

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You may take a holiday today to be with your family, and perhaps go to meet your relatives who live nearby. It will make your kith and kin very happy. They will be surprised and Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up.

TAURUS
This day you could be in for some unexpected and unpleasant shocks, warns Ganesha. There is a strong likelihood of getting insulted or humiliated. You must therefore be alert and on your toes. You could that way, manage to avert situations that may threaten your standing and reputation. If, however, you do get hurt, control your urge to retaliate.

GEMINI
It is the time to indulge in luxury and entertainment. You will pay more attention to household matters and tend to your children's needs. You will be concerned about your diet and other health matters in the evening, however, these worries are only of a temporary nature, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will be ready to understand the meaning of life. You will get new responsibilities in your job or business, which means a promotion and pay hike. You may take an instinctive decision, which you may repent later. Take a calculated and thoughtful step, says Ganesha.

LEO
You will spend time with your friends. You will be helpful to your friends and colleagues. You will work hard according to your capability today. You will experience the satisfaction of a job well done at the end of the day, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
An open discussion with a loved one is on the cards today. Work hard to complete the work that you have been procrastinating for a long time, says Ganesha. A holy place is beckoning you. However, Ganesha advises you to evaluate all your options while taking your decisions.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will try to impress other people with your appearance and personality. Under current circumstances there are chances of you falling in love with a new person who will become your beloved. The time spent with this person will be unforgettable says Ganesha, as love is in the air.

SCORPIO
Your kids are your pride, especially today when they come out with flying colour in their academics. It's a favourable day to invest your money in home or land. In the evening , you may just feel like going to a secluded place and enjoy the twilight.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, you may discover your innate talents and will be recognised for that with a huge round of applause. Aiming to carve a niche for yourself, you may take up Herculean task at work under the guidance of your boss. Way to go!

CAPRICORN
You will be in chirpy mood today, want to do anything and everything. Business opportunities will grab your eye balls, and you want to go ahead with those ideas. Ganesha predicts you will succeed in these ventures as luck is by your side. Socially, you will be busy as you will meet a lot of people and impress them with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
Today may give you an all-time high! The day will prove important with regard to your future. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, and recognition and rewards at your workplace will make you happy. Ganesha says that you should enjoy it while it lasts.

PISCES
Today is likely to be an extremely competitive and demanding day for you. You need to be extremely careful in how you go about doing your tasks, so as to not give anyone a chance to pick out mistakes in your work. You will feel like taking a break from work during the later part of the day and go visit some nearby places, says Ganesha.



KENDRICK, SETH ROGEN SET TO STAR IN BABIES

Actors Anna Kendrick and Seth Rogen are in negotiations to feature in an upcoming comedy film, titled *Babies*. According to the entertainment news outlet *Variety*, the project is a Los Angeles-set contemporary comedy drama

EMMA STONE REVEALS HER FAME COPING MECHANISM

The two-time Oscar winner Emma Stone addressed the challenges of navigating fame and the demands of her career during a press conference at the Venice Film Festival, where her new film *Bugonia* is premiering



THUG LIFE'S POOR SHOW Shruti defends dad Kamal

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan, one of Indian cinema's most versatile actresses and daughter of legendary actor Kamal Haasan, has been shining on screen for over a decade with an impressive lineup of films. In a recent interview that drew wide attention, Shruti spoke candidly about her father's enduring relationship with filmmaking and the lukewarm audience response to his latest film *Thug Life*.

When asked about the movie not meeting commercial expectations, Shruti offered an insightful perspective. She emphasised that her father has faced both success and failure throughout his illustrious career, but neither defines him. "The ending of *Thug Life* didn't affect him. He lives for cinema," she said with conviction. Shruti revealed that Kamal reinvests everything he earns back into films, without personal indulgences. "He has no desires like buying cars or houses—his only dream has always been cinema," she explained, underlining his lifelong dedication to the craft.

Meanwhile, Shruti's own performance in Rajinikanth's *Coolie* has been earning praise. Her portrayal of a bold, confident woman with both style and substance has struck a chord with audiences. With this role, Shruti has once again proven her artistic depth while continuing to win hearts.



AGENCIES

Sam's fitness philosophy

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu has long been admired not just for her acting, but for her discipline and commitment to fitness. Her approach is refreshingly different—fitness, for her, isn't about achieving a "bikini body," but about building strength, resilience, and long-term wellness.

She believes strength training is the backbone of her routine, dismissing the myth that lifting weights makes women bulky. Instead, she highlights its benefits in boosting metabolism, improving bone density, and maintaining energy—especially crucial for women in their 30s and 40s.

Unlike many who indulge in cheat days, Samantha maintains a consistent and structured diet. She eats similar meals every day, a practice she credits for her lean physique and glowing skin. While some might find it monotonous, for her, food is fuel to support performance, not just to satisfy cravings.

Consistency is her mantra. Whether at home or traveling, her mornings begin with training—weightlifting, core exercises, or mobility work. She often shares glimpses on social media, inspiring her followers to see fitness as daily hard work, not shortcuts.

For Samantha, it's not about perfection, but progress. Her journey proves that true transformation stems from discipline, patience, and a mindset rooted in strength and consistency.



AGENCIES

It's okay to have days off: Malaika

Mumbai: Bollywood diva Malaika Arora has shared her mantra for keeping her confidence intact on days when you don't feel her best.

In a conversation with this news agency, Malaika told: "I remind myself it's okay to have days off . Moving my body, practicing gratitude, and

owning my flaws always bring me back to center."

Talking about her fashion choices, which are often trendsetting and how she balances comfort with glamour, the diva, who is the brand ambassador for HUYE, said: "For me, glamour should never come at the cost of comfort. True style is when you can walk into a room looking

stunning but still feel like yourself." Malaika was

first selected as a VJ for MTV India. She then entered the modelling world, appearing in many advertisements as well as album songs like Bally Sagoo's *Gur Naalo Ishq Mitha* opposite Jas Arora, and Bollywood chartbusters such as *Chaiyya Chaiyya* in the 1998 Bollywood film *Dil Se...*

She was then seen in numbers such as *Maahi Ve* (2002), *Kaal Dhamaal* (2005) and *Munni Badnaam Hui* (2010). As an actress, she has starred in films like *Kaante* (2002) and *EMI* (2008). IANS



DR RACHNA RATH

Law has teeth but we got the bite

The revised Supreme court directive implied our '*galli ki Rani*' and her daughter Renee (meaning reborn) christened by hubby after being rescued from a sewer, shall be immunized and returned to their '*safe haven*'. But pregnant Renee was about to deliver.

Narrow roads have been further narrowed by 10-12 gaping holes drilled straight through them to prop up huge decorative gates. Even Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, must have sighed in exasperation! (Government or Gods- "*Of the people, by the people and for the people*"). A rat-tled *Vigneshwara* would have barely managed to ride to the pandal on his mousey carriage.

Dig it, dismantle it, ditch it and leave



Vakratunda Mahakaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva; Sarva Karyeshu Sarvada

behind perfect traps for little pups to slip in, suffocate and '*meet their maker in heaven*.' I wish to bare my canines and growl, not that I possess sharp pointed ones like *Yudhishthira*'s loyal companion. Morsels of *aloo-chaat* and *momos* tossed out of love by civilian crowd with meagre civic sense, thronging the carnival (*mela*), are an open invitation for the strays to go astray. So much for banning public feeding of street dogs and establishing designated feeding places!

