



Bhumi's perspective

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she's nobody to have any kind of judgement on what people want to do

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

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 Surya Kant and Joydip Chatterjee said. The bench would July 29 fix the time schedule to conduct the final hearing of the matter. **P8**

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 released. **P9**

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



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)**

OP PHOTO

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 it 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 saying 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

Hooda, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee, 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 said here.

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 attack.

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



intelligence inputs suggested 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, including a doctor, were killed in the attack.

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 formalities 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

AGENCIES

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. **P12**

'Dog babu', son of 'kutta babu', gets residence cert

PNN & AGENCIES

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) portal.

This prompted a red-faced administration to lodge an FIR against all persons concerned. The certificate of residence was issued last week in Ma-

saurhi circle, falling under the 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 verification.

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-divisional 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 administration said.

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

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
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 in all your meetings and outings today, predicts Ganesha. Your calm temperament 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 self-confidence.

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 guard. You need to maintain a balance between home and at work, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
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 emotional.

LIBRA
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.

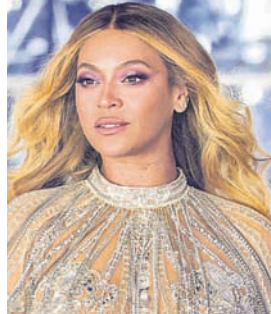


GOMEZ WANTS UNUSUAL DESSERT AT HER WEDDING

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."

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.



'I'm nobody to judge people'

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."

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

in my diet. The only difference is, I do not cook in ghee; I consume it raw. Put it on your rotis or idlis, it is very beneficial for your health."

ANS



Never felt like an outsider: Shweta

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 outsider.

Talking about the motivation 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 so many talented people. I am very blessed to know such people, and if I have the resources, then at least I will be able to

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."

"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 launching this venture," said Shweta.

Shweta's production house Bandarful aims to be a collaborative space wherein storytelling is not restricted by stereotypes, commercial pressures, or social labels.

ANS



Tanishaa longs for the past

Mumbai: Tanishaa 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.

ANS



Triptii's candid confession

Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Dhadak 2*, shared that she has been an introvert, faced things and not raised her voice against them.

In her upcoming film *Dhadak 2*, Triptii and her co-star Siddhant Chaturvedi fight

casteism for their love, bringing a realistic lens to 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, 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 scheduled to release August

1. The romantic drama film is a spiritual sequel to *Dhadak* and a remake of the Tamil film *Parivarnam* Perumal.

ANS

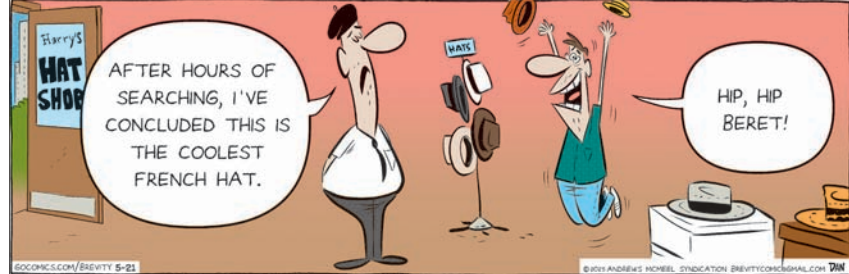
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

