



Tamannaah speaks

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia reflects on early career struggles and differences between Hindi and South Indian film industries

LEISURE | **P2**



Racism grips Ireland

An Indian-origin nurse working in Ireland is distraught after her six-year-old daughter was attacked by a group of boys

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Gold breaks record

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity rises by ₹3,600 to hit a lifetime high; silver shines by ₹1,500 in the national capital Thursday

BUSINESS | **P11**



Super Cup in Sept

The All India Football Federation proposes that the Super Cup be held from the second or third week of September

SPORTS | **P12**

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3 CRPF jawans killed in J&K road mishap

JAMMU: Three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed and 15 injured when a vehicle carrying them skidded off the road and rolled down into a nallah in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Thursday, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over the loss of lives, and directed officials to ensure best possible care and assistance to the injured personnel. The incident took place around 10:30am in the Kadwa area when the personnel were returning in a bunker vehicle from an operation from Basant Garh.

The vehicle, which belongs to the 187 battalion of the force, was carrying 23 personnel. While two personnel died on the spot, 16 were injured. They were evacuated to a hospital, where one more succumbed to injuries, taking the toll to three. Sinha said he was saddened by the death of the CRPF personnel.

Pak Army chief Munir likely to visit US again

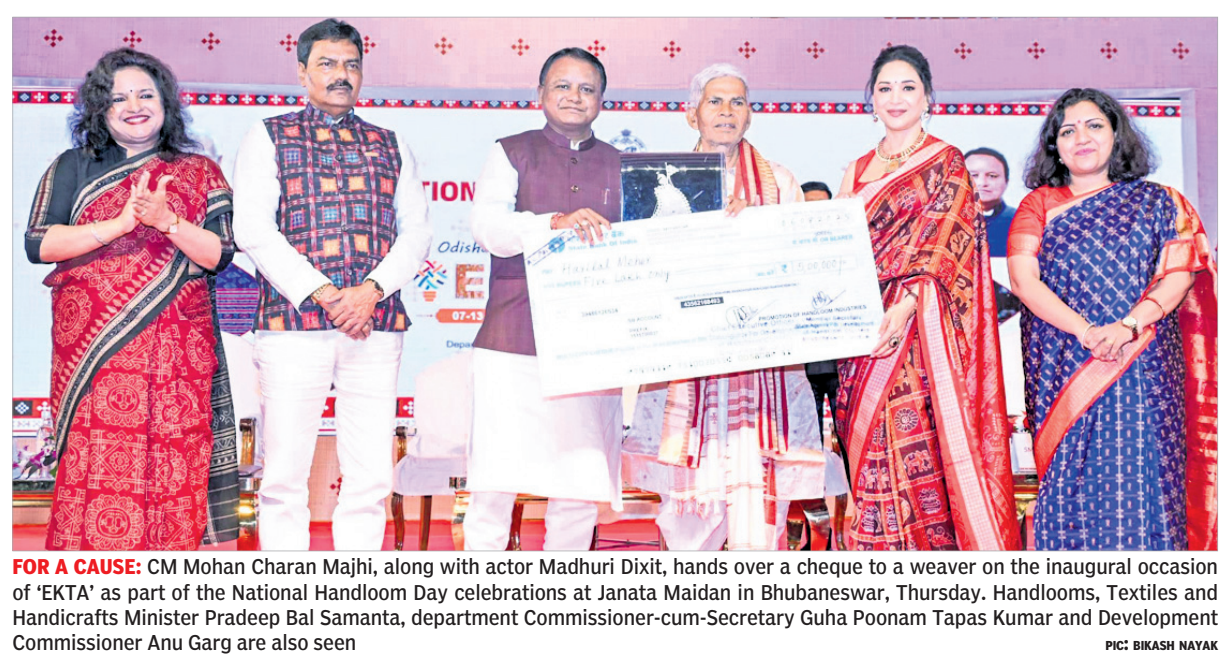
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir is expected to visit the US this week for consultations with top American officials, his second trip to Washington since the four-day conflict with India, a media report said Thursday.

In June, Munir travelled to the US on a five-day trip during which he attended a private luncheon with President Donald Trump. That meeting culminated in Trump's announcement of enhanced US-Pakistan co-operation in various fields, including an oil deal. He is expected in the US this week for consultations with his American counterparts, Dawn newspaper reported. Sources told the paper that this would be a return visit, following a trip to Pakistan by Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, head of the US Central Command, in late July.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Decide, dad—should I remove it or just cover it? You might ask me to hang it again soon



FOR A CAUSE: CM Mohan Charan Majhi, along with actor Madhuri Dixit, hands over a cheque to a weaver on the inaugural occasion of 'EKTA' as part of the National Handloom Day celebrations at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta, department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar and Development Commissioner Anu Garg are also seen

‘Wear handloom clothes at least once a wk’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday urged people to wear Odisha's handloom clothes for at least one day in a week, saying the sector contributes significantly to the rural economy and provides livelihood to over 1.30 lakh families in the state.

Majhi said this during the inauguration of EKTA (Exhibition-cum-Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advan-

tage), an initiative to promote handloom products, on National Handloom Day at Janata Maidan here.

“Our handloom sector is not only an economic pillar, but also a symbol of national pride and dignity for us. From ancient maritime trade to the present global fashion platform, our weaving has always been a symbol of excellence, spirituality and culture,” he said.

The CM called upon the people to revive the

Madhuri Odisha handloom brand ambassador

Swadeshi movement by wearing handloom clothes at least for one day a week.

Majhi announced appointment of iconic actress Madhuri Dixit as the brand ambassador of Odisha's handloom. He expressed hope that with the active support of Dixit, garments made from Odisha handloom will gain recogni-

Trump tariffs kick in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, August 7: The initial 25 per cent tariffs announced by the US on Indian imports came into effect Thursday, with President Donald Trump saying billions of dollars from countries that have taken advantage of America will now start flowing into the country.

“It's Midnight!!! Billions of Dollars In Tariffs Are Now Flowing Into The United States Of America!” Trump said in a post on Truth Social as the clock struck 12 midnight in the US, ushering in the August 7 date when the reciprocal tariffs announced on nations by Trump last week came into effect.

“Reciprocal tariffs take effect at midnight tonight! Billions of dollars, largely from countries that have taken advantage of the United States for many years, laughing all the way, will start flowing into the USA. The only thing that can stop America's greatness would be a radical left court that wants to see our country fail!” Trump said. The White House had announced that India will face tariffs of 25 per cent after Trump issued an executive order listing the vari-

PUTIN TO VISIT INDIA: DOVAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: NSA Ajit Doval said during his meetings in Moscow that Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India and dates are being worked out, according to sources Thursday.

No specific date or time has been indicated by the NSA in his engagements, they said. “NSA Doval, during his visit to Moscow, has said that the dates for President Putin's visit to India are being worked out,” said a source.

The time of end-August being reported in some media is incorrect, the sources said. Doval held talks with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu and other officials that focused on bilateral energy and defence cooperation as well as Putin's visit to India.

PM Narendra Modi had travelled to Russia twice last year for an annual summit with Putin and to attend the BRICS Summit in Kazan.

Putin is visiting India for the annual summit this year.

Doval's Russia visit comes amid some strain in ties between India and the US over New Delhi's continuing procurement of Russian crude oil, notwithstanding Western sanctions on Moscow.

Cockatoos can bust a move

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sydney, August 7: Cockatoos are renowned in Australia for their raucous singing, but researchers said Thursday they also boast an impressive array of dance moves.

Many Australians regard cockatoos as something of a nuisance, a reputation owed in part to the parrots' cacophonous, screeching cries. But when they are not using their sharp beaks to rifle through rubbish, a new study found many cockatoo species seemed to enjoy shaking their tail feathers.

Charles Sturt University researcher Natasha Lubke documented 30 different

dance moves while studying various species of cockatoo – from headbanging to body rolls.

“I showed that dancing behaviour is more common in cockatoos than previously thought, and was seen in 10 of the 21 cockatoo species,” said Lubke.

Lubke scrolled through YouTube videos to

document the dancing behaviours of pet cockatoos around the world, as well as observing the birds at Australia's Wagga Wagga Zoo.

The research suggested that cockatoos ‘can experience pleasure and enjoy dancing’, she said.

Animal behaviour expert Raf Freire, who supervised the re-

search, said it was a sign of ‘well-developed cognitive and emotional processes in parrots’. The study was published in peer-reviewed journal PLOS One.

Once dubbed ‘Australia's naughtiest bird’, the sometimes irksome behaviour of sulphur-crested cockatoos is a source of constant fascination to scientists.

Researchers earlier this year documented how a flock of cockatoos in urban Sydney had figured out how to use drinking fountains.

The Australian government in 2017 spent US\$50,000 (Aus\$80,000) repairing damage to high-speed internet cables stripped and chewed by cockatoos.

SC setback for Justice Varma

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 7: In a major blow to Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma, the Supreme Court Thursday dismissed his plea challenging the in-house inquiry report that found him guilty in the cash-at-home scandal and recommendation of the then CJI Sanjiv Khanna to the President and the PM for his removal. As he refuses to step down, the SC move clears the way for Parliament to hasten impeachment proceedings against the judge, who is at the centre of controversy since this March when a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found following a fire in the storeroom of his official residence in Delhi.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and AG Masih said Justice Varma's conduct does not inspire confidence and his plea should not be entertained.

The SC said the then CJI

ulated procedure and sending of the report to the PM and President with recommendation for his removal was not unconstitutional.

Pointing that the in-house procedure of the SC had legal sanctity, the bench said it is not a parallel mechanism outside the constitutional framework. The SC also found no violation of Justice Varma's fundamental rights.

It granted liberty to Justice Varma to raise his contentions in any impeachment proceedings if initiated against him.

Earlier, the SC told Justice Varma that his conduct did not inspire confidence and also defended the CJI's authority to act on any judicial misconduct, saying he cannot be merely a ‘post office but has certain duties to the nation’.

While reserving its verdict July 30, the SC had also asked Justice Varma why he chose to move the apex court after an in-house committee found him guilty of misconduct.



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ARIES
Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesha.

TAURUS
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesha. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

GEMINI
You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will dampen your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters.

CANCER
There is nothing extraordinary about today. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill and adventure doesn't mean that you'll be free for most part of the day. By evening, you may get indications that tomorrow may not be this boring.

LEO
The complete family man that you are, it is your near and dear ones who have always laid the foundation of your success. So why should today be any different. The auspicious tides of the day begin from your home and follow you everywhere. Be it work or play, you have a tempo that is undiminished. It's going to be a great day, says Ganesha, so just go with the flow and smile your way through everything.

VIRGO
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesha. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

LIBRA
Put up that 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door today. That's because Ganesha feels the tingle in your bones to want to stick to your preferred subject matter. This will help you achieve good progress in your research. Also, expect to be hit by a wave of nostalgia, as loving memories from the past sweeten your heart.

SCORPIO
Ganesha predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements. But after a waiting game, you may go ahead with your plan with much fanfare, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN
Today, you will get back to playing the power game, using both fair and unfair means to achieve your goals, says Ganesha. Intellectual growth will be phenomenal; equally good will be your intuitions. In fact, your gut feelings will guide all the decisions you take today, and rest assured, none will leave you in a soup.

AQUARIUS
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

PISCES
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesha.



MORGAN DEFENDS BEYONCÉ'S 'MARILYN MONROE' COMMENT

Piers Morgan ignited controversy with a tweet suggesting Beyoncé culturally appropriated Marilyn Monroe in her latest ad for a denim brand, sparking fierce backlash from the Beyhive. Morgan later claimed his comment was a joke, a defense met with skepticism and further criticism.

JAMES CAMERON ANNOUNCES HIS 'MOST POWERFUL' FILM

James Cameron is set to direct a film adaptation of *Ghosts of Hiroshima*, a book chronicling interviews with survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Cameron aims to realistically portray the atrocities, emphasising the devastating impact of such weapons, making the movie his 'most powerful' work.



Tamannaah on early rejection

Mumbai: Tamannaah Bhatia, who began her acting journey in 2005 with the Hindi film *Chand Sa Roshan Chehra*, soon found her true footing in Telugu and Tamil cinema, where she rose to stardom. Recently, during an interview, the actress opened up about the challenges she faced early in her career and the stark differences she experienced between Hindi and South Indian films.

Reflecting on her early days, Tamannaah shared that starting out young came with its own set of struggles. "People often try to shake your confidence when you're young. They think you don't understand because of your age, and many times, that leads to humiliation," she said. She recounted a specific incident while working with a leading South Indian star.

"There was a scene I wasn't comfortable doing. I expressed that clearly. The star simply said, 'Change the heroine,'" she revealed.

Despite the initial hurt, Tamannaah emphasised that one should not internalise such treatment. "Just because someone tries to humiliate you doesn't mean you have to feel humiliated," she said. Interestingly, the next day, the actor apologised for his behavior, admitting he was angry and had overreacted.

The incident, Tamannaah said, taught her resilience and self-worth.

