Tamannaah's stance

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 125 | www.orissapost.com

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia addresses the controversy surrounding a scene from the multilingual film Baahubali: The Beginning

LEISURE | P2



Syria boils again

New outbreaks of violence Sunday night rock Syria at two distinct flashpoints, straining a fragile ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL | P10



UAN activation norm

EPFO mandates UAN through Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology in UMANG App from August 1

BUSINESS | P11



England near win

Joe Root makes his 39th Test hundred and Harry Brook his 10th as England reaches 339 for six at stumps against India

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | AUGUST 4, 2025

12 PAGE | ₹5.00



the eruption of Krasheninnikov volcano associated with the Eastern volcanic belt and is located 200 km northeast of the regional centre of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia Far East, Sunday рті рното

BSE vice-president Six Odia workers held for paper leak killed in AP quarry

The adage "Who will guard the guardians?" aptly reflects the dismal state of Board of Secondary Education (BSE). Odisha tasked with ensuring the integrity of the Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (SOTET). A serious breach occurred when BSE vice-president Nihar Ranjan Mohanty failed to delete the question paper after proofreading it and granted access to data entry operator Jitan Moharana, the prime accused, who had no authority over it. Mohanty, now apprehended for negligence and abuse of power, exchanged over 100 calls with Moharana outside office hours over the past three months

Cuttack, August 3: Police Sunday arrested vice-president of BSE Nihar Ranjan Mohanty for his alleged involvement in the question paper leak of Special OTET-2025, a senior officer said.

The BSE was supposed to hold the exam July 20. However, the Board was forced



Nihar Ranjan Mohanty

to postpone it after a handwritten question paper with answers went viral on social media a day before, the police officer said.

Mohanty was having a suspicious relation with prime accused Jitan Moas a data entry operator at the office of the BSE," said Vinaytosh Mishra, Director General of Police (Crime Branch).

So far, eight persons, including the BSE vice-president and Moharana, have been arrested in the question paper leak case, he said.

During the investigation, the police found that Moharana had first circulated

the handwritten question paper to two other accused persons, and then it went viral on social media.

As per protocol, Mohanty only had access to the question paper using an ID and password. He was supposed to proofread the question paper, make necessary corrections and then delete it from the computer, he said.

"However, we found that he had not deleted the question paper from his laptop and gave its access to Moharana even though he has no business with dealing with the question set," the DGP (CB) said. The CB found that Mohanty had telephonic harana, who was working conversation with Moharana for more than 100 times beyond official hours during past three months, he added.

> Mishra said Moharana had no role in conduct of the examination. Still, the BSE vice-president had deliberately given him laptop access.

Police will start a financial investigation into the question paper leak case,



PNN & AGENCIES

Ballikurava/Berhampur, August 3: Six migrant workers from Odisha were killed and at least nine others sustained grievous injured after a massive granite rock fell on them at a quarry in Bapatla district Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Banamali Behera. 30, of Bangarada village, Danda Badatya, 48, of Chasa Nimakhandi under Digapahandi block, Santosh Goud, 36. and Musa Jaan, 35, of Kasia village in Dharakote block, of Ganjam district and Bhaskar Bisoi, 40, and Tukuna Dalai,37, of Alara village in Dhepaguda panchayat of Mohana block in Gajapati district. Eight Odia workers have been injured.

According to police, the

incident occurred around 10:30am Sunday when at least 16 workers were engaged in the mining works.

"All victims are from Odi

sha. We suspect water seep

age caused the rock to give way. Forensic teams are investigating," the police said, adding there were no blasts or seismic activity. Rescue operations were

immediately launched, with AP Mines department officials joining the police at the site.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed grief over the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Odisha Chief Minsiter Mohan Charan Majhi announced ₹4 lakh ex gratia each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to the next kin of the

Army officer attacks SpiceJet staffers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delhi, August 3: Police have registered a case against a senior army officer for allegedly assaulting and injuring four employees of a private airline at Srinagar International Airport last week, causing a spinal fracture to one of them, officials said here Sunday.

A case under Section 115 RK Singh for assaulting em- the incident took place. ployees of SpiceJet airline

over payment of extra baggage charges by the army officer July 26, they said.

Section 115 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) deals with the offence of voluntarily causing hurt to another person.

(HAWS) at Gulmarg in Bara- and the Army is fully comof BNS has been registered mulla district, was to board a mitted to maintaining dis-

Asked about the incident, country.



Lt Colonel Singh, who is Army officials said they are currently posted at Army's awaiting the conclusion of High Altitude Warfare School the pending investigation had suffered spinal injuries.

cial media showed the enraged army officer hitting several airline employees with an iron stand.

The airline issued a detailed statement about the incident, saving one of the four victims of the assault

The airline also said it has initiated the process to against Lieutenant Colonel – SpiceJet flight to Delhi when – cipline and mutual respect – place the passenger on the in all civil spaces across the no-fly list in line with civil

following a disagreement The incident was caught on camera and a video which has gone viral on so-



Never collect conclusive proofs - who knows how long the courts will take, or who will be in power then?

11 die as SUV falls into canal

Gonda (UP), August 3: An SUV fell into Saryu canal in 11 bodies were recovered the district Sunday, leaving from the submerged vehicle. 11 people dead and four others injured, police said. Station House Officer

holy water at Prithvinath Temple in Khargupur when be given ₹50,000, he said. the accident occurred near Belwa Bahuta.

Rai said the SUV was cardue to an accident in Gonda, hospital.

the driver. With the help of villagers and rescue teams,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish at the loss of lives and an-(SHO), Itiathok police sta- nounced an ex gratia of ₹2 tion, Krishn Gopal Rai, said lakh from the Prime Ministhe victims were going from ter's National Relief Fund Mehak, 12, Durgesh, Nandini, Sihagaon village to offer for the next of kin of each Ankit, Shubh, Sanju Verma, deceased. The injured would

He said on X, "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives

rying 15 people, including Uttar Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in the mishap. May the injured recover soon."

SP Vineet Jaiswal said those killed in the accident included six women, two men and three children. The victims were identi-

fied as Beena, 35, Kajal, 22, Anju, Anasuya and Saumya.

The SP said four people, including the SUV driver, were rescued and sent to a

It pours when CM prays: Raj Min

Jaipur, August 3: In a bizarre answer to a question on severe waterlogging and polluted water entering homes and fields in Balotra area in Barmer district, Rajasthan Minister of State for Industry and Commerce KK Vishnoi said that every time Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma offers prayers to Lord Krishna, it rains so heavily that he is compelled to request Lord Indra to slow it down. Criticising the mingress said it was ridiculous to shift responsibility of a man-made crisis to Gods.

"In the district we are talking about, Barmer-Ba-



our chief minister prays to Lord Krishna in Bharatpur, there is such heavy rainfall here that the chief minister ister's comments, the Conhas to request Lord Indra to ease the rain, so that people can carry on with their lives," Vishnoi said during his Barmer visit Saturday.

lotra, Lord Indra is very by the persistent problem cy Harish Choudhary said ants from factories in Jodhgenerous. Whenever a BJP of polluted water flowing that shifting responsibility pur and Pali into the river.

river, which carries industrial waste from factories in Jodhpur and Pali, overflows during monsoon inundat- rains. ing villages in Balotra with blackish and foul-smelling

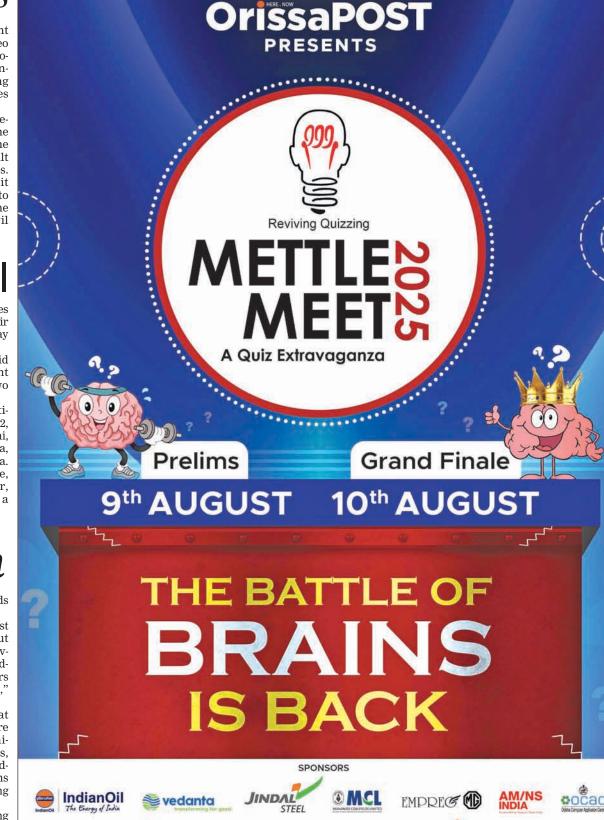
Criticising Vishnoi's remarks, Congress MLA from action has been taken yet to Balotra has been gripped Barmer's Baytoo constituen- stop the discharge of pollut-

of a man-made crisis to gods was ridiculous.

'The minister has not just diverted the real issue but also implicated that the government is incapable of addressing it and only prayers can help. This is ridiculous," the former minister said.

Choudhary claimed that areas near Jojari river are submerged, and contaminated water enters homes, farmlands and other buildings. The problem worsens when the river swells during

Locals backed this, saying that they have been affected by the problem for several years now, and no concrete



eisure



LINDSAY LOHAN ON BEING TYPECAST IN HER CAREER

Lindsay Lohan says she was typecast earlier in her career and admits she has to fight for the same even now, which she finds frustrating. Lohan was 10 when she made her acting debut with the soap opera Another World in 1996.

JENNA ORTEGA SHARES HER PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL AGE

Jenna Ortega shares her perspective on the digital age. She finds it isolating. Ortega believes it hinders the development of self-identity. People seek community online, leading to isolation. She highlights the importance of family and personal interests.



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Whip up some excitement in vour life — put on vour walking shoes and go

explore some unknown destination, sug-gests Ganesha. Keep yourself busy, but take care not to overdo anything. Today, you will be the centre of attention in group activities.

TAURUS

You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesha. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul

GEMINI

Today, you are likely to be rather emotional and sentimental, says Ganesha. Your love for performing arts may make you take up lessons in classical music or traditional dance. And much to your delight, your sweetheart will treat you to a surprise candlelit dinner.

CANCER You will be in a joyous mood.

You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension. Ganesha says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings

LEO The passionate Scorpio

might be the master of arousing passionate emotions, but it is the very same emotions that enslave it. But today is different, says Ganesha. You are all set to be lively on this lovely day, as your energy levels your healthy eating habits that are the reason behind this super-charged feeling!

The booster rockets of your ambitions and spirit to work will kick in at the maximum today. Seek recreation after a hard day's work and look to relax at private parties, social-dos and even weddings,

LIBRA

Today is the day when you seem to agree with every-thing that people say, without striking even a note of criticism. It's just one of those days when you are amazed by all things around you. Such an elastic approach will enable you to be reasonable in your views and sensible in your ways. Ganesha wishes you the very best.

SCORPIO

You will find yourself thinking with your heart rather than your head today, says Ganesha. You may not be able to repress your feelings, and you should not even try. But you should be careful about how you express them, particularly in public as people may judge you wrongly on the basis of it. advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS No wonder, if you feel like you are stuck in a rut. Your energy level and enthusiasm has gone for a toss due to mundane routine. Unfortunately, your stars too seem

to be lazy today, and there's nothing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesha advises to let the day pass calmly and wait for a better tomorrow.

CAPRICORN

Duping the wisest with your extraordinary power of convincing may have been your forte, but you may have to prove yourself all over again, for Ganesha says you will be tested today. This apart, you are likely to find answers to questions lingering in your subconscious mind for long. The outburst of creativity in the second half of the day will draw the attention of your peers, and this will also be the best time to seek their support, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

For a moment, it seems that you're swamped with problems. But you are brave enough to deal with any ugly issue that crops up suddenly. Ganesha hints at a romantic evening, which may just be time together in a jacuzzi, or simply preparing a meal together. Pure ecstasy!

PISCES All the dieting that you have been undergoing will finally begin to show results, with compliments galore coming your way from your friends. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are likely to be high. A bright and beautiful day waits, says



clears the air Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia recently addressed the controversy surrounding a scene from Baahubali: The Beginning, where her character Avantika is with Prabhas' character, Shivudu. The scene received backlash, with some critics labeling it "the rape of Avantika." Tamannaah strongly disagreed with that interpretation, explaining that the moment was meant to be transformative, not harmful. In a recent interview, she said the intent was

to help Avantika reconnect with her lost sense of softness and femininity, which had been buried under years of hardship and emotional armour. According to Tamannaah. **BAAHUBALI SCENE** director

CONTROVERSY

Avantika as someone who had become emotionally hardened. Shivudu's actions were designed to remind her of her beauty, grace, and capacity for love. "It was about healing, not control," she emphasised. She also reflected on how society often misinterprets art based on its own shame and discomfort around themes like love and intimacy. "Even if you show something pure, people see what they believe. That's their perception," she noted.

Rajamouli

envisioned

Tamannaah called out societal hypocrisy, especially in India, where natural emotions and physical expression are often stigmatised. "It wasn't rape," she stated firmly. "It was Avantika finding herself through someone who was gently wooing her." AGENCIES



Mumbai: In a rare moment of unfiltered honesty, digital sensation and fashion iconoclast Uorfi Javed made headlines—this time not for her bold outfits, but for a deeply personal decision. After nearly a decade of using lip fillers, the Bigg Boss OTT

alum revealed she has chosen to dissolve them and embrace her natural look The nouncement came through a candid Insta-

video,

showing the immediate aftermath of procedthe ure—her face swollen, puffy, and vulnerable. Far from glamorising cosmetic enhance-

gram

ments, the video captured an authentic journey of self-acceptance. As the swelling began to subside, Uorfi appeared radiant in a white co-ord set, wearing minimal makeup and a confident smile.

In her usual tongue-in-cheek style, she captioned the post "Shrek or Jasmine?", earning praise from fans for her humour and courage. Many applauded her transparency and called the decision beautiful and empowering.

Uorfi has consistently challenged norms around body image, fashion, and self-expression. Her decision to reverse cosmetic enhancements adds a new layer to her Rashmika's dream crush public persona-one grounded in vulnerability and selflove. In a world chasing curated perfection, Uorfi's honest transformation resonates as a bold reminder that realness can be just as powerful,

and perhaps even more beautiful.

Mandanna, one of

the most sought-after

actors in Indian cinema, has

made her mark across languages including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi. Among her many collaborations, one of the most special remains her pairing with Tamil superstar Thalapathy Vijay in the 2023 film Varisu. During early promotions for Bheeshma, Rashmika had confessed her long-time admir-

ation for Vijay, calling him her dream crush since childhood. When asked to name her ideal friend, boyfriend, and husband from the industry, she quickly named Nithiin as a friend and chose Vijay as her dream boyfriend. She revealed that working with him

was a long-cherished dream and although she was earlier offered a role in Vijay's Master, schedul-

> ing conflicts prevented it. But the dream finally came true with Varisu. She marked the milestone with a heartfelt Instagram post during the film's Pooja Muhurat, expressing her excitement to act and dance with someone she had admired for years.

While Rashmika's professional life is thriving, her personal life has also been under the spotlight, especially due to ongoing dating rumours with her Dear Comrade co-star Vijay Deverakonda. Though neither has confirmed the relationship, fans continue to speculate. Rashmika was last seen in Kuberaa and has The Girlfriend, Thama, Mysaa, and VD14 lined up.

3

8

1

8

9

5

AGENCIES

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

8

5 6

4

2

5

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2 3

3

5

9

8

SUDOKU

9 4

1

3

Vikrant on comparisons with SRK

Mumbai: Vikrant Massey recently bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor for his stellar performance in 12th Fail. Interestingly, he shares the honour with none other than Shah Rukh Khan, who won for his role in Jawan. While fans are thrilled to see both talents celebrated equally, comparisons between the two actors have been circulating on social media for

some time. During an interview. Vikr ant addressed these comparisons, calling them "unfair." He said, "He's Shah Rukh Khan. Men like him and Amitabh Bachchan

are legends—once-in-a-generation icons. Comparing them to someone like me is not right." Vikrant added that Shah Rukh's legacy and skill set are unique and irreplaceable, and such parallels hold little weight. "I laugh it off," he said. "It's futile.

There will never be another Shah Rukh Khan." After his win, Vikrant expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the National Film Awards jury, and espe-

cially director Vidhu Vinod

Chopra for believing in him.

Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan posted a thank-you video, acknowledging his directors, writers, fans, and family. "To be

honoured with National Award is a moment I'll cherish forever. he said, expressing pride,

humility, and gratitude.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

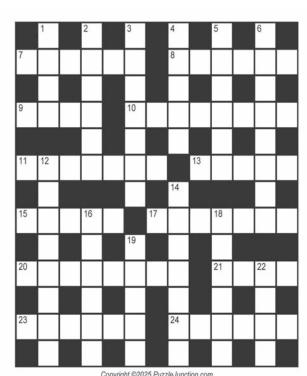


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 20 Movie extras

(5-3)

21 Diversify

23 Shirt part

24 Cracks up

Across

7 Duel participant

8 Rank

9 Spheres

10 Squid dish

11 Bewails

13 Coffee order 15 Spiral-horned

antelope 17 Crumbs

Down 1 Lightly burn

3 Instruct

2 Creamy dessert

16 Declares invalid

18 Enjoy immensely

4 Hibachi

5 Buffalo

6 Pub (4,4)

12 Screen test

14 Comfort

19 Unit of petrol

22 Rhine tributary

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS O E G T I A R A A A A N E R SURGEON

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Oppn slams govt over Balanga girl's death

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Following the death of the Balanga minor girl Saturday night during treatment at AIIMS-Delhi, Opposition parties launched a scathing attack on the state government, accusing it of failing to ensure women's safety.

At a press conference held at Congress Bhawan here, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) demanded the immediate resignation of Deputy Chief Minister and Nimapara MLA Pravati Parida on moral grounds

Mahila Congress leaders Sonali Sahu, Madhusmita Acharya, Manisha Das Pattnaik, Jayashree Patra, and Pranati Mishra alleged that, despite her statements being recorded multiple times, no concrete action was taken against the accused.

"The victim was mentally alert and showing signs of recovery. Her sudden death raises serious doubts. This is not mere



apathy-it appears to be part of a larger political conspiracy," said Congress spokesperson Sonali Sahu.

The Mahila Congress leaders warned of statewide protests if justice is denied. "We demand the arrest of the accused within seven days, failing which we will gherao the DGP's office," they said. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) also hit out at the government, calling the Balanga victim's death "suspicious". Senior BJD leaders Pramila Mallick, Lekhasri Samantsinghar, and Tukuni Sahu alleged that police are pushing a suicide theory to shield those linked to Deputy CM Pravati Parida.

They questioned the isolation of the victim's family and the lack of arrests, claiming it reflects a larger pattern under the BJP regime-where women's safety is neglected and justice is buried under hush money

and cover-ups.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) state committee issued a statement expressing deep sorrow and anger over the girl's tragic death, and demanded urgent action through a four-point charter of demands which includes a high-level judicial inquiry, immediate arrest of the accused, ₹50 lakh compensation, and a government job for the victim's family.

f iustice is denied

Responding to the allegations, BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra said, "The victim's family is satisfied with the government's support in treatment and other facilities. Her death has saddened everyone-except the Opposition, which is indulging in dirty politics.'

"While the girl was undergoing treatment, the Opposition disrupted the hospital environment with protests, causing distress to other patients. Despite the family's plea to not politicise the matter, the Opposition continues to exploit the tragedy for political gain. They should refrain from such actions" he

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bhubaneswar-Delhi flight cancelled over cabin heat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 3: A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was cancelled Sunday due to 'high temperature' in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement.

Air India did not provide details such as the number of people on board the aircraft, the type of aircraft or even the time the now-grounded flight was scheduled to take off from Bhubaneswar.

This is the second incident of an Air India flight confronting a technical glitch in a day.

This comes amid the aviation safety regulator DGCA detecting over 100 violations and observations, with some of them identified as critical safety risks, during an audit of the Tata Group-run private carrier, and one of its Boeing 787-8 plane operating its London Gatwick flight crashing on a medical college within minutes of its take-off June 12, killing 241 people on board and 19 on ground.

"Flight AI500 scheduled to operate from Bhu-

Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha

to hit streets from August 6

baneswar to Delhi August 3 has been cancelled due to a technical issue causing high cabin temperature on ground prior to the departure." Air India said in a statement.

"Our airport team in Bhubaneswar is assisting the impacted passengers with alternative arrange ments to fly them to their destination to Delhi. We regret the inconvenience caused," the airline said.

The flight, according to flight tracking website flightradar24.com, was to be operated by an Airbus A321 aircraft at its scheduled time of 12:35pm, and land in Delhi at 2:55pm.

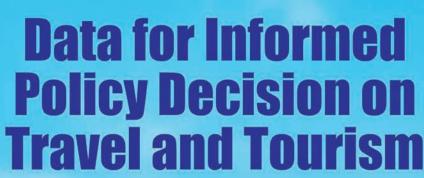
Earlier in the day, Air India said its flight AI349 scheduled to operate from Singapore to Chennai was cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure, which required additional time for rectification.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation last week detected around 100 violations and observations related to Air India's training, crew's rest and duty period norms, and airfield qualification, among others, sources had said.

Government Of India







Let us strengthen the National Statistical System

National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is conducting Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES) and National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) from July 2025 to June 2026.

Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES):

Information being collected on:

Purpose of Trip - Holiday, Health, Pilgrimage, Shopping, Social, etc.

Type of Trip - Package, Non-package

Mode of Travel - Air, Rail, Water, Road Transport

Type of Stay - Commercial, Non-commercial

Destination - Within State, Outside State

Trip services booked - Online, Offline

Trip Expenditure



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha Sunday announced to hold statewide protest from August 6, demanding development and

and weavers in state. The federation called for the immediate formation of a functional governing council to oversee the development activities and ensure long-pending welfare schemes reach traditional craftsmen.

empowerment of artisans

According to an official statement from Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha, the council was originally established to act as a vital bridge between the state government and the artisan community. However, due to administrative negligence and lack of political will, the council has remained dormant, failing to support thousands of weavers, handloom workers, and artisans across the

Demands include a hike in wages for traditional weavers, training programmes, raw material procurement at subsidised rates, promotion of local crafts and a permanent council office near Khandagiri area in City.

Despite previous government announcements, schemes meant for weavers and artisans have failed to benefit the ground-level beneficiaries. The Federation accused the current administration of merely continuing the schemes of earlier governments without effective implementation.

The federation urged the inclusion of experienced artisans on the council's board, arguing that their participation would lead to more realistic and impactful policies. They stressed that Odisha, known for its rich craft traditions, must preserve its cultural heritage by supporting rural artisans with proper schemes and financial assistance.

The protest campaign will begin August 6 in the districts of Khurda. Bhadrak, Jajpur and Balasore, where symbolic protests will be held to highlight local issues. The next phase of agitation will commence August 11, covering other districts of

Western Odisha.





National Household Travel Survey (NHTS):

Information being collected on:

Purpose of Trip - For work/pursuing education

Cost of trips

Mode of travel

Same-day trips (excluding work/education)

Origin and Destination of trips, distance, travel time

Contribute to nation-building, participate in the survey

Households are requested to cooperate with the enumerators of NSO and provide accurate data. Identity of the households participating in the survey is kept confidential in all reports/microdata of MoSPI.

OrissaPOST

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DAY

BMC gears up for grand celebration



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has finalised an elaborate plan to celebrate Local Self-Government (LSG) Day August 31, 2025 with a series of community-centric events and

At a planning meeting here recently, chaired by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, attended by deputy mayor Manjulata Kanhar, new BMC commissioner Chanchal Rana, and other semark the occasion with both recreational and developmental activities to reflect civic pride and community participation.

Key highlights of the celebra-

have been migrating in search of better livelihood.

tion includes friendly sports matches (Cricket & Football) between the Mayor's XI and Commissioner's XI, indoor and outdoor games like Chess, Carom, Badminton, and musical chairs for both men and

women, coordinated by the

BMC Recreation Club.

A cultural programme at Rabindra Mandap will be organised September 2, including various school-level competitions in poetry, essay, speech, and drawing, 'Nagar Bandhu Award' to be conferred on three citizens from different BMC zones for outstanding service, cleanest wards from each zone to be recognised and felicitated on the occasion.

In addition, community-level

Govt to launch Mobile Migration Resources Centre

Bhubaneswar: In order to provide support services directly to migrant workers in need, the state government

is set to introduce Mobile Migration Resources Center, a mobile van equipped with counseling services, legal

aid, job information, and helpline access. The van, which will be flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak

Vardhan Singh Deo at Krushi Bhavan here Monday, symbolises a people-first approach, ensuring no migrant

is left behind. The van will reach across migration-prone districts, offering timely assistance and connecting

families to government schemes. The van is designed for last-mile outreach in remote rural households, who

ing staff, depicting two con-

trasting scenarios — one where

a new mother receives active

support from her family and

healthcare system, and anoth-

er where she is left to struggle

alone. The performance reso-

nated deeply with the audience

and effectively communicated

the transformative impact of a

supportive environment during

an open interaction, distribu-

tion of educational pamphlets,

and on-the-spot lactation coun-

selling for mothers in atten-

This initiative is a part of

Ankura Hospital's on-going

commitment to community

health and maternal well-being,

especially among vulnerable

The session concluded with

the breastfeeding journey.

On Local Self-Government Day the grand celebration will commence with flag hoisting at the BMC headquarters, followed by visits to Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) facilities, where BMC officials will distribute fruits and sweets among the inhabitants Newly completed developmental projects by BMC will also be inaugurated on the same day.

events will also be held at local parks by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Senior Citizens' Associations, with support from corporators, coordinated by ward officers.

On LSG Day, the grand celebration will commence with flag hoisting at the BMC headquarters, followed by visits to Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) facilities, where BMC officials will distribute fruits and sweets among the inhabitants. Newly completed developmental projects by BMC will also be

inaugurated on the same day. The evening will feature a special ceremony at Soochana Bhawan, including the 'Nagar Bandhu Samman'. release of the souvenir 'Aahwan', and prize distribution



IN ACT: Artistes from 'Ragesri Nilayam' from Nayagarh perform drama 'Jaughara' at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES 2025

KIIT felicitates medal-winning athletes

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kaling Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) felicitated 11 athletes from the university who represented India in various sporting events and won medals at the recently concluded World University Games (WUG) 2025 in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, in presence of several sporting personalities, including Olympians, presented a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh each to silver medal winners at the WUG 2025, while bronze medal winners were awarded Rs 1 lakh each

Expressing his delight over the achievement. Samanta said first Indian university to win

that the highest number of players in the İndian contingent at WUG were from KIIT. India secured a total of 12 medals in the event, with KIIT athletes contributing 6 of them. This accomplishment is a matter of pride for both KIIT-KISS and Odisha, he added, Samanta also highlighted that KIIT is the

the highest number of medals at the WUG in the past 65 years.

Three KIIT students — Ankita in the 3000m Steeplechase, Praveen Chithrawal in the Triple Jump, and Seeman in the 5000m Final — each won silver medals.

KIIT University showcased its

ous events. In the Men's 4x100m Relay, Sahkanth Hoblidhar, Animesh Kujur, Lalu Prasad Bhoi, and Matyam Jayaram Dandapati won bronze medals In the Women's 20km Race Wall Team event, Munitap Rajpathi, Mansi Negi, and Seial Anils ingh walked in unison to clinch bronze. Avinash Mohanty also contributed with a bronze medal in Badminton, bringing KIIT's total medal tally to six.

Among others, KIIT-DU VC Sharanjit Singh, Registrar JF Mohanty, and Sports and Yogic Sciences School director gener al Gaganendu Dash were pres ent at the ceremony. Olympians Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda Amiya Mallick, Shradhanjali Samantray, and Bhavani Devi also graced the occasion.

Awareness camp on breastfeeding

Bhubaneswar, August 3: As part of World Breastfeeding Week 2025, an awareness camp was organised at Nilamadhaba Niwas in Chandrasekharpur, focused on empowering the economically weaker sections (EWS) with the knowledge and support related to breastfeeding

The event was jointly organised by Ankura Hospital for Women and Children, 9M Fertility and AAYU Foundation, in alignment with this year's global theme 'Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support

Renowned lactation expert from Ankura Hospital, Dr Bishnupriya, delivered an informative talk highlighting the long-term physical, emotional, and economical benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child. She also addressed common myths, challenges, and the importance of timely support and guidance for new mothers, especially in underserved communities.

A powerful skit was performed by the hospital's nurs-

CLASSIFIED

Admission begins for 3-year integrated BEd-MEd course

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The admission process for the 3-year Integrated BEd-MEd course for the academic session 2025-26 has officially begun under the Student Academic Management System (SAMS).

The eligible candidates can now apply by filling out the Common Application Form (CAF) available on the official website www.samsodisha.gov.in. The course is designed to integrate professional teacher training with advanced academic education and is open to candidates who have completed their postgraduate (PG) studies in Science, Social Science, or Humanities from a recognised institution.

A total of 200 seats are available across four higher education institutions in the state. These includes Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjadeo University in Baripada with 50 seats in regular mode. Sambalpur University with 50 seats in



in Balasore with 50 seats in self-financing mode. Admissions will be carried out through a centralised selection process based on the candidate's academic (career) marks and applicable reservation categories. There will be no entrance examination for the course. Candidates will be allotted seats through a system that allows them to choose between

University in Bolangir with 50

seats in self-financing mode,

and Fakir Mohan University

'Freeze' and 'Slide' options during the admission process. The application timeline begins August 4, 2025, from 11am. The last date to submit the online application form is August 17, 2025, by 11:45pm. An editing

window will be available August 18, 2025, for candidates who need to make corrections in their previously submitted

application forms. The provisional seat allotment list for the first round of selection will be published August 22, 2025, at 2pm. Further details on the slide and freeze option, online fee payment, and reporting to the allotted institutions will be communicated via the SAMS portal.

Candidates are strongly advised to refer to the Information Brochure available on the SAMS website before filling out the application form. All updates and changes in the admission schedule will be published on the official portal https:// imed.samsodisha.gov.in.

Thunderstorms, lightning likely till August 8

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a series of 'Yellow' warnings, forecasting thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty surface winds, reaching speed of 30 to 40kmph across various

districts of Odisha. According to the IMD's mid-day weather bulletin, light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers are likely at a few places in North Odisha and isolated locations in South Odisha until August 8. IMD warned of thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds August 4 at one or two places in districts including Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, argarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati. The warning was extended

Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Sund

August 5 to include Rayagada and Koraput along with the aforementioned districts, again predicting similar weather con ditions at isolated locations.

IMD issued another 'Yel low' alert August 6 for thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds over an expanded list of districts, including Sub arnapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Bo langir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal Nabarangpur, and Malkangiri, alongside previously mentioned districts.

OARFT holds conference on managing reproductive health

AFFIDAVIT

I. Monalisa Sahoo Alias Monalisha Sahoo, D/o Srikanta Kumar Sahoo, Residing At-Plot No. 3794/8172, Lavanya House, Prachi Vihar, Ggp Colony, Vtc-Koradakanta, P.O.-Jharapada, Sub District-Saheednagar, District-Khorda, Odisha, 751006 have changed my name to Monalisha Sahoo for all future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK

populations.

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Odisha Arthritis and Rheumatology Foundtion Trust (OARFT) organised a national conference, focused on the critical intersection between Rheumatology and Gynecology, aimed to shed light on the complex challenges faced by women dealing with autoimmune diseases, especially during their reproductive years.

The conference titled 'Connecting Flares & Fertility in Rheumatology,' brought together leading experts, clinicians,

WOMEN SUFFERING FROM RHEUMATIC DISEASES



and researchers from across the country.

The conference was attended by IRA Odisha Branch president Sisir Kumar Mahapatra, emeritus gynecologist PC Mahapatra and KIMS Hospital department of Rheumatology head Prasant Padhan, along with other esteemed dignitaries from medical fraternity.

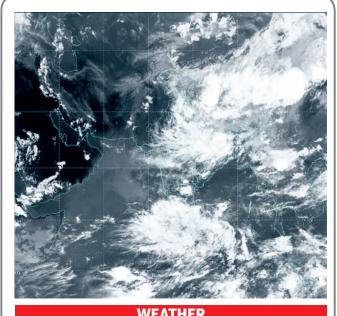
Attending the conference, Padma Shri Dr Ashok Kumar Mahapatra emphasised the critical need for interdisciplinary collaboration, underscoring unified efforts across various departments which is essential for delivering truly comprehensive patient care.

Delivering his address, Dr PC Mahapatra shared valuable insights into treating infertility in women with autoimmune

diseases, offering practical and compassionate strategies for managing the complex cases.

For his guidance on the safety of rheumatologic drugs during pregnancy and for help ing clinicians make informed evidence-based decisions to protect both mother and child during critical cases, Dr AN Malaviya was honoured with 'OARFT Tribute 2025'

With over 300 delegates in attendance, the conference created a space for deep conversations, meaningful learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration.



	WLAIIII	-N	
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	25.0°	24.8°	with possibility of rain or
Humidity	94%	89%	thunderstorm
Rainfall	1.4mm	Nil	

BOOKING STATION

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Rly personnel killed in IED blast along J'khand border

Police suspect involvement of **Naxalites in the** blast as Maoist posters were found near the blast site

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bonai (Sundargarh), August 3: A railway personnel was killed in an IED blast on a railway track about 3 km from Ranchda railway station under Bimlagarh-Kiriburu section of Chakradharpur railway division near Odisha-Jharkhand border in Sundargarh district Sunday, police said.

This is a major violence triggered by the Maoists on the last day of the Martyr's Week.

