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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025

DISHA BANDH TODAY **DEATH OF FM STUDENT** SOUMYASHREE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, July 16: A drunk auto driver allegedly killed his parents with a hammer in Mayurbhanj district and spent the night with the bodies lying in a pool of blood, police said Wednesday.

Drunk man kills

parents, spends

night with bodies

The chilling incident happened in Dhonapal village in the Baisinga police station area Tuesday night.

Locals spotted the bodies of the aged couple, Hadibandhu Sahu (81) and Shanti Sahu (72), with their son, Himanshu (55), sitting on a cot Wednesday morning and reported the matter to the police.

On receiving the information, police reached the spot, arrested Himanshu and sent the bodies to the PRM Medical College and Hospital in Baripada for post-mortem examinations.

As per preliminary investigation, Himanshu allegedly killed his parents using a hammer used for breaking stone following a quarrel last night, a police officer said.

Himanshu's wife and children were living separately for a long time due to family disputes, he said.



BATTLEFIELD LOWER PMG: Water cannons being used to disperse agitators during a protest by BJD workers over the death of the FM (Autonomous) College student following self-immolation over sexual harassment in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



pressure is to file FIRs

BJD protest turns violent; police use water cannons, fire tear gas shells Naveen condemns police 'excess' as party leaders injured during rally

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 16: Eight Opposition parties, led by the Congress, are set to observe an 'Odisha bandh' Thursday to protest the alleged harassment and death of Soumyashree Bisi, a 20-vear-old student of FM Autonomous College in Balasore, who attempted self-immolation on the campus Saturday over inaction and later succumbed to burn injuries at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday.

manding a judicial inquiry into the incident. Senior Congress leader Javadev Jena said it will be observed in a peaceful manner across the state from 6am to 6pm. Jena appealed to all people of Odisha to support the bandh to provide justice to the deceased college student.

Das, through a video message, informed that all the private and government bus and truck services will be halted. Train services will also be affected during the bandh. Be-

ment and private offices will be closed too. Shops have also been requested to keep the shutters down. Only emergency services will be allowed during the bandh.

Meanwhile, several BJD workers and leaders, including two former ministers, were injured in a scuffle with police personnel here Wednesday during the principal Opposition party's protest rally.

The BJD's demonstration turned violent near the Lower PMG Square when its workers and leaders breached a barricade to march towards the state

secretariat, Lok Seva Bhavan, and clashed with the police personnel, an officer said.

The police used water cannons and fired tear gas shells to disperse the agitating BJD workers, he said.

However, the injured BJD leaders claimed that they were hit by rubber bullets, an allegation dismissed by the police. "The allegation is untrue.

The police used water cannons and tear gas shells to disperse the protesters. There

Rahul Gandhi speaks to deceased's father

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday spoke to the father of the college student, who died after setting herself on fire in Balasore district, over the phone and assured him of support in the fight for justice. "Spoke with the father of the brave daughter who lost her life in the fight for justice in Balasore, Odisha. In his voice, I felt his daughter's pain, dreams, and struggle, assured him that the Congress and I stand with them at every step," Gandhi posted on X. "What happened is not only inhuman and shameful but a wound to the entire society. We will ensure in every way that the victim's family receives full iustice," he added.

Crime Branch takes over investigation

The Crime Branch of Odisha Police Wednesday took over the probe into the death of the FM (Autonomous) College student following self-immolation. Director General of Police, CID-CB, Vinaytosh Mishra, in an order deputed DSP Iman Kalyan Nayak of Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW), Bhubane swar, to take up the investigation of the case and such other cases registered in that connection. "DSP, Iman Kalyan Nayak of CAW &CW, Bhubane swar will have the powers to function as Officer-in-Charge of Balasore district Sahadevkhunta Police Station for the purpose of investigation of this case," the office order said, adding that Inspector, Panchali Rout will assist Nayak. Earlier prime accused HoD Samira Kumar Sahoo and Principal Dillip Ghose had been arrested.

OSSSC recruitment

exam postponed

he Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC) Wednesday postponed preliminary exams for Sevak/Sevika and Tribal Language Teacher posts scheduled for July 17 and 18 until further notice, following the 'Odisha bandh' call by Congress and Left parties over If-immolation of a girl student in FM Autonomous College in Balasore over sexual harassment. The information was shared on the official website of OSSSC and the notification also mentioned that preliminary examinations for the posts of TGT-Arts, TGT-Science (PCM) & TGT Science (CBZ) scheduled July 19, 21 and 23, 2025 respectively as communicated earlier vide the

against people like you who ask questions

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das Tuesday announced the bandh call de-

sides, all the government and private educational intuitions will be closed. Banks, govern-

was no use of rubber bullets as alleged," Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said.

tragic death of a 20-year-old girl student -- a victim of systemic apathy and sheer betrayal." MORE P3

Akbar brutal but tolerant, Babur

BJD president and Leader

of Opposition in the state As-

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demned the police "excess" and

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ic and inhuman". He said such

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Patnaik said, "The right to dem-

ocratic protest is under grave

threat in #Odisha. Today, the @

bjd_odisha exercised its consti-

tutional right to hold a peaceful

demonstration, protesting the

Comm ssion's Notice No. 1333/OSSS0 dated 17.06.2025 remains unaltered.

Cabinet approves ₹4,879-cr 'Samruddha Sahar' scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The state government Wednesday approved the ambitious 'Samruddha Sahar' scheme to promote planned urbanisation and balanced regional development as part of its broader 'Viksit Odisha 2036' vision.

The state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi, cleared 13 major proposals across 11 departments to accelerate urban growth, improve emergency services, strengthen governance, and enhance education access.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said the 'Samruddha Sahar' scheme, with a total outlay of ₹4,879.30 crore, will serve as a cornerstone for urban transformation. The initiative includes two major components: the Town Planning Scheme and Cities as Growth Hubs

The Town Planning Scheme, with an allocation of ₹4,114 crore, aims to enhance land and asset management while ensuring sustainable urban development. The second component, 'Cities as Growth Hubs', will receive ₹765.30 crore to boost infrastructure, attract private investment, and generate employment in urban areas.

"This scheme will help transform cities into engines of economic growth, bringing Odisha closer to its goal of becoming a developed state by 2036," Ahuja stated. Among other key approvals, the Cabi-



net cleared the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025. The amendment empowers the Chancellor to appoint qualified individuals as interim Vice-Chancellors in public universities, ensuring administrative continuity. It also corrects minor typographical errors in the existing law.

In the education sector, the Cabinet approved a proposal to waive hostel fees for 45,000 students across 455 hostels in Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas. This move, with a financial implication of ₹349.20 crore over five years (April 2025 to March 2030), will benefit both boys and girls.

To improve policing and public service delivery, the government has decided to bifurcate the Mayurbhanj Police District and create a new police district with its headquarters at Rairangpur.

The Cabinet also approved the continuation of the Emergency Response Support System (DIAL-112) for 2025-30 with a budget of ₹2,260.89 crore and amendments to the Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy-2023 to enhance incentives and refine its provisions.

Israel strikes Syrian defence HQ

REUTERS

Damascus/Jerusalem, July 16: Powerful airstrikes shook Damascus Wednesday, targeting the defence ministry as Israel vowed to destroy Syrian government forces attacking Druze communities in southern Svria and demanded they withdraw. Reuters reporters heard war-

planes swoop low over the capital and unleash a series of massive strikes on central Damascus. The cityscape was blanketed in smoke with a thick plume rising from the defence ministry.

There was no immediate Israeli comment on powerful strikes that hit in the mid-afternoon, which Svrian state media said were carried out by Israel. The Israeli military had earli-

er announced a strike on the gate

of the defence ministry. Shortly before the massive blasts. Defence Minister Israel Katz had said painful blows will come.

Scores of people have been killed this week in violence around the southern city of Sweida, pitting fighters from the Druze minority against government security forces and members of Bedouin tribes,

Israel strikes Syrian military targets to protect Druze minority

Violence in Syria involves Druze. Bedouin, and government forces

Israel warns Syria to leave Druze alone, vows continued strikes

prompting Israel to strike repeatedly with the declared aim of protecting the Druze.

The violence has underlined big challenges facing interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa despite warming ties with the United States, as he seeks to stitch Syria back together in the face of deep misgivings from groups that reject Islamist rule.

ruthless: New NCERT textbook PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Akbar's regime was a blend of brutality and tolerance, Babur a ruthless conqueror while Aurangzeb was a military ruler who reimposed taxes on non-muslims. says the NCERT's new Class VIII textbook while describing the reign of Mughal emperors.

The book, Exploring Society India and Beyond, released this week. is the first in the new NCERT curriculum to introduce students to the Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Marathas and the colonial era

While earlier versions covered some of these topics in Class VII. the NCERT says the timeline has now been shifted entirely to Class VIII, in line with the recommendations of the National Cur riculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

At the beginning of the book is a section titled 'Note on Some Darker Periods in His tory', where the NCERT offers context for the inclusion of sensitive and violent events primarily war and bloodshed.

The note urges students to understand the historical ori gin of cruel violence, abusive misrule or misplaced ambitions of power dispassionately and states, "No one should be held responsible today for events of the past.'

Michel Danino, Head, NCERT's Curricular Area Group for Social Science, defended the textbook asserting there is no attempt to demonise Mughal rulers.

Rare oil portrait of Gandhi fetches millions at auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 16: A rare oil portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. believed to be the only one he sat for the artist to paint, has fetched triple its estimate at 152,800 pounds in a Bonhams auction in London.

The painting, which had never before been offered at auction, had been on offer for an online auction with a guide price range between 50,000 and 70,000 pounds and was the top lot of the Travel and Exploration sale, which concluded Tuesday.

The portrait artist, Clare Leighton, was introduced to Gandhi when he visited London in 1931 to attend the Second Round Table Conference.

"Thought to be the only oil painting of Mahatma Gandhi, which he sat for, this was a very special work, which had never before been offered at auction," said Rhyanon Demery, Bonhams Head of Sale.

"Completed in London by the artist Clare Leighton, mainly known for her wood engravings, this work was a testament to Gandhi's power to connect

with people far and wide, and presented a lasting document of an important moment in histo ry," she said.

The portrait remained in the artist's collection until her death in 1989, after which it was passed down through her family. "It is no wonder that this work sparked such interest across the globe," added Demery.

At the time of painting it, Leighton was in a relationship with the political journalist Henry Noel Brailsford. A passionate supporter of Indian



Indian independence cause, the year he first met Gandhi at the Round Table Conference.

Bonhams said that it was through this connection that Leighton was introduced to Gandhi. She was one of the very few artists admitted to his office and was allowed to sit with him on multiple occa sions to sketch and paint his likeness, the auction house revealed.

In November of 1931, Leigh ton showcased her portrait of Gandhi in an exhibition at the Albany Galleries in London.















sure



MILEY FINDS IT HARD TO MAINTAIN SOBRIETY

Grammy winning pop star Miley Cyrus says she finds it really hard to maintain sobriety while touring. During an appearance on *Good Morning America*, Cyrus said: "It's really hard to maintain sobriety when you're on the road, which is kind of a pillar of stability in my life."

EMMA WATSON BANNED FROM DRIVING FOR 6 MONTHS

Harry Potter star Emma Watson, 35, has been banned from driving for six months, after she was caught driving at 38mph in a 30mph zone in Oxford. The actress was also ordered to pay £1,044 as penalty.

Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy 🖕 reliability 🖕 trust

You're finally impressed by the yogis. A degree course

in Art of Living? Ganesha approves. You may even fulfill a desire to begin lessons in music or dance, or something that has interested you since long. A good, good day, and it smells of sweet success.

TAURUS

Your business is going to

thrive this day, says Ganesha. Your plans, projections, speculations and gambles are likely to pay off and give you good dividends. You will be admired and respected in the business world for your honesty and integrity. You will be in the right frame of mind to think about expanding your business.

GEMINI

If you are into retail business, planetary positions indicate today is a day for bumper sales. You will set records in making profits. After work, you may want to take your beloved out shopping. Though it may burn a hole in your pocket, the returns you get once you reach home will



be worth every penny!

carve out your path for progress. You will get respect and recognition from people. Business rivals and illness may bother you. Beware of enemies' actions. Your alertness will thwart their

LEO

The discomfort of the fish-out-of-water syndrome

will be a thing of the past, as today you will be more flexible, says Ganesha. So much so that you may even begin to feel bound by the environment in your office. Ganesha sees this as a good sign, as being adaptable helps you manoeuvre your way around people.

VIRGO

The artist in you will set the floor ablaze today. You have the remarkable abilities of a showman and comedian, and people will feel thrilled at your treasure of jokes in the evening, says Ganesha. However, you vill do well to conserve some energy for other urgent matters and duties as well.



Ganesha says that you will try to enhance your skill regarding new technological inventions and will want to learn about the same in your spare time. Ganesha says that if you wish to gain success you need to first leave your ego behind. Only

Vaani's take on online negativity

Mumbai: Actor Vaani Kapoor Tuesday said social media has increasingly become a space filled with negativity and urged people to check the amount of hate they put out into the world.

Vaani's comments come months after she faced criticism for sharing screen space with Pakistani actor Fawad Khan in the movie Abir Gulaal. The romantic film, which was set to arrive in cinema halls May 9, was

to

in

not allowed release India

in the after math of the Pahalgam terror attack in





"Last couple of months, years, everything became hectic and heavy on social media. So, I hope one can calm down on hate, create room for love and kindness. I know it doesn't sound very interesting. But what you give will come back to you. If you hate or troll somebody, it will someday get back at you, and it's going to sting you worse.

"So, just be nice, kind, and try to be just as humans. I'm wishing we could be in a happier space, and be kinder to each other and ourselves," Kapoor told reporters at the trailer launch of her debut OTT show Mandala Murders.

It is created and directed by Gopi Puthran, known for his work on the Mardaani franchise. Manan Rawat serves as the co-director. AGENCIES



Saiprasanna Bhubaneswar: official face of journey of Dr. **Mrs. Grand** Saip-International

rasanna Behera current the titleholder of Mrs.

The

Grand International, a beauty pageant for married women, has now come full circle, as she has been appointed the Official Face and Brand Ambassador of the year for the years 2025–2027. This makes her not only the first individual in the pageant's history to transition from winner to the face of the brand, but also the first Indian ever to be bestowed with this prestigious title.

Dr Behera not only bagged the trophy for 2023-24, she was also re-crowned as Mrs. Grand International 2024-25-a testament to her outstanding dedication, commitment, and the exemplary way she fulfilled her queenly duties.

Shahana's startling confession

Mumbai: Actress Shahana Goswami has revealed that she is polyamorous and has multiple partners. Her movie Four Years Later may explore love the old-fashioned way, but her personal life couldn't be more modern. "For me love is open and free flow-

ing. I have people in my life, but it's not a conventional setup. I am polyamorous. So, I do have partners, I have lovers. So, in a sense I am also single because there could be more," she confesses.

Coming out publicly about her polyamorous identity, she says, was second nature. "I speak about everything. I think it's important to speak about one's life. I don't feel any need to hide anything really. My family and I have always been very honest, open, and sharing. I've been the same with my friends. I understand that people have ideas of privacy that come from protecting parts of themselves. But I'm okay to not have someone understand. I'm not asking somebody to be like me. I'm only expressing who I am," shared the Firaaq actress in a recent pod-AGENCIES

Indradhanu An Odia anthology set to break the mould

Bhubaneswar: Several Hindi anthology films-such as Bombay Talkies, Lust Stories, Ludo, and Ajeeb Daastaans-have resonated with cine-goers in the past, but will this format work back home in

cinematography and editing. The

Mohanty composed two title tracks with lyrics by eminent poet Devdas Chhotray; leading singers Ratikant Satpathy and Susmita Das have lent their voices. Young composer Anurag Patnaik has taken the background score to the next level. The ensemble cast includes Ch. Bikash Das, Abhisek Giri, Dithe audience's response



panwit Dashmohapatra, Bhaswa ti Basu, Ramakant Mishra, Smita Mohanty, Dharitri Khandual, Sud hashri Madhusmita, Rinku Prad han, Samarpita, Soumya Ranjan Dishani Debanjana, Debadatta Pa ti, Nishikanta, Ranesh, and Saqti

"This is an organic and deep ly rooted Odia film of a different genre, carefully curated. It explores human emotions, relation ships, fragile dreams, and the rich spectrum of human connections in a truly intriguing way," says director Samantray, who is eager to see

India's first Hollywood star gets biopic

Mumbai: India's maiden Hollywood actor Sabu's extraordinary life story is coming to life on the big screen.

The film and television rights to Sabu: The Remarkable Story of India's First Actor in Hollywood, the acclaimed biography by author Debleena Majumdar has been acquired by Almighty Motion Picture.

The biography chronicles the incredible true story of Sabu Dastagir, the Indian boy who rose from elephant stables in Mysore to become an international movie star. Sabu's story deserves to be air gunner in World War II.

He wasn't just India's first global star—he was a bridge between worlds, cultures and eras. To bring his story

to the screen is more than filmmaking," said Prabhleen Sandhu, Producer – Almighty Motion Picture. The son of a mahout (elephant handler), Sabu's jour-

ney from colonial India to the Hollywood Walk of Fame reads like a forgotten epic of fame. war, identity, and legacy. His story spans continents, cultures, and eras — from his breakout role in *Elephant Boy* to his service as a decorated in Karapura, Mysore, Kingdom of Mysore, then a Princely State of British India, made

DASTAGIR

his debut in the 1973 film Elephant Boy based on Rudyard Kipling's Toomai of the Elephants from The Jungle Book.

The film was directed by documentary filmmaker Robert J. Flaherty, who produced the Indian footage, and supervising director Zoltan Korda, who completed the film and won the best director award at the Venice Film Festival.

