**Bhumi's perspective** Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she's nobody to have any kind of judgement on what

LEISURE | P2



## Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire

After five days of deadly fight, Cambodia and Thailand agree to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire from Monday midnight

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## **Revise norms for UCBs**

RBI proposes to replace the existing norms for UCBs with a harmonised eligibility criteria for certain business approvals

BUSINESS | P11



## Pant ruled out

Rishabh Pant was Sunday ruled out of the fifth and final Test against England after sustaining a fracture to his right foot

SPORTS | P12

**VOLUME 15, ISSUE 119 I www.orissapost.com** 

people want to do

**BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | JULY 29, 2025** 

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

### SHORT **TAKES**

### **Accept Aadhaar, voter ID** as proof: SC on SIR

New Delhi: Underscoring the "presumption of genuineness" of Aadhaar and voter ID, the Supreme Court Monday refused to stay the publication of draft electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar and said it would once and for all decide pleas against Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The top court asked the poll panel to continue accepting Aadhaar and voter ID for the SIR exercise in Bihar. "As far as ration cards are concerned we can say they can be forged easily but Aadhaar and voter cards have some sanctity and have presumption of genuineness. You continue accepting these documents," a bench of Justices Surva Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said. The bench would July 29 fix the time schedule to conduct the final hearing of the matter.

### **Cash haul: Apex court** grills Justice Varma

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday grilled Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma for challenging findings of an in-house inquiry panel report against him over the incident of cash discovery from his official residence and asked how could he question it after participating in the process. The in-house inquiry panel report indicted Justice Varma over the discovery of huge cache of burnt cash from his official residence during his tenure as a Delhi High Court judge. A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and AG Masih asked Justice Varma why did he wait for the inquiry to be completed and the report be

## **AIIMS attendant** sexually harassed

Bhubaneswar: An attendant of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Monday lodged a complaint at Khandagiri police station, alleging that she was sexually harassed by a male nursing officer. In her complaint, she alleged that the nursing officer touched her inappropriately after calling her to the doctor's chamber around 1am Sunday. "I demand justice and the arrest of the nursing officer. We are not safe at the hospital," she told reporters. A case was registered under BNS sections 74, 75 and 79, police said. The accused, however, is absconding, they added.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My owner envies me these days. My name might be in the voter list and his won't



TAKING STOCK: Additional Special Relief Commissioner Manish Agarwal, Balasore Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas, Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad and senior officials touring the affected areas of flood-hit blocks in the district Monday (Report P3)

## 'Panchayat Puraskar' to boost rural governance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Taking a cue from the Union government's National Panchayat Awards, the state government Monday announced its own State Panchayat Puraskar initiative to encourage excellence among Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Speaking to mediapersons, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik said the initiative is aimed at strengthen ing governance at grassroots level, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and ensuring inclusive development across the state.

A total of 129 awards will be conferred across nine performance areas, with a total budget of ₹4 crore.

At the state-level, the best three zilla parishads will receive ₹25 lakh as first prize ₹20 lakh (second) and ₹15 lakh (third), while the top three panchayat samities and gram panchayats will get ₹15 lakh, ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh, respectively, the minister informed.

At the district level, 90 awards will be given with ₹3 lakh for 1st place, ₹2 lakh for 2nd place, ₹1 lakh for 3rd

# **Govt faces Op Sindoor heat**

A week after the Union government agreed to a parliamentary discussion on Operation Sindoor, Opposition Congress Monday launched a blistering attack on the ruling dispensation. Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi questioned the govt's claim of the operation's success, asking why  $i\bar{t}$  remains incomplete and when PoK would be reclaimed. He also sought clarity from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on US President Donald Trump's claim of brokering a ceasefire and reports of downed jets. Singh responded that the operation was paused after achieving its politico-military objectives, denying any external pressure. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that at no stage in any conversation with US was there any linkage of trade with halting of Operation Sindoor

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: The Opposition Monday targeted the government in Lok Sabha on 'security lapses" that led to the Pahalgam attack, saying Home Minister Amit Shah must take responsibility for it, and demanded answers on how many Indian jets were downed during Operation Sindoor and why PoK was not taken back.

Participating in a special discussion on Operation Sindoor,



the Congress MPs questioned the government on the sudden halting of Operation Sindoor and asked "before whom did Prime Minister Narendra Modi surrender".

Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi asked when will India take back its Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and also slammed the government over US President Donald Trump claiming "26 times" that he used trade to bring about a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

The Congress leader said the PM has been saving since the Uri and Pulwama attacks that "humne ghar mein ghus ke mara", "we destroyed terror infrastructure" and is making the same remarks even now after the "most horrendous" terror attack.

He said the Opposition wants to know from the PM that if

Pakistan was ready to kneel before India, "why did you stop and before whom did you surrender?

Noting that US President Donald Trump has claimed 26 times that he used the threat of trade to bring about a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, he said the American leader has also claimed five to six jets have been downed.

'That is why we want to know

from the defence minister, the country has the courage to listen to the truth, he must answer as to how many fighter jets were downed," Gogoi asked. He also asked why Defence Minister Rajnath Singh did not name China during his address in the Lok Sabha and said he must disclose how much support that country was providing to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Several other members like Congress MP Deepender Singh nerjee, Samajwadi Party MP Ramashankar Rajbhar and NCP (SP) member Supriya Sule questioned the government's handling of Operation Sindoor.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Lok Sabha that Operation Sindoor was "paused" as the armed forces had achieved the desired politico-military objectives and asserted that there was "no pressure" to end it. "If Pakistan indulges in fresh misadventure, it will resume again," the minister said in his opening remarks on the special debate on Pahalgam terror strikes and Operation Sindoor in the lower house.

Regarding the allegations of US intervention in ceasefire, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that at no stage in any conversation with the US was there any linkage of trade with halting of Operation Sindoor.

He said there was no call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the US President between April 22 and June 17. Jaishankar referred to the two phone calls between Trump and Modi, with the first one being April 22, when the US President conveyed sympathies for the Pahalgam terror attack, and the second one June 17, when he called the PM to explain that he could not meet him in Canada.

# Pahalgam terrorist gunned down in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 28: In a major breakthrough, the Army's elite para commandos Monday gunned down the alleged mastermind of Pahalgam terror attack, along with two of his associates, in an encounter in a forest area on Srinagar's outskirts in Kashmir, officials The officials said Sulieman

alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 attack, was killed after the security forces launched a surprise action, codenamed 'Operation Mahadev', following a technical signal indicating use of a satellite phone that was used by the perpetrators of the Pahalgam

The other terrorists killed in the action have been identified as Jibran -- who was allegedly involved in the Sonamarg Tunnel attack last year -- and Hamza Afghani.

As many as 26 persons -mostly tourists -- were shot dead by terrorists at Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, which prompted the armed forces to launch Operation Sindoor May 7 against the terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Additional reinforcements of the Army and other security forces have been rushed as



the presence of another group of terrorists in the area, the officials said.

Jibran was allegedly involved in last year's terror strike at the Sonamarg tunnel project at Gagangir in October last year. Seven people, includ ing a doctor, were killed in the

One M4 carbine rifle, two AK rifles and other munitions were recovered from the site of the encounter

The bodies of the slain terrorists have been handed over to local police, which helped in the identification process for carrying out legal formal ities and final rites as per the standard operating procedure.

The officials said that at around 1130 hours, one party comprising personnel from 24 Rashtriya Rifles and 4 Para unit had detected the group of three terrorists.

# Divya first Indian eve to win chess World Cup

Baku, July 28: Nagpur's 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh stunned the chess world by winning the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025, becoming the first Indian woman to claim the prestigious title. In the all-Indian final, Divya defeated legendary compatriot Koneru Humpy 1.5-0.5 in the rapid tie-breaks Monday to script a fairytale ending in Baku.

The classical games played over the weekend had ended in tense draws, with both players showcasing resilience and elite-level play. In Saturday's opening game, Divya, playing with the white pieces, built a com-



manding position but let Humpy equalise late. The tie-breaks were where the young sensation flipped the script.

Patna, July 28: Amidst the ongoing controversy over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar, a bizarre instance of administrative goof-up has come to the fore, as a residence certificate has been issued in the name of a four legged 'dog babu', born to parents with similar canine nomenclature, in Patna district. The incident sparked widespread criticism and raised concerns about the security and credibility of the Right to Public Services (RTPS)

This prompted a red-faced administration to lodge an FIR against all persons concerned.

The certificate of residence was issued last week in Ma-

eponymous sub-division, apparently as part of a scramble for such documents during the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Under the Bihar Right to Public Service Act, citizens can apply for a certificate of residence online and the same would be issued by the officials concerned after due verifica-

Screenshots of the certificate, carrying a photograph of 'Dog babu', a stray canine, with parents named 'kutta babu' and 'kutiya devi', have gone viral on social media, with many people taking the opportunity to question why, instead of allowing such madness, the Election Commission was not



accepting Aadhaar cards and ration cards, as suggested by the Supreme Court recently.

The district administration Monday came out with a statement that the certificate, dated July 24, "was cancelled as soon



as the matter came to light". "Besides, an FIR has been lodged at the local police station against the applicant, the computer operator who fed the information into the system and the official who went on to issue the certificate," said the statement. It also said, "The sub-divi

sional officer of Masaurhi conducted a detailed investigation and it was found that the application was made appending the Aadhaar card of a woman living in Delhi.'

As such, the services of the computer operator, who forwarded the online application for processing without an application of mind, have been terminated, the district admin istration said.

A recommendation has been made to the revenue and land reforms department for sus pending the official who went on to issue the certificate despite the obvious anomalies in the application, it added.

# leisure



ference is, I do not cook

in ghee; I consume it

raw. Put it on your rotis

or idlis, it is very

your

beneficial

health."

## **GOMEZ WANTS UNUSUAL** DESSERT AT HER WEDDING

Singer-actress Selena Gomez, who is engaged to record producer Benny Blanco, shared the unusual dessert that she wants to eat on her wedding day. Gomez said: "Whenever that day comes, I do know I don't want a big cake. My preferred dessert I think would be biscuits and gravy."

> Mumbai: Actor and producer Shweta Tripathi has talked

> about what made her launch

her own production house and

reflected on how the industry

never made her feel like an

Talking about the motiva-

tion behind her new chapter

in her career, Shweta shared:

"Why wait for others to make

it happen? There are

so many stories

and there are

blessed

so many tal-

ented people.

am verv

know such

and if I

have the

resour-

then at

least I

will

be

able

people,

## **LA SHOW: BEYONCE REUNITES** WITH FORMER BAND MEMBERS

Pop icon Beyonce had a surprise for her fans during her recent performance at her final Cowboy Carter show in Las Vegas. She reunited with former band members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams onstage for a surprise *Destiny's Child* performance. reports People magazine.



accuracy • reliability • trust

For no reason whatsoever, you may clam up today. Of course, you will give credit to others wherever they've contributed. But you need to be more generous than that, says Ganesha, and share the secrets of your success with your compatriots. Also, do you really need to buy that \$100 wallet?

**TAURUS** 

It is more than likely that you will emerge victorious n all your meetings and outings today, predicts Ganesha. Your calm tempera ment will not let you flinch in the face of pressure. It is in your best interest to take some time to cope with all the stress. advises Ganesha.

**GEMINI** 

You are on your way to falling in love. Your parents or children are likely to fetch you substantial gains, financially or otherwise. You may want to make a few changes at work, probably a new business strategy.

CANCER

Ganesha advises you to be careful before signing any document. A hard time for share brokers and traders. So be on the guard during deals and transactions. Average time for business. Ganesha tells you to be

**LEO** 

You will need to work hard to achieve your goals today. Those who are serious about their work will be easily able to tide over the day. You need to be cautious today. Not only at work, but even in personal relationships, you need to be on quard. You need to maintain a balance between home and at work, says Ganesha

Matters of religion and

spirituality rise to the fore today. Throw yourself into a single-minded pursuit to be successful in your chosen field, and make the most of your skills and natural talent, says Ganesha. Matters of relationships will see you more critical and analytical than

Ganesha says your nature of spending wisely is highly appreciated as it is a good thing to save money for the future. This nature of yours will not allow you to spend money on useless things. You will be able to buy a home or a vehicle in the near future with these savings of yours.

## **SCORPIO**

Do not get carried away by sentiments and act like an emotional fool, tips Ganesha. Today, you will be in a dilemma as you have to choose between two best things. But, as they say, right choices are always tough to make. Be practical and take the right decision.

**SAGITTARIUS** You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesha, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

**CAPRICORN** 

You are a bighearted person and you love to help others in every possible way. But, people may take you for a ride, warns Ganesha. You may realise that if you would have been extra careful, you could have stopped others take advantage of you. By the end of the day, you will shake off such negative feelings and be grateful to the God for blessing you with all the nice things in life.

**AQUARIUS** 

Listen to your inner voice. follow what your heart says and you will not need anyone else guiding you on your path. At work. you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions.

**PISCES** 

While you will need loads of moral support to keep your spirits up, you are also likely to be blessed with the company of a person who is equipped to provide just that. Positive results will come your way as long as you do not give up. Use your imagination and creativity to surge ahead of the competition, says Ganesha.



Mumbai: The discussion around actors choosing to undergo botox and fillers has been ongoing for quite some time. Earlier this year, Bhumi Pednekar appeared in the web series The Royals and faced trolling and speculation regarding supposed cosmetic procedures. Bhumi says the issue is receiving excessive focus stating, "If one wants to opt for fillers, why not?" She said, "I feel, to each their

own. We live in a time where people should make their own choices. I am nobody to have any kind of judgment on what people want to do. I also feel that this is being discussed way too much." Bhumi emphasized that individuals should have the freedom to make personal decisions without being judged and noted that the topic is receiving far more attention than it deserves. The 36-year-old actress shared her

personal understanding of fitness, stating, "It is my way of being."

the food items she includes in her diet to stay fit and healthy, Bhumi revealed, "People very scared of but I have it in my diet - fat. I have a lot of ghee

When questioned about



Mumbai: Mukerji, sister of Bollywood star Kajol, reminisced about the golden days of Filmalaya and said that cinema was once for every Indian home and now it's becoming a luxury. "There was a time

when going to the movies was a celebration for the whole family - not just a luxury experience," she said. 'From kids to grandparents, everyone could watch something together. That's

> what I miss. The granddaughter of Padmashri Sashadhar Mukherjee, the founder of Filmalaya Studios, and daughter of veteran actress Tanuja, Tanishaa

grew up immersed in classic Indian cinema.

"Movies like Anarkali, Munimji, and Paying Guest had soul. They told stories that touched your heart—without needing to shock the audience or sell tickets to controversy. I want to be a part of cinema like that again. Classic emotions, but in a modern package," she said. Off-screen, Tanishaa likes to

stay true to fashion.

"Fashion should be personal. It's not about labels or trends, it's about what makes you feel confident and comfortable. I've learned over the years that true style is wearing your personality with pride. I love experimenting, but at the end of the day — comfort is key," shared the

actress.

provide them an opportunity." She said that she meets a lot of people on her journey, and there are some stories she totally relates to. "And I want the world to feel them.

Never felt like an outsider: Shweta

"That's the reason I started my production house. It's very easy to point fingers at others for not supporting such talents, but we first need to ask ourselves: what am I doing for them? That was the original thought behind

venture," Shweta. Shweta's production house Bandarful aims to be a collaborative space wherein

launching this

storytelling is not restricted by stereotypes, commercial pressures, or social labels.

Triptii's candid confession Mumbai: Actress casteism for their love,

Triptii Dimri, who is

gearing up for the re-

lease of her upcom-

ing film Dhadak 2,

shared that she has

been an introvert.

faced things and

not raised her

In her upcom-

ing film *Dhadak* 

Triptii and her

co-star Siddhant

them.

against

the concept. Referring to the character Vidhi, the actress said: "She is not afraid to speak her truth. There is so much to learn from her because she makes you feel empowered." "I have been an introvert. I've seen and faced things,

bringing a realistic lens to

and not raised my voice against them.' Triptii said that for "30

years of my life, I have kept quiet about so many things. "I never had the guts to

tell people that it's wrong. I told Shazia that I want to be like Vidhi; that by the end of this film, I should have the courage to speak my truth without being scared of anyone or the outcome. Now, I do stand up for the right things. This film made me open up a lot more," she added. Directed by Shazia Iqbal, Dhadak 2 is sched-

drama film is a spiritual sequel to Dhadak and a remake of the Tamil film Pariverum Perumal.

# **PEANUTS**



## CALVIN AND HOBBES

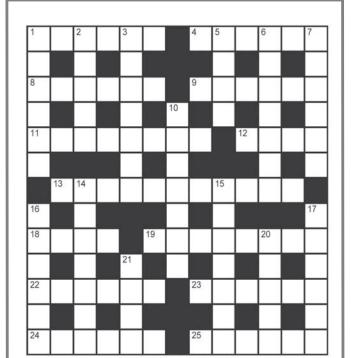


## BREVITY



# POST

## **CROSSWORD**



## Across

- 1 Dense
- 4 Bear witness 8 Chinook or
- sockeye 9 Rabbit warren
- 11 Cleopatra, e.g.
- 12 Tusked animal
- 13 Energetic

- 18 Mystique

- person (5,6)
- 1 Expelled 2 Add up
- 5 Test choice
- 3 Terrier type
- Down

22 Red gems

23 Lissome

25 Conforms

24 Kind of artist

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 17 Ticks off

19 Potato dish (2,6) 6 Pierced body

20 Garden bulb 21 Abysmal test score

part, at times

14 Circus performer

7 Garish

10 Seaport

15 Got there

16 Lovebird

uled to release August

1. The romantic

# SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

L E I S U R E E S S A Y

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

SUDOKU

owntown



**PUBLIC GRIEVANCE HEARING** 

# **'CM has sanctioned ₹55L for** treatment of needy in 2025'

91 per cent grievances resolved till 12th round: CMO

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has sanctioned ₹55 lakh for the treatment of needy people from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) in 2025, a statement said.

Attending the 13th edition of the public grievances hearing Monday, the CM sanctioned immediate medical assistance for three persons who are suffering from incurable and chronic diseases, the statement, issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), said.

With this, he has sanctioned ₹55 lakh for a total of 51 persons for medical treatment this year, it

Monday's public grievance hearing programme was held here at the Grievance Hearing Room in Unit-2 where Majhi personally listened to the grievances of citizens and initiated necessary steps for their resolution.

As per protocol, the Chief Minister began the day by meeting Divyang (differently-abled) com-



plainants waiting outside the grievance room and received their petitions individually. He then proceeded inside to hear

registered complainants. Majhi directed the departmental secretaries present at the venue to ensure prompt redressal of all grievances submitted.

