



Nora collabs

Nora Fatehi joins hands with popular Tanzanian musician and songwriter Rayvanny for a vibrant cross-cultural collaboration

LEISURE | **P2**



Nithari killings

SC dismisses 14 appeals filed by the CBI and victims' families, upholding the acquittal of Koli and Pandher

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SEBI acts tough

Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) bans Gensol Engineering and Jaggi brothers from the securities markets over fund diversion

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India-Pak impasse

India refuse to play against Pakistan in semifinals of World Championship of Legends

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Mega-quake sends tsunami into coasts of Russia, Japan & Hawaii



This image taken from a video released by Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences, shows the aftermath of tsunami hitting the coastal area of Severo-Kurilsk at Paramushir island of Kuril Islands, Russia, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 30: One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck off Russia's sparsely populated Far East early Wednesday, sending tsunami waves into Japan, Hawaii and the US West Coast. Several people were injured, but none gravely, and no major damage has been reported so far.

Authorities warned the risk from the 8.8 magnitude quake could last for hours, and millions of people potentially in the path of the waves were initially told to move away from the shore or seek high ground.

The worst appeared to have passed for many areas, including the US, Japan and Russia. But along South America's Pacific Coast, new warnings were forcing evacuations in Chile and Colombia.

In the immediate aftermath of the quake off Russia's Kamchatka peninsula, residents fled inland as ports flooded, and several were injured while rushing to leave buildings.

In Japan, people flocked to evacuation centres, hill-top parks and rooftops in towns on the Pacific coast with fresh memories of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that caused a nuclear disaster. Cars jammed streets and highways in Honolulu, with standstill traffic even in areas away from the sea.

"We've got water, we got some snacks ... we're going to stay elevated," said Jimmy Markowski, whose family from Hot Springs, Arkansas, fled their Waikiki beach resort before evacuation orders were lifted. "This is our first tsunami warning ever. So this is all new to us."

P10

Trump's 25% tariff for India



With the August 1 tariff deadline approaching, US President Donald Trump has announced a 25% tariff on all Indian goods, along with an unspecified penalty for India's military and energy ties with Russia. Citing India's high tariffs and trade barriers, Trump criticized its trade policies despite calling India a "friend." The exact penalty and whether the new tariff adds to the existing 10% baseline remain unclear. The surprise move, seen as a pressure tactic ahead of trade talks August 25, drew sharp reactions in India as the government said it was studying the implications. Meanwhile, the Opposition found fresh ammo to attack the government and said "Modi's friendship with Trump means little"

AGENCIES

Washington, July 30: US President Donald Trump Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying military equipment and crude oil from Russia.

The surprise announcement came a day after Indian officials said that a US trade team would visit from August 25 to negotiate a trade deal. The announcement is being seen a pressure tactics to get New Delhi to agree to demands made by the US, which has in recent days got favourable trade deals with major partners like Japan, the UK and the European Union.

Describing India as a "friend", Trump termed India's trade policies as "most strenuous and obnoxious" in a post on social media handle. "While India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers," he said.

"Also, they have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of energy along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine," he said.

"All things not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 per cent plus a penalty for the above starting on August 1," the US president said.

India's import of crude oil from Russia has risen from 0.2 per cent of total purchases before the Russia-Ukraine war to 35-40 per cent. New Delhi is the largest buyer of Russian oil after China.

The government Wednesday said it is studying the implications of Trump's announcement. "The Government has taken note of a statement by the US President on bilateral trade. The Government is studying its implications," an official statement said.

It was, however, not clear if the 25 per cent duty will be imposed in addition to the existing 10 per cent baseline tariff. The 10 per cent tariff, which currently applies to most Indian goods barring a few, was announced by Trump on all countries April 2. Also, the exact quantum of the penalty is unclear.

Among India's major trade competitors, the US has imposed lower tariffs on Vietnam (20 per cent) and Malaysia (25 per cent), but higher on Bangladesh (35 per cent) and Thailand (36 per cent).

On April 2 this year, Trump announced high reciprocal tariffs on number of countries including India (26 per cent). The implementation of high tariffs was immediately suspended for 90 days till July 9 and later until August 1.

Rupee at nadir, slides steepest in over 3 yrs

Mumbai: The rupee plunged 89 paise, logging its steepest single-day fall in over three years, and closed at an all-time low of 87.80 against the US dollar Wednesday after America announced a sweeping 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports in the absence of a trade deal ahead of the August 1 deadline. Forex traders said month-end dollar demand from importers and sustained foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit. At the end of Wednesday's trading session, the local unit settled at a fresh all-time low of 87.80, down 89 paise over its previous closing price. This was rupee's steepest single-day fall since February 24, 2022 when it had lost 99 paise against the dollar.

P11

PM-Kisan, Subhadra instalments Aug 2, 9

New Delhi, July 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 20th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme worth ₹20,500 crore, from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, August 2, benefiting 9.7 crore farmers across the country.

The announcement comes as the government's flagship direct benefit transfer scheme completes over five years since its launch in 2019. So far, ₹3.69 lakh crore has been transferred directly to farmers' accounts through 19 instalments under the programme. The PM will launch the instalment during a special programme organised in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Wednesday said the state government will release the third instalment of ₹5,000 financial assistance under the Subhadra Yojana to over 1 crore women beneficiaries August 9 in Koraput district.

Subhadra Yojana is designed to provide eligible women aged between 21 and 60 years with ₹50,000 over five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

P3

OTET leak: 6 arrested

Bhubaneswar: Six people were arrested from different parts of Odisha Wednesday for their alleged involvement in the paper leak of special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET)-2025, police said. The examination was scheduled to be held July 20. However, a handwritten question paper with answers went viral on social media a day before. It was found to be the actual copy of the question set prepared by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), DGP (CID-Crime Branch) Vinaytosh Mishra said.

P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You can go check all the usual waterlogging spots. There's no waterlogging anywhere this year

CM surveys flood situation

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday carried out an aerial survey to assess the situation in flood-affected areas of the state's Bhadrak, Jajpur and Balasore districts.

Following aerial inspection, Majhi told reporters at the Lok Seva Bhavan here that 81 villages in eight blocks of three districts are affected in the recent floods.

He further added that Baliapal, Basta, Bhograi and Jaleswar blocks of Balasore district, Dhamnagar and Bhandaripokhari blocks of Bhadrak district, Jajpur and Dasarathpur blocks of Jajpur district are impacted by the flood.

Around 30,000 people have been affected due to the flood while 5,869 people from the low-lying areas have been evacuated to safer places in the flood-hit areas of the above districts, the CM added.

Majhi also declared that the water levels in various rivers including Subarnarekha and Jalaka in Balasore district are receding and the flood situation in the state is completely under control now. Although floods had also occurred in Keonjhar and some other districts, they had no significant impact.

Under the direction of the state government, dry food and cooked meals are being provided to those affected.

P3



PAHALGAM ATTACK

UNSC report mentions TRF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Resistance Front, a proxy of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group, has found a mention in a UN Security Council (UNSC) report for its role in the Pahalgam attack, a move that is expected to bolster India's diplomatic offensive against Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism.

The report by the UNSC's Monitoring Team (MT) quoted one unnamed member state as saying that the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir could not have happened without LeT's support and that there was a relationship between "LeT and The Resistance Front (TRF)."

This is the first time that a UNSC report named the TRF.

The report for the UNSC's 1267 committee that deals with sanctions on al-Qaeda and the Islamic State linked the TRF to the Pahalgam attack and cautioned that the terrorist groups could exploit tensions between India and Pakistan.

BILLION DOLLAR EYE IN SKY

NISAR: Indo-US space collab takes flight

NISAR is the world's most expensive Earth observation satellite, valued at \$1.5 billion, with ISRO contributing ₹469.4 crore. The satellite will map the entire globe every 12 days, providing ultra-detailed, high-resolution data—both day and night, and in all weather conditions. It is the most advanced radar system ever launched by NASA or ISRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), July 30: India and the US Wednesday marked their maiden space collaboration with the successful flight of a GSLV rocket that placed an earth observation satellite, jointly developed by the two space agencies, in a precise orbit.

ISRO's GSLV F-16 injected NISAR-NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite, into the intended Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO), after a flight of about 19 minutes and around 745 km. GSLV successfully injected NISAR in designated orbit, ISRO said.

Wednesday's accomplishment follows the unsuccessful PSLV-C61EOS-09 Mission May 18, where a faulty PSLV of ISRO failed to deliver the earth observation satellite in the desired orbit.

After successfully launching similar satellites-Resourcesat and RISAT series which were operationally focused on India, ISRO through the NISAR mission is embarking on a journey to study planet Earth.

At the end of the 27.30 hour countdown, the 51.7 metre tall launch vehicle carrying the 2,393 kg satellite majestically lifted-off from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here, situated about 135 km east of Chennai at a prefixed time of 5.40pm Wednesday.

Post the separation from the rocket, the scientists would embark on commissioning the satellite which would take several days to position it and meet the mission objectives.

Significantly, NISAR is the most advanced radar system ever launched by NASA or ISRO and it would generate more data on a daily basis than any previous Earth satellites launched by them.



OrissaPOST PRESENTS



Reviving Quizzing

METTLE MEET 2025

A Quiz Extravaganza

Prelims

9th AUGUST

Grand Finale

10th AUGUST

THE BATTLE OF BRAINS IS BACK









PARTNERS

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are edgy today. Something may be bothering you, and this keeps you cautious for most part of the day. Ganesha suggests that you make the most of your evenings if invited to parties and other social events. Things may turn around for the good.

TAURUS
It is quite possible that today you will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesha. You may not get the best of the support from your subordinates. The value of something is the amount of effort you have put in to get it. You will be cautious and careful with people.

GEMINI
You may meet with stiff resistance in all your efforts. You should not let it bother you; just keep moving forward. This will help you maintain a good rapport with your bosses. You are likely to taste success in your interim objectives. Your sweet-talk will turn someone into your sweetheart.

CANCER
Early today, you may spend a great deal of time thinking about your career and future, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will devise a plan on how to go about it, and by evening, you may even put the plan into action. You will spend some time with the near and dear ones.

LEO
The tiny voice inside us always tells us a lot of things. If only we were more in sync with ourselves, we could avoid so many troubles, says a retrospective Ganesha. Well, today it seems you are going to have no qualms in listening to your inner voice as you strive for excellence in all your efforts.

VIRGO
You are Alexander this day – undefeated and unassailable. But Ganesha sees you on a wild goose chase for most of the day today. Unwittingly, you may invite unwarranted stress related to an ongoing assignment.

LIBRA
Does money really matter when compared to your loved ones? You might be asking yourself this question at some point in time during the day, foresees Ganesha. Chances are high that today, you may be at the receiving end of some sort of financial loss accelerated by someone close to you.

SCORPIO
Family members would want to talk about important matters with you today, says Ganesha. Time at work will be comfortable. Take special care of new assignments though. You are likely to bear expenses on account of tours and services today, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Chances are that you shall experiment with your Chi today. Afternoon promises to have an undercurrent of excitement. You will charge up the work environment with your dynamism. Evening will be passionate as your charm works its way to win over many a sweetheart, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Don't be surprised if you are suddenly showered with attention at work. Ganesha says it's your lucky day today, for you will leave no room for complacency and rewards for this may come by way of special treatment from your colleagues and even your boss. Seniors, who may have bullied you and taken you for a ride in the past, will admire your efforts and potential to achieve great things.

AQUARIUS
You will take up the road less travelled today. You will find solace in spiritualism. You have worked really hard till now, and it's time to take breather, feels Ganesha. Spend some time with your friends, unwind yourself, travel to your favourite destination and rejuvenate yourself. By doing so, you will not be wasting time; in fact, you are preparing yourself to bring a better tomorrow.

PISCES
Remaining dispassionate and being cold and clinical is the way to achieve success for you today, says Ganesha. Do not let your sentiments interfere in matters of business, lest you regret it later. The evening may see you feel blue. Find something to do to cheer you up!



TOM CRUISE, ANA DE ARMAS SPARK ROMANCE RUMOURS

Tom Cruise and Ana de Armas have reignited speculation about their relationship after being spotted holding hands during a weekend trip. The two actors were seen attending a concert at London's Wembley Stadium before flying to Woodstock, Vermont, where they reportedly spent time together shopping, sightseeing and stopping for ice cream.

NOLAN'S THE ODYSSEY FACES BACKLASH

Christopher Nolan faces criticism for filming *The Odyssey* in Dakhla, Western Sahara, a disputed territory largely occupied by Morocco. The Western Sahara International Film Festival urges Nolan to halt production, citing the repression of Indigenous Sahrawi people. Meanwhile, the Moroccan Cinematographic Centre hails the filming as a significant opportunity for the region.



Sara on power of cinema

New Delhi: Cinema transcends geography and language, says actor Sara Ali Khan, who wouldn't mind exploring opportunities across different languages in the film industry.

Since her debut with Kedarnath, Sara has featured in an array of Hindi films, including *Simmba*, *Atrangi Re*, *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*, *Love Aaj Kal*, *Sky Force*, and most recently *Metro... In Dino*. "If the opportunity presents itself for sure, I

think my favourite thing about cinema is that it transcends geography and language, all of that," she told this news agency on the sidelines of the India Couture Week Tuesday. The 29-year-old actor turned showstopper for designer Aisha Rao on day seven on the fashion gala, being held at Taj Palace hotel. She wore a rose gold lehenga adorned with the beads, sequins and colourful threads, intricately woven into floral designs and an off-shoulder blouse.

The actor entered the stage to the music of Maaron 5's track "Girls Like You", and was welcomed with cheers by the audience in the hall.

Asked about walking the ramp, Sara said, "Well, in the beginning you are always nervous but it's always also fun to walk the ramp." She described her outfit as "girly but elegant". PTI

Nora goes global again

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi has joined hands with popular Tanzanian musician and songwriter Rayvanny for a vibrant cross-cultural collaboration titled *Tetema*.

The track, which blends African and Indian musical influences, promises an energetic fusion of rhythms, dance, and global appeal. The peppy number is said to be a high-octane global fusion track that brings Afro-Bongo energy together with a multilingual, cross-cultural twist. As per sources, the recreated version is likely to be titled *Oh Mama Tetema*, inspired by the original hit by Rayvanny and Diamond Platnumz.

This time, Nora won't just feature visually but will also lend her voice to the track, bringing her signature style with a dynamic blend of English, Swahili and Hindi lyrics. The upcoming track marks Nora and Rayvanny's second collaboration together after the success of their 2019 viral hit *Pepeta*. Their upcoming song, *Tetema*, is set to release under the T-Series banner.

