJP's system. That brave student raised

forced an innocent daugh-The second-year B Ed stuter to set herself on fire," he dent of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College in Balasore died alleged. Gandhi claimed the girl's death was not suicide, Monday night after fighting it was an organised murder for her life for three days. She set herself on fire "Modi ji, whether in Odi-

on the campus on Saturday over alleged inaction against a professor who allegedly sexually harassed her. She had suffered 95 lent," he said. "The country per cent burns and died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar. P3&5

UGC FORMS FACT-FINDING PANEL

New Delhi: In response to widespread media reports and public concern over the tragedy the University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a high-level fact-finding committee to investigate the incident and recommend preventive measures. The four-member committee will be chaired by Prof. Rai Kumar Mittal, Professor at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and UGC Member. Other members include Prof. Sushma Yaday, former UGC Commission Member: Dr. Neeria Gunta, VC of Gujarat University; and Dr. Ashima Mangla, Joint Secretary, UGC.

Southern hemisphere full of birds found nowhere else on Earth

AGENCIES

Melbourne, July 15: The snow petrel, a strikingly white bird with black eyes and a black bill, is one of only three bird species ever observed at the South Pole. In fact, the Antarctic is the only place on Earth where this bird lives.

It isn't alone in this. Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic harbour a large number of endemic species, which means these species are only found in one or a few locations in the world.

A study suggests that southern-hemisphere communities showed higher rates of local endemism than northern-hemisphere communities across all unique evolutionary his-



aspects of diversity. The sub-Antarctic islands and the High Andes, as well as several regions in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and southern Africa, stand out as global hotspots of endemism.

These regions hold many charismatic birds with

tories or unique ecological might react differently to functions, and these birds are largely restricted to the southern hemisphere.

Among these are the palaeognaths – the bird lineage that includes kiwis, emus, cassowaries and ostriches. They also include the lyrebirds and the New Zealand wrens, as well as iconic Antarctic species such as penguins and albatrosses.

The higher rates of endemism in the southern hemisphere are likely related to the uneven global distribution of landmass. Put simply, there is much more available landmass in the northern hemisphere. The findings further suggest

that birds in the northern

environmental pressures. Unfortunately, most studies on the impact of climate change to date are from the northern hemisphere. In

response to climate change in particular, species are expected to shift their ranges towards cooler climates.

While northern-hemisphere birds are likely free to shift their ranges across large stretches of uninterrupted landmass, birds in the southern hemisphere are hindered by vast expanses of ocean that separate the different landmasses on which they live.

The potentially heightened vulnerability of southern-hemisphere birds calls and southern hemisphere for more protection.



elsure



JESSICA ALBA SPARKS DATING RUMOURS

Jessica Alba has sparked romance rumours after being spotted leaving Cancun with actor Danny Ramirez. The pair was seen boarding a flight to Los Angeles together, with Ramirez initially dubbed a "mystery man" before being identified as the 32-year-old actor.

BLAKE WINS MAJOR LEGAL BATTLE AGAINST BALDONI

Hollywood actress Blake Lively is in the limelight after she won the battle to have her upcoming deposition at her lawyer's office. She secured her deposition location despite Justin Baldoni's attorney claims of celebrity influence. Baldoni's counsel contended that the 37-year-old actress was making use of her "celebrity status".



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com Iccuracy • reliability • trust

ARIES

It is a sunny, sparkling day, and the stars spell success. If you're feeling creative, simply pick up a paintbrush or try a new recipe. However, care and caution should be the buzzwords if you are driving alone, suggest Ganesha.

TAURUS

You need to be very and practical and realistic in all that you do today, urges Ganesha. You are known to be pretty emotional and sensitive and generally go by your feelings. Your mind, your reason do not normally feature in you decision making. Even minor problems, complica tions get you worked up. Try to remain focused and down to earth this day.

GEMINI You will think about the is-

sues faced by other people as well as about increasing your social standing and elevating your social esteem. It is an extremely profitable day for those in the retail business and hence make the most of it, says Ganesha.

CANCER

There may not be many opportunities visible on the horizon today. And, chances are that you may end up getting embroiled in some complicated situations, without even a fault of yours. Relax! Given your people skills and lively spirits, you will be able to sail through. Also, the fact that you may have dealt with similar situations in the past too will make it even easier for you.

LEO

On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members. But the day is not as bad as it seems.

VIRGO

An easy-going day full of fun and light moments will help you vent all that pressure built up inside you. Ganesha predicts a progressive and profitable day for you. Expect to honour invitations to social events or even parties.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that to gain

future opportunities you may have to rely on past

KAREENA'S wellness secrets MUMBAI: For nearly 20 years,

repeatedly. Kareena Kapoor Khan has re-

She wraps up dinner by 6 PM and follows an early bedtime of 9:30 PM, making room for her early morning workouts. Yoga remains the heart of her fitness routine, supplemented by Pilates, strength training, and breathwork.

Kareena's philosophy is rooted in simplicity: eat real, seasonal food, honour your body's rhythm, and remain consistent.

ful of almonds, raisins, or figs, followed by breakfast staples like poha or paratha. Lunch is usually dal and rice or cheese toast, while evenings are reserved for a mango or mango milkshake. Dinner is light yet comforting — often khichdi or pulao with a generous spoon of ghee. In fact, Kareena eats khichdi up to five times a week. "I can be really happy eating khichdi five times a week. It works," she once shared. adding that her cook often jokes about making the same meals

mained a fitness inspiration -

from her size-zero transforma-

tion in *Tashan* to her radiant

post-pregnancy glow. Now, her

longtime nutritionist Rujuta

Diwekar has offered insight

into the actress's enduring

wellness routine, revealing that

Kareena has followed a simple,

consistent meal plan for over 15

Her day begins with a hand-

years

AGENCIE



Vidyut to make Hollywood debut

LOS ANGELES: Actor Vidyut Jammwal is set to make his Hollywood debut with Street Fighter, an adaptation of a popular video game of the same name from studio Legendary.

The 44-year-old actor, best known for headlining action movies such as Commando, Khuda Hafiz and Baadshaho, will feature alongside a star-studded cast of Andrew Koji, Noah Centineo, Jason Momoa, Callina Liang, Roman Reigns, Orville Peck, Cody Rhodes, Andrew Schulz, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and David Dastmalchian, reported entertainment news outlet Deadline.

Street Fighter began as an arcade game from Japanese company Capcom in 1987 and reached a pop culture high with 1991's Street Fighter II, which revolutionised one-on-one playing.

It is a one-on-one fighting game where players select a character, a martial artist or fighter with a unique fighting style and battle opponents using punches, kicks, special moves and combos

The most recent edition of the game, Street Fighter 6, was released in June 2023 and won the award for best fighting game at the 2023 Game Awards.

In the movie, Jammwal will essay the role of Dalsim, a yogi with fire-spitting abilities, a fundamentally peaceful man who fights to support his family.

MUMBAI: Hrithik Roshan and Triptii Dimri are grabbing all the right attention! As they gear up for the release of their much-awaited films — War 2 and Dhadak 2, respectively — a recent viral video featuring the two dancing together has sent fans into a frenzy. The video, which showcases their effortless, electrifying moves and sizzling chemistry, has sparked widespread curiosity.

Dressed in cool street-style casuals, Hrithik and Triptii lit up the dance floor, leaving fans speculating whether this is a teaser for an upcoming collaboration perhaps a free-form dance video or even a big-screen project.

The energy between the two actors is undeniable, and audiences are already eager to see them share more screen space. While details remain under wraps, the video has certainly raised expectations and added to the buzz surrounding both their upcoming films.

On the work front, Hrithik will return to the action-packed world of War 2, releasing August 14, while Triptii will star opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi in Dhadak 2, hitting theatres August 1. The film explores themes of love, caste, and identity. Triptii's impressive slate also includes Spirit, Arjun Ustara, Animal Park, and an untitled project with Imtiaz Ali cementing her rise as a versatile star to watch

AGENCIES

Triptii's dance video creates buzz

Dheeraj Kumar no more



ospital in Mumbai. At the time of death, his son Asl Kumar was with him. His amily said in a statement, "It is with great sadness tha the passing of ve announce the pa heeraj, a renowned actor, producer, and director, who left us due to cardiac arrest

He was under treatment at Kokilaben Hospital in Andher Nest and was on ventilator support. The industry mourns the loss of a talented profession who contributed significantly to the world of entertainment."

FROM PAKEEZAH TO POETRY

Heartbreak that defined Meena Kumari's legacy

de

MUMBAI: Meena Kumari, revered as Bollywood's Tragedy Queen, lived a life that echoed the heartbreak of her on-screen roles. Beneath the glamour and critical acclaim was a woman grappling with profound loneliness, depression, and emotional isolation—often remarking that her life resembled a never-ending tragic screenplay.

Beyond her cinematic brilliance, Meena Kumari was also a gifted Urdu poet who wrote under the pseudonym Naaz. Through her verses, she poured out her innermost struggles, heartbreaks, and sorrow. Much of her poetry was published posthumously, revealing

the depth of pain fame

Her marriage to filmmaker Kamal Amrohi was both creatively enriching and emotionally damaging. While their professional collaborations flourished, their personal bond teriorated. Reports suggest the relationship was marred by control, distance, and neglect. Despite her enduring love for Amrohi,

the emotional strain led to their eventual separation—marking the beginning of her spiral into alcoholism.

Ironically, Meena Kumari passed away just weeks after the release of her magnum opus, Pakeezah, a film that took over a decade to complete. Though it became a box office success, she did not live to witness its full glory. March 31, 1972, she succumbed to liver cirrhosis at just 39, her fragile health a reflection of years spent battling inner demons. AGENCIES

will tend to become possessive about things close to you. You will also have to deal with unpleasant situations where your integrity is questioned.

. **SCORPIO**

It is very likely that the moment of victory is often preceded by a moment of peril: but that is not where the danger ends. In the heat of victory, arrogance and overconfidence can push you away from what you aimed for. So, it is important for you to learn when to stop in victory.

.

SAGITTARIUS

Begin your day with a renewed zest. Consider iump case of lucrative offer. Cracking a telephonic interview may prove to be a milestone in your career path. Your dedication and determination towards your work and goals makes you a deserving employee, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Things may just fall in to your lap today. You will help those in need but will get extremely upset when the out come is not as per your expectations, feels Ganesha. It is not an encouraging sight and it will affect your confidence adversely. But, you are over-reacting, as these disappointments are not as big as they seem. Keep your chin up and get ready for a new tomorrow.

AQUARIUS

You want to spread peace and joy all around, and today

vou may achieve that. You. however, may have to sacrifice your own preferences and interests to ensure that the problems get solved. It is a noble thing to play the role of peace maker, but people may take you for granted, feels Ganesha. You may feel that you are leading by example, but turn back, probably nobody is following you.

PISCES

An important day today, you can expect to reach a much-awaited milestone either on the domestic front or at the workplace, says Ganesha, Expect your professional status and your social standing to receive a boost.

PEANUTS YOU'RE YOU'RE STILL NOW, THIS ANIMAL I HERE, RIGHT, YOU PUTTINE HAVE BROUGHT HERE KIDDINE THINK IT'S MOOSIE US ON! A SMALL GUYS, CUT TODAY IS CALLED A DOG AGREE MOOSIE MOOSE! IT OUT! MOOSIE





BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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Ρ		Ν		0		М		U		D		1
	В	Е	Α	Μ		1	Ν	G	R	0	W	Ν
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Ρ		А				А		Е				
Е	Ν	D	L	Е	S	S		Μ	U	F	F	
R		D		Х		Т		Е		R		Ρ
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к		Е		S		R		1		Ν		R
Е	А	S	Y				Ρ	S	Y	С	Н	Е

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

con cealed

had long



downtown

FM victim's dad blames ICC; BJD for judicial probe

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, July 15: The father of the 20-year-old deceased student of FM (Autonomous) College Tuesday held members of her college's internal complaint committee (ICC) 'solely responsible' for his daughter's death by self-immolation, even as Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) demanded a judicial inquiry into the 'planned injustice'.

OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | JULY 16, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

He alleged that the ICC members prepared a "biased report" following her complaint of sexual harassment by a professor, prompting her to set herself on fire on the campus July 12. She suffered 95 per cent burns and

succumbed at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

"The ICC members are real culprits who created a biased report for which my daughter died by suicide. They have not been fair in the inquiry and blamed my daughter, instead of the accused teacher who indulged in sexual and mental harassment of my daughter," the father said.

He claimed that based on the ICC report, the principal told my daughter that she was at fault and may be punished for making a false allegation against the teacher who is the head of the Education department.

"Let the ICC members come under the purview of the investigation," her father said.

He complained against the ICC to Balasore Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas and Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad, who visited the deceased student's residence to hand over the state government's ex-gratia.

Balasore MP Pratap Sarangi also expressed his concern over the ICC report on her allegation of sexual and mental harassment.

"I have seen the ICC report. It was prepared to shield the accused teacher," Sarangi said, claiming that it glorified the Education department head, the main accused.

The principal and the accused teacher were both suspended and subsequently arrested.

Meanwhile, the college remained closed for the day, and there was heavy deployment of police force on the campus.

Several student organisations held demonstrations in different parts of Balasore town and demand-



Members of the women wing of the state Congress take out a candlelight rally seeking justice for the FM (Autonomous) College victim, at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

'ICC had sought

Sahoo's removal'

ed of sexually harassing the

ale student, leading to her death by immolation, from the post of HoD,

roach" and not sexually harass-students, ICC coordinator Jayshree

ra said. Mishra said the ICC had al

0 students of the integrated BE

ery strict and used to ask student

ed the complainant to do the same 15 minutes for coming late. She had

n it seriously," Sethi said

rdinator of FM College's ICC

noval of <u>Samira Kumar Sa</u>l

8-hr 'Balasore Bandh' today

BALASORE: The Balasore district unit of the BJD has asore Bandh from 6am to 2pm Wed in protest against the tragic death of 20-year-old FM (Autonomous) College student. The BJD alleged that apathy and inaction on the part of the college authorities, the istrict administration, and political leadership contrib to the death of the student, who set herself on fire after repeatedly seeking justice against a professor she accused mental harassment and demands for sexual favours. Senio ader and former MP RK Jena said that all educati institutions, business establishments, and public transport services — except for essential services — will remain suspended during the bandh. He added that train services are also likely to be disrupted. Jena condemned the fa of various government agencies in delivering justice to the lent, who was reportedly traumatised by continuous narassment and a lack of response from authorities. He further stated that the student had been approaching authorities from June 30, but when no action was taken, she

ed justice for the deceased.

The student's father, however, urged all not to politicise the matter.

'My daughter is gone. I appeal to all-please don't use her for political gain. However, I will keep fighting so that she gets justice," he said.

The father said he received a message from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

"Sir (the CM) sent me an SMS and assured me of a proper investigation. I have faith in the government, administration, and the rule of law,'

he added

He also expressed gratitude for the government's support for the treat-

ment of his daughter. "She was provided with the best medical care at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. The doctors and staff were extremely supportive. I am deeply thankful," he said.

The student's mother said she now hopes that her daughter's death will ensure the safety of other female students in colleges and schools.

"I hope the system will improve

following the death of my daughter," she said.

The BJD, meanwhile, demanded a judicial inquiry into the 'planned injustice' which led to the death of the student.

The demand was made at a press conference in Bhubaneswar addressed by BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra and other senior leaders including Sanjay Das Burma and Pratap Jena.

"We demand a judicial probe, headed by a sitting judge of the Oris-

CM announces ₹20L ex gratia BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced ex gratia of Rs 20 lakh for the family of the college student who died by setting herself on fire over alleged inaction on her sexual harassment complaint. Maihi directed officers concerned to conduct a proper investigation into the incident so that all guilty are punished in accordance with the law, according to a statement issued by the CMO. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati also expressed grief over the death of the student. "Shattered to learn of the untimely loss of a young student from Fakir Mohan Autonomous College. Her passing is not just a tragedy-it is a stark reminder of the urgent need to safeguard our campuses," he said in a post on X. "The law will take its toughest course. Those responsible will face uncompromising punishment My heart goes out to the grieving family. May they find strength in this hour of unbearable pain," he added.

doing cheap politics: I

BHUBANESWAR: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday attacked Congress leader and Leader

of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of indulging in "cheap politics" over the death of FM (Autonomous) College student. Pradhan claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP have always taken

concrete steps for women's safety and justice, while the Congress has consistently sought opportunities in every tragedy. The statement came after Gandhi said the countr was seeking answers and not the PM's "silence" over the

incident. "The cheap politics played by Rahul Gandhi and Congress on the tragic incident involving Odisha's daughte

is extremely unfortunate. Turning a serious and sensitive matter into a political weapon reflects @RahulGandhi's

seized this opportunity to bake its political bread," he said. Pradhan said the BJP government in Odisha stands with the victim's family, and the strictest action will be taken against the culprits.

sa High Court, into the incident. The

people whom the deceased girl had

approached through digital platform

should come under the purview of

the inquiry," Mishra told reporters.

death of the 20-year-old student for

denial of justice has shocked the

entire country. Mishra said that the

BJD student and youth wing work-

gherao the Lok Seva Bhawan (state

secretariat) Wednesday," Mishra

"The party has also planned to

ers are already on the streets.

Stating that the self-immolation

petty mindset," Pradhan posted on X. "The incident in Odisha has shaken the entire nation, but Congress has

said, adding that the entire state is shocked that none of the persons in position came to rescue a woman who was fighting for justice, against the teacher who allegedly sexually and mentally harassed her for months together.

Das Burma sought the resignation of the Chief Minister and the Higher Education Minister on moral grounds till a judicial inquiry is completed.

"Who gave her the petrol for self-immolation? Who was recording videos at the time? Who were present in the principal's chamber during the incident? The BJD will continue its agitation till the government announces a judicial probe into the matter," Das Burma said.

Jena said, "The law and order has completely collapsed in Odisha. The crimes against women have increased and girl students are not safe on campus."

