Tara's choice

Actor Tara Sutaria opens up on whether she would ever get married to a foreigner

LEISURE | P2



#### 'July Declaration'

Bangladesh government to unveil August 5 the 'July Declaration', coinciding with first anniversary of Sheikh Hasina's ouster

INTERNATIONAL | P10



#### **RBI** may cut rates

RBI expected to cut repo rate by 25 bps in light of softening inflation and global uncertainties

BUSINESS | P11



#### Flamboyant ton

Yashasvi Jaiswal's 118 and halfcenturies from Akash Deep, Jadeia and Washington help India set a stiff 374-run target against England

SPORTS | P12

**VOLUME 15, ISSUE 124 I www.orissapost.com** 

**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | AUGUST 3, 2025** 

#### **Over 34L farmers** receive ₹697cr: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday urged farmers to diversify into crops other than paddy to take advantage of government schemes.

He said that over 34 lakh farmers received the 20th instalment of financial assistance under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.

Majhi said this while attending the state-level PM Kisan Samman Nidhi event here, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi disbursed the assistance to 9.7 crore farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) at the main function in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

"Today, I participated in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme in Bhubaneswar. Today, the Honourable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji is providing ₹20,500 crore to 9.7 crore farmers across the country from Varanasi. In this context, today, more than 34.85 lakh farmers in Odisha are being provided a total of 697 crore rupees," Majhi posted on X.

Stating that the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM Kisan Yojana has been instrumental in making farmers progressive, Majhi said the programme integrates farmers into the mainstream of the economy.

This scheme plays a significant role in the development of farmers and in reducing poverty, the CM said. He also said that over 34.85 lakh eligible farmers in Odisha received ₹2,000 each, and a total of around ₹697 crore was disbursed into their bank accounts.

Asserting that the Odisha government has implemented many schemes for farmers within a year of his party coming to power. Maihi said the cultivators are getting the benefits.

More than 50 lakh farmers of the state are getting assistance of ₹4.000 per year under the CM

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



approval - should I get Trump's too?

#### 12 PAGE+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00 **Ex-MP Revanna** gets life term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in rape case

Bangalore, August 2: A Special Court here Saturday sentenced to life imprisonment, former MP and suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna in a rape case.

The Special Court for MPs/ MLAs Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat also imposed a total fine of ₹10 lakh on the accused.

The court had Friday convicted the 34-year-old in one of the four sexual abuse and rape cases registered against him and reserved the sentencing for Saturday.

The case pertains to a 48-year-old woman who was working as a help at the family's Gannikada farmhouse in Hassan district's Holenarasipura. She was allegedly raped twice -- at Hassan farm house and Bangalore residence-- in 2021 and the act recorded by the accused on his mobile phone.

Earlier in the day, while the prosecution sought life sentence for Revanna, the 34 yearold sought leniency, claiming he did nothing wrong and that his only mistake was his 'fast growth in politics.

He broke down in court as he appealed to the judge for a lesser punishment.

He told the court that he is a BE Mechanical graduate, and has always passed on merit.

# RESCUE ACT: A man, holding a dog, runs from a blaze raging through a neighbourhood of Salta, Argentina

# Talks to resolve Mahanadi dispute Balanga victim dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi. August 2: In a positive development to the long-standing Mahanadi river water-sharing dispute, Odisha and Chhattisgarh have agreed for an amicable settlement, prompting the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) to grant additional time for negotiations. At a hearing held Saturday,

the tribunal took note of the recent correspondence and statements from both states advocating for a negotiated resolution.

'We deem it appropriate to request the secretaries concerned of the respective states to remain present before the tribunal on the next date and apprise it about the progress of settlement talks between the two states," the tribunal, headed by chairperson Justice Bela M Trivedi, said. The tribunal, also comprising

Justices Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur, fixed September 6 as the next date of hearing. Earlier in the day, a team

from Odisha comprising Advocate General (AG) Pitambar

Acharya and 13 lawyers informed the tribunal that both the states have begun exploring an amicable resolution to the dispute and there has been progress in discussions at both the chief secretary and political levels

The AG said that the state government believes a breakthrough is possible if the matter is approached with a 'positive mindset' by the CMs of both states.

Acharya placed on record a copy of the letter dated July 25 along with the draft minutes of the proceedings of high-level meeting chaired by Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, a copy of letter written by Majhi to his Chhattisgarh counterpart sending a proposal of an amicable settlement of Mahanadi water dispute.

Acharya also placed a copy of Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai's reply to Majhi and stated that the matter for settlement of the water dispute between the two states was under consideration.

"On August 1, the Chhattisgarh CM acknowledged receiving his Odisha counterpart's July 25 letter and stated that the matter is under consideration, keeping the option for a negotiated resolution open," the Odisha AG said.

Besides, senior advocate for the Chhattisgarh government AK Ganguly also informed the tribunal that the issue of settlement of the disputes is under active consideration before their CM. The Mahanadi water-sharing dispute has con tinued for nearly a decade.

Odisha has time and again alleged that Chhattisgarh's construction of barrages and dams in the upstream has blocked the natural flow of water, adversely affecting agriculture and livelihoods in the lower basin areas, especially during non-monsoon months.

After early talks between the states failed. Odisha moved the Supreme Court in November 2016, seeking formation of a tribunal under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

The Centre formed the MWDT in March 2018, initially headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar. The proceedings continued between 2018 and 2023 with data submissions, arguments, and inspections from both states.

A tomato connection to potato's origin 9mn yrs ago

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The 15-year-old girl who was allegedly set on fire by three unidentified miscreants in Balanga in Puri district succumbed to her burn injuries while undergoing treatment in AIIMS-Delhi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Majhi in a post on X said: "I am deeply shocked to hear the news of the death of the girl from Balanga area. Despite all the efforts of the government and the round-the-clock endeayours of specialist medical team at AIIMS-Delhi, her life could not be saved. I pray for the eternal peace of the girl's soul and pray before God to grant strength to her family to bear this irreparable loss." The Opposition Congress and BJD slammed the state government following the girl's death.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das said, "We are saddened to hear about the passing of the Balanga victim. Even after two weeks of the incident, the culprits are still at large. The state government has failed to nab the culprits. This clearly shows how the

#### No other person involved: Police Bhubaneswar: Hours after the

death of the 15-year-old girl from Puri district at AIIMS, Delhi, Odisha police Saturday claimed that no other person was involved in the incident, even though the victim's mother in her FIR had alleged that three unknown miscreants had set her daughter on fire. The police. how the girl was set on fire.

Home department functions in the state. We condemn the government and the police for their inaction in this matter.

Former chief minister and BJD president Naveen Pat naik also expressed deep sorrow over the demise of the Balanga victim and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

The minor girl was allegedly abducted by three men and set on fire on the banks of river Bhargavi under Balanga police limits in the morning of July 19 while she was on her way to a friend's house. The girl, who sustained 70 per cent burn injuries, was airlifted from AIIMS-Bhubaneswar to AIIMS-Delhi July 20.

plants that were the ancestors

of a potato-like species now

found in Peru named Etubero-

sum, which closely resembles

the potato plant but lacks a tu

These two plants themselves

ber, and the tomato plant.

## Stay home to avoid rape, advise Guj traffic cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 2: Posters allegedly sponsored by the Ahmedabad traffic police for a safety campaign have stirred up a controversy, as some of them urged women to stay home to avoid getting raped.

The posters, which were pasted in a few localities in the city, have invited criticism from the Opposition, which raised questions about women's safety in Guiarat. Posters with statements. "do not attend late night parties, you could be raped or gangraped," and "do not go with your friend to dark, isolated areas, what if she is raped or gangraped?" were pasted on road dividers in Sola and Chandlodia areas and have since been removed.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic West), Neeta Desai clarified that the city traffic police had sponsored posters concerning road safety, not women's safety. Satarkta Group, an NGO, had created the controversial posters without the consent of the traffic police, she claimed. Desai said that the posters were immediately removed when the issue was brought to their notice. Gujarat Aam Aadmi Party took

a swipe at the BJP government. "The BJP government in Guiarat talks about women's empowerment, but the ground reality is completely different. In the last three years, more than 6,500 incidents of rape and more than 36 gangrapes have occurred in Guiarat, with more than five rapes per day," the AAP said in a statement.

Washington, August 2: Potato is one of the world's food staples, first cultivated thousands of years ago in the Andes region of South America before spreading globally from the 16th century. But despite its importance to humankind, the evolutionary origins of the potato have remained puzzling until now.

A new analysis of 450 genomes from cultivated potatoes and 56 genomes of wild potato species has revealed that the potato lineage originated through natural interbreeding between a wild tomato plant and a potato-like species in South America about 9 million years ago.

This hybridisation event led to the appearance of the nascent potato plant's tuber,

an enlarged structure housing nutrients underground, according to the researchers, who also identified two crucial genes involved in tuber formation. Whereas in a tomato plant the edible part is the fruit, in the potato plant it is the tuber.

"Potatoes are truly one of humanity's most remarkable food staples, combining extraordinary versatility, nutritional value and cultural ubiquity in ways few crops can match,' said Sanwen Huang, a genome biologist and plant breeder at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and senior author of the study published Friday in the journal Cell.

"People eat potatoes using virtually every cooking method - baking, roasting, boiling, steaming and frying. Despite being stereotyped as carbohy-



drates, potatoes offer vitamin C, potassium, fibre and resisand ferments in the large intestant starch, and are naturally tine, feeding beneficial bacteria gluten-free, low-fat and satiatin the gut. ing - a nutrient-dense calorie The modern-day potato source." Huang added.

plant's scientific name is Sola-Resistant starch is a type of num tuberosum. Its two parents carbohydrate that resists diidentified in the study were

shared a common ancestor that lived about 14 million years ago, and were able to naturally interbreed when the fortuitous hybridisation event occurred five million years after they

"This event led to a reshuf fling of genes such that the new lineage produced tubers allowing these plants to ex pand into the newly created cold, dry habitats in the ris ing Andes mountain chain, said botanist Sandra Knapp of the Natural History Museum in London, a co-author of the study.

had diverged from each other.

# leisure



#### MILEY PLANNING 'SPECIAL' FOR HANNAH MONTANA ANNIV

Miley Cyrus is planning 'something really special' for Hannah Montana's 20th anniversary next year. Miley, 32, shot to fame in the Disney show – which ran for four seasons from 2006 to 2011 – and she revealed she would love to pay tribute to the series with a special celebration next year.

#### AKON: INDIA IS LIKE A SECOND HOME

In an exciting update for all the music lovers out there, pop sensation Akon will be performing in India this November. Sharing his excitement of performing in India, the Smack That singer said, "The energy, the culture, the fans... it's on another level. India is like a second home."



#### FORTUNE **FORECAST**

😽 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You will remain undecided to-day, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesha. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by

itself, unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships. **TAURUS** 

People around you will be surprised to witness the considerate and compassionate side of you today, says Ganesha. Problems may come knocking but you, along with support from your loved ones, will handle them with brilliant tact. Enjoy the company of near and dear ones and let your presence be felt in social outings. suggests Ganesha.

#### **GEMINI**

Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special soméone, says Ganesha

#### **CANCER**

New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet vith success. you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach counsels Ganesha.

Talk of being busy! It seems like today, you shall take the cake, and perhaps, be the icng on it as well, says Ganesha. It is likely that the day is going to be very hectic for you in terms of work and business. You may be engaged in official conversations and dealings. Also, don't be surprised to find yourself in meetings as you attempt to take stock of your business situation.

You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesha. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

#### **LIBRA**

Ganesha says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen hv todav. Towards ev ning you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

#### **SCORPIO**

It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner.

#### **SAGITTARIUS** You feel highly balanced

today, says Ganesha, Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. En joy the serenity of nature in the evening.

#### CAPRICORN

The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesha. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

#### AQUARIUS

You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If married, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesha says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

#### **PISCES**

You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone. On the brighter side, your travels are unlikely to involve the cramps of flying economy class, says Ganesha.

#### Gargi: I don't let my skin tone define me

Mumbai: Actress and content creator Gargi Kundu has opened up about the harsh criticism she has faced over the years.

She revealed that she was often mocked for her skin tone. appearance, and identity. Speaking candidly, she shared how these experiences shaped her journey and strengthened her resolve. Gargi, who is known for her role in the show Society on Jio Hotstar, shared, "I was mocked for my looks every day. People called me 'behenji', said my specs were too big, and even made fun of my skin colour. It hurt-but I never let it define me.

"It felt like I was being judged for just being myself. I wear my glasses with pride. I love my skin. And I'm not here to meet someone else's standards," she asserted.

For the unversed, Gargi Kundu began her artistic career with classical training in Bharatanatyam and folk dance, and was actively involved in theatre and Bollywood-style performances from a young age. Her early exposure to the performing arts laid the groundwork for her later work across various creative platforms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gargi worked as a medical profes-



Tara's life choices

Mumbai: Actor Tara Sutaria has reacted to a question on whether she would ever get married to a foreigner. In an interview with Ranveer Allahbadia on The Ranveer Show, Tara called herself "very native", adding that she would want "nativeness". Currently, Tara is rumoured to be in a relationship with Veer Pahariya.

Tara shared that she wants "simplicity and comfort" in her life. "I don't think so because I'm very desi actually and I need all this like desipana (nativeness). There's a certain chilled out thing that we have, whether it's food related, whether it's family related, there's a certain way of being here, and I enjoy that, so I would want that. I need simplicity and I need comfort,'

She said that she wants her partner to be aware of himself. "I need the person to know who they are. If you know who you are, everything else falls into place, I feel. Self-awareness, self-worth to a certain extent and having a sense of self as well are very important. Knowing who you are in essence and knowing your beliefs, what you stand for, what you don't stand for, what you will never stand for, what you could possibly change to stand

all of these things are so important," she added.

ity and emotional sacrifice.

in her life. For her, travel

plays a deeper role than

leisure.

Natasha values travelling

"Travelling is not just a

break. It shifts your perspec-

tive. Places rich in silence and

nature bring peace, and that

in itself is healing. As actors,

we need to observe life close-

ly—different places and cul-

Talking about her charac-

ter, Natasha says, "Priyanka

is someone who had to take

charge of her family at a

very young age. She gave up

her own happiness to build a

business and support them.

tures feed that ability."



'Travelling shifts one's perspective' Mumbai: Actress Natashaa In the process, she never Fernandes, who will be seen in had the time for love or the upcoming film Andaaz 2, even friendships. The actress went on plays Priyanka—a character defined by early responsibilto add, "She's successful

and strong, but she's al-

so lonely. She maintains grace through everything life throws at her. Despite being a boss lady, she has a vulnerable side, and that vulnerability is eventually exploited,

leaves her with resentment.



#### Rubina shares her relationship mantra

Rubina Dilaik will soon be seen in the highly-awaited reality show, Pati Patni Aur Panga with her actor husband Abhinav Shukla. Interacting exclusively with this agency, she was asked if she believes

Mumbai: Popular television actress

in discussing everything with her To this, Rubina reacted by saying,

"Avoid is a strong word, and I've never done that. Avoiding is a no-no, but discussing absolutely everything is also not wise in a relationship." 'Sometimes it's better to leave certain things as they are after under-

standing them," she added. When asked if she and Abhinav ignore fights, Rubina denied, saying, Ignoring is not the way. Now we've

learned to pick our battles. Some

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

6

3 5

1

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

2

5

6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

9

5 2 8 fights need to be resolved thoughtfully, while others are too trivial to give importance

> The Bigg Boss 14 contestant noted that the key is to know what matters at what point in time.

Pati Patni Aur Panga will be premiering on Saturday. IANS

9

3

6

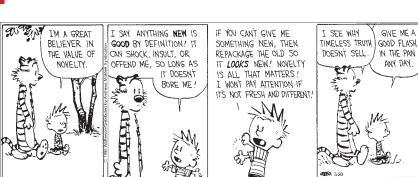
8

6 8

#### **PEANUTS**



#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

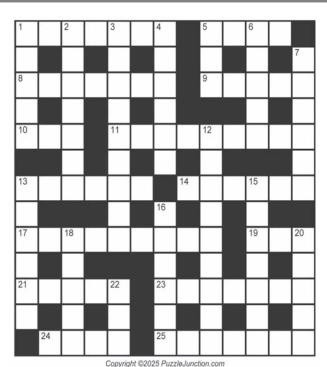


#### BREVITY



## POST

#### **CROSSWORD**



#### Across

1 Digs a tunnel

- 5 Ear part
- 8 Speech defect 24 Air pollution 9 Royal topper 25 Sawbones
- 10 Freudian topic
- 11 War paint

catcher

- 13 Tyrant
- 14 Consternation
- 2 Strident
- 17 Booked 19 Butterfly
- 3 Driving around (2,3,4)

<u>Down</u>

21 Out in the

country

23 Quartz glass

- 1 Butter up?

- 15 Sea cow
  - 16 Positions
  - 18 Sheik's bevy

13 Kalahari, e.g.

5 Auction unit

6 Face fungus

12 Salon necessity

7 Ireland's

Bay

(4,5)

- 20 Eagle's claw
- 22 Race part
- SUDOKU

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

#### M A A A R A M O T O R B O A T TH TABOO RECOIL ANGLERS

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

4 Tennis starters

# downtown

#### **SEEKING ACTION**

Students of Indira Gandhi Women's
College in Cuttack submit a
memorandum to Bidanasi police
station IIC, addressing DGP, seeking
action against rising atrocities
against women in the state



# No other person involved in Balanga girl burning: Police



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: A few hours after the death of the 15-year-old girl from Puri district's Balanga at AIIMS, Delhi, Odisha Police Saturday claimed that no other person was involved in the incident, even though the victim's mother, in her FIR, had alleged that three unknown miscreants had set her daughter on fire.

The police, however, did not make it clear how the girl was set on fire.

Taking to X, Odisha Police said, "We are deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of the victim girl in the Balanga incident. The police have conducted the investigation with utmost sincerity. The probe has reached its final stage. According to the inves-

tigation conducted so far, it is clear that no other person is involved. Therefore, we request everyone not to make any sensitive comments regarding this matter during this tragic moment."

The girl's mother, in her FIR at Balanga police station July 19, alleged that her daughter was abducted by three people who poured an inflammable substance on her and set her on fire.