The actress-dancer is best known for her chartbuster songs, including *Garmi*, *O Saki Saki*, *Ek Toh Kum Zindagani*, *Dance Meri Rani*, *Dilbar Dilbar*, and *Zaalim* to name a few. Nora has showcased her versatility across Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam films. She began her acting journey with the Hindi film *Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans* and later gained attention for her role as Mia, a dancer, in the 2020 dance drama *Street Dancer 3D*.

IAN S



Elli spills tea on marriage plans

Mumbai: Actress Elli AvrRam, who turned 35 July 29, has been making headlines lately due to speculation surrounding her relationship status.

Recently, it was being speculated that the Swedish-Greek actress is in a relationship with YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani; however it turned out that the two had just collaborated for a song, *Chandaniya*.

Ever since then, movie buffs have been curious to know if the *Kis Kisiko Pyaar Karoon* actress has someone special in her life.

During an exclusive interaction with this news agency, Elli shared that she prefers to keep her personal life private until there is a ring on her finger.

When asked about her thoughts on marriage and settling down, given that many of her contemporaries are tying the knot, the diva told that she's in no rush to get married and start a family.

"For me, settling down is not on the cards since I've always loved creating and achieving things, and the day I get married, I want it to be with a partner who has visions together with me and that we achieve them as a power couple," Elli shared.

Revealing what's so special about this birthday, she said that she is back home in Sweden, celebrating with her entire family.

IAN S

Sonu's noble deed

Mumbai: Actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood is celebrating his 52nd birthday Wednesday, and he decided to mark the occasion by announcing another special initiative.

The *Ek Vivaah... Aisa Bhi* actor has announced an old-age home that will provide shelter and care to around 500 senior citizens.

The old age home is an attempt to create a safe, dignified, and loving environment for elders who do not have anyone to take care of them.

Along with shelter, these elderly people will also be provided medical care, along with nutritious meals, and emotional support. However, this is not the first time Sood has associated himself with a humanitarian cause. In the past, he made headlines for helping

migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and also supporting underprivileged students and patients.

The Da-

bangg actor truly believes in giving back to society.

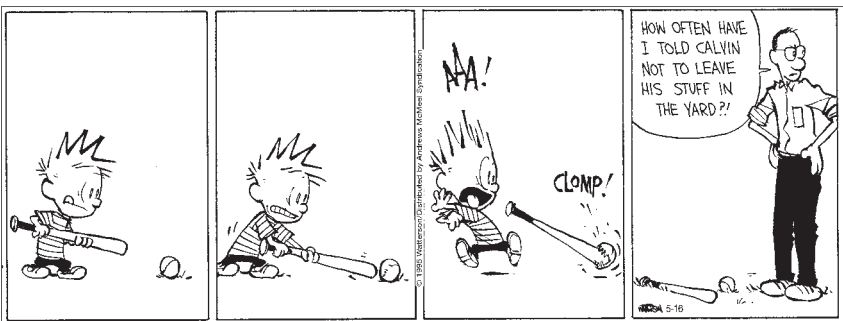
Wishing Sood on his birthday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu praised him for his unwavering commitment to philanthropy.

Applauding his selfless charity work, the CM penned a note on his official X handle saying, "Happy Birthday to the ever-inspiring Sonu Sood! Your selfless philanthropy and support for those in need have touched countless lives across the nation. May your year ahead be filled with happiness, health, and continued strength to keep making a difference. @SonuSood." IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

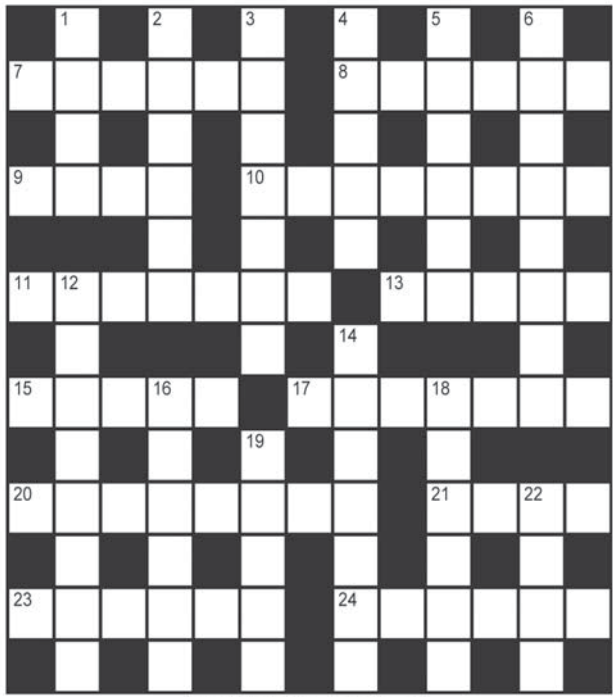


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 "Romeo and Juliet" setting
 - 8 Reddish brown dyes
 - 9 Ember
 - 10 Draw near
 - 11 Bollywood hopeful
 - 13 Beguile
 - 15 Train stop
 - 17 Fate
 - 20 Claps
 - 21 Domestic
 - 23 Lingo
 - 24 Gofer's job
 - 3 Chewy candy
 - 4 Fellows
 - 5 Earnings
 - 6 Cooking utensil
 - 12 Actor
 - 14 Crowded
 - 16 Accommodate
 - 18 Sound quality
 - 19 Mirthful
 - 22 Getaway spots
- Down**
- 1 Floor model
 - 2 South American monkey

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

P	I	T	S	V	O	C	A	L	I	S	E
E	E	H	W	D	M	D					
C	A	R	R	I	O	N	A	L	P	H	A
T	M	A	S	G	A	M					
O	N	S	E	T	U	N	E	A	S	I	E
R	U	P	S	A							
A	S	S	I	S	T	O	T	T	E	R	S
L	P		F	A	B	A	S				
C	A	N	A	D	A	B	A	L	S		
S	N	U	L	O	O	S					
T	R	I	E	D	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
U	E	I	O	S	R	I					
B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	T	E	R	N

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Odisha to launch policy on rituals, temple care

STATE TO DRAW FROM SUCCESSFUL TEMPLE MODELS IN OTHER STATES TO CRAFT A CULTURALLY ALIGNED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: In a significant move to protect Odisha's rich spiritual and architectural heritage, the state government plans to introduce a comprehensive policy aimed at streamlining rituals, improving temple management, and conserving ancient temples. Law, Works, and Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan announced the initiative Wednesday during a high-level review meeting at the Law department's conference hall. The policy aims to streamline temple upkeep, enhance ritual practices, and create a uniform administrative framework for both endowment and privately managed temples across Odisha. As part of the initiative, the state will examine successful temple management models from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, adapting best practices to fit Odisha's distinct

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS A DIGITAL UPGRADE BY MODERNISING THE ENDOWMENT COMMISSIONER'S WEBSITE TO OFFER PUBLIC ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES

THE POLICY WILL BE BASED ON THE ODISHA HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS (OHRE) ACT OF 1951, ENSURING LEGAL VALIDITY AND INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

cultural context. "Field visits by Endowment department officers will soon begin to assess the current condition of ancient temples. Based on this data, structured rituals will be institutionalised, and restoration efforts will be prioritised for temples in a state of neglect," said Minister Harichandan. In addition to physical conservation, the government is planning a digital upgrade. The website of the Endowment Commissioner will be modernised to provide public access to key

information and services. The meeting also addressed key administrative issues, including the formation of clear guidelines for both public and privately managed temples, streamlined festival procedures, introduction of independent grants for temple operations, recognition of worship rights based on traditional service records, and strengthening of trust boards, endowment inspectors, and staff appointments to expedite decision-making.

The policy will be grounded in the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowments (OHRE) Act of 1951, ensuring that reforms are legally sound and institutionally sustainable. Minister Harichandan urged all officials to work in unison toward the vision set by the Chief Minister for the holistic upliftment of religious institutions in the state. Key attendees included Law department Principal Secretary Manas Ranjan Barik, Endowment Commissioner Lalatendu Jena, Independent Secretary Pranab Kumar Patra, Additional Secretaries Shiba Prasad Mahapatra and Bhagaban Prasad Sahu, along with other senior officials from the Endowment Department. The move has been welcomed by heritage enthusiasts and religious scholars as a much-needed step toward preserving Odisha's temple legacy.



BUDDING TALENT: Young artistes perform Odissi during the 7th Annual Day celebration of Nrutyayana Trust at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

BDA allots affordable homes to slum dwellers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Continuing its effort to relocate and rehabilitate slum dwellers in the Capital city under its Affordable Housing Projects (AHP) and In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) schemes, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) conducted a lottery draw for the allotment of houses to 38 beneficiaries at the BDA headquarters here, Wednesday. The initiative aims to provide secure and dignified housing to the urban poor residing in slums and informal settlements. As many as 24 beneficiaries



were allotted dwelling units at Barunei Enclave AHP in Subudhipur, nine beneficiaries under the Santi Nagar Awas Yojana (Keshari Residency), and five beneficiaries under the Nilamadhab Awas scheme located in Chandrasekharpur. The lottery process was con-

ducted in the presence of BDA vice-chairman N Thirumala Naik, who reiterated the authority's commitment to inclusive urban development. "We aim to provide more than just shelter — our goal is to ensure a better quality of life with access to essential infrastructure and

basic services," he said. To ensure fairness and transparency, the lottery was overseen by Boyanika secretary-cum-general manager Susama Barik as independent observer. Senior officials including BDA secretary Manas Ranjan Padhi and additional commissioner (Estate-II) Manoj Kumar Swain were also present. Beneficiaries participated in the process by picking tokens from a transparent box under the supervision of officials. Each beneficiary will need to pay ₹1.50 lakh to get a flat under the Affordable Housing Project (AHP).

Animal charity delivers 36,000kg livestock feed

BHUBANESWAR: In an act of humanity as a response to the recent flood situation in Balasore and nearby districts, Humane World for Animals India, in partnership with Yuva Vikas Foundation distributed over 36,000 kg of emergency feed, reaching around 12,000 animals in the worst-hit blocks of Baliaal and Bhograi. The flooding—caused by heavy rainfall and water discharge from Jharkhorea—has devastated fodder sources, leaving animals vulnerable to malnutrition, disease and overcrowded shelters. Field reports noted a rise in diarrhoea, skin infections, and pox among animals due to unsanitary conditions. Humane World senior coordinator of the disaster management team Jaihari AK emphasised the urgency and said, "With three times flood in two weeks, animals had no access to clean feed or shelter. Our intervention is bridging a critical survival gap for both animals and dependent communities."

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Dharakote, Ganjam on dtd. 18.07.2025, I am Smt. Rina Guru, D/o- Bijaya Swain, residing at Jahada, P.S.- Dharakote, Dist.- Ganjam, 761107 hereby declare that my actual name is Rina Guru, D/o- Bijaya Swain mentioned in Aadhaar Card and in my Voter Card my name is mentioned as Rina Guru, W/o- Prafulla Guru but in my son's BSE 10th Certificate my name is mentioned as Runa Guru. that Rina Guru and Runa Guru is same and one person. It is for all purpose.

Mahila Cong protests crimes against women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Despite heavy rain, the Odisha Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee held a protest rally Wednesday at Master Canteen Square, condemning the alarming increase in rape and violence against women in the state. The rally, which started from the Congress party office and headed to Master Canteen Square via Janpath, was blocked midway by police. Undeterred by heavy rain, Mahila Congress workers led by

president Minakshi Bahinipati broke through police barricades, leading to scuffles between protesters and security forces. Several leaders, including Bahinipati, were detained and taken into custody. Protesters raised slogans and waved bangles as a symbolic gesture, accusing the BJP government of neglecting women's safety and failing to take meaningful action. They also burned posters of CM Mohan Charan Majhi, PM Modi, and BJP state president Manmohan Samal. "Instead of taking responsibility for their

inaction and bias on women's safety, the BJP government is resorting to theatrics," said Bahinipati. Bahinipati strongly rebutted the BJP's accusation that Congress is a "party of rapists," stating that, in reality, cases of rape, gangrape, murder, and assaults against women have increased under the BJP government. She also questioned Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiparida's commitment to women's safety, asking, "Why hasn't she visited the Balanga victim at AIIMS yet? What is stopping her?"

VISWASS hosts Vana Mahotsav

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattapalli, July 30: As part of the Government of India's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, the VISWASS Group of Educational Institute recently observed Vana Mahotsav-2025 with a mass tree plantation drive on its campus and surroundings. Around 1,000 saplings were planted by students, teachers, and staff. BJP state president Manmohan Samal, attending as chief guest, urged students to take active responsibility in nurturing trees and protecting the



environment. For over two decades, VISWASS has provided education in higher secondary, nursing, and paramedical streams to underprivileged and meritorious students from rural areas. The institution is also known for its consistent involvement in health camps, environmental awareness, and social outreach. Founder Pratima Ghadai,

along with chairman Pragyan Ranjan Ghadai and secretary Nandini Ghadai, continues to lead the institute's mission of inclusive education and sustainable development. Among the dignitaries present were the MP of Bhubaneswar, MLA of Jatni, Khurda District Collector, Security Officer, Tehsildar of Jatni, and Chief District Medical Officer. Programme coordination was led by director Laxminarayana Panda, with enthusiastic participation from the entire VISWASS community, each contributing by planting a tree.