The deceased was identified as Itua Oram. who was working as a 'key man' in the Indian Railways, the police said. Another railway employee Buddhuram Munda sustained critical injuries in the explosion He was rescued and admitted to Ispat General Hospital in Rourkela.

Rourkela Railways SP, CRPF jawans, K Bolang police and railway personnel rushed to the spot and



launched an investigation.

A bomb defusing and detecting squad was also pressed into the service. It is apprehended that it might take more than 12 hours for train services to become normal on the route as the gang man and track repairing personnel have refused to go the track for repairs until they are given clean chit on their security.

Police suspected involvement of Maoists in the blast as Maoist posters were found near the blast site.

The blast occurred near Pillar No-478/1 of the railway track about 3 km from the Ranchada railway station at about 11.33 pm Saturday when Buddhuram was on duty at

Buddhuram sustained critical injuries in the incident and was admitted to IGH. However. the second blast occurred near

Pillar No-477/34-35 of the rail way track at 9.11am Sunday as none took serious note of the first blast. The Maoists had also put up banners in Odia warning of offensives near the Pillar No-478/1 of the railway track Saturday night.

The Maoists had given a call to observe martyrs' week or Shahid Saptah' from July 28 to August 3. The blast site is under Saranda forest range, a local police officer said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the demise of the railway personnel in the blast and announced ₹10 lakh ex-gratia to his family.

The financial assistance would be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X.

Missing fisherman rescued; search on for three relatives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, August 3: One of the four fishermen, who went missing after venturing into the sea in Balasore district, was rescued near Digha coast in West Bengal, police said here Sunday. Search operations are underway to rescue the three others. a senior officer said.

They belong to a family in Baliapal block of the district, he said, adding that these fishermen ventured into the sea Saturday morning and did not return. They have been identified as Gopal Giri (60), his two sons Madhusudan (35) and Rabindra (38) and Madhusudan's brother-in-law Jaganath Pal (23), the police said. Jagannath was rescued near Digha coast in West Bengal, and he was admitted to a local hospital there, the police said. Fishermen usually return to the coast by afternoon on the same day. But they had not returned home till evening Saturday. So, their family members began to panic and informed the local police. A search operation is underway by the Odisha Police to rescue three of them, he said.

Balasore SP Raj Prasad said, "We are continuing our efforts to trace and rescue the missing fishermen in coordination with the fishermen community, marine police and coast guard.'

Modern equipment like stateof-the-art drones and boats of the marine police are being used in the search operations, he added. At the request of the state police, the Indian Coast Guard has also joined the rescue operation, they said.

CM reviews devpt work in Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 3: On the first day of his two-day visit to Keonjhar, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday reviewed various development works in the district at the Durbar Hall.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held discussions with the District Collector and other senior officials on key areas including forest protection, tourism, rural development, roads, transport, health, education, irrigation, women's empowerment, agriculture and industry. Expressing satisfaction over the progress of these initiatives, he instructed officials to expedite the execution of all ongoing projects

Emphasising the importance of connectivity and transportation, the CM reviewed progress on several key infrastructure projects including the Raisuan Airstrip, Keonihar Bypass, Iconic Bridge, Railway Station Road, Nudurpada to Kaliahata

Road, Pithagola Road (linking Harichandanpur to Telkoi), Suakati-Duguna Bridge over the Baitarani River, the Mining Corridor, and other major road developments

He instructed the administration to address delays and remove bottlenecks, especially those involving the Forest department. He stressed the need to finalise tenders in a timely manner while maintaining the quality of work.

The CM also reviewed plans for enhancing regional connectivity through the Barbil Bypass Project and the NH-49 extension. He called for strengthening healthcare and education services across the district.

Congratulating the district administration for significant achievements under the Subhadra Yojana and Lakhpati Didi Yojana, Majhi urged officials to address law and order challenges and work towards transforming Keonjhar into a model district

The CM instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive development plan focusing on industrial growth, tourism promotion and renewable energy He also called for immediate action in areas facing drinking

water shortages. Reviewing NH projects, he directed officials to expedite the detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed Barbil-Chandikhol road extension and submit updates on the Rimuli-Panikoili and Rimuli-Rajamunda roads, among others under

the NHAI. He also reviewed plans for a steel plant, renovation of the Maa Tarini shrine, and comple tion of the Barbil Bypass. Majhi instructed officials to fast-track forest land transfers and prior itise improvements in health care and sports infrastructure

Among others present at the review meeting were Ghasi pura MLA Badrinarayan Pa tra, Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud, Patna MLA Akhil Chandra Naik, Telkoi MLA Dr Fakir Mohan Naik, Zilla Par ishad Chairperson Sagarika Sahu, Police DIG Brijesh Rai Regional Chief Conservator of Forests P Ramaswami Dis trict Collector Vishal Singh SP Kushalkar Nitin Dagudu and Divisional Forest Officer HD Dhanraj.

On the occasion, the CM flagged off a dedicated coconut collection vehicle for the Ghat gaon Maa Tarini Temple, three ambulances for public use, and the 'Abhinav Ekal Rath'- a mobile education unit designed to provide cultural education in remote rural areas

2 held for robbing small finance bank

Bhadrak, August 3: The police

Sunday arrested two persons.

including a former employee

for their alleged involvement in

the armed robbery of a small fi-

nance bank in Bhadrak district

Four masked men stormed

into the bank June 11 and

looted ₹7.54 lakh at gunpoint.

Following the incident, bank

officials lodged a complaint at

Tihidi police station, prompt-

ing an investigation. During

the course of the probe, police

recovered ₹2.000 in cash, four

mobile phones, and one vehicle

used in the crime. The arrested

accused persons have been iden-

tified as Pralhad Raut, a former

employee of the bank, and Ani

Behera of Kandhamal district. "Two accused are still at large

We have gathered vital leads

about their whereabouts and ex-

pect to apprehend them soon,'

said Arup Abhishek Behera

Additional SP, Bhadrak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

police said.

14 held for killing man over suspected sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 3: A 40-year-old man was brutally murdered under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district on suspicion of practising sorcery and witchcraft, police said Sunday

The deceased has been identified as Gopal Mallik from Rachaguda village. After a complaint was filed, police launched an investigation and arrested 14 individuals in connection with the killing.

The accused have been identified as Mara Mallik, Simanchal Mallik, Ramakanta Mallik, Kumar Mallik, Ghasiram Mallik, Subash Mallik, Prafulla Mallik, Ajay Mallik, Prashant Mallik, Sudaya Mallik, Shibananda Mallik, and three others.

According to police sources. Jhunu Mallik, wife of accused Subash Mallik, died under mysterious circumstances about 15 days ago. Believing Gopal Mallik had caused her death through witchcraft, Subash and his associates allegedly plotted to kill him.

Fearing for his life, Gopal fled the village and took shelter at his in-laws' home in Khandi village under Badagada police limits in neighbouring Ganjam district. However, he returned to Rachaguda Saturday afternoon to retrieve his livestock cows, goats, and sheep — that

Before his return, Gopal had asked his sister-in-law. Sita Mallik, to collect the animals and meet him at Palashpadar, which is located at some distance from the village. She complied and handed the livestock over to him.

As Gopal prepared to leave, a group of villagers, who were allegedly tipped off, arrived at the spot, overpowered him, and forcibly took him back to the village. He was confined in a house, beaten, and tortured.

The group later took Gopal the dam.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Sita Mallik, Mohana police registered a case (113/25). Two special teams were formed and raids were conducted in multiple locations.

hended while fleeing in three auto-rickshaws. Police recovered the victim's body, a stone and rope allegedly used in the crime and the vehicles.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the murder, police said. Gajapati Superintendent of Police Jatindra Kumar Panda confirmed at a press conference that all 14 accused will be produced in court Monday.



near the Harabhangi Dam, tied his hands and legs, mutilated his genitals, and murdered him. They then dumped his body in

All 14 accused were appre-



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Boudh, August 3: Vigilance sleuths Sunday detected 44 plots, 1kg gold, deposits worth ₹1.34 crore and other valuable items allegedly in the possession of a state government employee working as a motor vehicle inspector (MVI) in Boudh district.

The valuables were located in six locations of Golap Chandra Hansdah, MVI, Boudh, an official of the anti-corruption wing said.

A search was conducted in his houses based on an allegaproperties disproportionate to his known source of income.

The Vigilance team found ₹2.38 lakh in cash, a dairy with details of 'benami' money transaction and spending of ₹40 lakh for the medical studies of his daughter, a statement said.

He also possessed a double-storeyed building with an area of 3,300 sq ft at Baripada in Mayurbhani district, it said.

Of the 44 plots in possession of Hansdah and his family, 43 were located in and around Baripada town and one was on the outskirts of Balasore town. the Vigilance statement said.

"The sale deed value of

plots comes to ₹1.49 crore. A thorough probe has been initiated in this regard. The measurement and valuation/ assessment of the buildings/ plots are being carried out by the Vigilance Technical Wing. One kg of gold, 2.126 kg of silver and bank deposits worth ₹1.34 crore were detected," the Vigilance said.

Hansdah had joined the government services in 1991 and worked in the DIC (District Industries Centre) offices of Sambalpur and Deogarh.

He was promoted to junior MVI in 2003 and worked in several districts.

Woman makes suicide bid as hubby killed in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 3: A woman attempted to commit suicide by consuming poison Sunday after her husband was trampled to death by a female elephant at Gobindpur village near Taramakanta forest beat and Bhuyan Juangpidha forest range in Keonjhar district the previous night.

The deceased farmer was identified as Debadhi Barik, 48. After learning about his death, his wife Rukmini Barik plunged into distress and tried to commit suicide by consuming poison Sunday.

Family members rescued her in critical condition and admitted her to Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar. Later, the doctors shifted her to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as her condition remained critical. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the village after reports of both the incidents spread.

Sources said that a herd of six elephants has been on the rampage after straying into the area. The animals were destroying crops after straying into Gobindpur village Saturday night.

Alerted, the villagers tried to drive the elephants away. Meanwhile, a female elephant turned back while fleeing and chased the villagers. The villagers managed to escape but Debadhi fell down. The animal picked him on its tusk when he was trying to get up and trampled him. On being informed, Forest officials rescued and admitted him in critical condition where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

DFO Dhanraj HD said a female elephant turned back and ran after the villagers after someone flashed a torch at her. The animal attacked the farmer after he fell down, he said. The family members will be provided ₹10 lakh financial assistance while ₹1 lakh will be given as ex-gratia for performing his last rites.

Missing minor girl's body found hanging from tree in forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, August 3: The body of a minor girl, who was missing since last Friday, was found hanging inside a jungle near her home in Sundargarh district Sunday morning, police said.

The incident happened at Lulkidihi village under the jurisdiction of the Talwara police station in the district. According to the police, the girl had gone to the forest to graze cows and goats Friday.

When she did not return home in the afternoon, her father searched for her in the locality and reported the matter to the police after failing to find her,

the police said. The police began searching for the girl with the help of sniffer dogs Sunday morning and found her body hanging from a tree in the nearby forest, a police officer said. Local youths had seen the deceased girl talking to a person from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. Another local was also present there, he said. The police have detained the two men and initiated an investigation into the case.

It is learnt that the girl had come in contact with one of the detained persons through social

media, the police officer said. The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Sundargarh, Nirmal Mishra, said, "We have just got some clues and have detained two. The actual reason behind the girl's death can only be known after we get the post-mortem exam-

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHHENDIPADA **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** IDENTIFICATION No: - CHHB- 01/2025-26

E-mail address: - ori-chendipada@nic.in

The Block Development Officer, Chhendipada on behalf of the Governor of Orissa invites Percentage rate bid in single cover system for the Const. of Govt. Upper Primary School at Para GP, "C" & "D" contractors accordingly, registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / Class registered with Central Government/ MES / Railway, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-I form, for execution of Building The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement. Bidders may submit bids for any or all the Buildings. The details of the Eligibility criteria, enclosures etc. along with the project and date and time of receipt and opening of bid documents can be viewed & downloaded from the District website i.e www.angul.odisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Chhendipada

No.CAD-1377



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL HEAD (ELECTRICAL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL

COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement 1. Name of the: SITC of 11 KV line and 11/0.4 KV. 63 KVA DF Mounted DSS for providing power supply to

Street Light at Kalibeti I.E., Khordha						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding				
Officer		From	То			
1	2	3	4			
D.H. (Elect-), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar	Bid ID. No. BBSR/ ELECT/e-146/2025-26	at	16.08.2025 at 17.00 Hrs.			

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in the e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website. Sd./- Divisional Head (Elect)

OIPR-14003/11/0222/2526 IDCO, Bhubaneswar

ination report."



Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn

SRI AUROBINDO



On The Back Foot

ast week, US President Donald Trump imposed a sharp 25 per cent tariff on India and an unspecified penalty for buying Russian oil and arms, sending financial markets in the country on a downward spiral. Adding insult to injury, a day after this announcement, he went on to remark that he doesn't care if India's "dead economy" implodes any further. To be sure, Trump's ruthless treatment of India has left New Delhi scurrying. For, it was only in February that he saw India as a major strategic partner and after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the White House both agreed to boost bilateral trade, currently worth \$129 billion, to \$500 billion by 2030. Interestingly, India was one of the few countries that did not feel too concerned about Trump's second term in the White House. The first Trump administration had gone pretty smooth for India, and New Delhi was looking forward to a Trump 2.0 that it thought would be just as manageable. However, for India, things do not seem to unfold on expected lines.

Three factors appear to be behind Trump's changed and hardened stance on India. Firstly, New Delhi continues to import oil and military equipment from Russia, much to the chagrin of the US-led Western order. The West sees this as akin to financing Russia's war efforts against Ukraine as it kind of nullifies the sanctions that Europe and the US have imposed on Moscow. Trump, it seems, has made New Delhi's arms and oil imports from Russia a key component of his India policy, especially after he got his nose burnt by Putin who has not heeded him on the ceasefire issue. As tensions rise between the US-led West and Russia, Trump appears to be sending warning signals that India will have to face consequences if it does not align with the West.

India has significantly increased its purchases of Russian oil since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia accounts for over a third of India's oil imports, a huge jump from less than one per cent before the conflict. In the early days of the Ukraine war, New Delhi faced a lot of pressure to reduce its economic ties with Russia. That pressure continued as Indian oil imports soared. However, by the second year of the war, the conversation around India's imports started to change mainly propagated by local media. It was projected like India had managed to convince the US and Europe that buying more affordable Russian oil—thanks to a price cap set by the European Union and G7—was actually helpful in keeping global oil prices stable. Now that Trump is unable to bring a ceasefire in Ukraine as he had promised during his election campaign, something he had said he could do in "one day," his disappointment has increased over India's continued oil and arms imports from Russia.

Secondly, despite several rounds of talks since the February meeting between Trump and Modi, a consensus is yet to be reached for a bilateral trade deal between India and the US. The US wants India to open up its politically sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors to American imports, and it is also looking for more relaxed rules on data storage and digital trade, which are still points of contention. Unfortunately for India of today, it does not possess experts in updated global affairs who can help it formulate foreign policies based on current geopolitical situations, just as it does not have economists with proven track records of implementable ideas who could guide in creating national economic policies and in international manoeuvrings in situations as the country is in today. India's foreign and economic policies and responses are all bureaucrat driven, thereby resulting in failures on all fronts at the same time.

The last and most important reason could be India's refusal to acknowledge Trump's contribution in the ceasefire after four days of a mid level military confrontation with Pakistan following the Pahalgam massacre. Since the ceasefire, Trump has been all praise for Pakistan and its leadership, much to New Delhi's chagrin. Apart from that Trump has, at least two dozen times on record, claimed that it was he who brought the truce between India and Pakistan and deserves a Nobel Peace prize for this achievement. Indian political authorities, however, have steadfastly denied this credit to him and most probably that has upset him.

The India-US strategic relationship has been cultivated over the last 25 years, thanks to the efforts of leaders from both countries, including Trump during his first term. In recent years, India and the US have proudly called themselves "engaged democracies," moving away from the "estranged democracies" label of the Cold War era when they were on opposite sides. Since 2000, the bond between India and the US has been getting stronger, peaking with the signing, during UPA-I administration, of the 2008 India-US civil nuclear deal. With growing strategic trust, India has also been purchasing defence equipment from America.

Now, an unpredictable and transactional Trump has put India on the back foot. And, primarily due to its clueless foreign policy, India does not seem to have too many options open for it except floundering ahead in an already dire situation.

WISDOM CORNER

People don't realize that now is all there ever is; there is no past or future except as memory or anticipation in your

ECKHART TOLLE

The moment you have in your heart this extraordinary thing

called love and feel the depth, the delight, the ecstasy of it,

you will discover that for you the world is transformed

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might also pray in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- symbol of British naval strength.
- **1914:** Britain declares war on Germany. Seen by many as the decision that refused to accept its ultimatum of getting out of Belgium.
- 20th century and a victim of the Holocaust, 14-year old Frank and her family were captured and arrested by the Germans from their hiding place in Amsterdam
- **1984:** The Republic of Upper Volta is Renamed Burkina Faso. The West African country was first created in 1958 as a self-governing French and 1983, several coups dotted its political landscape. In 1983, a military coup installed Captain Thomas Sankara as the country's president. He changed the name of the country to Burkina Faso a year later on the coup's anniversary.