At least nine ministers from his council also participated in the hearing process.

Under the single-window system, immediate medical aid is being provided to individuals suffering from critical and terminal illnesses through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. A senior medical team is stationed at the venue for this purpose.

Meanwhile, the CMO

fauna like tigers, lions, and

elephants face increasing

risks due to poaching and

climate change. We need

stricter conservation in

under-protected areas like

Satkosia, Sunabeda, and

Meanwhile, Anup Nay-

ak, former Additional

Director General of Proj-

ect Tiger, Government of

India, praised Similipal's

conservation success but

called for improvement in

reserves like Satkosia and

Debrigarh, along with the

creation of ecological cor-

ridors connecting other

eastern Indian landscapes.

Debrigarh.

statement added that around 91 percent of complaints received under the CM's grievance redressal programme have been resolved till the 12th

Out of the 11,516 complaints received so far, 10,502 have been addressed, while the remaining are currently under process, the CMO stated.

# **HC rejects Sethi's** anticipatory bail plea

Cuttack, July 28: The Orissa High Court Monday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of suspended IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi who has been booked by the CBI in a corruption case.

The HC had July 3 directed the CBI not to take any coercive action against Sethi till the next hearing.

"Considering that the Petitioner is a Senior Officer in the rank of Indian Administrative Service, this Court finds force in the submission of the learned counsel for the CBI that his interrogation being 'ensconced' by an order of anticipatory bail would be a fruitless exercise in the light of the materials unearthed," a bench of Justice V Narasingh said.

'It is often said that power of corruption is like a shadow, it follows those who wield power. The Petitioner undoubtedly has the power being a senior official of the IAS. On a conspectus of materials on record, whether corruption is his shadow merits probe unhindered and unimpeded by the exceptional remedy of pre-arrest bail," it said, rejecting the plea. The interim order in the case, passed July 3, stands vacated, the HC said.

The CBI had in December seized ₹10 lakh from one Debadatta Mohapatra, who had received the amount from the director of the Bridge and Roof Company, Chanchal Mukherjee, according to the CBI. It is alleged that Mohapatra collected the amount on behalf of Sethi.

# Flood situation improves as water recedes in most rivers

ea in Bhadrak district, said

the situation has improved

to a great extent with the

water receding in all rivers.

which has entered villages

and farmlands, may take

some days to drain, he said.

has intensified relief oper-

ations and needy people are

being provided dry food,

cooked meals, medicines,

anti-venom injections, and

essential support for cat-

tle, he added. In Balasore

district, Basta, Bhogarai,

Jaleswar and Baliapal are

the most-affected blocks be-

cause of the Subarnarekha

A total of 18,000 people

have been affected in these

four blocks, and over 5,000

people are being provided

food from the community

Over 16 flood shelters

have been made opera-

tional, while 250 quintals

of flattened rice (chuda)

and 25 quintals of jaggery

have already been distrib-

uted among the affected

kitchens, he said.

River, an official said.

The state government

But the flood water.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Balasore/ Jajpur, July 28: The flood situation in the northern region of the state improved Monday with water receding in most of the rivers, following which the body of a missing person was found, officials said.

Waters were receding in the Subarnarekha, Brahmani, Baitarani, Jalaka and Budhabalanga, which flooded six districts in the northern region of the state, they said. The body of 28-year-old Santosh Jena, who went missing Sunday, was fished out of the Baitarani River in Dasrathpur block of Jajpur district.

"This is a very unfortunate incident. We appeal to all the people living in flood-affected areas to remain alert and not venture into the waters," Jajpur's District Magistrate Ambar Kumar Kar said.

Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, who visited the flood-affected ar-

Health teams are providing medicines and ORS sachets, with doctors and paramedics conducting door-to-door visits.

Pregnant women nearing delivery are being iden tified and shifted to safer locations with the help of ASHA workers and ANMs Simultaneously, veterinary teams are conducting ani mal health and vaccination camps in flood-affected ar eas, the official said.

Baliapal and Bhograi blocks are the worst af fected during this spell of flood, he said, adding that the flood situation in the Subarnarekha has significantly improved.

The river is now flowing much below the danger mark at Rajghat, he said.

Senior engineers of the Water Resources depart ment are camping in the district, keeping a close watch on the Subarnarekha basin, he added.

He said all the reservoirs are in a healthy condition and there is no requirement to discharge excess flood water. The water level at Hirakud dam stands at around 615 feet against the full res ervoir level of 630 feet.

As much as 5.18 lakh cusec of water was flowing at Mundali near Cuttack. It will flow within the river and cause no damage, he said Similarly, the Rengali dam is also being regulated, and water is being discharged in a calculated manner.

# Odisha's rising tiger numbers bring pride and challenges

Bhubaneswar, July 28: As the world marks International Tiger Day today (July 29), India - home to over 70 per cent of the global wild tiger population – has a cause to celebrate With its tiger population doubling over the past decade to 3,682, the country continues to lead global conser

Amid this national success, Odisha is beginning to make its own mark, showing both promise and pressing concerns.

vation efforts.

Explaining the success story, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Prem Kumar Jha said that the Similipal Tiger Reserve has reported a tiger population of 40, including six cubs, 17 tigresses, and 13 black tigers. "This marks a notable increase from last year's count of 27 tigers. This increase comes following the successful breeding of well-known tigresses Zeenat and Jamuna," he said.

It is pertinent to mention that the recent count follows the All Odisha Tiger Estimation 2023-24 conducted by state government, which reported 27 adult tigers and 8 cubs in Similipal.

Three more tigers were identified across the Hirakud Wildlife Division, Paralakhemundi Territorial Forest Division, and the Greater Similipal Landscape.

Of extraordinary global significance is Similipal's population of pseudo-melanistic tigers—a rare variant of Royal Bengal Tigers whose prominent black stripes give them an almost all-black appearance. Thirteen such tigers (7 females, 6 males) have been recorded here, making Similipal the only known natural habitat in the world for this rare genetic variation.

Forest officials, buoyed by increasing tiger activity and sightings of cubs, estimate the tiger population in Similipal could exceed 60 by 2030. Signs such as active territorial

stock predation around buffer zones indicate thriving feline

However, challenges re-

main stark. Delance efforts, poaching remains grave

Basa, environmentalist and former honorary wildlife warden, emphasized,

"Poaching is still a big market-driven issue. Laws must be stricter to instill fear among offenders."

Akash Ranjan Rath, Wildlife Conservationist, stressed the need for restoring tiger corridors and increasing prey density, especially in mining-affected areas like Keonjhar and Sundargarh. "Low mating success and fragmented habitats threaten long-term tiger sustainability," he warned.

Biswajeet Panda. founder of Bikash Saathi, highlighted the necessity of community participation. "Illegal poaching by community members in Similipal is a sensitive issue. Conservation must go hand-in-hand with rehabilitation, education, and livelihood support for relocated families,' Panda said.

Purabi Patra of Animal Welfare Ekamra Trust voiced concerns over community hostility. "There have been instances of mobs killing stray big cats. This raises tough questions about the effectiveness of conservation policy.'

Environmental expert Jaya Krush-

## HE dept Insta account hacked; FIR lodged hackers replaced the colvary—from explicit defa

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The official Instagram account of the Higher Education (HE) department was reportedly hacked for a short duration Monday morning, raising concerns over cybersecurity within government digital plat-

Sources confirmed that during the breach, several posts unrelated to the department's activities were uploaded to the account. Upon noticing the suspicious activity, the department acted swiftly and successfully retrieved control of the account.

Following the recovery, all unauthorised posts

to its respective T&Cs. Available at select dealerships. "Offer amount and combination of offer may vary for model/variant and states and it is applicable on select models only. For more details, please visit your nearest authorised Hero outlet. ^^Terms and Conditions apply. \*Ex-Showroom Price of Hf Deluxe Self Start in Bhubaneswar.



Officials stated that the department is treating the incident with utmost seriousness and has decided to file a First Information Report (FIR) to initiate a formal investigation.

A senior official from the department assured that further steps will be taken to enhance the assets and prevent such incidents in the future.

The recent incident is not isolated. Odisha has seen several high-profile hacking and social media abuse cases in recent

Kamala Nehru Women's College website was hacked recently where

lege's homepage with a defaced landing page linked to adult content, forcing administrators to block the site and file a police complaint. Odisha Adarsha Vidy-

alaya Sangathan (OAVS) website defaced was also hacked recently, According to reports, a group calling itself the 'Pakistan Cyber Force' claimed responsibility, displaying a hacked homepage and taking the site offline. These cases reveal a

concerning pattern state-affiliated websites, verified public figure accounts, and local institutions have all been targeted. While the motives mation to impersonation and political messagingthe impact is consistent reputational harm and undermined public trust.

Experts say that weak authentication, outdated software, phishing vul nerabilities, and social engineering are common loopholes exploited by at Critics have raised

concerns over the patchwork nature of Odisha's cyber hygiene oversight. They point to the need for centralized security standards, frequent audits and training protocols across departments to avoid recurring breaches in the future.



Authorized Dealers: Bhubaneswar: Rohan Hero - 9289922147, Bharat Hero - 9289922180, Arundhatt Hero - 9289922183, Dhero - 9289922184, Bharamyur: Lakshmi Motors - Dharma Nagar - 9289922184, Phulbani: Narayani Hero - 9289922183, Raygada: Ajit Hero - 9289922183, Phulbani: Narayani Hero - 9289922183, Raygada: Ajit Hero - 9289922183, Raygada: Ajit Hero - 9289922183, Raygada: Ajit Hero - 9289922183, Dharamyur: Ajit Hero - 9289922183, Raygada: Ajit Hero - 9289922183,

**OrissaPOST** 

# Odisha used 87.9% CAMPA funds in 5 yrs: CEC report

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, July 28: Odisha utilised 87.9 per cent of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAM-PA) funds between 2019-20 and 2023-24, according to a report of the Supreme Court-mandated Central Empowered Commit-

The report, filed earlier this month, revealed that National CAMPA approved ₹38,516 crore for state annual plans between 2019-20 and 2023-24. States released ₹29,311 crore to their forest departments, of which ₹26,001 crore was utilised. This means only 67.5 per cent of the approved outlay was spent, it

The utilisation varied widely, with Manipur, Andhra and Arunachal Pradesh using 100 per cent, 100 per cent and 97.8 per cent of the funds released to them, respectively.

"Mizoram reported utilisation above 91 per cent, Sikkim 97.7 per cent, Karnataka 96.6 per cent and Odisha 87.9 per cent. Chhattisgarh recorded 95 per cent utilisation of the funds released, and Gujarat spent more than it released, utilising 116 per cent due to carryover balances," the re-

### **PANEL SAYS**

Delays in submission of annual plans by states, late release of funds, and the lack of dedicated CAMPA offices affect seasonal forestry operations

Monitoring of survival rates remains weak, and multiple lavers in the fund release process contribute to underutilisation

With thousands of hectares of natural forests lost each year to development projects, gaps in plantation survival and underutilisation of funds undermine the very purpose of the CAMPA

port said. Among others, West Bengal spent 81.1 per cent and Delhi just 26.9 per cent, the lowest among all.

The report also said that India raised compensatory afforestation over 1,78,261 hectares of land against a target of 2,09,297 hectares during the period, achieving 85 per cent of the planned area.

Madhya Pradesh planted 21,746.82 hectares, fully achieving its target of 21,107.68 hectares, while Karnataka also met nearly its entire target, cover2,775.12 hectares.

In contrast, Meghalaya had one of the lowest coverage, achieving only 114.56 hectares against a target of 514.76 hectares or 22.3 per cent. Among others, Manipur planted 666.94 hectares against 1,759.84 hectares, achieving 37.9 per cent.

The survival percentage of plantations varied significantly, with Arunachal Pradesh and Assam reporting 40-75 per cent and 45-90 per cent of survival rate, respectively.

Among others, Kerala, Manipur and Meghalaya recorded a survival rate of 45-74 per cent, 55-76 per cent and 40-70 per cent, respectively.

The CEC said 'delays in submission of annual plans by states, late release of funds, and the lack of dedicated CAM-PA offices affect seasonal forestry operations'.

Monitoring of survival rates remains weak, and multiple layers in the fund release process contribute to underutilisation, it said.

With thousands of hectares of natural forests lost each year to development projects, the report warns that gaps in plantation survival and underutilisation of funds undermine the very purpose of the CAMPA mechanism.



Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo with Union Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi, Monday

# Dy CM Singh Deo urges faster rice evacuation by FCI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi, in New Delhi Monday to discuss speeding up the procurement and evacuation of rice by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Accompanied by Odisha MPs, Singh Deo highlighted

the record procurement of 92.64 lakh MT of paddy during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25, resulting in around 62.62 lakh MT of rice the highest ever in the state's history.

The Deputy CM emphasised that after meeting consumption needs for both Kharif and Rabi seasons, the state will have a surplus of 12 lakh MT of rice that urgently needs to be lifted by the FCI. He expressed concern over the slow evacuation of surplus rice, which is affecting ongoing procurement

Singh Deo urged the Union Minister to intervene and speed up the evacuation process. Supporting this, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had also written to the Union Minister highlighting the issue.

Union Minister Joshi assured the delegation that the matter would be addressed promptly.

MPs present at the meeting included Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Malvika Devi, Pratap Sarangi, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Pradeep Purohit, Sukanta Panigrahi, Anita Sub hadarshini, Ananta Charan Nayak, Bhibhu Prasad Tarai and Rabindra Narayan Beha ra. Union Secretary Sanjiv Chopra also participated in

### **WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**

# Awareness events at City **Apollo Hospitals & KGF**



Bhubaneswar, July 28: Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, and the Kalinga Gastroenterology Foundation (KGF) observed World Hepatitis Day 2025 with events aimed at raising awareness, promoting early diagnosis, and urging public action against hepatitis.

Apollo Hospitals organised a programme for patients and caregivers focused on hepatitis prevention and early detection, drawing active participation.

"Our mission extends beyond treatment. By driving awareness, we empower patients and attendants to be advocates for liver health," said Srimannarayan Mishra, Medical Superintendent. Senior consultant Dr Sushant Sethi highlighted that nearly 6,000 people contract viral hepatitis daily globally, and only 45 per cent of newborns received the hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth (2022 data). Early vaccination dramatically lowers the risk of liver cancer, he added. Interactive sessions helped debunk myths and clarify doubts.

Meanwhile, KGF held its event under the theme "Let's Break It Down," focusing on dismantling financial, social, and systemic barriers to hepatitis elimination. Highlighting that hepatitis-B causes 20 per cent of acute hepatitis and 75 per cent of liver cancer in Odisha, KGF Secretary Tuhin Kanti Ghosh presented the

# 'Ayurveda India's pride & identity'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 28: "Ayurveda is the identity and pride of India. Just as voga has earned global recognition, Ayurveda too should be embraced worldwide," said spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, addressing the inauguration virtually of the six-day Avurveda conference 'Charakayatan' at Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Monday.

He added that the global

reach of the ancient text Charaka Samhita can be enhanced further with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI), opening new avenues for knowledge sharing and holistic wellness. The event was organised by Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyap-

eeth under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The conference will run until August 2, featuring indepth studies and discussions on the Charaka Samhita.

On the occasion, chief guest and president of the All India Ayurvedic Congress, Padma Bhushan Devendra Triguna,



RASHTRIYA AYURVEDA VIDYAPEETH

emphasised the growing global interest in Ayurveda. He noted that talented Indian students, especially from Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, are signing MoUs with international institutions to support

Ayurveda's global expansion. During the event, three books were released by the Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Sciences and Research Hospital. Over 150 students took part in the 'Charakayatan' conference, which has been designed to ofsis of the Charaka Samhita for Ayurveda students and enthu-

Distinguished attendees included, the National Institute of Ayurveda director Dr Vandana Siroha, deputy director at the Ministry of AYUSH Satyajit Pal, NCISM chairman Dr BL Mehra, director general of CCRAS Ravinarayan Acharya, director of Sri Sri Tattva Arvind Varchaswi, NIA governing body member Dr Manoj Nesari, and Sri Sri University

# Ankura Hosp detects rare foetal disorder

POST NEWS NETWORK

significant medical milestone, Ankura Hospital in Bhubaneswar detected a rare genetic disorder-Edwards' Syndrome (Trisomy

16 weeks of gestation. using advanced prenatal diagnostics. Dr Rama Manjari

suspicion of a chromosomal

caused by the presence of an

Bhubaneswar, July 28: In a

18)—in a foetus at just

Naik, Consultant Foetal Medicine, identified the condition during a routine scan of a 25-year-old first-time mother. "We observed indicators like a small jaw (micrognathia), clubfoot on one side, clenched fists, low-set ears, and a heart defect (AVSD), which raised

abnormality," she said. Edwards' Syndrome is extra chromosome 18, often resulting in severe physical

and developmental issues. Most affected foetuses do not survive to term, and those born rarely live beyond a month. Following tailed counseling. the couple opted for

the discussions.

ing amniotic fluidwhich confirmed the diagnosis. The pregnancy was subsequently and medically

amniocentesis-a di

agnostic test analys

terminated with the couple's consent. "This is the first confirmed

case of Edwards' Syndrome I've encountered in the last five vears." Dr Naik noted, underlining the importance of early and precise foetal screening in maternal healthcare.

### CURRENCY BOURSES INDEX VARIATION **INDEX** VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 86.67 \$\(\text{0.15}\) SENSEX 80891.02 \$\(\psi\) 572.07 GOLD ₹97,595 ♥ ₹224 100.63 **♦** 0.89 NIFTY 24680.90 **♦** 156.10 SILVER ₹113,216 **↑** ₹164

# Tidal ingress threatens Kendrapara villages

Kendrapara, July 28: Despite a comprehensive administrative survey conducted in April 2022, vast stretches of coastal embankments under the Aul division in Kendrapara district remain dangerously vulnerable. As a result, tidal water from

the sea continues to inundate farmlands and residential areas, displacing people and disrupting essential services such as transport, education, and healthcare The Embankment Division,

established in the aftermath of multiple natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, and the 2004 tsunami, was mandated to safeguard 744.47 kilometres of coastline spanning Aul, Rajkanika, Rajnagar, and Mahakalapara blocks.