He went on to star in Hollywood classics including The Thief of Bagdad (1940), Jungle Book (1942), Arabian Nights (1942) and Black Narcissus (1947), becoming a box office

sensation and cultural bridge

IANS

between East and West.

Odisha? While it's difficult to predict a film's box-office fate, young and enthusiastic director Arjun Samantray claims Indradhanu, comprising seven stories penned by contemporary Odia writers, will offer something unique amid the recently released commercial potboilers Samantray has also handled

> film, set to release across Odisha July 18, is based on stories by Nikhilesh Mishra, Saroj Bal, and Badal Mohanty. Produced by Rajendra Mohanta, Indradhanu was conceptualised by screenwriter and co-producer Survasnata Tripathy, alongside fellow producer Suravi Patnaik.

Popular musician Omprakash Mohanty



then will you be able to stride ahead or the path to progress.

SCORPIO

Don't put off cultivating healthy eating habits, says Ganesha. You should do better to control over-indulging in food as it may lead to obesity. Ganesha advises you to stick to a healthy lifestyle, especially when it comes to meals.

SAGITTARIUS

You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress. but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment. At the end of the day, you will feel content in your comfort zone in the company of near and dear ones.

CAPRICORN

You comparatively less experienced than others in the office, but the boss will

choose you with a hope to get the compa-ny out of the existing troubles. Trusting your intelligence, skills, and potential, you will assigned some crucial matters. It is a great deal to live up to such high expectations, but you will be able to do so and win the hearts of many, predicts Ganesha.

You need to think dispassionately and with clarity, says Ganesha. As always, sentiments may come in the way of your success today. Be careful, especially while taking decisions that will impact your future.

PISCES

Now is the time when the inner circle of friends that you have nurtured over the years will prove their worth, says Ganesha. It is good to know that in times of need you can bank on their support and count on their cooperation. You will be able to luxuriate in the benefits of their friendship today.



told with grandeur and truth.



Sabu, who was born in 1924

CALVIN AND HOBBES



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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

J	U	Т	E		A	1	R	R	1	F	L	E
U		1		R		N		E		R		A
R	1	N	G	E	R	S		L	0	0	Ν	S
A	-	Е		V		0		1		S		Т
S	U	S	н	1		L	0	С	A	Т	Е	
S				S		Е				Е		F
1	С	Е	Т	Е	A		G	R	A	D	Е	R
С		М				S		Е				1
	S	Ρ	R	1	N	Т		A	Μ	В	L	E
L		Е		D		A		S		Е		N
А	G	R	Е	Е		L	E	0	Ρ	А	R	D
М		0		А		К		Ν		С		L
Ρ	А	R	Α	L	Y	S	Е		S	Н	A	Y
6		1	4	1	5	9	7	7	8	2		3

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

Orissapos THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

BJD LEADERS HURT; NAVEEN Balasore Bandh cripples life CONDEMNS POLICE 'EXCESS'



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 16: As several BJD workers and leaders, including two former ministers, were injured in a scuffle with police personnel here Wednesday during the party's protest over the death of a college student following self-immolation in Balasore, BJD president and Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Naveen Patnaik strongly condemned the police 'excess' and described the action as 'barbaric and inhuman'.

The BJD's demonstration turned violent near the Lower PMG Square when its workers and leaders breached a barricade to march towards Lok Seva Bhavan and clashed with the police personnel.

Though police said they used water cannons and fired tear gas shells to disperse the agitators, the injured BJD leaders claimed that they were hit by rubber bullets.

Naveen said such brutality on

peaceful protesters is not acceptable.

Taking to X, Patnaik said, "The right to democratic protest is under threat grave #Odisha. in

Today, the @bjd_odisha exercised its constitutional right to hold a peaceful demonstration, protesting the tragic death of a 20-year-old girl student -- a victim of systemic apathy and sheer betrayal."

"As BJD leaders marched in a disciplined manner towards Lok Seva Bhawan, the police unhesitatingly used water cannons to disperse the peaceful crowd. Shockingly, they even fired rubber bullets without any provocation," he added.

Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo claimed she was hit by a rubber bullet and lost consciousness for some time. "The police resorted to brutality without provocation," she alleged.



Former minister Sudam Marndi alleged that party leader and former minister Priti Ranjan Gharai was also fired with rubber bullets and was admitted to a private hospital. Former minister Pranab Prakash Das was also admitted to a private hospital after sustaining severe injury on his leg, BJD said in a

statement. Patnaik, who was also in charge of the Home department for 24 years during his tenure as CM, alleged that the police used heavy-handed tactics to sabotage the BJD's peaceful march. "Police acted in a blatantly

partisan manner, rushing to fire rubber bullets when there was absolutely no justification for such excessive force," he said.

He claimed that just a few days ago, a senior IPS officer was caught on camera near the CM's residence instructing his force to break the legs of protesters and promising rewards to those who achieved this feat. "Today, the legs of two former

ministers have been broken, probably requiring surgery," Patnaik said, adding

that a woman MP and several party workers have been brutally assaulted by the police. "Clearly, the government owes an ex-

planation for this kind of directive," he said. Patnaik said the BJD

will continue its fight until justice is served for the college student who lost her life.

"Neither water cannons nor rubber bullets can weaken our resolve. Let it be clear: no force can stifle our commitment to stand up for justice and uphold the democratic rights of the people of #Odisha," he said in a social media post. Patnaik spoke to Deo, and former ministers Pranab Prakash Das and Priti Ranjan Gharai over the phone and inquired about their health and wished them a speedy recovery.

Commissioner of Police S Dev Datta Singh, however, said, "The police have worked under the framework of the democratic system. We respect people's liberty and therefore reacted to the situation in a controlled manner. The police have taken action to uphold democracy, used water cannon and tear gas shells to disperse the crowd."



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PROTEST

OVER FM

DEATH

Balasore, July 16: Normal life came to a grinding halt in this

district Wednesday due to an eight-hour bandh called by Biiu Janata Dal (BJD) the main Opposition party in the state As-STUDENT'S sembly, in protest against the death of Soumvashree Bisi, a student of FM

> (Autonomous) College. The bandh, observed from 6am to 2pm, passed off peacefully with no reports of untoward incidents.

The BJD called the bandh alleging apathy and inaction by the college authorities, district administration, and political leadership, which, they claimed, led to the death of 20-vear-old Soumvashree. a second-year Integrated BEd student.

Soumyashree allegedly committed self-immolation after failing to get any response to her complaints of mental and sexual harassment by assistant professor Samira Ranjan Sahu.

According to her allegations, the Head of her department had made indirect sexual advances. She reportedly waited nearly two weeks for justice but received no support from the concerned authorities.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spoke to Soumyashree's father and expressed his condolences over the family's irreparable loss

The bandh severely disrupted daily life. Schools, colleges, and other educational institutions remained closed. Public transport, including buses, stayed off the roads. Shops, markets, and business establishments remained shuttered. Train services were affected, especially at Soro, where protesters blocked the tracks.

Banks and financial institutions also remained shut. Although the district offices and courts remained open,

functioning was nearly par-

alvsed due to the absence of lawyers and public visitors. The main market areas in town wore a deserted look. Meanwhile, the Congress

and several other political par ties have called for a 12-hour statewide bandh Thursday also in protest over the same incident.

As protests and demonstrations continue to spread across the state, Soumyashree's father has appealed to all parties and organisations not to politicise his daughter's death.

In a related development, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, spoke to Soumyashree's father and expressed his condolences over the family's irreparable loss.

DSPL-177















National Conference on Good Governance Practices

17-18 July 2025 **State Convention Centre, Bhubaneswar**

Department of Administrative Reforms & **Public Grievances**

Government of India

General Administration and Public Grievance Department

Government of Odisha



THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

PROTEST OVER FM STUDENT'S DEATH

Bhubaneswar, July 16: De-

manding the resignation of

Senior citizens pilgrimage scheme '25–26 launched

Applications open from July 17 to August 15 and can be submitted online or offline at block or district administration offices



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The state Tourism department has launched the Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme (Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana - BNTYY) for the financial year 2025–26, aimed at facilitating pilgrimage opportunities for senior citizens across the state.

Announcing the scheme at a press conference held Wednesday at the Panthanivas Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida invited eligible beneficiaries to apply. She informed that each eligible senior citizen will be able to avail the benefit of this scheme once in their lifetime. The scheme will be imple-

mented in collaboration with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). All details, including eligibility and the application process, are available on the official Tourism department website: dot.odisha.gov.in.

Citizens aged between 60 and 75 years, irrespective of caste or religion, are eligible. In the

ICMR flags salt risk NEW DELHI: Indians consume an average of 11 grams of salt daily-2.2 times the WHO-recommended limit of 5 gramsraising risks of hypertension, stroke, and kidney disease, warns ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology. The findings highlight the urgent need to reduce sodium intake to prevent health complications.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit in Notary Public, Sunabeda I, Prahallad Pujari, aged about 46 yr. S/o. Late Lalit Pujari, resident of Qr No. J-140, HAL Township Sunabeda, PO/PS - Sunabeda, Dist. -Koraput, my son Susant Pujari has completed his matriculation from Public School, Sunabeda vide unique ID No. -7889688 in the year of 2023. My son's D.O.B is wrongly recorded as 08.03.2007 instead of 08.03.2008 is Correct in his Birth Certification and D.O.B Correction Aadhaar Card. Aadhaar No. - XXXX XXXX 7617 all Future purposes.

case of senior citizen couples, either one must be above 60 years of age. Those in the 70–75 age group may take one attendant above 18 years with them

during the journey. Applicants must submit one valid document for address, age, identity, or category proof, as per norms prescribed by the Government of India or the state government. Documents such as MGNREGS Job Card, Antyodaya Card, Annapurna Card, Old Age Pension Card, Widow Pension Card, or Ration Card under NFSA (bearing the applicant's name and age) will be accepted as proof of financial status (EWS category) and must be attached with the application. Applications will be accept-

Applications will be accepted from July 17 to August 15, both online and offline. Offline submissions can be made at block or district administration offices. A district-level screening committee will verify the applications.

District Collectors will select beneficiaries based on district-wise quotas. In case the

number of applications exceeds the quota, a lottery system will be used for final selection. Additionally, a waiting list (20 per cent) will be prepared to accommodate potential dropouts. The government will arrange

transportation from the applicant's village to the railway station and back. During the pilgrimage, IRCTC will manage lodging, transportation, meals, travel guides, group escorts, travel insurance, and medical facilities. Each pilgrimage trip is expected to last five nights and six days.

The BNTYY was launched by the state government February 1, 2016, to facilitate pilgrimage opportunities for senior citizens from all districts of the state.

So far, over 37,555 senior citizens from various districts have benefited from 40 pilgrimage batches organised under the scheme, visiting prominent destinations such as Madurai, Rameshwaram, Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Ajmer, Pushkar, Tirupati Balaji, Vellore, Srikalahasti, Shirdi, Nashik, Trimbakeshwar, Velankanni, Nagapattinam. Thaniavur. Dakshineswar Kali (Kolkata), Kamakhya, Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan, and others.

In the financial year 2024–25, a total of 7,967 senior citizens undertook the pilgrimage in 10 batches to destinations including Shirdi, Nashik, Dakshineswar Kali (Kolkata), Kamakhya, Ayodhya, and Varanasi.

Each batch comprises 800 travelers, including 775 pilgrims and 25 escort officers. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi over the death of a female college student in Balasore district, Mahila Congress chief Alka Lamba Wednesday said President's Rule must be imposed in the state as it was done in Manipur.

The second-year BEd student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Monday night. She had set herself on fire on the college campus July 12 over inaction against a professor who allegedly sexually harassed her.

Lamba alleged that the student died due to the failure of the system in Odisha.

"Since the chief minister is the head of the system, he should resign and President's Rule should be imposed in the state," she said here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself earlier demanded imposition of President's Rule in Rajasthan, alleging that women and girls were not safe there, she claimed.

Lamba said the Congress-led



Opposition had pressed for the imposition of President's Rule in ethnic strife-torn Manipur and will demand the same for Odisha during the upcoming Lok Sabha session. She claimed that the chief

She claimed that the chief minister has no experience in running the government and has 'failed' to perform in the one year in office.

"The CM has put up big posters of him with the PM across the state. But the reality is that entire Odisha is moving towards destruction and no woman or girl is safe in the state," Lamba alleged. Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj as they 'failed' to provide justice to the student.

"As the chief minister is in deep sleep, we have come here to wake him up and provide justice to the student," said a Youth Congress leader.

Holding the CM and the Higher Education minister responsible for the death of the student, Patra demanded their resignation. "She pleaded before all authorities to get justice but the government did not pay any heed to it. Finally, she was forced to die by self-immolation," he alleged.

The National Students Union of India (NSUI), the Congress' student wing demonstrated in Jeypore in Koraput district, while All India Students' Federation (AISF) led by state president Sanghamitra Jena held a protest march here over the death of the Balasore student. The ABVP also staged a protest in the City demanding justice for the FM student. About Thursday's bandh call, senior Congress leader Jayadev Jena said it will be observed in a peaceful manner across the state from 6am to 6pm.

42 officials

testify in Puri

stampede probe

CITY METRO PROJECT Committee deliberates on critical issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The first Inter-Ministerial Sub-Committee meeting for Bhubaneswar Metro Project was convened Wednesday at Lok Seva Bhawan Conference Hall here, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. Formed under the directive of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the sub-committee includes a panel of ministers and senior officials.



The committee deliberated on several critical aspects of the metro project, including the comprehensive mobility plan (CMP), traffic decongestion strategies, and mechanisms for smooth inter-departmental coordination. Emphasis was laid on creating an integrated and efficient public transportation system tailored to the City's growing needs.

her family," Lamba said.

state's women, she added.

The Congress will continue

Meanwhile, Youth Congress

members, led by its state pres-

ident Ranjit Patra, organised

a protest march to gherao the

chief minister's official res-

idence here, demanding res-

ignation of Majhi and Higher

the fight for the safety of the

Congress seeks President's Rule

biscussions also focused on the transition between rail and road networks and aligning infrastructure development with the City's long-term urban planning goals. Notably, consultations have already begun with senior officials from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, including CEO Kalyan Patnaik, Vikas Kumar, and Pramit Garg.

chaired by senior officials, in-

cluding DARPG additional sec-

retary Puneet Yadav and joint

More than 200 delegates from

across India, including District

Collectors and senior state and

central government officials,

are participating in the con-

Over 20 speakers will present

on innovative governance mod-

els and the positive transforma-

tions achieved through various

flagship government schemes.

ference.

secretary Sarita Chauhan.

 ablic transportation

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 re development with

nath Temple Administration (SJTA), police personnel, and staff deployed at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) on duty have testified before Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, who is leading the enquiry into the tragic stampede during the Rath Yatra. The incident, which occurred near the Gundicha Temple June 29, resulted in the deaths of three devotees.

The officials attended the enquiry hearing at the Special Circuit House, Puri Wednesday and explained their version.

The stampede, which took place amid a massive rush of pilgrims during the pulling of Lord Jagannath's chariot, raised serious concerns about crowd management and emergency preparedness during one of the largest religious gatherings in the country. Further enquiry will continue.

G UG spot admission deadline extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: In a significant development for aspiring undergraduate (UG) students, the Higher Education department has extended the last date for Spot admissions under the Student Academic Manage ment System (SAMS). Initially scheduled to conclude July 16, the Spot admission process will now remain open until July 19. According to an official notification issued Wednesday, the extension aims to provide additional time for students and institutions to complete the admission process without hassle. The department has instructed all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) offering UG courses through SAMS to comply with the new timeline. "All HEIs are hereby directed to take necessary steps to ensure a smooth and hassle-free admission process during the extended period," the notification stated. The extension is expected to benefit hundreds of students who were yet to secure admission due to various logistical or personal delays. The move has been welcomed by students and parents alike, especially those coming from remote areas or facing internet-related challenges Educational experts believe the decision reflects the department's flexibility in accommodating student needs while maintaining academic schedules. Further details and updates regarding the admission process can be accessed on the official SAMS Odisha portal.

ODISHA TO HOST NATIONAL MEET ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The two-day national conference on 'Good Governance Practices' will be kicked off Thursday here, bringing together senior policymakers, district administrators, and public service leaders from across the country to share transformative governance models and award-winning public service initiatives.

ning public service initiatives. Organised jointly by the department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and state government, the conference aims to highlight innovative practices that have received national recognition under the prime minister's awards for excellence in public administration.

The conference will be jointly inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh.

DARPG secretary V Srinivas

These sessions are being

I, Dinesh Pandey, S/o Late Sh. Mathura Dutt Pandey, Resident of Plot No. 125, Suanga, Near Radhe Krishna Temple, P.O.- Sarakantara, Dist. Khordha, Odisha, PIN-751019, declare by this affidavit No.- 27383 dtd.- 15/07/2025 that now onwards I shall be known as DINESH CHANDRA PANDEY for all future purposes.

Training for crash investigators

ENHANCING ROAD SAFETY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: In a bid to enhance road safety, the Commerce and Transport department, in collaboration with IIT-Madras, organised a capacity-building session in Bhubaneswar for crash investigation officers. The core objective was to equip officers with practical skills to adopt a systems approach in crash investigations, moving beyond traditional methods to a more scientific and data-driven model.

The session was attended by approximately 35 crash investigating officers from various districts, marking a concerted effort to equip them with advanced, data-driven investigation techniques.

A major focus was the Root Cause Analysis Matrix (RCAM), a structured tool designed to identify crash causes from the perspectives of Man (Human), Machine (Vehicle), Method (User Behaviour), and Environment (Road)—collectively known as the 3M&E model. Officers refreshed their field data collection and analysis skills and learned to develop and communicate evidence-based hypotheses.