THE UNVEILING

between the government and the Opposition during discussions on the Pahalgam killings and Operation Sindoor (28-30 July) drew blood from both sides alike. In the process the vital issues on failure of security, surveillance, foreign policy and leadership role, and enmeshing of politics in warfare, lay unanswered. Surely, it was an emotive issue but turned to be extremely divisive during the course of the discussions.

The Home Minister displaying the findings of Operation Mahadev right at the start of the Lok Sabha session that three terrorists alleged to have been linked to the Pahalgam massacre were hunted down by Indian forces on the outskirts of Srinagar could perhaps settle this key question although the unsettling part is the timing of the findings coinciding with the Parliament session.

Malay Mishra

THE LARGER

RELATED TO AN

INDIA'S FOREIGN

POLICY WHICH

SHOWED ITSELF

RIDDLED WITH

TO BE SHIFTY AND

CONTRADICTIONS

APPRAISAL OF

OUESTION

The US government's decision to list the TRF, a front of the banned LeT, which had initially claimed responsibility for the killings, as a terrorist organisation followed by the UN doing the same would have proved the point that India had been a victim of Pak-based terrorism. However, India's justification in using its Air Force to attack and decimate nine terrorist hideouts deep inside Pakistan and calling it a non-escalatory strike failed to get approbation in sensitizing global public opinion on Pakistan's role as evidenced from the lacklustre success of the multiparty delegations which were sent out soon after Operation Sindoor to 30-odd destinations worldwide.

The important issues which were listed from the Opposition side were either not answered or rebuffed with whataboutery alluding to the earlier government's weaknesses. In the process the discussions lost their core outcomes. Thus, for example, why has GOI not disclaimed US President Trump's asser-



The important issues which were listed from the Opposition side were either not answered or rebuffed with whataboutery alluding to the earlier government's weaknesses

tion made 26 times that he had brought the ceasefire on 10 May giving the threat of stopping trade with both warring parties? If there was no phone call between the leaders during Operation Sindoor and trade was never discussed, then why didn't the PM refute the US President's assertive claim? In fact, Trump was never mentioned from the government's side at all.

India's silence on this vital issue signalled the government's buckling under US pressure with the narrative that the ceasefire was effected at the instance of the Pak DGMO in a conversation with his Indian counterpart which came after Trump's declaration of the ceasefire on his Truth Social website. This negated GOI's stated position of denying third party mediation in bilateral matters between the two nuclear-armed neighbours dating back to the Simla Agreement of 1972. The related question was, if India was gaining ground in the conflict on 9 May by pulverizing Pak air power with attacks on strategic airfields and assets, why wasn't it pursued further and POK reclaimed? To which the Defence Minister stated that it was not the mandate of the operation while countering with the statement that it was during the 1947-48 ceasefire that

POK was acquired by Pakistan. The second issue of importance was that the government did not name China at all though it was well known that China was strongly behind Pakistan in strengthening its Air Force having supplied 5th generation missiles, aircraft, swarm drones, real time intelligence and cyber and AI aided spatial support. This could be a frightening scenario for India calling for defence preparedness to the hilt and galvanizing air defence systems while understanding the new battlefield

techniques of the adversaries. Besides, what was wrong in the government's declaring the losses of military assets in the war even after Trump put it in Truth Social that India lost aircraft, echoing the Pak briefing of 7th May which was reported in several global news outlets? Observers had then noted that Pakistan was winning a perception battle and that could have proved the clinching factor why Pakistan thereafter became a peer competitor of India and more than that was embraced by the US with a lunch invite to the man who was behind the Pak operation, General (now Field Marshal) Asim Munir. Even the French Parliament in a resolution expressed concern that the SPECTRA warfare system on India's Rafale jets failed to detect or jam Pakistan's Chinese made PL15 missiles though the Chinese government subsequently denied having extended support to Pakistan against any third party while India raised no objections to the statement.

As an aside, during my recent

visit to Dharamshala/Mcleodgani for a personal audience with the Dalai Lama on the eve of his 90th birthday, I ran into a nondescript Kashmiri shop in the bustling streets of the town where the shop-owning couple, inhabitants of Srinagar, who were present on that fateful day, April 22, echoed the sentiments of the local populace and astounded me with their statement that the killers were from Balochistan, and not sent by Pakistan's terror factories. Why on earth would Baloch militants, fighting against the Pak government with their demand for a separate Baloch state seeking India's support evidenced from Baloch leader Yar Mir Baloch's letter addressed to the Lok Sabha speaker, HM and PM, kill Indian nationals? On contrary, Yar Mir's letter expressly stated that an independent Balochistan if realized would cut off Pakistan's access to the Arabian Sea and deprive it of strategic minerals and energy resources while delinking Gwadar from the CPEC.

The special session ended with a walk-out by the opposition protesting the PM's absence in the Rajya Sabha though there were several questions directed at him. The larger question related to an appraisal of India's foreign policy which showed itself to be shifty and riddled with contradictions. Navigating a complex multi-polar world driven by strategic autonomy and dictated by national interests which has run foul in the US' estimation turning the Comprehensive Global partnership to a transactional equation, and juggling between the Global South and North, India could be struggling to find a respectable place in the current geopolitical firmament.

The writer is a retired diplomat and political analyst.

SPECTRUM FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Currency dominance in the digital age



Hélène Rey

THE WORLD COULD ALSO FACE A NEW KIND OF 'CYBER' RUN, TRIGGERED BY **WEAKNESSES** IN THE **TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** UNDERPINNING **DIGITAL ASSETS**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

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numbers and full postal

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or more than 80 years, the US dollar has enjoyed unrivaled supremacy in world trade and finance, thanks to America's unique combination of economic scale, credible institutions, deep and liquid financial markets, and geopolitical might, as well as, crucially, network effects. But a new variable is poised to reshape the global monetary order: data integrity. As digital technologies in-

creasingly act as the rails upon which money moves - through stablecoins, tokenized assets, and central bank digital currencies the resilience and credibility of currency networks increasingly hinge not only on macroeconomic fundamentals, but also on the technological strength and security of the relevant infrastructure. Of course, macroeconomic fundamentals still matter, and digital currencies raise some conventional macro challenges. In particular, by privatizing seigniorage and facilitating tax evasion, stablecoins could shrink countries' fiscal revenues.

Moreover, if a stablecoin breaks its peg - say, because its liquidity buffers prove insufficient - its credibility could collapse, triggering a run. If the stablecoin's interconnection

with other assets is sufficiently dense, this may have systemic consequences. A disorderly run on US dollar stablecoins privately issued digital tokens that are backed significantly by US Treasuries and can theoretically be exchanged one-for-one with dollars - could prove particularly disruptive. Opacity in reporting and auditing, and insufficient regulations in some jurisdictions, compound the risks.

The world could also face a new kind of "cyber" run, triggered by weaknesses in the technological infrastructure underpinning digital assets. Mitigating this risk will not be easy: as the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the US Department of Commerce warned in 2016, quantum computers may soon be able to break many of the public-key cryptosystems currently in use. In other words, infrastructure that appears robust today may turn out to be flimsy tomorrow.

The implications for the global monetary order are far-reaching. As the issuer of the dominant international currency, the US has long enjoyed an "exorbitant privilege," which includes the ability to borrow at low interest rates

stress and run persistently large trade deficits. President Donald Trump's administration seems to be betting that the US will be able to retain this privilege, as the dollar's existing global status translates into demand for US dollar stablecoins and, in turn, US Treasuries, thereby lowering the US Treasury's financing costs.

even in times of economic

Ultimately, America's exorbitant privilege is based on trust in its institutions, legal frameworks, and fiscal capacity. In a world where money circulates on programmable platforms, however. the credibility and integrity of the code, the quality of cryptographic standards, and the resistance of systems to hacking are as important as any of these factors. This fundamentally changes the logic of monetary competition: if the technological gap is large enough, the currency that is best protected from cyber threats-not necessarily the one backed by the most powerful economy or the most credible central bank - becomes the most attractive.

As stablecoins are being used for a growing share of cross-border payments, and as an on- and off-ramp for speculative crypto investments, much about their

security and governance remains unknown. Regulators and citizens should thus be asking questions. Who is responsible for governing the ledger? To what extent is the system protected from malicious actors? What happens if a currency's cryptographic backbone is compromised by developments in quantum computing? If policymakers fail to act accordingly, we might find ourselves with the kind of volatile and fragmented monetary system that characterized the nineteenth century, when the unfettered issuance of private money opened the way for panics.

runs, manipulation, and collapse.Preserving international monetary stability in such a landscape will require more than technological innovation. Global coordination on standards for tokenization, cryptographic interoperability. data privacy, and post-quantum resilience will be essential. The alternative - the proliferation of balkanized networks governed by conflicting rules and exposed to systemic shocks – is a recipe for instability.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the London Business School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

- 1704: Gibraltar captured by Britain. During the War of the Spanish Succession, Britain took control of Gibraltar on this day in 1704 after Spain surrendered, and "the Rock" subsequently became a British colony and a
- began the First World War, Britain declared war on Germany after Germany 1944: Anne Frank is captured. One of the most well-known figures of the
- colony. It gained its independence from the French in 1960. Between then

Justice prevails

Sir, Former Janata Dal (S) leader and Karnataka ex-MP Prajwal Revanna getting life imprisonment in a rape case marks a critical moment in the fight against sexual violence. It also highlights the necessity for swift and candid judicial processes when influential individuals are accused. The verdict serves as a reminder that no one is above the law, regardless of their political pedigree or family connections. The courage of the victims who came forward despite threats and intimidation, has been vindicated by this conviction. Their bravery in speaking truth to power has not only secured justice for themselves but has also potentially prevented future crimes by removing a predator from a position of influence. As India continues to grapple with issues of sexual violence and abuse of power, the Prajwal Revanna case stands as a beacon of hope that justice, though sometimes delayed, will ultimately prevail.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Healthy beginning

Sir, World Breastfeeding Week is observed in the first week of August every year. Led by the WHO and UNICEF, this global campaign highlights the importance of breastfeeding for a child's health, growth, and development. The 2025 theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," serves as a reminder to support mothers with the care, guidance, and information they need throughout their breastfeeding journey. In India, the emphasis is on "Prioritising Breastfeeding and Creating Support Systems." Although many women deliver in hospitals, only a small percentage of them begin breastfeeding within the first hour—an important time for both mother and baby. Breast milk provides complete nutrition, protects against infections, supports brain development, and helps mothers recover more quickly, both physically and emotionally. Across the world, efforts are being made to shield breastfeeding from misleading marketing, especially on digital platforms. Governments and health organisations are working hand in hand to improve maternity care, ensure paid family leave, and create environments that support breastfeeding at home and in the workplace. By supporting breastfeeding, we are investing in a healthier, more resilient future for all.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD



TWO STATES





New social media game in Kashmir raising concerns

Srinagar police, which has been making every effort to track social media sites to counter the radicalisation process, found out about this modus operandi after detaining some youth behind such accounts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: Security agencies have uncovered a new trend among some youngsters in the Kashmir Valley of using social media to glorify separatist and terrorist figures not out of ideological conviction, but as a calculated tactic to gain followers and earn money from advertisers.

Srinagar police, which has been making every effort to track social media sites to counter the radicalisation process, found out about this modus operandi after detaining some youth behind such accounts.

During interrogation, the youngsters allegedly admitted that the employment of inflammatory imagery -- such as that of slain terrorist Burhan Wani of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen -- was a calculated plan to gain a high and active fan base.

This engagement farming subsequently enabled them to capitalise on their social media accounts by receiving payment from advertisers for endorse-

After gaining a number of followers, especially from across the border and overseas, the account handlers used to replace these pictures with other imag-



es such as mountains or Chinar trees, the officials said.

emerging trend may be unsettling as the online propaganda environment within the region is blurring the lines among political opposition, radical elements and opportunists seeking online renown and wealth.

While the police are determined to intensify their surveillance and take strict action against those who exploit sensitive security situations for personal gain, efforts are also being made to make the families understand about the implications of this on the future of their children.

As many as seven children. who had been detained recently by police, were released after counselling in front of their parents, the officials said.

Officials feel that the motivations behind the rise of social media influencers using provocative imagery in the Kashmir Valley are financial, and in the digital landscape, where monetising content is the new goal, the pursuit of engagement and revenue has led to a murky grey area.

The officials said most of these influencers relied on brand partnerships on social media platforms, where they either promote products or integrate them into their content. According to two prominent influencers operating on three social platforms, the revenue-sharing model remains opaque despite its blue-tick verification system.

One influencer, requesting anonymity, described the process as "unclear," noting that the factors determining the frequency and amount of payments are a mystery.

While understanding the digital gold rush as to how social media monetisation works, the probe into young Kashmiris us ing separatist imagery for follower growth shows a deeper, more complex story about the modern digital economy.

The quest for online celebrity is frequently overtly linked with the aim of monetisation -- a process that is sometimes easy or not necessarily guaranteed.

WATERBODY REFORM

K'taka proposes size-based buffer zones for lakes, tanks

The move follows representations from elected representatives, including the MLA from **Kundapura and the Deputy Commissioner of Udupi, who sought changes in the uniform** 30-metre buffer zone rule



Bangalore, August 3: The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) has proposed a scientific revision of buffer zone regulations based on the size of waterbodies, becoming the first state in the country take such an approach.

In a press release, KTCDA said, "For the first time in the country, a proposal has been made to scientifically modify buffer zone regulations based on the size of waterbodies/ tanks in the state.'

The move follows representations from elected representatives, including the MLA from Kundapura and the Deputy Commissioner of Udupi, who sought changes in the uniform 30-metre buffer zone rule, citing its disproportionate application to both small and large water-

Based on its recommendations, the KTCDA has proposed a graded buffer system -- zero metre for up to 5 guntas of water body, three metres buffer zone for water bodies between five guntas and one acre, six metres for lakes above one acre to 10 acres, 12 metres for lakes above 10 acres to 25 acres, 24 metres for lakes above 25 acres to 100 acres, and 30 metres buffer zone for lakes above

100 acres. The release said, "This buffer distance has been framed using a scientific approach, as the buffer zone serves to facilitate the natural inflow of rainwater into lakes... smaller tanks will have smaller buffers, while larger tanks will have larger buffers?

The proposal also includes revised norms for nala buffers, replacing the existing 30, 15 and 10 metre norms for primary, secondary and tertiary nalas respectively, which were found to be unscientific.

As per the revised proposal the buffer zone will be 15 metres for primary nalas, 10 metres for secondary nalas and 5 metres for tertiary nalas.

KTCDA added, modification allows public utility within buffer zones, without reducing the tank capacity or obstructing water flow... this modification is not intended for real estate development; it aims solely to bring uniformity in buffer zones for different

tank sizes.

Karnataka is the only state to have framed incremental buffer guidelines scientifically linked to tank size, after reviewing practices in other states like Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. According to KTCDA, the changes will not increase flood risks, but instead help mitigate them in urban areas, while support ing essential infrastructure like sewage treatment plants. water pipelines, and roads.

PM to inaugurate B'lore's Yellow Line Metro Aug 10



Bangalore, August 3: BJP leader Tejasvi Surya Sunday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bangalore and inaugurate the Yellow Line Metro August 10.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for Metro Phase-3, he said. In a post on 'X' Surva said. "Hon. PM Sri @narendramodi Ji's visit to Bangalore August 10 will be a landmark moment for Bangalore South."

"He will not only inaugurate the long-awaited Yellow Line Metro operations but also lay the foundation stone for Metro Phase 3 - a project that received Cabinet approval within the first 100 days of his third term.

He said the Yellow Line will cater to close to eight lakh riders and the 'infamous Silk Board jam' will be addressed greatly. Public transport is the only option to reduce traffic congestion. "Together, these projects will benefit nearly 25 lakh people in Bangalore South," he said. The MP said by inaugurating it August 10, the Yellow Line Metro project would meet the August 15 deadline.

Surya said this could happen because of Modi's personal insistence that this must be open to public without any further delay. Surva, who is also the Bhara-

tiva Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) national president, quoted Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who said on 'X', "I am pleasedto announce that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has kindly agreed to inaugurate 19.15 km Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra of Bangaluru metro with 16 stations at the cost of Rs 5,056.99 crore and lay the foundation stone of 44.65 km of Bangalore phase-3 at the cost of Rs 15,611 Crore on 10th August 2025." Surya had staged a demonstration to open the Yellow Line of Bengaluru Metro Rail project recently.

J&K marks six years of **Article 370 abrogation**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 3: As Jammu and Kashmir observes six years since the abrogation of Article 370, the region reflects a transformative shift in gov ernance, infrastructure, and civic participation. The move, executed August 5, 2019, revoked the erstwhile state's special status and integrated it more fully into the Indian constitutional framework.

While political debate continues, the government's defensive approach emphasises tangible improvements in public welfare, democratic deepening, and economic revitalisation.