The 2022-23 fiscal survey report, signed by local officials -from Block Development Officers and Tehsildars up to the District Collector- had identified the vulnerabilities of the embankments. Yet, communities from Talachua in Rajnagar block to Batiaghara in Mahakalapara continue to suffer the brunt of unchecked tidal intrusion

Villagers allege that tidal water is encroaching farmlands and villages by breaching multiple protective ring embankments. The most affected areas include Jambu Luna Gheri and Batiaghara Gheri in Mahakalapara sub-division and Gajaria, Utikana Luna Gheri, Keradagada, Padani Padmanabhapur, Gopalpur, Rajgarh, Gadadharapur and Baragan in Rajnagar sub-division.

Of particular concern are the Geo Tube embankments in Pentha, which are at risk of collapse due to strong tidal currents. In some areas, the sea is just a few hundred metres away from vulnerable embankments. River embankments along the Brahmani, Kharasrota, Gobari, and Hansua rivers are also becoming unsafe due to rising tidal impact, the villagers claim.

During the last full moon, the tidal water overflowed into the Pattasala river, inundating Rangani's Pattaparia and

CLASSIFIED AD



Bhekta mouzas in Rajnagar block. Similarly, in Suniti panchayat of Mahakalapara block, tidal water entered fields and even homes in nearby villages through the Panchagochia pathway.

In Batiaghara, sea water from the Bay of Bengal frequently floods localities such as Badatubi, Sanatubi, and Akhadasali near the Mahanadi river mouth, indicating the

**ERTISEMENTS** 

complete absence of effective embankments. Residents in many of these areas lack even basic infrastructure due to the repeated waterlogging and neglect.

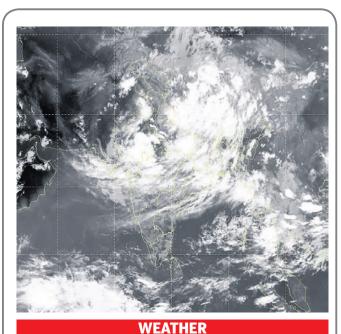
Local environmentalists, intellectuals, and residents — including Basant Kumar Hati of Rajnagar, Subhasis Sadhangi of Rajkanika, Sunil Kumar Gantavat of Mahakalapara, Hemanta Kumar Rout, and Radhakanta

Mohanty...— have alleged that for the past two decades, project funds meant for embankment strengthening have been misap propriated by contractors and administrative officials.

According to official data the Aul subdivision oversees 111.53km of embankment. Mahakalapara 237.62km, Rajnagar 302.12km, and Rajkanika 93.20km. Yet, the reality on the ground reveals that significant stretches remain either incomplete or poorly maintained.

Executive engineer Sambit Sahu of the division attributed the situation to the consequences of global warming, claiming that many embankments now stand just 1 metre above sea level. He said projects are underway to raise the height of these embankments to between 4 and 6 metres.

Still, affected villagers say little has changed on the ground and demand immediate, transparent, and accountable action before the next major tidal surge or cyclone brings greater



	WEATHER					
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST			
Лах Тетр	32.2°	32.2°	Generally cloudy			
Min Temp	25.1°	25.4°	sky with possibility of rain			
Humidity	89%	88%	or thundershowe			
Rainfall	26mm	Nil				

# devastation.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

CONTACT

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

**GOPALPUR GANGRAPE** 

# **CB submits 574-page** chargesheet in court

**Exclusion of an adult** accused from the chargesheet raises questions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 28: The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police Monday submitted the chargesheet in the infamous Gopalpur gangrape case in two separate courts here in Ganjam district.

The sleuths submitted the 574-page chargesheet within 43 days of the incident. It was submitted in the name of five accused persons in the court of First Class Judicial Magistrate (Rural) Ritika Jena and in the name of four minors before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). The chargesheet was submitted on the basis of the the survivor's recorded statements, investigation report and scientific evidences.

of an adult accused from the chargesheet has raised question marks. Observers have questioned that on what basis police had arrested him in the case.

However, the CB's exclusion



Notably, police had arrested 10 persons in the gangrape case which took place on the Gopalpur beach June 15 evening. Among them, six were adults and the rest four were minors. Police filed a petition in the court to treat the minors as adults in the case. Later, the state government directed to treat the case as red flag case and handed over its probe to the CB. June 17.

A CB team led by IG S Saini launched a probe into the case June 17. It recreated the crime scene with the accused persons

and collected details from various angles. Later it submitted the chargesheet by naming five adults as accused. At present, the six arrested accused are in jail while four accused minors are in correction home

The Plus III third year college student was gangraped in front of her male friend, who was thrashed and restrained by the accused, on the Gopalpur beach June 15 evening.

Gopalpur police registered a case (186/25) and launched an investigation. Police raided various places and arrested the accused persons the same night.

The accused persons were identified as Pramod Nayak of Hundat village under Purusottampur police limits; Baburam Dalai, Lakshman Pradhan, Deepak Tarai of Burupada village; Om Pradhan of Sikiri village under Hinjili police limits, and Kunal Pradhan of Belgaon under Patapur police limits. Later, the four minors were arrested in this connection. The accused were taken on remand and subjected to marathon interrogation. A test identification (TI) parade was also

# Class IX girl delivers stillborn; 2 detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kujang, July 28: A disturbing incident has emerged from Kujang police limits in Jagatsinghpur district, where a Class IX girl student delivered a stillborn after she was found to be about four months pregnant on being rushed to a health facility with heavy bleeding.

The minor girl, a resident of Gandakipur, was taken by her family to Kujang Community Health Centre following excessive vaginal bleeding. A medical examination revealed her pregnancy. She was immediately referred to the Jagatsinghpur District Headquarters Hospital, where she delivered a stillborn boy.

Sources confirmed the girl had been pregnant for approximately four months, though her family was reportedly unaware of it until the bleeding occurred. The incident has sparked outrage in the local community, with many expressing shock over the girl's condition and the circumstances surrounding it.

Following the revelation, Kujang police detained two individuals suspected of having had unlawful relations with the minor. An investigation is under way.

Police also detained another individual, identified as Pintu Behera of Duadia Bali Sahi, who is currently being held for questioning at the Kujang police station.

yet been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Teacher suspended for

molesting girl students

Parents of the affected students have expressed deep anger, demanding stern legal action against the accused, whom they referred to as a "sexual predator". According to sources, Mohanta used to lure groups of seven-eight girls under the pretext of private lessons and allegedly touched them inappropriately. When some of the girls resisted, he reportedly tried to silence them with threats and inducements.

Out of fear and social stigma, the students refrained from informing their parents. The matter came to light only after one courageous girl confided in a female teacher, prompting an internal inquiry. Subsequently, a video showing Mohanta allegedly molesting a student circulated widely on social media. In another clip, a student's mother is seen slapping the teacher on school premises.

Authorities, however, have not taken criminal action. Critics argue that the Education department has limited its response to an administrative suspension, with no legal proceedings initiated so far. BEO Biplab Kar confirmed the suspension and said a high-level committee has been formed to investigate the matter. The committee's report will be submitted to higher authorities.

## Poachers on bail make life attempt on green volunteer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, July 28: A volunteer of a forest protection squad was critically injured after three recently tacked him at his residence in Podadiha village under Kaptipada police limits in Mayurbhani district, Sunday evening.

Bharat Satrusal, a member of the Sabuja Bahini (Green Force), was assaulted at around 8:30pm after confronting the accused for allegedly misbehaving with his 15-year-old daughter One of the attackers reportedly struck him in the abdomen with a screw driver, leaving him se verely injured.

According to Satrusal, the three men, identified as Gand Singh Guddu Singh, and Lakha Singh had previously threatened to kill him. They were arrested in October 2024 for poaching in Similipal and were released on bail about a month ago. Satrusal had been part of the team that apprehended them. Following the assault, lo cal residents rushed to the scene after hearing cries for help, force ing the accused to flee. Satrusa was initially admitted to Udala CHC but was later shifted to Baripada District Headquarters Hospital in critical condition.

A formal complaint has been registered at Kaptipada police station and a case (173/2025) has been registered. Police have launched an investiga tion and are searching for the absconding suspects.

# Baby's death over 'medical negligence' sparks tension

Jajpur, July 28: The death of a one-year-old boy allegedly due to negligence and procedural delays led to tension at a government hospital in Jajpur district Monday, police said.

It is alleged that the ailing boy's parents had to take the child from one department to another and crucial time was wasted, leading to his death.

The attending doctor, however, said the baby was unresponsive to treatment from the very beginning.

After his death, the parents and relatives of the child and the employees of Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here were engaged in a heated altercation, prompting the police to intervene.

According to reports, the child suffering from high fever was brought to the casualty department of the hospital Monday from Kacherigaon village under Jajpur Sadar police sta-

"I brought my ailing child to the doctor's cabin, but the attendant asked me to take



him to another department. Upon reaching there, I found the doctor was absent and the staff on duty there asked me cabin. This continued, and we lost an hour," alleged Naravan Mallick, the child's father.

He also claimed that he was not allowed to take his child to a private hospital unless he signed some papers.

The child was eventually declared dead by the attending doctor, Manoj Senapati, triggering emotional outbursts from the family, relatives and

A scuffle reportedly ensued when the hospital staff asked the family to complete paperwork before handing over the body, which the parents refused to do, demanding that their son be returned without delay.

# **Delhi Police arrests** bizman's cook from **Balasore over theft**

held in this connection.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, July 28: Delhi Police arrested a man from Balasore district who, along with his two associates, had stolen over ₹1 crore from the house of a businessman in the national capital, an officer said Monday.

Delhi Police, with the help of Odisha Police, arrested Kashinath Mallick (30) from Bhimei Gaon under Iswarpur police outpost in Nilagiri area of Balasore district Sunday and recovered ₹20 lakh. the officer said. Mallick used to work as a cook in the house of the businessman.

His two other associates used to work as domestic help, and separately, they had stolen total ₹1.10 crore from the businessman's house and had fled Delhi recently. While Mallick was arrested from his house in Balasore district, the other two, identified as Ashutosh Mallick (27) and Jagabandhu Mallick (30), were arrested from Delhi railway station and Patna Bus stand, respectively. The police had recovered ₹45 lakh of the looted money from them.

# Interstate chain-snatching gang busted; 20 arrested

Keonjhar, July 28: Keonihar police have busted an interstate chain-snatching gang and arrested five people, officials said Superintendent of Police Nitin

Kushalkar confirmed the arrests during a press briefing at the district police headquarters. According to police, the gang's mastermind was among those ap-

prehended. Authorities seized eight gold chains, 21 mobile phones, 14 motorbikes, and Rs 11,000 in cash from the accused. The arrested individuals were

identified as Chinmay Pradhan, Vijay Pradhan, A Ashu, M Anil and Sunil Das. Earlier, 15 people were arrested in connection with the case -- two were held 21 July and 13 others July 24, Kushalkar said.

Sources said a series of chain-snatching incidents occurred across various parts of the city July 16 between 6pm and 8pm. The incidents sparked public concern and prompted swift action from local law enforcement. A special investigation team was formed by the district police to track the culprits.

Baripada/Betnoti, July 28: A

teacher of a government upper

primary school in Pratimadei-

pur under Baisinga police juris-

diction in Mayurbhani district

has been suspended following

alleged molestation of some girl

students, sources said Monday.

Pramod Kumar Mohanta, was

suspended July 21, 2025, by the

Block Education Officer (BEO)

based on an official complaint

lodged by a fellow female

teacher. The suspension was

issued under Letter No. 1855

following public pressure and

circulation of a video allegedly

showing the teacher inappro

priately touching minor girl

students. The video has gone

viral on social media, sparking

widespread outrage and con-

Despite the incident coming

to light over a week ago, no First

Information Report (FIR) has

cern among parents.

The teacher, identified as

Based on CCTV footage and general intelligence inputs, investigators traced the gang's base to Dasmania, Mundamal and Purbakotar in Jajpur district. With support from the Jajpur district police, Keonjhar's special team raided multiple locations and apprehended the suspects, according to the SP.

The investigation revealed that the interstate gang operated across Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Police estimate the group was involved in around 1.000 chain-snatching incidents.

Based on the findings, the town police station registered eight cases under relevant sections of

Police Monday conducted a crime scene recreation involving all arrested suspects at various locations in Keonjhar town. Further investigation is under way, said Srikanta Sahu, Inspector In-Charge of the town police station, who led the operation.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY INDICATIVE EMPLOYMENT NOTICE OPEN MARKET RECRUITMENT IN **EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR THE YEAR 2025-26**

**AGAINST SCOUTS & GUIDES QUOTA** Employment Notice No. ECoR/Pers/S & G/2025-26

Date of Issue: 29.07.2025, Closing Date: 27.08.2025, Closing Time: 1800 hrs.

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals fulfilling the prescribed eligibility conditions for recruitment against Scouts & Guides Quota for the year 2025-26 for 08 (Eight) vacancies (2 in

For detailed Notification and Application Form candidates may visit Railway Recruitment Cell (RRC), East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar's website: www.rrcbbs.org.in

Level-2 and 6 in Level-1) in East Coast Railway.

PR-405/Q/25-26 Deputy Chief Personnel Officer(Rectt.)/ Bhubaneswar

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, **MECHANICAL CIRCLE, HIRAKUD**

E-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No.

ACEMC/MDRGL: 01/2025-26 dt.24.07.2025 Mechanical Gate Works of MI Division, Dhenkanal & MI Division, Angul, Rengali

No. of Work 03 (Three) Nos. SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/MSME

Category of executors

Bid Identification No

Period of Completion

Date & time of availability of

of bid Date and Place of opening

Dt.09.08.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.) in the port : Dt.11.08.2025, 11.00 A.M. onwards in O/o the Undersigned Additional Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle

for Irrigation Shutters/Hydro Mechanical

Gates ACEMC/MDRGL: 01/2025-26 dt.24.07.2025

10.12 Lakh to 15.98 Lakh (Excluding GST)
Two Calendar Months each.

From dt.31.07.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to

dt.09.08.2025 (5.30 P.M.)

Hirakud

urther details can be seen only from e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.ii

Zonal Office: 22 PD

06.05.2025

24.07.2025

+ Interest &

other expenses

Sd./- Additional Chief Enginee OIPR-32344/11/0004/2526 Mechanical Circle, Hirakud

# Police rescue girl child 'sold' by parents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Bolangir, July 28: Police in Bolangir district Monday rescued a 28-dayold baby girl who was allegedly sold by her parents for ₹20,000 due to extreme poverty, officials said.

Police rescued the infant from the house of a couple at Paikamal in neighbouring Bargarh district and handed it over to the child welfare committee (CWC), Titilagarh sub-divisional police officer Kalyan Behera told PTI over the phone. She, however, said no one

was detained or arrested in the case as there had been no

formal complaint.

Bolangir district CWC chairperson in-charge Lina Babu confirmed that the infant was rescued from the house of a couple at Paikamal.

"We have not started an inquiry into the matter as the infant's rescue was our priority. During the day, we will launch a probe and lodge a police complaint," she said. According to sources, the alleged incident of child sale came to light Sunday from Bagdera village under Bhaleigaon panchayat in Titilagarh sub-division.

A poverty-stricken couple, identified as Nila and Kanak Rana, has been accused of selling their newborn daughter for

₹20,000, police said.

However, the Paikamal couple denied allegations of purchasing the child, but claimed that they brought the baby keeping in view her biological parents' poverty. Officials said Nila and Kanak are both remarried. Nila has three daughters from his first wife, while Kanak has one daughter from her pre-

vious marriage. Citing financial distress, the Rana couple allegedly handed over the newborn to the other family. "We have not sold her. We gave the baby for her better upbringing, not for money," Nila Rana told the CWC.

### Ex-headmaster gets 3-yr RI for govt fund misuse

**KENDRAPARA:** A local court in Kendrapara has sentenced a former headmaster to three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹10,000 for misappropriating government funds meant for school development. Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Sarita Mohanty convicted Nirmal Kumar Acharya, the former in-charge headmaster of Gokhapada Primary School and Karanjia UP School under Mahakalapara block, for embezzling ₹6.75 lakh sanctioned for school infrastructure development. According to additional public prosecutor Ramakanta Swain, Acharya had fraudulently withdrawn the amount during his tenure in 2016 from funds allocated to both schools. Following complaints, the then sub collector ordered an inquiry by Block Education Officer Atanu Das. The investigation confirmed that Acharya had embezzled the funds. Acting or the report, the sub-collector instructed Das to file a complaint with Marshaghai police. A formal FIR was registered February 11, 2016 and a charge sheet was filed August 24, 2018. After examining documentary evidence and hearing the depositions of 16 witnesses, the court found Acharya guilty of fund misappropriation

# UAIL's Nirogsala gives lifesaving healthcare at remote locations

Rayagada, July 28: Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (UAIL), a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco, has launched 'Nirogsala'. This CSR initiative delivers both preventive and curative healthcare services at doorsteps in the remote villages of Rayagada district. Nirogsala healthcare project has been quietly transforming lives at the grassroots. It has set up health dispensaries in distant villages such as Paikakupakhal, Andirakanch, and Gopinathpur in Kashipur block. Nearly 20,000 villagers

avail of its services Rabi Mishra, Unit Head at



UAIL, says, "Nirogsala was born out of a very real and urgent need. In these remote locations, a medical emergency could mean walking miles without help. "By bringing structured and free healthcare services to people's doorsteps, we

are ensuring that timely aid is no longer a luxury—it's a right. Our aim is to ensure no life is lost due to inaccessibility," he said. Every Nirogsala consists of

OPD facilities along with diagnostic support and ambulance service. Full-time in-facility pharmacists, health assistants and the support of MBBS doctors on rotation every three days keep the essential care within reach. Each centre handles 700-800 patients monthly on average, Mish-

The sarpanch of Maikanch Gram Panchayat Mastram Majhi said, "Nirogsala provides free healthcare services to all nearby villages. The residents of Maikanch Gram Panchayat are economically weaker and unable to afford their medical treatment. Thanks to UAIL, they provide needy villagers medical care and life saving medicines at no cost when needed.'

## Indian Bank इडियन बैंक

Tandon Marg, Prayagraj **Allahabad** 

Branch- Kalyani Devi, Prayagraj

POSSESSION NOTICE The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice dates mentioned against Account calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here is below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said

Sadar Dist-Prayagraj having Arazi No 134 Sa measuring 161.95 Sqmt having Deed no

4685/2000 Dated 03.07.2000 in the name

Proposed Rasta, South:- Plot Phoo Chandra Yadav, East: Part portion of Land

Rules on the specified dates mentioned below. **The borrowers in particular and public in general is** 

hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject

to the charge of The Indian Bank for an amount and interest other charges thereon.

