Actor Triptii Dimri reveals her dream role, expressing desire to portray legendary icons

LEISURE | P2



JeM's fundraising drive

After heavy losses in Operation Sindoor, Pak-based JeM launches major fundraiser, claiming to build 300+ mosques

INTERNATIONAL | P10



6G roadmap

For 6G-ready ecosystem and capacity building, govt builds 100 5G labs at academic institutions across India

BUSINESS | P11



No sporting ties

India officially shuts the door on bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan, but clears Team India's participation in next month's Asia Cup in the UAE

SPORTS | P12

OLUME 15, ISSUE 142 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | AUGUST 22, 2025

12 PAGE | ₹5.00 SINGLE BOARD FOR

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Bhubaneswar, August 21: In a bid to strengthen and improve school education in Odisha, the state government Thursday decided to merge the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) and the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) into a single board.

This was revealed during a review meeting of School and Mass Education (S&ME) department, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, at Lok Seva Bhawan here.

Highlighting that achieving the vision of a prosperous Odisha by 2036 requires a strong focus on school education, the CM said steps will be taken to regularise schematic primary teachers. Currently, Odisha has 1,60,319 teaching posts across 45,292 primary schools. As per the NEP-2020, an additional 39,366 teaching posts will be created. In addition, 5,067 teaching positions will become vacant by December 2025. "Combining all these, 44,433 posts will be filled within the next three years - approximately 15,000

posts each year," Majhi said.

Key takeaways Around 45,000 teacher posts

- to be filled within the next three years
- Schematic primary teachers to be regularised
- Free textbooks for all students up to Class X
- One ANM or multipurpose health worker to be appointed for every 300 students

To strengthen school education, the need for a single education board in the state was expressed during the meeting. Accordingly, a decision was taken to merge the BSE and the CHSE into a single board. Currently, while students from

Classes I to VIII are provided free textbooks, only SC and ST students in Classes IX and X receive free textbooks. The CM decided that free textbooks will now be provided to all students in Classes IX and X, regardless of category.

Recognising that health is equally important along with education for students, a decision was taken to appoint ANMs

hostels. One ANM or multipurpose health worker will be ap pointed for every 300 students.

It was also decided that the approval process for new private schools in Odisha will be made entirely online. The CM emphasised the importance of provid ing education to tribal children in their mother tongue. "This approach would facilitate better linguistic communication with the students and improve the quality of education," Majhi said

In this context, steps will be taken to establish a multilingual education centre in Koraput in collaboration with SCSTRTI.

For education of different ly-abled children, regular teach ers who have completed BEd in Special Education will be appointed as resource persons in different clusters.

A decision was also taken to develop SCERT in line with the NCERT. The state government has also decided to strengthen the Directorate of Textbook

Publication and Marketing.
Among others, S&ME Minister Nityananda Gond was



CONTEST AHEAD: INDIA bloc's V-P candidate B Sudershan Reddy files his nomination, in New Delhi, Thursday. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Sonia Gandhi and NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar are also seen

World's first Asian elephant survival centre in state soon

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 21: World's first Asian elephant species' survival centre will be established at Godibari in Chandaka area of the City, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced Thursday.

While inaugurating an international workshop on hu-

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

attended by conservationists, policymakers, and researchers from across India and abroad – in the City, Majhi said 'Center for Species Survival: Asian Elephant' will come up in

Bhubaneswar in collaboration

with the IUCN Species Survival

Commission, Wildlife Trust of

India, and the Columbus Zoo

man-elephant coexistence -

and Aquarium.

"This centre will drive research, policy, and best pracnot just for Odisha, but for all of south and southeast Asia. The initiative has set a new global benchmark in conservation of Asian elephants. It will serve as a regional hub for advancing science, shaping policy and

driving community action across the region for elephant conservation," the CM said.

The CM said, "Our vision is to create a development model for Odisha where elephants roam freely, our forests remain healthy, and communities coexist in peace with animals. This model will inspire the rest of the world.

GUV-BILLS ROW

Why isn't there a law stopping becoming ministers, CMs, or PM?

House session starts Sept 18

Bhubaneswar: The Monsoon session of Assembly will commence September 18, official sources said Thursday. The weeklong session will continue up to September 25 with a single day break September 21 as it is a Sunday. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling said there will be six official business days, one private members' day and one no-meeting day between September 18 and 25. The session is likely to be stormy in the backdrop of immolation deaths of women and girls, including at Balasore, Bargarh, Kendrapara and Balanga in Puri.

Will courts be powerless: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Centre if courts were 'powerless to intervene' if Governor sat over Bills for years, rendering the state legislature 'defunct'.

A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, made the remark in response to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that courts should refrain from interfering and passing binding

directions in such a situation and a political solution can be found to deal with such an impasse. "The Assembly, elected by a majority, unanimously passes a Bill, if the Governor does not

exercise the proviso under Article 200, it will be virtually making the legislature defunct. The persons who are elected, what is the safeguard for them,' the bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar told Mehta.

The bench continued, "... can we say that however high the constitutional functionaries may be, if they do not act, the court is powerless to intervene in such a situation? Assent is given or rejected, the reasons we are not going into, why he has given or not given. Suppose an act passed by the competent legislature, if Governor simply sits over it for an indefinite period, what

The bench was hearing a presidential reference on the question whether the court can impose timelines for Governors and President to deal with Bills passed by state Assemblies.

Mehta said courts should not lay down a precedent in 'such an extreme situation' and rather an endeav-

our ought to be made in finding a solution from within the system. The Centre has challenged the April 8 verdict for ruling related to Bills pending with the Tamil Nadu Governor.

"This deemed to have been passed Bill direction is violative of the Constitution," Mehta said, arguing courts couldn't substitute itself to the role of another constitutional functionary. Mehta said no timeline could be fixed for President and Governor to act on the Bills passed by the Assembly as the Constitution itself didn't provide any timeline for these constitutional functionaries. The bench said it is not sitting in appellate jurisdiction to re-

view the April 8 verdict. The hearing would resume August 26.

DHARITRI YOUTH **CONCLAVE** 2025



DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT

Inviting young people and youth organisations of Odisha deeply engaged in climate action with local communities.

Kindly send us entries of your work with simple bio description (250-300 words) with 4 high resolution photos, a video of your climate action activities & future climate action plan to get a chance to win the prestigious **Dharitri Climate Grant.**

You can also nominate someone else by following the same process.

> Selected entries will be awarded the **Dharitri Climate Grant**

as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at Dharitri Youth Conclave 2025 to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

Chosen entries will also get invited to attend the Conclave along with young climate warriors and experts in the field.

Last Date of Entry: 10th October 2025 Please send details to: dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com Visit: www.dharitriyouthconclave.com for details



YOUTH

FOR

CLIMATE



In a 1st, living skin grown in lab

Sydney, August 21: In a breakthrough for skin grafts and the study of skin disorders, scientists in Australia's Queensland have successfully grown what they describe as the world's first fully functioning human skin with its own blood supply.

Researchers at the University of Queensland's Fraser Institute used stem cells to create the human skin replica, which contains blood vessels, capillaries, hair follicles, lavers of tissue and immune cells, ABC news reported. Institute director Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani said the skin organoids were developed in the laboratory over six years and could be transformative for skin grafts, wound healing and studying skin disorders.

"We think this is now opening completely new doors towards finding new treatments for a range of rare diseases that are affecting a lot of parents with sick children," Kiarash said. Senior research fellow Dr



Dr Abbas & Prof Kiarash at the lab with a tray of skin organoids

Abbas Shafiee said it's a step up from previous skin models that contain a

thin layer of skin and one cell type. "With those vascular and immune components, we can now model dis eases in the lab and hopefully develop new medicines to target them,' he said.

Studying skin disorders

The researchers hope it can improve the study of a range of common skin disorders like psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and scleroderma, as well as rarer genetic diseases

"These organoid models we have

developed have all the components of skin and are now really going to open our eves in terms of what's happening and how we can fix things," said Kiarash

The research could also help to improve skin grafts, which are vital for extensive burns, wounds or certain surgeries — although the researchers said that is still 'down the track'. A useful stepping stone

Allison Cowin is a professor of regenerative medicine at the University of South Australia and a researcher working on an antibody therapy for people suffering from epidermolysis bullosa (EB).

EB is a rare genetic disorder that affects fewer than 1,500 Australians and causes skin to be fragile and blister easily. It's also known as the 'butterfly disease' because the skin of people with EB is so delicate it is likened to butterfly wings.

Allison said the skin organoid has the potential to be a 'useful stepping stone' in identifying what will work in the treatment of rare diseases like EB.

leisure



don't think of anyone else-

you're just reacting to

your co-actor, your

lines, your scene.

Still, playing either

of them would be

such a learning

Given her

seems

experience.'

she added.

trajectory,

pared to

embody

the grace,

strength,

and

com-

plexity

of these

cinematic

legends.

ri well-pre-

Triptii Dim-

I COULD HAVE BEEN A RACING **CAR DRIVER: HELEN MIRREN**

Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren is foolishly vain about her motoring skills and said that she could have been a racing car driver. The 80-year-old actress said: "I'm rather foolishly vain about my driving. I'm sure I could have been a racing

KIRSTEN DUNST KEEN TO **STAR IN MINECRAFT 2**

Kirsten Dunst, impressed by A Minecraft Movie grossing over USD 900 million, says she would consider starring in its sequel. While once known for commercial hits like Spider-Man, Dunst has in recent years gravitated more toward independent projects, showcasing her versatile acting choices.





😽 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No, you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

You will find comfort, perched on a branch in the family tree, today. Your maturity will help you deal with emotional issues with ease. Energy and exuberance will be an investment you make today, the results come, hopes Ganesha.

GEMINI

Your desire for a clean house will reach the level of obsession, predicts Ganesha. You may plan to wash your car, clean your yard and arrange your wardrobe. And you don't trust the housemaid with any of the chores, because no one can clean the house better than you. Personal hygiene will also get your full attention, feels Ganesha.

CANCER

Today is a crucial and fascinating day for you, predicts Ganesha. You will learn and gain from your bosses and elders. Peers and sibings may extend their full support to you. Your chances of winning legal battles are remote, so an out-of-court settlement may be your best bet

For Cancerians, this day brings good tidings for their jobs and businesses. Those in business can look forward to a highly profitable day. Long-term business deals may be in the offing as well. If you happen to be in the services, rest assured, you may look forward to extra perks, pay hike and promotions. Just make sure that you hone your skills to reach where you want to be, advises Ganesha

Today finds you ambitious and meticulous. Actions will not speak - they'll roar! Your planning and scruples will set the pace at work. Expect pats on the back from your bosses and a round of cheers from

Of late, you have been very

day to lay your fears to rest by spending time with that friend. Work can wait, as today you must prove to yourself, if not to others, that 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. Ganesha wishes you the very best.

SCORPIO

Your mind shall take over the proceedings today. And it shall, in all likeliness, draw you to the work bench and keep your nose to the grindstone. But your heart will flutter like a butterfly, and if you manage to strike the right balance, you may win over your special one and your boss too, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Chances of you hitting a roadblock today are high. But remember the saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' So don't succumb to pressure. advises Ganesha, but rise up to the occasion and show who's the boss.

CAPRICORN

Today, you will remain unruffled by the commotion around you, says Ganesha. However, the emotions locked up inside you will probably cloud your power of reasoning and may leave you feeling a little lost. But this will only be a passing phase, and you will come out of the bewilderment in no time.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will experience the harmonious balance between logic and emotion. You will consequently know how to mix business with pleasure. Money wise, you are content, but trivial issues may bother you today, says Ganesha.

PISCES An action-packed day awaits you, busy as you will be corresponding with old contacts, telephonic interviews, organising meetings and scheduling tasks, says Ganesha. Do not forget to breathe!



Triptii's dream role

Mumbai: Triptii Dimri has

quickly emerged as one of the

most sought-after actresses of

her generation, with a filmog-

raphy that reflects versatility

and depth. From Laila Majnu

and Bulbbul to Qala and the re-

cently released Dhadak 2, she

has carved her own niche in

the industry by choosing roles

that go against formula and

highlight the evolving defin-

At a recent press confer-

ence, the actress revealed her

dream role—portraying either

Meena Kumari or Madhubala

in a biopic. "I would love to do a

biopic. I'm a huge fan of Meena

Kumari ji and Madhubala ji. If

someone makes a film on either

of them, I would love to be a

part of it. They were legends,

icons—and portraying them

would be an honour," she said.

challenges of her craft, es-

pecially during intense

scenes. "Honestly, when

you're acting, there's

so much pressure

in the moment. You

PEANUTS

HOPE I'M ON

CALVIN AND HOBBES

THE RIGHT BUS

HEY ANT, YOU'RE WORKING

LIKE A MANIAC AND WHAT

HAVE YOU GOT TO SHOW

BREVITY

YOU GOT THE BEST

GRADES IN YOUR

CLASS BUT WERE

DISQUALIFIED ON

A TECHNICALITY

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO

CAMP BEFORE

WHAT'S THE COLONY DONE FOR

YOU LATELY? WHAT ABOUT

YOUR NEEDS ?

YOU'LL HAVE A

GREAT TIME

YOU DON'T OWE ANYBODY

FEND FOR THEMSELVES!

MOVE OUT! DISCOVER YOURSELF

EXPRESS YOUR INDIVIDUALITY:

Triptii also reflected on the

ition of a new-age heroine.

Samantha embraces mindful choices

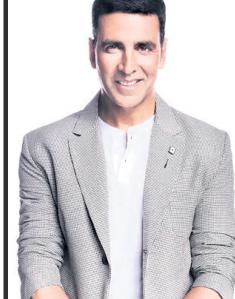
Mumbai: After a successful 15-year run in cinema. Samantha Ruth Prabhu is embracing a new, intentional phase of her career. In a recent conversation with Grazia India, the actress revealed that she has consciously slowed down, choosing projects that resonate with her deeply while prioritising health and wellness. "I've reached a point where I only do things

I'm extremely passionate about, whether that's fitness, films, or business," she shared. Reflecting on her journey, Samantha admitted that not every past project stirred her creatively, but today, whether acting, producing, or investing, she commits with complete dedica-A key shift has been reducing her work-

load. "I no longer shoot five films at a time. I've realised the importance of listening to my body. Though I work less now, everything I take on carries more meaning. The quantity has reduced,

but the quality has definitely improved," she said. Recently, Samantha made a cameo in the Telugu film Subham and was seen in Prime Video's Citadel: Honey Bunny opposite Varun Dhawan. She now gears up for Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom, a high-octane Raj & DK series featuring Aditya Roy Kapur, Ali Fazal, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Jaideep Ahlawat, set for a 2026





AKSHAY'S UNIQUE DINNER SCHEDULE

Mumbai: Bollywood star Akshay Kumar shared that finishing dinner by 6.30 PM is very important. Akshay during a book launch talked about his healthy habit of finishing dinner early. He said: "Why is it important to ear

at 6.30 in the morning? It is very import-

ant for your body because when we go to

sleep at night, our eyes are resting, our

legs are resting, our hands are resting,

every part of our body is resting." But what is not resting is your stomach because we have eaten food late.

'By the time you get up, it is time for him to relax. But when we get up, we eat our breakfast and again the poor stomach is working... I am explaining it in a very very simple way and you all know, you all know that the stomach, all the diseases come from He said that it is im-

portant to take care of the

'I think the diseases not come near So this is what I always follow. So it is important to eat at your time to digest your food and by the time when you are about to sleep, by 9, 9.30, 10 o'clock completely ready to rest and that's it. So it is a very simple thing.'

Saiee on her career approach

Mumbai: She started her acting journey when she was just 16, actress Saiee Manjrekar at 23 says that she's in no rush to fill her calendar "just for the sake of being busy" and wants to work on things she truly wants "to be a part of" Saiee said: "I started working

very young, and in these years, I've learned that choosing the right project is far more important than doing too many at once. I'm in no rush to fill my calendar just for the sake of being busy.

"At this stage in my life, I want to work on things I truly want to be a part of stories that excite me, roles that challenge me, and experi-

YOU'RE LYING,

AREN'T YOU?

IF THEY LISTEN, THIS

ANT PROBLEM.

I'M THE

INVALIDICTORIAN!

ences that help me grow as an artist."

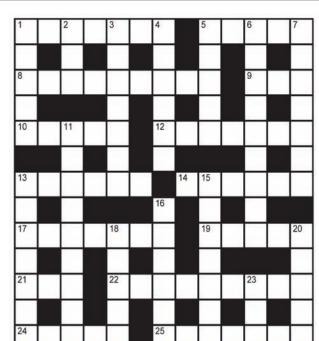
Saiee, who is the daughter of veteran star Mahesh Manjrekar, said a project should give her the freedom to explore her "craft and bring something unique to the table."

"I believe that when you work from a place of passion, the results always speak for themselves. I'm happy to wait for the right opportunities rather than make hasty decisions that don't align with my vision," she concluded.

Saiee made her film debut with a brief appearance as Kushi Damle in the Marathi film Kaksparsh in 2012.