The workshop aimed to deepen understanding of RCAM, promote design thinking, and encourage data-backed interventions. It also strengthened officers' capacity to conduct death audits and understand the human factors behind crashes. Hands-on sessions using real-life case studies allowed officers to apply the RCAM Matrix and conduct structured crash scene assessments. This integration of theory and practice ensured the officers could directly implement their learnings in the field.

Venkatesh Balasubramanian from IIT-Madras, the session's resource person, explained that RCAM enables factual, evidence-based intervention strategies by analysing human, vehicle, and property damage data.

Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee highlighted the importance of consistent follow-up and personal responsibility, urging officers to be mindful of behaviour and committed to road safety. "Each of us can contribute meaningfully to safer roads," she said, encouraging innovative solutions.

Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur praised IIT-Madras's initiative and stressed public awareness and accountability. "Every road accident must be followed by proper investigation. Even small efforts to spread awareness can have a big impact," he noted.

CURRENCY	BOURSES	COMMODITIES
INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION
DOLLAR 86.01 4 0.13	SENSEX 82634.48 🔺 63.57	GOLD ₹ 98,054
EURO 99.95 0.46	NIFTY 25212.05 1 6.25	SILVER ₹112,046

MARKET WATCH



WEATHER

	BBSR	стс	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.2°	32.4°	mostly
Min Temp	24.4°	23.4°	cloudy sky
Humidity	89%	94%	
Rainfall	39.6mm	26.6mm	ı 💥

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state

Andhra conducts survey in Gajapati Residents accuse the Odisha government of not giving due attention to the border areas for which Andhra Pradech government is emboldened to continue its encroachment activities

Andhra Pradesh government is emboldened to continue its encroachment activities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, July 16: The long-standing border dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha has resurfaced after a brief lull, with officials of the neighbouring state reportedly conducting a survey in Gangabada panchayat of Rayagada block in Gajapati district.

The matter came to the fore when officials from Andhra Pradesh visited villages such as Manikapatana, Amaringi, and Burusahi under Gangabada panchayat and conducted a survey.

Andhra Notably, both Pradesh and West Bengal are trying to encroach on Odisha land bordering their states and carrying out various activities in intervals.

alleged that Residents the Andhra officials issued warnings to evict houses, a Forest department beat

Man gets 20-year

Phulbani: A POCSO court here

Wednesday sentenced a man to

the survivor's mother, police

him to the court.

arrested the accused and sent

20 years of rigorous imprisonment

house, and government structures, claiming jurisdiction over the region. The move has sparked fresh tensions among the residents along the disputed border.

He also stated that the Odi-On being informed, the district administration rushed sha government would be intwo officials to Gangabada formed about Andhra's unaupanchayat Tuesday to assess thorised actions, and if such activities persist, legal steps will the situation. Sub-Collector Anup Panda be taken.

Panda further suggested that and Rayagada tehsildar Santosh Barik visited the disputed a joint administrative-level disareas and interacted with the cussion between Srikakulam residents. Panda asserted that district in Andhra Pradesh

and Gajapati district in state, followed by a coordinated survey, would be the most effective way to resolve the issue.

Locals have expressed concern, alleging that Andhra Pradesh has long been attempting to integrate border villages into its territory by offering incentives such as permanent housing, allowances, cash benefits, educational assistance for children, hostel facilities, and bus services.

Residents accuse the Odisha government of not giving due attention to the border areas for which they believe has emboldened Andhra Pradesh to continue its encroachment efforts.

Locals recalled that three years ago, the then Andhra Pradesh minister had visited Manikapatana and allegedly demolished an Odisha-run Anganwadi center. At that time, the Odisha administration had officially protested the move.

FM victim's brother files

(RI) for raping a four-year-old girl and outraging the modesty of her mother last year, a public prosecutor said. Manoranian Das, judge of the POCSO court. Phulbani, also imposed a fine of ₹30,000 on the convict, Sankar Pradhan. If he fails to pay the fine amount, he will remain in custody for another 13 months. public prosecutor Asim Kumar Praharaj said. The court also directed the Kandhamal District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹7 lakh as compensation to the survivor, Praharaj said. According to the prosecution, the accused had snatched the girl from the lap of her mother standing outside her house and raped her in February 2024. Acting on the FIR of

RI for raping child cyber harassment plaint

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, July 16: The elder brother of the 20-year-old woman student, who died after she set herself on fire on Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College campus, Wednesday, lodged a police complaint seeking protection from cyber harassment for the family.

Soumyaranjan lodged the complaint at Bhograi police station where he named at least five persons, alleging that they were harassing the family on social media. While demanding action against the persons named in the complaint, the brother also threatened that the entire family may go for mass suicide if denied justice.

He mentioned in the complaint that "unfortunate and un-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

bearable" derogatory remarks were made about his family on social media platforms. He alleged that certain individuals were attempting to exploit the tragedy for political gains and named four people in connection with the defamatory content.

Gangabada clearly falls with-

in Odisha's jurisdiction and

emphasised that the state has

already undertaken various

development activities in the

area, with more ongoing.

He said, "When the family is undergoing severe mental trauma after losing a daughter. some people on social media are making derogatory remarks and posting filthy posts and comments. We have to bear unnecessary trolling and abuse online.' The brother also said there have been attempts at character assassination of his deceased sis-

ter on the social media platform. Sources said while the police were yet to register the case,

they are examining the authenticity of the complaint.

Bodies of couple found hanging

Kendrapara: Bodies of a couple in Kendrapara district were found hanging in their house Wednesday morning, police said. The incident occurred at Nalatapatia under Talachua marine police station. The deceased were identified as Pratap Navak, 33, and his wife Sasmita Navak.30, the police said. The couple was living alone in the house with their parents. Family members found the doors of their room locked from inside Wednesday morning, they said. The family members peeped through the window and found them hanging from the ceiling fan and informed the police. Later, police personnel, in the presence of a magistrate, broke into the room and shifted them to the community health centre at Rainagar, where doctors declared them dead, a police officer said. Police sent the bodies to the CHC at Aul for autopsy. "No suicide note was recovered from the spot. An investigation is underway.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 16: Acting on intelligence inputs from Similipal Wildlife Intelligence Network. Forest department has seized three leopard skins and arrested seven wildlife smugglers. The illegal wildlife trade was reportedly driven by superstition that worshipping leopard skins and teeth would bring the buyers wealth and prosperity.

The arrested were identified as Amar Kumar Singh, 40, of Tenda village under Nilagiri police limits and Sunaram Hembram, 59, and of Kendua under Barhampur police station in Balasore district; Raisen Chapiar, 45, of Jadunathpur under Badshahi police station, Guru Prasad Patra of Paunsia, Manoranian Tipiria, 48, of Kanimahuli, Shermashree Soren, 27, of Kuanrpal under Khunta police station and Champai Murmu, 32, of Kutling under Udala police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The department identified Tipiria, a schoolteacher by profession, as the prime accused in the case. The sleuths also seized seven mobile phones and two motorcycles from the possession of the wildlife racket.

Addressing a presser, Deputy Director of Leopard Conservation Project (South Division) Samrat Gouda indicated involvement of more persons in the crime and said that the operation followed a tip-off re-

Lightning claims 3 lives in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Differently-abled couple

Keonjhar, July 16: Three persons, including a woman and her daughter-in-law, were killed after lightning struck them during farm works in separate incidents under Telkoi police limits of Keonjhar district Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Namani Nayak, 26, her moth-

er-in-law Rukmini Nayak, 60, of Binchabahal village, and Bipin Nayak, 35, of SN Purgoda village under Telkoi police limits.

Police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation, Telkoi IIC Anjan Kumar Patra said. Lightning struck the two women when they were working on a farmland. They collapsed on the spot and died. Similarly,

Bipin was also working on a farmland at SN Purgoda when lightning struck him during a thunderstorm.

suggest that the skins may have

Of the three leopard skins

originated from Chhattisgarh.

two are believed to be from

adult leopards, and one from a

sub-adult. Measurements of the

skins include one measuring 227

cm in length, 59 cm in width, and

147 cm in height; a second mea

suring 249 cm in length, 60 cm

in width, and 155 cm in height

and a third measuring 189 cm in

length, 60 cm in width, and 128

cm in height. Further investi

gations also revealed that Patra

was allegedly involved in sexual

misconduct. Authorities alerted

the police after discovering mo-

bile video evidence showing him

applying vermilion (sindoor) or

women, among other compro

mising content. Forest officer

A Uma Mahesh said a detailed

report would be submitted to the

Officials warned the public

against falling prey to such su

perstition. They said the greed

for wealth is driving some indi

viduals to engage in the hunting

and trafficking of endangered

wildlife. The accused were pro

duced in a court Wednesday.

Mayurbhanj SP.

Farmers working in nearby farmlands rescued him and rushed him to Telkoi com munity health centre where doctors pronounced him dead Separate cases were registered and investigations are on, the IIC said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF ATVM FACILITATOR OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION

No. C/SBP/ATVM/NSG-3 Catg/Stn/25, Dt · 10 07 2025 Applications are invited for engagement of ATVM facilitator to work throughout the day in 03 shifts for 01 (one) year at 03 (Three) NSG-3 category station over Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway for issuin of unreserved tickets through ATVM. Interested person fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Coast Railway, DRM Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Sambalpur Division, Post-Modipara, Dist. Sambalpur, Pin-768002 (Odisha).

Non-Suburban Grade-3 Category Station (NSG-3): (i) Sambalpur (04 Nos. ATVM - 12 nos. facilitators), (ii) Titlagarh (04 Nos. ATVM - 12 nos. facilitators), (iii) Balangir (02 Nos. ATVM - 06 nos. facilitators).



EMPLOYMENT NOTICE 1. ECHS invites applications to engage following Medical Officers at Angul and Dhenkanal PC, Para Medical (Dental A/T/H at Balasore PC, Nursing Asst at Puri PC & Non Medical Staff (Driver at Puri PC) on contractual basis for a period of one year, for ESM and 11 Months for Civil Candidates / renewable fo



garding illegal wildlife trade driven by blind faith. Some individuals reportedly believed that worshipping leopard skins and teeth would bring them wealth and prosperity.

Forest officials launched a sting operation and laid a trap posing as buyers to apprehend them red-handed. They met Amar Singh as buyers and arrested him after his disclosure. Singh's interrogation also revealed involvement of Hembram and Murmu from their respective locations. A raid at Soren's house in Kuanrpal led to recovery of one leopard skin. Simultaneous raid was also

being carried out at Patra's house in Paunsia, leading to seizure of two more such skins. Investigators now believe

Patra has links with wildlife traders in Sundargarh district and neighbouring Chhattisgarh. Authorities have sent the

skins to the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) in Bhubaneswar for DNA testing to determine whether the animals were from Similipal. Preliminary findings

additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post:-

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	Fixed Remuneration		
Medical Officer	Medical Officer MBBS, Min 05 years work experience after internship			
Nursing Asst	GNM Diploma/Class 1 Course (Armed Forces), Min 05 years experience	Rs. 28,100.00		
Dental Hyg/Asst/Tech	Diploma in Dental Hyg/Class 1 DH/DORA Course(Armed force) Min 5 year work experience	Rs. 28,100.00		
Driver	Education -8th class/ Class 1 MT Driver at Armed Forces, Min 5 year work experience in possesses civil driving licenses	Rs. 19,700.00		

2. For terms & Conditions, Applications Form & Remuneration. Kindly see our website https://echs.gov.in/employment opportunities for additional details, please contact Stn HQ ECHS Chilka (Telephone-06756-257033) email ID shqchilka@echs.gov.in. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details.

- Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website. Application as per requisite format 3. along with self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC, Stn HQ ECHS Chilka , INS Chilka, PO-Chilka, Dist- Khurda, Odisha-752037 by 26 Jul 25. Any application received after 26 Jul 25 will not be accepted. Candidates may also E-mail their applications along with all documents to our email id shgchilka@echs.gov.in before 26 Jul 25.
- Date, time & Venue of Interview will be intimated telephonically / by e-mail. Candidates must bring all the original Certificates/Mark sheets/degree of 10th / Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post Graduation/Diploma/course, work experience and discharge book, PPO, service records and 02 PP size colour photographs at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidates meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.

Note: "An application without the requisite documents is liable to be rejected. Merely sending the application will not automatically result in its acceptance. Non-receipt of the application will render it ineligible." Station Commander ECHS Chilka

POST NEWS NETWORK

Oupada, July 16: In a heartwarming and socially inspiring event, a differently-abled man and woman tied nuptial knot in a traditional Vedic ceremony with the consent and support of their families at Oupada in Balasore district.

The ceremony was conducted at an ashram in a dignified manner, attended by well-wishers and community members. The groom, Alok Mallik, son of Narayan Mallik of Chhanpur under Talakia panchayat, and the bride, Padmini Pothal, daughter of Prahallad Pothal from Janikapal under Gadasahi panchavat, solemnised their union in the presence of elders and social leaders.

The newlyweds exchanged garlands and sought blessings from the elders present, marking the beginning ak, and educationist and social worker Parshuram Lenka from Darakholi village were also present.

of their new life together.

The event witnessed partic-

ipation from families of both

the bride and groom, villag-

ers from both communities.

and local leaders. Gadasahi

sarpanch Nityananda Mudu-

li, representative of Talakia

panchavat Antarvami Nav-

Sarpanch Muduli remarked that appropriate steps had been taken during the wedding to ensure a peaceful and dignified life for the couple, symbolising an ideal marriage and a progressive shift in social mindset.

Bonus Payable: The bonus on smart card recharge shall be @ 3% for journey up to 150 kms. The bonus or journey between 151 km and 500 km shall be admissible @ 2% and thereafter, bonus shall be given @ 1% for tickets issued for distances beyond 500 kms for NSG-3 category station.

The details and the prescribed format for filling application may be obtained from website of East Coast Railway i.e. www.eastcoastrail. indianrailway.gov.in up to 1800 hrs of 05.08.2025 and from the office of he Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Coast Railway Sambalpur on any working day from 1000 to 1800 hrs. up to 05.08.2025. The last date for submission / dropping of duly filled application in the box is 1600 hrs. of 06.08.2025. Any application received after the above period or incomplete in any manner will not be entertained / considered and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained. PR-365/Q/25-26 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Sambalpur

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA POSSESSION बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra **ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR** (BB) NOTICE First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, एक परिवार एक बैंक Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, [Rule - 8(1)] Email Id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

N Ce	BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
	BHUBANESWAR BRANCH /	Equitable of Mortgage of		30.04.2025
		Residential Land and Building		1
nt of	Biswal, S/o: Ganesh Chandra Biswal / Guarantor: Mrs. Indumati Biswal,	4106 Plot No 1968/5259		11.07.2025
	W/o: Mr. Chandrasekhar Biswal,	Area: Ac.0.08 Dec., Mouza: I		gi & No.: 71,
to the	Both are Address: At: Nankar	Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar & I	No.: 167, Dist.: 0	Cuttack, PIN-
to the	Uparsahi, PO.: Jagatpur, Dist.:			
to the	Cuttack, Odisha-754021 Road, West: Sarat Chandra Sahoo, S	Mr. Chandrasekhar Biswal, Bou		ad, East: Govt.
Person	BALESHWAR BRANCH /	Equitable of Mortgage of All		24.04.2025
ct No.	1) (For HSG) Borrower: Mrs.	those pieces and parcels of	as on 24.04.2025	24.04.2025
	Shantilata Patri W/o. Mr. Sadananda	Residential Land and Building	+ interest & other	11.07.2025
	Patri / Co-Borrower: Mr. Sadananda	situated at Mouza: Muruna, PS.:	ation Dist : Balacou	
anda	Patri, S/o: Mr. Upendra Patri, Both are Address: At: Muruna (Dhobagadia),	660/293. Plot No.: 18. Area: A	c.0.11 Dec., Kissa	m: Gharabari.
Jena, b.:	PO · Gobindanur PS · Simulia Dist ·	Corresponding to Khata No.:	573, Standing in	the name of
18140	Balasore, Odisha-756126, 2) (For	Mrs. Shantilata Patri, W/o: Mr	r. Sadananda Patri	, Bounded by
0140	Cash Credit) Borrower: M/s. S P	East: Plot of Mr. Sadananda Pat	ri, West: Plot of Nity	yananda Patri,
-	Electricals, Prop.: Mr. Sadananda			DC : Cimulia
	Patri, S/o: Mr. Upendra Patri, Addre Dist.: Balasore, Odisha-756126	. At. Muruna (Dhobagadia),	FO.: Goomuapur,	FS. Simula,
Officer f India	Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 17.07.2	025 Authorised	d Officer, Bank of	Maharashtra
mula				



DUNGURIPALI BRANCH At/PO/P.S.: Dunguripali, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha-767023, E-mail: ubin0828718@unionbankofindia.bank

E-AUCTION SALE NOTIC

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be so "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2025 between 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M. for recovery dues as mentioned hereunder Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor. The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit also mentioned hereunder.

SI. No.	Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Pending Litigation Related to property	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment	Contact Person / Contact No.
1.	Markanda Behera, At/PO: Dunguripali, Rampur Road, PS: Dunguripali, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha - 767023 / Guarantor: Mr. Nikhil Kumar, S/o: Ramesh Chandra Sharma, At: Surya Market, P.O: Dunguripali, PS: Dunguripali, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha - 767023	All that part of the property consisting of Land of an Area: Ac. 0.070 Dec. with Residential Plot and Building bearing Khata No.: 116, Plot No.: 552/2203 (P), Kissam: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Dunguripali, P.S.: Dunguripali, Tahasil: Rampur, Dist.: Sonepur, Odisha, PIN - 767023 belonging to Subarna Behera , Bounded by North: Jamuna Patra, South: Sani Sahu, East: Jamuna Patra, West: Road.	NA	₹24,72,919.18 as on 15.07.2025 + further interest, costs and charges thereon	₹3,69,750- / ₹36,975/-	Mr. Ananda Kumar Jena, Mob.: 9861018140
Į	For registration a	nd login and bidding rules please visi	t : https://b	aanknet.	com	
100 C 100	ce: Dunguripali e: 16.07.2025					orized Officer Bank of India











power post

FOCUS DIPLOMACY

It is only the stubborn maintenance of

principles through balance of power that

can end wars, prevent them and ensure

peace and stability

The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy

SRI AUROBINDO

Far-Right Solidarity

ntil recently, the spectre of an international far-right alliance of populist parties in democracies around the world has been just that: any appearance of cooperation was a form of self-promotion, rather than an expression of true solidarity. Few far-right figures have made any sacrifices for one another or seriously interfered in other countries' internal affairs to prop up allies. And efforts to unite the far right in the European Parliament have fallen dismally short.