🛕 इलाहाबाद

Borrowing Firm:- M/S OBEROI All that part and parcel of the property FURNITURE MART (Borrower)

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of:- Property 1:- House No. Regd. Address:-37/1, Chak Mundera,

Proprietor & Mortgagor:- 1. Smt. Sudesh Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Partner, Guarantor & of Mrs Sudesh Kaur Oberoi W/o Late Pritpal Mortgagor) R/o- 37/1, Chak Mundera, Singh Oberoi. Boundries:- North: Prayagraj 211011, 2. Smt. Charu Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Partner & Guarantor) R/o-37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011

Mortgagor/Guarantor:- 1. Sri Inderjeet Singh Oberoi S/o Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o- 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011, 2. Sri Navneet Kaur D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi (Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o- w/o-Town Hall Road, Cuttack Sadar, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha 753009 3. Smt. Harvinder Kaur

Oberoi) Mr Inderjeet Singh Oberoi (S/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi), M Rajendra Pal Singh Oberoi (S/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi) and Mrs Harvinder Kaur Duggal (D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi.

Boundries:- North: Proposed Rasta, South:- Plot Phool Chandra Yadav East: House Mahraj Kushwaha, West: Part portion of Land 134 sa Boundaries of Combined Property are as under:- North- Propose Rasta now Interlocking Brick Road, South- Plot Phool Chandra Yadav Now Duggal D/O Late Pritpal Singh Oberoi S.P. Convent School, East-House Mahraj Kushwaha, West-Kachha Rasta

134 sa, West: Proposed Rasta
Property 2:- House No 37/1, Chak Mundera, Pargana & Tehsil Sada

Dist Prayagraj having Arazi No 134 Sa measuring 345.31 Sq mt having

Deed no 4686/2000 Dated 03.07.2000 in the name of legal heirs of late Mr Pritpal Singh Oberoi namely Mrs Sudesh Kaur Oberoi W/o Late

Pritpal Singh Oberoi, Mrs Navneet Kaur (D/O Late Pritpal Single

(Guarantor & Mortgagor) R/o- C/o- Late Jagjeet Singh, G-3 Sri Sai Residency, 2nd Main 2nd Cross, Near HDFC Bank, Sarvaboumanagar, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Bannerghatta Road, Karnataka 560076. 4. Mr. Harjot Singh Oberoi s/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o- 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011, 5. Ms. Parneet Kaur Oberoi d/o Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o- 37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj. 211011 6. Smt. Charu Kaur Oberoi w/o- Late Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi (Legal Heir of Deceased Sri Rajinder Pal Singh Oberoi) R/o-37/1, Chak Mundera, Prayagraj.211011

Date: 28.07.2025 Place: Prayagraj

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



# **Good Sense Prevails**

krainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has just in time refrained from a suicidal course that was going to turn his own people against him. People were holding back criticism against him to avoid giving the enemy (Russia) an upper hand during the continuing times of war. His critics were suspicious of his centralising tendencies but they did not articulate them realising Zelenskyy's potential in leading the country during wartime. This was the main reason for unqualified support to him despite growing concerns about the concentration of power, role of his right-hand man, Andriy Yermak, and axing of popular figures seen as potential rivals, the most notable among them being the military chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi and Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

Zelenskyy himself provoked people to go against him, even when Russian troops are pounding the country, by introducing a Bill that sought to take away the independence of Ukraine's two key anti-corruption bodies - the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAP). Ukrainians have erupted in protest in the midst of the full-scale war with Russia. The legislation brought NABU and SAP under the prosecutor general's control, allowing it to access case files, oversee and even close investigations. Demonstrators were angered with the way these changes were rushed into law. Suspicion is that allies of the President are fearing investigators may find clear evidence of corruption against them.

However, good sense seems to have prevailed on the President who was apparently taken aback by the reaction. He has now approved a draft law that he claims would restore the agencies' independence. Those challenging him want to see the details first before they are fully convinced.

For many, this crisis is the culmination of concerns about Zelenskyy's style of governance and the conduct of some of those around him. The protesters find alarming echoes of some of his predecessors. Though they stopped short of calling him a "dictator" as US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin have sought to portray him to be, a new generation has taken to the streets along with their elders for their love of democratic values. Their common refrain is that the existential threat from Russia is certainly greater and more intense than from alleged corruption by the ruling class in Ukraine, but that does not give licence to Zelenskyy to trample upon democratic values.

The two agencies were created in part to protect foreign aid and investment. People are also disturbed by Zelenskyy's efforts to blacken the anti-corruption agencies with the bogey of "Russian connections."

The fact that the current US administration has no admiration for Ukraine's anti-corruption investigators may have emboldened Zelenskyy. But his European partners were not amused by the proposed law and warned him that it would endanger the prospect of Ukraine's European Union membership.

It is a good sign that finally Zelenskyy decided not to squander the tremendous goodwill he has had among the people and within hours of the street protests he announced he has reversed the Bill. He said he respects "the opinion of the society" and accepts it as "absolutely normal" for people to react when they do not want something or "when they dislike something." This may help Zelenskyy regain people's support to some degree.

## WISDOM CORNER

Only the wise know just where predestination ends and free will begins. Meanwhile, you must keep on doing your best, according to your own clearest understanding. You must long for freedom as the drowning man longs for air. Without sincere longing, you will never find God.

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your neart, and you snall see that in truth you are weeping fol that which has been your delight.

Man is not a machine that can be remodelled for quite other purposes as occasion demands, in the hope that it will go on functioning as regularly as before but in a quite different way. He carries his whole history with him; in his very structure is written the history of mankind.

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1836:** The Arc de Triomphe, one of the largest triumphal arches in the world, was officially inaugurated in Paris.
- **1890:** Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists, died in Auvers-sur-Oise, France, two days after shooting
- 1913: Albania was formally recognized by the major European powers as an ndependent principality following the issuance of the Vlorë proclamation.
- 1954: The first part of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic The Lord of the Rings which became a sociocultural phenomenon and was adapted into a series of blockbuster films in the early 2000s-was published.
- 1957: The International Atomic Energy Agency is established. The independent agency aims to ban the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. American W. Sterling Cole served as the agency's first director general.
- 1981: Wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer. The most talked about wedding of the year was watched on television by millions of people worldwide. The couple were married in St Paul's Cathedral, London, United Kingdom, and divorced 15 years later in 1996.

# **MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS**

r. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars

until a police man approached him



are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer guestioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

# **FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY**

# NATURE RISK, FINANCIAL RISK

n 26 December, 2004 a massive undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that left  $230,\!000\,\mathrm{people}\,\mathrm{across}\,\mathrm{Southeast}$ Asia dead. Almost everyone, both human and animal, was caught off guard, with a notable exception: elephants. In places like Thailand and Sri Lanka, elephants became agitated hours before the waves hit. Wild elephants fled to higher ground, and captive ones defied their handlers, sometimes with tourists still on their backs. Sensing low-frequency vibrations undetectable to most species, they acted on early warning signals - and were far more likely to survive.

Today, another, far larger disaster is brewing, as rapid planetary warming and escalating environmental degradation threaten every sector of the global economy. And while many investors continue with business as usual, as if unaware of what is coming, one group is attempting to get out of harm's way: long-term asset owners, such as pension funds and sovereign wealth managers.

These investors, unlike hedge funds or private equity firms, take a generational view of the assets they manage. They cannot afford to ignore the inextricable link between global financial stability and environmental stability, an awareness reflected in new initiatives like the Debt Suspension Clause Alliance and the Global Hub for Debt Swaps for Development. While some claim that accounting for climate change amounts to "mission creep" for global financial stewards like the International Monetary Fund, bellwether investors recognise that nature and climate risks will materialise in near- and medium-term shocks, affecting every facet of the global economy.

So, even as many shareholders and CEOs remain focused on quarterly results, longterm asset owners have begun



The institutions that lead will be those willing to move beyond silos, align capital with planetary boundaries, and invest not only in markets, but also in the systems that support them

to scrutinise companies for natural-capital risk, in order to anticipate environmental shocks that could reduce the long-term value of their assets. Norway's Government Pension Fund Global, which manages \$1.7 trillion in assets, is now assessing a whopping 96% of its portfolio for such risk. This is not some internal refinement of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) pledges; it is a major institutional change.

Norway is not alone. Finland's State Pension Fund recently began exploring ways to quantify nature-related financial risks in relation to longterm pension liabilities. And Temasek Holdings in Singapore has started using satellite monitoring and biodiversity data to evaluate natural-capital risks and opportunities.

At a time when ESG frameworks have become a flashpoint in political and culture wars, there can be no doubt that these actions are driven not by political pressures or social trends, but by pragmatism and a growing sense of urgency. Already, extreme weather, biodiversity loss, water stress, and resource scarcity are disrupting economies, with vulnerable low-income countries especially hard hit.

In 2022, floods in Pakistan devastated agriculture - which

employs 40% of the workforce - driving up food prices and pushing the country to the brink of default. In Indonesia, deforestation and peatland degradation from unsustainable palm-oil production led to the imposition of a temporary export ban in 2022. In Brazil and Ethiopia, rising temperatures and erratic rainfall have slashed coffee yields in recent years, causing global prices to spike and undermining rural incomes and export revenues.

High-income countries are far from immune to these risks. In the United States, prolonged droughts are reducing crop yields from Arkansas to Oklahoma, forcing farmers to drill deeper wells and switch to less profitable crops. Meanwhile, climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes and wildfires, are causing home insurers to raise premiums, reduce coverage, and even exit high-risk regions. In Europe, nature-related risks have affected olive oil production in Italy and Greece; wine grapes in France. Italy. and Spain; timber supplies in Central and Northern Europe; fishing in the Mediterranean; and transport on the Rhine and Danube rivers. And this does not even begin to cover the vast human costs of the nature and climate crisis, evident in places like Valencia and Texas

systemic - water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and climate change cut across sectors and borders, triggering cascading effects and there are no measuring or reporting standards in place. As a result, most banks lack the information they need, especially location-specific data, to evaluate borrowers' environmental dependencies.

But new tools are emerging that can help close these gaps. For example, Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure is a free online tool that helps financial institutions identify nature-related risks to which they are exposed through their lending, underwriting, and investment in high-risk industries.

Some central banks have developed integrated scenario models aimed at assessing the impact of climate- and nature-related risks on the economy and financial system. Add to that new biodata technology, and the means to act are already here. Investors do not need to fly blind. This is no longer a matter of awareness. With investors already confronting the financial consequences of ecological instability – from stranded agricultural assets to declining sovereign-credit ratings in climate-vulnerable economies – there can be no doubt that nature risk is financial risk. Asset owners, central banks, and institutions like the IMF now have a responsibility to integrate this recognition into all their activities - before the next preventable shock materialises. The institutions that lead will be those willing to move beyond silos, align capital with planetary boundaries, and invest not only in markets, but also in the systems that support them.

> Julie McCarthy is CEO of NatureFinance. Patrick Odier is Chair of Building Bridges.

## **SPECTRUM WELLNESS**

Julie McCarthy &

ALREADY,

**EXTREME** 

WEATHER,

**BIODIVERSITY** 

**LOSS, WATER** 

STRESS, AND

**SCARCITY ARE** 

**DISRUPTING** 

**ECONOMIES,** 

**VULNERABLE** 

**LOW-INCOME** 

**COUNTRIES** 

**ESPECIALLY** 

**HARD HIT** 

**WITH** 

**RESOURCE** 

# Graphotherapy: A route to healing



Priyanka Mukherjee

**JUST LIKE OUR THOUGHTS SHAPE OUR** WRITING, OUR **WRITING CAN RESHAPE OUR THOUGHTS** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

ndia is facing a quiet but powerful crisis on two fronts: emotional health and physical well-being. Issues like stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, and burnout are rising rapidly. At the same time, lifestyle diseases-such as hypertension, thyroid imbalance, insomnia, and pre-diabetes—are becoming alarmingly common. What's often missed is how deeply these two are connected. Emotional distress doesn't just stay in the mind; it spills into the body.

While therapy, medication, and mindfulness apps are slowly becoming part of mainstream wellness, one powerful, low-cost, and behaviourally effective tool still remains outside the spotlight: Graphotherapy—the science of consciously changing handwriting strokes to shift emotional patterns, behaviours, and even long-held beliefs.

You see, handwriting is not just about pen and paper—it's your brain's neuromuscular printout. Every stroke reflects your mindset, your emotions, your habits. And the good news? Just like our thoughts shape our writing, our writing can reshape our thoughts. Graphotherapy taps into this by using targeted handwriting exercises that help rewire the brain through repetition and intention. It's based on two key principles: neuroplasticity (the brain's ability to adapt and change) and embodied cognition (how physical movement affects our feelings and thoughts). Where does Graphotherapy

help? In cases of anxiety and stress, people often write with tense, cramped strokes with looped letters and apply excessive pressure. By learning to write slowly, calmly, and with well-spaced letters, they naturally activate a more relaxed state in the body and mind. For those with low self-esteem, the way they write the word "t" often reveals how they see themselves. Training the hand to write a confident, upright "t" with crossbar at the top can subtly build confidence and assertiveness over time.

Graphotherapy is also incredibly helpful for individuals who find talking about their emotions difficult. It offers a private, non-verbal route to healing—especially useful for those recovering from trauma or emotional blocks. Even lifestyle diseases like migraines, thyroid issues, and insomnia though medical in nature-often worsen due to emotional strain. While Graphotherapy is not a substitute for medical care, it can definitely lighten the emotional load that aggravates such conditions.

Students and professionals also benefit immensely. Practising structured writing—like keeping a consistent slant, writing within margins, or maintaining clean baselines builds focus, clarity, and discipline. These physical habits often mirror and strengthen mental organisation and decision-making skills.

So why is Graphotherapy an ideal fit for India? It's simple, affordable, and doesn't require devices or apps. All it needs is a pen, paper, and 15-20 minutes a day. It can be done at home, without depending on therapy sessions or clinical infrastructure. And the best part? It complements existing treatments beautifully. It's not about choosing one or the other—it's about working together to achieve lasting change.

Of course, like any powerful tool, Graphotherapy must be used wisely. It is not a magic pill or a quick fix. It should never replace therapy or medication where they are clearly needed. Guidance from a trained Grapho-analytical therapist is essential to ensure that the right changes are made for the right reasons. Random changes in handwriting can lead to confusion or even emotional discomfort.

The potential for this tool is immense. Schools can introduce short Graphotherapy routines in life-skills classes to help students manage emotions and build self-belief. Workplaces can use it as part of wellness programmes to address burnout and improve focus. Counsellors can give it as a practical follow-up exercise to deepen therapy sessions.

Graphotherapy won't replace counsellors or psychologistsand it shouldn't. But in a country where mental-health access is limited and stigma still exists. a self-driven, accessible, and affordable tool that helps people take charge of their own healing is not just helpful—it's urgent.

Sometimes healing doesn't begin with a prescription or an app -- it begins with a pen, a piece of paper, and the simple, powerful decision to rewrite your inner world-one intentional stroke at a time.

The writer is certified handwriting analyst and **Grapho-Analytical Therapist** 

## Tiger conservation

Sir, International Tiger Day is observed across the world on 29 July. The number of tigers in India stood at 3,682 as of 2022. India, with 70%of the global tiger population, is considered the safest place for the big cat. However, as many as 178 tigers reportedly succumbed to various causes between 2019 and 2023, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) that is doing its best to protect the big cats. It should be made known that any tiger death is attributed to poaching unless proved otherwise. Though the number of tigers in tiger reserves has stabilised over the years, their deaths outside the reserves is a cause for anxiety. An eye on the international tiger trade is a must and it is apt that India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have a coordinated system to tackle this including a joint-census to keep a track on the number of big cats.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Stunted children

Sir, This refers to "Over 50% children stunted across 13 Indian states," Orissa Post, July 28. A report presented in the Parliament has raised serious concern, revealing that over 50% of children across 13 Indian states are stunted. Stunting, a direct consequence of chronic malnutrition, reflects poor dietary intake, repeated infections, inadequate maternal care, and poverty. This alarming data indicates that half of our future generation is growing up with physical and cognitive impairments that can have lifelong consequences. Despite several national schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan and the Mid-Day Meal Programme, their reach and implementation remain inconsistent across regions. Stunted children are more likely to face learning difficulties, reduced productivity, and health complications in adulthood, ultimately impacting the nation's economic and social progress. Addressing this crisis demands urgent, coordinated efforts across central and state governments. Strengthening maternal and child healthcare, improving nutrition, ensuring clean drinking water, and raising awareness at the grassroots level are essential. Targeted interventions, especially in rural and tribal areas, must be prioritised. This report is a stark reminder that child health is not merely a welfare issue but a matter of national urgency.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE





# TWO STATES





# Baby orphaned in Himachal floods declared 'child of state'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 28: Orphaned in flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, 10-month-old Neetika has been declared a "child of the state", with the government pledging to support her education and upbringing.

The infant lost her parents and grandmother after a cloudburst struck Talwara village on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1. Her father, Ramesh, 31, died, while her mother, Radha Devi, 24, and grandmother, Purnu

Devi, 59, are still missing.

Ramesh had stepped out to divert the flow of water entering the house, while his wife and mother followed to help. They did not return.

Neetika has been declared a "child of the state" under the Chief Minister Sukh-Aashray Yojana of the Himachal Pradesh government, a senior official said.

Talking to PTI Videos, Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said, "The state government takes full responsibility of the little girl's upbringing, education and future as part of a long-term plan. Whatever this

**HP: Monsoon mayhem** 

costs over ₹1500 crore

Mandi has been the epicenter of destruction: Dozens of deaths, many missing,

hundreds displaced, and up to Rs 700 crore worth of infrastructural damage

**NATURE'S FURY** 

HIMACHAL SEES 42 FLASH

FLOODS, 25 CLOUDBURSTS, 32 LANDSLIDES DURING

two national highways, were

closed for vehicular traffic



girl wants to become in the future, a doctor, an engineer or an officer, the government will bear all expenses.

Several benefits are provid-

amounts significantly: Rs 7 lakh

for totally damaged homes, Rs

1 lakh for partial damage, and

elevated compensation for live-

Officials and local leaders

have sought central support

and region-specific rehabilita-

tion packages, with appeals to ease forest-conservation rules

to resettle displaced commu-

Search and rescue operations

are ongoing with NDRF, SDRF,

and air support deployed; relief

camps and ration drops have

been organized, especially in

Rapid construction of hotels,

roads, and buildings - often in

eco-sensitive zones — weakens

slopes and blocks natural drain-

activities involve blasting and

deforestation, increasing land-

slide and flood vulnerability.

stock and shops.

clothing, higher education, and skill development

unmarried orphans tween 18 and lity of the little girl's place ployed.

children launched in 2023, which in-

lowance, inter or intra-state annual exposure visits, stipend to meet personal expenses while pursuing higher education, vocational training or skill development, funds for startup and grants for building a house.