CROSSWORD



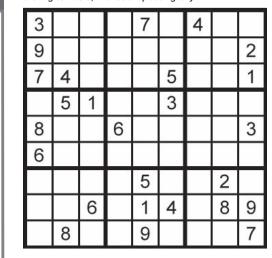
17 Pistol

- 3 Toy dog 4 Pasta bit
- 20 Jockey's wear
- 23 Carnival city

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

EAUDE LIONCUBPERIL

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 5 Infant's illness 19 Mountain lakes Across 1 Troglodyte 21 Roadhouse 6 Brilliance (4,3)22 Blackguard 7 Designer's tool 5 Wine holders 24 Welcome 11 Plenitude 8 Vortex 25 Skin art 13 Like many a hero 9 Prevaricate 15 The dodo, for 10 Trap one <u>Down</u> 12 Terse 1 Hoods 16 Bring in 13 Low pair 2 Seven, Roman 18 Long suit 14 Bounce back



owntown

Pacts to boost heritage, adventure & Buddhist tourism

Bhubaneswar, August 21: In a significant step towards strengthening Odisha's position as a global tourism destination, the state government has signed three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to promote heritage conservation, adventure tourism, and Buddhist pilgrimage circuits in state.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at Lok Seva Bhavan Thursday in presence of Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Pravati Parida, Odia Language Literature & Culture (OLCC) Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Speaking on the occasion, Parida said the three agreements represent Odisha's holistic vision to conserve heritage, diversify tourism offerings, and expand its global footprint. "It is critical to implement these projects in



mission mode to ensure they yield meaningful outcomes,' she said.

Speaking at the event, Suraj described the Buddhist tourism initiative as a historic partnership which will revive and promote state's unparalleled cultural heritage, while Ahuja underlined the role of tourism in Odisha's 'Vision 2036', stating that the sector not only contributes to economic development but also helps preserve culture and generate livelihoods.

signed between the Tourism department and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa, and the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI), in collaboration

The state, in tie-up with IIT Madras, will leverage advanced scientific techniques for structural audits and conservation of heritage monuments. The collaboration will

with the OLLC.

The three agreements represent Odisha's holistic vision to conserve heritage. diversify tourism offerings, and expand its global footprint, said Deputy CM **Pravati Parida**

investigations, and preparation of project reports. It also includes sustainable reuse plans and project management consultancy support, aimed at ensuring the long-term preservation of state's historic sites.

The partnership with NIWS, Goa will introduce globally accepted safety standards, safety audits, and capacity-building programmes for adventure

coastline and abundant water resources, the government sees significant potential for developing adventure tourism and creating livelihood opportunities for the state's youth. The third MoU, between

LBDFI and OLLC department, focuses on reviving Odisha's Buddhist heritage and pilgrimage tourism by organising annual prayer ceremonies at key Buddhist sites such as Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Lalitagiri, and Dhauli. The partnership will also enhance visitor amenities, develop digital engagement infrastructure, and curate cultural and academic programmes highlighting state's Buddhist legacy and the teachings of Guru Padmasambhava.

These collaborations mark an important milestone in building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready tourism eco-

IPS reshuffle: Prateek Singh new Puri SP

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The state government effected a major reshuffle in the police administration, transferring and posting 18 IPS and OPS officers across various key positions in the state. While 2011-batch IPS officer Pinak Mishra, who was Puri SP, has been elevated to DIG of Police, Eastern Range, Prateek Singh (IPS, 2014) has been transferred as SP of Puri

A notification was released by the Home department with details of the new appoint-

As per the notification, Santosh Bala (IPS, 1995 batch) has been posted as Director, SFSL, while S Praveen Kumar (IPS, 2002 batch) has been appointed IG of Police, Provisioning.

Gajbhiyye Satish Kumar Iswardas (IPS, 2002 batch) has

Flagging Off of Metro Service

Sealdah – Esplanade (Green Line)

Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay (Orange Line)

Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar (Yellow Line)

batch) has been shifted to IG of Police, Economic Offences Wing (EOW). Other notable changes include Kumar (IPS, 2007), who will head the State Crime Record Bureau, while Satvaiit Naik (IPS, 2008) takes charge as DIG of Police, Central Range, Pinal Mishra (IPS, 2011) has been ele vated to DIG of Police, Eastern Range.

Among the district postings Prateek Singh (IPS, 2014) has been transferred as SP, Puri Vivekanand Sharma (IPS, 2014) to SP, Khurda, and Parmar Smit Parshottamdas (IPS, 2013) as SP, Crime Branch.

Gundala Reddy Raghavendra (IPS, 2019) has been post ed as SP, Jharsuguda, while Amritpal Kaur (IPS, 2021) has been posted as SP, Sundargarh.

This apart, OPS officer Bhawani Shankar Udgata has Cuttack

VP election: BJD keeps cards close to its chest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 21: With the battle lines clearly drawn for the September 9 vice-presidential elections, Odisha's Opposition party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is yet to reveal its stand.

NDA pick CP Radhakrishnan is pitted against Opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy in the

Though BJD's seven MPs may not be a deciding factor in the elections, party president Naveen Patnaik's stand would be interesting for the national politics as well as for Odisha where the party has been opposing the 14-month-old maiden government of the BJP.

The BJD all along backed NDA candidates when it was in power in Odisha, but Patnaik's party is now in the Opposition.

Patnaik received phone calls from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday. They enquired about the health condition of the former chief minister who was hositalised for dehydration.

Senior BJD leader and Opposition chief whip in Assembly Pramila Mallik said, "Our party president Naveen Patnaik will take the final decision on the BJD's stand in the vice-presidential elections at the right time. He all along has taken decisions keeping in view the interest of the state and the country.'

Patnaik supported NDA candidates Droupadi Murmu in Presidential elections and Jagdeep Dhankar in vice-president polls, both in 2022.

This apart, the BJD backed the Narendra Modi government in several contentious issues between 2014 and 2024 including the demonetisation and the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir.

The regional party supported BJP candidate Ashwini Vaishnaw twice to get elected to the

"The BJD has been humiliated in the hands of the BJP in the 2024 elections: it lost power in the state and even failed to open an account in the Lok Sabha elections. Now, it should realise its position and support INDIA candidate instead," said senior Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati.

BJD leader and former MP Mahesh Sahoo said the regional party would oppose the NDA candidate in the vice-presidential election.

Odia girl Hrishita makes it to Imperial College London

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: Hrishita Himalika, a meritorious Odia student from Delhi University, has been selected to pursue her M Sc in Strategic Marketing at the prestigious Imperial Business School, part of Imperial College London, which currently ranks second globally for academic excellence.

Hrishita's academic journey includes offers from other top-tier institutions such as Trinity



College Dublin, Warwick University, and Edinburgh University. In 2024, she also attended a specialised course at the London School of Economics, further enriching her international academic exposure.

She completed her schooling at Mother's Public School and SAI International School,

Bhubaneswar and earned her B Com (Honours) degree from Delhi University. Her achievement has been widely appreciated by national and academic leaders, including Balram Pani, Dean, Delhi University, Santosh Kumar Tripathy, Vice Chancellor of FM University, Kishore K Basa, Chairman, National Monument Authority and Ashok Das, Former VC of Utkal University.

Hrishita is the daughter of Gadadhar Rath and Banani Rath, both serving in the Ministry of Communications at the Centre and residents of Basudev Nagar in Bhubaneswar. She is the granddaughter of late educators Prasanna Kumar Rath of Dhansar, Banki and Banambar Rath of Khurda



Gift of Connectivity Projects of Worth around ₹5,200 Crore to the People of West Bengal

Inauguration of

Sealdah – Esplanade Section (Green Line) Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Section (Orange Line)

Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar Section (Yellow Line)

Subway at Howrah Metro Station

Foundation Stone Laving for

Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway, NH-12

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

SALIENT FEATURES & BENEFITS

Metro Projects

Green Line (Sealdah-Esplanade) Length: 3 km | Cost: ₹1180 crore approx

Final link from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V

- Metro slashes travel time to Howrah & Sealdah down from 60 mins to just
- Major relief for students, professionals in BBD Bagh, Esplanade & Salt Lake-New Town

Yellow Line (Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar)

Length: 7 km | Cost: More than ₹1850 crore

- Kolkata Airport now directly linked to metro network Travel time to airport reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes
- Interchange at Dum Dum Cantonment enables easy city-suburb access

Orange Line (Beleghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay)

Length: 4 km | Cost: ₹875 crore

- Extends existing line from New Garia to Beleghata
- · Beleghata to Kavi Subhash commute cut to just 23 minutes
- Benefits residents of Kolkata, North & South 24 Parganas

New Subway at Howrah Station

Cost: More than ₹50 crore

- Seamless interchange between metro and Eastern/South-Eastern Railways
- Saves time and improves travel convenience

World-Class Stations & Amenities

- New stations: VIP Bazaar, Ritwik Ghatak, Barun Sengupta, Beleghata, Dum Dum Cantonment, Jessore Road, Jai Hind Bimanbandar
- Facilities include lifts, escalators, drinking water, modern toilets & security systems

Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway (NH-12, Length-7KM, Cost : More than 1200 Cr)

· Reduces traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, improving air quality.

Boost tourism prospects by enhancing access to major tourist destinations like Diamond Harbour, Kakdwip, and Bakkhali

Connects NH-16, NH-19, NH-116, NH-2E, and NH-34, offering smoother regional travel.

Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

In the August Presence of Mamata Banerjee

Ashwini Vaishnaw Union Minister of Railways, Information &

Shantanu Thakur Union Minister of State for Ports,

Shipping & Waterways

Ravneet Singh Union Minister of State for Railways & **Food Processing Industries**

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar Union Minister of State for Education & Development of North Eastern Region

Chief Minister, West Bengal

Suvendu Adhikari Leader of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly Prof. Sougata Ray Member of Parliament

Samik Bhattacharva **Member of Parliament**

Place: Dum Dum, Kolkata, West Bengal Date: 22 August, 2025



Time: 4:30 PM



Follow us on





Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose

Governor, West Bengal

www.indianrailways.gov.in



BJD raises tribal, Polavaram **concerns with Union mins**

PARTY CALLS FOR DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEWS TO PROTECT TRIBAL POPULATIONS IN MALKANGIRI AND SURROUNDING AREAS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: A Biju Janata Dal (BJD) delegation met Union Environment Forest & Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram in New Delhi Thursday seeking urgent intervention to protect tribal rights in Malkangiri district and expressing concerns over the Polavaram Project.

The delegation included BJD senior vice president Debi Prasad Mishra, MP Manas Ranjan Mangaraj, MP Subhashish Khuntia and other

CLASSIFIED

LOST

By the virtue of

.Affidavit No.-

70AA 238431 on

dated 15.08.2025. I

Manoranjan Sahoo

S/o Surendranath

sahoo, resident of

deed document no .-

752027, lost sale

Gopalaprasad Kuhudi

1524/2009/1 somewhere

outside of the Tangi SR

office. If anyone find

can contact 8018329614

I, Sri Mukesh Kumar Mittal, S/o - Prakash Kumar Mittal, R/o

- At/Po : Ward No.

5, Bargarh, PS/Dist -

Bargarh, have taken an

from TPWODL, Bargarh

ESO No. IV, in my name

vides my consumer

a connected load of

was installed at

Jaisingh Complex,

my said electricity

connection I have

no. 512001111000 with

40 KW. The aforesaid

electricity connection

Bhatli Chhak, Bargarh,

Dist - Bargarh and for

deposited an amount

of Rs.1,22,780/- with

the TPWODL authority

and I was issued with

same. I have lost my

said original money

receipt issued by the

out of all my possible

searches I was unable

person found the same

is requested to deposit

the same at TPWODL

office, Bargarh.

to trace it out. If any

TPWODL authority and

a money receipt for the

electricity connection

affidavit at Notary

Tangi, Dist.-Khorda

THE DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTED

THE PERSISTENT SUBMERGENCE

RISK FROM THE POLAVARAM

PROJECT AND CRITICISED THE

CENTRE FOR INACTION DESPITE

REPEATED APPEALS **BJD CAUTIONED THAT THE** INCREASED FLOOD DISCHARGE CAPACITY AND RECENT PROJECT **FUNDING COULD ESCALATE DISPLACEMENT RISKS FOR** DDISHA'S TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

prominent leaders.

The delegation strongly objected to the ongoing submergence risk from the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh, noting that repeated appeals and meetings with the Centre have

yet to yield substantial action. Citing the Supreme Court's 2022 observation that mandated environmental clearances. backwater studies, and stakeholder consultation, the BJD judicial directives.

The party noted that while environmental and resettlement clearances were granted in 2005 and 2007, the project has since been expanded without fresh approvals.

The BJD's key demands included an independent backwater study, a comprehensive review of environmental and social impacts on Malkangiri and neighbouring tribal areas, and a dedicated impact assessment on tribal communities such as the Kova. Bonda, Gadaba, and Kandha.

The delegation warned that the revised flood discharge capacity of 50 lakh cusecs, along with the Centre's recent sanction of ₹17,936 crore for project completion, will heighten displacement risks for Odisha's tribal population.

"Development come at the cost of displacement and cultural destruction," the delegation stated, vowing to continue its fight at all platforms.

Guv urges UU alumni to lead social change



Bhubaneswar, August 21: Education is not just about personal success. It is a lifelong responsibility to enlighten and transform society said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Thursday appealing Utkal University (UU) alumnus to treat education as a collective responsibility and build a compassionate society.

Kambhampati joined as the chief guest at the fifth annual

function of the Utkal University Alumni Association at MKCG Auditorium, He called upon the alumni association to go beyond supporting the University's growth and emerge as a force for positive change in the wider world.

Kambhampati described Utkal University as a "radiant beacon of knowledge" that has shaped leaders in politics, governance, science, education, literature, law, culture, business, and public life for over eight decades. "The achievements of its alumni are a testament to the greatness of the institution, with each alumnus serving as an ambassador of its values across the state, nation, and beyond," he said.

Hindi, Sanskrit teachers strike over cadre rule

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: The state units of the Hindi Teachers' Association and Utkal Trained Sanskrit Teachers' Association jointly staged a protest and began an indefinite hunger strike Thursday here at Lower PMG Square, demanding the immediate implementation of the new draft cadre rule for high school teachers.

According to the associations, the education department finalised the new cadre rule several months ago, but they have yet to receive approval, leaving the matter unresolved. Despite repeated appeals, the process has not progressed, they added.

Currently, according to the government norm, each high school in the state has six teachers: two for arts, one each for mathematics, science, Hindi, and Sanskrit. Teachers from both associations noted that all six hold similar qualifications, perform comparable duties, and receive equal salaries. They argued that service conditions and promotional opportunities should likewise be uniform.

However, they alleged that under the outdated 1993 cadre rule, Hindi and Sanskrit teachers are being denied equal treatment. While teachers of other subjects have broader promotion opportunities, including elevation to headmaster positions across districts, language teachers face restrictions and discriminatory barriers in career advancement.

Despite a discussion with the Education Secretary in November last year, where officials acknowledged the inconsistencies, no concrete action has been taken so far. The associations also emphasized that implementing the revised cadre rule would not impose any additional financial burden on the government.

"After waiting for decades, we have no choice but to protest democratically. Unless the government approves the new cadre rule, we will continue our hunger strike," declared the leaders of the associations.



City AIIMS inks MoU for healthcare innovation

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 21: In a step towards advancing healthcare innovation and promoting clinical entrepreneurship, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) Foundation Thursday.

The collaboration aims to create a robust platform for developing, validating, and deploying healthcare technologies, accelerate healthcare innovation growth and attract healthcare startups. It'll also help to establish joint Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in healthcare. diagnostics and digital health.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in the presence of executive director Ashutosh Biswas and KIIT-TBI CEO and BCKIC chairman Mrutvuniav Suar.

"This partnership will position AIIMS-Bhubaneswar as a national translational innovation hub, fostering medical product development, technology advancement, effective IP management, and boosting clin-



CLOSE SHAVE: An Ama Bus catches fire and burns on National Highway-16 near Gadakhurda Square in

Khurda district Thursday, causing panic among passengers, all of whom escaped unharmed

said on the occasion.

Under this MoU, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, KIIT-TBI, and BCK-IC will collaborate on innovation and startup initiatives, including bootcamps, regulatory workshops, and startup-investor roundtables.

Similarly, efforts will be promoted in skill development, entrepreneurship, clinical innovation, technology transfer, and incubation of healthcare startups. A Centre of Excellence (CoE) will be established, equipped with high-end diagnostic tools, clinical validation pathways, and advanced research facilities.

The ceremony was also graced by BCKIC CEO and KIIT-TBI advisor Namrata Misra, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar dean Satyajeet Misra and MoU committee secretary Rituparna Maiti. KIIT-TBI (Tech-Innovation) manager Jayalaxmi Dash and BCKIC manager Arpan Ghosh.

Eastern India's 1st robotic knee replacement surgery at City CARE Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 21: CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar has achieved a medical milestone by performing Eastern India's first robotic, 3D-guided cement less knee replacement, conducted by London-trained orthopaedic specialist Sandeep Singh.

The surgery was conducted on a 58-year-old retired teach er from Bhubaneswar, who had been suffering from advanced knee arthritis. The patient was able to stand and walk with support within 24 hours of the procedure, underscoring its ef fectiveness.

Speaking on the break through, Singh said, "At CARE Hospitals, our orthopedic department has always been at the forefront of adopting advanced technologies. With robotics and 3D-guided surgery, we can achieve higher precision, better outcomes, and a significantly improved quality of life for pa tients. This milestone is not just about technology, it is about en abling people to walk pain-free with confidence and dignity.



