ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ ମୋବାଇଲ ଆପ୍ ସାଜିବ ଚ୍ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ସାଥି

- ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଚ୍ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସୂଚନା, ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଏବଂ sos ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବ
- ଗୋପନୀୟ୍ ଭାବରେ ସିଧାସଳଖ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣ କରିପାରିବେ ଚ୍ଛାତ୍ରୀ

- ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ୫ ଜଣ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରତ ମହିଳା "ଶକ୍ତି ଅପା" ଭାବରେ ମନୋନୀତ ହେବେ

୭୩୦ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଖୋଲିବ ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର - ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ପରିଚାଳନା ପାଇଁ ଜଣେ ଚ୍ଛାତ୍ରୀ "ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ ସାଥୀ" ଏବଂ ଜଣେ ଅଧାପିକା "ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ ସଂଯୋଜିକା" ଭାବରେ ନିଯୁକ୍ତ ହେବେ

ନ୍ଥାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଆତ୍ମସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ମାନସିଜ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ଦେବା ପାଇଁ ୧୬ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ୍ ଏବଂ

ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ ହେବ ଚ୍ଛାତ୍ରୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା

ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ଦୀ





ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ଦ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



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- ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଓ ଅଣଶିକ୍ଷକ କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଲାଗୁ ହେବ ସ୍ପତନ୍ସ କୋଡ୍ ଅଫ୍ କଣ୍ଡକ୍ଟ
- SAFE କ୍ୟାମ୍ଫେନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବର୍ଷକୁ ଦୁଇ ଥର ଆତ୍ମରକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ଶିବିର , ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଅଧିକାର ସମ୍ମନ୍ଧୀୟ ସଚେତନତା କର୍ମଶାଳା

ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

- ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ୩୧ ଡିସେମ୍ନର ସୁଦ୍ଧା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବେ ବାର୍ଷିକ କ୍ୟାମ୍ପସ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ରିପୋର୍ଟ
- ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳସ୍ତୁ ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳସ୍ତରେ ଲାଗିବ ସିସିଟିଭି କ୍ୟାମେରା
- POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) ଆଇନର୍ ଅନଲାଇନ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ବାଧତାମ୍ରଳକ ହେବ
- ସମସ୍କ ଶକ୍ଦିଶ୍ରୀ ସାଥୀ, ଶକ୍ଦିଶ୍ରୀ ସଂଯୋଜିକା ଓ ଶକ୍ଦି ଅପାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ଏକ-ଦିବସୀୟ ଶକ୍ତି ସ୍ପରୂପିଣୀ କର୍ମଶାଳା ଆୟୋଜିତ ହେବ



ShaktiShree Initiative

ନ୍ଥାତ୍ରୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷାକୁ ସଶକ୍ତ କରିବ ଶକ୍ତିଶ୍ରୀ

OIPR-15001/13/0932/2526







PAMELA: I REALLY **ENJOY SINGING**

Mumbai:

Hollywood star Pamela Anderson said that she performs her best whenever she's terrified and that she enjoys singing. The *Bay* Watch actress told Entertainment Weekly: 'You have to have courage to be an actor. But that's my happy place when I'm terrified. I actually really enjoy singing."

ex-

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tend to trust our gut

to en-

ALBA TREATS HERSELF TO **GOLGAPPAS IN LONDON**

Hollywood star Jessica Alba turned her spice on during her visit to London as she munched on desi golgappas. Alba took to Instagram, where she shared a handful of throwback images, which she tagged a "forever memories."



via a concert kiss cam)!

Fresh off the boat, 'pit

against' pairs may include

FORTUNE FORECAST

Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy 🛛 reliability 🖕 trust

ARIES

Hats off to you, says Ganesha, for the way you will deal with relationships today. You are also up to something secretive today. But be careful about getting caught in something where you have to dole out money. Otherwise, it's fun and cheer all the way.

TAURUS

Your loved ones may cause a financial setback today, says Ganesha. You may have arguments with siblings regarding sharing property. You will tend to be impatient and belligerent with them in the afternoon. Keep a check on your negative emotions. advises Ganesha

GEMINI

It's celebration time in your family. However, you will be busy handling a business deal while your family makes merry. You may even have to go on a business trip later in the day. You will devote time to achieve professional

sonal achievement, savs Ganesha CANCER

success rather than celebrating a per-

Sheer work pressure and bur-den of others' work. Yet you will excel. In business, rivals and

competitors will fail in their tactics.

There is a possibility of

falling in love at first sight for those who are looking for love. It is a good day for romantic endeavours. Personal relationships will be marked by understanding. You will have a co-operative attitude towards your colleagues at work, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your emotional outlook today will lead to many alterations in your personal behaviour. Ganesha says you are likely to focus on some options that will lead to high spending. In the afternoon, says Ganesha, you are likely to play host to some members of your extended family and friends at home.

LIBRA

Time is money. Today, this statement will have greater

significance as you identify the upshot of time in your line of work. Every second counts for you, and you may fall back on the good old personal planner to sort things out. Also, early in the day, you may take up some burning issues and elaborate your views on them in a taking-the-bull-by-its-horns manner. Everything accounted for in the day,



Mumbai: Khushi Kapoor, daughter of the late Sridevi and sister to actress Janhvi Kapoor, recently spoke candidly about her cosmetic enhancements, crediting her honesty

In an interview with a news portal, Khushi addressed swirling rumours by stating plainly, "Yes, I have changed my looks. But everyone thinks I have done some 10-20 things on myself. It is obviously not the case. I don't think going under the knife for your looks is such a big deal." The actor, who made her debut with The Archies, emphasised the importance of transparency, saying, "For me, it is not okay to be dishonest with people around me about my looks. There are a lot of impressionable

youngsters who follow us on the internet.' Khushi went on to point out the impossible expectations women often face. noting, "Plus, if we don't do something about our looks, then it is a problem and people will judge you for your looks, and if we do something for ourselves, feeding insecurities, your then also people have a problem.' She argued that no path wins fa-

vour: "People will say that why did she change herself and did not stick to her original looks? So. you are not going to win either way. I am going to live my life

with breaking stigma in the glamour industry.

the way want to.



see through the grand visions and tall promises, and gauge how strongly they hold the ground. The actress has always been passionate about the world of movies, and is an avid viewer of content.

'To err is human' and like an honest individual who has complete understanding about where she stands in life, Tanishaa too isn't shying away from accepting her past mistakes as an actor. Talking about the same, "As artistes, we

feeling. Sometimes it's right and sometimes its not and

Tanishaa changes Actress Tanishaa S Mukerji is making changes in the way she approaches approach her work. The actress, who earlier used to easily trust the vision of fellow artistes, has repeat any of my errors now made it a point to that's a part of every-

one's life. Like anyone else, I too have made my share of mistakes in my career. But what's important is self-introspection and self-awareness and based on that

aware ness and perience,

of the past.

The actress shared that there have been many times where she gave chances to confused people by thinking they deserve a fair opportunity to showcase their talent. But now, she has realised that she cannot do something this like

> anymore as it will be nothing less than self-saboshove) to ingest tage. IANS the

of chicken, moong dal chilla, millet kheer. and guzzle 'gud-wala' mango panna each day (lucky

souarely back at me), served the Indian samosa versus Italian pizza, displayed on with great delight by a colleague at our departmental the workplace board with oil tea party. My mind was visuand calorie content warning? alising bubbles with captions Next Dalai Lama reincarportraying 300 calories emannation following Tibetan ating from the smoky hot samspiritual practices versus osa. It had deeply bought into lottery based golden urn sethe implication of the advislection as per Chinese law? ory issued by the Health Min-Aircraft snag versus pilot's fault? 'Life in a metro' versus istry to display sugar and oil boards at workplaces. In the 'Metro in Dino'....but serioustempting *food-verse* of transly? Campus Mothers ehh! What about Campus Fathfat and sugary indulgences, a behavioural nudge towards ers? Even, Trump and Musk healthy dietary habits seems have gone on to being Trump to be a caring initiative for versus Musk. I also daresay, our wellness. I would merri-Trump versus sanity! Who ly welcome such a nudge or push (no need for

 $\mathbf{S}_{ ext{guiltily staring at the lone}}^{ ext{o}, \ ext{I}}$ was greedily albeit

triangular samosa (staring

In the Universe of Versus...

eclectic healthy menu grilled parliamentarians! Already woke, shall

be soon hyper-awake post lunch!). Adding to the list of caring proposals, is launch of 'Campus Mothers' initiative by IIT-Kharagpur to provide emotional support to its students.

But there is always a catch, isn't there? It is increasingly a universe and university (same thing) of versus... would agree the *missus* and the *mistress* (especially the one receiving sizable public loathing, courtesy, disclosure

sus that' also makes for punching 'fist in the air' narratives, 'this and that' lacks mojo....so meh! My version of versus, had me throwing my fist in the air and lauding at the Wimbledon centre- court magic unfolding in the men's final of Alcaraz Vs Sinner. Thank God for *nature* to have kept the yin-yang intact in all its elements-day or night.... Oops! day and night.

else would speak of

'war and peace'

ing

like they are

chums walk-

in hand,

even if

the world

calls it

out for

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'This ver-

sus peace.

hand

Dr Rachna Rath

when he was injured. The exact details of the injury are being held under wraps at the moment. It is more of a muscular injury and nothing serious. That being said, it is not being taken lightly. Shah Rukh has travelled to the US for medical attention. He has been suggested to take a one-month rest," said the source.

The filming plan for the film scheduled between July and August has been cancelled. When it comes to the next schedule of King, the shoot is now expected to start in the second half of the year, after September. AGENCIES

SRK injured on *King* set

hit a minor roadblock as the actor has suffered an injury while filming an intense sequence in Mumbai. The actor has been advised month-long break to recover and resume shooting with caution.

The actor was shooting an intense sequence for the Siddharth Anand directorial at a studio

in Mumbai when he in-

jured himself. The injury sparked panic among the film's crew, but sources have reassured that Shah Rukh is on the mend, and there's no cause for concern.

"He was shooting in

Mum

bai

Mumbai: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's *King* has



spending the evening with soul mates is the apt thing to do, suggests Ganesha.

SCORPIO

History beckons you, and unknown destinations stir up the adventurer in you, predicts Ganesha. At work, the spotlight shall be on you as you steal the show with your brilliant performance. Business will be fun and exciting for you, hopes Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You are on an emotional leash, as you will be on the defensive line when it comes to the feelings of those you love. Chances are high that you will be footloose again for business or pleasure. So pack your bags, advises Ganesha. In the evening, you may share some quiet time with those who share your opinions.

CAPRICORN

The day will be spent juggling work and meeting personal demands, says Ganesha. It may virtually be a tug-of-war, in which your friends and relatives will emerge victorious as you will end up spending more time with them. You will catch up with gossips that you missed while trying to impress your boss. This besides, you will be blessed with the valuable assistance of the more experienced that may help you acquire a right perspective to life.

AQUARIUS

You will transform abstract ideas into practical and tangible strategies today, and deserve all the credit. You will also appreciate and understand life a little more. says Ganesha. You may finally reach out for the Bhagwad Gita your mother has been pressing you to read.

PISCES

It is likely to be an extremely hectic day at work, but you will seize the initiative with some bold strategising. You will be busy dressing up for a party in the evening, to offset all the stress of a long hard day at work, says Ganesha.

PEANUTS I AM HIGHLY JUST THE SLIGHTEST OR 50 I HAVE SUSCEPTIBLE TO COMPLIMENT WILL ALWAYS IMAGINED FLATTERY CAUSE ME TO MELT

THAT SUPPRESSED

SMILE WORRIES ME

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

•7	SUDOKU	Õ	ō	ر د	_				CROSSWORD
3	2	6	1	7	8	5	9	4	K V A F
								Ī	DINEBLUEBELL
5	8	7	2	4	9	3	6	1	W N K E
9	4	1	6	3	5	8	7	2	H I N D E R O N T I M E
L		ľ	1	1	1	Ŀ	Ŀ	Ŀ	E R N
4	7	2	3	9	6	1	5	8	FICTIONSKUNK
1	3	9	8	5	4	6	2	7	N T C E G
8	6	5	7	1	2	4	3	9	E S S A Y B O R E D O M
3		5			2	ł	3		P S U P
7	9	8	4	6	3	2	1	5	DEPART PASTEL
2	1	3	5	8	7	9	4	6	C U L T
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6	5	4	9	2	1	7	8	3	S T T A













3 5 9 4 1 8 7 2 6



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LEISURE PAGE

Juvenile abducts, rapes minor girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digaphandi/Patapur, July 19: A minor girl from a village under Sanakhemundi block in Ganjam district was allegedly abducted and raped by a boy, who is also a minor, police said Saturday.

According to the complaint filed by the girl's father at Patapur police station, the incident occurred Wednesday when the girl was alone at home. Taking advantage of the situation, the accused reportedly entered the house, sexually assaulted her, and then abducted her.

Following the complaint, IIC Dipti Ranjan Behera registered a case and launched an investigation. Sub-Inspector Subhalaxmi Kanhar, along with a police team, rescued the girl from the foothills near Changudidei in Digapahandi and detained the accused

Both the survivor and the accused were taken for medical examination at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. The girl's statement was later recorded before a magistrate.

Police sources said the two minors had been acquainted for the past few years and had maintained contact. A formal inquiry is underway based on the victim's statement.

Trump sues WSJ, Murdoch for \$10bn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 19: President Donald Trump filed a \$10 billion lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) and media mogul Rupert Murdoch Friday, a day after the newspaper published a story reporting on his ties to wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein.

The move came shortly after the Justice Department asked a federal court Friday to unseal grand jury transcripts in Epstein's sex trafficking case, as the administration seeks to contain the firestorm that erupted after it announced that it would not be releasing additional files from the case. despite previously pledging to do so. The controversy has created a major fissure between Trump and his loyal base, with some of his most vocal supporters slamming the White House for the way it has handled the case, and questioning why Trump would not want the documents made public. Trump had promised to sue the Wall Street Journal almost immediately after the paper put a new spotlight on his well-documented relationship with Epstein by publishing an article that described a sexually suggestive letter that the newspaper says bore Trump's name and was included in a 2003 album compiled for Epstein's 50th birthday. Trump denied writing the letter, calling the story 'false, malicious, and defamatory.

to Indian border in Arunachal INTERNATIONAL | P8

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | JULY 20, 2025



implemented from October 1 BUSINESS | P9 India's historic charge in the Women's World Chess Cup

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

P1

5 jets shot down during India-Pak conflict: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, July 19: In a fresh claim, US President Donald Trump said 'five jets were shot down' during the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May and repeated his assertion that the fighting ended following his intervention.

In his remarks at a White House dinner Friday, the US president, however, did not provide specific details such as whether the jets were downed by either of the two countries or if he was referring to combined losses by both sides.

"You had India, Pakistan (military conflict) that was going (on). In fact, planes were being shot out of the air, five four or five. But I think five jets were shot down actually, that was getting worse and worse, wasn't it?" "That was looking like it was going to go, these are two serious nuclear countries. and they were hitting each oth er," Trump said at the dinner he hosted for Republican senators.

There was no immediate re sponse from New Delhi on the US president's remarks. While India acknowledged losses of aircraft during the conflict, it refrained from providing the details. Pakistan, on the other hand, has been peddling a narrative without providing any evidence that it downed six Indian jets. The claim has been rejected by the Indian military.

RAIN PAIN: People sit on a house porch at a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall in Kolkata, Saturday

15-yr-old girl set afire in Puri 'Shaktishree' for safety of

With the scars of the tragic self-immolation death of a FM College girl student - over alleged sexual harassment by an HoD- still fresh, the state woke up to the horrific burning of a 15-year-old girl by three miscre-

ants in Puri district Saturday.

As the victim with over 70 per

cent burns struggles for life at

AIIMS Bhubaneswar, the back-



Tension erupts on

n a late-night development, the Commissionerate Police imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNSS at AIIMS campus, following a tense face-off between BJP, BJD and Congress supporters. While the BJD and Congress leaders alleged that saffron party leaders were allowed entry into the burns department where the 15-year-old girl was being treated, the ruling party members opposed it. "BJD's main demand is to airlift the girl tonight to AIIMS-Delhi. otherwise she will die like the Balas ore victim," former MP Pradeep Majhi said. According to officials, three platoons of security forces have been deployed at the AIIMS campus.

state Assembly, Naveen Patnaik, expressed deep anguish over the incident and said such cases point to a systemic failure of governance.

Preliminary investigation revealed that three motorcy-

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Days after the self-immolation death of a college student in Balasore over alleged sexual harassment. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday launched 'Shaktishree', a statewide initiative to ensure the safety, security, and empowerment of women in university and college campuses The CM described 'Shaktishree' as a 'transformative empowerment and self-defence initiative' that will cover 16 state universities and 730 government and aided colleges.

PNN & AGENCIES



female students on campus



AllMS premises



to-back instances pointing to the pitiable plight of women in the state has shaken public conscience and morale. The Opposition meanwhile, has likened the occurrences, which came days af-

ter the gangrape of a college girl at Gopalpur beach, to a systemic failure of governance in the state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Close on the heels of the tragic self-immolation death of a 20-year-old college student of FM College in Balasore over alleged sexual harassment, a 15-year-old girl was set on fire by unidentified miscreants in

Puri district Saturday. The victim is undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar and is in a critical con-

dition. "Having suffered 70 per cent burns, she is critical and currently on oxygen support in the ICU but talking," said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas.