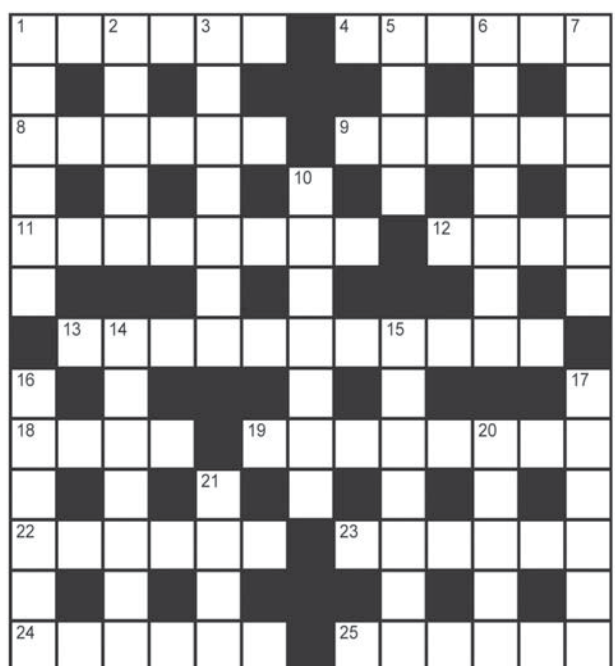


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**
- 1 Dense
 - 4 Bear witness
 - 8 Chinook or sockeye
 - 9 Rabbit warren
 - 11 Cleopatra, e.g.
 - 12 Tusked animal
 - 13 Energetic person (5,6)
 - 18 Mystique
 - 19 Potato dish (2,6)
 - 22 Red gems
 - 23 Lissome
 - 24 Kind of artist
 - 25 Conforms
 - 6 Pierced body part, at times
 - 7 Garish
 - 10 Seaport
 - 14 Circus performer
 - 15 Got there
 - 16 Lovebird
 - 17 Ticks off
 - 20 Garden bulb
 - 21 Abysmal test score
- Down**
- 1 Expelled
 - 2 Add up
 - 3 Terrier type
 - 5 Test choice

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

R	O	D	E	C	R
M	E	A	G	R	E
S	R	N	O	L	S
A	C	H	E	R	E
U	A	Y	S	I	
L	E	I	S	S	A
H	K	G	U		
S	P	R	E	E	
T	P	D	Z	O	
C	A	S	H	M	E
N	E	E	L	O	L
P	O	U	R	E	D
S	D	S	E	M	S

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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

AGENCIES

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 Committee (CEC).

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 said.

The utilisation varied widely, with Manipur, Andhra Pradesh 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 report 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, covering 2,761.26 hectares against 2,775.12 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.

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 layers 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 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 operations.

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 Subhadarshini, Ananta Charan Nayak, Bhibhu Prasad Tarai, and Rabindra Narayan Behara. Union Secretary Sanjiv Chopra also participated in the discussions.

World Hepatitis Day

Awareness events at City Apollo Hospitals & KGF



POST NEWS NETWORK

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 foundation’s annual report.

‘Ayurveda India’s pride & identity’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 28: “Ayurveda is the identity and pride of India. Just as yoga 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 Ayurveda 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 Vidyapeeth under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The conference will run until August 2, featuring in-depth studies and discussions on the Charaka Samhita.

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



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 offer a detailed study and analysis of the Charaka Samhita for Ayurveda students and enthusiasts.

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 president Dr Rajita Kulkarni.

Tidal ingress threatens Kendrapara villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



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

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 Gantayat of Mahakalapara, Hemanta Kumar Rout, and Radhakanta

Mohanty... — have alleged that for the past two decades, project funds meant for embankment strengthening have been misappropriated 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 devastation.

Ankura Hosp detects rare foetal disorder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: In a significant medical milestone, Ankura Hospital in Bhubaneswar detected a rare genetic disorder—Edwards’ Syndrome (Trisomy 18)—in a foetus at just 16 weeks of gestation, using advanced prenatal diagnostics.

Dr Rama Manjari 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 suspicion of a chromosomal abnormality,” she said.

Edwards’ Syndrome is



caused by the presence of an 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 detailed counseling the couple opted for amniocentesis—a diagnostic test analysing amniotic fluid—which confirmed the diagnosis. The pregnancy was subsequently and medically terminated with the couple’s consent.

“This is the first confirmed case of Edwards’ Syndrome I’ve encountered in the last five years,” Dr Naik noted, underlining the importance of early and precise foetal screening in maternal healthcare.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	86.67 ▲ 0.15	SENSEX	80891.02 ▼ 572.07	GOLD	₹7,595 ▼ ₹224
EURO	100.63 ▼ 0.89	NIFTY	24680.90 ▼ 156.10	SILVER	₹113,216 ▲ ₹164

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.2°	32.2°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershower
Min Temp	25.1°	25.4°	
Humidity	89%	88%	
Rainfall	26mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-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 Padia 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.

However, the CB’s exclusion 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.



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 held in this connection.

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 still-born 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.

Teacher suspended for molesting girl students



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Betnoti, July 28: A teacher of a government upper primary school in Pratimadepur under Baisinga police jurisdiction in Mayurbhanj district has been suspended following alleged molestation of some girl students, sources said Monday.