He demanded strong action against everyone responsible - from the CM to the Balasore MLA and the SP. Ahead of the BJD's proposed gherao of the Lok Seva Bhawan Wednesday, the state government heightened security arrangements at key government buildings in Bhubaneswar like Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharavela Bhawan, Rajiv Bhawan, Krushi Bhawan and the Heads of Department Building.

Earlier in the day, BJD president and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naveen Patnaik said the death of the college student who set herself ablaze following alleged sexual harassment by a professor was due to 'failure of the system'.

Expressing his grief, Patnaik, in a long social media post, said, "It is even more disturbing to think how a failed system can take someone's life. The most painful part is that this was not an accident, but rather the result of a system that remained silent instead of helping. Struggling for justice, the girl ultimately closed her eyes.

With great courage, Patnaik said the student had written to the college principal, informing them about the sexual harassment she had faced. "Even after being ignored by the college authorities, she did not give up. To seek justice, she reached out to the Higher Education minister, the Chief Minister's Office, and even a Union minister," Patnaik said.

WORLD SNAKE DAY TODAY Snakes are critical to environmental health

iss...Most of us get scared hearing this sound the snakes

India is home to at least 367 taxa of snakes of which 81 are considered potentially dangerous. In Odisha, 76 species have been identified and recorded so far, with 28 of them being venomous

victim can avail free treatment and receive financial assistance for snakebite. Similarly, under

___produce, but this is primarily a defensive mechanism the reptiles use to deter potential threats. People have deadly fear towards snakes, as a single bite can end life in hours, and for this, snakes often fall prey to human grudge. As the conflict continues till date, let us know the importance of this reptile to our environment, even as this year's theme "Respect, Don't Fear: Protecting Nature's Silent Guardians" is perfectly coined. The theme focuses on compassion and conservation.

Speaking to Orissa POST, experts have called for larger awareness on snakebites and protection of the beautiful species.

Sathee Parivar, an organisation dedicated to rescue and conservation of snakes, has been continuously working to bridge the gap between snakes and humans by spreading awareness. Shedding light on



tion's president Siddharth Pradhan said, "When people hear about the word snake, they fear for life. But in reality, they are friends of humans, particularly farmers. As we all know, mouse and shrews eat crops, but rat snakes prevent this. They play a key role in neutralising the rodent population by eating them from farmlands.'

Pradhan stated that a lot of lives are lost to snakebites due to practice of superstitious methods and lack of awareness. "People living in remote areas resort to superstitious practices, instead of taking snakebite

patients to hospitals. If proper and timely treatment is given to such patients, many lives of to can be saved. The government must ensure running more proawareness programmes in cess of food these areas.

PIC: SRIKRISHNA DAS

Aditya Behera, a snake rescuer said, "People are not scared of tiger as much the fear snake in India. Snakes are definitely not our enemies rath-

> to Snakes

1 Behera further said, "There are people who kill snakes considering them as dangerous creatures, but this needs to stop. If snake population drops, it will damage the natural ecosystem. Most signifi-

the Small and Marginal Farm ers' (Welfare) Act, 2014, small or marginal farmers who suffer from snakebite or any other animal attack during agricultural operations are entitled to compensation. The compensation amount for injury resulting in disability is not less than Rs 50,000 for partial disability and Rs 1,00,000 in case of permanent disability or death. Doctor Kumar Soumya-

kanta Bisoi, consultant physician at Angul district headquarters hospital, said, "As snakes are cold-blooded animals, they are attracted to heat. During rains, they get attracted to heat produced by humans and take shelter near human habitations. Though people in rural areas mostly sleep on the floors, their movement alerts snakes.



a danger, they can bite people merely as an act of defence." Stating that it is highly rec-

ommended to sleep on bed. Bisoi said it is important to keep the surroundings clean. Using mosquito nets can also prevent snakebites, he said, adding, "If you are going to collect forest produce, you should wear proper high-ankle shoes.

Highlighting the importance of snake venom in preparation of medicines for numerous diseases, Bisoi said the venom is also used as an antivenom. "If a person gets bitten by a cobra, the venom from the same species is used as antivenom. Snakebites are treated with antivenom which is made from snake venom. There is no other medicine for snakebite.

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, O







ing danger."

ural habitats and sometimes they enter our homes. Rather than killing them, people should alert the snake helpline organisations or Forest department er we are them. are never expert the first to Pratyush attack hu-Mohapatra

mans; they do it by sensis snakes

ered poten-

for their rescue and relocation." Senior Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientist and snake said, "India home to at least 367 taxa of of

cantly, snake venom is used

to prepare medicines for many

critical diseases like cancer and

others." Urging people not to

kill snakes, Behera said, "Due

to urbanisation, these reptiles

are unable to live in their nat-



tially dangerous. In Odisha, 76 species have been identified



Bite Act. 2014" effectively im-

plemented across all states.

This would ensure that any

and recorded so far, with 28 of

them being venomous. How-

ever, it is important to note

that only five-six species are

responsible for the maximum

number of snakebite deaths.

These include the spectacled

cobra, monocellate cobra, com-

mon krait, and Russell's viper.

Interestingly, monocellate co-

bra is restricted to north-east-

WEDNESDAY | JULY 16, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



At Ravenshaw **University's 13th** annual convocation. **President Murmu** lauds varsity's use of advanced technologies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, July 15: President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday said advanced technologies have brought about a vast change in people's thinking and working style, but advised them to be careful about the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. Addressing the 13th annual convocation of Ravenshaw University here, Murmu said she was happy to note that the varsity was making good use of these technologies.

"This is the era of science and technology. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, 3D printing and cloud computing have brought about a vast change in our thinking and

working style," she said. Murmu, however, advised 'all to be careful about the misuse of these advanced technologies'

Highlighting the rising academic performance of girl students - who topped 21 of 27 departments in the varsity this year - she said, "Over the last five years, girl students have consistently outperformed boys in academics at the institute. At the post-graduate level, the number of girl stu-

📢 President Murmu highlights the institution's historic role in the freedom struggle and **Odisha's statehood movement**

dents who topped was more than three-and-a-half times that of the boys. This reflects India was moving from women empowerment to women-led development.'

She also expressed satisfaction over the university's steady increase in enrolment of tribal students. underprivileged and 'divyang' students.

Calling upon the graduating students to be more sincere and hardworking in future, Murmu said, "From today onwards, your life will take a new turn. You will move out of the academic university and step into a bigger university of life and society. I hope you will also achieve success and laurels in university life and society."

President Murmu said the educational institution was an active centre of the freedom struggle, and associated with the movement for the formation

of Odisha.



of the state of Odisha. She also stressed the importance of entrepreneurship and societal contribution by not only getting a job, but providing

jobs to others as well. "If you desire, you can become entrepreneurs and set up your own ventures," Murmu told the students.

"The sense of nation first is our biggest strength. Our soldiers, farmers, scientists, engineers, doctors and people active in various fields are working with the sentiment of increasing the pride of India," she said. During the occasion, Mur-

mu also conferred honorary degrees on four noted personalities in recognition of their contributions to different fields.

Later, she laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of three buildings of Ravenshaw Girls' High School in Cuttack.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: The Odisha Government is firmly committed to developing future-ready talent capable of thriving in the digital era, said Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain Tuesday.



Swain also hailed the newly-launched AI Policy 2025 as a visionary roadmap for the inclusive and transformative application of Artificial Intelligence across governance, education, and industry.

WORLD YOUTH 'Committed to building future-ready talent'

The highlight of the event was the announcement of placement offers to over 700 youth, trained through the WSC and state-led skilling initiatives like Nua Odisha and the placement-linked training programme. Thirty young learn-ers from WSC, RD Women's Higher Secondary School, and BJB Higher Secondary School participated in the event which showcased 49 student-led innovation projects, six of which were specially awarded for excellence and creativity.

RSC flags off MSE buses

(RSC), Bhubaneswar, flagged off two Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) buses-focused on Electricity & Magnetism and



These mobile units aim to bring interactive, hands-on science experiences to under served schools. The flag-off cer emony was graced by Pralipta Mishra, Assistant Director (Science), Directorate of TE & SCERT, department of School and Mass Education.

Over 100 students from vari ous local schools actively par ticipated and received certif icates in recognition of their enthusiasm and engagement



The Regional Science Centre Measurement-to engage stu-



with their land, water, forests

and livelihoods at risk due to

mining operations. They also

voiced support for the grassroots

movement led by Maa Mati Mal

Suraksha Manch in the affected

regions of Kashipur (Koraput

district) and Thuamul-Rampur

parties, including CPI (ML)-Lib

eration, CPI (ML), CPI (ML).

Red Star, Forward Bloc, and

CPI, lent their support, con

demning what they described

as the state's alignment with

corporate interests over con-

Leaders from various leftist

(Kalahandi district).

Mass protest in Capital over Vedanta mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Julv 15: A large-scale protest erupted in Bhubaneswar Tuesday as diverse democratic, political, and rights-based organisations came together to oppose the mining lease granted to Vedanta in the ecologically sensitive Sijimali region of Odisha. Protesters accused the state government of suppressing local opposition and enabling corporate exploitation at the expense of tribal communities and the environment.

Demonstrators demanded the revocation of the mining lease to Vedanta. citing lack of consent from the Gram Sabha. a violation of constitutional and legal safeguards protecting Adivasi (tribal) rights.



They condemned ongoing state repression, which includes the alleged filing of false legal cases against activists and the use of force to curb democratic dissent.

The protest saw participation from numerous organisa tions including Basti Suraksha Manch, Chashi Mulia Samiti, Jan Adhikar Manch (Odisha), Akhil Bharatiya Janmanch,

egies to scale up wind energy

Democratic Rights Protection Organization, Campaign Against False Cases, Lokshakti Abhiyan, Jeevan-Jibika O Paribesh Suraksha Abhiyan (Puri), National Youth Organisation among others. Speakers and activists em-

phasised that Adivasis, Dalits, and poor rural communities in the Sijimali area are under threat of displacement,

stitutional rights and environmental justice. Protesters vowed to intensify the movement unless the government withdraws the lease and ceases all repressive actions.

RDWU organises NSS officers' sensitisation PNN & AGENCIES programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: The NSS Bureau of Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) held a special sensitisation programme Tuesday for NSS Programme Officers from affiliated colleges across Odisha. The event, conducted on the university campus, aimed to strengthen the understanding and effectiveness of NSS officers in community service initiatives.

The programme began with a welcome address by NSS programme coordinator Aliva Mohanty, who highlighted NSS's role in nation-building. The session was presided over by vice-chancellor-in-charge Chandicharan Rath. Deputy Secretary and State NSS Officer (SNO) Ramesh Chandra Behera, the event's chief guest, stressed the scheme's importance. "NSS helps instil social responsibility and develop human values among students. Programme Officers play a crucial role in translating these ideals into impactful ground-level action," he said.



The sighting of a male and female wild dog pair sparks hope for revival

renewable energy footprint.' he said. The Deputy CM, who in wind energy and underlined the strategic importance of inalso holds the Energy portfolio, tegrating wind and solar power said Odisha is actively working generation in line with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) According to sources, the aim is to achieve 50 per cent of the country's installed electric

power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2070. Senior officials from the En-

ergy department, GRIDCO, Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Resources participated in the meeting, including Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev and GRIDCO MD Satyapriya Rath.

was also recorded in the sanc-

tuary for the first time, now

confined largely to the core

area. While competition is

stiff, the sanctuary's 353sqkm

expanse is free of human habitation, offering ample undis-

turbed territory for carnivores. Experts note that wild dogs

which are social pack animals, struggle to survive as lone

individuals in territo-

ries dominated by

competitive car-

nivores. Soli-

tary animals

often get ex-

cluded from

prime hunt-

ing areas

or pushed

toward hu-

man inter-

faces, raising

risks of conflict

or decline. The

emergence of a pair

may signify the start of a pack

structure-crucial for long-

term survival and ecological

With no direct predators and

ample forest cover, Debrigarh

now holds cautious promise as

a viable habitat for these criti-

cally endangered carnivores.

balance.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Railway Board Director General (Safety) Hari Shankar Verma, Tuesday concluded a three-day safety inspection of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) from July 13 to 15. The visit aimed to assess the implementation of safety initiatives, infrastructure readiness, and staff preparedness across critical sections of the zone.

Verma conducted detailed inspections of the Khurda Road-Puri section and traveled aboard

the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani Express to assess on-ground safety parameters. A high-level safety review meeting was convened at the ECoR head quarters here, chaired by ECoR general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal and was attended by se nior officials from the department.

In addition. Verma held de tailed discussions with officers of the Khurda Road Division, including Divisional Railway Manager HS Bajwa. The deliberations focused on key di visional safety metrics, staff training, and welfare.

to ensure grid stability. toward achieving its renewable el meeting on renewable energy held Tuesday, chaired by Depu-"Odisha, with its long coastenergy targets for both wind and ty Chief Minister KV Singh Deo. solar power by utilising its natline and barren hilltops, is Singh Deo highlighted Inwell-positioned to expand its ural resources, including a long dia's four-decade experience coastline and barren hilltons.

Discussions revolved around the production potential, challenges, and actionable strat-

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kesinga, Dist.- Kalahandi on dt 9.7.2025 Jubaraj Jani, p.s.- Kesinga, Dist.- Kalahandi (Odisha) I declare that I have change my daughter's name from Shradhanjali Jani to Shradhanajali Jani. Henceforth, she will be known as Shradhanajali Jani for all purpose. Jubaraj Jani

of endangered Schedule-I species, with just 5,000 left worldwide

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, July 15: In a significant milestone for wildlife conservation at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, a breeding pair of endangered wild dogs—also known as Dhole or Balua Kukura in Odia-was recorded July 14. This marks a hopeful breakthrough, coming after over a de-

cade of absence and two years of only solitary sightings in the sanctuary.

The first lone wild dog reappeared in Debrigarh during the winter of 2023, initially restricting its movements to the sanctuary's core area. By 2024, it had ventured into the tourism zone, catching the attention of safari visitors. Despite the presence of dominant carnivores like leopards and hyenas, the wild dog managed to survive, maintaining a

sq km. The recent sighting of a

seasonal home range of 30-40

male and female pair moving together marks a significant development, sparking hope that Debrigarh may once again support a resident pack of the endangered Schedule-I species, whose global population is estimated at only 5,000.

Debrigarh's prey base appears strong, with rising populations of sambar, chital. wild boar, and oth

Debrigarh's

prey base supports

the potential growth

of the wild dog pack

Despite competition from

leopards and hyenas, the wild

er small mammals—ideal for sustaining a wild dog pack. While Indian Bi-

in

dog survived with a seasonal home range of 30-40 sq km son are Wild dogs' social pack present structure is crucial for their good survival amid competing numbers, carnivores they are rarely

targeted by wild dogs except in extreme situations.

Debrigarh Sanctuary currently lacks apex predators like tigers, after the last resident male migrated to Chhattisgarh's Gomarda Sanctuary in 2024.

In 2023, a single Indian wolf

CURRENCY	BOURSES	COMMODITIES		
INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION		
DOLLAR 85.89 🕈 0.13	SENSEX 82570.91 🛉 317.45	GOLD ₹ 97,278 ♦ ₹497		
EURO 100.39 0.27	NIFTY 25195.80 113.50	SILVER ₹111,412 ♦ ₹1524		

DG reviews safety measures in ECoR



WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.8°	32.6°	Generally cloudy
Min Temp	25.9°	24.8°	sky with one or two spells of rain
Humidity	86%	95%	or thundershower
Rainfall	1.2mm	9.4mm	Ä

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-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-Cookieman-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.









OrissaPOS WEDNESDAY | JULY 16, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

state

FM student cremated amid tears and protest

OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, July 15: A 20-year old female student of FM (Autonomous) College here who succumbed to her burn injuries after immolating herself, over alleged sexual harassment by a professor, was consigned to flames at her native Palasia village under this block in Balasore district Tuesday as thousands mourned her loss with tears and sorrow.

The deceased, a second-year Integrated BEd student, was pronounced dead early Tuesday by authorities at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar. The young woman became a symbol of resistance before succumbing in her battle, reportedly following a long ordeal.

The body was shifted to her native village under tight security from Bhubaneswar. Around 8:30am the ambulance carrying her remains arrived at the Bhograi police station square, where thousands had gathered-including political leaders, students, women's groups, and various student organisations—to pay their final respect.

Amid the somber atmosphere, police had put in place extensive security measures. However, the arrival of the ambulance sparked a moment of tension. As the vehicle did



As the vehicle arrived, wails

of grief from family members

and villagers cast a pall of sor-

row across the area. Leaders

from both the BJD and BJP ar-

rived to pay their respects. BJD

MLAs, including the Bhograi

legislator Goutam Buddha Das,

offered floral tributes. BJP MP

from Balasore, Pratap Chandra

Sarangi, along with three party

MLAs, also paid homage to the

departed with flower garlands.

from the district administra-

tion to maintain law and order,

the body was swiftly taken to

Following strict directions

not stop at the expected location, BJD legislator Goutam Buddha Das and several other party leaders tried to halt it. Hundreds of BJD supporters also rushed towards the ambulance, blocked its path and staged a sit-in protest. They shouted anti-government slogans, creating a chaotic scene, before quelled by the police. Family members, villagers,

and well-wishers bid farewell to the brave student with heavy hearts, marking the end of a struggle that resonated far beyond her hometown.

A tense atmosphere prethe village cremation ground vailed as police and adminiswithin a short span of time. trative officials tactfully trans-More than 10,000 mourners ported the body of the deceased gathered, chanting emotionstudent in the ambulance to her al slogans like "Soumyashree native Palasia village. Amar Rahe" (Long live Soumy-

The cremation was conducted under tight security, with a cordon formed around the area. The girl's younger brother performed the last rites by lighting the funeral pyre.

A large number of dignitaries and public representatives gathered to express condolences over the death of the student in Bhograi.

