#### 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



SC setback for

#### **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 cooperation in various fields, including an oil deal. He is exing into the country. pected 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.



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.

Maihi 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 tion in the fashion world of the country and abroad.

Dixit expressed admiration for Odisha's rich textile heritage, and emphasised the importance of preserving traditional crafts through platforms like 'EKTA'. "When I fire in the storeroom of his first draped a Bomkai saree, or ran my fingers across finely woven Sambalpuri 'ekat', I just did not feel the fabric, I felt the soul of the weaver, the rhythm of looms and legacy of generations speaking through silent patterns," she said. P3

## **Justice Varma** New Delhi, August 7: In a major blow to Allahabad

High Court judge Yashwant Varma, the Supreme Court Thursday dismissed his plea challenging the inhouse inquiry report that found him guilty in the cash-at-home scandal and recommendation of the then CJI Saniiv 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

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

and the in-house committee scrupulously followed procedure except for uploading of the video footage and the

photographs. "We have held that it was not required to do so (upload the photos and videos of the fire-fighting operation on the SC website) as per the procedure. But having said so, we have held that nothing turns on it, because at the opportune moment, you did not question it. And there is also no relief claimed in the writ petition in so far as the uploading is concerned," Justice Datta said.

The SC held that in-house procedure and the judges' committee appointed by the then CJI adhered to the stip-

ulated procedure and send ing 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 Jus tice 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.

## 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 flow-

"It's Midnight!!! Billions of Dollars In Tariffs Are Now Flowing Into The United rocal Tariff Rates', Trump had States Of America!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social as the clock struck 12 midnight in the US, ushering in imposed on India came into the August 7 date when the on nations by Trump last week come 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 after Trump issued an executive order listing the vari-



ous duties that Washington will impose on exports from countries around the world.

'Further Modifying The Recipannounced tariff rates for nearly 70 nations. The 25 per cent 'Reciprocal Tariff, Adjusted' effect Thursday. The tariffs reciprocal tariffs announced in the list ranged from 10 per cent to 40 per cent. In addition to the 25 per

cent tariff announced last week. Trump Wednesday imposed another 25 per cent levies on India for its purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total duties slapped on India to 50 per cent, among the highest imposed by the US on any country in the world.

The additional 25 per cent duty will come into effect after 21 days or August 27.

India, responding to the face tariffs of 25 per cent tariffs, said that the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable.

#### **PUTIN TO VISIT** INDIA: DOVAL

handloom will gain recogni-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

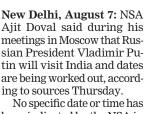
his engagements, they said. In the Executive Order titled it to Moscow, has said that the dates for President Putin's visit to India are being worked out," said a source.

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



been indicated by the NSA in "NSA Doval, during his vis-

sanctions on Moscow.



## Cockatoos can bust a move

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

various species of cockatoo - from headbanging to body "I showed that dancing tralia's Wagga Wagga Zoo.

behaviour is more common in cockatoos than previous- that cockatoos 'can expely thought, and was seen in rience pleasure and enjoy 10 of the 21 cockatoo

dancing', she species," said Lubke. Lubke Animal behaviour exthrough pert YouTube Freire, vidpervised

dance moves while studying document the dancing be-search, said it was a sign of 'well-developed cognitive haviours of pet cockatoos around the world, as well as and emotional processes observing the birds at Ausin parrots'. The study was published in peer-reviewed The research suggested 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.



## eisure



#### **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.

Authors of *Pratap* engage

readers at Walking BookFairs



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**

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

#### **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.

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

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 vou everywhere. Be it work or play, you have a tempo that is undiminished. It's oing to be a great day, says Ganesha, so ust go with the flow and smile your way through everything.

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.

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.

## **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 strug

gles. "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 specific

cident 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 be cause 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.



support Indian weavers by embracing handloom products, especially pure silks with the authentic Silk Mark Label. Balan en-

couraged 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.



er-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

Bhubaneswar: Journalists and fath-

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 vear-long ban just twelve days after its launch, repeated arrests of its editors, and even a parcel

Mahashay Krishan, through the steward-

ship of his son Virendra and grandson

bomb attack on its office in 1983 "An icon of Indian journalism, Pratap

is a reminder of the importance of speak ing truth. Its story deserves to be read by all," said one reader at the event.

Chander Mohan is a veteran journal ist 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

### Sonali talks about fast love

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre has opened up about the dramatic in relationships and society brought on by the inter-

> Reflecting the digital era, she noted how generational changes are now happening at a much faster pace, reshaping the wav people connect and interact. In an interthe news agency. Sonali Bendre about the

rapid

SUDOKU

6

4

2

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

formation she has witnessed when asked

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

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

6

3

9

3 2

6

1

3

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

8

9

6

4

8

5

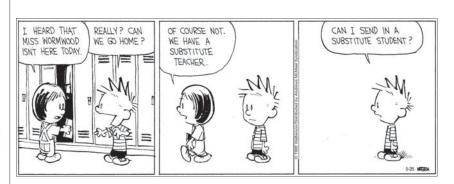
**SOLUTIONS** 

4

#### **PEANUTS**



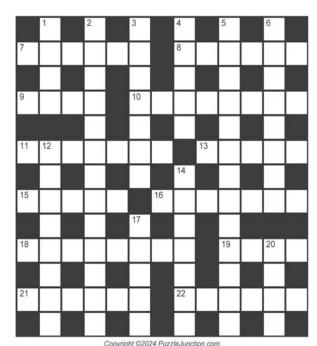
#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### BREVITY



#### POST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com 16 Italian rice

18 Hilo native

19 Savoir-faire

21 Gobble up

22 After black or

dish

Across

7 King Arthur's Round Table.

- 8 Troublemaker
- 9 Interrogate
- 10 Physician, to
- some
- 11 Cricket
- players
- 13 Strong point 15 Organ parts

- <u>Down</u>
  - 1 Bill of fare

rain

- 2 Some singing voices (5-8)

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

tamandua

(5,8)

6 Intense

3 Amazing

adventure

5 Vespa and

4 Shrimp relative

Lambretta, e.g.

- 12 Aardvark or
- 14 Indicate
- 17 Journal 20 Wine holder

#### E E R A O P S E V E R E B R A N C H A A L A R E P T I L I A N SHELLEY 3 4 7 2 5 6 9 8 1 6 8 5 9 4 3 1 2 7

> 9 1 6

5 7 8 3 2 4

4 3 6 1 8 9

SUDOKU

Cuttack: A Health department officer was arrested Thursday for allegedly sexually harassing a woman doctor and a pharmacist over several months at a government-run medical centre here, police said. The accused allegedly made lewd remarks, physically harassed the women and mentally tormented them despite repeated objections, Cuttack Sadar Police Station IIC, Om Prakash Mohanty, said. The woman pharmacist has also accused the health officer of persistently proposing

a romantic relationship and threatening them with transfers.

### 'Hati Sabha' launched in 10 conflict-hit dists



Hati Sabha' in progress at Guhalia village under Nilagiri sub-division of Balasore district, Thursday

owntown

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: In a pioneering step towards addressing the rising cases of human-elephant conflict in Odisha, 'Hati Sabha', a novel community interaction programme on elephant conservation, was launched Thursday across 10 most affected districts in the state. The initiative is jointly conducted by Bikash Saathi, Dharitri, Orissa POST and ASD Group to foster grassroots-level solutions by bridging communication between forest officials, local

The programme was ceremoni-

communities, and youth.

ously flagged off by Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, the publications' Chief Executive Advasha Satpathy, and Founder and Co-founder of Bikash Saathi Biswajeet Panda and Manaranjan Das, respectively. The inaugural session witnessed active coordination by Tushar Behera and Sai Priva Navak.

Held in Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Cuttack, Khurda, Ganjam and Kandhamal districts, the Sabha is designed to bring together community members and college students to discuss real-time challenges,

standing, promote peaceful cohabitation and integrate indigenous wisdom into conservation

Addressing the gathering, Tathagata Satpathy emphasised the major challenges contributing to human-elephant conflicts, including habitat loss, electrocution, rail hits, and plastic pollution, traces of which have even been found in

Adyasha Satpathy shared community perceptions collected from across the districts, underlining the importance of empathy and



threats, facts, and insights from Forest department. Gathering community perceptions and traditional knowledge on human-elephant coexistence, the initiative

ucated attendees on elephant behaviour, dos and don'ts during elephant depredation and the critical role pachyderms play as keystone species in forest regeneration.

#### **Ex-min Bibhuti Bhusan** Singh Mardaraj dies

Bhubaneswar: Former minister and ex-Deputy Speaker of Odisha Assembly, Bibhuti Bhusan Singh Mardaraj, died in the wee hours of Thursday, his family said. He was 70. He is survived by his wife Rani Devaki Devi Kumari, son Siddharth Shekhar Singh, also a former MLA, and daughter Rajkumari Aradhana. A member of the former royal family of Khandapada, Mardaraj breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a private hospital here around 12:30am. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed his condolences over Mardaraj's demise.