But that may be changing. US President Donald Trump's threat to impose punitive tariffs on Brazil, with the explicit goal of protecting its far-right former president, Jair Bolsonaro, from a "witch hunt," marks a significant shift in tactics. What's more, Trump's meddling in other democracies in the name of "free speech" serves powerful interests in the United States: tech companies that do not want to be regulated by foreign governments.

The international far right is often said to be a contradiction in terms. After all, every far-right leader is a nationalist, which would seem to preclude, by definition, an international alliance. But this view shows little philosophical sophistication or, for that matter, historical awareness.

In nineteenth-century Europe, liberals like Giuseppe Mazzini helped

one another in their various struggles for freedom and independence from imperial powers. At the time, no one complained that there was a deep contradiction embedded in a liberal international alliance devoted to national self-determination.

By the same token, today's far-right populists can claim that they form a united front against "globalists" and supposedly illegitimate "liberal elites." This rhetoric - and the attendant conspiracy theories, often tinged with anti-Semitism - has easily crossed borders. Far-right politicians have also copied from one another what scholars have called 'worst practices" for undermining democracies. Just think of the proliferation of laws that force civil-society organizations to register as "foreign agents," or other thinly veiled repressive tactics.

The far right also has a transnational ideological infrastructure. To be sure, there is no populist Comintern issuing binding interpretations of doctrine. But collaboration is real: for instance, Hungarian institutes lavishly endowed by Viktor Orbán's government are now allied with the Heritage Foundation in the US.

So far, though, there has been a lack of concrete solidarity among populist leaders. When Trump fraudulently claimed to have won the 2020 US presidential election, his international allies, from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, could have refused to recognize Joe Biden as president. Instead,

they congratulated Biden on his victory, choosing pragmatism over ideological affinity.

But Trump is changing that in his second term, embracing an ideologically driven approach to confronting other countries that obviously undermines long-standing international norms. In the case of Brazil, he is using the threat of a 50 per cent tariff to pressure the government into ending the federal criminal trial against Bolsonaro for seeking to engineer a coup after losing the 2022 presidential election. Unlike Trump, who was never held accountable for his role in the 6 January, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol, Bolsonaro - often called the "Trump of the Tropics" – has already been banned from running for office until 2030.

In his letter to the Brazilian government announcing the levy, Trump also accused it of "insidious attacks on ... the fundamental Free Speech Rights of Americans," including the censorship of "US So cial Media platforms." This highlights another dimension of Trump's economic bullying: his administration's crusade against efforts to prohibit hate speech and regulate the digital sphere. In February, US Vice President JD Vance berated Europeans for their supposed lack of respect for "free speech." Meanwhile, the State Department has reportedly targeted the prominent Brazilian judge Alexandre de Moraes, who at one point blocked Elon Musk's X in Brazil and is taking the lead in holding Bolsonaro criminally accountable for his conduct.



ince Independence, India sought to conduct its foreign policy on principles - Non-Alignment, Panchsheel (Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence), and off late, focus on dialogue and diplomacy, an unwavering commitment to a rules-based international order, under the world institutions. But admittedly, international relations have sunk to the bottom of moral stupor. It is hard to believe and impossible to accept the depth of degradation.



DK Giri

NO COUNTRY

CAN OPENLY

OPPOSE THE

PRINCIPLES

EVEN IF THEY

SUPPORT IT

IN ACTION

CALL TO

DO NOT

sat there in utter shock to hear the public acceptance of this 'dark reality'. When national and international politics were structured, mainly after the World War-II, during the creation of national democracies and the UN, the idea was to burry Darwin's concept and set principles of justice, fairness, freedom, equality, solidarity and so on.

How did the world begin to resurrect Darwin? There could be many reasons. But the principal one is the unbridled greed of the countries for power. Lord Acton's famous and profound statement then came into action, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Power has corrupted the thinking of the leadership of the so-called powerful countries. The existing world institutions have failed to check the misuse of power. Lord Acton had warned way back in the 19th Century that unchecked authority can erode ethical principles and lead to abuse of power. So it has been. There have been two phases

in world politics that marked the urge for acquisition of power by several countries.

After World War-II, the craze was for military power. Ironically, arms control and disarmament dialogues between the two super powers, during the Cold War period, led to greater armaments.

In the second phase, during the period of globalisation, economic power became the driving desire for countries. The strength of a country came to be measured by the size of its GDP. The Deputy Ambassador of India in France, about 15 years ago, when globalisation was at its zenith. shared this in an informal dinner meeting with 11 Indian MPs I was escorting in Europe. He said, "In the past, all the Indian embassies were instructed to deal in security matters with each host country, but now it is about trade and investment."

The leaderships of the major countries that have produced rich political philosophy have fallen victims to the lust of power. They have been either helpless in the face of competitive power politics or hypocritical; espousing principles on the one hand and killing them by the other.

In the Ukraine war, it is instructive to observe the contest between principles and priorities. In addition to Russia and Ukraine who are fighting it out, the other two actors are Europe and USA. Europe says that the war on Ukraine is actually a war on European values and traditions. But what are the European values today,

do we know? We do know that the EU was created to defend human rights and promote freedom, pluralism, solidarity and so forth. Did EU uphold them in their international relations? The answer is, No.

One can understand that EU foreign policy was taking time to shape-up; but what about the individual countries. the big powers driving the Union? One is referring to Germany and France. The EU, mainly Germany, conducted brisk business with China, where human rights and democracy are non-existent. It propped up China as a belligerent authoritarian power by building its economy to a formidable size. It also compromised to a large extent with Russia because of its oil and gas. Consequently, the EU did not take any clear and definite position on violation of human rights or acts of terrorism and territorial incursions in other parts of the world. But leave the rest of the world, in their own neighbourhood, when they are fighting a proxy war in support of Ukraine, they are yet to declare their decoupling with China which has an alliance-for-ever with Russia

Donald Trump despite his capricious personality, knows one thing in his bones. That is, he has to make money at any rate, and in any event. He promised to end the war in Ukraine. That was his over-confidence. He may

Take the case of America,

have tried. But the whole world witnessed how he and his Vice-President bullied Ukrainian President Zelenskvv in the White House. Later, they twisted his arms and got a deal for rare minerals from Ukraine. Second, when Trump failed to warm-up to Putin, he got back to business that he knows best. Now, the US is selling weapons to NA-TO which will supply them to Ukraine. Against this backdrop, how does a country talk about stopping wars and adhering to international law?

There is a glimmer of hope. I began by alluding to India's commitment to principles. New Delhi must look for partners who subscribe to a principled position. In the recent past, I referred to Poland, a border country of Russia, a growing economy, fiercely committed to sovereignty. More important, Warsaw has experienced the agony of colonisation. Poland has made strategic alliances to defend itself but still heavily upgrades its defence budget. Warsaw could openly campaign for principles by sacrificing partly its economic interests. I am referring to China. A clear stand against Chinese style of politics and leadership is called for, Likewise, New Delhi should escape the disinformation campaign by Russia

One can understand the primacy of national interests. This, however, needs to be redefined, it needs to manifest in principles. No country can openly oppose the call to principles even if they do not support it in action. The bottom line is, wars must stop, and trade and economic ties cannot stop wars. In both world wars, Germany was trading with countries it invaded. It is only the stubborn maintenance of principles through balance of power that can end wars, prevent them and ensure peace and stability.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions. INFA

SPECTRUM SCIENCE

To space and back

'n a landmark space achievement. Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla created history by flying to space as part of the Axiom 4 mission aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 spacecraft and returning safely back to the Earth. After undocking from the International Space Station on 14 July, the crew splashed down off the coast of California aboard SpaceX Dragon "Grace" on 15 July. Axiom 4 has been an extraordinary space mission with 300 plus sunrises and sunsets over nearly 20 days and a total journey of 1.3 crores km in space, 33 times the distance between the Earth and the Moon. Over the course of their 18day mission aboard the orbiting laboratory, the Ax-4 crew conducted more than 60 scientific experiments in zero gravity conditions across a wide range of disciplines, including life sciences, materials research, Earth observation, and technology demonstrations. These investigations represented the contributions of 31 countries, underscoring the mission's

global impact in advancing science and innovation in mi-

tocol system. This knowledge will prove to be immensely beneficial in preparing India to launch its own astronauts to space as a part of the Gaganyaan programme by December 2025 and its ambitious plan of putting an indigenous space station by 2028.

programme of ISRO. In 2020. he was sent to Russia for receiving basic training related to space flight at the Yuri **Gagarin Cosmonaut Training** Centre in Moscow. His name as a member of India's manned Gaganyaan programme was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 February, 2024. Subhanshu continued his glorious journey in his space ambition as he got selected as pilot for the prestigious Axiom mission. Subhanshu's space journey should prove to be a source of inspiration for all Indians. He represents India's hopes and aspiration for a global leadership position in the space sector in this highly challenging world dominated by powers like Japan and China. His life and journey teaches us that accomplishing lofty goals does not require positions or patronage, but a dream to cherish and a will to achieve!



Jan-Werner Mueller

Trump's meddling in other democracies in the name of "free speech" serves powerful interests in the **United States:** tech companies that do not want to be regulated by foreign governments

Big Tech is clearly displeased with the extensive regulations that the European Union and Brazil have placed on its industry. As in other areas - notably its attacks on higher education - the Trumpists are weaponizing free speech to exert power over supposed political adversaries.

The hypocrisy is apparent: while advocating for deregulation of platforms ostensibly to protect free speech, the US government is snooping around in foreigners' social-media accounts for speech it dislikes (and then refusing a visa or entry on this basis). Pious talk of defending democracy as a shared Western value sits uneasily with the abject disrespect for other countries' right to determine their own approach to platform regulation.

Whereas far-right leaders of smaller countries are limited by realpolitik, Trump can use America's might to advance his punitive-cum-populist agenda at will. After all, a pliant Republican Party will not question his abuse of the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act. True, the courts may ultimately decide that his desire for political revenge hardly constitutes an "emergency," but the damage will have been done. As in other areas where his administration has taken plainly illegal actions, many of those being targeted will seek a deal rather than a fight. Solidarity is costly, but not for Trump.

> The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Things are as they are. Looking out into it the universe at night, we make no comparisons between right and wrong stars, nor between well and badly arranged constellations ALAN WATTS
- There are two kinds of teachers: the kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just gives you a little prod behind and you jump to the skies

ROBERT FROST

Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, be fortified by it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it

HERMANN HESSE



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THE AXIOM MISSION WILL SERVE AS A SIGNIFICANT LAUNCH PAD FOR INDIA'S **UPCOMING SPACE**

PROGRAMMES

crogravity conditions

With this success, Shubhanshu became the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station and the second after Rakesh Sharma to orbit the Earth in space. It is worth noting that Rakesh Sharma travelled to space in 1984 as the first Indian astronaut on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft and spent eight days in the Salvut-7 space station. Commanded by the US astronaut Peggy Whitson, with crew members from Poland and Hungary, the mission marked India's re-entry into orbital spaceflight after 41 years of silence

The Axiom mission will serve as a significant launch pad for India's upcoming space programmes. The mission will provide valuable real time experience in working in the International Space Station ecosystem, adapting to microgravity conditions of space, conducting complex scientific experiments in microgravity and working within an international space pro-

It will be worthwhile here to delve briefly into the life and journey of Subhanshu Shukla. Inspired by the valour of Indian soldiers in the 1999 Kargil War and India's glorious victory over the enemy, Shubhanshu studied at the National Defence Academy, Pune and completed a bachelor's degree in computer science in 2005. He was then commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force as a flying officer.

During his career in the Indian Air Force, Shubhashu served as a combat leader and test pilot and flew several fighter aircraft like Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier, An-39 where he clocked 2000 hours of valuable flight experience. Later, he was selected for the Indian Human Spaceflight

The writer is Education Officer, **Regional Science Centre**, Bhubaneswar.

Giant leap forward

Sir, This refers to "Shuks eyes Gaganyaan after historic ISS mission," Orissa POST, July 16. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's landmark journey aboard the Axiom-4 mission marked a defining chapter in India's space history. As the nation's first astronaut to live and work aboard the International Space Station (ISS), his 18-day mission realized India's presence in commercial human spaceflight and set the stage for ISRO's upcoming Gaganyaan mission. Conducting over 60 experiments-including seven from India—Shukla contributed to critical global research in space biology, human physiology, plant growth, and material science. These findings aid both space exploration and Earth-based applications like medicine and climate resilience. Shukla's hands-on experience in emergency protocols, spacecraft docking, and crew operations offered ISRO valuable operational insights for manned missions. His presence fostered international cooperation with NASA, Axiom Space, and SpaceX, amplifying India's role in global space partnerships. Beyond the labs and capsules, his mission ignited enthusiasm in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, inspiring a generation across continents. Shukla's odyssey has been a giant leap forward for Indian aspirations and global scientific progress.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Dependency risks

Sir, US President Donald Trump has given Russia a 50-day ultimatum to strike a peace deal or face harsh trade tariffs as high as 100 per cent, with NATO promising arms to Ukraine which it will replenish from the US. Moscow remains defiant, while Ukraine' President Zelensky is celebrating and preparing to use the US weapons against Russia. For India, this raises the threat of secondary US sanctions if it deals with Russia, risking disruptions to its Russian oil imports, currently over 2 million barrels daily. Defence supplies, including pending S-400 missile systems, may also face delays making India's strategic balancing tougher. Hence India needs to swiftly diversify its energy sources, revive stalled defence projects with other partners, and enhance indigenous defence manufacturing to reduce dependency risks and safeguard national interests.

RS Narula, PATIALA



TO THE EDITOR

etters

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

(0)



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010





TWO STATES

The rise of drone technology has opened a new and dangerous chapter in global terrorism, with UAVs now being used by terror groups for a variety of nefarious operations, including intelligence collection and the delivery of explosives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 16: Drones have emerged as the new "Over Ground Workers" (OGWs) for terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir, causing concern among security agencies as this shift from human networks to unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance and logistics marks a new frontier in the region's security landscape, officials said here Wednesday.

The reliance on the human network of OGWs has drastically been cut down as many of them have been arrested or have gone into hiding due to increasing pressure from the security forces, they said.

The shift from human networks to drone technology is a new frontier in asymmetric warfare, with Pakistan's ISI also intensifying its efforts to push terrorists across the Line of Control (LoC) with the help of drones, the officials said.

Some of the terrorists holed up in heights in the Kashmir region, as well as in Kishtwar and Rajouri, have been using these drones for maintaining surveillance over the approaching troops, they said while citing it as a reason for the little success in past counter-terror operations.



ISI using

UAVs in

The drones, in instances, some are believed to be carrying dry ration infiltration for the holed-up ter-

rorists in the higher reaches of the Jammu region, the officials said.

The use of drones by terrorist groups to target vital installations in Jammu and Kashmir began June 27, 2021. when two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) struck buildings at the Jammu airport, marking a significant escalation in the conflict.

Pakistan's Post 2017, the use of drones initially for drug smuggling and later for arms dropping along the International Border

in Punjab was viewed by the officials as the first step before shifting their use for direct attacks in Jammu

and Kashmir. The officials said the ISI is leveraging drone technology for precise real-time situational assessments ahead of infiltration

> attempts. The officials also said that

under the new strategy, the ISI has been using drones for monitoring the presence of the army along the Line of Control or the International Border, identifying vulnerabilities and analysing terrain to assist terrorists in crossing the LoC while minimising the risk of detection.

There were credible inputs that in third week of May this year, ISI officials and top terrorists of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) had a meeting during which focus was laid on increasing recruitment and the "importance of drone surveillance along the LoC to monitor conditions prior to infiltration attempts, the officials said.

They said there were plans to replace active guides with local residents from PoK or Pakistan to manage infiltration routes more effectively.

The officials said that ISI was working on a detailed plan for the terror outfits that included relocating terror training camps and launching pads within PoK and constructing underground bunkers in preparation for potential armed conflict with India.

Ten bomb threat

This move from ISI is believed to be a response to "Operation Sindoor." in which the Indian Air Force targeted and destroyed nine terror facilities in PoK and Pakistan which included the headquarters of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror groups. A report from the AssociaDELHI

tion of the United States Army (AUSA), a nonprofit professional association dedicated to serving America's Army, said, "Once Pandora's box was open, bad actors adapted quickly and began using drones to plan and conduct attacks."

The report had said that terrorist organisations are learning lessons from previous conflicts and are continuously adapting their methods. The first use of drones by terrorists was by the Islamic State during military operations in Iraq's Mosul, where they deployed UAVs for both reconnaissance and bomb dropping.

As seen in past conflicts, these groups are learning and evolving their tactics. The rapid advancements in drone technology and its increasing accessibility provide new avenues for terror outfits to sow fear and execute attacks, complicating counter-terrorism efforts, the officials said.