He said next 48 hours are vital for the patient. As the victim was able to speak, her statement was recorded by police in the presence of a magistrate. The incident took place

around 9am on the banks of Bhargabi river near Bayabar village in Balanga police station when the girl was returning from her friend's house.

Meanwhile, the institute has formed a 14-member team of doctors for the girl's treatment.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said he was monitoring girl's health condition and requested AIIMS Bhubaneswar authorities to make plans for airlifting the girl to AIIMS Delhi for better treatment.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who is in charge of the Women and Child Development Department, said the government will bear the expenses of the girl's treatment and that police have been asked to arrest the culprits as soon as possible.

The incident adds to the BJP government's troubles, coming shortly after the Balasore incident - which followed the mid-June gangrape of a college student in Gopalpur - further embarrassing the state.

BJD supremo and LoP in the

cle-borne youths intercepted the teenager, forcibly took her to the banks of Bhargavi river, poured an inflammable substance on her, and set her on fire, a police officer said, adding that the spot of the incident is around 1.5 km from the girl's house at Nuago palpur Bustee and around 5-7 km from Balanga police station. The miscreants fled the spot after setting the girl on fire.

Local people doused the fire and later took her to Pipili government hospital, from where she was shifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

The girl's mother has lodged an FIR with Balanga police station, officials said adding victim is a Class VIII dropout and her father works at a motor garage

DGP Y B Khurania assured that police would soon nab the accused. No one has been detained or arrested so far, Puri SP Pinak Mishra said. **P3**

"This initiative will ensure the safety of girl students and create safer and more inclusive campuses in our higher education institutions," Majhi said. The CM said as part of the ini-

tiative, every institution will have a 'Shaktishree Empowerment Cell'-a student-led body coordinated by a woman faculty member and a female student. This cell will focus on promoting safety, self-defence, and emotional well-being among students and staff.

To provide further support,

United we stand: Survival tale of Syria's Druze minority

ASSOCIATED PRESS

annexed in 1981.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



History is written by winners and rewritten by poll winners

Mazraa (Syria), July 19: The Druze religious sect, enmeshed in an outbreak of tit-for-tat violence in Syria, began roughly 1,000 years ago as an offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite

Islam Most Druze religious practices are shrouded in secrecy, with outsiders not allowed to convert and intermarriage

strongly discouraged. More than half the roughly 1 million Druze worldwide live in Syria. Most of the other Druze live in Lebanon and Israel, including in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Svria in the 1967 Mideast War and

A core social doctrine for Druze is defending their brothers, meaning defending one another, said Makram Rabah. Assistant Professor of History at the American University of Beirut.

"If a Druze person anywhere in the world needed the help of another Druze person, he would automatically get it," said Rabah. "You're part of a bigger community.²

He stressed how social and cultural rituals keep the community together. "They're a big tribe," he said

Intermarriage is not encouraged. Rabah said mainstream Druze would shun people who marry outside the sect. "You are under the risk of being iso-



lated socially and community wise." he said. Syria's Druze have a long history of cutting their own path

to survive among the country's powerhouses. They were heavily involved in revolts against Ottoman and French colonial

Syrian state.

The Druze largely celebrated the downfall in December of Syrian autocrat Bashar Assad but were divided over interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa's rule.

The latest violence has left the community more skeptical of Syria's new leadership and doubtful of peaceful coexistence

In Israel, members of the Druze community had called for intervention to protect the Druze in Syria. But elsewhere in the region, Druze leaders have rejected Israeli intervention.

Multiple Druze armed militias have existed for years, originally set up to protect their

each district will nominate five senior women professionals called 'Shakti Apas', who will mentor students and visit campuses every three months.

A dedicated mobile app will also be launched that will offer a secure platform for women students and staff to register complaints anonymously --- via text, audio, or video - seek counselling, and access mental health services through Tele-MANAS, a national mental health initiative All teaching and non-teach-

ing staff will be required to undergo annual online training related to the POSH Act, 2013. and UGC Regulations, 2015. A mandatory code of conduct will be enforced to ensure pro fessional behaviour and gender sensitisation.

rule to establish the modern communities against Islamic

State group fighters and drug smugglers coming in from the eastern desert Assad reluctantly gave Druze a degree of autonomy, as they

wanted to avoid being involved on the front lines. The Druze were exempted from conscrip tion into the Syrian army and instead set up local armed factions made of workers and farmers to patrol their areas.

Since Assad's ouster, the Druze have been reluctant to lay down their arms. The result is a cycle of mistrust, where government supporters paint Druze factions as potential separatists or tools of Israel, while government hostility only deep ens Druze worries.



OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | JULY 20, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



Bhubaneswar, July 19: In a bid to enhance milk production, the state government has set an ambitious target to provide 10,000 high-yielding breed cows to farmers under the Kamdhenu scheme, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

While attending the MoU signing ceremony between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Omfed in Cuttack, Majhi said Omfed, the backbone of the white revolution in Odisha, has significantly contributed to boosting milk production and empowering dairy farmers towards self-reliance.

"Odisha government has set a target to provide 10,000 high-yielding breed cows to farmers under the Kamdhenu scheme. The initiative will enrich the state's dairy economy by promoting large-scale dairy farming," he said.

As part of the agreement, NDDB will supply around 4,000 high-yielding cows to dairy farmers in the state. Additionally, NDDB will assist in setting up a cow dung-based biogas plant in Odisha in the near future.

On the occasion, the CM handed over 22 milk storage tanks with capacities ranging from 2,000 to 15,000 litres to various milk unions. He also inaugurated three milk packaging machines to further strengthen the milk supply chain. "With these facilities

Omfed, the backbone of the white revolution in **Odisha.** has significantly contributed to boosting milk production and empower ing dairy farmers towards self-reliance MOHAN CHARAN MAIHI I CM

in place, a higher volume of milk can now be collected from farmers," Majhi said.

The CM also inaugurated quarters for the employees of Omfed

In a related development, an agreement has also been signed between Omfed and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to supply 30 metric tonnes of ghee for the Mahaprasad and other rituals of Lord Jagannath.

Under the Kamdhenu scheme, the government is providing up to 70 per cent fi-

nancial assistance to farmers to encourage dairy develop ment. Around 15 lakh cowherds across the state are expected to benefit from the scheme. In the financial year 2024-25 alone. three lakh beneficiaries have already received assistance amounting to Rs 71 crore. Majhi also mentioned that

the state government has implemented the Gomata Yojana for the protection, management, and healthcare of cows.

Among others, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Minister Gokulananda Mallik, Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, Omfed president Kishore Chandra Pradhani, Omfed MD Vijav Amrita Kulange, F&ARD de partment principal secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth and

NDDB Dairy Services MD CP Devanand were present on the occasion.

Govt may airlift Puri burnSystemic failure ofvictim to AIIMS-Delhi: CMgovernance: Naveen violence. These incidents

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday said the state government is considering airlifting the 15-year-old girl under treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar with 70 per cent burns — to AIIMS-Delhi for advanced medical care.

The minor girl was set ablaze by three unidentified men in Puri's Balanga area while return ing home from a friend's house

According to police sources. the assailants forcibly took her to the banks of river Bhargabi, poured an inflammable substance on her, and set her on fire. The girl managed to run to a nearby village for help, after which she was rushed to a local hospital and then shifted to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

While stating that the government will ensure stringent possible punishment for the culprits involved in attack, the Chief Minister said he is constantly monitoring the health condition of the girl.

"Since the victim is conscious, we have requested AIIMS-Bhubaneswar author ities to explore possibilities of airlifting her to AIIMS-Delhi for better treatment," Majhi told reporters.

Deputy Chief Minister Prava ti Parida, who is also the Women and Child Development Minister, said the government will bear the expenses of the girl's treatment and that police have been asked to arrest the culprits as soon as possible.

Parida, in a post on X, stated,

"I am saddened and shocked to hear the news that some miscreants at Balanga in Puri district poured petrol on a 15-year-old girl and set her on fire. All the expenses of the treatment will be borne by the government. The police administration has

been directed to arrest the culprits immediately and take strict action," she said. Meanwhile,

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas said, "The health condition of the girl is critical. She needs to remain under observation for 48 hours The next 72 hours are critical.'

Replying to a question, Biwas said the victim has suffered second-and third-degree burns.

"Only 20-25 per cent of her body has been spared from burns. Despite the severity of the injuries, the victim is conscious and able to speak,' he said.

JD supremo Naveen Patnaik Saturday expressed deep anguish over the incident of setting a 15-year-old girl on fire by miscreants in Puri district and said such cases point to a systemic failure of gover-

nance girl The BALANGA suffered 70 per cent burn **SHOCKER** injuries after unidentified

men

an inflammable substance

on her and set her on fire in

Bayabar village under Bal-

anga police limits Saturday

morning. She is undergoing

treatment at AIIMS-Bhu-

In a post on X, Patnaik,

the Leader of the Opposi-

tion in the state Assembly,

said, "Such unthinkable

incidents against women

are now being reported al-

most daily across #Odisha.

These are not stray cases of

baneswar.

poured

occurring with shocking regularity point to a deep systemic failure of governance. "The incident has happened just within a week

of the self-immolation of a student of FM (Autonomous) College after she was denied justice even after knocking on every door, which took place after the horrific incident of gang-rape in Gopalpur," he added.

"It also shows how Odisha is becoming highly unsafe for women due to government inaction and political patronage," he said.

"Will the Odisha govt wake up from its deep slumber and take speedy action so that the criminals are arrested? And more importantly, will the government respond so that such incidents are not repeated? The girls and women of #Odisha await a response," he added.

Girl students, women unsafe in Odisha: Cong

oming down heavily on the state government over the 'rising' incidents of atrocities against women and girls in Odisha, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das Saturday said female students and wom en are unsafe in the state.

Briefing media here, Das said, "Even though such incidents keep happening re-

peatedly, the government and administration have turned into mere spectators. Female students and women are unsafe in the state. Criminals no longer fear the government, administration, or police."

Earlier in the day, Odisha Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee members, led by its president Minakshi Bahinipati, tried to gherao the residence of Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida here over the 'rising' incidents of atrocities against women and girls

Bahinipati slammed the BJP-led state government for failing to protect women and girls despite promoting slogans like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. She cited the incident in Puri, where a girl was set on fire within the Deputy CM's Nimapara constituency.

²-day NHRC camp sitting starts July 21 Railway projects worth over ₹80K-cr being executed in Odisha: Somanna OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is set to hold a two-day camp sitting in Bhubaneswar starting July 21 during which the commission is expected to hear as many as 144 pending cases of alleged human rights violations in the state, official sources said Saturday

NHRC Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian and Members Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Vijava Bharathi Savani and Privank Kanoongo will hear the cases from 10:00am at State Guest House, Unit-V, Keshari Nagar July 21, 2025.

NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal, Registrar (Law) Joginder Singh and other senior officers will also be at-

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

Patnayak, 46 year,

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Digapahandi, Dist.

- Ganjam, declared

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A/1708/19.07.2025 that

Patnayak for all future

D/o - Late Lalitmohan

I, Lilip Kumari



tending the camp sitting and open hearing. Besides hearing cases, the camp sitting aims to sensitise officers about human rights by delivering speedy justice to victims of rights violations. The commission will also interact with crimes against women, crimes the representatives of civil against children, deaths due to society organisations, NGOs snakebites and lack of mediand human rights defenders cal support, flooding issues faced by over five families

asked to remain present during the hearing of these cases to facilitate on-the-spot human rights. deliberations and decisions. The cases to be taken up include attacks on journalists. HRDs and their families.

rights violations due to witch craft and sorcery accusations, and trafficking of girl child during Covid-19," according to a statement issued by the I&PR department.

After the hearing of the cases, the commission will meet with the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and other senior officers of the state to deliberate on issues pertaining to the promotion and protection of

On July 22, the commission will meet the representatives of civil society organisations. NGOs and HRDs. Thereafter, the commission will brief media about the outcome of the camp sitting to have a wider dissemination of information on the human rights issues in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Railway projects worth over Rs 80,000 crore are being executed in Odisha, Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said Saturday.

Somanna, accompanied by East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal, conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing redevelopment work at Bhubaneswar station. Underscoring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to transform railway stations across the nation into world-class facilities, he said Rs 10.599 crore was allocated to the state in the 2025-26 Budget. a 12.5-fold increase from the Rs 838 crore allocated during the 2009-14 period. Somanna said, "Railway projects worth over Rs 80,000 crore are being executed

KIMS docs perform rare

surgery, restore breathing

Bhubaneswar: Doctors at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here

successfully removed a tumour blocking

the airway of a 40-year-old woman using

been diagnosed with a rare type of lung

a rare and advanced bronchoscopic method. The patient, who had earlier

tumour -- carcinoid tumour -- in the

right main bronchus, had undergone radiation therapy in 2023. However, a

follow-up scan in June 2025 revealed a

persistent mass obstructing over half of

her airway, leading to severe breathless-ness and an unrelenting cough. Faced

with this challenge, the Interventional

Pulmonology team at KIMS opted for a

minimally invasive, yet high-precision approach. Under general anaesthesia in

the Cardiothoracic OT. they inserted a

flexible bronchoscope and performed a

three-step tumour clearance procedure.

minimise bleeding risk. This was followed

by 'electrocautery' (heat) to slice through

heat and 'cryo-extraction' (cold) to freeze

and shrink the tumour using controlled

and gently remove the tumour frag-ments. The combination resulted in the

complete removal of the obstruction and immediate relief in the patient's breath-

ing. Biopsy samples were also taken dur-ing the procedure for further evaluation.

The intricate operation was led by Dr Debasis Behera, Dr Swadip Mishra, and

Dr Sushanta Mishra from the department

of Interventional Pulmonology, in close

coordination with the Cardiac Anaesthe sia team of Dr Ashok K Badamali and Dr

Gyana Ranjan Mishra.

This included 'adrenaline injection' to



in Odisha. Fifty-nine stations are undergoing redevelopment at a cost of Rs 2,379 crore in the state.' More than Rs 25,000 crore

have been sanctioned in the last

one year for eight new railway

projects, multi-tracking and fly-

over works, he added.

As part of the redevelopment the station will get an elevated approach road for the segregation of inward and outward movement, he said.

The redeveloped station will have amenities such as improved access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lifts and escalators, kiosks for local products, better passenger in formation systems, amenities for differently-abled people and executive lounges, officials said.

The state authorities and the complainants have been

(HRDs).

POST NEWS NETWORK

in Bhadrak. Kendrapada and other costal districts, human

the state and the actions taken by the NHRC

Session on cybersecurity, **SAI International holds** investiture ceremony digital India held at CGU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: SAI International School held its Investiture Ceremony 2025 Saturday at the Indraprastha Auditorium, officially inducting the newly elected Student Council and Club Bearers. The event celebrated leadership, responsibility, and the school's commitment to holistic development.

Commissioner of Police S Dev Datta Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest and was welcomed with ceremonial honours by the school's NCC cadets.

mindful of cyber risks, especially

on social media. Practice strong

digital hygiene," he advised.

a soulful performance by the SAI I, Santos Kumar Choir. SAI International Educa-Nayak, S/o - Rajkishore tion Group chairperson Silpi Sa-Nayak, resident of At hoo delivered an inspiring address. Tikarapanga, Gatanai, urging students to rise above challenges. "When a storm approaches, Dist. - Kendrapara, most birds seek shelter. But the ea-Odisha - 754141 declare gle flies above the storm. You too by this Affidavit must soar above adversity with vision and courage," she said. No. - C.F.No-48 dated Singh emphasised the value of 19.07.2025 that now responsible leadership. "Leaderonwards I shall be ship is never a solo act. It thrives

known as SANTOSH KUMAR NAYAK for all future purposes.

Bhubaneswar, July 19: A landmark expert session titled "AI. Mobile Broadband, and Cybersecurity: The Future of Digital India" was recently held at the prestigious Bosch Auditorium of CV Raman Global University (CGU), Bhubaneswar. The event was jointly organised by the IEEE Student Chapter

CGU, Atal Incubation Centre (AIC-CGU), and Institution's Innovation Council (IIC-CGU). The session featured an in-

The ceremony commenced with sightful keynote address by director of Cybersecurity at PwC India Dr Debabrata Nayak who offered a comprehensive perspective on how emerging technologies are reshaping India's digital landscape. The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, inon empathy and collaboration. Be

cluding CGU VC Prof Bansidhar Majhi and Professor and Research Advisor, along with programme heads, interdisciplinary faculty members Ganapati Panda, and an enthusiastic gathering of students and re-

searchers. Dr Navak's address came at a critical juncture, as



India undergoes a rapid transformation into a tech-driven knowledge economy amid a surge in cyber frauds. His talk delved into the converging evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G/6G mobile broadband technologies, and cybersecurity—framing them not just as tools of convenience, but as strategic enablers of national development, economic resilience, and digital sovereignty.

Citing real-world applications, Dr Nayak illustrated how AI is permeating every layer of Indian society—from automating supply chains and enhancing medical diagnostics to revolutionising e-governance and transforming financial services.

The session delved into how 5G is paving the way for 6G-expected to deliver data speeds 100 times faster, sub-millisecond latency, and support for massive machine-type communications.

The minister said redevelopment of the Bhubaneswar railway station is being done under the 'Amrit Bharat Station' scheme, and the work is progressing at a very good pace.



WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.4°	35.2°	Generally cloudy
Min Temp	27.3°	26.0°	sky with one or two spells of rain
Humidity	81%	80%	or thundershower
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil	Ä

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Orissapos SUNDAY | JULY 20, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

state



Class X student found pregnant Man gets 20-year RI for raping minor girl Nan gets 20-year RI for raping minor girl was watching along with her fa-thore When showed here a structure of the incident was

OST NEWS NETWORK

Tumudibandh, July 19: A Class X tribal student at a government-run residential girls' high school in Kandhamal district has been found pregnant, prompting a formal complaint and investigation by local police.

The incident came to light at the Rangaparu Government Residential Girls' High School, located in Belghar panchayat under Tumudibandh block. According to school authorities, the student had returned to the hostel June 25 after the summer vacation. In the days that followed, staff noticed signs of illness and became suspicious when the girl declined to take sanitary pads during distribution.

The school matron and an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM)



confirmed that the girl was

Following the medical report,

pregnant.

Friday alerted the headmaster, the school management lodged who immediately informed a written complaint at Tumudithe student's family. Together, bandh police station Saturday. school officials and the family A case (85/2025) has been regtook the girl to the Baliguda istered and an investigation is sub-divisional hospital for under wav Tumudibandh PS Offimedical examination. Doctors

cer-in-Charge Ashutosh Jena confirmed that a case has been filed and said preliminary findings suggest that the girl may have become pregnant while she was in her village during the summer break. Police sources said the student admitted to being in a relationship with a boy from her area, who is believed to be responsible.

Headmaster Lingaraj Sahu stated that suspicion arose toward the end of June when the student declined to take sanitary pads distributed to all girls. The matter was reported by the responsible staff, and following directions from higher authorities, the student was examined in the presence of her parents before police were formally notified.

Police said the investigation is ongoing based on the survivor's statement. Further action will be taken after the identification and interrogation of the alleged perpetrator.

Berhampur, July 19: A special POCSO court in Berhampur Saturday convicted and sentenced a 30-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a 9-year-old girl in 2023.

The accused, Rohit Naik of Badagada police limits in Ganiam district, was also fined Rs 5.000. The court ruled that failure to pay the fine would result in an additional six months of imprisonment. In a related directive, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) was ordered to provide ₹10.5 lakh in financial compensation to the survivor.

The case dates back to December 2022, when a woman had taken her daughter to her paternal house in the Badagada area. A cultural drama performance was under way in front of the house on the night of January 13, 2023, which the woman

she found her daughter missing from the room where she was asleep.

After a while, the girl returned home crying and alleged that a youth had entered the house, covered her mouth, dragged her to a nearby farmland and raped her. The child was taken to hospital for medical attenA case (22/23) was registered under the Protection of Chil dren from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Following an investigation, police arrested Rohit Naik and forwarded him to court. During the trial, the statements of nine witnesses were recorded, informed Public Prosecutor Naravan Panda.



Sexagenarian rapes 8-yr-old

Balasore: An eight-year old girl was allegedly raped by a 60-year old man inside a shop near Madhua Mill Square under Town police limits here July 17, police officials said Saturday. The matter came to light after police registered a case and arrested the accused Sheikh Babu, 60, Saturday, The accused, a resident of Badakhua area. was produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail pleas. The incident occurred when the girl was alone at the shop owned by her mother July 17. The accused went to the shop and allegedly raped the girl finding her alone. Police registered a case and launched an investigation led by IIC Bijay Kumar Das over a complaint and arrested the accused.

Youth held for raping minor

Jeypore: A youth who had gone absconding after raping a minor girl in 2024 has been arrested by Jeypore Mahila police, officials said Saturday. The accused was identified as Guru Machha, 21, of Gurudipai village under Boipariguda police limits in Koraput district. He was produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea. Mahila Police IIC Ashrita Xalco said. The incident occurred when the accused was on a visit to his uncle's house in October 2024. The girl had gone to the riverbank to attend nature's call when Guru finding her alone forced himself on her, October 29, 2024. Guru also beat her up when she raised an alarm. The girl's mother lodged a complaint at the Jeypore Mahila Police Station. Since then, he was absconding.

Forester, guard transferred over jumbo death, tusk theft

Keonjhar: Following the incident of elephant death and tusk theft in Saleikena reserve forest under Telkoi range, the Forest department has transferred Forester Malay Kumar Jena and Guard Ajit Kumar Das and issued a showcause notice to range officer Shivaji Mohan Rao, Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD informed Saturday evening. The tusks were stolen due to the late detection of the elephant's death, he said. According to sources, such steps have been taken to maintain transparency in the ongoing departmental inquiry against the officials. Earlier, the Forest department has arrested five villagers in connection with this incident, but it is a matter of concern that the tusks have not been recovered yet, the sources added. The Joint Task Force and the Special Task Force are investigating the cause of death and efforts are on to recover the tusks. The investigation is led by ACF Sudipta Panda, the DFO informed.



www.rbi.org.in

Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI

Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)

- The Reserve Bank has mandated all its regulated entities to have a mechanism at their end to resolve the complaints received by them from their customers, which is considered as the Internal Grievance Redress Mechanism of regulated entities.
- The Reserve Bank has also put in place an expeditious and cost-free Alternate Grievance Redress Mechanism for resolution of customer complaints relating to deficiencies in services rendered by its regulated entities through the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IOS).
- Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Payment System Participants and Credit Information Companies are considered as regulated entities under the Grievance Redress Mechanism.
- The RB-IOS adopts a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach for all complaints against any regulated entities. It is therefore no longer necessary for a complainant to identify under which Ombudsman scheme/office, he/she should file a complaint with the Ombudsman.
- The complaints against regulated entities not covered under the RB-IOS are handled at Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) for resolution.
- The list of regulated entities covered under the ambit of RB-IOS and CEPC can be accessed by visiting https://cms.rbi.org.in

What to do if you have a complaint?

You can lodge complaint against the regulated entity at its branch or through online in the grievance redressal portal or any other mode as mentioned in its website. Get acknowledgement or save the reference number of the complaint.

When to approach the RBI Ombudsman?

You can approach the RBI Ombudsman, in case:

No reply is received from the regulated entity within 30 days - Anytime within one year and 30 days from the date of your complaint to

Vedanta hosts health camp in remote Kalahandi villages



Lanjigarh: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, reaffirmed its commitment to accessible healthcare by organising a mega multi-specialty health camp under its flagship CSR initiative, Project Aarogya. The camp served 15 villages under the Gobardhanpur gram panchayat, reaching deep into Kalahandi district. Held during peak monsoon, when seasonal illnesses are prevalent, the camp benefited over 350 patients. With support from specialists in paediatrics, general medicine, gynaecology and allied fields, the initiative provided immediate medical care and promoted awareness on preventive health practices, helping bridge critical gaps in rural healthcare access. Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, we are committed to sustainable community development. This health camp reflects our preventive approach under Project Aarogya, ensuring timely medical support reaches even the most remote villages." In FY 2024-25, Project Aarogya facilitated more than 660 Mobile Health Unit visits, reaching over 20,500 individuals across remote areas. It also organised over 680 awareness sessions, educating more than 15,000 people on hygiene, wellness and disease prevention.

regulated entity.

Reply received from the regulated entity is unsatisfactory - Anytime within one year of receipt of reply from the concerned regulated entity.

Note:

- The complaint should contain all requisite details / information as per the complaint form prescribed in the RB-IOS.
- The complaint should not have been dealt with / pending with any other forum (like Courts) or dealt earlier by the RBI Ombudsman.
 - Filing complaint directly with RBI Ombudsman, without approaching the RE, may lead to its rejection.

How to lodge a complaint with RBI?

Complaint against the regulated entity can be filed through any of the following modes:

- Online through the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal of RBI at <u>https://cms.rbi.org.in</u>
- Physical complaint (letter / post) in the form as specified in Annexure in the RB-IOS to "Centralized Receipt and Processing Centre, 4th floor, Reserve Bank of India Sector-17, Central Vista, Chandigarh - 160017"

How to know more about lodging a complaint with RBI?

For more information, you can approach RBI Contact Centre facility with Toll-free Number: 14448. The contact center with Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) is available 24x7, while the facility to connect to Contact Centre personnel is available from Monday to Saturday except National Holidays, between 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM for English, Hindi and ten regional languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil).

For more information

Please Visit: FAQs on RB- IOS, 2021 https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_FAQs.aspx?fn=2745 Or CMS Portal - https://cms.rbi.org.in/

(For complaints against DICGC, members of public can lodge the complaint at following address/ e-mail Id)

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation

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power post



NATION FOCUS

Our life should be governed by the love for the Truth and the thirst for Light

THE MOTHER

Wild Swing

he BJP is seen today as a corporate-friendly political party, and this is the view held by both the party's votaries and its opponents. Supporters say this is necessary to industrialise India and that the government has no business to be in business. Opponents of course complain that this is a sell-out to cronv capitalism.

But the party did not start off this way and indeed, there is no doctrine which tells us why the BJP is doing today what it opposed yesterday. A political party has every right to shift its position, of course, but it would not be out of place to ask why it has done this. The Congress moved towards liberalisation after a fierce debate inside the party, and on the pages of organs like the Economic and Political Weekly. Narasimha Rao had trouble getting his reforms passed and had to justify them to his own MPs and the public.

In its early manifestos as the Jana Sangh the BJP opposed the free market policies it today champions. It said that 'laissez-faire belonged only to the Krita Yuga' (also called Sat Yuga, the first ideal era when the gods themselves governed the earth). The State thus must accept responsibility of ownership and management in certain spheres of the economy. In 1954, and again in 1971, the Jana Sangh resolved to limit the maximum income of all Indian citizens to Rs 2.000 per month and

the minimum to Rs 100, maintaining a 20:1 ratio. It would continue working on reducing this gap till it reached 10:1 which was the ideal gap and all Indians could only have incomes inside this range based on their position. Additional income earned by individuals over this limit would be procured by the State for development needs 'through contribution, taxation, compulsory loans and investment.' The party would also limit the size of residential houses in cities and not allow plots of more than 1000 square yards.

It opposed mechanisation of all industry except defence and aerospace because it wanted workers instead of machines in factories. It opposed mechanisation in agriculture after first encouraging it. In 1954, the party said that "tractors will be used only to break virgin soil. Their use for normal ploughing purposes will be discouraged." This was of course because it was trying to protect the bull and the ox from slaughter.

On the matter of the public sector, the party said it would develop an economic system that would not undo state enterprises but would give private enterprises their proper place. Import of consumer goods and luxury goods would be discouraged. Swadeshi meant giving subsidies to local industries and also tariff protection. Labour rights including strikes and lockouts would be discouraged.

In 1957, the party announced it would introduce "revolutionary changes" to the economic order, which "will be in keeping with Bharatiya values of life." However, these were not elaborated on nor was this theme of revolutionary change picked up again in any future manifesto. In 1967, the party said it backed the idea of a planned economy, but would tweak the plan and "adopt the system of microeconomic planning region-wise and project-wise." It sought State intervention, but not everywhere. It encouraged private investment but definitely not in the defence sector.

A similar shift has come in the party's outlook to civil liberties. Again this u-turn has not been explained. In 1954, the Jana Sangh said it would repeal the first amendment to the Constitution that curbed freedom of speech by imposing "reasonable restrictions." This amendment essentially took away freedom of expression because the list of what is seen as a reasonable restriction was far too wide and broad. The Jana Sangh sensed that it was not something that could be allowed to go unchallenged. However, after 1954, this demand that the first amendment be repealed and freedom of speech, association and assembly be restored to Indians disappeared from the Jana Sangh manifestos. Interestingly, the Jana Sangh said it would also repeal preventive detention laws which it said were absolutely in contradiction to individual liberty. This promise was made repeatedly in the 1950s. However, by 1967 it began to qualify the demand and said that "care will be taken to ensure that fifth columnists and disruptionist elements are not allowed to exploit fundamental rights." In time, the Sangh and BJP became the most enthusiastic champions of preventive detention, and today jail not bail is their stated policy for civil society and political opponents. The question is why has the party swung so wildly from one side to another and why has it not explained this shift? The answer is that there was no thinking that went into the original position. The Jana Sangh manifestos appear often to be in response to what was going on in India under the Congress. If Nehru initiated land reform, the Jana Sangh added a paragraph or two on how their land reform would be better. When Indira spoke of a land ceiling, the Jana Sangh defined what their land ceiling would be. A planned economy was fine, but the Jana Sangh would plan it deeper to the micro level and it would also be project-focused. Mechanisation was good but not too much mechanisation because it led to unemployment so it must be a Bharatiya modernisation. And so on.

Aakar Patel

The party did not start off this way and indeed, there is no doctrine which tells us why the **BJP is doing** today what it opposed yesterday



the Samvidhan Bachao rally organised by the Congress in Bhubaneswar on 11 July, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi called out the Election Commission of India (ECI) for "stealing" elections as part of a mass disenfranchisement exercise in Bihar slated for polls in November, under the guise of undertaking the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which had already been completed in 2005.

a valid document to establish

the voter's identity. According

to UIDAI website, Aadhaar

coverage in Bihar is at 94% and

therefore there is no reason for

the EC not to include Aadhaar

as an acceptable document. This

smacks of the integrity of the vot-

er registration process which is

aimed more at exclusion than

The ECI had conducted a

similar exercise in Bihar in

2003 and had then needed two

years to finalise the revised

electoral rolls. To again revise

the rolls, that too within one

month's time, is both unprec-

edented and impractical. Sur-

mising the possible cause of

this measure implemented by

the ECI "all of a sudden" sug-

gests government attempts to

keep out a certain category of

inclusion of genuine voters.



REASON FOR Act, 2021 had amended the RP Act, 1950 to include Aadhaar as **THE EC NOT**

The ECI had conducted a similar exercise in Bihar in 2003 and had then needed two years to finalise the revised electoral rolls. To again revise the rolls, that too within one month's time, is both unprecedented and impractical

voters, mostly the marginalised including minority groups, who may not be able to procure the required documents in such a short time. Not surprisingly, the combined Opposition led by RJD and comprising of the Congress, left parties and AIMIM led a mass agitation last week to garner popular awareness against the ECI's shenanigans.

ECI has highlighted SIR as an exercise to ensure that no eligible voter is left out while no ineligible person is entered in the electoral rolls. However, as observers point out, it is not the essence of SIR (Sec 21 of People's Representation Act. 1950 mandates ECI to carry out the exercise) which is wrong, but the method and procedures adopted which leave a cloud of suspicion in the minds of the largely illiterate, impoverished and uneducated sections, and the bulk of migrant labour, who mostly do not have a permanent address to register. This stands contrary to the ECI's claim of having done large-scale consultations with all Opposition parties as well as the

BJP in arriving at this decision. As a columnist in a national newspaper observed on 13 July, "The EC's requirements betrav not merely incompetence but something far more troubling a fundamental contempt for the poor." In rural Bihar where

around 65.58% are homeless, the EC expects citizens to produce land allotment certificates. Where illiteracy is rampant, they demand school certificates. Where poverty forces migration, they require permanent residence proof. "And the timeline - less than one month for potentially millions of voters to gather these obscure documents. Even if by some miracle citizens manage this bureaucratic treasure hunt, does the EC possess the manpower to verify them all?" the columnist asks. The EC has stated in response that it has put more than 1 lakh Block Level Officers, 4 lakh volunteers and more than 1.5 lakh Booth-level agents appointed by political

parties to conduct this mammoth exercise, and that 80% of voter registration forms have already been collected. The brief for the SC in its hearing of 11 July was to focus

on the EC's power to undertake this exercise, the manner in which the revision exercise is conducted and the timing thereof. On both the latter grounds the EC has much to explain. The SC has given 21 July as the date to file a counter-affidavit by the EC while the final hearing has been fixed for 28 July, just days before the electoral rolls are to be finalised. Coming in the wake of diminution of the

PILs filed by activists and the Association for Democratic Reforms alleging voter (read EVM-VVPAT) manipulation and significant discrepancy between votes cast and votes polled in the recent state elections which the EC has treated in a lackadaisical manner, has given rise to further concern. Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote rigging in the last Maharashtra Assembly elections, voices the anger and concern of citizens, of a brazen violation of constitutional norms (universal adult suffrage under Article 326). Furthermore, the spectre of the NRC, which is included as one of the 11 documents, could find a backdoor entry into Bihar making this a mechanism for exclusion rather than a genuine enfranchisement exercise. The Home Minister's ominous declaration that SIR is going to be implemented in all states coming up for elections in the future starting with West Bengal and Tamil Nadu early next year has added to doubts about the government's intent to "stan-

dardise" election procedures. Linking this to the larger issue of "One Nation One Election (ONOE)," which was first introduced in the BJP's 2014 election manifesto and given concrete shape in the PM's declaration in his Independence Day address last year when he said. "I request everyone to come together to achieve the resolve of One Nation One Election which is the need of the hour," the situation demands serious introspection.

Restarting the SIR exercise in Bihar has been a deliberately thought-out plan to bring in one-party rule which runs contrary to the ethics of the Constitution and ignores the diversities of political cultures across the country. This does not augur well for the continuance of constitutional democracy in the long run.