#### **HC: Take steps to** stop cow slaughter

Bhubaneswar: Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a voluntary organisation, the Orissa High Court Thursday directed the state government to take strict measures to prevent cow slaughter. The court directed the authorities to enforce stringent measures to curb such incidents. It also ordered strict implementation of the Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960. The petition was filed by the organisation Gau Gyan Foundation, highlighting some incidents of cow slaughter in Cuttack.

## ₹7,808Cr boost for state's textile sector

Bhubaneswar, August 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said that the state government has signed 33 agreements with an investment proposal of Rs 7.808 crore for the establishment of textile industries in the state. He said this while inaugurating the Exhibition-cum-Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage (EKTA) programme, marking the 11th National Handloom Day, at Janata Maidan here.

Highlighting the employment potential of the projects for which the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed, the CM said implementation of these agreements will create 53,300 job opportunities in the state's textile sector.

Stating that the state government is committed to providing infrastructure and institutional support to handloom sector, Majhi said Odisha has been developing

Handloom Day, 'Resha', and a short film on the handloom industry

ajhi also felicitated handloom weavers of the state

ttending the event as the chief Aguest, Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit said that she feels the heartbeat of the weavers

handloom parks with common facilities like dye houses, warehouses, design studios, and quality control laboratories in Bargarh and Cuttack districts.

Around 40 master weavers of Odisha have been given national awards for excellence and innovation, he said.

On the occasion, the CM released the mascot of Handloom Day, 'Resha', and a short film on the handloom industry. Maihi also felicitated the handloom weavers of the state. The handloom fair, which started Thursday, will continue till August 13.

Attending the event as the chief guest, Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit said that she feels the heartbeat of the weavers. "This industry is not just clothing, it is the identity of every Odia, and it is the Odia 'asmita' (pride)," said Dixit.

"Handloom is not just a livelihood, it is an integral part of our culture and our lifestyle," she said.

Odisha Handloom, Textiles and Handicrafts and Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta said that the state government has taken several steps to maintain the glorious tradition of the textile industry and transform it into a modern market-demand-driven

The progress of handloom artisans has been ensured through the Chief Minister's Handloom Worker Honour Scheme, Handloom Craftsmen Promotion Policy, and various industry fairs and grant schemes, the minister said.

#### **METTLE MEET 2025**

## National teams eye Mettle Meet glory

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

seventh edition of Odisha's premier quizzing extravaganza — Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2025 — is poised to scale new heights with the participation of top-tier national institutions for the first time. Scheduled for August 9 and 10, this year's event promises an elevated level of competition and national visibility.

Bhubaneswar, August 7: The

Four of the country's most pres $tigious\ institutions -- IIT\ Kharag$ pur, IIM Calcutta, NIT Raipur, and XLRI Jamshedpur — are set to lock horns with Odisha's best quizzers in what is expected to be the most competitive edition of the event yet.

Ahead of the big showdown, Orissa POST caught up with some of the participants from these national institutions to get a glimpse of their preparations and expectations.

Expressing his excitement about being part of Mettle Meet 2025, Sivadharshan S, a second-year MBA at IIM Calcutta,

are quite excited to participate in Mettle Meet for the first time. As a regular participant in quiz competitions across the country, I can confidently say that Mettle Meet quiz is at par with top national events — I've seen the previous editions on YouTube and was impressed with the stan-When asked about

going head-to-head with top institutions from Odisha, he added: "We have considerable experience in national-level quizzing, but I'm sure it will be a great challenge to compete with the best of Odisha. Our strategy is to stay confident, work as a team, and focus on speed and consensus while answering.'

Srishti Soni, a Business Management student specialising in Marketing at XLRI Jamshedpur, said, 'I heard about Mettle Meet from a friend who had pre-

viously participated and spoke very highly of the battle of wits. The event has an excellent reputation, particularly for the quality and level of its quiz questions."

On the nature of the competition, she said, "With top institutions from different streams participating,



A Quiz Extravaganza

our toughest competition will come from the engineering colleges, as they traditionally excel in quizzing. Our approach will be to capitalise on each team member's strengths and work together as a cohesive

Prabhat Sharma, a B Tech student in Electronics and Communication Engineering at NIT Raipur, expressed his eagerness for the event. "I'm really excited to be a part of this event and to meet Quizmaster Ajay Poonia — someone I've been

watching and admiring since

childhood," he said.

Speaking about the event's growing stature, he said "Mettle Meet is a fantastic example of how the culture of quizzing can be promoted. It brings together top institutions from across

the country and fosters a spirit of healthy competition. The questions are smartly framed and are a true test of your knowledge and reflexes.'

Revealing his team's tactical focus, Sharma said, "Our strategy will be to stay sharp and aim to be the quickest on the buzzer."

Pranjal Jharkharia, a B Sc student in Exploration Geophysics at IIT Kharagsaid, "Looking

at last year's Mettle Meet, it's highly competitive quiz event with an electric atmosphere.

Everyone who participates comes well-prepared, so it's both challenging as well as exciting to compete with top institutions from across the state.'

With participation from top institutions, an esteemed quizmaster at the helm, and an ever-increasing reputation for quality, Mettle Meet 2025 is shaping up to be a fiercely contested, intellectually rich event that continues to put Odisha on the national quizzing map.

### MoU signed to foster bioeconomy in state

Bhubaneswar: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Science and Technology (S&T) department and IIM, Sambalpur to develop Odisha's first 'Bio-Economy' report, assessing key strengths, challenges and growth opportunities at Kharvel Bhawan here, Thursday. Biotechnology has tremendous potential to contribute to the states' growth trajectory in the form of bio-economy fostering all possibilities in this sector. The MoU was signed between department's additional secretary Puja Mishra and IIM Director Mahadeo Jaiswal in the presence S&T Minister Krushna Chandra Patra and Principal Secretary Chithra Arumugam. The report will provide a strategic roadmap ensuring bioeconomic initiatives of the state align with national and global best practices while fostering a robust bioeconomy ecosystem. This report can be a benchmark for the future bioindustries to bringing economic growth in general.







- - Uganda Artifacts

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8 - 17 AUGUST 2025

**BIJU PATNAIK MULTIPURPOSE INDOOR** STADIUM, CAMPUS 13, KIIT UNIVERSITY, PATIA, BHUBANESHWAR













**IRAN CARPETS** 

LIVING ROOM SET . DINING SET . BEDROOM SET . HOME DECOR . BRASS & ARTIFACTS . OUTDOOR FURNITURE RECLINER SOFA SETS . CARPET & CUSHIONS . MASSAGE CHAIR . CURTAINS . WATER FOUNTAINS & MUCH MORE.

ads & events

#### **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 Universitv (RDWI) 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 Jagadananda 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) Chandi 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

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.

record purposes.

#### KENDRAPARA SELF-IMMOLATION

## **Terrible neglect by BJP govt: Naveen**

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-boy-

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 7: To

mark National Handloom Day,

Utkaliyas-a passionate collec-

tive of handloom saree enthusi-

asts-celebrated Odisha's rich

textile heritage with pride and

Padma Shri Aruna Mohanty,

renowned Odissi dancer, graced

the occasion as chief guest. In

her address, she highlighted

Odisha's age-old weaving tra-

ditions, describing them as a

symbolic cultural legacy that

beautifully blends handloom

Two promising young weav-

ers from Nuapatna were felici-

tated at the event. They shared

inspiring glimpses of their

with performing arts.

**Utkaliyas mark National** 

Handloom Day with pride

#### BJD CALLS FOR CB PROBE

leaders - Aul MLA Pratap Keshari Deb and Rainagar 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

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

weaving journeys, showcasing

how they have preserved the

ancestral craft with dedication

Around seventy Utkaliyas

members from across the state

proudly showcased an array of

Odisha's iconic weaves—from

Sambalpuri, Bomkai, Kotpad,

and Khandua to Gopalpur tus-

sar, Berhampuri, Khurda, and

contemporary designs. Each sa-

ree reflected the unique identi-

ty, craftsmanship, and cultural

richness of its weaving cluster.

Utkaliyas continues to inspire

vounger generations to embrace

India's handloom legacy—par-

ticularly the six-yard drape—as

a symbol of sustainable fashion

and cultural pride.

Through such initiatives,

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 simultane ously reducing the plastic burden on the environment.

#### surya Kanungo, saw particdiac ailments among locals, ipation from state president with several deaths already reported. Skin diseases are Nishikanta Mohapatra and also widespread, affecting other senior leaders, who demanded the immediate renearly every household in the

Health min reviews malaria

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.

urged officials to work in coother vector-borne diseases.

Minister Mahaling inquired



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 mea-

sures during the rainy season.

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.



AAP protests for Gadakana

location of the dumping yard

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 uni-

versities, many of whom are

AAP alleged that the tox-

ic environment has led to a

rise in respiratory and car-

frequently falling ill.

beyond the City limits.

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 vard located

near the school within the

Smart City and BMC limits.

