



Triptii's desire

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



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

SANSAD TV VIA PTI PHOTO

SINGLE BOARD FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

(Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) in hostels. One ANM or multipurpose health worker will be appointed 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 providing 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 differently-abled children, regular teachers 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 present.

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-

man-elephant coexistence – 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

and Aquarium.

"This centre will drive research, policy, and best practices – not just for Odisha, but for all of south and south-east 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."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why isn't there a law stopping people jailed for 30 days from 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.

GUV-BILLS ROW

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 will then?"

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 endeavour 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 review the April 8 verdict.

The hearing would resume August 26.

In a 1st, living skin grown in lab

AGENCIES

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, layers 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 diseases 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 eyes 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.

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ARIES




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 of which you will reap in the days to 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 siblings 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.

LEO




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.

VIRGO




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 your peers.

LIBRA




Of late, you have been very concerned about the health of one of your close friends. Take this 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 likelihood, 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!



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 car driver."

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.



Triptii's dream role

Mumbai: Triptii Dimri has quickly emerged as one of the most sought-after actresses of her generation, with a filmography that reflects versatility and depth. From *Laila Majnu* and *Bulbbul* to *Qala* and the recently released *Dhadak 2*, she has carved her own niche in the industry by choosing roles that go against formula and highlight the evolving definition of a new-age heroine.

At a recent press conference, 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.

Triptii also reflected on the challenges of her craft, especially during intense scenes. "Honestly, when you're acting, there's so much pressure in the moment. You

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 experience," she added.

Given her trajectory, Triptii Dimri seems well-prepared to embody the grace, strength, and complexity of these cinematic legends.

AGENCIES



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 dedication.

A key shift has been reducing her workload. "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 release.

AGENCIES



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 eat at 6.30 in the morning? It is very important 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 there."

He said that it is important to take care of the stomach.

"I think the diseases will not come near you. So this is what I always follow. So it is important to eat at 6.30 because you get your time to digest your food and by the time when you are about to sleep, by 9, 9.30, 10 o'clock, the stomach is completely ready to rest and that's it. So it is a very simple thing."

IAN5



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-

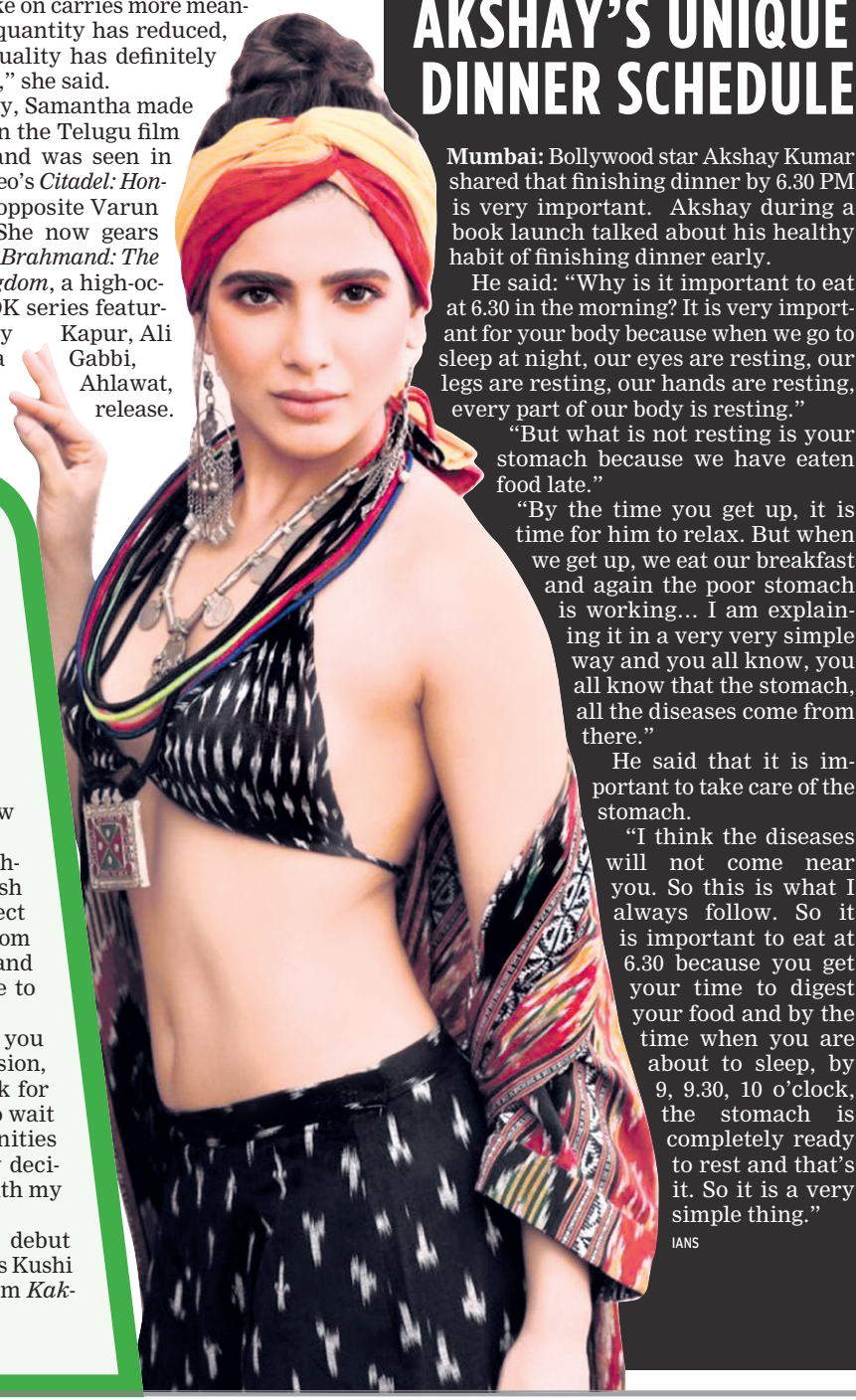
ences that help me grow as an artist."