Among those present were Balasore District Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas, Superintendent of Police Rai Prasad, Additional SP Debivoti Das, Sub-Collectors Sudhakar Nayak, Hemant Singh, Madhusmita Samantaray, Bhograi BDO, tehsildar, and local IIC.

Sadar MLA Manas Dutta, Remuna MLA and Government Chief Whip Gobind Das, Nilagiri MLA Santosh Kumar Khatua, Bhograi panchayat samiti chairperson Prabir Kumar Giri, BJP leaders Ashish Kumar Patra and Anshuman Mohanty, Congress leaders Meenarani Sura and Santosh Kumar Jena were also in attendance. Leaders from women's outfit. DSO leaders as well as several teachers, professors, and intellectuals also joined the gathering.

MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi assured that a high-level inquiry would be conducted and stern action taken against those found guilty.



Hirakud oustees get eviction notice for 2nd time

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 15: In a bizarre decision, more than 150 families who had been displaced seven decades ago by the Hirakud Dam project, and resettled in other villages, have now been served with fresh eviction notices by the government, a report said Tuesday.

This has sparked unrest and protest among the hapless population. On Tuesday, residents of submerged areas of Hirakud dam who have been living and engaged in farming at Budhipadanapali, Gundchamal, and Balabaspur villages in Kilasama and Talab panchayats of Dhankauda block since the 1950s, submitted a memorandum to Sambalpur District Collector Siddheswar Baliram Bondar, urging him to stop the proposed eviction and provide

an alternative solution.

According to the villagers, more than 150 families displaced during the original Hirakud Dam resettlement drive were given land in these villages where they have built their houses and sustained their livelihoods through agriculture for

over 70 years. However, the administration has now issued notices for the acquisition of about 27.44 acres of agricultural and homestead land, comprising 12 plots under Khata No. 324, citing a proposed tourism development project. The notice, dated June 30, was issued by the Sambalpur Sadar tehsildar, mentioning the land will be acquired and transferred

EAST COAST RAILWAY

SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

Tender No. 40255748, Dtd.11.07.2025

Description of Item : 5 WATT

DIGITAL VHF WALKIE TALKIE SET,

Tender Value (₹) : ₹ 2,40,51,940/-, EMD :

Date and time of closing of tender :

Complete information including tende documents is available in website

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager

Quantity: 935 Sets

1500 hrs of 04.08.2025

www.ireps.gov.in.

₹4.81.040/-

17.07.2025

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

WATCO PROJECT DIVISION Email: gmprojectsbp@gmail.com, Tel.No.0663-2411911

Rs.16.19 Lakhs

One (1)

Referred to DTCN

Referred to DTCN

11.00 Hrs. of 17.07.2025 to

General Manager, WATCO

Project Division, Sambalpur

Sd./- General Manager, Watco

Project Division, Sambalpur

12.30 Hrs. on Dtd.28.07.2025

At-40 MLD, STP Campus, Bhatra

Dhanupali, Sambalpur, 768005

17.00 Hrs. of 26.07.2025

"C or D" Class

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.2 Project/WATCO/SBP/2025-26

Dated 10.07.2025

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www

Name of the Work :- BC Road restoration work

to IDCO, Bhubaneswar for the proposed project.

The villagers have strongly opposed the move, alleging that the government is prioritising private business interests over public welfare. They claim the land, which has been cultivated and inhabited for generations, is being handed over to industrialists at throwaway prices under the pretext of tourism.

Contacted for comments the Collector said, "The gov ernment's order will be implemented keeping in view the larger interest of society The forcibly occupied land ear marked for the project will be cleared. The trespassers will be prosecuted after inquiry."

EAST COAST RAILWA

E-AUCTION OF PARKING STAND

Auction Catalogue No.: SDCM-KUR-PKN Station & Location : (1) Jajpur Keoniha

Road-2 Wheeler (Near Platform-1

(2) Kaluparaghat-2 Wheeler (Near OF

Auction Start Date & Time: 24.07.2025

at 1100 hrs. (for both SI. Nos.), Auction

Ind Date & Time : 24.07.2025 at 113

hrs. (for SI. No. 1) and at 1140 hrs. (for

Note: Prospective bidders are advised t

isit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the

Khurda Roa

TRD-OT

vater tank at Platform-1 side).

SI. No. 2).

4 arrested for murder of sarpanch's husband

Sonepur: Four men have been arrested in connection with the murder of Ballabh Ksheti, 45, ex- sarpanch and husband of Gajabandha panchayat sarpanch Basanti Ksheti, police said Tuesday. The accused were identified as Jogeswar Bhue, 42 of Brahmanipali; Gobinda Behera, 26 of Pandarapali; Dhananjay Pashayat, 40, and Hrusikesh Bagarti, 54, of Gajabandha. They were produced in Rampur JMFC Court and remanded to Sonepur Sub-Jail after their bail pleas were denied. Police said Ballabh was returning home to Kendupali around 10pm July 10 when he was ambushed and attacked with sharp weapons by a group of men at a place about 2 km from Gajabandha. He was rushed to Dunguripali hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The murder was allegedly the fallout of a land dispute between Ballabh and Bhue, and prior enmity over panchayat contract works with the other accused. A case was registered at Rampur police station based on a complaint filed by the victim's younger brother. Subarnapur SP Narayan Nayak said the accused confessed to the crime. A motorcycle used in the crime has also been seized. Further investigation is ongoing, and police may seek remand of the accused for detailed questioning, the SP said.



ମୌସମୀ ବର୍ଷା ଆରୟ ହେବା ପରେ ମଶା ବଂଶ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇବା ଏବଂ ଡ଼େଙ୍ଗୁ ରୋଗ

Decomposed body found at MKCG; murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 15: The partially-burnt decomposed body of a man was recovered from the MKCG Medical College and Hospital premises in Berhampur Tuesday, sparking suspicion of a brutal murder and an attempt to destroy evidence.

The body, found on the Hetabandh Road - opposite the outdoor playground inside the medical campus under Baidyanathpur police limits - was severely disfigured. Portions of both legs and toes of the charred remains were missing. Following inquest, investigators suspect that the killers poured petrol on the body and set it on fire after the murder to erase evidence.

Preliminary findings suggest that the man may have been killed elsewhere and his body dumped on the hospital premises late Monday night. Police believe the killers used the cover of darkness to carry out the act and escaped. Investigators are scanning CCTV footage from multiple entry points of the hospital. A scientific team and a sniffer dog unit have been pressed into service to aid the investigation. Sources said police have contacted the family of a man from the Ashok Nagar area who has been missing for last few days. However, due to the extent of burns and decomposition, identification of the body has not been possible. An unnatural death (UD) case has been regis tered, and the body preserved at the morgue of MKCG Medical College and Hospital for further forensic analysis.

WATCO

No.C-660

Estimated Cost

No. of Works

tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-13247/11/0017/2526

Period of Completion

Tender Paper Cost

Class of Contractor

Date & Time of availability of

9. Name and address of the O.I.T.:

bid document in the portal

Date of Opening of Bid

Sambalpur R-360/Q/25-26 upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get al equired information regarding this e-auction Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager EAST COAST RAILWAY PR-354/Q/25-26 etter No. ST/OT/TELE-ZONAL-KUR/478 Date: 09.07.2025 ST-OT-TELE-ZONAL-KUR-478, Date: 09.07.202 EAST COAST RAILWAY NAME OF WORK : TELECOM ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/ (1) e-Tender No. 19-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date : 08.07.2025 OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER 2025-26, Date : 05.07.2025 NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF "PROVISION AND SHIFTING OF FEEDING POST AND OTHER TRACTION STRUCTURE TO AVOID INFRINGEMENT AT DUNGRIPALI STATION YARD". JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER TELECOM/KUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION EAST COAST RAIL WAY FOR ONE YEAR Tender Value : ₹46,16,358.11, <u>EMD :</u>

92,300/-, Bidding Start Date : Approx. Cost : ₹ 95,46,042.48, EMD ₹ 1,90,900/-, Completion Period : 12 Date of closing of Tender : At 1100 Hrs.

2025-26, Date : 08.07.2025

NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH (1 CONSTRUCTION OF PQRS DEPOT A BAMUR YARD IN CONNECTION WITH

(2) e-Tender No. 20-SB

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

ବ୍ୟାପିବାର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ ଅଛି । ଡେଙ୍ଗୁ ଏକ ଋତୁକାଳୀନ ଭୁତାଣୁ ଜନିତ ରୋଗ । ଏଡ଼ିସ୍ ମଶା କାମୁଡିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଏହି ରୋଗ ସଂକ୍ରମିତ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।ଏଥିରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନଲିଖିତ ସାବଧାନତା ଅବଲୟନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

- ଘର ପାଖ ପରିବେଶ ସଫା–ସୁତୁରା ରଖନ୍ତୁ
- ଘର ଆଖପାଖରେ ଜମିରହୁଥିବା ସ୍ଥିର ଓ ପରିଷ୍କାର ପାଣିରେ ଏଡିସ୍ ମଶା ଡିୟ ଦେଇ ବଂଶ ବିୟାର କରିଥାଏ
- ଘରେ କିୟା ଘର ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଫୁଲ କୁଷ, ପାଣି ଟାଙ୍କି, କୁଲର, ଫ୍ରିକ୍ର ପଛପଟେ ଥିବା ଡିଫ୍ରଷ ଓ୍ୱାଟର ଋୟର ଆଦିକୁ ସପ୍ଟାହକୁ ଥରେ ପାଣି ବାହାର କରି ପରିଷ୍କାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଘର ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଭଙ୍ଗା ଡବା, ବୋତଲ, ପୁରୁଣା/ ଛିଷା ଟାୟାର, କଟା ପଇଡ଼, ନଡ଼ିଆ ଷଢ଼େଇ, କୁଡ଼ୁଆ, ବାଉଁଶ ଗଛର କଟା ଯାଇଥିବା ମୂଳ ଅଂଶ ଆଦି ସବୁକୁ ନଷ୍ଟ କରିଦିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଏଡିସ୍ ମଶା ସାଧାରଣତଃ ଘର ଭିତରେ ସୋଫା, ଖଟ, ଆଲମିରା ଓ ଥାକ ତଳେ ଅନ୍ଧାରୁଆ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନେଇଥାଏ
- ଏହି ମଶା ସାଧାରଣତଃ ସକାଳ ଏବଂ ଅପରାହ୍ନ (ଗୋଧୂଳି) ସମୟରେ କାମୁଡ଼ିଥାଏ । ମନୁଷ୍ୟ ଶରୀରର ବାହାର ଅଙ୍ଗ ଯଥା; ଗୋଡ, ହାତ, ମୁହଁ, ନାକ ଏବଂ କାନକୁ ଏହିଁ ମଶା କାମୁଡିଥାଏ
- ଶରୀରକୁ ପୁରା ଘୋଡାଇଲା ଭଳି ପୋଷାକ ପିନ୍ଧନ୍ତୁ
- ଦିନ ହେଉ ବା ରାତି, ଶୋଇବା ବେଳେ ମଶାରି ନିଷୟ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ଧୁ, ମଶା ଦାଉରୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ଘରର ଝରକାରେ ସରୁ ଜାଲି ଲଗାନ୍ସୁ
- ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସ୍ଥଳେ ମଶା ନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ

(14)

 କ୍ୱର ସହିତ ଆଣ୍ଟୁ-ଗଣ୍ଡି ବିନ୍ଧା, ଆଖି ଓ ମାଂସପେଶୀରେ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣା ହେଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ରକ୍ତ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରି ଚିକିହ୍ସା କରାନ୍ତୁ

ସଚେତନ ହୁଅନ୍ତ, ସତର୍କ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ, ଡେଙ୍କୁ ରୋଗରୁ ନିଜକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖନ୍ତୁ

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ହେଲ୍ସ ଲାଇନ୍: ୧୦୪

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

Man held for killing wife

Barbil: Police Tuesday arrested a man for allegedly killing his wife in an alleged case of domestic violence here in Keonjhar district. The accused was identified as Neel Prasad Sharma who works as an assistant manager with Rungta Mines, while the deceased, Nirmala Sharma, 41. The incident took place late Sunday night, or early Monday, at their residence in E3/6E guarters of Rungta Colony. The couple's son, a Class X student, was home at the time, while their daughter studies in Bhubaneswar, police said Sources said the couple, married for 23 years, had a troubled relationship, with Neel Prasad often assaulting Nirmala. On July 13, he allegedly beat her severely and pushed her against a wall, causing a fatal head injury. She lay bleeding and unconscious but he allegedly delayed seeking medical help. Around 7:45am Monday, Nirmala was finally taken to the Barbil community health centre (CHH), where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

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@HFWOdisha

of 31.07.2025. No manual offers send by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt 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.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-356/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

DAMOR YARD IN CONNECTION WITH JHARSUGUDA-SARALA-KEREJANG (UP, DN & SL)-TSR(P)-33.419 TKM IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. (2) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. ST-38 AT KM 65.250 BETWEEN CHARMAL-RAIRAKHOL STATIONE IN SAMPAL DILP ANGUL BETWEEN CHARMAL-RAIRAKHOL STATIONS IIN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION. (3) REPLACEMENT OF STEEL GIRDER BRIDGES OF SPAN 12.20 MTR BY PSC SLAB IN JHARSUGUDA ROAD-JUJUMURA SECTION. (4) PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL WATER WAY FOR BRIDGE NO.96 BETWEEN HATIBARI-JUJUMURA IN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. (5) PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. ST-83 AT KM 130/6-7 BETWEEN BOINDA-JARAPADA STATIONS IN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OF SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OF SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost : ₹ 27,48,290.13, EMD 55,000/-, Completion Period : 0 Nonths.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 153 Hrs. on 30.07.2025 (for both Tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered nvalid and shall be rejected summaril without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender available in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers an advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tender t

adys before in each of closing of render to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/bidder car participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) Sambalput Sambalput PR-357/Q/25-26

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, DHANKAUDA Tender Call Notice Bid Identification No.2/2025-26

No.2166

Date:14.07.2025 No.i-215:The Block Development Officer, Dhankauda invites percentage rate basis Tender for the following Projects. The bid documents can be downloaded from district website www.sambalpur.odisha.gov.in starts from Dt.16.07.2025 at 10.00 AM to Dt.04.08.2025 upto 5.00 PM and receipt of the bid documents ends on Dt.06.08.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. The bid will be opened on Dt.07.08.2025 at 11.00 AM. Intending Class-B, Class-C, D-Class contractors may visit district website of Sambalpur www ambalpur.odisha.gov.in for detail information

SI.	Name of Work	Tender Value	Class of	E.M.D.	Cost of Tender	Period of			
No.		of work (in Rs.)	Contractor	(Rs)	Paper (Rs.)	Completion			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1	Construction of Cow Shelter/	76,95,803/-	'B' Class	76,958/-	10000/-	09 (Nine)			
	Shed at Shree Krishna Goshala,					Calendar			
	Potapali, Sambalpur					Months			
2	Construction of Multipurpose	12,68,691/-	'C' & 'D'	12,687/-	6000/-	06 (Six)			
	Community Centre at Charbhati,		Class			Calendar			
	Sambalpur					Months			
OIP	OIPR-19313/11/0004/2526 Sd./- Block Development Officer, Dhankauda								



power post



THE MOTHER

Use & Abuse

Reedom of speech and expression is the soul of democracy and to rob an individual of that fundamental right is to undermine the basic tenets of democracy. But, does that give a carte blanche to a citizen to articulate in public what she or he thinks and feels about issues pertaining to public life? It is often said freedom entails certain responsibilities and one must exercise restraint while speaking one's mind so as not to hurt or disrespect other's feelings and sentiments. The question, however, is where lies the borderline between freedom of speech and restraint in exercising that freedom. In fact, no one on earth has yet been able to decipher what exactly may be construed as 'freedom'. Each person has to demarcate and draw the line or limit. It is like walking up to a precipice and then deciding whether to go forward and fall or to step back and stay within limits.

It surely is a grey area and individuals and state powers often tend to make use of it by either misusing the licence that the right to free speech gives or muzzling a voice the ruling dispensation perceives to be too critical of government policies and actions. India has been experiencing the phenomenon for decades, but the situation has become far more complex now in the digital age when one can reach a wide audience by a single post on social media.

The Supreme Court on 14 July said citizens must know the value of freedom of speech and expression and observe self-regulation. The Court did not stop there and spoke of mulling guidelines to regulate offensive posts on social media. A Bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea of an individual, Wazahat Khan, booked in FIRs in several states, including West Bengal, for his objectionable posts on X against a Hindoo deity. On 23 June, the top court granted him interim protection from coercive action till 14 July. Interestingly, Khan had filed a complaint against another social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli for allegedly making communal remarks in a video. A saying goes: One man's meat is another man's poison. This seems to be super relevant in today's world where everyone is getting extremely sensitive and incapable of glossing over criticism.

Justice Nagarathna iterated that citizens must know the value of the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression. She said the State is justified in stepping in when there are cases of violations, even though State actions may not always be palatable to any freedom-loving individual. The Bench also made the pertinent observation that all divisive tendencies noticed on social media these days have to be curbed, while insisting that it did not mean censorship.

"There should be fraternity among citizens," the Bench said. It underlined the reasonable restrictions under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution on freedom of speech and expression, saying they had "rightly been placed."

The Bench, in the meantime, extended interim protection from arrest to Khan till the next hearing in the case and asked the counsel to assist the Bench in dealing with the larger issue of self-regulation of freedom of speech and expression of citizens.

The right to free speech is an issue even the apex court has often found too complex to handle, articulating its legal interpretations through various judicial voices and approaches. Some recent cases point to such a conclusion. On 28 March 2025, a Bench of former Justice AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan quashed an FIR filed against MP Imran Pratapgarhi for reciting an Urdu poem that allegedly promoted enmity between communities under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The Bench emphatically noted that the poem did not promote communal tension, by any "stretch of imagination." The judgement also noted that a police officer must keep Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution and its reasonable restrictions in mind while interpreting the text.