WORLD GOAT DAY 2025

Chanchala's journey: From goat farmer to inspiration

Mayurbhanj woman's dedication shows how perseverance can drive growth and inspire change

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 21: Chanchala Mohanta, a progressive woman farmer from Thakurmunda block in Mayurbhanj district, has turned adversity into opportunity through goat farming, emerging as a role model for rural women in Odisha.

Sharing her journey at the World Goat Day 2025 celebrations in Bhubaneswar Thursday, Chanchala recalled, "When I came to this village after my marriage in 2006, my family relied only on paddy, goats, poultry, and vegetables farming. Though we had goats, we lacked proper knowledge of management. In 2015, with support from Heifer International, I received training on vaccination, housing, and breed improvement. That's when I realised that with scientific management, I could significantly



increase my income.

With the help of a loan, she expanded her herd and now owns 49 goats along with poultrv. "I have already sold 10 goats and earned ₹1.46 lakh through goat farming last year. It was not easy, but without taking risks you cannot create your own space," she said.

Despite personal hardships including the loss of her family and the responsibility of raising a disabled child, Chanchala continues to persevere with unwavering determination.

In recognition of her dedica-

tion. Chanchala has been felicitated at both block and district levels. "I want to stand with change and prove that women farmers can be self-reliant.' she said.

Praising her achievements, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik remarked, "Chanchala's hard work is an inspiration to all. For a nation to grow, women must be at the forefront. Our government has several schemes to empower women. Just as President Droupadi Murmu rose to the

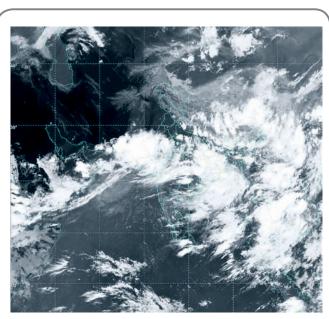
highest office through dedication, women like Chanchala demonstrate what perseverance can achieve.'

The event, organised by Passing Gifts—a subsidiary of Heifer International-was held on the theme "Empowering Odisha's Goat Farmers for a Resilient Future." It brought together government officials, experts, and farmers to emphasise the role of goat farming in strengthening rural livelihoods. On the occasion, 17 progressivewere felicitated farmers from Keonjhar and Mayurbhani districts for their contributions to goat farming.

Goat rearing provides livelihood support to over 25 per cent of Odisha's rural house holds, especially tribal and landless families. According to the Odisha Economic Survey 2024-25, the state slaugh tered 6.86 million goats last year, underscoring the strong demand for goat meat.

Experts at the event emphasised the need for improved breeds, better veterinary care, stronger market linkages, and wider financial inclusion to unlock the sector's full potential.

BOURSES VARIATION INDEX VARIATION **INDEX INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 87.25 A 0.16 SENSEX 82000.71 A 142.87 GOLD ₹**99,520** ₹22 EURO 101.70 \$\rightarrow\$ 0.19 NIFTY **25083.75** \$\rightarrow\$ 32.20 SILVER ₹113,775 **↑** ₹09



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.5°	28.6°	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershower.
Min Temp	25.5°	23.5°	
Humidity	97%	94%	
Rainfall	1.6mm	1.2mm	

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

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

POSCO, JSW to set up mega steel plant in Keonjhar: CM



Hundreds of workers, members of tribal forums, student and youth associations, citizens' groups, press clubs, intellectuals, and local public representatives from different parts of Keonjhar reached Bhubaneswar to thank

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, August 21: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday announced that world-renowned steel producer POSCO and

the CM for his efforts

India's JSW Steel will jointly establish a mega steel plant in Keonjhar district, which will be Odisha's second-largest steel plant. The project, to be set up in the Patna area of Keonjhar, has been approved jointly by South Korea's POSCO and India's JSW.

Terming the project the fulfilment of a long-standing dream, various organisations and civic forums across Keonjhar district expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister during an event held at the state guesthouse in Bhubaneswar

The demand for a steel plant in Keonjhar has been one of the oldest and strongest public demands in the region.

Maihi recalled that he had been pressing for the project long before assuming office and his party had included the steel plant in its 2024 election manifesto. Hundreds of workers, members of tribal forums. student and youth associations. citizens' groups, press clubs, intellectuals, and local public representatives from different parts of Keonjhar reached Bhubaneswar to thank the Chief Minister for his efforts. Majhi said the prosperity of mineral-rich Keonjhar would contribute directly to the prosperity of Odisha.

He also pointed out that although Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the establishment of four mega steel plants in the country's mineral-rich states, Odisha had previously been deprived due to lack of political will.

"Today, under the double-engine government, the world's largest steel manufacturing company is setting up a mega plant in Keonjhar," the Chief Minister stated.

"This project will secure the future of the district and pave the way for a prosperous Odisha. In the coming years, Patna will emerge as a modern city like Rourkela," he said

Majhi assured that largescale industrialisation will take place not only in Keonjhar but across the entire state under the present government.



TAKING TO STREETS: Anganwadi workers stage a demonstration outside the Collectorate in Rayagada over fulfilment of their nine point charter

Cow vigilantes torch vehicle carrying cattle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, August 21: A vehicle carrying around 12 cows was intercepted by 'gau rakshaks' (cow vigilantes) on National Highway 16 in Bhadrak district and set on fire after releasing the cattle Thursday, police said.

According to police, the vehicle, carrying cows from Panikoili area of Jajpur district, was blocked by the cow vigilantes near Nalanga petrol pump in Bhadrak. They released the cows from the van, vandalised

the vehicle and set it on fire. The blaze on the busy high

way triggered panic among commuters. Getting information, fire service personnel

doused the flames, but the vehicle was completely gutted, the police said.

Dayanidhi Das, Inspector In-Charge of Bhadrak Rural police station, confirmed that 12 cows were rescued and said an investigation has been launched. The situation is under control, he added.

Evewitnesses said the driver fled the spot soon after the

Vehicular movement was disrupted for some time before police brought the situation under control. The rescued

cattle were later handed over to a goshala in Bhadrak.

Bhadrak district Rakshya Samiti' president Aprubar Ranjan Behera alleged rampant cattle smug gling in the district, claim ing nearly 2,000 cattle had been rescued in the last four months.

He also recalled that one member, Santosh Rahul, was killed by cattle smugglers two months ago while protesting. "Police only reach after gau rakshaks intercept the vehicles," he alleged.

Woman, daughter drown in Nandapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, August 21: A woman and her teenage daughter drowned Thursday in a newly dug pond at Balia village under Lamtaput block of Nandapur police limits in Koraput district.

The deceased were identified as Nabina Maihi, 40, wife of Sanu Majhi at Harganda village of Nandapur block and their daughter Ambika Majhi, 15. According to police, the two had gone to their farmland at Balia village to work on their ginger cultivation. Sources said Ambika entered the pond to bathe when her mother was busy in farm work. However, she was unaware of its depth and started drowning. Hearing her daughter's cries. Nabina rushed in to save her, but she also drowned.

A team led by Hemant Kumar Samal, Officer In-Charge of Nandapur fire services, fished out both the bodies and handed them over to police Nandapur police registered a case (13/2025) of unnatural death and launched an investigation, Inspector In-Charge Mamata Panda said.

The bodies have been preserved at the Nandapur community health centre morgue and will be handed over to the family after post-mortem Friday, police said.

Security tightened in BU following clash between students, outsiders

Police have registered a case against 10 persons named in the FIR lodged by the injured persons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 21: Tension prevailed in Berhampur University Thursday after a second-year Journalism and Mass Communication student sustained injuries in a clash between students and outsiders near the institute's entrance gate. The violence reportedly broke out Wednesday evening when some students opposed the presence of outsiders at a cultural event, 'Nuakhai', organised on campus by them. The situation escalated, leading to a scuffle near the entrance.

University authorities immediately halted the programme and ordered outsiders to vacate the premises

The incident triggered strong political reactions, with student wings of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress demanding the immediate arrest of those involved in the attack.

Joined by several students, Sanakhemundi Congress MLA



Ramesh Chandra Jena staged a dharna in front of Gopalpur police station Wednesday night, calling for swift police action against the attackers

The university authorities have enhanced security on the campus and decided to restrict outsiders from entering the campus after 5pm.

Possession of the identity card would be made compulsory for students to enter the campus. These decisions were taken by the disciplinary committee of the university headed by Vice Chancellor (VC) Geetanjali Dash.

Currently, 24 security guards are deployed on the campus.

"We will increase the number of security guards to 30. Additional guards will be deployed in the boys' hostels," the VC said. She added there was no untoward incident reported inside the campus.

The situation is under control. Classes were held in the university smoothly, she added.

Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said they have deployed two platoons of force to maintain law and order on the campus following the request of university authorities.

Police have registered a case against 10 persons named in the FIR lodged by the injured persons, he said. Action will be taken against the persons involved in attacking the students after a proper inquiry, the SP said.

Stray dog attack leaves 7 injured

Dharakote: At least seven persons were injured after a stray dog suspected of having rabies went on a biting spree over the past two days in Kusurab, Lakshmipur and Bariguda villages under Dharakote block in Ganjam district. The injured persons were identified as Bipra Pradhan, Ramesh Goud, Ashwini Dakua, Indra Raut and Kashinath Jena of Kusurab village, Biswanath Das of Lakshmipur and Banamali Das of Bariguda village under the block. All of them were administered treatment and anti-rabies vaccines at the Aska Sub-Divisional Hospital. Fear has gripped the villagers as the dog roamed the streets, targeting residents of all ages. Panicked residents are reluctant to allow children outdoors alone. Locals urged the administration to take immediate action to address the menace

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Auction Catalogue No.: SDCM-PRK-ANGL-S

ot No./Category: PARKING-KUR-ANGL

tation & Location : Angul-2 Wheele

Note: Prospective bidders are advised t

risit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the

upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all

equired information regarding this e

CBC 07123/11/0351/2526

(at Platform No. 1 Side)

Auction Start Date

CBC 05103/12/0008/2526 EAST COAST

dopt.gov.in) and IIFT's website www.iift.ac.in.

publication of this advertisement.

ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACTUAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AT SAMBALPUR DIVISION

No.A.12022/26/2016-E.IV

Government of India

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

(Department of Commerce)

Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi

Applications are invited for the post of Vice Chancellor, Indian

Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. IIFT established as a

Society under the Department of Commerce in the year 1963 was

granted the status of Deemed University by the University Grants

2. Details of the post are available on the website of Department

of Commerce (https://www.commerce.gov.in) under "Vacancies

Section", Department of Personnel and Training (https://www.

3. Applications in prescribed format, alongwith requisite

information, may be sent to Shri Siddharth Mahajan, Joint

Secretary, Department of Commerce, Room No. 442, Vanijya

Bhavan, New Delhi-110001, within 30 days from the date of

(INTERVIEW THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING) Employment Notice No. 02/2025-CMP Applications are invited for engagement of "Contract Medical Practitioner

on contract basis in East Coast Railway, Sambalpur division. Willing MBBS Doctors, who fulfil the Qualification/eligibility criteria may apply for the above engagement on mail id of cmsecorsbp8@gmail.com. The engagement will be offered purely on contract basis for a period of one year or till the scheme ble or posting of a regular incumbent whichever is e submission of application on above mail id is 12.09.2025 Eligible and willing candidates may send the scanned copy of their application

in the prescribed format along with scanned copies of their Certificates Work Experience Certificates (if any)/Testimonials on mail id cmsecorsbp8@gmail.com. After scrutiny of the application, interview through video conferencing/video calling would be taken of eligible candidates for which they would be intimated through their e-mail & WhatsApp number. Selected candidate will be intimated through the WhatsApp number/e-mail ld of the candidate. While reporting for duty, the candidate will be required to bring all the original Certificates/ Testimonials for verification and two passport size photographs. After due verification of the Certificates/Testimonials, the final engagement order will be issued. **Total No. of Requirement : 02 Nos** (01-Health Unit / Balangir & 01-Health Unit / Mahasamund) CMPs.

NB: For application format, Educational qualification / Eligibility, Age, nuneration and other terms & conditions, please refer to web www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in C About us C Division Sambalpur Division 3 Recruitment.

PR-498/Q/25-26 Divisional Railway Manager (Personnel)/Sambalpur

कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर,

त्वरित कॉपोरिट सुमापन प्रसंस्करण केंन्द्र (सी-पेस). गुडगाँव, हरियाणा – 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in



Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) IICA Building, 7th Floor Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5 IMT Manesa Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the

Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016] Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1032 Date: 12/08/2025

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248

AB5282738 U22203OD2024PTC047167 GSL RECOPET SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED U17299OR2022PTC040051 MEHVIK OVERSEAS PRIVATE LIMITED U51909OR2021PTC037370 FRESH CESTA RETAIL PRIVATE LIMITED

AB5492348 U661900D2023PTC044479 HINDIGO FINVEST SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED (2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companie under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies either or the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that th company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial year and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under sectio 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsectio (1) of section 10A/have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried

out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies (3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companie

(4) Any Person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companie may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publicatio

Assistant Registra **Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**

Garbage pile near NH puts Semiliguda residents at risk

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Semiliguda, August 21: Uncollected garbage piled up near Jagannath Kalyan Mandap in front of CNC Hotel along the National Highway 26 in Semiliguda town of Koraput district has become a pressing concern for residents as the municipality continues to neglect its responsibility of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. The unattended waste has

become more than just an eyesore. It is attracting stray animals such as cows and dogs, creating serious risks for commuters on the increasingly congested highway. With speeding vehicles and animals roaming near the garbage pile, residents fear a serious accident could happen at any moment.

This is no longer just a hygiene issue. It's turning into a safety threat," said R Narayan Rao, a local resident. "Every day, we see cows eating plastic, dogs fighting over scraps, and even children forced to walk dangerously close to the highway just to avoid the foul smell." "The stench is unbearable,



gressive, and people are falling sick," said Namita Patra, who lives about 200 metres from the garbage pile. "It feels like no one is listening to us," she alleged adding that residents have lodged multiple complaints with municipal staff responsible for cleaning, but no concrete action has been taken.

Owing to humid and rainy weather, the situation has worsened, turning the area into a breeding ground for flies, mosquitoes, and airborne diseases.

Responding to the growing concerns, Sujit Choudhary, executive officer of Sunabeda Municipality, said, "The issue of uncollected garbage along

said location has been taken into consideration. A proper dustbin will be installed at the site immediately to ensure systematic disposal of waste. Additionally, I will personally review the work of the contractor assigned by the municipality to ensure accountability and strict adherence to cleanliness standards," he said.

Community members, however, remain cautious. Until the promises translate into visible action, the garbage continues to rot, stray animals roam dangerously close to fast-moving traffic, and residents are left to endure the mess and the silence from those in charge.

HM arrested for molesting girls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, August 21: Police arrested a headmaster on charge of molesting the girl students under Banharpali police limits in Jharsuguda district Thursday.

The accused was identified as Ajay Behera, headmaster of an Ashram School under Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district. Behera will be produced in the court Friday, Banharpali IIC Ranjit Naik said. The accused has been accused

of misbehaving and molesting the girls studying in Classes VIII, IX and X by regularly entering into their hostel rooms and bathrooms. The accused allegedly again molested two girls Wednesday. Fed up, the girls got together

and lodged a complaint with the block social welfare officer Jvotsna Raudia apprising her about their ordeal. Later, Jyotsna informed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Punyabati Helen Xess about the regular ordeal of the girl students.

Directed by the DSWO, the block social welfare officer lodged a complaint at the Banharpali police station. Police registered a case (171/25) and launched an investigation. During probe, police found clinching evidences against the headmaster and arrested him.



We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves.





A Stealth Target

he 50 per cent tariff on many Brazilian exports to the United States is one of the highest rates that President Donald Trump has imposed as part of his global trade war. Trump has quite plainly stated that the crippling levy is an attempt to intimidate Brazil's justice system into halting the criminal prosecution of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro for inciting a failed coup in 2023. To underscore this point, the administration placed sanctions on Alexandre de Moraes, the Brazilian Supreme Court judge overseeing Bolsonaro's trial.

But Trump's egregious attack on Brazil's democratic institutions is aimed not only at bending a sovereign country's judiciary to his will, but also at beating back a rising challenge to the dollar-denominated financial order. Shortly after Trump first threatened Brazil with a 50 per cent tariff, the US launched a formal investigation into the country's "unfair" trade practices, with a focus on digital trade and electronic-payment services. This implies that Pix, Brazil's instant digital payment system, is a threat to Trump's vision of power.

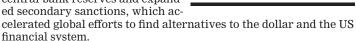
Pix, developed and operated by Brazil's central bank, has revolutionised how Brazilians pay bills and transfer money, with at least 76 per cent of the population using the service. As the Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman recently pointed out, Pix is rapidly displacing both cash and cards, because it offers instantaneous transactions and is free for individuals (and the fees for merchants are much lower than what they pay for traditional payment methods). The upcoming rollout of the "Pix Parcelado" feature, which will allow users to pay in installments, could pose an even greater threat to the credit-card industry – especially the American giants Visa and Mastercard.

Pix offers far more than convenience: it is a step toward creating a new kind of monetary system, one in which commercial banks as we know them may become obsolete. That's not the kind of innovation Trump likes, unless it comes from one of his Big Tech allies.