OrissaPC

THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Painted storks in an enclosure at the National Zoological Park, in New Del hi, Wednesday

Delhi set to launch India's first net-zero e-waste park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: In a first for India, Delhi is set to launch a Rs 150 crore green e-waste eco park in Holambi Kalan. The pollution-free, net-zero facility aims to revolutionise electronic waste recycling by adhering to global green technology standards, officials said Wednesday. The Delhi government

is gearing up to launch the e-waste eco park in a move to tackle mounting electronic waste and push for sustainable industrial practices.

Envisioned as a state-of-theart, eco-friendly recycling hub, the project promises to transform Delhi's waste landscape while setting new global benchmarks for clean technology and environmental responsibility, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said. The Rs 150 crore initiative, led by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), is currently in the final stages of preparing a global Request for Qualification-cum-Request for Proposal (RFQ-cum-RFP) tender, Sirsa added.



This eco park will be one of the cleanest, safest, and most advanced green industrial zones ever built in India MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, NEW DELHI

emails have been received by nine schools in the city in the past three days PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> New Delhi, July 16: A fresh wave of bomb threats targeting schools and colleges has kept Delhi Police on its toes as many education institutes panicked for three days straight, with senior officers saying the emails were sent using encrypted networks, making them hard to track.

Cyber experts of the Delhi Police and senior officers investigating the threats said the senders are using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and the dark web.

The dark web is a part of the internet that is not indexed by traditional search engines and is accessible only through special browsers, allowing illegal activities such as cybercrime. human trafficking and drugs and weapons trade to thrive. VPN adds a layer of anonymity by allowing users to create a secure connection to another network.



Dark web, VPNs make Delhi Police's job tough

The moment you think you have found a lead, it vanishes behind another layer of anonymity," a Delhi Police officer explained.

Ten bomb threat emails have been received by nine schools in the city in the past three days. Last February, a private school and a Delhi University college in the capital received bomb threat emails, which were later confirmed by authorities to be hoaxes.

across several countries. In such cases, even service providers are often helpless," a source said.

A cyber expert of the Delhi Police said the investigating officers are no longer treating the threats as a mere prank.

"Multiple probe agencies are involved in investigating the matter. These threats are affecting children, parents and the school staff psychologically," the expert said on the condition of anonymity.

During a press conference, a senior Delhi Police officer said that the use of VPN by the sender of the emails sig nificantly hampered efforts to track the threat.

"We were tracking the emails, but VPN makes it difficult to track their origin. We also had to check for any possible terror link," he had said.

Sources said that each of the recent emails carried a The recurring threats have similar pattern: vague but caused considerable anxiety alarming language, timed among parents and teachers

The minister emphasised that to ensure the facility is built to

the highest international standards, a third-party consultancy was roped in to study successful e-waste recycling models in Norway and Hong Kong -- countries known for their urban, yet pollution-free, recycling ecosystems. "This is not just about building infrastructure -- it's about building trust in green technology." Sirsa said.

"We are studying global mod-

local community." he added. The park, spread across 11.4 acres in northwest Delhi, will be designed to handle more than 51,000 metric tonnes of electronic waste annually and is expected to generate an economic output of over Rs 350 crore. The facility will operate on net-zero emissions, follow zero-landfill protocols, and be surrounded by dense tree canopies for ecological integration.

els that operate with zero pollu-

tion and adopt only the cleanest.

safest technologies. Our goal is

to ensure this project meets the

highest environmental and safe-

ty standards, while also gener-

ating economic benefits for the

"Tracking someone on the dark web is like chasing a shadow in a room full of mirrors.

In October last year, an explosion occurred outside the CRPF school in Prashant Vihar, but no one was injured. In January this year, police arrested a Class 12 student who had allegedly sent bomb threats to over 400 schools.

Amid growing concerns over

before school hours and of ten routed through international servers. Police believe that the sender or the group involved is adept at using anonymising tools and cyber tactics to avoid detection.

Education (DoE) issued a com-

prehensive 115-point Standard

Operating Procedure (SOP) in

May to handle bomb threats

in schools.

"It is not easy to trace emails that are routed through multiple proxy servers. They are using VPN chains and tools on the dark web to bounce their location

On Tuesday, Varun Kumar whose daughter is a kinder garten student, said, "This is not the first time. These kinds of threats are happening quite often. Police must take strict action against those responsible for sending such emails. It creates unnecessary panic and disturbs everyone.

"Parents are genuinely scared to send their children to school now," Kumar added.

Astronomers reveal how solar blast lit up Indian skies Srinagar: Another batch of 6,064 pilgrims left for Kashmir from

The IIA team showed that the great geomagnetic storm that started 10th May 2024 was linked to *a rare sequence of six* different CMEs erupting in succession, associated with both solar flares and filament eruptions from an *interacting complex active* region on the Sun

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 16: Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have decoded the series of powerful solar eruptions resulting in rare northern lights dancing across Ladakh's night skies in May 2024.

The solar eruptions, called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), are massive ejections of magnetised plasma from the Sun's corona. The CMEs can cause geomagnetic storms capable of disrupting satellite operations, communication



systems, and power grids.

The IIA team showed that the great geomagnetic storm that started 10th May 2024 was linked to a rare sequence of six different CMEs erupting in succession, associated with both solar flares and filament eruptions from an interacting complex active region on the Sun.

Until now, gaining a complete understanding of how CMEs evolve thermodynamically as they travel from the Sun to Earth has remained challenging,

primarily due to limited observations near the Sun as well as in near-Earth space.

To understand, a team of solar astrophysicists at IIA built a model using observations from the NASA and ESA space missions.

They investigated the way the rare chain of six interacting solar blasts reported from IIA's Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. interacted with each other and evolved thermally en route from the Sun to Earth.

The team traced not just the paths but the temperatures and magnetic states of these blasts as they expanded across the solar system.

"Our analysis demonstrates that CME-CME interactions lead to significant thermal restructuring within. By the time they reach the Earth, the electrons in the complex ejecta were found to be in the heat-releasing state, while ions displayed a mix of heating and

cooling behaviour, with the heating state being the dominant mode overall," said lead author Soumyaranjan Khuntia. a doctoral scholar at IIA.

The study revealed that most CMEs initially released heat but later transitioned into a state that gets heated instead, particularly to a near-constant temperature state as they expanded further from the Sun.

The team found that these solar clouds do not just carry heat but change their thermal be haviour mid-journey. Initially, the CMEs release heat but then enter a state where they actually absorb and hold onto it.

"This study is the first of its kind, both in India and internationally, to capture the continuous thermodynamic evolution of multiple interacting CMEs across such a vast distance in the heliosphere,' said Dr Wageesh Mishra, a faculty member at IIA.

The findings, published in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Journal, offers a major step forward for improving space weather forecasting models, particularly in predicting the impact of complex CME events on Earth's magnetosphere.

Over 2.34L perform Amarnath Yatra

Jammy Wednesday to perform the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, as over 2.34 lakh had 'darshan' during the last 13 days. Officials said over 2.34 lakh Yatris have so far performed the ongoing Amarnath Yatra since it started July 3. "Another batch of 6,064 yatris left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas Jammu in two escorted convoys for the Valley today. The weather office has forecast widespread light to moderate rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

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national



The only remaining opposition party in the state is the YSRCP. Today, it is the only party responding to the difficulties faced by the people, whether it's farmers, women, unemployed youth, students, or even government employees IAGAN MOHAN REDDY

HC GRANTS BAIL TO SUJIT PATKER

The Bombay High Court Wednesday granted bail to businessman Sujit Patker, alleged aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, in the COVID-19 jumbo centre scam, noting that despite prima facie complicity, extended incarceration is not necessary as the investigation is complete



of the day

Taking cognisance of the Harda hostel case, I have summoned a detailed investigation report

from the district administration. Social justice and mutual harmony are the top priorities for our government. No one will be allowed to disturb the social harmony in Madhya Pradesh

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

The origina layout plan shown to slum dwellers was altered without proper

intimation or ap-

provals. Construction of saleable flats and even bungalows has begun without completing the rehabilitation buildings AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) MLA



almost all places of West Bengal. We have told the CEO to ensure that the voters' list is free from any Rohingya infiltrators. If in Bihar, Rohingyas were removed from the voters' list, then the

same should be done in Bengal. We have also told the CEO to hold an immediate house-tohouse survey for the purpose SUVENDU ADHIKARI

LEADER OF OPPN IN BENGAL ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

8 killed as jeep falls into gorge

Pithoragarh: Eight people were killed and five others injured when a jeep plunged into a deep gorge in Suni village in the Thal area of Pithoragarh district Tuesday, officials said. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced financial assistance to the families of the deceased.

BJP MLA booked in rowdy sheeter's murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 16: Authorities have shut five bridges on the Narmada canals in Gujarat after they were found to be dangerous for vehicular movement during an ongoing inspection drive, officials said Wednesday.

The state government has Besides this, heavy vehicles also conducted a technical have been barred from plying inspection of various bridges on four other bridges in the calocated on the vast Narmada nal network, while instructions canal network in the state as a have been given to the district precautionary measure, it said. administration concerned to According to the Sardar Sa-

close 36 other bridges for repair rovar Narmada Nigam Limited work with immediate effect, the (SSNNL), there are about 2,110 government said in a release. bridges connecting the national All these bridges are part of the and state highways and village

Narmada canal network.

The repair and maintenance

work of various roads and

bridges which are damaged due

to heavy rains is being carried

out on a war footing under the

direction of Chief Minister Bh-

upendra Patel, it said.



Gujarat shuts 5 'dangerous' bridges on Narmada canals

roads passing through this canal network To assess the current condi-

tion of these bridges, prevent

possible damages and extend the life of these structures, a comprehensive visual inspection campaign was conducted

recently by SSNNL on all these bridges, the release said.

Of the five bridges which are completely closed, two are in Morbi district while three are in Surendranagar district, it said.

Bridges located on the Narmada canal network are constantly affected by load carrying vehicles and environmental factors. At such times, regular inspection is extremely important to identify potential hazards and find a solution, it added.

On July 9, several vehicles plunged into the Mahisagar river after a segment of a 40-year-

and asked officials to check quality during the exercise and prioritize the redressal of

old bridge near Gambhira vil

lage, connecting Anand and

Vadodara districts, collapsed

July 9. At least 20 persons were

The state government has

started the repair work of na-

tional and state highways as

well as internal roads of villag-

es, towns and cities which were

damaged due to heavy rains re

cently. On Tuesday, CM Patel

conducted an in-depth review

of the ongoing road and bridge

repair works across the state

killed in the tragedy.

citizens' complaints.

Op Sindoor has shown why indigenous drones are crucial, says CDS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan Wednesday said recent conflicts globally have demonstrated how drones can "shift tactical balance disproportionately", and asserted that self-reliance in UAVs and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) is a

"strategic imperative" for India. In his address at an event held at Manekshaw Centre here, Gen Chauhan also said that during Operation Sindoor. Pakistan used unarmed drones and loiter munitions May 10. "But none of them could

actually inflict any damage to Indian military or civilian infrastructure. Most of them were neutralised through a combination of kinetic and non-kinetic means. Some of them could be recovered in almost intact conditions," he said. The CDS emphasised that Operation Sindoor has "shown us as to why indigenously developed UAS and C-UAS built for our terrain and our needs are crucial". Emphasising the need for modern warfare technology, he also said, "In today's warfare, you cannot win with vesterday's weapon systems. Today's warfare has to be fought with tomorrow's technology." A day-long workshop on 'Indigenisation of Critical

Components Currently Being

New Delhi, July 16: All mega

cities in India, including Kol-

kata, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hv-

derabad and Chennai, saw high

concentration of ground-level

ozone pollution this sum-

mer season, according to a

new analysis by think tank

Centre for Science and Envi-

A previous analysis had

shown that ozone, instead of

particulate matter, was the

main pollutant in Delhi's daily

Air Quality Index (AQI) on sev-

The new analysis by the

CSE's Urban Lab highlighted

that ozone, unlike primary pol-

lutants, is not released directly

It forms through complex

chemical reactions involving

nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile

organic compounds (VOCs) and

carbon monoxide (CO), pollut-

ants emitted by vehicles, pow-

er plants, industries and other

sources of combustion.

eral days this summer.

from any source.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ronment (CSE)

Imported from Foreign OEMs in the Areas of UAV & C-UAS was hosted by Headquarters. Integrated Defence Staff, in collaboration with the think-tank Centre for Joint Warfare Studies. The CDS in his keynote address at the inaugural session said drones are proof of reality, and their widespread utility in recent conflicts demonstrates how drones can shift tactical balance disproportionately to their size or price.

"Asymmetric drone warfare is making large platforms vulnerable and driving militaries to rethink the conceptual aspects of air doctrines, development of C-UAS and adaptive moves of engagement," he said.

The CDS emphasised the importance of technology in warfare and underlined the evolutionary phases through which rifles, guns, ammunition and other platforms have gone through to become smaller, more potent, and convenient to use. "I think their development is kind of evolutionary, but their employment has been very, very revolutionary, as far as warfare is concerned. Initially, their development was for small applications, limited



Submerged Namo Ghat as the Ganga river continues to rise during the monsoon season in Varanasi

Mamata dares Centre to detain her PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banerjee alleged that the ruling dispensation at the Centre was "influencing the Election Commission

central Kolkata. Expressing her resolve to fight the BJP "inch by inch" if it tried to "persecute" Bengali-speaking people, she said that the saffron camp should remain prepared for a fresh round of 'Khela Hobey' (the game-is-on

hit-and-run case sent to iudicial custody PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chandigarh, July 16: A Can-

Accused in Fauja Singh

ada-based man, who allegedly hit world's oldest marathoner Fauja Singh fatally while driving an SUV, was arrested and sent to judicial custody, with officials saying the accused had returned home in Punjab just three weeks ago. Jalandhar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harvinder Singh told a press conference that Amritpal Singh Dhillon (26) was arrested Tues day night, and his vehicle has also been seized. Police took the case as a challenge and solved it within 30 hours, he said. Later in the day, Dhillon was produced before a Jalandhar court, which remanded him to judicial custody for two weeks. Dhillon, a native of Kartarpur, had gone to Canada on a tourist visa, but there he got a work permit, which is valid till 2027, the officer said, add ing the accused came to India late last month. He was nabbed from his Kartarpur home.

Bangalore: Karnataka BJP MLA and former Minister Byrathi Basavaraj has been booked in connection with the murder of a rowdy-sheeterturned-realtor, in front of his mother, police said Wednesday. The BJP leader said he has no idea of the incident, and the complaint was made with malafide intention. According to police, the assailants arrived in a car and murdered Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shivu in Bharathi Nagar in the city Tuesday night.

4 juveniles accused of raping Class IX student

Ghaziabad: A Class IX student was allegedly raped inside her house here by four boys -- three of them known to her from school. with the police launching an investigation into the matter. officials said Wednesday. Her mother had gone out to the market, police said. "The minor girl was in contact with a boy on Instagram who was messaging her to meet. On Sunday, he reached her house around 11.30 am and knocked the door. When she opened the gate, he along with three other boys forcibly barged into the room and took turns to force themselves on her," an official said.

2 dead in fire at east Delhi house

New Delhi: Two people died and four others were injured after a fire broke out at a house in east Delhi's Old Govindpura area Tuesday evening, an official said. Police have identified the deceased as Tanveer (28) and Nusrat.

the realisation of their scope of deployment, utility and success increased, the Army started using drones in a revolutionary way," the CDS asserted.

ranges, restricted pavloads. As

Underlying the ethos of Atmanirbharta, Gen Chauhan asserted that "we cannot rely on imported niche technologies that are crucial for our offensive and defensive missions; we must invest, build and safeguard ourselves". The CDS cautioned that foreign weapons. sensors and their capabilities are known to all, and adversaries can "predict our tactics and doctrinal concepts" based on the capabilities of these systems.

gali-speaking people across the country and warned the saffron party of dire political consequences if it did not put an immediate stop to such actions. "I have decided to speak more in Bangla from now on, hold me in detention camps if you can," she said while attacking the BJP.

Kolkata, July 16: West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Baner-

jee lashed out at the BJP-led

Centre Wednesday for what,

she called, its policy of ha-

rassing and mistreating Ben-

Banerjee also alleged that the ruling dispensation at the Centre was "influencing the Election Commission of India" to achieve its political ambitions across states. She was speaking at a public meeting after holding a protest march in rain-drenched

of India" to achieve its political ambitions across states

Kolkata against the alleged torture of Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states. 'I will challenge the central government notices which were surreptitiously sent to BJP-ruled states to harass Bengali-speaking people and detain them at the slightest suspicion," the Trinamool Congress supremo alleged at the rally, which terminated at the Dorina Crossing in

slogan coined ahead of the 2021 state polls) during the Assembly elections in 2026.

Asserting that there are nearly 22 lakh migrant workers from Bengal working in other parts of the country. who have valid identity documents like Aadhar, EPIC and PAN cards, Banerjee said she would not tolerate any disrespect meted out to them on flimsy grounds. "What right does the BJP have in harassing Bengalis like this, even arresting them and forcefully pushing them back to Bangladesh? Is West Bengal not part of India?" she asked.

Mega cities face high ozone pollution this summer Between March 1 and May 31 this year, Mumbai recorded ozone grams per cubic metre. exceedance on 32 out of 92 days across its monitoring stations, a 42-per cent drop compared to the same period last year he worst day in terms of spread

was March 29, when eight out of 31 stations reported exceedance

The highest ground-level ozone concentration recorded was 90 micrograms per cubic metre

is also important to adequately capture the high levels of local build-up and exposures in the hotspots and design mitigation strategies accordingly.

Between March 1 and May 31 this year, Mumbai recorded ozone exceedance on 32 out of 92 days across its monitoring stations, a 42-per cent drop compared to the same period last year. The worst day in terms of spread was March 29, when eight out of 31 stations reported exceedance. The highest ground-level ozone concentration recorded was 90 micro-

In Kolkata, ozone levels crossed the safe limit on 22 out of 92 days, a 45-per cent decline compared to last summer. The city also saw an overall improvement, with the average hourly ozone peak dropping by 22 per cent.