A couple of months later, a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and NK Singh granted interim bail to Ashoka University Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, who had been arrested for online posts concerning Operation Sindoor. But the bail order included conditions gagging Mahmudabad from making any online posts, articles, or oral speech related to the military operation.

A few weeks after the Mahmudabad order, the release of Kamal Haasan's film Thug Life was obstructed in Karnataka following his comments on the Kannada language. The Karnataka High Court asked the actor to tender an apology. When the matter came to the Supreme Court, a Bench comprising Justices Bhuyan and Manmohan pointed out that an extrajudicial ban on a movie was illegal and did not countenance the order on tendering apology. Free speech is indeed a complex issue and pronouncements from the seats of judgement are to be watched with a mixture of hope and consternation.

HEDGED GLOBALIZATION

FOCUS

TRADE

S President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs may have been "paused" almost immediately after their introduction in April – a reprieve just recently extended until 1 August, but they sent a clear message: countries around the world must adapt to a new era of coercive economic diplomacy. Choosing sides in a superpower competition is not the approach most governments are taking.

For China, Trump's actions – which have severely undermined trust in the United States – look like an opportunity to strengthen its global influence. To that end, the country has ramped up its charm offensive, with President Xi Jinping visiting Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam – which China calls "victims" of US tariffs – to strike bilateral deals spanning health, technology, agriculture, and education.

China also lifted some sanctions against the European Union, which is reeling not only from Trump's tariffs, but also from his evident lack of commitment to NATO. And, in a meeting with his Nigerian counterpart, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged to work with African countries to "reject protectionism," "oppose ... bullying," and defend "fairness and justice." "China will provide certainty to this uncer-

tain world," Wang declared. Many of these governments are not opposed to closer cooperation with China, and may welcome the opportunity to show the US that they have options. But there is little reason to expect the geostrategic swing towards China that Xi's government is attempting to engineer. After all, China has its own record of coercive diplomacy.

Notably, China has gained effective control over the flow of rare-earth minerals, which are crucial to myriad modern technologies, from smartphones to wind turbines to medical devices. In 2010, China halted exports of rare earths to Japan for two months over a fishing dispute. In April, it suspended



The emergence of hedged globalization reflects most countries' desire to be insulated from today's superpower competition

such exports almost entirely, highlighting its ability to weaponize critical supply chains. Similarly, China has demonstrated a pattern of curbing imports from countries with which it has disagreements, often under the guise of enforcing health and safety standards.

Rather than replace one coercive power with another, countries are embracing "hedged globalization," whereby they cultivate networks of diverse partnerships that limit their exposure to either superpower. Southeast Asia – a key front in the US-China rivalry – is leading the way.

Mindful of their historical divisions and territorial disputes, leaders of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries have long sought to bolster peace and stability through cooperation. But this effort has lately gained new impetus. In the 2025 State of Southeast Asia survey, a majority of respondents expressed support for strengthening intra-ASEAN ties.

But intra-regional ties are only part of the hedging agenda. Nearly 52% of State of Southeast Asia respondents now view the EU as the region's second most trusted non-regional partner (after Japan), up from 41.5% last year and surpassing the US.

As Singapore's deputy prime minister, Gan Kim Yong, put it at the recent Nikkei Forum on the Future of Asia, beyond "doubl[ing] down on regional integration," Asia must "form agile partnership with like-minded partners." In addition to deeper engagement with the EU, Singapore is eyeing opportunities with Chile, Peru, and Mercosur (comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), deeper cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the strengthening of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Similarly, South Korea's newly appointed trade minister has a history of advocating the country's participation in the CPTPP, which includes neither the US nor China (though the latter has sought membership). This represents not only a desire for expanded market access, but also a commitment to rules-based – rather than deal-oriented – globalization.

Canada is also becoming increasingly alienated from the US, owing to Trump's tariffs, calls for it to become the 51st US state, and personal insults. But Canada will not soon forget China's forceful retaliation for its 2018 arrest (at the request of the US) of Meng Wanzhou, a senior executive of the Chinese tech giant Huawei. China imposed tariffs on several imports from Canada; suspended imports of Canadian beef altogether: and detained two Canadian nationals. The "two

Michaels" were held for nearly three years – as long as it took for the US to agree to release Meng. To avoid depending on either coercive superpower, Prime Minister Mark Carney has been championing trade accords with ASEAN, the EU, and Mercosur. And within Latin America, Brazil and Mexico are choosing to set aside their historic rivalry to forge deeper bilateral cooperation.

The same goes for America's other closest ally, the EU, whose quest for "strategic autonomy" reflects a clear desire to reduce its dependence on both the US and China, while protecting itself from threats posed by Russia. Moreover, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has championed stronger trade and investment links with ASEAN and the CPTPP, noting that such steps would boost Europe's economic security. Sweden is calling for the EU to become a full member of the CPTPP - a step that would create a free-trade area accounting for nearly 30% of global GDP.

The emergence of hedged globalization reflects most countries' desire to be insulated from today's superpower competition. While they may make concessions to avoid tariffs and sanctions in the short term, they will also work hard to reduce their vulnerability to such threats.

But if a system based on hedged globalization is to work, leadership is vital. This is where middle powers come in: they must work together to uphold rules-based engagement, create space for smaller states to advance their interests, and act as a stabilizing anchor for the global economy. Only then can countries avoid behind held hostage by the world's superpowers, and instead forge their own paths with partners who share their desire for an open and stable economic order.

The writer is Professor of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford.

not, you need to get yourself

JEST THIS

The Neeraj Chopra show will go on



BASED ON HEDGED GLOBALIZATION IS TO WORK, LEADERSHIP IS VITAL. THIS IS WHERE MIDDLE POWERS

COME IN

WISDOM CORNER

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

- An arrogant person considers himself perfect. This is the chief harm of arrogance. It interferes with a person's main task in life becoming a better person.
- In a closed society where everybody's guilty, the only crime is getting caught. In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1945:** First atomic bomb exploded near Alamogordo, New Mexico. The United States tested the first atomic bomb this day in 1945 near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and the following month dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, hastening the end of World War II.
- **1965:** The Mont Blanc Tunnel officially opened, linking France and Italy; at the time, it was the world's longest vehicular tunnel, spanning 7.3 miles (11.7 km).
- **1969:** Apollo 11 lifted off from NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and four days later two of its astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, became the first humans to set foot on the Moon.
- **1979:** Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq, and his brutal rule, which lasted 24 years, was marked by costly and unsuccessful wars with neighbouring countries as well as atrocities against the Iraqi people.
- **1994:** Comet Shoemaker–Levy 9 collides with Jupiter. The Jupiter orbiting comet collided with Jupiter. It was the first time in recorded history that astronomers had observed a collision between two celestial objects.



Melvin Durai Melvin Durai TRUST ME, THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN SEEING NEERAJ CHOPRA NEERAJ CHOPRA WITH THE NEERAJ

CHOPRA

TROPHY

The first ever Neeraj Chopra Classic was held recently at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru and the winner was none other than Neeraj Chopra. It was India's first ever international javelin tournament, first World Athletics gold tier event, and first major athletics event named after an Indian athlete.

Before Chopra became India's first Olympic gold medalist in a track and field event in 2021, who would have imagined that a crowd of almost 15,000 would gather in India to watch javelin throwing? Chess maybe, but not javelin. Carom maybe, but not javelin. Scrabble maybe, but not javelin.

But there they were, throngs of people chanting his name and cheering him to victory.

"It was emotional. I wasn't expecting such a turnout," Chopra said. "It made me want to throw further. But also, it added pressure."

Did you hear that? It made him want to throw further.

more events like this, not just the Neeraj Chopra Classic, but also the Hima Das Classic and the Tejaswin Shankar Classic. Then we might see a headline like this: "Shankar breaks world record, says home crowd made him want to jump higher."

This is why India should host

Of course, it doesn't quite work like that. But rabid home crowds can certainly make a difference. Chopra had thousands of fans counting on a strong performance from him and he didn't disappoint. He won gold with a throw of 86.18 meters, finishing ahead of Kenya's Julius Yego (84.51 meters), an Olympic silver medalist in 2016. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage won bronze with a throw of 84.34 meters.

Chopra, a gold and silver medalist at the Olympics, is only 27, which means that the Neeraj Chopra Show will go on. I am excited about that, because athletes like Chopra don't come along too often.

They're like Halley's Comet, showing up once every 75 years or so. It's important to appreciate them while they're around, because you might never see one of them again.

If you get a chance to see Chopra in action, don't miss it. Make sure you buy tickets for the second Neeraj Chopra Classic. It will be hosted and organized by Neeraj Chopra again. Trust me, there is nothing better than seeing Neeraj Chopra present Neeraj Chopra with the Neeraj Chopra trophy.

If you can't get tickets or can't travel to the host city, you will hopefully be able to watch the Neeraj Chopra Classic on the Neeraj Chopra Sports Channel. (Slogan: "All Neeraj, all the time.") You may laugh at the notion of NCSC, but ask yourself this: how many Neeraj Chopra javelin throws did you miss in the past year? Did you watch him win the Ostrava Golden Spike? Did you watch him win the Paris Diamond League? If a subscription to NCSC. The first 100 fans who sign up will receive a free autographed copy of the best-selling book 'Neeraj Chopra: Why I sometimes let others win." Chopra will be in his prime for at least another decade, hopefully. A 2021 study published in the European Journal of Sport Science found that javelin throwers and discus throwers achieve their best performance between the ages of 30 and 39, much later than sprinters and hurdlers. Technique is more important than power for them. That's why I believe Chopra will win more medals at the 2028 and 2032 Olympics, adding to a collection of awards so immense, they will need to be housed in the Neeraj Chopra Museum. Future generations will stand in long lines to visit the museum, marveling at Chopra's accomplishments and wishing they had been around to admire this rarest of athletes.

etters

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

their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Unresolved questions

Sir, The preliminary investigation into the June 12 crash of Air India flight 171 in Ahmedabad reveals that Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) data captured a brief exchange between the two pilots, with one asking why the fuel had been cut off and the other denying responsibility. However, the investigation fails to provide context about their full conversation before and/or after this critical moment. While the report offers a detailed timeline of the crash, it remains conspicuously silent on the pivotal cockpit exchange regarding the fuel cut-off. Although both fuel switches were reportedly returned to 'RUN' after the brief conversation, the report neither clarifies who initiated the 'restart' nor it states what prompted the initial 'shutdown.' Experts emphasize that only a full release of the cockpit voice recordings, combined with flight data, can provide a comprehensive understanding of the pilots' actions and communications during the critical moments preceding the crash. Only the full transcript of the CVR can answer the unresolved questions that continue to envelope the Ahmedabad air crash.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Sinner, the winner

Sir, Jannik Sinner, 24, has proved his mettle once again by lifting his maiden Wimbledon title. With already two Australian Open and one US Open titles under his belt, Sinner proved big time that he is a hard nut to crack on grass too. No Carlos Alcaraz fan would have visualised a riveting Sinner comeback after the former had won the first set sparing little effort on Sunday. However, to their dismay, Sinner rode through the next three sets hardly breaking a sweat. After coming up trumps at the US open in September last year. Sinner seems destined for bigger things as he is virtually on a roll from early 2024 apart from that loss to Alcaraz at this year's French Open. Notwithstanding the unfortunate doping scandal and a tennis player's famous Achilles heel -- injury, Sinner has come back every time he was considered down and out.

Ganapathi Bhat, , AKOLA















PUNJAB ANTI-SACRILEGE BILLDEFAMATION CASEBill sent for public feedbackLUCKNOW COURT GRANTS
BAIL TO RAHUL GANDHI

The anti-sacrilege bill was introduced in the House by CM Mann Monday, saying there must be stringent punishment for those involved in the desecration of religious scriptures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 15: The Punjab Assembly Tuesday unanimously decided to refer a bill proposing punishment up to life imprisonment for sacrilege acts against religious scriptures to a select committee of the House to seek public opinion on the proposed legislation.

On the concluding day of the special session of the Assembly, Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said the panel will submit its report on the bill within six months after taking public opinion.

The move came after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann proposed the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025, be sent to the select committee that may include representatives of all political parties for it to seek the opinion of the people and religious bodies.

The anti-sacrilege bill was introduced in the House by CM



Mann Monday, saying there must be stringent punishment for those involved in the desecration of religious scriptures. While wrapping up a discus-

sion on the bill, he referred to the sacrilege incidents of 2015 under the SAD-BJP rule and said there cannot be a bigger crime than sacrilegious acts. "Strictest punishment be giv-

en for the sacrilege acts against religious scriptures. Those who burn them, those tear them, there cannot be a bigger crime than this," he said. Referred to the 2015 sacrilege

incidents, Mann said his government has filed chargesheets in the matter.

The state-specific proposed law was cleared by the cabinet in a meeting chaired by the chief minister. Assembly Speaker Sandhwan

said the select committee will be formed by him to seek public opinion on the bill.

Taking part in the discussion on the bill, Leader of Opposition



 According to the bill, any person found guilty of sacrilege may face imprisonment ranging from 10 years to life. The guilty shall also be liable to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh, which may extend up to Rs 10 lakh

Partap Singh Bajwa demanded that theft of the religious scripture should also be included as an offence in the legislation.

He also demanded that a time bound probe be conducted into the sacrilegious acts. The bill mandates strict

punishment, extending up to life imprisonment, for the desecration of holy scriptures, including the Guru Granth Sahib, Bhagavad Gita, Bible and

Quran.

According to the bill, any person found guilty of sacrilege may face imprisonment ranging from 10 years to life. The guilty shall also be liable to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh, which may extend up to Rs 10 lakh.

Those attempting to commit the offence may be sentenced to three to five years and shall also be liable to pay a fine which may extend up to Rs 3 lakh, the bill proposes. Individuals found abetting the crime will be punished in accordance with the offence committed.

Under the bill, offence means any sacrilege, damage, destruction, defacing, disfiguring, de-colouring, de-filling, decomposing, burning, breaking or tearing of any holy scripture or part thereof.

Once enacted, offences punishable under this legislation shall be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable and will be tried by a session court. The probe shall be conducted by a police officer not below the rank of deputy superintendent of police.

Sacrilege has been an emotive issue in Punjab. There has been a demand from various quarters for stringent punishment for sacrilege after the incidents of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in 2015 in Faridkot.

This proposed legislation aims to fill that legal void by criminalising and prescribing punishments for acts of sacrilege across all sects and faiths.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 15: A Lucknow court Tuesday granted bail to leader of opposition and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi after he made an appearance in a defamation case filed over his purported remarks on Army personnel, his lawyer said.

The case relates to alleged defamatory remarks against Indian soldiers made during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in 2022, his counsel advocate Pranshu Agarwal said.

Following his appearance, the court released him on bail, the lawyer added.

The bail was effected after Gandhi furnished a bail bond and sureties as directed by the court. Gandhi appeared in a courtroom full of lawyers.

He was taken to the judge's chamber where the formalities of filing bond and sureties took place.

Gandhi was summoned as an accused after the court took cognisance of the defamation complaint.

The Congress leader had moved high court but failed to get a relief. Gandhi came to court accompanied by party's state unit president Ajay Rai and in-charge Avinash Pande.

"He (Gandhi) is scheduled to attend the court hearing and would return to Delhi later in the day. He is likely to come to Uttar Pradesh again to visit his constituency Raebareli over the next few days," Rai told PTI before the hearing.



The case relates to alleged defamatory remarks against Indian soldiers made during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in 2022

Security was beefed up along the route of his travel and in and around the court premises. The defamation complaint was filed by one Uday Shankar Srivastava, a retired director of the Border Roads Organisation (equivalent to the rank of colonel in the Army). The complaint states that December 16, 2022, Gandhi, while addressing various media personnel and the public during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, mentioned the clash between the Indian Army and the Chinese Army on the border of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 (2022) and said that "people will ask what all about Bharat Jodo Yatra, but will not ask even once about the beating of our soldiers by Chinese soldiers".

The complainant alleged his sentiments were hurt by Gandhi's statement about the alleged beating of Indian soldiers by the Chinese soldiers.

The special court ordered Gandhi to be summoned on charges of defamation February 11.

Akal Takht, Takht Patna Sahib resolve standoff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, July 15: The standoff between the Akal Takht and Takht Sri Patna Sahib was resolved Monday after Akal Takht officiating Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj held a meeting with the five Sikh high priests.

Takht Sri Patna Sahib in Bihar has now withdrawn all previous edicts that had declared Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal and the jathedars (high priests) of the Akal Takht and Takht Damdama Sahib guilty of religious misconduct.

Takht Sri Patna Sahib is one of the five temporal seats



Experts believe that the tiger population in the PTR, established in 2014, has doubled over the years, this increase has forced them to seek new territories, leading to a rise in man-animal conflicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The forest department has appealed to locals to remain

in the village.

appealed to locals to remain alert while its teams keep a close watch on the tiger's movements.

Meanwhile, locals expressed concern over the forest department's handling of the situation. "The tiger is moving dangerously close to human settlements along the highway," said Suresh Yadav, a villager.

"While the forest department carries out monitoring during the day, it appears unprepared at night, when the tiger is most active. Villagers are living in fear and spending sleepless nights," he said.



Pilibhit (UP), July 15: A day after a farmer was killed by a tiger in Fulhar village of Pilibhit district, forest officials said Tuesday that their team was tracking the animal and it would be captured as soon as the conditions are favourable.

Dayaram, 39, was mauled to death by the tiger in his field in Bari Phulhar village, the sixth tiger attack in two months in the region.

According to the forest team engaged in tracking the tiger, the animal also attempted to attack its personnel, though fortunately no serious injuries occurred.

The tiger was last spotted near Auraiya village, located alongside the Pilibhit-Tanakpur highway under Neuria police station area, the officials said. Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry), Bharat Kumar, said a trained team has been deployed at the spot following official approval for the tiger's capture.

"As soon as conditions are favourable, the tiger will be rescued and shifted to a safe location," he added.