AGENCIES



Mumbai:

Actress Vidya Balan took to social media to highlight the importance of preserving India's rich textile heritage on National Handloom Day. In a heartfelt message on Instagram, she urged people to support Indian weavers by embracing handloom products, especially pure silks with the authentic Silk Mark Label. Balan encouraged citizens to take pride in their cultural identity and continue promoting indigenous craftsmanship. The 'Dirty Picture' actress, known for her deep love for handloom silk sarees, shared a video of herself visiting a facility where pure handloom silks are crafted.

In the video, she is seen closely observing the weaving process and engaging in conversations with the artisans to better understand their work and craftsmanship. Her visit highlights the dedication and skill of India's weavers and reinforces her continued support for traditional textiles. For the caption, Vidya Balan wrote, "Today as we celebrate the National Handloom Day, let us honor our weavers. Let us embrace our identity and cultural heritage. Encourage and embrace our handloom pure silks. And always buy silk with the Silk Mark Label. #MySilkMarkMyTrust."

Every year August 7, National Handloom Day is celebrated to recognise the invaluable contributions of India's weavers and the heritage of the handloom industry. In 2025, the country marks the 11th year of this special observance.

IAN S



Vidya backs Indian weavers

Authors of *Pratap* engage readers at Walking BookFairs



Bhubaneswar: Journalists and father-daughter duo Chander Mohan and Jyotsna Mohan, co-authors of *Pratap: A Defiant Newspaper*, held an engaging book discussion and signing session at Walking BookFairs Wednesday. The event offered City readers a rare opportunity to interact with the authors.

Described as "an icon of Indian journalism," *Pratap* is celebrated for its unwavering commitment to unearthing truth. The book traces the journey of the newspaper from its inception on 30 March 1919 by Mahashay Krishan, through the stewardship of his son Virendra and grandson Chander, until its closure in 2017.

Published in Urdu—and later in Hindi as *Vir Pratap*—the paper played a vital role in India's struggle for independence, boldly covering landmark events from the colonial era to the Emergency and Operation Blue Star. Its fearless reporting led to multiple confrontations with authorities, including a year-long ban just twelve days after its launch, repeated arrests of its editors, and even a parcel

bomb attack on its office in 1983.

"An icon of Indian journalism, *Pratap* is a reminder of the importance of speaking truth. Its story deserves to be read by all," said one reader at the event.

Chander Mohan is a veteran journalist and columnist who served as the distinguished editor of the Hindi daily *Vir Pratap* for four decades. Born in Lahore in pre-Partition Punjab, he has been a formidable voice in Hindi journalism, known for his searing, uncompromising editorials that have shaped public opinion across north India. Jyotsna is a journalist with nearly thirty years of experience across television, print, and digital media. A widely published columnist in India and abroad, she is known for her sharp, socially conscious writing that challenges the status quo—a legacy she proudly attributes to her family's journalistic roots. She brings the same spirit of inquiry and candour to her online talk show, *Table Talk with Jo*, where she explores contemporary issues through candid conversations.

PNN

Sonali talks about fast love

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre has opened up about the dramatic shift in relationships and society brought on by the internet.

Reflecting on the digital era, she noted how generational changes are now happening at a much faster pace, reshaping the way people connect and interact. In an interview with the news agency, Sonali Bendre spoke about the rapid trans-

formation she has witnessed when asked how the world and relationships have changed with the arrival of the internet. The *Hum Saath - Saath Hain* actress noted that generational shifts, which once took decades, now happen within a few years, reshaping the way people live, connect, and communicate.

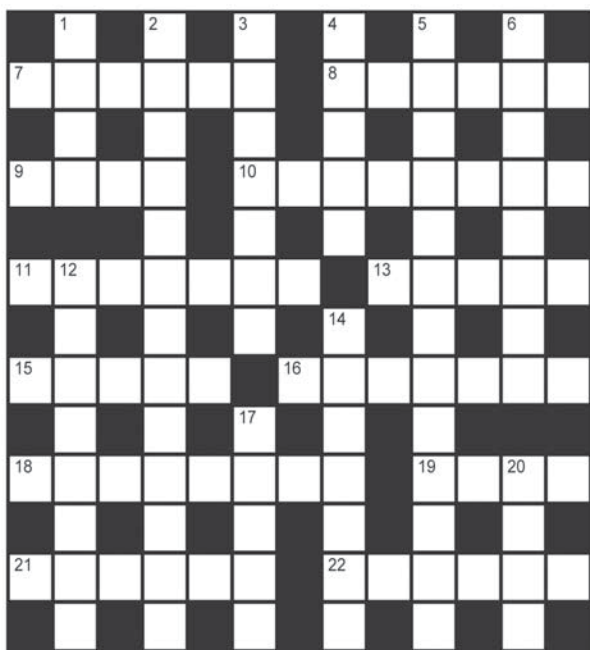
Sonali shared, "The change is huge! In our time, a generation would change every 20-25 years. Now it feels like it changes every three years. Everything has turned upside down. The internet has transformed how people live and connect."

Sonali Bendre, whose marriage has stood the test of time, shared her views on the younger generation's fast-paced approach to love, marriage, and divorce. She said giving advice to today's youth is often pointless, as they feel they already know everything. "I don't think anyone can really advise youngsters, and those who try usually fail (smiles). They believe they know everything. They have Google, ChatGPT—every answer is at their fingertips."

IAN S

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**
- 7 King Arthur's Round Table, e.g.
 - 8 Troublemaker
 - 9 Interrogate
 - 10 Physician, to some
 - 11 Cricket players
 - 13 Strong point
 - 15 Organ parts
 - 16 Italian rice dish
 - 18 Hilo native
 - 19 Savoir-faire
 - 21 Gobble up
 - 22 After black or rain
 - 3 Amazing adventure
 - 4 Shrimp relative
 - 5 Vespa and Lambretta, e.g. (5,8)
 - 6 Intense
 - 12 Aardvark or tamandua
 - 14 Indicate
 - 17 Journal
 - 20 Wine holder
- Down**
- 1 Bill of fare
 - 2 Some singing voices (5-8)

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Workshop on POSH Act organised at RDWU

Bhubaneswar, August 7: A gender sensitisation workshop on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, was held here at the new auditorium of Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) Thursday. The event was jointly organised by the university's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), Bhubaneswar.

Joining the event as chief guest CYSD founder Jagad-ananda emphasised the need to foster safe and inclusive academic spaces. "Universities must be free from discrimination and harassment. The POSH Act is not merely about legal compliance—it reflects a deeper commitment to justice and dignity," he said.

"Power dynamics in educational institutions make it essential to cultivate a zero-tolerance culture through sustained awareness, training, and proactive internal committees," he added.

OPTCL general manager (HRD) Itishree Sahu attended the event as guest of honour. University Vice-Chancellor (I/C) Chandni Charan Rath, OAS (SAG) officer Manaswini Sahu, along with teaching and non-teaching staff and students, were also present. Rath reaffirmed the university's zero-tolerance stance, stating, "Respecting women's rights and dignity is non-negotiable. We are committed to building a campus culture that actively speaks out against harassment."

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions. The first focused on defining sexual harassment at the workplace, the constitution and functioning of Internal Committees (IC) under the POSH Act, and the roles of university employees and students. The second session featured case studies and best practices related to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Chanchal Agrawalla, daughter of Ratan Lal Agrawalla, resident of Flat 301, Block AH-1, New Jeevan Bima Nagar, Maitri Vihar, Bhubaneswar 751023, hereby inform that in my Class 10th Pass Certificate and Mark Sheet, my name is incorrectly mentioned as A CHANCHAL. The correct name is CHANCHAL AGRAWALLA, which has been affirmed before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar vide Affidavit No. 15AA 235972. This notice is being published for official and public record purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak Dt.15.07.2025, I, Minati Mallick, age 36, W/o - Narayan Mallick, At/ PO - Rahanja, PS/Dist. - Bhadrak declare that my daughter Debasmita Mallick's DOB is 4.01.2010 is recorded in her Birth Certificate. In her Aadhaar Card No. xxxx xxxx 1065 DOB is 4.08.2010. Henceforth her DOB will be 04.01.2010 as mentioned in Birth Certificate for all purpose.

KENDRAPARA SELF-IMMOLATION

Terrible neglect by BJP govt: Naveen

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Anguished over the death of a Plus III female student in Kendrapara's Pattamundai by self-immolation, BJD chief Naveen Patnaik Thursday termed it as a "terrible neglect" by the BJP government in the state.

Patnaik made the remark while referring to a female college student who died after she allegedly immolated herself at her house in Kendrapara district Wednesday following her former boyfriend's threat to upload her intimate photographs on social media.

The woman's father claimed that his daughter took the extreme step after police refused to accept their FIR around six months ago, and instead asked them to block the ex-boyfriend's phone number.

In a social media post, the former CM said. "Deeply saddened and anguished to know

BJD CALLS FOR CB PROBE

Bhubaneswar: Addressing a presser at Sankha Bhawan here, senior BJD leaders - Aul MLA Pratap Keshari Deb and Rajnagar legislator Dhruba Charan Sahoo - demanded a Crime Branch (CB) probe into the incident and said that the victim had been a target of prolonged blackmail by the youth. Her father alleged that despite approaching the local police, no action was taken, which ultimately drove her to take this extreme step, they said. "Police arrived at their residence nearly four hours after they were informed," they alleged. Sahoo, who visited the victim's house, stated that the girl's father had complained to police six months ago. Instead of filing a case, officers advised him to block the accused's number and delete objectionable content. The youth's harassment continued, leading to the victim's tragic end. Asserting that transferring or suspending one officer is not enough to deliver justice, the regional party called for immediate transfer of the investigation to the CB.

that a girl from Pattamundai, Kendrapara, set herself on fire in desperation after her pleas for justice fell on deaf ears yet again. My condolences for the young girl and prayers are with the family members in the hour grief. May God give the family members strength to bear this irreparable loss."

"It pains to know that within a month, three young girls have lost their lives in very similar circumstances. Each fatal flame that consumed

these innocent lives indicates a disturbing pattern in #Odisha," he added.

"Three daughters of our soil died in broad daylight because the apathetic administration failed to hear their screams at every turn. Not to mention many more such heinous crimes against women being reported across the state, almost daily," he pointed out. Patnaik also asked how many more funeral pyres must be lit before the state BJP government wakes up.

Govt to build roads using plastic waste

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: In a progressive step towards sustainable urban development, the state government, led by Housing and Urban Development principal secretary Usha Padhee, held a high-level meeting here Thursday to discuss the use of plastic waste in road construction across Odisha.

Plastic waste from bottles and carry bags poses a major environmental threat. To tackle this, the state is exploring a technique that mixes shredded plastic with heated bitumen and aggregates for road construction. Successfully used by NHAI, this method enhances road durability while effectively managing plastic waste

During the meeting, Padhee emphasised that such an initiative aligns with state's commitment to creating a pollution-free and sustainable environment. She highlighted the dual benefits of this approach: enhancing road longevity while simultaneously reducing the plastic burden on the environment.



AAP protests for Gadakana dumping yard relocation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The Bhubaneswar unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a protest Thursday in front of the main gate of Sainik School, demanding the relocation of the Gadakana waste dumping yard located near the school within the Smart City and BMC limits.

The protest, led by Bhubaneswar president Jaysurya Kanungo, saw participation from state president Nishikanta Mohapatra and other senior leaders, who demanded the immediate re-

location of the dumping yard beyond the City limits.

The party highlighted that the unhygienic conditions at the dumping yard have severely affected over one lakh residents in the area, including students of nearby schools, colleges, and universities, many of whom are frequently falling ill.

AAP alleged that the toxic environment has led to a rise in respiratory and cardiac ailments among locals, with several deaths already reported. Skin diseases are also widespread, affecting nearly every household in the

vicinity. The party criticised the BJP for its silence on the issue, pointing out that despite staging a hunger strike earlier, it has remained inactive. "This dumping yard is harming the health of lakhs of families living nearby."

"However, while the government has failed to remove the dumping yard, it is reportedly planning to relocate the Sainik School. We oppose this decision and demand the immediate removal of the dumping yard, or we will intensify our protest," said AAP state president Nishikanta Mohapatra.

Health min reviews malaria & dengue control measures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling reviewed the malaria and dengue situation across the state during a virtual meeting held from Lok Seva Bhawan Thursday. He interacted with District Collectors, Commissioners, and CDMOs from various districts to assess ongoing efforts toward disease eradication.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to tackling public health challenges, the Minister urged officials to work in co-ordination to intensify efforts against malaria, dengue, and other vector-borne diseases.

Minister Mahaling inquired about the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets



(LLINs) and the arrangements for Indoor Residual Spray (IRS). He instructed district collectors from malaria-prone areas to pay special attention. The Minister also emphasised preparedness for the pre-monsoon season and effective implementation of measures during the rainy season.

To tackle malaria effectively, he advised strengthening screening, especially in residential schools, malaria-prone regions, and among migrant workers. He also called for increased testing.