But there is another concern with broader implications: the creeping decline in the dollar's dominance. After World War II, the greenback

became the unrivaled currency of global trade and finance. This "exorbitant privilege" has allowed the US to borrow freely in its own currency, finance wars and innovation, and maintain its geopolitical edge. But that privilege has been eroded in recent decades – in part because of Trump himself.

The normalisation of sanctions played a big role in this shift. What began as a selective practice in the twentieth century intensified after the 9/11 attacks, as a counter-terrorism measure. By the 2010s, economic sanctions had become a cornerstone of US foreign policy. US adversaries such as Iran, Venezuela, and Russia were variously subject to sweeping sanctions (especially during Trump's first term), with some even being excluded from the Western-dominated SWIFT financial messaging system for international payments. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the US and its European allies froze Russian central-bank reserves and expand-



Meanwhile, the US fiscal position has taken a perilous turn, with federal debt rising from \$19.8 trillion at the start of Trump's presidency in 2017 to \$28.1 trillion by January 2021. Under Joe Biden, it climbed past \$36.2 trillion by January 2025 - over 30 per cent of which is held by foreign and international investors. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act – combining tax cuts for the wealthy, deep reductions in social spending, and deregulation – is expected to add roughly \$3.4 trillion over the next decade, reinforcing already wary foreign creditors' growing unease about America's fiscal path.

De-dollarization has long been the subject of global discussion, as I witnessed firsthand when representing Brazil on the executive boards of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, For many years, countries moved cautiously and quietly, because unwinding their greenback positions too quickly would crash the value of dollar-denominated assets and trigger losses in the trillions. But Trump's indiscriminate attack on free trade and disregard for America's disastrous fiscal trajectory seem to have changed the calculus.

The first five BRICS members - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – are now openly discussing BRICS Pay, a decentralized financial messaging system designed to facilitate trade in local currencies. While its implementation remains elusive, momentum is building for cross-border payment infrastructure that bypasses the US financial system and the dollar. The success of Pix, as well as other government-backed payment systems, is a step toward that end.

Whether he understands the technicalities or not, Trump senses this shift. Opening an investigation into Pix is the move of a diminished power that feels under threat and is desperate to maintain control. Trump and his financial backers see the writing on the wall: if the world no longer needs dollars to trade, then the US will lose its ability to sanction, to dictate, to dominate. But by targeting Pix – and bullying Brazil – Trump risks accelerating the demise of the dollar's global hegemony.

> The writer, a Senior Fellow at the Brazilian Center for International Relations, is a former executive director for Brazil at the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.

DALAI LAMA

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1779: James Cook lands on Possession Island. British explorer James Cook reached the island, which is off the northern coast of Queensland Australia, 2 years after he had set sail on the HMS Endeavour from Plymouth. James Cook named the area New South Wales and claimed it for the British Crown.



Rogerio Studart

Trump and his

see the writing

financial backers

on the wall: if the

world no longer

needs dollars to

trade, then the US

will lose its ability

to sanction, to

dictate, to

dominate

NATION **ADDRESSING FARM DISTRESS**

t was good to hear Prime Minister Prime Minister Modi's recent assertion that the interests of farmers are top priority. "India will never compromise with the interests of the farmers, livestock holders and fishermen. And I know that I will have to personally pay a very heavy price for this, but I am ready,' he said. Agriculture sustains around 46% of Indian population and employs over 46% of workers but it generates less than a fifth of the GDP.

However, the Opposition was quick to scoff at the assertion and recall Modi government's three farm laws wherein the peasants were subjected to police excesses and a smear campaign by the BJP and its ecosystem was evident. Over 750 farmers were reported to have died during the prolonged protest. The Prime Minister's remark should be seen in the context of the tariff arm-twisting by the Trump administration, but it wasn't clear how Modi would suffer heavy personal loss. Reports so far suggest the US demanding zero-duty access to the Indian market for all its agricultural and dairy products, which Delhi was firmly resisting.

An important development in the sector is the launch of the National Mission on Natural Farming with an outlay of Rs 2481 crore at an early date aimed at promoting sustainable farming on 750,000 hectares and increasing the income of 10 million farmers. The Central government will be contributing Rs 1584 crore towards the scheme with states accounting for Rs 897 crore.

However, despite efforts, progress in the sector doesn't look encouraging. A recent NABARD report stated that farm households earn Rs



A decline in agricultural productivity is expected to result in an overall reduction of food supplies reaching the market soon

13,661 per month on average of which actual farm income is just Rs 4476. The rest is income from other work. Undoubtedly, farmers are poor and experts suggest that the government must come forward to free them from the voke of subsistence farming. Fragmentation of farm size as also lack of modernisation of agriculture has come in the way of increase in output while the failure of industry to create jobs has led to more people being dependent on agriculture.

But the question arises what the government is doing either to modernise agriculture and train farmers to diversity towards value-added crops or extend more financial assistance for such diversification and to increase productivity? Plus, it must also look into the fact that agriculture is being affected by climate change in most parts of the country.

In the Indo-Gangetic plain, after crossing western Uttar Pradesh into Bihar and West Bengal, there are areas of productivity but also high rural poverty. Temperature rise has already hit production, affecting small and marginal farmers in Eastern India. More prosperous regions such as Punjab and Haryana are also likely to see a lowering of productivity.

A decline in agricultural productivity is expected to result in an overall reduction of food supplies reaching the market soon. This downturn will directly affect the availability and cost of essential items such as vegetables, fruits, pulses, dairy, and millets. These staples, which ought to be accessible to consumers at reasonable prices, may become increasingly difficult to obtain as production wanes.

Attention should be given to diversifying food crops, a task where the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) could contribute more visibly at local levels. Small and marginal farmers, particularly in remote areas, need training, seeds, inputs, and technical support to diversify crops and improve incomes—support that is currently lacking.

Since the time of the late agricultural scientist, MS Swaminathan, certain measures have been suggested which include double cropping, better rotation of crops, fighting plant diseases and pests and diversification of ity enhancing investment in agriculture depends not only on the state of knowledge but also on conditions governing the adoption of technology; it depends on the land tenure system which determines how the agricultural produce is divided between owners of land and agricultural labour.

The other important aspect is marketing and the year started with some good news with the Centre coming out with a draft national policy framework on agriculture marketing suggesting states move towards a unified national market for agriculture produce through single licensing/registration system and single fee.

Now with the US threatening 50% tariff on exports, the government will need to look for new markets. At same time, it's disturbing that India doesn't have a proper agricultural policy. While Israel spends 6% of its GDP on R&D, which is twice the global average, half of that funding comes from the private sector. In contrast, India invests around 1% and languishes as a developing nation.

Increasing farm income is indeed a great challenge for the country and policymakers must sincerely look into the matter. Small and marginal farmers are in great distress, and this can't be allowed to continue for long, if agriculture has to contribute in a bigger way to GDP. Renewed efforts are necessary to make agriculture remunerative by promoting cash crops, setting up peasant cooperatives and

agro-based industries. It is essential to conduct a thorough analysis of farm distress and implement measures to make agriculture more profitable. Farmers' interest needs action not words alone

SPECTRUM

Dhurjati Mukherjee

EFFORTS ARE

AGRICULTURE

REMUNERATIVE

BY PROMOTING

COOPERATIVES

CASH CROPS.

SETTING UP

AND AGRO-

INDUSTRIES

PEASANT

BASED

NECESSARY

RENEWED

TO MAKE

TECHNOLOGY

A new chapter in tech self-reliance



Bhagirathi Jena

BY SPECIALISING IN HIGH-VALUE SEGMENTS LIKE SILICON CARBIDE AND ADVANCED PACKAGING, **INDIA HAS CHOSEN STRATEGIC NICHES WHERE IT CAN EXCEL**

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

'ndia's journey toward technological sovereignty has reached an exciting milestone with the announcement of cutting-edge semiconductor facilities in Odisha. The state is set to become the cradle of India's semiconductor revolution, hosting the nation's first commercial Silicon Carbide (SiC) chip manufacturing unit and a world-class advanced packaging facility in Bhubaneswar's Info Valley. These projects, representing investments worth thousands of crores, mark a decisive shift in India's capabilities from being merely a consumer to becoming a creator of critical semiconductor technologies. The numbers tell a compel-

ling story. The SiC facility, collaboration between Indian company SicSem and UKbased Clas-SiC Wafer Fab, will produce 60,000 wafers annually with packaging capacity for 96 million units. To put this in perspective, these chips will power everything from our smartphones to our missile systems. The adjacent advanced packaging unit by 3D Glass Solutions will manufacture 69,600 glass panel substrates and assemble 50 million units each year. Together, these facilities will employ highly skilled professionals while creating numerous indirect employment opportunities across the supply chain. What makes Odisha's emergence particularly significant is the strategic nature of these semiconductor technologies. SiC chips are not ordinary semiconductors - they can withstand extreme heat and power, making them ideal for India's defence systems, electric vehicles, and renewable energy infrastructure. Similarly, the advanced packaging technology coming to Bhubaneswar represents the next frontier in chip manufacturing, enabling smaller, faster and more efficient electronic devices that will drive innovations in artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, and telecommunications.

The economic implications are profound. Currently, India imports nearly 90% of its semiconductor needs, with purchases exceeding \$20 billion annually. The Odisha facilities could help reduce this dependence significantly while creating a new export opportunity for high-value electronics. More importantly, they establish India's presence in the global semiconductor value chain beyond just design services, where Indian engineers already contribute to about 20% of the world's chip designs.

Globally, semiconductor supply chains are being reconfigured, with nations rec-

Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh

ognising chips as strategic assets akin to oil reserves. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, prompting countries to prioritise domestic capabilities. India's Semiconductor Mission launched with Rs 76,000 crore in funding, positions the country to benefit from this realignment. The Odisha facilities represent tangible progress toward the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat in electronics manufacturing.

Beyond economics, there's a strong strategic imperative. Semiconductors form the backbone of modern defence systems, space programmes, and critical infrastructure. Reliance on imports creates vulnerabilities that the Odisha facilities will help mitigate. When fully operational, these plants will supply chips for India's missile guidance systems. radar technologies, and secure communications networks - all crucial for national security.

The human impact deserves equal attention. Each semiconductor job creates about five additional jobs in the ecosystem. For Odisha's youth, this means new career pathways in cutting-edge engineering fields. Local educational institutions are already aligning their curricula with industry needs; ensuring students are prepared for high-tech oppor-

tunities. By specialising in high-value segments like SiC and advanced packaging, India has chosen strategic niches where it can excel.

The Odisha story reflects a larger national transformation. Just as Bangalore became India's IT capital and Pune its automotive hub, Bhubaneswar is carving its identity as the nation's semiconductor nerve center. This aligns perfectly with India's ambitions to become a \$5 trillion economy. where high-tech manufacturing will play a pivotal role.

For ordinary Indians, the implications are tangible. More reliable electronics, faster-charging electric vehicles. efficient solar power systems, and advanced medical equipment - all could become more accessible as domestic semiconductor production scales up.

The state's transformation from a mineral-rich region to a technology hub symbolises India's broader journey - one that leverages traditional strengths to build modern capabilities. In this new era where data is the new oil and chips the new currency, Odisha's semiconductor ventures represent more than industrial progress - they embody India's determination to shape its technological destiny.

> The writer is a senior officer working at the Parliament of India.

Broken system

Sir, The West Bengal government's high-handed disruption of The Bengal Files trailer launch despite its judicial clearance is a declaration of war on cultural freedom. This is not merely an administrative hiccup; it is a calculated act of sabotage, a blatant circumvention of legal authority to silence a narrative that challenges the ruling party's sanitised version of history. By cutting power and deploying police to shut down a private event, the state is making a chilling promise: dissent will not be tolerated, and the machinery of government will be used to crush creative expression. However, this isn't an isolated event but a pattern of selective enforcement and political patronage. Compare the fate of The Bengal Files with its predecessor. The Kashmir Files. While the latter was widely endorsed by the ruling establishment, receiving tax breaks and public promotion, it faced little to no administrative obstruction. In contrast, Padmaavat survived a wave of political and extra-legal bans only because of the Supreme Court's firm intervention, a testament to the judiciary's role as a last line of defense. The fact that filmmakers must now rely on a legal battle to even screen a trailer reveals a broken system.

Transactional politics

Sir, The recent escalation of tariff disputes between Washington and New Delhi reveals how fragile economic cooperation can become when short-term gains outweigh long-term commitments. The United States, while calling India a strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific, has imposed fresh tariff barriers that hurt Indian exports in textiles, pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery. Such measures ignore the fact that both economies are deeply intertwined, and that higher costs ultimately burden American consumers as well. At the same time, India cannot be expected to abandon its vital energy partnership with Russia merely to suit shifting US priorities. True partnerships rest on respect for each other's compulsions, not on unilateral demands. The real challenge lies in ensuring that trade frictions do not derail the broader vision of democratic cooperation in a turbulent world order. Strategic trust must prevail over transactional politics.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





Disciplined for bed-wetting: Gurukul warden brands kids

Barmer, August 21: A teacher-cum-warden of a gurukul in Rajasthan's Barmer district allegedly branded two children, aged around 10 and 11, with a hot iron rod to "discipline" them for bed-wetting, officials said Thursday

The alleged incident took place August 17 at a gurukul in the Harpaliya village of Sedwa area, run by Harpaleshwar Mahadev Vikas Seva Samiti. According to officials, the gurukul, operational since 2022, houses children from poor and nomadic families, some of whom were orphans.

Police said the matter sur-

faced after one of the children fled the gurukul at night and informed his family about the alleged torture.

Villagers later gathered outside the institution, demanding strict action after a purported video showing the children's burn injuries and their accounts of alleged mistreatment went viral. Chauhatan Deputy SP Jeevanlal Khatri confirmed that Narayan Giri. a resident of Bharatpur and warden-cum-teacher at the gurukul, has been detained.

"A viral video showed children alleging that they were branded with a hot rod. Following this, we took Naravan Giri into custody," Khatri said.

Pigeon carrying chit to blow up Jammu railway station caught Security agencies are

taking the matter seriously in the wake of the prevailing threat perceptions and anti-India designs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 21: Security forces have captured a pigeon from the border area of RS Pura in Jammu district carrying a threat note to blow up the Jammu railway station, prompting police to beef up security in the region, officials said.

Pakistan has been known to send balloons, flags and pigeons to the India side of the Inter-



national Border (IB) carrying varied messages, but this is the first time that a pigeon carrying a threat letter has been captured, they said.

UP THE JAMMU RAILWAY STATION WITH AN IED WITH LINES SUCH AS "KASHMIR FREEDOM", "TIME HAS COME", ETC ACCORDING TO SECURITY

IN URDU AND ENGLISH TO BLOW

EXPERTS, THE PIGEON MIGHT HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY TRAINED AND RELEASED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER WITH A THREAT MESSAGE TIED TO ITS CLAWS

chit was found tied to its claws carrying a message to blow up the Jammu railway station," a senior police officer said.

According to sources, the chit carried a threat message in Urdu and English to blow up the Jammu railway station with an IED with lines such as "Kashmir Freedom' "Time has come", etc. Security agencies are probing whether it was an act of mischief or a well-planned conspiracy, the officials said.

However, taking no chances, the forces have beefed up security around the railway station and the tracks. Dog squads and bomb disposal teams have been deployed, with local police on high alert, the officials said.

According to security experts the pigeon might have been spe cially trained and released from across the border with a threat message tied to its claws, "You have to take such matters seri ously," an expert said.

KISHTWAR CLOUDBURST

RACE AGAINST TIME TO FIND SURVIVORS

Multi-agency search operation intensifies to trace 33 missing



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chisoti, August 21: The multi-agency search operation to trace 33 missing persons in cloudburst-hit Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir entered the eighth day Thursday, officials said.

The death toll in the natural calamity that struck the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple August 14 during the vatra stands at 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J-K Police. Over 100 people were injured.

"The search operation by multiple agencies has been intensified to trace 33 missing persons. Operations are underway at the most affected sites by separate teams," a senior official told PTI.

The focus of the operation has been laid at three locations the major impact site near a langar (community kitchen), the area where houses were washed away, and the Bhuat nallah in Gulabgarh-Paddar

Joint teams of police, Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), CISF, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), civil administration, and local volunteers are engaged in the rescue efforts at these sites, the officials said. A team comprising NDRF,

SDRF, and police personnel is conducting a search operation along the entire 22-km stretch

THE DEATH TOLL IN THE NATURAL **CALAMITY THAT** STRUCK THE LAST **MOTORABLE VILLAGE EN ROUTE TO THE** by the cloudburst left a trail of **MACHAIL MATA**

TEMPLE AUGUST 14 DURING THE YATRA STANDS AT 65

of the stream from Chisoti to Gulabgarh, following the recovery of two bodies downstream over the past two days, the of-Specialised heavy-duty

trucks have been deployed in the Chisoti to assist in rescue operations. Authorities are using such vehicles to ensure swift evacuation and provide relief in the affected areas, they said. The rescue teams from the

13th Battalion of NDRF are actively carrying out search operations along the river-nallah bed, working tirelessly to locate and retrieve missing persons. They are also removing large

boulders and debris to ensure a thorough and safe search. Heavy machinery, including earth movers and sniffer dogs, are being used to sift through the debris, they said.