Koraput's solar farming boost with Agri-PV

SunKranti APV 2025 summit in Bhubaneswar drives Odisha's sustainable rural development, organised by Passing Gifts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: In a major step toward blending clean energy with agriculture, Odisha hosted its first state-level summit on Agri-Photovoltaics (APV) Wednesday. The event brought together policymakers, researchers, farmers, and industry leaders to explore solar-powered farming solutions. Organised by Passing Gifts, a subsidiary of Heifer International, the summit — SunKranti APV 2025 — was held in Bhubaneswar and signaled a fresh push for sustainable rural development in the state. Agri-Photovoltaics (APV) is an innovative model that enables solar panels to be installed above farmland, allowing farmers to generate clean energy while growing crops. This dual-use system creates a "third crop" in the form of solar income, which experts believe can significantly boost the earnings of smallholder farmers, who constitute over 80 per cent of India's agricultural workforce. A major highlight of the summit was the launch of Odisha's first community-led Agri-Photovoltaic (APV) pilot in Koraput,



developed with technical support from ICRIER. The initiative aims to empower tribal smallholder farmers by integrating clean energy generation with traditional farming practices. The summit highlighted Odisha's strong potential for scaling Agri-Photovoltaics, citing over 300 sunny days a year, an average solar irradiance of 5.3 kWh/m²/day, and a renewable energy capacity of 2,938 MW—21 per cent of which is solar. The state aims to expand this to 7.5 GW of solar capacity by 2030. Speaking as chief guest, Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy praised APV's potential to transform rural

AGRI-PHOTOVOLTAICS (APV) COMBINES SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION WITH CROP CULTIVATION BY INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS ABOVE FARMLAND

THIS DUAL-USE SYSTEM CREATES AN ADDITIONAL INCOME STREAM—SOLAR REVENUE—HELPING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, WHO MAKE UP OVER 80% OF INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE, BOOST THEIR EARNINGS

livelihoods. "Agro-Photovoltaics may be a new term, but the concept is powerful and adaptable. It must be aligned with schemes like PM-KUSUM so farmers can fully benefit from this third crop," she said. Padma Shri awardee and Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Ashok Gulati, delivered a keynote address, emphasising that "Agri-Photovoltaics is a revolutionary model with the potential to double farmer incomes — but it demands a mindset shift and grassroots awareness." Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik noted that APV could have spillover benefits for allied sectors. "By integrating clean energy with livestock and fisheries, we can drive a holistic rural transformation," he said. Department of Energy Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev noted that while Agri-PV holds promise, its scalability hinges on detailed research—particularly in identifying crop varieties suited to growing under solar panels. "This is a bold, forward-thinking idea. Odisha is ready to explore its full potential," he said.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.55 ▲ 0.60	SENSEX	81481.86 ▲ 143.91	GOLD	₹98,053 ▼ ₹208
EURO	101.16 ▲ 0.37	NIFTY	24855.05 ▲ 33.95	SILVER	₹112,828 ▼ ₹925

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.2°	31.4°	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or Thundershower
Min Temp	25.0°	23.6°	
Humidity	92%	95%	
Rainfall	44.3mm	20.6mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near 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.

‘Balanga fire’ probe in final stages: SP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Odisha Police Wednesday said the probe into setting a 15-year-old girl ablaze allegedly by three unidentified persons is “in the final stages”.

The girl was allegedly set on fire July 19 morning near the banks of Bhargavi River close to her residence in Balanga area of Puri district.

Puri Superintendent of Police Pinak Mishra made the assertion while replying to a question over the delay in nabbing the culprits.

“The girl, who suffered 70 per cent burn injuries, is undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Delhi and is in a stable condition. A DSP-rank officer and the officer-in-charge of Balanga police station are camping at the national capital. They are carrying out a detailed probe and questioning those concerned to catch evidence,” the SP said. “We have gathered important clues in the case,” he said.

Paradip Port handles record cargo in first 4 months of FY 25-26

Bhubaneswar/Paradip: Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has achieved a historic milestone by clocking a record 50 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) cargo throughput within the first four months of the current financial year (FY 2025-26). This feat marks the fastest 50 MMT ever handled in the port's history, highlighting the port's growing efficiency, enhanced infrastructure, and operational excellence. The target was achieved four days ahead of the corresponding period last year. According to Paradip Port sources, the remarkable performance is the result of strategic planning, sustained stakeholder support, and the dedicated efforts of Team PPA. The key cargo segments have demonstrated robust growth with coal handling reaching 22.06 MMT, registering a 0.53 percent increase over the same period last year.

Two minor girls drown in pond

Keonjhar: Two minor girls drowned in a pond at Nakajhari village under Ghatgaon police station in Keonjhar district Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Amrita Bala, 7, and Bhumi Naik, 10, of the village under Ghatgaon block. According to sources, both were studying in Nakajhari primary school. On Tuesday afternoon, after returning from school, they were playing near the abandoned pond close to their residences. However, they fall into the pond. Locals saw their slippers near the pond, following which a search operation began. After a prolonged search, they were found in an unconscious state and taken to Ghatgaon CHC where the doctor declared them dead. A probe is on.

Tutor misbehaves with minor, arrested

Chandbali: A tuition teacher from Chandanbindha village under Chandbali police limits of Bhadrak district was arrested Tuesday for allegedly misbehaving with a Class V girl student. According to a written complaint lodged by the girl's father at the police station, the accused, identified as Ajit Bhuyan of the same village, had called the minor over phone around 6pm Tuesday, asking her to come for tuition. Once she arrived, the teacher allegedly misbehaved with her. The minor girl later narrated her ordeal before her family members, following which her father filed a complaint late Tuesday night. Chandbali police arrested Bhuyan Wednesday and sent him for medical examination before producing him in court.

Social activist’s body donated to MKCG

AGENCIES

Berhampur, July 30: Family members of an 80-year-old social activist donated his body and eyes to the government-run MKCG Medical College and Hospital here Tuesday, officials said.

Duryodhan Nayak, a resident of Manikapur under Ganjam district's Dharakote block, died due to age-related ailments Monday evening.

His body was handed over to the medical college by his son Pratap Nayak, and grandson Prasad Nayak in the presence of his relatives and social activists.

“We decided to donate his body to the medical college for research purposes, Pratap Nayak, who is al-

so a social activist,” said.

The body will be helpful to medical students for their academic and research purposes, said Professor Sagar Prusty, Department of Anatomy.

It will be embalmed to protect it from decomposition, he added.

It was the ninth body donated to the medical college in the last seven months and the second in the last three days.

The body of Prafulla Kumar Mohapatra, 71, a retired teacher at B

Karadabadi under Buguda block, was donated by his sons Sunday.

He had pledged to donate his body after his death in 2015.

According to his wish, we donated his body, said Siba Shankar, one of his sons.

In addition to meeting the academic needs at MKCG, the college has also supplied cadavers to newly established medical institutions.

“We recently provided two cadavers to the new medical college in Phulbani, Kandhamal district,” hospital authorities said.

state

Sources said police, in the presence of a magistrate, have recorded the statement of the victim thrice (once in AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and twice in Delhi).

Her statement is considered very crucial as the police investigation did not indicate the involvement of three unknown miscreants in the incident, they said, adding that apart from a silver finger ring, the police have not recovered any material to identify the alleged attackers.

Earlier, the police investigated the incident based on the statement of one Dukshishyam Senapati, the villager who doused the fire and sent her to the hospital.

Senapati had told the police that the victim said that three persons kidnapped her while she was walking and set her on fire.

However, police are yet to get any clue into the involvement of three persons in the incident, sources said.

Man beats wife to death in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 30: A 35-year-old woman was beaten to death by her husband over a family discord at Arshala under Jhumpura police limits in Keonjhar district Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Shakuntala Das, 35, wife of Md Manan, 45, in the village. The couple had married as per consent of their families and staying together.

Jhumpura police arrested Manan over a complaint filed by the victim's brother Makardhar Das Wednesday. A case (101/2025) was registered in this connection and further investigations are on, IIC Sambhari Hansdah said

Police said the couple, who had a seven-year long married life, is blessed with two children. Later, Manan married another woman and has



a daughter. The couple used to have frequent quarrels over his second marriage. The repeated disputes reached the police station several times and got resolved after police intervention. Two weeks ago, Shakuntala went to her father's house and returned home two days back. The couple again had a fight Tuesday as Manan beaten her death.

Manan went to Jhumpura police station and informed police that Shakuntala died of excess intake of liquor. However, her family members found her with injuries all over the body and a broken hand, and lodged a complaint.

Keonjhar DMF Trust Board reconstituted



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, July 30: The state government has reconstituted the trust board of Keonjhar District Mineral Foundation (DMF) after a gap of seven years. According to a notification (10611/24) issued by the Planning and Convergence department July 24, the board now comprises 31 members.

The Keonjhar Collector will serve as the board's chairperson while the members include MP Ananta Nayak, Rajya Sabha MPs Debashish Samantaray, Sujeet Kumar, MLAs Mohan Charan Majhi (the CM), Badri Narayan Patra, Akhil Chandra Nayak, Fakir Mohan Nayak, Abhimanyu Sathy, and Sanatan Mahakud, among others.

In a significant administrative move, the post of CEO of Keonjhar DMF, which had re-

mained vacant since 2018, has finally been filled. IAS officer Reena Pradhan officially assumed charge as CEO Monday. Previously, the role was being handled by the chief development officer (CDO) of Keonjhar Zilla Parishad.

As per Odisha DMF rules of 2015 Schedule 4(4), the trust board is required to meet at least twice in a financial year. However, the last such meeting was held November 19, 2022, and the board had not been reconstituted since.

Concerns over alleged financial irregularities, misappropriation and mismanagement in the DMF funds had led to a case being filed in the Orissa High Court. Following this, the Planning and Convergence and the Steel and Mines departments directed the Collector to initiate the board's reconstitution.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, July 30: Police Wednesday arrested six persons, including a 20-year-old engineering student, in Kendrapara for looting the house of a retired doctor by posing as Vigilance officials, police said.

According to Derabish police station inspector-in-charge (IIC) Ambika Prasad, the accused were arrested after a special squad formed to trace the culprits cracked the case by analysing call detail records (CDRs) and CCTV footage from the area.

The accused were booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 310 (dacoity) and 333 (house trespass) and later sent to jail after a local court rejected their bail application, Das added.

The miscreants barged into the house of Jalil Ahamad Khan at Oldhi village under Derabish police station July 10 and faked their identity as Vigilance cops.

Later, they conducted a search to detect movable and



immovable assets disproportionate to the doctor's known sources of income.

They later made away with Rs 1.5 lakh cash nad 500 grams of gold ornaments. The miscreants, while leaving the place, instructed the doctor to turn up at the district Vigilance office at Kendrapara town with proof that his assets and source of in-

come were legitimate. The entire operation lasted for about an hour, police said.

Khan, a well-known physician in the locality, had retired two decades ago from a government medical college in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

After retirement, he returned to his native village to serve the local community.

Jackfruit economy: Kandhamal leads the way

From raw cuts to diabetic-friendly powder, Odisha's tribal district turns jackfruit into a year-round business

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, July 30: Whether in a spicy curry or as crisp, golden chips, jackfruit has always been a seasonal delight. But that's about to change. Processed jackfruit products—such as diced cuts, chips and powder—will now be available year-round, making it easier for households to enjoy the fruit without waiting for its natural season.

With the launch of packaged jackfruit cuts and chips, the hassle of chopping and cleaning has gone. Open a packet, cook, or fry, and enjoy the taste of jackfruit any time throughout the year.

While Kandhamal is known for its turmeric and ginger, jackfruit is now emerging as a significant produce. Until recently, local farmers had not fully benefited from its com-

mercial potential. Through the Odisha Jackfruit Mission, the district is now promoting value-added jackfruit products—such as chips, powder and curry-ready cuts—at a national level.

Considering the increasing demand, efforts are under way to scale up production commercially. This year, around 500 quintals of jackfruit will be processed. The initiative is being managed by KASAM (Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing).

Kandhamal district produces nearly 6 lakh tonne jackfruits and 9 lakh tonne mango annually. Most of this comes from wild trees in forest areas, while a smaller share is grown in orchards. However, due to the absence of cold storage and processing units, these fruits were underutilised. The government has now stepped in to



address this gap.

Since last year, Odisha Jackfruit Mission has included Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Kora-

put and Dhenkanal districts under its umbrella. Backed by the State Horticulture department, a jackfruit processing unit has been set up on the premises of the Horticulture Training Institute at Kalinga in Kandhamal district. Built at a cost of Rs 2 crore, the facility includes a five-metric-tonne capacity cold storage.

The processing unit can handle 500 kg jackfruit daily. The operations have been entrusted to KASAM, a leading local agricultural cooperative.

Trial production began last year, and several products are now being rolled out. KASAM secretary Sanjit Kumar Pattnaik said the aim is to scale up production to meet commercial demand.

Both raw and ripe jackfruits are being processed into various food products. Raw jackfruit is cut into pieces for

cooking, while its core is dried and ground into a powder that is especially useful for people with diabetes.

Moreover, flour is also being produced from ripe jackfruit pulp.

However, the most popular product so far is jackfruit chips, made from semi-ripe fruit. Pattnaik noted that demand for these chips is outpacing that of potato, yam and raw bananas. The chips are being sent to markets across Odisha and beyond.

Jackfruit is sourced from across the district, and its processing is supported by Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS). In addition to Phulbani, KASAM has authorised distributors in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur. The cooperative is also planning to expand production capacity and explore new markets.

CLASS V GIRL'S BODY FOUND

Man says nephew killed his daughter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, July 30: The body of a Class V girl in Pionda area of Phulbani town in Kandhamal district was found hanging at her residence, raising suspicion of a murder, allegedly by her paternal aunt's son, who was staying with the family.

Given the sensitive nature of the incident, Town police have launched a detailed investigation covering all possible angles. A scientific team visited the scene Wednesday, to collect evidence and examine the circumstances. The accused has been sent to the Juvenile Justice Court, said the police.

Preliminary findings suggest that the girl did not die by suicide but was murdered. The victim was reportedly found hanging with a towel inside the house, but the surrounding situation indicates possible foul play. Police said the truth behind the incident will be unraveled only after receiving the post-mortem report.

According to reports, the girl was found hanging, with a towel tied around her neck, by her elder sister Tuesday evening when she returned from tuition. The family members rushed her to Kandhamal district headquarters hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

Town police seized the body and registered a case. Based on the victim's father's statement, police are interrogating the complainant's nephew, a minor boy, who was staying with the family.


The complainant told reporters, “I have two daughters. After my sister's husband passed away, I brought her and her son to stay with us. However, my nephew has been behaving disrespectfully. The police will reveal more details after investigation.”