One of the most visible changes has been the surge in democratic participation. Inspired by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vaipavee's doctrine of "Insanivat, Jamhooriyat, Kashmiriyat", the region has witnessed a 70 per cent increase in voter turnout in local panchayat elections.

The District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020 marked the first grassroots democratic exercise post-abrogation, followed by municipal and panchavat polls.

The 2024 state legislature elections further cemented political engagement, with notable participation from youth and women, including emerging Sarpanchs from South Kashmir. Education and empowerment have also seen a



Tourist arrivals skyrocketed from 7 lakh in 2021 to nearly 35 lakh in 2024. Srinagar's recognition as a UNESCO "World Craft City" and the successful hosting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in 2023 showcased global confidence in Kashmir's stability

Infrastructure has seen remarkable upgrades

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is fully operational, while major tunnel projects like Zojila and Z-Morh are underway to boost connectivity

Over 9,700 homes have been digitally connected under BharatNet, expanding digital access in remote areas. Education and employment have also flourished

boost. New institutions such as IIT Jammu, AIIMS Awantipora (expected to be operational by late 2025), and a medical college in Reasi are expanding access to higher education.

The region has produced UPSC qualifiers from remote areas, and job fairs have catalysed startups -- many led by women. The government data indicates Rs 80,000 crore in post-2019 investments, with schemes targeting employment and entrepreneurship.

Infrastructure development has accelerated. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), now fully operational, connects the valley with the rest of India.

Projects like the Zoji La Tunnel (2026), Z-Morh Tunnel, and Banihal-Qazigund Road Tunnel are enhancing mobility.

As of March, 9,789 fibre-tothe-home connections have been commissioned under BharatNet, improving digital

Cancer care: B'lore deep-tech startup proposes quantum leap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 3: A Bangalore -based bootstrapped deep-tech startup is leveraging quantum technology to detect cellular damage even before the symptoms appear, in just hours, possibly changing the game for cancer care.

One among the 20-odd exhibitors at the recently concluded Quantum India Bengaluru Summit, Quantum Biosciences Private Limited's "predictive tech" uses quantum biosensor to detect unique 'magnetic fingerprints' of oxidative stress in cells, allowing detection of tissue injury

When somebody close to him was diagnosed with cancer and had to undergo radiation therapv. Ravi Puvvala, Managing Director of Quantum Biosciences, who was earlier developing sensors for automotive industry, said he started exploring the possibility of using sensors to predict radiation-induced cardiotoxicity before irreversible damage. "Radiation therapy is essential for treating cancer. However, it kills not only the cancerous cells, but also the good ones. This leads to longterm complications such as fatigue, cognitive decline, organ



dysfunction and secondary cancers. It also potentially induces a heart disease or fibrosis." Puvvala told PTI.

Existing diagnostic tools, such as MRI, PET scans and blood biomarkers only detect harm after significant damage has already occurred, said Puvvala. Things took a quantum leap when he partnered with the Netherlands-based QT Sense, led by another Banglorean, Deepak Veeregowda. QT Sense was formed to take forward the 15 years of academic research done in this area at the University of Groningen.

QT Sense's Quantum Nuova is a platform technology built for detecting quantum-level phenomena like subcellular free radicals and magnetic

Puvvala said while quantum biosensors can tell us that there exists a certain amount of stress at the subcellular level. the next step would be to understand how to read, classify and relate them to a potential biomarker.

At the first edition of the Quantum India Bengaluru Summit, Puvvala reached out to researchers and other key stakeholders - including the government of Karnataka, academic institutions like Indian Institute of Science, acute care clinicians and hospitals -- exploring this idea.

According to him, they still need to do a lot of validation with respect to the sub cellular detection.

4.14 lakh pilgrims visited Amarnath shrine this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: More than 6,000 pilgrims paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas on the final day of this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, taking the total number of yatris to 4.14 lakh, officials said.

The last year saw more than 5.10 lakh pilgrims pay their respects at the shrine.

A total of 6,497 pilgrims had darshan at the 3,800-metre-high holy cave shrine on Saturday, the officials said. They said the yatris included 4,586 males, 1,299 females, 62 children, 51 sadhus, five sadhvis and 494 security forces personnel.

So far, 4,14,311 yatris have visited the cave shrine since the yatra started on July 3, the officials added. The authorities Saturday suspended this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, just a week before its scheduled conclusion, due to the need for maintenance on the tracks that were damaged by the recent heavy rainfall. The yatra was scheduled to conclude on August 9 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. However, authorities decided to shorten it by a week, citing "critical repair and maintenance works" to be undertaken in the wake of the heavy rainfall.

Ancient Hindu idols recovered during excavation in Anantnag

Anantnag (J&K), August 3: Ancient Hindu idols were recovered during excavation work for the renovation of a spring in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said.

The idols and 'Shivlings' were recovered at Karkoot Nag in the Salia area of Aishmugam in the south Kashmir district. The site holds significance for Kashmiri Pandits, who associate it with the Karkoota dynasty that ruled Kashmir from 625 to 855 CE.

The Public Works Department is undertaking revival and restoration works in the spring and the labourers recovered the idols during the excavation work, officials said Saturday. They said the officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums visited the site, and added the idols will be sent to Srinagar for material and dating testing to determine their age and origins.

"We will shift them to SPS museum where they will be studied by research scholars and the department," they said.

According to a Kashmiri Pandit, "There has been an impact of the Karkoota dynasty in this ar-



—□ The idols and 'Shivlings' were recovered at Karkoot Nag in the Salia area of Aishmugam in the south Kashmir district

—□ The site holds significance for Kashmiri Pandits, who associate it with the Karkoota dynasty that ruled Kashmir from 625 to 855 CE

ea, so there is a probability that a temple might have been there or someone might have kept them there for preservation". He said the site, about 16 km from the district headquarters, has been a pilgrimage centre. These were recovered from

the sacred pond. Some Shivlings, a sculpture and other items have been recovered. We want them to be protected. We have heard there used to be a temple here, and so a new temple be built here and these 'Shivlings' be kept there," he said.

national



in the country and whoever has done mistake or has committed crime, the court has examined and court has given the verdict. It has to be accepted by everybody

140 PEOPLE OF NICOBARI TRIBE, **PVTGs TO JOIN ANDAMAN POLICE**

A total of 140 people from Nicobari tribe and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) will join the Andaman and Nicobar Police as part of their gradual integration in Port Blair, a senior officer said





Haryana annually...the steep hike in collector rates will shatter the common man's dream of owning a house

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA CONG GENERAL SECY

Nehruji used to say that we need maximum production, and Gandhiji used to say that we need



involvement of maximum number of people

NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER



cricket stadium in West Tripura's Narsinghgarh, Now, all the obstacles have been removed and the international cricket stadium is likely to be inaugurated in December

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Man dies after being beaten up by BSF

Silchar (Assam): A 30-yearold man died after allegedly being thrashed by a few Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Assam's Cachai district, triggering protests by locals, an official said Sunday. The incident took place Friday night near the India-Bangladesh border in Katigorah, and the man succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on Saturday, he said.

Carcass of lioness found in Amreli

Amreli: A lioness was found dead on the outskirts of a village in Gujarat's Amreli district, amid concerns being raised by local leaders over the death of felines in the region as they urged probe if any serious virus outbreak was causing the fatalities. The adult lioness was found dead in a farm land on the outskirts of Mandardi village Saturday, with the death caused due to natural causes, sources in the forest department said. The carcass was taken to the Babarkot animal centre for postmortem, which confirmed that the animal died due to natural causes, they said.

Man found hanging in Kolkata home

Kolkata: A 63-year-old man was found hanging in his residence in Kolkata Sunday morning, with his family claiming that he had been living in fear that he would be sent to Bangladesh if the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was implemented. Initial probe revealed that the deceased, Dilip Kumar Saha, had arrived in Kolkata in 1972 from Nawabganj in Dhaka and had been living in Anandapally West in the Regent Park area, a police officer said.

12 held for gambling

Dehradun: Dehradun Police and Uttarakhand STF in a joint operation busted an illegal casino running in a house in Dehradun, and arrested 12 alleged gamblers. Police said that three gamblers from Delhi and one from Nepal were also among those arrested in the operation conducted on the night of Saturday-Sunday. When the police raided the house, 12 people present in a room were allegedly gambling in the casino. All of them were arrested from the spot under the Gambling Act, police said.

EC asks Tejashwi to hand over EPIC card



Patna, August 3: The Election Commission Sunday asked RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav to "hand over for investigation" a voter ID card that he claimed to be in possession of despite having been "not issued officially".

The leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly had Saturday demonstrated an online search, with the EPIC number. to claim that his name was missing in the draft electoral rolls published as part of special intensive revision (SIR) and, upon rebuttal from the authorities concerned, alleged that his voter ID card number was "changed"

In a letter addressed to the former deputy CM, the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Patna Sadar-cum-Electoral Registration Officer for Digha assembly constituency said, "Our preliminary investigation suggests that the EPIC number you mentioned at the press conference August 2 was not issued officially. You are therefore requested to hand over the EP-IC card in original for detailed investigation".

The RJD leader, thereafter, alleged that his EPIC number had been "changed", but District Magistrate Thiyagaraja S M repudiated the claim.

"The EPIC number in the electoral rolls is the one that was submitted by the honour-

Pune. August 3: Not even an

enemy can question my patrio-

tism and loyalty towards the na-

tion, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad

Purohit, acquitted in the 2008

Malegaon bomb blast case after

a bruising 17-year battle, said

here Sunday amid a rousing

welcome by kin and well-wish-

A special Mumbai court

Thursday acquitted Purohit,

former BJP MP Pragya Singh

Thakur and five others who

were accused of involvement

in a blast that killed six and

injured 101 in Malegaon in

Nashik district September 29

Outside Shantisheela Hous-

ing Society on Law College

Road, where he lives, the

military officer was mobbed

by friends, family members,

supporters, members of vari-

ous right-wing organisations

that year

ers as he arrived home.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hero's welcome for Purohit after

acquittal in Malegaon blast case

able leader of the opposition in his affidavit in the 2020 assembly polls. If he is in possession of another EPIC card with another number as well, then it is a matter of investigation," the district magistrate said. Meanwhile, at a press conference here, spokespersons of the ruling NDA in the state Ajay Alok (BJP), Neeraj Kumar (JDU) and Rajesh Bhatt (Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas). among others, demanded that a case be registered against the RJD leader.

They said Yaday should be booked for having two EPIC cards, which is not allowed The NDA functionaries said they want to know from his alliance partner Rahul Gandhi whether this "fraud" by the RJD leader is the "atom bomb" he was threatening the Election Commission with.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday claimed that his party has an "atom bomb' of evidence to prove "vote chori" by the Election Commission for the BJP.

The NDA leaders claimed that the INDIA bloc was "staring at a certain defeat" in the upcoming assembly polls, and its leaders are trying to look for an "excuse", by raising doubts over the special intensive revision carried out by the EC. It was comparable to "anticipatory bails sought by criminals", they claimed.

and others. He rode an open

ieep, accompanied by his

wife Aparna, amid the beat

ing of 'dhol-tasha' (traditional

drums) and showering of flow-

er petals, with participants

raising slogans of "Jai Shree

Ram" and "Sanatan dharm ki

jai" as well those hailing his

acquittal. Several of them

a visibly emotional Purohit

said, "I never imagined that

I would get such a grand

welcome from all of you. I

am speechless and unable to

gather my thoughts or express

my feelings." Purohit said he

could never tell his wife and

mother about the torture he

endured and the insults he was

subjected to but they always

understood. Through all these

years, his kin, friends and a

huge number of well-wishers

always stood by him, the Lt

Colonel added.

Addressing the gathering,

waved saffron flags.

Rivers in spate in Bihar after heavy rain

Patna, August 3: The water levels in several rivers in Bihar have risen due to heavy rain in the last 24 hours, officials

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed all officials concerned to remain alert. According to the latest district-wise rainfall bulletin issued by the Meteorological Department Sunday, "Light to moderate rain was recorded in many districts, including Patna, Banka, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Gayaji, Jehanabad, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria, Munger, Nalanda and Vaishali since August 2."

Several key roads and many low-lying areas in Patna were waterlogged following incessant rain in the state capital Sunday.

The Meteorological Department issued an 'orange' alert (be prepared) for several districts, including Patna, Gayaji, Jamui, Aurangabad, Khagaria, Banka, Vaishali, Samastipur, Seikhpura, Lakhisarai, East Champaran, Arwal, West Champaran and Nawada for the next 48 hours. Officials of the state Water Resources Department (WRD) said that incessant rain in several districts has caused rivers and streams to overflow. The increased inflow also caused the water level in many dams to rise, they said Besides, incessant rainfall in catchment areas of Nepal has also led to the rivers touching or flowing above the danger level in several places, they added.

No causality has been reported so far, and in certain areas in East and West Champaran, Bhagalpur and Patna districts, villagers of low-lying areas have been shifted to safer places by the district administration.

"Owing to moderate to heavy rain in certain areas in the state, major rivers, including Ganga, Kosi, Sone, Bagmati, Gandak, Kamla, and Adahrwa, are maintaining a rising trend in their courses in the past couple of days," the latest report of

Prajwal assigned prisoner number; breaks down in jail

Bangalore, August 3: Prisoner number 15528, Prajwal Revanna, appeared visibly stressed and wept spending the first night in the jail after being sentenced to life in a rape case Saturday, authorities have said.

A day after being sentenced in the rape case, the suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna was assigned the prisoner number at Bangalore's Parappana Agrahara Central prison, jail authorities said Sunday.

Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister and JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda, spent his first night in jail following Saturday's court verdict that found him guilty and awarded life term in the case. He was reportedly in tears and appeared visibly distressed.

Prison doctors assessed his health late Saturday night to ensure his medical condition was stable. Prajwal has reportedly informed the staff that he has approached the High Court challenging the conviction.

The former MP is currently lodged in a high-security cell and is being provided enhanced security. According to prison officials, the standard dress code for convicts is being followed, and he will be required to wear the uniform given to

He was allotted the Prisoner number 15528 Sunday morning, they added. Prajwal was Saturday sentenced to prison term for the remainder of his life, while the court slapped an overall fine of ₹11.50 lakh on him, directing that ₹11.25 lakh be paid to the victim, a domestic help of the family of the accused.

A court here had convicted Prajwal Revanna (34) in one of the four sexual abuse and rape cases against him. The Special Court for MPs/MLAs Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat

pronounced the verdict on Saturday, after convicting Prajwal a day earlier.

48-year-old woman who was working as a domestic help at the family's Gannikada farmhouse Hassan district's Ho-

lenarasipura.

The case

to

tains

She was allegedly raped twice -- at Hassan farm house and Bengaluru residence-- in 2021 and the act recorded by the accused on his mobile phone.

Prajwal was booked under sections 376(2)(k) (being in a position of control or dominance over a woman, commits rape on such woman), 376 (2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman), 354A (sexual harassment), 354B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 354C (voyeurism), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 201 (disappearance of evidence) of the IPC, and Section 66E (violation of privacy) of the IT Act, by

the Special Investigation Team (SIT) which probed the case.

Prajwal Revan-

day after being na to imprisonment for sentenced in the rape case, the suspended **JD(S) leader Praiwal Revanna was assigned** section the prisoner number at 376(2)(k) Bangalore's Parappana **Agrahara Central** for life which prison

shall mean re mainder of natura life along with ₹5 lakh fine under section 376(2)(n). He has been also sentenced

to rigorous imprisonment for three years and ₹25,000 fine under section 354A, rigorous imprisonment for 7 years and ₹50,000 fine under section 354B rigorous imprisonment for 3 years and ₹25,000 fine under section 354C.

A two year RI has also been given to Prajwal, with a fine of ₹10.000 under section 506, im prisonment of 3 yrs and fine of ₹25,000 under section 201, and imprisonment of 3 vrs and fine of ₹25,000 under section 66 E of

INDIA bloc to have dinner meeting Aug 7, march to EC Aug 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Oppo sition INDIA bloc leaders are likely to have a dinner meet ing August 7 to discuss strategy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue, sources said Sunday.

The opposition parties are also planning to take out a march to the office of the Election Commission of India August 8 in protest against the SIR of electoral rolls exercise, they said.

This comes amid a standoff on the SIR issue in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which has been a near washout as the Opposition's demand for a discussion has failed to draw a positive response from the rul ing alliance.

According to the sources, the INDIA bloc party leaders will hold a dinner meeting August 7 to discuss their strategy on the



An Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) worker carries an idol of Goddess Dashama, which was immersed on the last day of 'Dashama' festival, from a makeshift pond, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Unscientific mining pushing Bageshwar toward disaster: Govt

The "Geological Assessment and Recommendations For Sustainable Mining Practices in Bageshwar District" report, submitted to the National Green Tribunal July 30, called for sweeping reforms in mining practices and stringent monitoring to mitigate the risks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: A government-appointed panel has warned that unscientific mining in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district is destabilising slopes, threatening villages and agriculture, besides disrupting water sources in the fragile Himalayan region.