The teacher, identified as 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 inappropriately touching minor girl students. The video has gone viral on social media, sparking widespread outrage and concern among parents.

Despite the incident coming to light over a week ago, no First Information Report (FIR) has

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

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 released poachers allegedly attacked him at his residence in Podadiha village under Kaptipada police limits in Mayurbhanj 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 severely 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, local residents rushed to the scene after hearing cries for help, forcing the accused to flee. Satrusal 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 investigation and are searching for the absconding suspects.

Baby’s death over ‘medical negligence’ sparks tension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 station limits.

“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 to take him back to the same cabin. This continued, and we lost an hour,” alleged Narayan 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 bystanders.

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

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 28: Keonjhar police have busted an interstate chain-snatching gang and arrested five people, officials said Monday.

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 apprehended. 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 enforce-

ment. A special investigation team was formed by the district police to track the culprits.

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 the BNS.

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

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

PR-405/Q/25-26 | Deputy Chief Personnel Officer(Rec'tt.)/ Bhubaneswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, MECHANICAL CIRCLE, HIRAKUD
Email address :- semekh-eicwv.od@od.gov.in
E-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. ACECM/MDRGL : 01/2025-26 dt.24.07.2025

1.	Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works of MI Division, Dhenkanal & MI Division, Angul, Rengali
2.	No. of Work	: 03 (Three) Nos.
3.	Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/Hydro Mechanical Gates
4.	Bid Identification No.	: ACECM/MDRGL : 01/2025-26 dt.24.07.2025
5.	Estimated Cost	: 10.12 Lakh to 15.98 Lakh (Excluding GST)
6.	Period of Completion	: Two Calendar Months each.
7.	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.31.07.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to dt.09.08.2025 (5.30 P.M.)
8.	Last date/time for receipt of bid	: Dt.09.08.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.) in the portal of bid
9.	Date and Place of opening of Bid	: Dt.11.08.2025, 11.00 A.M. onwards in O/o the Undersigned
10.	Name of the Officer inviting Bids	: Additional Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, HIRAKUD

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

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer
Mechanical Circle, HIRAKUD

OIPR-32344/11/0004/2526

Police rescue girl child 'sold' by parents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Bolangir, July 28: Police in Bolangir district Monday rescued a 28-day-old 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 Baragarh 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 sell-

ing 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 previous 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 on 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.

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, Mishra added.

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.”

UAIL’s Nirogsala gives lifesaving healthcare at remote locations

POST NEWS NETWORK

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, Andira-kanch, and Gopinathpur in Kashi-pur 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

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



SRI AUROBINDO

Good Sense Prevails

Ukrainian 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.

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA
- 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 heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

KAHLIL GIBRAN
- 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.

CARL JUNG

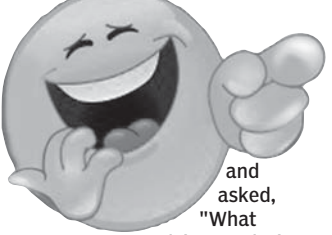
THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 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 himself.
- 1913:** Albania was formally recognized by the major European powers as an independent 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.

LOL

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Mr. 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

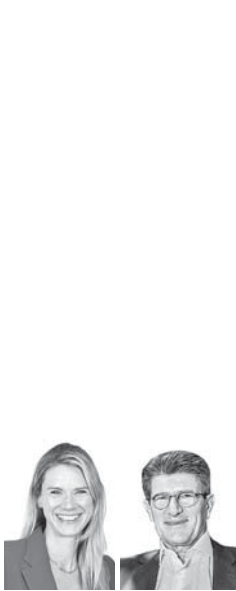


and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

power post

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

NATURE RISK, FINANCIAL RISK



Julie McCarthy & Patrick Odier

ALREADY, EXTREME WEATHER, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, WATER STRESS, AND RESOURCE SCARCITY ARE DISRUPTING ECONOMIES, WITH VULNERABLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY HARD HIT

On 26 December, 2004, a massive undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that left 230,000 people across 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, long-term 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 long-term 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.

The risks are complex and 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.