At least, the 4-legged canines trolls past the barricades while my 4-wheeler is banned from my home-lane as festive excursions are underway. Am I to come in the way of scores of revellers claiming the thoroughfare for month-long celebrations! How can I not

choose to make this *hooman* sacrifice of mutely staring at vehicles parked *chock-a-block* on all possible streets and abandon mine a block away from home! Designated parking spaces indeed are mythical creatures for *junta*!

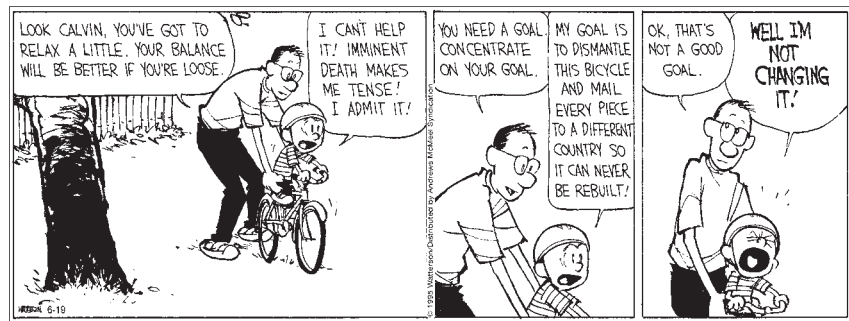
Are the courts up for tackling this one? Of course not. Have I been bitten and mauled by a stray dog? No, Sir. Humans bite the peace out of each other every single day. Why the tantrum?

A forensic anthropology module taught me to differentiate between non-human bones from human remains. I am dying to take a module on behavioural anthropology that reminds and reassures me that we were meant to be more evolved than non-humans. Ganapati Bappa Morya!

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN
post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9		10			
11		12		13	14
		15		16	
17			18		19
		20			
21	22			23	
25				26	

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Across

7 Be a busybody

8 Calamine, e.g.

9 Wetland

10 Methodical

11 Skye cap

12 Nile reptile

13 River embankment

17 Chill out

18 Evergreen

19 Female rabbit

21 Smelly cheese

23 Assist

25 Jovian planet

26 Plump

Down

1 Move

2 Tokyo, once

3 She's in the money

4 Assumed name

5 Now and then (2,5)

6 Apple leftover

14 Anger and hate, e.g.

15 Seaport

16 Gallery display (4,3)

20 Combat zone

22 Persia, today

24 Greek letter

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

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



Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar Chief Operating Officer and Medical Services Director Dr Alok Srivastava inaugurates Odisha's first Nurse-Led Clinic at hospital premises, under the visionary leadership of Apollo Hospitals Group Director Nursing Capt (Dr) Usha Banerjee

MoU inked to aid education of IAF personnel, their wards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: In order to facilitate higher education opportunities for currently serving and retired Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel, as well as their wards in both engineering and medical programmes, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)-DU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) here Friday.

The agreement was formalised between Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education), Air Vice Marshal Harjit S Sidana and KIIT-DU Vice Chancellor Saranjit Singh.

The pact aims to offer significant educational benefits, including concession in tuition fees for wards of serving and retired IAF personnel. In addition, fee exemption and support will be extended to the wards of personnel who lost their lives during service. Admissions will be subject to eligibility criteria such as NEET for medical and dental programmes and KIIT Entrance Examination (KIITEE) for



engineering and other courses.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said, "The main objective of the MoU is to ensure quality education and financial support for the wards of Indian Air Force personnel. This collaboration also paves the way for joint initiatives between KIIT and education wing of the Indian Air Force in R&D projects and development of short-term educational programmes."

On the side-lines of the signing ceremony, IAF officials also paid a courtesy visit to KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta and lauded his vision for inclusive education and nation-building process.

downtown

Sports serve as true equaliser, unites all: Guv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Governor Hari Babu Kam-bhampati, speaking at the state-level National Sports Day celebration at Soochana Bhavan here Friday said that a society which embraces sports, nurtures healthier citizens, fosters inclusivity and builds stronger communities.

"Sports serve as a true equaliser, breaking barriers of caste, creed and gender, uniting everyone under the shared spirit of excellence," the governor said, adding that sport is not confined to stadiums and playgrounds alone but form an essential part of daily life. "They instill perseverance, teamwork, time management and resilience — qualities equally valuable in classrooms, workplaces and every walk of life," he noted.

The governor also presented Biju Patnaik Sports Awards for 2024 to outstanding athletes, coaches and sports journalists on the occasion.

Paying tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary, Kam-bhampati said his legacy reminds us that sport is not merely contest of strength or skill but a celebration of discipline and determination. He congratulated award winners, calling them torchbearers of Odisha's sporting spirit, and praised Biju Patnaik Bravery Award recipients for their courage and selfless service.

Highlighting Odisha's sport traditions, the governor said that the state has consistently produced champions in hockey, athletics, swimming and cricket. "In recent years, Odisha has emerged as a major sporting hub by hosting prestigious events such as the FIH Hockey Pro League, Kalinga Super Cup Football, International Badminton Tournament and the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze," Kam-bhampati said.

The governor credited the



DGP felicitates sportspersons

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania today felicitated 41 outstanding sportspersons of Odisha Police on the occasion of National Sports Day (NSD), observed to mark the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. The DGP lauded the sportspersons for their extraordinary talent and excellence, stating that their achievements have enhanced the reputation of Odisha Police across the country in recent years. Khurania expressed confidence that the felicitations would inspire young talents in the state to take up sports and motivate them to achieve greater milestones in the future.

Highlighting recent achievements, he praised seven Odisha Police athletes for their remarkable success at the World Police and Fire Games held in Birmingham, USA. "The sportspersons created history by winning 13 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals, bringing glory to the state police," he added. The DGP further expressed hope that more Odisha Police sportspersons would participate in national and international events in the coming years, thereby enhancing the organisation's prestige.

During the ceremony, held at RK Padhi Memorial Hall, Cuttack IPS Mess, the DGP presented awards and cash prizes to the sportspersons and wished them a bright future. The event was attended by senior police officers of the state.



Stewart School observes the day

Bhubaneswar: Stewart School, Bhubaneswar observed National Sports Day here Friday and honored the students who excelled in sports by presenting medals and recognising their hard work and dedication. The ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including vice principal M Premanik, school secretary FC North and coordinator Swati Das. Former Indian football goalkeeper Ranjeeta Mohanty joined as chief guest at the event. Speaking at the event, DC North emphasised the importance of sports in a student's life, quoting the famous phrase, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." He highlighted how sports help in the holistic development of students, teaching them valuable life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.



LIST OF AWARDEES	
BIJU PATNAIK SPORTS AWARD - 2024	
■ LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT - Bijay Kumar Satpathy (Weightlifting)	
■ OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN SPORTS & GAMES- Animesh Kujur (Athletics)	
■ EXCELLENCE IN COACHING- Sushama Nanda (Volleyball)	
■ BEST CONTRIBUTION TO PROMOTION OF SPORTS- Pradyumna Mishra (Kho Kho)	
■ EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS JOURNALISM- Bimal Kumar Raul (Prameya)	
■ BEST PARA SPORTSPERSON- Rakhal Kumar Sethy (Para fencing)	
■ UPCOMING ATHLETES (JUNIOR)- Sattwik Swain (Chess)	
■ BEST SPORTS TECHNICAL OFFICIAL / SUPPORT STAFF - Sudeep Satpathy	
BIJU PATNAIK BRAVERY AWARD - 2024	
■ Jiban Kumar Behera and Chittaranjan Pradhan	



Initiative to revive Hental forest begins in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Astarang, August 29: In a remarkable display of grassroots environmental activism, local communities and NGOs have initiated a major ecological restoration project to reintroduce the Phoenix Paludosa (Hental) at Devi River estuary.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Odisha Paribesh Suraksha Abhiyan Trust (OPSAT), in collaboration with Sabuja Sakha Astaranga, and supported by *Dharitri* and **Orissa POST**, aims to restore 10 hectares of Hental mangrove forests, covering different coastal gram panchayats through community participation under 'One Million Mangroves By 2030' mission.