After registration of the case senior police officers visited the spot. Forensic team and dog squad were utilised at the spot for collection of evidence. A special investigation team has been probing the case, according to the police.

Meanwhile, police tightened the security near the residence of the CM, Deputy CMs and othEarlier in the evening, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida

Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida and BJD president and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik expressed their grief over the demise of the minor girl and conveyed their condolences to her family.

Expressing grief, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhakta Charan Das demanded the arrest of the culprits involved in the burning of the girl within seven days. "We will gherao the DGP office if the culprits are not nabbed within seven days," Das said.

Though nearly 15 days have passed since the girl was set on fire, the police have not been able to nab any of the culprits involved in the case, he said.

Das described August 2 as a 'bad Saturday' as the girl was also set on fire Saturday (July 19). Meanwhile, sources said the

Puri police have deployed some personnel near the deceased girl's house at Balanga.

Notably, the incident has sparked outrage as it came close on the heels of a 20-year-old college student resorting to self-immolation and succumbing to 95 per cent burn injury in Balasore over a sexual harassment incident.



ADDING FEATHER IN THE CAP: Noted Odissi danseuse Sarita Mishra being feted with 'Ghungroo Samman 2025' during the concluding ceremony of Ghungroo Utsav organised by Nrityam Kalakshetra at GKCM Auditorium in Bhubaneswar Saturday

## MDM: Fruits for those not consuming eggs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state government Saturday asked district education officers (DEOs) to ensure students, who do not consume eggs, are given fruits under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme.

In a letter, PM POSHAN state nodal officer Bhabani Prasad Mishra asked all DEOs to make necessary arrangements at their level to provide fruits at the cost equivalent to one egg to the students from Sishu Vatika



to Class X who do not consume egg on the days when eggs are served as per the approved MDM menu

The move came a day after School and Mass Education (S&ME) department additional secretary Madhumita Rath wrote in this regard to the PM POSHAN state nodal officer.

Rath said the S&ME department had in 2014 decided to provide fruits like banana and apple to students opting for a vegetarian diet when egg was served under MDM at a cost equivalent to that of an egg.

Later, the provision of eggs in MDM was expanded to thrice weekly – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – and the MDM was extended from Sishu Vatika to Class X, Rath said.

"Now, the state government has extended the 2014 provision for providing fruits equivalent in cost to one egg to students from Sishu Vatika to Class X who do not consume eggs on days when eggs are served as per the approved MDM menu," the S&ME department additional secretary said, asking the PM POSHAN state nodal officer to ensure necessary action in this regard

# Sagarika Nath to MLA Sidhant Mohapatra's join as NIA SP mother passes away at 87

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Recognising her outstanding contributions to policing and public service, the Centre has approved the appointment of 2016-batch Odisha cadre IPS officer Sagarika Nath as Superintendent of Police (SP) in National Investigation Agency (NIA), official sources said Saturday.

In an official communication, the Ministry of Home Affairs has requested Odisha Chief Secretary to relieve Nath from her current assignment as Khurda SP immediately to enable her to assume her new responsibilities at the Centre. Necessary instructions have been issued to the Director General of Police (DGP), and the NIA, Delhi, to coordinate the smooth transition.

Nath is known for having introduced several initiatives like Project Sampark, a comprehensive anti-drug campaign that combines law enforcement, youth outreach, and mental health awareness to address drug abuse among youths in Khurda: 'Chho-



ta Cop Programme', a trust building exercise between police and children; and 'Project Durga, which focuses on women's safety and empowerment.

She was earlier posted as Traffic SP, Bhubaneswar and also as SP of Balasore, when curfew was clamped in the coastal town following clashes between two groups sparked over suspicions of cow slaughter during a religious celebration in 2024.

A native of Dhenkanal, Odisha, Nath holds a BTech in Electrical Engineering from CET Bhubaneswar and cracked the UPSC Civil Services Exam in 2015 with an All India Rank of 199. POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Renowned actor and Digapahandi MLA Sidhant Mohapatra's mother, Kanak Mohapatra, passed away Saturday at her residence at the age of 87.

Her passing has left her well-wishers deeply saddened, with condolences pouring in from various individuals and organisations, including BJP leaders.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended his condolences through a post on his official handle 'X' and wrote, "I am deeply saddened to learn about the passing of the mother of Digapahandi MLA Sidhant Mohapatra. I paid my last respects by visiting the mortal remains at Mohapatra's residence in Bhubaneswar and offered my condolences to the grieving family. I pray to Lord Jagannath to grant peace to the departed soul and provide strength to the family to bear

Deputy CMs Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida also extended their condolences.

this loss.



Taking to X, Singh Deo wrote, "I am deeply saddened and heartbroken to hear the news of the passing of Kanak Mohapatra, the mother of Odisha's renowned actor and our party's esteemed Digapahandi MLA, Sidhant Mohapatra. I pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul and extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family."

Similarly, Parida said, "I am saddened to hear the news of the passing of Mrs. Kanak Mohapatra, the mother of the popular actor and our party's Digapahandi MLA, Sidhant Mohapatra. In this sorrowful time, I express my condolences to his family and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Om Shanti."

State BJP president Manmohan Samal expressed profound grief over her demise. Along with state general secretary (organisation) Manas Mohanty and several senior leaders and party workers, Samal visited Mohapatra's residence to pay their last respects and offer floral tributes to the departed soul.

## BJD condemns attack on *Dharitri* reporter

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday condemned the attack on Odisha's leading daily Dharitri's Banapur (Khurda) reporter Dilip Swain and demanded immediate action against the culprits.

During a presser at Sankha Bhawan here, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty slammed the state government over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state, citing the attacks on the Dharitri journalist and a web reporter, who was allegedly attacked during PM-Kisan money distribution programme at Pipli.

Swain is currently undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

According to sources, the attack is linked to a news report published in Dharitri's May 9 edition. The report had exposed a disturbing case involving the circulation of obscene photographs of a 4-year-old girl on a pornographic website. Following the story, a CBI team from Delhi had arrested the main accused, Dolagobinda Jena, 45, of Harichandanpur village under Nachuni police limits in Khurda district.

The report angered the accused and his family members. On Friday night, a mob of around 30–40 men attacked Swain at Gambharimunda square and allegedly attempted to strangle him, leaving him severely injured. He was initially rushed to Banapur Hospital and later shifted to AIIMS for advanced treatment.

On being informed, a team of Nachuni and Banapur police visited Swain at the hospital and initiated an investigation.

Mohanty said, "We condemn the attack on Dharitri journalist. Another web media journalist was attacked during government's programme at Pipli, which shows the concerning law and order situation in the state. Is this how the state government is protecting the journalists? We demand the government to take immediate action into the

matter and nab the culprits.'

The BJD leader also alleged that the main accused in Swain's attack - Soumya Ranjan Samantray - is a close confidant of Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan. He also showed photos of Soumya with the minister and demanded stringent action in the matter.

## Fraud: ED nabs Odisha-based co MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the managing director of an Odisha-based company that allegedly ran a "fake" bank guarantee issuance racket for business groups, including providing an alleged ₹68 crore assurance for a Reliance Group company, official sources said Saturday.

The federal probe agency had launched searches in this money laundering case against a company named Biswal Tradelink located in Bhubaneswar Friday.

Biswal Tradelink MD Partha Sarathi Biswal was taken into custody from Bhubaneswar Friday under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

The case filed by the ED under PMLA stems from a November 2024 FIR of the Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing

The ED had Friday launched searches at the company's three

premises in Bhubaneswar and one "associate" entity in Kolkata. Agency sources alleged that the company was engaged in the activity of issuance of "fake" bank guarantees against a commission of eight per cent.

They said that a bank guarantee of ₹68.2 crore submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) on behalf of Reliance NU BESS Limited, a subsidiary of Reliance Power, was found to be "fake".

The company was formerly known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Limited.

The ED seized some documents related to this transaction during the recent searches against the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group companies in Mumbai, the sources said.

A Reliance Group spokesperson had said Friday that Reliance Power has been a "victim of fraud, forgery and cheating conspiracy" in this case and it has made due disclosures in this context to the stock exchanges on November 7, 2024.



The spokesperson said that a criminal complaint was lodged by them against the third party (accused company) with the Delhi Police EOW in October, 2024 and the "due process" of law will follow.

The sources said similar suspicious financial transactions with multiple companies have been traced and this was being investigated. The company is alleged to have been having

multiple undisclosed bank accounts and carrying transactions disproportionate to its declared turnover. The agency is understood to have detected about seven "undisclosed" bank accounts of the company.

It was found that the company was using an email domain - s-bi.co.in -- instead of the original sbi.co.in to create a "facade" of genuineness that the communication is being sent by the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender.

The fake domain was used to send "forged" communication to SECI, impersonating the SBI, the sources said.

It is understood that the ED has written to the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) seeking domain registration details of the fake email domain.

The ED's preliminary investigation, as per the sources, has indicated that the Odisha-based company has also facilitated "fake" bills for commission and uses multiple "undisclosed" bank accounts.

# Harassment charge against Utkal Registrar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: In a troubling development at Utkal University, a female employee of the Finance department has accused Registrar Swati Mishra of mental harassment, alleging that the latter's conduct has created a hostile work environment and threatened her job security.

The formal complaint was submitted to the university Vice-Chancellor August 1. In her letter, the complainant stated that the Registrar's continuous intimidating behaviour had affected her mental well-being and work in office. She claimed she was warned that she might lose her job if she spoke out.

VC in-charge Jagneshwar Dandapat said, "A committee has been formed, and both parties have presented their sides. The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) has also been informed about the issue. There

appears to be a communication gap, and discussions have taken place. The matter has been resolved."

However, a university insider alleged that the issue was initially handled informally and only gained attention after media coverage. "A committee was hastily constituted Saturday. When the matter escalated, a senior official from the Higher Education department visited the campus," the source said.

the campus," the source said.

The official reportedly offered a verbal apology to the complainant and urged her not to escalate the issue. "But she refused, citing humiliation and fear of job loss. She demanded a written apology and assurance of job security, which hasn't been provided yet," the source added.

University students organised a signature campaign Saturday as part of the protest against the 'rising' incidents of workplace harassment against women in academic institutions.

## Roadmap to preserve Puri's heritage soon Bhubaneswar: The state

government has decided to formulate an integrated roadmap to preserve the spiritual and cultural heritage of Pilgrim City Puri, while simultaneously enhancing urban infrastructure in the region. A high-level meeting held recently in Bhubaneswar. chaired by Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Housing & Urban Development department. discussed plans for the establishment of a world-class Sri Jagannath Museum, Library, and Cultural Research Centre in Puri. The meeting focused on drafting a comprehensive roadmap that will be submitted to the appropriate authorities for approval and further action. "Our efforts aim to honour the sanctity of Puri and promote its rich heritage in line with the vision of Viksit Odisha," said Padhee. This initiative is part of the state government's larger mission to foster cultural pride. safeguard historical legacies, and transform urban spaces. Padhee added that a detailed project plan will now be developed and submitted to higher authorities for consideration.

**OrissaPOST** 

## Ideas, innovation key to progress: Governor



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati urges graduates to be innovators and ethical leaders as Odisha rises as tech hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 2:** In this era of the knowledge economy, ideas and innovation are said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati while addressing the second convocation of Silicon University here Saturday.

"Institutions play a critical role in shaping the future of the nation by producing not just job-seekers but job creators, innovators, and problem solvers who will lead India into a new era of growth and trans-

**BJD suspends Ranpur** 

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday

person Rangeen Mohanty for

her involvement in antiparty

"Smt Rangeen Mohanty,

Chairperson NAC Ranpur is

hereby suspended from Biju Ja-

nata Dal for her involvement in

antiparty activities with imme-

diate effect," read a statement

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issued by the regional party.

I Mr. Lokanath Nayak

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Small Finance Bank is

going to mortgage the

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the banks process. If

anyone is having any

claim/objection over

the aforesaid property,

may please contact Mr.

Pravakar Pattanayak,

Mobile No - 9778070590

309, 3rd Floor, Nirmal

Bhubaneswar - 751009

(Registered address of

advocate) within 15 days

address - Room No-

Plaza, Near Navin

Niwas, Forest Park,

(Of Advocate) or in this

No - 177, Kisam -

activities, party sources said.

**NAC** chairperson

POST NEWS NETWORK

Highlighting Odisha's progress, Kambhampati noted that the state is emerging as a prominent hub for IT, electronics, and semiconductor industries, driven by the proactive vision of its institutions and people. 'The state is fostering a vibrant ecosystem for start-ups, innovation, and sustainable development. Silicon University is a vital pillar of this ecosystem, he said, adding that the knowledge and innovative spirit of the university's students will contribute significantly to this momentum.

He commended Silicon University for its rapid emergence as a centre of academic excellence and technological relevance. "The university has made significant strides in nurturing talent in cutting-edge areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2:

Amid growing concerns over

the safety of women and stu-

dents in Odisha, members of

the Biju Chhatra and Yuva Ja-

nata Dal staged protest march-

es and submitted memoranda

at several police stations across

the twin city Saturday. The

demonstrations were part of a

weeklong agitation demanding

justice for a student of FM (Au-

tonomous) College and calling

for stricter measures to safe-

The protesters accused the

BJP-led state government of

failing to ensure women's safe-

ty and criticised the worsening

law and order situation. They

pointed out that in the past 13

months, several high-profile

cases of violence against wom-

en have occurred, raising seri-

ous concerns about governance

guard girls and women.

BJD youth, student wings

protest over women's safety

Silicon University praises for a academic excellence in emerging fields like AI, Cyber Security and Smart Grid

Convocation marks students' transformation into professional ready to lead with knowledge, values and

Governor emphasises role of institutions in creating job creators, not just job seekers, for India's transformative

Embedded Systems, and Smart Grid Technologies," he noted.

"Convocation is more than a ceremonial milestone—it is a celebration of perseverance, dedication, and intellectual growth. It symbolises your transition from students to professionals, from learners to leaders—ready to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation," he added.

Advising graduates to be responsible change-makers, the Governor urged them to uphold the values of ethics, empathy, and inclusivity in their professional lives. He also lauded the faculty, staff, and parents for their commitment to academic excellence and encouraged the university to continue fostering innovation and global collabo-

In the Capital city, the agita-

tors marched from Utkal Uni-

versity to the DCP office, where

they held a demonstration and

submitted a memorandum

BCJD state vice president

Arup Srichandan said, "The law

and order situation in the state

is deteriorating. Crimes against

women are on the rise, yet the

government remains focused on

making tall claims instead of

taking real action. We demand

concrete measures to ensure the

safety of women in the state. If

the government fails to respond,

we will intensify our protest in

Similarly, student activists

from BJD's units at Cuttack's

Shailabala Women's College and

Indira Gandhi Women's College

submitted memoranda at multi-

ple police stations, seeking jus-

tice for the Balasore victim.

the coming days.

highlighting their demands.

Citing provisions of the Representation of the People and constitu-

urged

Kambhampati submitted a memorandum outlining 11 key demands

**Election Com-**

#### Cong seeks Min Patra's ouster, flags tribal issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has intengovernment, demanding the resignation of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra for allegedly filing a false affidavit during the 2024 general elections. Simultaneously, the party submitted an 11-point charter of demands to the Governor, focusing on tribal rights and welfare

At a press conference held at Congress Bhawan here Saturday, senior party leaders Debasis Patnaik, Lalatendu Mohapatra, and spokesperson Rajani Mohanty accused Minister Krushna Chandra Patra of concealing a key financial transaction in his election affidavit. They claimed that in 2021, Patra had reportedly paid Rs 25 lakh in advance to one Niranjan Satapathy for a land deal, which later led to a cheating complaint. Despite this, the transaction was not mentioned in his affidavit which declared assets worth Rs 7.35 lakh, an annual income of Rs 20 lakh, and no outstanding loans.



met Governor Hari Babu tional norms, the Congress

the

mission to take immediate and suo motu action against Minister Patra. The party also questioned the Chief Minister's silence and inaction in removing Patra from the Cab inet, despite his involvement in previous controversies, including alleged irregularities in paddy procurement and potato import Meanwhile, stepping up its advocacy for tribal welfare, a delegation from the OPCC tribal unit, led by former MP Yashbant Narayan Singh Laguri, met Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and submitted a memorandum outlining 11 key demands.

The charter criticised the poor implementation of the PESA Act in Odisha and called for clear rules to protect tribal rights over water,

## Invest in tier II & III cities, real estate developers told

**Currently contrib-**

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati has called upon real estate developers to invest in tier II and III cities for balanced urbanisation and ensuring sustainable development.

He also stressed the need for ethical business practices and customer-centric models to build trust in the sector.

'Odisha stands at a critical inflection point - emerging as the growth engine of Eastern India. Smart cities like Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri Corridor, and major industrial corridors are unlocking immense potential," he said.

Addressing an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (Credai) Friday, the Governor said, "The real estate developers should focus on tier II and III cities for balanced urbani

uting 8.4 per cent to India's GDP, it (real estate sector) is the second-largest employment generator after agriculture. With RERA streamlining the industry, 95 per cent of the sector is now organised. By 2030, it is projected to become a USD 1 trillion sector, contributing 10 per cent to the GDP SHEKHAR G PATEL | CREDAI PRESIDENT

sation and invest in affordable housing, green development, and digital infrastructure."

The EGM of the association returned to Odisha after a nineyear gap. The event brought together a

distinguished panel of national leaders, developers, policymakers, and stakeholders to deliberate on the future of real estate, investment prospects, and sustainable urban development.

Credai president Shekhar C Patel highlighted the evolution of Bhubaneswar over the last decade, stating, "From a twin city, we now see a vision for a dynamic tri-city cluster comprising Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri. This region is poised to be one of India's top 50 urban

He underscored the contribution of the real estate sector to India's economy.

"Currently contributing 8.4 per cent to India's GDP, it is the second-largest employment generator after agriculture With RERA streamlining the industry, 95 per cent of the sec tor is now organised. By 2030, it is projected to become a USD trillion sector, contributing 10 per cent to the GDP.

Credai Bhubaneswar pres ident and MLA Sofia Firdous said that with strategic central initiatives like the Smart City Mission, Bhubaneswar is emerging as the real estate cap ital of Eastern India.