The "Geological Assessment and Recommendations For Sustainable Mining Practices in Bageshwar District" report, submitted to the National Green Tribunal July 30, called for sweeping reforms in mining practices and stringent monitoring to mitigate the risks.

The assessment was conducted following rising complaints of landslides, cracks in houses, drying springs and crop losses in several villages in Bageshwar. Bageshwar, particularly the Kanda-Kanyal valley region, is known for some of India's richest deposits of soapstone, a soft metamorphic rock widely used in paper, paint and cosmetics and in construction.

The case is similar to Jyotir math (earlier named Joshimath), where cracks developed in homes, roads and agricultural fields in 2023 following incidents of land subsidence.

The tribunal had sought an expert evaluation after resi-



dents in Bageshwar alleged that mining in the district was being carried out without regard for environmental safeguards.

The panel, comprising ex-

perts from the Geological Survey of India, the Uttarakhand Landslide Mitigation and Management Centre, the Department of Geology and Mining and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, examined 61 mines across Bageshwar, Kanda and Dugnakuri tehsils.

According to the report, most mines have altered natural slopes through steep vertical cuts and lack proper benches, making the terrain highly "vulnerable to landslides" and rockfalls. The team observed cracks, ground subsidence and rockslides at multiple sites.

It noted that debris from mining was often dumped haphazardly into natural streams, choking drainage channels and aggravating waterlogging and slope failures.

Several leases overlap with

villages, farmland and water sources, directly endangering local communities.

The committee highlighted that Bageshwar lies in seismic zone V, one of the most earthquake-prone regions in the country. Mining activities in such zones, if not regulated scientifically, could amplify ground instability.

The experts stressed that the current monitoring system is inadequate and there is "no record" of how slope modifications have evolved over time Satellite analyses also indicated land deformation around several mines, confirming the risk of further subsidence.

national



The whole of Telangana felt bad when inappropriate remarks were made against me, a daughter of this state. Many people reacted. But, for some reason, my brothers in the BRS remained silent. We need to question why

K KAVITHA | TELANGANA JAGRUTI

HP: 2 NHs AMONG 297 ROADS CLOSED

Moderate to heavy rains continued to lash parts of Himachal Pradesh, resulting in the closure of 297 roads, including one national highway Sunday,





standing with open arms to do business with India. People like Trump will get a

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

It is a historic day in the healthcare sector of Puniab as a total of 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state have been connected to a WhatsApp chatbot

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

I had risen through the ranks and even served as a chief minister, bu

I consider myself

a common party worker. Your designation notwithstanding, go among the people as a common karyakarta. You will never face obstacles if you truly live the life of a worke

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA



institutions were not designed to ensure universal rights. They were designed to maintain the core-

periphery hierarchies of the world system. If we want universal rights we have to create new institutions through anti-imperialist and anti-

@jasonhickel

SHORT **TAKES**

2 held with 23 grams of heroin

Shillong: Two youths who were returning from Silchar in Assam were arrested here with over 23 grams of heroin, police said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police personnel intercepted the bus they were travelling in and arrested them after 23.24 grams of heroin were found in their possession, a police officer said. The accused concealed the heroin in two soap cases.Both individuals were taken into custody, and a case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Indian national drowns in Nepal

Kathmandu: The body of an Indian man who drowned in Nepal's Bagmati River was recovered Sunday from an irrigation canal in southern Terai plains, according to a media report. Rohit Kumar Singh, 30, a resident of Khagaria district of Bihar, had entered the Bagmati river to bathe at Nunthar in **Chandrapur Municipality** around 2:40 pm Saturday after consuming alcohol, The Himalayan Times said, quoting local police.

ED arrests ex-Axis **MF fund manager**

New Delhi: Viresh Joshi, a former chief trader and fund manager of Axis Mutual Fund. has been arrested under the anti-money laundering law in a case linked to alleged cheating of investors to the tune of Rs 200 crore by 'front-running' in trade activities, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Sunday. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court has sent Joshi, who was taken into custody Saturday, to ED custody till August 8, the agency said.



An artist dressed as Lord Shiva, center, and others show skills with fire during the annual 'Kanwar Yatra' in the holy month of 'shravan' in Jaipur, Rajasthan PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

MNS workers vandalise dance bar in Navi Mumbai; 15 booked

Thane/Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) activists allegedly vandalised a dance bar near Panvel in Navi Mumbai, prompting police to register a case against 15 individuals, officials said Sunday. A viral video shows some men storming into Night Riders Bar on the outskirts of Panvel late Saturday night, vandalising furniture, smashing liquor bottles, and damaging the property, police said. The incident occurred hours after MNS chief Raj Thackeray condemned the functioning of dance bars in the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Raigad while addressing a rally of the Peasants and Workers Party (PWP).

Al cancels Singapore-Chennai flight due to technical issue

New Delhi: Air India Sunday cancelled its flight from Singapore to Chennai due to a technical issue. The flight AI349 was to be operated with an Airbus A321. In a statement Sunday, the airline said the flight Al349 scheduled to operate from Singapore to Chennai has been cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure which required additional time for rectification. "Arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Chennai at the earliest. Hotel accommodation is being provided, and full refunds on cancellation, or complimentary rescheduling is also being offered to passengers based on their preference." Air India said.

Drugs worth around Rs 350cr seized

Aizawl: In one of the biggest drug hauls in Mizoram, the state police have seized crystal methamphetamine and heroin worth around Rs 350 crore and arrested one person, a senior officer said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, a team comprising personnel of the Criminal Investigation Department (Special Branch) and the Special Narcotic police station in Aizawl conducted an operation near the state capital August 1.

Govt to push Bills as Oppn seeks debate on Bihar SIR



New Delhi. August 3: The government is likely to push Monday the passage of a key sports bill in the Lok Sabha, amid a continuing deadlock in Parliament as the Opposi tion's united demand for a discussion on SIR failed to draw a positive response from the ruling alliance.

The Lower House has listed the National Sports Governance Bill, which envisages greater transparency in the functioning of sports bodies, for consideration and passage.

The Raiva Sabha has listed for passage Monday a resolution from Home Minister Amit Shah on the extension of the President's rule in Manipur by another six months with effect from August 13.

Except for a two-day discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor in both the Houses, parliamentary proceedings have been all but a washout since the Monsoon session began July 21 as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has ignited vociferous protests

■ The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has accused the EC of "vote chori" (stealing votes) and has been fiercely critical of the poll body

-□ The EC had in a statement Saturday rejected Gandhi's allegations as "baseless", "unsubstantiated" and "misleading".

from Opposition parties.

The INDIA bloc, which has in previous sessions often spoken in different voices, has joined ranks over the issue, alleging the Election Commission's exercise is aimed at removing voters sympathetic to its agenda and boosting the prospects of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. The EC has said it will roll out the exercise nationally to "protect" the integrity of electoral rolls to ensure that only eligible voters are allowed

to cast votes. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has accused the EC of "vote chori" (stealing votes) and has been fiercely critical of the poll body. The EC had in a statement on Saturday rejected Gandhi's alstantiated" and "misleading". With the government paying

little heed to the demand for a discussion on SIR in Parliament, the Opposition has been unsparing in its protest in Parliament, forcing repeated adiournments.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has maintained that it is for the Chair of the two Houses to decide on the Opposition's demand in accordance with the rules.

However, he also recently cited a ruling by Balram Jakhar, a veteran Congress leader who was the Lok Sabha Speaker between 1980 and 1989, that the House cannot debate the functioning of a constitutional body like the EC to suggest the government's disapproval of the Opposition's demand.

A key government functionary said that if disruptions continue to block its agenda in Parliament, then it will push for the passage of its key bills despite the din.

Rijiju had said on Friday that SIR is part of the Election Commission's mandate. "This is not the first time the EC is doing it. Whether Parliament can discuss the EC's administrative work or not is for the Chair to decide in accordance

with rules," he added. He noted that a minister related to the issue in discussion generally replies to the concerns raised by members, and wondered who could do so in the case of the Election Commission, a constitutionally autonomous body.

What is not favoured by rules and convention cannot be discussed, he had said.

Another bill that is listed for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha is the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill.

PM Modi, Shah meet President separately



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu separately within hours at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

behind the subsequent meetings of the Prime Minister and the home minister with the President. 'Prime Minister Shri @nar

It was not known the reasons

endramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on 'X'. Hours later, the Rashtra-

pati Bhavan again wrote on 'X', "Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan."

The home minister also wrote on 'X' sharing a picture of his meeting with President Murmu. "Called on Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji at Rashtrapati Bhayan.'

However, there is no words so far from the Prime Minister's

This was the first meeting of the prime minister with the President after his recent visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives.

The meetings came against the backdrop of the logjam in Parliament over the Opposition's demand for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar ahead of the assembly elections in the state. Except discussions in both Houses on Operation Sindoor, Parliament has seen little business ever since the Monsoon session began July 21. Also, the Lok Sabha last week

approved the extension of the President's rule in Manipur for six more months, while the Rajya Sabha is yet to take up the motion for discussion. The President's rule was imposed in the Northeastern state on February 13.

The prime minister's meeting with the President also came days after US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on exports from India and an unspecified penalty because of New Delhi's purchases of Russian military equipment and oil.

The meetings also came nearly two weeks after Jagdeep Dhankhar July 21 tendered his resignation as vice president to the President citing health grounds.

The vice president also functions as the chairman of Rajya

The Election Commission last week announced that election of vice president will take

5L tablets of illegally diverted pharma drugs seized: NCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. August 3: More than 5 lakh Tramadol and Alcrore have been seized and five persons arrested by the Narcot ics Control Bureau (NCB) as it unearthed a syndicate involved in illegally diverting pharma drugs across Uttar Pradesh and

These seizures and arrests took place as part of three op erations that began in May and covered Dehradun and Jaspur (Udham Singh Nagar district) in Uttarakhand and Muzaffarnagar, Bareilly and Saharanpur in western UP, the federal anti-narcotics agency said in a

statement Sunday. The agency found that a milk vendor from UP had "leased out" his wholesale drug sale licence for Rs 5,000 per month to the syndicate that illegally diverted pharmaceutical and prescrip-

"The syndicate included fake wholesalers and misused drug sale licences. Investigation is on to identify and apprehend the mastermind behind the

network," the NCB said. Local enforcement agencies like police and state anti-nar

cotics agencies have been sensitised for follow-up action The NCB said it has seized

about 5 lakh Tramadol and Alprazolam tablets, worth Rs 20 crore, as part of these oper ations apart from the arrest of five persons.

Tramadol is a synthetic opioid-like drug used as a painkiller. It was declared a "psychotropic substance" by India in 2018 and its sale in the country is regulated and monitored by the NCB.

Alprazolam is a prescription drug which is often misused as recreational drug and for mixing with Toddy, a alcohol-

Seabuckthorn, Buckwheat seeds sent for ISS experiment

Seeds procured from 11 nations across five continents are part of the study spearheaded by US-based bioastronautics firm Jaguar Space, which plans to expose the seeds to microgravity conditions for a week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Seeds of seabuckthorn and buckwheat grown in the cold desert of Ladakh are part of the experiments on board the Interna-

tional Space Station flown by NASA's Crew-11 mission. Seeds procured from 11 nations $\bar{\text{across}}$ five continents are part of the study spearheaded

by US-based bioastronautics

firm Jaguar Space, which plans to expose the seeds to microgravity conditions for a week.

The seeds are part of the "Emerging Space Nation's Space for Agriculture & Agriculture for Space" payload that flew to the ISS along with NA-SA's Crew-11, which lifted off from Florida Friday and docked onto the orbital lab Saturday.

The seeds will be brought back by the Crew-10, which is



expected to return to Earth later this month. The seeds grown in Ladakh were sourced by Bengaluru-based space startup Protoplanet.

"We will study how the seeds react to micro-gravity condi-

tions and their potential use as a food source for long-duration space missions," Siddharth Pandey, Director, Protoplanet, told PTI.

Pandey stated that Protoplanet has contributed sea buck-

nutrient-rich plants native to high-altitude regions. The Himalayan tartary is a variety of buckwheat that is nutrient-rich and gluten-free. On return from space, the

seeds will be studied by Indian researchers.

According Jaguar Space, the World Seeds study examines how seeds react to the unique stresses of the space environment before they begin to grow, focusing on fundamental processes such as the activation of genes and metabolic pathways essential for germination. This experiment explores

the potential of previously unexamined species to contribute to future space agriculture initiatives. Seeds from the Maldives

Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica Guatemala, Nigeria, Armenia, Egypt, Pakistan and Nigeria are part of the experiment.

"Beyond its scientific poten-

tial to advance research or climate resilience and global food security, the World Seeds payload represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that as humanity becomes a space faring civilization, the millennia-old knowledge, biodiver sity, and cultural heritage of communities around the world are carried forward as an es sential part of that journey. said Dr Luis Zea, Founder of Jaguar Space.

international



Pakistan stands with Iran for the acquisition of peaceful nuclear power SHEHBAZ SHARIF

INDIANS FLOCK TO SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka received a total of 200,244 tourists in July 2025, with Indian travellers accounting for the largest share, local media reported Sunday. This marks an increase of 6.6 per cent in total tourists arrivals as compared to figures from the same period last year, as per Sri Lanka **Tourism Development Authority**



on collectively Prime Minister Netanyahu ... for the reconstruction of Gaza. That effectively means the end

STEVE WITKOFF US SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST





Selling the false promise journey to the UK and a life in this on or offline



YVETTE COOPER | HOME SECRETARY, UK

SHORT **TAKES**

Ukrainian drone hits **Russian oil facility**

Moscow: An overnight Ukrainian drone attack on an oil depot near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi sparked a major fire, Russian officials said Sunday, as the two countries traded strikes. More than 120 firefighters attempted to extinguish the blaze, sparked after debris from a downed drone struck a fuel tank. Krasnodar regional Gov Veniamin Kondratvev said on Telegram. Videos on social media appeared to show huge pillars of smoke billowing above the oil depot. Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia. temporarily stopped flights at Sochi's airport, Further north, authorities in the Voronezh region reported that four people were wounded in another Ukrainian drone strike.

New ICAC in Dallas to serve growing diaspora

Houston: The Consulate General of India in Houston has announced the launch of a new Indian Consular Application Centre (ICAC) in Dallas, Texas, bringing essential consular services closer to thousands of Indian-origin residents in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The new centre, located at 8360 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway, Suite A-230, was virtually inaugurated by India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra. The Dallas ceremony was led by Consul General DC Manjunath, who was joined by local elected officials and Indian-American community members. The Dallas ICAC is among nine such centres being opened across the United States to enhance accessibility to consular services.

Ex-Trump prosecutor

Smith faces probe Bridgewater: An independent watchdog agency responsible for enforcing a law against partisan political activity by federal employees has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who brought two criminal cases against thencandidate Donald Trump before his election to the White House last year. The Office of Special Counsel confirmed Saturday that it was investigating Smith on allegations that he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump. Smith was named special counsel by then-Attorney General Merrick Garland in November 2022, and his special counsel title is entirely distinct from the agency now investigating him.

Fresh violence erupts in Syria

The Syrian government under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has been struggling to consolidate control since he led a surprise insurgency that ousted former President Bashar Assad in December, ending the Assad family's decades-long autocratic rule

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, August 3: New outbreaks of violence overnight into Sunday rocked Syria at two distinct flashpoints, straining a fragile ceasefire and calling into question the ability of the transitional government to exert its authority across the whole country.

In the north, government-affiliated fighters confronted Kurdish-led forces who control much of the region, while in the southern province of Sweida, they clashed with Druze armed groups.

The outbreaks come at a time when Syria's interim authorities are trying to maintain a tense ceasefire in Sweida province after clashes with Druze factions last month, and to implement an agreement with the US-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces that would reintegrate large swaths of northeastern Syria with the The Syrian government un-

der interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has been struggling to consolidate control since he led a surprise insurgency that ousted former President Bashar Assad in December, ending the Assad family's decades-long autocratic rule. Political opponents and ethnic and religious minorities have been suspicious of Sharaa's de facto Islamist rule and cooperation with affiliated fighters that come from militant groups.

State state television said clashes between government forces and militias belonging to the Druze religious minority rocked the southern province of Sweida Saturday after Druze factions attacked Syrian security forces, killing at least one member. The state-run Alikhbaria channel cited an anonymous security official who said the ceasefire has been broken. The Defence Ministry has not issued any formal statement.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said in addition to the member of the security forces killed, one Druze was killed and at least nine others were wounded in the clashes that took place in the in the western part of Sweida province. The Observatory said the clash es took place at the strategic Tal al-Hadeed heights that overlook Daraa province next door.





People react on a boat filled with participants, which cruises the UNESCO World Heritage recognized canals during the annual gay pride parade in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday

DEADLIEST WAVE

Lynching claims 637 in B'desh

The political transition after the August 2024 uprising, which saw ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her office, has seen a rise in mob violence in Bangladesh

INDO-ASAIN NEWS SERVICE

Dhaka, August 3: At least 637 people, including 41 police officers were killed in mob lynching incidents in Bangladesh from August 2024 to July 2025, marking one of the deadliest waves of extrajudicial killings in country's recent history.