Bengaluru saw ozone exceedance on 45 of the 92 days, a 29-per cent increase from last year. The worst day was March 31, when four of 14 stations recorded levels above the standard.

Hyderabad recorded 20 ozone exceedance days, a 55-per cent drop compared to last summer. The highest ozone level recorded in the city was 51 micrograms per cubic metre.

Chennai saw ozone exceedance on 15 days this summer. No such exceedance was reported during the same period last year. In comparison, the city had three exceedance days in 2023 and 19 in 2022. The highest level this year was 64 micrograms per cubic metre.

Popular Meghalaya bakery shut down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, July 16: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have shut down the popular bakery RB Store here for allegedly using newspa pers to wrap its items like bread and cakes, in violation of norms, officials said here Wednesday.

The RB Store outlet is in Po lice Bazaar area in the state capital. The family-owned bak ery has been functioning since 1950. In a sweeping crackdown to ensure public food safety four other eateries were also or dered to close, including Arun Hotel, Maa Kali Hotel, and two fast food outlets. Officials said the action was taken following inspections that revealed gross violations of hygiene and food safety regulations.

These substances react in the presence of sunlight, leading to the formation of ozone at the ground level. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director at the CSE, said: "If unchecked, this can become a serious public health crisis as ozone is a highly-reactive gas and can be harmful even with short-duration exposures." The current policy focus

must be expanded to include improved monitoring, the mitigation of this toxic gas and a reduction in high local exposures.

Sharanjeet Kaur, deputy programme manager at the CSE's Urban Lab, said: "Inadequate monitoring, limited data and inadequate methods of trend analysis have weakened the understanding of this growing public health hazard across cities of India. Instead of merely averaging out the levels for the city, which is the standard practice to estimate the AQI, it

















national



The BJP-led Union

government does not have even a little concern for the Tamils or the Tamil Nadu fishermen and they (BJP) are only doing politics over who ceded Katchatheevu (to Sri Lanka) MK STALIN TN CM

ONE MORE NIPAH CASE SUSPECTED IN PALAKKAD

Health authorities in Kerala have stepped up Nipah containment efforts after a fresh suspected case was reported in Palakkad district. The new suspected case is the son of a man who recently died of infection in the district, state Health Minister Veena George said in a release Wednesday



2 NEET aspirants die

by suicide in Nagpur

Nagpur, July 16: In a deeply

distressing incident that has sent shockwaves through Nagpur and

beyond, two students preparing

for the NEET medical entrance

exam died by suicide within a

Khwahish Devram Nagare, a

16-year-old resident of Balaghat

in Madhya Pradesh, took his

own life. The incident occurred

under the jurisdiction of the

Ambazari police station of Nag-

pur city. He had come to Nag

pur to prepare for the NEET

exam and was attending coach

ing classes at PhysicsWallah

Tuition Centre on Canal Road.

Living in a private hostel in

the city, Khwahish was found

hanging from a ceiling fan in

his room Wednesday morning.

step, he left behind a short note

that read: "Sorry. mom-dad, I

won't be able to do it." The poi-

gnant message has shaken parents,

teachers, and the academic com-

munity, once again highlighting

the dark side of competitive exam

culture and the weight of expecta

tions placed on young shoulders

Just a few hours ago, a 17-year-old

girl, Vaidehi Anil Uike, also died

by suicide while preparing for the

Before taking the extreme

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

few hours of each other.



Guru Sahib spent nearly 14 years in this holy town, and it was a moment of great pride for me to participate in

the 25th-anniversary celebration of the Kar Sewa (voluntary service) of the holy Kali Bein

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

Wayanad Coffee has received a Special Mention

under Category A Agriculture in the Gol's ODOP program - the first such recognition

for any product from Kerala PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS MF

However what Uddhav and Rai Thackeray are doing is

against Balasaheb Thackeray's vision. We also love Marathi. Bullying can be answered

with bullying. In Maharashtra, there is Devendra Fadnavis's government and those who do such bullying will be taught a lesson RAMDAS ATHAWALE UNION MINISTER





Corruption: 85th Happiness : 128th Road Quality : 45th Global HUNGER : 107th Press Freedom : 142nd Internet Freedom: 78th Global Innovation : 39th Gender Inequality : 122nd

Air Quality (Most Polluted) : 5th Ease of Doing Business : 63rd Standard of Living : 124th **Quality of Life : 124th** Global Peace: 135th No. 1 in Population, Hate & Bigotry.

@Polytikles

SHORT TAKES

SIT's probe into Ashoka

8 Delhi schools

get bomb threats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Several schools across the national capital received bomb threats on Wednesday morning, triggering panic and prompting immediate evacuations. Authorities carried out extensive checking and declared the threats as hoaxes.

tained for sending a bomb threat to St Thomas School in Dwarka July 15. The school received another bomb threat in less than 24 hours Wednesday, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said the boy was identified and detained for sending the bomb

threat e-mail Tuesday. "He was counselled and handed over to his family members," Singh said in a video statement. Along with St. Thomas School. seven other schools received a bomb threat e-mail Wednesday. All threats were found be fake after investigation.

The schools were Vasant Valley School in Vasant Kunj, Mother International in Hauz Khas, Richmond Global School in Paschim Vihar, Prudence School in Paschim Vihar and Pitampura, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in Lodhi Estate, and St Thomas School in Paschim Vi-

har. The e-mails were received between 5.26 am and 8.12 am. In total, 10 e-mails were received by the schools. A senior police officer said the schools were thoroughly checked and nothing suspicious was found.

This was the third consecutive day of bomb threats targeting several schools in Delhi. All turned out to be hoaxes. In an e-mail to parents, the

school authorities of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya said, "Due to a potential bomb threat received this morning, and as advised by the police, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya will remain closed today.



New Delhi, July 16: In a major push towards green energy, the government Wednesday enhanced the investment limit of state-owned NTPC to ₹20,000 crore and also allowed public sector NLCIL to pump in ₹7,000 crore in renewable ;energy projects.

The enhanced delegation of power will enable NTPC to achieve 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032. The existing investment limit for the Maharatna company's renewable energy is ₹7,500 crore.

NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has been permitted to invest ₹7,000 crore in its wholly-owned subsidiary, NLC India Renewables Ltd (NIRL), which in turn will invest in various projects directly or through joint ventures, without prior approval.

These decisions were taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Giving details about the CCEA decisions, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources five years ahead of the target



Cabinet clears PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

GREEN ENERGY

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' with an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore for six years to cover 100 districts, benefiting about 1.7 crore farmers. The scheme is in pursuance of the Budget announcement for 2025-26 to develop 100 districts to enhance agricultural productivity, increase adoption of crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices.

set under its Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

NTPC will invest in its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL). Further, NGEL will invest in NTPC

Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) and its other JVs and

"The enhanced delegation given to NTPC and NGEL will facilitate accelerated development of renewable projects in the country. This move will also play a vital role in strengthening power infrastructure and ensuring investment in providing reliable, round-the-clock electricity access across the nation," an official release said. India is aiming to reach 500

GW of non-fossil energy capacitv bv 2030. As a Central Public Sector

Enterprise (CPSE) and the leading power utility of the country, NTPC aims to add 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032 to help the country achieve the target and move towards a larger aim of having 'Net Zero' emissions by 2070.

subsidiaries.

tive exams like NEET.

same exam. She was staying in another part of the city, under the jurisdiction of Hingna police station Her death, too, has been reg istered as an accidental death by the police. The back-to-back suicides have sparked concern. with questions being raised about the intense academic pressure students face while preparing for highly competi-

SNIPPETS

Aadhaar OTP verification mandatory for online Tatkal booking: Railways

Jammu: Railway authorities have officially mandated Aadhaar verification through OTP for online ticket bookings under the Tatkal system across the country, a senior railway official said Wednesday. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Northern Railway, Uchit Singhal announced that from July 15 onwards, Aadhaar OTP verification became mandatory for online Tatkal booking. Singhal emphasised that these amendments were made to ensure fair and transparent access to Tatkal tickets for passengers, protecting their interests and ensuring that genuine users benefit from the system. "Passengers will not be able to get Tatkal tickets without verification through mobile OTP. Under the new system, Tatkal tickets will be available for booking through the IRCTC's official website, mobile app, or the Indian Railways' PRS counters," he said.

Delhi-Goa IndiGo flight makes emergency landing in Mumbai over engine failure



Banni Grasslands ready to host cheetahs: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wednesday.

New Delhi, July 16: The

Banni Grasslands in Gujarat,

the largest such expanse in the

Indian subcontinent and one of

the 10 sites selected for cheetah

rehabilitation in the country,

is now fully prepared to host

the big cats, officials said

life), Gujarat, told PTI that a breeding centre for cheetahs

has been set up and efforts are

Jaipal Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild-

A 12-year-old student was de-

prof questioned by SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday questioned Haryana SIT's line of investigation in the case of Ashoka University professor booked for social media posts on Operation Sindoor saying "it misdirected itself". A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the Harvana SIT headed by a senior police officer to only confine itself to the two FIRs against Ali Khan Mahmudabad over his contentious social media posts and see if there was an offence and submit its report in four weeks.

SGPC receives 5 e-mail threats since July 14

Amritsar: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has received five e-mails threatening to blow up the Golden Temple since July 14, president of the apex gurdwara body Harjinder Singh Dhami said Wednesday. Talking to reporters here, Dhami said the five e-mails threatening of bomb attacks are a matter of concern

Himachal: Landslide blocks NH 707

Shimla: A landslide near Shillai in Himachal's Sirmaur district Wednesday blocked National Highway 707 (Hatkoti to Paonta) as a huge part of the mountain fell, completely blocking vehicular movement. Restoration work is underway, but debris falling from the mountain is obstructing the work, officials said. This has led to long queues of vehicles on both sides of the slide. Reports of fallen trees obstructing traffic were also reported from Shimla.

underway to further enhance the prey population of chital and sambar.

'We are ready with everything, including quarantine and soft release bomas (enclosures). However, the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Cheetah Project Steering Committee will decide when the animals will be brought here," he said. Singh said a 600-hectare en-

closure has been developed, the herbivore population has been increased, and facilities such as CCTV monitoring and a dedicated veterinary centre have been established.

Fences have been installed to prevent the infiltration of other large carnivores into the cheetah enclosures.



Volunteers make a mural as part of Rouble Nagi Art Foundation's 'Wall of Peace' initiative to beautify the scenic mountain town of Baramulla through the transformative power of art, in Baramulla, J&K

LG orders probe into Kejriwal's Jai Bhim scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has ordered a probe alleging corruption in the 'Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana launched by the previous AAP government, Education Minister Ashish Sood said Wednesday. The decision was taken

based on the recommendation of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who in a post on X said, "Allega-

tions of major financial irregularities have emerged in the 'Jai Bhim Mukhvamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana' during 2020-21.'

She alleged that while the official budget for the scheme was ₹15 crore, the Arvind Kejriwal government cleared bills worth over ₹145 crore. The scheme. launched in 2018, was aimed at providing free coaching to SC, ST, OBC, EWS and minority students at private coaching institutes for various com-

petitive exams, including the UPSC, SSC, NEET, and CLAT. The scheme was discontinued when the new government was formed in February this year. Addressing a press conference, Sood, flanked by SC/ ST Welfare Minister Ravinder Indraj, alleged that during 2021-22, private coaching institutes submitted bills of ₹145 crore, despite minimal documentation and no proper verification of beneficiaries.

Mumbai: A Goa-bound IndiGo flight from Delhi made an emergency landing here after it was diverted to the city due to a mid-air engine failure, according to a source. The flight, operated with an Airbus A320neo, made an emergency landing at 9.52 pm, the source said. The number of people on board could not be immediately known. "Full emergency declared for IndiGo flight 6E-6271, operating on Delhi-Goa route after it was diverted to Mumbai due to one engine failure," the source said.

Colonel assault case: Punjab and Haryana HC transfers probe to CBI

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court Wednesday transferred to the CBI the investigation into the alleged assault of a colonel by Puniab Police personnel over a parking dispute in March. The alleged incident took place on the intervening night of March 13 and 14 when Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath and his son were having food at a roadside dhaba (eatery) in Patiala. The court's directive came two days after the high court reprimanded Chandigarh Police over its probe into the matter. The petitioner in its fresh plea sought an independent probe preferably by the CBI, said his lawyer Deepinder Singh Virk. After the hearing in the matter Wednesday, Justice Rajesh Bhardwai transferred the case to the CBI. Virk added.

Nutritious bite for MPs, officials: Parl gets new Health Menu

Along with delicious curries and elaborate 'thalis', also on offer are millet-based meals, fibre-rich salads and protein-packed soups, part of a broader effort to support a healthy diet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: From ragi millet idli and jowar upma to moong dal chilla and grilled fish with vegetables, Parliament's new 'Health Menu' plans to serve up a plateful of nutrition for lawmakers, officials and visitors to the temple of

democracy Designed at the instance of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to support wellness without sacrificing flavour, the revamped culinary offerings aim to nourish parliamentarians and officials as they navigate long hours of debate and decision-making

during Parliament's sessions. The Parliament canteen has rolled out this special menu that blends tradition with nu-

trition to promote healthier lifestyles in the corridors of power

Along with delicious curries and elaborate 'thalis', also on offer are millet-based meals, fibre-rich salads and protein-packed soups, part of a broader effort to support a healthy diet.

Each dish has been carefully crafted to be low in carbohydrates, sodium, and calories while remaining high in essential nutrients. Besides, the Health Menu has the number of calories mentioned against the names of the dishes.

"Each dish is carefully curated to meet the highest nutritional standards — low in carbohydrates, low in sodium and low in calories, while be-



ing high in fibre and rich in protein," the menu stated.

Millets, thrust into the national spotlight during the UN-declared International Year of Millets in 2023, take the centrestage in the menu.

Highlights include 'Ragi

Millet Idli' with 'Sambhar' and 'Chutney' (270 kcal), 'Jowar Upma' (206 kcal) and a sugar-free 'Mix Millet Kheer' (161 kcal).

Popular Indian staples like 'Chana Chaat' and 'Moong Dal Chilla' also feature prominently. For lighter snacks, MPs can

choose from a range of colourful salads such as 'Barley' and 'Jowar Salad' (294 kcal) and 'Garden Fresh Salad' (113 kcal), alongside warming bowls of 'Roast Tomato' and 'Basil Shorba' and 'Vegetable Clear Soup'.

Those preferring non-vegetarian meals have not been left out, with lean options like 'Grilled Chicken' with 'Boiled Vegetables' (157 kcal) and 'Grilled Fish' (378 kcal) on offer.

The beverage menu mirrors this health-first approach with green and herbal teas, 'Masala Sattu' and jaggery-flavoured 'Mango Panna' replacing sugar-laden sodas and traditional sweets. Recognising the urgencv of promoting healthier choices, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his recent Mann Ki

Baat address, stressed the need for nationwide awareness and collective action to combat obesity -- particularly through re ducing edible oil consumption

The Lok Sabha Speaker has been organising regular health check-up camps for parliamentarians when the House is in session. Several experts have also delivered lectures on hav ing a healthy lifestyle and diet for parliamentarians.

Reinforcing this commitment, the government has launched several initiatives, including the Fit India Movement, National Pro gramme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), POSHAN Abhiyaan, Eat Right India and Khelo India.









OrissaPC THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR international



Under current circumstances, both sides believe it is very important for China and Europe to strengthen dialogue and cooperation LIN JIAN SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

ITALY MAY RELEASE UP TO 10K PRISONERS

Italy may release up to around 10,000 people from prison, or about 15% of the total population of inmates, to ease overcrowding, the Justice Ministry has announced. Some 10,105 prisoners are ""potentially eligible" for alternative measures to prison, such as house arrest or probation



uote 777 Pak civilian-military meeting sparks buzz: Who's next? day

Each state must immediately review and sus pend all ties with the State of Israel ... and ensure its

private sector does the same FRANCESCA ALBANESE | UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR GAZA

The entire nation must work more to produce, to increase overall national activity throughout the year, and to improve France's

situation

FRANCOIS BAYROU | PRIME MINISTER, FRANCE



(Israel), is very praiseworthy AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENE SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

SHORT TAKES

Indian student jailed for 35 months

Singapore: A 22-yearold Indian student was Wednesday sentenced to 35 months in prison for causing the death of a fellow Indian national by pushing him into the river while intoxicated. Legha Pawan pleaded guilty to voluntarily causing grievous hurt to Jasbir Singh, a 33-yearold construction worker, on the night of June 30 last year. The original charge of causing death by a rash act was reduced and another charge was taken into consideration. according to a Channel News Asia report. Singh, who was married with two young children in India, had been the sole breadwinner for his family. The court heard that both Legha and Singh were intoxicated June 30 night when the incident happened.

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Pakistan Airlines to resume UK services

Islamabad: Pakistan's national carrier Wednesday inched closer to resuming flights to the UK after London removed the ban imposed on PIA due to

The latest round of rumours came after Field Marshal Munir called on Sharif at the PM House shortly before the latter met Zardari at the president's house Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 16: The latest meeting of Pakistan's top civilian and military leadership has once again fuelled rumours of a possible change in the country's political landscape amid speculations of the army chief possibly aspiring to be the next president.

This is the third time this month that there have been widespread speculations about the change in presidency, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself last week dismissing rumours that President Asif Ali Zardari may be forced to step down and army chief



Field Marshal Asim Munir to assume his post. The latest round of rumours

came after Field Marshal Munir called on Sharif at the PM House shortly before the latter met Zardari at the president's house Tuesday, The Express

Tribune reported. The high-level engagements have taken place amid growing speculation about a possible 27th constitutional amendment and rumours suggesting Zardari may step down to make way for his successor, the report said.