On the fateful night, Neetika was found crying alone in the house by neighbour Prem Singh, who informed her relative Balwant, a personal security officer for former chief minister and Leader of the Opposition, Jai Ram Thakur.

At present, the child is living with her aunt Kirna Devi, the younger sister of the deceased Ramesh, in Shikauri village, about 20 km away from Talwara village

# **UP man fights legal** battle for 17 years over 'clerical error'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mainpuri, July 28: For 62-year-old Raj Vir, who was exonerated Thursday in a case registered under the Gangsters Act, justice did not come swift.

It came limping, after 17 years, leaving in its trail 22 days of iail, 300 court hearings, lost years, frayed family ties, and a son who had to drop out of school to work as a farm labour er. And all of this, for no crime he has committed but a clerical error that went unchecked for close to two decades.

On August 31, 2008, police named Raj Vir in a case un der Gangsters Act, a charge that carried both stigma and severe legal implications. The real accused was 'Ram Vir.' But a Kotwali inspector, in what would prove to be a life-altering blunder, entered the name as 'Raj Vir', his brother.

"My client kept pleading that he had no criminal record. Nobody heard him. He was arrested, jailed for 22 days before getting a bail, and then left to fight the system alone, said Vinod Kumar Yadav, Raj Vir's counsel

After spending 22 days in jail, Raj Vir secured bail. But that was just the beginning of tale of trials that would see him crisscrossing courtrooms, from Agra to Mainpuri, where the case was transferred in 2012. He attended nearly 300 court hearings over the years.

"He could hardly focus on his family," said Yadav. "His two daughters, one of whom is spe cially-abled, are now married His son Gaurav had to drop out of school and now works as a farm labourer."

Relief finally arrived July 24 when Special Judge Swapna Deep Singhal passed an order exonerating Raj Vir.

"Justice came," his lawyer said, "but it should not have taken this long. No innocent man should have to beg the system for 17 years."



Pangi adopts chemical-free farming

Shimla, July 28: In less than four months after recognising mountainous Pangi in Chamba district as Himachal Pradesh's first natural farming subdivision, 2,244 families have been practising chemical-free farming in the valley.

cludes providing food, shelter,

The state government Sunday said it is now planning to transition all 2,920 hectares of cultivated land, covering agriculture, horticulture, and other farming areas, to 100 per cent natural farming in the landlocked Pangi Valley.

Locals, largely farmers and shepherds, have welcomed the government to formally declare their area as the first natural farming subdivision. They view the decision as a crucial step towards preserving their traditional farming practices, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the remote areas bordering Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu made an announcement in this regard on Himachal Day, April 15.

Raj Kumar, a resident of Dhanvas village in the valley, said, "This decision was long



farmers and shepherds, have welcomed the government to formally declare their area as the first natural farming subdivision

overdue, but it's encouraging that the state government has finally taken a step to ensure the welfare of the people in this region. We have seen families who leased out their land for cultivation while living outside Pangi now regretting it. The use of chemical-based farming has rendered their land barren."

Farmers say natural farming has already shown promising results in improving soil health, reducing costs, and restoring ecological balance. They believe the official recognition will bring greater visibility, institutional support, and market opportunities for their unique and naturally grown produce.

Other growers, Sheela Devi and Sunita Kumari from Punto village, said, "We are not in a position to venture into entrepreneurship because we are not very well-off and own only small landholdings. But if we adopt chemical-free farming practices today, we will have something valuable to pass on to the next generations.



### tion Centre (SEOC). Sunday evening owing to the inaccessible zones The local Met office Sunrains and 75 power distribu-**UNDERLYING DRIVERS** day issued an orange alert tion transformers and 97 water for heavy to very heavy rains supply schemes have also been Experts point to deforestation, hill-cutting for roads accompanied with thunderaffected across the state. Around 131 roads, including storms and lightning in isoand hydropower projects, poor the Manali-Kotali road (NH-70), lated areas in four districts drainage, and fragile slopes as Kangra, Kullu Mandi and were closed in Mandi district key reasons for frequent land-Shimla - for Tuesday. alone, where multiple cloudslides and flood intensity in Light to moderate rains bursts wreaked havoc on June lashed some parts of the state Climate-change driven in-30 night. National Highway (305) Sainj to Aut road is blocked at in the past 24 hours since Satcrease in extreme rainfall Kekhsu and Jhed due to landurday evening. Dharamshala events and cloudbursts is amslides in Kullu district. received 35 mm of rainfall. plifying the traditional risks in followed by Malraon 26.4 mm, There was no significant the fragile Himalayan terrain.

### dernagar, Shimla, Murari Devi and Jubbarhatti. Nearly 200 roads, including

Kangra 26 mm, Dhaulakuan 17.5 mm, Kahu 14.5 mm, Mana-

li 11 mm. Jot 10.8 mm. Jubber-

hatti 10.4 mm, Bajaura 10 mm,

Joggindernagar 6 mm and Nar-

Thunderstorms lashed Sun-

kanda 5.5 mm.

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE** 

35.6 degrees.

change in the minimum and

maximum temperatures, and

Kukumseri was coldest at

night, recording a low of 12.8

age. Road widening tunnels. degrees Celsius, while Una was hottest in the day with a high of and hydroelectric dams disturb the natural landscape. These

The state cabinet raised relief  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ 

Ghaziabad embassy fraud sheds light on world of 'micronations'

From Westarctica to Seborga, the arrest of a UP man for running 'embassies' of fictional states exposes a bizarre phenomenon with no clear place in Indian law or academia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

said Sunday.

Shimla, July 28: Since the

onset of monsoon in the state

June 20 till date, Himachal

Pradesh has suffered losses of

over Rs 1,500 crores, officials

So far, 88 people have died and

35 have gone missing in rain-related incidents, and 1.316 hous-

es have been fully or partially

damaged in the state. The state has experienced 42 flash floods,

25 cloudbursts and 32 landslides

during this monsoon, according

to the State Emergency Opera-

Lucknow, July 28: A bizarre fraud case uncovered in Ghaziabad, near Delhi, has thrown the spotlight on the little-known world of "micronations" - self-declared entities that mimic the structures of real countries but lack legal recognition. The Uttar Pradesh police are also at its wits' end as it faces a unique case with no

precedence to follow. The UP Special Task Force July 22 arrested 47-year-old Harsh Vardhan Jain from Ghaziabad for running "embassies" of four micronations - Westarctica, Seborga, Poulbia and Ladonia — from a rented house.

Claiming to be their "ambas-

sador," Jain possessed forged diplomatic plates, luxury cars and official seals. Police are probing alleged overseas job scams, hawala links and counterintelligence activities. Custody plea is pending in court. They are also examining statements by Westarctica and Seborga for possible use in the investigation.

"The problem is that there is no reference point for us also to deal with cases that involve something called a micronation," a senior UP police officer

"The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is our medium for correspondence in cases that go beyond the territories of India, and here, these unrecognised entities don't have such a legal system in place," the officer

said, noting the complexities

The case not only exposed lapses in local intelligence systems but also turned attention to the peculiar world of micronations — a concept still largely outside academic and legal frameworks in India.

According to a 2014 research paper 'Islands and Micronationality' by academic Philip Hayward, "Micronations are largely notional entities. They

are territories that have been declared independent by individuals or groups despite the minimal likelihood of their being recognised as independent by any established nation state or international body.'

Hayward distinguishes these entities from "microstates" like Niue or Tokelau, which are legally recognised despite small populations. Unlike them, micronations are often ideological projects or artistic experiments that exist without borders or international validation.

'Westarctica," one of the micronations Jain claimed to represent, is a non-profit founded by a former US Navy officer who styles himself as "Grand Duke." Its website says it "seeks to engage technology and people in service of the environment while pursuing sovereignty for Western Antarctica." The entity claims to have a head of state, prime minister and ministers for culture, foreign affairs, and even defence.

"Seborga" is a village on the Italian-French border with symbolic governance. It has a princess, crown councillors and even foreign representatives but no banks, casinos or hospitals. Its website clarifies: "While the Principality of Seborga has long claimed its historical and cultural identity, in the current legal framework it operates in full compliance with Italian law. All its activities are carried out solely in a symbolic

and cultural form and are managed by a duly registered 'associazione di promozione sociale', established under Italian

legislation." "Ladonia," located in southern Sweden, markets itself as a haven for free speech and art Claiming over 30,000 non-res ident citizens and 125 ministries, its website states: "Ladon ia is a peaceful and evolving model of cultural and artistic sovereignty in a post-national era, demonstrating that new nations can emerge through di plomacy, creativity, and shared ideals - without conflict or political upheaval."

Micronations have also yet to find serious consideration in Indian academia.

# national



Jaishankar has said (Prime **Minister Narendra**) Modi ji did not speak to Mr Trump for a certain period but he has not categorically said that the US was not involved. That is interesting

## **KSCW SEEKS ACTION OVER** ONLINE ABUSE OF RAMYA

The Karnataka State Women's Commission, in a letter sent Monday, urged the Bengaluru Police Commissioner to take action against the surge of online abuse directed at women, including former MP and actor Ramya, following "derogatory posts" on social media allegedly made by fans of Kannada actor Darshan





does not mean opposing

by saying we are not Hindus. We are Hindus, but the essence of being Hindu is to embrace

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

I have written to the Centre monsoon started fertilizer is required and I have





If we do not see any progress on restoration of statehood within or outside the Parliament during this period, then we will talk (on the subject)

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

### SHORT **TAKES**

### **CM Saini launches** Lado Sakhi Yojana

Ambala: Harvana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini made several announcements for women, including the launch of Lado Sakhi Yojana, on the occasion of Teei festival Monday. He also inaugurated 131 Mahila Sanskriti Kendras across the state, 'Badhte Kadam: Digital Bal Programme' in anganwadis and announced measures to encourage women entrepreneurs. Addressing the state-level Teei celebration held in Ambala City, Saini referred to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign launched over 10 years ago, and said it has vielded encouraging results.

## 19 judges appointed to three high courts

New Delhi: As many as 19 judges were appointed to three high courts, Pradesh, Monday. While four additional judges were appointed to the Telangana High Court, four others were appointed to the Gauhati High Court, the law ministry said. In the Madhya Pradesh High Court, out of the 11 fresh appointments, seven are judges and four

# **Jobless teachers, govt**

Kolkata: Hundreds of jobless school teachers and serving West Bengal government employees Monday took out a rally and staged a sit-in in Howrah city, demanding reinstatement of jobs of the educators and a hike in dearness allowance (DA) of the state administration staffers. The sit-in was launched as the rally, christened 'Nabanna Abhijan' (march to state secretariat), organised by a joint platform of jobless school teachers and state government employees, was stopped by the police at Shibpur short of the state

# **DGCA starts action**

secretariat.

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has initiated enforcement action against Air India after finding that the inspection of emergency slide was overdue in an aircraft, Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol said Monday. In a written reply, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation said that during the audit of Air India, DGCA found that the inspection of emergency slide was overdue.

# Kerala nuns' arrest triggers political row



Amid mounting protests in Kerala by both the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and the opposition Congress-led UDF over the arrest of the nuns, Rahul Gandhi alleged that they were jailed in Chhattisgarh because of their faith and claimed that a "systematic persecution" of

minorities was taking place wherever the BJP was in power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi/New Delhi, July 28: The arrest of two Catholic nuns, hailing from Kerala, in the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh on charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversion triggered a political slugfest on Monday with Congress and CPI (M) criticising their arrest and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai accusing the

parties of politicising the issue. Defending the arrest, Sai also said he was concerned about the safety of "our daughters of Bastar." Amid mounting protests in Kerala by both the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and the opposition Congress-led UDF over the arrest of the nuns, Rahul Gandhi alleged that they were jailed in Chhattisgarh because of their faith and claimed that a "systematic persecution" of minorities was taking place wherever the BJP was in power.

Noting that religious freedom is a constitutional right. Gandhi demanded the immediate release of the nuns and

accountability for the injustice committed against them. "Two tisgarh after being targeted for their faith - this isn't justice, it's BJP-RSS mob rule. It reflects a dangerous pattern: systematic

persecution of minorities under

this regime," Gandhi said in a

post on X.

**COURT CORNER** 

Court Monday stayed a high court order directing the removal of fruit-bearing orchards from encroached forest lands. A bench of Chief Justice B R

Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria was hearing a plea of former deputy mayor Tikender Singh Panwar and activist Rajiv Rai, a lawyer.

Appearing for Panwar, senior advocate P V Dinesh and advocate Subhash Chandran KR argued the high court had erred in its finding, which impacted

lakhs of apple growers, especially in the monsoon season. Panwar said the high court in its July 2 order directed the forest department to remove the

apple orchards and plant forest species in their place, with costs ordered to

Release of extra water to Haryana: SC

government's plea against an order directing it to abide by the decision over the release of 4,500 cusecs of extra water to Haryana. The Punjab and

Haryana High Court had directed Punjab to abide by the decision taken in

tary. On Monday appearing before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, senior advocate Abhishek M Singhvi, representing Punjab,

said Haryana was already exceeding its entitlement beyond 100 per cent and

on "humanitarian grounds". Puniab gave 4.000 extra cusecs to Harvana. "It

is a matter of emotive importance for both states," he said. Singhvi said the

high court had asked Puniab to comply with the May 2 decision which says

4,500 cusecs extra water be given to Haryana.

the meeting held May 2 under the chairmanship of the union home secre-

junks Punjab's plea against HC order

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday refused to examine the Punjab

**HP: SC stays order for removing** 

apple orchards from forest land

be recovered from encroachers as arrears of land revenue.

"UDF MPs protested in Parliament today. We will not be silent. Religious freedom is a constitutional right. We demand their immediate release and accountability for this injustice." the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha also said. Nuns Preethi Merry and Vandana Francis, as well as a third person identified as Sukaman Mandavi, were arrested from Durg railway station on July 25 following a complaint from a local Bajrang Dal functionary, who accused them of forcibly converting three girls from Narayanpur and trafficking them, a railway police official had said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Sai justified the police action

"three daughters of Narayanpur were promised nursing training followed by jobs. A person from Narayanpur handed them over to two nuns at Durg station, who were taking the daughters to Agra. An attempt was being made to convert them by human trafficking by luring them.'

"This is a serious matter related to the safety of women. The investigation is still ongoing in this matter. The case is sub-judice, and the law will take its own course. Chhattisgarh is a peace-loving state where people of all religions and communities live in harmony. It is very unfortunate to politicise the issue related to the safety of our daughters of Bastar," the chief minister asserted. In the Parliament complex, a group of UDF MPs. including Venugopal, RSP's NK Premchandran and IUML's ET Mohammed Basheer, protested in front of the Makar Dwar steps, before the start of the day's proceedings. They carried posters like 'Stop attacks on minorities and demanded action against

those behind the arrest of nuns. The BJP's Kerala unit, which has been working to expand its support base in the southern state -- particularly among the influential Syro-Malabar Catholic Church-- ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, responded defensively. Kerala BJP vice-president Shaun George told reporters that the party's state unit and central leadership had taken adequate steps to ensure that the nuns would not face any further difficulties, provided they had done nothing wrong.

"The offices of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have intervened in the matter in recent days. We have also been in frequent contact with the nuns' family members in the state. We hope that they will receive justice at the earliest, he said.

# SC asks EC to accept Aadhaar, voter ID



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Underscoring the "presumption of genuineness" of Aadhaar and voter ID, the Supreme Court Monday refused to stay the publication of draft electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar and said it would once and for all decide pleas against Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls

The top court asked the poll panel to continue accepting Aadhaar and voter ID for the SIR exercise in Bihar in compliance with its order, saying both documents had a "presumption of genuineness". "As far as ration cards are concerned we can say they can be forged easily but Aadhaar and voter cards have some sanctity and have presumption of genuineness. You continue accepting these documents," a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said.

The bench would on July 29 fix the time schedule to conduct the final hearing of the matter

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, said the electoral rolls should not be finalised in the interim, pressing for an interim stay on the publication of the draft rolls August 1.

The bench, however, referred to the top court's previous or der noting the petitioners did not press for an interim relief. which couldn't be allow now and asked the poll panel to continue accepting **Aadhaar and voter** 

**ID** for the SIR exercise in Bihar in compliance with its order, saying both documents had a "presumption of genuineness"

said the matter would be interpreted once and for all. Sankaranarayanan said the interim relief of stay on the publication was

not pressed as the top court had assured that the matter would be listed for hearing before August The bench noted the election commission's statement that the enumeration forms for the SIR could be submitted even after the publication of draft rolls. "Don't undermine the power of the court. Trust us. If the court agrees with your submission and if any illegality is found, then this court will quash everything then and there," the bench said.

On July 10, a bench headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia asked the EC to consider Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards as valid documents as it allowed the poll panel to continue with its exercise in Bihar.

The top court on Monday said it prima facie agreed with the July 10 order and the Election Commission of India (ECI) accepted in its counter affidavit that Aadhaar, voter cards and ration cards could be accepted.

While expressing its reservation on ration cards, the bench endorsed the "presumption of genuineness" of the other two documents. Sankaranarayanan said despite ECI's assertion in the counter affidavit of accepting Aadhaar and voter cards, ground reports suggested oth

# **Another school** tragedy in R'sthan: Six-year-old killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 28: A concrete slab holding up the main gate of a government senior secondary girls school in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district collapsed Monday, instantly killing a sixyear-old boy waiting to go home with his sister, police said.

A teacher was also hurt, and a girl student received mild injuries. The incident, three days after seven children were killed when a portion of a government school building collapsed in Jhalawar, took place in a school in the Ramgarh area.

"One child has died in the incident," Jaisalmer Superintendent of Police Abhishek Shivhare told PTI, identifying the deceased as Arbaz Khan. The teacher, Ashok Kumar Soni, has been admitted to the district hospital, the police

The slab gave way when the school was getting over for the day. Arbaz was a student of the government boys school which is located close to the girls school. After his school was over, he went to the girls school so that his sister could accompany him home. His sis ter was unhurt, SHO Ramgarh Om Prakash said. Shocked and furious at what had happened Arbaz's family members and relatives staged a dharna outside the school with his body.

However, they later agreed to accept the dead body follow ing talks. The body has been shifted to the mortuary of a hos pital for postmortem, the SHO said. Punam Nagar, where the incident occurred, is the native village of BJP MLA from Jaisalmer Chhotu Singh Bhati.