Food delivery boy hacks woman over parcel delay

Bhubaneswar: In a shocking incident that has sparked outrage in the Capital, a woman was brutally attacked by a food delivery boy inside her home after she allegedly questioned him about the delay in her parcel delivery. The victim, identified as Binodini Rath, a resident of the Shampur area, was left bleeding and seriously injured after the altercation. According to eyewitnesses and local sources, an argument broke out between the two over the delayed delivery. The situation quickly escalated, and in an unprovoked act of violence, the delivery boy reportedly attacked her with a sharp weapon. Rath sustained injuries to her head, arms, and back, and was immediately rushed to a private medical facility, where she is currently undergoing treatment. Police reached the spot shortly after receiving the information and have begun a thorough investigation into the matter. However, no official statement has been released by the authorities as of now.

Rakhi markets buzz with style, sentiment

Buyers embrace variety and meaning as Raksha Bandhan draws near, with a focus on conscious choices and lasting memories

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 7: With Raksha Bandhan around the corner, City markets are alive with colour and creativity. From traditional threads to modern, eco-friendly designs, rakhi sellers are catering to diverse customer preferences this festive season.

"We've been in this business for 20 years and set up stalls every Rakhi season at Rasulgarh," said Sushant Kumar Rout, owner of Ganesh Season Centre. "Compared to last year, business is almost the same. Customers now have too many options—both online and offline. Every corner seems to have a rakhi stall," he added.

His shop offers a wide variety, from simple to ornate: fancy rakhis, stone rakhis, fancy dori, Lumba and pair Jari Booti rakhis, and colourful kids' rakhis, priced between ₹2



SILVER RAKHI



ECO RAKHI



SPIDERMAN RAKHI

and ₹400. "The ₹50 rakhi is our bestseller—simple, beautiful, and affordable for every budget," Rout added.

At Saheed Nagar, rakhi seller Gudu Rout shared similar views. "There are many varieties—especially cartoon-themed

rakhis, with Spiderman being the most popular this year. We also offer devotional rakhis featuring Lord Jagannath, Radha-Krishna, and Sai Baba. The latest trend is the modern

evil-eye rakhi, which is in high demand," he said.

While many are attracted to colourful designs and novelty themes, others are choosing sustainable options. Gyanaranjan Das, Coordinator of Youth for Seva, Bhubaneswar Chapter, emphasised the importance of conscious celebration.

"These days, rakhis are available everywhere, but choosing mindfully can benefit the environment. We create eco-friendly rakhis embedded with plantable seeds. This year, with the help of 28 volunteers, we made 109 seed rakhis and tied them on CRPF jawans to honour their service," he said.

For some buyers, sentiment matters more than style. "I usually choose shiny stone rakhis because they look beautiful," said Soubhagya Priya Nayak, a city resident. "But this year, I bought a silver rakhi. It's simple and elegant—something my brother can keep as a keepsake rather than discarding after the festival."

With tradition blending with trends and sustainability joining the conversation, Raksha Bandhan 2025 is about more than just tying a thread—it's about making it meaningful.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.62 ▼ 0.21	SENSEX	80623.26 ▲ 79.27	GOLD	₹101,670 ▲ ₹408
EURO	102.14 ▲ 0.14	NIFTY	24596.15 ▲ 21.95	SILVER	₹115,205 ▲ ₹1550

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.4°	32.4°	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershower
Min Temp	26.4°	24.8°	
Humidity	81%	87%	
Rainfall	TRACE	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Mallik had a bottle of pesticide with him when he was taken to the police station, Jajpur SP said

Earlier, Mallik had alleged that he was beaten and stripped naked by the police personnel in custody, which led him to

Earlier, Balichandrapur police station Inspector-In-Charge Samarjit Nayak denied the allegations of assault and said Mallik was admitted to hospital after he suddenly fell ill at the police station.

“Around 15 to 20 days ago,

Villagers allegedly strangled the man to death, cut off his private parts and dumped the body in the nearby Harabhangi Dam. Police recovered the body from the reservoir Sunday and arrested a few villagers in connection with the crime.

“We have demanded a high-level inquiry into the

A 15-year-old girl from Balanga area of Puri district also died from burn injuries August 2. Her mother claimed she was set on fire by three unidentified persons, but police believe no other person was involved in the incident.

The arrests were made Wednesday after the girl's mother lodged an FIR with Khunta police station August 3, alleging that the minor was raped at separate locations between June 14 and July 27. While the minor accused was sent to the Child Protection Home in Rourkela, the two others were produced before a court, which sent them to judicial custody. "The medical examination of the survivor and the accused persons was conducted in a hospital. The girl's statement was also recorded in the presence of a magistrate," Khunta police station inspector-in-charge, Panchanan Mohanty, told reporters. He said the accused persons took the survivor to different places and raped her on separate dates. The accused have been booked under several sections of the BNS and POCSO Act, he added.

Tender documents are available on website	Can be downloaded from Website (http://www.tenbndersodisha.gov.in)
Bid documents available date and time	From 11.08.2025 at 11.00 hours to 25.08.2025 up to 17.30 hours
Bid clarification start date & closing date	11.08.2025 to 25.08.2025 during office hours
Offline documents received through Speed Post / Registered Post	From 11.08.2025 at 17.30 hours to 30.08.2025 at 11.00 hours
Date, time and venue of opening of bid online	(01.09.2025 at 11.00 hours) , Office of the Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Narayanpatna
Offline documents shall be opened in presence of participate, bidders in chamber of BDO, Narayanpatna	01.09.2025 at 11.00 hours onwords
If stipulation aries the tender will be decided through Lottery System	(01.09.2025 at 11.30 hours) Office of the Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Narayanpatna

**Sd./- Block Development Officer
Narayanpatna**

women lovers were arrested Thursday for allegedly killing his wife in Ganjam district, police said. The incident took place at Nuagaon village under Bellaguntha police station limits of the district Monday, the police said. Santosh Naik, a daily wageer and his lovers Anita Naik (26) and Sruti Parida (21) were arrested for allegedly killing his wife Puja Naik (28) and terming her death as suicide, a police officer said. Santosh got married to Puja about 12 years ago and has four children, three daughters and a son, he said. The three persons were arrested on the basis of a written complaint lodged by the deceased's mother Shanti Naik of Buguda area in the district Monday at Bellaguntha police station. According to the complaint, Shanti went to her daughter's house after getting a phone call from Santosh that Puja had committed suicide by hanging. However, Santosh did not allow her to enter his house. She, however, saw her daughter lying on the ground wrapped in a cloth. She alleged that her daughter was having frequent quarrels with her husband for keeping an illicit relationship with two women, as per the complaint. "Puja's husband and two of his women friends frequently physically and mentally tortured her. They might have killed her and painted her death as suicide," alleged Shanti in her police complaint. After receiving the complaint, police went to the spot, seized the body and started an investigation. Bellaguntha IIC Rebati Sabar said, "We have registered a case under relevant sections of BNS based on her complaint. After getting prima facie evidence during the investigation, the trio, including Santosh and his two lovers," were arrested. Further investigation into the case is in progress, she said.



OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. Office: 9, M.P. Nagar, 1st Street, Kongu Nagar Extn, Tirupur – 641607. Ph: 04212221144
Corporate Office: Kohinoor Square, 47th Floor, N. C. Kelkar Marg, R. G. Gadkari Chowk, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400028. Tel: 022-26544000

[Appendix - IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8(e)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

DATE OF E-AUCTION: 18.09.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (e) read with of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Co-borrower that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on 'As is where is' & 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' and 'Without recourse basis' on **18.09.2025 at 11.00 am to 12.00 pm** (last date is **17.09.2025** and time for submission of bids is up to 4.00 PM) for recovery of outstanding amount.

The Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd., acting in its capacity as Trustee of Omkara PS 22/2020-21 Trust (OARPL) has acquired entire outstanding debts lying against above said borrower & co-borrower vide Assignment Agreement dated 20th February 2021 along with underlying security from Fullerton India Credit Company Limited. Accordingly, **Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.** has stepped in the shoes of FICCL, the original secured creditor and become entitled to recover dues and enforce the securities. Further the **OARPL** vide Assignment Agreement dated 19/03/2025 transferred the said account to Omkara PS21/2024-25 Trust for initiating/continuing the legal action.

The description of the Borrower and Co-borrower and the amount outstanding along with Interest and Expenses due to OARPL from below mentioned borrower and co-borrower and description of the Immovable Property, reserve price and the earned money deposit and known encumbrances (if any) are as under:-

Particulars of Loan Account	Description of the Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Minimum Bid Increment Amount
1. Mr. Gajanan Joshi	All that Piece and Parcel of the property bearing land measuring about 1742 Sq. Gt. GF, including 1697 Sq. Gt. Structure standing thereon under Khata No.115 Place Plot No.954 Mouza Cuttack Sahar unit No.33, Bahara Bishinabara, P.S. Badamadi, Cuttack, Odisha 754029.	Rs. 79,69,000/- (Rupees Seventy-Nine Lakh Sixty-Nine Thousand Only)	Rs. 7,96,900/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred only)	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
2. Mr. Gopal Kumar Joshi (Co-borrower)				
3. Three Trades (Co-borrower)				
4. Shree Flour Mill (Co-borrower)				
Amount Outstanding	Rs. 54,47,463/- as on 10-05-2022 together with applicable interest, additional interest, & expenses till date of payment & realization of all dues. (As per Demand Notice dated 02-06-2020)			
Status of Possession	Physical Possession of the secured assets was taken by Authorized Officer of OARPL on 29-01-2025 in compliance of the order dated 14-09-2022 passed by the Hon'ble District Magistrate, Cuttack.			
Date & Time for submission of bid documents for participation	15.09.2025 between 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM			
Any Encumbrance	Not Known			
Any other Relevant Information	All bidders are advised to visit on www.omkaraarc.com/auction.php or www.bankauctions.com for detailed terms and conditions of E-Auction. The intending bidders shall comply and give declaration under Section 29A of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.			

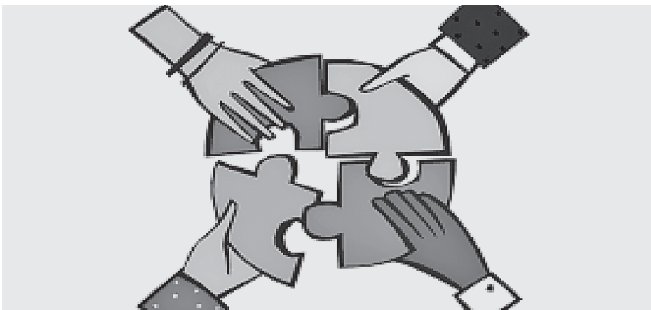
This notice is also a mandatory Notice of 30 days to the Borrower & Co-borrower of the above loan account under Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 and provisions of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, informing them about holding of auction/sale through e-auction on the above referred date and time with the advice to redeem the assets if so desired by them, by paying the outstanding dues as mentioned herein above along with cost & expenses before the Auction date. In case of default in payment, the property shall at the discretion of the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor be sold through e-auction as prescribed under Rule 8 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.
 (Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omkara PS 21/2024-25 Trust)
Nitin Kashyap (AVP)

Date: 07.08.2025
Place: Cuttack (Odisha)

FOCUS EDUCATION

REVIVING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE



As envisioned by NEP, Large Exchange Trading Systems as an applied IKS offers a model of development that is both culturally grounded and forward-looking

Ramadevi University recently conducted a faculty development programme to create awareness about the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. More than 200 participants from the fields of Commerce, Arts, and Science participated in the conversation on how traditional knowledge can improve contemporary education. Several academicians and practitioners shared their views on wide range of topics such as the preservation of Indian scripts, ethical teachings from ancient texts, and the relevance of Ayurveda in modern health and wellness. I got the opportunity to contribute to this meaningful dialogue by sharing insights on how IKS can be practically integrated into higher education through innovative models like Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS).

IKS reflects the knowledge and skills of local communities evolved over the years and passed on from one generation to the next. In India, one can see use of such practice in diverse domains such as agriculture, architecture, medicine, water conservation, craft traditions, and decentralised governance. IKS offers viable strategies even for the present-day challenges across sectors. By using the indigenous knowledge, we may find better solutions to the current problems and also get an opportunity to revive cultural heritage. That explains the NEP's stress on the use of IKS in higher education.

The NEP 2020 strongly recommends that education be made more holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary. The NEP recognises IKS as a legitimate and valuable domain of knowledge. It defines IKS as knowledge developed through communities' sustained interactions with their environments. NEP recommends systematic integration of IKS across educational levels and also advocates for initia-

tives that connect indigenous and conventional knowledge. It places the responsibility on higher education institutions (HEIs) to design, develop, and deliver relevant courses based on IKS. In line with this vision, I proposed to the faculty members of Ramadevi University the use of LETS as a potential model for implementing IKS by HEIs.

LETS offers a model to apply indigenous economic principles in today's world which fully runs on money. LETS enables communities to exchange goods and services without the use of money, instead relying on time credits or locally defined units of value. LETS places social relationships and reciprocity at the heart of exchange rather than profit and commodification.

