



Rashmika's muse

Actor-turned-entrepreneur Rashmika Mandanna shares the nostalgic memory that inspired her to launch a fragrance brand

LEISURE | P2



Aid hoarding in Gaza

Since Israel's offensive led to a security breakdown in Gaza, much of the limited aid entering is being hoarded by gangs and merchants

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Cap on AIF Scheme

RBI caps 10% contributions by a single regulated entity, including banks and NBFCs, on Alternative Investment Fund

BUSINESS | P11



Satwik-Chirag sail ahead

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty storm into the men's doubles second round of the Macau Open Super 300

SPORTS | P12

State to introduce tigers in Debrigarh sanctuary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The state government is planning to introduce tigers in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district, a senior Forest department official said Tuesday.

Speaking about the revival of big cat population in Odisha on the occasion of National Tiger Day, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife Prem Kumar Jha said Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is a possible site for introduction of tigers.

There is a plan to introduce tigers in the sanctuary, as "We have received technical permission from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to convert Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve," Jha said. The state government has formed an expert committee to study the wildlife sanctuary and submit a report marking the core area and buffer zone to make it a tiger habitation, he said.

P3

Meghnad Desai dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 29: Lord Meghnad Desai, renowned British Indian economist and House of Lords peer, died Tuesday at the age of 85. He is believed to have passed away in a hospital in Gurugram following a health issue, sources close to the family in London indicated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led tributes to the Gujarat-born parliamentarian and thinker, who played a prominent role in deepening India-UK relations. "Anguished by the passing away of Shri Meghnad Desai Ji, a distinguished thinker, writer and economist," Prime Minister Modi posted on social media. Desai, a Padma Bhushan awardee, taught economics from 1965 to 2003 at the London School of Economics. He joined the Labour Party in 1971 and was elevated to the House of Lords in June 1991.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If they had called a special Parliament session right after the terror attack, the culprits would have been killed sooner



THE BIG CAT: People look at the Royal Bengal tiger 'Shakti' at Byculla Zoo on International Tiger Day in Mumbai, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Boeing Dreamliner declares 'Mayday'

AGENCIES

Washington, July 29: A United Airlines Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for Munich was forced to return to Washington Dulles Airport on July 25, after suffering a mid-air engine failure shortly after takeoff, a report revealed Tuesday.

Flight UA108 declared a MAYDAY call after its left engine malfunctioned at an altitude of around 5,000 feet. The pilots immediately notified air traffic controllers and began emergency procedures to return safely to the airport.

The pilot and ATC maintained continuous communication throughout the emergency. To reduce weight for a safe landing, the aircraft circled northwest of Washington in a holding pattern at 6,000 feet to dump fuel. ATC then instructed the aircraft to fly a heading of 020 degrees and asked to be notified once the fuel dump was complete.

Once cleared, the pilots requested an ILS approach to Runway 19 Centre. The aircraft landed safely, but due to the engine failure, it could not taxi on its own and had to be towed off the runway. No injuries were reported during the incident.

No country told India to stop Op Sindoor: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday affirmed in the Lok Sabha that no leader of any country asked India to stop Operation Sindoor but lamented that while the nation got support from the entire world, the Congress and its allies could not stand behind the valour of the nation's soldiers.

The comments by the PM came amid repeated questions by the Opposition about why US President Donald Trump announced the "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan. He was responding to the two-day debate on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor in the Lower House. Modi told the House that on May 9th night, "US Vice President (JD Vance) tried to reach out to me 3-4 times, but I was busy with meetings with the armed forces."

"When I returned the call, the US Vice President warned me of a big attack from Pakistan. I told him that if Pakistan attacks India, our attack would be much bigger as we will respond to bullets with cannons," he said. "No country in the world has stopped India from any action in its defence against terrorism. Only three countries spoke in favour of Pakistan at the UN," the PM added.



Rahul dares PM to call Trump liar

Earlier in the day, a fiery debate erupted in Parliament Tuesday during the ongoing discussion on Operation Sindoor, as Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding clarity on former US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of mediating peace between India and Pakistan.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha dared Prime Minister Modi to directly confront Trump's claims. "If he has the courage, toh he will say here that Donald Trump is a liar. If he has the courage bol dega, bol denge sorry (He will say

it if he has the courage)," he said sarcastically, challenging Modi to call Trump "a liar" on the floor of the House. "Why is the Prime Minister silent? If Trump is lying, say it. Say it in Parliament."

His comments were echoed by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in the Rajya Sabha, who questioned why India remained silent while Trump, on numerous occasions, claimed credit for brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. "Even after Trump admitted 29 times that he brokered the ceasefire, why is India still not ready to accept it?" Kharge asked.

Road mishaps: 6 Kanwariyas killed, 29 hurt in Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi/Deoghar, July 29: At least six Kanwariyas were killed and 29 others injured Tuesday in two separate road accidents in Jharkhand's Deoghar, officials said.

While six Kanwariyas were killed and 24 injured after a collision took place between a bus with devotees on board and a truck, loaded with cooking gas cylinders, five others were injured in another accident involving a car and a truck, they said.

The first accident occurred around 5.30 am near the Jamuniya forest under the Mohanpur Police Station limits when the bus collided with the commercial vehicle, the officials said.

The second incident occurred near Rohini Toll Plaza in which five Kanwariyas from Deoria in Uttar Pradesh were injured after their car was hit by a truck.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences to the families of the devotees who lost their lives in the accident.

"Six devotees were killed and 24 others injured in the accident at Jamuniya Chowk in Deoghar. Eight of the 24 injured have been shifted to AIIMS, Deoghar, while the remaining are undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital," Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Naman Priyesh Lakra said.

SC to intervene in case of mass exclusion in SIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Terming the Election Commission a constitutional authority deemed to act in accordance with law, the Supreme Court Tuesday said it will step in immediately if there is "mass exclusion" in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi fixed a timeline for considering a batch of pleas challenging the Election Commission's SIR exercise in Bihar and said hearing on the issue will be held on August 12 and 13. Stressing the point, it asked the petitioners to bring in "15 people whom they say are dead and are alive."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the petitioners, once again alleged that people are being left out from the draft list to be published on August 1 by the poll panel and will lose their crucial right to vote.

Bhusan said the EC has issued a statement that 65 lakh persons have not submitted the enumeration forms during the SIR process as they are either dead or have permanently shifted elsewhere. These people will have to apply afresh for inclusion in the list, he submitted.

Justice Kant said, "The Elec-



tion Commission of India, being a constitutional authority, is deemed to act in accordance with the law. If any wrongdoing is done, you bring to the notice of the court. We will hear you."

Justice Bagchi added, "Your apprehension is that 65 lakh odd voters will not feature in the draft list. Now ECI is seeking correction in the electoral roll. We are overseeing the process as a judicial authority. If there is mass exclusion, we will immediately step in. You bring 15 people whom they say are dead and are alive."

Sibal, appearing for RJD MP Manoj Jha, said the Election Commission knows who these 65 lakh people are and no one will have a problem if they mention their names in the draft list.

"If the draft list is conspicuously silent, you will bring to our notice," Justice Kant said.

No hidden chamber in Ratna Bhandar: ASI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, July 29: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Tuesday said there is no hidden chamber in the Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath temple in Puri.

The ASI has recently completed the restoration and repair of the Ratna Bhandar.

In a post on X, detailing the restoration works, it said, "...there were no hidden spaces (in Ratna Bhandar)." The ASI said it was confirmed on the basis of a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey. It said the Ratna Bhandar, or treasury, comprises two parts - 'Bhitar' Ratnabhandara and 'Bahara' Bhandara, which are separated by an iron gate, locked from the outside.

"After inspecting both the chambers, it was decided to take

Youth held with concealed cameras in Srimandir

Puri: A youth was detained with hidden cameras at the Jagannath temple in Puri Tuesday, police said. He was wearing glasses having hidden cameras, they said, adding that photography or videography at the 12th-century shrine is completely banned. Security personnel deployed near Beherana Dwara of the temple became suspicious when the camera light flashed, and a closer inspection revealed that he had entered the premises with camera-equipped glasses, Puri SP Pinaki Misra said. The youth, a local resident, was immediately taken to the Singhadwara police station for interrogation, he said. It is being ascertained whether he has taken any photos or videos inside the temple, he added.

up a GPR survey to identify if there are any hidden chambers or shelves inside the walls or under the floor," it said. "The report of the #GPR survey conducted in September 2024 confirmed that there were no hidden spaces. Following the report, conservation began on 17 December 2024. It started with scaffolding in both Bhitar and

Bahara Bhandara," it added.

The Ratna Bhandar is attached to the northern entrance of the Jagamohana or assembly hall of the temple, the ASI said.

Constructed from khondalite stone, Ratna Bhandar was intended to house the valuables of the Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Shree Sudarshana, it said.

Man detained for killing wife, mother-in-law

The accused planted a banana tree after burying the bodies to suppress crime

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 29: A man, working as a pharmacist at a government hospital in Mayurbhanj district, has been detained for allegedly murdering his wife and mother-in-law, wrapping their bodies in polythene, and burying them in his backyard before planting a banana tree to hide the crime, police said Tuesday.

The accused, Debashis Patra, a resident of Nuagaon village under Kuliana police limits, reportedly killed his wife Sonali Dalai and her mother Sumati Dalai using a stone over a domestic dispute July 15. The matter came to light 15 days



later after Sonali's family filed a missing persons report when they were unable to contact her.

According to the investigation, Patra had long-standing marital disputes with Sonali. She had previously left with their infant son to live at her parental home in Ambadubi.

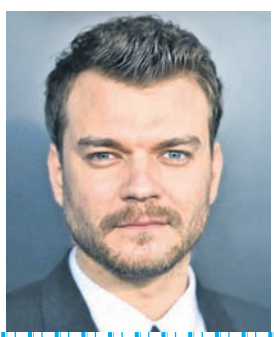
A few days before the murders, Patra allegedly persuaded her over the phone to return. Sonali returned with her mother and brother July 12. She and Sumati stayed at Patra's house.

Three days later a quarrel between the couple escalated, leading Patra to allegedly beat

both women to death. Police said Patra buried the bodies in a six-foot pit he had dug in advance. He wrapped the bodies in plastic, added salt to hasten decomposition, and planted a banana tree over the site. Investigators believe that the murder was premeditated and more people may be involved.

The crime scene was discovered when villagers, suspicious of the women's prolonged absence, confronted Patra. Sonali's family lodged a written complaint with police July 25, who later found disturbed soil in the backyard and uncovered the bodies using a JCB in the presence of a magistrate and police officials.

leisure



PILOU ASBAEK TO STAR IN BLOOD ON SNOW

Danish actor Pilou Asbaek, best known for *Game of Thrones*, will feature alongside Benedict Cumberbatch and Aaron Taylor-Johnson in the indie film adaptation of Jo Nesbo's 2015 crime thriller novel *Blood on Snow*. The plot centers around hit man Olav, who falls in love with his mob boss' wife after being hired to kill her.

ED SHEERAN TALKS ABOUT LIFE UNDER CONSTANT SECURITY

Grammy winning musician Ed Sheeran says his family will need 24/7 security indefinitely due to threats, break-ins, and safety concerns. The singer revealed he wants a more normal life for his children, even as he continues to create music and tour worldwide.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesha says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

TAURUS
In all probability, you will discuss certain sacred issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesha. In the evening, you will be possibly visiting holy places. You had better make up for the lost time to finish pending work in the afternoon.

GEMINI
A long and hectic day awaits you. You will be in the mood to finish off long-pending projects at work or at home. There is a chance that your personal life may get affected due to the extra attention you pay towards work. You need to guard against hurting the feelings of your family members, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you by your near and dear ones. Although you will be aware of this, you will still be able to keep them happy, affirms Ganesha.

LEO
You will not be able to reap the rewards of your hard work fully today. You will take all matters very seriously today. You will feel a sense of responsibility and will try to find lasting solutions to problems today. It is a good day to put to rest some worries that have been haunting you for some time now, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
A heady mixture of work and partying is on the cards today. The parties may go on well into the night. You will make the right decisions today which will prove to be vital in putting you on the road to success. Ganesha says people will profit by engaging you in their work.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that for people you may appear to be a miser but when it comes to your closed ones you will never hold back or hesitate to spend. Today is a good day to take your loved ones shopping. You may overspend your budget but the spending will give you a feeling of happiness and contentment. Ganesha showers you with his blessings

SCORPIO
Don't run from your troubles, learn to face the challenges and try to solve your problems. This piece of Ganesha's advise is going to help you today. And you very well know why. Take all the tips that come to you sportingly and try to implement it in your practical life.

SAGITTARIUS
A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

CAPRICORN
Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesha. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

AQUARIUS
You will aim for the bull's eye today. Whatever you'll do today, will be done with your focus set firmly on your target, says Ganesha. You will not waste your resource on something unfruitful, and such an attitude will make your journey smoother and faster.

PISCES
You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results. Everything you touch will turn to gold today, says Ganesha. Make the most of it.

Sam's strict diet routine

MUMBAI: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently opened up about her drastic lifestyle and dietary changes following her diagnosis with myositis, a rare autoimmune condition. Once a self-proclaimed junk food lover, Samantha admitted she used to eat without much thought, believing her slim frame made her immune to health issues. However, she later realised that poor food choices were causing internal inflammation, leading to long-term health problems.

In a conversation with celebrity nutritionist, she shared that she now follows a strict anti-inflammatory diet with no cheat days. "People often sympathise with my diet, but it's a way of life now. I love

what I eat," she said. Her meals are repetitive but purposeful, focused on reducing inflammation and supporting her well-being. Samantha's kitchen is stocked with healthy fats like ghee and cold-pressed oils, and anti-inflammatory staples like turmeric, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and acai berries. Interestingly, she avoids spinach and kale, which don't suit her body.

She avoids sugar and gluten, even in desserts, and drinks plenty of water. Emphasising balance over extremes, Samantha promotes strength training and staying in tune with the body's needs. She prefers organic food and relies on her assistant—turned home chef—for all her meals.



AGENCIES



MUMBAI: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has showcased his admiration for young actors and their dedication to preparation for a role, which he says is something he didn't witness in his early days.

He took to his blog and wrote: "The expression 'prep' is heard often by me when in the exalted presence of the younger generation actors and actresses of our Film World. It has reference to 'preparation' for the role they are about to play in a film, and the kind of reverence they show towards it, leaves me with immense admiration (sic)."

He added: "In my time I never did come across such conversation or modes of operatives for a film about to be done.. BUT what an excellent example of dedication and interest in the project about to be loaded on celluloid (sic)."

The cine icon shared that he had a word with the crew of *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, a quiz based reality show, and if he could do something similar. "SO .. Not to be left out of this wonderful and admirable habit and exercise, I had an opportunity to have a word with the KBC crew, and wondered if I could do similar...And the generosity with which it was permitted and organised has been a moment of great learning .. parrot and all (sic)."

Big B reflects on power of 'preparation'

IAN S

RASHMIKA GETS CANDID

NEW DELHI: National crush Rashmika Mandanna has turned entrepreneur with her new fragrance venture and revealed the personal memory or moment that sparked this idea.

Talking to this news agency, Rashmika shared: "The idea of Dear Diary came from something very personal. I've always been someone who connects moments with how they smelled, like how a certain smell instantly reminds me of a person or a place, or how my mum's lo- tion brings back

memories of her and home." She said she realised that while "we capture memories through photos or videos, we don't often talk about the power of scent and how it can make you feel."

The actress said that she began writing "these honest little entries, which eventually became the digital Dear Diary series".

"And so many people connected with them. I thought, what if I could translate those memories into fragrances? That's when Dear Diary, the fragrance brand, was born," said the actress, who is the Founder of Dear Diary.

For Rashmika, fragrance is "a memory in a bottle."

"I genuinely believe that. I may forget conversations, dates, places, but somehow, scents stay with me. There's this beautiful mix of coffee and rain-soaked earth that always reminds me of my home in Co- org. It's such a grounding, comforting scent."

IAN S

Tejasswi shares her financial struggles

MUMBAI: TV actress Tejasswi Prakash recently opened up about the financial struggles her family faced while she was growing up. Although acting wasn't her original ambition, she eventually found her passion in the profession and remained grounded throughout her journey.

In a candid conversation on a YouTube podcast, Tejasswi revealed that there was a time in her life when earning money was her top priority. "But it was never to the extent where I had to compromise my values just to earn. It has always been ethical," she said. Becoming an actor helped her overcome financial challenges, but she remains deeply grateful and never takes her success for granted.

Tejasswi also reflected on her parents' sacrifices, especially her mother's. She shared, "I decided that the day I start earning, my mom will stop working. Though we had house help, she still did everything herself." She recalled moments when her parents would stretch

beyond their means to provide for her and her sibling, even if it meant going without something themselves. That silent sacrifice ensured they never felt a lack, a situation Tejasswi says she doesn't want to revisit.

On the professional front, she is now gearing up for her role in the upcoming web series *Be-wafa Teri Masoom Chehra*.