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Ref No.: PCCL/2025-26/001
Date: 17-06-2025
Sealed tenders are invited from eligible vendors for construction of the core civil structure of the Industrial Office Building over IDCO Plot No. E/42/E, Infocity Chandaka Industrial Area, Bhubaneswar, for the proposed IT Enabled Services Unit. Bidders are required to submit sealed tenders addressed to The Managing Director, Printlink Computer & Communication Pvt Ltd, Plot No. 783, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar. Please contact Mr. Rajesh Biswal at 7381058112 or email : rabiswal@printlinkindia.com for tender documents.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 23-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26 Date: 22.07.2025
Name of the Work: TRD WORK IN CONNECTION TO THE WORK OF "CHORD LINE FORM RAHENBATA-SIKIR FROM JT LINE TO RV LINE BY PASSING TITLAGAR YARD OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. cost: ₹ 2,97,35,140.05, EMD: ₹ 2,98,700/-, Completion period: 12 months.
Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 15.08.2025.
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.iraps.gov.in
The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
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.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Sambalpur
PR-412/Q/25-26



इंडियन बैंक

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APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE

(for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank, Sambalpur Branch** for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrower: M/s. Jagadamba Automobiles, Prop.: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, At: Ladarpali, Rangali Camp, Dist.: Bargarh - 768027 / Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, S/o.: Purna Chandra Panda, Lane 6/C-2, Kalyan Nagar, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004 / Guarantor: Mr. Tushar Ranjan Panda, S/o.: Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, At: Lane 6/C-2, Kalyan Nagar, Budharaja, Sambalpur, PIN-768004 Place: Sambalpur, Date: 30.07.2025	₹86,23,931/- as on 11.04.2025 + interest and cost thereon	11.04.2025 / 28.07.2025	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr. Kiran Shankar Panda, S/o.: Purna Chandra Panda, at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 15, Ainthapali, Sambalpur, Khata No.: 559/3883, Plot No.: 1674/8916, Area: Ac0.087 Dec. and Plot No.: 1673/8915, Area: Ac0.013 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Tahasil/Dist.: Sambalpur, Bounded by North: 20 Ft. Road, South: Plot No.: 1802, East: Plot No.: 1674, West: Plot No.: 1673

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

EYE OPENING JUDGEMENT



Just as some sections have raised a voice against the acquittals, there has to be a voice against those who messed up the investigation

stand scrutiny.

The scathing remarks of the HC not only brought shame and ignominy for the investigating agencies but also raised important questions that go beyond the quality of investigations, or the capacity of the agencies and their leadership to get to the bottom of such a well-coordinated and heinous crime. While it is known that police systems are anything but perfect, that the niceties of the law and due process do get stretched, particularly in sensitive investigations, whole-sale violations of the kind recorded by the HC make this case stand out as a new bottom for the State and its agencies.

The quite natural and obvious response of the State has been to move the Supreme Court in appeal. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta asked for a stay on the judgement to the extent that it would not serve as precedent before trial courts currently hearing other cases prosecuted under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act. In their order, Justices MM Sundresh and NK Singh of the SC not-

ed that “there is no question of imprisoning” those already released after the acquittals. However, the judges ruled that “taking note of the submissions made by learned Solicitor General on the question of law, we are inclined to hold that the impugned judgment shall not be treated as a precedent in any other pending proceedings. Therefore, to that extent, there shall be a stay on the operation of the impugned judgment.”

It’ll be sometime before the SC weighs in on the matter. Meanwhile, there is ample material in the HC judgment to act as an eye opener; it must trigger some internal soul searching among the top brass of the administrative machinery and lead to some review of operations if there is to be any public confidence that terrorists will be brought to book. The case shows that outdated modes of investigation, including use of torture, do not help solve any crime but actually are used to push a preferred line of inquiry because the real culprits are out of reach.

The court found that con-

fessional statements did not reveal crucial aspects of the crime like: (1) in what containers the bombs were packed, (2) how were the bombs detonated, (3) what was the device used to trigger the bombs, (4) how the device got accurately activated, and most importantly, (5) who planted the bombs that exploded at Mahim and Bandra stations.

The larger picture that emerges is of a failing administration that is rapidly sliding down a very slippery slope in the absence of robust internal and external scrutiny, blind support in the name of fighting terrorism while the real terrorists go scot-free and a refusal to accept and correct mistakes. Worse, this is a secular fall. We cannot blame a particular party or government – all sail in the same boat and are a party to this collapse. Since the blasts, Maharashtra has had a total of 10 governments under various parties and dispensations, including two bouts of Central rule.

In the end, short cuts don’t work. They don’t serve the cause of justice. They are a disservice to the nation. This message must be sent down to the police force, right from the very top. It must be accompanied by strong action against those who violate due process. Just as some sections have raised a voice against the acquittals, there has to be a voice against those who messed up the investigation. We must work to find the real culprits and we must punish all those who violated norms and have brought us to this pass.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Jagdish Rattanani

WE MUST WORK TO FIND THE REAL CULPRITS AND WE MUST PUNISH ALL THOSE WHO VIOLATED NORMS AND HAVE BROUGHT US TO THIS PASS



Salim Fakir

THE SECURITISATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE – DRIVEN BY THE GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS OF MAJOR POWERS AND EMERGING BLOCS – THREATENS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, LIMIT ACCESS TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, AND REINFORCE EXISTING POWER IMBALANCES



WHEN FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AND HOUSEHOLD LIABILITIES INCREASE, PEOPLE SPEND MORE ON INTEREST REPAYMENTS LEADING TO HUGE EROSION IN DISPOSABLE INCOME AND NET FINANCIAL SAVINGS

Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

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, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Seven serial blasts ripped through Mumbai’s suburban train network between 6.23 and 6.29 pm on 11 July, 2006, killing 187 people and injuring 824. The ghastly crime against a particularly soft target, the local trains that ferry more than six million ordinary people a day in India’s financial centre along the city’s north-south corridor, shook the nation. But a shocker of a different kind came last week, 19 years on, when a division bench of the Bombay High Court on 21 July ruled that the case in effect remains not solved and that the “true threat remains at large.” The HC acquitted all 12 accused in the case, including five who had been awarded death penalty by the trial court, and recorded strong findings against the police for grossly misinvestigating the case.

The division bench of Justices Anil Kilor and Shyam Chandak began the 667-page judgement with the following words, “Punishing the actual perpetrator of a crime is a concrete and essential step toward curbing criminal activities, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring the safety and security of citizens. But creating a false appearance of having solved a case by presenting that the accused have been brought to justice gives a misleading sense of resolution. This deceptive closure undermines public trust and falsely reassures society while, in reality, the true threat remains at large.”

In effect, the Justices recorded that the culprits still roam free. We do not know who committed the crime. Some innocents were tortured and presented as killers, but the elaborate story did not

India’s banking sector is facing a significant shift in household savings patterns, with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra acknowledging that the share of savings flowing into banks has fallen from 43% to 35% over the last nine years. His predecessor Shaktikanta Das on 19 July, 2024, had flagged concerns on the widening gap between credit and deposit growth with household savings increasingly moving away from traditional deposits.

For decades, India has been a nation of savers. They stash away a significant portion of their earnings for future security, especially for emergencies at the expense of current consumption. But something seems to be amiss now. India is no longer a great savings economy.

The gross domestic saving (GDS) rate as a percentage of GDP at current market prices has declined from record high of 37.8% of GDP in 2007-08 to 32.2% in 2014-15 and further to 30.7%.

The gross domestic saving that spurs investment and growth comprises public sec-

tor savings, corporate savings and household saving. The household savings – comprising physical savings and net financial savings-- indicates the wellbeing of society. The household savings have declined from a peak of 25.10% in 2010-11 to 18.1% in 2023-24. The proportion of physical assets peaked at 12.9% of GDP in 2022–23, while net financial savings declined from a peak of 12.10% in 2009-10 to a 47-year low of 5.2% in 2022-23. It may decline further in 2023-24.

In order to hedge against inflation and get higher returns, rich people, even middle-class people, are investing more in physical assets which are unproductive and inflationary. The households incur greater borrowing (or reduce net financial savings) solely to finance higher physical savings (investment). When net financial savings is declining as a proportion of GDP or gross national disposable income, all financial savings are tumbling.

Household financial liabilities, which were 3.8% of GDP in 2021-22, increased to 5.9% in 2022-23 and further to 6.4% of GDP in 2023-24. While

gross household debt in India was 8% of GDP in 2010-11, it increased to 30.1% of GDP in 2017-18, and further to 42.9% of GDP at the end of June 2024. This has increased significantly after the demonetisation and GST implementation. When financial liabilities and household liabilities increase, people spend more on interest repayments leading to huge erosion in disposable income and net financial savings. When net financial savings decline, if people save more in equities, mutual funds, risky avenues for higher returns, bank deposits will automatically get pounded despite security.

As for the trend in constituents of financial savings in India, the share of public provident fund, pension funds, life insurance funds and mutual funds in the net financial savings of Indian households increased while the share of bank deposits and cash declined between 2020-21 and 2022-23, according to a report by AMFI and Crisil.

In March 2025, the finance ministry informed the Parliament that a shift in household deposits from banks to mar-

Fakes flourish freely

Sir, We don’t nip anything in the bud. Rather, we allow it to flourish, even if it is a fake embassy, located at Ghaziabad, just 30 odd kilometers from Delhi. Westarctica Embassy in Ghaziabad was being operated by one Harsh Vardhan Jain for about nine years, starting in 2016 and continuing until it was exposed and shut down in July 2025. Everything about his embassy (a rented house, in fact) was fake as fake can be --- diplomatic insignias, fake passports, luxury cars with forged diplomatic plates, and even morphed photos with global leaders to create an illusion of legitimacy. But the most striking part was the fact that it took nine years to call Jain’s bluff. However, there are umpteen other instances to show how tolerant we are to any and every kind of fakery. A few outstanding examples of financial wrongdoers are Vijay Mallya, who managed to pull the wool over our eyes for nearly eleven years, and continues to do so even now. Close behind is Nirav Modi, the diamantaire whose period of fraud spans seven years. “Babas” (godmen) too have thrived for a long period of time and had a humongous following before being exposed. Like it or not, we are a lethargic and self-deceiving nation.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS

Diversify partnerships

Sir, US President Donald Trump appears to be reshaping traditional American diplomacy by prioritising engagement with China over Taiwan. He declined a proposed visit by Taiwan’s president while expressing openness to talks with Xi Jinping in Beijing. This shift undermines long-standing unofficial support for Taiwan and signals the volatility of US foreign policy. For India, this development carries a clear message: overreliance on any single global partner—especially the US—could be strategically risky. India must deepen multilateral engagements, especially with nations in the Indo-Pacific, and continue strengthening its self-reliance in defence and technology. Diversifying partnerships and asserting diplomatic independence will help India safeguard its interests in an increasingly transactional global order where strategic priorities change swiftly.

RS Narula, PATIALA

“

The fly that touches honey cannot use its wings; so too the soul that clings to spiritual sweetness ruins its freedom and hinders contemplation.

SRI AUROBINDO

New Trade Agenda

Mitigating the worst effects of climate change requires reconciling ambition and justice. But achieving both a just energy transition and ambitious global climate action depends on trade rules that foster equitable development. To facilitate the shift to low-carbon economies, developing countries must have reliable access to green technologies, investments, and international markets.

Regrettably, many of today’s trade policies constrain developing countries’ green ambitions. In particular, the securitisation of international trade – driven by the geopolitical interests of major powers and emerging blocs – threatens to disrupt global supply chains, limit access to emerging technologies, and reinforce existing power imbalances. If left unchecked, this trend risks undermining multilateral cooperation and regional integration efforts across the Global South.

The European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is a prime example. While the CBAM is intended to position the EU as a global leader on climate action, many developing countries – particularly in Africa – view it as a protectionist measure and question its alignment with the principles of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

These concerns are well-founded. Research suggests that African countries could lose up to \$25 billion annually as a direct result of the CBAM, and that the proposed amendments may not always stand to benefit African exporters. Moreover, despite the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the EU continues to pursue fragmented bilateral deals that undermine Africa’s integration agenda and weaken the coherence of regional trade strategies.

Another example is the International Maritime Organisation’s controversial plan to introduce a carbon emissions tax on shipping. Set to take effect in 2028, the tax falls far short of the more ambitious carbon levy developing economies had advocated, which could have supported low-carbon transitions, climate adaptation, and capacity-building in the world’s most climate-vulnerable countries.

Investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms also present significant challenges to effective climate action. These provisions, embedded in international investment treaties, often limit African governments’ ability to legislate in the public interest or implement trade and investment policies that support green industrialisation and sustainable development.

In recent years, international development practitioners have increasingly focused on the link between trade and climate policy. This signals a shift from a purely normative view of climate change to a more pragmatic approach that recognises climate policy as a driver of economic growth and investment. At the same time, global trade is undergoing a profound transformation as major trading powers prioritise geopolitical and economic self-interest over longstanding commitments to non-discrimination and multilateral cooperation, thereby weakening the World Trade Organisation.

Against this backdrop, developed and developing economies alike are deploying fiscal stimulus packages, subsidies, and protectionist trade measures to align their climate goals with domestic green industrial strategies, aiming to reshape the global economic order in their favour. The race to gain a competitive edge in green industries is partly driven by the dominant position China has established over the past decade through a combination of fiscal expansion, strategic subsidies, and control over critical minerals and key supply chains.

Adding to these tensions is US President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, as he did during his first term. This move has further eroded global trust and undermined multilateral climate cooperation, casting doubt on the reliability of developed countries’ commitments to the broader sustainable-development agenda. Yet periods of geopolitical realignment can also create new opportunities. Even amid rising tensions and economic fragmentation, there are opportunities for African countries to advance fairer, climate-aligned trade rules. One of the most promising is increased regional integration. Despite deep divisions within the G20, South Africa’s presidency of the group this year could help advance trade policies that are better suited to managing climate risks and accelerating clean-energy transitions in the Global South. The upcoming Leaders’ Summit in Johannesburg provides a platform to champion a more inclusive agenda that integrates risk management, economic diversification, and industrial development into a long-term vision of environmental justice. Some low-income economies are particularly vulnerable to measures like the CBAM, which, in its current form, departs from the “common but differentiated responsibilities” principle that underpins the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Without careful design and implementation, it could exacerbate inequalities within Africa and jeopardize the continent’s energy transition. To prevent such an outcome, the CBAM must be implemented through a transparent, multilateral framework that acknowledges differences in countries’ historical responsibility and capacity to respond. Redirecting CBAM revenues toward supporting green transitions in low-income economies, for example, would be a step in the right direction. It is equally important to help countries that rely heavily on fossil fuels diversify their economies. This raises a fundamental question: How can trade policy be leveraged to foster climate-resilient development? The answer lies in recognising that diversification is not only central to long-term growth but also crucial to building resilience to both climate disasters and external shocks. While global consensus on climate policies remains out of reach, regional trade agreements and coalitions offer a viable path forward. The AfCFTA, for example, could help us reimagine trade as a catalyst for inclusive development. By strengthening intra-African trade and economic resilience, it could help unlock new pathways to food sovereignty, climate adaptation, and long-term stability across the continent. The world needs fresh thinking and more equitable relationships between the Global North and South. Although today’s geopolitical landscape, marked by self-interest and weak leadership, is fraught with uncertainty, it also creates space to promote green, climate-conscious solutions that are largely absent from existing trade frameworks. When the current turbulent period gives way to renewed cooperation, we must be ready to introduce a new climate-trade framework. Such an arrangement should support decarbonisation across industries while upholding the principles of justice and solidarity, ensuring that developing countries are actively supported on their path to a more sustainable future.