LETS aligns with core IKS values such as decentralisation, trust, and ecological sustainability. It also recognises contributions often excluded from the formal economy—like caregiving, domestic labour, or neighbourhood support. In the process, LETS nurtures comprehensive and unbiased community participation. LETS offers an innovative platform for interdisciplinary education, aligning closely with NEP's emphasis on experiential, integrated learning. It allows students to engage with real-world issues and helps in connecting theory

with practice. For instance, environmental science students can evaluate the ecological benefits of local exchange, such as reduced emissions and waste, while promoting sustainable practices like composting or community gardening. Students of economics and commerce can examine informal economies, and behavioural patterns in community exchanges; students of humanities and social sciences may get the opportunity to explore oral traditions and local practices; the computer science students can design digital infrastructure to manage LETS platforms and develop mobile apps or SMS-based systems for improving participation and engineering and design students can develop physical tools such as kiosks or bulletin boards for displaying local transactions. In this way, LETS becomes a living laboratory, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and cultivating students' civic and social engagement.

LETS is not just an idea. It can be implemented in different locations and all come together as a federation to learn from each other and strengthen the practice. Municipal wards offer an ideal space for piloting LETS in urban settings due to their manageable size, diverse skill base, and existing administrative structures. Implementation can

begin with community meetings to identify local needs and services—such as tutoring, caregiving, or plumbing. A governance body comprising residents, NGOs, municipal staff, and representatives from local colleges or universities may be given the responsibility to oversee operations, ensuring transparency and accountability. The local academic institutions can take the responsibility for coordinating and sustaining the initiative in each ward. Integration with government programmes like livelihood missions or sanitation campaigns can further incentivise participation, while a multi-lingual app or open-source tool would support accessibility and record-keeping. LETS provides opportunities to local community to work with the local academic institutes, and local industry which is in line with NEP.

Aligned with NEP 2020's vision, LETS can be a powerful model for educational reform, innovation, and community development. It offers a practical and pedagogically rich framework for integrating IKS into higher education through curriculum development, research, and community engagement. To fully realise its potential, LETS requires policy-level recognition, pilot implementation through university-municipal partnerships, and robust digital infrastructure. If embraced thoughtfully, LETS can play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future for India. As envisioned by NEP, LETS as an applied IKS offers a model of development that is both culturally grounded and forward-looking. The integration of IKS within contemporary education systems helps realise Mahatma Gandhi's vision: "I want India to be a nation of scientists, but I want those scientists to be deeply rooted in our culture and values."

The writer is a professor at XIMB.

SPECTRUM FOREIGN INVESTMENT

100% FDI in insurance unwarranted

Foreign investors have consistently advocated for ease of doing business in the capital-intensive insurance sector, highlighting the challenges of securing reliable domestic partners. The Union Budget 2025 proposed increasing the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 100% from 74% through automatic route, indicating a continued thrust to attract foreign investment. India began allowing FDI in insurance in 2000 with a 26% cap, which was increased to 49% in 2015 and 74% in 2021. It is argued that with complete foreign ownership, global investors may increase capital deployment in the Indian insurance sector without the requirement of having a domestic partner.

Critics argue that this will enable foreign companies to have more control on our domestic savings which spur investment and growth. It is apprehended that such a decision will lead to pre-nationalisation era when policyholder's money was misutilised by private companies. Actually, capital has never been a constraint for these companies to run their businesses as they are owned by big business behemoths partnering with top multinational companies. Those foreign companies have utilised

only 32.67% of the current 74% FDI limit, indicating limited demand for such capital. Perhaps, a very few insurance companies are reaching the 74% FDI limit. According to data from Crisil Intelligence (3 February 2025), out of the 26 life insurance companies, 20 have a foreign partner. Among them, only four partners hold a 74% stake in Indian companies, while five hold between 49% and 74%. Among the 25 general and health insurers, 13 companies have a foreign partner, with five holding stakes of 49% or more. Of the eight specialised health insurers, only three have a foreign partner, and two have foreign holdings of 49% and above.

From 2000 to September 2024, India's insurance sector attracted ₹2,847 crore FDI of which, ₹53,900 crore was received between December 2014 and January 2024. As many as nine foreign insurance companies exited the Indian insurance market, whereas only two new life insurance companies entered the sector in the last ten years. All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA), which is vociferously opposing the FDI hike and disinvestment, says that the total repatriation of capital by these companies is ₹68,740 crore and is

tantamount to the reverse flow of the savings of Indian people.

It is also propagated that permitting 100% FDI represents a transformative policy shift aimed at improving insurance penetration, density and reducing the insurance protection gap and achieving the goal of "Insurance for All" by 2047. However, as per IRDAI's annual report, the insurance penetration—the ratio of annual premiums to GDP—in India hasn't seen a remarkable growth despite increase of FDI limit and rise of private insurance companies. In 2001, insurance penetration rate was 2.71%, which peaked to 5.2% in 2009-10 has declined to 4% in 2022-23 and further to 3.7% in 2023-24. This is abysmal when compared to the global average of 7% in 2023-24, up from 6.8% in 2022-23.

Despite the decline in overall penetration, the per capita insurance premium (insurance density) rose from \$11.5 in 2001 to \$78 in 2020-21 and further to \$91 in 2021-22, \$92 in 2022-23 and \$95 in 2023-24, as against the global average of \$889 in 2023-24.

Despite the rise of private insurance companies, and hike in FDI limit, India continues to grapple with a significant life insurance protection gap. The Insurance Protection Gap (IPG)

measures the difference between optimal insurance coverage and actual coverage in every country. In other words, the protection gap describes uninsured losses in any given country. According to a 2023 National Insurance Academy (NIA) study, India's protection gap has surged from 83% in 2019 to 87% in 2023. Among youth aged 18–35, it exceeds 90%. This means a vast majority of Indians either don't have life insurance or are grossly underinsured. This growing vulnerability poses a serious threat to families' financial security and aspirations.

A hike in FDI cannot raise insurance penetration and density unless net financial savings increase. When gross household debt and financial liabilities of Indians are increasing, job opportunities are declining; Indians are plagued by inflation, mounting health and education expenditure, the disposable income gets eroded affecting people's ability to invest in financial assets including insurance. The proposal to raise FDI to 100% sounds preposterous and illogical. It's time to raise people's disposable income.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.



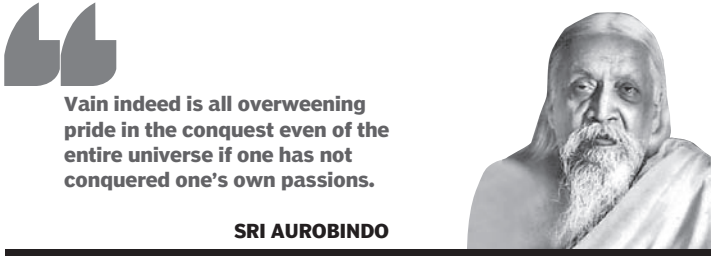
DV Ramana

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS CAN BE PRACTICALLY INTEGRATED INTO HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE MODELS LIKE LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING SYSTEMS



Michael Bröning

ARGUING THAT REDUCING GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS ALSO REQUIRES ABOLISHING CAPITALISM, RETHINKING GENDER CATEGORIES, AND FREEING GAZA IS A FORMULA FOR POLITICAL PARALYSIS



SRI AUROBINDO

Embrace Pragmatism

Progressives are caught in a trap of their own making. In an era of overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises, they have come to view every issue – climate change, public health, energy, inequality, trade, and war – as part of a single, all-encompassing political battle: the “everything struggle.”

At first glance, this approach may appear compelling. These issues really are interconnected, and no one lives in isolation. But forcing every cause into a single battle has serious downsides. Arguing that reducing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions also requires abolishing capitalism, rethinking gender categories, and freeing Gaza is a formula for political paralysis. Even if each individual fight is worthy on its own, combining them often undermines the broad coalitions needed to achieve meaningful progress.

Progressives would do well to keep this in mind ahead of November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. After the lacklustre summits in oil-rich Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates, many activists are hoping that COP30 will mark a return to progressive principles. In that spirit, thousands of climate advocates are expected to descend on Belém for the so-called Peoples' Summit, a gathering of civil-society and climate groups held in parallel with the official negotiations.

Given today's economic turmoil and escalating geopolitical tensions, the chances of global policymakers producing a bold climate plan at COP30 are slim. But even if they succeed, the broader climate fight is bound to fail without public support.

Alarmingly, support for the climate agenda appears to have declined significantly. From the United States and Germany to Canada, South Korea, and India, climate change barely registered as a major issue in recent elections. US President Donald Trump was re-elected on a platform of “drill, baby, drill,” while support for Green parties is collapsing across Europe as the far right continues to gain ground. And when climate change does come up, candidates advocating bold action are routinely defeated.

By now, it is obvious that the “everything struggle” is a losing strategy for progressive parties serious about combating climate change. Even worse, it fuels public skepticism about the viability of climate action.

To be sure, well-funded disinformation campaigns remain the primary cause of declining public trust. But overreaching by some progressive activists also plays a role. The Peoples' Summit manifesto is a case in point. Drafted by a broad coalition of NGOs and activists, the document denounces “false climate solutions” as “instruments for deepening inequality.” Only “socio-environmental, anti-patriarchal, anti-capitalist, anti-colonialist, anti-racist, and rights-based” approaches, it insists, can solve the “climate, ecological, and civilizational crisis.” Though certainly well-intentioned, one must ask: Is this how broad coalitions are built, or is this how they unravel?

In fact, most people do care about climate change. A recent IPSOS poll covering 32 countries across five continents found that 74 per cent of respondents are concerned about its impact on their own countries. But when practical, technical solutions are dismissed as ideological betrayals, climate policy risks becoming little more than a quest for moral purity.

It wasn't always this way. While calls for sweeping change have long been part of the climate movement – and rightly so – its agenda once focused on sustainability: cutting GHG emissions, conserving resources, protecting forests, and preserving biodiversity.

Today, however, many activists view climate action as a revolutionary vehicle for dismantling the status quo and prompting a broad moral reckoning. The problem is that while the fervour of the “everything struggle” may energise activists, it tends to alienate the wider public.

Most voters are looking for workable solutions, not a sermon on the need to reinvent society, especially when that sermon echoes the failed revolutionary fantasies of the past. They want clean air, clean energy, and a livable planet for their children. But bundling those priorities with every perceived injustice in the world drives away the very people needed to achieve real change.

When fringe ideas take center stage, mainstream support dwindles. By rejecting practical steps like nuclear energy simply because they don't “dismantle the system,” progressives risk trading impact for ideology. When responsibly managed, nuclear energy is clean and reliable, and electrification cuts emissions. Essential tools for advancing the climate cause are not betrayals of it.

When leaders gather at COP30, they must confront a set of urgent challenges: rampant deforestation, the toxic alliance between extractive industries and organised crime, and the growing inability of democratic institutions to deliver sustainable growth. While envisioning alternatives to the status quo remains both valuable and necessary, political leaders – especially on the left – must move beyond the “everything is everything” mindset and focus on what actually works, even if it doesn't align with radical utopianism. When it comes to political rhetoric and global temperatures, less is more.

COP30 offers a unique opportunity to redefine sustainability as pragmatic realism before the climate movement drifts further out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people. If leaders and activists embrace pragmatism, they will have a mandate to act. If they choose to champion the “everything struggle,” the public will continue to tune out, even as global temperatures continue to rise.

The writer serves on the Basic Values commission of Germany's Social Democratic Party.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

“It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.”

CONFUCIUS

“To work without attachment is to work without the expectation of reward or fear of any punishment in this world or the next. Work so done is a means to the end, and God is the end.”

RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHANSA

“Peace is a day-to-day problem, the product of a multitude of events and judgments. Peace is not an 'is,' it is a 'becoming.'”

HAILE SELASSIE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Gaza takeover plan

Sir, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced plans to fully occupy Gaza, reversing his earlier position of partial control. Though Netanyahu has justified the move as essential to completely defeat Hamas, he faces opposition from Israel's foreign minister and army chief, who warn of soaring casualties and further endangerment of hostages. Reports suggest Netanyahu may remove the army chief if he refuses to implement the plan. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed since the war broke out, triggering international outrage. US President Donald Trump has admitted that his peace proposals have failed, while the US administration remains silent. A negotiated hostage-release deal appears a more humane and effective alternative. However, Netanyahu's disregard for global opinion threatens to destabilise the region further. India, guided by its longstanding values of peace, humanitarianism, and balanced diplomacy, should avoid supporting such aggressive actions and instead advocate for restraint, dialogue, and protection of civilian lives.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Provocative & misplaced

Sir, Actor-turned politician Kamal Haasan's recent remark that “education is the only weapon to defeat Sanatana Dharma” is not just provocative but deeply misplaced. Sanatana Dharma is not a regime to be defeated—it is a civilisational ethos grounded in values like truth, compassion, duty, and equality. It stands as a moral compass that has guided generations in the pursuit of a just and harmonious society. Far from being oppressive, its inclusive spirit has embraced change and diversity over millennia. Had Haasan truly understood what Sanatana Dharma signifies, he might have chosen to speak of reform or introspection, not destruction. Ironically, the very education he extols should have illuminated these nuances. Unfortunately, his words seem to serve not intellectual clarity, but political convenience—perhaps a nod to his newfound allies and a gesture of gratitude for his Rajya Sabha berth. A responsible public figure must weigh his words with care. Education should be a means of deeper understanding, not a tool for rhetorical bravado or selective historical amnesia.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Authors speak out as J&K govt bans 25 books

The identified books have been found to “promoting false narratives, misleading the youth, excite secessionism and endangering sovereignty and integrity of India”, the J&K government order said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The ban on 25 books in Jammu and Kashmir is “regrettable” and an attempt “to warn Kashmiris against free speech”, authors and scholars reacted Thursday to the order of the Union Territory’s Home Department to forfeit these publications for promoting false narratives and secessionism.