The officials said while the death toll stands at 65, some body parts of the missing peo-

ple have been recovered, and the DNA identification process has begun.

Senior IAS and IPS officials, deputed on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, are supervising the operation on the ground.

The flash floods triggered

destruction, flattening a makeshift market and a langar site for the annual Machail Mata vatra, damaging 16 houses and government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge, besides over a dozen vehicles. Army engineers Sunday built

a Bailey bridge over the Chisoti nullah, restoring much-needed connectivity to the village and the Machail Mata shrine.

The Army has also inducted a couple of all-terrain vehicles as part of efforts to intensify the rescue and relief operation.

The rescuers also carried out over half a dozen controlled explosions to blow up giant boulders hampering the search.

The annual Machail Mata yatra, which began July 25 and was scheduled to conclude September 5, remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day Wednesday.

However, authorities will allow a group of devotees carrying the 'Charri' from Jammu, who are expected to reach the shrine August 21 or 22. The 8.5km trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine starts from Chisoti, located about 90 km from Kisht-

Rajasthan to set up language labs

STUDENTS TO LEARN ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, AND JAPANESE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 21: The Rajasthan government, with the support of the English and Foreign Language University (EF-LU) and the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, will establish 'language labs' in Rajasthan. These labs will offer specialised training in international languages such as English, French, Spanish, and Japanese

With this initiative, the youth will gain proficiency in global languages, thereby creating new pathways for overseas employment and higher education opportunities

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has taken yet another significant step towards empowering the youth of Rajasthan and preparing them for global opportunities.

The Chief Minister firmly



believes that the youth of the state possess immense potential, which can be harnessed by providing the right direction, skills, and international

flying in from Pakistan was

caught in the Katmaria area

along the International Border

at around 9 pm on August 18. A

He has emphasised that the vision of a 'Developed Rajasthan' can only be realised through the empowerment of the younger generation, offi-

The training imparted in these Language Labs will significantly enhance the communication skills and employability of the youth. With language expertise, they will be able to access job opportunities in diverse fields such as tourism, business, IT, education, and the service sector - not only within India but also internationally. This initiative is expected to es pecially benefit students, young professionals, and aspirants aiming to build careers abroad

The Chief Minister has underlined that the ability to com municate effectively in global languages is a key requirement for success in today's interconnected world, and the state government is committed to bridg ing this gap.

'Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit organised last year by the state government had set new benchmarks in the industrial sector of the state.

During the summit, MoUs worth nearly Rs 35 lakh crore were signed between the government and entrepreneurs. Several multinational compa nies expressed a strong interest in employing skilled youth from Rajasthan.

New Budgam to Delhi cargo train to boost exports from Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 21: The railway board Wednesday approved the Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo (JPP-RCS) train from Kashmir to Delhi to provide a dependable alter native to fruit and handicraft dealers to showcase their produce across the country.

The train, having an SLR (Seating cum Luggage Rake) with eight parcel vans, will run daily from the Budgam Railway Station in Kashmir to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi, the Northern Railway's Jammu division said in a statement.

In its first year of operation, the cargo train will operate on a pilot basis, with security arrangements managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police at both ends of the route.

Vivek Kumar, the Divisional Railway Manager for Jammu Division, said the goal of the JPP-RCS is to promote freight transportation through railways

"It is a virtual aggrega tion platform, which will help in connecting the participation of railways in the private sector. This cargo train is being operated for the first time in the Jammu division," he said.

Kumar also mentioned that the train service will commence soon and that the registration fee for bookings has been reduced.

Dinosaur-era fossils unearthed in Jaisalmer pond dig

The unusual find has sparked speculation that the site could provide new evidence of the region's prehistoric past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaisalmer, August 21: Fossil-like remains, including a large bone-shaped structure and petrified wood, have been discovered during the excavation of a pond near a village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, raising the possibility of the site being linked to the prehis-

toric dinosaur era. These unusual stone formations, resembling a large skeletal structure, were found in Megha village by locals while digging near the pond. Some of the pieces resemble fossilised wood, while others look like bones. Experts say fossilised wood is not uncommon in west-



ern Rajasthan, but the presence of bone-like formations makes

this find unusual. Fatehgarh Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Tehsildar visited the site on Wednesday

and inspected the remains.

We have informed higher

authorities, and a team from

the Geological Survey of India

(GSI) is expected at the spot for

scientific investigation. After a

complete investigation, we will be able to confirm the age and type of fossil," Fatehgarh SDM Bharatraj Gurjar told PTI

will be held from August 21st to 23rd

"Some of the structures have the appearance of petrified wood, but there is also a large formation which looks skeletal. This combination suggests that the remains could be millions of years old, possibly belonging to the dinosaur era," archaeologist Parth Jagani said.

However, experts cautioned against drawing conclusions before scientific tests

"These remains are visible on the surface rather than coming out from deep excavation. It is possible that they are not very

ancient and may be only 50 to 100 years old. Only carbon dating and other methods of scientific analysis can determine their true age," said Professor Shyam Sunder Meena.

Workers clean the Dal Lake ahead of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival in Srinagar. The festival

Officials said the suspected fossils were found embedded in stone ridges near the pond, a setting often associated with ancient sedimentary deposits. Fossilised wood has previously been reported from the Thar desert, but the discovery of a skeletal-like structure in combination makes this case notable.

Villagers gathered at the site in large numbers after the discovery, sharing videos and photos of the remains on social media.



No.C-919: The Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala, on behalf of Governor of Odisha wites for bidders of eligible class registered with the State Govt. and bidders o equivalent grade/class registered with central Govt./MES/Railways according to form of e-procurement system in online mode for the work as per DTCN.

. Name of the Work External Electrification for MCC & MRF 2. Number of Work

Date and Time of availability

OIPR-13203/11/0047/2526

of Bid Document in the Portal

plant at Khalidi Sahi under Kodala NAC 01 No. Estimated cost
Period of Completion

As per DTCN

As per DTCN

From 10.00 A.M. of Dt. 21.08.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt. 02.09.2025

of Bid in the Portal The bid received online shall be opened on 11.00 A.M. of dtd.

03.09.2025 : Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala . Name and Address of the

Officer inviting Bid Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal; www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Office

national



As scientists, engineers, doctors, soldiers, artists, entrepreneurs, athletes, academicians, social workers, policy makers, and in many other roles, women are consistently reaching new heights

MLA RAHUL MAMKOOTATHIL QUITS **KERALA YOUTH CONGRESS CHIEF POST**

Congress MLA from Kerala, Rahul Mamkootathil, who faces an internal party inquiry over a misbehaviour allegation made by an actress, Thursday announced his resignation as Kerala Youth Congress president. He announced this while speaking to reporters at his residence in Adoor in Pathanamthitta district, shortly after Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly V D Satheesan asserted that nobody found guilty would be spared





discharge its duties to people in the national interest KIREN RIJIJU I



Muslim women who are abandoned by their husbands face hardships... to support and

improve the condition of such Muslim women, the state government started financia assistance of Rs 10,000 per month in 2007. This amount has now been increased to Rs 25,000 per month NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

Time has come when even our prime minister (Modi) has to take such steps that India can



FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Man shoots self in car

Pauri: A man shot himself in his car here Thursday, shortly after alleging that BJP Yuva Morcha (BJYM) office-bearer Himanshu Chamoli took Rs 35 lakh from him to get a landrelated work done and should be held responsible for his death. Police said Chamoli was arrested from the Bhaniyawala area of Dehradun a few hours after the incident. Taking cognisance of the incident, the BJP also immediately removed him from his post.

New security shield for Delhi CM

New Delhi: Deployment of CRPF personnel in the inner security cover of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, installation of a watch tower at her residence and stringent checks at public events are among the measures that will be put in place, a day after she was attacked during a public hearing. On Thursday, the Central Reserve Police Force took charge of the chief minister's security as the Union government accorded 'Z' category VIP security cover to her.

Woman found hanging in hostel

Godda: An 18-year-old woman was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her hostel room in Jharkhand's Godda district Thursday. police said. The incident took place at the hostel in Gavatri Nagar under Town police station area, "Prima facie, it appears to be a case of suicide. A note has been recovered from her room in which she mentioned about not being able to fulfil her dream." Town police station

Contractor held for making fake MoUs

in-charge Dinesh Mahli said.

Mumbai: A 50-year-old contractor has been arrested in connection with the Rs 65-crore Mithi river desilting scam for allegedly creating fake MoUs and receiving Rs 29.62 crore through bogus bills an official said Thursday. One of the MoUs presented by the accused, Shershing Rathod, had the "signature" of a dead person, the official said.

Night curfew imposed in India-Bangla border

Shillong: Authorities in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills Thursday imposed night curfew within a one-km radius of the India-Bangladesh border in the district in the wake of a recent intrusion by armed men from across the



Weapon of mass distraction: Cong

Congress general secretary in-charge, communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the BJP's "anti-corruption credentials" were restricted to "operating a washing machine" and alleged the bills introduced by Amit Shah were "unconstitutional and anti-democratic"

New Delhi, August 21: The Congress Thursday claimed the bills proposing the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers under arrest for 30 days on serious charges were a "WMD -- weapon of mass distraction". It claimed the bills were

aimed at diverting attention from "vote chori", a strong opposition candidate for the vice presidential polls and the problems in the India-US ties.

Congress general secretary in-charge, communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the BJP's 'anti-corruption credentials' were restricted to "operating a washing machine" and alleged the bills introduced by Amit Shah were "unconstitutional and anti-democratic". Speaking to PTI, he blamed

the government for the near-washout of the Monsoon Session and said this happened due to its "my way or the highway approach". "Not my way or the Gadkari highway but my way or the Modi highway," he said, taking a swipe at the government, Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday introduced in the Lok Sabha three Bills

Raj meets Fadnavis

amid alliance buzz

Mumbai, August 21: Ma-

harashtra Navnirman Sena

president Raj Thackeray

Thursday met Chief Minis-

ter Devendra Fadnavis at

the latter's official residence

'Varsha' in south Mumbai,

prompting speculation in the

The meeting comes after

the first joint electoral con-

test by the Uddhav Thacker-

ay-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and

Raj Thackeray's MNS in the

BEST Employees' Co-opera-

tive Credit Society elections

ended in a humiliating defeat

Wednesday, as the parties'

joint panel failed to win any

Talking to reporters, Thac-

keray said several cities in

the state are witnessing slum redevelopment, leading to a

tenfold rise in population den-

sity in some areas. As a result,

residents are facing parking

woes, with vehicles spilling onto city roads and causing

Thackeray said he also made

a presentation before Fadnavis

during which the Mumbai Po-

lice Commissioner and Joint

Commissioner of Police (traffic)

construct parking lots un-

der playgrounds that could

accommodate 500 to 1,000 ve-

hicles. These underground

parking structures will also

not impact the open spaces

He stressed the need to

traffic jams, he said.

were present.

of the 21 seats in the polls.

state's political circles.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RS move to nominate 10-member panel

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha Thursday adopted a motion to nominate 10 members to the Joint Committee of both Houses which will scrutinise the three bills for the removal of prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers on arrest for 30 consecutive days on serious charges, amid vociferous protests by the Opposition. The Upper House adopted a motion to concur with the recommendation of the Lok Sabha in joining the 31-member Joint Committee to look into these bills. 21 members will be from the Lok Sabha.

for the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers, and ministers under arrest for 30 consecutive days on serious charges, drawing fierce protests from opposition MPs who tore up copies of the draft law and marched close to his seat shouting slogans. On Shah's

proposal, the bills were sent by the House to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha for scrutiny. The three Bills are the Gov-

ernment of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The Bills have proposed that if the prime minister, union ministers or chief ministers are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years, they will lose their jobs on the 31st day.

Ramesh said the bills were a "WMD -- weapon of mass distraction" that were aimed at distracting from "vote chori narrative", a strong joint opposition candidate and the problems India is having with the US.

The opposition has put up a joint vice-presidential candidate, B Sudarshan Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge, for the polls. Talking about the Monsoon Session, which concluded on Thursday, Ramesh said. "The session began exactly one month ago. The demand of the opposition on July 21 was to have a discussion on Pahalgam, on Operation Sindoor and related issues and have a discussion on Bihar Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and plans to extend it to states such as Assam and West Bengal."



A man pulls a rickshaw amid rainfall in Kolkata, West Bengal

China backs India against US tariffs



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 21: China fully opposes the US move of imposing tariffs of up to 50 per cent on India and Washington's threat to increase it, Chinese envoy Xu Feihong said here Thursday.

In his address at an event here, Feihong also said that tariff and trade "wars" were disrupting the global economic and trade system.

Chinese

envoy's remark assumes nificance as it comes amid a thaw in Sino-India ties. and India

The

China Tuesday unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative

and forward-looking" relationship that included jointly maintaining peace along the frontier, reopening border trade, promoting investment flows, and resuming direct flight connectivity at the earliest. The announcements aimed at realising the "full" development potential of the two Asian giants came amid growing estrangement in ties between India and the US over President Donald Trump's policies on trade and tariffs.

India and China listed the measures in a joint document after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held wide-ranging talks earlier this week with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, besides meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his address at an event held at the IIC here, the Chinese envoy referred to the tariffs imposed on various countries by Washington.

"The United States imposed tariffs of up to 50 per cent on India, and even threatened to impose more. China fully opposes it," he said. Speaking about the upcom-

ing SCO Summit in China, Feihong said his country is willing to work with all parties, including **CHINESE** India, to hold the **ENVOY'S**

summit, featur ing friendship, **REMARK ASSUMES** solidarity, and **SIGNIFICANCE AS** fruitful comes. **IT COMES AMID A** "Together, we

THAW IN SINOcan open a new chapter of a drag-**INDIA TIES** on-elephant tango, he asserted. US economist Jeffrey Sachs also doubled down his

criticism of Trump's move to impose 50 per cent punitive tariffs on India, calling the American President the great unifier of the BRICS-- a forum for cooperation among a group of leading emerging economies. including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

In an interview on Krystal Ball and Saagar Enjeti's Break ing Points show, the renowned US economist called Trump's tariffs "the stupidest tactical move in US foreign policy".

Senior US Congressman Gregorv Meeks has also slammed Trump for his punitive tariffs against India and said "tariff tantrum" risks over two decades of careful work to build a strong partnership between Washing-

ton and New Delhi.

SNIPPETS

Man forces wife to maintain body like Nora, case booked

Ghaziabad (UP): A woman here has filed a police complaint alleging that her husband and in-laws subjected her to harassment and mental torture for dowry, and demanded that she maintain her figure like Bollywood actress Nora Fatehi, officials said. The woman also accused her in-laws of forcing her to take an abortion pill, which she claimed led to a miscarriage. In her complaint, the woman who was married six months ago alleged that her family spent more than Rs 76 lakh on the wedding. Despite this, she was constantly "body-shamed" by her husband, who is a physical education teacher at a government school, her complaint said.

Search ops intensified for 33 missing in J&K cloudburst

Chisoti (J&K): The multi-agency search operation to trace 33 missing persons in cloudburst-hit Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir entered the eighth day Thursday, officials said. The death toll in the natural calamity that struck the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple on August 14 during the yatra stands at 65, including three CISF personnel and one Special Police Officer (SPO) of J-K Police. Over 100 people were injured. "The search operation by multiple agencies has been intensified to trace 33 missing persons. Operations are underway at the most affected sites by separate teams," a senior official told PTI.

anyone

wants to be

enter matrimony,

says top court

bench

Maharashtra tragedy: Gas leak leaves 4 workers dead

Mumbai: Four workers were killed and two others hospitalised after inhalation of nitrogen gas that leaked at a pharmaceutical company in Tarapur MIDC of Maharashtra's Palghar district Thursday, officials said. The incident occurred in the afternoon at Medley Pharma located in the industrial area of Boisar, around 130km from here Chief of Palghar district disaster management cell. Vivekanand Kadam. said that between 2.30 pm and 3 pm, gas leaked from the nitrogen reaction tank at the pharma company, seriously affecting six persons working there.

Singapore along with the chil-

dren. The bench asked the wife

to hand over the children to the

petitioner for birthday celebra-

tion. It also asked the husband

to ensure that the children are

at the wife's house for birthday

The bench said the petitioner

celebration in the evening.

Turkish firm Celebi withdraws HC plea on airport clearance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 21: The subsidiary of Turkiye-based airport ground handling services major Celebi Thursday withdrew its plea in the Bombay High Court against revocation of its security clearance by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

A bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla allowed the same and disposed of the plea.

The Bombay HC had been deferring hearing of the plea awaiting a verdict on an identical plea before Delhi HC, which was dismissed last month.

On July 7, the Delhi HC dismissed a writ petition by anoth er Celebi subsidiary seeking suspension and annulment of the security clearance cancel-

Celebi's counsel Chetan Kapadia on Thursday told Bombay HC bench that the firm

seeks to withdraw its plea, which the court accepted. The petition had sought susadministrative decision of se

pension and annulment of the curity clearance cancellation granted by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security under the Ministry of Civil Aviation of

The HC had last month also vacated its earlier interim order restraining Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from finalising tenders for ground and bridge handling services post termination of Celebi's contract.

Marriage means togetherness, not independence: SC

above them, he said.