The political transition af ter the August 2024 uprising, which saw ouster of Bangla desh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her office, has seen a rise in mob violence in Bangladesh, said a report by leading Canadian agency.

"A total of 51 lynching deaths

the Sheikh Hasina-led government. Mob lynching deaths rose more than 12 times in comparison to 2023." Canada-based Global Center for Democratic

Governance said in a report

As many as 24 people were burnt to death at 'The Zabeer Jashore Hotel' in Jashore on August 4, 2024. Among 637 deaths, 182 people were burnt in Gaji Tyres in Rupganj, Narayanganj August 25, 2024.

According to the report, the names and details regarding the victims were not published In the report, Global Center for

plete information on all mob lynching deaths due to strong media censorship and stressed that the list should be considered incomplete. In the report, Global Center

that they could not gather com-

for Democratic Governance stated, "This sharp increase underscores a dangerous erosion of law and order during a period of political instability and weakened state control. The fall of a longstanding regime created both a power vacuum and a public crisis of confidence in the country's justice system, which many now perceive as either absent or co-opted by political agendas. With police forces overstretched, court systems paralyzed, and local leaders either targeted or in hiding, citizens increasingly took justice into their own hands.'

According to the report, public spaces which were once protected by law have now become flashpoints for mob killings, often caused by nothing more than suspicion, rumour, or po-

Four Indian-origin persons killed in car crash in West Virginia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 3: In a tragic incident, four senior Indian-origin persons were killed in a car crash in West Virginia authorities said Sunday. Kishore Divan, Asha Divan

Shailesh Divan, and Gita Divan were found dead following a ve hicle crash, Marshal County Sheriff Mike Dougherty said in a statement. The four individuals were

reported missing from Buffalo, New York. Their vehicle was located on August 2 at approximately 9:30 PM off a steep embankment along a road in Marshal County, West Virginia.

First responders were on the scene for more than five hours es to the families of the victims.

Sibu Nair, Director of Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs at Office of New York State Governor Kathy Hochul had posted an 'Missing Persons Please Help' alert on Facebook Saturday, asking for help to locate the four senior individuals who had gone missing

Nair said that the Divans. "beloved members of our com munity", had gone missing. They were last seen Tuesday after visiting a temple in Pittsburgh, travelling to Palace Lodge Hotel in Moundsville, West Virginia.

"Sadly, they never arrived," Nair added.

Giving further details, Nair said they were driving a light green coloured car and were last spotted at a fast food joint in Erie, Pennsylvania, according to security footage.

"It has now been over 3 days with no contact," Nair had said He had asked people travelling in the area or along the expect ed route the seniors would have taken to keep an eye out for them, "especially the final 22-minute stretch near the ho tel, which is known to be diffi

Nair had also uploaded photos and details of the family and their last-known clothing. "Let's come together and do all we can to bring them home safe-

Russian, Chinese navies carry out drills

The drills are taking place two days after US President Donald Trump said he had ordered two nuclear submarines to be

positioned in 'the appropriate regions'

Moscow, August 3: The Russian and Chinese navies are carrying out artillery and anti-submarine drills in the Sea of Japan as part of scheduled joint exercises, the Russian Pacific Fleet was quoted as saying on

The drills are taking place two days after US President Donald Trump said he had or-



dered two nuclear submarines to be positioned in "the appropriate regions" in response to remarks by former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev. However, they were scheduled well before Trump's action.

Interfax news agency quoted the Pacific Fleet as saying Russian and Chinese vessels were

moving in a joint detachment including a large Russian anti-submarine ship and two Chinese destroyers.

It said diesel-electric submarines from the two countries were also involved, as well as a Chinese submarine rescue ship. The manoeuvres are part of exercises titled "Maritime Interaction-2025" which are

Interfax said Russian and Chi nese sailors would conduct artillery firing, practise anti-submarine and air defence missions, and improve joint search and rescue operations at sea.

Russia and China, which signed a "no-limits" strategic partnership shortly before Russia went to war in Ukraine in 2022, conduct regular military exercises to rehearse coordination between their armed forces and send a deterrent signal to adversaries.

Trump said his submarine order Friday was made in response to what he called "highly provocative" remarks by Russia's Medvedev about the risk of war between the nuclear-armed

Israeli forces kill over 20 seeking food in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, August 3: Israeli forces killed at least 23 Palestinians seeking food Sunday in the Gaza Strip, according to hospital officials and witnesses, who described facing gunfire as hungry crowds surged around aid sites as the malnutrition-related death toll surged.

Desperation has gripped the Palestinian territory of more than 2 million, which experts have warned is at risk of famine because of Israel's blockade and nearly two-year offensive.

Yousef Abed, among the crowds en route to a distribution point, described coming under what he called indiscriminate fire, looking around



and seeing at least three people

bleeding on the ground. "I couldn't stop and help them because of the bullets, he said. Southern Gaza's Nasser Hospital said they had received bodies from near multiple distribution sites, including eight from Teina, about three km away from a distribution site in Khan Younis, which is operated by the Gaza Humanitarian

US U-turn: Trump to deport more migrants to third countries

US PRESIDENT'S TACTIC STOKES FEAR AMID PUSH FOR MASS DEPORTATIONS

Washington, August 3: The Trump administration says that some serious criminals need to be deported to third countries because even their home countries won't accept them. But a review of recent cases shows that at least five men threatened with such a fate were sent to their native countries within weeks

President Donald Trump aims to deport millions of immigrants in the US illegally and his administration has sought to ramp up removals to third countries, including sending convicted criminals to South Sudan and Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, two sub-Saharan African nations.

Immigrants convicted of crimes typically first serve their US sentences before being deported. This appeared to be the case with the eight men deported to South Sudan and five to Eswatini, although some had been released years earlier.

The US Department of Homeland Security said in June that third-country deportations allow them to deport people "so uniquely barbaric that their own countries won't take them back." Critics have countered that it's not clear the US tried to return the men deported to South Sudan and Eswatini to their home countries and that the deportations were unnecessarily cruel.

Reuters found that at least five men threatened with deportation to Libya in May were sent to their home countries weeks later, according to interviews with two of the men. a family member and attorneys. After a US judge blocked the



Trump administration from sending them to Libya, two men from Vietnam, two men from Laos and a man from Mexico were all deported to their home nations. The deportations have not previously been reported.

DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin contested that the home countries of criminals deported to third countries were willing to take them back, but did not provide details on any attempts to return the five men Trump admin deported over 200 Venezuelans accused of being gang

ver 5,700 non-Mexican migrants Ohave been deported to Mexico since Trump took office

home before they were threatened with deportation to Libya.

"If you come to our country illegally and break our laws, you could end up in CECOT, Alligator Alcatraz, Guantanamo Bay, or South Sudan or another third country," Mc-Laughlin said in a statement, referencing El Salvador's maximum-security prison and a detention center in the subtropical Florida Everglades.

FAR FROM HOME

DHS did not respond to a request for the number of third-country deportations since Trump took office January 20, although there have been thousands to Mexico and hundreds to other countries.

The eight men sent to South Sudan were from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, South Sudan and Vietnam, according to DHS. The man DHS said was from South Sudan had a deportation order to Sudan, according to a court filing. The five men sent to Eswatini were from Cuba, Jamaica Laos, Vietnam and Yemen, according to DHS.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said the men deported to South Sudan and Eswatini were "the worst of the worst" and included people convicted in the United States of child sex abuse and murder "American communities are safer with these heinous illegal criminals gone," Jackson said in a statement.

business



India is not just a strategic market for Samsung but a key pillar in its global future JB PARK | CEO, SAMSUNG

BSNL, NUMALIGARH REFINERY SIGN PACT

State-run telecom firm BSNL has signed a pact with public sector firm Numaligarh Refinery Limited for the deployment of the 5G private network in the refinery sector, an official statement said Sunday. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the companies was signed during the "Industry 4.0 Workshop for CPSEs" organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance in Guwahati. BSNL has just started offering 4G service, but holds spectrum that can be used for 5G services





A sophisticating platform (DEH) has been designed to enhance digital banking experiences for both retail and corporate clients. Ongoing projects such as website and mobile banking revamps are slated for phased completion within the current financial vear

SALEE S NAIR CEO, TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK

Basis, all the actions we have taken. FY26 is more or less managed. We have to now work on some medium and long term actions





AMARJYOTI BARUA | CFO. M&M GROUP

SHORT **TAKES**

Metals weekly roundup

New Delhi: Commodity prices witnessed sharp swings last week, with base metal copper dropping nearly 2 per cent while gold gained over 1 per cent after **US President Donald Trump** imposed a 25 per cent tariff on most Indian goods. Fresh tariff announcements by Trump fanned fears of a global trade war, leading to a rout in base metals while safe-haven demand lifted precious metal gold last week, analysts said. Copper crashes worst-hit among base metals as the Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on imports of semi-finished copper goods such as wires. tubes and rods. The new duties will come into force from August 7. However. refined copper, ores, and cathodes were excluded from the levy, creating uncertainty in global supply chains. On MCX, the August contract of copper fell by ₹16.35 or 1.82 copper prices dropped by ₹36 or 4 per cent to hit an all-time low of ₹861.70 per kg. Silver, on the other hand, extended losses. MCX silver futures for September delivery plunged ₹2,829 or 2.5 per cent to end the week lower. Crude oil futures posted a mixed performance, with the MCX futures for August

Semicon mkt

delivery rising by ₹100

or 1.73 per cent.

may grow soon New Delhi: India's semiconductor market is expected to more than double to grow in the range of \$100-110 billion by 2030 according to industry estimates, an official statement said Sunday. The Indian semiconductor market was about \$45-50 billion in 2024-2025 against \$38 billion in 2023, the statement said, citing industry estimates. A detailed statement highlighting the need for semiconductors, efforts of the government and response from the industry cited the crisis faced by various technology segments especially by the automobile industry due to dependency on select geographies during the Covid pandemic and stressed on the need for developing India as trusted partner in the global supply chain. Currently, countries like Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China and US dominate the semiconductor industry. Taiwan produces more than 60 per cent of the world's semiconductors, including nearly 90 per

cent of the most advanced

ones. India is emerging as

an important and trusted

partner in this global shift.

India may face \$11bn oil penalty annually

Redirecting diesel exports to Southeast Asia, Africa, or Latin America is operationally feasible, such a shift would involve narrower margins, longer vovage times, and increased demand variability, making it commercially less optimal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: India's annual oil import bill could rise by \$9-11 billion if the country is compelled to move away from Russian crude in response to US threats of additional tariffs or penalties on Indian exports, analysts said.

India, the world's third-largest oil consumer and importer, has reaped significant benefits by swiftly substituting market-priced oil with discounted Russian crude following Western sanctions on Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Russian oil, which accounted for less than 0.2 per cent of India's imports before the war, now makes up 35-40 per cent of the country's crude intake, helping reduce overall energy import costs, keep retail fuel prices in check, and contain inflation.

The influx of discounted Russian crude also enabled India to refine the oil and export petroleum products, including two countries that have imposed sanctions on direct imports from Russia. The twin strategy of Indian oil companies is posting record profits.

This is, however, now under threat after US President Donald Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods plus an unspecified penalty for buying Russian oil and weapons. The 25 per cent tariff has since been notified but the penalty is



Coming within days of the European Union banning imports of refined products derived from Russian-origin crude, this presents a double whammy for Indi-

Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining & Modeling) at global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler termed this as "a squeeze from both ends".

EU sanctions - effective from January 2026 - may force Indian refiners to segment crude intake on one side, and on the other, US tariff threat raises the possibility of secondary sanctions that would directly hit the shipping, insurance, and financing lifelines underpinning India's Russian oil trade.

Together, these measures sharply curtail India's crude procurement flexibility, raise compliance risk, and introduce significant cost uncertainty," he said.

Last fiscal, India spent over \$137 billion on import of crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel.

For refiners like Reliance Industries Ltd and Nayara Energy who collectively account for a bulk (more than 50 per cent in 2025) of the 1.7-2.0 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude imports into India - the challenge is acute.

While Nayara is backed by Russian oil giant Rosneft and has been sanctioned by the EU

last month, Reliance has been a big fuel exporter to Europe.

As one of the world's largest diesel exporters - and with total refined product exports to Europe averaging around 200,000 bpd in 2024 and 185,000 bpd so far in 2025 - Reliance has extensively utilised discounted Russian crude to boost refining margins over the past two years, according to Kpler.

The introduction of strict origin-tracking requirements now compels Reliance to either curtail its intake of Russian feedstock, potentially affecting cost competitiveness, or reroute Russian-linked products to non-EU markets," Ritolia said.

However, Reliance's dual-refinery structure - a domestic-focused unit and an export-oriented complex - offers strategic flexibility. It can allocate non-Russian crude to its export-oriented refinery and continue meeting EU compliance standards, while processing Russian barrels at the domestic unit for other markets. Although redirecting diesel exports to Southeast Asia, Africa, or Latin America is operationally feasible, such a shift would involve narrower margins, longer voyage times, and increased demand variability, making it commercially less optimal, he said.

Kpler data shows a notable decline in India's Russian crude imports in July (1.8 million bpd

versus 2.1 million bpd in June), aligning with seasonal refinery maintenance and weaker monsoon-driven demand. However, the drop is more pronounced among state-run refiners, likely reflecting heightened compliance sensitivity amid mounting geopolitical risk.

Private refiners, who account for over 50 per cent of Russian crude intake, have also begun reducing exposure, with fresh procurement diversification underway this week as concerns over US sanctions intensify.

Ritolia said replacing Russian crude isn't plug-and-play. The Middle East is the logical fallback, but has constraints - contractual lock-in, pricing rigidity, and a mismatch in crude quality that affects product yield and refinery configuration.

"The risk here is not just supply but profitability. Refiners will face higher feedstock costs and in the case of complex units optimized for (Russian) Uralslike blends, even margins will be under pressure," he said.

On the future course, Kpler be lieves India's complex private refiners - backed by robust trading arms and flexible configurations - are expected to pivot toward non-Russian barrels from the Middle East, West Africa, Latin America, or even the US, where economics permits.

This shift, while operationally feasible, will be gradual and strategically aligned with evolving regulatory frameworks, contract structures, and margin dynamics. However, replacing Russian barrels in full is no easy feat logistically daunting, economically painful, and geopolitically fraught. Supply substitution may be feasible on paper, but remains fraught in practice.

"Financially, the implications are massive. Assuming a \$5 per barrel discount lost across 1.8 million bpd, India could see its import bill swell by \$9–11 billion annually.

EPFO mandates **FAT** for UAN activation

As the UAN remains valid throughout a member's career, ensuring its accurate generation is crucial. To this end, the EPFO has made it compulsory to generate UAN only through Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology (FAT) in the UMANG App



New Delhi, August 3: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made the generation/allotment of Universal Account Number (UAN) through Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology (FAT) in the UMANG App mandatory, effective August 1, 2025. The provident fund body has taken this decision to ensure error-free generation of UAN.

UAN is allotted by EPFO to individual members when they start working with establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. This universal number serves as an umbrella for multiple member identification numbers (Member IDs) allotted to individuals by different establishments/companies during their respective

As the UAN remains valid throughout a member's career. ensuring its accurate generation is crucial. To this end, the EPFO has made it compulsory to generate UAN only through Aadhaar-based FAT in the "...in order to ensure er

ror-free generation of UAN, it has been decided that from 1st August, 2025 the allotment/gen eration of UAN will be done on ly through the Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology (FAT) in UMANG App," the EPFO said in a circular dated July 30, 2025.

However, the existing process of generation of UAN through the employer will continue in respect of exceptional cases like internationa workers and citizens of Nepal and Bhutan, the EPFO added.

Earlier, through a circular dated April 8, 2025, the EPFC had introduced a "simple and robust process" for allotment, generation and activation of UAN in the UMAG app by leveraging the Aadhaar-based face authentication technolo gy. Back then, the provident fund body had introduced the following three facilities in the UMANG app.

IBA urges low electricity tariff for CBG plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Indihas urged the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to provide a concessional electricity tariff for compressed biogas (CBG) plants to boost the clean energy transition.

In a comprehensive submission to the ministry, IBA stressed at the cost of electricity stating that it is a significant operational expense, 30 per cent of overall OPEX, ranging between 20 per cent and 48 per cent, based on the feedstock used and the scale of the plant, an IBA statement said.

According to the statement, IBA has suggested that the government should grant concessional electricity rates to CBG plants, because the charge to these plants are extremely high, at least 48 per cent of their running costs.

The association's detailed cost study indicates that at an average industrial tariff of ₹7 per kWh, electricity takes up a significant portion of the overall operating costs of commercial-scale CBG plants, like 34 per cent in paddy straw-based plants, 28 per cent in press mud-based plants, 19 per cent in cow dung-based plants, and 48 per cent in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)-based plants.

IBA's suggestion to the ministry to shift from applicable industrial tariffs for electricity (average rate of ₹7 per kWh) to domestic tariffs (Rs 4.5 per kWh) would provide significant cost savings across all categories of feedstocks, and this tariff reform would make the sector much more operationally viable.