"We realised we couldn't wait any longer for official channels

to carry out the revival effort," said OPSAT Managing Trustee Soumya Ranjan Biswal. "Our community-driven initiative will not only restore the Hental forests but also significantly enhance local biodiversity," he added.

The initiative has drawn widespread support from local stakeholders, including fisherfolk, women groups, and environmental volunteers. "The disappearance of Hental palms affected our coastline and livelihood. This restoration is crucial for our community," said Purnachandra Kandi, a local fisherman participating in the drive.

The launch event saw participation from Sabuja Sakha president Ramakanta Bastia, joined by members Abhyasa Kumar Nayak and Deepankar Chatoi, and mangrove community mobiliser trustee Suman Pradhan.

Services disrupted as train derails at Vizianagaram

Bhubaneswar: Train services under the jurisdiction of the East Coast Railway (ECOR) were affected today after a goods train derailed at the Vizianagaram railway station yard under Waltair Division. According to ECoR sources, several trains were controlled at different stations en route due to the disruption. These includes Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (20841), Howrah-SMVT Bengaluru Express (12863), Bhubaneswar-KSR Bengaluru Prashanti Express (18463), Shalimar-Vasco-da-Gama Express (18047), Rourkela-Gunupur Rajjarani Express (18117), Patna-Ernakulam Express (22644), Howrah-Chennai Mail Express (12839), Bhubaneswar New-Visakhapatnam Intercity Express (22819) and Bhubaneswar New-Secunderabad Visakha Express (17015). Restoration work is in progress, and efforts are being made to normalise train movement in the section at the earliest, ECoR officials said.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.34 ▲ 0.64	SENSEX	79809.65 ▼ 270.92	GOLD	₹104,031 ▲ ₹1931
EURO	103.18 ▲ 0.72	NIFTY	24426.85 ▼ 74.05	SILVER	₹120,533 ▲ ₹3359

IMD warns fresh spell of rain from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: After experiencing relatively dry days this week, Odisha is expected to witness a fresh spell of heavy rainfall starting August 30, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) sources Friday.

The alert comes amid the forecast of a new low-pressure system likely to form over the North Bay of Bengal around September 3. "Thereafter, the system is likely to move west-northwestwards across the northwest Bay of Bengal, the coastal areas of West Bengal and North Odisha, and intensify into a depression around September 5. Accordingly, the monsoon trough is likely to remain south of its normal position during the entire week of August 29 to September 4," the national forecaster said in its

extended weather outlook.

Another low-pressure area may also form at the end of the week from September 5 to 11, it added.

According to the weather agency, thunderstorm and lightning, accompanied along with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30 to 40 kmph may occur at one or two places in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts August 30.

Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30 to 40 kmph is likely at one or two places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Koraput and Rayagada August 31.

Similar warning has been



sounded for districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh September 1 and September 3, and Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Koraput and Malkangiri September 2.

Thunderstorm and lightning accompanied along with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30 to 40 kmph may also occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada,

Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur and Rayagada on these four days.

While there is no warning thereafter, light to moderate rain may continue at many places across the state during

the subsequent 4 to 5 days, it added.

Earlier this week, rains triggered by a well-marked low pressure over the Bay of Bengal threw life out of gear in Koraput and Malkangiri districts. Road communication between Koraput and Rayagada, as well as Koraput and Malkangiri, resumed Thursday after the downpour since Tuesday morning submerged stretches of National Highway 326 near Koraput Chhak, cutting off road communications between the districts.

While Bhubaneswar has seen scattered rain over the past few days, the upcoming week could bring intense showers, particularly between September 1 and 3. Commuters are advised to plan accordingly, with possible waterlogging in low-lying areas and traffic disruptions expected during peak hours.

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.2°	32.6°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershower
Min Temp	25.5°	24.4°	
Humidity	88%	88%	
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil	

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

100 villages still marooned for 5th day

Around 30,000 people in the villages are affected by flood waters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur/Balasore/Bhadrak, August 29: Despite the water level of major rivers of north Odisha receding to below the danger level, around 100 villages in Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur districts were still under flood water for the fifth consecutive day Friday, an official said.

Around 30,000 people in the villages are affected by flood waters, he said.

While 80 villages under Baliapal and Bhograi blocks in Balasore are encircled by flood water of around 4 feet high, a similar condition prevailed at 14 other villages under Dasarathapur block in Jajpur district, the official said, adding some pockets in Dhamnagar block of Bhadrak district were still under water.

“Though the water level in river Baitarani has receded, flood waters have remained stagnant in our villages for the past five days. As a result, it damaged my house, destroyed household articles, stored grain and fodder for the livestock,” said Rabindra Samal, a flood-af-



affected villager from Dasarathapur block.

Samal said, “I returned home from the relief centre, wading through waist-deep water as the roads are still submerged under water. I found my house in bad condition. Presently, I neither have a house to live in nor any food to eat. Although we are being provided a little quantity of rice as relief by the administration, how can we prepare the food as our houses and ‘chullah’

(oven) are still under water.

“The government claims that the flood situation has improved after the water level receded in the rivers. But the fact remains that water has now accumulated in our villages after being drained from the river. How could the flood situation improve till the people are in relief camp and unable to light their ‘chullah’,” asked Sabita Swain, a young woman from the same block. She said that drinking

water is a major problem as all sources of water have been contaminated due to the flood.

Swain said the Dasarathapur area was suddenly inundated due to a breach on the embankment of Kani river, a tributary of Baitarani. “We could not find time to collect our essentials and ran away from the village seeing the flood fury,” she said.

According to official reports, over 8,000 people of at least 14 villages of Kasapa and Malikapur gram panchayats of the Dasarathapur block are still marooned by the flood after water gushed into their villages due to a 100 feet breach at Kani river embankment.

Over 5,000 people have been evacuated and sheltered in nearby school buildings since Saturday. As their houses have been badly damaged, household articles, food grains and livestock have been badly affected, the flood victims have been struggling to salvage their belongings.

Flood victims complained of scarcity of clean drinking water, food, with stagnant water giving rise to health concerns.

The affected people com-

plained that the flood water had destroyed fodder, leaving livestock without feed.

“Free cooked food has been provided in 25 relief camps. The water has receded from the rivers, and we are taking all sorts of measures to provide rice and dry food as relief materials in the marooned areas. Besides, we are also taking steps to provide fodder on a priority basis in the marooned areas,” said Akash Pattanaik, BDO of Dasarathapur block. He said the breach repair work would start Friday.

A report from Balasore district said that this is the sixth spell of flood since June this year in river Subarnarekha.

Though lives of human beings and cattle could be saved due to timely evacuation, the entire population of Baliapal, Bhograi, Basta and Jaleswar, have lost their Kharif crop cultivation.

The affected people have lost food grain for the entire year due to frequent floods. The government should announce a special package for the affected people of the four blocks of Balasore, said a local sarpanch.