The protest, led by Bhu-

baneswar president Jaya-

Reaffirming the government's commitment to tackling public health challenges, the Minister ordination to intensify efforts against malaria, dengue, and

about the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets



(LLINs) and the arrangements

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, ar 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







SPIDERMAN RAKHI

and ₹400. "The ₹50 rakhi is our bestseller—simple, beautiful, and affordable for every bud-

get," 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.

evil-eye rakhi, which is in high

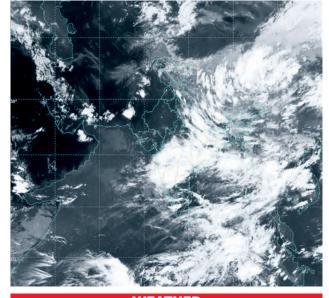
demand," he said. While many are attracted to colourful designs and novelty themes, others are choosing sustainable options. Gyanaranjan Das, Coordinator of Youth for Seva, Bhubaneswar Chapter, emphasised the importance of conscious celebration.

"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 usu ally 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.





WEATH	=IX	
BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
34.4°	32.4°	Generally cloudy
26.4°	24.8°	sky with one or two spells of rain
81%	87%	or thundershower
TRACE	Nil	
	<b>BBSR</b> 34.4° 26.4° 81%	34.4° 32.4° 26.4° 24.8° 81% 87%

#### **BOOKING STA**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

The latest trend is the modern

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

## Man killed, buried in forest over witchcraft suspicion; 8 detained

This is the second such incident reported from Mohana police limits over the past few days



Karunakar had prescribed

some medicines to a 12-year-old

boy, who was bitten by a dog.

However, the boy died a few

"Angry over the death of the

boy and a few similar cases that

took place recently, a group of

10 to 12 people beat Karunakar

to death and buried his body in a nearby jungle," the SP told

Though the villagers knew

"Karunakar's body was re-

about the incident, they did

not reveal it to anyone, he said.

covered from a forest Thurs-

day. We detained eight persons

and are currently interrogating

Notably, this was the second

Earlier, a 35-year-old man

Villagers allegedly stran-

was killed allegedly on suspi-

cion of practising witchcraft

gulated the man to death,

cut off his private parts and

dumped the body in the near-

by Harabhangi Dam. Police

recovered the body from the

reservoir Sunday and arrested

a few villagers in connection

at Malasapadar village.

such incident reported from

Mohana police limits over the

PTI over the phone.

them," he added.

past few days.

days later," Panda informed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohana/Bhubaneswar, August 7: A man was allegedly killed by a group of villagers and buried in a forest on suspicion of practising witchcraft in Gajapati district, police said Thursday.

The incident took place at Kusumpur village under Mohana police limits in the district on the night of July 28, police said, adding that the deceased, Karunakar Dalai, was working as a quack.

The matter came to light Wednesday after Karunakar's sister-in-law, Sabita, filed a complaint at Mohana police station.

"Around 6pm July 28, some people called him (Karunakar) and took him with them. The villagers held a meeting with him at the anganwadi kendra, following which he went missing. When I enquired, I was told that the villagers beat him," Sabita told reporters.

During preliminary investigation, it was found that Karunakar prescribed ayurvedic-like medicines to villagers, Gajapati SP Jatindra Kumar

"Around 15 to 20 days ago,

Bihar man held with 10 illegal firearms

been identified as Rajesh Sahu, 25, a native of Munger district of Bihar.

trafficking of arms and ammunition. When raided, the police apprehended

Rajesh near Gandhi road, Rourkela and also seized 10 firearms, six rounds of live ammunition from his possession, said Rourkela SP Nitesh Wadhwani He brought the firearms from other states for selling to local criminals

Wadhwani said. The prime accused of the racket was arrested while the nvestigation is on to nab other accused persons involved in the illegal

27 illegal arms seized, and 51 people were arrested," the SP added

3 sentenced to life in gangrape case

firearm trade, the SP said. "We had launched a special drive against illegal firearm trade October 2 last year, and so far, 13 cases have been registered

Baripada: The District and Sessions Court here in Mayurbhani district

Thursday found three accused in a gangrape case guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment. In addition to the life sentence, Judge

Sudipta Kumar Acharya imposed ₹20,000 penalty on each convict. Failure to pay the fine amount will result in an additional one year o

imprisonment, the judge ordered. The convicts have been identified as

Kahnu Marandi, Hrudananda Nayak, and Solo Hansdah - all residents of

Sialighati under the jurisdiction of Badasahi police station. According to case records, the incident took place August 24 in 2018. A mentally chal-

lenged woman from Maharashtra, who had gone missing, took shelter at the Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra in Sialighati. Taking advantage of the

darkness, the three accused raped her. Her cries for help were heard by students returning from tuition classes, who informed the villagers.

Local residents rushed to the scene, rescued the woman, and admitted

her to a nearby hospital. Following a complaint from the villagers, police

registered Case (124/18) and launched an investigation.

Man, his two lovers

held for killing wife

Berhampur: A 30-year-old man and his two

women lovers were arrested Thursday for

allegedly killing his wife in Ganjam district,

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 Shanta 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.

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 wager and his lovers

Rourkela: Rourkela police Thursday busted an interstate illegal firearm racket and arrested a man from Bihar for illegally possessing 10 firearms and six rounds of ammunition, an officer said. The accused has

He was arrested from Plantsite police station area, the officer said During patrolling, the police received reliable information about illegal

### Victim's body consigned to flames; ASI shifted over father's allegation

**KENDRAPARA SELF-IMMOLATION** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

August 7: The mortal remains of the 19-year-old female college student of Kendrapara were consigned to flames Thursday, as the police authorities transferred an ASI accused of refusing to register her FIR six months ago.

The woman, allegedly a victim of blackmail by her ex-boyfriend, set herself on fire and died in her house in Kendrapara Wednesday.

Her father had complained that her FIR against the ex-boyfriend was not registered by an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Pattamundai (Rural) Police Station, identified as Sailendra Mohan Palei.

Kendrapara SP Siddharth Kataria said Palei was transferred to the police district headquarters to ensure a transparent probe into the allegation made by the victim's father.

Stating that the incident appears to be a case of suicide, the SP said that the post-mortem examination of the body was conducted at SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

The victim's father had alleged that the ASI asked him and his daughter to block the mobile number of the harasser.

Palei, however, denied the



any complaint (in this regard), and the woman's father had never come to our police station. I never suggested anyone block any phone number," he claimed.

Police **Police** suo motu reghave suo istered unnatural motu registered an death case unnatural death case at Pattaat Pattamundai (Rural) mundai (Rural) PS, as the family PS, as the was yet to lodge family was yet to any formal lodge any complaint formal com-

"The family may file a fresh FIR after cremation," a police officer said.

Meanwhile, fact-finding teams of opposition BJD, Congress and ruling BJP visited the victim's village and met Kendrapara SP.

"We have demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter as the ASI has been accused of neglecting in duty by denying registration of the FIR," said Congress fact-finding team leader Sasmita Behera.

A delegation of BJD led by local MLA Ganeswar Behere met the district collector and submitted a memorandum to the chief minister through him.

'We demand a Crime Branch inquiry as the police are also a party in the case," Behera said. A BJP team led by former

MP Archana Nayak said that her party demanded stringent punishment against the culprits involved in

> the case. This was the third incident of a woman dying of burn injuries in Odisha since

July 12. A 20-year-old female student of FM College in Balasore immolated herself on the college

campus July 12, and died two days later.

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 claimed no other person was involved in

#### 3 cops suspended following man's suicide bid over torture in custody PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, August 7: Three police personnel, who were on duty when a 28-year-old man allegedly attempted suicide by consuming pesticide inside a police station in Jajpur district, were suspended for dereliction of duty, an officer said Thursday.

The person, identified as Rabindra Mallik, a resident of Mahipur village in Barchana block of the district, consumed pesticide inside Balichandrapur police station August 3 after he was allegedly tortured in police custody

He was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and discharged after treatment, the officer added.

Following the incident, Jajpur SP Yashpratap Shrimal ordered an inquiry into Mallik's allegations. Following a probe, three police personnel were suspended, he said. According to the SP, the

suspended police personnel are Sub-Inspector Chinmaya Prusty, Assistant Sub-Inspector Durgesh Nandini Dey, and Constable Debendra Benara. "Mallik had a bottle of pes-

ticide with him when he was taken to the police station. The police personnel who were on duty did not check him properly," he said.

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

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

**Jajpur SP said** 

take such a drastic step. According to a police complaint, Mallik's physically challenged father Maheshwar and a neighbour were allegedly attacked with a sword by Ma lik's cousin Sunday. To save his father, Mallik threw hot water at Badal. Following the incident, both of them filed police complaints against each other

Acting on Badal's complaint, police picked up Mallik from his house and detained him in the police sta tion for interrogation, when he was allegedly beaten up and forced to strip.

Unable to bear the torture, he consumed the pesticide, according to the complaint.

Earlier, Balichandrapur po lice 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.

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/54. Dt. 05.08.2025 Tender No.: eTender-SouthKUR-191 2025, Dtd. 04.08.2025

Description: YARD IMPROVEMENT UPGRADATION WORKS ON DIFFERENT YARDS OF KHURDA ROAD-PALASA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 6,05,000.00, Com period: 18 (Eighteen) Months Tender closing Date & Time: At 150

hrs. of 27.08.2025 No manual offers sent by Post/Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted against

such e-tenders. Complete information including e-tende ocuments of the above e-tender i vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised he date of closing of tender to note an changes/corrigendum issued for this tende

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.