The speculation, largely fuelled by social media, hinted at behind-the-scenes efforts to replace the parliamentary system with a presidential form of government

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the speculations were "unfounded", but confirmed the issue of media reports regarding the president's resignation and his possible replacement by the army chief indeed came up during the meeting between Zardari and Sharif.

He said the speculation

stemmed from a media report that was possibly retracted.

Earlier July 11, strongly dismissing rumours that Zardari may be forced to step down and Munir aspired to assume the presidency, Sharif said such claims were "mere speculations'

"Field Marshal Asim Munir has never expressed any desire to become the president, nor is there any such plan in the offing," Sharif told The News.

Sharif's clarification had come after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in a statement on X July 10, denounced the "malicious campaign" targeting Zardari, Sharif and Munir

'We are fully aware of who is behind the malicious campaign," Naqvi, who is considered close to the top military leadership, had said.

and said Zardari was apprised about the developments and he showed "full confidence" in the government and the current political system.

"The president was fully aware of the issue and expressed his full confidence in the government." Asif told The Express Tribune, adding that Sharif briefed Zardari about the unconfirmed story and the subsequent developments. "It's

all kite flying," he said. While confirming that Sharif had a meeting with the field marshal before the PM-led delegation called on Zardari, Asif said there was nothing unusual about it as the premier and field marshal routinely meet three times in a week to discuss different issues

"The army chief has no interest in politics," Asif claimed.

The defence minister said the army chief already held the highest office in the military and has earned massive respect following Pakistan's recent conflict with India.



S company DTEK said on the Telegram app. The air force said it had shot down most of the drones, but that 12 targets were hit by 57 drones and the missile.

Crush at Gaza aid site kills 20, GHF blames armed agitators



Kviv: Russia attacked cities across Ukraine overnight with

infrastructure and wounding at least 15 people, authorities

drones and one ballistic missile, primarily targeting Kharkiy.

Ukraine. The large-scale long-range attacks targeted energy

was cut for 80,000 families in Kryvyi Rih and other locations

Kryyyi Rih and Vinnytsia - three cities in different parts of

hundreds of drones and a missile strike, hitting energy

Cairo/Jerusalem: At least 20 Palestinians were killed Wednesday at an aid distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in what the US-backed group said was a crowd surge instigated by armed agitators. The GHF, which is supported by Israel, said 19 people were trampled and one fatally stabbed during the crush at one of its centres in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. "We have credible reason to believe that elements within the crowd - armed and affiliated with Hamas - deliberately fomented the unrest," GHF said in a statement. Hamas rejected the GHF

allegation as "false and misleading", saying GHF guards and Israeli soldiers sprayed people with pepper gas and opened fire. GHF said Hamas' account was "blatantly false". "At no point was tear gas deployed, nor were shots fired into the crowd. Limited use of pepper spray was deployed, only to safeguard additional loss of life," GHF said in a written response to Reuters via e-mail.

4 killed in clashes during NCP rally in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, July 16: At least four people were killed in clashes over a rally organised by the National Citizen Party (NCP) Wednesday in Gopalganj, the hometown of Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, according to media reports.

The hometown of Rahman, also known as Bangabandhu turned into a virtual battlefield as hundreds of supporters of his daughter and deposed premier Sheikh Hasina clashed with police, ahead of the planned march of student-led NCP, Prothom Alo newspaper reported.

Three of the deceased were identified as Dipto Saha (25), Ramazan Kazi (18) and Sohel Molla (41), the paper said.

The deceased were brought to Gopalganj General Hospital with gunshot injuries, doctors said, adding that nine more people were being treated at the facility with bullet wounds.

Four extra platoons (nearly 200 soldiers) of the paramili tary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were rushed to Gopalganj as authorities vowed stern action against those who carried out attacks on the NCP

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's office said a 22-hour curfew has been ordered from 8 pm Wednesday for Gopalganj adding the perpetrators of the attack on the NCP would not go unpunished.

According to media reports and witnesses, the protesters, equipped with bamboo sticks and brickbats, clashed with police and security forces, in cluding the army and paramilitary BGB

The security arrangements were made to facilitate a planned rally by the newly-floated National Citizen Party (NCP), which emerged as an offshoot of the Students against Discrimination movement in February, with the support of interim government chief Muhammad Yunus.

part of the deal...India is basically working along that same line. We are going to have access to India," he said

New Delhi hopes it will be able to strike a deal with the US to avoid the reciprocal tariffs. At the same time, India has indicated that it will not enter into the trade deal in a hurry.

Indian market in line with the trade pact between the US and Indonesia August 1. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Trump hints at trade deal with India soon

Washington, July 16: President Donald Trump has indicated that the ongoing negotiations between India and the US for a



Washington has already sent

letters to several countries sharing details of reciprocal tariff rates that would come into effect

.

Amid intense speculation about a potential shift in the country's power and political structure, the defence minister categorically refuted all the speculations Wednesday,

air safety concerns. "Following air safety improvements, the UK's Air Safety Committee has lifted UK restrictions on Pakistani carriers. Individual airline carriers will still need to apply for permits to operate to the UK through the UK Civil Aviation Authority," the British High Commission said here in a statement. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was banned from operating in EU countries and the UK after the 2020 air crash, followed by a scandal about the licensing of Pakistani pilots.

3 killed in firing on passenger bus

Karachi: Three persons were killed and seven others injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a passenger bus in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Wednesday, a senior official said. The vehicle was going from Karachi to provincial capital Quetta when it came under attack in the Kalat area of the restive region, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Ukraine's parl votes to dismiss PM

Kyiv: The Ukrainian parliament voted to dismiss Prime Minister Denvs Shmvhal Wednesdav. lawmakers said, part of a government overhaul aimed at strengthening wartime economic and military management. The move effectively dissolves the cabinet, and lawmakers are expected to approve new members Thursday

much-anticipated interim trade deal are on track and it could be sealed soon.

Trump said the proposed

deal could provide

American companies

greater access to the

Trump said the proposed deal could provide American companies greater access to the Indian market in line with the trade pact between the US and Indonesia.

India and the US have been holding negotiations for the trade pact primarily to keep the tariffs below 20 per cent.

"We made a deal with Indonesia...We have full access into Indonesia," the US president told reporters.

The US president said his administration is going to announce a few other trade deals and mentioned India in that context. Under the trade deal, Indonesia is giving the US access to the country, which we

India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines and will accept the proposed trade deal with the US only when it is fully finalised, properly concluded and in the national interest, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said earlier this month.

An Indian commerce ministry team is in Washington for another round of talks on the proposed trade agreement.

India has hardened its position on the US demand for duty concessions on agri and dairy products. New Delhi has, so far, not given any duty concessions to any of its trading partners in a free trade agreement in the dairy sector.

New Delhi is seeking the removal of this additional tariff (26 per cent).



Lava emerges through a fissure following a volcano eruption near Grindavik, Reykjanes, Iceland

Ukraine celebrates Trump's weapons reversal, but 'devil's in details'

REUTERS

Washington, July 16: President Donald Trump has finally found a way to like arming Ukraine: ask European allies to donate their weapons, and sell them American replacements.

Now comes the hard part agreeing on who will actually give up their prized systems, including the Patriot missile batteries that Kyiv has been desperately seeking.

"We're going to make top-ofthe-line weapons, and they'll be sent to NATO," Trump said in the Oval Office Monday.

Some Patriot missile defense systems should arrive in Ukraine "within days," added Trump, who faces resistance from some high-profile figures in the MAGA movement who oppose US support for Ukraine. The costly Patriot systems

· in high demand among US allies - have proven effective at destroying Russian ballistic missiles aimed at Ukraine's cities.

The US has also signaled willingness under the proposed arrangement with European allies to send additional offensive weapons, said one source familiar with the matter, though Trump has said that Ukraine should refrain from attacking Moscow. The plan, which Trump

and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte hatched in recent days, according to two sources familiar with the discussions.

has been received positively by Ukraine and its allies. Leaders in Kyiv and elsewhere have celebrated a major tonal shift from Trump, who had until recent weeks spoken glowingly of Russian President

Vladimir Putin.

But since the announcement, it has become clear Trump presented a framework - not a fleshed-out plan. How material any support ends up being for Ukraine will depend on com-

ing negotiations about who provides which equipment, according to 10 officials in the US and Europe.

"As always with these things. the devil is in the details," said one northern European ambasStill no clarity on which Scountries will send weapons to Ukraine

rump admin examining NATO stockpiles to come up with plan

US-NATO weapons purchasing scheme hatched in recent days

sador in Washington.

The central question is who would donate the Patriot batteries, and when.

SPARE A PATRIOT?

During his Oval Office meeting with Trump Monday, Rutte mentioned six NATO countries Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and Canada - that were willing to participate in the weapons-purchasing scheme.

High-ranking sources at two of those countries' embassies in the US told Reuters they personally learned of the plan as it was announced. Even close US allies appeared to learn of the proposal in real time.

"It is my clear sense that nobody has been briefed about the exact details in advance, and I also suspect that internally in the administration they are only now beginning to sort out what it means in practice," said a separate European ambassador.

Kurt Volker, a former US ambassador to NATO, said Trump found a way to balance support for Ukraine with the political realities of the Republican Par ty. Having the European allies underwrite US arms supplies is "very consistent with what he (Trump) said during the campaign," he said.















business



A bad deal. especially one that removes India's tariffs without reciprocal benefits, could be worse than no deal at all AJAY SRIVASTAVA

MARUTI SUZUKI HIKES PRICES OF ERTIGA, BALENO

Maruti Suzuki India Wednesday said prices of Ertiga and Baleno will increase by up to 1.4 per cent with immediate effect due to the inclusion of six airbags as standard fitment in the models. The standardisation of six airbags will result in an average ex-showroom price increase of 1.4 per cent in Ertiga and 0.5 per cent in Baleno. Premium hatchback Baleno is priced between Rs 6.7 lakh and Rs 9.92 lakh while Ertiga is tagged between Rs 8.97 lakh and Rs 13.25 lakh



of the day uote

This move ment follows a three-day consolidation phase for the US-**DINR pair, ranging** from 85.70 to 86.05.

The sentiment remains acutely favourable for the dollar, driven by expectations of a hawkish Federal **Reserve post-US inflation data and** persistent uncertainties regarding India-US trade agreements DILIP PARMAR

RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

Gold edged higher to \$3,346 per ounce, support ed by renewed tariff threats from President Trump, who signalled possible levies on pharmaceuticals, with additional duties on semiconductors also

under consideration KAYNAT CHAINWALA AVP-COMMODITY RESEARCH, KOTAK SECURITIES

It is fascinating to see how Indian travellers seamlessly blend convenience with cultural connection

on their iournevs SANTOSH KUMAR | BOOKING.COM REGIONAL MANAGER - SOUTH ASIA

01 RESULTS

ITC Hotels profit rises

New Delhi: ITC Hotels Ltd Wednesday reported a 53 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 133.71 crore in the June guarter, on the back of higher revenue. The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 87.16 crore in the first quarter last fiscal, said it is targeting to reach 220 operational hotels and more than 20,000 keys by 2030. Consolidated revenue from operations in the April-June quarter stood at Rs 815.54 crore against Rs 705.84 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, ITC Hotels said in a regulatory filing. Total expenses in the guarter under review were higher at Rs 674.97 crore compared to Rs 596.41 crore in the same period last fiscal. In the first quarter, room revenues delivered strong growth driven by

NPCI expands UPI corridor

NPCI has expanded the UPI-PayNow international remittance service with 13 new banks. This enhancement allows customers of these banks to send real-time cross-border remittances to Singapore via UPI

New Delhi, July 16: NPCI International Payments Wednesday said it has enhanced the UPI-PayNow real-time payment linkage between India and Singapore by adding 13 more Indian banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The expanded network for remittances to India now includes 19 banks.

"With this development, which will go live July 17, 2025, users in both countries can remit funds to a wider base, making the service more accessible and convenient," NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) said in a release.

NIPL is the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

The UPI-PayNow service was launched as a joint initiative between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The 19 banks are Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank,

IDFC FIRST Bank, IndusInd

Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Ko-

tak Mahindra Bank, Punjab

National Bank, South Indian



Bank, UCO Bank alongside Axis Bank, DBS Bank India, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and State

Bank of India Recipients in India can receive remittances from Singapore in their accounts held with any of these 19 banks through their preferred UPI-enabled apps such as BHIM, Google Pay and PhonePe, as well as bank apps.

Outward remittances from India to Singapore are available through Canara Bank, HDFC Bank and Karur Vysva Bank, along with ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas

Bank and State Bank of India. In Singapore, customers of DBS SG and Liquid Group can avail of this service.

"The expansion of the UPI-PayNow linkage marks a step forward in strengthening cross-border payment infrastructure. By enabling access to more banks in India, we are deepening the reach of real-time remittances and supporting greater financial connectivity between the two countries," Ritesh Shukla, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of NPCI International, said. facilitates real-time

cross-border fund transfers between individuals, where Indian users can receive funds via UPI ID and send funds to users in Singapore via their mobile number or Virtual Payment Address (VPAs).

As the world's first cloudbased, real-time cross-border payment system, the initiative is a pioneering step in global payment connectivity, NPCI said. NPCI said the latest development is particularly beneficial for the Indian diaspora in Singapore, including migrant workers and students, bringing the ease of digital payments to everyday remittances.

UPI is already accepted via QR codes at select merchant outlets in Singapore, further extending its utility.

UPI-PayNow integration enables real-time cross-border remittance transactions, with funds reaching the recipient's bank account within seconds. The service leverages strong security protocols to ensure safe and reliable transfers.

It is ideal for small and frequent remittances, providing users with a convenient and cost-effective way to send and receive money anytime, it added.

SBI to raise ₹45K-cr via equity, debt issue in FY26



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Country's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) will raise up to Rs 45,000 crore by equity and debt issuances, including up to $\operatorname{Rs}25{,}000$ crore by way of QIP, which opened Wednesday.

In a regulatory filing, SBI Wednesday said it will raise up to Rs 20,000 crore by issuing bonds to domestic investors during the current fiscal.

Separately, SBI also launched its share sale to institutional buvers via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) on Wednesday at a floor price of Rs 811.05 apiece. The bank said it may offer a discount of up to 5 per cent on the floor price.

The bank is looking to raise up to Rs 25,000 crore through the QIP. The floor price is at a discount of 2.46 per cent over the Wednesday closing share price of Rs 831.55 a share.

The fundraising of up to \$3 billion (about Rs 25,000 crore) through public offer or private placement in FY26 was approved by the SBI's central board in May. Thereafter, the shareholders had cleared the same in June.

SBI had last raised Rs 15.000 crore in 2017-18 through the QIP route. Shares of SBI settled 1.81 per cent higher at Rs 831.55 apiece on the BSE.

or supply through notional pre-

to identify a domestic bench

mark that should be adopted

uniformly across the mutual

fund industry for gold and sil

At present, there are multiple

sources of domestic spot prices

such as commodity exchanges

jeweller associations, and index

providers, leading to further in

Additionally, SEBI has al-

so proposed that the detailed

polling mechanism used by

domestic regulated entities for

determining spot prices -- in-

cluding the methodology and

policies ensuring fair conduct

Additionally, SEBI is looking

miums or discounts.

ver valuation.

consistency.

Stock markets edge up amid global trends **BSE SENSEX JULY 16, 2025** PA 82,613.54



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 16: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally higher in a rangebound trade Wednesday as investors stayed on the sidelines amid weak global market trends and tariff-related uncertaintv Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 63.57 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 82,634.48. During the day, it hit a high of 82,784,75 and a low of 82,342,94. The 50-share NSE Nifty ended 16.25 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 25,212.05.



pany posted a 30 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1.128.8 crore in the June guarter of FY26

over the year-ago period. Infosys rebounded by 1.5 per cent, helping the key in-

dices close in green. Foreign Institutional Investors (FI-

SEBI brings new norms for valuation of gold, silver ETFs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Security Exchange Board of India (SE-BI) is considering a review of the valuation methodology for physical gold and silver held by mutual funds through exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to ensure greater consistency and better alignment with prevailing domestic market prices.

In this regard, SEBI has proposed that AMCs should use spot prices published by domestic commodity exchanges to value gold and silver, replacing the current practice of using LBMA prices, according to its consultation paper Wednesday. It is also looking to identify a

mestic commodity exchanges. uniform domestic benchmark This variation in valuation and make the detailed polling methods for the same undermechanism for spot price delying asset has highlighted the need for standardization. termination publicly available. Currently, gold held by any

Accordingly, SEBI, in its con-

by mutual fund schemes are

valued using the closing price

of futures on the respective do-



it may be mandated that AMCs directly use the spot prices published by the domestic commodity exchanges to value the gold and silver." SEBI said.

This will aid in the reduction of duplication of efforts and also represent the market prices of gold and silver as per the domestic demand and supply scenarios, it added. The move is expected to sim-

 be made public. Currently, spot prices are deplify the valuation process, rived through polling from parwhich currently involves usticipants in the physical market ing LBMA prices in USD, consuch as traders and importers with exchanges applying statis tical methods to calculate the final price.



While the physical gold and

per thousand. Similarly, silver held by a silver ETF scheme is valued at the AM fixing price of the LBMA in US dollars per troy ounce for silver having a fineness of 999.0 parts per thousand.

silver held by gold and silver ETFs are valued based on the LBMA price after necessary conversions. the Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs) on gold and silver held

superior performance across retail, MICE and wedding segments, ITC Hotels said in a statement.