The writer is a retired diplomat and political analyst. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

A defining moment for climate action

greenhouse-gas emissions still rising globally and nature loss continuing apace, the Amazon

ideas, scalable finance, and robust partnerships that the global green transformation demands. Nature-based solutions

reward developing countries with historically low rates of deforestation and compensate them for upholding good stewardship. Unlike carbon markets, which focus on verified reductions in emissions, the TFFF would provide predictable, long-term payments to countries based on the number of hectares conserved.

ing strides in nature restoration and sustainable land management. It has set a number of ambitious goals, including restor-



AN ACCEPTABLE

TO INCLUDE

DOCUMENT

AADHAAR AS

Ultimately, when the Congress shifted its economic outlook in 1991, the BJP shifted with it. And that is why we find ourselves here today.

WISDOM CORNER

We must all obey the great law of change. It is the most powerful law of nature

EDMUND BURKE

There is nothing with which every man is so afraid as getting to know how enormously much he is capable of doing and becoming

It's in responsibility that most people find the meaning that sustains them through life. It's not in happiness. It's not in impulsive pleasure

JORDAN PETERSON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1917: The Corfu Declaration was issued, calling for the establishment of a unified Yugoslav state following World War I.
- **1944:** During World War II, German military leaders attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler in the July Plot.
- **1969:** Apollo 11 lands on the Moon. Carrying Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, who would become the first humans to walk on the Moon, the spacecraft safely landed on the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon.
- 1976: Viking I lands on Mars. Part of the Viking program, Viking I became the first American spacecraft to successfully land on Mars and to complete its mission.



Keith Tuffley

FOREST PROTECTION **IS NOT EASY: IT DEMANDS** RIGOROUS **OVERSIGHT**, TRANSPARENT **BENEFIT-**SHARING, AND UNWAVERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT rainforest is approaching a tipping point. To avert climate catastrophe, the world must make rapid and significant progress on protecting forests and building a sustainable, inclusive bioeconomy. And Brazil must lead the way, starting at this November's COP30 in Belém.

The Amazon represents one of the planet's most powerful defenses against climate change. It is more than a carbon sink; it is a reservoir of biodiversity, a regulator of rainfall across South America, and a vital component of our planet's climate system. As the custodian of nearly 60% of the Amazon. Brazil has not only a responsibility to be a good steward, but also an opportunity to demonstrate global leadership at a pivotal moment for people and the planet.

Brazil seems to recognize this. The government's renewed commitment to forest protection, under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration, is reflected in a sharp decline in deforestation rates. But this is just the beginning. Brazil is also working to deliver the bold

which simultaneously advance environmental imperatives and ensure sustainable economic growth - are central to this effort. Recognising that the preservation of existing nature produces the fastest, most cost-effective results, these solutions are typically based on three pillars: protect, restore, and manage.

To protect forests, Brazil is advancing innovative approaches, both domestically and internationally. At home, the country is helping to pioneer a jurisdictional approach, which links carbon finance to state-level action to protect forests, as part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's framework for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries" (REDD+). Brazil's jurisdictional REDD+ programmes reward regions for reducing deforestation, enhancing forest carbon stocks, and ensuring that benefits reach indigenous peoples and local communities. At the international level, Brazil has proposed a \$125 billion Tropical Forest Forever Facility, which would

Jurisdictional programmes address the imperative of reducing deforestation now through performance-based finance, while the TFFF offers the steady. long-term support that is needed to sustain those gains. Together, they correct a critical market failure: the undervaluing of standing forests.

Forest protection is not easy: it demands rigorous oversight. transparent benefit-sharing. and unwavering community engagement. But when done right, it can unlock significant climate finance, catalyze private-sector participation, and drive sustainable development. The Race to Belém initiative, of which I am CEO, aims to make the most of this potential by mobilizing a huge amount of private-sector investment for forest protection in advance of COP30.

But protection is only the first pillar. Brazil is also making 12 million hectares of forested areas by 2030; converting 40 million hectares of degraded pastureland into productive systems for food, biofuels, and high-productivity forests over the next decade; and promoting a bioeconomy that respects nature and people. The Brazil Restoration and Bioeconomy Finance Coalition, which seeks to mobilize \$10 billion in private investment by 2030, underscores the growing role of the business sector in this process.

Far from just another diplomatic gathering, COP30 is shaping up to be a defining moment for climate action - and, in particular, forest preservation, restoration, and management. The foundations for transformative action are already in place. The challenge will be for Brazil to build on its success in harnessing national policy, subnational action, and private-sector engagement to accelerate progress and spearhead a new global model of climate action. The writer is CEO of Race to Belém. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Pak's terror playbook

Sir, This refers to "US declares TRF as terror group," Orissa POST, July 19. In a move that once again exposes Pakistan's terror playbook, the United States has officially declared The Resistance Front (TRF), the group behind the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' entity. The Pahalgam attack. executed by TRF's 'Falcon Squad', had the terrorists using advanced weapons, camouflage and head-mounted cameras. Notwithstanding Pakistan's claims of TRF being India's homegrown insurgency, the outfit relies on the LeT's logistical, financial and operational support, with leadership, training bases and safe-houses located in Pakistan. This rebranding seeks to evade Financial Action Task Force (FATF) scrutiny, international bans and attribution while posing as a local resistance group to gain sympathy. TRF's attack on tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam is seen as aimed to destabilise the region and push Pakistan's false narrative of indigenous rebellion in the Kashmir Valley. Intelligence, including intercepts and digital footprints, allegedly confirm that the orders had come from Pakistan army chief Asim Munir, it all timed to divert attention from domestic unrest, the crackdown on Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, and to justify his unconstitutional self-appointment as "Field Marshal."

Brexit backfires

Sir, The UK is reconsidering Brexit, signaling a dramatic policy reversal through a new treaty with Germany on trade, defence, and transportation, including a proposed direct London-Berlin train link. As Europe's only nuclear powers, France and the UK are key to continental security. Brexit, a British creation, has backfired amidst the Ukraine war and rising US tariffs under Donald Trump, exposing the need for a stronger, united Europe. With 55% of Britons now favouring EU re-entry, momentum is building for reintegration. For India, a reversal of Brexit could complicate ongoing bilateral trade talks with the UK but offer broader access to the larger EU market, potentially reshaping trade and diplomatic dynamics in Europe. RS Narula, PATIALA

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE







etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 10 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal

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







TRF grows as deadly terror group in J&K

TWO STATES

TRF, a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, was Thursday added as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global *Terrorist (SDGT) by the* US State Department

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 19: The Resistance Front (TRF) emerged in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and is today amongst the deadliest terror groups in the region with former Pakistani Special Service Group (SSG) commandos in its ranks, intelligence sources said Friday.

TRF, a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, was Thursday added as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) by the US State Department.

Besides the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed, the group is also confirmed to be involved in four other major attacks in the past



two years. These are the attack on pil-

grims in Reasi in June 2024, on migrant construction workers in the Z-Morh tunnel (also known as the Sonamarg tunnel) in Ganderbal in October 2024; the September 13, 2023 Kokernag encounter that left a colonel, a major and a deputy superintendent of police dead; and the July 8, 2020 attack on a BJP leader killing him and two of his family members in Bandipora district.

The attacks in Reasi and Ganderbal left 16 persons, including seven pilgrims, dead and scores of others injured, sources told PTI.

Marketed by Pakistan's information warfare machinery as a homegrown insurgent outfit, the TRF is a proxy arm of LeT created to give militancy in Kashmir a more localised

appearance. The TRF was founded in October 2019, with Sheikh Sajjad Gul as its Supreme Commander, Mohammad Abbass Sheikh as the founding chief and Basit Ahmed Dar as the chief operational commander. Both Abbass and Dar, local terrorists. were eliminated by the security forces in separate operations in August 23, 2021 and May 7, 2024,

in the valley respectively. It has escalated its operations in J&K with a noticeable shift in targeting strategy. Traditionally focused on security forces and political figures, TRF began to target infrastructure projects and civilians, including non-local labourers and tourists, in

late 2024 and early 2025. Intelligence intercepts, human sources and forensic digital trail pointed to the TRF acting on direct instructions

from the Pakistani military establishment, the sources said, adding that the timing of the Pahalgam attack coincided with rising domestic unrest in Pakistan and global criticism of its army's crackdown on democratic forces revealed the true objective -- deflection and diversion.

The officials said the Pahalgam attack marked a significant development in the TRF's tactics. Five attackers, allegedly affiliated to a TRF unit called the 'Falcon Squad', infiltrated the Pahalgam area dressed in military camouflage, armed with military-grade weapons and advanced communication devices.

The survivors reported that the assailants specifically targeted Hindu males, inspecting for religious markers such as names and circumcision, and demanding that the victims recite Kalma, the Islamic declaration of faith.

The attackers used helmet-mounted cameras and operated in a swift hit-and-run style, retreating into the forested terrain to evade capture, the sources said.

The security agencies have identified the attackers' leader as Hashim Musa alias Asif Fauji, reportedly a former Pakistani SSG commando, with sup port from another Pakistani na tional, Ali Bhai. The attack was allegedly orchestrated by Saifullah Kasuri alias Khalid, a senior LeT commander and close aide of globally designated terrorist Hafiz Saeed, officials said.

They said the digital footprints of the attackers traced back to safe houses across the border in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, suggesting deep logistical coordination with LeT infrastructure in Pakistan.

They said the targeting of tourists in Pahalgam marks a potential shift in the operation al policy of Kashmiri militant groups, signalling a willingness to expand attacks beyond gov ernment personnel and settlers to include civilian visitors under a broader strategy to destabilise the region, discourage tourism and deepen communal divisions.

The use of highly trained, locally recruited militants under the 'Falcon Squad' indicates a growing reliance on decentralised. hard-to-trace operatives, raising concerns about future threats to both regional security and civilian life in J&K, they said.

NAPA seeks scrutiny of ads by travel agents

'PUNJABIS FALLING PREY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING'

OrissaPC

SUNDAY | JULY 20, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PUNJAB

Chandigarh, July 19: The North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) has called for stringent scrutiny of foreign job advertisements by travel agents in Punjab, claiming people from the state were falling prey to human trafficking and deceptive migration schemes.

Satnam Singh Chahal, executive director of the US-based NAPA, emphasised that every year, hundreds of young Punjabis, driven by the dream of a better future in Western nations, end up being exploited by unregulated agents.

These agents often work through sophisticated networks and use flashy advertisements in newspapers, social media, and local \overline{TV} channels to lure innocent people.

"They are promised high-paying jobs abroad, but instead, many are abandoned in transit countries or forced into inhumane conditions. These agents charge anywhere between ₹20 and 50 lakh, pushing families

into lifelong debt," he said. He alleged that unscrupulous agents, operating not only from Punjab but also from metropolitan hubs like New Delhi and even foreign countries like the USA, are running a parallel economy based on deceit and exploitation.

'There must be a system in place to scrutinise whether a travel agent has valid licens es and legal authorisations to offer jobs overseas," Chahal asserted.

He recommended that all job-related advertisements by travel agents should be vetted by authorities such as the Pro tector of Emigrants and local police departments.

He also stressed the need for digital tracking and reporting mechanisms to monitor these agents' activities across states and international jurisdictions

Chahal warned that the unchecked flow of irregular migration not only affects in dividuals but also tarnishes the reputation of the entire Indian diaspora.

Over 17L saplings planted with drones in Trikuta Hills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 19: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has leveraged drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the cave shrine's natural grandeur and planted over 17 lakh saplings under the annual green plan in Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials Friday said. The Shrine Board took this

step towards environmental conservation, with several organizations joining hands to promote eco-protection and

Handmade product exports from Kashmir cross ₹300-crore mark



sustainable practices in the lo cal community, they said.

"The Board has leveraged drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the shrine's

natural grandeur and has planted over 1.7 million (17 lakh) saplings under the annual green plan," said SMVDSB Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg.

This initiative exemplifies a successful institutional partnership and community engagement in environmental conservation, he added.

The Shrine Board and the Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CG-PWA), Jammu, have joined hands to foster eco-protection and sustainable practices in the local community.

"The collaboration with the CGPWA has amplified awareness of eco-protection and promotes sustainable practices in the local community, leveraging their extensive network and outreach capabilities, said Garg. With the onset of the monsoon season this year, the two organizations have once again come together to offer various plant species to the public through the 'Vaishnavi Vatika' plant sale counter at Vaishnavi Dham in Jammu.

The plant sale counter offers a diverse selection of around 28 indigenous plant species, meticulously nurtured and cultivated in the Board's high-tech nursery situated in Kunia village, Panthal, near Katra.



Period of the Work : Three months fro he date of issue of LOA Tender Closing Date and Time At 1530 hrs. of 05.08.2025. No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, PALLAHARA E-Mail ID- ori-pallahara@nic.in

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. PLR-02/2025-26 No.i-227:- Sealed tenders are invited from the interested bidders for the civil work under BDO, Pallahara of Angul District. The details has been uploaded in the District website www.angul odisha.gov.in.They have to submit bid documents to the indersigned in the address of "Office of the BDO, Pallahara At/Po-Pallahara, Dist-Angul, Pin-759119" through Regd./Speed Post or drop in the tender box kept in the office chamber of the understaned on or before 31.07.2025 (up to 12.00 Noon) DTCN & other details can be downloaded from the District Web site www.angul.odisha.gov.in or can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 19.07.2025 to 30.07.2025 (up to 5.00 P.M).

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Pallahara OIPR-19276/11/0005/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Registered Sale Deed executed by Krushna Chandra Garabadu representing his principal Sarat Chandra Dash in favour of Rashmi Rekha Samantaray, W/o-Sumanta Kumar Batu,bearing Documen No. 11081303478, Dated- 23.02.2013, Khata no-994/1084, of Mouza-Bhubane har, Unit No-27and Original Mutation ROR in respect of Khata No-994/1084, Plo

DESIRE TO SETTLE ABROAD TURNS INTO NIGHTMARE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 19: Exports of handmade products from Kashmir have crossed the ₹300 crore mark in the first quarter of the current financial year, which is the highest for the period in the last four years, an official said Saturday.

"In a major fillip to Kashmir's famed craft sector, handmade products worth ₹309.62 crore have been exported to various overseas destinations in the first quarter of the current financial year -- up from ₹126.90 crore in the same quarter last year," an official of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, said.

The exports are the highest for Q1 in the last four years, the official said. The Department is targeting craft exports of over ₹1,500 crore during the current financial year, provided global conflicts relent.

"Higher exports of craft products to overseas destinations secure the welfare of Kashmir's famed artisans and weavers," the official said. Last year, craft products worth ₹733.59 crore were exported, largely affected due to various global conflicts.

"While Kani, Sozni shawls and hand-knotted carpets continue to lead exports, the other products exported include crewel, papier mache, chain stitch and wood carving items,' the official added.

The official urged the exporters to avail Export Subsidy Scheme notified by the Government, which provides incentive of 10 per cent of the total volume of GI-registered handloom/ handicraft export products to any country with maximum reimbursement up to ₹5 crore in favour of eligible exporters registered with the Department.

7 Punjab bachelors duped on pretext of marriage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, July 19: A mother-daughter duo from Punjab's Ludhiana district found a novel way to dupe prospective bachelor emigrants to Canada by exploiting their eagerness to settle abroad. For seven aspiring bachelor 'emigrants', it was a double delight of getting married and settling in Canada. But it did not turn out to be so. They neither got the bride nor the emigration to Canada but instead ended up losing lakhs of rupees, police investigation has revealed.

Sukhdarshan Kaur, who was arrested recently along with two others, would allegedly use the photographs and videos of her 24-year-old daughter Harpreet as a prospective bride for those wanting to get married and settle abroad. Harpreet went to Canada on student visa and was currently there on work permit.

According to Doraha SHO Inspector Akash Dutt, seven victims have been identified and have come forward with their statements to the police so far.

The modus operandi allegedly adopted by Sukhdarshan and other accused in the case was the same, he said.

Sukhdarshan would follow the matrimonial advertisements in newspapers and then approach the families of the prospective grooms. She would tell them that her daughter Harpreet lived in Surrey, Canada on work permit after having studied there.

Police said Sukhdarshan would fix her daughter's 'marriage' with those prospective grooms who wanted to settle in Canada but were unable to do so due to vari-



ous reasons and limitations.

The mother would make her daughter speak to the prospective grooms via video calls and then go ahead and hold engagement ceremonies of her daughter after reaching her 'fiances' homes with sweets. She would claim that she had incurred huge expenses on sending her daughter abroad, and had accrued a lot of debt.

She would allegedly demand around ₹20 lakh from every family she cheated. The final amount settled would be between ₹15 lakh and ₹18 lakh. All the payments were taken through bank transfers apparently to gain the confidence of the people she allegedly cheated.

Just because of their eagerness to settle in Canada, none of the victims tried to cross check the facts about Harpreet, police said. Some of them even sold their land, animals and took loans to pay Sukhdarshan.

Even some 'engagement' ceremonies were held through video calls. Police said Harpreet's mother would promise that a wedding would be solemnised within a few months after 'engagement', but later on kept giving excuses to delay it or even stopped taking calls. The lid on the modus operandi adopted by the accused over past more than a year was blown off when another such 'engagement' was to take place at a hotel in Doraha here July 10, which involved a young man from Khanna here.

While like in other cases where other young men were allegedly duped. Harpreet would not be present physically in this case too, and instead her framed photo was kept. In some cases, she ioined through video call.