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 *Kakspars* in 2012.

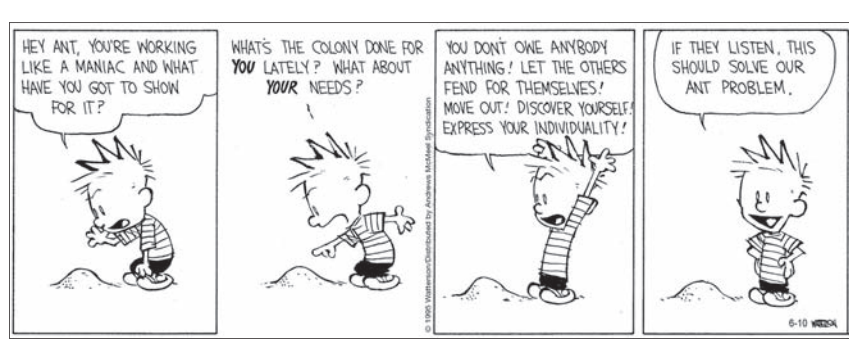
IAN5



PEANUTS



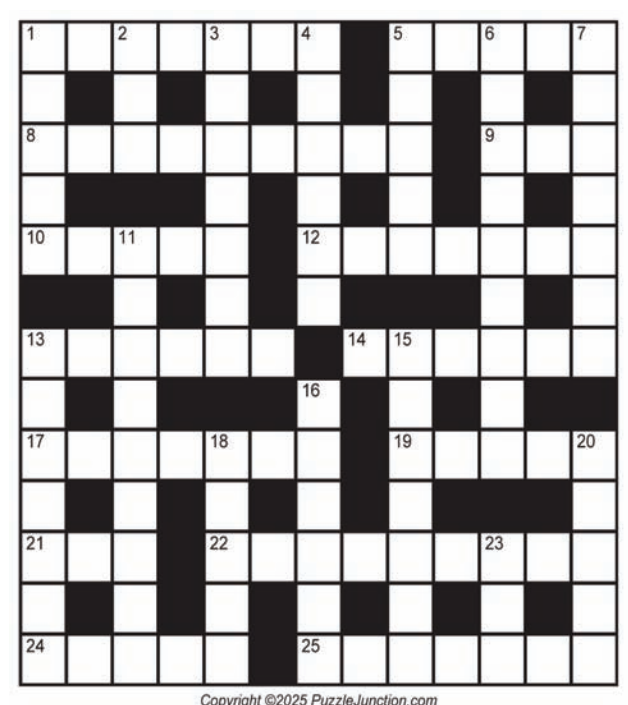
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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- Across