The writer is Founder and Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Harappan site emerges in Thar

With this find, Rajasthan has joined the expanding cartographic footprint of one of the world's earliest urban civilisations, offering a new lens to view its rural-urban dynamics, environmental adaptation, and inter-regional connectivity nearly 4,500 years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 30: Researchers have unearthed the first confirmed Harappan settlement in Rajasthan's arid western region, revealing vital clues that are set to reshape the known boundaries of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation.

This marks the first evidence of Indus Valley presence in Rajasthan's deep desert, and is being seen as a vital link between known Harappan sites in northern Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The discovery was made at Raatadi Ri Dheri in the Jaisalmer district, a remote desert location nearly 60 km from Ramgarh tehsil and around 70 km from Sandhanawala in Pakistan, where Harappan remnants had previously been identified.

The site was excavated by archaeologist Pankaj Jagani and the findings have been subsequently validated by experts

ECHOES OF INDUS



from the University of Rajasthan and Rajasthan Vidyapeeth in Udaipur.

The artifacts recovered include classic Harappan material culture, red ware pottery, perforated jars, terracotta cakes, chert blades, and clay and shell bangles.

A kiln with a central column, wedge-shaped bricks and foundations consistent with the

Harappan architectural patterns was also unearthed.

"This is a small but significant rural Harappan site, likely dating between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE," said Dr Jeevan Singh Kharkwal, an archaeologist at Rajasthan Vidyapeeth.

"Its location and characteristics bridge an important archaeological gap between northern Rajasthan and Gujarat," he said.

The site reflects the dynamics of Harappan rural settlements and their role in connecting urban centres via trade and resource integration

DR TAMEGH PANWAR | SENIOR HISTORIAN, RAJASTHAN'S TOURISM AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Experts say the site's design elements, such as a kiln similar to those found at Kalibangan and Mohenjodaro, suggest a complex socio-economic system that extended well into what is today considered an uninhabitable desert.

These features point to a once-thriving hinterland that supported trade and artisanal production in the Indus network.

Dr Tamegh Panwar, a senior historian from Rajasthan's tourism and cultural department, called the find "historically significant". "The site reflects the dynamics of Harappan rural

settlements and their role in connecting urban centres via trade and resource integration," he said.

The discovery, which includes tools made of chert, a fine-grained stone sourced from Sindh and Rohri blade fragments, is further evidence of long-distance exchange and resource mobilisation across the civilisation's vast geography.

Archaeologists say the site adds an important dimension to the understanding of Harappan rural networks, especially in resource-scarce desert zones that had been largely overlooked in Indus Valley studies. It also opens the possibility of more Harappan settlements buried under Rajasthan's shifting sands.

A detailed research paper by Dr Kharkwal and Jagani has been submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal. If accepted, the site may gain global recognition as a keystone in Harappan studies.

Kargil veteran's family harassed over nationality by Hindutva activists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 30: The family members of a Kargil war veteran have alleged that a group of around 80 persons affiliated to a Hindutva outfit barged into their house in Pune and demanded a proof of their Indian citizenship, accusing them of being Bangladeshis.

The incident took place in Chandannagar area of the city Saturday midnight, they claimed, adding that some police personnel in plain clothes were also present at that time but they remained mute spectators.

Irshad Shaikh (48) said his elder brother Hakimuddin Shaikh, who currently resides in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh, served in the Indian Army and took part in the Kargil war. He retired as a havildar from the Engineers Regiment in 2000.

"While my elder brother lives in Uttar Pradesh, I, along with my two brothers and their children, have been living in Pune's Chandannagar area for the last many decades," he said.

On Saturday midnight, around 80 people suddenly came to our house and began banging on the door. When we opened it, some of them barged in and started demanding Aadhaar cards of the family members. When we showed the documents, they termed them as fake and asked the women and children to produce Aadhaar cards, Shaikh alleged.

He said they tried to explain to the group that the family had been residing there for the last 60 years and that apart from his elder brother, two of his uncles had also served in the army.

"But members of the group were in no mood to listen. They hurled abuses and accused us of being Bangladeshis. I told them that if they want to investigate, they are welcome to do so, but barging into someone's house, hurling abuses and forcing children to show documents at midnight was not appropriate," he said.

Shaikh claimed that when the group of Hindutva activists began chanting 'Jai Shree Ram' and tried to force the family members to come to the police station, two individuals accompanying them identified themselves as policemen.



During the entire episode, these two policemen in plain clothes stood by silently and did not do anything, he said.

He also alleged that when they reached the Chandannagar police station, the woman police inspector took their documents and asked them to wait outside.

"After making us wait for two hours, the officer told us to visit again the next day and warned that if we fail to do so, we would be declared Bangladeshi nationals," Shaikh said.

He added that they visited the police station again the next day.

"We were asked not to make an issue out of the incident and not to file any complaint. Police are now trying to pressure us and show that no one barged into our house," Shaikh, who works in the transport sector, said.

If there were any discrepancies in the documents, the police would have taken a coercive action, he said.

"But since all our documents are genuine, they are now asking us to stay quiet," he claimed, adding that he told the officers they could provide a proof of their Indian citizenship dating back to 400 years.

Several members of the family had served in the Indian army, Shaikh said.

"My uncle was injured in the 1971 war after a bomb explosion and was awarded for his valour. Another uncle fought alongside Abdul Hameed during the Indo-Pak War of 1965," he added.

Shaikh said they approached social activist Rahul Dambale, who helped them contact a senior police officer.

The officer assured action in the matter, but even after three to four days, no steps have been taken, he alleged.

HEAVY RAINS Deluge-like situation in parts of Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 30: Heavy rains have triggered a flood-like situation in parts of Rajasthan, with Sawai Madhopur among the worst-affected districts, officials said Wednesday, adding that road and rail connectivity with Madhya Pradesh has been disrupted.

Several areas in the Sawai Madhopur district were submerged following intense rainfall since late Tuesday night. Tracks at the Sawai Madhopur railway station were inundated, and National Highway 552, connecting the district to Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh, was washed away, police said.

A surge in the Parvati river near Etawah in the Kota district has also severed connectivity between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Vehicular movement on State Highway 70 (Kota-Gwalior-Sheopur road) has been halted. Heavy rains continued in Jaipur and other districts Wednesday morning.

The Meteorological Centre, Jaipur, has issued a 'red alert' for extremely heavy rainfall in six districts - Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh. In view of the weather alert, schools were shut in 15 districts Wednesday.

"Eastern Rajasthan recorded light to moderate rainfall at many places, with heavy to very heavy showers at isolated locations in the last 24 hours," said Radhey Shyam Sharma, regional director, Meteorological Centre, Jaipur. Western Rajasthan saw light rains at a few places.

The highest rainfall was recorded at Khandar (Sawai Madhopur) at 230 mm, while other parts of the district reported 190-200 mm. Tonk, Baran and Jhalawar recorded rainfalls ranging from 110 mm to 170 mm till 8:30 am Wednesday.



Rajasthani folk artists perform during a traditional Teej procession, near Tripolia Gate, in Jaipur

PTI PHOTO

MECHANISED SEWER CLEANING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: The Maharashtra government has decided to reduce the minimum service duration for sanitation workers under a programme aimed at transitioning sewer hole cleaning to a mechanised mode, to 20 years from the existing 25-year norm.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Wednesday chaired a meeting to review issues concerning sanitation workers. He instructed Urban Development Department officials to tweak the minimum service criterion, an official release stated.



The 'Manhole to Machinehole' programme promotes mechanised cleaning of sewers, septic tanks, and drainage

lines through the procurement of modern vehicles, robotic units, and sanitation tools.

The 'Manhole to Machinehole' programme promotes mechanised cleaning of sewers, septic tanks, and drainage lines through the procurement of modern vehicles, robotic units, and sanitation tools

The initiative aims to reduce the human interface in sewer cleaning, and manpower will be used only for supervisory work.

An outlay of Rs 504 crore has been approved for the scheme, with Rs 100 crore allocated through supplementary demand in the 2024-25 monsoon

session. Procurement of machinery and emergency vehicles has begun.

The agencies involved will be responsible for maintaining these vehicles for three years and must also train sanitation workers to operate them, officials said. Pawar directed all municipal corporations and councils to strictly implement the government resolution (GR)

Rajasthan launches 'Gram Rakshak' recruitment drive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, July 30: In a significant move to strengthen rural security and promote community participation in policing, the Rajasthan Police, Tuesday, invited applications for the recruitment of 'Gram Rakshak' (Village Protector) volunteers, officials said.

Under this initiative, individuals who have passed Class 8 and are permanent residents of their respective villages can apply to become partners in ensuring the safety and security of their communities.

The recruitment is being conducted as per the provisions of the Rajasthan Police Act, 2007, and the Rajasthan Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

Selected candidates will serve as unpaid volunteers and work as assistants to the



local police for a fixed period of two years.

Superintendent of Police and Nodal Officer for Community Policing, Pankaj Chaudhary, told that this initiative aims to build a strong network of responsible and aware citizens, who can assist the police in maintaining law and order in rural areas.

These volunteers, being locals, are expected to have a deeper understanding of their village's needs, challenges and dynamics, thereby enabling more effective and community-friendly policing.

Emotional farewell as temple elephant relocated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 30: People gave an emotional farewell to a 36-year-old female elephant, Mahadevi, at a mutt in Maharashtra's Kolhapur as the tusk moved to a new home, a Jamnagar-based animal welfare facility.

The elephant was transferred to representatives of the Radhe Krishna Elephant Welfare Trust run by Vantara, an animal welfare centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, from the Kolhapur mutt Monday.

The relocation took place after the Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by the mutt, challenging the Bombay High Court order upholding the decision of a High Powered Committee (HPC) to relocate the animal to the Gujarat facility.

The pachyderm was given an emotional farewell by devotees of Swasthishri Jinsen

Bhattarak Pattacharya Mahaswami Sanstha, a religious body, as well as residents of Nandani village under Karvir tehsil of Kolhapur late Monday evening.

On July 16, the HC upheld the HPC's decision to relocate the jumbo to the Gujarat-based facility, citing an elephant's right to quality life must take precedence over humans' right to use it for religious purposes.

A bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale noted in their order that the mental and physical health of the elephant - Mahadevi alias Madhuri - suffered when it was with a Kolhapur-based trust.

The court dismissed a petition filed by the mutt against December 2024 and June 2025 orders passed by the HPC to transfer the elephant to the Radhe Krishna Elephant Welfare Trust.

According to officials, the el-



elephant will reach the Gujarat facility Wednesday in an animal ambulance.

A large number of villagers

came to bid farewell to the elephant with whom they developed a bond over the last several years.

The original transfer was ordered following a complaint lodged by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India about the animal's condition.

The Kolhapur-based trust contended it owned the elephant since 1992, and its presence at religious programmes was a part of a tradition.

But the high court cited a June 2024 report about the elephant's health, diet and nutrition, social environment, hygiene and cleanliness of shelter, veterinary care and work schedule, and said they "appear to be absolutely dismal".

As per the report, the elephant suffered from "decubital ulcerated wounds" on its hip joints and a few other body parts.

of the day quote

The minister immediately held discussions with officials and assured that action would be taken to ensure supply of 1.35 lakh metric tonnes of urea to Karnataka

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | BJP LEADER

PM Modi has failed to give a direct answer to questions posed by Rahul Gandhi... PM Modi must clarify whether Trump's repeated claims about a ceasefire are false. If Trump is wrong, why isn't Modi contradicting him?

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN | SENIOR CONG LEADER

When a contractor quotes an unreasonably low amount and then fails to deliver, it is the common man who suffers due to project delays and poor infrastructure. Our goal is to ensure that every rupee spent translates into durable, timely and high-quality public works

PARVESH VERMA | DELHI MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Haridwar stampede: Death toll rises to 9

Haridwar: The death toll in the recent Mansa Devi temple stampede rose to nine Wednesday with another person dying at AIIMS, Rishikesh. Phoolmati, 55, a resident of Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh was seriously injured in the stampede and was referred to the AIIMS from the district hospital in critical condition. She had been on ventilator support since then, District Magistrate Mayur Dixit said. Eight people died and 30 others were injured on Sunday, the day the stampede occurred. According to the AIIMS administration, there are still five people under treatment at the facility.

Actor Prakash Raj appears before ED

Hyderabad: Actor Prakash Raj Wednesday appeared before the ED officials here for questioning in a money laundering case linked to illegal online betting and gambling by certain platforms. The actor, popular in Telugu, Kannada and other South Indian films, appeared before officials of the probe agency at its zonal office here. Raj, who was questioned for about four hours, said he did the assignment with the apps in 2016, but did not take any money for it on moral grounds. He also said he had discontinued promoting the apps.

Second-year MBBS student dies by suicide

Karimnagar (Telangana): A second-year MBBS student allegedly died by suicide at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Adilabad Wednesday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Sahil Chaudhary (22), a native of Jaipur, Rajasthan. According to circle inspector Karunakar Rao of Adilabad II town, Sahil was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his hostel room on the college premises after he failed to attend the afternoon study session. Fellow students noticed his absence and alerted the staff, who found him unresponsive in his room, police added.

Assam actress held in hit-and-run case

Guwahati: Assamese film actress Nandini Kashyap, who played the lead role in the recent box office hit 'Rudra', was arrested Wednesday for a hit-and-run accident, in which a 21-year-old man was killed, police said.



As we remember those we lost, may their memories bring peace and may your faith guide you forward. I stand with you, not just today, but always

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | WAYANAD MP

INDIA, UAE AGREE TO 'ELEVATE DEFENCE TIES'

India and the UAE Wednesday held a key bilateral defence meeting here during which the two sides agreed to "elevate defence ties" to match the growing momentum in areas such as trade, investment and social relations



SNIPPETS

Lt Col among 2 Army personnel dead as boulder falls on vehicle

Leh: Two army personnel, including a Lt Colonel, died and three officers were injured when a boulder fell on an army vehicle, part of a convoy, in a remote area in eastern Ladakh Wednesday, officials said. They said the accident occurred at Charbagh near Durbuk in Galwan, some 200 km from here, at around 11.30 am. The Army identified the deceased as Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh (14 Sindh Horse). Maj Mayank Shubham (14 Sindh Horse), Maj Amit Dixit and Capt Gaurav (60 Armd) have sustained injuries, it said. "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, ArmyCdrNC and all ranks of Northern Command pay homage to the Bravehearts Lieutenant Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

MP Assembly witnesses exchange in Sanskrit between MLA, minister

Bhopal: A unique scene unfolded in the Madhya Pradesh legislative Assembly Wednesday when a BJP MLA asked a question in Sanskrit, and a minister replied in the same language. Jabalpur North MLA Abhilash Pandey asked, through a calling attention motion, what steps the government was taking to preserve and promote India's ancient language. He read out the question in Sanskrit. As School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh started replying in Sanskrit, members thumped the tables to express their appreciation. The minister too, mostly read out his reply. The Bharatiya Janata Party government has taken several steps in this regard, including the establishment of Maharsi Patanjali Sanskrit Institute, four model residential schools of Sanskrit and teaching the language in 271 schools, he said.