In the order issued Wednesday, the Jammu and Kashmir government noted that certain books, including those written by famous authors like Moulana Moudadi, Arundhati Roy, AG Noorani, Victoria Schofield, Sumantra Bose and David Devadas, have played a critical role in misleading the youth, glorifying terrorism and inciting violence against India.

Reacting to the order, political scientist and author Bose said that his chief objective has been to identify pathways to peace and rejected any and all defamatory slurs on his work. “I have worked on Kashmir -- among many other subjects -- since 1993. Throughout, my chief objective has been to identify pathways to peace so that all violence ends and a stable future free of fear and war can be enjoyed by the people of the conflict region, of India as a whole, and the subcontinent.”

“I am a committed and principled advocate of peaceful



armed conflicts, be it in Kashmir or elsewhere in the world,” Bose told PTI.

Two of his books, ‘Kashmir at the Crossroads Inside a 21st-Century Conflict’ and ‘Contested Lands’, have been banned.

Anthropologist and scholar Angana Chatterjee’s ‘Kashmir A Case for Freedom’, co-authored with Tariq Ali, Hilal Bhat, Habbah Khatun, Pankaj Mishra and Arundhati Roy, is also on the list of banned books.

Chatterjee said that “authoritarian regimes ban books to assert and mobilise their power”. “As they govern through suppression, fear, and violence, ghettoising and demonising writers blatantly censor the local knowledge and critical insight they put forward,” she told PTI.

“It attempts to place oppressed groups on notice, to warn Kashmiris against free speech, dissent, and against seeking acknowledgement and justice for the crimes of history detailed in the books that are now banned,” she said.

fil Islam’ by Islamic scholar and founder of Jamaat-e-Islami, Moulana Moudadi, ‘Independent Kashmir’ by Australian author Christopher Snedden, ‘In Search of a Future (The Story of Kashmir)’ by David Devadas, ‘Kashmir in Conflict (India, Pakistan and the unending War)’ by Victoria Schofield, ‘The Kashmir Dispute (1947-2012)’ by AG Noorani, and ‘Azadi’ by Arundhati Roy.

Devadas said that the ban “is regrettable, for banning books goes against the grain of our democratic ideals, and our civilisational ethos”.

“My book strongly advocates peace, dialogue and democracy in the spirit of (then) Prime Minister Vajpayee’s peace process, which had reached fruition around the time my book was completed. I fully backed that peace process.”

“The book was in consonance with the Constitution of India. It objectively brought out the truth about what had happened in Kashmir, including the roles of foreign powers and conflict entrepreneurs, without any

journalist-author said.

Author Anuradha Bhasin took to social media to defend the books.

“I’ve read most of these books and written one. They’re well researched and not one glorifies terrorism which this government claims to have ended. Scared of words challenging your lies!” she posted on X.

Bhasin’s book ‘A Dismantled State The Untold Story of Kashmir after Article 370’ has also been banned.

Other books included in the order are ‘Resisting Disappearance Military Occupation & Women’s Activism in Kashmir’ by Ather Zia, ‘Confronting Terrorism’ by Maroof Raza, ‘Freedom in Captivity Negotiations of belonging along Kashmiri Frontier’ by Radhika Gupta, ‘USA and Kashmir’ by Dr Shamshad Shan, ‘Kashmir & the Future of South Asia’ by Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal.

“It has come to the notice of the Government, that certain literature propagates false narrative and secessionism in the Jammu and Kashmir,” the

Home Department order said.

It said available evidence based on investigations and credible intelligence “unflinchingly indicate” that a significant driver behind youth participation in violence and terrorism has been the “systematic dissemination of false narratives and secessionist literature by its persistent internal circulation, often disguised as historical or political commentary”.

It plays a critical role in “misguiding the youth, glorifying terrorism and inciting violence” against India, the order said.

It said this literature would deeply impact the psyche of the youth by “promoting culture of grievance, victim hood and terrorist heroism”.

“Some of the means by which this literature has contributed to the radicalisation of youth in J&K include distortion of historical facts, glorification of terrorists, vilification of security forces, religious radicalisation, promotion of alienation, pathway to violence and terrorism etc.,” it added.

In this context, 25 books have been identified that propagate “false narrative and secessionism” in J&K and need to be declared as “forfeited” in terms of Section 98 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, the order said.

The identified 25 books have been found to “excite secessionism and endangering sovereignty and integrity of India”, thereby, attracting the provisions of sections 152, 196 and 197 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, it said.

“Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 98 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, the government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby declares publication of 25 books and their copies or other documents to be forfeited to the government,” the order said.

Locals call for relocation as Op Akhal enters Day 7



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 7: Amidst the ongoing anti-terror operation in Kulgam, which entered its seventh day Thursday, locals from the Akhal village have called for their relocation from the area, citing severe hardships.

The residents claimed they were unable to sleep due to the relentless firing and were now running out of food as well.

“We have been facing severe difficulties for the past seven days. Firing and bombs go on during the night. There is a shortage of ration in our homes now,” Mubarak Khanday, a villager living close to the encounter site, said.

Emphasising that the women and children in the area are terrified, Khanday claimed that they have developed “psychological problems” due to the continuous firing and explosions, he added.

Appealing to the government to make arrangements for their relocation, Khanday said, “We have not slept for seven days. Children are awake, and they cry. There is a shortage of medicine and rations.”

He further noted that the nomadic population living in the area have also run out of food grains. “The Gujar people called us...they have no ration,” Khanday said.

However, locals were grateful to village officials like the numberdar and the chowkidar for taking care of the village. “The numberdar was giving

ration to people from his home, but now he too is facing a shortage,” Khanday mentioned.

Sheikh Mehboob, a village official, urged the government to address the ration shortage and provide drinking water in the village.

“We are facing a shortage of water and medicines. We request that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department arrange water for us. While the security forces are doing their job, the ongoing firing is causing problems for the elderly and children,” Mehboob said.

He thanked the deputy commissioner and the SSP for making arrangements for an ambulance for the locals.

Sheeraza Akhtar, another local, appealed to the Kulgam deputy commissioner to extend help to the villagers.

“We appeal to the deputy commissioner. We are poor and are facing shortages. Please help us as we are facing so many problems. Many people have left and some houses are empty. Please relocate us from here,” Akhtar said.

The counter-terror operations were launched in the forests of the Akhal area August 1 following a tip-off about the presence of terrorists in the area.

So far, two terrorists have been killed while several security forces personnel have sustained injuries. Security forces are using technical surveillance gadgets, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists hiding in the forest.

₹13 lakh spent by Kerala govt to invite Messi goes down the drain

In the football-crazy districts of Malappuram and Kozhikode, Argentina’s national team enjoys massive support -- a sentiment that soared after Messi led Argentina to victory in the 2022 FIFA WC in Qatar



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 7: The Kerala government’s claim that no public money would be spent to bring football legend Lionel Messi to the state has now been exposed as misleading.

It has now emerged that the state government spent Rs 13 lakh on the Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman’s trip to Spain in September 2024, reportedly to invite Messi to Kerala. The Minister was accompanied by the Sports Department Secretary and the Director of Sports and Youth Affairs.

This revelation contradicts Minister Abdurahiman’s earlier statement that it would not cost the government “even a single rupee” in inviting Messi to Kerala.

Earlier this week, the same Minister confirmed that Argentina’s national football team, led by Messi, would not be visiting Kerala. The Argentinian team reportedly cited difficulties in travelling to the state in October -- the only month the sponsor was willing to host the event.

Previously, Abdurahiman

had claimed that the team was likely to visit in October or November and would be treated as state guests, with the government covering their security, accommodation, and other logistics.

In the football-crazy districts of Malappuram and Kozhikode, Argentina’s national team enjoys massive support -- a sentiment that soared after Messi led Argentina to victory in the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

The Minister, a native of Malappuram, had been actively working to bring Messi to Kerala.

Sources indicate that one of the motivations behind the government’s efforts was political, as local body elections are slated for December, and assembly elections are due in April-May next year, to elect 140 members to the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The exposure of this apparent bluff of the Minister has armed the Opposition, with both the Congress-led UDF and BJP-led NDA accusing the Pinarayi Vijayan government of indulging in publicity stunts and misleading the public.

BRINGING A 17TH-CENTURY GARDEN TO LIFE

How ‘Hortus Malabaricus’ blooms again in modern Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thrissur (Kerala), August 7: Nestled in the lush green expanse of Nedumpura in Kerala’s Thrissur district lies a remarkable garden where centuries-old knowledge meets modern conservation.

The Hortus Malabaricus Botanical Garden and Research Institute is not just a haven for biodiversity; it is a living tribute to a historic botanical treatise that once changed the way the world understood plants.

Opened in January this year after a decade-long work for its development, it’s spread over 27 acres, and the garden houses over 1,200 plant species, including 742 plants documented in the 17th-century Latin masterpiece Hortus Malabaricus (Garden of Malabar).

This ambitious conservation project serves as a sanctuary for native medicinal flora and endangered species endemic to the Western Ghats.

The original Hortus Malabaricus was compiled between 1678 and 1693 under the direction of Dutch Governor Hendrik van Rheede, with invaluable input from local Kerala physicians like Ity Achuthan, an Ezhava practitioner, and the Kollat Vaidyans of the Nair community.

With meticulous detail, the twelve-volume work catalogued the medicinal properties and uses of the region’s flora.

The treatise had a profound impact on global botanical science. None other than Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy, drew upon its findings for his foundational work



Species Plantarum.

However, the text remained largely inaccessible to the general public for centuries -- until Dr KS Manilal, a distinguished Indian botanist, spent 35 years translating, annotating, and contextualising the Latin original into both English and Ma-

layalam.

The garden is more than a homage to historical knowledge. It’s a scientific and educational initiative.

With over 700 rare species from the Western Ghats growing alongside those catalogued in the original treatise, it forms

Rotten meat scandal rocks Valley

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 7: In a shocking revelation, over 2,500 kg of rotten meat intended to be supplied to consumers was unearthed by the authorities in the Kashmir Valley, as the common citizens are wondering how much of such rotten and dangerous meat must have been consumed by people before the seizure of the present consignments.

An official statement said Thursday that during the past two days, authorities conducted a series of surprise inspections and raids in multiple locations.

“Notably, in the Safakadal and Parimpora areas of District Srinagar, enforcement teams seized 2,500 kababs found to be processed using frozen meat containing unpermitted food colour. These adulterated kababs were destroyed on the spot and safely disposed of to prevent any risk to public health,” it said.

The statement further pointed out that 150 kilograms of meatballs (Gushtaba) were also seized during the operations.



Legal food samples of the seized products were collected by Food Safety Officers for detailed analysis and further legal action.

“In a separate incident in the Nagbal area of District Ganderbal, approximately 250 kilograms of locally procured meat were destroyed due to visible signs of deterioration caused by improper handling and storage conditions,” it said.

An official added that the crackdown has evoked strong reactions against defaulting FBOs, some of whom have resorted to illegally dumping unsafe food items at abandoned sites.

“Two such incidents were recently recorded in Kakapora (District Pulwama) and Khandey Colony, Nawgam (District Srinagar). Action was taken against two FBOs in District Ganderbal for unhygienic food

storage practices. Their premises have been sealed as per the law,” he said. The Department has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards violations of food safety norms and warned that strict legal action will be initiated against any FBOs found guilty of non-compliance.

All stakeholders, especially those dealing in high-risk food items, are once again advised to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, including mandatory labelling requirements and hygiene protocols.

He said that the Food Safety Department remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard public health and ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food to consumers, who invest a substantial portion of their income in food.

**Ministry of Culture
Government of India
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Request for Proposal for Selection of a Specialist Consultant for Content Development for the **Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum**, New Delhi has been floated on 05 August 2025 by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Interested bidders may see details on **eprocure.gov.in** and **indiaculture.gov.in**. **Last date for bid submission is 26 August 2025.**

cbc 09101/11/0014/2526

**OFFICE OF THE
NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ATHGARH
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**Tender Reference No.ATH-NAC-01/2025-26
Notice No.1480, Dt.07.08.2025**

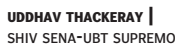
No.C-829: The Athgarh NAC invites online bid in single cover system through e-procurement.