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SPECTRUM WELLNESS

Graphotherapy: A route to healing



Priyanka Mukherjee

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

India 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 "I" often reveals how they see themselves. Training the hand to write a confident, upright "I" 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—of

ten 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 psychologists—and 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

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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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

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



girl wants to become in the future, a doctor, an engineer or an officer, the government will bear all expenses." Several benefits are provid-

ed to orphans (children of the state) under the Sukh-Aashray scheme launched in 2023, which includes providing food, shelter,

clothing, higher education, and skill development to unmarried orphans between 18 and 27 years of age who have no place to live and are unemployed. The children get clothing and festival allowance, intra-state annual exposure visits, stipend to meet person-

The state government takes full responsibility of the little girl's upbringing, education and future as part of a long-term plan. Whatever this girl wants to become in the future, a doctor, an engineer or an officer, the government will bear all expenses

JAGAT SINGH NEGI | REVENUE MINISTER

al 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 jail, 300 court hearings, lost years, frayed family ties, and a son who had to drop out of school to work as a farm labourer. 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 under 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 specially-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."

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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 said Sunday.

So far, 88 people have died and 35 have gone missing in rain-related incidents, and 1,316 houses 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 Operation Centre (SEOC).

The local Met office Sunday issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rains accompanied with thunderstorms and lightning in isolated areas in four districts - Kangra, Kullu Mandi and Shimla - for Tuesday.

Light to moderate rains lashed some parts of the state in the past 24 hours since Saturday evening. Dharamshala received 35 mm of rainfall, followed by Malraon 26.4 mm, Kangra 26 mm, Dhaulakuan 17.5 mm, Kahu 14.5 mm, Manali 11 mm, Jot 10.8 mm, Jubberhatti 10.4 mm, Bajaura 10 mm, Joggindernagar 6 mm and Narkanda 5.5 mm.

Thunderstorms lashed Sundernagar, Shimla, Murari Devi and Jubbarhatti. Nearly 200 roads, including

NATURE'S FURY

HIMACHAL SEES 42 FLASH FLOODS, 25 CLOUDBURSTS, 32 LANDSLIDES DURING THIS MONSOON

88 PEOPLE HAVE DIED AND 35 HAVE GONE MISSING IN RAIN-RELATED INCIDENTS

BETWEEN 200-400 ROADS REMAIN BLOCKED ACROSS THE STATE

two national highways, were closed for vehicular traffic Sunday evening owing to the rains and 75 power distribution transformers and 97 water supply schemes have also been affected across the state.

Around 131 roads, including the Manali-Kotli road (NH-70), were closed in Mandi district alone, where multiple cloudbursts wreaked havoc on June 30 night. National Highway (305) Saini to Aut road is blocked at Kekhsu and Jhed due to landslides in Kullu district.

There was no significant change in the minimum and maximum temperatures, and Kukumseri was coldest at night, recording a low of 12.8 degrees Celsius, while Una was hottest in the day with a high of 35.6 degrees.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The state cabinet raised relief

amounts significantly: Rs 7 lakh for totally damaged homes, Rs 1 lakh for partial damage, and elevated compensation for livestock and shops.

Officials and local leaders have sought central support and region-specific rehabilitation packages, with appeals to ease forest-conservation rules to resettle displaced communities.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing with NDRF, SDRF, and air support deployed; relief camps and ration drops have been organized, especially in inaccessible zones.

UNDERLYING DRIVERS

Experts point to deforestation, hill-cutting for roads and hydropower projects, poor drainage, and fragile slopes as key reasons for frequent landslides and flood intensity in the region.

Climate-change driven increase in extreme rainfall events and cloudbursts is amplifying the traditional risks in the fragile Himalayan terrain.

Rapid construction of hotels, roads, and buildings — often in eco-sensitive zones — weakens slopes and blocks natural drainage. Road widening tunnels, and hydroelectric dams disturb the natural landscape. These activities involve blasting and deforestation, increasing landslide and flood vulnerability.

Pangi adopts chemical-free farming

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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.

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



Locals, largely 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."



Women ride a swing at a fair during Hariyali Teej festival, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

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

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 told PTI.

"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 of the matter.

The case not only exposed lapses in local intelligence systems but also turned attention to the peculiar world of micro-

nations — 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-resident citizens and 125 ministries, its website states: "Ladonia is a peaceful and evolving model of cultural and artistic sovereignty in a post-national era, demonstrating that new nations can emerge through diplomacy, creativity, and shared ideals — without conflict or political upheaval."