1 Troglydte (4,3)

5 Wine holders

8 Vortex

9 Prevaricate

10 Trap

12 Terse

13 Low pair

14 Bounce back

17 Pistol
- 19 Mountain lakes

21 Roadhouse

22 Blackguard

24 Welcome

25 Skin art
- 5 Infant's illness

6 Brilliance

7 Designer's tool

11 Plenitude

13 Like many a hero

15 The dodo, for one

16 Bring in

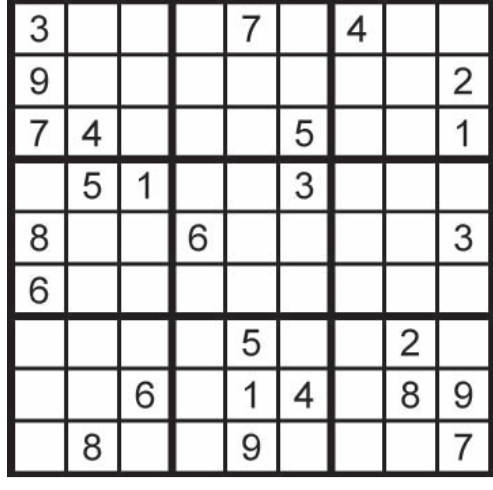
18 Long suit

20 Jockey's wear

23 Carnival city

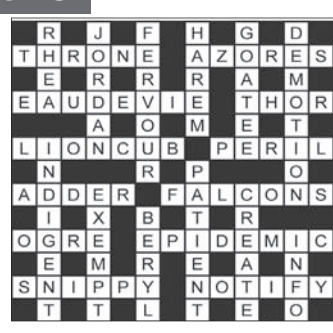
SUDOKU

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.

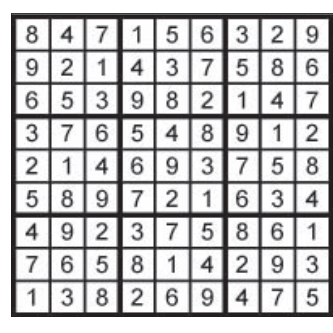


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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



Bhubaneswar, August 21: A Biju Janata Dal (BJD) delegation met Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jwalant Singh 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

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 ODISHA'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 accused the Centre of ignoring 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 Koya, 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 cannot come at the cost of displacement and cultural destruction," the delegation stated, vowing to continue its fight at all platforms.

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.



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

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 Mrutyunjay Suar.

"This partnership will position AIIMS-Bhubaneswar as a national translational innovation hub, fostering medical product development, technology advancement, effective IP management, and boosting clinical entrepreneurship," Biswas said on the occasion.

Under this MoU, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, KIIT-TBI, and BCKIC 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 Satyajit 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 cementless knee replacement, conducted by London-trained orthopaedic specialist Sandeep Singh.

The surgery was conducted on a 58-year-old retired teacher 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 effectiveness.

Speaking on the breakthrough, 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 patients. This milestone is not just about technology, it is about enabling people to walk pain-free with confidence and dignity."

CLASSIFIED LOST

By the virtue of affidavit at Notary Tangi, Dist.-Khorda .Affidavit No.-70AA 238431 on dated 15.08.2025. I Manoranjan Sahoo S/o Surendranath sahuo, resident of Gopalaprasad Kuhudi 752027, lost sale deed document no.-1524/2009/1 somewhere outside of the Tangi SR office. If anyone find can contact 8018329614

Guv urges UU alumni to lead social change



POST NEWS NETWORK

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.



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 poultry. "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 dedication,

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 progressive were felicitated farmers from Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts for their contributions to goat farming.

Goat rearing provides livelihood support to over 25 per cent of Odisha's rural households, especially tribal and landless families. According to the Odisha Economic Survey 2024-25, the state slaughtered 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.


MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.25 ▲ 0.16	SENSEX	82000.71 ▲ 142.87	GOLD	₹99,520 ▲ ₹22
EURO	101.70 ▲ 0.19	NIFTY	25083.75 ▲ 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	

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कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
नरसिंह कापोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
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प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से.-5,
आई.एम.टी. मानेसर,
गुडगांव, हरियाणा - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in



सत्यमेव जयते

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 Manesar,
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 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB5622575	U85500OD2024PTC047664	TLX EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB5282738	U22203OD2024PTC047167	GSL RECOPEL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB5422257	U17299OR2022PTC040051	MEHVIK OVERSEAS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB5442451	U11909OR2021PTC037370	FRESH CESTA RETAIL PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AB5492348	U66190OD2023PTC044479	HINDIGO FINVEST SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 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 subsection (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 companies from the Register of Companies.

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

Raunak Agrawal
Assistant Registrar

CBC 071231/11/0351/2526

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

ADDRESSING FARM DISTRESS



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 yoke 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

crops. However, productivity 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.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

RENEWED EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE AGRICULTURE REMUNERATIVE BY PROMOTING CASH CROPS, SETTING UP PEASANT COOPERATIVES AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

It 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



Rogerio Studart

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



Bhagirathi Jena

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

India'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 compelling story. The SiC facility, collaboration between Indian company SicSem and UK-based 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 opportu-

nities 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-

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.