New Delhi, August 21: The Supreme Court Thursday said it was "impossible" that in a continuing marriage a husband or a wife could say they want to be independent of their partner. If anybody wanted to be

independent, they ought not enter matrimony, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan cautioned. The bench added, "We are

very clear. No husband or wife can say I want to be independent of the other spouse while our marriage is continuing. That is impossible. Marriage means what, coming together of two souls, persons. How can you be independent?"

The top court was hearing a case of an estranged couple with two minor children. "If



they (couple) come together, we will be happy because the children are very young. Let them not stare at a broken home. What is their fault that they should have a broken home,' the bench said.

Asking the parties to sort out their differences, the bench said every husband and wife

dispute or the other with each other.

The wife, who appeared in the court through video-conferencing, said, "We can't clap with one hand." The bench told her, "We are telling both of you, not only you.

The woman claimed her

in Singapore and currently in India, was unwilling to resolve the matter while only looking for visitation right and custody of children.

The wife cited difficulties, saying fully independent, the husband's actions in Sinthey should not gapore made it

husband, who was residing

'extremely difficult" for her to return. Stressing

said both the man and wife had

the "best jobs" in Singapore but

the latter refused to return to

needing a job for livelihood, being a single mother, the woman claimed of having received no maintenance from the estranged husband. The husband's counsel

would have the interim custody of children on the coming weekends in August. It noted the petitioner's submissions that for the purpose of reconciliation with his wife, he was willing to seek the proon ceedings for divorce to be kept

in abevance.

The top court asked the husband to deposit Rs 5 lakh towards maintenance of the wife and children without prejudice to other orders that may be there against him and posted the matter for September 16.

national



There is no encroachment by the Naga people. In fact. Rio will join hands with us for the plantation drive. We aim to plant saplings in 12,000 bighas of land at Rengma. This is going to be a significant step from an ecological point of view

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

RLY BOARD FRAMES NORMS TO RE-HIRE RETIRED LOCO PILOTS

The Railway Board has framed norms to re-hire former loco pilots and assistant loco pilots in pursuance of its policy to reengage retired employees on a contractual basis and reduce the number of vacant posts.





through the EC Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The INDIA bloc will not allow the BJP to steal the voting rights of people RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Met J P Nadda to request him to expedite some health projects to apprise him of the severe difficulties being faced

by the local population in the absence of the Medical College in Mananthavadi, which is vet far from functional PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS MP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always taken decisions based on principles of morality. Therefore,



The bills have been given to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for review. They (Opposition) are opposing this as well despite the JPC having members for all

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER





years are going to be a roller coaster for India. There is fatigue with government, the opposition

is destructive and sold, the big business houses have taken sides and the world's most habitual and expert regime changer has set its mind on teaching India a lesson. May Mahadev give strength to the Prime Minister for battling a well funded, well coordinated and well designed regime change operation.

@Rezang_La

SHORT **TAKES**

Vazhoor Soman dies of cardiac arrest at 7

Thiruvananthanuram: Senior CPI leader and MI A Vazhoor Soman died Thursday following a cardiac arrest. party sources said. He was 72 and represented Peerumade in Idukki district in the State Assembly, Kerala Revenue Minister K Rajan said Soman collapsed after suffering a cardiac arrest while descending the steps of a building at PTP Nagar, shortly after attending a revenue assembly meeting in the afternoon.

Stray dogs row: SC to deliver order today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is set to pronounce August 22 the order on a plea to stay its August 11 direction to permanently relocate stray dogs from streets to dog shelters in Delhi-NCR.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria had August 14 reserved its order in the

FIR against journalist for 'ridiculing' Centre

Guwahati: Guwahati police Thursday registered an FIR against journalist and YouTuber Abhisar Sharma over his video allegedly ridiculing the Assam and Union governments and promoting religious enmity, a senior official said. The FIR invokes Sections 152 (sedition), 196 and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS). According to the complaint, Sharma uploaded a video on YouTube accusing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of pursuing communal politics.

India, Russia agree to boost trade ties



Moscow, Aug 21: India and Russia agreed to boost trade ties Thursday as their foreign ministers met in Moscow. giving little indication that US President Donald Trump's hefty tariffs on India for buying Russian oil would disrupt their relations.

Indian goods face additional US tariffs of up to 50%, among the highest imposed by Washington, due to New Delhi's increased purchases of Russian oil.

Western countries boycotting Russian crude say India's purchases are helping to fund Moscow's war in Ukraine. But New Delhi says its purchases are purely commercial transactions, and accuses the US and European Union of double standards, noting that they continue significant trade with

Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin and is understood to have discussed ways to further expand **India-Russia ties**

"We have good results in cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, in the supply of Russian oil to the Indian market. And we have a mutual interest in implementing joint projects for the extraction of energy resources, including in the Russian Federation - in the Far East and on the Arctic shelf.' Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a joint news conference with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam JaisIndia, Russia reaffirm ambitior to expand bilateral trade

■ India faces high US tariffs due

Russia hails 'good results' in drocarbons with India

Jaishankar said that relations between the two countries had been among the steadiest of major nations in the world since World War Two, referring to a close friendship going back to the days of the Soviet Union.

The two countries reaffirmed their ambition to expand bilateral trade, including by increasing India's exports to Russia, Jaishankar said, according to a statement from India's foreign ministry.

"This (trade expansion) requires swiftly addressing non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments," Jaishankar said. "Enhancing Indian exports to Russia in sectors like pharmaceuticals, agriculture and textiles will certainly help to correct the current imbalance."

Russia was able to divert its exports of oil, a significant source of state revenue, away from Europe and mainly to China and India after the West imposed sanctions on Moscow over its conflict in Ukraine. India and China are the biggest buyers of Russia's oil.

Russian embassy officials in New Delhi said Wednesday that Russia expected to continue supplying oil to India despite pressure from the United States. adding that Moscow hoped trilateral talks with India and China would soon take place.

LS passes 12 Bills, RS 15 in Monsoon session



New Delhi, August 21: Twelve bills were passed by the Lok Sabha and 15 by the Rajya Sabha during the month-long Monsoon session of Parliament, which witnessed repeated disruptions, adjournments and walkouts.

Barring discussions on Operation Sindoor in both House, the session has seen little busi ness ever since it began July 21 due to repeated disruptions and adjournments initially due to opposition demand for discus sion on Operation Sindoor and then over demands for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar.

The Monsoon session came to an end Thursday.

The bills passed by the Lok Sabha are The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2025. The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025, The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill. 2025, The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025. and The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Other bills passed by the Lok Sabha are The Income-tax Bill, 2025, The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Indian Ports Bill. 2025, The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, The In(Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025. The bills passed or returned

by the Rajya Sabha are The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025, The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025, The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025 and The Readiustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2025

Other bills passed by the Rajya Sabha are The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Income-tax Bill, 2025, The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Indian Ports Bill, 2025. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025.

"This time in Parliament, there was so much ruckus and opposition didn't cooperate. Due to this obstinate behaviour, Opposition missed participating in discussions on several important B ills which were passed," a government functionary said.

Macron dials Modi; discusses conflicts in Ukraine, West Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: French President Emmanuel Macron Thursday dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed ongoing efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza Macron was among the European leaders who accompanied Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his talks with US President Donald Trump this week.

The French president has also been playing a key role in Europe's efforts to ensure security of Ukraine in case of a deal with Russia to end the war.

"Had a very good conversa tion with my friend President Macron. Exchanged views on efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts in Ukraine and in West Asia. Reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the India-France strategic partnership," Modi said in a social media post.

The call was initiated by the French side. Macron said on 'X that he and Modi "coordinated our positions on the war in Ukraine in order to move to wards a just and lasting peace with strong guarantees for Ukraine and Europe's security." The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing efforts for peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia. "President Macron shared assessment of the recent meetings held between the leaders of Europe, US and Ukraine in Washington. He also shared his perspectives on the situation in Gaza," it said in a

Modi also reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the conflicts and early restoration of peace and stability, it said.

The two leaders also reviewed progress in the bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of trade, defence, civil nuclear cooperation, technology and energy. I

India rejects Nepal's objection to trade with China

New Delhi, August 21: In dia Wednesday categorically rejected Nepal's objection to a decision by New Delhi and Beijing to resume border trade through Lipulekh pass, saving Kathmandu's claims on the ter ritory are not justified.

India and China Tuesday agreed to resume border trade through Lipulekh pass and two other trading points.

The Nepalese foreign ministry on Wednesday objected to the move to resume border trade through Lipulekh pass saving the territory is an inseparable part of Nepal.

In 2020, Nepal triggered a border row by issuing a political map that showed Kalapani Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh as part of the country. India had strongly trashed the claims.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected Nepal's territorial claims.

"We have noted the comments of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal related to resumption of border trade be tween India and China through the Lipulekh pass," he said.

"Our position in this regard has been consistent and clear Border trade between India and China through Lipulekh pass had commenced in 1954 and has been going on for decades," he added.

Jaiswal said the trade had been disrupted in recent years due to COVID-19 pandemic and other developments, and both sides have now agreed to resume it.

claims, our position remains that such claims are neither justified nor based on histor ical facts and evidence. Any unilateral artificial enlarge ment of territorial claims is untenable," he said.

Around 100 Delhi schools receive bomb threat mails



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: Around 100 schools in the national capital Thursday received bomb threats through e-mail, a Delhi Fire Services official said.

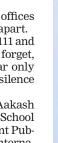
Police sources said the threats were issued by 'Terrorizers 111', the same group that sent similar threats to city schools Monday and Wednesday. "We are Terrorizers111 and ViLE group. We planted bombs all over your building and every major ward, pipe bombs, chemical devices, timers in ICUs, operation threatres, maternity wards, emergency exits, and admin offices ready to rip everything apart.

It added, "Terrorizers 111 and ViLE don't forgive, don't forget, the warnings will appear only in your head when the silence

The schools include Aakash Public School, Andhra School lic School, Blue Bells International School, BGS International School, Rao Man Singh School, Convent School, Max Fort School School, Dwarka, among others,

the threats.

This was the third such incident in four days when schools in the capital city received bomb threats.



in Prasad Nagar, Crescent Puband Indraprastha International officials said. Police teams along with fire-

men and bomb disposal squads rushed to the premises immediately after being informed about



The 12th edition of the India - Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise SLINEX-25 successfully concluded at Colombo on 18 Aug 2025. The current edition saw the participation of Indian naval ships INS Jyoti and INS Rana from the Eastern Fleet and Sri Lankan Naval Ships SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Vijayabahu (both Advance Offshore Patrol Vessels)

1 in 5 students rarely feel calm or motivated: Report

Over 40 per cent students are unaware of where to access mental health support in school, and nearly half have never received structured career counseling, an important factor behind rising anxiety about the future programmes, and equipping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 21: Students continue to face high levels of emotional distress, limited access to professional support, and growing uncertainty about their future, even as academic pressure remains the leading source of stress, a report said Thursday. One in five students rarely

experience the feeling of calm, motivation, or excitement, with girls reporting nearly twice the rate of persistent sadness compared to boys, said the 'Student Well-Being Pulse' report prepared by volunteer-based. Mumbai-headquartered IC3 Institute. Over 40 per cent students

are unaware of where to access mental health support in school, and nearly half have never received structured career counseling, an important



about the future, found the

Three in four Grade 12 students do not get the recommended 7-8 hours of sleep on school nights, often due to academic overload and overthinking, it added.

that more schools now recognise the value of counseling, and student awareness of support services is steadily increasing.

The Supreme Court has also emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive school-based

momentum and credibility to this growing movement, it added. Student Well-Being

counseling systems, lending

Pulse report is based on an extensive survey among 8,542 students across India by the IC3 Institute. This is no longer a silent

problem. It is a visible and urgent crisis. While more schools are now offering counseling and students are increasingly aware of where to seek help, almost half of our students still remain unsure, and career anxiety continues to steal their sleep and peace of mind. IC3 Institute founder Ganesh Kohli said.

He said mental health cannot be treated as optional and every school must make counseling and emotional support part of its core infrastructure, while expanding access, broadbasing

teachers and staff as trained gatekeepers. The report further revealed

that uncertainty about the future is among the top three stressors for students. Without clear and consis-

tent career guidance, many feel adrift, compounding the academic pressure that defines much of adolescence. Sleep deprivation, especially among senior students, is at critical levels and directly linked to screen use before bedtime and chronic overthinking, it added. It found that girls are more

likely to internalise stress and avoid professional help, while non-binary students report the lowest overall well-being.

Friends are often the first point of contact for students in distress, yet most peers lack the training to provide effective support, added the report.

"As regards territorial

international



I must reiterate that it is vital to reach immediately a ceasefire in Gaza, and the unconditional release of all hostages to avoid the massive death and destruction that a military operation against Gaza City would inevitably cause

ANTONIO GUTERRES

HURRICANE ERIN INTENSIFIES

Hurricane Erin began strengthening again Wednesday as it crept closer to the mid-Atlantic coast, its outer bands brushing North Carolina's Outer Banks as beaches closed across much of the US East Coast. Forecasters expect the storm to peak going into Thursday and say it could intensify again as a major hurricane



ics of military threats and the significant spending by our

bours force us to constantly pay close attention to the issue of the defence capabilities of Belarus, Russia, and our Union

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO PRESIDENT, BELARUS

There is one bill that I have ... unequivocally decided to veto. The wind farm bill is a form of blackmail by the parliamentary majority and

the government, not only against the President of the Republic of Poland, but also against society KAROL NAWROCKI | POLISH PRESIDENT

Bangladesh has decided to sign an agreement with Pakistan allowofficials and diplo mats to visit each other's country without visa

MUHAMMAD YUNUS | CHIEF ADVISER

BANGLADESH

SHORT **TAKES**

Ukrainian man held over pipeline attacks

Berlin/Milan: A Ukrainian man was arrested at a holiday bungalow in Italy Thursday on suspicion of coordinating attacks on three Nord Stream gas pipelines in 2022, marking a breakthrough in an episode that sharpened tensions between Russia and the West. Described by both Moscow and the West as an act of sabotage, the explosions largely severed Russian gas supplies to Europe, prompting a major escalation in the Ukraine conflict and squeezing energy supplies on the

B'desh army chief on official visit to China

Dhaka: Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman Thursday left for an official visit to China aimed military cooperation. "The Army Chief will hold courtesy meetings with senior civilian and military officials of China and will exchange views aimed at strengthening bilateral military cooperation," staterun Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said here. General Waker-Uz-Zaman is scheduled to return home August 27, the BSS said, quoting an Inter-Services Public Relations press release.

FM Wang meets Dar

Islamabad: Pakistan and China Thursday agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in industrial, agricultural, and mining sectors as Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held strategic consultations to review the entire gamut of bilateral ties.

Indian student visas for UK decline, immigration detentions double

Indian students at 98,014 visa grants in the year ending June 2025 were a close second to Chinese visa grants for the same period at 99,919

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 21: Indians granted visas to study at UK universities continued a downward trend, with the majority of Indian students opting for post-graduate level qualifications, according to the latest Home Office statistics released Thursday.

Indian students at 98,014 visa grants in the year ending June 2025 were a close second to Chinese visa grants for the same period at 99,919.

However, both nationalities

registered a fall in overall numbers compared to last year, of 11 per cent and seven per cent respectively "The trend in sponsored

study visas in recent years has been mainly driven by those coming to study for a Master's... In the year ending March 2025, four out of five (81 per cent) Indian students came to the UK to study for a Master's level qualification, compared to just over half (59 per cent) of Chinese students,' the Home Office states.

New figures released to high-



part of a wider crackdown on

illegal immigration claimed

tion have almost doubled in the

"Albanians have been the most common nationality entering detention since 2022, but their numbers have been falling; numbers of Brazilian and Indian nationals have both doubled in the last year (up 91 per cent and 108 per cent respectively)," the Home Office claimed.

According to its data, 2,715 Indians were logged as being in detention under the UK's immigration law breach, with a majority of them released on bail.

The latest UK government statistics also revealed that 111,000 people had claimed asylum in the UK in the year ending in June 2025, the highest figure since comparable records began in 1979.

The asylum issue has been in sharp focus in recent weeks as the Home Office lost a major legal battle over housing asylum seekers in hotels and Opposition parties continue to mount pressure on the Labour government to speed up deportations.

Woman on FBI's **'Top 10 Most Wanted'** list held in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 21: A woman on the FBI's '10 Most Wanted Fugitive' list was arrested in India on charges of killing her six-year-old son, according to officials.

The arrest of Cindy Rodriguez Singh, 40, was the fourth "Top 10 Most Wanted" capture in seven months. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel said in an X post Wednesday.

He credited law enforcement partners in Texas, the US Justice Department, and authorities in India for their coordination leading to Singh's arrest, who was wanted on state charges of killing her son.



She fled the US in 2023 to evade prosecution. Fox News reported that Singh was arrested in India by the FBI, in coordination with Indian authorities and INTERPOL. She has been transported to the US and will be turned over to Texas authorities, it said. In March 2023, authorities in Texas conducted a welfare check for Singh's special needs son Noel Rodriguez-Alvarez, who had not been seen since October 2022.

Singh allegedly lied about his whereabouts, indicating that the child was in Mexico with his biological father and had been there since November 2022.

Two days later, she boarded a flight to India with her husband the boy's Indian-origin stepfather - and six other juvenile children and never returned.