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

of the day **QUOTE**

Being a true Hindu does not mean opposing anyone, nor does it mean that we need to respond by saying we are not Hindus. We are Hindus, but the essence of being Hindu is to embrace everyone

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

I have written to the Centre. This time, the monsoon started early. Farmers have increased sowing acreage for which fertilizer is required and I have urged the Centre to supply

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

If I am right, the Parliament session will continue till August 21 or 22. 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: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini made several announcements for women, including the launch of Lado Sakhi Yojana, on the occasion of Teej 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 Teej celebration held in Ambala City, Saini referred to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign launched over 10 years ago, and said it has yielded encouraging results.

19 judges appointed to three high courts

New Delhi: As many as 19 judges were appointed to three high courts, including 11 in Madhya 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 additional judges.

Jobless teachers, govt employees take out rally

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 the 'Sangrami Joutho Manch', a joint platform of jobless school teachers and state government employees, was stopped by the police at Shibpur short of the state secretariat.

DGCA starts action against Air India

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.

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

PRIYANKA GANDHI | CONG GENERAL SECY

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



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 Catholic nuns jailed in Chhattisgarh 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.

"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

against the nuns, saying, "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 order noting the petitioners did not press for an interim relief, which couldn't be allow now and

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"

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 1. 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 otherwise.

COURT CORNER

HP: SC stays order for removing apple orchards from forest land

New Delhi: In a relief to apple growers in Himachal Pradesh, the Supreme 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 be recovered from encroachers as arrears of land revenue.

Release of extra water to Haryana: SC junks Punjab's plea against HC order

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday refused to examine the Punjab 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 the meeting held May 2 under the chairmanship of the union home secretary. 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", Punjab gave 4,000 extra cusecs to Haryana. "It is a matter of emotive importance for both states," he said. Singhvi said the high court had asked Punjab to comply with the May 2 decision which says 4,500 cusecs extra water be given to Haryana.



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

PTI PHOTO

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 28: For 8-month-old Dhyaanish, 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 Dhyaanish were in one of the buildings affected by the crash.

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

HEALING TOUCH



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 Dhyaanish, 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, Manisha 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.

First, Manisha's own 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 Dhyaanish to cover his burn injuries, 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.

of the day

quote

There is only one rehab run by the Red Cross in Kullu. We have been hearing that land is being identified to set up a rehabilitation centre in Sirmaur district, but nothing is moving on the ground

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

We have changed the face of every city since 2014. We should keep in mind that our opponents cannot compete with us on the issue of development. They cannot compete with the development initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hence, they carry out a mis-information campaign and create false narratives every day

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

A disturbing trend has emerged in West Bengal's border districts. Over 70,000 Form-6 applications have been submitted on average in the last week, a sharp rise from the usual 20,000-25,000, especially in Coochbehar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Malda, North Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Nadia, and North and South 24 Parganas districts

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

X

POST OF THE DAY

How things work in India. In 2022, UP government announced vacancies for B.Ed teachers. The application fee was Rs1500 for gen category candidates. 1000s of candidates have applied. Government collected crores as the fee. Even after 3 years, no exam date is announced.

@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, saying 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 Waqf Board.

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 Haryana'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 bodies.



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 EC's arbitrary list of documentary proof of citizenship

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

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



SC grills judge Varma

CASH ROW

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.

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 A G Masih asked Justice Varma why did he wait for the inquiry to be completed and the report be released.

"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 discovery matter.



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 motion.

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.

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 Aysaneshwar temple in the Haidergarh area during the holy month of Shravan Monday when devotees had gathered at the temple for 'jalabhishek' (offering 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.

A total of 10 injured persons were brought to Trivediganj CHC, of whom five were referred to higher medical centres due to their critical condition.

Meanwhile, 26 injured devotees are being treated at the Haidergarh CHC, and one of them has been referred for advanced care due to serious injuries.

Following the incident, there was chaos in the temple and surrounding areas. District and

police officials reached the spot and are working to manage the situation.

An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the incident.

Barabanki District Magistrate 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

PTI PHOTO

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

'MASS BURIALS' IN 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.

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.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.



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

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 fiery 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 detention camps to be built here. Try removing names from Bengal... there will be consequences. 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 elected 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 nation. But if you try to erase our language and culture, we will resist peacefully, powerfully, and politically," Banerjee said.