However, the hotel where this 'proxy engagement' was to take place was raided on a tip-off to the police from another man hailing from a village in Bathinda, who claimed that a WhatsApp voice note meant for Harpreet was mistakenly shared by her mother to him. In that voice note, details of the fraudulent practice which had been adopted to dupe him and other men was allegedly being discussed as well as the 'pending' money that had to be collected from the man who hailed from Khanna.

Police said a case under BNS sections 316(2) (criminal breach of trust), 318 (4) (cheating), and 61 (2) (criminal conspiracy) has been registered at the Doraha police station.

Besides Sukhdarshan, the police have also arrested two more accused in the case, and further investigation is on.

on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be rejecte summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender i vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers ar advised to revisit the website fifteen (15 days before the date of closing of tende to note any changes/corrigenda issue for this tender. The tenderers/ bidder must have Class-III Digital Signatur Certificate and must be registered or IREPS Portal. Only registered tendered idder can participate on e-tendering. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) PR-381/Q/25-26 Sambalpu PR-381/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 27/ET/SBP/ ENGG/2025-26, Dated : 11.07.2025

(1) e-Tender No. 06-eT-SETT-SBP-25

NAME OF WORK MISCELLANEOUS MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MECHANIZED CLEANING AND

SANITATION (UPKEEPING) OF DRM OFFICE COMPLEX AND ITS PREMISES, TRD OFFICE, DETS, TM OFFICE, ETC. AT SAMBALPUR FOR 24

MONTHS FOR THE YEAR 2025-27

₹ 5,900/-, Bid Security: ₹ 1,71,300/-(2) e-Tender No. 35-eT-DENE-SBP-25

Approximate Cost of the Work

₹85,62,775.38, Cost of tender form

NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF P.WAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN

CONNECTION WITH PROVISION O

ONE CROSS-OVER BETWEEN R3 & R

TOWARDS SAMBALPUR END DISMANTLING 02 DEAD ENDS AND LAYING OF 10M PLAIN TRACK BY CONNECTING THEM AT LAPANGA

AND PROVISION OF AUTO CUM GATE GOOMTY (14M X 6M) AT LAPANGA RENGALI SECTION OF SAMBALPUF

Approximate Cost of the Work

₹ 39,75,926.14, Bid Security : ₹ 79,600/-Completion Period for the Work : 24 (Twenty Four) Months (for SI. No. 1) and 06 (Six) Months (for SI. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500

irs on 04.08.2025 (for both Tenders).

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

documents of the above e-tender i available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to

adys beinde mediade or closing of render in note any changes / corrigenda issued fo this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus have Class-III bigital Signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal Only registered tenderer/bidder car participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)

ithout any consideration Complete information including e-tende

PR-374/Q/25-26

DIVISION.

No-883/2993, Ac 0.055 decls have been lost and FIR Already Loged at Lingara Police Station vide GD-016, Dt.03/07/2025. All the persons are hereby informed that not to carry on any transaction on the basis of said missing document. On behalf o he client, Mr. Rishi Singh (owner of the mentioned Plot) the undersigned advocate hereby invites claims or objections, if any claims/objections for said Plot kindly the undersigned advocate along with the relevant documents to support their claims/objections within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. In absence of any claim within stipulated period, it shall be deemed that the propert as no claim by virtue of lost agreement. Sd/- Sanjay Kumar Samantaray

Place: Old Town, Bhubaneswar Date:14-07-2025

Advocate, High Court Bhubaneswar, Odisha

			DR		RAF				64253	
	SCHEDULE	OF	E-A	UCI	101	N				
Month DIVISION / UNIT Date as mentioned below :										
September-2025 October-2025										
SEPTEMBER	Depot Mancheswar	1	8	15	22	8	13	22	27	
&	Khurda Road Division	2	9	15	23	8	14	22	29	
OCTOBER-	Waltair Division	3	10	16	24	9	15	23	30	
2025	Sambalpur Division 4 11 18 25 10 16 24 31									
P.Way fittings miscellaneous plunger, turnir metallic scrap condemned of and scrap ma	olling stocks (Loco, Cc s (switches, crossings workshop scrap (dru ng and boring etc), M o, condemned machir ffice equipments of San terials of Railway Elect E IS" basis, Railway an	, fish ims, iscell nery nbalp rifica	plat bogie aneou and ur, Kh tions	es, s fram us fer plants nurda are e	leepe rous, bi rous, coi Road xpect	ers, f uffer Non nder d & W ted to	fish to casir ferro ned altair be c	oolt e ng, b ous, l vehi divis	etc.) uffe Non- cles ions d or	

other items too in the e-auction and the complete details of materials and term and conditions will be as per Auction Catalogue, which shall be available with the espective auction conducting authority of East Coast Railway or from our website www.ireps.gov.in within 07 (seven) days prior to the date of auction. PR-373/Q/25-26

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswa

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGIN SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-I, SAMBAL								
E-mail- exeengsbp@rediffmail.com								
e-Procurement Notice								
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R AND B/ SBP/ 06/2025-	.26							
Order No.3159, Dtd.16.07.25	20							
No.B-320: 1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.I,								
Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate								
Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for Building (E.I. & Civil) as det								
the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.								
2. No. of Works : 06 (Six)								
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/- & Rs.4,000/- (Online)								
4. Class of Contractor : "C" & "B" Class Contractor and "MV" & "HT	-9							
Electrical Contractor and authorized dealer	r							
having MOU with authorized farm.								
 Date and Time available in: 11.00 Hrs. 24.07.2025 to 16.00 Hrs. of 31.01 website & receipt of Bids 	7.2025.							
6. Date of Opening of Tender: 31.07.2025 at 17.00 Hrs.								
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details								
seen from the website.								
8. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the website www.								
tendersodisha.gov.in only.								
Sd./- Superintending Engine								
OIPR-34042/11/0005/2526 Sambalpur (R&B) Division	-1							













national



BJP and RSS are talking about amending or rewriting the Constitution. You may try how much ever you want, the people of this country will not allow you to change the Constitution. If you (people) allow them to change the Constitution, you will not have any rights MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

ATTACK ON SAIF ALI KHAN: ACCUSED FILES BAIL PLEA

The Bangladeshi national held for allegedly stabbing and injuring actor Saif Ali Khan has moved a bail application before a court here claiming he was innocent and that the FIR against him was an "imaginary story"



ist peacefully, respecting all

languages and religions, with

persecution for upholding their

own mother tongue is discrim-

inatory and unconstitutional.

BJP in Assam has crossed all

limits, and people of Assam will

fight back. I stand with every

fearless citizen who is fighting

for the dignity of their language

and identity, and their demo-

in Assam with several former

Congress members, including

Hitting back, Sarma said,

MP Sushmita Dev, leading it.

"Didi, let me remind you –

In Assam, we are not fighting

our own people. We are fear-

lessly resisting the ongoing

unchecked Muslim infiltration

from across the border, which

has already caused an alarming

demographic shift. In several

districts, Hindus are now on the

verge of becoming a minority in

their own land." He claimed that

this is not a political narrative,

but a reality, with the Supreme

Court terming such infiltration

as external aggression. Sarma

claimed that while his gov

ernment was acting decisively

to preserve Assam's identity, Banerjee has "compromised

Bengal's future" by encourage

ing "illegal encroachment by a

particular community, appeas-

ing one religious community

for vote banks, and remaining

silent as border infiltration eats

away at national integrity - al

just to stay in power". He assert

ed that Assam will continue to

fight to preserve its heritage, its

dignity, and its people.

Banerjee's TMC has a unit

cratic rights," she said.

"This divisive agenda of the

Banerjee posted on X.

ASSAM LANGUAGE ROW

Mamata accuses BJP of

of the day uote

They (BJP) had given Rs 50 crore to their MLAs, while we (Congress MLAs) were given Rs 25 crore,

Rs 20 crore, or even Rs 10 crore We are following the same system

G PARAMESHWARA I K'TAKA HOME MINISTER

Our deep roots in the Marathi soil go back several generations. The ties with Marathi manoos

are strong since the time of my grandfather and Shiv Sena pramukh (Bal Thackeray). Now, I am there, Aaditya (Thackeray) is there, and even (MNS chief)

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) CHIEF

This is the disastrous legacy of Rahul Gandhi's one-day visit to Assam. His irresponsible

Raj has come

rhetoric has directly endangered lives and disrupted peace in our state. The people of Assam will neither forget nor forgive this betrayal HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Karunanidhi's eldest son dies

Chennai: Late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M Karunandhi's eldest son, M K Muthu, who was an actor and playback singer, died Saturday due to age-related ailments, his family said. The 77-year-old actor is the elder brother of Chief Minister M K Stalin. His MP sister Kanimozhi. after hearing the sad news while attending an event in Madurai, rushed back to the city to pay her last respects. Stalin and his Deputy Chief Minister son Udhavanidhi rushed to Muthu's residence here to pay their respects to Muthu, born in 1948, who made a mark in the Tamil film industry. His body was kept at the Gopalapuram residence of Karunanidhi for the public to pay their respects.

INDIA to raise Pahalgam attack, Trump's claims, Bihar SIR in Parl

New Delhi, July 19: INDIA bloc parties Saturday resolved to raise during the Parliament's Monsoon session the issues of Pahalgam attack terrorists not being brought to justice, **US President Donald Trump's** repeated claims of brokering a 'ceasefire' during India-Pakistan hostilities and the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar that the Opposition alleges "threatens people's

voting rights" Ahead of the Monsoon session beginning July 21, the leaders of 24 opposition parties of the bloc held an online meeting where they decided to raise eight major issues like foreign policy "failure and "atrocities" in Gaza, delimitation exercise and "targeting" of SCs/STs, women and minorities in the country.

Addressing the media after the meeting, the Congress' deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, Pramod Tiwari, said the Opposition parties would expect the Prime Minister to be present in Parliament and respond to the issues raised on the floor of the House, asserting that "Parliament is more important than travelling abroad". The Opposition grouping has not met for a long time. Notably, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is a founding member of the bloc, decided to opt out of the Saturday online meeting after it announced that it is no longer a part of the bloc. Incidentally, several senior

leaders of the group, including

chief ministers of West Bengal

and Tamil Nadu -- Mamata Ba-



neriee and MK Stalin -- were not present in the meeting.

Leaders who participated included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, NCP (SP)'s Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray (SS-UBT), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Ram Gopal Yadav (SP), Tiruchi Siva (DMK) M A Baby of CPI-M, D Raia (CPI), CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacha-

rya, among others. The leaders expressed serious concern over the government's "inaction" in bringing to justice the terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack and its "silence" on repeated claims made by US President Donald Trump in bringing about a 'ceasefire' on the hostilities between India and Pakistan. according to Tiwari. On the Pahalgam attack, he said, it is the biggest issue that concerns 140 crore people and is linked to

'5 jets shutdown': Cong seeks Modi's statement

New Delhi: After US President Donald Trump's remark that 'five jets were shot down' during the conflict between India and Pakistan, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clarify and asserted that the country has the right to know the truth. Questioning the prime minister's 'silence', the Congress also demanded that PM Modi give a clear and categorical' statement in Parliament on the US leader's claims on the India-Pakistan conflict over the last 70 days.

the honour of all. Sources close to Banerjee said he raised the issue of SIR in Bihar, alleging that the BJP and the Election Commission are using it in the form of "backdoor NRC". The INDIA bloc parties held deliberations to reach a consensus on issues that they would raise to corner the government during Parliament's Monsoon session beginning July 21 and to convey a message of unity

US body: AI crash Sharda varsity student kills

Shah: Cong doing negative politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun/Rudrapur, July 19: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday accused the Congress of doing negative politics at a time when Uttarakhand is progressing on the path of development and advised the opposition party to desist from the habit if it wished to survive.

Shah listed the achievements of the BJP-led governments at the centre and in the state as he slammed a social media post by a Congress leader asking the Union Minister not to return without telling the people what the BJP government had done for Uttarakhand.

"Congress is always doing negative politics, especially when development is taking place in Uttarakhand. It is like somebody squeezing lemon into milk so that it goes sour, the Union Minister said while addressing the Investment Fes tival event held at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district.

Investment MoUs worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore had been signed at the global investors summit held in Dehradun in December 2023. The event on Saturday marked the start of the imple mentation of works worth more than Rs one lakh crore from among these MoUs. Referring to the post made earlier in the day by the Congress leader whom he did not name. Shah said in ten years between 2004 and 2014, the Congress government gave Rs 53,000 crore to Uttarakhand while the Narendra Modi government gave Rs one lakh eighty six thousand crore to the state in ten years from 2014-2024 which is 3.5 times more than the amount given by the Congress government.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/Guwahati, July 19: A war of words broke out between West Bengal CM Mamata Baneriee and her Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma Saturday, as she alleged that the BJP-led government in the Northeastern state was "threatening" Bengali-speaking people, inviting a sharp retort accusing her of indulging in "appease-

ment" politics. The slugfest between the CMs of two neighbouring states comes as the TMC is raising its pitch on the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states, setting the tone for its campaign ahead of next year's assembly elections in West Bengal.

Notably, elections in Assam will also be held at the same time, and the BJP-led ruling alliance is looking to form a government for the third successive term by projecting itself as the "saviour" of the indigenous people against illegal Bengali-speaking Muslim migrants.

"The second most spoken language in the country, Bangla, is also the second most spoken language of Assam. To threaten citizens, who want to coex

Two Himachal brothers marry same woman to adopt dying tradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nahan/Shimla (HP), July 19: Two brothers of the Hatti tribe tied the knot to a woman in Shillai village of Himachal Pradesh, with hundreds of people witnessing the marriage solemnised under the anachronistic tradition of polvandry.



Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft June 12 en route from Ahmedabad to **London Gatwick** crashed into a

reports premature

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, July 19: A second-year dental student of a private university in Greater Noida hanged herself in her hostel room alleging torture by some members of the faculty, police said Saturday, adding two teachers have been arrested. The incident took place Friday night. Gurugram resident Ramesh Jongda lodged an FIR at Knowledge Park police station in Greater Noida Saturday, alleging his 21-year-old daughter Jyoti hanged herself in her room in Mandel hostel of Sharda University in Knowledge Park unable to bear the harassment. Demanding stringent action against the university staff for "harassing" his daughter, Jongda mentioned in his complaint: "My daughter was instigated to commit suicide by university faculty, and was personally tortured by them and evidence regarding her suicide was also destroyed. Students of the university also held protests and demanded action against those responsible for her death. Police said Jyoti left a suicide note, in which she wrote: "If I died, the teach-

died the teachers of PC utal meterial are to plance what meterial care to beene of Siz and Shering Maam to go taking the bars They men to go taking the bars They men have a me They hundlight me mark we they hundlight me have tern on stress became of more tern on stress became of the tern on long time to won't be and the tern they

self over 'staff harassment'

spokesperson Dr Ajit Kumar said a probe has been ordered. 'We have suspended those who were involved in this case and ordered an investigation. The report will be submitted within five days. We will take strict action against those who are responsible for it," he said. Jong-

Red alert in 5 Kerala districts

Thiruvananthapuram: The IMD Saturday issued a 'red alert' for five northern districts of Kerala, where incessant rains lashed several towns and high range areas, causing inundation and traffic snarls. The red alert, which predicts "extremely heavy rainfall", was issued for Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod districts. Districts including Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, and Palakkad were placed under an 'orange alert', warning of "heavy rainfall", as per the latest update from the weather agency. In light of the "extreme rainfall warning", the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued guidelines on precautions to be taken during emergencies.

New Delhi, July 19: The US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy has said the board will continue to support the AAIB's investigation into the Air India plane crash, and that reports about the incident are premature and speculative. On June 12, Air India's Boe-

ing 787-8 aircraft en route from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed into a building soon after takeoff, killing 260 people, including 19 people on the ground. Out of the 242 people onboard, one passenger survived. On July 12, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) released its preliminary report into the fatal crash. "Recent media reports on the Air India 171 crash are premature and speculative. India's Aircraft Ac-

takeoff, killing 260 people, including 19 people on the ground

building soon after

Investigations of this magnitude take time," Homendy said in a statement posted on X. The comments come days after AAIB said it is too early to draw any "definite conclusions" on what led to the crash, as the probe is still on, and urged everyone to refrain from spreading premature narratives. Homendy also said that NTSB fully supports AAIB's public appeal and will continue to support its ongoing

investigation. "All investigative questions should be addressed to the AAIB," she said in the post Saturday. There are reports suggesting that pilot error led to the crash of the Air India cident Investigation Bureau just plane -- VT-ANB -- operating released its preliminary report. the flight AI 171.

ers of PCP and Dental material are to blame. Mahinder Sir and Shairy Ma'am are responsible for my death. I want them to go behind the bars. They mentally harassed me They humiliated me. I have been in stress because of them for a long time. I want them to face the same thing. I am sorry. I can't live like this anymore. I can't." In his FIR, Jongda alleged that the university officials and staff did not inform police and family members and took the body to Sharda Hospital.

Police said they had lodged an FIR under the section 108, 238, 79, 352, 351 (2) of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. "Two faculty members - Mahinder and Shairy - have been arrested and further investigation is on in this case," Sudhir Kumar, additional DCP, Greater Noida, told PTI." Sharda University

da also alleged in the FIR that evidence regarding his daughter's suicide was destroyed by the university staffers.