IBA Chairman Gaurav Kedia said, "The CBG industry is a keystone in achieving India's Panchamrit commitments announced at COP26. By easing the cost burden of electricity for CBG plants, we can drive our 50 per cent non-fossil energy transition by 2030 and underpin our Net Zero emissions goal by 2070. With one such policy measure, we can reverse the economics of clean energy manufacturing and bring much-needed private capital to scale the sector across the country'

The grouping underscored that high industrial tariff rates now function as a structural hindrance, having a direct bearing on profit margins and cash flows, especially in the most important formative years, when projects are consolidating.

MARKETS WEEKLY UPDATE

All eyes on RBI policy, tariff war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Equity markets this week will turn their focus on the RBI's interest rate decision, Q1 earnings from several blue-chip firms and tariff-related news for further cues, analysts said.

Moreover, trading activity of foreign investors and trends in global equity markets will also drive investors' sentiment.

"At the domestic level, all eyes will be on the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy meeting, where the central bank's commentary on inflation, liquidity, and growth outlook will be keenly watched. On the earnings front, results from marquee companies, including Bharti Airtel, DLF, Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India, will shape sectoral momentum," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research,



Religare Broking Ltd, said. Other important triggers

include the release of HSBC services and composite PMI, crude oil price movement, and further commentary from the US on trade negotiations -- all of which are likely to influence near-term volatility, Mishra

Trade-related concerns and persistent selling by foreign investors added to the gloom in the markets last week.

Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said, "Looking ahead, the RBI policy meeting scheduled for August 6 will be a key event, especially amid heightened volatility from both global and domestic triggers.

"Meanwhile, several major Nifty companies, including Adani Ports, Bharti Airtel Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp Trent, Titan, State Bank of In dia and Tata Motors, are set to report their earnings this week, which could drive stock-specific action".

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 863.18 points or 1.05 per cent, and the NSE Nifty dropped 271.65 points

or 1.09 per cent. US President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods and an unspecified penalty for trade in energy and defence goods with Russia was unexpected, and therefore, it has impacted market sentiments in the short term, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

IT services hiring almost nil; no demand pick up likely in Q2

Skills for AI, cloud, and cybersecurity kind of profile are high in demand. Candidates need to walk along, else AI will lead

New Delhi, August 3: Hiring in the IT services sector has remained stagnant over the past six to seven quarters, with no active demand likely to pick up in the second quarter either, a top official from staffing firm

Quess Corp has said. Quess Corp ED and CEO Guruprasad Srinivasan told PTI that demand for technology talents is coming from global

capability centres and non-IT

companies. "At least for the last six to seven quarters. And we are also not seeing very active demand coming in, even in Q2 as well. So, IT services being a bit muted or dehiring happening, there has been no impact on Quess,

he said.

He added that 73 per cent of staffing demand for the company comes from non-IT and GCCs, where demand for the technology talent pool is high.

"Skills for AI, cloud, and cybersecurity kind of profile are high in demand. On average, the wage in itself is about ₹1.25 lakhs. It's a high margin for us. When it comes to margin, it's about 15 to 18 per cent," Srinivasan noted. Quess Corp has posted a 4 per

cent increase in consolidated profit after tax at ₹51 crore compared to ₹49 crore it recorded staffing segment.

in the year-ago period, driven by growth in the professional The company's general staffing and overseas business re-

mained almost flat on a year-

over-year basis, while digital

platform business revenue declined by more than half. Srinivasan said the mix of

the company has improved with an increase in professional staffing, which is a high-margin segment for the company.

There have been signs of recovery in general staffing, with strong momentum in the June quarter, he added.

In the June 2025 quarter, the general staffing segment of the company reported a revenue of ₹3,122 crore, flat year-on-year and down marginally quarter-on-quarter amid a challenging operating environment.

"June 2025 was the first month since December 2024 that we saw an uptick across headcount, new demand, open mandates and fulfillments. Overall, in the quarter, we had net adds of 2,000, where we also experienced a decline in April. However, we saw a recovery in the later part of the quarter by adding 6,500 numbers in the month of June itself," he said.

Srinivasan said that the majority of new additions this quarter came from manufacturing, followed by banking, financial, consumer retail and telecom consumer, while retail and telecom saw a marginal decline.

"Professional staffing maintained its momentum from the previous year, posting its best quarterly performance in over 15 years with revenue of ₹244 crore. It achieved a double-dig it margin of 10.2 per cent with our annualised revenue run rate approaching ₹2,000 crore, he noted. Srinivasan said the company's exposure to GCC is 73 per cent, driven mainly by demand from digital, high-tech, telecom, media and technology and electronics sectors. "During the quarter, we also added 12 new contracts, each

with a promising projection of headcount growth in upcoming quarters. Our open mandates are currently over 1,200 positions. I mean, positioning us well to meet our demand from the sector perspective," he said.

India's dramatic comeback Copa glory for Brazil



Rain brings early end to riveting day four, sets stage for thrilling day five as England need only 35 runs while *India* require four wickets for an epic win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 3: Bad light and subsequent rain forced an early end to play on Day Four of the fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at The Oval Sunday. With the stage set for a thrilling day five, England need 35 more runs to win, while India requires four wickets for a miraculous victory.

Rain forcing the match to go into the fifth day means every Test of the ongoing riveting fivematch series has now gone into the last day. England looked all set to complete the chase of 374 on day four, thanks to Joe Root hitting his 39th Test century off 137 balls, and paid a fitting tribute to Graham

While Root eventually made 105 off 152 balls, Harry Brook hit a stunning 111 off 98 balls - his tenth hundred in the longer format and was given a reprieve on 19 by Mohammed Siraj. Just when it felt that victory was inevitable for England, Root and Jacob Bethell fell to Prasidh Krishna as overcast conditions meant In-



dia found seam movement and made life difficult for Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton – unbeaten on two and zero respectively.

Before India could bring more twists to the game, the rain gods intervened and brought a premature end to the day's play. With Chris Woakes, with his left arm in a sling, pacing up and down in the dressing room in his Test whites, another fascinating day five finish looms large to decide the scoreline of this closely-fought

Test series. The final session began with a slight delay due to rain. But once it went away, Root brought up his 39th Test century off 137 balls. From the other end, Jacob Bethell struggled for fluency despite advancing to drive **England resumed** the day at 50 for one, needing another 324 runs for an improbable win. The highest chase at The Oval is 263

achieved by England

back in 1902

Akash Deep past cover for four, and his stay ended when he went for a big heave, but bottom-edged to his stumps off Prasidh Krishna.

Suddenly, things began to grow tighter as Prasidh had Jamie Smith inside-edging to his pads. before beating him on the outside edge. From the other end, Siraj hit Smith and Root on pads with his nip-backers, before India burnt a review when

Prasidh hit Root on pads. But India found some hope as Prasidh struck again by having Root edge behind to Dhruv Jurel, who dived to his right to take a good low catch and dismiss the batter for 105. With Smith and Jamie Overton struggling to find gaps, India were well on top before bad light and then heavy rain forced players to go off the field and push the series decider to day five.

Brief scores:

India 224 and 396 lead **England** 247 and 339/6 in 76.2 overs (Harry Brook 111. Joe Root 105: Prasidh Krishna 3-109, Mohammed Siraj 2-95) by 35 runs

Marta's late heroics lead Brazil to ninth Copa America Femenina title

Quito, August 3: Brazil successfully defended their Women's Copa America crown by defeating Colombia 5-4 in a shootout Saturday to claim their ninth continental title after a roller-coaster final in Quito ended 4-4

The decider at the Estadio Rodrigo Paz Delgado saw Colombia take the lead three times, only for Brazil to respond on each occasion.

Brazil great Marta forced extra time with a late equaliser and the veteran struck again in the 105th minute to seemingly seal victory.

But a resilient Colombia found yet another equaliser to send the encounter to penalties, where Brazil's experience ultimately prevailed.

"I think women's soccer has been growing a lot. I

be more competitive. Everyone here deserved a match like this. Congratulations to Colombia too," Brazil's Amanda Gutierres said.

"This means a lot. I think it's Brazil's job. It's that mentality of never giving up. That's a source of pride for Brazil. I think it means a lot to Brazilians.

Both teams created early chances but the breakthrough came in the 25th minute when Colombia's Linda Caicedo capped off a tidy passing move with a composed low finish from close range.

Brazil got the equaliser in the dying moments of the first half when Angelina stepped up to calmly convert a penalty after VAR confirmed a foul by Jorelyn Carabali on Gio Garbelini.

Colombia regained the lead in the 69th minute via a Brazil own goal, defender Tarciane attempting a routine back pass to goalkeeper Lorena but unaware that she had already charged off her line to collect the ball.

Gutierres equalised for

from time with her sixth goal in the tournament, a fierce strike off Garbelini's pass, but striker Mayra Ramirez restored Colombia's lead by netting after a

quick counter-attack eight minutes later. 'Las Cafeteras' were within touching distance of their first continental title until Marta, introduced as a late substitute, delivered a mo ment of magic with a stunning equaliser six minutes

the game into extra time. Marta struck again in the 105th minute when she tapped in a fine cross from Angelina but Colombia turned things around again as Leicy Santos' brilliant free kick sailed into the top corner in the 115th minute

into stoppage time, forcing

The penalty shootout mirrored the drama of the match, with Colombia tak ing the early advantage after Angelina's miss.

However, when Manuela Pavi failed to convert and goalkeeper Lorena saved Leicy Santos' effort Brazil held the advantage



US sets relay record at swim worlds ABD's fiery ton helps Proteas

Singapore, August 3: The United States, which had a frustrating swim world championships, ended on a high note Sunday with a record in the women's 4x100 medley in the last event of the eight-day champion-

The Americans swam a record time of 3 minutes, 49.34 seconds, breaking their own old mark of 3:49.63.

The United States finished with nine gold medals — one more than Australia — but has battled a case of "acute gastroenteritis" picked up at a training camp in Thailand. The malady clearly affect-

ASIA CUP

India-Pakistan matches in Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 3: The two marquee India versus Pakistan games will be held in Dubai during the upcoming Asia Cup which is scheduled to start in the UAE from September 9, the ACC announced Saturday.

India and Pakistan will square off September 14 in Dubai and one more time, potentially September 21. at the same venue. The final September 29 will also be held in Dubai.

The tournament will be held in T20I format keeping in mind the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year.

announced July 26, the ACC had not announce the venues. Out of 19 games in the tournament. 11 will be held in Dubai and eight in Abu Dhabi.

India will play two of their league games September 10 signed a landmark Memo-(vs UAE) and September 14 (vs Pakistan) at Dubai (MoU) Saturday, during while the final league game against Oman will be held at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi September 19.

In Super Six games, only one game is scheduled in Abu Dhabi.



ed the team's up-and-down performances in the eight days in Singapore.

This is the best way to end the meet," Gretchen Walsh said. "And I feel like we have such a good opporstacked group of women

Budapest, August 3: Lan-

do Norris held off his Mc-

Laren teammate Oscar Pi-

astri in a tense finish to win

the Hungarian Grand Prix

Sunday and boost his For-

mula 1 title chances heading

into the mid-season break.

Norris clung on with

ASSOCIATED PRESS

closing it out on a relay like this. We're going to put it all in the pool and we're going to a nine-wicket victory in the leave Singapore with a smile on our faces," she added.

Regan Smith, Kate Douglas and Walsh swam the first tunity when you have this three legs with Torri Huske taking the anchor.

Birmingham. De Villiers, opening the innings, hit 12 fours and 7 sixes. He formed a 72-run part-Norris wins Hungarian Grand Prix

nership with Hashim Amla, who scored 18 runs from 14 balls, in the first six overs. He then built an unbeaten 125-run partnership with Jean-Paul Duminy, who scored 50 not out from 28 balls, to seal the win.

South Africa Champions

chase down a target of 196

runs in 16.5 overs, securing

World Championship of Leg-

ends 2025 final. The match

was held at Edgbaston in

De Villiers' performance Sunday marked his third century in the WCL 2025. Earlier, he had scored a century in 41 balls against the England Champions and a 39-ball century against the Australia Champions.

In the first innings, Sharieel Khan of the Pakistan Champions scored 76 runs from 44 balls, contributing to a total of 195/5 in 20 overs. Meanwhile, In 2024, Indian cricket fans witnessed Yu-



PCB issues 'blanket ban' on participation

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Sunday announced a blanket ban on its players' participation in future editions of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), accusing the tournament organisers of being "biased" and lacking sporting integrity. The decision follows a sequence of events in which the Indian team forfeited both their group-stage clash and semifinal against Pakistan, citing the country's stand against bilateral sporting ties with the neighbouring country after the gruesome Pahalagam terror attack.

Champions to victory. This year, AB de Villiers was standing at the forefront to take the crown and secure the title for South Africa. Backed by a stellar line-up featuring Hashim Amla, Imran Tahir, Wayne Parnell, and Chris Morris, the South Africa Champions earned their place in the fi-

vraj Singh lead the India nal with a commanding win over the Australia Champions in the semi-final, as per a press release from South Africa Champions.

WCL 2025 has been a celebration of cricket's golden era. Sanctioned by the England & Wales Cricket Board, the tournament has brought together some of the biggest names in world cricket.

SNIPPETS

Swimming Worlds: India's disappointing campaign ends

Singapore: India's forgettable campaign at the Swimming

World Championships came to an end with Shoan Ganguly's 28th place finish in the men's 400m individual medley here Sunday. The 20-year-old, who entered the meet on the back of a record-breaking swimming nationals, clocked 4:30.40s as he failed to make the eight-man final. The effort was far inferior to his 'Best Indian Time' of 4:24.64s he set on the way to winning a gold at the nationals in June. Four-time Olympic champion Leon Marchand did just enough to make the final. The French star, who set a new world record en route to the 200 individual medley title earlier in the week, clocked 4:13.19s to take the seventh spot. Indian swimmers endured an underwhelming run at the world meet with none them making it nast their heats or even improving personal best timings.

Sreeshankar wins long jump title in Kazakhstan

New Delhi: Star long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched his third straight title after coming back from a long injury layoff as he won the event at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Saturday. The 26-year-old Indian produced a winning leap of 7.94m on his opening attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze label (category C) meet. His other efforts were 7.73m, 7.58m, 7.57m, 7.80m and 7.79m. He has a personal best of 8.41m. This was Sreeshankar's third competition since returning from a knee injury, which he suffered in April last year. He had undergone surgery and consequently missed the 2024 Olympics despite qualifying for the global showpiece in the French capital. Sreeshankar won the Indian Open in Pune with a jump of 8.05m jump in his first comeback competition and followed it up with a 7.75m effort to top the podium at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Portugal. Before injury, Sreeshankar's last international appearance was a silver-medal finish at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2023. He is yet to qualify for the Tokyo World Championships in September, for which the men's long jump qualification standard is 8.27m.

worn tires as Piastri loomed behind him in the final laps.

He claimed McLaren's 200th F1 win by less than a second to cut Piastri's standings lead to nine points from 16. I'm dead. It was tough, it was tough,"

Norris said. "The final stint,

randum of Understanding

the first Telangana Sports

Conclave at the Hyder-

abad International Con-

component of FIFA's Tal-

ent Development Scheme

The initiative is a key

vention Centre.



with Oscar catching, I was pushing flat out."

Norris briefly dropped to fifth on the first lap but made his tires last to stop only once, while Piastri changed tires twice.

India's second FIFA Talent Academy, first for girls, launched INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE (TDS), and will help provide elite training to While the fixtures were Hyderabad, August 3: talented footballers who India's first FIFA Talent have been scouted from Academy for girls was various parts of the counlaunched in Hyderabad try, reinforcing India's after the All India Football commitment to inclusive Federation (AIFF) and the and structured grassroots Government of Telangana development.

The academy will be located at the Gachibowli Stadium Complex in Hyderabad and will offer year-round high-performance training, with residential facilities, education, medical care, nutrition, and mental wellness to 60 elite play-



ers - 30 boys (U14) and 30 girls (U16), including 10

players from Telangana in each category

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey said, "The launch of India's first FI-FA Talent Academy for girls and second academy for boys marks a defining moment in our journey towards equitable football development. This collaboration with the Government of Telangana, under FIFA's global Talent Development Scheme, reflects our collective resolve to identify, nurture, and empower young talent — especially girls — from across the nation. This academy will not on-

ly groom elite athletes but also inspire a generation of footballers who can dream of representing India at the highest levels. It is a proud day for Indian football and a strong step forward towards our goal of qualifying for the U17 men's and women's FIFA World Cups.

Chief Minister, Telangana, said, "This academy is a game-changer for girls in football. It is not only the first of its kind in India but also one of the very few globally under FIFA's Talent Development Scheme. Young talents — especially girls — from Telangana and beyond will now have access to elite infrastructure, education, and a clear path way to the national and international stage."

AIFF will lead the op erations, technical frame work, talent scouting, and training curriculum in co ordination with FIFA.

The Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) will oversee infrastruc ture, logistics, education, financial and wel-

fare support.

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