# Indore teacher writes to President seeking euthanasia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, July 28: A 52-year-old government school teacher from Indore, who is suffering from a rare bone disorder that has confined her to a wheelchair, has sought President Droupadi Mur mu's consent for euthanasia.

er, is trying to dissuade her,

The administration, howev

fragile. "I have made an appeal for euthanasia to the President through the media. I have already pledged my eyes and body. I want medical students to study my disease after my death," she said.

although she remains stead fast in her demand, an official Euthanasia is the practice of painlessly putting to death a person suffering from painful and incurable disease or incapacitating physical disorder. Talking to PTI Monday, Chandrakanta Jethwani, a science teacher at the gov ernment primary school in Jabran Colony, said she suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, a rare genetic disorder that affects bone formation and makes bones extremely

People take part in a religious procession on 'Sawan Somwar', at Jagdalpur, in Bastar

# Injured in AI crash, kid undergoes grafting of skin donated by mom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 28: For 8-month-old Dhyaansh, the youngest victim of the June 12 Air India plane crash, his mother not only turned a saviour when she rescued him from the on ground crash fire but also provided her skin for grafts to treat his deep burn wounds.

The child, who suffered 36 per cent burns, is on the road to recovery as the skin of his mother, who also sustained 25 per cent burns, used for grafts helped in healing his wounds, as per doctors.

Skin grafts involve transplanting healthy skin to cover wounds, burns or areas damaged by surgery or disease and promote tissue growth to help a person heal.

The infant and his mother have been discharged from a private hospital here following five weeks of intensive treatment and plastic surgery to restore the skin damaged due to fire, doctors said Monday.

The child's own skin along with his mother's skin grafts were used to treat his third-degree burn wounds, said Dr Rutvij Parikh, consultant plastic surgeon at the KD Hospital.

When the Air India 171 plane crashed into the BJ Medical College's hostel-cum residential complex here on June 12, Manisha Kachhadiya and her son Dhyaansh were in one of the buildings affected by the crash.

Dhyaansh's father Kapil Kachhadiya is pursuing his super-speciality MCh degree course in urology at the BJ



Medical College attached with the Civil Hospital. At the time of the crash, he was at the hospital while his wife and son

were in their allotted quarter. Both of them suffered burn injuries in the horrific tragedy, which claimed 260 lives, including 241 persons on board the aircraft and others on the ground.

The magnitude of the crash and subsequent fire was such that despite being inside a flat, the heat caused burn injuries to Manisha, a homeopath, and Dhyaansh, said Kapil Kachhadiya.

He said when the crash occurred, Manisha suffered injuries, but she picked up their son and managed to come out of the building. After taking primary treatment at the Civil Hospital, both were rushed to the KD Hospital the same day in view of their severe burn injuries, said Dr Parth Desai, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the private medical facility

According to Parikh, Mani sha had suffered 25 burns on her arms, face and legs, while the infant suffered 36 per cent burns on his face and other body parts.

Manisha's own First. skin was grafted to heal her wounds, said Parikh, who performed the surgeries at the KD Hospital.

Subsequently, Parikh took the skin of Manisha as well as Dhyaansh to cover his burn in juries, the plastic surgeon said. Apart from the mother-son

duo, four other patients, all medical students of the BJ Medical College, were treated at the KD Hospital, Desai said.

additional judges. employees take out rally

the 'Sangrami Joutho Manch',

# against Air India

# national



It (EC) has shifted goalposts: first demanding documentation & then just asking for enumeration forms. Voters will be susceptible to abuse & extortion just because they don't satisfy the ECI's arbitrary list of documentary proof of citizenship

# **INDIA, JAPAN REVIEW TIES**

India and Japan Monday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties, especially in the areas of defence. economic security, trade and investment and infrastructure. The issues were discussed by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Takehiro Funakoshi



Red Cross in Kullu hearing that land



to set up a rehabilitation centre in Sirmaur district, but nothing is moving on the ground

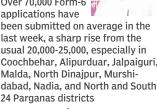
SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

We have changed every city since 2014. We should our opponents



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

A disturbing trend has emerged in West Bengal's border districts Over 70,000 Form-6



SUVENDU ADHIKARI | SENIOR BJP LEADER





gen category candidates. 1000s of candidates have applied. Government collected crores as

Even after 3 years, no exam date is

@kapsology

## SHORT **TAKES**

## Court frames charges against Amanatullah

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday framed charges against AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan and 10 others in an alleged case of irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board recruitment, saving there was "strong suspicion" of conspiracy and "prima facie evidence" against them. Special judge Dig Vinay Singh framed charges of criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct by a public servant against Khan and Mahboob Alam, the then chief executive officer of the Delhi

## Eight killed as car plunges into canal

Ludhiana: Eight people died after a pickup vehicle fell into the Sirhind canal near Jagera bridge in Punjab's Ludhiana district, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday night when a group of nearly 30 devotees was returning after paying obeisance at Mata Naina Devi temple in Himachal Pradesh.

## 4 friends killed in car-truck collision

Hisar: Four friends died when an oncoming truck crashed into their car in Harvana's Hisar district, police said Monday. They were going from Barwala to Agroha Sunday night when the truck loaded with fertilizer hit them near village Nangthala under Agroha police station. All four youths died on the spot and the car was mangled due to the accident. With the help of locals, police cut the door of the car and took out the



# SC grills judge Varma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Monday grilled Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma for challenging findings of an in-house inquiry panel report against him over the incident of cash discovery from his official residence and asked how could he question it after participating in the process

in-house inquiry panel report indicted Justice Varma over the discovery of huge cache of burnt cash from his official residence during his tenure as a Delhi High Court

A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih asked Justice Varma why did he wait for the inquiry to be completed and the report be

"Why did you appear before the inquiry committee? Did you come to the court that the video be removed? Why did you wait for the inquiry to be completed and the report be released? Did you take a chance of a favourable order there first (sic)," a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was representing Justice Varma.

Sibal said the appearance before the committee couldn't be held against him. "I appeared because I thought committee would find out who the cash belongs to," Sibal said.

The top court was hearing a plea Justice Varma's plea seeking invalidation of a report by an in-house inquiry panel which found him guilty of misconduct in the cash dis-



The in-house inquiry panel report indicted **Justice Varma over the discovery of huge** cache of burnt cash from his official residence during his tenure as a Delhi High Court judge

The plea does not reveal Justice Varma's identity and is titled, "XXX v. The Union of India"

The top court further quizzed him over the parties he had made in his plea and said he should have filed the in-house inquiry report with his plea.

"This petition should not have been filed like this. Please see the party is registrar general here and not secretary general. The first party is Supreme Court as your grievance is against the process mentioned. We don't expect the senior counsel to go through the causetitle," the bench said.

Sibal submitted there was a process under Article 124 (Establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court), and a judge couldn't be a subject matter of public debate.

"The release of video on SC

website, public furore, media accusations against judges are prohibited as per constitutional scheme," Sibal added.

He submitted the inquiry committee report couldn't form the basis for the impeachment

The bench, however, refused to look at anything not a part of the record.

"You need to satisfy us based on the petition and the four corners of law. Whom did CJI sent this letter to? President is the one who appoints the judge. Prime Minister because President acts on aid and advice of council of ministers. So sending these letters, how does that mean it is for the house to impeach?" the top court asked. The top court asked Sibal to come with one page of bullet points and correct the memo of parties.

The matter was posted for July 30. Justice Varma has sought quashing of the May 8 recommendation by then chief justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, urging Parliament to initiate impeach ment proceedings against him.

His plea said the inquiry "reversed the burden of proof", requiring him to investigate and disprove the charges levelled against him. Alleging that the pane's findings were based on a preconceived narrative, Justice Varma said the inquiry time lines were driven solely by the urge to conclude proceedings swiftly, even at the expense of "procedural fairness'

The petition contended that the inquiry panel drew adverse findings without affording him a full and fair hearing.

A report of the inquiry panel probing the incident had said Justice Varma and his family members had covert or active control over the store room where a huge cache of halfburnt cash was found following a fire incident, proving his misconduct which is serious enough to seek his removal.

The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court conducted the inquiry for 10 days, examined 55 witnesses and visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35 pm on March 14 at the official residence of Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and now in the Allahabad High Court. Acting on the report, then CJI Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the judge's impeachment.

# Mamata launches 'Bhasha Andolan'

Launching the statewide 'Bengali Language Movement' from Bolpur, Banerjee declared she would "give up her life but not her language" and vowed to stand against a tempts to erase Bengali asmita (pride), disenfranchise the poor, or drive out migrants under the guise of electoral roll revision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bolpur (WB), July 28: In a fi ery escalation of her anti-BJP offensive ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday launched 'Bhasha Andolan' (Language Movement) accusing the Centre and the EC of conspiring to implement the NRC "through the backdoor" and unleashing "linguistic terror" on Bengali-speaking migrants.

Launching the statewide 'Bengali Language Movement' from Bolpur, the cultural crucible shaped by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Banerjee declared she would "give up her life but not her language" and vowed to stand against attempts to erase Bengali asmita (pride). disenfranchise the poor, or drive out migrants under the guise of electoral roll revision.

She alleged that the BJP-led Centre, in collusion with the EC. was targeting minorities, OBCs, the poor, and Bengali-speaking voters through the Special Summary Revision, to strike off genuine names from the voter list in a covert NRC-like exercise.

Daring the EC to delete names of genuine voters, Banerjee warned that such "steps would attract consequences."

Leading a rally of TMC supporters and returnee Bengali migrants, Banerjee said, "We will stop this conspiracy to jeopardise our existence in the



name of linguistic terror and an attempt to implement NRC by the backdoor.

"I will not allow NRC to be implemented in Bengal as long as I am alive. I won't allow de tention camps to be built here Try removing names from Bengal... there will be conse quences. Are you ready to face the music from our mothers our sisters, and our cultural groups when they decide to rise against you in non-violent manners?" she warned.

Waving to cheering crowds and holding a portrait of Tagore, Banerjee walked the three-kilometre-long protest march from the Tourist Lodge Crossing to Jamboni bus stand flanked by ministers, senior party leaders, and local elect ed representatives. "We have no enmity with any language I am not against any language I believe that unity in diversity is the foundation of our na tion. But if you try to erase our language and culture, we will resist peacefully, powerfully,

and politically," Banerjee said

# Stampede at UP temple: Two killed, 32 injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barabanki (UP), July 28: Two people were killed and 32 injured as a stampede broke out at a temple here early Monday after a live electric wire, broken by monkeys, fell onto a tin shed, leading to panic among devotees. DGP Rajeev Krishna said that the casualties were caused due to electrocution.

The incident occurred at the Avsaneshwar temple in the Haidergarh area during the

holy month of Shravan Monday when devotees had gathered at the temple for 'jalabhishek' (of-

fering water as a ritual). The electric current spread through the tin shed as the wire fell. triggering panic and a stampede in the temple premises.

Prashant (22) from the Mubarakpura village under the Lonikatra police station area and another

30-year-old devotee succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at the Trivediganj Community Health Centre (CHC), officials said.

This comes a day after eight people were killed in a stampede that broke out during a rush of pilgrims along a stair route leading to the Mansa Devi temple on a hilltop in Haridwar. Rumours of an electric current where the stairs begin triggered panic among people, leading to the stampede, according to the police.

tees are being treated at the Haid-

Following the incident, there was chaos in the temple and sur-

lice officials reached the spot

An investigation is underway to determine the exact

Barabanki District Magis-



were brought to Trivediganj CHC, of whom five were referred to higher medical centres due to their critical condition. Meanwhile, 26 injured devo-

ergarh CHC, and one of them has been referred for advanced care

> rounding areas. District and po-

and are working to manage the situation.

cause of the incident.

trate Shashank Tripathi said that during the 'jalabhishek' ritual, monkeys had damaged an electric wire, which caused current to flow through three tin sheds in the temple complex. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed "deep sorrow' over the loss of lives and extended his condolences to the bereaved families. Meanwhile, Opposition parties demanded compensation for the victims.



School students participate in a rally in observance of World Hepatitis Day amid rain, in Kolkata, West Bengal

# SIT STARTS SITE INSPECTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharmasthala (Karnataka), July 28: A team of police officials from the SIT, constituted by the Karnataka government to probe alleged mass burial sites in Dharmasthala, began site inspections Monday, police said.

Accompanied by land records officials, local police, and district authorities, the Special Investigation Team visited multiple locations, including the bathing ghats of the Nethravati

**DHARMASTHALA** 

river at the entrance of Dharmasthala. The SIT, along with Kadaba Tahsildar Prabhakara Khajure, conducted a mahazar (preliminary site inspection) at the Nethravati riverbank based on complaints lodged by local groups alleging that parts of the land may have been used for mass burials.

The inspection was ordered

by Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Darshan H V after the matter gained local and media attention.

The complaint alleged that skeletal remains could be buried beneath a portion of the ghat area where excavation had reportedly been carried out in the past. No remains were found during the inspection, police said, adding that a detailed investigation involving forensic experts will be conducted in the coming days.

# SC takes suo motu notice of news over dog bite leading to rabies bench of Justices J B

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Monday took suo motu cognisance of a media report of dog bite incident leading to rabies, saying it contained some "alarming and disturbing figures"

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan termed the news item published today in Delhi edition of English daily Times of India as "very disturbing and alarming"

The news report was about the death of a six-year-old girl, who was attacked by a rabid stray dog, in the national capital.

APardiwala and R Mahadevan termed the news item published today in Delhi edition of English daily Times of India as "very disturbing and alarming The news report was about the death of a six-yearold girl, who was attacked by a rab stray dog, in the

Taking cognisance of the news report, the bench said, "The news item contains some alarming and disturbing figures and facts." It said every day, hundreds of dog bites were

being reported in the city and on its outskirts, leading to rabies and ultimately, children and aged were falling prey to the dreadful disease.

'We take suo motu cognisance of this news item," the bench ordered. It asked the apex court registry to register it as a suo motu petition in public interest, "Let this order be placed along with the news report before the Chief Justice of India for appropriate orders," the bench said. On July 15, while hearing a separate plea alleging harassment over feeding of community dogs in Noida, the apex court had asked the petitioner, "Why don't you feed them in your own house?"

The top court told the petitioner's counsel, "We should leave every lane, every road open for these large hearted people? There is all space for these animals, no space for humans. Why don't you feed them in your own house? Nobody is stopping you.

The observations came in a plea arising out of a March 2025 order of the Allahabad High Court. The petitioner claimed harassment and said she was unable to feed community dogs in line with the Animal Birth Control Rules.

# Two day free artificial limb camp culminates at Patanjali Yogpeeth

Haridwar, July 28: The two day camp organised by Pataniali Wellness Centre at Patanjali Yogpeeth here to provide artificial limbs and assistive equipment to differently-abled individuals culminated today.

About 250 differently-abled persons benefitted from the camp. The camp was inaugu rated by Swami Ramdev who said that empowering every individual to become self-reli ant is the real success.

A handout stated that this unique initiative is part of Pa taniali's broader movement of Swadeshi and Swasth Bharat envisioned by Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna.

It further stated that the goal is not only physical empowerment through artificial limbs but also to instill spiritual strength and self-dependence in every human being.

Swami Ramdev said: "They are not Divyangs but divine souls. They don't need sympathy, they need empowerment. Addressing the differently-abled participants present at the camp, Acharva Balkrishna said "Patanjali's goal is not only Ayurvedic health but to make every individual self-reliant."

The event was successfully conducted with the support of organizations like Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti Uddhar Sewa Samiti, Daksh Technicians and various Pa tanjali workers.

The camp was supported by Swami Vidahdev, Swami Punyadev, Pooja and many others. The organising team from Patanjali management including Sanjay, Ruchika Aggarwal, Shruti, Pradyuman, Ravi, Divyanshu, Krishna, Niharika, Divya, Deendayal and others also contributed to the success of the camp



# international



We have a trade deal between the two largest economies in the world, and it's a big deal. It's a huge deal. It will bring stability. It will bring predict-

## **TURKIYE WILDFIRES: 2 VOLUNTEERS DIE**

The death toll from wildfires outside the city of Bursa in northwest Turkiye rose to four late Sunday after two volunteer firefighters died. Their deaths raised Turkiye's wildfire fatalities to 17 since late June, including 10 rescue volunteers and forestry workers killed Wednesday in a fire in Eskisehir, western Turkiye



restrictions appeared to have been eased by Israel in Gaza **Sunday after Israel** decided to support a one-week scale-up of aid

TOM FLETCHER | UNITED NATIONS AID CHIEF

The country is being run under Munir's law, and the ISI is giving it protection... He is prepared to sacrifice

every national interest to maintain his hold on power. This army chief is disgracing the military just as Yahva Khan once did IMRAN KHAN

JAILED FORMER PREMIER, PAKISTAN



tancy has fuelled recent violence. including attacks on schools JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA I

SPOKESPERSON FOR PRESIDENT, GHANA

## SHORT **TAKES**

### 4 killed, 8 missing in China landslides

Beiiing: Four people were killed while eight remain missing after a landslide struck a village in China's Hebei province Monday, as Beijing issued a red alert for floods following heavy rains in the city. Rescue efforts were underway after the landslide hit the village in Luanping County, Chengde City, local officials said. Meanwhile. authorities in Beijing issued alerts for rainstorms and flooding Monday as parts of the Chinese capital brace for torrential rainfall, raising concerns over flash floods and landslides in mountainous areas. The Beijing administration also issued a red flood alert, the highest level in China's four-tier alert system, Over 3,000 residents were evacuated from Mivun District Sunday after heavy

### US, China hold new talks on tariff truce

rains, local authorities said

Stockholm: Top US and Chinese economic officials resumed talks in Stockholm Monday to resolve longstanding economic disputes at the centre of a trade war between the world's top two economies, aiming to extend a truce by three months. US Treasury Chief Scott Bessent was part of a US negotiating team that arrived at Rosenbad, the Swedish prime minister's office in central Stockholm, in the early afternoon. China's Vice Premier He Lifeng was also seen at the venue on video

# Thailand, Cambodia agree for truce

Putrajaya, Malaysia, July 28: Cambodia and Thailand agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire" from midnight Monday, in a bid to halt their deadliest conflict in more than a decade after five days of fierce fighting that has displaced more than 300,000 people.

After days of efforts by Malavsia, chair of the ASEAN regional bloc, the United States and China to bring both sides to the table, the two countries' leaders agreed to end hostilities, resume direct communications and create a mechanism to implement the truce. At least 36 people have been killed in the fighting, mostly civilians.