WISDOM CORNER

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

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.

DALAI LAMA

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

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.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Broken system

Sir, The West Bengal government's high-handed disruption of The Bengal Films 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 Films 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.

Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh

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 jewelry. 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



Disciplined for bed-wetting: Gurukul warden brands kids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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. Chauhan 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 Narayan 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.

"The pigeon believed to be flying in from Pakistan was caught in the Katmaria area along the International Border at around 9 pm on August 18. A

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.

ACCORDING TO SECURITY 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 sta-

tion 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 specially trained and released from across the border with a threat message tied to its claws. "You have to take such matters seriously," 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 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.

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 Bhut nallah in Gulabgarh-Paddar areas.

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 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 official said.

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 by the cloudburst left a trail of destruction, flattening a makeshift market and a langar site for the annual Machail Mata yatra, 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 8.5-km trek to the 9,500-foot-high shrine starts from Chisoti, located about 90 km from Kishtwar town.

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 exposure.

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

cials said.

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 especially benefit students, young professionals, and aspirants aiming to build careers abroad.

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

The '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 companies expressed a strong interest in employing skilled youth from Rajasthan.



Workers clean the Dal Lake ahead of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival in Srinagar. The festival will be held from August 21st to 23rd

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 alternative 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 aggregation 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 prehistoric 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 Thursday.

"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.

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.

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA
Odisha, Pin - 761032, e-Mail : nackodala@gmail.com
Lt. No.2491/ Dev / 2025
Dated : 20/08/2025

e-NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. KOD-NAC-10/2025-26
No.C-919 : The Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites for bidders of eligible class registered with the State Govt. and bidders of equivalent grade/class registered with central Govt./MES/Railways according to norm of e-procurement system in online mode for the work as per DTCN.

1. Name of the Work	: External Electrification for MCC & MRF plant at Khalidi Sahi under Kodala NAC
2. Number of Work	: 01 No.
3. Estimated cost	: As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: From 10.00 A.M. of Dt. 21.08.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt. 02.09.2025
6. Last date and time for receipt of Bid in the Portal	: 05.00 P.M. of Dt. 02.09.2025
7. The bid received online shall be opened on	: 11.00 A.M. of dtd. 03.09.2025
8. Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Officer
Kodala NAC

OIPR-13203/11/0047/2526

of the day

quote

The BJP is indulging in 'vote chori' through the EC by starting the 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 in Wayanad and to apprise him of the severe difficulties being faced by the local population in the absence of the Medical College in Mananthavadi, which is yet far from functional

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS MP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always taken decisions based on principles of morality. Therefore, these bills have been introduced. 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 parties

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

XPOST

OF THE DAY

The next two 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 72

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior CPI leader and MLA 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 matter.

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.



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 re-engage retired employees on a contractual basis and reduce the number of vacant posts.



India, Russia agree to boost trade ties



REUTERS

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 Moscow themselves.

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

"We have good results in co-operation 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 Jaishankar.

- India, Russia reaffirm ambition to expand bilateral trade
- India faces high US tariffs due to its Russian oil purchases
- Russia hails 'good results' in hydrocarbons with India

hankar. 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.

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 theatres, 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 breaks."

The schools include Aakash Public School, Andhra School in Prasad Nagar, Crescent Public School, Blue Bells International School, BGS International School, Rao Man Singh School, Convent School, Max Fort School and Indraprastha International School, Dwarka, among others, officials said.

Police teams along with firemen and bomb disposal squads rushed to the premises immediately after being informed about the threats.

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

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

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



factor behind rising anxiety about the future, found the report.

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.

However, the report found 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

LS passes 12 Bills, RS 15 in Monsoon session



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 business ever since it began July 21 due to repeated disruptions and adjournments initially due to opposition demand for discussion 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 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.

dian Institutes of Management (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 Readjustment 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 Bills which were passed," a government functionary said.



The 12th edition of the India - Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise SLINEX-25 successfully concluded at Colombo on 18 August 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)

PTI PHOTO

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 conversation 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 towards 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 statement.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: India Wednesday categorically rejected Nepal's objection to a decision by New Delhi and Beijing to resume border trade through Lipulekh pass, saying Kathmandu's claims on the territory 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 saying 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 between 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.

"As regards territorial claims, our position remains that such claims are neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence. Any unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable," he said.

of the day

quote

The dynamics of military threats and the significant increase in military spending by our western neighbours 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 allowing government officials and diplomats 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 continent.

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 at strengthening bilateral 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," state-run 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.

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

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

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.