Tech Mahindra net profit rises New Delhi: IT services firm

Tech Mahindra Wednesday posted a 33.9 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the April-June quarter to Rs 1,140.6 crore. The Pune-headquartered firm had logged a net profit (attributable to owners of the company) of Rs 851.5 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations for the first quarter of FY26 came in 2.65 per cent higher at Rs 13,351.2 crore, as against Rs 13,005.5 crore in the year-ago period. Seen sequentially, net profit was 2.2 per cent lower, while revenues saw a marginal decline of 0.2 per cent. The company's total headcount stood at 148,517 as of June 30, 2025, an increase of 897 employees year-on-year. The LTM (last twelve months) IT services attrition was at 12.6 per cent.

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, Infosvs. Adani Ports and ITC were the major gainers.

However, Eternal, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance and Bharat Electronics were among the major laggards.

Tech Mahindra rose by 1.94 per cent ahead of its financial results that were announced after market hours. The com-

ls) bought equities worth Rs 120.47 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.28 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.10 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT climbed 0.67 per cent, followed by IT (0.66 per cent), services (0.55 per cent), realty (0.50 per cent) and teck (0.49 per cent). Commodities, capital goods, metal and

industrials were the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended mostly lower Tuesday. Global oil

benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.26 per cent to \$68.55 a barrel.

gold ETF scheme is required to be valued at the AM fixing price of the London Bullion Market

sultation paper, "proposed that instead of using LBMA price as a starting point for valuation,

verting them into INR, adding customs duties, and making adjustments for domestic demand

TECH DEAL TALLY PLUNGES IN APR-JUN **IOB cuts MCLR**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: India's tech sector logged 60 deals worth \$460 million in the April-June quarter of 2025 (including IPOs and QIPs), reflecting cautious investment sentiments, marking a notable decline from the first quarter levels according to Grant Thornton Bharat.

The April-June quarter numbers slacked 34 per cent in volumes but fell even more sharply (79 per cent) in terms of deal values compared to the first quarter of 2025.

"India's tech sector recorded 60 transactions valued at \$460 million, including IPO and QIP activity...This reflects a more cautious investment environment amid ongoing macroeconomic headwinds," Grant Thornton Bharat Q2 2025 Technology Dealtracker revealed.

The Q1 2025 scores were boosted by large-ticket private equity transactions and a \$1 billion IPO by Hexaware Technologies, it noted. If public market activity were to be excluded, the

quarter reported 58 deals worth \$434 million, down 35 per cent in volume and 61 per cent in value over the previous quarter.

The correction in Q₂ shows a recalibration of investor appetite toward smaller, value-driven transactions in a more measured market, the report said.

M&A activity remained relatively steady in Q2 2025, recording 22 deals. This reflected a slight dip in volume but accompanied by a sharp 133 per cent surge in values to \$219 million compared to the previous quarter.

by 50 basis pts PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chennai, July 16: Public

sector Indian Overseas Bank revised its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 50 basis points across all tenors with immediate effect, the bank said Wednesday.

The Asset Liability Man-



decided to reduce it with effect

Accordingly, the revised MC LR for the overnight tenure has been reduced to 8.15 per cent from the existing 8.25 per cent For the one-month tenure, the MCLR has been revised to 8.40 per cent from the earlier 8.50

per cent. For tenures of three, six, and 12 months, the MCLR has been revised to 8.55 per cent (down from 8.65 per cent), 8.80 per cent (down from 8.90 per cent), and 9 per cent (down from 9.10 per cent), respectively, the bank said.

Marginal Cost of Fundsbased Lending Rates are used in consumer loans, such as auto and personal loans. Borrowers whose loans are linked to this benchmark are expected to ben efit from the reduced rates.

the Thermal power to attract ₹2.3L-cr investments by FY28 ing July

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS AN AMBITIOUS PLAN OF ADDING AT LEAST 80 GW OF THERMAL CAPACITY BY FISCAL YEAR 2032. CURRENTLY, COMPANIES ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEPLOYING 60 GW OF THIS PIPELINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DB Corp net profit falls

New Delhi: Media firm Dainik Bhaskar Corp Ltd Wednesday reported a 31 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 80.84 crore for the first guarter ended June 2025. impacted by lower revenue. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 117.86 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal. DB Corp Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at Rs 559.45 crore against Rs 589.85 crore a year ago, it added.

New Delhi, July 16: The thermal power segment is expected to attract Rs 2.3 lakh crore worth of investments over the next three fiscals, on account of renewed focus to help meet India's growing energy demand, Crisil Ratings said Wednesday. The capital expenditure in

thermal power stood at Rs 1.1 lakh crore over the three fiscals through 2025, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

"Investments to set up thermal electricity generation capacities will double to Rs 2.3 lakh crore over the three fiscals through 2028, compared with the preceding three fiscals, because of renewed focus on the segment



to help meet India's growing demand for energy and base load power requirement," it said.

In the preceding three fiscals, private companies accounted for only 7-8 per cent of the

investments. On expanded investment levels over the next three fiscals, private companies will contribute nearly a third, with central and state public sector undertakings

accounting for the balance. The government has set a target of at least 80 GW of thermal capacity addition by fiscal 2032.

At present, nearly 60 GW of capacity addition has either been announced or is in various phases of implementation, with private developers taking up nearly 19 GW.

The majority of the private capacities will be operationalised only after fiscal 2028, given that these involve long construction periods.

While the majority of these are brownfield expansions involving low implementation risks, timely delivery of equipment -- mainly of boilers and turbines -- remains monitorable, given limited supply

capacity and substantial buildup of orders at major manufacturers. Other risks related to offtake, fuel and tariff adequacy remain low.

"Energy demand is expected to log a compound annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent to 2.000 billion units by fiscal 2028. Nearly 70 per cent of the incremental demand will be met by renewable sources," Manish Gupta, Deputy Chief Ratings Officer at Crisil Ratings, said.

However, with renewable energy being intermittent solar is available only during daytime, while wind is concentrated from May to September, thermal power remains critical to meet the base load demand consistently, he said.

MCLR and from July 15.

SPORTS

ISL ON HOLD

Football ecosystem is scared: Chhetri

Indian men's team's FIFA rankings has plummeted to a lowly 133, the worst in nine years, and the top tier *Indian Super League's* upcoming season which was supposed to start *in a couple of months is*

Orissapo

THURSDAY | JULY 17, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

still in a limbo highlighting the sorry state of the sport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Former captain and top striker Sunil Chhetri Wednesday said the current state of "uncertainty" in Indian football is very concerning and the sport's ecosystem is 'worried, hurt, and scared" by the top-tier ISL being put on hold indefinitely.

Chhetri, who turns up for Bengaluru FC in the league, said he has been inundated with phone calls and messages expressing apprehensions about the future of the sport in the country "It began with worrying

about how I am on borrowed time with what I have left in the tank. But speaking with players from across clubs, I've realised that my selfish problem isn't as important," the 40-year-old Chhetri posted on X.

'The current situation that Indian football finds itself in, is very concerning. the All India Football Fed-I've received a flurry of texts eration.



The current situation that Indian football finds itself in, is very concerning. I've received a flurry of texts from players, staff members, physios, masseurs not just from my club, but from other clubs as well. Everybody in the Indian football ecosystem is worried, hurt, scared about the uncertainty we are faced with SUNIL CHHETRI | FORMER CAPTAIN AND TOP STRIKER

from players, staff members, The league normally runs from September to April, physios, masseurs - not just from my club, but from othand the current MRA beer clubs as well. "Everybody tween Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL). in the Indian football ecosystem is worried, hurt, scared which organises the event. about the uncertainty we and the AIFF is scheduled to are faced with," he added. expire December 8, 2025, by The ISL (Indian Super which time the ISL would be League) put the 2025-26 into its third month.

This was after a Supreme season "on hold" due to un-Court directive to AIFF in certainty surrounding the renewal of Master Rights which the body was asked Agreement (MRA) between not to negotiate new terms the event organisers and of the MRA with FSDL, the apex governing body's commercial partner running the

ISL, until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.

FSDL is also the commercial partner of AIFF, and they signed a 15-year MRA in 2010. According to the MRA, FSDL pays the AIFF Rs 50 crore annually, and in turn gets the rights to broadcast, manage and commercialise Indian football, which also includes the national team.

Chhetri said he was on vacation when he first learnt about the league being put on hold. "...I must admit it made me smile. And that's because I was on vacation, hadn't moved as much as I would have liked to, and hadn't been eating as clean as I usually do. I had more time than I had bargained to get in shape. That 'fortnight' has now changed to 'indefinitely' and that smile's been wiped out. I know that the think tank and all those involved in running the sport are working to get the football season up and running, and I'm hopeful that there is a solid fix sooner rather than later," he said.

The star player, who has come out of international retirement to bolster the Indian team that is enduring continuous poor results, urged for patience nonetheless.

The AIFF has said it is "conscious" of ISL's importance to the football ecosystem but had to respect the law of the land by following the Supreme Court directive.

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 the Champions 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

n this date in 1955, which American amusement park known for its fairy-tale settings opened its gates in California?

ANSWER TO WEDNESDAY'S QUESTION

Manhattan

RULES & REGULATIONS

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

PrissaPC

Extravaganza

MEET

- 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





NIRANJAN NAYAK

Others who answered correctly are

Bishnu Prasada Dash, Saswat Sourabh, Mayank Mandal, Saroj Nag, Tanishna Bisoi, Om Prakash Rath, Debadatta Tripathy, Sourabh Suman, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Anjubala Mohanty, Aslesha Satapathy, Subhashree Jena, Mahesh Prasad Dalabehera, KV Ramana, Ahaana Paikray

SHORT TAKES

Eng docked WTC points

London: The England cricket team slipped a rung to third position in the World Test Championship table Wednesday after being docked two points for maintaining a slow over rate in the third Test against India at Lord's. Ben Stokes and Co were also fined 10 per cent of their match fee after the Test, which they won by 22 runs on Monday. Match referee Richie Richardson imposed the sanction after England were ruled to be two overs short of the target when time allowances were taken into consideration. India are

HISTORIC FEAT Deepika first Indian to win **Poligras Magic Skill Award**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 16: Indian women's hockey forward Deepika created history by becoming the first-ever Indian player to win the prestigious Poligras Magic Skill Award as hockey fans from across the globe voted for her sensational solo field goal against the Netherlands

Mixed day for shuttlers

SINDHU BOWS OUT; SATWIK-CHIRAG, LAKSHYA, **ANUPAMA ENTER SECOND ROUND**



HEAVY PARTICIPATION

In a first, one-day domestic athletics meet extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: The Indian Open Athletics Meet scheduled to be held at Sangrur, Punjab July 27 will be extended by one more day due to heavy participation, a development happening for the first time in the domestic circuit.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said that



Olympic medallist PV Sindhu endured yet another first-round exit but Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved into the second round with comfortable victories at the Japan Open here Wednesday.

The 30-year-old Sindhu, who is a former world champion, went down 15-

Tokyo, July 16: Two-time

fourth in the WTC points table right now.

Tara Moore banned

London: British tennis player Tara Moore was banned for four years after a court agreed with the International Tennis Integrity Agency that she should be suspended for using performance-enhancing drugs. Moore tested positive for anabolic steroids boldenone and nandrolone in April 2022, but she was cleared in December 2023 after an independent tribunal determined that the result was caused by eating contaminated meat while she was competing in Colombia. The ITIA appealed that ruling, focusing on the portion of the findings related to nandrolone, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in the ITIA's favor, saying the majority of its panel felt that Moore couldn't prove the sample was consistent with the ingestion of contaminated meat.

Irregularities hit PCB

Islamabad: An audit report has found financial irregularities to the tune of more than Rs 6 billion (\$21 million) and governance issues within the Pakistan Cricket Board dating back two years. The Auditor General of Pakistan's report for the 2023-24 financial year was published in The News and highlighted the non-recovery of outstanding sponsorship worth Rs 5.3 billion (\$18.6 million) as the major discrepancy identified. PCB chairman Mohsin Nagyi is the third person in four years to lead the sport's national administration. following Ramiz Raia and Zaka Ashraf. He is also a government minister.

during the Bhubaneswar leg of the 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League season.

The 21-year-old attacker earned global recognition for her breathtaking run and finish in the 35th minute during India's match against world No 1 the

Netherlands, which they won in a shootout after a 2-2 draw. With India trailing 0-2, Deepika cut through the

Dutch defence down the left flank, dribbled along the baseline, dinked the ball over a defender's stick, and finished it past the goalkeeper to open the scoring for India.

Upon winning the award,



ODISHA

india

an elated Deepika said. "I am truly honoured to have won this award. Scoring that goal against a challenging opponent like The Netherlands was truly a special moment for me and now receiving this recognition means a lot.

"I thank my teammates, coaches, family and friends who continue to support and inspire me everyday. This award isn't just mine, it's belong to Indian hockey. Let's keep pushing forward together," she added.

21 14-21 to Korea's Sim Yu Jin in the Super 750 tournament, marking her fifth first-round exit this year. Satwik-Chirag and Lak-

shva, on the other hand, registered dominant straight-game wins

After a slow start, Sindhu, who appeared rusty and error-prone and struggled with judgment of length, showed some fight in the first game but Sim regained control to claim her first career win

over the Indian star. In the second, Sindhu quickly fell behind 1-6. Though she managed to level the score at 11-11, the Korean pulled away with ease to seal the match in first game.

doubles, Satwik and Chirag, currently ranked 15th in the world, defeated the Korean duo of Kang Min Hyuk and Kim Dong Ju 21-18 21-10 in just 42 minutes.

The former world No 1 pair took some time to settle down, with the Koreans matching them early in the

straight games. In men's

But once the Indians found their rhythm, they were unstoppable, dominating the second game with clinical precision.

Meanwhile, Lakshya who has struggled for form this season, making a string of first-round exits, looked sharp as he dispatched

mentum to stay ahead

China's Wang Zheng Xing

21-11 21-18. The world no

18 Lakshya was in com-

plete control in the open-

ing game, racing to an 11-2

lead before sealing it with

better challenge in the sec-

While Xing mounted a

ond game, Lakshya

capitalised on

his early mo-

minimal fuss.

and close out the match in straight games.

He will next face seventh seed and local favourite Kodai Naraoka in the round of 16. In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya prevailed 21-15 18-21 21-18 over Rakshitha Ramraj in a battle between two Indians. Anupama will next face second seeded Chinese Wang Zhi Yi.

Unnati Hooda, a Taipei Open semifinalist earlier this year, however, went down 8-21 12-21 to seventh seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the opening round.

around 900 competitors have made their entries and that has necessitated the event to be a two-day affair. "The Indian Open Athlet-

ics Meet which was sched uled to be held at Sangrur on 27th July 2025, will now be held on 27th and 28th July 2025. The meet has been extended for one day because of more number of entries crossing almost 900 athletes," the AFI said in a circular.

"The programme will be shortly put on the AFI website. The athletes are advised to book their travel and accommodation accordingly."

TEST RANKINGS

Yamal under scanner over dwarf act at 18th bash

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Madrid. July 16: Barcelona star Lamine Yamal is facing an investigation regarding the presence of a group of people with dwarfism as entertainers at his 18th birthday party last weekend, Spain's Ministry of Social Rights told AFP Tuesday.

The winger celebrated with a private event in Olivella, around 50 kilometres west of Barcelona, which the ministry asked the prosecutor's office to probe, following a complaint from the Association for People with Achondroplasia and Other Skeletal Dysplasias with Dwarfism (ADEE). Yamal turned 18 July 13,

the day after his party Saturday night, which many of his team-mates attended.



along with celebrities from the music world including Bizarrap and Bad Gyal.

"The ADEE has filed a complaint, so this ministry has asked the prosecutor's office to investigate to see if the law has been violated and, therefore, the rights

of people with disabilities (have been)," Spain's Ministry of Social Rights said.

ADEE "publicly denounces the hiring of people with dwarfism as part of the entertainment" and said they would take legal action as it "perpetuates

stereotypes, fuels discrimination, and undermines the image and rights" of people with disabilities.

Guests were not permitted to film at the event but a video emerged of a group of people with dwarfism heading into the party.

"No one disrespected us, we were allowed to work in peace," said one of the performers anonymously on Catalan radio station RAC1, saying there were four of them present. "We're normal people who dedicate ourselves to what we love doing in an absolutely legal way. For a couple of years these people (the ADEE) have wanted to harm us, they want to prevent us from doing what we like, but they have not offered any work or training to those who are affect-

ed. All this fuss has come about purely because it was Lamine Yamal's party."

The performer said they dance, deliver drinks and do magic tricks to entertain guests at the events they work at.

Dominican rapper Chimbala, of short stature, published a video on Instagram of himself singing on stage with Yamal, with Barca team-mates Gavi and Alejandro Balde dancing in the background.

Yamal is a candidate to win the Ballon d'Or after a helping Barcelona to a domestic treble of La Liga, the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup last season.

The Spain international has scored 25 goals for the club in 106 appearances, having made his debut at just 15 years old in 2023.

Bumrah stays on top; Joe Root back as No 1 in the third Test of the five-PRESS TRUST OF INDIA match series against India

Dubai, July 16: Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continues to dominate the Test bowling rankings, retaining the top spot with a commanding 50-point lead over South Africa's Kagiso Rabada in the latest list released here Wednesday.

India all-rounder Washington Sundar has moved from 58th to 46th position.

Star England batter Joe Root reclaimed the top position in the ICC men's Test rankings within a week of losing it while India's all-rounder Ravindra Jadeia climbed to the 34th spot. Root's scores of 104 and 40

respectively, while skipper Shubman Gill has also fallen three places to ninth. However, Jadeja has risen five places to 34th after scores of 72 and a fighting 61 not out at Lord's. KL Ra hul, who made 100 and 39 in the same match, has also climbed five places and now sits one spot behind Jadeja on 35th.

at Lord's that England won

by 22 runs helped him start

Among Indian batters

opener Yashasvi Jaiswal

and vice-captain Rishabh

Pant have dropped down a

rung each and are current-

ly placed fifth and eighth

his eighth stint at the top.

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