Minor girl’s body found under Jajpur Road ROB

Jurisdictional dispute delays recovery



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Road, August 29: Residents near Ahmad Nagar, under the Jajpur Road railway over bridge (ROB), discovered the body of a minor girl Friday morning and alerted both the Government Railway Police (GRP) and the Jajpur Road police. Both police units arrived at the scene and found the body wrapped in cloth, with only the legs visible.

A jurisdictional dispute between the GRP and the Jajpur Road police delayed the recovery of the body for several hours. Eventually, the Jajpur Road police recovered the body and identified the deceased as a minor girl, estimated to be 6-8 years old. The girl’s feet were bandaged, and her identity re-

mains unknown.

The Jajpur Road police registered the case (37/25) as an unnatural death and sent the body for autopsy. Authorities suspect the girl, believed to be from a tribal community, may have died after receiving medical treatment. Local residents reported that an unidentified person dumped the body late Thursday night.

The discovery caused a crowd to gather, leading to traffic disruptions on and around the ROB. Police faced challenges managing the crowd and controlling traffic.

Jajpur Road police station Officer-In-Charge Ashish Kumar Sahu said the body will be kept for three days for identification. If no one claims it, the police will arrange for the final rites.

FM SELF-IMMOLATION

No action taken against instigators, says victim’s dad

Balasore: The father of the college student from Balasore district, who died after setting herself on fire, Friday demanded speedy justice for his daughter, alleging that alleged that no action had been taken against persons who instigated her to take such a step. The student had set herself on fire July 12 after allegedly being denied justice in a sexual harassment case against the head of the Integrated BEd department of FM Autonomous College. She sustained 95 per cent burn injuries and died July 14 while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Her father met Balasore District Collector and SP demanding legal action against people allegedly responsible for his daughter’s death. “I enquired about the progress of the investigation. The SP has assured that he would take more action in the coming days,” the victim’s father told reporters. He alleged that no action had been taken against persons who instigated her to take such a step. “Those who tortured her mentally, including some members of the internal complaints committee (ICC), stern action has to be taken against all of them,” he demanded.

CUO celebrates 17th foundation day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 29: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) celebrated its 17th foundation day August 29, 2025 at its Sunabeda campus. The event was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor In-Charge Professor Narasingha Charan Panda, who unfurled the university flag in the presence of Basant Kumar Panda, retired professor and former director, Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, and Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasedas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, along with faculty, staff, and students.

Professor NC Panda highlighted recent faculty recruitment and infrastructure development, including plans for an international guest house, auditorium, hostels, academic blocks, a hospital, and a market complex, with support from the Ministry of Education. He emphasised the Indian Knowledge System, optimism, and holistic growth.

Delivering the foundation lecture, Professor Basant Kumar Panda urged the university community to work for a sustainable future, inspired by Koraput’s natural beauty. He noted that NEP-2020 implementation would ensure a “future-ready university” and called for harmony between

tradition and modernity, nature and humanity.

Professor Chakrawal encouraged faculty to teach beyond the syllabus, and NALCO Executive Director Niranjan Samal assured full support for university development. The welcome address was given by Registrar In-Charge Rakesh Kumar Lenka, and the vote of thanks by Professor Bharat Kumar Panda.

During the event, several publications were released, including CUO at a Glance, the CUO Newsletter, Deomali, Amrit Vidya, and works by various departments. The programme concluded with a cultural performance.

3 killed in road accidents

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, August 29: Three persons were killed in two separate road accidents in Ganjam district Friday, police said.

Two persons, identified as Sanatan Swansea (40) and Karan Sethi (55) from Khallangi village, died on the spot when their motorcycle collided head-on with a truck near Balipada in Berhampur Sadar police station area.

They were going towards Berhampur, a police officer said.

Irate locals blocked the road stating that three accidents have taken place in the area in a month, claiming three lives.

They demanded immediate action against the driver and compensation for the next of kin of the deceased. They lifted the blockade after police intervention.

The bodies were sent to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here for post-mortem examination, (Berhampur) Superintendent of Police Saravanna Vivek M said.

The truck has been seized



and its driver detained, he said.

In another accident, a 55-year-old man, identified as Basant Parida, died when a pickup van loaded with LPG cylinders ran over him in Dhaugaon village in Dharakote police station area, another officer said.

Parida was returning from his farm land when the accident took place.

After hitting the man, the vehicle also rammed into two roadside shops near the spot. Some portions of the shops were damaged, he said.

Local residents blocked the road demanding compensation and action against the driver.

Dharakote police station Inspector-In Charge Chandrika Swain said the vehicle has been seized and its driver detained.

Written test for home guard posts in Koraput postponed indefinitely

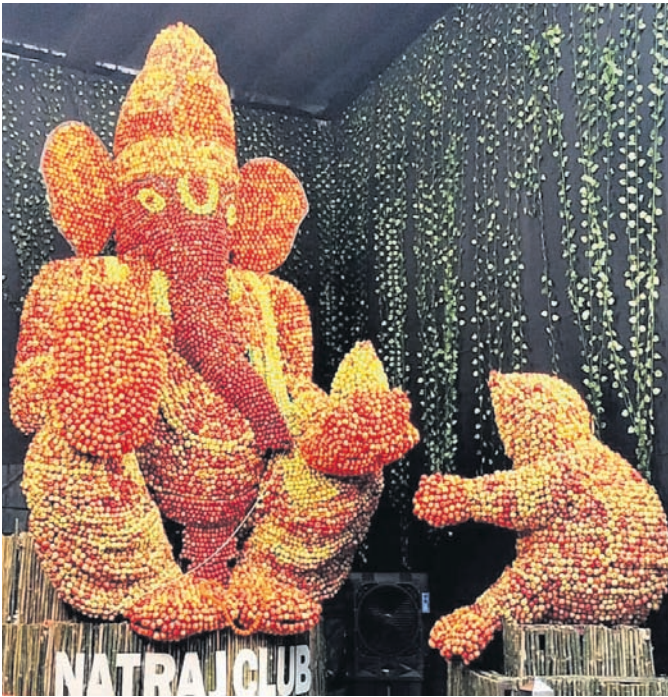
POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 29: The written examination for recruitment to 125 Home Guard posts in Koraput district, scheduled to be held August 31 at DAV College, Koraput, has been postponed indefinitely due to adverse weather conditions.

In an official press release issued around 7pm Thursday, Rohit Verma, IPS, Superintendent of Police (SP), Koraput, announced the decision. He cited continuous heavy rainfall, caused by a low-pressure system over the region, as the key reason. The downpour has severely affected normal life in several parts of the district, making it challenging to conduct the examination in a safe and orderly manner.

Authorities emphasised that the safety and convenience of candidates remain their top priority. The exam was expected to draw participation from hundreds of aspirants across the district who had applied for the vacancies. Candidates have been advised to stay updated through official announcements regarding the rescheduled date.

SP Verma assured that new dates will be declared only after weather conditions improve and proper arrangements are ensured. The indefinite postponement has left many candidates disappointed, as they had been preparing rigorously for the test. Some expressed concern over the uncertainty, while others welcomed the decision, acknowledging that safety must come first during such conditions.



proud to finally execute it. Our aim is to make it memorable,” he said.

True to their tradition, the Natraj Club does not collect donations or set a budget for the event. All expenses are shared voluntarily by the members. Over the years, the club has gained fame for creating idols from unique items like bananas, laddus, and coconuts — each carrying a theme or social message.

Senior member Shiv Kumar Rath added, “We are all businessmen, and we don’t sleep for

days when we work on the idol. Our devotion drives us. We’ve made idols from bananas in the past; this year, it’s apples to promote the message of good health. After the celebration, we plan to distribute the apples to the needy.”

Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Ganeshotsav, is a revered Hindu festival celebrated with great devotion across India, with Mumbai at its heart. The occasion marks the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha, the deity of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune.

Almond ‘Ganesh’ draws devotees

Keonjhar: A unique Ganesh idol made with almonds has become the centre of attraction during the Ganesh Puja celebrations at Atopur Kansari Sahi in Keonjhar town. Created by local youth under the banner of Satya Sanskritika Sanstha, the idol drew hundreds of devotees daily. The Ganesh Puja, observed over three days, will conclude with the immersion of the idol Sunday in a grand and colourful procession, according to the organising committee. “We have been celebrating Ganesh Puja for over three decades,” said Tulu Sahu, a member of the youth group. “Each year, we try something new. This time, although the idol is primarily made of clay, we used around 3 kilograms of almonds along with vibrant colours to give it a unique look.” Standing 8 feet tall, the idol has been beautifully decorated with various colours. The team also constructed eye-catching pandals and gates, enhancing the festive atmosphere. In addition to the worship, cultural programmes were held throughout the three-day celebration, adding to the festive spirit.



NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that, I Sri Swagat Subhadarsi Behera has lost the original I ROR NO-660/723 in the name of Jayashree Sahoo, Rajesh Sahoo and Rakesh Sahoo which was kept in my hand Bag, while he was going to court from his TATA capital office by Auto and in between and Kedar Gouri Temple and Ravi talks at Lewis road on 22.08.2025 lost the original documents somewhere, around Rasulgarn square area and in spite of his best efforts failed to trace the same. Therefore, if any one has found the same, please contact Advocate Sri N.C. Pattnaik, Mob.- 9853311189, or Manager Tata Capital at Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar within 15 days from the date of the publication, failing which the document will lose its legal force, and any mis-use of the document will be punishable under law.

NIT Rourkela gets 1,274 placements

Rourkela: Students at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela secured 1,274 placement offers and 509 six-month internships leading to potential pre-placement offers in the 2024-25 placement drive, despite global challenges such as recession-induced layoffs. The highest CTC recorded was ₹62.44 lakh per annum, with the average CTC for BTech students at ₹14.10 LPA and MTech students at ₹13.48 LPA. The top internship offer reached ₹1.26 lakh per month, and more than 85 students received annual packages above ₹30 LPA. Participation included 373 recruiters, nearly half joining for the first time. The majority were from software and IT services, followed by manufacturing, BFSI, electronics, and education. Top recruiters included Google, AMD, Qualcomm, Wells Fargo, Amazon, and ExxonMobil.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/63, Dt. 25.08.2025	
(1) Tender No. e-tender-BrkKUR-221-2025, Dtd.: 18.08.2025	
DESCRIPTION : ZONAL CONTRACT (BRIDGE WORKS) FOR HARIDASPUR-PARADEEP SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) / CUTTACK-II OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2026.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 72.40 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 1,44,800/-	
(2) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-228-2025, Dtd.: 19.08.2025	
DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 FROM KM. 469.70 TO 491.90 ON CUTTACK-GORAKHNATH SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / KANDARPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 218.22 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,59,100/-	
(3) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-227-2025, Dtd.: 19.08.2025	
DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 FROM KM. 447.90 TO 491.66 ON RAGHUNATHPUR-PARADEEP SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / GORAKHNATH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 253.56 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,76,800/-	
(4) Tender No. etenderEastkur-225-2025, Dtd.: 19.08.2025	
DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 FROM KM. 353.724 TO 399.10 BETWEEN JENAPUR- NERGUNDI & KAPILAS ROAD-SALAGAON SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) / DHANMANDAL OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 219.00 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,59,500/-	
(5) Tender No. etenderEastkur-226-2025, Dtd.: 19.08.2025	
DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2026 FROM KM. 399.20 TO 418.363 BETWEEN NERGUNDI - BARANG SECTION AND KM. 397.30 TO 410.37 ON THE LINE UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/CUTTACK OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.	
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 220.07 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,60,000/-	
Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months (for all SI. Nos.).	
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 10.09.2025 (for all the Tenders).	
No. manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.irops.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / Khurda Road	
PR-535/Q/25-26	

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Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions, constantly renewed for learning more and even more



THE MOTHER

Morale Matters

Delhi rarely does anything quietly. If the city sneezes, it makes the headlines. So, when the capital's police chief was abruptly changed overnight, the chatter was inevitable. Satish Golcha, a 1992-batch IPS officer, walked into the commissioner's office on August 21, a day after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was attacked during a public event. The timing said it all; the capital's law-and-order machinery needed a steady hand, and quickly.


Golcha isn't exactly a stranger parachuted in for damage control. His three-decade résumé runs through Delhi's police system like a metro map—Special CP during the 2020 riots, head of intelligence, crime branch, even the prison system. He's also done stints outside, from Arunachal Pradesh to Tihar. In short, if there's a file, crisis, or committee Delhi Police has ever had, chances are Golcha's initials are somewhere in the margins.

The buzz from his first day was telling. Officers found the man to be a “hard taskmaster” but one who, refreshingly, wanted to hear their views. That mix may be precisely what the force needs at this delicate moment. Morale matters, and Delhi Police has taken more than its fair share of bruises in recent years, from riot response to political mudslinging.

Golcha will hold the post till 2027, which is practically a geological era in Delhi's revolving-door power games. Whether he can restore confidence and calm frayed nerves is the real test. But if nothing else, his arrival underlines a simple truth: in Delhi, crises don't just make headlines, they make careers.

Think tanks or babu turf wars?

The great irony of India's so-called “right-wing civil war” is that it doesn't look very ideological at all. It looks like an internecine turf battle fought by retired mandarins, corporate benefactors and think tanks. On one side is the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), flush with Reliance funding and staffed at the top by an IFS-heavy leadership, not the least External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's son Dhruva in its Washington outpost. On the other hand, we have the Adani-backed Chintan Foundation, steered by a retired IAS officer. If this feels less like an intellectual joust and more like a bureaucratic game of “my service versus yours,” that's because it most probably is.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

The gossip storm on X has only amplified the spectacle. One day it's about Russian crude and Reliance, the next it's about Jaishankar's loyalties, and the day after about online gaming apps and IPL rights. Strip away the noise and you see a pattern: India's “ideas industry” is no longer about ideas, but about networks, patronage and bureaucratic turf. ORF's dominance over India's think tank landscape was bound to invite rivals, and Chintan looks poised to play that counterweight role, with its own retired-officer ecosystem and corporate backing.

That's what makes the current slugfest so revealing. This isn't the Right fighting the Left, or Modi's camp battling the Opposition. It's the establishment gnawing at itself: old guard versus new, IFS pedigrees versus IAS loyalties, Ambani versus Adani, all wrapped in the garb of “policy debates.”

India's Right is discovering that its fiercest battles are not over ideology, but over who gets to whisper in the Prime Minister's ear.

The real scandal isn't the scam, it's the system

The Enforcement Directorate has been awfully busy of late. Another day, another raid. It has now turned its attention to Guwahati, where retired IAS officer Sewali Devi Sharma is accused of siphoning off more than Rs 100 crore in the name of training teachers. What was supposed to be 59 centres became nearly 350, contracts landed in the laps of friends and family, and crores moved quietly through bank accounts controlled by a single individual. The figures are staggering, but the story is tediously familiar.