Dated: 06.08.2025

### Tribal girl raped for over one month; 3 arrested

plaint.

Baripada: Police have arrested three persons, including a minor, on the charge of repeatedly raping an 11-year-old girl for over a month in Mayurbhanj district, an officer said Thursday. Among the arrested is the brother-in-law of the survivor. 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

## आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited

IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job des जॉब / मद विवरण Supply of 11500 MT Coal. EOI for Engagement of EPCM a

ह. / Sd./- महाप्रबंधक एवं प्रधान, ऑसकॉम / GM & HEAD, OSCOM

BNS and POCSO Act, he added.

#### AT 22 STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

EAST COAST RAILWAY

	M/KUR/ATVM Facilita				ate: 01.08.2025
APPLICA GENERA FACILITA	ATIONS ARE INV AL PUBLIC TO S ATOR FOR TWO	TITED FROM REELL TICKETS	RETIRE S @ 3	M BONUS BAS	IPLOYEES & IS AS ATVM
SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM	SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM
1	Cuttack	12	12	Bhuhaneswar	19

SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM	SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM
1	Cuttack	12	12	Bhubaneswar	19
2	Brahmapur	05	13	Puri	24
3	Dhenkanal	03	14	Balugaon	03
4	Jajpur Keonjhar Road	03	15	Ichchapuram	03
5	Paradeep	03	16	Delang	03
6	Khurda Road	09	17	Talcher	03
7	Angul	03	18	Bhadrak	02
8	Talcher Road	03	19	Khalikote	02
9	Palasa	07	20	Daspalla	03
10	Sompeta	03	21	Nayagarh Town	03
11	Chatrapur	03	22	Kendujhargarh	03

1100 HRS. OF 01.09.2025

OPENING DATE & TIME OF APPLICATION FORM: AT 1130 HRS. OF

The application form with detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in->tender or can

Terms & Conditions: (1) He/she should be retired Railway Employee & General Public. (2) Multiple applications will be treated as invalid. (3) The applicants may submit their application forms duly filled in prescribed format along with requisite documents to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road. Application received by post shall not be accepted

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road PR-440/Q/25-26

**APPOINTMENT OF 122 ATVM FACILITATORS** 

SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM	SI. No.	Station Name	Nos. of ATVM
1	Cuttack	12	12	Bhubaneswar	19
2	Brahmapur	05	13	Puri	24
3	Dhenkanal	03	14	Balugaon	03
4	Jajpur Keonjhar Road	03	15	Ichchapuram	03
5	Paradeep	03	16	Delang	03
6	Khurda Road	09	17	Talcher	03
7	Angul	03	18	Bhadrak	02
8	Talcher Road	03	19	Khalikote	02
9	Palasa	07	20	Daspalla	03
10	Sompeta	03	21	Navagarh Town	0.3

LAST DATE & TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM: UPTO

1.09.2025 be collected from the office on any working day.

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED Regd. Office: 9, M.P. Nagar, 1st Street, Kongu Nagar Extn, Tirupur – 641607. Ph No. 04212221144
Corporate Office: Kohinoor Square, 47th Floor, N. C. Kelkar Marg, R. G. Gadkari Chowk,

ndix - IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY **DATE OF E-AUCTION: 18.09.2025** -Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset
 and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) read with of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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" 8. "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

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 26th February 2021 along with underlying security from Fullerton India Credit Company Limited. Accordingly, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. has stepped in the shoes of FICCt, the original secured credition 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 Agroymer and Chapterway and Chapter Chapter

The description of the Borrower and Co-borrower and the amount outstanding along with Interest and Expenses due to OARPL fron elow mentioned borrower and co-borrower and description of the Immovable Property, reserve price and the earnest mone leposit and known encumbrances (if any) are as under: -Particulars of Loan Description of the Property Reserve Price EMD Minimum Bid

Account				Increment Amount			
Mr. Gajanan Joshi     Mr. Gopal Kumar Joshi (Co-borrower)     Shree Traders (Co-borrower)     Shree Flour Mill (Co-borrower)	All that Piece and Parcel of the property bearing land measuring about 1742 Sq.ft. GF, including 1697 Sq.ft. Structure standing thereon under Khata No.155 Plot No.954 Mouza Cuttack Sahar unit No.33, Bahara Bishinabara, P.S. Badambadi, 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)			
Amount Outstanding	Rs. 54,47,463/- as on 10-05-2020 together witill date of payment & realization of all dues.						
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 of Inspection	15.09.2025 between 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM	15.09.2025 between 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM					
Last date & Time for submission of bid documents for participation							
Any Encumbrance	NotKnown	Not Known					
Any other Relevant	All bidders are advised to visit on www.omkaraarc.com/http://omkaraarc.com/auction.php or						

www.bankeauctions.com for detailed terms and conditions of E-Auction. The Intending bidders shall comply and give declaration under Section 29Aof 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.

Date: 07.08.2025 Place: Cuttack (Odisha)

Any other Relevant

(Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omkara PS 21/2024-25 Trust

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd

through Lottery System

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** PANCHAYAT SAMITI, NARAYANPATNA

PR & DW DEPARTMENT, ODISHA

E-Mail ID: ori-narayanpatna@nic.in

Letter No.2630/2025/TCN.06/2025-26

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bid Identification No.06 of 2025-26 of B.D.O., Narayanpatna 1. Bid documents consisting of specification, the Bill of Quality and the Tender Call Notice

can be seen in the Govt. website http://tendersorissa.gov.in/nicgep/app. 2. The Block Development Officer, Narayanpatna, Dist. - Koraput, Pin-764014 (Odisha) invites percentage rate Bids in Single cover system on behalf of Governor of Odisha in

electronic tendering system for the construction works detailed in the table conformity with the terms and conditions of D.T.C.N. from the eligible civil contractors as mentioned in Column (4), registered with the Odisha State Govt, and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Govt. The amount put to tender and bid security may be changed and confirmed at the time of available of tender documents. The

bidders may participate for any bids or all the following works. Amount nut

ì								
		Amount put		Cost	E.M.D.	Period of		
SI.	Name of the Work	to Tender	Class of	of	(Bid	completion		
No.	Name of the work	(Approx. In	Contractor	Tender	Security)	(Calendar		
		Lakhs)		Paper	in Rs	Month)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	Construction of 1 Nos.							
1	of Addl. Classroom at	14,14,652.00	"C" & "D"	6000/-	14200/-	06 Months		
	Rangapani PS							
	Construction of 1 Nos.							
2	of Addl. Classroom at	8,87,232.00	"C" & "D"	6000/-	9000/-	06 Months		
	Jhodipadar PS							
	Construction of 1 Nos.							
3	of Addl. Classroom at	8,95,637.00	"C" & "D"	6000/-	9000/-	06 Months		
	Kelubadi UPS							
03 (Three) No. of works only								

a	Kelubadi UPS								
m y	03 (	of work	s or	ıly					
	Tender documents are available	on website	Can be downloaded from Website (http://						
t			www.tenbdersodisha.gov.in)						
	Bid documents available date a	nd time	From	11.0	08.2025	<b>i</b> at	11.00	hours	to
			25.08.	2025	up to	17.30	hours		
	Bid clarification start date & clos	sing date	11.08.	2025	to 25	.08.20	<b>025</b> d	uring of	fice
			hours						
s	Offline documents received th	rough Speed	From	11.0	08.2025	5 at	17.30	hours	to
n	Post / Registered Post		30.08.	2025	at 11.	00 ho	urs		
+	Date, time and venue of opening	g of bid online	(01.09	.202	5 at 11.	00 ho	urs),	Office of	the
1			Block	Dev	elopme	ent Of	fficer,	Pancha	ıyat
t l			Samiti	, Nai	ayanpa	atna		,	
+	Offline documents shall be open	ed in presence	01.09.	2025	at 11.	<b>00</b> hoi	urs on	words	
r	of participate, bidders in chan	nber of BDO,							
ш	N.	1							

If stipulation aries the tender will be decided (01.09.2025 at 11.30 hours) Office of

the Block Devlopment Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Narayanpatna Sd./- Block Development Officer

Narayanpatna



Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.



SRI AUROBINDO

## **Embrace Pragmatism**

rogressives 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



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

**PARALYSIS** 

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

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 revolution ary 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.

#### 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.

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

#### **FOCUS EDUCATION**

## REVIVING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

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-



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

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

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 multilingual 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.

DVRamana

**INDIGENOUS** 

**KNOWLEDGE** 

**PRACTICALLY** 

**INTEGRATED** 

**INTO HIGHER** 

**EDUCATION** 

**INNOVATIVE** 

**LIKE LOCAL** 

**EXCHANGE** 

**TRADING** 

**SYSTEMS** 

**THROUGH** 

**MODELS** 

**SYSTEMS** 

**CAN BE** 

#### **SPECTRUM FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

## 100% FDI in insurance unwarranted



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

**INSURANCE PENETRATION IN INDIA HASN'T SEEN A REMARKABLE GROWTH DESPITE INCREASE OF FDI LIMIT AND RISE OF PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

oreign 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 compa nies, 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 ₹82,847 crore FDI of which, ₹53,900 crore was received be tween 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 dis investment, 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.