#### **SOA holds talk on Al's** impact on job prospects

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has ushered in exciting times with a question mark hanging on job prospects, but students have to chart their own course by creating jobs, said Persistent Systems founder chairman and managing direc tor Anand Deshpande while have ing an interaction with students of SOA Deemed to be University here Saturday.

"We are moving towards a situation where work will increase but jobs will decrease. Instead of looking for jobs, you have to think how to create jobs," Desh-Replying to a question on

AI and the future, he said AI would have amazing ability to solve problems and push up productivity. AI writes better codes than humans today but it can also distort facts like no one can, he said.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda presided over the programme organised by the university and the Atal Incubation Centre-SOA Foundation.

SOA Advisory Board chairman Damodar Acharva and Corporate Relations and Industry Engage ment director Ripti Ranjan Dash also addressed the occasion. Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) additional dean (student affairs) Renu Sharma proposed vote of thanks.

#### Vedanta skill training push achieves 92pc placement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalahandi, August 2: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, through its flagship skills training initiative in Lanjigarh has successfully completed its (F&B) training, achieving an impressive 92 per cent placement rate. Beyond job placements, the

programme made remarkable strides in digital education. All participating trainees completed 40 hours of IT literacy training, marking a pivotal step in digital empowerment.

Vedanta Alumina Business CEO Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya said, "At Vedanta, we view community development as a strategic imperative for sustainable growth. When youth are equipped with the right skills and exposure, it sparks a chain reaction of progress - for families, communities, and the local economy This outstanding placement milestone reflects what's possible when industry and community participation come together.'

ture and Rural Development ment manager Maheshwar Das said, "Initiatives like these are powerful enablers of transfor mation. They bridge the gap between rural potential and mainstream opportunities We look forward to deepening this partnership to drive holistic, grassroots-led development across the region.'

National Bank for Agricul

Following a comprehensive skilling framework, Vedanta Lanjigarh Skill Traininginitia tive in collaboration with Odis ha Skill Development Authori ty (OSDA) and NABARD aims to train more than 1200 rura youth over the course of three years, using a two-pronged approach-offering training as well as entrepreneurial and employment avenues.

So far, 701 youth have al ready been trained under this initiative, marking a significant milestone in its journey By helping them secure stable livelihoods, these placements have significantly augmented the family incomes, integrating the youth into the socio-economic mainstream.

## Bioengineering's role in fighting climate change

ife has always been a powerful force in shaping Earth's environment. Over billions of years, living organisms transformed a lifeless organisms transformed a lifeless rock into a planet rich with forests, oceans, and oxygen. But today, life—particularly human life—is driving a new transformation, one marked by climate disruption caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

A new scientific frontier called engineering biology offers the possibility of turning life into part of the solution. This emerging field uses genetic technologies to design biological systems that can solve specific problems, including those posed by climate change. Its most well-known success so far is the development of mRNA vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic. But its potential reaches far beyond medicine.

In a recent study published in Nature Communications, researchers explored how bioengineering could play a role in combating climate change. They are developing microbes that can produce synthetic fu-



els using agricultural waste instead of food crops, offering cleaner alternatives to fossil fuels. This approach could be especially useful in sectors like aviation, where decarbonising existing fleets quickly is difficult with current battery or hydrogen technologies

Other breakthroughs include engineered bacteria that can capture carbon dioxide from industrial processes and convert it into useful substances, and modified crops and

emissions from agriculture. For example, some new rice varieties aim to release less methane, while precision fermentation is enabling the production of synthetic milk and meat without the environmental costs of traditional animal farming.

There is also work underway to design plants and microbes that can store more carbon underground or convert it into more stable forms. These could enhance the earth's natural ability to remove carbon

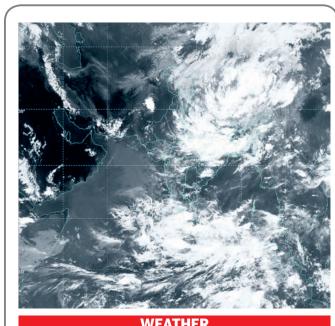
from the atmosphere and store

Despite the promise, these technologies face major chal-

lenges. Many innovations aimed specifically at reducing emissions are unlikely to attract significant private investment, as they don't offer quick returns. Instead, government support will be essential to help guide these solutions from lab to market. That support should include funding for basic research, inclusive public engagement, fair regulation, and long-term policy tools like tax credits or

green procurement. Countries like the United Kingdom and the United States are already investing heavily in engineering biology, recognising its potential role in the green economy. Australia, too, is taking early steps with its proposed "Future Made in Australia" strategy.

The future of climate mitigation may involve rethinking life itself. Whether this vision succeeds will depend on science, policy, and public trust working hand in hand.



	WEATHER			
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST	
/lax Temp	36.0°	34.8°	Partly cloudy sky	
/lin Temp	26.2°	24.8°	with possibility of rain or	
lumidity	92%	77%	thunderstorm	
Rainfall	73 mm	Nil		

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# burnt after 'self-immolation'

Shrouded in mystery, the incident is suspected to be fallout of an extra-marital affair



Baripada, August 2: In yet another disturbing case of self-immolation, a woman died and a man sustained critical burn injuries in Mayurbhanj district Saturday after the two reportedly set themselves on fire after getting doused in petrol.

The deceased was identified as Bharati Patra, 34, of Panasi village near Khiching under Raruan police limits, while the injured man is Harishankar Acharya, 38, of Chhanapal village under Rairangpur police limits.

The reason behind their self-immolation is yet to be ascertained but locals suspect a failed extra-marital affair drove them to take the extreme step. Harishankar is currently un-

dergoing treatment in critical condition. The incident has

sparked tension in the locality.

Sources said that Bharati lived with her family in Panasi village. Harishankar, who was married in the same village, frequently visited his in-laws' house. Both Bharati and Harishankar often used to talk to each other as the former and the latter's wife were friends. Meanwhile, the two reportedly developed a relationship, which locals suspect might have turned sour, leading to the tragic act.

Around 10am Saturday, Bharati and Harishankar went to an open field near Pata Sahi, where they allegedly doused themselves in petrol and set themselves ablaze. Locals rushed to the spot after seeing

them engulfed in flames and took them to the Sukruli hos-

Doctors said Bharati sustained 90 per cent burns and died shortly after, while Harishankar suffered 80 per cent burns and remains critical.

Police have launched an investigation, but the exact motive remains unclear.

While Bharati succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment, Harishankar, whose condition deteriorated, was shifted to Keonihar and then to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, officials said Saturday.

Both families rushed to the hospital following the incident. In response, Karanjia SDPO Nabakrushna Nayak and the local police IIC arrived at the scene and launched an investigation. Police seized a plastic bottle containing petrol from the spot.

Police registered a case of unnatural death (14/25) and sent the woman's body to the Karanjia hospital for post-mortem. Whether this was a criminal act remains shrouded in mystery; nevertheless the incident has raised serious concerns over women's safety in the state.

Family members, still reeling under the tragedy, expressed distress over the uncertainty surrounding the case's resolution. Experts have suggested that grassroots-level awareness on suicide prevention is urgently needed to curb such incidents.

## Woman dies, man critically 70 students fall ill after lizard found in MDM

Bolangir/Titilagarh/Muribahal, August 2: As many as 70 students of the Government Nodal High School in Badatentulikunti village under Muribahal block in Bolangir district became ill Saturday after a dead lizard was found in their mid-day meal (MDM).

The incident triggered panic on the school campus and in the locality after news spread. All affected students were rushed to Titilagarh sub-divisional hospital for treatment. Some of the students were discharged after primary treatment while others remained under observation, sources said.

The incident occurred when the students were having their mid-day meal around 11:30am. A girl student found a dead

5 cops among 7 critical

as van rams into truck

ANGUL: Seven people, including five personnel of the Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP), were injured

Saturday after a vehicle, in which

they were travelling, hit a truck

on NH-55 in Angul district, police said. The accident took place

near Jarpada area early Saturday

morning when a van with 16 OSAF

jawans on board rammed into the truck which was parked on the

said. The van was travelling from

Jharsuguda to Bhubaneswar when

"Five OSAP jawans, the driver and

his assistant were injured in the

accident. Four of them were re-ferred to the SCB Medical College

and Hospital, Cuttack," said an

hospital, Angul, he said. The remaining jawans are safe and

officer of Jarpada police station.

Three others are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters

have started their journey to their

destination, the officer said. The

driver lost control over the van and it crashed into the stationary

the accident occurred, he said.

side of the road, a senior officer

lizard in her food and immediately vomited. Soon after, many other students also began vomiting and complained of nausea and dizziness.

The incident sparked outrage among parents, who questioned how such contamination could occur in school meals. The sit-

uation became tense for some time, prompting school authorities and parents to call ambulances. Critically ill students were first shifted to the hospital, while others followed as multiple ambulances were requisitioned due to the large number of affected children.

delay in ambulance arrivals reportedly took their children to hospitals in private vehicles. Later, a medical team rushed to the village to provide on-site

Titilagarh al hospital confirmed it had treated over 70 students. On being informed, Kantabanii MLA Laxman Bag visited the hospital and inquired about the health condition of the affect ed students. He assured that a proper investigation would be

District Education Officer Pradeep Kumar Nag confirmed that the health scare began af ter a student spotted a tail of a dead lizard in her food. "All affected students have been treated and are currently sta ble," he added.

conducted.

## Rural heritage sites to be identified, preserved under new govt initiative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 2: The state government has launched an initiative to identify, preserve and promote heritage sites and artifacts in rural ar eas, officials said.

The data collected through the 'Panchayat Dharohar' programme with the involvement of elected members of the panchayats will be uploaded on the 'Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar platform of the Ministry of Culture for future development, they said.

Odisha has around 6,800 gram panchayats.

The panchayats can play a

**PANCHAYAT DHAROHAR** 

major role in the identification, documentation, sustainable conservation and promotion of heritage sites, a recent letter issued by the Department of Panchayati Raj to District Collectors said.

"We have received data of around 20 sites so far and expect to receive more in the next few days," said Prahallad Pradhan, District Panchayat Officer (DPO) of Ganjam. There are 503 panchavats in the district.

ly rich Ganiam district. There is a need to urgently identify those for their development. We thank the government for this initiative," said Subash Chandra Padhy, a retired professor at Berhampur University.

Manoranjan Gouda, sarpanch of Kaithakhandi pancha yat in Digapahandi block, said they have already identified several such sites. "We have discussed the mat-

ter with other village heads and urged them to accord this exercise high priority. The heritage sites are the pride of the district," said Gouda, who is al-

#### Tourism, infra in focus during Koraput Collector's Kotia visit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 2: Koraput District Collector Manoj Satyaban Mahajan visited the scenic region of Kotia, a border panchayat in the middle of a dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, to assess ongoing infrastructure projects and explore opportunities for development of tourism. The visit was aimed at improving connectivity, public amenities, and showcasing Kotia's natural and cultural beauty to a wider audience.

Highlighting the importance of inclusive development, the Collector emphasised the need to ensure that benefits of state and Central government schemes reach the local population. He interacted with residents and officials, inspected key natural and cultural sites, and reviewed road conditions water supply, and accommodation facilities.

"We aim to promote sustainable tourism that highlights the rich heritage of Kotia while creating employment and improving the quality of life for locals," the Collector said.

513377610001062

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.08.2025

## History-sheeter arrested after gunfight with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 2: A 25-year-old man, wanted in at least 20 criminal cases, was arrested in Ganjam district Saturday after a gunfight with

Sunil Nahal alias Mala, a resident of Kabisuryanagar, received a gunshot wound on his left knee in the exchange of fire, they said.

the police, officials said.

He was wanted in at least 20 cases, including those related to murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, bombing, robbery and chain-snatching, said SP (Berhampur) Saravana Vivek M.

A country-made pistol with three rounds of ammunition was seized from his possession,

Acting on a tip-off, a police

thara, where Mala was hiding, the SP said.

On seeing the police vehicle, Mala attempted to escape by firing two rounds, he said.

"Though no policeman was injured in the firing, a bullet fired by him damaged a part of the vehicle," he added.

In self-defence, police fired two rounds at him and he was hit on the knee, officials said.

He was admitted to the MK-CG Medical College and Hospital for treatment, they said.

"His condition is good. He would be forwarded to the court after being discharged

from the hospital," the SP said. "We are expecting to recover all the chains snatched by the group with the arrest of Sunil, the gang leader." he said.

#### Collision claims man, son; nephew critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 2: A tragic road accident on National Highway-326 near the Kanyashram School gate in Podagada panchavat under Dashmantpur block claimed the lives of a man and his 4-year-old son. The deceased's nephew, who was riding with them, sustained critical injuries and was battling for life at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital here.

The incident took place when the trio on a motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding truck belonging to the Bol Bom Seva Sangha. The impact was so intense that the motorcycle caught fire, killing the father-son duo on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as Kailash Khara and his son Anish Khara, residents of Tikra Sahi under Koraput Sadar sub-division. Kailash's nephew, Aman Reddy, was seriously injured and rushed

to the hospital for emergency treatment. Koraput Sadar IIC Runu Majhi reached the spot soon after the accident, recovered and sent the bodies for post-mortem. The involved truck has been seized and a case has been registered.

#### "Several heritage sites exist so the president of the Ganjam in rural areas of the cultural-Sarpanch Association.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office: Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, T. N. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMEN OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules" and in exercise of the powers confered where the security interest and Finance Company Ltd. (the Security Confered Confere The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Aund in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act add with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act adding upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the act and notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is / are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of the Demand Notice(s), the service of the Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below:

Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s .oan A/C. No(S). :LAP3ANG000058850 . Mr/Mrs. Sek Muna . Mr/Mrs. Sk Papu Mr/Mrs. Sek Salauddin Rs. 20.10.456/ Mutation Khata No-50/15. Plot No 26/1, Area Aco.005dec & Mutation (hata No-33, Plot No-25, Area Aco.010dec with Status-Stitiban Madhukarapur, Kendrapara Town,Near Bus Stand, Kendrapara Drissa - 754211 **Add For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4** : Khata No-33,50/15 lisam-Gharabari-II (Homestead)

and Kendrapara 754211. Add For Sr. No. 5: Dilarpur Dilarpu The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 day from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of paymen The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are fall discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s nay, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

lues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independi

Date: 28.07.2025

For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

were moving suspiciously in Ramnagar area under their jurisdiction. The detained persons failed to provide valid identification or addresses, informed Soumya Ranjan Biswal, IIC of the Jamboo Marine police station. Locals from Ramnagar informed the police that a group of outsiders was moving around suspiciously. "Acting on the tip-off, we rushed to the spot and detained 14 individuals ini-All were speaking in Hindi dialects," said Biswal.

Marine police detain 17 for suspicious movement KENDRAPARA: The Jamboo Marine police late Friday night detained 17 unidentified individuals who

#### **Gold Auction** Notice

28.000

₹1,42,945.00

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

वैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया BOI Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249 It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, penses) by 21.08.2025, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at Concerned Branch Premises on 22.08.2025 at 11.00 AM. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to intersted bidders on auction date and auction venué/auction portal.

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jaydev

price of gold emanterior contents the manage to interest a state of the desired for the desire					
A/c. No.	A/c. No. Name & Address of the Borrower(s)		Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 31.07.2025 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)	
BANK OF INDIA, BANAMALIPUR BRANCH, BANAMALIPUR MARKET, MAIN ROAD, AT/PO: BANAMALIPUR, KHURDA, PIN-752103, MOB.: 8895349226					
	Kiran Sahoo, D/o- Purna Chandra Sahoo, Permanent Address: Nilakanthapur, Kundipatana, Dharmasala, Jajpur, PIN-755008,		29.000	₹1,21,762.00	
50/77610001511	Present Address: Kiran Sahoo, C/o- Muna Jena Bhapur	01 900	75,000	₹4.31.649.00	

55 Banamalipur, PIN-752103. BANK OF INDIA, IIT BHUBANESWAR ARGUL BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 289, ARGUL STATION ROAD, ARGUL, JATANI,

DIST.: KHORDA, ODISHA, PIN-752050, MOB.: 9776687307 Mahammad Imran, S/o- MD Kausar, At/PO: Tirimal, PS: Jatani, Via: 511977610000843 16,000 ₹85.560.00 Jatani, Dist.: Khorda, Odisha, PIN-752050

BANK OF INDIA, RAJKANIKA BRANCH, AT/PO: RAJKANIKA, KENDRAPARA, PIN-754220, MOB.: 6370651372 Rasmita Guru, W/o- Pradip Mandal, At: Righaghar, PO: Iswarpur Kendrapara, Odisha, PIN-754248 557577610000873 BANK OF INDIA, NIALI BRANCH, AT/PO: NIALI, DIST.: CUTTACK, ODISHA, PIN-754004, MOB.: 8217552071 Durga Prasad Satapathy, S/o- Shyam Sundar Satapathy, At/PO: 1. 512477610002376 ₹31.813.00 Abhaymukhi, PS: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752103 BANK OF INDIA, COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH, AT/PO: COLLEGE SQUARE, PILIGRIM ROAD, DIST.: CUTTACK,

PIN-753003, MOB.: 8984584657 Sunil Das, S/o- Nila Kumar Das, At/PO: Madhupatana, Dist.: Cuttack, 558777610000442 12.800 12.000 ₹41,175.00 PIN-753010 BANK OF INDIA, CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 441/7185, CHAKEISIANI, P.O.: RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR, PIN-751010, MOB.: 9348583911 Mr. Suryakanta Mohapatra, S/o-Sudarsan Mohapatra, Sriram Nagar,

Near Gyandip School, Chakeisiani, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751010

Indian Bank डंडियन बैंक

ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 2ND FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in

E-AUCTION Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

₹3,10,000/-

₹10,000/-

₹33,50,000/-

₹3,35,000/-

₹10,000/-

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the ollowing loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to

repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com. **Date of Demand** BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Description of the Notice / Date of **Bid Increment** Mortgagors/Co-Borrowers Possession Notice/ Immovable Property Outstanding Dues Amount CHATUANKA BRANCH, MOB. NO.: 7978576785 / All that piece and parcel of Property recordeding 29.08.2024 / Borrower: Mrs. Mamata Singh Thakur, W/o.: Tirath Singh Thakur / Co-Borrower & Inder Singh Thakur, Flat No.: 304 (Third Floor) 18.11.2024 / ₹31,00,000/-W/o.: Tirath Singh Thakur / Co-Borrower & ₹25.04.801/-

Inder Singh Thakur, Both are At: Ward No.: 5, Kadopada, Kantabanji, Dist.: Bolangir, bearing Khata No.: 149/332, Plot No.: 211/1713 and Plot No.: 212/ 1712 with Area: 1350 Sqft., Bounded by North: Open to Sky, South: Flat No.: 305, East: Open to Sky, West: Flat No.: 303	costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹10,00		
S/o: Sri Pabitrabhanu Panda, 2) Sri Saroj 356, Plot No.: 1797, at Mouza: Naksapali Town Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Pabitrabhanu Panda, Planning SDA Area, Dist.: Sambalpur-786005, All are At: Naksapali P.O./P.S.:Maneswar.	19.10.2024 / ₹20,63,140/-	₹33,50,00 / ₹3,35,00 / ₹10,000		
DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 20.08.2025 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration				
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 19.08.2	2025 upto 05.30 PM I	by online		

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 11.08.2025 to 19.08.2025 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: https://www.baanknet.com Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list., 2) This is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act. 2002, 3) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date., 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn. postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost Place: Sambalpur, Date: 02.08.2025 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?