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

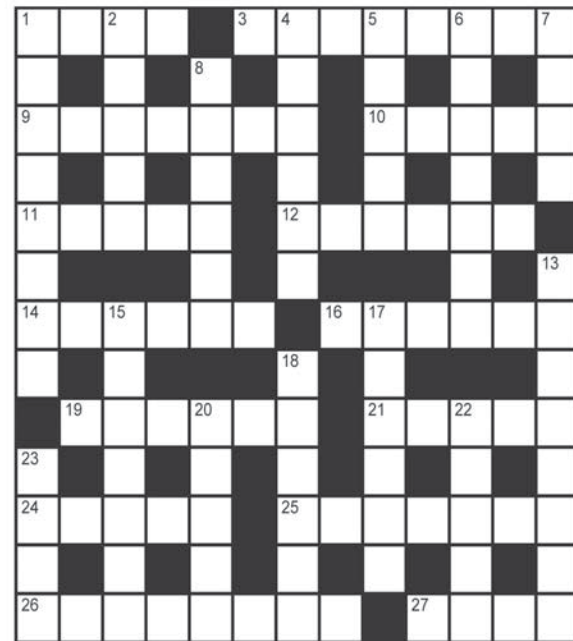


BREVITY



FUN POST

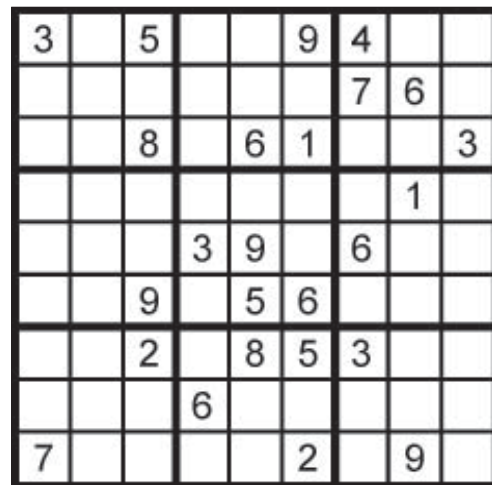
CROSSWORD



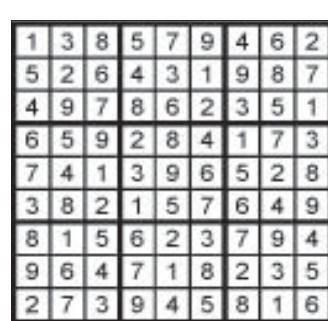
- Across**
- 1 Quarries
 - 3 Sing a song
 - 9 Vulture's dish
 - 10 Greek letter
 - 11 Beginning
 - 12 Restless
 - 14 Lend a hand
 - 16 Playful river animals
 - 19 Manitoba locale
 - 21 Model material
 - 24 Put to the test
 - 25 Macaroons, e.g.
 - 26 Party floaters
 - 27 Sea swallow
 - 7 Dutch export
 - 8 Break in the action
 - 13 Hit man
 - 15 Water dog
 - 17 No-nos
 - 18 Peregrine
 - 20 Part of a TV feed
 - 22 River of Orléans
 - 23 Ticket part
- Down**
- 1 Chest muscle
 - 2 Conditions
 - 4 Confesses (4,2)
 - 5 Words of wisdom
 - 6 Stalemate

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.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

PULLING DOWN

An excavator deployed by BDA razes an illegal construction at Lingipur in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



TIGERS IN DEBRIGARH SOON

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The state government is planning to introduce tigers in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district, a senior Forest department official said Tuesday.

Speaking about the revival of big cat population in Odisha on the occasion of Global Tiger Day, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (Wildlife) Prem Kumar Jha said Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is a possible site for introduction of tigers.

"There is a plan to introduce tigers in the sanctuary as we have received technical permission from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to transform Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary into a tiger reserve," Jha said.

The state government has formed an expert committee to study the wildlife sanctuary and submit a report marking the core area and buffer zone to make it a tiger habitation, he said.

"After completion of the process, we will take steps to bring tiger to the sanctuary," he added.

Stating that tiger relocation is a very difficult process, the PCCF (Wildlife) said, "The relocation of tigress Sundari in Satkosia Tiger Reserve has re-



The state government has formed an expert committee to study the wildlife sanctuary and submit a report marking the core area and buffer zone to make it a tiger habitation

PREM KUMAR JHA | PCCF (WILDLIFE)

mained unsuccessful."

Last November, two tigresses — Jamuna and Zeenat — were brought to Similipal Tiger Reserve from Maharashtra.

The interstate tiger relocation project was 80 per cent successful as Zeenat went to Jharkhand and West Bengal and again brought back to Similipal Tiger Reserve. Now, both tigresses have been confined in their different territories, Jha said.

Inbreeding among the closed population has emerged as a looming threat to the striped predators in the protected ar-

ea. Therefore, the Similipal Tiger Reserve authority had proposed to bring four tigers — two males and two females — from Maharashtra, he said.

After studying the behaviours of the two tigresses, steps will be taken to bring another tiger to Similipal Tiger Reserve, he said.

A similar move will be taken in future to bring tigers to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve, which doesn't have any tigers at present, the Forest officer said.

In 2018, the state government had made a tiger translocation attempt at Satkosia Tiger Re-

serve. A tiger named Mahavir was brought from Kanha National Park and a tigress named Sundari from Bandhavgarh National Park, both in Madhya Pradesh, and released in Satkosia.

While the tiger died after falling into a trap laid by poachers, the tigress was sent back to its original habitat after it allegedly killed two persons during its 30-month stay in Odisha.

As per the latest census conducted by the Forest department, 30 Royal Bengal Tigers were found in the state, of which 27 were in the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

On the Global Tiger Day, acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India), created a sand sculpture featuring a 20-ft-long tiger surrounded by 51 small tigers at the Puri beach.

Pattnaik said, "It is an honour to collaborate with WWF India on Global Tiger Day to create this sand art that reflects the tiger's deep connection with our forests and communities."

"Through my work, I aim to send a strong visual message about the importance of co-existence. The tiger is not just a symbol of power—it is a protector of our environment and it serves as a guardian of our ecosystem," he said.

CM flags off 'Akanksha Haat Abhiyan'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched a week-long 'Akanksha Haat Abhiyan' during the state-level 'Sampoornata Abhiyan Award Ceremony' held at the State Convention Centre here Tuesday.

The event organised by Planning and Convergence department celebrated achievements under the Aspirational District and Block Programmes.

Highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive development, Majhi noted that the Aspirational Districts and Blocks initiative—focused

on health & nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development—is yielding positive results across the state. He emphasised that the initiative, now extended to block levels, operates on the principles of 'Convergence, Collaboration, and Competition', ensuring efficient grassroots level implementation. To empower local communities and promote entrepreneurship, the CM announced that products from aspirational areas will be marketed under the 'Akanksha' brand (launched in 2024) and made available on digital marketplaces. The 'Akanksha Haat Abhiyan'

aims to provide wider market access to women SHGs, farmers, artisans, and weavers, creating better income opportunities and expanding consumer outreach.

"The 'Vocal for Local' initiative has become a people's movement, and through this campaign, we aim to support and scale up local production," said the CM.

In recognition of exceptional progress, gold medals were conferred on Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts while Kandhamal and Koraput bagged silver. Similarly, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts received bronze medals.

Rana takes charge as BMC Commissioner



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: A few days after a major bureaucratic rejig in the state, senior IAS officer Chanchal Rana assumed charge as the Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here, Tuesday.

Soon after taking the charge, Rana called a high-level meeting of the BMC officials, focusing on the working style to be adopted in the coming days.

Before joining the new position, Rana served as the Puri Collector for a brief period following a stampede during this year's Rath Yatra in the Pilgrim City.

Rana said, "Today, I officially assume the charge as BMC Commissioner, and had a meeting with the corporators and additional commissioner on various development projects. Our main aim is to address the grievances and fulfil the expectations of the residents. Besides, the civic body will try its best to implement the visions of the Union and state governments for further development of the City."

Significantly, as many as 47 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and two OAS officers across various ranks, including Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Secretary, and District Collector in the state were reshuffled recently.

R&B asst engineer under Vig scanner

BHUBANESWAR: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday uncovered massive disproportionate assets (DA) during raids at multiple locations linked to Raj Kishore Jena, Assistant Engineer of R&B Division-III, Bhubaneswar. According to the Vigilance Directorate, the assets unearthed so far include one multi-storeyed building, two flats, and two commercial outlets located in Bhubaneswar. In addition, 13 high-value plots have been detected—nine in Bhubaneswar, three in Nayagarh, and one in Khurda. Officials said bank deposits, financial investments, and other movable assets are currently being verified. The Vigilance technical wing is conducting detailed measurements and valuation of the seized properties. The raids were launched based on allegations that Jena possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

State seeks ₹3,069Cr from Centre for grid infra revamp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo Tuesday met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal in New Delhi and urged him for early sanction of ₹3,069 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The Centre had launched the RDSS with an aim to reduce the aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses across India.

Under the scheme, financial assistance to power distribution companies is provided for upgradation of the distribution infrastructure and for prepaid smart consumer metering and system metering based on meet-



ing pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum

benchmark in reforms, officials said.

BJD SEEKS ASI APOLOGY FOR SHARING SRIMANDIR PHOTOS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The Opposition BJD Tuesday demanded an apology from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for sharing photos of Puri Srimandir's interiors on social media. Sharing details of the restoration work carried out at Ratna Bhandar of the 12th-century shrine, the ASI posted photos of the temple on social media Monday.

The photos were later deleted by the ASI. Addressing a presser, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said the ASI's action has hurt the sentiments of the devotees and also poses a danger to the security of the shrine. "It is illegal to take a camera

or any electronic gadget inside the temple, but the ASI, which is in charge of the maintenance of the temple, taking photos of the entrance of Ratna Bhandar and Bhoga Mandap and publishing them on social media has raised questions in the minds of the people," he said.

Mohanty said the ASI should tender an unconditional apology, and the officer responsible should be suspended.

The BJD leader also sought clarification from the state's BJP government and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said, "Yes, this has come to our notice. The SJTA is fully free to take action in this regard."

AIIMS staffer held for 'sexual harassment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: A nursing officer at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar was arrested for "sexually harassing" a woman attendant at the medical facility, police said Tuesday.

Accused nursing officer Nanu Ram Choudhury was booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), after a complaint was lodged against him at the Khandagiri Police Station in the city, a senior officer said.

The woman attendant at the healthcare facility had Monday alleged that she was sexually harassed and attempts were made to outrage her modesty by the male nursing officer.

Immediately after the regis-



tration of the FIR, all the employees, including the woman attendant of various outsourcing agencies engaged in AIIMS

up to 30 km from the coast.

Considering the rising demand for power, Singh Deo urged Lal for the allocation of 800 megawatt (MW) power from NLC Talabira Phase-II project in addition to the 400 MW already allocated in Phase-I to Odisha.

"As the host state for the 3,200 MW Talabira project, Odisha deserves a proportionate share to meet its expanding energy demands," he said.

"These strategic requests represent our commitment to powering Odisha with foresight, equity, and resilience. I look forward to continued cooperation with the Centre to realize this vision for a progressive and secure energy future," Singh Deo added.

Man arrested for duping min Patra of ₹25L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: A man was arrested for allegedly duping Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra of ₹25 lakh with a promise to provide him a land plot in Dhenkanal district, police said Tuesday.

The arrest was made on the basis of a written complaint filed by the minister at Dhenkanal Town Police Station July 26, an officer said.

"We have arrested Niranjan Satpathy of Banasingh in Dhenkanal district for duping the minister of ₹25 lakh and forwarded him to a local court," Dhenkanal Town Police Station inspector-in-charge Pravat Sahu said.

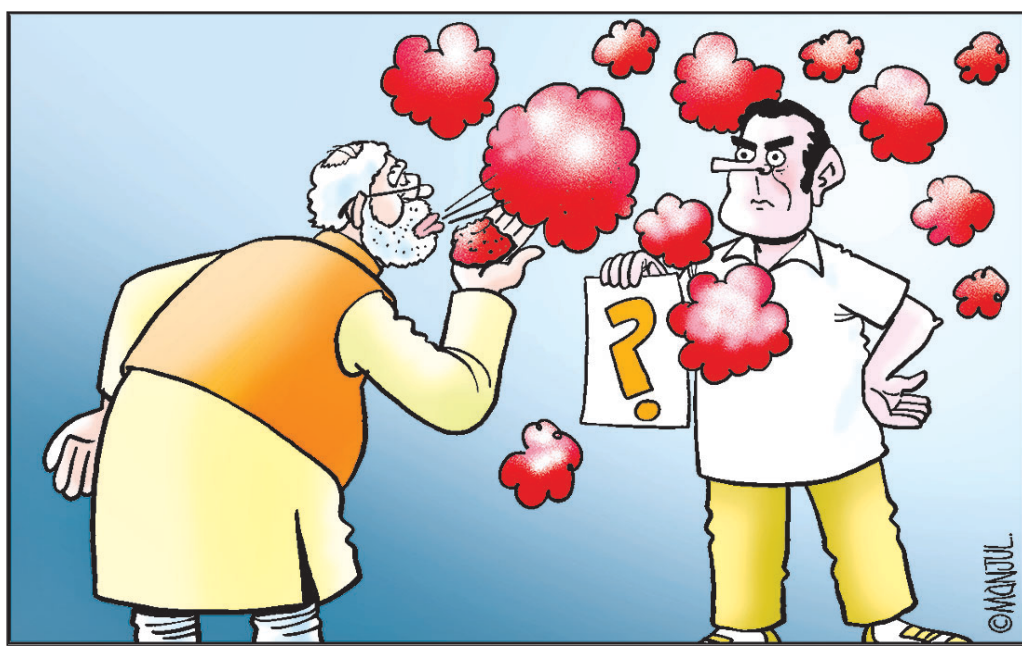
According to the police, Patra had given ₹25 lakh as an advance to the accused in 2021 for purchasing a plot of land in the Banasingh area.

However, the accused did not provide the land plot to the minister, the officer said, citing the complaint. Satpathy, later, issued two cheques to Patra, but those were bounced, he said.

"The accused has also given a written statement to the minister with a promise to return his money. However, he did not honour the promise," the IIC said. Speaking to mediapersons Monday, Patra had said he paid the money as an advance for buying a plot four years ago, when he was serving as a director in a company.

As the "man neither provided a land parcel nor returned the money", Patra said he had lodged a complaint with the local police.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Chinese e-commerce platform sells doormat with Lord's art

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 29: A few months after an Italian woman drew flak for getting a tattoo of Lord Jagannath on her thigh, a fresh controversy has erupted after a Chinese e-commerce platform — AliExpress — was found selling doormats featuring the picture of the Lord, hurting religious sentiments.

The product featured 'Mandala art' of lord Jagannath printed on the mat with a price tag of ₹787. After noticing the product, devotees of Lord Jagannath stormed the social media seeking immediate action against the e-commerce platform.

Jagannath Sena convened



Priyadarshan Patnaik filed a complaint at Puri Cyber Police Station, saying, "Millions of people worship Lord Jagannath, but the Chinese people have disrespected our Lord and hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees. Nobody has the right to disrespect any religion like this.

Whoever is behind this incident should be given harshest punishment. We have filed an FIR and demand immediate action into the matter." Patnaik also alleged that a Gujarat-based company 'Lippan Art' is involved in the making of such doormats and other products.

SSEPD dept inks pact
Bhubaneswar: The department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) signed a MoU with Vision Empower Trust Tuesday to enhance digital learning in Science and Mathematics for visually impaired students across Odisha. Present during the MoU signing were Niyati Pattnaik, Director of the Department; Bhaskar Raito (OAS-SAG), Additional Secretary; Basant Kumar Behera (OAS), Deputy Secretary; Sannyasai Behera (OAS), Deputy Secretary.

BJD plans 2-phase stir over women's safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday announced a two-phase agitation between August 1 and 14 to protest the alleged rise in incidents of sexual assault against women and girls in Odisha.

The BJD said that college and university students will write to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, expressing concerns over their safety—from campuses to public spaces like sea beaches. Students will also submit memoranda to all police stations and Superintendents of Police (SPs) across various districts, demanding a secure and academic-friendly environment.

BJD MLAs Byamokesh Ray and Devi Ranjan Tripathy, speaking at a press conference, said the party will carry out its agitation in two phases. In Phase-I of the agitation,

BJD MPs protest in Parl

New Delhi: BJD MPs staged a protest near the Gandhi statue in Parliament Tuesday, alleging a spike in crimes against women and children in BJP-ruled Odisha. Holding placards that read "Mahilaon ki cheekh, sarkar ki khamoshi," the MPs demanded central intervention and a judicial probe into recent incidents. Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra cited the death of a student from FM College, Balasore, who self-immolated after allegedly being denied justice in a sexual harassment case. He also referred to the Puri case, where a girl was set on fire and is now battling for life at AIIMS Delhi. Calling the BJP-led Odisha government a "complete failure," Patra accused it of hypocrisy on women's safety. BJD MPs Muzibulla Khan and Subhashish Khuntia echoed the concerns, saying crimes against women and students continue unabated under the "double engine government." They demanded strict action and a judicial inquiry.



students will submit memoranda to the DGP between August 1 and 8, followed by letters to the Chief Minister from August 9 to 14, BJD MLA Byamokesh Ray said. He added that many students feel unsafe on campus, citing the tragic case of a woman student at Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College in Balasore who died by self-immolation. BJD MLA Ray said incidents of teenage pregnancies in state-run hostels raise serious concerns about safety in residential schools. Tripathy warned that the BJD would intensify its agitation if safety for girls on campuses is not ensured.



However, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan dismissed the allegations, claiming crimes against women have declined in the past 13 months and that swift action is being taken to arrest and convict the accused. Meanwhile, BJP activists staged a protest at Master Canteen Square, criticising the Congress for remaining silent on the arrest of suspended NSUI president Udit Pradhan in a gang rape case and BJD corporator Ameresh Jena's involvement in impregnating a minor. BJD state vice-president Sukeshi Oram claimed the BJP government under CM Mohan Charan Majhi acted swiftly to arrest the accused, unlike the previous BJD regime where victims feared approaching police.

She added that women now feel more confident under the BJP's strict approach, accusing BJD and Congress of using women's safety as a political drama for publicity. reflecting increased public engagement with the digital process. To be eligible for freehold status, allottees must have constructed a house on the allotted plot and maintained possession for more than five years. Additionally, a valid lease deed must have been executed with the BDA prior to applying for the conversion. BDA officials confirmed that 27 housing schemes have been included under this conversion programme. Prominent schemes include Pokhariput Phase I, II, and III, Prachi Enclave in Chandrasekharpur, Lumbini Vihar, Udayagiri Vihar in Patrapada and Lingaraj Vihar in Bhimpur. The conversion fee for residential plots has been set at 3 per cent of the latest Benchmark Valuation of Gharabari Kissan land, as fixed by the state government for the year 2024.

BJP slams Oppn's 'double standards'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday staged a protest at Master Canteen Square, accusing the Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress of adopting a double standard on women's safety and shielding leaders involved in sexual assault cases. The protest saw the participation of several senior leaders, including former minister Arbind Dhali, former MLA Priyadarshi Mishra, State General Secretaries Saroj Kar and Kasturi Mishra, BJP Yuva Morcha chief Abhilash Panda, Mahila Morcha President Aishwarya Biswal, and others. Protesters held placards and burned effigies of Rahul Gandhi and Naveen Patnaik, accusing them of maintaining silence on sexual assault cases involving members of their own parties.