For those who have watched babudom up close, this is no bolt from the blue. Corruption here is not an aberration but a feature of the system. One officer having unchecked control over such huge sums should have been unthinkable, yet it seems almost routine. Oversight mechanisms are either weak, captured, or activated only after the loot has been pocketed. The real scandal is not just the alleged greed of one individual, but the way the system so obligingly allowed it.

This is the pattern that repeats itself across the country, whether in education schemes, welfare programmes, or infrastructure projects. Inflate the numbers, skip the tenders, reward loyal contractors, and by the time anyone asks questions, the money is gone. Every such case erodes trust in what was once proudly called the “steel frame” of governance.

Raids and arrests make headlines, but they do little to change the script. Unless the architecture of accountability is rebuilt through real-time audits, stronger checks, and genuine transparency, today's Rs 100-crore scam will only be tomorrow's déjà vu.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

“The only solutions that are ever worth anything are the solutions that people find themselves.”

SATYAJIT RAY

“Man is a genius when he is dreaming.”

AKIRA KUROSAWA

“All of us every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we're the same person all our lives.”

STEVEN SPIELBERG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ 1862: During the American Civil War, the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas) ended with a decisive Confederate victory.


■ 1918: Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin was shot twice in an unsuccessful assassination attempt.

■ 1983: US astronaut Guion S Bluford, Jr., became the first African American to travel into space, serving as a mission specialist aboard the shuttle orbiter Challenger, and later flew on three other missions.

LOL

FIGHT COMPETITION

The shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read BEST DEALS. He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his




right, and announced arrival with an even larger sign, reading LOWEST PRICES. The shopkeeper was panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop-it read... MAIN ENTRANCE.

FOCUS

PM'S CHINA VISIT

LURKING DANGER



Ever since China annexed Tibet in 1951, turning what had previously served as a buffer with India into a Chinese military stronghold, Sino-Indian relations have been marked by rivalry and mistrust

In 2020, China's stealth encroachments into India's Himalayan borderlands triggered deadly clashes and a prolonged military standoff that nearly erupted into war. Five years on, the border crisis remains largely unresolved, yet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is headed to China in an apparent effort to ease friction – just when India is facing punishing tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. But recent history offers a stark warning: trusting China is a dangerous path.

Once can certainly understand Modi's motivations for seeking a diplomatic thaw with China. The US-India relationship, once touted as a bedrock of America's strategy for ensuring a “free and open Indo-Pacific,” has plunged to its lowest point this century.

Trump's actions are as ironic as they are absurd. The US long courted India as a vital counterweight to China across the vast Indo-Pacific region, yet it is India that is now being subjected to sky-high tariffs, while China is enjoying a reprieve. Trump's real objective, it seems, is to strong-arm India into a lopsided trade deal.

Meanwhile, Trump is attempting to woo Russian President Vladimir Putin – to whom he has shown far more respect than Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky – so that Putin not only ends the Ukraine war, but also takes a step back from China. But while Trump recognizes that punishing and isolating Russia drove the country closer to China, creating considerable risks for the US, he is repeating this mistake with India.

Modi, however, should beware of letting Trump push him into China's arms. In traveling to China at this moment, given the pressure he is under, India's prime minister will come across less like a confident leader shaping events than a wounded statesman courting his country's chief security threat. Past experience indicates that China is far more likely to exploit any hint of Indian weaknesses than act as a reliable partner.

Ever since China annexed Tibet in 1951, turning what had previously served as a buffer with India into a Chinese military stronghold, Sino-Indian relations have been marked by rivalry and mistrust. When Modi became prime minister in 2014, he made it his mission to change that. His initial hope of improving the relationship may not have been misguided; but his refusal to change course, even when China relentlessly exploited his goodwill to make quiet territorial advances on the ground, certainly was.

China took few pains to hide its intentions: its troops encroached on an Indian borderland as Modi welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to India for the first time. While that initial 2014 summit was portrayed as a success, Chinese forces remained on Indian territory until India dismantled its defensive fortifications there.

The following year, Modi delisted China as a “country of concern,” in order to attract Chinese investment. What India got instead was a flood of cheap Chinese imports. China's trade surplus with India has grown so large that it now exceeds India's entire defense budget.

In 2014-19—as China steadily tightened its strategic axis with Pakistan, erected militarized “border villages” along India's frontier, and expanded its high-altitude military infrastructure – Modi met with Xi 18 times. So committed was Modi to rapprochement that he continued to engage in “appeasement diplomacy,” even after China's 2017 seizure of the strategic Himalayan plateau of Doklam. It was only after Chinese soldiers quietly surged across multiple frontier points in April 2020 – inexplicably catching India off guard – that Modi suspended his overtures to China.

Five years later, Modi is at risk of falling into the same

trap. Modi is traveling to China mainly to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin. But the SCO is largely a Chinese initiative, and India – the only established democracy among its ranks – has not treated it as a priority. Last year, Modi skipped its summit in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital; and in 2023, when India held the rotating chair, he downgraded the summit to a virtual format. Modi's decision to show up this year was probably more about signaling conciliation toward China than about the SCO.

China has given India no reason to think this time will be different. On the contrary, when India conducted targeted strikes on Pakistani terrorist camps in May – a response to a brutal attack on tourists in the Indian-administered part of Kashmir – China lent Pakistan critical support, including real-time radar and satellite data. Furthermore, China recently confirmed plans to build the world's largest dam adjacent to India's border—an undertaking that will have grave ecological and national-security implications for India.

Appeasement has never tamed revisionist powers; more often, it has emboldened them. By allowing China to profit from Indian markets even as it chips away at India's sovereignty and security, Modi has conveyed that India, despite its tremendous economic and strategic clout, is willing to be treated as a doormat. Only with a hardnosed strategy that meets Chinese coercion with Indian resolve can Modi safeguard India's interests and territorial integrity.


The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research

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SPECTRUM

TAXATION

GST: More reforms needed



WHILE THE ATTEMPT TO RATIONALISE GST IS WELCOME, THE COMPLEXITY OF GST IS NOT ADDRESSED

On 15 August, in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the launch of next-generation (Goods and Services Tax) GST reforms as a Diwali gift for citizens. On August 21, the six-member Group of Ministers (GoM) accepted the Centre's plan on GST rate rationalisation– to reduce the number of tax slabs. They have proposed replacing the current four rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent with just two main slabs— “merit” goods and services will attract 5 per cent GST, while most other items (standard) will come under an 18 per cent standard rate.

A higher 40 per cent levy will remain on a small set of so-called luxury, high-end items, such as SUVs and “sin” goods such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gambling, soft drinks, fast food, coffee, sugar, and even pornography. There will be no cess with elimination of 28 per cent slab. Most items will move from the 12 per cent to the 5 per cent rate and most from the 28 percent

to the 18 per cent rate, significantly simplifying the structure. The 18 per cent slab will be the dominant one since 64 per cent of the revenue was coming from this slab earlier, it will increase further. The GST Council is expected to meet on September 3-4 to finalise the details and the same is likely to be implemented on September 22.

While the attempt to rationalise GST is welcome, the complexity of GST is not addressed. The GST reform is meaningless if it doesn't streamline tax slabs. Despite reforms, in addition to 5, 18 and 40 per cent, other slabs like 0.25, 1.5 and 3 per cent will be in vogue which is imposed on just 1.5 percent of total goods traded in India. Normally most countries have settled on a three-rate structure.

Based on Kelkar Committee report, the GST was launched with much fanfare and hailed as the biggest tax reform since independence from Britain in 1947. But none of its objectives has been materialised till today nor likely to feature in GST 2.0 reforms. Rather GST

has exacerbated inequalities, appallingly impacted the unorganised workforce, and did not make a dent on tax evaders.