To monitor the tiger and ensure public safety, police teams from two stations and personnel from the reserve police lines have also been deployed



Villagers said that they had told forest and police personnel about regular tiger sightings in the region and multiple complaints had been filed with the forest department, but to no avail.

Forest officials maintain that all necessary measures are being taken.

A tiger killed a farmer named Hansraj May 14 while he was irrigating his field in Nazirganj village. Four days later, Ram Prasad was fatally attacked while peeling sugarcane in Chatipur. A woman named Laungshree was killed May 25 while she was weeding a field in Khirkia Bargadia village.

People in Pilibhit have been facing the issue of man-animal conflict. They routinely encounter big cats that stray into their farms from the adjoining Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), a bustling habitat for the Bengal Tiger.

Experts believe that the tiger population in the PTR, established in 2014, has doubled over the years. This increase has forced them to seek new territories, leading to a rise in man-animal conflicts.

Boats float in water of the swollen Ganga river inundating Manikarnika Ghat, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Tuesday

of Sikhism. The Akal Takht in Amritsar is the supreme temporal seat.

After the meeting, a letter was sent by Takht Sri Patna Sahib withdrawing all previous edicts, and was accepted by the Akal Takht.

Subsequently, the Akal Takht here also withdrew edicts declaring three members of the Takht Patna Sahib 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct).

РТІ РНОТО

Boats noat in watch of the swonen Ganga fiver inundating Manika fika Ghat, in Varanasi, Ottal Pratesii, fuesuay

Noon, Pili rivers revived in Uttar Pradesh

The renaissance of the Noon River has become an inspirational model not only for Kanpur city but for the entire Uttar Pradesh, crediting the achievement to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'One District - One River' initiative

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Lucknow/Kanpur (UP), July 15: Kanpur city's Noon River,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

which had disappeared due to silt deposition and encroachment, has started flowing again due to the UP government's initiative to revive dying rivers.

This renaissance of the Noon River has become an inspirational model not only for Kanpur city but for the entire Uttar Pradesh, the state government said in a statement Tuesday, crediting the achievement to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "One District - One River" initiative.

Similarly, the Pili River, a tributary of the River Gomti in Jaunpur district, has been revived through collective efforts of the public, it said. The Noon River which once

The Noon River, which once irrigated the fields of Bilhaur,

Shivrajpur and Chaubepur and was an integral part of rural culture, had become a victim of neglect. Encroachments and silt had completely blocked the flow of water, it said.

Chief Minister Adityanath's idea was to revive rivers that were once an integral part of people's lives. The "One District - One River" scheme was launched with this aim and the Noon River was selected as a model case. Led by Kanpur District Magistrate Jitendra Pratap Singh and Chief Development Officer Diksha Jain, the campaign to revive the river lay emphasis on public participation.

Revenue records, accounts from villagers, drone surveys and satellite images were used to find the old route of the 48-km-long Noon River.

After this, the work of cleaning, digging, silt removal and em-



bankment construction started under the MGNREGA scheme. Under this, about 6,000 workers from 58 gram panchayats did the work of digging and cleaning a stretch of about 23 km.

Manual labour was used instead of machines. About Rs 57 lakh was spent in this entire process and more than 23,000 man-days were created.

The cooperation of local public representatives, villagers, private companies and indus-

tries was also taken in reviving the river.

Many factories that were draining polluted water into the river were closed after being given notice. The river, which had completely dried up, has come back to life with significant waterflow. Recently, under the plantation campaign, more than 40,000 saplings have been planted on the banks of the river.

"Local people are very excited to see the progress of the

revival of the river," Jain said. Once choked and forgotten, the Pili River has also been revived with similar efforts.

The 61.2 km-long river, with 43 km flowing through Jaunpur, originates from Dehuna village in Badlapur tehsil and meanders through villages such as Bhalua, Khanpur, Bahur, Sirikna, and Rampur before merging into the Gomti River near Belwan.

From a cultural perspective, the Pili River holds a deep connection with Jaunpur's identity. As part of the revival campaign held from June 11 to July 2, a 25-km stretch of the river was rejuvenated through community participation and awareness. A key highlight of the campaign was the restoration of the ancient Shiva temple in Deoria village, located on the river's banks.

District Magistrate of Jaunpur Dinesh Chandra Singh said that in line with the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, 11,000 saplings have already been planted along both sides of the river, with a target of 51,000 to be completed by August 15, the statement said.





The entire world, after COVID, wants to shift investments, find one more place for their investments, production. Most of the investors are looking towards India. But, my point is I want to make Telangana, Hyderabad as the alternative to China Plus One. That's why, we are working hard to create an atmosphere and infrastructure and policies A REVANTH REDDY

### TN CM LAUNCHES OUTREACH SCHEME 'UNGALUDAN STALIN'

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched Tuesday, the outreach programme 'Ungaludan Stalin,' (Stalin with you) to take government services to the people and redress grievances by organising special camps in their neighbourhoods



# uote day

Skilled youth are the backbone of a self-re liant India, and the double-engine government

(BJP government at the centre and Uttar Pradesh) is committed to providing jobs and self-employment opportunities

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

Very sad to hear about the death of famous Punjabi Sikh runner Fauja Singh ji. The world's

oldest runner Fauja Singh ji, who made the Sikh community proud in the world with his long distance running, will always live in our hearts and memories. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

CCTV cameras are installed in various parts of the state. but they often stop working due to

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS I MAHARASHTRA CM

### SHORT TAKES

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra minister and MLC Shashikant Shinde was Tuesday named the new president of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) state unit, replacing Jayant Patil, also a former minister. Pawar made the announcement at the party's general body meeting in Mumbai, after days of speculation over Patil's resignation. Speaking at the NCP's 26th foundation day event in Pune June 10 in Pawar's presence, Patil hinted at stepping down from his post to make way for a younger face.

# Court reserves order

Tuesday reserved its order on Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid's plea to attend

## YouTuber Samay Raina appears before NCW

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: YouTuber Samay Raina appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) Tuesday and submitted a written apology over remarks deemed disrespectful to women in his show "India's Got Latent".

Raina was also among the five social media influencers who appeared before the Supreme Court in a case seeking action against them for ridiculing persons suffering from disabilities. The NCW summoned Raina

over objectionable content in the programme aired on an online platform. During the hearing before NCW Chairperson Vijay Rahatkar, Raina expressed regret for his comments and assured the Commission that he would avoid such statements in the future, according to a statement.

He also agreed to create content that upholds the dignity of women and spreads awareness about their rights and respect, the NCW statement added.

Rahatkar told Raina in no uncertain terms that public figures must demonstrate sensitivity and respect towards women, especially on public platforms. She urged him to play a constructive role in promoting gender equality through his work. Raina accepted the Commis-

sion's guidance and promised to work towards producing content that honours women and contributes positively to public discourse, officials said.

His appearance before the panel follows repeated summonses issued since February. Raina and others did not attend the original hearing February 17 citing travel and security-related constraints.

The NCW rescheduled the hearing, giving them time to return to India and appear in person. The controversy erupted after clips from "India's Got Latent went viral earlier this vear, leading to outrage over remarks that were seen as trivialising rape and objectifying women.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Shubhanshu Shukla's space odyssey as part of the commercial mission to the International Space Station has set the stage for achieving India's own ambitions of human spaceflight – Gaganyaan

– and building the Bharat Antariksha Station soon after. India plans to undertake human spaceflight - Gaganyaan in 2027 on a home-built rocket and a crew capsule that is at an advanced stage of preparedness. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday that Shukla's space sojourn marked another milestone towards India's

own human space flight mis-

sion - Gaganyaan.

While the Gaganyaan mission is eying a 2027 lift-off, the first module of the Bhartiya Antariksha Station is expected to be launched in 2028, with a full-fledged orbital lab taking shape by 2035. "This mission marks a defin-

ing chapter in India's journey into human spaceflight and is not just a step forward, it is a giant leap in translating ambition into capability," said Somak Raychaudhury, Astrophysicist and Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University. He said the range of experiments conducted aboard the ISS opened new frontiers for India's scientific community, from space agri-



culture and materials science to health and AI.

Shuks eyes Gaganyaan after historic ISS mission

'These insights will be vital as we prepare for missions like Gaganyaan in 2027, an Indian

space station by 2035 and a planned human Moon landing by 2040," Raychaudhury said. The Axiom-4 crew conducted 60 scientific experiments during

their stay, including seven de signed by ISRO along with Indian research institutions and universities

"These experiences will inform how we train astronauts, design experiments, and develop life-support technologies suited for longer, independent missions," Raychaudhury said ISRO said the Ax-04 mission

will provide valuable inputs for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission and offer hands-on ex perience in the nuances of in ternational crew integration medical and psychological preparation, real-time health telemetry, experiment execution and crew-ground coordi nation.

### **KERALA NURSE'S EXECUTION POSTPONED**

# Family, others breathe sigh of relief

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, July 15: Yemeni authorities have postponed the execution of Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, with the move bringing much relief to her family and others who now hope that the death row prisoner can avert execution altogether.

The execution, originally scheduled for July 16, has been postponed, sources in New Delhi said Tuesday. Priya, who hails from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district,

was found guilty of murdering a Yemeni citizen in July 2017. The sources added that the government of India has made concerted efforts in recent days to seek more time for Priva's family to reach a "mutually agreeable"

solution with the other party. Despite the sensitivities involved, Indian officials have been in regular touch with the local jail authorities and the prosecutor's office, leading to securing the postponement, the sources said. Nimisha Pri-



ya's husband expressed relief and satisfaction over the postponement of her execution and hoped that the united efforts will continue to avert her execution altogether. Besides her family, the political and religious leadership of Kerala also expressed satisfaction over the development.

"The execution has been postponed. That is good news. We are happy and relieved. I am sure efforts will continue to avert her execution and bring her back safely." her husband. Tomy Thomas, told PTI. He

Seven dead as passenger

vehicle falls into gorge

Jammu: Seven people, including

a woman and a minor girl, were

killed and 17 were injured when

an overloaded passenger vehicle

n 2020, a Yemeni court handed Priya the death sentence and the country's Supreme Judicial **Council dismissed** her appeal in November 2023

he 38-year-old nurse is presently lodged in a jail in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital city that is under the control of Iran-backed Houthis

thanked everyone who worked hard to support the cause.

Thomas said they have a daughter studying in class XIII, and that the child has been kept away from these developments.

He said he received the message about the postponement of the execution from Priva's mother. Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan described the post ponement of the execution as both comforting and filled with hope. He said the decision has given Priva more time to seek relief from the death sentence.

Vijayan said development was made possible through the initiative and intervention of eminent Sunni Muslim scholar Kanthapuram A P Aboobacker Muslivar. Earlier, the cleric's office had said that last-minute efforts were being made to halt the scheduled execution of Priya July 16, under the leadership of a Sufi scholar there, at the

behest of Aboobacker Muslivar. "It is the result of tireless efforts by kind-hearted individuals who embody compassion and brotherhood," the Chief Minister said. He congratulated Kanthapuram and all those who are working for justice for Nimisha Priya, including the Action Council. The chief minister also expressed hope that everyone's efforts would soon lead to a complete and successful resolution. Congress MLA Chandy Oommen, who had approached several influential figures including Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar for intervention, said the latter made sincere efforts on humanitarian grounds.

# Porsche teen who mowed down 2 to be tried as juvenile

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 15: The Juvenile Justice Board on Tuesday rejected the Pune city police's application seeking that the 17-vear-old boy accused in the Porsche car crash be tried as an adult for the trial in the case.

The boy is accused of driving the luxury car in Kalyani Nagar area of Pune in an inebriated state and mowing down motorcycle-borne IT profession als Anish Awadhiya and Ash wini Costa in May last year.

Citing sections of the Juve nile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Pune city police filed an appli cation before the Board, seek ing that the child in conflict with law (CCL) be tried as an adult in this case.

The police said he committed a heinous act, as not only were two persons crushed to death but there were also attempts to tamper with the evidence.

On Tuesday, the Board rejected the plea by police to treat the boy as an adult for the trial, as per defence counsel Prashant Patil.



inadequate maintenance

Sharad Pawar-led party gets new Maha chief

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# on Rashid's Parl plea **CPI, Cong leaders shot dead in separate incidents**

New Delhi: A Delhi court



Parliament starting July 21. Additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh reserved the order for July 21 on the plea of the Baramulla MP who sought either interim bail or custody parole to carry out his duty as a parliamentarian. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the plea.

### **CBI** arrests railway officials

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested five people, including a deputy chief engineer of the Northern Railway posted in Lucknow, for alleged bribery in the Centre's flagship Gati Shakti project, officials said Tuesday, The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Jimmy Singh alias Ajeet Kumai Singh, an employee of the New Delhi-based railway contractor, **Tangent Infratech Private** Limited, for allegedly paying a bribe of ₹2.5 lakh to Deputy Chief Engineer Vivek Kushwaha. who is handling the Gati Shakti project in NR, Lucknow.

said Tuesday. Unidentified assailants opened fire at K Chandu Naik (47), a state council member of the Communist Party of India (CPI), during his morning walk at Malakpet here Tuesday resulting in his death on the spot, police said. A previous enmity stemming out of a land dispute seems to be the reason behind the killing of Chandu Naik, police said citing preliminary information. In the other incident 29-year-old Congress leader, M Anil was shot dead by unidentified persons in Medak district, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred Monday night in Kulcharam mandal when the Medak District Congress SC Cell Secretary was travelling in a car.

**SNIPPETS** 

Hyderabad/Medak: A CPI and a Congress leader in Telangana were

shot dead in two separate incidents by unidentified persons over

the past 24 hours, in suspected cases of previous enmity, police

### Vehicle that hit marathoner Fauja Singh identified; driver to be held: Punjab Police

Chandigarh: The vehicle which fatally hit the world's oldest marathoner Fauja Singh in Punjab's Jalandhar district has been identified and the driver of the vehicle, an SUV, will be arrested soon, police said Tuesday. Fauja Singh was 114, and the ironies could not be more tragic for the legend who got into stride just when others were slowing down. The marathon runner succumbed to injuries on Monday evening after he was hit by the vehicle in his native Bias village while walking down the road. "We have identified the vehicle from a CCTV footage. It is a Punjab registered Toyota Fortuner. From the accident spot, we recovered some fragments of the vehicle's headlight. After that we tracked down the vehicle. The registration number was readable which we tracked." Senior Superintendent of Police, Jalandhar Rural, Harvinder Singh told PTI over the phone

veered off a hilly road and plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said. The accident took place on the Doda-Bharth road near Ponda, some 30 kms from Doda town, when the driver of a tempo traveller lost control while negotiating a blind curve around 9 am, they said. Mohammad Ashraf (35), Mangta Wani (51), Atta Mohamed (33), Talib Hussain (35), and Rafeeqa Begum (60) were declared brought dead at **Government Medical College** Hospital, Doda, while five-yearold Uzma Jan and Shakur Din (30) succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Jammu, the officials said. Seventeen persons were shifted to hospital by rescuers, and the condition of some of them was stated to be critical, the officials said. Locals rushed to the scene soor after the vehicle fell into the gorge and were later joined by police and other security agencies' personnel.

Farmers spray pesticide solution to kill insects and bacteria in a farming land in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh

# India accounts for 6.4% of global zero-dose kids in 2024: UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### Electric double-decker bus catches fire

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Mumbai: A double-decker electric bus taken on lease by the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) caught fire in south Mumbai Tuesday morning, officials said. No injuries were reported in the blaze that broke out around 9.15 am on the bus plving on route 138 in the Fort area near the Chhatrapati Shivaii Maharai Terminus. they said. This is the first incident of fire involving double-decker electric buses inducted in the BEST fleet in the last three years

United Nations, July 15: India constituted 6.4 per cent of the global population of children who did not receive a single dose of any vaccine in 2024, according to a United Nations report.

The new national immunisation coverage data released Monday by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF also highlighted that "India accounted for 49.2% of zero-dose children in South Asia", as per statistics from the **Regional Office for South Asia** (ROSA). The term "zero-dose children" refers to those who have not received any routine immunisations, including the

vaccine. This metric is a critical indicator of access to immunisation services and overall healthcare infrastructure.

The report said India accounted for "6.4% of zero-dose children globally". Every year, WHO and UNICEF release global and national routine immunisation coverage estimates (WUENIC).

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, analyses what the 2024 WUEN-IC data says about the state of immunisation in the 57 lowand lower-middle-income countries it supports.

Gavi said nearly half (4.9 million) of all the 10.2 million zero-dose children in lower-income countries live in five populous nations – Nigeria, DR Congo, India, Pakistan, and



coverage with the first dose of the DTP vaccine (DTP1) is an important measure that helps the world understand how many zero-dose children still don't have access to life-saving vaccines. DTP1 coverage stood

recovered from a four percentage point decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report said in 2024, 89 per cent of infants globally -- about 115 million -- received at least one dose of DTP vaccine, and 85 per cent -- roughly 109 million completed all three doses.

Compared to 2023, around 171,000 more children received at least one vaccine, and one million more completed the full three-dose DTP series.

While the gains are modest, they signal continued progress by countries working to protect children, even amid growing challenges, the report said.

Still, nearly 20 million infants missed at least one dose of DTP-containing vaccine last year, including 14.3 million "zero-dose" children who never received a single dose of any vaccine. That's four million more than the 2024 target needed to stay on track with Immunisation Agenda 2030 goals and 1.4 million more than in 2019, the baseline year for measur ing progress, the report said. "Vaccines save lives, allowing individuals, families, communities, economies, and nations to flourish," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Di rector-General. The report noted that children often remain un- or under-vaccinated due to a combination of factors, such as limited access to immunisat tion services, disrupted supply, conflict and instability, or misinformation about vaccines.