"On Monday, I went to the college and met Dean M Siddarth, Anurag Awasthi and Ashish Chaudhary (HOD) and others and they assured me that Jyoti will not be personally tortured nor

will she be mistreated in any way, but even after that all of them together harassed my daughter," he added in FIR. He also alleged that his daughter was warned of punishment if she "complained too much". The FIR further said, "On 17/07/2025, Mahendra and Shairy Madam and Ashish Chaudhary again misbehaved and threatened that your work will not be approved and they will not allow you to take the exam, regarding which a suicide note of my daughter has been received.'

Bride Sunita Chauhan and grooms Pradeep and Kapil Negi said they took the decision without any pressure.

Local folk songs and dances added colour to the ceremony that began July 12 and lasted for three days in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmaur district.

Videos of the wedding ceremony have gone viral on the internet. Revenue laws of Hi machal Pradesh recognise this tradition and named it "Jo didara". In Badhana village in Trans-Giri, five such marriages have taken place in the past six vears

Sunita, who hails from Kunhat village, said that she was aware of the tradition and made her decision without any pressure, adding she respects the bond they have formed Pradeep, from Shillai village, works in a government depart ment while his younger brother Kapil has a job abroad.

Undertrial prisoner dies after fight in jail

Bijnor (UP): A 35-year-old undertrial prisoner died in a fight with another inmate in Bijnor district jail Saturday, a police officer said. According to Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Bajpai, a fight broke out between two inmates lodged in barrack number 13B of the district jail over some issue oSaturday afternoon. Ashu Chauhan and Jagib were both undertrial prisoners lodged in barrack number 13B of the district jail, he said. Ashu, who was beaten up by Jaqib, fainted and was taken to medical college, where doctors declared him dead. ASP Bajpai said that an FIR was registered in the case based on a complaint from jailor Ravindra Nath.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 19: An innovative English learning tool devised by a UK-based Indian-origin edtech entrepreneur using classic stories is now being used by children in

India to help enhance literacy outcomes and bridge gaps in speech. Power Vocabulary, conceptualised by Champs Learning founder Nishikant Kothikar. was originally designed for the England school curriculum

but has proved very effective in India, where English proficiency is seen as vital for academic success and competitive exams

"The majority of people use

the same 500 words, so our children tend to follow what they hear. The only way to expand your vocabulary is by reading. The more you read, the wider the scope, the better your language skills become," said

Kothikar. Learning from his own educational experiences, the edtech expert was inspired to create Power Vocabulary to help pupils move beyond rote memorisation to a more engaging learning method by associating words with images and stories.

The module claims to be unlike conventional vocabulary apps or rote word lists because it is story-driven and visual-based.



UK tool boosts English learning in India through stories

Power Vocabulary functions by offering words selected from classic children's literature, visual imagery for strong word associations, audio pronunciation guides with easy phonetic cues and a structured weekly learning model aligned with book-based modules

Children who use the online tool engage with eight classic books across eight modules, reinforced by weekly videos placing vocabulary in story context. This multi-sensory approach enhances memory retention, making language learning fun, intuitive, and lasting. Its simplicity and use of children's adventure stories are said to captivate learners and motivate continued reading.

Building on its initial suc cess, Power Vocabulary is being scaled independently through ITTRP Pvt Ltd - a mul tinational technology partner with offices in the UK, US and India.

"Users maximise learning by completing exercises each week and taking assessments after five weeks. Motivated learners are encouraged to create their own sentences using new words to deeper understanding," said Champs Learning, which is designed to offer structured academic support in Maths, English, Science, and Reasoning for primary and secondary students across the UK and India







national



India will emerge as a major railway manufacturing and exporting country in the future ASHWINI VAISHNAW UNION MINISTER

GOA: RECORD SURGE IN TOURIST ARRIVALS

Goa has registered a record breaking surge in domestic and international tourist arrivals with 54 lakh visitors in the first six months of 2025, a state government official said Saturday



of the day uote

Congress is

negative politics, especially

when development

always doing

Monsoon rains wreak havoc

some areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim affected normal life and disrupted traffic movement PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

is taking place in Uttarakhand. It is like somebody squeezing lemon into milk so that it goes sour AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

The BJP and JD(S) make false allegations. I have said several times that for you to know the truth and to

stop lying or misleading people, all of you should come to one stage. If the BJP and JD(S) leaders come to one stage, I'm ready to come. Let's debate what we have done and what you have done

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM







3) You din't buy the US tech (during April'25 trade

war dip). You can have your opinions about BTC or Market Valuations or fall of USD or whatnot. Guess what? no one cares. You might think that BTC is toxic. But, if it keeps going up in price.

Maybe its time, you revisit your stupidity. And, revise your thesis.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Majithia's judicial custody extended

While torrential rain caused a flood-like situation in parts of Rajasthan; heavy rainfall and landslides in

New Delhi, July 19: Uttar Pradesh bore the brunt of monsoon fury as rain-related incidents claimed 18 lives, with the IMD Saturday issuing alerts for heavy rain in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala.

In Uttar Pradesh, 18 people died in a period of over 24 hours ending at 8 pm July 18. Of the total, eight died of drowning following excessive rain, while two were a result of snakebites.

In Chitrakoot, two deaths due to drowning were reported July 17 and 18, three in Moradabad July 17, and one drowned in Ghazipur July 18, according to an official statement. Rain-related incidents after downpour claimed three lives in Banda and two each in Mahoba and Chitrakoot, and one in Lalitpur July 18. the statement said. In Rajasthan, heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has resulted in flood-like conditions in several cities, including Ajmer, Pushkar, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, and Pali. Many villages have been cut off

as rivers, drains, and dams overflowed due to the intense rain. On Friday night, 17 people got stranded in the Banas River near Golera village in the Todaraisingh area of Tonk, but they were later rescued by the SDRF. In Ajmer's Dargah Udaipur divisions. The likelihood

Woman sedates hubby with sleeping pills; lover electrocutes him to death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: A woman and her lover were arrested for allegedly killing her husband in Delhi's Dwarka, an official said Saturday

The incident came to light July 13, when a call was made to the PCR from the Mata Rooprani Maggo Hospital in Uttam Nagar, reporting the death of Karan Dev (36). Karan and his wife, Sushmita, have a six-yearold son, the official added.

Sushmita and her alleged lover Rahul Dev (24), who is the son of Karan's uncle, were arrested, a senior police officer said, adding that a relative found chats between the two on a social media platform plan-



People cross the swollen Ganga river using a boat during the monsoon season in Patna

area, several people were swept away by the strong water flow, prompting locals to intervene and rescue them. Ajmer's Ana Sagar lake is overflowing as a result of the persistent rain, with locals using sandbags to try to control the flow. The highest rainfall recorded was 234.0 mm in Nainwa of Bundi district, followed by 230 mm in Merta City of Nagaur, 190 mm in Mangliawas of Ajmer, 180 mm in Nasirabad of Aimer. and 160 mm in Pratapgarh. Heavy to very heavy rain is expected in the Jodhpur division Saturday, with moderate to heavy rain anticipated in some areas of the Ajmer and

of reduced heavy rain activity in the Bharatpur, Jaipur, Kota, and Bikaner divisions from Saturday is also strong, Jaipur MeT department director Radhey Shyam Sharma said. A rapid decline in rain activities across the state is likely from Sunday onward, he said, adding that a new wave of heavy rain could potentially return to eastern Rajasthan around July 27-28. In Uttarakhand, a 'red alert' for heavy rainfall Sunday in parts of the Kumaon region has been issued by the meteorological department.

Nainital, Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar in the Kumaon region are likely to be pounded by heavy rainfall Sunday.

SNIPPETS

Anmol Gagan Maan resigns as MLA

Maan Saturday said she has resigned as a member of the state Assembly and decided to quit politics. The 35-year-old singer-turnedpolitician, who won her maiden election from Kharar Assembly constituency in 2022, sent her resignation to the Punjab Assembly Speaker, Kultar Singh Sandhwan. "My heart is heavy, but I have decided to leave politics. My resignation from the post of MLA to the Speaker should be accepted. My best wishes are with the party. I hope the Punjab government will live up to the expectations of the people," said Maan in a post on X in Punjabi. She did not give the reason for the decision. There was no immediate reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Party sources said Maan resigned a few days ago and the party had tried to persuade her to reconsider her decision.

YSRCP MP Midhun Reddy arrested in ₹3,200-crore 'liquor scam' in AP

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh police Saturdav arrested YSRCP Lok Sabha member PV Midhun Reddy in the alleged ₹3.200-crore liquor scam during the previous YSRCP regime. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged liquor scam grilled Midhun Reddy for several hours today and followed it up with his arrest at around 7.30 pm in Vijayawada. "Yes (he has been arrested). The process (to produce him before a court) is going on," Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha told PTI over phone. Midhun Reddy represents Raiampet constituency in Andhra Pradesh and is expected to be produced in a local court Sunday. The YSRCP leader arrived in Vijavawada earlier today to attend the probe and his guestioning came in the wake of the arrest of other accused persons--Dhanunjay Reddy, Krishna Mohan Reddy and Balaji Govindappa. In May, the Enforcement Directorate has also filed a money laundering case to investigate the alleged liquor scam.

The department has also issued an 'orange alert' for heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places in Dehradun, Tehri and Pauri districts in the Garhwa region as well as Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts of Kuma on. In view of the rain alerts, the district administrations have been asked to take precautions, including controlling the movement of people.

Disaster-related equipment and wireless sets should be kept ready at every police station and outposts, said a letter issued by Deputy Secretary, State Emergency Operation Centre, Shivshankar Mishra, to the district magistrates.

Tourists in the upper reaches of the Himalayas should not be allowed to travel amid unusual weather or heavy rain. the letter said. In Himachal Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert' for downpour Monday and Tuesday in nine districts in Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur A total of 141 roads are still

closed in the state, while 58 water supply schemes and 28 power distribution transform ers were affected as of Saturday evening, according to the State **Emergency Operation Centre** (SEOC).

PATNA HOSPITAL MURDER 5 policemen suspended for dereliction of duty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, July 19: Five policemen were Saturday suspended for dereliction of duty in connection with the murder of gangster Chandan Mishra in a Patna hospital, a senior officer said. The suspended personnel include a sub-inspector. two ASIs, and two constables.

They have been suspended with immediate effect for dereliction of duty in connection with the murder of the convict inside a top private hospital Thursday," Patna (Central) Superintendent of Police Diksha told PTI. Mishra, a resident of Buxar district of Bihar, was shot dead by gunmen inside the hospital Thursday morning. He was

10 held in J&K for using encrypted apps to aid terror



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 19: The counter-intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has detained 10 people for allegedly using encrypted messaging applications for coordinating, financing and executing terror activities on the instructions of handlers from Pakistan. officials Saturday said. The detentions were carried

out during searches conducted by the Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) at multiple locations in the valley, they said. The officials said that searches

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case reg-

Suspicious technical were conducted at 10 locasignatures were traced tions across at 10 locations falling in Kashmir Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderba and Srinagar districts of the CIK offi-Kashmir during the investigation of the case cers in a two-year-

The officials said that the the suspects were found using suspected encrypted istered unmessaging applications

der various sections of the ULA(P) Act read with Section 120-B of the IPC.

Suspicious technical signatures were traced at 10 locations falling in Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal and Srinagar districts of Kashmir during the investigation of the case, they said. The officials said that the the suspects were found using suspected encrypted messaging applications.

During further analysis, various suspects were found using a murder convict out on parole. a 'specific encrypted messaging during searches

application' which is widely used by terrorists/handlers from across for coordinating, financing and executing a variety of terrorist related activities, including recruitment into terrorist ranks, they said. "These individuals /users are suspected to be in touch

with adversaries, including Abdullah Gazi, a Pak-based LeT/ JeM terrorist handler across the border." the officials said Maintaining an element of

surprise, the searches were meticulously planned and conducted in furtherance of the investigation by the CIK into this terrorist recruitment/

financing module of the JeM/LeT terrorist outfit, operating from a known city in Pakistan which has been established by peeking into the server of encryptmessaging ed application, they

said. The officials said that the terrorist commander/ handler was in continuous touch with these local Kashmiri vouth and was reportedly trying to radicalise them for recruitment into terrorist ranks.

The terrorist commander/ handler is operating in close coordination with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, they said. The officials said that a large number of documentary evidence and digital devices having bearing on the investigation of the case were seized

Chandigarh: AAP leader and former Punjab minister Anmol Gagan

Chandigarh: A court in Punjab's Mohali district Saturday extended the judicial custody of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who was arrested in a disproportionate assets case, till August 2. Majithia was produced before the court in Mohali amid tight security arrangements. The SAD leader was sent to judicial custody earlier July 6. Speaking to the media after hearing in the court. Public Prosecutor Ferry Sofat said the court allowed the application of extending Majithia's judicial custody.

📕 Modi pays tributes to Mangal Pandey

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday paid tributes to Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary, lauding him as a leading soldier in challenging the British Empire. The story of his courage and valour will always be a source of inspiration to the people of the country, he said on X. A soldier in the Bengal army of the East India Company, Pandey became the face of Indian soldiers' rebellion against the British rule in 1857 over a host of simmering grievances in what came to be described by many historians as India's "first war of independence."

70-year-old woman found dead in house

Patna: A 70-year-old woman was found dead in her house in Patna's Adarsh Nagar locality Saturday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Shanti. "Police recovered her body from a room of her residence and sent it for post-mortem examination. Prima facie, it appears to be a case of murder.

ning to kill Karan.

According to a preliminary investigation, Sushmita first allegedly drugged Karan by giving him sleeping pills, following which Rahul electrocuted him using the wire of an extension board, the officer added. Sushmita allegedly mixed over 10 sleeping pills in Karan's food on the night of July 12, after which Rahul came to their residence in the morning and electrocuted him, he added.

Sushmita Subsequently, rushed to her in-laws' house nearby, telling them that Karan had collapsed, which prompted them to take him to the hospital.

He was brought to the hospital in an unresponsive state and declared dead with the medico-legal case (MLC) citing electrocution as the cause of death, sources said.

Aparesh Kumar Singh sworn in as T'gana HC Chief Justice

Hyderabad: Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court in Hyderabad Saturday. Singh, who was transferred from the Tripura High Court, was administered the oath of office by Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, other cabinet ministers, judges of the High Court, and various dignitaries were present on the occasion. He takes over from Justice Sujoy Paul. Born July 7, 1965, Singh holds a BA Honours and an LLB from the University of Delhi. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Jharkhand High Court in 2012. He served as the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court from April 17, 2023, before being transferred to the Telangana High Court.



Firefighters try to douse a fire that broke out in engine of Garib Rath Express, at Sendra railway station in Beawar Raiasthan

Lakshadweep govt to acquire Bitra Island for defence purposes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, July 19: The Lakshadweep administration is considering the acquisition of Bitra, one of the inhabited islands in the archipelago, for defence purposes.

The move invited a strong protest from Lakshadweep MP Hamdullah Sayeed, who extended complete support to the local residents of the island and promised them to explore political and legal avenues to resist it. A recent government notification outlined this proposal for the Department of Revenue to take over the entire land area of Bitra island.

The intent is to transfer it to relevant defense and strategic agencies of the Centre. The



A recent government notification outlined this proposal for the Department of Revenue to take over the entire land area of Bitra island

notification, issued last week, clarified that the initiative is driven by the strategic location of the island, its national security relevance, and the inherent logistical and administrative challenges posed by the civilian habitation.

The move

protest from

Lakshadweep

MP Hamdullah

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The territorial administration would take over the island as per the relevant provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resetlement Act, 2013 for which Social Impact Assessment study has to be undertaken for the affected area. District Collector Shivam Chandra, in the order, said all stakeholders, including grama sabhas, would be consulted as part of the Social Impact Assessment initiatives.

The survey of the proposed area under the acquisition would be completed within two months from the date of the publication of the notification July 11, it added.

Meanwhile, Lakshadweep MP Hamdullah Sayeed has stood up firm against the move to take over Bitra island by the UT administration and said the real objective behind the move is to displace the indigenous population.

In a statement issued by his office, the MP said Bitra is the smallest inhabited island in the UT and he would strongly protest against the administration's attempt to acquire it under the pretext of defense requirements. He also demanded to withdraw the decision immediately.

Sayeed pointed out that the land required for defense purposes has already been acquired by the government in several islands. Targeting

Bitra, which has had a permanent population for decades, without considering any of these alternatives, is completely unacceptable, he said

He further criticised the administration for initiating such actions without any consultation with the indigenous residents, especially at a time when there are no functioning of local panchayat in the is lands. He stated that this kind of unilateral action undermines the democratic system and violates the constitutional rights guaranteed to citizens

The MP, in the statement assured that he would stand with the people of Bitra and would explore all political and legal avenues to resist the move.











international

Bases in Indiana and New Jersey can house detained immigrants without affecting military readiness a step toward potentially detaining thousands of people on bases on US soil PETE HEGSETH | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

YOON INDICTED AGAIN

South Korea's jailed ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol was indicted on additional charges Saturday as a special prosecutor continues investigating him for his short-lived declaration of martial law in December. The new charges include obstruction of the exercise of others' rights by abuse of authority, ordering the deletion of records and blocking the execution of arrest warrants

dropower Station, the largest

in Tibet, in 2015, which raised

Concerns arose in India as

the dam besides empowering

China to control the water flow,

the size and scale of it could also

enable Beijing to release large

amounts of water flooding bor-

der areas in times of hostilities.

dam over Brahmaputra in

Arunachal Pradesh.

the flood seasons.

ber 18 last year.