Critics think a reduction of GST rates may lead to decline of revenues especially, when revenue growth under the eight-year-old regime has slowed to its weakest level of 1.7 percent in July. It is not only GST revenue declining as a proportion of GDP but from April to August 11 of the current financial year, net direct tax collection dipped by 3.95 percent to 6.64 lakh crore from 6.95 lakh crore due higher refund.

Revenues lost by reduction of taxes should be accompanied by an increase of taxes from the rich to ensure equitable distribution of wealth. States will suffer too if the revenue declines. The Centre should compensate states.

It is argued that the reforms aim to increase disposable incomes and stimulate consumption, potentially increasing consumption led GDP growth. Lower rates could reduce tax evasion and promote greater compliance, contributing to

the formalization of the economy. But it may reduce the revenue generation capacity of the economy. The average GST rate at the time of its introduction was 14.4 per cent, which has been reduced to 11.6 per cent in 2019 and after this change, it will reduce to 9.5 per cent.


However, Standard and poor (S&P) global rating says GST rationalisation could bolster India's revenue in long term by making compliance easier. SBI reports say GST 2.0 will lift consumption by Rs 1.98 lakh crores. It is argued that the move appears designed to trigger a Laffer curve -type response, though the principle is rooted in direct taxation. This theory posits that both excessively high and low tax rates result in reduced tax revenues, suggesting that tax cuts can potentially enhance revenue collection. Hence the extension to GST suggests that lower rates could stimulate consumption and curb evasion.


The author is an Odisha based economist and columnist.

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





B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

DMK's floating promises

Sir, It was shocking to observe that the petitions submitted by the people during the ‘Ungaludan Stalin’ (Stalin with you) event were found drifting in the Vaigai river. The district collector Porkodi has ordered an immediate investigation. The petitions personally handed over by the aggrieved citizens to CM being thrown in water is the height of disregard for the people. This reminds me of the DMK's former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi's famous word of support that he will be like a catamaran to rescue people whenever they are in problems. Maybe Stalin has to board this catamaran to pick all these petitions from the water as a face-saving exercise before their usual crocodile story emanates from them to take a defence by telling- crocodile ate all petitions.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

Worrying sign

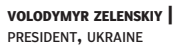
Sir, When ambition is fueled by fear rather than curiosity, education becomes a battleground, not a journey. The commodification of learning is not merely an economic burden it is a psychological one, alienating students from the joy of knowledge. Coaching centres fill a systemic vacuum, but their dominance signals a failure of inclusive schooling. Unless we redefine success beyond test scores, we risk raising a generation that excels on paper but falters in purpose.

Dr. Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

Lithium lure

Sir, Moldova, located south west of Ukraine, has announced a major tender for its lithium reserves, offering a 50-year licence to the winning bidder—an opportunity that has drawn keen interest from the United States. Poland's PM has voiced strong support for Moldova's accession to the European Union, a move also welcomed by the French Prez, signaling Europe's growing outreach into the Indian Ocean region. For India, competition for lithium may challenge New Delhi's clean energy transition plans, while Moldova's EU integration could shift regional power equations. India will need to deepen its mineral partnerships and reinforce its maritime influence to safeguard long-term interests.

RS Narula, PATIALA



of the day

quote

It is no longer enough for urban local bodies to deliver services on their own; they must come together with the private sector and deliver high-quality urban services

SRINIVAS KATIKITHALA | UNION HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS SECRETARY

The credit profiles of shrimp exporters focused on the US market will face further challenges after two sluggish years. The financial leverage, however, is expected to remain stable at 0.5 times

HIMANK SHARMA | CRISIL RATINGS DIRECTOR

With inflation tapering, interest rates moderating and rural sentiment on the mend, we believe the operating environment will become more conducive

RS GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, EMAMI

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves drop

Mumbai: India's forex reserves dropped \$4.386 billion to \$690.72 billion for the week ended August 22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday. The overall reserves had jumped \$1.488 billion to \$695.106 billion in the previous reporting week. For the week ended August 29, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, have decreased \$3.652 billion to \$582.251 billion, the data released Friday showed. The special drawing rights (SDRs) were down \$46 million to \$18.736 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was also down \$23 million at \$ 4.731 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

RBI imposes fine on Bandhan Bank

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 44.7 lakh on Bandhan Bank for deficiencies in certain statutory and regulatory compliance. In a statement Friday, the RBI said that a statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of the bank was conducted with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2024. RBI said the bank paid remuneration in the form of commission to certain employees. Also, Bandhan Bank had carried out manual intervention through the back-end in respect of data of certain accounts and had not captured the audit trails/ logs of access with specific user details in the system. RBI, however, said the penalty is based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

RIL shares dip

New Delhi: Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd declined over 2 per cent amid profit-taking on the day of its annual general meeting Friday. The bellwether stock lost momentum soon after the beginning of the annual general meeting and later dropped 2.21 per cent to settle at Rs 1,357.05 apiece on the BSE. At one point during the day, the stock hit a high of Rs 1,403, up 1.10 per cent. During the day, it declined 2.69 per cent to Rs 1,350.30. On the NSE, the stock fell by 2.07 per cent to settle at Rs 1,357.20 per piece. Intra-day, shares of the firm edged lower by 2.59 per cent to Rs 1,350. The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 41,409.36 crore to Rs 18,36,424.20 crore.



The government will be coming out with a variety of measures to support every sector, both to expand the domestic outreach and look for complementarities in other markets around the world to expand our global foray so that this year, our exports will exceed last year's exports

PIYUSH GOYAL |
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

CAPGEMINI SEEKS CCI CLEARANCE TO ACQUIRE CLOUD4C

French IT services major Capgemini has sought clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire full ownership of Singapore-based Cloud4C. The development comes after Capgemini announced Tuesday that it has signed an agreement to acquire Cloud4C, a leader in hybrid cloud platform services. Headquartered in Paris, Capgemini is a leading multinational in consulting, digital transformation, technology, and engineering services



Gold surges to new peak; silver slips

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Gold prices rallied Rs 2,100 to hit a fresh all-time high of Rs 1,03,670 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday due to persistent buying by stockists and depreciation in rupee, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,01,570 per 10 grams Thursday.

Continuing the upside momentum for the fourth straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity surged Rs 2,100 to hit a new lifetime high of Rs 1,03,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Friday, a day after settling at Rs 1,01,000 per 10 grams.

Gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity had recorded their lifetime highs of Rs 1,03,420 and Rs 1,03,000 per 10 grams, respectively, August 8 when the prices went up by Rs 800 per 10 grams. This was on the heels of a steep gain of Rs 3,600 per 10



gram in the preceding session on August 7. "Gold prices witnessed a sharp gain and surged to a new record high in the domestic markets, led by a weaker rupee and a positive trend in the overseas market.

"The Indian rupee hit an all-time low, raising concerns about the impact of 50 per cent US tariffs on the country's GDP," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HD-FC Securities, said.

Friday, the rupee breached the 88-mark for the first time and closed at an all-time low of 88.19 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a sharp decline of 61 paise amid tariff concerns.

During the week, the precious metal prices have increased by Rs 3,300 or 3.29 per cent. Meanwhile, silver prices retreated from its all-time high level and declined Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,19,000 per kilogram (inclusive

ONLINE GAMING BAN

Banks, fintech firms seek RBI guidelines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Banks and financial services firms during a joint meeting with the Department of Financial Services and the IT ministry Friday sought detailed guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to implement the ban on online money gaming, sources said.