Aakar Patel

**AS THE REST** 

**GROWS EQUAL** 

TO THE WEST,

**ITS ABILITY TO** 

**CONTROL AND** 

**DOMINATE IS** 

**SLIPPING. IT** 

**HAS GIVEN UP** 

**ON THE RULES** 

**BASED ORDER** 

**REASON, AND** 

**IS RESORTING** 

**FOR THIS** 

**TO PURE** 

**MIGHT** 

## **Rules Abandoned**

The United States has 34 crore people (the size of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). Americans represent 4 per cent of the global population and they are the biggest beneficiaries of what the US called the rules-based order.

This order, imposed by the US and its European allies after the Second World War, seeks global cooperation through institutions like the United Nations and also the World Trade Organisation. Americans refer to their president, unironically, as the 'leader of the free world'. America's per capita income is almost \$90,000 according to the one of the institutions of the 'rules-based order', the International Monetary Fund. India's per person income is less than 1/30th, at under \$3000. The US economy has surged over the last few decades because its companies have sent their products — like planes, phones and computers — and services — like social media companies — around the world, where they dominate.

Even with the recent downward revision in their jobs numbers, the US is running at what is referred to as full employment, meaning that joblessness is around 4%, which is optimal. This means that from the standpoint of income and jobs, the US is in a very good place, particularly when compared to nations like India, where poverty and joblessness, particularly in the absence of regular, salaried employment, are a serious problem.

And yet the US is unhappy with the world, which it says is 'ripping it off', in the words of the US president. He has reversed this theft, as he sees it, by making it more difficult for countries to export their products into the US. America is India's large est export market, and a 25% tariff on our goods will weaken demand, hurting our exporters. There is no getting around that fact. If the tariffs remain, our interests will be harmed, no matter who ultimately pays the tariff.

There is no meaningful debate inside the US's democracy of whether the actions taken **OF THE WORLD** by president Trump harm the global rules based order and its friends and allies, to say nothing of poorer nations. What the US has done is tear up the system where tariffs existed but were used under a system of WTO rules and regulations that could be appealed. The US has disregarded that, and weakened the system that for decades has served it well. In doing so it is damaging the rest of the world.

There is a second disregarding of the rules based order and that is the American enabling of the genocide in Gaza. Ever eager to free the world from tyranny and despotism through war, the US has protected Israel while it massacres and starves thousands of Palestinians, and wages illegal war on Iran. The majority of the world's nations have called for an end to the horror in Gaza, through their vote in the United Nations General Assembly, but the US has used its veto to allow this 21st century holocaust to continues

Like in the matter of the tariffs, the US is telling the world that it is leaving the rules-

based order and prefers to use its strength to extract, and even extort, what it can from the world.

There are a few things that we can take away from these actions. One is that America has set now a precedent. The next nation that becomes powerful will have an example of how to behave with weaker nations, and might is right is as legitimate as rules-based order. There is today quite weak resistance to this from the global south, and the fissures inside BRICS, which we need not go into here, have helped American bullying.

The second is that we should seriously consider what the benefit of our personalised style of diplomacy has been. We have thrown away decades of institutional consensus on matters like Palestine, for a hug with the Israeli leader. All the honours we have bestowed on the US president, whether in rallies here or there, and indeed encouraging Indian-Americans to vote for him, have not produced any benefit or even mercy. Emperors do not listen to anything other than the voice inside their head but this must be said nonetheless.

The last thing that we should consider is what is agitating the US at this point in time. Why is it, given the wealth and power it has and its comfortable economic situation, that the US is going through this spell of madness? The answer is to be found in the rise of the global south and in particular, the rise of China. If things continue as they have been for the last 30 years, in a decade or two the US will for the first time in more than a century, not be the largest economy in the world. This is unacceptable to what is called 'the west'. It will not be able to continue doing what it has done for centuries in north America, in Australia, in South Africa, or what it is doing today in Palestine.

As the rest of the world grows equal to the west, its ability to control and dominate is slipping. It has given up on the rules based order for this reason, and is resorting to pure might. This is a most dangerous time for the world and, in particular, for those countries which need a few more decades of stability and global cooperation to pull them-

selves out of poverty.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Our future, like our past, is vast and extends beyond the realm of imagination.

None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who

The man who gives up accomplishes nothing and is only a hindrance. The man who does not give up can move moun-

**ERNEST HELLO** 

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1492: Hoping to find a westward route to India, Christopher Columbus set sail on his first transatlantic voyage, departing from Palos, Spain, with three small ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María
- 1583: English navigator Sir Humphrey Gilbert arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, and claimed it in the name of the queen.
- 1958: The U.S. atomic submarine Nautilus passed beneath the thick ice cap f the North Pole, an unprecedented feat
- 1984: American gymnast Mary Lou Retton won the all-around event at the Los Angeles Games, becoming the first American woman to win an individual Olympic gold medal in gymnastics.

FOCUS POLITICS

## POPULISM IN JAPAN

1930s, today's rightpopulism spreads like a virus, with each country catching its own strain based on local culture and history

Japan now has its own brand of right-wing populism in the Sanseito party, which campaigned on the unimaginative slogan "Japanese First' ahead of the recent election to the parliament's upper house.

Sanseito was one of the election's biggest winners, gaining 14 seats in the 248-member House of Councillors, bringing its total to 15 lawmakers. While not a huge number, it is enough to spook Japan's mainstream conservatives, who are afraid of losing more votes to the far right. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party lost its majority in the upper house.

Despite harping on some common themes - vaccines. immigrants, diversity, gender, and nationalism - the Japanese populists are a little different from far-right parties in other countries and from the older extreme right in Japan. The noisy sound trucks, blaring wartime patriotic songs and bearing young ruffians in quasi-military gear, that have blighted Japanese cities for many decades traded mostly in nostalgia. They longed for Japan's imperialist past, and blamed the United States, Japanese leftists, and Communist China for robbing Japan of its martial spirit and making the Japanese feel guilty about an entirely honorable war in Asia.

Another subject was broadcast almost daily through loudspeakers around busy railway stations was Russia's annexation in 1945 of a few small islands in the Western Pacific that once be-



**Despite harping on some common themes** vaccines, immigrants, diversity, gender, and nationalism - the Japanese populists are a little different from far-right parties in other countries and from the older extreme right in Japan

longed to Japan.

Kamiya, for his part, also refuses to acknowledge that Japan did anything wrong in World War II. But the topic that excites Japanese Firsters most is the presence of an increasing number of foreigners in Japan – immigrants, workers, and tourists.

Compared to most countries, Japan has traditionally hosted few foreigners. But this has started to change. There are now 3.8 million foreign residents in Japan, and more than 20 million tourists have benefited from the cheap yen in the first half of this year. These numbers are hardly overwhelming. Foreigners comprise only 3% of Japan's population, compared to 10% in France, while Italy welcomed 65 million international visitors in 2024.

The Japanese government has encouraged mass tourism and immigration to create revenue and fill much-needed jobs in a rapidly aging society. But the results have dismayed enough Japanese that Sanseito was able to gain ground by blaming foreigners for a host of ills, from inflation and the rising cost of living to stagnant

wages and rice shortages.

Many foreign tourists and new residents are Chinese. This, too, marks a change from the past. Starting from the early twentieth century. Japanese right-wing nationalism was mostly anti-Western. Before WWII, Americans were blamed for polluting the purity of Japanese culture with crass commercialism, and for standing in the way of Japanese supremacy in Asia. After the war, the nationalists' bugbear was the "peace" constitution.

These days, it is an increasingly powerful China that scares people. Many Japanese view the new crop of affluent Chinese tourists in the same way that Europeans regarded the "ugly Americans" who vispelled by their rough manners, insensitivity to local customs, and the flaunting of their new wealth.

This ostentatiousness is perhaps most irritating to locals feeling economic pain. Asian workers and students, including Chinese, used to be relatively poor. Now, rich Chinese immigrants who find Japan a pleasant place to live and a safe place to park their money are snapping up highend properties in Tokyo.

None of this would matter much if the People's Republic of China were seen as a benign power. But Chinese threats to expand its military reach and regain its traditional status as an imperial Asian hegemon are alarming to the Japanese.

The irony is that US dominance in East Asia, including the postwar constitutional framework, was partly aimed at protecting Japan against the threat posed by China and other Communist powers. With Trump – a kind of hero to the Japanese Firsters - in the White House, the US can no longer be relied on to provide a security guarantee.

China seeks to push the US out of Asia. If the Chinese were able to invade Taiwan and seize control of the sea lanes around Japan without US intervention, Japan would likely acquire its own nuclear weapons and lurch much further to the right. This is surely not what most Japanese would wish for. But nor, if they carefully thought about it, would

> The writer is the author of numerous books, including Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah.

> > ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### **SPECTRUM**

**MANY** 

**JAPANESE VIEW** 

THE NEW CROP

**OF AFFLUENT** 

**TOURISTS IN** 

**CHINESE** 

**THE SAME** 

**WAY THAT** 

**REGARDED** 

THE "UGLY

**THE 1950S** 

**AMERICANS**"

WHO VISITED IN

**EUROPEANS** 

#### **EDUCATION**

## Towards gender-just campuses



Aditya Keshari Mishra **CREATING GENDER-JUST CAMPUSES REQUIRES A MULTIDIMENSIONAL** AND SUSTAINED **APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES BOTH STRUCTURAL** AND CULTURAL **BARRIERS** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

he unrelenting prevalence of gender-based harassment within India's educational institutions casts a grave shadow over the structural and cultural architectures that obstruct the realisation of safety, justice, and true equity within the nation's academic corridors. The recent and deeply disturbing incident involving a woman student at Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Balasore, Odisha, is emblematic of the systemic failures that occur when institutions fail to respond to complaints of sexual harassment with urgency and integrity. This case, like many others, is not an aberration but a reflection of entrenched institutional apathy, lack of accountability, and the silencing of student voices. The Balasore tragedy has

not merely summoned questions of administrative integrity, but has profoundly unsettled the root metaphor of our educational institutions—exposing deep-seated fractures in teacher-taught integrity, institutional integrity, academic integrity, career integrity, cultural integrity, ethical integrity, and, not least, gender integrity itself. In this context, it becomes imperative to critically examine the prevailing challenges to ensuring gender-sensitive and safe educational environments for women students. This writeup reflects on the gaps in institutional responses, the underutilisation of legal mechanisms such as the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), and the urgent need for a participatory, transparent, and survivor-sensitive approach to campus safety. By foregrounding the experiences of students and the responsibilities of academic institutions, this article argues for a shift from mere compliance to a proactive culture of respect, redressal, and reform. The growing prevalence of

harassment in educational institutions is not merely an outcome of individual misconduct but a symptom of deeper structural, cultural, and institutional deficiencies. First, there exists a pervasive patriarchal mindset within campuses that normalises gender hierarchies and subtly legitimises male entitlement, thus breeding an environment where boundary violations are overlooked or trivialized. Second, the absence of robust sensitization mechanisms-among faculty, administrative staff, and students alike-means that awareness about consent. dignity, and legal safeguards

remains alarmingly low. Third, institutional apathy and procedural inadequacies often deter survivors from coming forward, as ICCs are either non-functional, biased, or lack the capacity to act independently and sensitively. Fourth, a culture of silence and fear of retaliation continues to dominate, where victims are stigmatised and perpetrators shielded, especially when power relations—be it hierarchical, academic, or political—are at play. Fifth, the erosion of democratic student spaces and the commodification of education have led to a devaluation of student agency, reducing safe forums for dialogue, resistance, or collective grievance. Taken together, these factors create a toxic confluence that undermines both education and justice. Unless these root causes are urgently addressed, the promise of gender-just campuses will remain a distant dream.

In current scenario, creating gender-just campuses requires a multidimensional and sustained approach that addresses both structural and cultural barriers. First, cultivating teacher-taught integrity fosters mutual respect, ethical engagement, and a sense of shared responsibility.

Second, ensuring institutional accountability, especially through transparent and empowered ICCs, strengthens the credibility of redressal mechanisms. Third, replacing episodic responses with regular sensitisation initiatives builds long-term awareness and shifts campus culture. Fourth, enforcing timely interventions, rigorous fact-finding and proportionate punishment deters misconduct and reinforces justice. Fifth, an inclusive curriculum and pedagogy can dismantle deep-seated gender biases and foster critical consciousness. Sixth, promoting student participation in policy-making and redressal processes enhances transparency and inclusivity. Seventh, strengthening mental health and legal support systems ensures survivors receive comprehensive care beyond procedural formalities. Together, these interventions can reclaim institutional spaces as safe, equitable, and empowering. Only then can we truly embark on the transformative journey towards gender-just campuses

The writer, a development sociologist, teaches at Central University of Odisha

## Game bigger than Bumrah

Sir, The statement from Indian team's assistant coach Ryan Doeschate that the ace bowler Jasprit Bumrah had made himself available only for three of the five tests against England and the team management felt it was right to honour the star pacer's call considering his workload needed to be viewed seriously. One can't understand how the management can relax a selection criteria knowing well that Bumrah is injury prone and has records of surgery. This team has got abundant talents. Mohammed Sirai, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep are all potent enough to make a mark which was already proved by them in this series. When such is the background, the selection in future shouldn't be viewed by fans as if one can bend norms according to the whims and fancies of the management. At the end the game is bigger than Boom Boom Bumrah.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

## Swift justice

Sir, The conviction of former JDS MP Prajwal Revanna—within a year of explosive sexual abuse allegations—is a rare but powerful example of justice delivered swiftly. Grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, Prajwal is accused of multiple rapes and the deliberate recording of his crimes. His actions were exposed ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when pen drives containing explicit videos, photos, and screenshots surfaced. Disturbingly, victims were clearly identifiable, deepening public outrage. Police estimates suggest nearly 100 women—including domestic workers, government staff, and party workers—were targeted. Prajwal initially responded as many privileged offenders do-claiming political conspiracy, intimidating the media, seeking gag orders, and fleeing to Germany. His parents even reportedly abducted a victim to suppress testimony. There appeared to be an expectation that influence, connections, and coercion could make the case vanish. But this time, that playbook failed. Persistent media coverage, public anger, and the courage of survivors forced the system to act. With an honest investigation, preserved evidence, and a committed prosecution, the court delivered a prompt conviction. This verdict affirms that, when political interference is removed and institutions are allowed to function independently, even powerful predators can be held accountable.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE



## TWO STATES





## Want relaxed air travel? Pet a puppy at Hyderabad Airport 2nd unit of Telangana's

The initiative offers calming and joyful interactions, with the belief that the presence of dogs--Toy Poodles in this case-- can ease travel-related anxiety, uplift moods, and create a more welcoming and peaceful airport environment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 2: The next time when you walk into Rajiy Gandhi International Airport (RGAI) here, don't be surprised if you're greeted by a friendly puppy or even get a chance to pet one.

The GMR Group, which manages the airport, has introduced a "Therapy Dog Program" aimed at enhancing the passenger experience.

The initiative offers calming and joyful interactions, with the belief that the presence of dogs--Toy Poodles in this case-can ease travel-related anxiety, uplift moods, and create a more welcoming and peaceful airport environment, according



Currently, the program which features four welltrained Toy Poodles and accompanied by professional handlers, is in its early stages. and future expansion may be

considered based on passenger feedback and operational feasibility, they said.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive Passengers have appreciated

the calming presence of the dogs. The initiative has been well-received as a thoughtful and comforting addition to the airport experience," sources told PTI.

While the dogs are certified therapy animals and trained for calm behavior, they are alwavs under the supervision of professional handlers. These handlers are equipped to manage any unexpected behavior and ensure the safety and comfort of both the dogs and passengers, they further said.

A passenger who did not want to be identified said, "I

was so happy to see them." "It already feels like I'm beginning to heal. A truly wonderful initiative. Please keep up the amazing work. And a

**MALEGAON BLAST CASE** 

Family still waits for missing witness

special thanks to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for helping fund and facilitate this incredible effort."

Having a pet dog brings so much joy and the initiative was a thoughtful and heartwarming one which deserves true appreciation, the passenger added.

Importantly, the dogs are only allowed to interact with passengers who willingly approach them, minimizing stress triggers.

They are stationed at key touch points in both domestic and international departure areas from Friday to Monday, (1500 hours-1900 hours) for approximately four hours.

The city airport witnessed a passenger traffic of 29.5 million during the last financial year.

alias Ramii who was named as

Himanshu said the ATS took

away his father saying he would

be released after recording a

claiming they had released my

father, but they never gave us

any concrete information about

gal battle to trace my father, but

the result was zero. Our finan-

cial condition is not good ever

since he went missing. The gov-

ernment should help us," said

Himanshu, the only child of his

'My family fought a long le-

"Later, ATS officials kept

an accused in the blast case.

statement.

parents.

## Yadadri thermal power plant inaugurated



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 2: Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, along with three state ministers, Friday inaugurated the 800 MW Unit 1 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station.