State BJP leader Niranjan Mishra criticised the BJD and Congress for what he called their double standards on women's safety. He said that while both parties stage Odisha Bandhs, candlelight marches, and gheraos over such issues, their silence on cases involving their own leaders—like the arrest of NSUI state president Udit Pradhan in a rape case and allegations against BJD leader and BMC Corporator Ameresh Jena—exposes their hypocrisy. "The top leadership of both parties has chosen to remain silent, revealing their double standards," Mishra said. "When their own leaders are involved, they have no answers. Their crocodile tears will no longer fool the people of Odisha," he added.

Mission Shakti to boost women weavers' growth



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: In a significant move to empower women and promote Odisha's weaving heritage, Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida announced a strategic partnership between Mission Shakti and the Weavers' Service Centre, Government of India. The MoU, signed Tuesday at Mission Shakti Bhawan Auditorium, aims to strengthen women-led weaving enterprises through skill development, design innovation, and improved market access. Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering women and promoting economic self-reliance. Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Mann Ki Baat mention of Odisha's Santali weaving tradition from Mayurbhanj and the women's Sankirtan groups of Keonjhar, she said, "Our mothers are making Odisha proud. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, we aim

to transform 'Lakshpati Didis into crorepatas.' The partnership aims to provide design mentoring and prototype development, train self-help groups (SHGs) in modern weaving techniques, support digital cataloguing and professional product photography, and facilitate market linkages for both national and global outreach. Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit noted that thousands of women in Odisha are already involved in weaving, tailoring, and embroidery. "This initiative will help create an enabling ecosystem for these SHGs to scale up their efforts," she said. Mission Shakti Director Monica Priyadarshini underscored the objective of building sustainable, women-led weaving enterprises focused on value-added textile products. Deputy Director of the Weavers' Service Centre, Bikash Kumar, acknowledged the national recognition of Odisha's handloom talent and welcomed the collaboration as a means to enhance both creative and commercial opportunities.

Bhubaneswar to host SC/ST welfare meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The Capital City will host a prestigious two-day national conference of Chairpersons of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committees from Parliament, states, and union territories August 29 and 30. A preparatory meeting was held Tuesday under Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy's leadership, who stressed the need for flawless arrangements to ensure the event's success. She also expressed sincere gratitude to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for honouring Odisha with the opportunity to host this high-profile conference. The conference is expected to host over 250 delegates, including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Members of Parliament, and Chair

persons and representatives from various states and Union Territories. Also present at the preparatory meeting were Deputy Speaker Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling, and Chief Whip Saroj Pradhan, among others. They discussed detailed plans and contributed suggestions to ensure smooth coordination for the event. The conference's inaugural ceremony will be graced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, while the Governor is expected to attend the valedictory function. After the event, delegates will have the opportunity to visit notable heritage sites such as Puri and Konark.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

K. Sabitree, D/o. K. Venkat Swami Reddy, Village: Burla, Sambalpur declare by this Affidavit No. 559/25, Dt.24.07.2025 virtue of my Marriage I am known as Kontala Sabitree, W/o. Kontala Bhagavan of Village/ P.O.: Gudipadar, Ganjam for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Kashipur, dated-23.07.2025, I, Sanjit Jhodia, S/o- Lalit Jhodia, Address: At-Gaimundatunda, P.O.-Kodiapari, P.S.- Tikiri, Dist.- Rayagada, Odisha, PIN- 765015 my PAN Card name mistake Sanjay Jhodia. But my correct name is Sanjit Jhodia. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sanjit Jhodia for all purpose. Sanjit Jhodia

Smt. Sita Narada, W/o- Narada Krishna, Village- Nuagada, Post.- Samantiapalli, P.S.- Jarada, Dist.- Ganjam, 761004 (Odisha) declare by this affidavit No.- A-1520, dt. 22.07.2025. That now onwards I shall be known as N. SETA REDDY for all future purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Ganjam, I Chetala Dillip Kumar Reddy, S/o. Ch. Krushna Chandra Rao, Resident of Main Road, Ghadaghadapalli, P.O.: Banabulapalli, P.S.: Chamakhandi, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN - 761020 do declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as Chatla Dillip Kumar Reddy instead of Chetala Dillip Kumar Reddy which is correctly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card & PAN Card. Both Chatla Dillip Kumar Reddy and Chetala Dillip Kumar Reddy is one and same person, no other person living in our locality in the same name & title.

LOST

I, Sidharth Mishra, S/o. Sukanta Chandra Mishra, resident of Khatiguda, Nabarangpur, Odisha, have lost my MCA Degree Certificate, Provisional Certificate and all Semester Mark Sheets (2016-2019) issued by BPUT (Regd. No. 1605209015) Odisha. If found, please Contact: 7873054212.

MoU with OCCL for IMA infra revamp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Institute of Mathematics and Applications (IMA) and Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL) to strengthen the infrastructure facilities at IMA here Tuesday. The agreement was signed between IMA director Josabanta Jena and OCCL general manager Pratap Chandra Chaudhury in the presence Science & Technology (S&T) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra and Principal Secretary Chithra Arumugam. The state government has sanctioned ₹26.05 crore for construction of a new library building, staff quarters for faculties, additional floor on hostel and on academic block in the institute. The construction by OCCL will be completed within two years.

Generate UAN for allotment services: BDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has urged allottees to generate a Unique Account Number (UAN) by August 31, which is now mandatory for availing various pre and post allotment services, including asset allotment, lease deed execution, obtaining no objection certificates (NOCs) for loans, asset transfer and conversion of leasehold land to freehold. Applicants can create their UAN by visiting the official BDA website: www.bda.gov.in. The UAN will serve as the unique reference number for all future transactions and applications with the BDA. To assist residents, the BDA will soon set up a UAN Facilitation Cell at its office to help applicants with the registration process and related queries.



In a related development, the BDA has also made substantial progress in its ongoing initiative to convert leasehold properties into freehold land. Out of 1,250 applications received for freehold conversion, the BDA has successfully registered 743 conveyance deeds so far. Impressively, 843 applications have been submitted through the authority's online portal,

Silent harm of online body shaming on teens

“You're so ugly it hurts. Maybe if you lost some weight, someone would actually like you. No filter can fix that face.”

These are the kinds of comments teenage girls often encounter online—on social media, in group chats, or through anonymous messages. While some may view them as harmless teasing, they represent a serious form of appearance-related cyberbullying. Research has shown that appearance-based cyberbullying is one of the most common and damaging types of online abuse among young people. It affects not just emotions but also how teens, particularly girls, view themselves. A new study using brain imaging reveals that even viewing body-shaming content

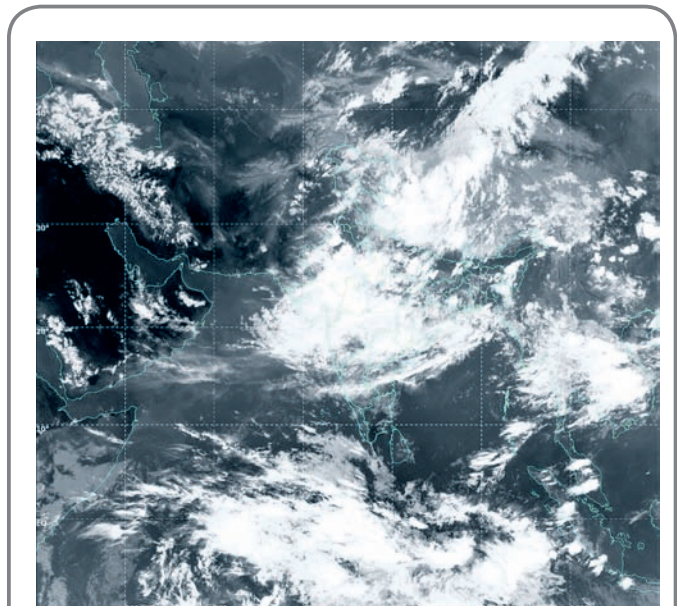


directed at others activates brain areas linked to emotional pain and social judgment. Appearance-related cyberbullying includes any online attack focused on how someone looks—whether it's about their body, face, or clothes. It can happen in public forums where others may see, share, or pile on. The most harmful content often targets someone's weight or body shape. These posts don't need to be explicit—

sometimes a single word, emoji, or hashtag can do damage. Teenage girls are especially vulnerable. Their brains are still developing, particularly areas tied to self-esteem and social understanding. At the same time, they face intense societal pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards. This combination makes body shaming particularly harmful. A recent survey of 336 teenage girls found 98 per cent had experienced some form of cyberbullying, and for 62 per cent of them, the abuse was appearance-related. Most said it had lasting effects on their body image and mental health. Around 96 per cent said it made them want to change their appearance, and over 80 per cent considered cosmetic procedures.

To understand the neurological impact, researchers showed teenage girls a mix of neutral and body-shaming social media posts while scanning their brains using functional MRI. They found increased activity in regions associated with emotional pain, shame, and social evaluation. Girls who had been cyberbullied recently showed more activity in memory-related areas, suggesting they were reprocessing past painful events. Those with a positive self-image displayed more regulated responses, hinting at protective effects of healthy body perception. Importantly, even though the girls were viewing posts aimed at others, their brains still reacted. (The Conversation)

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	86.95 ▲ 0.10	SENSEX	81337.95 ▲ 446.93	GOLD	₹98,100 ▲ ₹555
EURO	100.76 ▼ 0.58	NIFTY	24821.10 ▲ 140.20	SILVER	₹113,629 ▲ ₹576



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.7°	32.2°	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or Thundershower
Min Temp	26.7°	25.6°	
Humidity	86%	82%	
Rainfall	11.6mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9775173134, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Goggles Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IBC 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 Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Potato farming hit in Koraput

Rain, poor network plays spoilsport in sowing season

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, July 29: Potato cultivation under the state government's Potato Mission has taken a hit in Koraput district due to two months of torrential rainfall. Moreover, the topography of the district, and poor network connectivity in rural areas have only added to the miseries of the farmers trying to register their land and access government benefits in the district, a report said.

Across the nine blocks in the district, 6,563 farmers have registered for potato farming on 3,726 hectares, out of the total 5,000-hectare target. As of now, 39,295 quintals of seed potatoes have been distributed, and cultivation completed on 1,844 hectares.

Farmers have expressed dissatisfaction with the current procurement and rebate scheme. Under this year's arrangement, they are required to purchase a 50-kg sack of potato seeds at ₹1,000, with a post-harvest rebate of ₹500 promised through direct bank transfer. In contrast, in previous years, farmers paid only ₹470 per packet, and received a rebate of ₹730, making the new scheme financially less favourable.

Despite these setbacks, the district horticulture department has reported that 74 per cent of the targeted 5,000 hectares - which is around 3,726 hectares - have already been brought under potato cultivation through farmer and land



registration.

The state government is trying to make Odisha self-sufficient in potato production. It had set a target of cultivating potatoes over 5,000 hectares in Koraput this year. The mission took into account local soil conditions, climate, and farmer interest.

However, unfavourable weather and digital connectivity issues have impeded progress. Many farmers faced difficulties registering online due to weak mobile networks, prompting officials to shift to offline registration.

Arrangements were made for the farmers to purchase paddy seeds at ₹1,000 per 50 kg sack, and farmers were informed that ₹500 will be credited to their bank account after cultivation. This sparked resentment and evoked sharp reactions from the farmers.

Meanwhile, torrential rainfall has forced farmers to stay away from cultivation.

In Nandapur block, out of a 1,100-hectare target, 1,055 hectares have already been registered by 2,093 farmers, with 12,315 quintals of seed distributed. So far, potato seeds have been sown on 604 hectares, according to Assistant Horticulture Officer (AHO) Archana Priyadarshini.

Similarly, in Semiliguda block, 1,292 farmers have registered for 794 hectares, out of a 1,000 hectare target.

District Deputy Director of Horticulture Sudam Bishwal said that 7,940 quintals of potato seeds have been supplied, and sowing completed on 380 hectares.

Officials remain optimistic but acknowledge that challenges persist. The on-going

torrential rainfall continue to hinder timely field operations, potentially affecting overall yield.

In Pottangi block, 397 farmers have registered for potato cultivation on over 211 hectares, out of the target 540 hectares. So far, plantation work has been completed on 103 hectares, backed by the supply of 3,055 quintals of seed potatoes.

In Lamptaput block, 1,464 farmers have registered to cultivate potatoes across 827 hectares, out of the 900-hectare target. With 7,685 quintals of seed distributed, plantation work has been completed on 467 hectares.

Koraput block has seen 685 farmers register for 412 hectares, out of a 600-hectare target. To date, 3,425 quintals of seed have been supplied, and plantation completed on 150 hectares.

In Dasmantpur block, 316 farmers have registered for 217 hectares, out of a 500-hectare target. So far, 2,475 quintals of seed have been provided, and plantation work has been completed on 65 hectares.

Bandhugaon and Narayanpatna blocks have completed 100 per cent registration for their allotted targets. A total of 150 farmers have registered to cultivate potatoes on 76 hectares, with 900 quintals of seed distributed. Plantation work has been completed on 40 hectares.

Sudam Biswal, Deputy Director of Horticulture said that farmers are expected to complete planting on remaining fields within the next 10 days, depending on changes in weather conditions.

5 held for smuggling 4.31 quintal ganja hidden in cashew shell load

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, July 29 : Sonepur police Tuesday arrested five people and seized over 4.31 quintals of ganja concealed inside a 24-ton load of cashew shells being transported in a truck from Boudh district to Bihar.

The contraband, cultivated in the forest regions of Kandhamal and Boudh, was hidden in an attempt to bypass law enforcement. The smugglers loaded the cashew shells in Berhampur and later stuffed the ganja into the consignment in Boudh, police said.

Sonepur SP Narayan Nayak said police launched an operation after receiving information that the truck was being escorted by traffickers in a car. A team led by IIC Lingaraj Sethi and SI Debashis Sahu intercept-



ed the truck (BR 06 GD 3222) in Ulunda police station area.

During searches, police found 13 large sacks of ganja—totaling 4.31 quintals—hidden beneath the cashew shells.

Those arrested include truck driver Rajkumar Ray, 34, of Mehesi, Bihar; helper Bikash Kumar, 19, of Madhupurhaja, Muzaffarpur, Bihar; and alleged traffickers Shankarshan Barik, 44, of Rundimahul in Kantamal, Boudh; Jagadish Bag, 30,

of Nandapara in Sambalpur Town; and Parasara Thati, 22, of Dungiapadar, Boudh.

Police seized the truck, the car in which the smugglers were travelling, and the contraband. All five accused were produced in court Tuesday for remand.

SP Nayak, during a press briefing, said Shankarshan Barik has a prior case of ganja smuggling registered against him at Bolangir Town police station.

OTET paper leak: Teacher quizzed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada: A schoolteacher from Ambabala village under Muniguda block of Rayagada district has reportedly been detained by the police in connection with a Crime Branch (CB) investigation into an alleged OTET question paper leak case, sources said Tuesday. The teacher, identified as Bijay Mishra, was reportedly picked up by the CB sleuths and is being questioned. The exact charges against him remain unclear. The development follows the cancellation of a recent OTET (Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test) examination after the question paper was reportedly leaked. The CB is currently probing the leak, and Mishra is suspected to have been involved, sources said. Mishra serves as the president of the Rayagada district Ex-Cadre Teachers' Association and is a teacher at Dangarbari primary school. He was reportedly picked up for questioning Tuesday with the assistance of local police. Authorities have not officially confirmed the reason behind his detention.

India test fires tactical missile Pralay

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure/New Delhi, July 29: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted two back-to-back flight tests of the indigenously developed short-range ballistic missile 'Pralay,' marking a key step toward its induction into the armed forces.

The tests, held Monday and Tuesday from Abdul Kalam Island off Balasure coast, validated the missile's minimum and maximum range capabilities. Both launches — at 9:35am Monday, and 9:30am Tuesday — met all mission objectives, with the missile precisely striking

its designated targets.

Data from tracking sensors at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur and equipment on a ship near the impact point confirmed the missile's accuracy and performance.

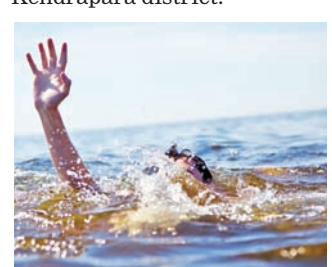
'Pralay' features a solid-propellant rocket motor and advanced technologies. It can carry warheads weighing 500 to 1,000 kg and has a range of 350 to 500 km.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and associated teams, while DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat praised the scientists for their efforts, stating the successful user trials clear the path for military induction.

Man drowns while rescuing biker from floodwaters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, July 29: In a tragic incident, a 61-year-old man was drowned in the floodwaters of Brahmani river Tuesday while trying to rescue a biker from being swept away in the river near Palpatana village under Srirampur panchayat in Kendrapara district.



The deceased was identified as Dinabandhu Dhal, a resident of Palpatana village. According to eyewitnesses the incident occurred in the afternoon. They said to have seen Dhal jumping into the swollen river to save Pratap Sahu, a motorcyclist who lost control and was being carried away by the strong currents.

Dhal managed to rescue Sahu, and brought him to the riverbank. However, in the process, Dhal slipped and swept away in the swirling floodwaters.

Villagers alerted the Pattamundai Fire Services personnel, but they allegedly arrived late at the spot. Without wasting time, locals launched a search using a dinghy. After a prolonged search, they recovered Dhal in an unconscious condition and brought him to the riverbank.

The Fire personnel later rushed Dhal to Pattamundai Sub-Divisional Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Police sent the body for post-mortem to the Aul community health centre.

Dhal's death cast a shadow of grief over the entire region.

The incident comes amid rising flood concerns in the area. In the last few days, flood has occurred twice in the Brahmani river. The floods have submerged 55 villages across 14 panchayats in Pattamundai block.

Thousands of hectares of farmland have been submerged. Before the floodwaters could recede fully, the water levels rose again, worsening the situation, and cut off road communication as a breach occurred on Penthapala-Kolathia road.

Concerns mount over illegal migrant settlements

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, July 29: Tension is rising in Semiliguda town as reports emerge of increasing illegal settlements by migrant groups in the area.

Local residents and authorities have voiced concern over the rapid, unregulated encroachment on public and forest lands by unregistered individuals, many of whom are believed to have moved from neighboring states in search of work.

Authorities have acknowledged the public concern and initiated preliminary surveys to assess the extent of the issue. To raise public awareness, officials said microphone announcements will be made in the affected areas.

"We are trying to sort out the situation and are coordinating with local officials to verify identities and take necessary action where applicable," said Anita Kujur, inspector-in-charge (IIC) of Semiliguda police.