#### 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, humanitarian concern, 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



## TWO STATES





Locals call for relocation

as Op Akhal enters Day 7

## Authors speak out as J&K govt bans 25 books

The identified books have been found to "promoting false narratives, misguiding 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 misguiding 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

"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

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

"It attempts to place op-

pressed 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 Kasimir)' by David Devadas, Kashmir in Conflict (India, Pakistan and the unending War) by Victoria Schofield, 'The

Devadas said that the ban "is regrettable, for banning books goes against the grain of our democratic ideals, and our ci-

"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

"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

It said available evidence based on investigations and

Home Department order said.

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 or der 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 here by declares publication of 25 books and their copies or other documents to be forfeited to the government," the order said.

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 Gujjar 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 short age," 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 mak ing 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 ma ny 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 follow ing 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



Thiruvananthapuram, Au**gust 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

was likely to visit in October or November and would be treated as state guests, with the government covering their security, accommodation, and 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 Pinaravi Viiavan government of indulging in publicity stunts and misleading the public.

Kashmir Dispute (1947-2012)' by AG Noorani, and 'Azadi' by Arundhati Roy vilisational ethos"

that peace process.

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

journalist-author said.

the books.

been banned.

Author Anuradha Bhasin

"I've read most of these books

and written one. They're well

researched and not one glori-

fies terrorism which this gov-

ernment claims to have ended.

Scared of words challenging

Bhasin's book 'A Dismantled

Other books included in

the order are 'Resisting Dis-

appearance Military Occupa-

tion & Women's Activism in

Kashmir' by Ather Zia, 'Con-

fronting Terrorism' by Maroof

Raza, 'Freedom in Captivity

Negotiations of belonging along

Kashmiri Frontier' by Radhika

Gupta, 'USA and Kashmir' by

the Jammu and Kashmir," the

State The Untold Story of Kash-

mir after Article 370' has also

your lies!" she posted on X.

took to social media to defend

#### **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 Itty 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 Malavalam.

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 a vibrant learning centre for botanists, students, tradition al healers, and nature lovers. A major attraction is Manila

Street, named in honour of Dr

Manilal's lifelong dedication to the Hortus Malabaricus project The visionary force behind this initiative is Sam Santhosh.

an entrepreneur and genomics pioneer hailed as the "Genome Man of India.' The creation of the Hortus

Malabaricus Botanical Garden is a deeply personal project for him -- rooted in heritage, sci ence, and a desire to inspire future generations.

The garden is fast becoming a cultural and scientific landmark -- a place where history breathes through leaves, and

#### where every plant tells a story that began hundreds of years ago on the Malabar Coast.

## 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

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

30 to 60 days

hrough e-procurement. Type of Works Civil Construction works as in the D.T.C.N

Total No.of Works . Estimated Cost

Period of Completion

of Work

Date and time of

Date and Time of

endersorissa.gov.in.

Opening of the Bid

Class of Contractor

urther details can be

availability of bid

Last date and time for

receipt of Bid in Portal

From dt.08.08.2025 at 10.30 AM to

dt.18.08.2025 at 5.30 P.M. 18.08.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

Rs.1,94,540/- to Rs.18,49,876/-

From 19.08.2025 at 11.30 AM to onwards : "C" & "D" Class Regd. Contractors

seen from the E-Procurement portal www

Sd./- Executive Officer

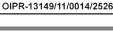
NAC, Athgarh

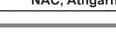












## national



mocking India and Narendra Modi. We are unable to respond to him, let alone seek answers from him. This government has failed on the foreign policy front

UDDHAV THACKERAY I

#### RAHUL TO KICK-OFF 'MATDATA **ADHIKAR YATRA' IN BIHAR AUG 17**

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 Raiesh Kumar in presence of AICC in-charge for Bihar Krishna Allavaru





if Modi ji would show his 56-inch chest tariffs. Trump stopped at 50% Maybe he's scared of our non-biological PM? Was selling out our strategic autonomy worth filling your friends' billionaire coffers?

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

Eviction notices will be issued to officials occupying offices within the Assembly premises if they do not vacate them



Ministers are getting into contro versies. Sandipan Bhumre's

licence was completed in six hours. How it happened, I don't know but, at the same time, common citizens have to visit government offices multiple

times for small issues ROHIT PAWAR | NCP (SP) LEADER

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Oppn MPs protest** against SIR in Parl

New Delhi: Several MPs of the INDIA bloc parties, including Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi. staged a protest in the Parliament House complex Thursday against the Election Commission's voter roll revision in Bihar. Holding banners and posters against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav, TMC's Sagarika Ghose, as well as other Opposition MPs raised slogans and demanded a rollback of the SIR as they staged their protest near Parliament's Makar Dwar.

#### Maoist commander with **₹8L bounty nabbed**

Raipur: Security forces have apprehended a wanted Maoist commander after a brief encounter in the jungles of the Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district of Chhattisgarh, officials said Thursday. Shrikant Punem (35), who was carrying a bounty of Rs 8 lakh, is a divisional committee member (DVCM) operating in the area, they said. He was nabbed Wednesday evening after a brief encounter in the jungles of Khursekhurd in the said district, about 180 kms from state capital



# No compromise on farmers' interests: PM

New Delhi, August 7: In a subtle message directed at US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, fishermen and dairy sector, and declared he was prepared to bear a significant personal cost if necessary.

The statement came a day after Trump ratcheted up tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent, even as the two nations discuss a bilateral trade deal. The trade deal has been stuck over the US demand for greater access to India's agricultural and dairy

The US wants reduced tariffs on products like corn, soybeans, apples, almonds and ethanol, as well as increased access for US dairy products. New Delhi is, however, resisting these demands as these will have a direct bearing on farmers. "Hamare liye apne kisaanon

ka hit sarvoch prathamikta hai. Bharat apne kisaanon, pashu-paalakon aur macchuaare bhai-bahanon ke hiton ke saath kabhi bhi samihuata nahin karega. (For us, the interests of farmers are our top priority. India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, dairy farmers and fishermen)," Modi said.

He was addressing a global conference to mark the birth centenary of late agri-scientist MS Swaminathan, the architect of India's Green Revolution.

To protect farmers' interests. the prime minister said he was ready to personally pay a huge

"Main jaanta hoon ki vyak-



For us, the interests of farmers are our top priority. India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, dairy farmers and fishermen. I know that I will personally have to pay a heavy price. But I am ready for it NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

tigat roop se mujhe bahut badi keemat chukaanee padegi. Lekin main iske live taiyaar hoon. (I know that I will personally have to pay a heavy price. But I am ready for it)," Modi said.

India today is ready (to pay the price) for the fishermen and dairy farmers, he stressed. The US has further hiked the trade tariffs on Indian goods to put pressure on India to reduce its dependency on Russia for crude oil.

On the occasion, Modi also released a commemorative coin and stamp in honour of the legendary scientist.

Outlining his vision for Indian agriculture, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to ensure nutritional security, crop diversification and development of climate-resilient crop varieties and technology

#### **Brazilian Prez** dials Modi

He called for developing drought-tolerant, heat-resistant, and flood-adaptive crops while pushing for AI and machine learning integration in agricultural systems.

## EC notifies vice presidential poll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The Election Commission Thursday issued a notification for the September 9 vice presidential poll, kickstarting the exercise to elect Jagdeep Dhankhar's successor.

Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody, the returning officer for the election, received three nomination papers, which were rejected for not being in order.

According to the notification, August 21 is the last date for filing nominations and the documents will be scrutinised August 22.

The last date for the withdrawal of nominations is Au-

The vice presidential poll was necessitated following the surprise resignation of Dhankhar July 21, citing health reasons. His term was to end in

The ruling BJP-led NDA has begun internal consultations for fielding candidates for the vice presidential election.

The NDA has authorised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president JP Nadda to pick the ruling bloc's vice presidential candidate.

According to constitutional provisions, in case of a midterm poll, the incumbent gets a full five-year term.

A person cannot be elected as the vice president unless he is a citizen of India, has completed 35 years of age and is qualified for election as a member of Rajya Sabha. A person is also not eligible if he holds any office of profit under the government of India or a state government or any subordinate local authority.

The ruling NDA has a comfortable edge in the vice presidential elections.

The vice president is elected by the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, with nominated members of the Upper House also eligible to vote.

## Tejashwi blames EC for dual EPIC error

RJD leader says he's being targeted for systemic lapses, questions Modi govt's silence on Trump's tariff claims and India-Pakistan conflict remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 7: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Wednesday charged the election authorities in Patna with faulting him for their "own mistake" by sending him a notice on having two EPIC numbers.

The leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly also claimed that "a good reply" was being drafted for the notice which was sent last week.

"I have received a notice not from the Election Commission but from the Patna district administration. A good reply is being drafted, and upon receipt, they would be left with nothing to say. They are trying to fault me for their own mistake. Whose lapse is it if two EPIC numbers have been issued in my name? After all, I have been casting my vote from only one place," said Yadav, the former deputy chief minister.

Notably, he had conducted an online search of his EPIC number in the draft electoral rolls last week, which yielded the result, "No records found".