With this, two units of the 4,000 MW (5x800 MW) power plant have been commissioned. The Deputy Chief Minister, who is also the Energy Minister, along with ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and Adluri Lakshman, inaugurated the unit near Damaracherla in Nalgonda district.

They also laid the foundation stone for an integrated township in Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS). The township is being constructed at a cost of Rs 970 crore on 55 acres.

Unit 2 of the plant was commissioned in December 2024. Being constructed by the Telangana Power Generation Corporation (TGGENCO), it is billed as the biggest thermal plant in the public sector.

The ministers announced that the third unit of 800 MW would be commissioned by October, followed by the fourth unit in December.

Vikramarka said the entire project would be dedicated to the nation in January 2026. He said that due to the negligence of the previous government, there was a delay of two years in the completion of the project.

The Deputy CM said the BRS government delayed the process of seeking environmental clearance, and as a result, the project's cost escalated signifi-

months after the Congress

came to power, environmental clearance was obtained. He said monthly and weekly targets were fixed for the works, and as a result of these efforts, two units of 1,600 MW have been commissioned. The Deputy CM said those

who gave their lands for the power project would be paid compensation by August 15. Irrigation Minister Uttam

Kumar Reddy said the Congress government would provide em ployment to all families who lost their lands for the Yadadri and Pulichintala power projects. Job appointment orders

would be issued by August 15. reaffirming the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises on humanitarian grounds, he said.

The minister said that the Congress government believed in working with compassion and sensitivity, especially towards those affected by large scale development projects The displaced families of both Yadadri Thermal Power Plant and Pulichintala Power Project would be employed in the same plants, honouring the assurance given to them.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that providing long-term housing and facilities to workers is a commendable step.

He praised Deputy Chief Minister Vikramarka for playing a crucial role in reviving the long-stalled thermal project He ensured the completion of public hearings and secured long-pending environmental clearances, paving the way for the project's restart. It was his leadership, initiative, and dyna mism that brought this project back to life and helped us begin

# MP CM lays foundation of ₹2k-cr units in Sehore



**Yadav** 

announced

that a

state-level

agriculture

fair will

be held in

**Sehore from** 

October 12

to 14

An official release said one of the six units will be a transformer plant by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd, which is being touted as Asia's largest single-location transformer manufacturing facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sehore (MP), August 2: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Saturday performed 'bhoomi pujan' (laying of foundation stone) of six new industrial units that will come up with an invest-

ment of ₹2.000 crore in Badivakhedi area of Sehore district.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion. Yaday said. despite the challenges involved in setting up industries, the state government is providing all possible support industrialists and encouraging the establishment of employment-gen-

erating units. "We aim to ensure that the youth of the state do not have to migrate elsewhere for jobs. The MP government will provide a monthly grant of Rs 6,000 per female worker and Rs 5,000 per male worker to industrialists employing them in the state. The industries being set up in the state are centres of growth and employment. They are like temples," Yadav said.

An official release said one of the six units will be a transformer plant by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd, which is being touted as Asia's largest single-location transformer manufacturing facility.

In Jahangirpura here, an investment of Rs 888 crore is being made across 18.26 hectares. which is expected to generate around 400 jobs.

BarMalt Malting India Pvt Ltd, reportedly the country's largest malting manufacturer, will invest Rs 400 crore in a food processing unit, the chief min-In the second phase at Badi-

yakhedi, 10.25 hectares have been allocated for another project, expected to generate over 350 jobs, he said.

Eco Concrete Creation Pvt Ltd will establish a unit in the building materials sector with an investment of Rs 170 crore on 11.15 hectares of land, Yaday

Underlining the country's rising global stature, the CM

said, "India was once called the golden bird. Today, it is roaring like a golden In line with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's vision. Madhya Pradesh is receiving new industrial projects and job opportunities steadily, he added.

"An initiative to procure one lakh metric tonnes of vegetables will soon commence in Se-

hore, benefiting around two lakh families. The establishment of a power transformer unit will further enhance local employment. The city will become an important part of Bhopal metropolitan area in the coming years," Yadav said.

Over 400 industry representatives attended the event.

Yadav also announced that a state-level agriculture fair will be held in Sehore from October 12 to 14, with participation from industrialists, farmers and experts from across the country. "We are working with

the goal of making Madhya Pradesh the best in agriculture and dairy production," he



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, August 2: Seventeen years after his mysterious disappearance, authorities are still clueless about the whereabouts of Dilip Patidar, a witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, now legally presumed dead.

Patidar, related to absconding accused Ramchandra Kalsangra, was allegedly taken away by the Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) from here on the intervening night of November 10 and 11, 2008, for questioning. His family never heard from him again.

"My family fought a long legal battle to trace my father, but the result was zero," his 21-year-old son Himanshu Patidar told PTI

A court in Mumbai Thursday acquitted all seven accused including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur in the blast case, but there has been no closure for

Patidar's family.

"Despite all efforts, no clue could be found about Patidar. Finally, we had to file a case in the local court on behalf of his family and get his civil death declared so that his dependents can get legitimate benefits and rights," said the family's lawyer Deepak Rawal.

The Indore civil court de-

Patidar, an electrician by

clared Patidar's 'civil death' December 19, 2018, following an application filed by his wife Padma and son Himanshu. A civil death is declared when a person is missing for seven years or more.

profession, used to live in the house Ramchandra Kalsangra

#### Kalsangara's son Devvrat said that like Patidar, his father is al so missing for the last 17 years.

Another wanted accused in the Malegaon blast case, Sandeen Dange, is also missing since 2008. Dange's 88-year-old father VK Dange lives in Lokmanya Nagar locality of Indore. He claims to have no information about where his son is.

A total of 12 accused were arrested by the Maharashtra ATS in the Malegaon blast case, while Kalsangra and Dange were declared fugitives. The probe was later taken over by the National Investigation Agency.

Six people were killed and 101 others injured in a blast in Malegaon town in Nashik district of Maharashtra September 29, 2008.

## MP anti-drug drive earns global honour



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, August 2: The Madhya Pradesh police department's fortnight-long anti-drug campaign has earned a place in the World Book of Records. with state Director General of Police (DGP) Kailash Makwana getting an invitation to attend a felicitation event in British Parliament, officials said.

The state-wide campaign titled 'Nashe Se Doori, Hai Zaroori' (staying away from

drugs is necessary) was held between July 15 and 30. It was implemented across 1.175 police stations in 57 districts, directly engaging around 23 lakh individuals and reaching over 6.35 crore people via social media platforms, they said.

The campaign achieved this global recognition as a result of its large-scale success and "unprecedented" public participation, according to the officials. World Book of Records CEO

and president Santosh Shukla

presented a certificate to DGP Makwana Friday and Additional Director General (Narcotics) KP Venkateshwara Rao at the Madhya Pradesh police headquarters in recognition of the honour.

Shukla also formally invited DGP Makwana to attend the felicitation ceremony in the UK Parliament scheduled for September 13, where he will be honoured.

Accepting the invitation, the DGP said, "Keeping our youth and adolescents free from drugs is not merely a government duty but a moral obligation. This campaign turned into a mass movement due to the tireless efforts of the police personnel. partner departments and public organisations.

OIPR-25108/11/0013/2526

#### He claimed that within two 1,600 MW of power generation, the minister said.

AT/PO - KHARIAR ROAD, DIST. - NUAPADA, PIN-766104 E-mail: rmckhariarroad@gmail.com Tender Call Notice no. 460

REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE.

Bid Identification No-03 e-Procurement Notice No.03 of 2025-2026 e-procurement notice IFB (Invitation for bids)

Sr. No.	Item	Details			
1	The Collector, Nuapada-Cum-Chairman, RMC Khariar Road				
	invites percentage rate bio	ate bids in Double/Single cover system			
	ONLINE MODE only for work as detailed below :				
2	Nature of the work	Construction of			
		Infrastructure Development			
		Work at different PPC of			
		RMC Khariar Road			
3 4	No. of work	06			
4	Bid Cost	Rs 6000.00 to 10000.00 online			
		transfer			
5 6 7	Value of Tender	Rs.409.36 lakhs			
ŝ	Class of Contractor	C & B Class			
7	Availability of BID	Dt.02.08.2025 to			
	Documents in the	Dt.19.08.2025			
	website				
8	Last date/time of Receipt	Dt.19.08.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.			
	of bids in the portal				
9 10	Date of opening of bid	Dt.20.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.			
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.				
	Further details can be seen from the website : https://				
	tendersodisha.gov.in.	Any Addendum/Corrigendum/			
	Cancellation of the Tender etc. can also be see				
	website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in				

Sd./- Collector, Nuapada-cum-Chairman, RMC, Khariar Road OIPR-01511/11/0012/2526

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

R.W.Division, Balasore

## Over 7,000 children rescued in Telangana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 2: The Women Safety Wing, Telangana has rescued 7,678 children, including 529 girls, across the state under the Operation Muskaan in the month of July. The operation is aimed at identifying and rescuing missing children forced into labour in hazardous conditions, begging and other such activities.

Women Safety Wing (WSW) chief Charu Sinha said that 7,149 boys and 529 girls were rescued from July 1 to July 31 in the state. Out of them, 3783 are from 12 different states, including Odisha,

**'OPERATION** MUSKAAN'-XI



Bihar and Rajasthan. Among the rescued victims, 6,718 were child labourers, 42 beggars, 357 street children, two bonded labourers while 559 were found engaged in other employment.

A total of 1,713 cases were registered and 1,718 persons arrested during the operation.

As part of the rehabilitation programme, 6,593 children were reunited with families, 1,049 admitted to rescue homes. Rs 47.76 lakh fine amount was imposed on employers under the Minimum Wages Act by the Labour department. As many as 2,600 migrant children have been enrolled in 29 urban bridge schools.

Charu Sinha said that Operation Muskaan XI reinforced Telangana police's commitment to eradicating child trafficking and bonded labour through sustained, multi agency coordination. In the Hyderabad commissionerate limits, a total of 1,247 children were rescued, including 1,173 boys and 74 girls. Among these rescued children, 673 belong to Telangana, while 560 were identified as hailing from other states across India.

To ensure stringent legal action against the perpetrators, the police have registered 55 FIRs in various police stations against employers who were found engaging children in illegal labour practices.

#### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W.DIVISION, BALASORE

e-Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. 02/SERW/BLS/2025-26

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last date	Date & time of opening of	
				& time of	tender in the Office of the	
		From	То	seeking tender	Superintending Engineer R.\	
				clarification	Division, Balasore	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Vorks Division : Balasore	02/SERW/	02.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	11.08.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	11.08.2025 up to 1.00 P.M.	Technical 12.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Opening of Financial bid will be intimate after Technical Evaluation

# national



provide religious freedom. then we provide unity. The word used for unity in the Preamble of the Constitution is fraternity

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU

#### **AP GOVT DEPOSITS ₹7K EACH TO 47 LAKH FARMERS**

The Andhra Pradesh government-led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday deposited ₹7,000 each to 47 lakh farmers as part of the 'Annadatha Sukhibhava' scheme, which offers ₹20,000 financial aid to farmers per annum





If you want industries, you have to do it by respecting Marathi manoos that without it



RAJ THACKERAY | MNS PRESIDENT

If there is any bottleneck in the development of Pune, it is this dadagiri that has industrial and business sectors. It restricts an investor's free-



the Congress has questioned the courage of our soldiers. During



#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Ramdas Soren on life support

Ranchi: Jharkhand Education Minister Ramdas Soren was on life support and a multidisciplinary team of senior specialists was closely monitoring his condition, the private hospital in Delhi where he was undergoing treatment said in a statement on Saturday evening. The 62-year-old leader of the JMM was airlifted to the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in the national capital from Jamshedpur after he fell in the bathroom of his house.

#### Pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumes via trek route

Rudraprayag: The pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumed Saturday via the trek route after remaining closed for a few days. A group of pilgrims was sent to Kedarnath from Sonprayag via Gaurikund when the road meant for pedestrians became walkable to some extent Saturday, Rudraprayag SP Akshay Prahlad Konde said. However, the national highway going to the temple continues to remain closed between Sonprayag and Gaurikund, and efforts are being made by the PWD to clear it, he said.

#### Etah: Man dies after police interrogation

Etah (UP): A 23-year-old man in Etah district died allegedly after being assaulted in police custody, prompting authorities to order an inquiry into the matter, officials said Saturday, Satvayeer Kumar, from Chandrabhanpur village. was detained for questioning on suspicion of eloping with a local girl. His family claimed he was brutally assaulted in the police station and subjected to third-degree torture, leaving him critically injured. They further alleged that he was left in a neardead state late at night and died shortly after being released from custody Friday.

#### Fire breaks out at medicine factory

Kolkata: A fire broke out at a plant of Dey's Medical in south Kolkata Saturday, engulfing the vicinity in thick black smoke, officials said. The blaze was reported at the Bondel Gate area where the plant is located, around 4 pm, following which 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. "So far, there are no reports of anyone being trapped or any fatalities," an official said. However, one firefighter reportedly fell ill while trying to douse the blaze and was rushed to hospital in an ambulance, he said.

## Rajnath dares Rahul to detonate 'atom bomb of evidence' against EC Modi: Pragya Thakur



Patna/New Delhi, August 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday dared Rahul Gandhi to detonate at once the "atom bomb of evidence of vote theft" which he claimed to have against the Election Commission even as the Congress leader said release of data collected by the party in Karnataka will send a 'shockwave' through the electoral system.

Gandhi repeated his claim made Friday that the data to be released soon will be literally like an 'atom bomb' and escalated his offensive against the EC, alleging that the polling system in the country is "already dead" and the 2024 Lok Sabha election was "rigged".

"In the coming few days, we are going to prove to you without any doubt how a Lok Sabha election can be rigged, and it was rigged," he claimed at an event in Delhi. A protest by Gandhi has been planned in Bangalore August 5 against the alleged incidents of "vote theft".

Amid the raging row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has alleged that elections are being "stolen" in the

country and claimed that his party has figured out the modus operandi of "vote theft" by studying a parliamentary constituency in Karnataka.

Addressing a function in Patna organised by a media house, Singh slammed Gandhi for his claim.

"Rahul Gandhi says he is in possession of an atom bomb. If it is so, he should detonate it at once. He should just ensure that he is himself out of harm's way", said the former BJP president, tongue in cheek.

The EC termed Gandhi's remarks as "baseless and wild allegations".

Singh also said the nation remembers his past rhetoric. "He had threatened Parliament of an earthquake, but when he spoke, it turned out to be a damp squib".

The Union minister said the Election Commission of India is an institution that enjoys a reputation for unquestionable 'It is pulling out all the stops

to ensure that the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar are held in a free and fair manner. It does not behoove the Leader of the Opposition to make frivolous statements about a constitutional body," the BJP leader said. Addressing the inaugural function of the day-long legal

**Rahul had claimed** that his party has an 'atom bomb' of evidence to prove "vote chori" by the EC for the BJP, remarks that evoked a sharp response from the poll panel

conclave on the theme 'Constitutional Challenges: Perspectives and Pathways' in Delhi, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister is sitting on his chair with a "thin majority" and had there been a difference of a few seats, he would have not

He cited data collected by the Congress from an Assembly segment in a parliamentarv constituency in Karnataka. where the party checked the photographs and names of electors physically and reportedly found out that 1.5 lakh votes were "fake" out of a total of 6.5 lakh voters.

"You will see the shockwave that is going to go through the electoral system when we release this data. It is literally like an atom bomb"

"The truth is that the election system in India is already dead. Please remember one thing that the Prime Minister enjoys a very slim majority. If 10-15 seats were rigged, and we suspect the actual figures to be closer to 70-80 to 100, he would not have been the prime minister of the country," Gandhi claimed.

Sharpening his attack on the EC, the former Congress chief said, "It's very clear that the institution that protects this (Constitution), and defends it has been obliterated and taken over".

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

# Was asked to name

Thakur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 2: Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, acquitted in the September 2008 Malegaon blast case, Saturday alleged that she was tortured by the investigating officers who asked her to name several persons including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This is the first time Thakur has made this sensational claim which finds no mention in the 1036-page judgment of the special NIA court acquitting all seven accused in the case.

Thakur appeared before the sessions court here Saturday to complete her surety formalities. Speaking to reporters outside, she claimed that she was tortured during her inter-Notably, special judge

A K Lahoti in his judgment dismissed Thakur's claims of torture ill-treatment.

"They (officers) told me to take PM Modi's name, as at the time I was staying in Surat (Gujarat).

There are several names like Bhagwat (apparent reference to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat) and so on, but I did not take anyone's name as I did not want to lie," Thakur told reporters. She had put all this in writing, she claimed.

"Their objective was to torture me. They said if I did not take the names, then they will torture me. The names include Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Sudarshan ii Indresh ji, Ram ji Madhav, and many more, which I can't recall at the moment," Thakur said. The former BJP MP alleged that she was detained illegally even in the hospital where she



had fainted and her lungs had collapsed.

"I am writing my story in which I will mention all this. The truth will come out. This is a victory of religion, victory of Sanatan dharma, and victory of Hindutva...this is a Sana-

tani Rashtra, and it is always victorious.

appeared before They tried very the sessions court hard by torturing Saturday to complete her me and bringing surety formalities all devotees of the country in Speaking to reporters this....we will outside, she claimed that she was tortured during try so that they her interrogation are punished," she

> The court in its judgment said while Thakur had alleged ill-treatment, no evidence was presented to support her claims. It also referred to a Supreme Court order of 2011 in which it rejected her claims of illegal custody, torture and detention. The trial court further said that Thakur had not made any complaint before the court in Nashik when she was produced for remand after her arrest. "There is no evidence (of torture and ill-treatment) brought to my notice and hence, I am not inclined to accept the submission," judge Lahoti said. Thakur, meanwhile, said the whole case against her was baseless.

#### **Chandrachud vacates** official residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has vacated the official residence of the head of the judiciary in the national

Justice Chandrachud, who was the 50th Chief Justice of India, had superannuated from the office November 8, 2024. Recently, a controversy had aris en over his stay at the official residence of CJI at 5, Krishna Menon Marg, New Delhi, beyond permissible time.