India too is building a

India and China established

the Expert Level Mechanism

(ELM) in 2006 to discuss various

issues related to trans-border

rivers under which China pro-

vides India with hydrological

information on the Brahmapu-

tra river and Sutlej river during

Data sharing of trans-bor-

der rivers figured in the talks

between India, China Special

Representatives (SRs) for bor-

der question, NSA Ajit Doval

and Chinese Foreign Minister

Wang Yi, held here on Decem-

concerns in India.



SHORT TAKES

Japan heads to polls

Tokyo: Japanese voters could unleash political turmoil as they head to the polls Sunday in a tightly contested upper house election, with rising prices and immigration concerns threatening to weaken Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's grip on power. Opinion polls suggest Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party and coalition partner Komeito may fall short of the 50 seats needed to retain control of the 248-seat upper house of parliament in an election where half the seats are up for grabs. The polls show smaller opposition parties pushing for tax cuts and increased public spending are set to gain, among them the right-wing Sanseito, which vows to curb immigration, oppose foreign capital inflows and reverse gender equality

34 killed after Vietnam tourist boat capsizes

moves.

Ha Long Bay (Vietnam): A boat carrying tourists capsized during a sudden thunderstorm in Vietnam Saturday afternoon during a sightseeing excursion, killing 34 people, state media reported. Eight others remain missing. The Wonder Sea boat was carrying 48 passengers and five crew members - all of them Vietnamese - during the tour of Ha Long Bay, a popular destination for visitors, according to the reports. Rescue workers saved 11 people, and recovered the dead near the site of the capsizing, VNExpress newspaper said. Twentythree people remain missing. Authorities had earlier reported that 12 people had been rescued, but later revised the figure to 11.

Singapore fighting 'China-linked' cyberattack

Singapore: A top Singapore minister Saturday said its security agencies are fighting the ongoing cyberattack on the city-state's critical infrastructure by an alleged China-linked threat actor, a claim denied by the Chinese Embassy here as "groundless smears and accusations." Google-owned cybersecurity firm 'Mandiant' described UNC3886 as a "China-nexus espionage group" that has targeted prominent

REUTERS

fire while they were on their

way to an aid distribution site

in Gaza at dawn Saturday.

according to the Gaza Health

Ministry and Nasser Hospital

The Israeli military said

it had fired warning shots at

suspects who approached its

in Khan Younis.

strategic organisations on a global scale, Channel News Asia reported.

China kicks off Tibet mega-dam project

Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 19: China Saturday formally started the construction of a \$167.8 billion dam over the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the start of the construction of the dam at a groundbreaking ceremony in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra River, locally known as Yarlung Zangbo, at Nyingchi City, official media reported.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place at the dam site of Nyingchi's Mainling hydropower station in Tibet Autonomous Region, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The hydropower project, regarded as the biggest infrastructure project in the world, raised concerns in the lower riparian countries, India and Bangladesh.

The project will consist of five cascade hydropower sta-



The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra **River makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh**

tions, with a total investment estimated at around 1.2 trillion Yuan (about \$167.8 billion), the report said. According to a 2023 report,

the hydropower station is expected to generate more than 300 billion kWh of electricity each year - enough to meet the annual needs of over 300 mil-

lion people.

It will primarily deliver electricity for external consumption while also addressing local demand in Tibet, which China of ficially refers to as Xizang.

Representatives from various organisations, including the National Development and Reform Commission and the Power Construction Corporation of China and locals attended the ceremony, the report said.

The project was approved in December last year.

The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra River makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

According to earlier reports the size of the project would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on the planet, including China's own Three Gorges dam, regarded as the largest in the world.

China has already operationalised the \$1.5 billion Zam Hy-

SNIPPETS

30 hurt when car hits crowd outside Los Angeles club

Los Angeles: At least 30 people were injured early Saturday morning when a vehicle drove into a crowd outside a club on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles, the city's fire department and local media reports said. At least seven people were in critical condition and six others were seriously injured, the fire department said in an online statement. The incident occurred just before 2 am local time (0900 GMT), the fire department said. Captain Adam VanGerpen, a fire department spokesman, was quoted by ABC News as saying that a paramedic assessing one of the injured found a gunshot wound. He said he was unable to confirm reports that it was the driver of the car that hit the crowd. The car, he said, apparently first careened into a taco truck outside the venue and then plowed through a valet stand and into a large group of people.

Congo, M23 rebels pledge in Qatar to reach peace deal next month

Doha: Democratic Republic of Congo and the M23 rebel group pledged to sign a peace agreement by August 18, at a ceremony in Doha Saturday, a sign of progress even as outstanding details need to be negotiated. Representatives of both sides signed a declaration of principles laying out the new timeline, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, at the ceremony that followed months of Qatari mediation after talks began in April. The United States, which has hosted separate talks between the governments of Congo and Rwanda, has exerted pressure to finalise a durable peace deal in Congo. President Donald Trump has made clear he hopes that would spur Western investment into a country rich in tantalum, gold, cobalt, copper, lithium and other minerals. Last month, the Rwandan and Congolese foreign ministers signed a peace deal and met with US President

Jamaat-e-Islami holds first-ever major rally in Bangladesh's capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, July 19: Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami Saturday held its first-ever solo grand rally in Dhaka, drawing tens of thou sands of supporters from across the country amid a changed political landscape following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government last year.

The rally was chaired by the party's Ameer or chief Shafiqur Rahman, who said that last year's movement, in which the party played a "crucial role", was aimed at eliminating "fascism".

At the rally in Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan, Rahman warned party supporters that Bangladesh might witness fur ther violent struggle to keep it on the right track, and said "May Allah accept me as a martyr in the struggle that lies

ahead to build a just country" In an oblique reference to the ousted regime, the party supre mo said, "From 28 October 2006 onward, all those responsible for different politically motivat ed 'massacres', including that of deaths of army officers in the then paramilitary BDR border guard force and the events of July 2024, must be tried on the soil of Bangladesh.'

"Until visible trials begin Bangladesh cannot move forward under the old system, said Rahman.

Hasina's government had slapped a total ban on the Islamist party days ahead of her ouster August 5, 2024, in a vi olent mass movement which was led by a student group and supported by several parties including the Jamaat-e-Islami. The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus later lifted the ban.

At the rally, Rahman said that the party would now spearhead a movement against corruption and extortion.

"We will not accept extortion, we will not engage in corruption, and we will not tolerate it," he said.

If voted to power, no lawmak er or minister associated with the party would accept government plots and tax-exempt vehi cles or personally handle public funds, he added.

One of the major agendas of the party is to wage a campaign to introduce a proportional rep

32 killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid in Gaza

away from an aid distribution

site that was not active at the Gaza, July 19: At least 32 time people were killed by Israeli

Gaza resident Mohammed al-Khalidi said he was in the group approaching the site and heard no warnings before the firing began. "We thought they came out to organise us so we can get aid, suddenly (I) saw the jeeps coming from one side, and the tanks from the other and started shooting at us.'

Fund, a US-backed group which runs the aid site, said there were no incidents or fatalities there Saturday and that it has repeatedly warned people not to travel to its distribution points at dark.

"The reported IDF (Israel defence Forces) activity resulting in fatalities occurred hours before our sites opened and our understanding is most of the casualties occurred several kilometres away from the nearest GHF site," it said.

The Israeli military said it was reviewing the incident.

GHF uses private US security and logistics companies to get supplies into Gaza, largely bypassing a UN-led system that Israel alleges has let Hamas-led militants loot aid shipments intended for civilians. Hamas denies the accusation.

The UN has called the GHF's model unsafe and a breach of

troops after they did not heed he said. calls to stop, about a kilometre

The Gaza Humanitarian

humanitarian impartiality standards, which GHF denies.

WEEK'S BEST PICS

Donald Trump at the White House

resentation (PR) system in the national election.

A wild cow jumps over revellers at the bullring, at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain, July 14 REUTERS



A woman in yukata, or casual summer kimono, poses to take a photo between paper lanterns during the annual Mitama Festival at the Yasukuni Shrine, where more than 2.4 million war dead are enshrined, in Tokvo. Japan, July 13



A horse of the French Republican Guard falls during the annual Bastille Day military ceremony on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris, France, July 14



Lava emerges through a fissure following a volcano eruption near Grindavik, Reykjanes, Iceland, July 16



Bahrain Victorious' Lenny Martinez, TotalEnergies' Thomas Gachignard and Uno-X Mobility's Jonas Abrahamsen in action during stage 4 of the Tour de France















We need a change in goals, guidance and mindset. Big or small, companies have to grow together. We have to support each other and be vocal for local UNION COMMERCE MINISTER

INDIA'S AGRI EXPORTS SURGE IN Q1

India's exports of agricultural and processed foods got off to a great start in FY26, growing 7 per cent year-on-year to \$5.96 billion in the April–June quarter (Q1 FY26). The centre-piece of India's agricultural exports is still rice. The shipments of both non-basmati and basmati rice increased by 3.5 per cent to \$2.9 billion in Q1.



of the day uote

The record pre-orders for our Made in-India foldable smartphones reinforce our belief that young Indian

consumers are quick to adopt the latest technology JB PARK | SAMSUNG SOUTHWEST ASIA PRESIDENT AND CEO

Women-cen tric governance has not only empowered individuals, but reshaped society What began as targeted welfare has now evolved into institutional leadership JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

By combining our local manufactur ing strength and field understand ing with CYGR's world-class drone technologies, we are building systems that meet India's unique operational needs

RAJENDRA CHODANKAR RRP DEFENCE CHAIRMAN

01 RESULTS CORNER

HDFC Bank net profit dips 1.31%

Mumbai: HDFC Bank Saturday posted a 1.31 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹16,258 crore for the June 2025 quarter. The lender had reported a net profit of ₹16,475 crore in the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the country's largest private sector lender reported a net profit of ₹18,155 crore for the quarter, up from ₹16,174 crore a year ago. The core net interest income growth moderated to 5 per cent to ₹31,400 crore during the quarter, as the net interest margin narrowed to 3.35 per cent from 3.46 per cent in the quarter-ago period amid a 6.7 per cent growth in gross advances. The bank's chief financial officer Srinivasan Vaidyanathan said about 70 per cent of its assets are linked to external benchmarks, which are directly exposed to rate revisions by the RBI, and declined to give an outlook on

how it sees the key number going ahead.

India-EFTA trade pact from Oct 1 PRESS TRUST O FINDIA

Mumbai, July 19: The free trade agreement between India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA will be implemented from October 1, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said Saturday.

The two sides signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) March 10, 2024.

Under the pact, India has received an investment commitment of USD 100 billion in 15 years from the grouping while allowing several products, such as Swiss watches, chocolates, and cut and polished diamonds, at lower or zero duties.

"India-EFTA TEPA to come into effect from 1st October,' Goyal said in a post on X.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

The bloc has committed an investment of USD 100 billion -- USD 50 billion within 10 years after the implementation of the agreement and another USD 50 billion in the next five years -- which would facilitate the creation of 1 million direct jobs in India.

This is a first-of-its-kind pledge agreed upon in any of the trade deals signed by India so far. The commitment is the key

substance of the agreement, which took almost 16 years to conclude, for India in return for opening its markets for several products coming from the

ED summons Google, **Meta executives** REUTERS

New Delhi, July 19: India's financial crime fighting agency has summoned executives of tech giants Google and Meta to its headquarters Monday as it investigates accusations of monev laundering on online betting apps, two government sources said. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating whether the platforms eased the way for promotion and wider reach of betting apps through advertisements, the first source said.

A date of July 21 has been set for the appearances at the agencv's headquarters in the capital. Mumbai, July 19: Indian equi-



EFTA nations. The biggest trading partner of India in the bloc is Switzerland. India has low trade volumes with the remaining three

countries. In the pact, India is offering 82.7 per cent of its tariff lines or product categories, which cover 95.3 per cent of EFTA exports, of which more than

80 per cent of imports are gold. Domestic customers will get access to high-quality Swiss products, such as watches, chocolates, biscuits, and clocks, at lower prices as India will phase out customs duties under the trade pact on these

goods over 10 years. In the services sector, the commerce ministry has earlier stated that India has offered 105

sub-sectors to the EFTA, like accounting, business services, computer services, distribution and health

On the other hand, the country has secured commitments in 128 sub-sectors from Switzerland, 114 from Norway, 107 from Liechtenstein, and 110 from Iceland.

Segments, where Indian services will get a boost, include legal, audio-visual, R&D, computer, accounting, and auditing. Further, the pact would provide an opportunity for domestic exporters to integrate into the EU (European Union) markets. Over 40 per cent of Switzerland's global services exports are to the EU. Indian companies can look to Swit-

zerland as a base for extending

NIFTY IN CRUCIAL DEMAND ZONE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

their market reach to the EU. India-EFTA two-way trade was USD 24.4 billion in 2024-25

On the tariff negotiations with the US, Goyal said, "Our negotiations strategy hinges on national interest. At no point of time will the Narendra Modi government ever allow national interest to be compromised".

At the Assocham First Managing Committee Meeting FY2025-26 here, the minister said the world is recognising India's strength today, and added that "the world is recognising that talent and skill are in India". And that is what gives us that negotiation leverage".

Stating that India is negotiat ing with advanced or developed countries, he said, "We are not trying to do trade deals or focus only on trade deals without competitors. We are looking at complementary economies".

Later, talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Goyal said that countries which do not take care of their supply chains and ensure that supply chains are resilient will "suffer"

... I think India has huge domestic demand. We have imports coming into the country, which can be replaced by developing a domestic industry to scale for high-quality production," he noted.

And ultimately, COVID taught us a big lesson, the minister said, adding that "the ban on the export of permanent magnets or fertiliser that has been imposed in the last few months teaches us a big lesson".

New Delhi, July 19: Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) and Allianz Group of Germany. through its wholly-owned subsid iary Allianz Europe B.V., entered into a binding agreement Friday to form a 50:50 domestic reinsurance joint venture to serve the dynamic and high-growth insurance market in India.

The announcement comes months after Allianz parted ways with Bajaj group financial services firm Bajaj Finserv. The reinsurance partner

India, US conclude 5th round of BTA talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: India and the US teams have concluded the fifth round of talks for the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) in Washington July 17, an official said.

The negotiations were held for four days (July 14-17) in Washington.

"The Indian team is coming back." the official said.

India's chief negotiator and special secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal led the team for negotiations

deliberations are These important as both sides are looking at finalising an interim trade deal before August 1, which marks the end of the suspension period of Trump tariffs imposed on dozens of countries, including India (26 per cent).

On April 2 this year, US President Donald Trump announced these high reciprocal tariffs. The implementation of high tariffs was immediately suspended for 90 days till July 9 and later until August 1, as America is negotiating trade deals with various countries.

Issues related to agriculture and automobiles are learnt to have figured during the fifth round of negotiations. Matters related to ways to deal with non-market economies, and SCOMET (Special Chemicals. Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies) also came up for discussion.

On the possibility for an interim trade agreement before August 1, an official has recently stated. "We are not differentiating between an interim or the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. We are negotiating a complete deal. Whatever will be finished (agreed upon), we can package it as an interim deal and for the rest, talks will continue". India has hardened its posi-

tion 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

'Kisan Diwas' by Bank of India BANK OF INDIA, BHUBANESWAR



a free trade agreement in the dairy sector. Certain farmers associations have urged the government not to include any issues related to agriculture in the trade pact.

India is seeking the remov al of this additional tariff (26 per cent). It is also seeking the easing of tariffs on steel and al uminium (50 per cent) and the auto sector (25 per cent).

These issues are an important part of the trade pact negotiations, the official said.

Against these. India has reserved its right under the WTO (World Trade Organiza tion) norms to impose retaliatory duties. The country is also seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jew ellery, leather goods, garments plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, grapes, and bananas, in the proposed trade pact.

On the other hand, the US wants duty concessions on certain industrial goods, automobiles, especially electric vehicles, wines, petrochemical products, agri goods, dairy items, apples, tree nuts, and genetically modified crops.

The two countries are look ing to conclude talks for the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by fall (September-October) this year. Before that, they are look ing for an interim trade pact.

India's merchandise exports to the US rose 22.8 per cent to USD 25.51 billion in the April-June quarter this fiscal year. while imports rose 11.68 per cent to USD 12.86 billion.

JFSL, Allianz to form 50:50 reinsurance JV PRESS TRUST OF INDIA





ICICI Bank net profit jumps 15.9%

Mumbai: ICICI Bank Saturday posted a 15.9 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter to ₹13,558 crore compared to ₹11,696 crore in the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the country's second-largest private sector lender reported a net profit of ₹12,768 crore for the quarter, up 15.5 per cent from ₹11,059 crore a year ago. Its core net interest income increased 10.6 per cent to ₹21,635 crore on the back of a 12 per cent domestic loan growth, but was restricted by a narrowing of the net interest margin to 4.34 per cent from 4.41 per cent in the quarterago period. The bank's executive director Sandeep Batra pointed to some more pain in the offing on the NIMs front, especially with the RBI's rate cut cycle still on.