Nimisha Priya reports inaccurate: Govt sources

New Delhi: Claims being made by a Kerala-based cleric about the case of Nimisha Priya, an Indian on death row in Yemen, are incorrect and any speculation on this sensitive matter should be avoided, government sources said Wednesday. Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musaliyar, the Grand Mufti of India, claimed Monday that Priya's death sentence has been overturned. The sources said they have seen reports making claims regarding the case of Priya and that these are incorrect. "We urge people to avoid misinformation and speculation on the sensitive matter," one of the sources said. The clarification came after the Grand Mufti reportedly said the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs are aware of his efforts in the Priya case.



Students make their way through a waterlogged area of a school premises following rainfall in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

PTI PHOTO

Oppn: Modi's friendship with Trump means little



The Opposition party also said Modi should take inspiration from former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and stand up to the president of the United States

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Opposition parties slammed the government on Wednesday after Donald Trump imposed a 25-per cent tariff and penalties on Indian imports, and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friendship with the US president meant little. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Modi should take inspiration from former prime minister Indira Gandhi and stand up to the president of the United States.

"President Trump has slapped a tariff of 25 per cent plus penalty on imports from India. All that 'taarif' between him and 'Howdy Modi' has meant little," Ramesh said in a post on X. "Mr Modi thought that if he kept quiet on the



insults that the US President has hurled on India -- the 30 claims of stopping Op Sindoor, the special lunch for the Pakistan Army Chief whose inflammatory remarks provided the immediate backdrop to the brutal Pahalgam terror attacks, and US support for financial packages to Pakistan from the IMF and the World Bank -- India would get special treatment at the hands of President Trump. Clearly that has NOT happened," he added.

Taking a jibe at Modi, Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien shared a video of the prime minister and Trump on X. In

a post on the microblogging platform, he said, "56 is less than 25! Now what will 56 inch say about the brutal 25 per cent Trump tariff. Remember this...."

In the video shared by the TMC leader, Modi is heard saying, "We in India have connected well with President Trump." He also repeats the slogan "Abki baar Trump Sarkar". Talking to reporters in the Parliament complex, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha said, "We are not very happy that it has happened under the rule of Prime Minister Modi. We want our government to accept the inadequacies, take everyone into confidence and say that this country will prevail as a strong entity."

Communist Party of India (CPI) MP P Sandosh Kumar described Trump's decision as "another insult to India".

"This is another insult to India and India's prestige. While the trade-agreement discussions are going on on one side, Trump is insulting Indian interests," he told reporters in the Parliament complex. Asked about the tariffs, DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said the prime minister should answer questions in this regard. "For that also only the prime minister is competent to reply.... What has happened, why has it happened, how will it impact India.... Parliament has not been taken into confidence," he told reporters.

President Trump has slapped a tariff of 25 per cent plus penalty on imports from India. All that 'taarif' between him and 'Howdy Modi' has meant little

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG GENERAL SECY

Bihar SIR: Another dog 'applies' for residence proof

Interestingly, it was none other than Ravi Prakash, a 2016 batch IAS officer and the current district magistrate of Nawada, who blew the lid off the "Dogesh babu" episode

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nawada (Bihar), July 30: After the now infamous "dog babu" of rural Patna, another ca-

nine, in the nearby district of Nawada in Bihar, has applied for a residence certificate.

Interestingly, it was none other than Ravi Prakash, a 2016 batch IAS officer and the current district magistrate of Nawada, who blew the lid off the "Dogesh babu" episode. "Copy cats...or rather I should say Copy dogs, tried applying for a residence certificate from Sirdala, Rajauli...were caught in the act. FIR being registered for lame and stale attempt...." Prakash wrote on his X handle, sharing a screenshot of the application.

The application, dated July 29, has a picture of a furry dog,



with parents called "dogesh ke papa" and "dogesh ki mummy". Incidentally, Nawada, which borders Jharkhand, is also

called the "Jamtara of Bihar", because of its notoriety with regard to cyber frauds.

It marks the third such instance in Bihar in less than a week, after applications in the names of "dog babu" of Masaurhi and "Sonalika Tractor" in East Champaran, the latter using an internet picture of a Bhojpuri actress.

In all the cases, the applicants have been booked, and they are now being traced with the help of cyber experts.

In Masaurhi, two officials have also faced departmental action as the application there ended up being processed and the certificate, thus issued, went viral on social media,

before a red-faced administration ordered its annulment.

Under the Bihar Right to Public Service Act, people can apply online for a residence certificate, which is issued by the official concerned after due verification.

The special intensive revision of electoral rolls is said to have caused a spurt in applications for residence certificate, which is among 11 documents accepted by the Election Commission, a bone of contention before the Supreme Court, which has been of the view that more commonly available proofs of identity, like Aadhaar card and ration card, be also made admissible.

Sabotage caused Bagmati Express train accident, finds probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Commissioner of Railway Safety has said that the accident of Mysuru-Darbhangha Bagmati Express at Kavaraipettai station in Southern Railway's Chennai Division October 11, 2024 was a result of sabotage as miscreants forcefully removed the components of track interlocking system.

The CRS of Southern Circle, A M Choudhary, said the probe has found that the collision between the Bagmati Express and a stalled freight train "happened not due to automatic/sudden failure of any equipment/assets but due to the forceful alteration in the designed position of LH (left hand) tongue rails by the miscreant(s)".

"Therefore, the accident is classified under the category 'sabotage'," the CRS said. Choudhary also praised the loco pilot of the Bagmati Express for his extraordinary presence of mind. "Loco pilot of train No. 12578 had showed outstanding alertness and promptness in applying emergency brakes - this reduced the speed of train and the consequent impact of the collision. His commendable action may be suitably recognized by the Railways," he said

NO TRAFFICKING PROOF

Kerala court clears two nuns, 3 others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), July 30: A court in Kerala has discharged five people -- two nuns from the state and three others from Jharkhand -- in a 2022 case alleging the trafficking of three underage girls for domestic work, ruling that there was no evidence of threats, coercion or exploitation.

In the July 26 order, the Court of I Additional Sessions Judge of Thrissur, K Kamanees, said that "the prosecution is not at all successful in proving a prima facie case" under Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, which covers human trafficking. The order pointed out that there were no claims of "threats", "fraud", "deception" or "practices similar to slavery or servitude". The survivors also stated that "no amount had been received" in exchange for their travel. "There is absolutely no recital that the girls had been transported using any threats. There is no case of committing any abduction or playing fraud/deception or by abuse or power. The main allegation is that there has been some form of coercion and that of inducement.

of the day

quote

Corruption has permeated every government office. The BJP government is the epitome of corruption. What we are witnessing today is nothing short of a ‘loot raj’ in Tripura. Now, Tipra Matha has also joined in

MANIK SARKAR | EX TRIPURA CM

The fight against child marriage gets stronger. Last year, our flagship scheme #NijutMoina helped close to 2 lakh girls with Rs 132 cr in assistance

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

PM Modi had a golden opportunity to dismiss the claim of Donald Trump of intervention during the military stand-off with Pakistan. The opportunity was offered to the PM by our leader Rahul Gandhi in Lok Sabha. The opportunity was squandered by the PM

PAWAN KHERA | SENIOR CONG LEADER

X

POST OF THE DAY

Prime Minister hasn't said that Donald Trump is lying. If he speaks, then Trump will say things openly and keep the entire truth, that's why he is not able to speak. He'll pressure them in trade deals. Just wait and watch what kind of trade deal gets made.

—Rahul Gandhi.

@mohitlaws

2,900 rescued in rain-hit MP districts

Bhopal: Nearly 2,900 people, including 27 schoolchildren, have been rescued from various districts in Madhya Pradesh by the Army and other authorities after heavy rains battered the state and caused inundation, officials said Wednesday. A flood-like situation prevailed in Shivpuri district after heavy rains, prompting authorities to call the Army for rescue and relief work. A similar situation was also seen in Guna district, where a bridge on a culvert caved-in, they said. People from several villages in Guna have been asked to move to safer places. Due to heavy rains, Dindori, Vidisha, Jabalpur, Narmadapuram, Alirajpur, Rajgarh and Betul districts were also witnessing a flood-like situation and rapid relief and rescue operations were being carried out by the administration, as per the officials.

Assam: Eviction drive on for second day

Golaghat (Assam): A massive eviction drive to clear encroachments from nearly 1,500 hectares of forest land in Assam's Golaghat district continued for the second consecutive day Wednesday, officials said. The eviction drive, once completed, will displace around 1,500 families, mostly from the Muslim community, they added.

INS Satpura arrives in Singapore

New Delhi: Indian naval ship Satpura has arrived in Singapore to participate in a bilateral maritime exercise that aims to enhance interoperability while reinforcing a shared commitment to maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, the defence ministry said Wednesday.



From today onwards the word contractual will be forever eliminated from before the name of the employees, who have given their precious years to the government while serving

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

LT GEN PUSHPENDRA SINGH TO BE NEXT VICE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh, having an illustrious career spanning more than 35 years, is set to take over as the next Vice Chief of the Army Staff August 1. He will succeed Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, who had assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) July 1 last year



CASH ROW

Your conduct doesn't inspire confidence: SC to judge Varma



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Supreme Court Wednesday told Justice Yashwant Varma that his conduct did not inspire confidence and also defended the CJI's authority to act on any judicial misconduct saying he cannot be merely a “post office” but has certain duties to the nation.

It also asked Justice Varma, who is now a judge of the Allahabad High Court, why he chose to move the apex court after an in-house committee found him guilty of misconduct in the cash discovery row.

The top court was hearing Justice Varma's plea seeking invalidation of a report by an in-house inquiry panel which found him guilty of misconduct in the cash discovery matter. The report indicted the judge over the discovery of a huge cache of burnt cash from his official residence during his tenure as a Delhi High Court judge. The plea does not reveal Justice Varma's identity and is titled, “XXX v. The Union of India”. Posing sharp questions to the judge, the top court asked Justice Varma why he appeared before the in-house inquiry committee and did not challenge it then and there.

It told Justice Varma that he should have come earlier to the apex court against the panel's report. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih said the in-house process was put in place in 1999 and the chief justice of India (CJI) cannot be considered merely a post office. “The Chief Justice of India is not supposed to be a post office only. He has certain duties to the nation as the leader of the judiciary. If material comes to him regarding misconduct, he is only to inform the president and the Prime Minister. Nothing more.”

The top court reserved its order on Justice Varma's petition challenging the in-house inquiry procedure and the CJI's recommendation for his removal. As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Justice Varma, referred to Articles 124 and 218 of the Constitution and said it lays down a complete procedure for the removal of a judge, and any parallel or extra-constitutional mechanism falls outside the framework of the Constitution. Article 124 deals with the appointment and removal of Supreme Court judges, while Article 218 applies the same provisions to high court judges

SC upholds acquittal of Koli, Pandher



The killings came to light with the discovery of skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind Pandher's house at Nithari in Noida, bordering the national capital, December 29, 2006

pleas were filed by the CBI and the other two by Pappu Lal and Anil Haldar.

“There is no perversity in the Allahabad High Court judgement... (the petitions are) dismissed,” the CJI said after a brief hearing.

At the outset, the CJI asked Raja B Thakare, appearing for the CBI, and senior advocate Geeta Luthra, representing

the victims' family members, to show what was wrong and “perverse” with the findings of the Allahabad High Court.

“Show me one judgement which says that any recovery made without recording of the statement of an accused before the police is permissible in law,” the CJI asked when Luthra and the CBI counsel referred to recoveries of skulls

of kidnapped children and their belongings. The bench referred to section 27 of the Evidence Act and said that recoveries made at the instance of accused and their statements made before the police can be admissible in evidence.

The top court also referred to the recoveries made from a drain near the house of the accused. It said these recovered objects and materials can be attributed to the accused if the place of recovery is accessible to them only.

Luthra said as many as 16 poor children went missing and skulls and other belongings of the victims were recovered from the drain.

Section 27 allows for the admissibility of a portion of information provided by an accused in police custody that leads to the discovery of a relevant fact, even if that information amounts to a confession.

According to the provision, if an accused provides information that helps police find something connected to a crime, that specific information, and only that portion, can be used as evidence.

LS approves extension of Prez's Rule in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Lok Sabha Wednesday passed a resolution approving extension of President's Rule in Manipur by another six months beyond August 13, with the government asserting that peace is prevailing in the northeastern state.

Replying to a brief discussion on the statutory resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur, Union Minister of State

for Home Nityanand Rai said there has been only one casualty in the state since the imposition of central rule in February.

“What can be a bigger proof of peace returning there than the fact that since President's Rule was imposed, there has been only one fatality. There have been no casualties in the last four months,” he said. The minister said it was important to have President's Rule in Manipur to ensure peace is established. “I

want to say that there is peace prevailing there...the law and order situation is also under control. Full efforts are being made to remove differences between the two ethnic communities through dialogue to establish permanent peace,” he said.

Rai had moved the statutory resolution for discussion in Lok Sabha. He rejected remarks by Congress member Anto Antony that the conflict in Manipur was between two religions.



An artiste gives finishing touches to the idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of the 'Ganesh Chaturthi', in Nagpur, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

Sudden braking on highway is negligence: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court has held that a car driver, who applies sudden brakes on a highway without any warning, can be held negligent in the event of a road accident.

A bench comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar Tuesday observed that a driver's abrupt halt in the middle of a highway, even if triggered by a personal emergency, cannot be justified if it endangers other road users.

“On a highway, high speed of vehicles is expected and if a driver intends to stop his vehicle, he has a responsibility to give a warning or signal to other vehicles moving behind on the road,” Justice Dhulia, who wrote the judgement for the bench, said.



The verdict came on a plea of S Mohammed Hakim, an engineering student whose left leg had to be amputated after a road accident in Coimbatore January 7, 2017.

The incident occurred when Hakim's motorcycle collided with the rear of a car that had

come to an unexpected stop. As a result, Hakim fell onto the road and was run over by a bus approaching from behind. The car driver had claimed that he applied brakes suddenly because his pregnant wife experienced a vomiting sensation.