Talking to the PTI July 7, Jus tice Chandrachud had cleared the air saying that his luggage was packed and he, along with his wife and children, would

soon move to a paid government accommodation. Justice Chandrachud. his wife Kalpana and daughters Priyanka

and Mahi, both of whom are persons with disabilities. were living in the official  $\overrightarrow{\text{CJI}}$ residence. "We have actually packed up our luggage. Some of the luggage is already gone to the new house and some are kept here in the storeroom, Justice Chandrachud had said while elaborating on the rea

sons for his overstay. The former CJI had be moaned the controversy and referred to the medical condition of his daughters, who required a wheelchair-friendly home, and said that he was waiting for the new home to be ready for occupation.

#### 18 arrested, 500 booked more than communal violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 2: Police have arrested a total of 18 persons and registered five FIRs against more than 500 indi viduals in connection with the communal violence in Yavat village of Pune district that broke out over an alleged objectionable status on a social messaging platform, officials said Saturday.

The youth who posted the objectionable status on WhatsApp is among the arrested accused along with 17 others held for their alleged involvement in arson and vandalism during the violence at Yavat in Daund tehsil. A local court sent 15 of them in police custody for four days, they said.

Communal tension erupted and incidents of violence took place in Yavat village on Friday afternoon, in which several groups of persons, angered by the social media post, vandalised and set ablaze properties

"So far, we have registered a total of five cases in connection with the violence. Four of the cases are against more than 500 people who were al legedly involved in arson and damage to property. Of these, more than 100 people have been identified," an official of Yavat police station said.

#### 'TRAFFICKING' CASE

## Two nuns freed after getting bail



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Durg/Bilaspur, August 2: Two nuns from Kerala and a co-accused arrested for alleged human trafficking and forced conversion were released from Durg Central Jail in Chhattisgarh Saturday, after a court granted them bail holding that the case was based on "mere suspicion".

The court also noted that the parents of the alleged victims denied that their daughters

had been in anyway lured, or forced to convert to Christianity, by the accused. Catholic nuns Preethy Mary and Vandana Francis were received

outside the jail by several leaders from Kerala, including LDF MPs and Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar, and also some Congress leaders, including former MLA from Durg, Arun Vora.

The nuns left the place with Chandrashekhar in a vehicle. Earlier, LDF MPs and some members of the Christian community were seen sharing sweets outside the jail after receiving the news of bail order. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) shared a picture on its Facebook account with the message "LDF MPs John Brittas, Jose K Mani, and P Santhosh Kumar celebrate the bail order with the brother of the one of the nuns outside Durg Central jail".

Elsewhere, the alleged victims of 'trafficking' approached Narayanpur police in Chhattisgarh to lodge a complaint against Bajrang Dal activists.



National Students' Union of India (NSUI) National President Varun Choudhary and other members raise slogans during their protest demanding the restoration of fellowships and scholarships for SC, ST, OBC, minority and marginalised students, outside Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi

## What is ISRO's 10-day HOPE analogue mission in Ladakh

**ISRO's HOPE station in Ladakh will serve as** a testing ground for future Moon and Mars missions by simulating extreme space-like conditions on Earth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Significantly advancing India's future human space exploration, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the country's first analogue

mission in Ladakh. The analogue station -- the Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE) station -- formally inaugurated by Dr V Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, has isolated aerospace engineer Rahul Mogalapalli and

astrobiologist Yaman Akot. "This analogue mission is more than a simulation; rather, it is a rehearsal for the future," said Narayanan

during the inauguration.

The duo will spend the next 10 days at the analogue site in Ladakh's Tso Kar. It will test their physical and psychological endurance in interplanetary conditions. "The mission is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 10th August 2025 at Tso Kar, Ladakh (elevation: 4,530 metres)," ISRO shared in a post on the social media platform X.

The mission comes as India plans to launch astronauts to space by 2027 and to the



Moon by the year 2040 as its space programme soars. "The mission marks a significant milestone in India's preparations for future human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit, and Moon/Mars class exploration

missions," the Indian space agency said.

WHAT IS THE HOPE STATION? HOPE station is developed by Bengaluru-based space tech company Protoplanet, along with the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO). It is a specially designed Dia 8 metre habitat module for crew living and a Dia 5 metre utility module for operations and support systems, which

are interconnected for seam-

less workflow

technologies.

"Tso Kar valley was specifically selected for this analogue mission due to its striking environmental parallels with early Mars, due to high UV flux, low air pressure, cold extremes, and saline perma-

frost," ISRO said. "Set in one of Earth's most Mars-like environments, HOPE is designed to simulate planetary conditions for testing human physiological responses, validating mission protocols, and evaluating spaceflight

The 10-day mission consists of experiments shortlisted from partnering national insti tutions such as IIST and RGCB. Trivandrum; IIT Hyderabad; IIT Bombay; and the Institute for Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore

The experiments will examine epigenetic, genomic, physiological, and psycholog ical responses of two analogue mission crew members and validate health-monitoring protocols, planetary surface operations, and refine sample collection and microbial analysis techniques, ISRO said.

"The valuable data gener ated through these analogue missions will form the basis for the design of protocols and in frastructure for future Indian human exploration missions by providing key insights into technology performance, crew workflows, and environmental adaptation," the Indian space agency said.





# national



**Education and em**ployment are not on the agenda of the BJP government. The double engine government of BJP has failed on every front. Students and teachers are forced to protest on the streets

#### ASSAM: OVER 1,500 **FAMILIES DISPLACED**

The first phase of a massive eviction drive to clear alleged encroachments from almost 11,000 bighas (nearly 1,500 hectares) of forest land in Assam's Golaghat district concluded Wednesday, officials said



kept the Congress family united and the Congress has kept the country united. Otherwise our country would have been broken into various pieces

D K SHIVAKUMAR K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

Those who come to the hospital should be seen as beneficiaries of health initiatives and not as patients by the doctors











#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Man on bail in rape case shoots woman

New Delhi: A woman was shot at in Delhi's Vasant Vihar allegedly by a man who was out on interim bail in a rape case she filed against him last year, an official said Saturday. The woman, a head manager at a salon, was hit on the chest and was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre in a PCR van. The woman remains under treatment and is reported to be in stable condition, officials added. Abuzair Safi (30), and his accomplice Aman Sukhla have been arrested for attempting The arrests were made Thursday and Friday.

#### Six Naxals held, explosives seized

Sukma: Six Naxalites have been arrested from Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh, police said Saturday, Podiyam Nanda (40) who carried a reward of ₹2 lakh on his head, Ganga (45) were arrested

Hemla Joga (28), and Hemla and explosives were seized from them in Sukma district Friday, a senior police official said. They were apprehended from a forest in Rabdipara village under the Kerlapal police station limits during an anti-Naxal operation of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), local police and 159th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

#### India gets Airbus C-295 military plane

London: India Saturday received the last of its 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft from Spain, marking an important milestone in strengthening its defence capabilities, the Indian Embassy in Spain said. The C-295, a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology, is set to replace the ageing Avro aircraft of the IAF. Indian Ambassador to Spain Dinesh K Patnaik, along with senior Indian Air Force officials, received the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville, the Indian mission posted on social media.

# **Tejashwi claims his name** deleted from electoral roll

Patna, August 2: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Saturday claimed that his name was missing in the draft electoral rolls published by the Election Commission as part of the special intensive revision in Bihar, ahead of the Assembly polls.

However, Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Samrat Choudhary, besides the Patna district administration, refuted the claim, sharing a screenshot of the draft electoral rolls in which Yadav's details, along with a photograph, could be seen. At a press conference, Ya-

day, a former Deputy CM himself, connected his phone to a large screen and tried to search his own EPIC number, which threw up the result "no records

The young leader exclaimed "Now look! I am myself not registered as a voter. This disqualifies me from contesting elections. Perhaps, I cease to be treated as a citizen and stand deprived of the right to live in this house. Yadav, who is now the lead-

er of the opposition in the state Assembly, also claimed that he was not provided with any receipt by the booth-level officer who came to his place with an enumeration form.

"But, leaving nothing to chance, I had photographed myself while handing over my signed and duly filled-up form,' the RJD leader said.

Some of the journalists suggested that he look up a printout of the draft electoral rolls, provided to all political parties by the EC Saturday, and his name might be there.

Yadav shot back, "The online method is what more people have access to. Would you ex-



#### EC junks claims as 'baseless'

**NEW DELHI:** The Election Commission Saturday dubbed as "baseless" claims of RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav that his name was missing from the draft that in the relevant portion of the draft 416. "He should ask the 47.506 boothlevel agents of his party to file claims and objections if they find that name of ineligible voter has been included." the level agent (BLA) of any political party case to the booth level officers for 24 hours. "All BLAs have agreed to given to them on August 1 carefully. The EC is not able to understand as to why he is continuing to make baseless allegations that his name is not there,"

pect someone residing outside Bihar to come down to look up his name in the electoral rolls? My point is to emphasise that when people like us are at the receiving end, what to speak of the common people. I have heard that even an IAS officer couple

has found their names missing.' The RJD leader had recently caused a flutter by threatening to boycott the upcoming polls, alleging that the EC was trying to help the ruling NDA through the special intensive revision.

He also remarked wryly, "I would like to see if any BJP leader also has his name missing in the draft rolls.

Meanwhile, Choudhary came out with a post on his X handle, accusing Yadav of lacking the qualifications to do a proper search and find his name.

"Your name is very much alongside that of your father, respected Lalu Prasad (RJD supremo). You would do better to shut your shop dealing in fraudulent and false claims", said Choud-

The district administration in Patna also came out with a tweet, debunking "news reports suggesting that the name of the honourable leader of the Opposition, Tejashwi Yadav, was not in draft rolls prepared as part of special intensive revision in Bihar"

The administration also said "upon investigation", it was found that Yadav's name was very much there and his booth was still at the library of the veterinary college, as before, but with changes in his own serial number as well as that of the polling station. The administration, too, shared a screenshot of the relevant part of the draft electoral roll.

#### **INDIGO IMPOSES FLYING BAN ON** UNRULY PASSENGER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: IndiGo has imposed a flying ban on the passenger who slapped a co-traveller onboard the Mumbai-Kolkata flight Friday.

The incident occurred on flight 6E138, and after landing, the perpetrator was handed over to the security authorities at the Kolkata airport, a source said Friday. The perpetrator was also declared as unruly.

In a post on X, the airline Saturday said that following due diligence, the incident involving an unruly customer has been formally reported to the relevant authorities for nec essary action.

"In line with our commitment to discourage such unruly behaviour onboard flights, the individual has been suspended from flying on any IndiGo flights, in accordance with regulatory provisions," the carrier said. The duration of the flying ban could not be immediately ascertained.

On Friday, a video clip of the incident shared on social media showed a passenger sitting in his seat suddenly slapping another passenger on the aisle who started crying and was moved away from the spot. Al so, a cabin crew member was heard telling the passenger on the seat "don't do" while another passenger was heard asking why did he slap and that he does not have any right to hit anybody. One of the passengers was also heard saying that the person who was hit was having a panic attack.



#### **DHARMASTHALA BURIAL CASE**

## No skeletal remains found at 2 more suspected sites



Dharmasthala (Karnataka), August 2: No skeletal remains were recovered during the exhumation Saturday at the ninth and tenth sites identified by the anonymous complainant-witness in connection with the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala, police said.

The latest round of digging-conducted in the presence of the complainant follows earlier exhumations at eight of the 15 sites marked along the Netravathi riverbank in a forested stretch beside the Ujire-Dharmasthala-Kokkada highway.

So far, skeletal remains have been recovered only from site No 6 Thursday, where 15 bone fragments—no skull were found.

On-site forensic experts have given a preliminary assessment indicating the remains were male. Subsequent excavations at sites 7 and 8 yielded no human remains, Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials said. Security has been heightened in the forested zones, particularly around site No 6. following the discovery. Armed police personnel and teams from the forest, revenue, and forensic departments are participating in the multi-agency

operation. Mobile phone usage remains restricted at the exca vation sites and is permitted only for senior officers, police added.

Meanwhile, the SIT probing the case is set to interrogate a police officer accused of threatening the complainant-witness The officer, Manjunath Gowda was part of the initial investigation before the case was handed over to the SIT. According to police, the

complainant has alleged that Gowda attempted to coerce him into retracting his statement and tried to paint him as "mentally unstable." An advocate representing

the complainant, Manjunath, has also lodged a complaint against the officer.

The SIT team has been as sisted by daily wage workers, machinery operators, and mechanical grass-cutting tools during the exhumation. A mechanical excavator was deployed for deeper digging at some sites. The skeletal re mains recovered from site No 6 have been sent for forensic analysis. No other major recov eries have been reported from the remaining sites. However during Tuesday's digging, a PAN card bearing a man's name and a debit card with a woman's name were recovered.

## Ramdev announces medical tie-ups at Patanjali event

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, August 2: A grand two-day Anamayam International Conference was organised under the joint aegis of Patanjali University, Patanjali Research Institute, and Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi. Nearly 300 participants

from around 200 academic institutions across 16 states joined the conference through both online and offline modes. Medical experts, researchers, policymakers, and health technology specialists from various premier medical and educational institutions of the country participated and shared their views.

On this occasion, the Chancellor of the University, Pujya Swami Ramdev Maharaj, made a major announcement.

He said that soon, keeping in view public welfare, worldclass treatment will be provided at minimal cost through modern methods at Patanjali Ayurved Hospital in collabora-



tion with AIIMS, Tata Cancer Hospital, and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

In the inaugural session, Yoga Rishi Swami Ramdev, Patanjali University Vice-Chancellor and Ayurveda Shiromani Acharva Balkrishna. along with the guests, also released three important books: Ayurveda Avataran, Integrated Pathy, and the Proceedings Book of the Conference. During this time, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to promote education and research between Dr Shreya, Dr Radhika, and Dr Mukesh from IIT Ropar and Patanjali University Vice-Chancellor Acharya Balkrishna.



A farmer ploughs a field during the monsoon season in Nadia, West Bengal

## After 7 years, red panda cubs born in Sikkim zoo

Gangtok, August 2: Two Red Panda cubs were born in the Himalayan Zoological Park (HZP), Bulbuley near Gangtok, after seven years, an official statement said.

The cubs were born to parents Lucky(II) and Mirak. This is the pair's first litter together and marks a significant milestone in the park's conservation efforts, it said.

A statement issued by the Park Friday said that the birth of the cubs recently is especially heartening as it comes after a difficult period in the Red Panda Conservation programme's history - a seven-year gap in successful births due to challenges like the two outbreaks of canine distemper that nearly



decimated the captive red panda population.

Initiated in 1997, HZP's Conservation Breeding Programme began with a pair of red pandas-Preeti from Rotterdam Zoo and Jugal from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological

Park, Darjeeling. Their successful breeding laid the foundation for a thriving genetic lineage. In 2005, the programme was further strengthened with the inclusion of a wild-origin pair. Lucky and Ram, helping expand and diversify the genetic

The statement said that all red pandas born under this programme are tracked through national and interna-

tional studbooks to ensure healthy genetic variability and global breeding cooperation.

pandas Red typically breed in the winter months between November and January. After a gestation period of around five months, females give birth between June and August, in warm, hidden nests. Remarkably, both Lucky(II)

and Mirak were observed par-

ticipating in nest-building—a

rare instance of male involve-

ment. However, cub-rearing

remains the mother's responsibility, who teaches the young to climb and forage. Any disturbance by predators or humans can result in the cubs

being abandoned at **CUBS WERE** vulnerable BORN TO PARENTS LUCKY(II) AND MIRAK age, said the statement. It said that

LITTER TOGETHER AND the cubs will be **MARKS A SIGNIFICANT** raised by their IILESTONE IN THE PARK parents from the public eye until they are old enough for viewing.

These new cubs will stay with their mother for over a year, reaching full size by 12 months and becoming sexually mature by 18 months. Their health and compatibility will then be assessed as part of future breeding strategies.

#### Mob thrashes two, applies salt, chilli water on wounds

Golaghat (Assam): Two youths. alleged to be involved in a theft, were allegedly assaulted by a mob led by three brothers in Golaghat district of Assam, police said Saturday. Of the three accused brothers, one is a local BJP leader, and another is associated with the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). "The incident took place at the Gelabil area in Sarupathar yesterday. Two young men were brutally beaten up and subjected to inhumane torture as salt and chilli water were put on their wounds," a police officer said. The victims were subjected to torture for allegedly being involved in a theft, he said. "The two injured youths, one of whom is a minor, have been admitted to a hospital, and they are recovering now,' the officer said. A purported video of the assault has gone viral on social media, attracting sharp reactions."

# international

Well, I understand India no longer is going to be buying oil from Russia. That's what I heard. I don't know if that's right or not, but that's a good step. We'll see

#### **INDONESIA'S MOUNT LAKI LAKI ERUPTS AGAIN**

Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted for a second straight day, sending a column of volcanic materials and ash up to 18 kilometers into the sky early Saturday and blanketing villages with debris. No casualties were immediately reported





for corruption, expose corruption



PRESIDENT, UKRAINE





TOURISM BOARD CEO, NEPAL



India since New Delhi recalled its envoy and five other diplomats and expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats in October

ANITA ANAND | FOREIGN MINISTER, CANADIAN

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 5 children killed in mortar shell explosion

Peshawar: Five children were killed and 12 others injured when an old mortar shell they were playing with exploded in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Saturday, police said. The incident occurred in the Lakki Marwat district when a group of children discovered an unexploded mortar shell in the hills and brought it back to their village. According to police, the device detonated while they were playing with it, unaware that it was a bomb. Five children were killed and 12 others injured in the blast, they said.

#### Colombian ex-Prez gets 12 years' house arrest

**Bogota:** Former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe was sentenced Friday to 12 years of house arrest for witness tampering and bribery in a historic case that gripped the South American nation and strongman's legacy. The sentence, which Uribe said will be appealed, followed a nearly six-month trial in which prosecutors presented evidence that he attempted to influence witnesses who accused the law-and-order leader of having links to a paramilitary group in the 1990s. "Politics prevailed over the law in sentencing," Uribe said after Friday's hearing. Uribe, 73, has denied any wrongdoing. He faced up to 12 years in prison after being convicted Monday. His attorney had asked the court to allow Uribe to remain free while he appeals the verdict. Judge Sandra Heredia Friday said she did not grant the defense's request because it would be "easy" for the former president to leave the country to "evade the imposed sanction.'