Claiming that many other well-heeled persons, including senior bureaucrats, had their names struck off in the draft rolls published as part of the special intensive revision (SIR), Yadav had cast doubts on the efficacy of the exercise which, he has been alleging, was "an attempt to help the ruling BJP-led NDA in the upcoming Assembly elections in

The district administration



in Patna had come out with a rebuttal of Yadav's allega tion, sharing a screenshot of a portion of the draft electoral rolls in which names and photographs of the RJD leader, as also his father Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, could be seen.

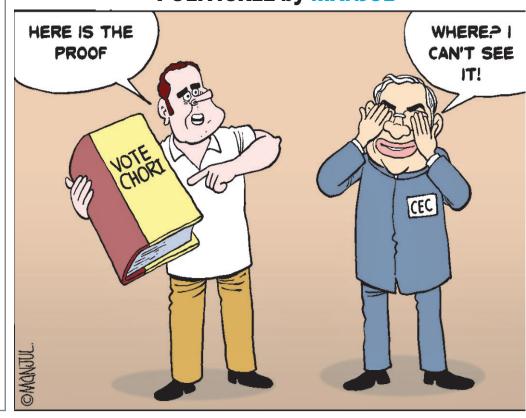
However, Yadav stuck to his guns, charging the election au thorities with "changing my EPIC number", even as the ruling NDA demanded that the RJD leader face trial for having two voter ID cards. The Patna district magistrate

clarified that the EPIC number it had in its record was "the same as the one stated by the leader of the opposition in his own affidavit in the 2020 elec-

Subsequently, the sub-divisional magistrate of Patna (Sadar), who is also the Electoral Registration Officer for Digha Assembly constituency where Yadav and his family members are registered as voters, issued a letter asking the RJD leader to "hand over for thorough investi gation" the voter ID card which was "not issued officially".

The RJD leader spoke to journalists at the airport here, before leaving for Delhi to at tend a meeting of the INDIA bloc at the residence of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

#### **POLITICKLE by MANJUL**



#### **UTTARKASHI CLOUDBURST**

## 274 rescued as rescue operations gather pace

Dehradun, August 7: Rescue operations gathered pace Thursday in the disaster-hit Dharali village in Uttarkashi as weather improved and more than 270 people stranded in different locations in the district were evacuated to safety with the help of IAF's Chinook and Mi-17 helicopters.

The army said 50 civilians are missing besides nine of its personnel including one junior commissioned officer. However, eyewitnesses said the number of missing persons could be even higher.

According to officials, at least four people have been killed in the disaster that struck the ecologically fragile area Tuesday



afternoon. Rescuers recovered two bodies Wednesday, but it was not clear if these were among the four deaths reported the previous day

With a let-up in rain and improvement in weather conditions, helicopters made several sorties during the day to evacuate people who had taken refuge in army camps and neighbouring villages after the

A team of 69 NDRF rescuers,

two cadaver dogs and veteri narians joined rescue opera tions to look for survivors.

'This is a big disaster and the analysis of the damage is going on. The roads connecting Uttarkashi have been badly damaged. However, our teams are working in the affected areas to rescue the victims, NDRF DIG Gambhir Singh Chauhan told PTI.

A total of 274 people have been brought to Harsil, Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said.

Uttarkashi District Magis trate Prashant Arya said 275 people from Harsil, Gangotr and Jhala have been sent to Matli helipad from where they are being sent to their respective destinations.

### **MYAS LAUNCHES QUIZ** ON NATIONAL FLAG

25 top-scorers to get trip to Siachen with Mandaviya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has launched an online quiz on the national flag and 25 top-scoring participants in the age bracket of 21 to 29 will get an opportunity to visit Siachen with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The quiz, according to the ministry, will "foster patriotism and enhance awareness about the Indian National Flag.

"This online quiz, hosted on the MYBharat portal (my-

bharat.gov.in), invites all citizen to participate and test their knowledge about the Tricolour," the ministry stated. It will consist of multi-

ple-choice questions and all contestants will be awarded an e-certificate.

"As a grand incentive, 25 top-scoring participants will be selected for a remarkable opportunity to visit Siacher

in the company of the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya," the ministry said. "The selection of winners

for the Siachen visit will be limited to youth between the ages of 21 and 29. The final se lection of the 25 winners will be conducted through a computer-based lottery system from the pool of top scorers,' it added.

## NCERT sets up panel to review textbooks

The committee carefully deliberates on the matter, makes evidence-based decisions regarding the content or pedagogy, and recommends appropriate actions accordingly at the earliest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The NCERT has set up an expert committee to examine the feedback received about its textbooks aligned with the new National Education Policy (NEP), officials said Thursday.

The officials, however, did not clarify which textbook in particular will the panel examine.

"As a follow-up to NEP 2020, NCERT has brought out the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education. Aligned with the curricular goals and competencies as given in the NCFs, NCERT has brought out teaching-learning material, including textbooks. These curricular resources, including textbooks, receive regular feedback and suggestions from various stakeholders," a senior NCERT official said.

"At present, NCERT has received feedback about the educational content in a few textbooks. Hence a Committee is being constituted having senior experts, as per its established practice. This committee will examine the feedback in light of the available evidences and

submit its report at the earliest possible," the official added. The NCERT clarified that it



is a well-established practice at NCERT that whenever substantial feedback or suggestions are received regarding the content or pedagogy of a textbook in a particular subject, a committee is constituted. "This committee comprises

high-level domain experts from

Exploring Society

members from the relevant subject area, with the convenorship of the head of the curriculum department. The committee carefully deliberates on the matter, makes evidence-based decisions regarding the content or pedagogy, and recommends

reputed institutions and faculty

appropriate actions accordingly at the earliest," the official said. NCERT's new Class 8 text-

book "Exploring Society: India and Beyond was in spotlight recently. Akbar's regime was a blend of "brutality" and "tolerance", Babur a "ruthless conqueror" while Aurangzeb was a "military ruler" who reimposed taxes on non-Muslims, says the book while describing the reign of Mughal emperors.

new NCERT curriculum to introduce students to the Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Marathas and the colonial era. While earlier versions covered

The book is the first in the

some of these topics in Class 7, the NCERT says the timeline has now been shifted entirely to Class 8, in line with the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

## national



Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centre at a location is established as per the extant policy guidelines and subject to technical feasibility and commercial viability

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

#### YAMUNA NEARS DANGER MARK IN DELHI

The water level of the Yamuna River in Delhi inching towards danger mark Thursday, prompting authorities to initiate precautionary measures and urge residents in low-lying areas along the riverbanks to evacuate to safer locations. Officials from the district administration and disaster management teams were seen patrolling the vulnerable areas in boats, requesting people to leave their homes along with their children and essential belongings



ed subject; it is a reality. And those who have tried to hide or suppress this truth will certainly be punished

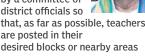
YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER. UTTAR PRADESH

Those who used to talk about their '56-inch chest' are now being shown red eyes by other



ABHISHEK BANERJEE | SENIOR TRINAMOO CONGRESS LEADER





NITISH KUMAR | CHIEF MINISTER, BIHAR





Mohan Yaday will transfer ₹1,859 crore to the bank accounts of 1.26 crore women under

LadliBehnaYojana.Yesterday all 70 Delhi MLAs got free iPhone 16 Pros, iPads, and tablets. Both the top and the bottom are feasting on freebies from the middle one's tax money.

@theskindoctor13

## Rahul claims proof of poll fraud INDIA bloc leaders

Rahul claims over one lakh votes in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Karnataka were found to be fake, duplicate, bulk voters, with invalid addresses and new voters of over 90 years of age added with misuse of Form 6 PRES TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday made explosive claims of a "huge criminal fraud" in polls through "collusion" between the BJP and the Election Commission and called it "a crime against the Constitution", as he cited an analysis of voter rolls in a constituency in Karnataka last year.

Soon after Gandhi levelled the charge asserting that "vote chori"(vote theft) is an "atom bomb on our democracy", the Chief Electoral Officers of Karnataka and Maharashtra asked the former Congress chief to share names of electors he claimed were "wrong" in the voters' list along with a signed declaration for poll authorities to initiate "necessary proceedings" in the matter.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Gandhi also alleged that the Maharashtra Assembly poll results last year confirmed the Congress' suspicion that the election was 'stolen'.

The BJP, on the other hand, hit out at Gandhi and termed his allegation a "calculat-



ing perpetrated across the country. It is being done by the Election Commission and the party in power and we have given you crystal clear and undoubtable evidence here RAHUL GANDHI L CONGRESS LEADER

ed deceit" and accused the Congress of "systematically" attacking the constitutional institutions under a larger conspiracy against India's democracy and Constitution.

Gandhi said what his party had collected through research was "criminal evidence" and alleged that the EC was busy destroying such proof across the country. Making a presenta-

tion, Gandhi said his party analysed voter data of the Mahadevapura Assembly segment in the Lok Sabha constituency of Bangalore Central from the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and claimed that over 1 lakh votes were "stolen" through five types of manipulation.