1. Type of Works	: Civil Construction works as in the D.T.C.N.
2. Total No. of Works	: 24 (Twenty Four) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.1,94,540/- to Rs.18,49,876/-
4. Period of Completion of Work	: 30 to 60 days
5. Date and time of availability of bid	: From dt.08.08.2025 at 10.30 AM to dt.18.08.2025 at 5.30 P.M.
6. Last date and time for receipt of Bid in Portal	: 18.08.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.
7. Date and Time of Opening of the Bid	: From 19.08.2025 at 11.30 AM to onwards
8. Class of Contractor	: "C" & "D" Class Regd. Contractors.

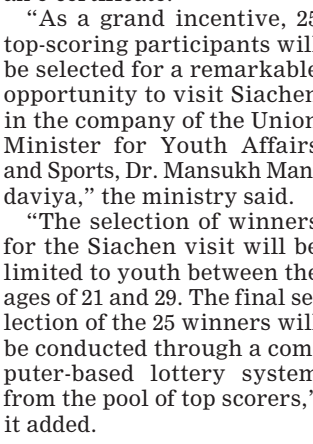
Tender details can be seen from the E-Procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

**Sd./- Executive Officer
NAC, Athgarh**

OIPR-13149/11/0014/2526



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be in Bihar later this month to kick-off a fortnight-long 'Matdata Adhikar Yatra', aimed at highlighting alleged attempts to deprive people of their right to vote through the special intensive revision of electoral rolls. The announcement was made at the Sadaqat Ashram here, the BPCC headquarters, by state president Rajesh Kumar in presence of AICC in-charge for Bihar Krishna Allavaru



international

of the day quote

Pakistan aims to have its lunar landing or landing on the moon by 2035, and we have also sought cooperation in this field

AHSAN IQBAL | MINISTER FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES, PAKISTAN

Yesterday, under the terms of this groundbreaking new treaty, the first group of people to cross the Channel were detained after their arrival at Western Jet Foil and will now be held in detention until they can be returned to France

VVETTE COOPER | HOME SECRETARY, UK

Thailand and Cambodia are neighbours with a shared border that can move away from each other ... a resolution will allow our people to return to peaceful lives

NATTAPHON NARKPHANIT | ACTING DEFENCE MINISTER, THAILAND

SHORT TAKES

Sudanese airstrike hits Darfur airport

Cairo: A Sudanese airstrike hit an airport in the country's Darfur region controlled by a notorious paramilitary group, destroying a suspected Emirati military aircraft and killing dozens of suspected mercenaries, Sudanese officials and a rebel adviser said Thursday. Wednesday's strike on the Nyala airport killed at least 40 suspected mercenaries from Colombia and destroyed a shipment of arms and equipment that were sent by the United Arab Emirates to the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, according to two Sudanese military officials and an adviser to a Darfur rebel leader allied with RSF. Sudan plunged into chaos when simmering tensions between the military and RSF exploded into fighting in April 2023 in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

Germany's top court limits spy software use

Berlin: Germany's top court ruled Thursday that law enforcement officials can use secretly installed spy software to monitor phones and computers only in cases that involve serious crimes. German digital rights group Digitalcourage had complained that a 2017 reform allowing police to monitor encrypted chats or messaging services like WhatsApp in certain circumstance with spy software could also affect people who were not suspects. The 2017 reform to the criminal procedure code left the areas where surveillance would be used to open, said the court. According to the court, such surveillance is considered serious interference and thus can only be used for looking into especially heinous crimes.

Paris office of Israeli airline El Al vandalised

Paris: Israeli airline El Al said on Thursday that its Paris office was vandalised with anti-Israel graffiti, calling the act a "deeply disturbing" incident as tensions between France and Israel run high. The graffiti was discovered Thursday morning. El Al said the offices were unoccupied at the time of the incident and no one was harmed. Photos shared on social media showed red spray paint across the glass doors and walls, including the phrase "El Al genocide airline." The airline said it was handling the matter with the "utmost gravity" and working "in close coordination" with authorities in France and Israel."



If it is not genocide, it looks very much like the definition used to express its meaning. What we are seeing is a concrete population being targeted, killed and condemned to starve to death

TERESA RIBERA | FIRST EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRUMP-PUTIN MEET ON CARDS

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he hopes to meet next week with US President Donald Trump, possibly in the United Arab Emirates. The news came on the eve of a White House deadline for Moscow to show progress toward ending the 3-year-old war in Ukraine



6-yr-old Indian-origin girl targeted in Ireland racist attack

Indian community groups in Ireland express concerns at the lack of arrests following a recent spate of attacks on people of Indian heritage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 7: An Indian-origin nurse who has been working in Ireland for eight years is distraught after her six-year-old daughter was attacked by a group of boys while she played outside her home in the city of Waterford. Anupa Achuthan, originally

from Kerala and now an Irish citizen, says her Ireland-born daughter Nia Naveen was assaulted and told to "go back to India" in an attack earlier this week.

It comes as Irish Police (Garda) said investigations are ongoing into the incident as well as an Indian-origin hotel worker targeted in a violent robbery in the capital Dublin.

"One of her friends said a gang of boys older than them hit her on the private parts with a cycle, and five of them punched her on her face... They said the F word and 'Dirty Indian, go back to India'," Achuthan told the 'Irish Mirror', recounting the attack which occurred on Monday evening.

Her daughter later told her that the boys, aged between eight and 14, punched her neck



and twisted her hair.

"I feel so sad for her. I could not protect her. I never expected that such an incident would happen. I thought she would be safe here," said Achuthan.

The nurse had moved from Dublin to a new Waterford home with her husband, daughter and 10-month-old boy earlier

this year.

"Gardaí responded to report of an alleged assault in the Kilbarry area of Waterford city on the evening of Monday 4th August 2025. Investigations are ongoing," the local police said in a statement.

On Wednesday morning, an Indian-origin man employed at

I love Ireland, I'm proud of our culture... But over the last few years, I'm seeing a side of us that I don't like... that racist attacks are on the rise, that friends of mine who have darker skin are afraid to walk alone

JENNIFER WHITMORE | SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, IRELAND

a hotel in Dublin was attacked by three suspects. His phone and electric bike were stolen. He was taken to the city's St Vincent's University Hospital with injuries sustained in the attack.

Earlier, violent assaults involving Lakhvir Singh, a taxi driver in his 40s, and entrepreneur and AI expert Dr Santosh Yadav followed an Indian Embassy advisory urging Indian citizens to take safety precautions.

"There has been an increase

in the instances of physical attacks reported against Indian citizens in Ireland recently. The embassy is in touch with the authorities concerned in Ireland in this regard. At the same time, all Indian citizens in Ireland are advised to take reasonable precautions for their personal security and avoid deserted areas, especially in odd hours," reads the advisory. It came in the wake of a brutal attack on a 40-year-old Indian man at Parkhill Road in the Tallaght suburb of Dublin July 19, described as "mindless, racist violence" by locals.

"The people of Ireland stand with the Indian community and will continue to stand firmly against racism in all its forms," the Irish Embassy in New Delhi said in a social media statement this week.

12K kids under five in Gaza face malnutrition



REUTERS

Geneva, August 7: Around 12,000 children aged under five in Gaza are suffering from acute malnutrition, and hunger-related deaths are rising, the Director General of the World Health Organization said Thursday.

"In July, nearly 12,000 children under five years were identified as having acute malnutrition in Gaza, the highest monthly figure ever recorded," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at his organisation's headquarters in Geneva.

At least 99 people have died, including 64 adults and 35 children, of whom 29 were younger than five, from the start of this year to July 29.

Between June and July, the number of admissions for malnutrition almost doubled - from 6,344 to 11,877 - according to the latest UNICEF figures available.

Some 2,500 of those children are suffering from severe malnutrition.

Tedros called for greater volumes of sustained aid, via all possible routes.

The WHO said it was sup-

HUNGER CRISIS

At least 99 people have died, including 64 adults and 35 children, of whom 29 were younger than five, from the start of this year to July 29

Between June and July, the number of admissions for malnutrition almost doubled - from 6,344 to 11,877

Some 2,500 of those children are suffering from severe malnutrition

porting Gaza's four malnutrition centres, but that supplies of baby formula and nutritional foods were very low.

A global hunger monitor has said a famine scenario is unfolding in the Gaza Strip, with starvation spreading, children dying of hunger-related causes and humanitarian access to the embattled enclave severely restricted.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said food consumption across Gaza had declined to its lowest level since the onset of the war.

Shoigu meets Doval, says Moscow committed to active cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, August 7: Russia is committed to further active cooperation with India to form a more just and sustainable world order and ensure the supremacy of international law, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu said Thursday as he met NSA Ajit Doval here.

Doval arrived here Wednesday to hold crucial talks on bilateral energy and defence ties and to prepare the ground for President Vladimir Putin's visit to India later this year.

His visit commenced on a day when US President Donald Trump issued an executive order slapping an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods as a penalty for buying Russian oil, doubling it to 50 per cent.

During his meeting with Doval, Shoigu said Russia and India are linked by "strong, time-tested ties of friendship."

"A multi-level trust-based political dialogue is effectively functioning between our countries now. It is based on regular contacts between President Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is important to



determine the dates for the next full-scale negotiations between our leaders," he was quoted as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.

On November 19, 2024, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Putin would visit India.

Shoigu said that for Moscow, the most important thing is to comprehensively strengthen the special privileged strategic partnership with India, which is based on "mutual respect, trust, equal consideration of each other's interests, and the desire to promote a unifying agenda."

"We are committed to further active cooperation to form a new, more just and sustainable

world order, ensure the rule of international law and jointly combat modern challenges and threats," Shoigu said.

Doval expressed hope that the summit meeting would provide new directions for the development of bilateral relations and produce a "tangible and substantial" result of the talks, TASS reported.

According to local reports, Doval is likely to meet top Russian officials to discuss defence and economic cooperation.

Besides India, Russia is also expected to brief China in detail as the two of its closest partners have become the target of Western attacks for buying oil from Moscow.

Trump tariffs spark defiance



- Higher tariffs likely to impact global supply chains and inflation
- Several major trading partners secure reduced tariff rates
- Tariffs increase US federal revenues, further sectoral duties possible
- Switzerland, South Africa, Brazil and India still seeking better terms
- India's Modi and Brazil's Lula adopt defiant stances

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY, WILL START FLOWING INTO THE USA," Trump said on Truth Social just ahead of the tariff deadline.

Tariffs are ultimately paid by companies importing the goods, and passed on in full or in part to consumers of end products.

Trump's top trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer, said the US was working to reverse decades of policies that had weakened US manufacturing capacity and workforce, and that many other countries shared concerns about macroeconomic imbalance.

UK detains first migrants under small boats plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 7: British border authorities have detained the first group of migrants under a pilot plan that will send some who cross the English Channel on small boats back to France.

The migrants were detained, the day the program came into force, and will be held at immigration removal centers until they are returned to France, the Home Office said.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron announced the deal last month as the UK government struggles to tamp down criticism that it has lost control of the country's borders.

While the pilot involves a limited number of people, UK officials suggest the deal is a major breakthrough because it sets a precedent that migrants who reach Britain illegally can be returned to France.

Critics say the program will do little to deter migrants because the numbers returned to France are small and loopholes in the treaty will allow many people who enter Britain illegally to remain in the country as they pursue human rights claims.

es. "The rules of international trade cannot be a suicide pact," he wrote in a column published by the New York Times.

"By imposing tariffs to rebalance the trade deficit and negotiating significant reforms that form the basis of a new international system, the United States has shown bold leadership," Greer said.

Eight major trading partners accounting for about 40% of US trade flows have reached framework deals for trade and investment concessions to Trump, including the European Union, Japan and South Korea, reducing their base tariff rates to 15%.

Britain won a 10% rate, while Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines secured rate reductions to 19% or 20%.

"There'll be some supply chain rearrangement. There'll be a new equilibrium. Prices here will go up, but it'll take a while for that to show up in a major way," said William Reinisch, a senior fellow and trade expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

France's largest wildfire in decades leaves trail of ruin



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villeroque La Cremade, August 7: France's largest wildfire in decades burnt at a slower pace Thursday after covering more than 160 square kilometres in the south of the country and claiming one life, local authorities said.

The blaze, which started Tuesday and tore through the Corbieres massif in the Aude region, has remained uncontained despite the deployment of over 2,100 firefighters and several water bomber aircraft.

The fire's rapid spread was fuelled by weeks of hot, dry weather, though cooler temperatures and calmer winds overnight helped slightly ease the situation. Although the

wind picked up later, firefighters remained hopeful they could contain the fire by the end of Thursday.

The fire has swept through 15 communes in the Corbieres massif, destroying or damaging at least 36 homes, with a full damage assessment still underway. One person died in their home, and at least 13 others were injured, including 11 firefighters, according to local authorities.

The blaze is the most significant France has faced since 1949, according to Agnes Pannier-Runacher, France's minister for ecological transition.