However, the court reject-

THE VERDICT CAME ON A PLEA OF S MOHAMMED HAKIM, AN ENGINEERING STUDENT WHOSE LEFT LEG HAD TO BE AMPUTATED AFTER A ROAD ACCIDENT IN COIMBATORE JANUARY 7, 2017

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN HAKIM'S MOTORCYCLE COLLIDED WITH THE REAR OF A CAR THAT HAD COME TO AN UNEXPECTED STOP

ed this explanation, stating, “The explanation given by the car driver for suddenly stopping his car in the middle of a highway is not a reasonable explanation from any angle.” Holding a car driver as 50 per cent liable in a road accident case, the bench did not agree to his contention that he had suddenly applied the brakes as his wife was pregnant and she had a vomiting sensation.

The court held the appellant as liable for contributory negligence but only to the extent of 20 per cent, while making the car driver and bus driver as liable for negligence to the extent of 50 per cent and 30 per cent respectively.

The court computed the total amount of compensation as Rs 1.14 crore but reduced it by 20 per cent due to contributory negligence by the appellant, to be paid to him by the insurance companies of both the vehicles, within four weeks.

In the case, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal exonerated the car driver and determined the negligence of the appellant and the bus driver in the ratio of 20:80. It put the contributory negligence of 20 per cent on the appellant for not maintaining a sufficient distance from the car.

7 years after Bulandshahr violence, 38 convicted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bulandshahr (UP), July 30: A court here Wednesday convicted 38 people, five of them for murder, in the 2018 Syana violence case in which two persons, including a police inspector, were killed.

A violence broke out over alleged cow slaughter in the Syana area of Bulandshahr district December 3, 2018. During the unrest, SHO Subodh Kumar Singh and 20-year-old Sumit sustained fatal gunshot wounds.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ)-12 Gopal Ji Wednesday found five of the accused guilty under the erstwhile IPC Section 302 (murder), while the remaining 33 were convicted under other charges. The court has scheduled the sentencing for August 1, a lawyer said. Special Public Prosecutor Yashpal Singh Raghav said the charges were proven against 38 individuals out of the 44 named in the chargesheet. One of the accused is being tried in a juvenile court as he was a minor at the time of the incident. During the course of the trial, five accused died.

Senior Superintendent of Police Dinesh Kumar Singh stated that December 3, 2018, a tragic incident occurred in Chingrawathi village under Syana police station limits. A mob incited the general public and spread rumours, leading to a blockade. When police reached the spot and tried to inform them of the actual situation and persuade them to disperse, the mob pelted stones, damaged public property, and set vehicles ablaze, the SSP said.

During the violence, Syana's station house officer Subodh Kumar Singh was killed. A team was assigned to investigate the matter, and later a chargesheet was filed under relevant sections, the officer said.



international



The most painful thing for our enemy is losing lands. A clarification to Hamas that the moment they play games with us they will lose land that they will never get back would be a significant pressure tool

ZEEV ELKIN |
SECURITY CABINET MEMBER, ISRAEL

OZ BANS YT ACCOUNTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 16

The Australian government announced YouTube will be among the social media platforms that must ensure account holders are at least 16-years-old from December, reversing a position taken months ago on the popular video-sharing service



HUGE QUAKE ROCKS RUSSIA’S FAR EAST



The earthquake appeared to be the strongest recorded since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off northeastern Japan in March 2011 that caused a massive tsunami and set off meltdowns at a nuclear power plant

REUTERS

Tokyo, July 30: A very powerful magnitude 8.8 earthquake off Russia’s Far Eastern Kamchatka coast Wednesday triggered tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile, and was followed by an eruption of the most active volcano on the peninsula.

The shallow quake damaged buildings and injured several people in the remote Russian region, while much of Japan’s eastern seaboard - devastated by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in 2011 - was ordered to evacuate, as were parts of Hawaii.

By the evening, Japan, Hawaii and Russia had downgraded most tsunami warnings. But authorities in French Polynesia warned residents of several of the remote Marquesas Islands to move to higher ground and expect waves as high as 2.5 metres (8 feet).

Tsunami waves began hitting the Marquesas Wednesday but were forecast to be smaller than initially feared, local authorities said.

Some initial wave surges were reported on Nuku Hiva, the largest of the Marquesas, about 1,400 km northeast of Tahiti, and between five to 10 additional waves were expected in the coming



WARNINGS ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Authorities in Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands, some 970 km (600 miles) off South America’s western coast, ordered precautionary evacuations to safe zones. Tsunami alarms sounded in coastal towns across Japan’s Pacific coast and evacuation orders were issued for tens of thousands of people.

Workers evacuated the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant, where a meltdown following the 2011 tsunami caused a radioactive disaster, operator TEPCO said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said no injuries or damage had been reported, and there were no irregularities at any nuclear plants.

‘RING OF FIRE’

Kamchatka and Russia’s Far East sit on the Pacific Ring of Fire, a geologically active region that is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The quake occurred on what is known as a “megathrust fault” where the denser Pacific Plate is sliding underneath the lighter North American Plate, according to scientists.

The Pacific Plate has been on the move, making the Kamchatka Peninsula off Russia’s Far East coast especially vulnerable, and bigger aftershocks could not be ruled out, they said.

Video footage from the region’s health ministry showed a team of medics in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky performing surgery as the quake shook their operating theatre. The medics used their hands to try to steady both the patient and their equipment, CCTV footage released by the Kamchatka region’s health ministry showed.

hours, the high commission said.

Russian scientists said the quake in Kamchatka was the most powerful to hit the region since 1952. The US Geological Survey said it was shallow, at a depth of 19.3 km (12 miles), and centred 119 km (74 miles) east-southeast of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a city of 165,000.

“It felt like the walls could collapse any moment. The shaking lasted continuously for at least three minutes,” said Yaroslav, 25, in the city.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there had been no casualties in Russia, crediting solid building construction and the smooth operation of alert systems.

In Severo-Kurilsk in the northern Kuril Islands, tsunami waves exceeded 3 metres, with the largest up to 5 metres, Russia’s RIA news agency reported. A quake of magnitude 6.07 later struck the Kuril Islands that lie between Kamchatka and northern Japan, the German Research Center for Geosciences said.

Tsunami waves partially flooded the port and a fish processing plant in the town, sweeping vessels from moorings, regional officials and Russia’s emergency ministry said. Verified drone footage showed the town’s entire shoreline submerged, with taller buildings and some storage facilities surrounded by water.

The Klyuchevskoy volcano on Rus-

8.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE STRIKES NEAR CITY OF PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY

TSUNAMI OF 3-5 METRES RECORDED IN KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

TSUNAMI WAVES REACH FRENCH POLYNESIA BUT SMALLER THAN FEARED

WARNINGS ISSUED, THEN DOWNGRADED IN JAPAN, HAWAII

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS ORDER EVACUATIONS AS TSUNAMI WARNINGS ROCK PACIFIC

sia’s Kamchatka Peninsula began erupting later, a geological monitoring service said. Located around 450 km (280 miles) north of the regional capital, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Klyuchevskoy is one of the highest volcanoes in the world.

“A descent of burning hot lava is observed on the western slope. Powerful glow above the volcano, explosions,” the Russian Academy of Sciences’ United Geophysical Service said on Telegram.

WAVES IN HAWAII, JAPAN

Hawaii recorded waves of up to 1.7 metres while in Japan the largest recorded came to 1.3 metres, officials said.

Flights out of Honolulu airport resumed in the evening, the transportation department said. Waves of nearly half a metre were observed as far away as California, with smaller ones reaching Canada’s province of British Columbia. But a tsunami advisory was cancelled for coastal British Columbia as well as coastal areas of south Alaska.

In French Polynesia, waves hit some islands in the early morning hours. In other parts, wave heights were expected to remain below 30 cm, not requiring evacuation or sheltering.

While the Marquesas are high-rising volcanic islands, much of French Polynesia consists of low-lying atolls.

A contour shake map of magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck off Russia’s Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula

SHORT TAKES

Lankans get 3-month free Maldives visa

Colombo: The Maldivian government Wednesday declared allowing free 90 day on arrival visas for Sri Lankan nationals touring the archipelagic nation. The announcement was made during the last day of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s three day visit to Male, the Maldives’ capital. Sri Lanka has already announced free visas for Maldivians for one year. The visa facility will take effect from July 29.

Ugandan, Sudanese troops clash, killing 4

Kampala (Uganda): Troops from Uganda and South Sudan clashed along the border between their countries in a firefight that left at least four dead, a Ugandan military official said Wednesday, as tensions flared over disputed border demarcations. Three South Sudanese soldiers were shot dead by Ugandan forces who retaliated after one of their soldiers was killed Monday, said Maj Gen Felix Kulayigye, spokesperson for the Ugandan military.

China, Russia to hold joint naval exercise

Beijing: The Chinese military announced Wednesday that it would hold an annual naval exercise and conduct a maritime joint patrol with Russian forces next month. Defence Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said that the Joint Sea 2025 exercise would be held in the air and seas near the Russian port city of Vladivostok, which lies across the sea from Japan’s west coast.

UN prepares aid to Sweida

REUTERS

Damascus, July 30: The United Nations is preparing to send a convoy of humanitarian aid to Syria’s southern province of Sweida, three aid officials told Reuters, after days of bloodshed left hundreds dead and displaced an estimated 175,000 people.

The preparations began after Syria’s foreign ministry granted UN aid agencies a green light to access Sweida directly, according to correspondence seen by Reuters, following three deliveries of UN aid to the province carried out by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The new UN convoy will include food and other supplies, according to Marianne Ward, head of the UN’s World Food Programme in Syria.

“We’re organising a convoy with a variety of different UN agencies’ support, which we expect will be the beginning of blanket access” to vulnerable communities, Ward told Reuters.

The violence in Sweida began July 13, when local factions from the Druze - a minority offshoot of Islam - clashed with Bedouin tribal fighters.

Syria’s government sent in troops to quell the fighting, but the clashes intensified, with more than 1,000 people killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, a war monitor.

A fragile ceasefire brokered by the US brought calm nearly a week later, but residents of Sweida told Reuters that electricity, food, medicine and water all remained scarce.

Thailand, Cambodia trade accusations

REUTERS

Bangkok, July 30: A fragile truce between Cambodia and Thailand held for a second day Wednesday, despite mutual accusations of violations, and Cambodia took military attaches and diplomats to a border checkpoint destroyed by fighting to verify the ceasefire.

The visit took place hours after Thailand’s military accused Cambodian forces of breaching the truce at three separate locations along the disputed frontier. The Cambodian government denied this.

The two sides agreed at a meeting in Malaysia Monday to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to halt the heaviest fighting between the two countries in over a decade.



There have been no reports of any exchange of heavy artillery fire since the truce was announced, but Thai and Cambodian troops were still massed along the frontier where fighting raged for five days at multiple locations.

At least 43 people, many of them civilians, were killed

and more than 300,000 people were displaced. At the checkpoint in Cambodia’s Preah Vihear province, which was now a pile of concrete, bricks and metal, Cambodian military officials told foreign observers on Wednesday that Thailand had illegally captured 20 Cambodian soldiers, according to a

government statement. “One of our soldiers managed to flee,” said Major General Chan Sopheaktra, according to the statement. “We suspect two others may have died, but the rest are still being held by the Thai military, with no signs of release as of this afternoon.”

Thai government spokesperson Jirayu Houngsub said Thailand’s military was currently holding 18 Cambodian soldiers who it said surrendered in Sisaket province. They had been provided clothes, food, water and medical care, he said.

“They are expected to be sent back to Cambodia after a permanent ceasefire is reached,” he said, adding the bodies of two deceased Cambodian soldiers had been returned Tuesday.

On Gaza malnutrition ward, a child’s arm as wide as mother’s thumb

REUTERS

Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, July 30: On the pink walls of Nasser hospital’s child malnutrition ward, cartoon drawings show children running, smiling, and playing with flowers and balloons.

Beneath the pictures, a handful of Gazan mothers watch over their babies who lie still and largely silent, mostly too exhausted by severe hunger to cry.

The quiet is common in places treating the most acutely malnourished, doctors told Reuters, a sign of bodies shutting down.

“She is always lethargic, lying down, like this you do not find her responsive,” said Zeina Radwan, mother of 10-month-old Maria Suhaib Radwan. She has not been able to find milk or enough food for her baby, and

cannot breastfeed as she herself is underfed, surviving on one meal a day. My children and I cannot live without nutrition.”

Over the last week, Reuters journalists spent five days in Nasser Medical Complex, one of only four centres left in Gaza able to treat the most dangerously hungry children.

Gaza’s food stocks have been running out since Israel, at war with Palestinian militant group Hamas since October 2023, cut off all supplies to the territory in March. That blockade was lifted in May but with restrictions that Israel says needed to prevent aid being diverted to militant groups.

As stocks ran out, the situation escalated in June and July,



WARD IS SILENT AS HUNGRY CHILDREN TOO EXHAUSTED TO CRY

‘THERE IS TOTAL LOSS OF MUSCLES. IT’S ONLY SKIN ON TOP OF BONES’

SUPPLIES TO TREAT SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION ARE RUNNING OUT

with the World Health Organization warning of mass starvation and images of emaciated children shocking the world. The Gaza health ministry says 151 people, including 89 children,

have died of malnutrition, most in recent weeks. A global hunger monitor said Tuesday that a famine scenario is unfolding.

Israel says it has no aim to starve Gaza. This week it announced steps to allow more aid in, including pausing fighting in some locations, air dropping

food and offering more secure routes. The United Nations said the scale of what is needed is vast in order to stave off famine and avert a health crisis.

“We need milk for babies. We need medical supplies. We need some food, special food for nutritional department,” said Dr Ahmed al-Farra, head of the paediatric and maternity department in Nasser Medical Complex. “We need everything for the hospitals.”

Israeli officials say many of those who died while malnourished in Gaza were suffering from pre-existing illnesses. Famine experts say this is typical in the early stages of a hunger crisis.

SUPPLIES RUNNING OUT, FEW SPACES IN HOSPITAL

The youngest babies in particular need special therapeutic formulas made with clean water, and supplies are running

low, Farra and the WHO told Reuters.

“All the key supplies for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, including medical complications, are really running out,” said Marina Adrianopoli, WHO nutrition lead for the Gaza response. “It’s really a critical situation.”