Data from 195 countries show that 131 countries have consistently reached at least 90% of children with the first dose of DTP vaccine since 2019, but there has been no significant movement in expanding this group.





first dose of the DTP (diphthe-

ria, tetanus, and pertussis)











# national



The BJP government has broken all previous records of corruption. From construction projects to public services, every sector is plagued with commission-taking and looting

### **BIHAR CABINET APPROVES PROPOSAL TO CREATE 1CR JOBS**

The Bihar Cabinet Tuesday cleared a proposal to create 'one crore jobs and employment opportunities' in the next five years



on a complaint filed by lawyer

and RSS worker Vinay Joshi.

Malviya hurt religious senti-

ments of Hindus and disturbed

communal harmony by upload

ing objectionable material on

Advocate Vrinda Grover

representing Malviya, on Ju

ly 14 argued the issue related

a cartoon made in 2021 during

me say it is in poor taste. Let

me go to that extent. But is it

an offence? My lords have said,

it can be offensive but it is not

an offence. I am simply on law.

I am not trying to justify any

Grover agreed to delete the

"Whatever we may do with

this case, but this is definite

lv the case that the freedom

of speech and expression is

being abused," Justice Dhu

lia then observed.Additional

solicitor general K M Na-

taraj, appearing for Madhya

Pradesh, said such "things'

were repeatedly done.

thing," she said.

alleged offensive post.

"It may be unpalatable. Let

the Covid-19 pandemic.

social media, Joshi alleged.

note that drug addiction is increasing rapidly among the youth

The government is fully determined to save young sters who are the future of India, and pull them out from this quag mire (of addiction)

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

Some media have reported that appar ently samosas/ jalebis cannot be consumed from now on, based

on instructions from the Health Vinistry. This is not a notification from the Government of West Bengal. We are not interfering in every matter

MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CM

Assam has been waging a relentless war against illega infiltration of Bangladeshi Muslims for several

decades HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER



Praia, an NGO. released a report on Mumbai's public toilets. It said there is one public toilet seat for 752 male users. but when it comes to women, the ratio is one seat for 1.820 users. Minister Uday Samat acted swiftly. He ordered a probe....against the NGO. \*Slow claps'

@parthpunter

### SHORT TAKES

### 4 bodies recovered in Kota's Chambal river

Kota: Authorities here Tuesday recovered the bodies of two



Security personnel keep vigil amid heightened security during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, in Srinagar

# **EAM raises Pahalgam** SC frees death row convict, sets new attack at SCO meet DNA evidence rules



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sovereignty" of member states. Tianjin, July 15: The Shang-The remarks came against hai Cooperation Organisation the backdrop of growing glob-(SCO) needs to remain true to al criticism of China's mega its founding objective of comconnectivity project -- the Belt bating terrorism and extremand Road Initiative (BRI) -- on ism and take an "uncomprothe ground that it showed dismising" position on combating regard for the sovereignty of the challenges. External Affairs the nations and lacked trans-Minister S Jaishankar said at a conclave of the grouping on Tuesday while strongly justifying India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack. With his counterparts from Pakistan, China and other SCO member nations listening, Jaishankar said the Pahalgam attack was "deliberately conducted" to undermine the tourism economy of Jammu and Kashmir and sow a religious divide. asserting that India will remain firm in its response to confront terrorism. In an address at the SCO foreign ministers meeting in this Chinese city. Jaishankar said India will continue to positively approach new ideas and proposals, asserting that such cooperation must be based on "mutual respect", "sovereign

Jaishankar said the UN Secu rity Council condemned the attack and underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of the reprehensible act and bring them to justice. The external affairs minister said India has done "exactly that" and it will continue doing so

"The three evils that SCO was founded to combat were terrorism, separatism and extremism. Not surprisingly, they often occur together. Recently, we in India witnessed a graphic example in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22," Jaishankar said.

"The UN Security Council, of which some of us are currently members, issued a statement that condemned it in the strongest terms and 'underlined the need to hold perpetrators, or ganisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice'," he said. India launched Operation Sindoor May 7. targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions May 10.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The Supreme Court Tuesday acquitted a man on death row in a murder case, outlining the gaps in forensic evidence and issued countrywide directions on handling of DNA samples.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sand-

Top court grants protection to cartoonist over PM, RSS posts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted protection from coercive action to a cartoonist accused of sharing alleged objectionable cartoons of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS workers on social media.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar, however, cautioned if he continued to share offensive posts on social media, the state was free to take action against him under law. "We will have to do something about it," the bench said as it mulled passing orders on abusive social media posts.

Miffed over the alleged abusive online posts, it added, "Log kisi ko bhi, kuch bhi keh dete hain (People say anything to anyone)'.

Cartoonist Hemant Malviya challenged in the apex court a Madhya Pradesh High Court order passed July 3 refusing to grant him anticipatory bail.

He was booked by Lasudiya

police station in Indore in May

**UIDAI urges parents** to update children's Aadhaar biometrics PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Children who obtained Aadhaar when they were below the age of five need to mandatorily update their biometrics after crossing age of seven, else they will have to face risk of deactivation of their unique id, according to an official statement.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has started sending SMS mes sages to the mobile numbers registered in the Aadhaar of children for completing the MBU (Mandatory Biometric Update) exercise.

"Timely completion of MBU is an essential requirement for maintaining the accuracy and reliability of biometric data of children. If the MBU is not completed even after seven years of age, the Aadhaar number may be deactivated, as per the exist ing rules," the statement said.

A UIDAI official said that children may face problems in getting access to various Aad haar-linked programs if they

men who were swept away during a surge in the Chambal River. Six people on a picnic were swept away Monday afternoon, when the water level suddenly rose following the release of water from 12 gates of the Kota Barrage. The number of missing was earlier said to be five. Police identified the missing as Pachulal Meghwal, 40, Ashu Meghwal, 18, Ramesh Meghwal, 35, Sanjay Meghwal, 38, Dharmraj Koli, 22, and Devkinand Koli, 19 - all of them natives of a village in Kota district.

### Woman gives birth on bus, throws baby out

Mumbai: A 19-year-old woman gave birth to a baby on board a running sleeper coach bus in Maharashtra's Parbhani Tuesday, but she and a man claiming to be her husband threw the newborn out of the window, leading to the child's death, police said. The incident occurred around 6.30 am on the Pathri-Selu Road and came to light after an alert citizen spotted that something was thrown out of the bus in a wrapped cloth, an official said.

About 200 roads

closed in Himachal

Shimla: The Met office Tuesday

parency. The external affairs minis-

ter's comments calling for SCO to adopt an "uncompromising" position to combat terrorism amid some disguiet in New Delhi over Beijing's tacit support

with "territorial integrity and

to Islamabad during Operation Sindoor as well as instances of China blocking efforts at the UN Security Council to sanction Pakistan-based terrorists. In his address, Jaishankar also flagged concerns over "conflicts, competition and coercion" as well as economic instability and underlined the need to stabilise the global order and address longstanding challenges that "threaten our

collective interests" The major focus of the external affairs minister's address was his call to effectively deal with terrorism. equality" and in accordance

The external affairs minister also listed India's initiatives in the SCO in various domains ranging from startup and innovation to traditional medicine and digital public infrastructure.

"We will continue to positively approach new ideas and proposals that are genuinely for our collective good," he said.

eep Mehta directed from now in all such cases having forensic evidence, the collection of DNA samples after due care and compliance of all necessary procedures, including swift and appropriate packaging, ought to be documented.

In the case at hand, the apex court granted relief to the accused highlighting the investigation as "faulty" and underlined the shortcomings in DNA evidence collected in the case.

The bench was hearing an appeal of the convict against an order of the Madras High Court passed in March, 2019. The high court had confirmed the death penalty in the murder and rape case.

The convict was arrested in the case May 28, 2011. When it came to ironing out issues over

to have compromised the collection of such evidence, the court said, but the efforts to bring such witnesses and the inability to bring them should be recorded.

collection of DNA samples, the

court said, "The document

recording the collection shall

have the signatures and des-

ignations of the medical pro-

fessional present, the investi-

gating officer and independent

The absence of independent

witnesses should not be said

witnesses.'

The order entrusted the case's investigating officer for the transportation of the DNA evidence to the police station or hospital concerned and ensure samples reached the designated forensic science laboratory within 48-hour from collection.

"Should any extraneous circumstance present itself and the 48-hours timeline cannot be complied with. the reason for the delay shall be duly recorded in the case diary," it said. Throughout the process requisite efforts were ordered to be made to preserve samples according to the requirements.

don't update their biometrics "A child under the age of five enrols for Aadhaar by provid ing the photograph, name, date of birth, gender, address and documents of proof. The fin gerprints and iris biometrics of a child are not captured for Aadhaar enrolment below the age of five." "As per existing rules, therefore, fingerprints, iris and photo are mandatorily required to be updated in his her Aadhaar when the child reaches the age of five years. This is called the first Manda tory Biometric Update (MBU). the statement said.

If the child performs the MBU between the age of five and seven years, it is free of cost but after seven years of age, there is a prescribed fee of Rs 100 only for the update.

# No warning labels on samosa & jalebi, govt clarifies

The ministry has urged all ministries and departments to install displays of boards mentioning the sugar and oil content in snacks such as samosa, kachori, pizza, burger, french fries, soft drinks, gulab jamun and vadapav to promote healthy lifestyles and combat obesity and non-communicable diseases

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

forecast heavy rainfall in two New Delhi, July 15: The to nine districts of Himachal Union Health Ministry Tuesday Pradesh this week and issued termed reports claiming it has yellow warning in the state, directed vendors to put warnwhere a total of 199 roads are closed following rains. Since ing labels on food items such as samosas, jalebis and laddos the onset of monsoon on June 20 till July 14, about 105 people as "misleading, incorrect, and lost their lives, 61 in rain-related baseless' incidents and 44 in road accidents It clarified that its adviso-

and 184 have been injured, while ry on health messaging about 35 are missing, according to hidden fats and excess sugar in the State Emergency Operation various food items is not a di-Centre (SEOC). rective for vendors to put warn-

ing labels on their products, and underlined that it does not target India's rich street food culture.

The general advisory is a behavioural nudge to make people aware of hidden fats and excess sugar in all food products, and not specifically to any particular food product, the ministry said in a statement.

The advisory mentions other messages promoting healthy food such as fruits, vegetables and low-fat options and mak-



ing suggestions for people to opt for physical activity, such as the use of stairs and short exercises

The ministry had separately

issued an advisory, which is an initiative towards making healthier choices at workplaces. It advises displaying boards in workplaces to raise awareness on the harmful consumption of hidden fats and excess sugar in various food items.

These boards are meant to serve as daily reminders on fighting obesity, the burden of which is sharply rising in the country, the statement said.

"The health ministry advisory does not direct warning labels on food products sold by vendors, and has not been selective towards Indian snacks. It does not target India's rich street food culture," it clarified.

The initiative is part of the ministry's flagship initiatives under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Excessive consumption of oil and sugar is a key contributor to the rising rate of obesity, diabetes, hypertension and other lifestyle-related diseases.

The ministry has urged al ministries and departments to install displays of boards mentioning the sugar and oil content in snacks such as sa mosa, kachori, pizza, burger, french fries, soft drinks, gulat jamun and vadapav to promote healthy lifestyles and combat obesity and non-communicable diseases

It has also called for printing health messages on all official stationery such as letterheads envelopes, notepads, folders and publications to reinforce daily reminders on fighting obesity.

While the oil board men tioned snacks such as French fries, burgers, pizza, samosa, pakodas and vadapav, the sugar board included items such as soft drinks, gulab jamun and chocolate pastries.















# international



The number of sanctions announced against us is already unprecedented. We are coping; I have no doubt we will cope (with the possible US sanctions) SERGEY LAVROV RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

### **IRAQI OIL FIELD ON FIRE AFTER DRONE STRIKE**

An oil field in Iraq's Dohuk province was set ablaze Tuesday after being struck by a drone. It is the latest in a series of similar attacks launched recently against oil facilities in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region.



# of the day We have

reached a common understanding with Israel to really improve the situation or

the ground, but it's not about the paper, but actually implementation of the pape KAJA KALLAS

EUROPEAN UNION'S FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

The multilateral system is being tested, and our collective ability to respond will shape the pace of our recovery, but also the prospects for inclusive

and sustainable development. As the G20, we have the responsibility to demonstrate leadership DR DUNCAN PIETERSE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF

THE NATIONAL TREASURY OF SOUTH AFRIC

All the accusations are false. I never violated democracy or the constitution JAIR BOLSONARO FORMER BRAZIL PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### SIA checks Boeing 787 fuel switches

Singapore: Singapore Airlines Tuesday said all fuel switches on its Boeing 787 aircraft -- as well as those belonging to its subsidiary Scoot -- are functioning properly in compliance with regulatory requirements. "As a precautionary measure, SIA and Scoot have carried out and completed checks on the fuel switches of the Boeing 787 aircraft in our fleet." the Channel News Asia guoted SIA as saying. SIA has 26 B787 planes in its fleet. while its low-cost, wholly owned subsidiary Scoot has 23. "The safety of our customers and staff is our top priority." said SIA, which is a 25.1 per cent partner of Air India and operator of daily SIA-Scoot flights to India. The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) is also working with SIA and Scoot to conduct inspections of the fuel control switches of all active Singapore-registered Boeing 737, 787 and 747-400F aircraft, according to the

# **Putin, unfazed by Trump, to fight on** Israel strikes military

Kremlin believes Russia's economy and its military are strong enough to weather any additional Western measures

Moscow, July 15: President Vladimir Putin intends to keep fighting in Ukraine until the West engages on his terms for peace, unfazed by Donald Trump's threats of tougher sanctions, and his territorial demands may widen as Russian forces advance, three sources

REUTERS

close to the Kremlin said. Putin, who ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in February 2022 after eight years of fighting in country's east between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops, believes Russia's economy and its military are strong enough to weather any additional Western measures, the sources said.

Trump Monday expressed frustration with Putin's refusal to agree a ceasefire and announced a wave of weapons supplies to Ukraine, including Patriot surface-to-air missile systems. He also threatened further sanctions on Russia unless a peace deal was reached within 50 days.

The three Russian sources, familiar with top-level Kremlin thinking, said Putin will not stop the war under pressure from the West and believes Russia - which has survived the toughest sanctions imposed by the West- can endure further economic hardship, including

# Netanyahu under pressure after religious party quits coalition



REUTERS

Jerusalem. July 15: A religious party has quit Israel's ruling coalition in a dispute over military service, leaving Prime after the Taliban takeover of Af-Minister Benjamin Netanyaghanistan was released in error



threatened US tariffs targeting buyers of Russian oil.

"Putin thinks no one has seriously engaged with him on the details of peace in Ukraine - including the Americans - so he will continue until he gets what he wants," one of the sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation. Despite several telephone

calls between Trump and Putin, and visits to Russia by US special envoy Steve Witkoff, the Russian leader believes there have not been detailed discussions of the basis for a peace plan, the source said. "Putin values the relationship with Trump and had good dis-

cussions with Witkoff, but the interests of Russia come above all else," the person added. The White House did not re-

spond to a request for comment for this story

Putin's conditions for peace include a legally binding pledge that NATO will not expand eastwards, Ukrainian neutrality and limits on its armed forces protection for Russian speakers who live there, and acceptance of Russia's territorial gains, the sources said.

He is also willing to discuss a security guarantee for Ukraine involving major powers, though it is far from clear how this would work, the sources said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has said Ukraine will never recognise Russia's sovereignty over its conquered regions and that Kyiv retains the sovereign right to decide whether it wants to join NATO. His office did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

However, a second source familiar with Kremlin thinking said that Putin considered Mos cow's goals far more important than any potential economic losses from Western pressure, and he was not concerned by US threats to impose tariffs on China and India for buying Russian oil.

Two of the sources said that Russia has the upper hand on the battlefield and its economy, geared towards war, is exceeding the production of the US-led NATO alliance in key munitions, like artillery shells.

Russia, which already controls nearly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory, has advanced some 1,415 square km (546 square miles) in the past three months, according to data from the DeepStateMap, an open-source intelligence map of the conflict.

"Appetite comes with eating," the first source said, meaning that Putin could seek more territory unless the war was stopped. The two other sources independently confirmed the same.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Busra-Al Harir, July 15: Israel's army has said it struck military tanks in southern Syria, where government forces and Bedouin tribes clashed with Druze militias in the latest escalation in the Middle East country struggling for stability after a 13-year civil war.

Dozens of people have been killed in the fighting between local militias and clans in Syria's Sweida province. Government security forces that were sent to restore order on Monday also clashed with local armed groups

Syria's Interior Ministry has said more than 30 people have died and nearly 100 others have been injured. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UKbased war monitor, reported at least 99 dead, including two children, two women and 14 members of the security forces. The clashes in Syria initial-

lv broke out between armed groups from the Druze and Sunni Bedouin clans, the observatory said, with some members of the government security forces "actively participating" in support of the Bedouins.

Syrian Interior Ministry Noureddine spokesperson al-Baba said government forces entered Sweida in the early morning to restore order.

"Some clashes occurred with outlawed armed groups, but our forces are doing their best to prevent any civilian casualties," he told the state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV. Al-Baba told The Associat-

ed Press that the "clashes are fundamentally not sectarian in nature. "The real conflict is between

Sweida as a partner in advance ing the national unity project.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the observatory, said the conflict started with the kidnapping and robbery of a Druze vegetable seller by members of a Bedouin tribe who set up a checkpoint, leading to tit for-tat attacks and kidnappings

The Interior Ministry de scribed the situation as a dan gerous escalation that "comes in the absence of the relevant official institutions, which has led to an exacerbation of the state of chaos, the deteriora tion of the security situation and the inability of the local community to contain the situation.'

UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria Najat Rochdi expressed "deep concern" over the violence and urged the government and local groups to "take immediate steps to protect civilians, restore calm, and prevent incitement."

She said in a statement that the clashes underscored the "urgent need for genuine inclusion, trust-building, and meaningful dialogue to advance a credible and inclusive political transition in Syria.'