Sujit Choudhury, Executive Officer of Sunabeda municipality, said he had received numerous complaints from Semiliguda residents regarding illegal migrant settlements.

"I urge the local police to strengthen night patrolling, particularly at key junctions, and to monitor individuals carrying



baggage. There is also a need to deploy additional police personnel," Choudhury said. "A growing concern is that house owners are renting out rooms to migrants without proper KYC verification. These individuals then use the rented addresses to obtain KYC documents in their names and settle here permanently. This issue

must be addressed strictly," he added.

Hoda Nayak, a resident of Gandhi Nagar in Semiliguda, said many migrants have entered the door-to-door goods trade without proper identification, vehicle registration or licensed shop names.

"They don't pay taxes or hold any official documents, yet they compete in the same market, affecting our livelihood," Nayak said. "This unchecked competition is unfair to local traders who follow the rules and comply with legal requirements," he added.

Local officials said further action would depend on the outcome of on-going surveys and inter-agency coordination.

Dragon fruit farming brings economic independence for Rayagada WSHG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, July 29: A women self-help group (WSHG) in Rayagada district has successfully cultivated dragon fruit and set an example of rural entrepreneurship and agricultural innovation under the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM).

The members of Maa Nanda Ganda WSHG in Gogupadu panchayat under Ramanagara block were encouraged to take up dragon fruit farming as part of a project aimed at increasing income for small-scale farmers. The initiative, implemented under OLM's high-value crop scheme, has now borne fruit—both literally and financially.

Following discussions with officials from the agriculture, horticulture and livelihoods departments, a block-level committee was formed to support the initiative. Soil testing was conducted, and expert guidance from the Agriculture Department and MGNREGA was utilised to prepare the land.

The WSHG members were taken on an exposure visit to Phiringia block in Kandhamal district, where they received hands-on



training in dragon fruit farming. Subsequently, they began cultivation on 0.75 acres of land by installing 150 concrete poles and frames at a cost of ₹1.8 lakh. Another ₹30,000 was spent on purchasing 600 saplings. All expenses were covered through subsidies and support from the Odisha Livelihoods Mission and the horticulture

department, which also provided assistance for drip irrigation and planting material.

The fruits have now started to ripen, and the group has begun selling the produce in local markets. With the current rate at ₹300 per kilogram, the SHG is expected to earn around ₹7-8 lakh annually from the project.

The members credit their success to the guidance of former Rayagada Collector and CEO Parul Patawari and the direct supervision of District Planning Officer and Executive Officer Akshay Kumar Khemundu. They say the initiative has not only provided a sustainable source of income but also strengthened their confidence and community standing.

"Rayagada is traditionally an agriculture-based district where farmers mainly grow paddy, millets and maize, but the returns often don't match their hard work. To make women self-reliant and improve their livelihoods, we promoted dragon fruit cultivation — and it has proven successful, with many of the women now achieving financial independence," said Khemundu.

A growing concern is that house owners are renting out rooms to migrants without proper KYC verification

SUJIT CHOUDHURY | EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SUNABEDA MUNICIPALITY

must be addressed strictly," he added.

Hoda Nayak, a resident of Gandhi Nagar in Semiliguda, said many migrants have entered the door-to-door goods trade without proper identification, vehicle registration or licensed shop names.

"They don't pay taxes or hold any official documents, yet they compete in the same market, affecting our livelihood," Nayak said. "This unchecked competition is unfair to local traders who follow the rules and comply with legal requirements," he added.

Local officials said further action would depend on the outcome of on-going surveys and inter-agency coordination.

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:
Sunday, 3rd August 2025; 6:30 p.m. onwards
at Hotel Radhika Regency, Bisra Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.
Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
No walk-ins will be allowed.

HDFC MUTUAL FUND
SHRADDHA APOD KA
An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.htm). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AICs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AICs. If they are not satisfied with the resolutions given by AICs, they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AICs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, KHORDHA
AT/PO-KHORDHA, DIST-KHORDHA, STATE-ODISHA, PIN-752055
E-mail: dpc@khordhasa.opepa@nic.in, Tel: (06755) 223525

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-Procurement Notice
Tender Call Notice No.2510/28.07.2025

Bid Identification No.01/CW/SS/2025-26 Tender Call Notice No.2510/28.07.2025

- Name of the Work :-** Construction of One No. Additional Classroom in col.2 of Annexure as per DTCN
- Total No. of Work :-** 33 Nos. (Percentage Rate)
- Amount put to tender :-** As mention in Col.3 of Annexure as per DTCN.
- Class of Contractor :-** As mention in Col.5 of Annexure as per DTCN.
- Period of Completion:-** As mention in Col.7 of Annexure as per DTCN.
- Bid Security/ EMD :-** As mention in Col.4 of Annexure as per DTCN.
- Paper Cost:-** As mention in Col.6 of Annexure as per DTCN.
- Other details:-**

Tender Inviting Authority	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for Bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
District Project Co-ordinator, S.S. Khordha	01/CW/SS/2025-26	3.00 PM of 04.08.2025 to 5.00 PM of 19.08.2025	5.00 PM of 16.08.2025 to 20.08.2025	11.00 AM of 20.08.2025

9. The amount put to tender is exclusive of 18% GST. The intending bidder should offer their rates which shall be exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-27101/11/0007/2526 **Sd./- District Project Co-ordinator, S.S. Khordha**

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST/OT/COACHING/DEPOT KUR/482 Dt. 22.07.2025

Name of the Work :- "TELECOM WORKS FOR YARD MASTER ROOM AT PURLI, 100-BEDDED SPORTS HOSTEL OF BOORAHURDA ROAD AND COACHING DEPOT/BHUBANESWAR IN KHURDAROAD DIVISION."

Tender Value ₹ 48,54,014.40, **EMD:** ₹ 97,100/-

Bidding start date: 30.07.2025, **Tender closing date & time:** at 1100 hrs. of 13.08.2025.

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Khurda Road
PR-406/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/48 Dt.: 24.07.2025

(1) Tender No. eTender-EastKUR-169-2025, Dt.: 17.07.2025

Description: EXECUTION OF CTR (S) FOR A LENGTH OF 4.46 KMS. AND TRR (S) FOR 3.675 KMS. IN DIFFERENT YARDS UNDER DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST) SECTION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 188.53 Lakhs, **EMD:** ₹ 2,44,300/-.

(2) Tender No. eTender-SouthKUR-168-2025, Dt.: 17.07.2025

Description: EXECUTION OF CTR (S) FOR A LENGTH OF 5.337 KMS. IN DIFFERENT YARDS OF CHATRAPUR-PALASA SECTION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 172.47 Lakhs, **EMD:** ₹ 2,36,200/-.

(3) Tender No. e-TenderSouthKUR-167-2025, Dt.: 16.07.2025

Description: BETTERMENT OF OHE & PSI DEPOSITS FOR ACCOMMODATION OF TRD WORKSHOPS AS WELL AS MODEL OHE AT BALUGAON & ICHCHAPURAM OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 170.14 Lakhs, **EMD:** ₹ 2,35,100/-.

Completion period: 12 months (for SI. No.1,2) & 10 months (for SI. No. 3).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 08.08.2025 (for all tenders).

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road
PR-409/Q/25-26

Let nothing short of Perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.



THE MOTHER

SIR's Pitfalls

The Supreme Court on 28 July told the Election Commission of India (ECI) to adopt a voter verification approach based on "mass inclusion, not mass exclusion." The principal objective of the ECI is to find out eligible voters from every nook and cranny of the country and include their names in the voters' list. This aim cannot be diluted or compromised under any pretext or at direct or veiled promptings from the ruling dispensation at the Centre. The direction came in connection with the legal challenge to the ECI's current Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being carried out in Bihar under controversial circumstances. The apex court has questioned the ECI's refusal to accept Aadhaar and Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) as valid proof of identity during the ongoing SIR.

The Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi did not support the ECI's argument that Aadhaar and EPIC cards can be forged, pointing out that "10 out of 11 documents already accepted by the Commission can be equally fake." The Court said forgery is always a possibility, but that cannot be a reason for summarily excluding widely held documents like Aadhaar or voter ID cards.

Justice Kant made the cogent observation that any day 10 out of 11 documents may be found to be fake. The matter, he held, has to be seen on "a case-to-case basis." The Bench virtually laughed the ECI's contention out of court with the observation that "any document on Earth can be forged."

The oral observations came during a hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the 24 June ECI order beginning SIR in Bihar ahead of the State Assembly elections due in October–November 2025. The Court said Aadhaar and EPIC should be accepted as identity proofs for SIR, urging the ECI to avoid exclusions of identity proof. The vacation Bench had asked the poll panel earlier on 10 June to consider Aadhaar and EPIC, issued by the ECI itself, as identity proof.

The Bench took a view of the matter and declined to order an interim stay on the publication of the draft rolls under the SIR on 1 August as pleaded by petitioners. Under the SIR guidelines the ECI has mandated that voters not found on the 2003 rolls must provide proof of Indian citizenship. For those born after December 2004 documents of both parents are required and where a parent is a foreign national, passport and visa records at the time of birth must be submitted. This move has drawn sharp criticism from civil society, with petitioners—including Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), People's Union for Civil Liberties, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, RJD MP Manoj Jha and activist Yogendra Yadav.

Interestingly, on 26 September, 2018, the apex court had upheld the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar Act, while striking down certain provisions as unconstitutional. Crucially, the majority opinion did not strike down Section 7, which makes Aadhaar mandatory for availing State subsidies and benefits. This alone should invalidate the ECI argument that it cannot include names of individuals who are not bona fide citizens. For, if those enjoying State subsidies and other benefits on the strength of Aadhaar turn out to be not citizens of the country, the fault lies with the administration. Moreover, the ECI cannot appropriate the task of determining bona fide citizenship which devolves on the Union Home Ministry.

What the ECI is doing in the name of SIR is nothing but forcing people to accept the exercise of National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the backdoor. The Union Home Ministry had earlier tried this and faced a huge backlash in Assam. Now it seems to have left the task to the ECI so as not to incur the people's wrath and at the same time implement its political agenda on redrawing the country's demographic contours. Aadhaar is also an integral part of the process in which NRC comes in later. If Aadhaar is being denied validity for such an important task as SIR by the ECI, the non government parties should accept this changed attitude of the government and benefit from it. It is obvious the BJP government had enforced Aadhaar in the past, thinking it would help in the process of disenfranchising whomsoever they did not want. Now their own convenience is being troubled by that very instrument called Aadhaar. Evil thoughts bring about evil results.

The apex court's message till the final hearing is held is unequivocal: Democracy demands inclusion, not exclusion.

WISDOM CORNER

Either you run the day or the day runs you.

JIM ROHN

We are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future.

ROBIN S. SHARMA

You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.

JOYCE MEYER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1863: American industrialist and automobile manufacturer Henry Ford, who revolutionized factory production with his assembly-line methods, was born in Michigan.

1898: Otto von Bismarck—who, as prime minister of Prussia (1862–73, 1873–90), used ruthlessness and moderation to unify Germany, founding the German Empire (1871) and serving as its first chancellor (1871–90)—died.

1921: Insulin was first isolated as a pancreatic extract by the Canadian scientists Sir Frederick G. Banting and Charles H. Best.

1930: Uruguay defeated Argentina to win the first World Cup in football (soccer).

1945: The USS Indianapolis was sunk this day in 1945 by a Japanese submarine shortly after delivering the internal components of the atomic bombs that were later dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some 900 men died, many of whom succumbed to shark attacks, dehydration, and salt poisoning as they awaited rescue.

1980: Vanuatu gains independence. The Republic of Vanuatu gained independence from France and UK.

LOL

VISIT THE BARBER

A man and a little boy entered a barbershop together. After the man received the full treatment - shave, shampoo, manicure, haircut, etc. - he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm goin' to buy a green tie to wear for the parade," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes." When the boy's haircut was completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks

like your daddy's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!'"



CLIMATE ACTION SANS AMERICA

FOCUS MULTILATERALISM

Scientists have repeatedly warned us – with ever-growing intensity – that the planet is hurtling toward climate tipping points. Despite numerous international pledges, the evidence suggests that limiting global warming to 1.5°C Celsius is increasingly unlikely. If current trends persist, that threshold could be breached as early as 2028. At the same time, biodiversity loss is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, with dire consequences for vulnerable communities and humanity at large. A stable climate and healthy ecosystems are inextricably linked, implying the risk of cascading catastrophes.

To be sure, there has been some progress on both fronts. The 2015 Paris agreement was the most ambitious and politically viable climate deal of its time. Based on a "pledge and review" model, it set an ambitious yet attainable target and introduced mechanisms to ensure broad participation, while establishing a framework for assessing national commitments against the shared goal.

Then, in 2022, COP15 adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, following a similar approach. While some major countries like India remained far behind, there was hope that they would eventually join as global momentum continued to build. That optimism was short-lived. On the very first day of his second term, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "Unleashing American Energy" and announced that the US would once again withdraw from the Paris agreement, dismissing climate change as a "hoax." Governments and civil society now face a fundamental challenge: developing viable strategies for achieving climate and biodiversity goals without US involvement.

In a recent Bruegel-Center for Economic Policy Research report, we explore how this can be done. We begin with the recognition that while the US remains a major greenhouse-gas emitter, its policies alone are unlikely to determine the planet's fate. The decisive battleground is now in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs),



With the US retreating from multilateralism, governments must find ways to meet critical climate goals without American involvement. The path forward lies in forging mutually beneficial partnerships that align climate objectives with the unique needs of emerging markets and developing economies

which account for two-thirds of current emissions and are home to most of the world's biodiversity. With their emissions rising rapidly, EMDEs must urgently shift to low-carbon, nature-positive growth. But they face formidable obstacles: massive investment needs, high capital costs, limited fiscal space, and pressing development priorities.

Meaningful climate action will thus require mutually beneficial economic partnerships that align global emissions targets with EMDEs' development needs. In our report, we identify four types of partnerships that could serve as pillars of a new cooperative framework. The first is a carbon pricing alliance, underpinned by a shared carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).

While regulations and subsidies matter, carbon pricing is necessary to incentivise businesses and households to reduce their emissions. But without safeguards, it risks creating trade distortions by giving a competitive edge to countries that either don't price carbon or set prices far below effective levels. That is the rationale for the European Union's CBAM, which applies to only a handful of carbon-intensive products like steel and cement during its transitional phase.

To address this challenge, we propose creating a climate coalition of developed and developing countries committed to a tiered carbon-price floor, based on in-

come level. Members would benefit from mutual CBAM exemptions and gain access to financing, technology, and markets. The EU, for example, could collaborate with any country willing to set a meaningful carbon price, including the US – should it revise its current stance – and China.

Many EMDEs still depend on emissions-intensive coal-fired power plants because they require far less capital investment than greener alternatives. The second pillar, therefore, is a climate-finance coalition dedicated to decarbonizing the power sector in these countries.

Accelerating this shift will require closing the massive investment gap: annual clean-energy spending in developing countries must quadruple by 2030 to meet the Paris agreement's targets. Compounding the challenge, the cost of capital in EMDEs is often twice as high as in advanced economies, making renewables appear artificially expensive despite falling technology costs.

We propose formal agreements in which developed economies provide climate financing in exchange for EMDEs' commitment to ambitious net-zero targets. The EU, China, Japan, and South Korea, for example, could fund EMDEs' decarbonization efforts at an annual cost of less than 0.3% of their combined GDP – a modest investment relative to the climate dam-

age such an agreement would help avert.

The third pillar is a green industrial partnership between the EU, the UK, Norway, and selected countries in the Global South. Given its limited renewable-power potential, Europe will continue to rely on energy imports. But rather than shipping green electricity across oceans, it would be more efficient to relocate energy-intensive production to resource-rich EMDEs.

European industrial policies currently favour energy-intensive sectors and subsidize their decarbonization. A smarter approach would be to support downstream, high-value industries while phasing out protections for uncompetitive upstream production.

The fourth pillar is the creation of markets for carbon removal and nature protection. Reaching net-zero emissions implies net-negative emissions after 2050, yet carbon removal – whether technological or nature-based – remains underdeveloped, fragmented, and poorly incentivized.

Two innovations could help establish these markets. One is the introduction of cleanup certificates, which would allow emitters to take on carbon debt and repay it in the form of verified future removals, financed at scale through market demand.

The EU is pivotal to advancing this agenda. With its mature carbon market and regulatory credibility, the bloc is well positioned to serve as the backbone of emerging international coalitions. To that end, it must accelerate its own emissions reductions, expand the CBAM, and forge meaningful industrial partnerships. In a world approaching climate catastrophe, Europe has a rare opportunity to lead by example.

Jean Pisani-Ferry is a senior fellow at Peterson Institute for International Economics. Beatrice Weder di Mauro is Professor of Global Economics, Climate, and Nature Finance at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Jean Pisani-Ferry & Beatrice Weder di Mauro

THE DECISIVE BATTLEGROUND IS NOW IN EMERGING MARKETS AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR TWO-THIRDS OF CURRENT EMISSIONS AND ARE HOME TO MOST OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY

IN JEST THIS

Why my neighbours make me green with envy

As I walk around my neighbourhood every morning, taking my dog on a 45-minute stroll, I realise how easy it is to become envious of your neighbours. Some of them have bigger houses. Some of them have fancier cars. Some of them have wider yards.

But the neighbours who truly make me feel envious are the ones who have taller tomato plants. Not just taller, but bushier, with more tomatoes hanging from them than I could steal in a single night.

I've grown tomatoes for a number of years, but my plants have never been more than five feet tall. One of my neighbours, on the other hand, has plants that could dunk on LeBron James.

This year, my plants are growing very slowly, and the few tomatoes on them are quite small. Even my wife has noticed. This worries me. I don't want to be the first man whose wife left him over the

size of his tomatoes.

Size really does matter. If you don't believe me, just ask Del and Julie Faust of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, US, who set a Guinness World Record in October 2022 with a tomato that weighed 11.65 pounds (5.284 kilograms) and had a circumference of 32.5 inches (82.55 cm). That's amazing. If I grew a tomato that size, I'd save a lot of money. No gym membership, just biceps curls with the tomato.

But the only Guinness World Record I might have a chance to get is for "World's Smallest Tomato." You'd need a microscope to view it — and also to serve it to the models at Paris Fashion Week.