The then-missing child was not present with them and never boarded the flight, according to the report.

Her son had numerous health and developmental issues, including a severe developmental disorder, social disorder, bone density issues, and chronic lung disease, Fox News reported, quoting officials.

JeM launches fundraiser after Op Sindoor losses The Rs 3.91 billion

fundraising drive would secure JeM's operational and weapons financing for at least a decade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 21: After suffering severe setbacks during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit has launched a massive fundraising drive in that country under the garb of building over 300 mosques to replicate Lashkar-e-Taiba's decentralization policy, security officials said. The JeM has come out with a

new mechanism with the support of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to collect funds. It is using digital wallets like 'EasyPaisa' and 'Sadapay' controlled by its founder and most wanted terrorist Masood Azhar's family members to bypass scrutiny by global agencies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the officials said citing inputs from across the border.

The Rs 3.91 billion fundraising drive would secure JeM's operational and weapons financing for at least a decade, they said. Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7 in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. Pakistan retaliated and the intense border skirmishes continued till May 10 before the two countries reached an understanding to end the hostilities.



While Pakistan's government has announced funding to rebuild these destroyed facilities, the JeM has launched an online fundraising campaign through digital wallets to collect Rs 3.91 billion for constructing 313 new markaz buildings under the garb of constructing mosques across Pakistan, the officials said.

the Operation Sindoor.

On social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp, JeM-linked proxy accounts and those used by JeM commanders have posted posters, videos, and a letter from Masood Azhar, urging supporters to donate wholeheartedly as each mosque requires Rs 12.5 million (Rs 1.25 crore) for construction and smooth running, they said.

According to the officials, several of the digital wallet accounts were found linked to the mobile number of Azhar's brother Talha Al Saif (Talha Gulzar) and JeM Haripur district commander Aftab Ahmad based in Khala Batt Township. They said another fundrais-

ing channel was linked to a mobile number run by Azhar's son Abdullah Azhar (Abdullah Khan) while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, JeM commander Syed Safdar Shah is collecting donations for the organization's markaz via a number registered near Melwarah post office, Oghi, Mansehra district In addition to these three ac-

counts, over 250 EasyPaisa wallets are reportedly being used to raise funds for the JeM's fund raising campaign. Alongside social media appeals, the terror outfit circulated an audio recording of Azhar's brother, Al Saif, via its official propaganda channel, MSTD Official, urging supporters to contribute Rs 21,000 per person, the officials said.

The speech was delivered at a gathering at Markaz Usmano-Ali during a Friday congregation August 15. In the audio clip, Al Saif also instructed the establishment of 20 new markaz this year, as part of JeM's overall target of 313 centres, the officials said citing JeM's organizational posters and videos.

US should treat India as 'prized free, democratic' partner: Nikki Haley

The Indian-American leader's remarks in an opinion piece in the Newsweek magazine Wednesday came amid strain in ties between the two countries following President Donald Trump slapping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 21: The US' priority should be to reverse the "downward spiral" in ties with India, Republican leader Nikki Haley has said, stressing that New Delhi must be treated as a "prized free and democratic" partner. The Indian-American lead-

er's remarks in an opinion piece in the Newsweek magazine Wednesday came amid strain in ties between the two countries following President Donald Trump slapping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

Haley said that few objectives are more critical to the Trump administration's foreign policy goals of "outcompeting China and achieving peace through strength" than putting "US-India relations back on track".

For this, she said, "India must be treated like the prized free and democratic partner that it is—not an adversary like China", which, she said has so far avoided sanctions for its Russian oil purchases, despite being one of Moscow's "largest customers"

President Trump has dou-



for India's purchase of Russian Haley said if this disparity does not demand a closer look at US-India relations, the "re

alities of hard power should" She said Washington's "most urgent priority should be to reverse the downward spiral" in bilateral ties with New Delhi.

"Scuttling 25 years of mo mentum with the only country that can serve as a counter weight to Chinese dominance

in Asia would be a strategic disaster," she said. Haley stressed that India is vital to US efforts to shift supply chains from China, with

the capacity to produce at scale in areas like textiles, phones, and solar panels. She added that New Delhi's

expanding defence ties with the US and allies make it a "crucial asset to the free world's security", and its growing role in West Asia, and strategic location along China's trade routes make it a key security and economic partner.

Xi Jinping attends 60th anniv of Tibet Autonomous Region

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday attended the 60th founding anniversary celebrations of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) at the Potala Palace square in Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa. Xi joined around 20,000 local officials and people from several ethnic groups and walks of life in the celebration, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Potala Palace was the traditional winter residence

leaders - and served as the centre of political and spiritual authority in Tibet for centuries. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was officially established by China in 1965 after it annexed the region in 1950.



Israel bombards Gaza City ahead of planned offensive

Cairo/Jerusalem: The Israeli military maintained its pressure on Gaza City with heavy bombardments overnight, residents said, ahead of a Thursday meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ministers on plans to seize the enclave's largest city. The military a day earlier called up 60,000 reservists in a sign that the government was pressing ahead with the

plan, despite international condemnation. However, one military official said that most reservists would not serve in combat and that the strategy to take Gaza City had not yet been finalised. Calling up tens of thousands of reservists is also likely to take weeks, giving time for mediators to attempt to bridge gaps over a new temporary ceasefire proposal that Hamas has accepted.



Pak SC grants bail to Imran in May 9 violence cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 21: Pakistan's Supreme Court Thursday granted bail to incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan in eight cases related to the May 9 violence.

Khan's supporters resorted to vandalism and violence May 9, 2023, after he was detained by law enforcement authorities in Islamabad.

Several cases were launched against Khan and leaders of his Pa kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for their alleged role in the riots.

A three-member bench of the apex court granted Khan bail after hearing the arguments by his lawyer Salman Safdar, and Punjab Special Prosecutor Zu lfiqar Naqvi, who represented the state. The bench was led by Chief Justice Afridi and com prised Justices Shafi Siddiqu and Miangul Aurangzeb.

Khan's PTI hailed the ruling using the hashtag "Victory For Imran Khan" in its post on X while his international spokes man Zulfigar Bukhari said the party supremo now needed bai in just one case. "Supreme Court has granted bail to Imran Khar for May 9th cases, now bail is needed for just one more case (Al Qadir case) for Mr Khan to

Sri Lanka wartime mass grave yields baby bottle, children's clothes

Excavations have been underway since June, after workers found human remains while digging to build an electric crematorium

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chemmani (Sri Lanka), August 21: In the Chemmani area of northern Sri Lanka, a harrowing discovery has reignited deep wounds from the country's decades-long civil war. Excavations at a former cremation ground in Jaffna—long considered the cultural heartland of the Tamil minority—have revealed a mass grave containing 141 human skeletons, including children, alongside haunting personal items such as baby

bottles, toys, schoolbags, and children's clothing.

The findings began in June when workers constructing an electric crematorium stumbled upon human remains. Over a nine-day preliminary investigation, 19 skeletons were uncovered. The disorganized and shallow nature of the burials, just 1.5 metres deep, with most skeletons found unclothed, led forensic experts to conclude it was a mass grave. Since then, the

site—covering 165 square

metres—has yielded 141 skel-

etons, including that of a

child aged 4 to 6, found with a schoolbag, as well as baby dresses, socks, bead bangles, and a baby powder tray.

Though the identities, cause, and timing of death remain unclear, many suspect the grave holds the remains of civilians

who disappeared during Sri Lanka's civil war (1983-2009). The military's long-term presence in Chemmani, especially after recapturing Jaffna from Tamil rebels in 1996, has intensified suspicions of state involvement. During that period, checkpoints were common,

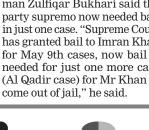
and civilians frequently disappeared after being detained. Adding weight to these sus-

picions is a 1998 confession by army soldier Somaratne Rajapakse. Convicted alongside four others for the gang rape and murder of a schoolgirl and the killing of her family, Rajapakse claimed in court that he helped bury up to 400 bodies in Chemmani under military orders. Though he and his co-accused remain in prison, they have insisted their involvement was limited to disposing of the dead. In 1999, Rajapakse led police to multiple burial sites, but the investigation was abruptly halted, never fully pursued.

For the families of the miss ing, the discovery offers both

hope and heartbreak. Items recovered from the site were displayed in early August in a public appeal for identification. Amalanathan Mary Calista, whose husband was arrested by the army in 1996 and never returned, visited in the hope of finding closure. "I only saw the clothing of little children," she said, overcome with emotion. "My wish is that he should be alive and return, but we can do nothing if it is not so.'

Despite mounting evidence, Sri Lanka's army denies involvement. "No one has formally accused the army," said army spokesman Brig. Waruna Gamage, urging critics to provide proof and vowing to respect legal proceedings.



business



is that SBI's CoE will engage in making case studies and undertaking research, creating a rich repository of knowledge and sharing it online for the benefit of all, especially those in remote areas

My expectation

ESIC ADDS 19.37L NEW MEMBERS

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 19.37 lakh new members in June, as per the latest payroll data released Thursday. Out of the total 19.37 lakh employees added during the month, 9.58 lakh, or 49.50 per cent of the total registrations, belonged to the age group of up to 25 years, it stated. Also, the data shows that the net enrolment of female members was 4.13 lakh in the month under review. Besides, a total of 87 transgender employees were also registered under ESI scheme.



ployees' State Insurance Corp

of commission and



Al-only AIF regulatory regime that has significantly less compliance re investor protec-



efficient manner ANANTH NARAYAN G WHOLE TIME MEMBER, SEBI







SHORT **TAKES**

Wipro to acquire **HARMAN'S DTS**

New Delhi: IT major Wipro Thursday said it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100 per cent stake in the Digital Transformation Solutions (DTS) business unit of HARMAN, a Samsung company, for a cash consideration of up to \$375 million (about ₹3,270 crore). Under the agreement, more than 5,600 DTS employees, including senior leadership, across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, will move to Wipro. The transaction is expected to be completed by December 31, 2025, according to a regulatory the acquisition, DTS will be integrated into Wipro's **Engineering Global Business** Line. Further, as part of the acquisition, Wipro will enter into a multiyear strategic agreement with HARMAN and Samsung. The acquisition strengthens Wipro's ER&D portfolio by advancing its AI-driven digital capabilities, spanning design-to-manufacturing across industries such as technology, industrial, aerospace, healthcare, and

consumer sectors.

TUMO in India New Delhi: TUMO. Armenia's aroundbreaking creative technology education network, is set to launch India's first centre this November in Mumbai. offering its free, selfpaced learning programme across digital fields such as robotics, graphic design, and artificial intelligence. TUMO has completed pilot programmes and is now set to launch its Mumbai centre. which will accommodate up to 1,500 students, said Pegor Panazian. Chief Development Officer, TUMO, The programme offers intensive technology education across a wide range of subjects. including game development. motion graphics, robotics, web development, animation. 3D modelling, generative AI, and film-making, he said. TUMO equips students with high-level digital skills and all for free. TUMO education is free of charge and readily available to all teens aged 12-18, no matter their socioeconomic background or place of residence. TUMO's approach is based on a set of key principles, including choice, hyperpersonalisation, mixing age groups, alternating individual and group learning, and replacing diplomas with portfolios. While the learning model is self-paced, the

centre offers training

sessions twice a week.

Students typically take up to

two years to complete a full

Regulated platform for pre-IPO

Currently, there is a gap of at least three trading days when the **IPO** closes for subscription and opens for trading, and during this period trading in the unregulated (grey) market happens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 21: Markets regulator Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey Thursday suggested introducing a regulated platform for pre-IPO (initial public offering) share trading, potentially replacing existing grey market operations.

This new platform may permit investors to trade shares in a regulated environment in the three-day period between IPO allotment and listing. Also, this initiative may replace the existing unregulated grev market, which currently operates during this period.

At the same time, Pandey said that SEBI is looking to increase the tenure and maturity of equity derivatives products in a calibrated manner. This would curb trading in such products, where 91 per cent of individual traders incurred



losses in FY25

Speaking at the FICCI Capital Market Conference 2025, SEBI chief said pre-listing information is often not enough for investors to make an investment decision.

In a bid to further deepen the capital market and protect investors, he hinted at "an initiative, on a pilot basis - for a regulated venue where pre-IPO companies can choose to trade, subject to certain disclosures"

The initiative, if implemented, will potentially curb trading of unlisted shares on unregulated platforms, often called grey

Currently, there is a gap of at least three trading days when the IPO closes for subscription and opens for trading, and during this period trading in the grey market happens.

In the unlisted space, which

ed, is getting a lot of traction among investors despite carrying significant risk for a lot of investors. The remarks come at a time when the Indian IPO market has become very active with the listing of 48 main-

board companies so far in 2025. Notably, the month of August witnessed 11 companies launch their initial share sales, with a few more in pipeline for the next week.

On equity derivatives, SEBI is seeking ways to deepen cash equity markets, while enhancing the quality of derivatives through longer-tenure prod-

Last month, whole-time member Ananth Narayan expressed concern over the growing dominance of ultrashort-term derivatives trading and cautioned that such trends could undermine the health of India's capital markets. Also, he

had contemplated steps to extend the tenure and maturity of these products.

According to the market regulator's own research, 91 per cent of individual traders in futures and options (F&O) incurred net losses in FY25. collectively losing over ₹1 lakh crore in funds that could have otherwise contributed to responsible investing and capital formation.

Pandey stressed on the role of transparency, which is a key to onboard investors to the capital markets and enable fundraising.

"Innovation in the capital market must lower friction and compliance costs for issuers, investors, and intermediaries while managing the risk. It should also provide a diverse range of opportunities depending upon risk-appetite,' he added.

According to him, innovative regulatory approaches have helped establish new asset classes, new classes of investors and new methods of raising risk capital. These asset classes include -- alternative investment funds (AIFs), real estate investment trusts (RE ITs), infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and specialised investment funds (SIFs).

On the industry side, he said that the regulator expects clean edges -- no unregulated advice. clear and timely disclosures. and visible SEBI registration details on every app, site, and social media handles.

India establishes 100 5G labs for capacity building

New Delhi, August 21: The government has established 100 5G labs at academic institutions across India for capacity building and for creating a 6G-ready academic and startup ecosystem in the country, the Parliament was informed Thursday. Under the initiatives that

have been taken to facilitate the development of 6G technology in the country, the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme was launched October 1, 2022, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The scheme aims to fund research and development (R&D) and innovation in telecom technologies, including 6G, fostering collaboration between academia, start-ups, MSMEs, research institutes and industry to enhance the telecom ecosystem in India. A total of 104 projects related to 6G technology, amounting to ₹275.88 crore, have been approved under the TTDF scheme till July 2025, the Minister stated.

According to the minister, the government has facilitated the setting up of 'Bharat 6G Alliance', which is an alliance of domestic industry, academia,



and standards organisations to develop an action plan according to the Bharat 6G Vision.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with leading global 6G alliances to enhance global collaborations for the development of 6G wireless technologies, the Minister stated.

As part of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) has been established at the IIITB-Comet Foundation, hosted by the International In stitute of Information Technol ogy, Bangalore (IIIT Bangalore)

This TIH is dedicated to advancing research and innovation in the technology vertical "Advanced Communication Systems.", currently focusing on cutting-edge technologies such as Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) and advanced O-RAN Massive MIMO systems, to enhance coverage capacity, and integrated sens ing capabilities in future 6G

AD landed Rapido in a soup PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on ride-hailing platform Rapido for misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices, the consumer affairs ministry said

CCPA also directed Rapido to reimburse customers who used the company's "Auto in 5 minutes or Get ₹50" offer but did not receive the promised compensation.

The watchdog took action after examining Rapido's advertisements that promised "Auto in 5 minutes or Get ₹50" and "Guaranteed Auto," and found them to be false and misleading to consumers. Data from the National Consumer Helpline showed complaints against Rapido surged to 1,224 between June 2024 and July 2025, compared with 575 complaints in the previous 14-month period.

The CCPA's investigation revealed that disclaimers in Rapido's advertisements were displayed in extremely small,



unreadable fonts. The promised ₹50 benefit was not actual currency but "Rapido coins" worth "up to ₹50," which could only be used for bike rides and expired within seven days.

The authority found that while advertisements prominently claimed the guarantee. terms and conditions stated the assurance was offered by individual drivers, not Rapido itself - an attempt to shift liability away from the company.

"Such restrictions materially reduced the value of the offer and effectively compelled consumers to use another service from Rapido within an unreasonably short time," the ministry said in a statement.

According to the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading

Advertisements and Endorsements 2022, disclaimers cannot contradict main claims or conceal material information. The CCPA said Rapido's advertisements violated these requirements by omitting key limitations without equal prominence. Rapido operates in over 120 cities and ran the misleading campaign for approximately 548 days in multiple regional languages. Many consumer complaints relate to service deficiencies, non-refunds, overcharging and failure to provide promised services, with most grievances remaining unresolved despite being shared with the company.

The CCPA has urged consumers to be cautious about advertisements making "guaranteed" or "assured" promises without clear conditions. Consumers facing misleading advertisements can call the National Consumer Helpline at 1915 or use the NCH app or website to file complaints.

However, the authority has ordered Rapido to discontinue the misleading advertisements immediately.