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-

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 de-centralization 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.

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 of the Dalai Lamas - Tibetan spiritual 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.



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 | UNITED NATIONS CHIEF



light the numbers detained as part of a wider crackdown on illegal immigration claimed that Indian nationals in deten-

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



tion have almost doubled in the past year. "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 re-

leased 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.

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 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. 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-

bled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. Haley said if this disparity does not demand a closer look at US-India relations, the "realities 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 momentum with the only country that can serve as a counterweight 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.

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.



and civilians frequently disappeared after being detained. Adding weight to these suspicions 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 missing, 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.



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,

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 Pakistan 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 Zulfiqar Naqvi, who represented the state. The bench was led by Chief Justice Afridi and comprised Justices Shafi Siddiqui and Miangul Aurangzeb. Khan's PTI hailed the ruling, using the hashtag "Victory For Imran Khan" in its post on X, while his international spokesman Zulfiqar Bukhari said the party supremo now needed bail in just one case. "Supreme Court has granted bail to Imran Khan for May 9th cases, now bail is needed for just one more case (Al Qadir case) for Mr Khan to come out of jail," he said.

of the day

quote

Insurance industry hopes that key input services of commission and reinsurance also receive an exempt status

MAHESH JAISING | PARTNER, DELOITTE INDIA

AI-only AIF regulatory regime that has significantly less compliance requirements around investor protection--our pathway to optimum regulations around AIFs. We want to enable sophisticated investors to back higher-risk ventures in an efficient manner

ANANTH NARAYAN G | WHOLE TIME MEMBER, SEBI

The proposed amendments to the insolvency law will help in saving time and ensure faster resolution of stressed assets

RAVI MITAL | IBBI CHAIRPERSON

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 filing. Upon completion of the acquisition, DTS will be integrated into Wipro's Engineering Global Business Line. Further, as part of the acquisition, Wipro will enter into a multi-year strategic agreement with HARMAN and Samsung. The acquisition strengthens Wipro's ER&D portfolio by advancing its AI-driven digital and device engineering capabilities, spanning design-to-manufacturing across industries such as technology, industrial, aerospace, healthcare, and consumer sectors.

TUMO in India

New Delhi: TUMO, Armenia's groundbreaking creative technology education network, is set to launch India's first centre this November in Mumbai, offering its free, self-paced 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 Papazian, 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, hyper-personalisation, 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 module.

My expectation 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

M NAGARAJU | FINANCIAL SERVICES SECRETARY

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 grey 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 market.

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 largely remains unregulated,

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 products.

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

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.



6G ROADMAP

India establishes 100 5G labs for capacity building

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 start-up 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, Pema-sani 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, national research institutions



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 Institute of Information Technology, 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 sensing capabilities in future 6G networks.

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 Thursday.

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 community-focused 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.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 21: India will need to mobilise \$467 billion 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 require 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

this with domestic mobilisation.

Among the key policy recommendations are incentivising private investment in steel and cement through targeted subsidies, R&D support and international 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 battery 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: 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 bilaterals," 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

two countries improve, a ministry 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.

Asian Shooting Championship: 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 Thursday.

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 India.

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 of 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 Raghuvanshi 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

final respectively. Kazakhstan'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, Rudranksh 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 favourite 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 of the country. He bettered the previous national record of 45.21 seconds which was in the name of Muhammad 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 quartet.

Rahane steps down

Mumbai: Veteran India batter Ajinkya Rahane Thursday stepped down from his position as Mumbai captain ahead of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season, saying 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 Ranji 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 Ranji 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



of the game.

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 Punjab.

World Boxing mandates sex testing before world c'ships

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 biological sex. Paris Olympic champion on Algerian Imane Khelif of Algeria declined to enter a World Boxing tournament in the Netherlands in June, shortly after the governing body initially

World Boxing respects 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

BORIS VAN DER VORST | PRESIDENT, WORLD BOXING



announced its plans to introduce sex testing. Van Der Vorst

later apologised for specifically 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.

Chromosome testing was 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 the 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.

KHELO INDIA WATER SPORTS FESTIVAL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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-



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

The thing that really keeps me going is the burning desire to represent the country at international events like Asian Games, World Championship and Olympics

MOHSIN ALI

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

SINQUEFIELD CUP

Gukesh held by Sevian, Praggnanandhaa draws



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, Praggnanandhaa 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-Krzysztof of Poland.

With six rounds still to come in the \$3,75,000 prize money tournament, Praggnanandhaa, 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 Ajay 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 Secretary General Mike McAtee, who were originally set to be observers, did not attend the polls.

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 BFT's daily affairs.