He claimed that there was "vote chori" of 1,00,250 votes in the Mahadevapura segment, with 11,965 duplicate

voters, 40,009 voters with fake and invalid addresses, 10,452 bulk voters or single address voters, 4,132 voters with invalid photos and 33,692 voters misusing Form 6 of new voters which included those above 90

Leader

in the Lok

so said the

needs to get

involved in

this because

judiciary

Sabha

of Opposition says 'calculated deceit', EC asks for signed declaration

the democracy that we love so much, does not exist

"'Vote chori' is an atom bomb on our democracy," he said in a post on X soon after the presser. He said the Congress party would hold a protest march against this "fraud" Friday at Freedom

nark in Bangalore

"I want the nation to know that there is a huge criminal fraud being perpetrated across the country. It is being done by the Election Commission and the party in power and we have given you crystal clear and undoubtable evidence

"This is a crime that is being committed against the Indian Constitution, against the Indian flag. This is noth ing less than that," Gandhi said, alleging poll rigging in various parts of the country. Later in the evening, Gand-

hi made a similar presenta tion to leaders of various opposition parties whom he had invited for a dinner meeting.

EC sources said Gandhi should either sign a declaration under the Conduct of Election Rules and submit the list of people wrongfully included in voters' list or he should "stop misleading" the people of India and "stop making baseless allegations against the poll authority.

The sources said the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka is expecting a signed declaration from Gandhi by this evening.

In a letter to Gandhi, the state poll officer said, "You are kindly requested to sign and return the enclosed declaration/oath under Rule 20(3) (b) of the Registration of Elec tors Rules, 1960, along with the name(s) of such elector(s) so that necessary proceedings can be initiated.

Gandhi hit back at the EC for demanding his signed declaration on his claims. saying he made the remarks publicly and they can "take it as an oath".

## put up united front at Rahul's dinner meet

New Delhi, August 7: In a show of unity, top INDIA bloc leaders held a dinner meeting at the residence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday and vowed to fight the electoral rolls' revision in Bihar as well as what they described as the "vote chori model" of the BJP-Election Commission.

This was the first physical meeting of top leaders of the Opposition bloc since they last met in June 2024, soon after the Lok Sabha elections at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence.

Several leaders from 25 parties were present at the meeting, which included Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, National Conference supremo Faroog Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, SP's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, Shiv Sena(UBT) chief Uddhav Thackerav. DMK's Tiruchi Siva and TR Baalu, CPI(M)'s M A Baby, CPI's D Raja, CPI(ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya and MNM chief Kamal Haasan.

During the meeting, Gandhi gave a presentation on the "vote chori model" being allegedly perpetrated by the BJP through the Election Commission.

Gandhi explained the entire game of how the BJP and the Election Commission were "rigging" the elections, the Congress said.

electoral manipulation! We are committed to protecting democracy and will save it from being destroyed at all costs," the Congress said in a post on X later.

In a post on Fecebook Gandhi said, "I laid out BJP EC's #VoteChori blueprint before INDIA alliance leaders tonight. INDIA is united, determined, and ready to defend democracy.'

"What I say to the people is my word. Take it as an oath,' he added.

Opposition leaders are set to take out a protest march from Parliament to the Elec tion Commission headquar ters in the national capital against the charges of "election rigging and fraud" as alleged by Gandhi.

Venugopal said RJD lead er Tejashwi Yadav discussed the Bihar Yatra and invited all leaders of the alliance to participate in it during its conclusion September 1.

Congress leader Gauray Gogoi called the meeting "positive", and said the SIR and the revelations made by Gandhi remained the main issues. He added that it was not a "formal" meeting, and other issues were also discussed among leaders.

He said the presentation made by Gandhi was discussed in the meeting, and some of the evidences presented by him were also presented to the Opposition

### meet CBI director

New Delhi: Parents of the RG Medical College rape victim met CBI Director Praveen Sood Thursday to express their dissatisfaction with the agency's probe in the rape and murder of their daughter, omciais said. The parents, who arrived at the agency headquarter in the afternoon. received a patient hearing from Sood who assured them "all assistance" in bringing the culprit to justice, they said. This is the second meeting Sood has had with them. It lasted for half an hour. The 26year old trainee post-graduate doctor was raped and murdered in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

### ■ 100 students from

Shillong: A group of 100 students from all the northeastern states visited key ISRO centres in Bangalore, as part of an initiative to expose them to space science and technology, officials said Thursday. The students from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura made the trip under the North East Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS), a joint initiative by ISRO, the North Eastern Council (NEC) and state governments of the region.

#### HC extends bail of **Asaram till Aug 21**

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court Thursday extended till August 21 the temporary bail plea of self-styled godman Asaram, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Gandhinagar court in a 2013 rape case. The division bench of Justices Ilesh Vora and PM Raval extended Asaram's temporary bail till August 21 on medical grounds after observing that he was in ICU at a private hospital and his

#### **SHORT TAKES**

### RG Kar victim's parents

## **NE states visit ISRO**

health condition was critical.



BJP MP Kangana Ranaut tries her hand on a traditional handloom during an event organized on the occasion of 11th National Handloom Day, in New Delhi

#### **PHANSI GHAR ROW**

## Delhi Assembly Speaker directs inquiry, Kejriwal to be summoned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: Asserting that there was no 'Phansi Ghar' on Delhi Assembly premises, its Speaker Vijender Gupta said Thursday that the matter will be referred to the Privileges Commit tee for inquiry that will summon former chief minister Arvind Ke jriwal, along with others.

Gupta had earlier told the House that the structure, which was renovated and inaugurated in 2022 by then chief minister Kejriwal as a "Phansi Ghar' (execution room), was actually a "tiffin room" as per records.

Displaying a 1912 map of the Assembly complex, he had said Wednesday that there was no documentation or evidence indicating that the space was used for executions.

Giving directions on the matter Thursday, Gupta said he has referred the matter for inquiry to the Privileges Committee.

"The committee will summon former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia, the then Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, former deputy speaker Rakhi Bir-



la." he said.

He reiterated his allegation that "falsehood" was spread in the name of Phansi Ghar and history was distorted.

The Speaker said he had given the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) time to present "concrete facts and documents" in support of their claims of the existence of Phansi Ghar, but they had failed to do so. The plaque bearing Kejriw-

al and Sisodia's names outside Phansi Ghar will be removed. The 1912 map depicting it as tiffin room will also be displayed," he said in the House.

There was no immediate reaction from AAP. Gupta, who was among the Opposition members during the AAP rule said that when the Kejriwal government had announced that there was an "execution room", they used to revere it as a site of martyrdom. "After three days of discussion, and in the absence of any concrete ev idence, documents provided by the National Archives, Indian Council of Historical Research and IGNCA have confirmed that no Phansi Ghar (execution chamber) was ever constructed at the site. When we were in the Opposition, we were led to be lieve that there was an execution room here. We were also emotionally connected to the site. he recalled.

## ED can't act like 'crook', must work within four corners of law: SC

The top court is hearing pleas seeking review of the 2022 verdict that upheld powers of arrest of the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 7: The Enforcement Directorate cannot act like a "crook" and has to confine itself within the four corners of the law, the Supreme Court Thursday said as it flagged low conviction rates in cases investigated by the cen-

tral agency. "We are also concerned for the image of the Enforcement Directorate," a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan,

N Kotiswar Singh said. The top court is hearing pleas seeking review of the 2022 verdict that upheld powers of arrest of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Centre and the ED, questioned the maintainability of the review petitions and attributed the low conviction rate to the delaying tactics of "influential accused"

"Influential crooks have a lot of wherewithal. They employ a battery of lawyers to file applications after applications at different stages to protract the proceedings and the investigating officer of the case instead of devoting time to investigation keeps on running to court for one application or other,"

Raju said. Justice Bhuyan referred to



one of his judgements and said of the 5,000 cases registered by the ED in past five years there were less than 10 per cent convictions and this factual state-

ment was substantiated by the

minister in Parliament. "You can't act like a crook,

you have to act within the four corners of the law. I observed in one of my judgments that ED has registered around 5,000

the conviction rate is less than 10 percent...That's why we have been insisting that you improve your investigation as it deals with the liberty of the individual," Justice Bhuyan said. The judge continued, "We

ECIRs in the past five years but

are also concerned about ED's image. At the end of 5-6 years of judicial custody, if people are acquitted, who will pay for this?"

Justice Kant said the answer to all the problems was having dedicated courts akin to TA-DA and POTA courts and the dedicated PMLA courts could conduct day-to-day proceedings, resulting in expeditious disposal of cases

"Yes, influential accused

will still file numerous applications but these accused and their lawyers will know that since it is day-to-day trial and their application will be decided the very next day. Time has come to hit them hard. We can't have sympathy for them I know a magistrate who has to decide 49 applications in a day and pass orders for 10-20 pages in each of them. This cannot go on," he said. Raju further noted ED get-

ting "handicapped" after "in fluential accused" flee to different countries like Cayman Islands aside from dealing in crypto-currencies and other sophisticated methods and impede investigation.

## international



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

#### 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-yearold war in Ukraine



**Pakistan aims** to have its **lunar landing** or landing on the moon by 2035, and we have also

AHSAN IOBAL | MINISTER FOR PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES,

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 YVETTE COOPER | HOME SECRETARY, UK





return to peaceful lives

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

#### 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."

## 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

It comes as Irish Police (Gardai) 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

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

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.

tacks 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

in the instances of physical at

It came in the wake of a bru tal attack on a 40-year-old Indi an 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

## 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

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.