This week's fire was the biggest since the creation of a national fire database in 2006, according to the national emergency service.

of the day

Quote

Steel Exchange India announces a strategic non-binding collaboration with Vizag Profiles Logistics (VPL) and Hind Terminals (HTPL) to explore the development of a General Cargo Terminal and a Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Vizag

SURESH KUMAR BANDI | JOINT MD, SEIL

IREDA's loan book reached ₹79,941 crore in the first quarter of FY2025-26, growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 29 per cent since 2020-21

PRADIP KUMAR DAS | CHAIRMAN, IREDA

Rolls-Royce is exploring potential opportunities for setting up maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capability in India for the AE2100 engine operated by the IAF to support and sustain the fleet, aligned with India-UK FTA

ABHISHEK SINGH | SENIOR VP - DEFENCE (INDIA), ROLLS-ROYCE

SHORT TAKES

LIC profit rises

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Thursday reported a 5 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹10,987 crore in the June quarter of FY2026. The state-owned life insurance behemoth had earned a net profit of ₹10,461 crore in the first quarter a year ago. The total income increased to ₹22,826 crore during the latest June quarter against ₹21,010 crore in the year-ago period, LIC said in a regulatory filing. The insurer earned ₹59,885 crore from renewal premiums from ₹56,429 crore in FY25.

Intel's stock tumbles

Washington: Shares of Intel slumped Thursday after President Donald Trump said in a social media post that the chipmaker's CEO needs to resign. Trump made the post after Senator Tom Cotton sent a letter to Intel Chairman Frank Yeary expressing concern over CEO Lip-Bu Tan's investments and ties to semiconductor firms that are reportedly linked to the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army. Shares of the California Company slid three per cent, while markets, particularly the tech-heavy Nasdaq, gained ground.

Transrail profit doubles

New Delhi: Transrail Lighting has said its net profit more than doubled to ₹106 crore in the June quarter of FY26. Transrail had logged a net profit (profit after tax) of ₹52 crore in the April-June period of preceding 2024-25, the company said in a statement Wednesday. In the first quarter, the company said its revenues surged 81 per cent to ₹1,660 crore from ₹916 crore in the same period a year ago.

Kalyan Jewellers PAT rises

Mumbai: Jewellery retailer Kalyan Jewellers Thursday reported a 48.73 per cent growth in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹264.08 crore during the quarter ended June 30. The company's PAT stood at ₹177.55 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, company said in a regulatory filing.

HPCL profit soars

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Thursday reported an over six-fold jump in its first quarter net profit. Its consolidated net profit of Rs 4,110.93 crore in April-June - the first quarter of the 2025-26 fiscal year.



India faces stiff competition from Canada (16.16 per cent share, zero tariffs under USMCA and Chile (15.02 per cent share, 10 per cent tariff). With such high duties, Indian shrimps risk losing significant ground to lower-taxed competitors like Chile

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | GTRI FOUNDER

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK GETS RBI NOD

The Reserve Bank Thursday said it has decided to grant 'in-principle' approval to AU Small Finance Bank Limited for transition into a universal bank. After getting the SFB licence in 2015, AU Financiers commenced its journey as a small finance bank in April 2017. AUSFB has a network of over 2,505 banking touchpoints across 21 states and 4 Union Territories. It has a customer base of over 1.15 crore and a workforce of more than 53,000 at end-June 2025



Gold @ ₹1,02,260/10gms

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity rallied by ₹3,600 to hit a lifetime high; silver prices jumped ₹1,500 to ₹1,14,000 per kilogram (Inclusive of all taxes)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Gold prices rallied ₹3,600 to hit a record high of ₹1,02,620 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday as investors turned to safe-haven assets after the US administration announced a 25 per cent additional tariff on Indian imports.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹99,020 per 10 grams Wednesday.

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity rallied by ₹3,600 to hit a lifetime high of ₹1,02,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Thursday. It had settled at ₹98,600 per 10 grams in



the previous market close.

"Gold prices have risen to the upper end of the weekly range Thursday, driven by renewed trade concerns that have increased demand for traditional safe-haven assets.

"Additionally, the US administration imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports, intensifying the trade tensions between the two economies," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Also, silver prices jumped ₹1,500 to ₹1,14,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes)

Thursday. The white metal had ended at ₹1,12,500 per kg Wednesday, according to the association.

On the MCX, the most traded precious metal futures for October contracts climbed ₹893 or 0.88 per cent to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,02,155 per 10 grams, during the day.

Subsequently, the December contracts appreciated by ₹880 or 0.86 per cent to hit a lifetime high of ₹1,03,047 per 10 grams on the bourse.

In addition, silver contracts for September delivery increased ₹1,503 or 1.32 per cent to ₹1,15,158

Ant Fin makes partial exit from Eternal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Chinese billionaire Jack Ma-owned Ant Financial Thursday made a partial exit by divesting a 1.46 per cent stake in Eternal, the parent company of Zomato and Blinkit brands, for Rs 4,097 crore through open market transactions.

The stake sale comes days after Ant Financial exited One97 Communications, the parent

company of Paytm, by selling its entire 5.84 per cent stake for Rs 3,980 crore through open market transactions.

Ant Group through its arm Antfin Singapore Holding Pte Ltd sold a little over 14.13 crore equity shares or a 1.46 per cent stake in Gurugram-based Eternal, as per the bulk deal data on the NSE. Ant Group, formerly known as Ant Financial, is an affiliate company of the Chinese conglomerate Ali-

baba Group. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 289.91 a piece, taking the deal value to Rs 4,096.75 crore.

After the latest transaction, Antfin's holding in Eternal has come down to 0.49 per cent stake from 1.95 per cent. Details of the buyers of Eternal's shares could not be ascertained on the exchange.

Shares of Eternal rose 1.46 per cent to close at Rs 303.20 apiece on the National Stock

Exchange (NSE). Last month, food delivery and quick commerce firm Eternal reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 25 crore for the first quarter.

In August last year, Antfin Singapore Holding sold a little over 2 per cent stake in Zomato for Rs 4,771 crore. In 2023, Alipay Singapore holding, an arm of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, divested its entire 3.44 per cent holding in Zomato for Rs 3,337 crore.

BIZ BUZZ

Skoda Auto India expands with two new touchpoints

Bhubaneswar: Skoda Auto India has increased its footprint in eastern India by inaugurating two new touchpoints in Patia, Bhubaneswar. Operated by Empreo Allied Private Limited. The newly launched showroom spans 4,250 sq ft and accommodates up to six display vehicles. Complementing it is a 21,000 sq ft service and spares facility equipped with 15 service bays. Both outlets are built on Skoda's Modern Solid design philosophy, focusing on customer comfort and efficient service delivery. "With over 300 customer touchpoints now across 176 cities, our expansion into Bhubaneswar is another major step in our customer-centric growth journey," said Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India. "Odisha, especially Bhubaneswar, holds immense potential. These new touchpoints will deliver a premium and value-driven Skoda ownership experience, backed by world-class infrastructure." Abinash Samal, dealer of Empreo allied pvt ltd said, "Skoda is renowned for its engineering excellence and customer-first approach. We are proud to contribute to the brand's 25-year journey in India. These new facilities will help us deliver a seamless and premium experience to customers in the region," he said.

Shaifalika Panda wins Shakti Award at 'We Women Want Conclave 2025'

New Delhi: Shaifalika Panda, the Founder and CEO of Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation, IMFA's CSR wing, won the prestigious Shakti Award at the 'We Women Want Conclave 2025', hosted by NewsX in New Delhi. The panel "Bringing Up Girls", focused on creating social structures and support systems for girls to thrive in a complex and often unequal social landscape. Shaifalika joined thought leaders including Sara Abdullah Pilot (Co-Founder and Chairperson, CEQUIN), Charu Narang Singh (Board Member, Kisan Trust), and Radhika Bharat Ram (Joint Vice-Chairperson, The Shri Ram Schools), as a speaker in this discussion. The panel was moderated by Priya Sehgal, Editorial Director, News X. In the session, Shaifalika emphasised the importance of confronting deeply rooted gender norms and systemic inequities, particularly in rural contexts where girls' aspirations are often curtailed by circumstance. This year's We Women Want Conclave & Shakti Awards 2025 edition featured keynote addresses by Shashi Tharoor and Union Minister Gajendra Sekhawat, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and many celebrities like Ekta Kapoor, Dia Mirza, Shabana Azmi and so on.

TVS launches 2025 Apache RTR 310

Bhubaneswar: TVS has launched the 2025 Apache RTR 310 at 3S TVS, Patia Bhubaneswar, Thursday , a feature-packed streetfighter blending advanced tech, track-inspired performance, and aggressive design, starting at ₹2.40 lakh (ex-showroom). The motorcycle will be offered in five variants, including three BTO (Built-to-order) custom options. The new features include a Gen-2 cluster with a multi-language UI, USD (upside- down) 43 mm front suspension on the base variant, sequential turn signal lamps with revised styling, hand guards, Drag Torque Control (DTC), launch control via RT-DSC system with dynamic pro kit, and three new colour options with refreshed graphics. Deepak Kumar Mohapatra (ASM); Vikas Kumar Sinha (TSM); Prateek Sanu Brand Head; Pramod Kumar Patra (owner) were present on the unveil occasion.

Guidelines for inspection of depository participants, brokers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Markets regulator Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Thursday mandated a unified annual inspection for stock brokers and depository participants to be conducted jointly by all relevant market infrastructure institutions, replacing the existing practice of separate assessments by each entity.

The move aims to reduce repeated visits, saving time and resources for intermediaries.

Presently, annual inspections of stock brokers and depository participants (DPs) are conducted separately by each of the market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) -- stock exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations.

This practice placed an undue burden on intermediaries due to repeated inspection visits by different MIIs, leading to excessive diversion of resources and disruptions in the routine operations of these entities, SEBI said in its circular.

Accordingly, the regulator said, "Entities selected for annual inspections shall be inspected for all segments jointly by all stock exchanges, along with their depository partic-

Guidelines issued by the Security Exchange Board of India mandates a unified annual inspection to reduce repeated visits and resources for intermediaries

ipant (DP) operations (if the broker is also registered as a DP) and clearing activity (if the broker undertakes clearing for other brokers)".

"DP operations and clearing activities carried out by such entities shall be inspected by the depositories and clearing corporations, respectively," it added.

If a broker is also a DP or undertakes clearing activities, all these operations will be inspected jointly.

SEBI asked MIIs to establish a mechanism to share inspection findings with one another for brokers or DPs holding multiple registrations.

The regulator has revised criteria for annual inspection of entities, whereby the top 25 entities that have paid

high and recurring penalties for non-reporting or short reporting of margin, client code modification, or other similar high-risk compliance issues will be inspected regardless of their last inspection date.

Similarly, the top 25 entities with the highest number of investor complaints and arbitration cases as a percentage of active clients, and the top 25 entities identified as high risk under risk-based supervision, will also be inspected, irrespective of when they were last inspected.

Further, entities not falling under these categories will be inspected at least once every three years.

However, entities already inspected in the last two years by SEBI, or those that have not executed a single trade in the past two financial years, may be excluded. Inspections of professional clearing members will be conducted jointly by clearing corporations once every two years.

SEBI also said MIIs retain the right to conduct special or limited inspections based on specific triggers, such as investor complaints or regulatory alerts, regardless of past inspections.

AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES DIP 4% YOY IN JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Domestic automobile retail sales declined 4 per cent year-on-year in July amid drop in demand for passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, dealers' body FADA said Thursday.

Overall registrations dropped to 19,64,213 units last month, as compared to 20,52,759 units in July 2024.

The pullback largely stems from a high-base effect in July 2024, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.

Passenger vehicle sales

declined marginally year-on-year to 3,28,613 units in July, as against 3,31,280 units in the same month last year.

FADA noted that while auspicious delivery days, plus targeted schemes and rural marketing, drove hinterland volumes; urban demand stayed muted due to restrained customer sentiment.

With inventory levels steady at around 55 days, calibrated discounting, streamlined finance facilitation and intensified urban outreach will be crucial for sustaining festive-season growth, it added.

Two-wheeler registrations



saw a decline of 6 per cent year-on-year to 13,55,504 units

in July as crop-sowing activities and prolonged heavy rains

dampened rural footfalls more sharply than urban demand.

Dealers are nevertheless confident of a post-monsoon uptick, with several purchase decisions deferred to August ahead of the festive season - making strategic stock alignment and focused rural -- urban engagement imperative for reviving momentum, FADA stated.

Commercial vehicle retail sales grew marginally to 76,439 units last month, as compared to 76,261 units in the year-ago period. The growth in the segment was led by the urban momentum, FADA said.

Dealers cited new-model

launches, aggressive marketing support, bulk institutional orders and timely stock availability as key drivers, alongside targeted schemes that bolstered school-bus volumes.

In contrast, rural haulage demand remained fragmented amid heavy rainfall, seasonal softness in cement, coal and construction logistics, and slower financier disbursements, prompting many buyers to defer purchases to the post-monsoon period, it added.

Tractor registrations saw a robust sales growth of 11 per cent year-on-year to 88,722 units in July.

Super Cup in Sept, ISL still in limbo

ISL clubs have suspended their first-team operations for an indefinite period after the 2025-26 season had been put on hold by its organisers, due to the unresolved status of the Master Rights Agreement with the AIFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Thursday proposed that the Super Cup be held from the second or third week of September to ensure the ISL clubs get sufficient number of competitive matches though doubts remain over the start date and format of the top-tier league this season.