The treatment centres are also operating beyond capacity, she said. In the first two weeks of July, more than 5,000 children under five received outpatient treatment for malnutrition, with 18% suffering from the severest form. That was a surge from 6,500 in the whole of June, already the highest of the war and almost certainly an underestimate, said the WHO.

Seventy-three children with malnutrition and complications were hospitalised in July, up from 39 in June. Hospital places are scarce.



APPLE ROLLS OUT LIVE VIDEO SHOPPING SUPPORT

With a rising number of people browsing and shopping online, iPhone maker Apple on Wednesday announced a service that would enable customers in India to connect on a video call with an Apple specialist for personalised advice and help in comparing models when buying its products. In a release, Apple said India is the second country to get this service, building on the company's expanding retail presence here



Quote of the day

A crisis of this kind is more than technical facts. It is perspectives and perceptions that matter. Our initial response was more on facts, whereas we underestimated that Maggi as a brand was so much more impactful with the consumers

SURESH NARAYANAN | OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, NESTLE INDIA

Agentic AI will create over 30 lakh new technology jobs by 2030 and it is also reshaping the workforce, and will "redefine" over 1.35 crore roles

SUMEET MATHUR | MD, SERVICENOW INDIA TECHNOLOGY

Over the past 11 years, women at Swiggy have led critical roles -- driving impact and solving complex challenges. We understand that motherhood isn't a single event, but a journey with evolving needs and challenges

GIRISH MENON | CHIEF HR, SWIGGY

Q1 RESULTS

Spencer's Retail loss widens

New Delhi: Spencer's Retail Ltd Wednesday reported a widening of its consolidated net loss to ₹61.61 crore for the June quarter of FY'26. The company had posted a net loss of ₹43.43 crore in the April-June period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Hitachi India net jumps

New Delhi: Hitachi Energy India Wednesday posted multi-fold increase in net profit at ₹131.60 crore for June quarter 2025-26 mainly due to higher revenues and lower base effect.

Power Grid profit down

New Delhi: State-owned Power Grid Corporation Wednesday reported 2.5 per cent dip in consolidated net profit at ₹3,630.58 crore for June quarter 2025-26 due to higher expenses.

IndiGo profit falls

New Delhi: The country's largest airline IndiGo Wednesday saw its profit after tax decline 20 per cent to ₹2,176.3 crore in the three months ended June. The carrier had a profit after tax of ₹7,228.8 crore in the year-ago period.

Hyundai posts loss

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Wednesday reported an 8 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,369 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, hit by lower sales in the domestic market. The auto major posted a net profit of ₹1,490 crore in the April-June quarter of the last fiscal.

P&G profit zooms

New Delhi: Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care Ltd Wednesday reported an over two-fold jump in its profit after tax to ₹192.06 crore in the fourth quarter ended June 2025.

PNB profit slips

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) Wednesday reported a 48 per cent decline in standalone net profit at ₹1,675 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2025 on higher tax expenses. The state-owned bank had posted a net profit of ₹3,252 crore in the year-ago period.

TARRIFYING TAX

Tariff plus penalty adds uncertainty to exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: US President Donald Trump's announcement to impose a sweeping 25 per cent tariff plus penalty on India from August 1 will be a big blow to the country's exports and adds a fresh layer of uncertainty, exporters said Wednesday.

They said that in the absence of clarity on the penalty's scope, Indian exporters and US importers are unable to accurately calculate landed costs or plan how to absorb the elevated tariff burden. "The announcement by Trump...comes as a big blow for India. With US being one of the key export destinations, this will severely impact the sectors like gems and jewellery that are heavily dependent on exports and is one of the biggest contributors to the economy of the country," Kama Jewelry MD Colin Shah said.

The domestic gems and jewellery industry of India has already been bearing the brunt of the prolonged geopolitical tensions between Russia-Ukraine and Middle East for almost over two years. "Going ahead, we expect trade activities to remain muted with US," he said.

US President Donald Trump Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying military equipment and crude oil from Russia.

Sharing similar views, Federation of Indian Export Or-



ganisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said US decision has added a fresh layer of uncertainty for businesses on both sides.

"Exporters largely view this disruption as a temporary setback, anticipating that a comprehensive trade agreement will bring stability, correct asymmetries, and ultimately create new avenues for trade and recovery," Sahai said.

He added that this lack of predictability is disrupting supply chain planning and pricing decisions.

Mumbai-based exporter and founder chairman of Techno-craft Industries India Sharad Kumar Saraf said that this announcement will create further uncertainty. "We need stability in these tariffs."

India's goods exports to US rose by 23.53 per cent to \$8.3 billion in June while imports dipped by 10.61 per cent to about \$4 billion during the month, according to the commerce ministry data.

During April-June, the country's exports to US increased by 22.18 per cent to \$25.51 billion, while imports rose 11.68 per cent to USD 12.86 billion, the data showed.

US was the largest trading partner of India in the April-June quarter of 2025-26.

In 2024, India's main exports to US included drug formulations and biologicals (\$8.1 billion), telecom instruments (\$6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (\$5.3 billion), petroleum products (\$4.1 billion), vehicle and auto components (\$2.8 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (\$3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories (\$2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (\$2.7 billion). Imports included crude oil (\$4.5 billion), petroleum products (\$3.6 billion), coal, coke (\$3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds (\$2.6 billion), electric machinery (\$1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts (\$1.3 billion), and gold (\$1.3 billion).

SNIPPETS

TPSODL boosts Digapahandi's power infrastructure

Berhampur: In a major boost to power reliability in Ganjam district, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has successfully completed the interlinking Chikiti 33 kV feeder with Digapahandi Primary Substation (PSS). The project also includes the installation of Ring Main Unit (RMU) to facilitate faster fault isolation and efficient load management. The RMU is connected with one incoming and two outgoing power supply. In case of any disruption in one line, the RMU allows seamless power supply through the backup line, thereby minimizing downtime. This initiative will benefit around 12,000 consumers, providing a stable power supply to residents and commercial establishments in Digapahandi town. Speaking on this development, TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg said, "TPSODL has remained steadfast in strengthening power infrastructure. This project is a step forward in our mission to provide high-quality electricity to our consumers. The new feeder link not only reinforces the network but also enhances resilience, ensuring minimal disruption in power supply." TPSODL remains committed to investing in infrastructure development and smart technologies to build a more robust, reliable, and consumer-centric power distribution system across Southern Odisha.



TPWODL resolves over 1,200 complaints

Burla: TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) successfully conducted a large-scale Electricity Bill Revision Camp from July 23 to 25 across its operational areas in Western Odisha. The initiative aimed to address consumer grievances related to billing and enhance service transparency. The camps, held across all sections, subdivisions, and division offices, were supervised by respective SDOs and ESOs. A total of 4,002 consumers participated, with 1,234 billing complaints resolved on the spot. Queries of another 2,768 consumers were clarified, confirming no discrepancies in their billing. In a parallel initiative, a Consumer Complaint Resolution Camp was organised at TPWODL's Sambalpur East Electrical Division Office in Bhutapada July 25. Consumers raised issues related to metering, billing, power supply quality, and collection, many of which were addressed promptly during the session. Consumers lauded TPWODL for its swift and effective grievance redressal.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Wednesday upheld its interim order restraining Gensol Engineering and its former top executives Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi from the securities markets on concerns over fund diversion and corporate governance failures.

Additionally, the regulator said Jaggi brothers, also co-founders of EV ride-hailing firm BluSmart Mobikity, would continue to be debarred from holding the position of a director or key managerial personnel in Gensol.

The final order comes as the company undergoes insolvency proceedings under the supervision of a court-appointed professional.

The brothers have been accused by SEBI of siphoning off loan funds from their publicly-listed company Gensol for personal use, raising concerns over corporate governance and financial misconduct.

The order stated that the prima facie findings of misappropriation of funds and falsification of conduct letters to

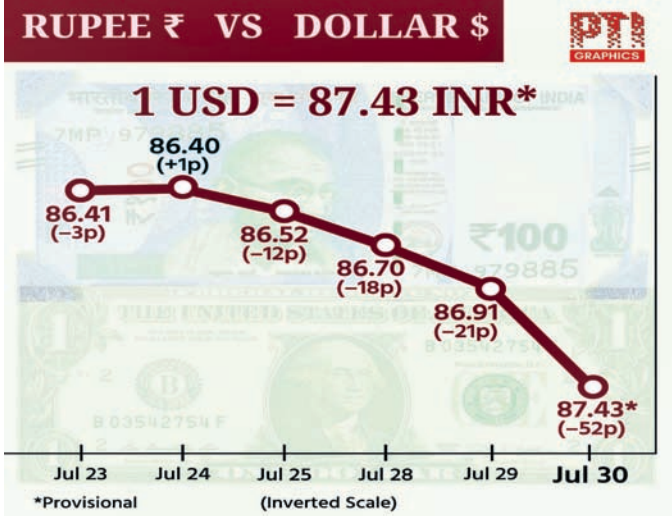


CRAAs -- initially highlighted in its April 2025 interim order--remain un rebutted by the company's promoters.

"... prima facie findings regarding diversion mis-utilisation of funds of Gensol have not been successfully rebutted by Notices. I also note that a detailed investigation into this matter is being carried out. Further, a forensic auditor has already been appointed to examine the books of accounts of Gensol and its related parties."

"The concrete findings of the investigation and the forensic auditor are yet to emerge. The

Rupee slides steepest in over three years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: The rupee plunged 89 paise, logging its steepest single-day fall in over three years, and closed at an all-time low of 87.80 against US dollar Wednesday after America announced a sweeping 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports in the absence of a trade deal ahead of August 1 deadline.

Forex traders said month-end dollar demand from importers and sustained foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 87.10 and touched an intra-day low of 87.05 against the greenback.

At the end of Wednesday's trading session, the local unit settled at a fresh all-time low of 87.80, down 89 paise over its previous closing price. This was rupee's steepest single-day fall since February 24, 2022 when it had lost 99 paise against the dollar.

Tuesday, the rupee declined to an over four-month low and closed 21 paise weaker at 86.91 against US dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research

Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said, "We expect the rupee to slide further amid uncertainty over the trade deal between India and the US. Rising global oil prices and foreign outflows may also keep the rupee under the leash."

Moreover, investors remained on the sidelines ahead of US Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan's monetary policy decision this week.

Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, attributed the sharp depreciation in rupee to increased month-end dollar demand and outflows from foreign funds.

"Adding to the negative sentiment, comments from US President Trump, suggesting that India could face tariffs of 20 to 25 per cent, further weighed down the rupee," Parmar said.

US President Donald Trump Wednesday announced the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on all goods coming from India starting August 1, plus an unspecified penalty for buying military equipment and crude oil from Russia.

Schneider Electric to buy Temasek's 35% stake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Schneider Electric Wednesday said it will acquire the remaining 35 per cent stake of Schneider Electric India from Temasek for a cash consideration of 5.5 billion euros.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including the receipt of required regulatory approvals such as from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and is expected to close in the coming quarters, Schneider Electric said in a statement. Olivier Blum, CEO of Schneider Electric commented, "India is one of the key focus markets of Schneider Electric for the years to come and I am very excited by the prospect to capture the full growth potential of this unique opportunity we have in the country and also to leverage our exceptional talents in R&D."

"The company looks forward to further implementing our multi-hub strategy in India, capitalising on more than 60 years of impactful presence and by driving world-class product development, research, and industrial capabilities to support the various government initiatives", he said.

NSDL's IPO fully sold within hours

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 30: National Securities Depository Ltd's NATS.NS \$458 million IPO was fully subscribed within hours of its Wednesday launch as investors rushed to back its leading position in India's rapidly growing securities market.

The country's largest depository is drawing strong investor interest amid a retail investing boom, with demat accounts growing at a 21.9 per cent compound annual rate since fiscal 2014 to 192.4 million by March 2025, according to its offer document.

NSDL holds around 86 per cent of India's securities depository market, where it operates as one of two licensed players. Shares of smaller rival Central Depository Services have surged nearly twelve-fold since their 2017 debut.

"NSDL's valuation is decent compared to CDSL at 60x. This differential could lead to some investors exiting CDSL and buying NSDL post the latter's listing," said Ambareesh Baliga, an independent market analyst.

NSDL's IPO is an offer for sale, with IDBI Bank and the National Stock Exchange paring stakes to meet the 15 per cent regulatory ownership cap for market infrastructure institutions such as depositories.

The offering, among India's largest this year, raised \$137.35 million in its anchor round Tuesday from marquee investors including Life Insurance Corporation of India and US-based Capital International.

Shares were allotted at the upper end of the price band of 760 rupees to 800 rupees. The issue will close August 1.

Electricity demand to rise 4% in 2025

In India, the impact of global economic uncertainties on industrial activity and cooler summer temperatures compared to 2024 led to electricity demand increasing by 1.4 per cent year-on-year in H1 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: India's electricity demand is expected to grow by a moderate 4 per cent in 2025, after cooler summer temperatures in the first half of the year reduced consumption and shifted peak load to September, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

In its mid-year update on electricity, IEA said while global power demand is rising much faster than the forecast for the 2025-2026 than it did during the past decade, electricity demand in China and India is expected to rise at a more moderate pace in 2025 than the rapid growth seen in 2024.

"After 6 per cent growth in 2024, electricity demand in India is forecast to rise by 4 per cent this year," it said.

IEA projected Chinese consumption to rise 5 per cent in 2025, down from 7 per cent in the previous year. However, China alone will account for 50 per cent of global electricity demand growth, as it did in 2024.

"In India, the impact of global economic uncertainties on industrial activity and cooler summer temperatures compared



to 2024 led to electricity demand increasing by 1.4 per cent year-on-year in H1 2025. Demand is forecast to rise at a higher rate for the remainder of the year, reaching an annual growth rate of 4 per cent," IEA said, projecting a robust 6.6 per cent growth in 2026, driven by stronger activity in industry and services, and increasing AC stock.

Citing estimates from the Ministry of Power for 2025, the Paris-based agency said peak load could reach 270 GW (8 per cent increase y-o-y) and shift to

September instead of summer this year, although this should be fully met by rising generation capacity.

To manage peak load growth, the government is mulling a proposal on AC standards that would cap temperature settings between 20 and 28 degrees Celsius, potentially reducing peak load by up to 60 gigawatt (GW) in 2035. On generation, IEA said the combined output from solar PV and wind was 20 per cent higher in H1 2025 y-o-y, which reached an almost 14 per cent share in the mix, up from 11 per cent in H1, 2024.

Solar PV generation grew 25 per cent and wind by slightly less than 30 per cent. A significant improvement in hydro conditions since mid-2024 resulted in hydropower generation increasing 16 per cent y-o-y between January and June.