Following more than two hours of talks at his official residence in Putrajaya, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, flanked by Thai and Cambodian leaders, said he was ready to deploy a team to observe and ensure implemen-

"This is a vital first step to-

SCHOOL JET CRASH

B'desh govt sets

Dhaka, July 28: The Bangla-

desh government has formed

a nine-member commission to

investigate last week's crash of

building of Milestone School

and College in Dhaka's Uttara

The probe commission head-

ed by former secretary AKM Za-

far Ullah Khan has been asked

to submit its report within four

weeks. The Daily Star newspa-

per cited a Cabinet Division

retired air vice marshal, three

additional secretaries from

three ministries, the Dhaka

divisional commissioner, an

urban planner, and a professor

of the mechanical engineering

department of the Bangladesh

University of Engineering and

examine the cause of the trag-

ic crash, assess damage and ca-

sualties, and determine the re-

sponsibilities, the report said.

and injuries suffered by stu-

dents, teachers, and others,

and determine the extent of all

the construction of Milestone

School and College.

Additionally, it will review

It will assess the loss of lives

The probe commission will

Technology.

damages.

The other members include a

up probe panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

to a media report.

area on last Monday.

gazette issued Sunday.



wards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security,'

he told a press conference. "All parties shared a commit-

ment to peace. BORDER DISPUTE HAS FESTERED FOR **DECADES** 

The Southeast Asian neighbours have wrangled for decades over border territory and have been on a conflict footing since the killing of a Cambodian soldier in a skirmish late in May, which led to a troop buildup on both sides. A full-blown diplomatic crisis brought Thailand's fragile coalition government to the brink of collapse.

They accuse each other of starting the fighting last week,  Malaysia hosts truce talks with US and China

-□ Ceasefire to start midnight

-□ Cambodia, Thai leaders thank Trump

-□ Ceasefire a 'vital first step towards de-escalation'. Malaysia PM says

At least 36 people killed. mostly civilians

both quickly deploying heavy artillery at multiple points along their 800-km (500-mile) land border. Thailand flew air raids with an F-16 fighter jet.

US President Donald Trump called both leaders at the weekend, warning he would not conclude trade deals with them unless they ended the fighting. Both sides are facing a steep import tariff of 36% on their goods in the US, their top export market.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet thanked his acting Thai counterpart Phumtham Wechayachai for what he said was a positive role and said he deeply appreciated Trump's "decisive mediation" and China's constructive participation.

We agreed that the fighting will stop immediately," he said, expressing confidence that both sides could rebuild trust and confidence. "The solutions proposed by Prime Minister Anwar will set the conditions for moving forward with bilateral discussions, returning to normal cy, and forming the foundation for future de-escalation."

Responding to the ceasefire, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said Trump "made this happen".

"Give him the Nobel Peace Prize!" Leavitt posted on X.

# Trump meets Starmer



## **US President** disagrees with **Netanyahu's claim of** no starvation in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edinburgh, July 28: Israeli strikes killed at least 34 Palestinians before US President Donald Trump met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Monday in Scotland, where they confirmed plans to discuss Gaza.

A day after Israel eased aid restrictions due to a worsening humanitarian crisis. Trump said he disagreed with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that there was no starvation in Gaza. Israel Sunday announced a

pause in military operations in certain areas for 10 hours daily to improve aid flow. Alongside the measures, military operations continued. Israel had no immediate comment about the latest strikes, which occurred outside the declared time frame for the pause between 10 am

Aid agencies welcomed the new measures but say they are insufficient. Images of emaciated children have sparked global outrage. Most of Gaza's population now relies on aid and accessing food has become increasingly dangerous.

Planes from Jordan and

UAE airdrop humanitarian aid into Gaza

Two planes from the Jordanian and UAE Air Force airdropped 17 tons of humanitarian aid in Gaza Monday, Jordan's military said. The aid packages come as hunger continues to soar across the strip The airdrops took place for

the second day as Israel faces increasing pressure over Gaza's humanitarian crisis. However, Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, warned that airdrops are "expensive, inefficient and can even kill starving civilians.' The 17 tons of airdropped aid

truck carrying food, based on the World Food Programme's calculation of nearly 19 tons per truck. Trump disagrees with Ne-

amounts to less than one aid

tanyahu's claim there is no starvation in Gaza'

Asked if he agreed with Netanyahu's remarks about hunger in Gaza, Trump said, "I don't know. I mean, based on television, I would say not particularly because those children look very hungry.

Starmer, standing next to Trump, said, "We've got to get that ceasefire," in Gaza and called it "a desperate situation.'

Trump confirmed he and Starmer would talk about the humanitarian situa tion in Gaza.

## Pak kill 3 militants linked to attack on Chinese nationals ASSOCIATED PRESS Karachi, July 28: Pakistani

security forces in an overnight raid killed three suspected mil itants accused of orchestrating last year's attack in which two Chinese nationals working in a textile mill in the southern port city of Karachi were wounded officials said Monday.

Azad Khan, a senior official with the Counter-Terrorism Department, said the dead insurgents included the alleged mastermind of the November 2024 attack

He identified that person only as Zafran and said he was from the Pakistani Taliban, who are known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP and are allies of the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

China has repeatedly pressed Pakistan to improve security for its nationals working on maior infrastructure projects un der Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, which include roads, railways and power plants.

Chinese nationals have increasingly come under attack by militant groups, including TTP and the separatist Balochistan Liberation Army — banned by the Pakistani authorities and also designated as terrorist groups by the United States. Pakistan has pledged to bolster security measures for Chinese workers, including those employed at private factories.

Meanwhile, at least seven people were killed the previous day in Tirah Valley, a district in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Fi az Khan, a local government official, said. He said the vio lence erupted when hundreds of residents gathered outside a military camp to demand protection and justice after a child was killed in a mortar attack on the weekend. The crowd came under gunfire from "unknown gunmen," Khan said.

# Trump sets new deadline for Russia to act on Ukraine

Turnberry, Scotland, July 28:

US President Donald Trump set a new deadline Monday of 10 or 12 days for Russia to make progress toward ending the war in Ukraine or face consequences, underscoring frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the 3-1/2-vear-old conflict. Trump has threatened both

its Air Force training jet into a school here that killed 34 peosanctions on Russia and buyers ple, mostly students, according of its exports unless progress is made. The fresh deadline The F-7 BGI aircraft, a trainsuggests the U.S. president is ing fighter jet manufactured in prepared to move forward on China, experienced a "mechanithose threats after previous cal fault" moments after takeoff hesitation to do so. and crashed into a two-storey Speaking in Scotland, where

he is holding meetings with European leaders and playing golf,



ed in Putin and shortening a 50day deadline he had set on the issue earlier this month. "I'm going to make a new

deadline of about 10 or 12 days from today," Trump told reporters during a meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "There's no reason in waiting... We just don't see any progress being made.'

There was no immediate

ment. Andriy Yermak, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's chief of staff, thanked Trump in a social media post for "standing firm and delivering a clear message of peace through strength." Trump indicated Monday,

comment from the Kremlin.

Ukraine welcomed the state-

he was not interested in more talks with Putin. He said sanctions and tariffs would be used as penalties for Moscow if it did not meet Trump's demands.

'There's no reason to wait. If you know what the answer is going to be, why wait? And it would be sanctions and maybe tariffs, secondary tariffs, Trump said. "I don't want to do that to Russia. I love the Russian people.'



northern Romania, Monday

# Kim Jong Un's sister rejects outreach by SK's new prez

Kim Yo Jong's comments imply that North Korea - now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia - sees no need to resume diplomacy with South Korea and the US anytime soon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul (South Korea), July 28: The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rebuffed overtures by South Korea's new liberal government, saying Monday that its "blind trust" in the country's alliance with the US and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative

predecessor. Kim Yo Jong's comments imply that North Korea - now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia - sees no need to resume diplomacy with South Korea and the US anytime soon. Experts say she likely hopes to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

"We clarify once again the official stand that no matter what policy is adopted and whatever proposal is made in Seoul, we have no interest in it and there is neither a reason to meet nor an issue to be discussed," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media.

It's North Korea's first official statement on the government of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, which took office in early June with a promise to improve badly frayed ties with North Korea.

Lee's government has halted anti-Pyongyang frontline loudspeaker broadcasts, taken steps to ban activists from flying balloons with propaganda leaflets across the border and repatriated North Koreans who

were drifted south in wooden boats months earlier.

North Korea complains of South Korea-US military drills

weapons targeting

its rivals and

Kim Yo Jong called Lee's North Korea has shunned talks with South Kosteps "sincere efforts" rea and the US since leader Kim Jong Un's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019 due to wrangling over international sanctions. North Korea has since focused South on building more powerful nuclear

to develop ties, but said the new govstill ernment plots to "stand confrontation" North Korea. She mentioned the upcoming summertime Komildrills, itary which North Korea

declared a hostile "two-state" views as an invasion rehearsal. system on the Korean Peninsu-Lee said it's important to rela to terminate relations with South Korea

store trust between the Koreas as he met Unification Minister Chung Dong-young and asked about his thought on the latest North Korean statement. Chung, whose job makes him the top South Korean official on North Korea, later told reporters that he intends to propose to Lee that South Korea and the US "adjust' their military exercises.

Chung's remarks, which could mean scaling back South Korea-US training as a way to get North Korea to return to talks, will likely invite strong criticism from conservatives, who support expanded South Korea-US training to cope with North Korea's advancing nucle ar program.

Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said Kim Yo Jong's statement shows North Korea is holding out for South Korea

Moon said that Kim likely sees little upside in engaging with the South since it cannot restart economic projects that previously benefited the North

as long as international sanc-

to abandon the U.S. alliance.

North Korea focuses on Russian ties North Korea built coop-

tions remain in place.

eration with Russia, sending troops and conventional weapons to support its war in Ukraine, and likely receiving economic and economic assistance in return.

Since beginning his second term in January, Trump has repeatedly boasted of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed intent to resume diplomacy with him. But North Korea hasn't publicly responded to Trump's overture.

Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said that Kim Yo Jong's statement had a domestic audience.

# business



expected customs revenue of ₹4,060 crore in the first year of FTA with UK. as tariffs are reduced or eliminated on a wide range of goods

## **GOOGLE INTRODUCES AI** SKILL ACADEMY IN INDIA

Google Monday said that it has launched the Google News Initiative (GNI) AI Skills Academy, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) here. This initiative is aimed at equipping Indian newsrooms with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive in an AI-powered future. It will be a 10-week, hybrid training series, which is designed to equip newsrooms and media educators with foundational AI understanding and practical skills.





**Gold traded** in a positive but flat range near \$3,335 per ounce, as strength in the dollar index limited gains last



JATEEN TRIVEDI VP RESEARCH ANALYST, LKP SECURITIES

The foreign exchange reserves are invested with the objective of safety, liquidity



MINISTER OF STATE, FINANCE





PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR

### 01 RESULTS

### TCI reports profit

Mumbai: Multimodal logistics operator Transport Corporation of India (TCI) Monday reported 19 per cent growth in standalone profit after tax (PAT) at ₹124.2 crore in the June quarter. The company, in a statement, said it had posted standalone PAT of ₹104.7 crore in the year-ago period. Revenue during the quarter under review stood at ₹1.033.8 crore from ₹984 crore. registering a growth of 5.1 per cent year-on-year, it said.

# NAM India profit rises

New Delhi: Nippon Life India Asset Management (NAM India) Monday reported a 19 per cent rise in profit after tax (PAT) to ₹396.1 crore in the June quarter The company had posted a PAT of ₹332.3 crore in the yearago period. Its revenue from operations rose 20 per cent to ₹606.6 crore in the quarter under review from ₹505 crore in April-June period of FY25, NAM India said in a filing to the exchange. Shares of NAM India settled 2.61 per cent lower at ₹789 on

## GAIL net profit falls

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Ltd. the nation's top natural gas sales and distribution firm. Monday reported a 30 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit on widening losses on petrochemical business and a drop in gas marketing margins. Net profit was ₹1.886.34 crore in April-June - the first guarter of 2025-26 fiscal year compared with ₹2,723.98 crore earning in the same period last year, according to a company stock exchange filing.

## AGEL posts profit

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) Monday posted a 31 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹824 crore in the June quarter, driven by revenues from its core businesses. AGEL, which is the green portfolio company of the Adani Group, had cloked a net profit of ₹629 crore in the April-June period of the 2024-25 financial year. The company increased its total income to ₹4,006 crore in the June quarter from ₹3,112 crore in the yearago period.

## Indusind Bank profit drops

Mumbai: Indusind Bank Monday reported a 72 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit for the June quarter to ₹604 crore, and assured that there will not be any more financial impact of past frauds. The bank, which is reeling under a slew of issues stemming from alleged irregularities of the top management in recognising bad loans and trading reverses, had reported a net profit of ₹2,171 crore in the year-ago period.

# **RBI to ease norms for UCBs**

RBI is planning to revise norms for Urban Cooperative Banks. The new rules will harmonize eligibility for business permissions. Large UCBs meeting certain criteria may expand operations beyond their state. They can extend to a maximum of two states per year with RBI approval PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday proposed to replace the existing norms for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) with a harmonised eligibility criteria for certain business authorisations, permissions and approvals.

The apex bank has proposed that large UCBs (falling in Tier 3 and Tier 4 categories) which are in compliance with eligibility criteria for business authorisation (ECBA) and having a minimum assessed net worth (ANW) of ₹50 crore may extend their area of operation beyond the state of registration, subject to prior approval of the Reserve The UCB would be permitted

to extend its area of operation to a maximum of two states in a financial year, subject to the availability of adequate headroom capital required for opening at least five branches in each proposed state, said the draft Master Direction - Business Authorization for Co-operative Banks (Directions), 2025.

A UCB may extend its area of operation to the whole of its district of registration without prior permission from the RBI, it said. "A UCB in compliance with

ECBA may extend its area of



operation to a maximum of three districts of its choice within its state of registration (other than its district of registration), without prior permission from the Reserve Bank," said the draft on which the RBI has invited comments till August 25, 2025.

A bank will be considered as fully complying with ECBA if it meets certain criteria, including regulatory minimum applicable CRAR for the bank, net NPAs of not more than 3 per cent, and net profits during the preceding two financial years.

The RBI has categorised UCBs in four tiers for regulatory purposes

UCBs with deposits of more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore fall in Tier 3 and those with deposits of more than ₹10.000 in Tier 4.

The draft also said a bank should determine its compliance with the ECBA every year based on the audited financial statements as of 31 March of the immediately preceding fiscal year and place it before its Board within 30 days from the date of adoption.

# IIP growth slows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: India's industrial production growth slowed to a 10-month low of 1.5 per cent in June 2025 due to poor performance of mining and pow er sectors, which were impacted by excess rains especially in second half of the month, according to official data released Monday.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industri al Production (IIP), had expanded by 4.9 per cent in June 2024.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) also revised upwards the pace of industrial production growth for May to 1.9 per cent from the earlier estimate of 1.2 per cent released last month.

The previous low pace of growth was recorded in August 2024 when the output growth stayed flat.

Excess rains in the second half of June 2025 are likely to have weighed on mining output, while also leading to a contraction in electricity generation, although the extent of the same narrowed compared to the previous month," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist. Head Research & Outreach, ICRA, in a statement.

The NSO data showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth rose marginally to 3.9 per cent in June 2025 from 3.5 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production contracted by 8.7 per cent against a growth of 10.3 per cent recorded a year ago. Power production has declined by 2.6 per cent in June 2025 against 8.6 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

# Nayara sues Microsoft over service suspension

New Delhi, July 28: Microsoft Corp has stopped providing services to Russian oil giant Rosneft-backed Navara Energy following European Union sanctions, prompting the Indian refinery to sue tech giant in the Delhi High Court. "Nayara Energy has initiat-

ed legal proceedings against Microsoft following the abrupt and unilateral suspension of critical services. Microsoft is currently restricting Nayara Energy's access to its own data, proprietary tools, and products - despite these being acquired under fully paid-up licences,' the company said in a statement. The European Union earlier this month imposed sanctions on Nayara as part of a new raft of measures against Russia over its war with Ukraine. Rosneft owns a 49.13 per cent stake in Navara Energy Ltd, formerly Essar Oil Ltd. Navara owns and operates a 20 million tonnes a year oil refinery at Vadinar in Guiarat, as well as over 6,750 petrol pumps.

An investment consortium SPV, Kesani Enterprises Company, holds another 49.13 per cent stake in Nayara. Kesani is owned by Russia's United Capital Partners (UCP) and Hara Capital Sarl, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mareterra Group Holding (formerly Genera Group Holding S.p.A.).

"This decision, based solely on Microsoft's unilateral inter-



pretation of recent European Union (EU) sanctions, sets a dangerous precedent for corporate overreach and raises serious concerns regarding its implications on India's energy ecosystem," Nayara said. The firm said it has filed a

netition before the High Court of Delhi seeking an interim injunction and resumption of services to safeguard its rights and ensure continued access to essential digital infrastructure "These steps are aimed at pre

venting any potential disruption to Nayara's ability to meet its obligations to Indian consumers and stakeholders," it said. The firm went on to state that

while the sanctions originate ex clusively from EU, Microsoft - a US-headquartered corporation has chosen to withdraw services from Nayara Energy without any legal requirement.

"This action has been taken unilaterally, without prior notice consultation or recourse, and under the guise of compliance. Such moves signal a worrying trend of global corporations extending foreign legal frameworks into jurisdictions where they have no applicability," it said.

# Celebrate Friendship Day weekend at Wonderla

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Wonderla Holidays, India's largest amusement park chain, is going big on its Friendship Day Bash this year with a two-day festival of thrills, music, extended park hours, and special offers across its parks in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Bhubaneswar.

August 2nd and 3rd, Wonderla will offer a Buy 1. Get 1 Free ticket deal on both entry tickets and ticket plus food combos. Available exclusively online, this limited-time deal is perfect for friends planning a day out filled with rides, live entertainment, and festive energy.

Wonderla parks in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kochi, will remain open for 11 hours to ensure guests get the most out of their day.

Beyond the rides, each Wonderla park will host a lineup of high-energy activities like wave pool DJ sets by afternoon, sunset-to-night dance parties with live DJs (between 6 and 8 PM), interactive games and contests.



featuring a local twist in each city, and curated foam parties across all four parks throughout the day. Dheeran Choudhary, Chief

Operating Officer, Wonderla Holidays Ltd, said, "In a world where most interactions happen through screens, we believe the most meaningful moments are the ones experienced together, in real life. For over 25 years, Wonderla has offered a safe. high-quality environment for people to reconnect: through play, thrill, and presence. Our Friendship Day celebrations are designed to encourage friends to step out, switch off, and create memories that go beyond selfies—backed by the safety. hygiene, and operational excellence that guests trust us for.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: Falling for

30-share BSE barometer tanked 572.07 points or 0.70 per not seen since June 4. During

156.10 points or 0.63 per cent to close at a nearly two-month low of 24,680.90. As many as 35 Nifty shares declined, and 15 advanced

Analysts said disappointing quarterly results and continued selling by FIIs dragged stock markets down for the third session in a row. Nifty has tanked over 2 per cent or 539 points while Sensex retreated by 1,835 points or 2.2 per cent to trade at near two-month low levels.