The AIFF made the proposal during a meeting with representatives of all the Indian Super League clubs, who have, in a letter, expressed their concerns after the upcoming season of ISL was put on hold due to uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the league organisers and the national federation.

"AIFF proposes that the Super Cup to start from second or third week of September to ensure the ISL clubs get enough competitive matches. Then the ISL can follow. This will allow all clubs to end 2025-26 season by May 31, 2026, preserving India's AFC competition eligibility," said AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey at a press conference.

The clubs have been investing huge. They collectively contributed a lot on several areas, including infrastructure development. So we must ensure that the ISL takes place. Super Cup and ISL both will take place, we will just work on the time and the structure

KALYAN CHAUBEY | PRESIDENT, AIFF



"The AIFF and all the 13 ISL clubs collectively took the decision in national interest. We will meet again in 7 to 10 days and take a final decision on the date of kick-off of Super Cup.

"There was a lot of uncertainty among fans whether football will take place or will be stopped. We told the clubs that we understand their current situation. But, whatever the situation may be, the game must not be stopped. Football must go on."

Chaubey said some teams would need six to eight weeks to complete their pre-season training and bring back their players. The transfer window also closes August 31, and these will be taken into account while deciding the Super Cup dates.

It is, however, learnt that not all the clubs have given commitment to Super Cup. At least two of them are learnt to have pressed for clarity on the



Two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC Wednesday announced a temporary suspension of operations for their first-team players and staff, citing the ongoing uncertainty over the league's future. Earlier, Bengaluru FC and Odisha FC have suspended salaries of first team players and staff

start date of the ISL before they commit to the Super Cup.

"I don't think we have had time to actually sit down and digest all the information. You will have to give us a little bit of time because you can't just press a button and then things fall into place," said FC Goa CEO Ravi Puskur.

"It takes a lot of coordination, logistic work that needs to happen. Once we have some clarity on that, we will come back collectively again to discuss it and we can give clarity on dates (of Super Cup) and how that will work for us. But yes, ultimately we are all here because we want the game to continue."

Another club official PTI spoke to also said that the Super Cup "is still up in the air" and no final decision has been taken on that tournament.

NorthEast United CEO Madar Tamhane said he has "nothing more to add than what the AIFF president has said."

Representatives of Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal and Odisha FC joined the meeting virtually. Representatives of all the other 10 ISL clubs, as well as of organisers FSDL, attended the meeting in person, in the national capital. But only the CEOs of NorthEast United and FC Goa were present at the press conference.

"We are hoping to have ISL this season though it may be a bit late. We can do it with certain changes, may be in format or other things to save costs for the clubs. But that will be decided later, no decision on those things yet," Chaubey said on the uncertainty surrounding the ISL.

Super Cup is normally held at the end of the season but under the circumstances, it is likely to kick off the domestic season this time. This will be held after the national team's campaign in the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan and Uzbeki-

stan from August 29.

India's last group match in CAFA Nations Cup is on September 4 while the final -- should the Blue Tigers make it -- will be played September 8.

India play Singapore in AFC Asian Cup qualification round on October 9 and 14, and the Super Cup is likely to end before these national team fixtures. Last season's (2024-25) Super Cup was held in Bhubaneswar from April 20 to May 3 this year.

ISL, the country's top-tier league normally runs from September to April, and the current MRA between Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which organises the event, and the AIFF is scheduled to expire on December 8, 2025, by which the ISL would have entered its third month.

On July 11, ISL organisers FSDL announced that it has put the 2025-26 season "on hold" due to the uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the MRA signed with the AIFF in 2010.

Following a directive from the Supreme Court, the AIFF has been asked not to negotiate new terms of the MRA (with FSDL) until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.

2025 WORLD GAMES India's mixed team tops compound qualification

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chengdu (China), August 7: India's compound archery mixed team of Madhura Dhama-mangaonkar and veteran Abhishek Verma topped the qualification to be seeded first at the World Games here Thursday.

Madhura, who was the winner of the World Cup stage in Shanghai earlier this year, was leading the women's field for much of the afternoon but fell away in the last couple of ends to be placed third in the women's individual section, while Abhishek was placed fifth in the men's individual.

However, Madhura's third-place score of 705, along with Abhishek's fifth place (710), puts India in pole position (with 1415) of the eight teams in the mixed team competition on Friday, where they will face a young Korean pair, Moon Yeeun and Lee Eunho, in the first round.

Another Indian, Parneet Kaur, placed 12th in the individual qualification and will face South African archer Jeanine Van Kradenburg, who finished 21st in the qualification.

In the men's individual,

Rishabh Yadav (707) and Rakesh Kumar (699) placed 10th and 19th, respectively. Rishabh will begin the main round against America's Riku Van Tonder, while Rakesh will kickstart against Batuhan Akcaoglu of Turkey.

Elsewhere, Mike Schloesser and Andrea Becerra have seeded at the top of the men's and women's fields.

Schloesser, who is looking for his first World Games title and after an up-and-down season during which he became a father for the first time, scored 715 with 43x. Despite winning every major title available -- some of them several times -- this is Schloesser's third attempt at an elusive World Games gold medal. Last time out, at Birmingham 2022, he was beaten by Abhishek Verma in the quarterfinals.

Mexico's Andrea ended on top of the women's list with 706 with 27x, just ahead of the USA's Alexis Ruiz in second and India's Madhura in third.

However, defending champion Ella Gibson did not have a good session, finishing in ninth spot with 699. The placing means she will have to shoot an extra match tomorrow against Namibia's Elisabeth Taljaard.



SHORT TAKES

US Open announces record prize money

New York: The US Open announced \$90 million in prize money will be on offer at this year's final major, marking the largest purse in tennis history, up 20% from 2024. Top players in the ATP and WTA called for more equitable distribution of revenue at the four Grand Slams this year, as those at the top of the game are able to benefit from increased prize money while players at the lower levels often struggle. The US Open prize pool is up from \$75 million in 2024, the previous highest-ever purse. Men's and women's singles winners will earn \$5 million each, up from \$3.6 million last year.

Gill to lead North Zone

New Delhi: Indian Test skipper Shubman Gill was Thursday named captain of the North Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, beginning August 28, less than three weeks after he led a young side to a thrilling 2-2 draw against England in a gruelling five-Test series. The 24-year-old opener, who took over Test captaincy following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin, was one of the standout performers on the England tour. Gill led from the front, amassing 754 runs in the series -- the second-highest by an Indian in a single Test series after Sunil Gavaskar's 774 in the 1971 tour of the West Indies -- as India levelled the series 2-2 for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

Son's record MLS deal

Los Angeles: South Korean forward Son Heung-min said he is "here to win" after he joined Los Angeles FC for a record Major League Soccer transfer fee, ending a decade-long stint at Tottenham Hotspur. Son was introduced at LAFC's BMO Stadium Wednesday, where he was greeted by Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass and city officials amid chants and drumming from supporters' group 3252. "What can I say, dream come true. LA, what a city," Son told reporters at his unveiling. Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed by either club but the Athletic reported LAFC paid a fee in the region of \$26.5 million for the 33-year-old.

Lovlina accuses BFI official of disrespectful behaviour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning boxer Lovlina Borgohain's allegations of "disrespectful and gender-discriminatory behaviour" against national federation's executive director Col Arun Malik are being investigated and a report would be submitted soon, a Sports Authority of India (SAI) official has said.

In a formal complaint addressed to Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Sports Authority of India (SAI) Director General, the TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) division, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), Lovlina alleged that Malik humiliated her and undermined her achievements during a Zoom meeting July 8, which was attended by SAI and TOPS officials.

On the call Lovlina requested that her personal coach, who was also present in the online meeting, be allowed in the national camp, something that goes against the BFI policy. She also wanted the coach to be allowed to travel with her



to train in Europe. According to Lovlina, Malik responded aggressively and spoke to her in a demeaning manner.

"He blatantly told me to 'shut up, lower your head and do as we say.' His words were not only disrespectful but also carried an alarming tone of gender-discriminatory and authoritarian dominance -- something that no one, especially a woman who has brought honour to the nation, should be subjected to," Lovlina stated in her complaint.

"I was made to feel small, unheard, and powerless. It was not just a personal insult -- it was an attack on every woman athlete who dreams of standing tall, both in and outside the ring," Lovlina stated in her complaint.

WFI cracks down on age cheats

11 WRESTLERS SUSPENDED FOR SUBMITTING FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has suspended 11 grapplers for submitting fake birth certificates after the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) verified 110 such documents and maintained that there was no lapse on its part as 95 delayed registrations were done only on the orders of the SDM.

The sport of wrestling has been grappling with two major issues: Overage wrestlers competing in lower age-group competitions and many trying to represent a state different from their domicile after procuring fake birth certificates.

In some cases, the certificates have been issued as late as 12-15 years after the birth of the child. Suspecting foul play, WFI provided the MCD with a list of certificates for verification.

The MCD upon verification replied to WFI that it indeed issued birth certificates but maintained that the delayed registration (registration after one year of birth) is not done directly by it but under the orders of the SDM.



In several competitions, especially at the trials to pick the national junior teams, it is apparent that many wrestlers have entered lower age groups and hold an advantage over their genuine rivals.

Since Haryana is the hotbed of wrestling, the competition is very stiff and making the state team has become tougher by the day. Keen to make a career in wrestling, many athletes try to come through neighbouring state Delhi by procuring fake certificates.

The WFI noticed that though many wrestlers were originally from Haryana, they somehow managed to get birth certificates issued by the MCD, so that they

could enter the competitions through Delhi. Providing the status of certificates, a copy of which is with the PTI, the MCD replied that, "95 birth certificates have been issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi only after getting orders from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and there is no lapse on the part of the MCD."

The MCD in its reply also mentioned that 11 certificates are fake/photoshopped/edited and are not issued by it. The certificates belonged to Saksham, Manuj, Kavita, Anshu, Arush Rana, Shubham, Gautam, Jagrup Dhankar, Nakul, Dushyant, and Siddharth Baliyan.

Blue Tigresses rise to 63rd in FIFA rankings

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 7: The Indian women's football team has made a significant leap in the latest FIFA rankings, climbing seven spots to reach 63rd position following a landmark victory over Thailand.

The win not only boosted their global standing but also sealed a coveted spot in the AFC Women's Asian Cup, marking a historic qualification on merit.

This is India's highest ranking in nearly two years—the Blue Tigresses were last ranked 61st on August 21, 2023. The rise reflects a resurgence in form and confidence, capped by a gritty 2-1 triumph against a higher-ranked Thai side in the decisive final qualifier.

India's campaign in the qualifiers was nothing short of dominant. The team opened with a record-breaking 13-0 demolition of Mongolia, their biggest win in recent memory.

That momentum continued with a 4-0 rout of Timor-Leste and a 5-0 victory over Iraq, setting up a high-stakes finale against Thailand, with both teams tied on points.

IOA Athletes Commission unveils athlete-centric reforms

The Commission initiated groundwork for a robust safeguarding mechanism, aimed at protecting athletes' mental and physical well-being

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Athletes Commission took a major step toward athlete empowerment and welfare Thursday, conducting a crucial meeting that signalled the beginning of sweeping reforms focused on athlete voices, rights, and post-career development.

The meeting, held at the Olympic Bhawan in New Delhi, saw prominent athletes including Sharath Kamal, OP Kharana, Bhavani Devi, and Shiva Keshavan participate in person, while PV Sindhu, Rani Rampal, and Bajrang Lal joined

virtually. Olympic champions Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang also provided inputs.

In a statement, the IOA said the meeting marked "a significant milestone in the journey towards prioritising athlete welfare and perspectives."

Among the many resolutions passed, the Athletes Commission has decided to set up a dedicated Athletes Department within the IOA to streamline communication and address athlete concerns in a structured and professional manner. "This department will play a pivotal role in ensuring that athletes have a structured channel for feedback and support," the IOA said.



Another major highlight was the move to strengthen athlete representation across governance structures. The Commission will soon ask ev-

ery National Sports Federation (NSF) to share details of their respective Athletes Commission representatives.

"This will help build a com-

prehensive framework for gathering feedback from athletes across all sports disciplines," the IOA stated, "ensuring that athlete perspectives are officially presented in decision-making forums."

Safeguarding the rights of athletes also featured prominently in the discussions. The Commission initiated groundwork for a robust safeguarding mechanism, aimed at protecting athletes' mental and physical well-being.

Anti-doping education remains a key pillar of IOA's athlete development framework. The Athletes Commission will collaborate with the National

Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to bolster awareness and ensure compliance. "Education about anti-doping is critical in upholding fair play and the integrity of sport," said the IOA.

Importantly, the Commission also focused on life after sport. Plans were introduced for an athlete career pathway to assist retiring sportspersons in transitioning to roles in coaching, sports administration, and related fields.

"To demonstrate this commitment, the IOA will onboard two Olympian interns who will work directly with the Athletes Commission on its initiatives," the IOA announced.