Washington, August 7: US President Donald Trump's higher tariffs on imports from dozens of countries kicked in Thursday, raising the average US import duty to its highest in a century and leaving major trade partners such as Switzerland, Brazil and India hurriedly searching for a better deal.

The US Customs and Border Protection agency began collecting the higher tariffs of 10% to 50% at 12:01 am EDT (0401 GMT) after weeks of suspense over Trump's final tariff rates and frantic negotiations with countries seeking to lower them.

The leaders of Brazil and India vowed not to be cowed by Trump's hardline bargaining position, even while their negotiators sought a reprieve from the highest tariff levels.

The new rates will test Trump's strategy for shrinking US trade deficits without causing massive disruptions to global supply chains or provoking higher inflation and stiff retaliation from trading partners.

'BILLIONS' OF TARIFF REVENUE After unveiling his "Liberation Day" tariffs in April, Trump has frequently modified his plans, slapping much higher rates on imports from some countries, including 50% for goods from Brazil, 39% from Switzerland, 35% from Canada and 25% from India. He announced Wednesday a separate 25% tariff on Indian goods, to be imposed in 21 days, over India's

purchases of Russian oil. "BILLIONS OF DOLLARS LARGELY FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN AD-VANTAGE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR MANY YEARS,

Trump tariffs spark defiance

- Higher tariffs likely to impact global supply chains and
- 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
- India's Modi and Brazil's Lula adopt defiant stances

LAUGHING ALL THE WAY, WILL START FLOWING IN-TO 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

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 re-

balance 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 Reinsch, a senior fellow and trade expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in ly high duties, such as India and Canada, "will continue to scramble around trying to fix this," he added. Switzerland's government

Countries with punishing

was to hold an emergency meet ing Thursday after President Karin Keller-Sutter returned home empty-handed from an 11th-hour trip to Washington aimed at averting the crippling US import tariff on Swiss goods.

A last-minute attempt by South Africa to improve its offer in exchange for a lower tariff rate also failed. The two countries' trade negotiating teams will have more talks South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's office said.

Vietnam said Thursday it will continue talks with the US as it seeks to lower tariffs further still after negotiating a reduction to 20% from the 46% duty Trump slapped on the Southeast Asian country in April. Meanwhile, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told Reuters Wednesday he wouldn't humiliate himself by seeking a phone call with Trump even as he said his government would continue cabinet-level talks to lower a 50%

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was similarly defiant, saying he would not compromise the interests of the country's farmers.

tariff rate.

There were also signs that some countries were rallying together to confront Trump with Brazil's Lula saying he would call the leaders of India and China to discuss a joint BRICS response to tariffs.

India said Wednesday that Modi will visit China for the first time in seven years.

### 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 Wednes-

day 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



On November 19, 2024, Krem-

lin 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.

#### 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 limit-

ed 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 pur-

sue human rights claims.

### France's largest wildfire in decades leaves trail of ruin



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Villerouge 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, firefight ers 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 damag ing at least 36 homes, with a full damage assessment still underway. One person died in their home, and at least 13 oth ers were injured, including 11 firefighters, according to local authorities.

The blaze is the most significant France has faced since 1949, according to Agnes Pan nier-Runacher, France's min ister 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.

## business



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** 

#### **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



change India ing 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 reached ₹79,941 crore in the first quarter of **FY2025-26, growing** annual growth rate of 29 per cent







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 stateowned life insurance behemoth had earned a net profit of ₹10,461 crore in the first quarter a year ago. The total income increased to ₹2,22,864 crore during the latest June quarter against ₹2,10,910 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 Nasdag, 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.

## Gold @ ₹1,02,260/10gms Markets close higher;

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 setGOLD & SILVER



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 trad-

ed 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

on the bourse. In addition, silver contracts for September delivery increased

high of ₹1,03,047 per 10 grams

per kilogram on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). Meanwhile, spot gold rose by

\$9.76 or 0.29 per cent to \$3,379.15 per ounce in New York.

"Gold traded positive as the precious metal in the international market remained firm above \$3,375 level, supported by dollar index weakness below 98

'With limited impactful data lined up this week, focus remains on global trade tariffs and fresh Russian sanctions both contributing to elevated gold prices," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency at LKF Securities, said.

Spot silver was trading at \$38.34 per ounce, up 1.37 per cent in the overseas market.

The US President Donald Trump is threatening 100 per cent tariffs on chip imports. and trade tensions are positive for the yellow metal. In addition, President Trump is likely to announce the next Fed Chair this week," Praveen Singh Associate VP Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Mirae Asset Share

## 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 Finan cial, is an affiliate company of the Chinese conglomerate Alibaba 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

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

Exchange (NSE). Last month

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.

## Nifty above 24,550

**NSE NIFTY** 

**AUGUST 07, 2025** 



CHANGE: +21.95 (+0.09%)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 7: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty staged a comeback Thursday following the last-hour buying in IT and banking shares. even after getting an additional tariff burden

Rebounding around 926 points from the day's low, 30-share BSE Sensex edged higher by 79.27 points or 0.10 per cent to settle at 80.623.26. The index traded in the red for most of the session and hit a low of 79,811.29. However, fagend buying helped recover losses and touch a high of 80,737.55. 50-share NSE Nifty went up

by 21.95 points or 0.09 per cent The latest US tariff action.

imposition of an additional 25 per cent duty to take overall tariffs to 50 per cent on Indian goods over New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil, is likely to hit sectors such as textiles, marine and leather exports hard. India has slammed the action, calling it "unfair, unjustified and unrea-

India will attract the highest US tariff of 50 per cent, along

were the gainers.

Among Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Eternal Axis Bank, Maruti, Tata Steel **HDFC Bank and Asian Paints** 

However, Adani Ports, Trent. Tata Motors, Hindustan Unile ver and NTPC were among the The BSE midcap gauge

climbed 0.30 per cent while smallcap index dipped 0.18 per cent Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT jumped 0.93 per cent IT (0.73 per cent), healthcare (0.53 per cent), teck (0.41 per cent) and auto (0.25 per cent). Telecommunication dropped

0.59 per cent, capital goods (0.41 per cent), commodities (0.37 per cent), power (0.36 per cent) and industrials (0.24 per cent). As many as 2.193 stocks de

clined while 1,844 advanced and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Ko rea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory. Markets in Europe were trading in the green.

The US markets ended higher Wednesday.

#### **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 sg 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



a premium and value-driven Skoda ownership experience, backed by world-class infrastructure," Abinash Samal, dealer of Empreo allied pyt ltd said. "Skoda is renowned for its engineering excellence and customer-first approach. We are proud to contribute to the brand's 25-vear iourney 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 Priva 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 Azmiand 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

Prateek Sanu Brand Head; Pramod Kumar Patra (owner) were present on the unveil occasion.



## Guidelines for inspection of depository participants, brokers

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 estab-

lish a mechanism to share inspection findings with one another for brokers or DPs holding multiple regis-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 enti ties 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 JUI

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-onyear to 3,28,613 units in July, as against 3,31,280 units in the same month last year. FADA noted that while auspi-

cious 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



in July as crop-sowing activisaw a decline of 6 per cent year-on-year to 13,55,504 units ties and prolonged heavy rains

dampened rural footfalls more sharply than urban demand. Dealers are nevertheless con-

fident 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

ing support, bulk institutional orders and timely stock availability as key drivers, alongside targeted schemes that bolstered school-bus volumes In contrast, rural haulage

launches, aggressive market

demand remained fragmented amid heavy rainfall, seasonal softness in cement, coal and construction logistics, and slower financier disbursements, prompting many buy ers 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.

## **2025 WORLD GAMES** India's mixed team tops INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**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 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

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 ves. ultimately we are all here because we want the game to continue.'

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

"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

commit to the Super Cup.

Another club official PTI **Two-time ISL champions** spoke to also said that the Su-**Chennaiyin FC** per Cup "is still up in the air" **Wednesday announced** and no final decision has been a temporary suspension taken on that tournament. of operations for their NorthEast United CEO Mafirst-team players and staff, citing the ongoing uncertainty

dar 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 Uzbekistan 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 con-

## compound qualification

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

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 thirdplace 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 qual-

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 Ak caoglu 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 Ver ma 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 champi on 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, 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 skinner 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

a decade-long stint at Tottenham

LAFC's BMO Stadium Wednesday,

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

LAFC paid a fee in the region of

\$26.5 million for the 33-year-old.

the transfer were not disclosed by

either club but the Athletic reported

Hotspur. Son was introduced at

where he was greeted by Los

League Soccer transfer fee, ending

### 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 Loylina 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

## WFI cracks down on age cheats

11 WRESTLERS SUSPENDED FOR SUBMITTING FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATES

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 pro-

curing 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.



cially at the trials to pick the national junior teams, it is apparent that many wresters 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 Harvana, 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 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

#### 63rd in FIFA rankings INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Blue Tigresses rise to** 

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 posi-

tion following a landmark vic-

tory 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 qualifica

tion 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-Les

te 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 en sure 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 re lated 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.

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