Two day free artificial limb camp culminates at Patanjali Yogpeeth

AGENCIES

Haridwar, July 28: The two day camp organised by Patanjali 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 inaugurated by Swami Ramdev who said that empowering every individual to become self-reliant is the real success.

A handout stated that this unique initiative is part of Patanjali'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, Acharya 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 Patanjali 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.



of the day

quote

Some movement 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 Yahya Khan once did

IMRAN KHAN | JAILED FORMER PREMIER, PAKISTAN

Ghana has deployed more soldiers to a northeastern region where a long-running conflict over chieftancy has fuelled recent violence, including attacks on schools

JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA | SPOKESPERSON FOR PRESIDENT, GHANA

SHORT TAKES

4 killed, 8 missing in China landslides

Beijing: 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 Miyun District Sunday after heavy rains, local authorities said.

US, China hold new talks on tariff truce

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 footage.

Thailand, Cambodia agree for truce

REUTERS

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 Malaysia, 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 implementation.

"This is a vital first step to-



wards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security," he told a press conference.

"All parties shared a commitment 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 build-up 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 involvement
- Ceasefire to start midnight Monday
- 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.

Trump sets new deadline for Russia to act on Ukraine

REUTERS

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-year-old conflict.

Trump has threatened both sanctions on Russia and buyers of its exports unless progress is made. The fresh deadline suggests the U.S. president is prepared to move forward on those threats after previous hesitation to do so.

Speaking in Scotland, where he is holding meetings with European leaders and playing golf,



Trump said he was disappointed in Putin and shortening a 50-day 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



In this image released by the Romanian Emergency Services Suceava (ISU Suceava) a house is damaged after a flash flood in the village of Brosteni, northern Romania, Monday

PTI PHOTO

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



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 and 8 pm.

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 amounts to less than one aid truck carrying food, based on the World Food Programme's calculation of nearly 19 tons per truck.

Trump disagrees with Netanyahu'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 situation 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 militants 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 in surges 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 major infrastructure projects under 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, Fiaz Khan, a local government official, said. He said the violence 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.

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.

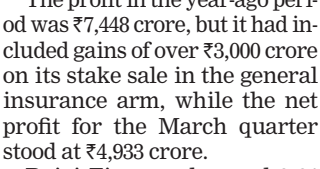
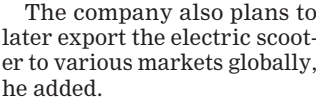
North Korea complains of South Korea-US military drills

North Korea has shunned talks with South Korea 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 on building more powerful nuclear weapons targeting its rivals and

declared a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to terminate relations with South Korea.

Kim Yo Jong called Lee's steps "sincere efforts" to develop ties, but said the new government still plots to "stand in confrontation" with North Korea. She mentioned the upcoming summertime South Korea-US military drills, which North Korea





So cost pressures will further force layoffs. We should see this as part of larger evolution of AI-driven IT where human agents will fast be replaced by

A Reddit user said TCS's layoffs mean it is evident that job loss due to AI automation is real. Layoffs in any company are not good news...Now, competition will increase and pay will decrease.

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

So cost pressures will further force layoffs. We should see this as part of larger evolution of AI-driven IT where human agents will fast be replaced by

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

Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, believes TCS's move reflects a combination of macroeconomic pressures, shifting client expectations, and a

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

So cost pressures will further force layoffs. We should see this as part of larger evolution of AI-driven IT where human agents will fast be replaced by

real. Layoffs in any company are not good news...Now, competition will increase and pay will decrease.

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

CONGRATULATIONS POUR IN FOR THE NEW CHAMPION

An emotional 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 Test due to injury

Squad for the fifth Test:
Shubman Gill (C),
Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL
Rahul, Sai Sudharsan,
Abhimanyu Easwaran,
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).

SC clears shuttler Lakshya Sen in birth certificate forgery case

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 the absence of prima facie material would not subvert the ends of justice."

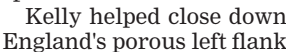
Can Sports Min stop Indo-Pak Asia Cup clashes? Not really

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

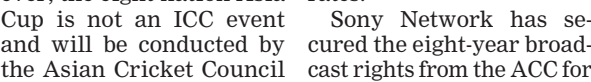
Lionesses defend Euro crown

Kelly the hero as England sink Spain in shootout to win Euro 2025

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



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



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 interest."

The bill was tabled in the Parliament last week as well on TV and online platforms.