I've tried almost everything to get my tomato plants to grow faster. I've even tried talking to them. "Come on," I say. "It's almost the end of July. Don't you want to become adults one day?"

I wish I could take them to a plant doctor. But he'd

probably just measure them and tell me that they're in the 9th percentile for height and 7th percentile for weight, but that's not bad, because they're growing in an Asian family. "But they're adopted!" I'd say. "I got them from a nursery when they were little."

And the plant doctor would shake his head and say, "In that case, you probably aren't feeding them well."

But I have been feeding them well. I've given them cow manure from some of the world's finest cows. And not just that, but also a fertilizer that's specially formulated for tomatoes. They're also getting plenty of water and sunlight. I don't know what's missing from their diet. Perhaps they need more fiber.

I'm not sure what my neighbours are doing to produce such large tomatoes, but I have a feeling that some of them are cheating. They're sneaking outside in the middle of the night to inject their plants

with steroids. How else to explain such prolific growth?

Okay, perhaps they're not "cheating" in the strict sense of the word. But I'm pretty certain that some of them — especially the retired lady in the blue house at the corner — are going into their gardens at night with protein shakes. That would explain why their tomato plants are shooting up like giraffes.

I'm hoping that some of them can share their secrets with me. If not their secrets, then at least their tomatoes. My Google search history — you won't be surprised to learn — includes this question: "Can tomatoes be stuck on a plant using super glue?"

I'm really desperate to impress my wife. I also want to leave a legacy of tomato-growing success, so my children and grandchildren can be filled with pride when they read the epitaph of my tombstone: "Here lies Melvin. He grew huge tomatoes."

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Inspirational journey

Sir, In an all-Indian final, exciting young talent Divya Deshmukh etched her name into chess history by defeating Grandmaster Humpy Koneru in the tiebreaks to win the FIDE Women's World Cup, demonstrating exceptional resilience and strategic precision. The historic win not only crowns Divya Deshmukh as the world champion, but also awards her the Grandmaster title, making her India's 88th Grandmaster and only the fourth Indian woman to reach this elite status. Divya Deshmukh's victory is more than a personal triumph; it reflects India's deep talent pool and growing stature in women's chess. The all-Indian final underscores how sustained focus on nurturing female talent is beginning to pay dividends, with chess clubs, academies, and federations working tirelessly to promote the game among young women. Divya's journey from an underdog to India's newest Grandmaster will inspire a generation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Order of the day

Sir, It has become the order of the day that whenever people assemble in numbers to visit temples or other religious places, or attend victory celebrations, stampedes occur resulting in the death of people. The latest tragedy has happened at the Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar in which eight people were killed and more than 30 severely injured. The stampede occurred after a rumour of a snapped electric line spread panic among the massive crowd that had gathered along the stairway route to the temple located 1770 feet above sea level on the Sivalik Hills. We have not learnt any lesson from previous stampedes, say like during the Maha Kumbh Mela and in the IPL victory celebrations in Bangalore. Looking at the irresponsible and callous manner in which such large crowds are repeatedly ill-managed by the respective governments, it is utopian to believe that participation in such occasions when thousands converge at the same point would be risk-free in future. Let better wisdom prevail on the public, particularly the frenzied lot.

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

Kaziranga ranks third globally in tiger density

The growth of tiger population is particularly notable due to the first-time sampling in the Biswanath Wildlife Division, where 27 recorded tigers have contributed to the overall increase, said the report titled 'Status of Tigers in Kaziranga, 2024'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 29: Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), home to Greater one-horned Rhinoceroses, now ranks third in the world for highest tiger density, with 18 tigers per 100 sq km, officials said Tuesday.

KNPTR has increased by 44 in two years to reach a total of 148, according to a report released on the occasion of International Tiger Day Tuesday.

The previous count of the big cat in Kaziranga was 104 in 2022.

This growth is particularly notable due to the first-time sampling in the Biswanath Wildlife Division, where 27 re-

corded tigers have contributed to the overall increase, said the report titled "Status of Tigers in Kaziranga, 2024".

In the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, the population grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024, while the Nagaon Wildlife Division maintained a count of six tigers.

Of the 148 adult tigers, identified in the three divisions of the forest, 83 are females, 55 males, and 10 with undetermined gender.

Methodology for the tiger count included the deployment of remotely triggered camera traps in accordance with the Phase IV Protocol of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife

Institute of India, which follows a statistically robust mark-recapture framework to estimate tiger abundance and density.

Paired camera traps were systematically placed across 1,307.49 sq km areas within three divisions of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve between December 2023 and April 2024, using a structured grid-based design to ensure comprehensive spatial coverage, the report stated.

Based on the report and data published by various sources, it can be inferred that Kaziranga, with a population of 18.65 tigers per sq km, is now ranked as a reserve with the third highest density of tigers in the world, after Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Corbett National Park with

19.83 and 19.56, respectively, an official pointed out.

Key drivers of this encouraging rise in tiger population are habitat expansion and protection, she said.

An additional area of 200 sq km, including 12.82 sq km of encroachment-free area, has been added in recent years under Burhachapori-Laokhowa sanctuaries, bringing more habitat to the Tiger Reserve, the official said.

This strategic extension has significantly expanded the landscape available to tigers, allowing for increased movement, breeding, and dispersal opportunities across divisions.

In addition, the enhanced use of technology has revolutionised wildlife monitoring and protection. Along with camera traps, tools such as Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STrIPES), drones, and infrared-based electronic surveillance systems (Electronic Eye), are now integral to daily operations.

"These technological advancements have greatly improved anti-poaching measures, movement tracking, and habitat monitoring, leading to greater safety and better data," the official said.

The integration of advanced technologies with meticulous efforts of the forest frontline staff, including 113 trained Van Durgas, the female frontline staff of the Tiger Reserve and the active support of civil society organisations and local communities have significantly helped in filling up data gaps, she said.

AAP SLAMS BJP OVER WATERLOGGING IN DELHI

Highlighting severe waterlogging in Connaught Place after just 10 minutes of rain, AAP supremo and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned the effectiveness of the 'four-engine' government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Tuesday lashed out at the BJP government in Delhi over waterlogging in the city, sarcastically calling it a "marvel" of the four-engine model.

The AAP leaders shared videos of waterlogged locations -- from the Zakhira underpass to Connaught Place, from Safdarjung Hospital to LNJP Hospital -- across the national capital to question the BJP dispensation over the state of affairs.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Tuesday visited ITO crossing in central Delhi and conducted an inspection after waterlogging was reported in the area. Gupta said that her government has sought a detailed report on every spot.

Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh hit out at the AAP and said that the waterlogging situation wouldn't have risen had they worked sincerely.

He alleged that the AAP did no real work when it was in power and only indulged in corruption. After heavy rains battered Delhi Tuesday, visuals from various parts of the city showed long lines of vehicles stuck on waterlogged roads.



Highlighting severe waterlogging in Connaught Place after just 10 minutes of rain, AAP supremo and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned the effectiveness of the "four-engine" government.

"When this is the condition of Connaught Place, the heart of Delhi, it's not hard to imagine the state of the rest of the city. Just 10 minutes of rain has turned the roads into ponds. In just 5 months, where has the BJP brought Delhi to? Is this the speed of the so-called '4-engine' government?" said Kejriwal in a post on X, sharing a video of Connaught Place.

Former chief minister Atishi posed questions to her successor, Rekha Gupta, and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Singh Verma over the waterlogged streets.

Sharing a video of vehicles moving through the waterlogged Outer Circle of Connaught Place, she said in a post in Hindi on X, "The streets of Delhi's Connaught Place have turned into ponds. 10 minutes of rain and this is Delhi's condition. This is the marvel of

the BJP's 4-engine government. Where is PWD Minister @p_sahibsingh ji? What is Chief Minister @gupta_rekha ji doing?"

Atishi shared another video on X in which people were seen walking through knee-deep water on the premises of the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital.

"Water, water everywhere in Delhi government's LNJP Hospital. 10 minutes of rain and this is Delhi's condition," she said.

AAP's Delhi unit chief Saubh Bharadwaj questioned the lieutenant governor over a wall-collapse incident near the Raj Niwas that left a mother-son duo dead.

"Two dead, several injured -- Delhi remembers how, until a few months ago, LG sahab used to go to every corner of Delhi to find faults in the government, making videos, tweeting, writing letters. Today, a wall collapsed in front of his Raj Bhavan, two people died, many are injured. But LG sahab has not even gone to meet them yet. No tweet, no photo, no letter. Has the concern for Delhi ended now?" he asked in a post in Hindi on X.

'HAUSLON KI UDAAN'

Delhi Cabinet approves talent hunt scheme

Gupta says the blueprint of the initiative has been carefully designed to ensure the participation of youth across the city, enabling them to gain recognition and enhance the reputation of the national capital



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The Delhi Cabinet Tuesday approved a new talent hunt scheme titled 'Hauslon Ki Udaan', which aims to identify and nurture talented youth across various creative fields, including singing, dancing and pottery.

The scheme, which starts this September, was approved in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

A budget of ₹five crore has been allocated for implementation of the scheme in the current financial year, according to an official statement.

The chief minister said this is the first time such a platform will be given to the youth by the government.

Gupta said the blueprint of the initiative has been carefully designed to ensure the participation of youth across the city, enabling them to gain recognition and enhance the reputation of the national capital.

She informed that this scheme's announcement had been made earlier during her Budget speech in the Delhi Assembly and said it is now being rolled out with the Cabinet's approval.

The Department of Art, Culture and Languages will serve as the nodal department for its implementation. Earlier in the day, Delhi Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said the government will launch the scheme 'Hauslon Ki Udaan' that will aim to identify talent with special focus on youth from unauthorised colonies and slum clusters.

"Under the scheme, talent hunt competitions will be organised across all the 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi following which selected

youth will participate in zonal-level competition and then a state-level competition will be held," he told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Mishra, the minister for Art and Culture, said this scheme will identify talented individuals in diverse fields such as singing, dancing, pottery, sculpture, visual art, digital art and theatre.

He highlighted that while the national capital is rich in creative abilities such as music, dance, poetry, visual and digital art, many young people lack opportunities to present their skills due to limited access to platforms.

The scheme will particularly focus on identifying and nurturing talent among youth living in slums, informal settlements and unauthorised colonies.

Under the initiative, talent hunt programmes will be conducted in all Assembly constituencies followed by zonal and district-level competitions, culminating in a grand state-level finale carrying the chief minister's name.

The scheme will focus on six art forms: singing, dance, poetry, sculpture, visual art, digital art and theatre.

Mishra said the programme aims to connect nearly five million young people across Delhi. The talent hunt will be organised over a six-month period, with winners receiving cash prizes.

The government will also engage renowned artists from across the country as mentors to guide and prepare the selected participants, enabling them to achieve recognition on international platforms.

Three missing Delhi minors found; wanted to meet Salman Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Three minor boys who went missing from Delhi July 25 were found safe at a railway station in Maharashtra's Nashik Tuesday -- four days after they left home for Mumbai in the hope of meeting Bollywood actor Salman Khan, police said.

The trio, aged 13, 11 and nine, had reportedly befriended one Wahid from Jalna in Maharashtra through an online gaming platform. They decided to visit him after he claimed that he had met the star once and could facilitate their meeting with him, police said.

Without informing anyone, they set out for Jalna July 25, planning to travel to Mumbai and meet the actor. However, when Wahid learnt about the kids' families and police were searching for them, he backed out of the meeting.

The boys then changed their plan and disembarked at a railway station in Nashik, where they were found by police.

The minors study in the same school in the Sadar Bazar area of the national capital.



Farmers transplant paddy saplings in a field, near Chandubi, in Kamrup, Assam, recently

PTI PHOTO

Assam govt launches massive eviction drive

Eviction underway to clear encroachment on 3,600 acres of forest land in Assam's Golaghat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Golaghat (Assam), July 29: A massive eviction drive is underway to clear alleged encroachment on over 3,600 acres of forest land in Assam's Golaghat district, officials said Tuesday.

The move by the state government will affect at least 1,500 families, they said.

Several senior officials of the Golaghat district administration and the forest department told PTI that the eviction drive started in the morning to clear the alleged encroachment on almost 11,000 bighas (over 3,600 acres) of land in the Rengma Reserve Forest in Uriamghat along the Assam-Nagaland border in Sarupathar sub-division.

Although the government has claimed that the area was encroached, there were houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas



Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), government schools under Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and electricity connections to almost every household, besides markets, mosques, madrassas and churches, the locals claimed.

"The eviction started from the main market in the Bidy-

apur area. We will gradually proceed to residential areas and demolish the illegal housing structures," an official said.

He claimed that around 10,500 bighas to 11,000 bighas of land were encroached upon by the people.

"Around 2,000 families are living in those areas. Out of them, notices were served to

about 1,500 families, who illegally settled here. The remaining families are forest dwellers and have certificates from the Forest Rights Committee (FRC)," the official said.

The families whose houses are being demolished belong to the Muslim community, while those having FRC certificates are from Bodo, Nepali, Manipuri and other communities, he added.

"Around 80 per cent of the families who had received notices have already vacated their illegal settlements in the last few days. We are only demolishing their homes," the official added.

While speaking to PTI, the affected families, however, questioned the rationale of the eviction drive and claimed that they were brought to the place by the earlier governments to protect the area from the al-

leged invasion of Nagaland.

"Where will we go from here? My father had come from Nagaland district around 40 years ago, but I was born here. We were brought here during the 1980s to protect the forest land from encroachment from Nagaland," said Ali Kazi, who also received an eviction notice.

He claimed that most of the alleged encroachers' previous generation was settled in the forest area by the Janata Party government, headed by ex-CM Golap Borbora, in 1978-79 and the first AGP government, which came to power in 1985.

Notably, the assembly was informed in March that almost 83,000 hectares of land belonging to Assam were being occupied by four neighbouring states. It was also stated that Nagaland captured the highest amount of land in Assam -- 59,490.21 hectares.



I have not seen them and I don't know who they are. Only those people can identify them who have seen them. If they have been killed, it is a good thing. They have got a lesson that terrorism will never succeed

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

OVER 34K CASES PENDING: NHRC

NHRC Chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian Tuesday announced that the commission currently has 34,685 pending cases from all over the country



of the day quote

The number of all wild-life animals, including tigers, is continuously increasing in the state, and today it has emerged as an ideal centre for their conservation and better management

The investigation has to be conducted to find out whose pocket this money went into. Was it pocketed by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, her deputy Parvesh Verma, or did it go into the BJP's coffers?

Four major demands of the Marathas, which the government assured would be implemented, have not been fulfilled. The government has once again deceived the community

SHORT TAKES

Teen shot at, nabbed for attacking police

Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu): A 17-year-old boy, who allegedly attacked a police Sub Inspector in Pappakudi in the district July 28 night, was shot at and nabbed, police said. The teenager had attacked the SI with a sharp weapon when a police team attempted to quell a scuffle. Both the SI and the teenager have been admitted to the Tirunelveli Government Medical College Hospital here.

Police bust arms smuggling module

Chandigarh (Punjab): The Punjab Police Tuesday claimed to have busted a cross-border arms smuggling module and apprehended an operative working under the directions of a Pakistan-based smuggler. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, in a post on X, said the accused had retrieved a weapon consignment from near the India-Pakistan border and was en route to deliver it when a police team intercepted him.

Father on run after raping infant daughter

Jaipur: Police are looking for a man who allegedly raped his one-and-a-half-year-old daughter in his home when his wife was away. According to an officer, the incident happened on the night of July 25, when the child's mother was outside the home talking to a neighbour. "On July 28, a 20-year-old woman filed a complaint against her husband at Muhana Police Station of Jaipur, accusing him of raping his one-and-a-half-year-old daughter," Additional DCP Poonam Chand Vishnoi said.

Woman, son killed as building wall collapses

New Delhi: Two members of a family were killed and two injured after the wall of an under-construction building near the lieutenant governor's house in the Civil Lines area here collapsed due to rain Tuesday morning, officials said. All four of them were working as labourers at the construction site in Sehgal Colony, they said.

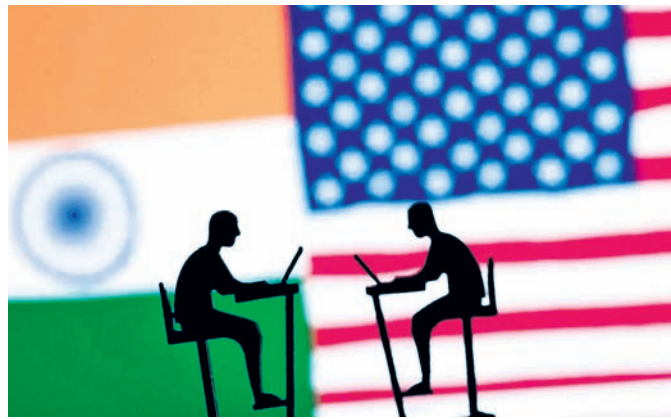
Leopard attacks in UP claim teen's life

Bahraich/Gorakhpur: Leopard attacks in two districts of Uttar Pradesh have left a teenager dead and a woman injured, creating an environment of fear and panic among locals.

TRADE TALKS

US team to visit India Aug 25

Though the team is coming at the end of next month, both sides remain engaged to iron out differences for an interim trade deal before August 1, which marks the end of the suspension period of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on dozens of countries, including India (26 per cent)



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The US team will visit India August 25 for the next round of negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement between the two countries, an official said Tuesday.

Though the team is coming at the end of next month, both sides remain engaged to iron out differences for an interim trade deal before August 1, which marks the end of the suspension period of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on dozens of countries, including India (26 per cent). "The US team is visiting for the sixth round of talks," the official said. The prospects for an interim deal may look

dim as US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has said that more negotiations will be needed with India on a trade pact. However, officials are not ruling out the possibility of a last-minute breakthrough.

"We continue to speak with our Indian counterparts, we've always had very constructive discussions with them," Greer told CNBC Monday.

Indian exporters may face an additional duty of 16 per cent - on top of the existing 10 per cent, if the August 1 deadline is not extended further or an interim deal is not reached between the two countries.

India and the US teams concluded the fifth round of talks for the agreement last week in Washington.

India's chief negotiator and special secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh

Agrawal and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch held the deliberations.

These deliberations are important as both sides are looking at finalising an interim trade deal before August 1.

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

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

Certain farmers' associations have urged the government not

to include any issues related to agriculture in the trade pact.