Ankura Hospital launches Neighbourhood Card



Bhubaneswar: Ankura Hospital for Women & Children, Bhubaneswar, has announced the launch of its Neighbourhood Card, a communityfocused initiative designed to extend exclusive healthcare benefits to families in the city. This card aims to build stronger connections with the community while making quality healthcare more accessible and affordable. Cardholders will be entitled to a host of privileges, including discounts on consultations, diagnostic services, preventive health packages, and pharmacy purchases, along with priority services at the hospital. The card is available for residents of Bhubaneswar and its adjoining areas, and is particularly designed to benefit families, working parents, and senior citizens seeking continuity of care. With this initiative, Ankura Hospital Bhubaneswar reinforces its commitment to promoting preventive health and nurturing long-term relationships with the community. Card is valid Pan India, across all branches. The launch event also highlighted Ankura Hospital's focus on holistic healthcare, with senior doctors emphasizing the importance of timely check-ups, early detection, and a family-first approach to wellness. For further details, interested individuals may visit Ankura Hospital, Bhubaneswar or contact the hospital's help desk.

Markets end higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 21: Stock markets extended the winning run to the sixth consecutive day Thursday, with benchmark Sensex closing higher by nearly 143 points on buying in blue-chip shares ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 142.87 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 82,000.71 in a restricted trade. During the day, it rallied 373.33 points or 0.45 per cent to 82,231.17. As many as 14 Sensex shares closed higher, while 16 ended

with losses The 50-share NSE Nifty rose by 33.20 points or 0.13 per cent to 25.083.75.

Among Sensex firms, Baja Finserv, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Electronics were the major gainers. However, Power Grid Eternal. Hindustan Unileven and Adani Ports were among the laggards.

Gains in pharma, realty, and financials shares supported the rally while profit-taking in FMCG, energy, and auto shares capped gains.

Market experts stated that the proposed GST reforms and a recent credit rating upgrade have bolstered investors' confidence. A Group of Ministers on GST rate rationalisation has accepted the Centre's proposal to move to a two-slab structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. The GST Council is likely to take a final call on the proposal next month Goods and Services Tax is a 4-tier structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.

The BSE smallcap gauge ended flat, ending marginally higher by 0.01 per cent. The midcap index dipped 0.12 per

Among BSE sectoral indices, healthcare climbed 0.61 per cent, realty (0.46 per cent). industrials (0.25 per cent), oil & gas (0.19 per cent) and finan cial services (0.17 per cent).

Power, commodities, consumer discretionary, FMCG utilities and auto were among the laggards.

As many as 2,098 stocks advanced while 1,995 declined and 155 remained unchanged on the BSE. In Asian markets, South

Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in positive territory, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading in negative territory.

India needs \$467 bn climate finance by 2030: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: India will need to mobilise \$467 hillion in climate finance by 2030 to put four of its most carbon-intensive sectors -- power, steel, cement and transport -on a low-carbon pathway, according to a new study.

The working paper, "India's Climate Finance Requirements: An Assessment", authored by economists Janak Raj and Rakesh Mohan for the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) and the Task Force on Climate, Development and the IMF, was released Thursday. It departs from conventional

top-down modelling approaches and instead uses a bottom-up methodology, estimating climate finance needs sector by sector to present what the authors described as a "granular understanding" of India's challenge.

The study found that decarbonising the four sectors, which together accounted for more than 50 per cent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions in 2023, would re-

quire an average of \$54 billion

a year between 2022 and 2030. This amounts to around 1.3 per cent of India's GDP. "Contrary to the common

narrative, the study finds that it is not the power sector, but the steel and cement sectors which need large climate finance," Raj said. "Both the steel and cement

are hard to abate sectors, which require the use of an expensive carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, but it is the only feasible option at this stage," he said. The report estimates that

over 80 per cent of the \$467 billion requirement will come from steel and cement alone. By contrast, decarbonising the power sector would need about \$57 billion, significantly lower than prevailing assumptions, thanks to the declining capital costs of renewable energy.

The transport sector will also demand significant investment, particularly in accelerating the transition from internal combustion engine vehicles to electric mobility.

This, the report said, would require scaling up charging



infrastructure, creating viable financing mechanisms and strengthening regulatory frameworks.

Mohan emphasised that while the numbers are substantial, they are achievable. "The incremental financial

resources needed for climate change mitigation in India for four key emitting sectors -- energy transition, steel, cement and road transport -- at an annual average of 1.3 per cent of GDP up to 2030, are within reach," he said.

"Contrary to most astronom-

ical estimates that are done top down, this estimate has been derived on a bottom-up granular basis. It provides a basis for optimism on our financial capacity to tackle climate change," he said.

The study highlights a financing gap that will need to be bridged through both domestic and external sources. It said that India may have to prudently expand its current fiscal deficit up to 2.5 per cent of GDP to absorb external climate finance, but stresses the

importance of complementing

Among the key policy recommendations are incentivising private investment in steel and cement through targeted sub-

this with domestic mobilisa-

national technology transfer. The authors also called for a clear national framework to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles and to strengthen the power grid for renewable integration by expanding bat-

sidies, R&D support and inter-

tery storage and hydro-pump capacity. The report argued that how India navigates this transition

will be closely watched by other emerging and developing economies facing similar dilemmas. "The bottom line: Steel and cement are the financial linchpin in India's decarbonisation

efforts. With a carefully calibrated economic strategy, India can navigate the dual challenge of sustaining rapid growth while tackling climate vulnerabilities, offering lessons for other developing economies confronting similar challenges in financing ambitious climate transitions," the paper read.

India vs Pak only in Asia Cup: Asian Shooting Championship: India consolidate top position **Govt blocks bilateral relations**



India has officially shut the door on bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan, **but cleared Team India's participation** in next month's Asia **Cup in the UAE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: The Sports Ministry Thursday declared that India and Pakistan will not have any bilateral sporting ties even on neutral venues as per an unprecedented new policy but the cricket team won't be stopped from playing the Asia Cup next month as it is a multi-lateral engagement.

The ministry unveiled the new policy with regard to India's international engagements with emphasis on Pakistan. A well-placed ministry

source said that the policy, which bars Indian athletes from travelling to Pakistan and likewise disallows neighbouring sportspersons from coming here for bilaterals, is effective immediately.

Asked if Indian teams will be allowed to travel to Pakistan for any multi-lateral competitions, the source said, "In that scenario, we will examine the case before deciding anything.

"Even in multi-lateral events. we can't leave our athletes in lurch. After all, Pakistan is a country that has no hesitation in declaring that it is a dumpster and can hit the shining Mercedes that is India," he added.

In the detailed policy that has been uploaded on the ministry's official website, the government named Pakistan, which currently stands accused of being behind the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people leading to a military showdown between the arch-foes in May after India launched 'Operation Sindoor'.

"India's approach to sports

events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country," states the ministry policy.

"In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," it added.

"India and Pakistan cannot play bilateral even if it is planned in America. No bilater-

als," asserted a ministry source. However, multilateral engagements will not be affected and the Asia Cup-bound team will travel to the UAE next month for the eight-team tournament starting September 9, despite social media outrage.

"We will not stop Indian cricket team from playing in Asia Cup as it is a multilateral, the ministry source said.

"For multilateral cricket, we will not come in the way unless the host is Pakistan," he added. Asked if the policy could be

revised if the ties between the

istry source said, "At this point, it looks unlikely.

The policy makes it clear that India. which is aspiring to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games, will abide by the Olympic Charter and its philosophy of inclusivity to present itself as an amiable host of global events.

This is precisely the reason why the government agreed to grant visas to Pakistani hockey players for next month's Asia Cup in Bihar even though they refused to travel citing security concerns.

"With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our own sportspersons.

"...Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India," the policy stated.

"To position India as a preferred destination for hosting international sporting events, the visa process for sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies shall be simplified," it added.

The ministry said that for office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies, a multi-entry visa shall be granted on priority basis for the duration of their official tenure, subject to a maximum period of five years. "This shall facilitate their smooth movement into and within the country, in accordance with international norms. Due protocol and courtesies, as per established practice, shall be extended to the Heads of International Sports Governing Bodies during their visits to India," it stated.

India consolidate top position

The country now have won 14 gold, six silver and as many bronze medals, firmly cementing their position at the top of the standings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shymkent (Kazakhstan), August 21: Teenaged Indian shooters grabbed four of the five gold medals on offer to dominate the fourth day of the 16th Asian Shooting Championship, taking the country's medal tally to 26 medals, here

India now have won 14 gold, six silver and as many bronze medals, firmly cementing their position at the top of the standings.

Abhinav Shaw began the gold rush for India, first teaming up with Naraen Pranav (third with 631.1) and Himanshu (fourth with 630.9), to shoot 628.1 in qualification, not only clinching a spot in the final for himself but also ensuring that the trio's tally of 1890.1 was an Asian as well as a junior world record, apart from the gold for

He then shot a thrilling final, beginning fifth on the grid after the first five-shot series to take the lead after the second.

The end stage was a battle final respectively. Kazakhof attrition with Lee Hyunseo, but the Indian showed admirable nerves after two high 9s on his 17th and 18th shots to pip the Korean by 0.1 in the end.

The 21st shot with 10.9 was the icing on the cake.

At the shotgun ranges, Mansi Raghuwanshi triumphed in the junior women's skeet final with a tally of 53 out of a possible 60-targets

Compatriot Yashasvi Rathore won silver with 52 while Kazakh Lidiya Basharova took bronze.

Here too, Mansi finished the strongest, catching all her last 10 targets, while Yashasvi missed two to settle for silver. Agrima Kanwar, the third Indian in the field, also reached the final to finish sixth.

In the junior men's skeet, Harmehar Singh Lally (115, 3rd in qualification) and Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodia (110, 5th in qualification) won individual silver and bronze medals each with scores of 52 and 43 in the

stan's Artyom Sedelnikov won gold with 53 hits.

The duo was not to be denied gold on the day, however, as they combined with Atul Singh Rajawat (107) to bag the junior men's skeet team gold with a tally of 338, four ahead of the silver-winning Kazakhs.

Earlier, while all three shooters in the men's 10m air rifle senior event shot brilliant qualification rounds to give India yet another team gold, Rudrankksh Patil and Arjun Babuta could not convert the opportunity into individual medals, finishing fourth and fifth in the final respectively.

Patil looked more in contention for a medal right through the final, before bowing out after the 20th shot of the 24-shot final on a score of 207.6.

Babuta departed two shots earlier with 185.8 as local fa vourite Islam Satpayev of Kazakhstan took gold. Lu Dingke of China claimed the silver with Park Haejun of Korea winning the bronze.

SHORT **TAKES**

Vishal breaks 400m NR

Chennai: Tamil Nadu quarter-miler Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi Thursday smashed the men's 400m national record with a time of 45.12 seconds at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships here Thursday. The 21-year-old ran a stunning race to leave behind his rivals way behind at the finishing line to cement his status as the numero uno quarter-miler previous national record of 45.21 seconds which was in the name of Muhammed Anas since 2019. Vishal's earlier best was 45.57 seconds while finishing fourth at the 2025 Asian Championships in May in South Korea where he was a member of India's gold-winning mixed 4x400m relay team and silver-winning men's 4x400m relay

Rahane steps down

Mumbai: Veteran India batter Aiinkya Rahane Thursday stepped down from his position as Mumbai captain ahead of the upcoming Ranii Trophy season, saving it is the right time to groom a new leader. The 37-year-old, who has amassed 14000 runs in 201 first-class matches, however, will continue to play as a batter in the team. The Ranii season begins on October 15 and Mumbai will be up against Jammu and Kashmir in their opening game, "Captaining and winning the championships with the Mumbai team has been an absolute honour." Rahane wrote on his 'X' account. Under his captaincy. Mumbai clinched the Ranii Trophy title in the 2023-24 season with a victory over Vidarbha in the final. He also guided the team to triumph in the Irani Cup 2024-25, overcoming the Rest of India (ROI) side.

Tete to lead India

New Delhi: Seasoned mid-fielder Salima Tete was Thursday retained as captain of a 20-member Indian women's hockey team for the Asia Cup to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 5 to 14. The tournament assumes added significance as the winner will secure a direct berth in the 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup. India has been drawn in Pool B, where it will face Japan, Thailand, and Singapore.

Haryana, Odisha set up title clash in junior nat'l hockey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalandhar, August 21: Haryana and Odisha emerged victorious in their respective semifinals of the 15th Hockey India Junior Men's National Championship here Thursday.

In the first semifinal, Haryana defeated Uttar Pradesh 3-0 with Nitin (3', 54') scoring two goals for his team and Jeetpal (47') hitting the third.

The second semifinal between Odisha and Punjab was a closely contested affair in which the former defeated the hosts 3-2 with Karan Lakra (58') scoring in the final few minutes



The other two goals for Odisha were scored by Pratap Toppo (1' 15'). while captain Gursewak Singh (12') and Manmeet Singh Rai (44') struck one each for

Srinagar, August 21: From rowing a Shikara at Dal Lake to paddling his way to national glory, Mohsin Ali Kand has come a long way. Mohsin made Jammu and Kashmir proud after winning the first gold medal of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 Thursday.

The 17-year-old Mohsin won gold in the 1000 metres men's Kayaking event, clocking 4:12:717. It was a career highlight for the youngster.

As Mohsin stepped out of Dal Lake, he was greeted by a ju-



bilant home crowd, even as he failed to hold back tears of joy and hugged his coach Bilguis Mir, a former international and an Olympic judge.

represent the country at international events like **Asian Games, World Championship and Olympics**

This was an overwhelming moment for Mohsin, a 12th standard student of SP Higher Secondary School, who is fulfilling his dream of representing India at the international events and rows a Shikara on the Dal Lake after attending his

ing his diet.

After clinching the gold, Mohsin, the son of a lower carpenter Fida Hussain Kand, said he had worked very hard for it and credited his success to his father.

'It was my father who was instrumental in my decision to take up water sports," Mohsin said. The lanky Mohsin added that despite economic hardships and taking care of a five-member family, his father ensured that he developed a keen interest in water sports from a very young age.

World Boxing mandates sex testing before world c'ships **World Boxing respects**

Los Angeles, August 21: The governing body for Olympic-style boxing will require sex testing for all fighters wishing to compete in the women's division at its world championships next month.

World Boxing already had announced its plan to require competitors to undergo a polymerase chain reaction test or an equivalent genetic screening test to determine their sex at birth. The rules will be implemented ahead of the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool, England, in early September, the organisation announced Wednesday.

The tests identify the presence or absence of Y chromosome genetic material as the indicator of bio-

logical sex. Paris Olympic champilif of Al-Imane Khegeria declined to enter a World Boxing tournament in the Netherlands in June, shortly after the governing body initially

the dignity of all individuals and is keen to ensure it is as inclusive as possible. Yet in a combat sport like boxing, we have a duty of care to deliver safety and competitiveness fairness, which are the key principles that have guided the development and creation of this policy



naming Khelif, who initially planned to fight in the tournament, while outlining World Boxing's future testing plans.

Khelif and fellow gold medalist Lin Yu-ting from Taiwan excelled in Paris under a harsh spotlight of widespread scrutiny and misconception about their sex. The 26-year-old Khelif repeatedly has said she was born a woman, and she has competed at all levels of women's amateur boxing for nearly a decade.

common in Olympic sports during the 20th century but was largely abandoned in the 1990s because of numerous ambiguities that couldn't be easily resolved by

Chromosome testing was

tests, collectively known as differences in sex development.

Many sports switched to hormone testing to determine sex eligibility, but those tests require governing bodies to make difficult decisions on the eligibility of women with naturally high testosterone levels.

SINQUEFIELD CUP

Gukesh held by Sevian, Praggnanandhaa draws

KHELO INDIA WATER SPORTS FESTIVAL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

St Louis, August 21: World champion D Gukesh was held to a draw by the lone wild card Samuel Sevian of United States, while fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa also split the point with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the third round of the Sinquefield Cup here.

With his second draw in as many days, Praggnanadhaa remained in the leading group of three players that now include Fabiano Caruana of United States besides the overnight co-leader Armenian-turned-American Levon

Aronian.

Caruana handed Alireza Firouzja of France his first loss in the tournament in the lone decisive game of the day. Aronian was held to a draw by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, while another American Wesley So split the point with Duda Jan-Kryzsztof of Poland.

With six rounds still to come in the \$3,75,000 prize money tournament, Praggnanadhaa, Aronian and Caruana share the lead on two points each and they are now followed by Wesley, Firouzja, Vachier-Lagrave, Sevian and Gukesh -- who all stand a half point behind.

Incumbent Aiav Singh re-elected as BFI Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, August 21: Incumbent Ajay Singh was Thursday re-elected President of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term after his comprehensive victory over Jaslal Pradhan in the long-overdue polls.

The elections, postponed by more than six months amid legal wrangling, were conducted in the presence of Returning Officer Rajesh Tandon and BFI interim committee head Fairuz Mohammed of Singapore, who was sent by World Boxing as its observer.

World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst and Sec retary General Mike McAtee, who were originally set to be observers, did not attend the

Singh, who is also the managing director of SpiceJet Airlines, won the contest 40-26.

The results, however, remain subject to the final outcome of an ongoing case in the Delhi High Court, where several state units have challenged the constitutional amendments introduced by the interim committee that had been overseeing BFI's daily affairs.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159