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement that the Israeli military "attacked targets in Svria as a message and a clear warning to the Syrian regime — we will not allow harm to the Druze in Syria."

In Israel, the Druze are seen as a loyal minority and often serve in the armed forces.

While many Druze in Svria have said they do not want Israel to intervene on their behalf, factions from the Druze minori ty have also been suspicious of the new authorities in Da mascus after former President Bashar Assad fled the country in December during a rebel offensive led by Sunni Islamist insurgent groups.

# Thousands of Afghans resettled in UK under secret programme

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 15: Thousands of Afghans including many who worked with British forces have been secretly resettled in the UK after a leak of data on their identities raised fears that they could be targeted by the Taliban, the British government revealed Tuesday.

The government now plans to close the secret route.

Defence Secretary John Healev said a dataset containing the personal information of nearly 19,000 Afghans who had applied to come to Britain



the Afghans. The government obtained a court order known as a super injunction that barred anyone from revealing its existence.

The injunction was lifted Tuesday in conjunction with a decision by Britain's current Labour Party government to make the programme public. It said an independent review

about the lack of transparency to Parliament and the public,' Healev told lawmakers in the

About 4,500 people - 900 applicants and approximately 3,600 family members — have been brought to Britain under the secret programme, and about 6.900 people are expected to be relocated by the time it closes, at a total cost of 850 million pounds (\$1.1 billion).

About 36,000 more Afghans have been relocated to the UK under other resettlement routes. British troops were sent to Afghanistan as part of a deployment against al-Qaida and Taliban forces in the wake

House of Commons.

of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks. At the peak of the operation there were almost 10,000 British troops in the country, mostly in Helmand province in the south.

Channel report. "There have been no findings from the inspections to date," CAAS said. India. South Korea. and Japan had reported similar moves after a preliminary report on last month's Air India crash showed that the controls of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner were moved from the "run" to "cutoff" position. starving the engines of fuel, according to media reports.

### HK to regulate ride-hailing apps

Hong Kong: The Hong Kong government Tuesday unveiled proposals to regulate online ride-hailing services provided by tech companies like Uber, requiring platforms, cars, and drivers to be licensed before hitting the road. In a document sent to the legislature, transport officials said those companies applying for a license would need to have business registration and an office in the city. They also said the platforms would have to fulfil certain conditions on operating experience, proof of financial capability and capital investment, in addition to ensuring the cars and drivers working for them had already purchased the required insurance. Under the licensing plans, eligible drivers must have held a private car driving license for at least one year and have no serious traffic convictions within five years. The drivers also need to pass a test and complete training. Officials plan to set a quota on the number of vehicles allowed to be run under the policy, adding that the cars cannot be over seven years old and have to pass an annual inspection.

hu with a razor-thin majority in parliament but still enough political support to secure a potential Gaza ceasefire

Six members of United Torah Judaism (UTJ) handed in resignation letters overnight from posts in parliamentary committees and government ministries, in protest against lawmakers' failure to guarantee future exemption from military conscription for ultra-Orthodox religious students.

Shas, a second ultra-Orthodox party closely allied with UTJ, may follow and leave the government with no parliament majority

The UTJ lawmakers said their walkout would come into effect after 48 hours, giving Netanyahu two days to try and resolve the crisis which has dogged his coalition for months.

Even if that fails, parliament goes on summer break at the end of July, which would give the prime minister a further three months to seek a solution before any loss of his majority could threaten his position.

Netanyahu is also facing pressure from far-right parties in his coalition over ceasefire talks underway in Qatar.

The indirect negotiations between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas aim to halt fighting in Gaza for 60 days to allow half of remaining hostages held by Hamas to be released and aid to flow into the battered enclave.

It would also open a further phase of talks on ending the war entirely

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich want Israel to press on with the war, but Netanyahu would still be likely to have enough cabinet votes to secure a ceasefire without them.

in 2022, and extracts were later published online.

That prompted the then-Conservative government to set up a secret programme to resettle

had found little evidence that the leaked data would expose Afghans to greater risk of retribution from the Taliban. "I have felt deeply concerned

the state and bandits and criminals, not between the state and any Syrian community," he said. "On the contrary, the state views the Druze community in

# B'desh struggles to contain fallout of last year's uprising

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dhaka, July 15: Bangladesh was on the cusp of charting a new beginning last year after its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was removed from power in a student-led uprising, ending her 15-year rule and forcing her to flee to India.

As the head of a new interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus promised to hold a credible election to return to democracy, initiate electoral and constitutional reforms and restore peace on the streets after hundreds were killed in weeks of violence that began on July

15, 2024. A year later, the Yunus-led

administration has struggled to contain the fallout of the uprising. Bangladesh finds itself mired in a growing political uncertainty, religious polarisation and a challenging lawand-order situation.

### **Chaotic political landscape**

Uncertainty about the future of democracy looms large in Bangladesh. The student protesters who toppled Hasina formed a new political party, promising to break the overwhelming influence of two major dynastic political parties the Bangladesh Nationalists Party, or BNP, and Hasina's

Awami League. But the party's opponents have accused it of being close to the Yunus-led administration and creating chaos for political



mileage by using state institutions.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's political landscape has further fragmented after the country's largest Islamist party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, returned to politics more than a decade after it was suppressed by Hasina's government.

Aligned with the student-led party, it's trying to fill the vac uum left by the Awami League, which was banned in May. Its leader, Hasina, is facing trial for crimes against humanity. The strength of Jamaat-e-Islami, which opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971, is unknown.

Both BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami party are now at loggerheads over establishing supremacy within the administration and judiciary, and even

#### university campuses. Yunus wants reforms before election

Yunus has delayed an election because he wants reforms from changes to the constitution and elections to the judiciary and police. Discussions with political parties, except Hasina's Awami League, are ongoing.

Some of the reforms include putting a limit on how many times a person can become the prime minister, introduction of a two-tier parliament, and appointment of a chief justice.

There appears to be little consensus over some basic reforms. While both the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami parties have agreed to some of them with conditions, other proposals for basic constitutional reforms have become a

sticking point.

The Jamaat-e-Islami also wants to give the interim government more time to complete reforms before heading into polls, while BNP has been calling for an early election. The student-led party mostly follows the pattern of the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

"There's a divide between those that want to see through reforms and give them more time, and those that feel it's time to wrap things up and focus on elections," he says. Human rights and the rise of Islamists

Human rights in Bangladesh have remained a serious concern under Yunus.

Minority groups, especially Hindus, have blamed his administration for failing to protect them adequately. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council says minority Hindus and others have been targeted in hundreds of attacks over the last year. Hasina's party has also blamed the interim government for arresting tens of thousands of its supporters.

The Yunus-led administration denies these allegations.

Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, says while the interim government has stopped enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions that had occurred under the Hasina government, "there has been little progress on lasting security sector reforms or to deliver or the pledge to create robust, independent institutions.

Meanwhile, Islamist factions some of whom have proposed changes to women's rights and demanded introduction of Sha ria law — are vying for power Many of them are planning to build alliances with bigger parties like the BNP or the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Such factions have historically struggled to gain significant electoral support despite Bangladesh being a Muslim majority, and their rise is ex pected to further fragment the country's political landscape. **Diplomatic pivot and balancing** with global powers

During Hasina's 15-year rule, Bangladesh was India's closest partner in South Asia. After her ouster, the Yunus-led administration has moved closer to China.

Yunus' first state visit was to China in March, a trip that saw him secure investments, loans and grants.

Globally, Yunus seems to have strong backing from the West and the United Nations, and it appears Bangladesh will continue its foreign policy, which has long tried to find a balance between multiple foreign powers.

In January, the Trump ad ministration suspended USAIE funds to Bangladesh, which had sought significant levels of US support during a critical rebuild period post Hasina's ouster.















# business





### As India undertakes its green transition. the role of capital markets and particularly alternative investment funds (AIFs) will RUCHI CHOJER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SEBI

### **RBI LAUNCHES QUARTERLY** INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK SURVEY

The Reserve Bank Tuesday said it has launched the quarterly industrial outlook survey of the Indian manufacturing sector to assess business sentiments. It has also launched the 46th round of the quarterly Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS). The 111th round of the quarterly IOS of the Indian manufacturing sector will assess business sentiments for the current quarter (Q2:2025-26) and expectations for the ensuing quarter (Q3:2025-26), based on responses on a set of indicators



US EV maker has long lob

bied India for lower import

tariffs on cars, and Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi's officials

remain in talks with US Pres

ident Donald Trump's admin-

istration to lower the levies

in Mumbai were made in Chi

na, and its US factories do not

currently make the right-hand

drive vehicles that are used in

Tesla's Model Y rear-wheel

drive is priced at about 6 mil-

lion rupees (\$70,000), while its

Model Y long-range rear-wheel

drive costs 6.8 million rupees.

ing price from \$44,990 in Ameri

ca, 263,500 yuan (\$36,700) in Chi

na, and 45,970 euros (\$53,700) in

The firm's Full Self-Driving

(FSD) capability is on offer at

an additional cost of 600.000 ru

pees, with future updates prom

ised to enable operation with

minimal driver intervention.

R&D and manufacturing done

in India. and I am sure at an

appropriate stage Tesla will

think about it," Maharash-

tra Chief Minister Devendra

"In the future we wish to see

That compares with a start

India.

Germany.

But the cars Tesla displayed

under a bilateral trade deal.

# of the day uote

India's etha nol production capacity has grown by over 140 per cent since 2018, with investments exceeding

₹40.000 crore DEEPAK BALLANI

**This Joint** venture with Chongqing will focus on manufacturing precision mechan ical & metal parts

and components for a wide range of applications including laptops, mobiles. IOT. automotive and sup porting the Make in India initiative ATUL B LALL VC, DIXON TECHNOLOGIES (INDIA)



at the 86.00 level and on Tuesdav also ensured that the rupee opens a tad higher than 86. For tomorrow (Wednesdav), we expect the rupee to be in the range

of 85.50-86.10 with expectations of more flows ANIL KUMAR BHANSALL | EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR, FINREX TREASURY ADVISORS LLP

### SHORT TAKES

## BoM Q1 profit rises

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) Tuesday reported 23 per cent increase in net profit to ₹1,593 crore during the first quarter, helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The Punebased lender had posted a net profit of ₹1,293 crore in the April-June period of the previous year. Total income in the quarter under review rose to ₹7,879 crore from ₹6,769 crore in the same period a year ago, BoM said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank grew to ₹7,054 crore as compared to ₹5,875 crore in June quarter FY25. The bank's asset quality showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 1.74 per cent of gross advances at the end of June quarter FY26 from 1.85 per cent a year ago.

**Trade deficit narrows to \$18.78bn** India's June merchandise trade deficit stood at \$18.78 billion, lower than economists' expectations. Despite trade tensions,

government is actively pursuing structural reforms, negotiating FTAs to boost exports

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: India's exports remained flat at \$35.14 billion in June due to global economic uncertainties, while trade deficit narrowed to a four-month low of \$18.78 billion during the month, the government data showed Tuesday. Exports in June last year were at \$35.16 billion.

Imports declined 3.71 per cent year-on-year to \$53.92 billion during the month due to fall in the inbound shipments of crude oil and gold. Key export sectors, including petroleum, fabrics, gems and jewellery, leather,



iron ore, oil seeds, cashew, spices, tobacco, and coffee, recorded negative growth during the month under review.

The shipments of petroleum products dipped 15.92 per cent to \$4.61 billion in June, and 15.63 per cent to \$17.4 billion during the first quarter. However, exports of engineering, tea, rice, ready-made garments of all textiles, chemicals, marine products, and pharma have reg-

istered positive growth. Electronic goods' shipments rose 46.93 per cent to \$4.14 billion in June. It was up 47.11 per cent to \$12.4 billion during the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

April-June quarter this fiscal year. During April-June 2025 26, exports increased 1.92 per cent to \$112.17 billion. while imports rose 4.24 per cent to \$179.44 billion, according to the data. Merchandise trade deficit during April-June 2025 widened to \$67.26 billion as compared to \$62.10 billion in same quarter last fiscal year.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the country's goods and services exports during the first quarter on 2025-26 is estimated at \$210 billion, which is an increase of about 6 per cent vear-on-vear.

cent fall in sales to 2.23.215

units in the June quarter of

the current fiscal from 2.24.575

units in the first quarter of the

The three-wheeler segment,

however, logged a marginal

growth of 0.1 per cent at 1,65,211

units in the first quarter of

FY26 against 1,65,081 units in

the April-June period of last

fiscal, SIAM said at a media

Q1 of 2025-26 de-grew by (-) 1.4

per cent, posting sales of 1.01

million units as compared to

Q1 of the previous year. Sales

"Passenger vehicle sales in

"If the growth continues like this, then we are going to cross the last year's exports figures," he said.

In 2024-25, India's goods and services shipments reached a record high of \$825 billion.

On the imports front, crude oil and gold imports decreased 8.37 per cent and 25.73 per cent to \$13.8 billion and \$1.9 billion, respectively. Further, the estimated value of services export for June is USD 32.84 billion as compared to USD 28.67 billion same month last year. The imports are estimated at USD 17.58 billion in June as against USD 15.14 billion in June 2024.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan urged the government to maintain a sharp, sector-focused export strategy, especially in services

'With India's digital capabilities and skilled workforce, there is immense scope to boost services exports. Investment in digital infrastructure, talent development, and targeted international promotion will be critical to sustaining this upward trajectory," Ralhan said.

# Tesla debuts in India with pricey Model Y



REUTERS

Mumbai, July 15: Tesla Tuesday launched its Model Y at about \$70,000 in India, the highest price among major markets.

With deliveries estimated to start from the third quarter, Tesla is targeting a niche electric vehicle segment in India that accounts for just 4 per cent of overall sales in the world's third-largest car market.

It will compete mainly with German luxury giants such as BMW and Mercedes-Benz rather than domestic mass-market EV players such as Tata Motors and Mahindra.

Tesla opened its first showroom in Mumbai Tuesday and began taking Model Y orders on its website, marking its long-awaited entry into the market where Musk once had plans to open a factory

For now, Tesla will import cars into a country where tariffs and related duties can exceed 100 per cent, driving up the price for consumers.

Grappling with excess capacity in global factories and declining sales, Tesla has adopted a strategy of selling imported vehicles in India, despite the duties and levies.

### **Vedanta illuminates** rural Odisha

Fadnavis said.

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, has installed 96 solar-powered streetlights across 21 villages in the Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha. The streetlights serve as the sole source of illumination in previously unlit areas within the community. This green initiative will provide reliable, energy-efficient lighting to over 5,000 residents while contributing to the reduction of approximately 22 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions annually. This is part of an initiative to install 150 solar-powered streetlights in the region targeting key locations such as marketplaces, village entrances, bus stands, community centres, schools, and main roads. The intervention is set to improve the overall quality of life for locals. Besides, it also reinforces the company's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, our community development programs are tailored to the specific needs of the regions we serve." Jagannath Naik Nayab, Sarpanch, SungerGram Panchayat - Kashipur Block, said, "Vedanta's solar-lighting initiative has not only brightened our villages but also made them safer for everyone."

# PV sales drop in April-June Sensex rises 317 pts

previous fiscal

briefing here.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

climbed 317.45 points or 0.39

per cent to settle at 82.570.91.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged

higher by 113.50 points or 0.45

per cent to 25,195.80. In the

last four trading days, the

Sensex dropped 1,459.05 points

or 1.74 per cent and the Nif-

ty declined by 440 points or

1.72 per cent. Among Sensex

firms, Sun Pharma, Trent,

Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv,

Mahindra & Mahindra and

Bajaj Finance were the major

However, HCL Tech de-

clined 3.31 per cent after the

IT services firm reported a 9.7

per cent drop in consolidated

net profit for the June quarter.

gainers.

Mumbai, July 15: Stock Mumbai, July 15: Domestic markets snapped the fourday falling streak Tuesday passenger vehicle sales dewith the benchmark Sensex clined 1.4 per cent to 10,11,882 rebounding by 317 points on units in the first quarter of buying in auto and pharma this fiscal from 10,26,006 in the shares amid a decline in recorresponding quarter of last tail inflation to a more than fiscal, Society of Indian Autosix-year low, nearing the RBI's mobile Manufacturers (SIAM) comfort zone. said Tuesday. The 30-share BSE Sensex

Total two-wheelers sales also fell by 6.2 per cent to 46,74,562 units during the April-June quarter compared to 49,85,631 units in the period a year earlier. The commercial vehicle (CV) saw a marginal 0.6 per

# SPAM ALERT Telcos roll out suffix on SMS headers to identify spam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Mobile users will now be able to differentiate between genuine

Regulations (TCCCPR) vide its Amendment to the TCCCP Regulation dated 12th February 2025," COAI Director of three-wheelers in the first quarter grew marginally by 0.1 per cent compared to last year, with 1.65 Lakh units, which is the highest ever in Q1," said Rajesh Menon, Director General at SIAM.

Passenger vehicle sales have crossed the 1-million mark in the first quarter for the second time in the last two years; the automobile industry body said and added that due to lower sales in the later part of the quarter, the Q1 volumes were lower by a negative 1.4 per cent as compared to Q1 of 2024-25.

**BIZ BUZZ** Listenlights, KIIT to build Center of Excellence

Bhubaneswar: Listenlights Engineering and Construction, India's Largest MEP GC service provider for Data Centers (in terms of completed capacity) has partnered with the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) to help Mechanical, Electrical and Civil

engineering students get real-world experience and become industry

### Kia expands EV lineup

New Delhi: Kia India Tuesday expanded its electric vehicle portfolio in the country with the launch of its first locally produced electric vehicle Carens Clavis EV. The automaker will roll out the model from its Anantapurbased manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh. Kia already sells two imported electric vehicles -- EV6 and EV9 -- in the country. The Carens Clavis EV comes with two battery options: 42kWh with ARAIcertified 404 km range and 51.4 kWh with ARAI-certified 490 km range, prices from ₹17.99 lakh to ₹24.49 lakh (ex-showroom).