India is seeking the removal of this additional tariff (26 per cent). It is also looking at the easing of tariffs on steel and aluminium (50 per cent) and the auto sector (25 per cent). These issues are an important part of the trade pact negotiations.

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

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

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

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

Rains lash parts of north India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Shimla, July 29: At least five people were killed over the past 24 hours and several national highways were closed as heavy rains lashed parts of north India, including Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In Himachal's Mandi, flash floods triggered by a cloudburst created havoc Monday night, killing three people and burying more than 20 vehicles, officials said Tuesday.

In the national capital, severe traffic snarls and widespread waterlogging disrupted movement across the city Tuesday after heavy showers, forcing commuters to wade through deluged roads and streets.

In Civil Lines area of the city, a 40-year-old woman and her son died while two others were injured after the wall of an under-construction building near the lieutenant governor's house collapsed due to rain. The deceased were identified as Meera and his son Ganpath (17).

The worst affected areas in Mandi, which received 198.6 mm of rain since Monday evening, were Jail Road, Saini Mohalla and Zonal Hospital.

The three deceased included a mother and son. A total of 269 roads, including three national highways, are blocked in the disaster-hit Mandi district, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). The fresh disaster came after a month of monsoon mayhem in the Mandi district in which 15 people

were killed on the night of June 30-July 1.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the loss of three lives in Mandi town, and said that the district administration has been directed to provide all possible assistance to the affected families, a statement issued here said.

In Delhi, the Public Works Department (PWD) said around 90 calls regarding waterlogging were received at its flood control room Tuesday morning.

PWD Minister Parvesh Verma asserted that there was no waterlogging at hotspots like Minto Bridge underpass, Moolchand underpass, and Pul Prahladpur. However, PWD officials said waterlogging was reported at the Minto Bridge underpass, and traffic had to be diverted due to it for a brief period.

In Rajasthan, heavy rains have led to a flood-like situation and rivers are in spate in many districts forcing authorities to open gates of various dams the weather office said Tuesday. Villages in low-lying areas downstream of the swollen rivers have been submerged. Rivers in several districts, including Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Dholpur and Tonk, are overflowing following heavy downpour.

Rains also lashed several parts of Punjab and Haryana. According to the Met office in Chandigarh which was also hit by rains, Gurdaspur in Punjab received 96.7 mm of rain during the 24-hour period till 8:30 am Tuesday.

ED filed closure reports in 49 PMLA cases: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) over the last 10-and-a-half years, has filed closure reports in 49 cases before special courts meant to try anti-money laundering crimes, the government informed Parliament Tuesday.

The agency secured eight conviction orders involving 15 people from the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) courts between 2015 to June 2025, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written statement furnished in Rajya Sabha.

He was asked about the details of all cases lodged by the ED since 2015 where charge sheets have not yet been filed in courts, trial of the accused has not started and prosecution has been closed by the federal probe agency.

"During the period from 01.01.2015 to 30.06.2025, the Directorate of Enforcement has taken up 5,892 cases for investigation under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002," the minister said.

In these cases, 1,398 prosecution complaints including 353 supplementary charge sheets have been filed before the respective special courts under PMLA, he said. Out of these, so far, the special courts have framed charges in 300 prosecution complaints including 66 supplementary charge sheets, Chaudhary said.

"As on 30.06.2025, the PMLA special courts have convicted 15 persons in 08 conviction orders in these cases," he stated.



A women sits on a partially submerged table at a waterlogged area in Howrah, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

19 years after conviction, Gujarat HC acquits three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 29: Nineteen years after three men were convicted and sentenced to five-year rigorous imprisonment in a 2002 post-Godhra riots case by a fast track court, the Gujarat High Court has acquitted them by observing that their conviction was not based on reliable evidence.

A bench of Justice Gita Gopi allowed the appeals filed by Sachin Patel, Ashok Patel, and Ashok Gupta, challenging their conviction by a fast-track court in Anand and the order of sentence dated May 29, 2006. "The learned trial court judge had erred in the appreciation of the evidence. Conviction is



POST-GODHRA RIOTS CASE

not based on reliable and corroborative evidence. The identification of the accused has not been proved during the trial," the high court stated in the order passed Monday. Of the nine individuals who faced trial, four had been convicted

and handed five-year rigorous imprisonment under sections of the Indian Penal Code for rioting, arson, unlawful assembly, etc. One appellant died in 2009.

The prosecution had stated that the three convicts were part of a crowd that gathered

at a locality in Anand a day after two coaches of the Sabarmati Express train were set on fire at Godhra station February 27, 2002.

The crowd allegedly damaged shops and set some of them on fire, violating the order issued by the district magistrate under section 135 of the Bombay Police Act. The high court noted that whether the appellants were members of the unlawful assembly and involved in arson had not been proved. None of their acts in prosecution of the common object -- of setting things on fire and damaging the private and public property -- has been proved during the trial, the high court stated.

TN IT ENGINEER MURDER

DMK allies seek law against honour killing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tirunelveli/Chennai, July 29: With the alleged honour killing of a Dalit IT engineer in Tamil Nadu sending across shock waves, allies of the ruling DMK Tuesday demanded a separate legislation to handle such incidents.

The victim, 27 year-old Kavin Selvaganesh was hacked to death by a youth, allegedly over an inter-caste relationship near a Siddha facility in the southern Tirunelveli district on Sunday. The victim was employed as an engineer with a software firm in Chennai.

Thol Thirumavalavan, VCK chief, an ally of the ruling DMK, demanded legislation to prevent honour killings. "It is said the woman's parents, who were involved in this gruesome honour killing, have not been arrested. They must be arrested and removed from (police) service," Thirumavalavan said in a statement here. He sought the transfer of the case to a special investigating team for fair probe.

"It is distressing that caste-based honour killings and casteist attacks continue to occur, particularly in the southern districts. We reiterate our demand for the creation of a dedicated intelligence unit in the police department to curb such caste-based atrocities," he said.

CPI (M) state secretary P Shanmugam too demanded the state government to enact legislation to prevent honour killings.

A year after Wayanad landslide, young survivors rebuild lives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), July 29: A year ago, a landslide tore through scenic Mundakkai-Chooralmala villages of Kerala's Wayanad district, taking homes, families and their future in seconds.

Among those left behind was a 15-year-old boy who lost both his parents. "I know everything now," he said. July 30 marks the first anniversary of the Mundakkai-Chooralmala disaster. Survivors -- especially children -- are slowly finding their footing again.

In the disaster, seven children lost both their mother and father overnight. Two of them were only a few months away from turning 18 at the time. They have now reached

adulthood.

The remaining five children have been under the Kinship Foster Care scheme for a year, staying with close relatives. According to officials from the Wayanad District Child Protection Unit, who speak to them over the phone every week and visit them in person every month, all five are doing well.

"All five of them are doing well. They are between 5 and 16 years old, and all of them attend school. They are living with close relatives such as uncles, aunts, or similar family members. Not yet being old enough to fully grasp the extent of the loss caused by the disaster has, in a way, been a blessing for them. They have adapted fairly quickly," said Wayanad District Child Protection Offi-



New houses are being built, schools have welcomed them back, and, with help from relatives, the state and strangers, life is starting to take shape once more

In the rehabilitation township at Kalpetta Elston Estate, they are weaving new hopes with new homes and a fresh start in life

cer Karthika Anna Thomas. Three of the five are girls. The youngest among them, a

five-year-old girl, found joy in her relative's home after her mother's sister recently gave birth. Immersed in the

national



Several times I have reiterated that my commitment and love is towards the Prime Minister. Under PM Modi's leadership, the elections (in Bihar) will be fought. After the election results, Nitish Kumar will again take oath as Chief Minister. Definitely he will be the Chief Minister

CHIRAG PASWAN | UNION MINISTER AND LIP (RAM VILAS) CHIEF

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR NISAR MISSION: ISRO

The 27.30 hour countdown for the ambitious NASA-ISRO NISAR Mission commenced Tuesday, ISRO sources said. ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle will carry the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) to a Sun-synchronous polar orbit at 5.40 pm Wednesday



of the day quote

Subsequently, in second phase i.e. Population Enumeration, the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be collected

The wanton destruction of infrastructure and the unbridled massacre of civilians have led to a man-made tragedy - made worse by the blockade. This strategy of forced starvation is undoubtedly a crime against humanity

Public funds must be treated as sacred. For years, departments have settled claims through arbitration without exhausting legal options - this won't continue. We are auditing two decades of arbitration history to identify who was responsible and why legal battles were surrendered

Priyanka slams govt over Pahalgam attack

A combative Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also took on Shah for his remarks earlier in the day when he cited then Union minister Salman Khurshid's remarks to claim that then Congress president Sonia Gandhi "cried for the Batla House terrorists"



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Tuesday launched a blistering attack on the government over the "lapses" that led to the Pahalgam terror attack and said Home Minister Amit Shah talked about Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and even her mother's tears in Lok Sabha but did not answer "why the war" against Pakistan was halted. Citing that after the Mumbai terror attacks the then Maharashtra Chief Minister and the then Home Minister resigned, Priyanka Gandhi questioned why the Home Minister Amit Shah had not resigned or taken responsibility for the attack. She also took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying leadership is not just about taking credit but also taking responsibility. Participating in a special discussion in Lok Sabha on "India's strong, successful and decisive Operation Sindoor in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam", Priyanka Gandhi said that if no aircraft had been downed during Operation Sindoor then what is the problem in stating this in Parliament. Was no government agency

in the know that such a dastardly terror attack is going to happen and a plot is being hatched in Pakistan, the Congress general secretary asked. "It is a big failure of our government and intelligence agencies. Who will take responsibility of this? Has anyone resigned? They keep talking about past but who will answer about what is happening in present," she said. A combative Priyanka Gandhi also took on Shah for his remarks earlier in the day when he cited then Union minister Salman Khurshid's remarks to claim that then Congress president Sonia Gandhi "cried for the Batla House terrorists". "My mother's tears were talked about in the House, I want to answer this. My mother's tears fell when her husband was martyred by terrorists, when she was on 44-years-old. Today, I am standing in this House and talking about those 26 people (who were killed in Pahalgam) because I know their pain and feel it," she said. The MP from Wayanad in Kerala said Shah talked about Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, even her mother's tears but did not an-

swer "why the war was halted at a time when the enemy had nowhere to go". She said that the purpose of Operation Sindoor was to teach Pakistan a lesson, but perhaps this purpose remains unfulfilled, because "our diplomacy has failed". "The proof of this is that after Operation Sindoor, a Pakistani general, whose hands were stained with blood, was having lunch with the American president." "If the purpose of Operation Sindoor was to eliminate terrorism, then Pakistan being chosen as the chairman of the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee" has dealt a blow to this purpose. Will our prime minister take responsibility for this, do they have the courage," she asked. "This government always tries to evade questions..for this government, everything is politics, PR, propaganda, publicity. This government is engrossed in propaganda, which the public cannot see," she said. Hitting out at the prime minister, Priyanka Gandhi also said leadership is not just about taking credit but responsibility needs to be taken.

Air India audit flags 100 safety lapses, pilot training gaps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 29: Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation has come across around 100 violations and observations related to Tata Group-owned Air India's training, crew's rest and duty period norms, and airfield qualification, among others, sources said Tuesday. Of these, as many as seven are Level-1 violations, which are considered critical safety risks and require immediate corrective action by the air operator, they said. Air India, in a statement, acknowledged receipt of the findings and said it will submit its response to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) within the stipulated time frame. The audit findings come at a time when the airline is under intense scrutiny by the regulator in the wake of the June 12 plane crash. "All airlines undergo regular audits to test and continuously strengthen processes. Air India's annual DGCA audit took place in July, during which it was fully transparent with auditors in the spirit of such continuous improvement," Air India said in the statement. "We acknowledge receipt of the findings and will submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the corrective actions taken. Air India remains fully committed to ensuring the safety of its passengers and staff," the airline said. "There are a total of 100 violations and observations in the audit report related to training, crew's rest and duty period norms, training, insufficient crew complement and airfield qualification, among others,"



sources said. The detailed audit at Air India's main base in Gurugram was carried out from July 1 to July 4 as part of the operations, flight scheduling, rostering and various other areas, according to a source. The DGCA July 23 issued four show cause notices to Air India for various violations related to cabin crew rest and duty norms, cabin crew training rules and operational procedures, a month after the airline made certain voluntary disclosures to the watchdog. The London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner June 12 began to lose thrust almost immediately after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport and ploughed into a medical college hostel, killing all but one of the 242 onboard and another 19 on the ground in the deadliest aviation accident in a decade. The accident is being investigated by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIIB). The 15-page preliminary report by AIIB released earlier this month has found that the fuel supply to both engines of Air India flight AI171 was cut off within a second of each other, causing confusion in the cockpit and the aeroplane plummeting back to ground almost immediately after taking off. The report showed that the engines' fuel switches shifted from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' within seconds of each other after take-off.

Man dies allegedly due to lack of treatment at hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Meerut (UP), July 29: A 30-year-old man injured in a road accident died allegedly due to lack of timely treatment at a hospital in Meerut, prompting its administration to suspend two junior resident doctors. Hospital and district authorities have also set up two separate inquiry committees to look into the allegations following outrage over the conduct of doctors as a video that purportedly showed one of them sleeping during duty hours appeared on social media. Sunil, a resident of Hasanpur Kala village, met with an accident on Sunday night, village head Jaggi Pradhan said. He was brought to the emergency ward of Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial (LLRM) medical college around 12:30 AM but died by 8 AM on Monday. Family members alleged that doctors and other staff present in the ward were asleep and did not attend to Sunil despite his critical condition. A video widely circulating online allegedly showed one of the doctors asleep during duty hours.

SC STAYS TREE FELLING

Himachal apple growers stage demonstration against eviction drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 29: Hundreds of apple growers staged a dharna and demonstration Tuesday outside the state secretariat to protest against eviction of encroachments and felling of apple-laden trees on forest and government lands. The farmers under the banner of Himachal Kisan Sabha and Seb Utpadak Sangh (apple growers union) gathered outside the secretariat and crossed the barriers resulting in huge traffic jams. Protesters warned they would keep fighting for their demand of regularising small encroachments. The protest came a day after the Supreme Court stayed a high court order directing the removal of fruit-bearing orchards from encroached forest lands. Addressing the demonstrators, senior state CPI(M) leader and former MLA, Rakesh Singha warned that the farmers would launch a prolonged agitation if the lands of small encroachers fulfilled. He blamed the government for not implementing the previous orders of the Supreme Court and high court against evictions. Citing the Babu Ram vs State of Himachal Pradesh, 2024 case, Singha said the Supreme Court had said the "eviction by the collector without the speaking order and non-recording of statements of the witnesses was beyond the parameters of natural justice".

POST OF THE DAY

"If you (Modi) say, US President realDonaldTrump is lying, Then let PM Modi tell that here inside the parliament that Trump is a liar. If PM Modi has the courage of Indira Gandhi, then let him say here in Lok Sabha that you Donald Trump, are a liar and you did not make us ceasefire and no flights were downed." - LoP Rahul Gandhi. @zoo_bear

MASS BURIAL ALLEGATIONS

SIT begins exhumation in Dharmasthala forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharmasthala (Karnataka), July 29: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) Tuesday began exhuming suspected human remains in a forested area near the Netravati bathing ghat here, amid tight security following serious allegations of mass burials, police said. The operation was launched in the presence of the complainant, who had earlier pinpointed specific locations allegedly used for illegal burials, they said. Forensic experts from KMC Hospital, Mangaluru-Dr Jagadish Rao and Dr Rashmi-joined the team for the scientific recovery of skeletal remains, police said. According

to police, the site was identified during a preliminary inspection Monday. Under the supervision of Puttur Assistant Commissioner Stella Varghese and aided by a dozen labourers, the team initiated the exhumation process early Tuesday and went on till late afternoon. Senior officials, including Deputy Inspector General of Police (Recruitment) M N Anuchet, SIT Investigating Officer Jitendra Dayama and Beltangady Tahsildar Prithvi Sanikam were present at the site. Personnel from the Revenue, Forest, Forensic, Anti-Naxal Force, Internal Security, and local police departments provided support and security.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on National Highway 24 (NH 24) following rainfall, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Over 50% tiger deaths since 2021 outside reserves: Govt

THE NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NTCA) DATA SHOWS THAT 667 TIGERS DIED BETWEEN 2021 AND SO FAR IN 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: More than half of the tiger deaths in India since 2021 occurred outside protected reserves, a PTI analysis of government data revealed Tuesday, even as the country pushes ahead with new initiatives to strengthen conservation, including an India-led global alliance for big cats and efforts to relocate villages from core tiger habitats. Maharashtra recorded the highest number of such deaths at 111, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 90. The data also shows 129 tiger deaths in 2021, 122 in 2022, 182 in 2023, 126 in 2024 and 108 so far in 2025.

Home to around 3,682 tigers, India continues to face the challenge of conserving big cats outside reserves, where nearly 30 per cent of the population lives. To address this, the government plans to launch the Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) project, covering 80 forest divisions in 17 states, to reduce human-tiger conflict. On the occasion of International Tiger Day, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said 24 countries have agreed to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), an India-led global initiative to protect seven species of big cats. The alliance currently has 12 member nations, including Bhu-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

tan, Ethiopia and Cambodia. Yadav said the number of tiger reserves in India has risen from 46 in 2014 to 58 at present, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to protecting the national animal. He also launched a nationwide tree plantation drive under which more than one lakh sap-

lings will be planted across all tiger reserves. Union Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh described Kirti Vardhan Singh described India's achievements in tiger conservation as a "milestone" and lauded Modi for prioritising environmental protection. Singh added that several countries have sought

India's expertise in training their officers for big-cat conservation. On Project Cheetah, Singh said India plans to bring more cheetahs from climate-compatible regions, such as Namibia, and that the conservation efforts are progressing well. Various states marked International Tiger Day with new initiatives. In Jharkhand, officials said the forest department has started relocating residents from 35 villages inside the Palamau Tiger Reserve to improve the tiger habitat and reduce human-animal conflict. Around 10,000 people live in the reserve's core area. The forest advisory committee of the environment ministry will also discuss a proposal to de-notify 1,501.88 hectares of forest land in Achampet for relocating five villages from the core area of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana.

Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, core areas of tiger reserves must remain "inviolate" for conservation, while buffer zones allow sustainable human activity. The NTCA asked states last year to speed up village relocation from core areas, sparking protests over alleged violations of the Forest Rights Act and a lack of consultation with the affected tribal communities. In Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state has acted against encroachment to expand wildlife reserves and it now boasts of the third-highest tiger density in the world. A report released Tuesday showed that the tiger population in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has risen by 27 to 148. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu also reaffirmed his government's commitment to conserving tigers and their habitat.

international



We know that the (Israeli) government had a policy — and still does — of expanding the war in the region. Therefore, we made sure not to give any justification to any party to target Iraq

MOHAMMED SHIA AL-SUDANI | IRAQI PRIME MINISTER

NEW ABBOT FOR SHAOLIN TEMPLE

China has appointed a new abbot for the iconic Shaolin Temple, replacing the former head monk who was dismissed amid investigations into allegations of corruption and sexual misconduct. Shi Yinle, the abbot of the White Horse Temple, has been named as the new head of the famed Shaolin Temple



of the day quote

There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza. We enable humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the war to enter Gaza — otherwise, there would be no Gazans



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

Any attempt to deny the position of the DPRK as a nuclear weapons state which was established along with the existence of a powerful nuclear deterrent and fixed by the supreme law reflecting the unanimous will of all the DPRK people will be thoroughly rejected



KIM YO JONG | MEMBER OF THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF NORTH KOREA

This modest decline in trade tensions, however fragile, has contributed to the resilience of the global economy so far



PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCAS | IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

SHORT TAKES

Gunman kills 4 at NYC office tower

New York: A man carrying a rifle killed four people at a New York City office tower Monday, including an off-duty New York City police officer, and wounded a fifth before taking his own life, officials said. The officer who was killed was Didarul Islam, 36, an immigrant from Bangladesh who had served as a police officer in New York City for 3 1/2 years. "He died as he lived. A hero," police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a news conference. He was married with two young boys, and his wife is pregnant with their third child, she said. Police identified the gunman as Shane Tamura, of Las Vegas, and said he killed himself. He had a documented mental health history, but the motive is still unknown, Tisch said. "We are working to understand why he targeted this particular location," Tisch said. Another man was seriously injured and remains in critical condition, Mayor Eric Adams said. Adams said officials are still "unraveling" what took place. "Five innocent people were shot" along with the perpetrator, he said. Surveillance video showed a man exiting a double parked BMW and carrying an M4 rifle before he walks toward the building. He immediately opened fire on the NYPD officer as he entered the building and shot a woman who tried to take cover and then began "spraying" the lobby with gunfire, Tisch said.

German zoo kills 12 baboons

Berlin: A zoo in the German city of Nuremberg said it killed 12 baboons Tuesday despite protests, capping a saga rooted in concerns that the zoo had too little space to house a growing group of the animals. The Tiergarten Nürnberg Zoo first announced plans to kill baboons it didn't have space for in February 2024. It has said that it examined offers to take in some of the animals but was unable to make any of them work. The plans drew criticism from animal rights groups. They also drew protests at the zoo, which said Monday that it would have to start preparing to kill baboons. On Tuesday morning, it announced that it was closing for the day for unspecified "operational reasons." On Tuesday afternoon, police said several activists forced their way into the grounds, a few of them gluing themselves to the ground before being detained. Shortly afterward, the zoo said it had killed 12 baboons, news agency dpa reported.

Gangs, merchants sell food aid in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, July 29: Since Israel's offensive led to a security breakdown in Gaza that has made it nearly impossible to safely deliver food to starving Palestinians, much of the limited aid entering is being hoarded by gangs and merchants and sold at exorbitant prices.

A kilogram of flour has run as high as \$60 in recent days, a kilogram of lentils up to \$35. That is beyond the means of most residents in the territory, which experts say is at risk of famine and where people are largely reliant on savings 21 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel's decision this weekend to facilitate more aid deliveries — under international pressure — has lowered prices somewhat but has yet to be fully felt on the ground.

Bags of flour in markets often bear U.N. logos, while other packaging has markings indicating it came from the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — all originally handed out for free. It's impossible to know how much is being diverted, but neither group is able to track who receives its aid. In the melees surrounding aid distributions in recent weeks, residents say the strong were best positioned to come away with food.

Mohammed Abu Taha, who lives in a tent with his wife and child near the city of Rafah, said organised gangs of young men are always at the



front of crowds when he visits GHF sites.

"It's a huge business," he said.

The UN says up to 100,000 women and children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, aid groups and media outlets say their own staffers are going hungry, and Gaza's Health Ministry says dozens of Palestinians have died from hunger-related causes in the last three weeks.

When the UN gets Israeli permission to distribute aid, its convoys are nearly always attacked by armed gangs or overwhelmed by hungry crowds in the buffer zone controlled by the military.

The UN's World Food Program said last week it will only be able to safely deliver aid to the most vulnerable once inter-

national security is restored — likely only under a ceasefire.

"In the meantime, given

the urgent need for families to access food, WFP will accept hungry populations taking food from its trucks, as long as there is no violence," spokesperson Aber Etifa said.

In the alternative delivery system operated by GHF, an American contractor, Palestinians often run a deadly gantlet.

More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops while seeking food since May, mainly near the GHF sites, according to the U.N. human rights office, witnesses and local health officials. The military says it has only fired warning shots when people approach its forces, while GHF says its security contractors have only used pepper spray or fired in the air on some occasions to prevent stampedes.

Israel-Hamas war toll tops 60,000

Deir al-Balah: Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in the 21-month Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, said the death toll has climbed to 60,034, with another 145,870 people wounded since Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack. It did not say how many were civilians or militants, but has said women and children make up around half the dead. The ministry is staffed by medical professionals. The United Nations and other independent experts view its figures as the most reliable count of casualties. Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts warning of famine. As international organisations warn of a "worst-case scenario of famine", Israel continued to strike the Gaza Strip, killing at least 70 Palestinians in the past day, according to local hospitals. More than half were killed while attempting to access aid, hospitals said, and includes a rising toll from a deadly incident on Monday as people attempted to access aid from a truck convoy passing through the southern Gaza Strip.

Mob damages Hindu homes in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, July 29: At least a dozen homes belonging to the members of the Hindu community were damaged by a mob over the weekend in northwestern Bangladesh, according to officials and media reports.

The office of the interim government's Chief Adviser, Muhammad Yunus, Tuesday said orders have been issued to repair the houses damaged in the violence in Gangachara upazila of Rangpur.

The violence erupted on Saturday after a 17-year-old Hindu youth allegedly made derogatory remarks against the Prophet on social media, Bangla language daily Prothom Alo reported.

Police have arrested the teenager, a third-semester student at a private polytechnic institute, the paper said.

Citing Gangachara police station officer-in-charge Al Emran, the paper said the police received a complaint that a boy had posted offensive content on Facebook.

"Once the allegations were found to be true, he was detained around 8:30 pm on Saturday and brought to the

police station," he said, adding that he was sent to a juvenile rehabilitation centre following a court order.

Following the incident, enraged locals carried out attacks and vandalised several homes belonging to members of the Hindu community Saturday night and again Sunday afternoon. The situation was brought under control by the army, according to the paper.

Yunus' office said 12 Hindu households were damaged in the violence.

Three families, including that of the detained boy and his uncle, are staying at their relatives' homes at a neighbouring village," the chief adviser's office said.

"The repair works of the Hindu households will start from Tuesday under the supervision of the district and concerned sub-district administrations," it said in a statement.

The male members of 19 of the 22 affected Hindu families are now living at their homes, but the female members were staying elsewhere since their houses were damaged, it said, quoting Rangpur's deputy commissioner Mohammad Rabiul Faisal.

Defiant over US threats, Russian strikes kill 22 civilians in Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, July 29: Russian glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight and killed at least 22 people across the country, officials said Tuesday, as Russia kept up its relentless pounding of civilian areas despite US President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish it with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 17 inmates and wounded more than 80 others, officials said.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. Officials said at least four people were killed and eight injured, including a pregnant woman who was in a serious condition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that across the country, 22 people



were killed in Russian strikes on 73 cities, towns and villages. "These were conscious, deliberate strikes — not accidental," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Trump said Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants

peace efforts to make progress by Aug. 7-9. Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn't changed its tactics.

"I'm disappointed in President Putin," Trump said during a visit to Scotland.

Zelenskyy welcomed Trump's move on the timeline. "Everyone needs peace

- Ukraine, Europe, the United States, and responsible leaders across the globe," Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram. "Everyone except Russia."

The Kremlin pushed back, however, with a top Putin lieutenant warning Trump against "playing the ultimatum game with Russia."

"Russia isn't Israel or even Iran," former president Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy head of the country's Security Council, wrote on social platform X.

"Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country," Medvedev said.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour, the Kremlin has warned Kyiv's Western backers that their involvement could end up broadening the war to NATO countries.

"Kremlin officials continue to frame Russia as in direct geopolitical confrontation with the West in order to generate domestic support for the war in Ukraine and future Russian aggression against NATO," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said late Monday.

Churches in Quebec get new secular roles as restaurants, gyms

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal, July 29: On a Friday night, families danced under pink and purple neon lights to the beat of an African band playing where the altar used to stand at a Catholic church in Montreal.

Notre-Dame-du-Perpetuel-Secours, built between 1914-1920, was renovated and repurposed in 2014, becoming Theatre Paradoxe. The concert hall has hosted meditation, Zumba lessons, even a fetish party that organisers touted as "Montreal's most kinky, freaky and sexy Halloween event".

In the once Catholic-dominated province of Quebec, it's just one of many churches that have been deconsecrated and transformed into everything from gyms, restaurants and museums to luxury apartments, auction houses and a university reading room.

For most of Quebec's histo-

ry, the Catholic Church was the most powerful force in the French-speaking province, with a firm grip over schools, health care and politics. But its influence faded during the so-called Quiet Revolution of the 1960s, when the provincial government took control as part of a campaign to reduce the church's power.

The rate of regular church attendance among Quebec's Catholics plunged from one of the highest in Canada to the one of the lowest. That happened to Notre-Dame-du-Perpetuel-Secours.

Over the course of a century, thousands of worshippers filled its pews. But attendance had dwindled to a few when the event management company Groupe Paradoxe bought it in 2010, said its director, Gerald St-Georges. He believes that even in a deconsecrated secular setting, the former church continues what he describes as



a sacred mission.

Today, it offers training and paid work for young adults, including those with prior addiction issues and juvenile records, in theatre and stage management to help them land jobs in the entertainment industry.

"When I started the project, I said to myself, That's the kind of work the church should do,

not only Mass," said St-Georges, who is a Catholic. "I practice my faith with what I do every day, helping people."

Wood from the pews was used to build a bar. On a recent summer day, concertgoers ordered cold beers in front of stained glass illuminated by neon lights under a silver disco ball that hung from its

soaring ceilings.

In the historic neighbourhood of Old Montreal, tourists formed a snaking line outside the Gothic-style Notre-Dame Basilica — Montreal's still-active mother church that also hosts secular events — to attend a popular show that uses projectors and lasers to illuminate the building.

Mateus Vassalo, a Brazilian tourist who visited the show with his family, said it's an incredible opportunity for believers and nonbelievers to gather in such a setting outside of worship services. "You see people from other religions, Muslims, people who sometimes don't even believe in God, coming here to the church," he said in Portuguese.

"Even if they come specifically for the show, they end up having a contact, and who knows, maybe there's a door for God to enter. There's curiosity. There's questioning."

Just a few miles north, in

the neighbourhood of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, the sky is dotted with crosses atop church steeples, many of them unused or repurposed.

For decades, factory and port workers worshipped at Saint-Mathias-Apotre Church. Today it's a restaurant that serves affordable meals daily for up to 600 residents.

The manager of Le Chic Resto Pop also grew up Catholic and, like many of his staff, now identifies as religiously unaffiliated. But he still feels close to core values of Catholicism that he tries to extol at the nonprofit restaurant that keeps the original wooden doors and even the confessional booths.

"There's less faith, but the values are really much the same. It's values of respect, values of well-being, of wanting to help each other," Marc-André Simard said during a lunch break, sitting near what used to be the altar.



SINGAPORE'S STB, INDIGO SIGN PACT

The Singapore Tourism Board has signed an initial pact with domestic carrier IndiGo to boost tourism and travel between the two countries, a statement said Tuesday. Under the year-long strategic pact, the two partners will promote the island-city nation as a leading leisure and business destination for Indian travellers and boost bookings through the airline's extensive network, it said. India, according to STB, remains one of Singapore's top three tourism source markets, building on its strong performance in 2024



of the day **QUOTE**

The citizen-centric digital safety initiative 'Sanchar Saathi' integrates advanced tools such as CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register), DIP (Digital Intelligence Platform), AI-based systems like ASTR (to detect connections taken on fake documents), and FRI (Financial Fraud Risk Indicator) to detect and prevent potential frauds

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

The multilateral development bank is looking to scale up average annual lending to USD 17-18 billion in the next 3-4 years in view of growing demand for infrastructure development

AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY | VICE PRESIDENT (INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS), AIIB

Intense competitive pressures and a desire to project short-term success are making some banks and non-banking finance companies adopt unethical practices

SWAMINATHAN J | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

RBI NORMS **10% cap on bank investment in AIF Scheme**

Mumbai, July 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Tuesday capped contributions by a single regulated entity (RE), including banks and NBFCs, at 10 per cent of the corpus of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) scheme.

Also, collective contribution by all REs in any AIF Scheme should not be more than 20 per cent of the corpus of that scheme, said the Reserve Bank of India (Invest-



ment in AIF) Directions, 2025. REs refer to banks, NBFCs and All-India Fi-

ancial Institutions. The RBI had issued guidelines in December 2023 and later in March 2024 prescribing the regulatory guidelines in respect of investment by the REs of the Reserve Bank in AIFs. The guidelines have been reviewed, inter alia, taking into account industry feedback as well as the regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) relating to specific due diligence of investors

and investments of AIFs, the RBI said in a circular Tuesday. "No RE shall individually contribute more than 10 per cent of the corpus of an AIF Scheme," the circular said. Collective contribution by all REs in any AIF Scheme shall not be more than 20 per cent of the corpus of that scheme. "If a RE contributes more than five per cent of the corpus of an AIF Scheme, which also has downstream investment in a debtor company of

the RE, then the RE shall be required to make 100 per cent provision to the extent of its proportionate investment in the debtor company through the AIF Scheme, subject to a maximum of the direct loan and/or investment exposure of the RE to the debtor company," it said. The circular also said the RBI may, in consultation with the government, exempt certain AIFs from the scope of the existing circulars and the revised Directions.

Decathlon to increase sourcing from India

New Delhi, July 29: French sports retailer Decathlon Tuesday said it will increase sourcing of goods from India for its global operations to \$3 billion by 2030. Decathlon has been sourcing from India for the last 25 years and is committed to its "Make in India" vision and its focus on local production capabilities to serve both domestic and global markets, the company said. This growth will be driven by a focused push in high-potential categories such as footwear, fitness equipment, and technical textiles, which will be designed to meet the evolving demands of both Indian consumers and global markets, it added. "Currently, India accounts for 8 per cent of Decathlon's global sourcing quantities," the French retailer in a statement, adding that the goal is to scale this to 15 per cent by 2030. For the India retail operations, Decathlon's local sourcing is over 70 per cent of the quantities sold in India in 2025. "This figure is expected to rise to 90 per cent by 2030, reinforcing the brand's focus on its local sourcing strategy," according to Decathlon. Decathlon's local production ecosystem includes a Design Centre supported by 113 manufacturing sites, 83 suppliers, and 7 production offices across India. "India has evolved into a cornerstone of Decathlon's global production ecosystem -- not just in terms of scale, but in its ability to deliver quality, innovation, and speed," Frederic Merlevede, Head of Decathlon Production said. Merlevede further noted that, "Our long-term investment in India reflects the deep trust we've built with our partners and the strong potential we see in key categories like footwear, fitness equipment, and beyond". Last year, Decathlon had announced to invest 100 million euros (around Rs 933 crore) in India, it is one of the fastest growing markets, to expand retail footprint and manufacturing operations.

SEBI eases NRI trading norms

For NRIs trading in exchange-traded derivative contracts without CP code, the exchange/clearing corporation would monitor the NRI position limits in the manner similar to the client-level position limits monitored by them



signment of CP code to the NRIs by the exchange," SEBI said in its circular. For NRIs trading in exchange-traded derivative contracts without CP code, the exchange/clearing corporation would monitor the NRI position limits in the manner similar to the client-level position limits monitored by them, it added. Position limits for NRIs would be same as the client-level position limits specified by SEBI from time to time. At present, NRIs are required to inform stock exchanges about their clearing member and obtain a CP code, which is used by exchanges to track their positions in the derivatives segment. The regulator has directed stock exchanges and clearing corporations to implement the revised norms within 30 days. Also, they have been asked to allow existing NRI clients to opt out of the CP code framework by submitting an email request within 90 days. Further, members will be required to offer an option to NRIs who initially opt for CP code but later decide to exit, based on an email request.

Stock markets rebound

Mumbai, July 29: Snapping the three-day losing run, benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded by nearly 447 points on Tuesday following value buying in blue-chip Reliance Industries and financial shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 446.93 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 81,337.95. During the day, it surged 538.86 points or 0.66 per cent to 81,429.88. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 140.20 points or 0.57 per cent to 24,821.10. Among Sensex firms, Reliance Industries rose the most by 2.21 per cent. Gains in HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharati Airtel and Tata Motors also aided the rally. Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Maruti and Bajaj Finance were also among the gainers. However, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and ITC were among the laggards. The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.10 per cent and mid-cap rallied 0.84 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended higher. Realty surged the most by 1.64 per cent, followed by telecommunication (1.50 per cent), energy (1.22 per cent), industrials (1.20 per cent), healthcare (1.15 per cent), commodities (1.05 per cent) and auto (0.92 per cent). As many as 2,486 stocks advanced while 1,515 declined and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE. "Indian equities rebounded



TCS market valuation erodes by ₹28,149 cr

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has lost Rs 28,148.72 crore from its market valuation in two days after the company announced that it will lay off about 12,000 employees of its global workforce this year. Tuesday, the bellwether stock declined 0.73 per cent to settle at Rs 3,056.55 apiece at the BSE. During the day, it dropped 1.23 per cent to Rs 3,041. On NSE, it dipped 0.72 per cent to Rs 3,057. Shares of TCS had declined nearly 2 per cent Monday. The stock has lost 2.48 per cent in two trading days. The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS eroded by Rs 28,148.72 crore to Rs 11,05,886.54 crore in two days.