# B'desh to unveil July **Declaration' August 5**

The Yunus-led interim government wants to give constitutional recognition to the student-led uprising that took place last year in July-August, which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 2: The Bangladesh interim government of Muhammad Yunus Saturday said it would unveil August 5 the "July Declaration", coinciding with the first anniversary of the ouster of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime.

"The interim government has finalised the draft of the July Declaration. It will be presented Tuesday, August 5, 2025, before the nation in the presence of all parties in favour of the mass upheaval." Yunus's press wing said in a statement.

The Yunus-led interim government wants to give constitutional recognition to the student-led uprising that took place last year in July-August, which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. This recognition is known as the July Declaration.

Information adviser Mahfuj Alam, whom Yunus earlier called the "main brain" or the mastermind of what is dubbed the July uprising, meanwhile, said the much-anticipated July Declaration was now a "reality".

"It will be announced August 5. I thank everyone for keeping this issue alive in the public



conscience and helping pave the way for its implementation," said Alam, who was one of the top leaders of Students Against Discrimination (SAD).

The SAD led last year's violent campaign that eventually toppled the Awami League regime, prompting Hasina to flee the country August 5, 2024. However, the idea for the July Declaration arose to SAD leaders by the end of December last vear.

A leading SAD figure, Hasnat Abdullah, now a top leader of the National Citizen Party (NCP), an offshoot of the SAD that emerged in February this year visibly with Yunus's blessings, Decemher 28 last vear announced a "declaration of the July Revolution" would be declared in the capital December 31.

In the subsequent days, SAD leaders put in their efforts to popularise terms such as "Second Republic" through the July

They planned a grand rally to announce the "proclamation" to "bury" Bangladesh's 1972 "Mujibist Constitution", and declare the Awami League "irrelevant", sparking political

tensions and speculations. Yunus's government initially preferred to distance itself from the move, calling it a "private initiative", but in a surprise announcement later said the government itself would prepare the "proclamation of July uprising" incorporating views of the SAD, all participating students, political parties and stakeholders.

The proponents of the declaration say it is aimed at "unifying the nation around last year's core values of anti-fascism, democratic resurgence, and state reform" but it sparked debate among political parties – not only over its content alone but also over whether it should be granted constitutional status

#### Rival groups stage protests at migrant hotel in London

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 2: Anti-immigrant and anti-racism demonstrators faced off in London Saturday in the latest in a series of protests outside hotels housing asy-

Several hundred protesters waving Union Jacks gathered outside the Thistle City Barbican Hotel in central London. calling for it to be closed as housing for migrants. Chants including "Scum" and "Britain is full" were directed at the hotel.

Police separated the demonstrators from a larger group of counter-protesters chanting 'refugees are welcome here," as people inside the hotel watched from windows

Protests against migrants have taken place in recent weeks in Epping, a town on the outskirts of London where an asylum-seeker was accused of sexual assault, and in a smattering of other towns in England.

Protesters say they are concerned about the safety risk posed by the migrants, many of them young men who have recently arrived in Britain in dinghies across the English Channel.

The demonstrations have drawn local people, but have also been attended, and in some cases organised, by far-right

The protests come a year after several days of anti-immigrant rioting across England and Northern Ireland. Crowds in more than two dozen towns attacked hotels housing migrants, as well as mosques, police stations and a library. Some rioters targeted non-white people and threw bricks and fireworks

#### **AIR INDIA CRASH**

## UK families await update on DNA-matched remains

The 241 passengers and crew who died in the disaster included 52 British nationals, with two out of 12 caskets repatriated to the UK for last rites found to be incorrectly identified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 2: British families, waiting for the remains of relatives aboard the London-bound Air India 171 plane that crashed soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad airport, are expecting confirmation on DNA matches after high-level India-UK government talks, their legal team has said.

Keystone Law, which has been working with aviation experts to assist many of the families who lost loved ones in the June 12 crash, called for urgency in the process this week.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UK visit last week. Downing Street had confirmed that Prime Minister Keir Starmer had discussed the Air India plane crash during their bilateral talks against the backdrop of UK media reports of mislabelling of some remains repatriated to Britain. 'The UK and Indian gov-

ernments have held high-level talks, as a result of the international media coverage of this problem," said James Healy-Pratt, Aviation Partner at Keystone Law. "It is believed that some

matched DNA remains may now have been located in India. Confirmation is await-



The 241 passengers and crev who died in the disaster included 52 British nationals, with two out of 12 caskets repatriat ed to the UK for last rites found to be incorrectly identified.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had responded to the UK reports to stress that "all mortal remains were han dled with utmost professional ism and with due regard for the dignity of the deceased". "We are continuing to work

addressing any concerns related to this issue," the MEA's official spokesperson said in a statement last month. Asked to estimate the scale of the issue, Keystone Law said of

with the UK authorities on

a sample of 12 caskets repatri ated from India to the UK, two were "mislabelled, mishandled and misidentified' "Extrapolated out - with an

unacceptable error rate of 15 per cent, that would suggest 40 sets of remains may have been mislabelled, mishandled and misidentified. That is a known unknown, and many of the families' loved ones have been cremated already," said Healy-Pratt. Last month, an inquest into

the deaths of some of the Brit ish passengers was opened and adjourned in London, with the process of identification over seen by the Senior Coroner under UK procedures.

Mali ex-PM held for

backing junta critics

Bomako (Mali), August 2:

Mali's former prime minister was taken into pretrial deten-

tion Friday after expressing

solidarity in a media post with

iailed critics of the military

junta ruling the West African

country, his lawyer and a close

latest in a crackdown on dis-

sent by Mali's military rulers

following the country's first

pro-democracy rally since sol

diers seized power nearly four

ciate of the former prime min

ister, told The Associated Press

that Mara was arrested after a

cybercrime prosecutor ordered

his detention pending trial for

expressing compassion for peo

ple jailed for political beliefs.

unit said Mara has been ac

thorised to speak to the media

order, and spreading false in

formation. Mara's legal team

is contesting the charges and

Mara posted on X July 4 that

he had visited jailed critics of

detention, Tall said.

Mara's lawyer Mountaga Tall said on X that the former prime minister faces charges including undermining state authority, inciting public dis

A member of the cybercrime

Abdoulaye Yaro, a close asso-

Moussa Mara's arrest is the

associate said.

## Trump fires labour official after weak jobs report



REUTERS

Washington/New August 2: President Donald Trump Friday fired a top Labor Department official on the heels of a market-shocking weak scorecard of the US job market, accusing her without evidence of manipulating the figures and adding to already growing concerns about the quality of economic data published by the federal government.

In a second surprise economic policy development, the door for Trump to make an imprint on a Federal Reserve with which he clashes almost daily for not lowering interest rates opened much earlier than anticipated when Fed Governor Adriana Kugler unexpectedly announced her resignation Friday afternoon.

The two developments further rattled a stock market already reeling from his latest barrage of tariff announcements and the weak jobs data. The benchmark S&P 500 Index sank 1.6% in its largest daily drop in more than two months.

Trump accused Erika McEntarfer, appointed by former President Joe Biden, of faking the jobs numbers. There is no evidence to back Trump's claims of data manipulation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statistical agency that compiles the closely watched employment report as well as consumer and producer price data.

A representative for the BLS did not respond to a request for comment.

Friday began with BLS reporting the US economy created only 73,000 jobs in July, but more stunning were net downward revisions showing 258,000 fewer jobs had been created in May and June than previously reported.



Palestinians carry aid supplies that entered Gaza through Israel, in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip

#### cused of "damaging the state's credibility" and that his trial would start September 29, 2025. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not au

## US couple welcomes baby boy from 31-year-old frozen embryo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Columbus (US), August 2: A baby boy born last week to an Ohio couple developed from an embryo that had been frozen for more than 30 years in what is believed to be the longest stor-

age time before a birth. In what's known as embryo adoption, Lindsey and Tim Pierce used a handful of donated embryos that have been frozen since 1994 in pursuit of having a child after fighting infertility for years. Their son was born Saturday from an embryo that had been in storage for 11,148 days, which the Pierc-

es' doctor says sets a record. It's a concept that has been around since the 1990s but is gaining traction as some fertility clinics and advocates, often Christian-centered, oppose discarding leftover embryos because of their belief that life begins at or around conception and that all embryos deserve to be treated like children who need a home.

"I felt all along that these three little hopes, these little embryos, deserved to live just like my daughter did," said Linda Archerd, 62, who donated her embryos to the Pierces.

Further complicating the topic is a 2024 Alabama Supreme Court decision that said that frozen embryos have the legal status of children. State leaders have since devised a temporary solution shielding clinics from liability stemming from that ruling, though questions linger about remaining embryos.

Archerd says she turned to IVF in 1994. Back then, the ability to freeze, thaw and transfer

embryos was making key progress and opening the door for hopeful parents to create more embryos and increase their

chances of a successful transfer. She wound up with four embryos and initially hoped to use them all. But after the birth of her daughter, Archerd and her husband divorced, disrupting her timeline for having more children. As the years turned into de-

cades, Archerd said she was wracked with guilt about what to do with the embryos as storage fees continued to rise.

Eventually, she found Snowflakes, a division of Nightlight Christian Adoptions, which of-

Just about 2 per cent of births in the US are the result of in vitro fertilisation, and an even smaller fraction involve donated embryos

owever, medical experts estimate about 1.5 million frozen embryos are currently being stored throughout the country, with many of those in limbo as parents wrestle with what to do with their leftover embryos created in IVF labs

fers open adoptions to donors from people like Archerd. She was also able to set preferences for what families would adopt

her embryos. The process was tricky, requiring Archerd to contact her initial fertility doctor in Oregon and dig through paper

records to get the proper docu-

mentation for the donation. The

embryos then had to be shipped from Oregon to the Pierces' doctor in Tennessee. The clinic, Rejoice Fertility in Knoxville, refuses to discard frozen embryos and has become known for handling embryos stored in outdated and older containers.

Of the three donated embryos the Pierces received from Archerd, one didn't make the thaw. Two were transferred to Lindsey Pierce's womb, but just one successfully implanted.

According to Dr. John Da vid Gordon, the transfer of the nearly 31-year-old embryo marks the longest-frozen embryo to result in a live birth. He would know: Gordon says his clinic assisted in the previous record, when Lydia and Timothy Ridgeway were born from embryos frozen for 30 years, or

10,905 days.





# business



No real winners in trade conflicts. Despite some countries securing better terms, the overall impact is negative THOMAS RUPF | CO-HEAD SINGA

#### **JSW CEMENT SLASHES IPO SIZE**

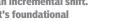
JSW Cement, part of Sajjan Jindal-promoted diversified JSW Group, is set to launch its truncated ₹3.600-crore initial public offering (IPO) August 7. The total size of the issue, however, is lower than the earlier proposed issue of up to ₹4,000 crore



REUTERS



AI is rewriting the playbook. It's blurring identity, scaling social engineering, and overwhelming SecOps. This is not an incremental shift. It's foundational



PRAYANK SWAROOP | PARTNER, ACCEL



pattern and consistent growth tra jectory of the economy. The government's timely refund process is also a great help to businesses, ensuring they have the working capital they need

SAURABH AGARWAL | TAX PARTNER, EY INDIA



sector undertakbasis and we are working on strate gies that can insulate our economy from geopolitical risks

ARUNISH CHAWLA | SECRETARY, DIPAM

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### GST mop-up rises 7.5% to ₹1.96L-cr

New Delhi: Gross GST collection increased 7.5 per cent to about ₹1.96 lakh crore in July on higher domestic revenues. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up was ₹1.82 lakh crore in July 2024. Last month, the collection was ₹1.84 lakh crore. The gross domestic revenue grew 6.7 per cent to ₹1.43 lakh crore while tax from imports rose 9.5 per cent to ₹52,712 crore. GST Refunds shot up 66.8 per cent year-on-year to ₹27,147 crore. The net GST revenue stood at ₹1.69 lakh crore in July 2025, recording a 1.7 per cent year-on-year

#### Data sharing: NSE, **SEBI settle case**

Mumbai: The National Stock ₹403.5 million (\$4.6 million) to the markets regulator to settle a case involving the indirect sharing of confidential information on listed companies with a third-party vendor. India's largest bourse operator shared the information with its unit NSF Data and Analytics Limited (NDAL) "for onward distribution to a 3rd party vendor, without having any legally binding agreement in place," the Securities and Exchange Board of India said in its settlement order Friday. NSE, the world's most active derivatives exchange, has been embroiled in litigation with SEBI since 2019 when it was fined 11 hillion runees for failing to provide uniform access to all its trading

#### Federal Bank Q1 profit drops 15%

members.

Mumbai: Federal Bank's net profit declined by 15 per cent to ₹862 crore in the June quarter as a compression in margins impacted core income and an uptick in bad assets led to higher provisions. The bank management said that the second half of the fiscal year must see higher credit growth, and also an uptick in the net interest margins, and blamed the industry-wide issues on the microfinance front for the uptick in non-performing assets. For the reporting quarter, its core net interest income rose by just 2 per cent to ₹2,337 crore. The other income was up 22 per cent to an all-time high of ₹1,113 crore on a surge in core fees and also a jump in treasury income.

# India firm on Russian oil dealings

New Delhi, August 2: India will keep purchasing oil from Russia despite US President Donald Trump's threats of penalties, two Indian government sources said, not wishing to be identified due to the sensitivity

"These are long-term oil contracts," one of the sources said. "It is not so simple to just stop buying overnight.

Trump last month indicated in a Truth Social post that India would face additional penalties for purchases of Russian arms and oil. On Friday, Trump told reporters that he had heard that India would no longer be buying oil from Russia. The New York Times Sat-

urday quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy, with one official saying the government had "not given anv direction to oil companies" to cut back imports from Russia.

Reuters reported this week that Indian state refiners stopped buying Russian oil in the past week after discounts narrowed in July.

"On our energy sourcing requirements ... we look at what is there available in the markets, what is there on offer, and also what is the prevailing global situation or circumstances," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters during a regular briefing Friday.



Jaiswal added that India has a "steady and time-tested partnership" with Russia, and that New Delhi's REMAINS INDIA'S

relations with var-TOP OIL SUPPLIER, ious countries PROVIDING 35% OF stand on their own merit and FOREIGN MINISTRY EMPHASIZES should not be **INDEPENDENT ENERGY** seen from the SOURCING DECISIONS prism of a third country RUMP HAS THREATENED

Indian refiners are pulling back from Russian crude

as discounts shrink to their lowest since 2022, when Western sanctions were first imposed on Moscow, due to lower Russian exports and steady demand, sources said earlier this week.

The country's state refiners · Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd - have not sought Russian crude in the past week or so, four sources

familiar with the refiners' purchase plans told Reuters. INDIA'S TOP SUPPLIER

On July 14, Trump threatened 100% tariffs on countries that buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a major peace deal with Ukraine. Russia is the

top supplier to India, responsible for about 35% of India's overall supplies.

Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India during the first six months of 2025, accounting for about 35% of India's overall supplies, followed

**BIAS IN US TARIFFS HITS INDIAN AUTO SECTOR** 

of the tariff on all goods coming from India from August 7. "Imposition of a 25 per cent tariff by the

US on Indian imports has raised concerns across India's automotive and tyre industries, both of which

maintain substantial export exposure to the US market," it noted. With the US accounting for 27 per

cent of India's auto component exports and 17 per cent of tyre exports, the tariff hike places Indian

manufacturers at a disadvantage compared to Asian peers such as Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia,

of Indian suppliers, especially in off-highway and replacement tyre segments, and across various

over Chinese competitors, that edge may now be offset by the lower tariff rates granted to other

Southeast Asian nations. Auto component exporters, particularly those heavily reliant on the US

it said. The auto components industry reported a turnover of \$80.2 billion (Rs 6.73 lakh crore) for

8 per cent to \$22.9 billion (Rs 1,92,346 crore) in FY25 from \$21.2 billion (Rs 1,75,960 crore) in FY24.

which face lower or preferential duties, Icra said. The increased tariffs could dent the competitiveness

market, are expected to diversify their geographies and improve cost efficiencies to lessen the impact,

FY2025, a growth of around 10 per cent as compared with FY2024. Exports of auto components grew by

automotive components, it said. While Indian tyre exporters previously enjoyed a modest advantage

ne 25 per cent US tariff on Indian exports places domestic auto component industry and tyre makers

in an unfavourable position as compared with Asian peers like Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia, which

face lower duties, rating firm Icra said Saturday. The US administration has announced imposition

by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, received about 1.75 million barrels per day of Russian oil in January-June this year, up 1% from a year ago, according to data provided to Reuters by

Nayara Energy, a major buyer of Russian oil, was recently sanctioned by the European Union as the refinery is majority-owned by Russian entities, including oil major Rosneft.

Last month, Reuters reported that Nayara's chief executive had resigned after the imposition of EU sanctions and company veteran Sergey Denisov had been appointed as CEO.

Three vessels laden with oil products from Nayara Energy have vet to discharge their cargoes, hindered by the new EU sanctions on the Russia-backed refiner, Reuters reported late from contraction. New orders increased at the fastest pace in nearly five years, buoyed by favourable market conditions and marketing efforts. That propelled output growth to a

**Factory growth hits** 

16-month high, biz

Bangalore, August 2: Indi-

an manufacturing growth ex-

panded at its fastest pace in

16 months in July, driven by

robust demand, but business

confidence fell to a three-year low amid competitive pressures

and inflation concerns, a sur-

The HSBC India Manu-

facturing Purchasing Man

agers' Index, compiled by

S&P Global, rose to 59.1

in July from 58.4 in June,

slightly below a prelimi-

nary reading of 59.2. The in

dex remained well above the

50-mark separating growth

vey showed Friday.

outlook darkens

15-month high. International demand continued to support overall sales although growth in export orders moderated from June's more than 17-year high.

Despite the strong performance, manufacturers' optimism fell to its lowest level since July 2022. Companies cited mounting competition and inflation concerns as key challenges.

The contrast between present conditions and future outlook was reflected in hiring patterns with employment increasing at the weakest pace since November 2024. A substantial 93% of manufacturers surveyed indicated their current workforce was adequate for production needs.