Yes Bank net

profit soars 59%

Mumbai: Private sector lender

Yes Bank Saturday reported

a 59 per cent jump in its June

guarter net profit to ₹801

crore, helped by non-core

income growth. Its core net

cent to ₹2,371 crore on the

interest income grew 5.7 per

back of a 5 per cent growth in

advances and a 0.10 per cent

widening in the net interest

margin at 2.5 per cent. The

other income jumped 46 per

one of the major drivers of

the profit growth. Treasury

income was one of the key

movers on this front; gains of

investment were ₹484 crore

against ₹32 crore losses in

the year-ago period.

cent to ₹1,752 crore, and was

New Delhi, the source added.

A second government source accused Google and Meta of using their platforms to promote illegal activities, despite a government advisory against the advertisement of any form of betting. The agency will investigate Google and Meta over the funds they received from betting apps, the second source added, as well as checking if they were advertising or promoting any other betting platforms.Both sources sought

anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to media. Google and Meta did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment. Betting and gambling pose

"significant financial and socio-economic risks for consumers, especially youth and children," information and broadcasting ministry told television channels and digital media.

ty benchmarks ended the week on a weak footing, with the Nifty slipping below the 25,000 mark. The Sensex closed down 501.51 points at 81,757.73, while the Nifty shed 143.05 points to end at 24,968.40 Friday, the last trading session of the week.

Global cues remained uncertain due to rising crude oil prices amid disruptions in Iraq and unclear signals regarding the U.S. Fed's rate stance, fuelling inflationary concerns for oil-importing countries like India.

"On the weekly chart. Nifty has formed three consecutive bearish candles from recent highs, indicating loss of upward momentum," said Mandar Bhojane, Senior Technical Analyst at Choice Equity Broking Private Limited.

zone between 25,000 and 24,770. which is expected to act as immediate support.

Technically, the Nifty has

now entered a crucial demand

Any bullish reversal from this zone could lead to a fresh rally towards 26,000 and 26,400 levels in the coming weeks and despite the price correction, falling volume suggests that the decline lacks aggressive selling pressure, which indicates that overall trend structure remains hullish said Bhoiane

Most sectoral indices ended in the red, led by losses in banking, energy, and FMCG sectors, while broader markets also saw profit booking with a correction of nearly 1 per cent.

"As we head into the new week, earnings from heavyweights like HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank will be key triggers for market direction. Bhojane added.

ship will bring together JFSL's deep local expertise and robust digital footprint with Allianz's strong underwriting and global reinsurance capabilities, a joint statement made late in the eve ning said. The joint venture will leverage Allianz's existing Allianz Re and Allianz Commercial portfolios and activities in India. It will also benefit from Allianz's global set up, including its pricing, risk selection and portfolio management expertise, the statement said.

Allianz Re has been reinsuring risk in India for over 25 years. The .IFSL-Allianz reinsurance.IV will help insurers manage risks more effectively by providing access to strong underwriting capabilities and competitive capacity, ultimately strengthening resilience of the entire insurance ecosystem, it said.



Bhubaneswar: Α "Kisan Diwas" programme was organised by Bank of India. Bhubaneswar Zone. Rajesh S Ingle, CGM, Bank of India, Head Office graced the occasion as chief guest while Vikash Krishna, General Manager, FGMO, Bhubaneswar graced the occasion as guest of honour. Among others, Bijoy Kumar Malik, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar, Shyamal Kumar Das, Deputy

Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar were present on the occasion. Dr Surya Narayan Mishra (Head-Krushi Vigvan Kendra Puri) was felicitated during the programme. Five award winning farmers were also felicitated. Around five hundred farmers and members of women self-help groups were present in the programme. Agriculture loans and allied services were provided to the eligible farmers.

NITI Aayog for easing of investment rules for Chinese firms

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 19: The Indian government's top think tank has proposed easing rules that de facto require extra scrutiny for investments by Chinese companies, arguing that the rules have meant delays for some sizeable deals, three government sources said.

Currently, all investment by Chinese entities in Indian companies need to gain a security clearance from both India's home and foreign ministries.

The think tank, NITI Aayog, has proposed that Chinese companies can take a stake of up to 24% in an Indian company without any approval being required, said the sources who were not authorised to speak

to media and declined to be identified.

The proposal, reported for the first time by Reuters, is part of a plan to boost foreign direct investment in India and is being studied by the trade ministry's industries department, the finance and foreign ministries, as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, the sources said.

And while not all of NITI Aayog's ideas are necessarily taken up by the government, the proposal comes at a time when India and China are seeking to mend ties that have been particularly strained

since border clashes in 2020. Any decision to ease might be months away and will be taken by political leaders, two of the sources said. They added that the industries department



for comment.

is in favour of easing, but the other government bodies are yet to give their final view.

NITI Aayog, the ministries, the industries department and the prime minister's office did not reply to Reuters requests

Chinese companies the most. By contrast, companies from other countries can freely invest in many sectors such as manufacturing and pharmaceuticals, while some sensitive sectors such as defence, banking and media have restrictions.

Deals such as a 2023 plan by China's BYD to invest \$1 billion in an electric car joint venture have been shelved due to the rules, sources have said.

While foreign investment has slowed globally since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the rules hampering Chinese investment in India have been seen as a significant factor behind a large drop in the South Asian country's FDI. Net foreign direct investment in India tumbled to a record low of just \$353 million in the past financial year, a fraction of the \$43.9 billion logged in the year end ed March 2021.

An easing in military tensions since October has led to more efforts by both countries to mend ties, with plans for the resumption of direct flights and India seeking a "permanent solution" to their decades-old border dispute.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's made his first trip to China in five years this week, telling his counterpart that the two nations must settle tensions along their border and avoid restrictive trade measures such as China's curbs on the supply of rare earth magnets.

The think tank has also recommended revamping the board that decides on foreign direct investment proposals the sources said.









The rules were put in place

in 2020 after border clashes, in-

cluding hand-to-hand fighting

They only apply to land bor-

dering nations, which affects

between the two neighbours.





SPORTS

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

PISSaPC

Extravaganza

MEET



'Gill's real test starts now'

New Delhi, July 19: Former Australia captain Greg Chappell believes Shubman Gill has displayed greatness with the bat and shown glimpses of his potential as a young captain, but said his real test begins now with India trailing 1-2 in the fivematch Test series against England.

India lost the third Test against England at Lord's by 22 runs to go 1-2 down in the series.

The two teams will face off in the fourth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at Manchester starting July 23.

"As India prepare for the final two Tests of their series in England, the spotlight now shines firmly on their 25-year-old captain Shubman Gill. A bright young talent, he has shown greatness with the bat and glimpses of leadership potential, but this moment will define his trajectory as a Test captain.

"It's not an easy environment in which to grow, but it's the one he's in and the stakes couldn't be higher," Chappell wrote in his column in ESPNcricinfo.com. Chappell wants Gill to set the tone for the side with his actions.

"Gill must define what sort of team he wants India to be. The captain sets the tone - not just with words, but with actions, clarity of purpose, and visible standards.

"That means demanding discipline in the field. India cannot afford to slip back into being a poor fielding side. The best teams are superb in the field. They don't give easy runs. They don't drop

New Delhi: The Indian pair of Ariun Kadhe and Vijav Sundar Prashanth ended semifinalists at the Swiss Open after losing in straight sets to third seeds Albano Olivetti and Hendrik Jebens, here. The unseeded Kadhe and Prashanth fought tooth and nail before losing 5-7 5-7 in one hour and 22 minutes to the French-German combination Friday. Kadhe thus missed out competing in his second

chances," he wrote Chappell wants Gill to

be firm in picking the side he feels can win a match

for him. "The selectors and Gill must pick and stick. He must identify the core group of players he trusts, lay out a clear game plan, and communicate individual roles within it. Every player should know what is expected of them and

where they fit in. "Too often, in teams that struggle, players are left to work it out for themselves.

That can't be left to chance at this level," the Australian great wrote. Chappell said a captain

should be a good communicator and its high time Gill should adopt that quality. "Great captains are great communicators. Gill must become one - and quickly. Whether it's at training, in the middle or in the dressing room during a break - clear, calm communication is essential. "His bat can't always do the talking. He must learn to speak in a

way that aligns the group, encourages belief, and creates trust," he said.

"He also needs to enunciate the right approach. Batters must be told to play positively and bat in partnerships. If a batter gets a start, it is critical to go on and get a big score. Collapses come when players who are set decide that they don't want to keep working that hard."

Chappell said creating pressure through consistent bowling is as important as taking wickets.

"Bowlers must know that it's not just about taking wickets but about building pressure: bowling good balls, good overs, and good spells. Pressure creates mistakes. It's not magic, it's method," he wrote.

Chappell said it is time for Gill to stamp his authority as a leader and not just as a batter, as India look to bounce back in the series with two matches remaining.

"If Gill wants to become a great Test captain, this is his moment to stamp his authority. Not just with the bat, but with his leadership. Set the standard Demand it of others. Pick your team. Back them. And make sure every man knows what is expected and hold them to it." he wrote.

"Because in the end, cricket isn't about heroes. It's about partnerships. It's about teams. And it's about captains who bring the best out of those around them.

"If Gill can lead with clarity of thought and strength of purpose, he won't just shape this series, he'll shape the future of Indian cricket," Chappell added.

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

his historic day in 1969 witnessed humanity's first steps on the Moon, as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed their lunar module. What famous NASA mission achieved this feat?

ANSWER TO SATURDAY'S QUESTION

Bank Nationalization



RULES & REGULATIONS

Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The

names of the winners will also be announced along

• Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day

• OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No

• Participants must send their entries with a **passport**

Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on

There can be only one winner from one family.

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

size photograph, mobile numbers and residential

address. Otherwise the entries will not be entertained

presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card. Aadhaar

Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In

No employee or families of **OrissaPOST** team can

• Everyone will have to mail their answers to

mettlemeet@orissapost.com

with their pictures.

will be considered valid.

complaints will be entertained.

case of students till Class XI)

be part of the competition.

SHORT TAKES

Kadhe, Prashanth exit Swiss Open

FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Humpy beats Song, a draw away from semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

FREESTYLE GRAND SLAM

Arjun Erigaisi bows out in semis

Las Vegas (USA): Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi's dream run at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam ended in the semifinals after a 0-2 defeat to Armenian-turned-American Levon Aronian here. Erigaisi, who became the first Indian to reach the last four stage of the Freestyle Grand Slam with a stellar performance, ran out of steam in the match up against Aronian who is finding his magical touch back in the game. After beating Magnus Carlsen in the play-off for a top-four elims and Hikaru Nakamura in the quarte

Arjun failed to convert his chances in the first game. Aronian,

despite being in a difficult position, held firm and was

India mixed team storm into QF



BADMINTON ASIA JUNIOR C'SHIP

Solo (Indonesia), July 19:

AGENCIES

scoring format, where teams race to 110 points across 10 matches. India got off to a flying start, with girls' singles player Rujula Ramu defeating Mysha Khan 11-5, followed by the mixed doubles pairing of C Lalramsanga and Taarini Suri extending the lead to 22-11. India maintained the lead throughout the contest, despite spirited resistance from the UAE in a few matches. At the halfway stage, the scoreboard read 55-41 in India's favour. US Open finalist Tanvi Sharma then delivered a clinical performance to stretch the lead to 66-46 against Madhumita Sundarapandian.

nering Reshika U in the second mixed doubles rub-



ATP 250 final. He had won the Almaty Open last year with compatriot Rithvik Bollipalli.

Chawla starts off with a win

Manama (Bahrain): India's Kamal Chawla began his World 6-Red Snooker title defence with a facile 4-2 win over Bahrain's Jaafar Alraees in Group 'A' here Saturday. The bespectacled pro from Bhopal jumped to a quick 2-0 lead to put his opponent under pressure. But lapses in concentration allowed the Bahraini to force his way into the best-of-seven-frame league clash.

Batumi (Georgia), July 19: Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy outclassed Yuxin Song of China in the first game of the quarterfinals to make a huge stride forward towards the

last four stage of the FIDE World Women's Chess Cup here Saturday. Humpy was at the top of

her game against the Chinese who played the black side of an English opening. Right from the beginning, Humpy had some clear ideas as the game took shape more closer to a Catalan opening kind of structure.

Launching an offensive in the centre in the early middle game, Humpy sig-

pawn sacrifice. Song was at sea from this moment and she failed to find a way to stav afloat. Humpy crashed through

with another pawn advance and by the time the dust settled, Song found herself two pawns less. The Chinese fought on a long time hoping for a miracle that did not happen. The game lasted 53 moves.

nificantly dented black's

pawn structure with a

Meanwhile, the all-Indian clash between Divya Deshmukh and D Harika ended in a draw after both the players played solidly without giving anything away

In the other quarterfinal match, R Vaishali drew

rewarded when Arjun could not capitalise on his advantage. In the return game, with Aronian needing only a draw to advance, he played subtly to gain a slight advantage out of the opening. As the game settled into a balanced position, it seemed headed for a draw, but Arjun, needing a win to stay in the match, took unwarranted risks that cost him dearly. with former world women's champion Zhongvi Tan of

China. The Italian opening by the Indian as white did not pose much of a problem for Tan as the position was always close to equal.

In the endgame, Vaishali gave a rook for a Bishop to land in a position that was just a draw. The Indian went on playing in the longest game of the day but noth-

India secured a spot in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships with a dominant 110-83 victory over the United Arab Emirates in their Group D clash Saturday in Indonesia.

ing changed in the end. The game ended after 73 moves.

Quarterfinal results game 1: Koneru Humpy (Ind) beat Yuxin Song (Chn); Nana Dzagnidze (Geo) lost to Tingjie Lei (Chn) (Ind); R Vaishali (Ind) drew with Tan Zhongyi (Chn); Divya Deshmukh (Ind) drew with D Harika (Ind).

This win follows India's impressive opening-day triumph over Sri Lanka Friday, With Hong Kong China also registering two wins from as many matches, both teams have now confirmed their progression to the knockout stages. The two sides will battle Sunday to determine the Group D winners.

> The tournament is being played under a relay

Lalramsanga returned to court, this time partber, where they outplayed Adithya Kiran and Mysha Khan 11-5 to take India further ahead to 77-51, ef fectively putting the team in the driver's seat.

India will now look to maintain their momentum and finish top of the group with a win against Hong Kong China on Sunday.

The team event will adopt a relay format, with the first side to reach 110 points declared the winner.

The championships are also viewed as a key stepping stone toward the BWF Junior World Champion ships, which will be held at the state-of-the-art National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati later this year.

England beat India in **INTERNATIONAL CHESS DAY TODAY** rain-affected 2nd ODI Odisha holds growing potential: Players, coaches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 19: England beat India by eight wickets in the rain-curtailed second women's ODI to level the three-match series 1-1 here Saturday

Asked to bat first, India posted 143 for 8 after persistent rain delayed the start of the match and reduced the game to 29-overa-side affair.

Initially, England were to chase down 144 from 29 overs but the target was later revised to 115 from 24 overs after another rain interruption when they were 102 for 1 in 18.4 overs.

The home side finally chased down the revised

target in 21 overs to win RESHMI YADAV, OP the match.

Opener Amy Jones topin with 34

the first match by four took one wicket apiece.

bat first.

Opener Smriti Mandhagland opted to bowl.

from her six overs

scored with 46 not out while On the occasion of Interna-Tammy Beaumont chipped For India, who had won

wickets on Wednesday, Sneha Rana and Kranti Goud

Earlier, India posted 143 for 8 after being asked to

na top-scored with 42 off 51 balls, while Deepti Sharma made 30 not out after En-

For England, Sophie Ecclestone was the most successful bowler with 3/27

Bhubaneswar, July 19: tional Chess Day July 20, leading Chess personalities from Odisha underlined the growing popularity and potential of the state in becoming a Chess powerhouse like Tamil Nadu. While the game

continues to attract young minds across the country, Odisha too is steadily carving its own identity in the Chess landscape. "Chess is a difficult

game, far more intense than most people realise," said International Master Woman Grandmaster Padmini Rout. "It's not just a mental sport—it also re-



stroy your game, just like in life. Odisha definitely has the potential to emerge as a Chess state, similar to being recognised as state of Hockey. With support from the government and institutions, it's only a matter of time," she added.

"Odisha has the potential to become a Chess hub

like Tamil Nadu which has a Chess culture for decades, and players like Viswanathan Anand have inspired generations there. They now host global tournaments. Odisha, too, is moving in same direction with fresh talents and growing support, and I believe it's only a matter of time before Odisha earns its identity in Indian Chess.

Sharing her experience, Pratyasha Jena, a Class IX student from St Joseph's Girls High School, Cuttack, who is also likes to play Chess, said, "Chess helps in building focus, thus improving concentration in studies. I started playing Chess because

of my father. I look up to Viswanathan Anand and now also feel inspired by voung stars like Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa.'



All Odisha Chess Association president and FIDE instructor Satya Ranjan Pattanaik echoed similar optimism and said, "Chess builds patience, makes on learn discipline, and provides calmness. It gives



an individual a grounded

perspective. Players like

Swastika Swain, Sekhar

Sahu, and Sidhant Mo-

hapatra, and many more

from Odisha have already

made a mark. We need

to strengthen grassroots

efforts to build a strong

Arbiter Tapas Kumar

Chess culture."

International

Mohanty highlighted the inclusive nature of the sport and said, "Chess has no age bar-children as young as seven years old can compete with se nior players. It teaches life skills like concentra tion and decision-making The craze around young



champions like D Gukesh has increased interest tre mendously.

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Chess