Mahindra Bank tumbled the

# Markets tumble for 3rd day

the third straight session Monday, benchmark Sensex tumbled by 572 points to close at nearly a two-month low due to heavy selling in Kotak Mahindra Bank, forex outflows and uncertainty related to India-US trade deal.

cent to settle at 80.891.02, a level the day, it slumped 686.65 points or 0.84 per cent to 80,776.44. 50-share NSE Nifty declined

Among Sensex firms, Kotak



company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹4,472 crore for the June quarter, and flagged stress on the retail commercial vehicle portfolio due to adverse macroeconomic conditions.

The profit in the year-ago peri od was ₹7,448 crore, but it had included gains of over ₹3,000 crore on its stake sale in the general insurance arm, while the net profit for the March quarter stood at ₹4.933 crore.

Bajaj Finance dropped 3.64

most by 7.31 per cent after the per cent amid asset quality concerns, while Bharti Airtel fell by 2.35 per cent.

Tata Consultancy Services dropped 1.76 per cent amid reports that the IT major has decided to lav off over 12.000 employees. Sources said that the IT Ministry is keeping a close watch on the entire situation and is in touch with the tech company over the matter.

Titan, HCL Tech and State Bank of India were also among the laggards

AI agents who compete on skills

and are proficient with current

Prabhu Ram, VP, Industry

Research Group (IRG), Cyber-

Media Research (CMR), said

the TCS layoffs highlight sev-

eral headwinds the company

is facing, including margin

pressures and evolving client

priorities amid a challenging

As AI adoption accelerates,

clients are placing greater em-

phasis on cost-efficiency and

measurable productivity gains.

Neeti Sharma said every com-

pany today is looking towards

an AI-led transformation -- in

terms of people, processes, and

TCS did not plan well or

technology

TeamLease Digital CEO

human skills, he said.

demand environment.

## Kinetic re-enters in all new avatar PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Kinetic Engineering Monday announced its re-entry into the two-wheeler space and said it aims to invest around ₹177 crore over the next 18 months to scale up sales network and ramp up production.

The Pune-based firm, which used to produce and sell the iconic scooter Kinetic DX from 1984 till 2009, aspires to be among the leaders in the electric two-wheeler space over the next three years.

The company Monday launched Kinetic DX scooter in an electric avatar with an estimated range of 116 km on

a single charge In an interaction with PTI, Kinetic Engineering Vice Chairman and Managing Di rector Ajinkya Firodia said the company aims to scale up the production and sales net

work in a phased manner. 'We aim to touch 1.5 lakh unit sales mark in the next 3-4 years, and to sell that number we would require around 300

dealerships," Firodia said. The company plans to pro duce around 40,000 units by August 2026 and then gradually scale up production, he added.

"The company aims to achieve a 6-8 per cent market share in the next three years. targeting the top three players in the segment," Firodia said.

He noted that the top five or six manufacturers are now dominating the domestic elec tric two-wheeler segment with a market share of around 90

per cent. On future investments, Firodia noted that the company has committed to invest ₹177 crore in the business over the

next three years. When asked about the sales network, he said that the com pany currently has appointed

20 dealers and plans to expand the number to 160 in the first year. It would be scaled up to 300 dealerships over the next three years, with the western

region being the first focus He emphasised the impor

in the Indian market.

The company also plans to later export the electric scooter to various markets globally. he added.

# TCS' layoffs jolt IT industry; wake up call for tech heads

IT companies want to become future-ready, focusing on investments in technology, AI deployment, market expansion, and workforce realignment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The shocking 12,000 layoffs in TCS may not be the end of job cuts, as analysts fear AI and automation will lead to more downsizing in the industry in the times to come.

A look at the headcount dashboard of TCS -- India's largest IT services company -- over the past years shows that the company's employee

count peaked in FY23 at 6.14 lakh, and dropped in the next two fiscal years. The employee tally grew from 4.48 lakh in FY20 to a

record high of 6.14 lakh at the

end of FY23, adding nearly 1.7

lakh employees in just three years. TCS experienced a notable decline of 13,249 in its workforce the following year, with the number falling to 6.01 lakh in FY24. After FY24, the company

saw a modest rebound -- its employee numbers rising to 6.07 lakh in FY25 and reaching 6.13 lakh in the first quarter of FY26. In fact, between April and

June 2025, the company's workforce increased by over 5.000 employees. The Tata Group company has said it will lay off more

than 12,000 employees, or 2 per cent of its global workforce, this year. The jolt will be felt most in the middle and senior TCS said the move is part of the company's broader strat-

egy to become a future-ready organisation, focusing on investments in technology, AI deployment, market expansion, and workforce realignment. Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Re-

search, believes TCS's move

reflects a combination of mac-

roeconomic pressures, shift-

ing client expectations, and a

broader industry pivot toward agile, outcome-based delivery models

focus on optimising workforce utilisation. He observed that though TCS clarified that these cuts aren't driven by AI, the move comes

at a time when automation and AI adoption are increasingly influencing workforce decisions across the tech industry.

Globally, he said, companies are reassessing roles and skills



to align with new digital priorities. For Indian IT services The introduction of a stricter bench policy underscores the

models, he said.

force layoffs. We should see this as part of larger evolution

companies, this marks a transition towards more efficient and performance-focused workforce Faisal Kawoosa, Chief Analyst and Founder of Techarc.

noted that enterprises are expecting IT services companies to do more for less, using AI. So cost pressures will further

a user on X said. A Reddit user said TCS's layoffs mean it is evident that job of AI-driven IT where human

loss due to AI automation is real. Layoffs in any company are not good news...Now, competition will increase and pay agents will fast be replaced by will decrease

did not expect AI adoption by some of their clientssectors so quickly, hence buffer staffing or client rejected resources are disengaged through this layoff,

area, followed by northern, eastern and southern parts of the country, Firodia said. tance of having a reliable brand with good service is crucial for long-term success

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

Title in both Junior and

the

Senior segments.

Champions

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** 

of the subject of the report. He said, "The

titles include the report's subject.

story which started from 'X' and reached to 'Y',

shouldn't end there." X and Y are two Salman

Khan starring films. Name the two films, whose

ANSWER TO MONDAY'S QUESTION

Calibri

n this day in 2019, PM Modi released a

census report in which he highlighted

the significant increase in the numbers

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

Orissa P

Extravaganza

**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.

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

PRANAY M DAHARWAL

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

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

Suvendra Kumar Mahapatra, Akash Kumar Behura, Pinky Nayak,

Barun Kumar Behera, SaidityaTripathy, Bishnu Prasada Dash,

Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Sourendu Sarkar, Soumendu Sarkar,

Everyone will have to mail their answers to

mettlemeet@orissapost.com

complaints will be entertained.

case of students till Class XII)

be part of the competition.

**ABINASH DAS** 

Others who answered correctly are

Bishnu Bhoi, Mahesh Prasad Dalabehera

with their pictures.

will be considered valid.

# Chess queen, Divya

19-YEAR-OLD DIVYA DESHMUKH STUNS CHESS WORLD BY WINNING THE FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2025. BECOMING FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO CLAIM THE PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

**RISING STAR** 

woman to achieve GM feat

Grandmaster of the country

sensational rise for the

Nagpur teenager, who

the World Junior

just last year clinched

Championship title

🔲 Divya now fourth Indian

This win crowns a

I need time to

process it (win). I

getting the Grandmaster

before this (tournament)

title this way because

I didn't even have one

(GM) norm, and now

I am the Grand-

master

think it was fate, me

Batumi, July 28: Teenaged Indian chess player Divya Deshmukh became the youngest to win the Women's World Cup here Monday as she outwitted the seasoned Koneru Humpy in the tie-breaker of an all-Indian final which left the youngster emotionally overwhelmed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The victory not just earned the 19-year-old the prestigious title, but also made her a Grandmaster, something which looked improbable when she started the tournament.

The victory for the Nagpur player came after the two classical games played Saturday and Sunday ended in draws.

After the drawr games, it was the first set of tiethat breakers proved decisive as Humpy lost the battle of nerves. Except the World





President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and five-time World Champion V Anand, led the nation in congratulating and hailing young chess sensation Diva Deshmukh for winning the FIDE Women's World Cup in Batumi, Georgia. "Divya's triumph and Humpy's runner-up finish underline the abundance of talent in our country, especially among women," said President Murmu in a post on X, formerly Twitter. Prime Minister Modi called it a "historic final featuring two outstanding Indian chess players" and extended his best wishes to both players for their future endeayours "A historic final featuring two outstanding Indian chess players! Proud of the young Divya Deshmukh on becoming the FIDE Women's World Chess Champion 2025. Congratulations to her for this remarkable feat, which will inspire several youngsters," he added. "Bharat Rules the Chessboard! Congratulations to @DivyaDeshmukh05 on winning the FIDE Women's World Cup! Proud of @humpy\_koneru for a stellar performance in this all-India final," wrote Dr Mandaviya in his post on X. Vishy Anand, who ignited the chess revolution in India by winning the World Championship in classical chess and defending the title on four occasions, congratulated Divya on also claiming a place in the Candidates event, a qualifying tournament for the Women's World Championship Final Match. Anand, who won the corresponding Men's World Cup twice in 2000 and 2002, termed the final as "a great celebration of Indian chess, particularly Women's chess". "Congratulations to @Divyadeshmukh05 on winning the World Cup. Becoming GM and a spot in the candidates (tournament). Amazing battle of nerves. @humpy\_koneru played a very good event and showed a commendable fighting spirit. The great champion she is! It was a great celebration of Indian chess, particularly Women's chess," said Anand in his post on X.

Test due to injury

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

fourth match here.

replacement.

a press release.

Manchester, July 28: India

wicketkeeper-batter Rish-

abh Pant was Sunday ruled

out of the fifth and final

Test against England after

sustaining a fracture to his

right foot on day one of the

Tamil Nadu's N Jagadee-

"Rishabh Pant, who sus-

tained a fracture to his right

foot during the fourth Test

against England in Man-

chester, has been ruled out

of the fifth and final Test of

the series," the BCCI said in

The 27-vear-old Pant re-

tired hurt on 37 on the open-

ing day of the Test in Manchester and went for scans

after taking a blow to his right foot while attempting

a reverse sweep off England

He, however, returned to

bat after the fall of Shardul

Thakur's wicket with India

at 314/6 and went on to score

"The BCCI Medical Team

will continue to monitor

his progress and the team

wishes him a speedy recov-

ery," BCCI secretary Devajit

mittee has named Narayan

Jagadeesan as replacement

for Rishabh Pant for the fifth

Test, which begins on July

31, 2025, at Kennington Oval,

India head coach Gautam

Gambhir has advocated for

the introduction of injury

replacements in Test crick-

et, suggesting that teams

should be permitted to bring

in a substitute player in the

event of a serious external

injury during a match, while

England captain Ben Stokes

expressed a contrasting

viewpoint, calling it a 'ri-

London.'

"The Men's Selection Com-

Saikia said in the release.

pacer Chris Woakes.

an audacious fifty.

san has been named as his

N Jagadeesan named replacement

Women's World Championship, Humpy has won everything under the sun but, and as fate would have it the World Cup title eluded her again.

Deshmukh showed steely resolve Monday, and the bonus for the determination was the Grandmaster title -- reserved for the champion of this event.

Deshmukh is now the fourth Indian woman player to achieve the GM feat after Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R Vaishali.

Humpy, 38, became a Grandmaster in 2002 and Divya was born in 2005.

For the record, Deshmukh became the 88th Grandmaster of the country and if she continues to remain resolute in her endeavour, she has the ability to achieve

Deshmukh was a bundle of energy as she kept piling

ON TOP: Divya Deshmukh's sensational title triumph in the World Cup is proof that he country is a dominant force in chess and currently rules the world, with Dommaraju Gukesh crowned last year as the FIDE World

Humpy in the opening tiebreaker, tiring out her illustrious opponent and then going for the kill in the return tiebreaker.

**Champion** 

emotional An Deshmukh couldn't hold back her tears following the victory against an opponent twice her age. While becoming a GM is one of the toughest things in chess as a player needs to earn three GM norms in FIDE-approved tournaments events and cross the 2500 rating, things fell in place for the talented Nagpur player.

# Pant ruled out of fifth SC clears shuttler Lakshya Sen in birth certificate forgery case

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Monday quashed an FIR against badminton player Lakshya Sen, his family members and coach in the birth cerificate forgery case.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar said the continuation of criminal proceedings against Sen was an abuse of the process of court.

The top court observed the very allegations that were examined and debunked by competent authorities were now being sought to be revived as it ruled out any fresh evidence meriting reopening of the inquiry.

The appellants, particusportspersons of national material would not subserve standing, having represent- the ends of justice.



ed India in international badminton tournaments and having earned multiple accolades, including medals at the Commonwealth Games and BWF international events," the court said.

The top court went on, "To compel such individuals who have maintained an unblemished record and brought distinction to the country through sustained excellence, to undergo the ordeal of a criminal trial in larly appellant 1 and 3, are the absence of prima facie



win Euro 2025 Sunday, successfully defending the title they won three years ago af ter an enthralling game that ended 1-1 after extra time. It was another spectacular turnaround from Sarina

Kelly the hero as

**England sink Spain** 

in shootout to win

Basel, July 28: Chloe Kel-

ly fired in the decisive spot-

**Euro 2025** 

Wiegman's side, who came back from two goals down to beat Sweden in a shootout in the last eight and beat Italy in the semi-finals with another extra-time goal from Kelly.

World and Nations League champions Spain made the breakthrough in replace her just before the the 25th minute as Ona Batlle crossed and caught the England defence flat-footed, allowing Mariona Caldentey



Lionesses defend Euro crown

to head the ball past goalkeeper Hannah Hampton.

With Lauren James suffering an ankle injury. England were struggling, but Kelly came off the bench to break and it proved an inspired substitution.

Kelly helped close down England's porous left flank

and provided the cross for Alessia Russo to level in the 57th minute, the forward heading home her inch-perfect assist.

Spain continued to monopolise the ball but could not find another goal before the end of normal time, and the story continued through extra time as they pressed

England keeper Hannah Hampton saved from Caldentey and from Aitana Bonmati to put England in the driving seat. Coll got Spain back into

proud of this team.

o grateful to wear

this badge, and I'm so proud to be English ... I

was cool, I was composed

and I knew I was going to hit the back of the net

and probed, but could not

break the English defence

The Spaniards got the

shootout off to a great start

when Cata Coll stopped

Beth Mead's effort, but

as the game finished 1-1.

CHLOE KELLY

it with another one-handed stop to block Leah Williamson, but Spain substitute Salma Paralluelo hit her kick wide of the target.

That set the stage for Kelly to repeat her 2022 heroics, when she scored the extra-time winner over Germany that won them the title at Wembley

# Can Sports Min stop Indo-Pak Asia Cup clashes? Not really

GAUTAM GAMBHIR | HEAD COACH diculous' idea. As per the current ICC's playing conditions, replacements are only allowed for concussion or if a player matter? contracts Covid-19 during

think the genera-

tions to come for-

this. And generations

coming forward should

talk about it, that there is

someone who has batted

with a broken foot. And

it's unfortunate because

of the kind of form he

ward will talk about

**Squad for the fifth Test:** Shubman Gill (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav,

Anshul Kamboj, Arshdeep

Singh, N Jagadeesan (WK).

the match.

New Delhi, July 28: The India-Pakistan cricketing rivalry is set for a brief resumption at next month's Asia Cup but the mere announcement of it has triggered an avalanche of criticism on social media and a question. Can the sports ministry have a say in the

Emotions are still running high after 26 people were gunned down by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's popular tourist hub of Pahalgam in April. The gruesome killings even led to a brief military showdown between the old foes. Months later. the cricket teams of the two nations will clash in the

"As of now, the BCCI does not come under the purview of the sports ministry as the National Sports Governance

Bill is still to be passed. So, the ministry doesn't have a say, but we will wait and see how the BCCI responds to public sentiment," a sports ministry source told PTI.

Lieutenant General (Retd) KJS Dhillon, who served as the Director General of Defence Intelligence Agency, is among the prominent voices who have called for a boycott of any cricketing ties with Pakistan. However, former BCCI President and captain Sourav Ganguly, while condemning terrorism, has stated that "sport

should go on". The sports ministry has maintained that any bilateral sporting engagement with Pakistan is "out of question" at this point.

But in multilateral contests, it would go by the Olympic Charter, which prohibits any discrimination based on political issues, which is why the

government has stated that it would not stop Pakistan from coming to India for international events.

Adherence to the Charter is crucial to India's ambitious bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

Cricket too is part of the Olympic movement now and is set for a Games debut in 2028 in the T20 format. However, the eight-nation Asia Cup is not an ICC event and will be conducted by the Asian Cricket Council

(ACC), which is currently led by Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi.

The tournament features a scheduled India-Pakistan clash on September 14 with the potential of two more clashes later in the tournament. Crores are riding on these games as broadcasters expect high viewership and in turn high advertising

Sony Network has secured the eight-vear broadcast rights from the ACC for

It is reliably learnt, that unless there is mandatory India-Pakistan engagement in the continental showpiece, the channel would end up incurring heavy losses which also ends up affecting ACC's revenue projections.

The losses, while not hurting the cash-rich BCCI significantly, would have a cascading effect on the revenue of the remaining 24 ACC members, most of whom are developing cricket nations.

What the bill says

The National Sports Governance Bill has a provision for the sports ministry to step in and "impose reasonable restrictions" on the international participation of Indian teams and individual athletes when necessitated by "extraordinary circumstances" and in the "national

The bill was tabled in the Parliament last week

fore it becomes an act as it would need the approval of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha before the Presiden

The ministry has stated that the BCCI will come under its purview once it becomes an act.

tial assent.

"The scenario changes when that happens. But as of now, it is status quo. It is the BCCI's call," the source said

India and Pakistan have not engaged in the hugely money-spinning bilateral clashes since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which Pakistan-backed terrorists killed more than 150 people.

But they have almost always faced off in multi-national events such as the World Cup and the Champions Trophy, generating high viewership both on ground as well on TV and online platforms.

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