## Tata Motors launches iconic Harrier EV at Gugnani Autocars

**IMPORTS** 

ARIFFS ON RUSSIAN



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 2: Tata Motors has officially launched Harrier EV, an all-electric SUV at Gugnani Autocars, Pratapnagari, Cuttack, marking a major leap forward in the electric vehicle landscape of Odisha.

The unveiling event witnessed the presence of Rajan Gugnani, Yashneet Gugnani, Asmit Praharaj, Regional Manager, SBI; Abhishek Chokraborty, Area Manager, Tata Motors; Manoj Kumar Senapati, General Manager, IDBI Bank,

The Harrier EV is poised to redefine performance, design, and sustainability in its segment. Equipped with a dual-motor powertrain, the Harrier EV delivers a powerful 238 PS and accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 6.3 sec-

onds—making it the fastest in its category. It boasts a robust 75 kW battery that supports ultra-fast charging, providing an impressive 250 km range in just 15 minutes of charging time.

The vehicle's cutting-edge Frequency Dependent Damping Suspension ensures enhanced ride comfort and stability, while the 504 Nm torque and XWD dual-motor all-wheel drive system promise optimal control across diverse terrains. Designed for Indian roads, the Harrier EV comes in four colors and includes a lifetime battery warranty, reinforcing Tata Motors' commitment to quality

and customer satisfaction. With this launch, Tata Motors further strengthens its EV portfolio and accelerates its mission toward sustainable mobility in India.

#### Forex kitty zooms by \$2.7bn to \$698.1bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 2: India's forex reserves rose by \$2.703 billion to \$698.192 billion during the week ended July 25, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped \$1.183 billion to \$695.489 billion.

For the week ended July 25, foreign currency assets, a maior component of the reserves. increased by \$1.316 billion to \$588.926 billion, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange

The gold reserves grew by \$1.206 billion to \$85.704 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights

(SDRs) were up by \$126 million to \$18.809 billion, the apex bank

India's reserve position with the IMF was higher by \$55 million at \$4.753 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data

## RBI may announce 25 bps rate cut in August MPC meet

With US imposing fresh tariffs and global

uncertainties rising, RBI's

MPC meeting from August 4 to 6 has taken on greater importance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 2: RBI is expected to cut 25 bps in repo rates in light of soft inflation and global uncertainties, aiming to reinforce growth momentum while it has a policy window, a report said Saturday

'We expect the RBI to continue frontloading with a 25 basis point cut at its August MPC meeting. Tariff uncertainty, better GDP growth and CPI numbers in FY27 are all frontloaded." SBI Research said in a report. A frontloaded rate cut in August could bring an "early Diwali" by boosting credit growth, especially as the festive season in FY26 is also frontloaded. it said.

According to the report empirical evidence suggests a strong pick up in credit growth whenever the festive season has been early and has been preceded with a rate cut.

The report suggested that policymakers at central banks should avoid missing the window for effective inter-

vention by acting too late, saying, "No point in backloading or commit-

ting a type II error." A Type II error occurs when the central bank fails

to reject the null hypothesis, assuming that the inflation undershoot is temporary, and hence does not cut rates—but in reality, inflation remains persistently low and the output gap contin-

ues to weaken. "The good news is that the new CPI series, which gives more weightage on e-commerce and less weightage on food,

could imply average CPI infla tion continuing to undershoot staying below 4 per cent even in FY27," the report added. As a result, better inflation figures for

FY27 will also be frontloaded. The report said that central banks focus on two main goals keeping prices stable

and supporting economic growth. explained

that, according to the standard Quadratic Loss Function, there is a risk of making a "Type II er ror" -- in this case not cutting interest rates now because

policymakers think low inflation is temporary But in reality, inflation might remain low, and the slowdown

in the economy could get worse The report also noted that factors like tariff changes, GDP growth, inflation numbers for FY27, and even the festive season in FY26 are being taken into account

sion infrastructure - especially

in sun-drenched states such as

Rajasthan and Gujarat - have

forced many solar plants to

miss commissioning deadlines,

risking financial penalties and

potential loss of government in-

centives, the SPDA said in the

The SPDA urged the gov-

ernment in the same letter to

recognise delays in approvals

and transmission construction

as force majeure events to help

earlier than usual.

## Stranded renewable projects in India double to 50 GW

DELAYS IN CRITICAL TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE - ESPECIALLY IN SUN-DRENCHED STATES SUCH AS RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT - HAVE FORCED MANY SOLAR PLANTS TO MISS COMMISSIONING DEADLINES, RISKING FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES, THE SPDA SAID

Singapore, August 2: India's stranded renewable power capacity - projects awarded but unable to come online - more than doubled over nine months, due to unfinished transmission lines, and legal and regulatory delays, letters from an industry group to the government showed.

Renewable projects that won tenders to generate power but are yet to sign power purchase agreements with buvers have surged to over 50 gigawatts (GW), India's Sustainable Projects Developers Association (SPDA) said in a letter to the Ministry of New and Renewable

Energy June 27. That compared with stranded projects of over 20 GW, another letter sent by the SPDA October 4 showed. Both letters were reviewed by Reuters.

The stranded solar and wind capacity without buyers of over 50 GW reported by the SPDA is about quarter the size of India's current installed renewable capacity of 184.6 GW. "India's energy transition

is not just about building solar and wind capacity, it is also about ensuring that clean power reaches in a most optimum cost and timely manner,' the SPDA said in the June 27 letter to the renewable energy ministry. India has been ramping up

renewables as it pushes to more than double its non-fossil fuel power capacity to 500 GW by 2030. A record 22 GW of solar and wind capacity came online



in the six months ended June, government data showed.

However, tendered projects cumulatively worth billions of dollars awarded to companies including JSW, NTPC, Adani

and Sembcorp are stranded, two industry officials familiar with the matter said.

The companies did not respond to Reuters requests seek

ing comment. The SPDA includes leaders of

#### **SHORT OF TARGET**

THE STRANDED SOLAR AND WIND CAPACITY WITHOUT BUYERS OF **OVER 50 GW IS ABOUT QUARTER** THE SIZE OF INDIA'S CURRENT **INSTALLED RENEWABLE** CAPACITY OF 184.6 GW

INDIA HAS BEEN RAMPING UP RENEWABLES AS IT PUSHES TO MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS NON-FOSSIL FUEL POWER CAPACITY TO 500 GW BY 2030

A RECORD 22 GW OF SOLAR AND WIND CAPACITY CAME ONLINE IN THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE

some of India's largest renewable energy producers Renew Power, ACME Group and Avaada Group as members of its core

protect developers from financial penalties, and to expedite regulatory permissions. Renewable projects are also

stuck due to prolonged legal disputes over land and environmental permissions, it said adding that several developers have paused operations over unresolved court cases.

Green, ACME Solar, Renew

committee. Delays in critical transmis-

June letter.

India's campaign

ends in Macau Open

Lakshya, Mannepalli bow out in semifinals

INDIA SET RECORD 374-RUN TARGET AFTER GRITTY JAISWAL HUNDRED, WASHINGTON'S WHIRLWIND FIFTY

# Jaiswal leads the way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 2:** Yashasvi Jaiswal enhanced his reputation as an all-conditions opener with a gutsy hundred on a tough pitch before Washington Sundar's whirlwind fifty allowed India to set a record 374-run target for England on an absorbing day three of the final Test here Saturday.

Jaiswal (118 off 164) rode his luck to complete his sixth Test hundred while the other significant contributions came from nightwatchman Akash Deep (66 off 94), Washington (53 off 46) and Ravindra Jadeja (53 off 77), who has been phenomenally consistent with the bat this series.

The highest successful chase is 263 at The Oval but with the way England approach their game, one would not bet against the hosts just yet, having made short work of a 378 run target against India at Edgbaston three years ago and more recently the 371 they gunned down in the series opener at Leeds.

At stumps, England were 50 for one loss in 13.5 overs with Mohammed Siraj castling Zak Crawley with a yorker at the stroke of stumps.

India were all out for 396 in the second innings courtesy the fireworks from Washginton Sundar displayed exemplary six hitting skills against Gus



Atkinson and Josh tongue.

Having a scored his maiden Test hundred last week, Washington looked supremely confident as he put the opposition pacers to sword to swell India's lead.

England continued to drop catches, taking their innings tally to six. Jaiswal (118 off 164), who was dropped twice on Friday, was given another life on day three. Fair to say, he made the most of the lifelines offered to him for his second hundred of the series.

Shubman Gill (11 off 9) produced two sublime fours before falling to the incoming ball once again with Gus Atkinson removing the Indian captain first ball after lunch. With that, Gill ended the series with a staggering 754 runs, just 20 shy of Sunil Gavaskar's all time record by an Indian.

Akash Deep's memorable knock

Earlier, nightwatchman Akash Deep smashed his way to a maiden half-century, frustrating a lacklustre England and putting India in a strong position at lunch.

Resuming the day at 75 for two, India did exceedingly well to reach 189 for three at the break with Jaiswal and Akash Deep sharing a 107-run stand off 150 balls.

The India pacer, who was on four overnight, was eventually dismissed by Jamie Overton towards the end of the session via a short ball he could not control, giving an easy catch to Gus Atkinson at point.

Akash Deep, who had just one first class fifty to his name prior to this game, made his intentions clear in the first over of the day bowled by left-arm spinner Jacob Bethell.

India 224 & 396 in 88 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 118, Akash Deep 66, Ravindra Jadeja 53, Washington Sundar 53; Josh Tongue 5/125) lead England 247 & 50/1 in 13.5 overs (Ben Duckett 34 batting;



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Macau, August 2: India's campaign at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament came to an end Saturday after Lakshya Sen and Tharun Mannepalli suffered semifinal defeats in their respective men's singles matches.

Lakshya, a 2021 world championship bronze medallist and reigning Commonwealth Games champion, couldn't match the pace and precision of Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, going down 16-21 9-21 in a 39-minute contest to continue his patchy run that has seen him struggle with form and fitness this season.

In the other semifinal, India's Tharun Mannepalli went down fighting against Malaysia's Justin Hoh in a gripping three-game contest that lasted an hour and 21 minutes.

The 23-year-old Mannepalli, ranked 47th in the world, squandered a strong start to lose 21-19 16-21 16-21 in a match marked by fluctuating momentum and a flurry of unforced errors.

It has been a tough season for world number 17 Lakshya who has had seven first-round exits and two second-round ousters this season. The 23-year-old, who has been affected by shoulder, back and ankle issues this season, had entered the tournament to gain some confidence before heading to the World Championships in Paris.

Mannepalli started well, racing to an 11-6 lead in the opener. A pair of wide returns helped him build a 17-12 cushion before Justin clawed back to level at 18-all. After wasting one game point, Mannepalli closed it with a straight return.

#### **WCL FIASCO**

## PCB bars use of Pak's name in private cricket leagues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 2: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has put a ban on using the name of the country in teams representing it in private cricket leagues following the fiasco in the World Championships of Legends (WCL) in which Indian players refused to play against the 'Pakistan Champions'.

According to reports, the PCB has decided to pull the plug on the use of the country's name in private cricket leagues after the ongoing WCL in the UK was made out to be a clash between India and Pakistan

"The decision was taken after a detailed discussion in the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday," sources said Friday. "The high-level authorities felt Indian players refusing to play Pakistan in the WCL's second edition twice is hurtful to the name of the country.

In the future, no permission will be given to any private organization to use the name of the country for private leagues. However, the current Pakistan Legends team will be allowed to play Saturday's final against South Africa.

The reports said that vari-



ous private organisations have used the name of Pakistan to feature in minor and low-profile leagues in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and the USA.

"All private organizations will face legal action in case they use Pakistan's name. PCB has the sole right to allow its use for cricket events if it finds the authenticity of the League and the organization as reputable," the report quoted sources close to the PCB as saying.

It is also learnt that the Pakistan government and the IPC (Inter-provincial coordination committee), which is looking after the sports in the country, has sent an advisory to the PCB to control the use of the country's name in private cricket leagues in the future.

#### World chess champion Divya receives ₹3cr prize money PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, August 2: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday felicitated newly-crowned FIDE Women's Chess World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh here and handed over a cash award of Rs

Deshmukh, 19, became the youngest to win the Wom-

en's World Cup title held at Batumi in Georgia on July 28 after she outwitted compatriot Koneru Humpy in the tie-breaker of the final. The victory not just earned her the prestigious title, but also made her a Grandmaster.

Deshmukh is a native of Nagpur, the same place from where CM Fadnavis also hails.

During the programme held



in the city, the Grandmaster thanked CM Fadnavis and the people of Nagpur for felicitat-

She said one gets to enjoy such moments rarely in life.

"This is a very special moment for me. I am so happy that I could be a little bit part of their (children's) motivation and their inspiration. I am feeling very

happy," she said.

She thanked the Maharashtra government and the Maharashtra Chess Association for their support.

Speaking on the occasion, Fadnavis said he felt proud as an Indian, as the CM of Ma harashtra and as a native of Nagpur that a local girl has made the country proud at the world level.

Carlsen claims first

Esports WC trophy

#### **WEEKS AFTER ANNOUNCING SEPARATION**

## Saina posts picture with Kashyap

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Weeks after announcing separation from husband Parupalli Kashyap, Olympic medallist shuttler Saina Nehwal has posted a picture with the former claiming that they are "trying again".

share a photo with Kashyap, set against a stunning backdrop of the sea and mountains.

Saina took to Instagram to

"Sometimes distance teaches vou the value of presence. Here we are-trying again,' she wrote in the caption.

On July 13, Saina, in a surprising move, announced her separation from Kashyap. The couple, who have been together for over a decade, tied the knot in 2018.



"Life takes us in different directions sometimes." Saina had written in her post last month.

"After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing for ourselves and each other.

teaches you the value of trying again

I'm grateful for the memories and wish nothing but the best moving forward. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy during this time.

Commenting on the post fans welcomed the news and expressed their elation at the

reunion of the couple. The seperation announcement had come as a surprise to the sports community and fans alike, given Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap's long-standing bond both on and off the court.

Riyadh, August 2: Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen won the inaugural Esports World Cup chess tournament on Friday, defeating Alireza Firouzja in Riyadh.

World number one Carlsen claimed the \$250,000 top prize sneak ahead in the overall championship after his win over Firouzja.

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The prize pool of the tourna ment was \$1.5 million.

"It's been an amazing show, unlike anything I've ever seen," Carlsen said just before lifting the trophy on stage, with pyrotechnics lighting up behind him.

The inclusion of the centuries-old board game in the es ports tournament comes after it experienced a significant revival during the pandemic.

#### Messi's India tour to start from Kolkata Spurs captain Son quits club

Son, who is a fifth in Spurs all-time goalscoring list with 173, last season became only the seventh player in the club history to make 450+ appearances, reaching 454

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Tottenham captain Son Heung-min has announced that he will leave the club this summer af-

ter spending 10 years The South Korea international joined Spurs at the end of August 2015 and celebrated his 10th year at the club by lifting the UEFA Europa League

trophy back in May The 33-year-old, who is under contract with Spurs until 2026, announced his decision to leave the club at a press conference alongside Thomas Frank in

"I wanted to say I have decid-



mer. Respectfully the club is helping me with this decision. It was the most difficult decision I have made in my career. Such amazing memories. It was so hard to make the decision. I need a new environment to push myself. I need a little bit of change - 10 years is a long time. I came to north London as a kid, 23 years old, such a young age. I leave this club as a grown man, a very proud man. I want to say thank you to all the Spurs fans for giving me so much love. I

hope the goodbye is also good

time to make that decision. I hope everyone can accept that and respect that," Son said in a press conference.

Asked for his reaction to the decision, coach Frank said, "For me, personally, I would have loved to have worked with this fantastic person and player. He is a true Spurs legend in every aspect, one of the greatest players to play in the Premier League. It is never easy to find the perfect timing and me coming in from the side, it makes it a bit easier to end on a high.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 2: If all the pieces fall in place, football devotees in Kolkata will have the first sighting of iconic Lionel Messi after a decade, and the City of Joy will be the first stop in the Argentine's whirlwind journey across Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi, culminating in a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The sources privy to the development informed PTI that all arrangements have been finalised including booking the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, but an official confirmation from Messi is still awaited.

"It's been finalised and we are waiting for an official announcement from Messi, maybe on his social media handle anytime soon," said the source.

"As of now we have agreed on the proposed itinerary and we are just awaiting an official announcement from his social media, which would be in anytime soon," the source added.

As per the itinerary, Messi will land in Kolkata on the night of December 12 around 10pm and will stay for two days and one night -- the longest stop on his tour. 70-ft statue, GOAT Cup with Ganguly

The Argentina captain's Kolkata schedule December 13 will begin at 9am with a meet-and-greet event. followed by the un-Ahmedabad, veiling of a 70-feet

statue of him at

the Lake Town

Road.

Sribhumi on VIP also gear up to welcome the Organisers claim this will be football great the first-ever and

tallest statue of the World Cup winner anywhere in the world. He will then head to Eden Gardens. where the GOAT Concert and GOAT Cup will be held from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

"I don't want to mislead people. So basically, it will be a celebration of Messi, a master class with Messi. He will play the GOAT Cup in a seven-side soft-ball, soft-touch game with Souray Ganguly, Leander Paes, John Abraham, Bhaichung Bhutia among others. It will be a celebration play in respect of Messi," the source explained.

He hoped for a sellout crowd as it will be a fully ticketed event. "This will be at Eden. It will be a ticketing event. Denominations are yet to be decided. It would be a little expensive --

should not be less than Rs 3,500. "Entire stadium will be open, so, we can expect a

full capacity of 68,000. Delhi, Mumbai For 1 hour 20 minutes Messi will be there with musical tribute and masterclass with kids," he added.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to felicitate Messi during the Eden Gardens pro-

Flashback 2011

In wee hours of August 31, 2011. Messi made his first appearance in India, landing in Kolkata as hysteric fans gathered at the airport to welcome him. He was here with his team to play an exhibition match against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium a match they won 1-0. Messi's arrival sparked "Messi fever" in Kolkata, with thousands of fans lining the streets, donning Messi jerseys, and packing the 75,000-capacity stadium.



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