### ICICI Pru Life Q1 net profit jumps

New Delhi: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Tuesday reported a 34 per cent growth in net profit at ₹302 crore for the June guarter of 2025-26 fiscal. The private sector insurer had a net profit of ₹225 crore in the April-June period of FY25. Net premium income of the insurance firm rose to ₹8.503 crore at the end of June quarter of FY26, from ₹7.875 crore in the corresponding period of FY25.

### HDB Fin Services Q1 net profit dips

New Delhi: HDB Financial Services Tuesday reported a 2.4 per cent decline in net profit at ₹568 crore for the first quarter of this financial year. Its net profit was at ₹582 crore during April-June quarter of 2024-15, HDB Financial Services, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, said in a regulatory filing. The company said its net total income was at ₹2,726 crore.

hurt by higher expenses and the one-time impact of a client bankruptcy. Eternal, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were also the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.95 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.83 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, auto (1.48 per cent), healthcare (1.14 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.89 per cent), FMCG (0.80 per cent), realty (0.77 per cent) and services (0.58 per cent) were the gainers.

Utilities emerged as the only laggard. As many as 2,576 stocks advanced while 1,479 declined and 160 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the positive territory while Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended lower.

and spam SMS as telecom operators have rolled out suffixes that will appear before the sender's name or header, industry body the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), said Tuesday.

COAI, which represents telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Airtel, Vodafone Idea, expressed concern over spammers taking the route of over-the-top or internet messaging apps which defeats the purpose of enforcing stringent measures to check spam and fraud messages.

"All telecom service providers (TSPs) have implemented the promotional ('P'), service-related ('S'), transactional ('T') and government ('G') communications suffix system on SMS headers, as mandated by the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference

General, SP Kochhar said in a statement.

He said that the implementation has enhanced transparency and consumer protection as such categorization enables subscribers to easily identify the nature of incoming messages, reducing spam, strengthening compliance and improving overall trust and convenience for users.

"Users can easily identify and differentiate promotional, service-related, transactional and government messages at a glance. Clearly marking promotional messages ('P') and thus, helping subscribers avoid unwanted marketing communication, effectively reducing spam. Customers can readily identify genuine transactional ('T') and service-related ('S') messages, reducing the likelihood of fraud or scams,' Kochhar said

partnership brings together on-site training that enables students to build a strong career from day one. Memorandum of understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed last week. This partnership brings Work Integrated Learning Program (WILP). It allows Junior Engineer Trainees (JETs) and Graduate Engineer Trainees (GETs) of Listenlights, can earn B.Tech or M.Tech degrees from KIIT while continuing their jobs.

### TPWODL to complete two new Feeder lines

Sundergarh: TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, is nearing completion of two major 33KV feeder line projects in



Sundergarh district. Project Subdega Feeder Line, under Sundergarh Electrical Division, connects Karamdihi PSS to Subdega PSS through a newly constructed 16 circuit-kilometre (ckm) line. It replaces an overloaded 55 sq.mm ACSR line with a more robust 232 sq.mm AAAC line and includes 13-meter RS Joist poles. Simultaneously, another

project is underway to link Lindra PSS to Nuagaon Megalift under the Hatibari section of Rajgangpur Electrical Division. This 9 ckm line is designed to create an N-1 redundancy by connecting the 33/11KV PSSs at Koel Nagar, Lindra, and Nuagaon. It will also support the proposed 3.3 MVA load of the upcoming industrial park. "These two projects mark a major step toward building resilient and future-ready infrastructure for both rural and industrial needs," said Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL.

# Critical thinking, ethical oversight must in AI era

At advanced stages, AI can serve as an extremely helpful and a must-have tool, aiding, not replacing, human ingenuity

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Artificial Intelligence, the disruptive tech force reshaping industries and daily life, will create far more opportunities than it eliminates, Deloitte South Asia CEO Romal Shetty said emphasising that critical thinking and ethical oversight must stay central as society adapts to this new era.

Weighing in on the ongoing debate over whether or not AI may cause a lowering of human cognitive abilities overtime. Shetty told that developing independent and crit-

ical thinking is crucial when it comes to young minds. That said, at more advanced stages, AI can serve as an extremely helpful and a must-have tool. aiding, not replacing, human ingenuity.

His comments assume significance against the backdrop of a new study from researchers at MIT's Media Lab on impact of GenAI on critical thinking abilities. It revealed that although AI tools can improve efficiency, in the study those who relied excessively on GenAI, overtime remembered less.

Highlighting the rise of innovations such as drone deliver-



ies to generative AI architects, Shetty cited a recent study that projected that for every one job lost, nearly two new jobs are ex-



whether during the Industrial transformations, unemployin fact, it generally declined.

"Newer jobs will get created compared to the past. The old specific jobs could probably go out but newer jobs will be created." he stressed.

Citing real-world examples of AI's transformative impact, he said while the food delivery platforms, or other apps deliver items in a conventional way today, drones could soon handle such tasks at scale. Managing such complexities would de mand advanced air traffic con trol systems powered by AI he said highlighting how new technologies will create entirely new job categories and roles that didn't exist before

Drone are also beginning to be used extensively in conflict zones, he noted and added that all of these scenarios are drive ing requirement for AI-driven air traffic management, with human oversight and controls.



disruptive thing that has happened in our lifetime...in this decade at least it is the biggest disruption. And it is both. It can disrupt but it can also create

Over the past 100 to 200 years, Revolution or other major ment did not rise significantly,











# P()R

# WEDNESDAY | JULY 16, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR Jadeja's experience, skillset rare: Gill

London, July 15: India skipper Shubman Gill lauded senior allrounder Ravindra Jadeja and the team's lower order for keeping the contest alive and pushing the Lord's Test into the final session, with India coming close to a remarkable victory before falling short by 22 runs

**OrissaPOS** 

Resuming from 58/4, England's fast bowlers were right on the money as India were eight down when lunch break came. But Ravindra Jadeja refused to buckle in, hitting a gritty and magnificent 61 not out off 181 balls, stitching patient and resolute stands of 30, 35 and 23 with Nitish Reddy, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, respectively, to drag India close.

Despite Jadeja and the lower-order giving it their all, India were so close yet so far to registering a miraculous victory by being bowled out for 170 in 74.5 overs.

Gill reserved special praise for the standout all-rounder, who notched up his fourth consecutive half-century of the series and played a crucial role on the final day, scoring 61 of the team's 99 runs while facing 30 of the 55 overs during his gritty stay at the crease.

"He (Jadeja) is one of the most valuable players in India. I think the experience that he brings in, the skill set that he brings with his bowling, batting and fielding is something that is very rare and hard to find. And the team," he added.



the kind of composure that England were put on he showed today, it was just course for a memorable for us," he said. tremendous to watch," Gill

said. "I think batting with the lower order of the tail has been one of the things that we spoke about in the previous two matches. that our lower order of the tail hasn't been contributing as much. But I think the character and the courage that they showed was tremendous,<sup>2</sup> he said.

"The way we were in the game till the end, it felt like we could go very close if a partnership had added another 10 runs. And I think it's a very proud effort from

win when Stokes and Ar cher picked three wickets, including of Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul, in the first hour, before Woakes took out Nitish Kumar Reddy at the stroke of lunch.

"I think we didn't play as well yesterday and today. I think in the top order, it was important that if we had a partnership of one or two (pairs) worth 50 runs, then we would have seen that after 30-40 overs, it would have been easier to bat. So, that was our effort. But unfortunately, I think this is the first time that we didn't perform as well as we have done in the series. But it happens sometimes," Gill admitted.

"We thought 193 was still chaseable at the end of the day. We had to play 20-25 overs well. We had to try to have a 50-run partnership or two 50-run partnerships The deeper the match, the easier it would have been

### **INDIA MEN, WOMEN TEAMS** MEET KING CHARLES III

London: A day after the dramatic conclusion of the third Test at Lord's, the Indian men's and women's cricket team met King Charles III at St James's Palace in London. The visit came a day after the men's side narrowly lost to England by 22 runs in a gripping match that left the hosts 2-1 ahead in the five-match Test series. After sealing the first-ever T20I series win against England on their home soil, the Indian women's team are all set to take on the hosts in the three-match ODI series, starting from Wednesday. Led by captain Shubman Gill, the Indian squad included vice-captain Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, and head coach Gautam Gambhir. The team, dressed in formal attire, was introduced to the British monarch in the serene surroundings of Clarence House Garden. King Charles spent a few moments with the players, exchanging pleasantries and sharing light-hearted conversations. Despite the recent defeat, the atmosphere during the meeting was cheerful. The players, who had fought hard in the Test match, welcomed the opportunity to unwind and enjoy a rare royal interaction.

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

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

### TODAY'S QUESTION

uly 16: In 1945, this day marked the success-ful test detonation of the first atomic bomb, codenamed 'Trinity' by J. Robert Oppenheimer as part of what top-secret project?

### ANSWER TO TUESDAY'S QUESTION

Twitter (now X)

### **RULES & REGULATIONS**

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will not be entertained There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card. Aadhaar
- Card. Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI) • No employee or families of OrissaPOST team can
- be part of the competition.

### THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



**PRASANT BARIK** 

NEET SONO S

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

LE

PISSa P

Extravaganza

### Others who answered correctly are

Niranjan Nayak, Bishnu Prasada Dash, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Tapan Kumar Mohanty, Tanishna Bisoi, Parameswar Dalai, Pratyush Dhal, Debadatta Tripathy, Dr Joseph John , Abha Priyadarshini, Om Prakash Rath, Megha Satapathy, Anjubala Mohanty, Divyanshu Mohanty, R Sekhar Rao, Aslesha Satapathy, Chandrasekhara Patnaik, Tushar Kanti Sasmal, Ayushi Pradhan, Jigyansa Priyadarshini, Jitendra Nath Pradhan, Abinash Das, Omm Prakash Sahoo, Priyanka Nahak, Sourav Nayak, Alok Ranjan Sahoo, Sai Priya Nahak, Mahesh Prasad Dalabehera, Ronan Slade Toppo

# Women in Blue eye ODI Strac claims fastest five-fer in Test history AGENCIES

# after historic T20 triumph and Harleen Deol, India's



300. In the Tri-series they had PRESS TRUST OF INDIA scores of 276, 275, 337 and 342.

top and middle order looks formidable.

Add to that the lower-order hitting prowess of Deepti Sharma and Amanjot Kaur, and India have the firepower to out-bat most sides.

However, the bowling unit ever. will once again be tested in ers Titas Sadhu, Renuka Test total ever, when Enall sidelined due to injuries.

TEAMS

tralia pacer Mitchell Starc scripted history in the third Test against the West Indies as he claimed a five-wicket haul in just 15 balls, the quickest in Test history, as the visitors bundled out the West Indies for 27, which is the second-lowest Test total

The total of 27 is just one the absence of frontline pac- more run than the lowest Singh, and Pooja Vastrakar - gland bowled New Zealand



**Alexandersson eyes** victorious ending to Uzbekistan tour

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 15: After holding Uzbekistan to a 1-1 draw in the first U20 women's friendly match Monday, India are gearing up to face the hosts again in the second and final game Wednesday at the Do'stlik Stadium.

Like the first match, this one will also be played behind closed doors as per the mutual agreement between the teams, who are prepar ing for next month's AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Sulanjana Raul's 79th-minute equaliser rescued a draw for the Young Tigresses after Uzbekistan took a 1-0 lead before the half-time whistle.

Southampton, July 15: T20I series win over England, the Indian women's team will aim to carry the momentum into the threematch ODI series, beginning here Wednesday.

The 'Women in Blue' made history by clinching their first-ever T20I series against England, taking the five-match series 3-2. Now. with the ODI World Cup on home soil later this year, Harmanpreet Kaur and her team will be keen to finetune their 50-over game.

approach in recent years, placing greater emphasis on posting totals in excess of chors Jemimah Rodrigues Lamb, Linsey Smith.

'In the ODI cricket we've Riding high on confidence been playing for the last couafter scripting a historic ple of years, we've always focused on scoring more than 300 with the bat," skipper Harmanpreet said.

added.

Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa "It gives the bowlers some Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia cushioning. Earlier we had (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepfive bowling options, and it

ti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Sree becomes slightly tough if we Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, have only so many runs on Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati the board. Recently, like in Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali the T20Is, we went for four Satghare. spin options. I think some-

where that has helped," she Fammy Beaumont, Lauren With a power-packed

Capsey, Kate Cross, Alice batting line-up featuring skipper Harmanpreet Davidson-Richards. Char-India have tweaked their Kaur, vice-captain Smriti lie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Mandhana, finisher Richa Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Ghosh, and dependable an-Filer, Amy Jones, Emma

out for 26 in 1955.

Fifteen balls taken by Starc India: Harmanpreet Kaur to get his five-fer makes it the (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), quickest in the history of Tests, beating the previous quickest of 19 balls each by Ernie Toshack against India in Brisbane in 1947. Stuart Broad against Australia in Trent Bridge in 2015, and Scott Boland against England at the MCG in 2021.

The 35-year-old's sixth **England squad:** Nat wrapped up a thumping Sciver-Brunt (c), Em Arlott, 176-run win that saw Australia sweep West Indies in Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice a three-match series or more for the first time in the Cadesh in 2006. ribbean, with the hosts' seven ducks in their second innings a new record in a Test innings.

Starc finished with figures



Mitchell Starc and Australia celebrate after defeating West Indies during the day three of the third Test at Sabina Park

of 6/9, the best innings fig- again underlined his qualiures of any player in their ties as he claimed a hat-trick 100th Test, bettering Muth- to leave the hosts reeling at iah Muralidaran's 6/54 for 26/9. Sri Lanka against Bangla-

Boland removed Justin Greaves, Shamar Joseph Meanwhile, Scott Boland, and Jomel Warrican with who holds the record for consecutive deliveries to best bowling average in the start his second over to belast 110 years of Test cricket, come the 10th Australian to

take a Test hat-trick.

With his 3-34 and 3-2 at Sabina Park in Australia's Test victory against the West Indies, Boland's Test bowling average now stands at 16.53, the best of any bowler in the last 110 years of Test cricket (minimum 2000 balls bowled).

Reflecting on the result, India head coach Joakim Alexandersson said that his side deserved a victory, but a slow start hampered the chances.

"It was a good game for our side. We struggled with our high press in the first 15-20 minutes. We were not aggressive enough. But with time, we improved and also started to create chances after good build-ups and movements."

"We dominated them in the second half, even though we conceded a couple of chances because of individual mistakes. But we created many more chances than they did and, for sure, deserved a win. But you have to score goals with these chances," said the Swedish tactician.

The match was original ly supposed to be played Sunday but was postponed by over 24 hours due to op erational challenges at the Do'stlik Stadium.

"The feeling was a bit negative for a short moment after we reached the venue on Sunday and learned that we wouldn't be able to play. But we are a tight group who have been together for a few months, so the girls handled it very well. We are staying at a very good hotel with good food and facilities. I must commend the attitude of the girls.' said Alexandersson.

Of tragedies and tenacity: The Fauja Singh story

over, goes the old adage and if ever there was proof needed that it actually isn't, one could always marvel at the life of Fauja Singh.

The widely-admired 114-year-old, whose career as a marathon runner began when he was 89 and propelled him to the status of a global icon, died Monday night.

It was a heartbreakingly abrupt end despite his age. He was hit by a yet-to-beidentified vehicle while out for a walk at Beas Pind. his

The frail man, who weathered many a personal storms with his resilience and "nonchalance", had spent a better part of his running career in Britain

t's never too late to start and returned to his roots in Essex after moving out of some brilliant timings for races. iust about three years ago after retiring

"We would always tell him that someone his age running in India would always run the risk of being hit given how reckless

the driving here is. This is what ultimately happened unfortunately," said his biographer Khushwant Singh, whose book 'The Turbaned Tornado' documents the cel-

ebrated runner's life. Fauja's story of strength began long after time slows down for most, especially those who have been native village in Jalandhar. mauled by the life's many tragedies. He too was battling demons of his own.

Overwhelmed by the loss mid '90s. Fauja found solace in running with a local club

India following the death of his wife and daughter.

"The villagers would tell one of his sons to take him to the UK because he would ground and sit there for hours. So, eventually he moved to Ilford (a town in east London)," said Khushwant.

Once there, Fauja endured another loss before he chanced upon a running club. And what started as a hobby to take his mind off the circumstances that threatened to consume him. became the driving force of his life.

He went on to run marathons, including the famed of his youngest son in the ones in London, New York and and Hong Kong, and inspire awe for clocking

a 90-plus man born with weak legs In the process, he also became a torch-bearer at the 2012 London Olympics and keep visiting the cremation was honoured by the late Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to sport and charity

> "Before that meeting with the Queen we had to repeatedly counsel him 'Baba, Queen naal sirf hath milana hai, japphi ni paani jinwein baccheyan nu tussi paande ho' (Baba, you have to only shake hands with the Queen, don't hug her like vou hug kids when vou meet them)," Khushwant, whose long association with the centenarian started in 2005,

recalled But he was also a disci-

plined runner who would train vigorously before his

Among the most memorable of his runs was in 2011 when he turned 100. The invitational meet in Toronto **A MARATHON RUNNER** was named in his honour **BEGAN WHEN** and he broke several world records for his age group.

But none of them were taken into consideration by Guinness World Records as he did not have a birth **DIED MONDAY** certificate to prove his age. "He was not bothered by

any of that. He just enjoyed the attention that he got. I once asked him 'Baba, maran ton darr lagda? (Baba, are you afraid of death?). He said 'haan, bilkul lagda. Haje te mele shuru hoye ne' (Yes, of course. The fun has only started for me)," Khushwant said, remembering one of their conversations on mortality.

**THE WIDELY-ADMIRED 114-YEAR-OLD, WHOSE CAREER AS HE WAS 89 AND PROPELLED HIM TO** THE STATUS OF A GLOBAL ICON NIGHT

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FAUJA SINGH (1911-2025)