SHORT TAKES

Welspun profit rises

New Delhi: Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) Tuesday posted around 41 per cent growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 349.16 crore for June quarter, driven by higher revenues mainly from steel products. Welspun Corp, the flagship company of \$5 billion Welspun World, had clocked a net profit of Rs 247.03 crore in the April-June period of preceding 2024-25 financial year. In the first quarter, income increased to Rs 3,586.52 crore from Rs 3,179.67 crore in the same period a year ago, it said in an exchange filing.

AP profit falls

New Delhi: Asian Paints (AP) Tuesday reported a decline of 5.87 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,117.05 crore in the June quarter of FY26, on account of subdued demand for decorative paint, the mainstay of the company. The company had logged a net profit of Rs 1,186.79 crore during the April-June period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Asian Paints. Its revenue from sales was marginally down to Rs 8,924.49 crore in the June quarter. In the year-ago period, it stood at Rs 8,943.24 crore.

NSE profit rises

New Delhi: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Tuesday reported a 14 per cent rise in its consolidated profit after tax to Rs 2,924 crore for three months ended June 2025. It had posted a profit after tax of Rs 2,567 crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal year.

BOI profit jumps

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India (BOI) Tuesday reported a 32 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 2,252 crore during the first quarter of this financial year. The lender had earned a net profit of Rs 1,703 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. The total income rose to Rs 20,518 crore during the June quarter of 2025-26 against Rs 18,240 crore in the same quarter of FY25, BoI said in a regulatory filing.

L&T posts profit

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Tuesday reported a 29.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,617.19 crore for the June quarter on the back of higher revenue from operations. The company had posted consolidated net profit of Rs 2,785.72 crore in the year-ago period, L&T said in a filing to the BSE.

New Delhi, July 29: Markets regulator, Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Tuesday decided to abolish the mandatory requirement for NRIs to notify the names of clearing members or obtain a custodial participant (CP) code for trading in derivatives. Moreover, their position limits will be monitored at the client level, similar to domestic investors. The decision, based on the recommendation received from Brokers' Industry Standards Forum, is aimed at facilitating ease of doing investment to NRIs for trading in exchange traded derivatives contracts and bringing in operational efficiency. "It has been decided to do away with the mandatory requirement of NRIs having to notify the names of the clearing member/s and subsequent as-

BluSmart enters insolvency proceedings

Mumbai, July 29: Indian electric cab firm BluSmart has entered insolvency, an order from a company law tribunal showed, amid mounting corporate governance issues after a regulatory probe alleged its co-founder diverted funds meant for vehicle purchases. BluSmart suspended operations in April after India's market regulator barred co-founder Anmol Jaggi from the securities market. The ban followed allegations that Jaggi diverted funds from his publicly listed affiliate, Gensol, for personal use—including the purchase of a \$5 million luxury apartment and golf set worth \$30,379. The National Company Law Tribunal admitted insolvency proceedings against BluSmart, following a petition filed by financial creditor Catalyst Trusteeship May 13, according to the tribunal's order dated July 28. The creditor alleged that BluSmart defaulted on multiple payments totaling 12.8 million rupees (around \$147,500), saying it had received no response or repayment from the company, the order showed. In response, BluSmart argued that the petition was premature. The tribunal also noted that the company's principal debt exceeded 10 million rupees, the threshold over which the corporate insolvency resolution process can be initiated. It appointed NPV Insolvency Professionals as the interim resolution professional to oversee proceedings.

NPCI reinforces steps to boost consumer safety

Bhubaneswar, July 29: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the organisation driving innovation and powering India's digital payment revolution has reiterated its commitment to enhancing consumer safety in digital payments by advocating the 'Stop, Think, Act' principle. Viswanath Krishnamurthy, Chief Risk Officer, NPCI, said "Social engineering is when fraudsters exploit human tendencies such as greed, fear, and ignorance to deceive users. They manipulate users into authorising transactions that appear legitimate but are intended to defraud them. However, it's crucial to use digital payments safely and avoid online scams. Early identification of potential scams helps protect you and your loved ones, fostering a safer, less-cash economy for everyone." While UPI is equipped with robust security features, fraudsters continue to exploit social engineering tactics. Consumers must remain cautious of scams. NPCI advises all UPI users to follow the 'Stop, Think, Act' principle. It urges to you stop before responding to unexpected calls, messages, or emails requesting personal or banking details. To think and verify requests by checking official sources such as company websites or customer service helplines. To act wisely by avoiding suspicious requests and immediately reporting fraud attempts to the relevant authorities



How to report a Fraud? Users who suspect fraud should report incidents immediately. Suspicious cases can be reported to the national cybercrime helpline (1930) or through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (https://cybercrime.gov.in). The user should also report the case to their bank. Additionally, users should save messages, take screenshots, and document interactions to help authorities take action.

sharply on Tuesday, breaking a three-day losing streak as value buying and easing volatility lifted sentiment," Gaurav Garg, Lemonn Markets Desk, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 6,082.47 crore Monday, according to exchange data. The recovery in the Nifty was driven by oversold positions in heavyweight stocks, coupled with the presence of strong support at the 100-day EMA, Ajit Mishra - SVP, Re-

search, Religare Broking Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled lower while South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended in positive territory. Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended on a mixed note Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.63 per cent up to \$70.48 a barrel.

Jio rolls out AI-ready cloud PC service



New Delhi, July 29: Telecom operator Reliance Jio has rolled out a subscription-based personal computer service, enabling subscribers to use their televisions as personal computers with the help of a set-top-box. As per information available on the company's website, the JioPC subscription is available for monthly plans starting at Rs 599, excluding GST. The annual plan is for Rs 4,599, excluding GST, which comes to around Rs 383 per month. To access the PC service, JioFiber and Jio AirFiber users will have to click on the JioPC app in the app section. Subscriber will need to have a keyboard and a mouse for using the personal computer

India pips China as top smartphone supplier to US in Q2

New Delhi, July 29: India has emerged as the largest manufacturing hub for smartphones shipped into the US for the first time in Q2, 2025, as China's share shrunk amid tariff negotiations, according to Canalis. The research from Canalis (now part of Omdia) revealed that United States smartphone shipments grew 1 per cent in the second quarter of the current calendar year as vendors continued to frontload device inventories amid tariff concerns.

India became the leading manufacturing hub for smartphones sold in US for the very first time in Q2 2025, largely driven by Apple's accelerated supply chain shift to India amid an uncertain trade landscape between US and China

SANYAM CHAURASIA | PRINCIPAL ANALYST, CANALYS

The uncertain outcome of negotiations with China has accelerated supply chain re-orientation, it said. The share of US smartphone shipments assembled in China



fell to 25 per cent in the April-June period, from 61 per cent a year earlier. "Most of this decline has been picked up by India; the

total volume of 'Made-in-India' smartphones grew 240 per cent year-on-year and now accounts for 44 per cent of smartphones imported into US, up from only

13 per cent of smartphone shipments in Q2 2024," it said. In Q2, iPhone shipments declined 11 per cent year-on-year to 13.3 million units, a correction from the 25 per cent growth in Q1, 2025, as per Canalis. Samsung's shipments grew 38 per cent year-on-year to 8.3 million units. Motorola continued its expansion in US, growing two per cent to 3.2 million units. Google and TCL rounded off the top five, with Google growing 13 per cent to 0.8 million while TCL declined 23 per cent, shipping 0.7 million units.

Gambhir vs Fortis spat adds spice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 29: India's training session two days before the series deciding fifth Test against England became a sideshow as head coach Gautam Gambhir got involved in a heated verbal spat with The Oval's chief curator Lee Fortis who allegedly asked the visiting team's support staff to stand 2.5 metres from the pitch.

Gambhir was Tuesday heard telling Fortis "you don't tell any of us what we need to do, you have no right to tell us, you are just a groundsman nothing beyond" while pointing fingers at the chief curator. In response Fortis was heard saying "I will have to report this."

In the presence of 10 squad members minus captain Shubman Gill, the training session in the field of play was going on as usual until Gambhir blasted Fortis, who is not the "easiest person to work with" despite winning ECB's best multi-day pitches award for the last three years.

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak tried to douse the fire by taking Fortis away from Gambhir, who was visibly angry with the chief curator. Later, Kotak explained what really happened in the middle.

"When we went to take a look at the wicket the coaches were there, someone came to us and said 'stand 2.5 metres away', which was little surprising. Day after there is a Test match, we had our joggers on not spike and it felt a bit awkward. I have never seen anything like that in my life."

"The Indian players had told me that he is not the easiest person to work with. Now you all know. It is okay to be protective and possessive about this pitch but not



to this extent," said Kotak. While the drama was unfolding, the travelling Indian media approached Fortis for his thoughts on the incident but he did not have much to say.

"He is a bit tetchy it is a big game this week. You saw what he was like this morning. You have to ask him (what happened)," Fortis said. "It's not an antique"

Kotak hinted the situation may have slipped out

working with a very intelligent and highly skilled people if you sound a bit arrogant or if you come across like you know you can be protective but end of the day it's a cricket pitch."

"It's not an antique where you can't touch because otherwise it's 200 years old and it can be broken you know," Kotak said.

"So that's what I feel. I mean that's after a day we were with rubber standing there. You tell me day after day a batsman will be sliding to survive from run out. A bowler will be sliding there to stop the ball. So maybe he is thinking that we are trying to grow the grass. I mean I don't know."

With England not scheduled to train Monday, head coach Brendon McCullum and ECB managing director Rob Key came to see the pitch in casual clothes but Kotak said no instructions were issued to them from The Oval groundstaff.

According to Kotak, what made the situation worse was that Fortis shouted at one member of the Indian team support staff to not take the cooling box near the main square. Kotak also ruled out filing any complaint with the ECB over the incident.

Gill & Co presents signed bat to Indian High Commissioner

The Indian men's cricket team paid a visit to the Indian High Commission in London Tuesday, and captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir presented a signed bat to Indian High Commissioner to UK Vikram Doraiswami and Deputy High Commissioner Sujit Ghosh. Skipper Shubman Gill presented a signed bat to Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, while head coach Gautam Gambhir handed over a signed bat to Deputy High Commissioner Sujit Ghosh. Sharing the glimpses from Team India's visit to the Indian High Commission, BCCI shared on X, "The Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir presented signed cricket bats to Honourable High Commissioner Mr Vikram Doraiswami and Deputy High Commissioner Mr Sujit Ghosh respectively."



Pep Guardiola plans sabbatical



London, July 29: Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola says he will take a break from football when he eventually leaves the Premier League side.

Speaking to GQ Hype Magazine, Guardiola looked back on his side's struggles last season, as City finished a distant third in the Premier League and failed to reach the last 16 of the Champions League, and also discussed the strain his job takes both physically and mentally.

"I know that after this spell with City I'm going to stop, that's for sure, it's decided, more than decided," said the 54-year-old, whose current contract expires in 2027.

"I don't know how long I'll stop for, one year, two years, three years, five, ten, fifteen, I don't know. But I'm going to stop after this spell with City, because I need to stop and focus on myself, on my body," insisted Guardiola, who took a similar decision to have a year out of football after leaving FC Barcelona in 2012.

Guardiola said he had "learned to slow down a bit" with the passing of time, but pointed out that in his job he felt responsibility to "many people who trust you, who love you: the players, the president, the sporting director."

He also pointed out that the job of football coach meant that conflict was bound to arise on a regular basis.

"I have 23 players and I choose 11 every three days. The others feel like I don't love them, and it's the opposite. How can there not be conflicts? Impossible," he explained.

Satwik-Chirag sail into second round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Macau, July 29: Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles second round of the Macau Open Super 300 with a straight-game win over Malaysia's Low Hang Yee and Ng Eng Cheong here Tuesday.

The Asian Games champions, who Tuesday regained their place in the top 10 of the BWF world rankings, produced a clinical performance to outclass the Malaysian pair 21-13 21-15 in just 36 minutes.

In women's singles, Anmol Kharb and Tasnim Mir advanced to the main draw after winning their respective qualification matches.

Anmol defeated Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Az-zahra 21-11 21-13, while Tasnim overcame Thailand's Tidaporn Kleebyeeseen 21-14 13-21 21-17.



Tasnim will face top seed Chen Yu Fei of China in the opening round of the main draw, while Anmol is set to take on second seed Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand. The top seeded women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a first-round exit after going down fighting 21-16 20-22 15-21 in an hour against Lin Xiao Min and Peng Yu Wei of Chinese Taipei.

In men's doubles, Dingku Singh Konthoujam and

Jamshedpur FC beat Indian Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamshedpur, July 29: Sanan Mohammed's second-half strike secured a 1-0 win for Jamshedpur FC over Indian Army, marking their second consecutive victory in Group C of the 134th Durand Cup football tournament Tuesday.

With this win at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur FC moved to the top of the group with six points from two matches and are now closer to a place in the knockout stages.

Indian Army dominated the first half of the game, maintaining possession and creating the better chances. The Army men could have taken a two goal lead inside the first 15 minutes but Samir Murmu's effort from a tight angle whisked past the far post.

Minutes later, Samananda Singh glanced a header wide from a corner kick.

Jamshedpur FC were finding it difficult to match up with the physicality of the Army side as they dominated



the midfield with Lethalen Khongsai and P Christopher Kamei dictating the pace of the attacks.

The Red Miners chested the ball down and finished expertly past the diving Syad Bin Abdul Kadir in goal. Jamshedpur had better control in the game after taking the lead even though Indian Army had the major share of possession and attempts on goal but there were very few shots on target that troubled the goalkeeper.

from another long throw. Karthik Choudhary headed the ball back into the danger area and Sanan Mohammed chested the ball down and finished expertly past the diving Syad Bin Abdul Kadir in goal. Jamshedpur had better control in the game after taking the lead even though Indian Army had the major share of possession and attempts on goal but there were very few shots on target that troubled the goalkeeper.

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2025

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

QUIZ Extravaganza

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

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

TODAY'S QUESTION

On this day in 2003, in Mexico, the last model of what vehicle rolled off the assembly line, thus ending its production span of 65 years?

ANSWER TO TUESDAY'S QUESTION

Ek Tha Tiger and Tiger Zinda Hai

RULES & REGULATIONS

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

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

ALOK RANJAN SAHOO

MAHESH PRASAD DALABEHERA

Others who answered correctly are

Suvendra Kumar Mahapatra, Bishnu Prasada Dash, Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Pravat Nayak, Sourav Nayak, Bishnu Bhoi, Soumendu Sarkar, Parsuram Swain, Barun Kumar Behera, Subash Chandra Sahoo, Sai Priya Nahak and Sudhansu Behera

A true home for Indian Hockey: Chitrashi Rawat

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Actress and former national-level hockey player Chitrashi Rawat, best known for her spirited portrayal of Komal Chautala in the 2007 sports drama 'Chak De! India', recently visited Odisha and was deeply moved by the state's cultural richness and passion for hockey.

Sharing images from the historic Konark Sun Temple and Srimandir in Puri, Tuesday, Chitrashi reflected on her experience "As a former hockey player, it felt special to be in a place that lives and breathes the game... coming to Odisha felt like coming full circle. Clean cities, kind people, temple runs that felt spiritual, and food that honestly blew me away. Until next time. Have you guys been to Odisha?"

She was accompanied by



her co-star Tanya Abrol and family members. Born November 29, 1989, Chitrashi played field hockey from an early age and was even a left striker for the Uttarakhnad state team. Her sports background helped her land the role in 'Chak De! India', a film that became a cultural phenomenon and inspired a new wave of interest in women's hockey across India. She later featured in successful films like Fashion (2008) and Luck (2009).

Disappointing run continues for Indian swimmers at WC

Singapore: Indian swimmers continued to disappoint at the World Aquatics Championships with none of them making it past the heats for the third straight day here Tuesday. In his signature event, the 200m butterfly, seasoned campaigner Sajjan Prakash finished a poor 24th, missing out on a place in the semifinals. The 31-year-old, who had become the first Indian swimmer to earn direct Olympic qualification at the Tokyo Games, clocked 1:59.33s. The top 16 moved to the semifinals. The result marked the end of Prakash's campaign at the ongoing championships, following his 43rd-place finish in the 200m freestyle Monday. In the men's 800m freestyle, Aryan Nehra was placed 23rd with an under-par time of 8:21.30s. Only the top eight progressed to the final. Nehra had clocked a personal best time of 08:00.76s in the previous edition of the championships in 2023. His campaign also came to an end. He had finished 57th among 91 swimmers in the 50m butterfly.

HOPE FOR NEW ERA OF POPULARITY

Kho Kho gets spot in nat'l sports calendars

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 29: In yet another major milestone for Kho Kho, the sport has now been formally included in the annual sports calendar of All India Electricity Sports Control Board (AI-ESCB), the premier governing body committed to the regulation and advancement of sports within the electricity sector across India.

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) said this is a development that underscores the sport's rising stature.

The announcement was made during the AI-ESCB's General Body Meeting held in Mumbai, where the sport was recognised as an official discipline alongside 16 other sports like cricket, football, kabaddi, badminton, hockey, and tennis among others.

This significant development marks a growing trend among government and semi-government or-



rganisations to embrace Kho Kho as a mainstream sport, thereby expanding its presence across major sporting calendars of various government, non-government and autonomous bodies.

With Kho Kho being included in the AI-ESCB's sports calendar, players now have increased avenues for stable careers through employment quotas in sports, providing further motivation for aspiring athletes to take up the game professionally. Kho Kho is already part of the sporting calendars of

the Services Sports Control Board and Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB). The development not only highlights the sport's evolution from traditional roots to a professional format but also creates new employment opportunities through departmental teams and job reservations in various government sectors.

"Kho Kho's inclusion in major sports calendars is much more than a symbolic recognition; it's a validation of the sport's growing relevance across India,"

President Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India. "We are witnessing a major shift where a traditional Indian game is now commanding space at the highest institutional levels. This will inspire thousands of youth from rural and semi-urban India to pursue Kho Kho as a viable career option."

The increasing adoption of Kho Kho by government and autonomous bodies contributes to the broader nationwide movement that aims to democratize sports participation and provide platforms for indigenous games to thrive. As the sport continues its upward trajectory, inclusion of the sport in major sporting calendars are playing a pivotal role in shaping a future where Kho Kho athletes have access to structured employment, sustained growth opportunities, and a pathway to represent India at national and international events.