The firms also sought more time to put in place mechanisms to comply with the ban, they said. The government has banned all forms of online money gaming by bringing in the Promotion and Regulation

of Online Gaming Act after repeated complaints of people dying by suicide due to heavy monetary losses. Sources present in the meeting said the discussion was largely around familiarisation with provisions of the Act and understanding the manner to implement it.

"Transitional measures, if any, along with challenges they expect in implementation of the Act's provisions were discussed. Everyone committed to implement it and have sought specific and detailed guidelines from the RBI on implementation of the rules. They have sought time for backend

compliance mechanisms to settle in," an official source said.

The government is in the process of notifying the Act so that the same will have rules to execute. The Act seeks to prohibit advertisement related to online money games and bars banks and financial institutions from transferring funds for any of such games.

Advertising of money games can attract imprisonment up to two years and/or fine up to Rs 50 lakh. Facilitating financial transactions related to money games can lead to imprisonment up to three years and/or fine up to Rs 1 crore.

Fiscal deficit at 29.9% of full-year target at July-end

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 4,68,416 crore in the April-July period of 2025-26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Centre's fiscal deficit increased to 29.9 per cent of the full-year target at the end of July, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) Friday.

The fiscal deficit was 17.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2024-25 in the first four months of the previous financial year.

The same stood at 17.9 per cent of the full-year target at

the end of the first quarter (April-June).

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 4,68,416 crore in the April-July period of 2025-26.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP, or Rs 15.69 lakh crore.

The CGA data showed, the government received Rs 10.95 lakh crore (31.3 per cent of the corresponding BE 2025-26 of total receipts) up to July 2025.

It comprised Rs 6.61 lakh crore tax revenue (Net to Centre), Rs 4.03 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 29,789 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Further, it said Rs 4.28 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the Government of India during the period, which is Rs 61,914 crore



higher than the previous year.

The total expenditure incurred by the Centre was Rs 15.63 lakh crore – 30.9 per cent of the corresponding BE 2025-26, out of which Rs 12,16,699 crore was on the revenue account and Rs 3.46 lakh crore on the capital account.

Of the total revenue expendi-

ture, Rs 4.46 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 1.13 lakh crore towards major subsidies.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA Ltd, said a contraction in the personal income tax collections in July 2025, owing to the extension of the deadline to file taxes and an adverse base,

Industrial credit growth declines to 7.6 % in June

(8.0 per cent) in June 2025, sustaining their leading position of 53.7 per cent in total credit.

Another set of data showed that bank term deposits recorded a growth of 13.5 per cent, significantly outpacing the savings deposits growth of 5.4 per cent in June 2025.

Consequently, the share of term deposits in total deposits soared to 62.2 per cent from 61 per cent in June 2024.

"Nearly 70 per cent of term deposits accounted for the original maturity bucket of one to three years in June 2025, whereas around 20 per cent of term deposits were short-term deposits with a maturity of less than one year," RBI said.

Reflection of recent monetary easing became evident in the interest rate structure of term deposits as the proportion of such deposits bearing higher interest rates of '7 per cent and above' declined to 65 per cent in June 2025, compared to that of 66.9 per cent a year ago.

"The share of term deposits of size 'Rs one crore and above' inched up to 45.7 per cent in

pulled down the performance of gross tax revenues in the month, even as devolution to states maintained a robust pace, further compressing the performance of net tax revenues.

While revenue expenditure expanded by 17 per cent, capital expenditure surged by 33 per cent on the last year's election-curtailed base, she added. While this fiscal headroom could be cut short by the implications of the proposed GST changes on revenues, more clarity is awaited on the same, Nayar added.

CGA said the fiscal deficit figure shown in monthly accounts during a financial year is not necessarily an indicator of fiscal deficit for the year, as it gets impacted by a temporal mismatch between the flow of non-debt receipts and expenditure up to that month.

June 2025 as compared to 44.8 per cent a year ago," it said.

The share of 'Household' deposits witnessed a modest decline in the recent period to 59.9 per cent in June 2025 as compared to that of 60.8 per cent in June 2024.

The corresponding share of 'Financial Corporations' moved up to 7 per cent in June 2025 as compared to that of 6 per cent a year ago.

Senior citizens owned 20.4 per cent of the total deposits as at end-June 2025, according to the data.

Deposits growth of public sector banks and private sector banks stood at 10.2 per cent and 12.4 per cent, respectively, in June 2025; whereas their corresponding shares in deposits were hovering at 57.3 per cent and 36.0 per cent, respectively.

The top five states/ Union Territories – Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu – collectively accounted for 54.3 per cent of total deposits and 47.8 per cent of 'Household' deposits as at end-June 2025.

National Sports Day: Will Dhyan Chand ever get a Bharat Ratna?

August 29 is celebrated across the country as National Sports Day in memory of Major Dhyan Chand, widely regarded as the greatest field hockey player in the history of the game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: His name adorns the country's highest sports award, his birthday August 29 is celebrated as National Sports Day, and many stadiums across India stand in his honour.

But despite all the appeals, RTIs, and public movements, the Bharat Ratna continues to

elude the hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand.

In 2021, the Centre renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. But many wonder, why despite the public sentiment the country's highest civilian honour continues to elude the man who put Indian hockey on the world map.

Hockey India president and three-time Olympian Dilip Tirkey led a movement at Jantar Mantar in 2016 with this demand and also raised the matter in Parliament, but every attempt failed.

"Dhyanchand was the greatest player in the world in his time. I always say that hockey is the sport which got us out first Olympic gold medals and Major Dhyan Chand's contribution is incomparable," Tirkey told PTI. "If the country's biggest sports award is named after him, the National Stadium



is named after him, then why not he is given a Bharat Ratna."

Dhyan Chand, who was the architect of gold medals in three consecutive Olympics (Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932 and Berlin 1936), put India's strong presence on the world sports map for the first time.

His son, Ashok Dhyan Chand, a member of the Indian

team that won the only World Cup in 1975, said his father never promoted himself and he is proud of it.

"He was the first to put India on the world sporting map. Even 46 years after his death, his name is echoing today and this is called the legacy of a great player. I am proud of him for always staying away from

- Dhyan Chand earned India three Olympic gold medals -- 1928, 1932 and 1936 -- with his extraordinary ball control skills and goal-scoring ability
- He also holds the record of scoring the most goals (570 in 185 matches) in the history of the sport

publicity."

He was awarded the country's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 1956 but repeatedly ignored for Bharat Ratna.

In November 2013, the Manmohan Singh-led Government conferred the Bharat Ratna on Sachin Tendulkar, making the cricket maestro the first and only sportsperson to receive it.

"Despite being such a great sportsman, my father saw very bad days but he did not give up his self-respect. He could never even think of ask-

ing for an award for himself. Seeing the condition of the house, we wanted to apply for a gas agency in 1977-78 but he refused to sign it," recalled Ashok. "He always used to say that it is the government's job to see what I have done. We will not beg from anyone."

"So much work is being done for sports now and it is the high time to show that the legends of the past are not forgotten."

In 2016, several Olympians including Ashok Kumar, Ajit Pal Singh, Zafar Iqbal, Ajay Bansal, and AB Subbaiah joined Tirkey at Jantar Mantar.

According to the 1954 rules, Bharat Ratna was originally limited to art, literature, science and public service but in December 2011 the rules were amended to "any field of human endeavour" thus making the sportspersons eligible.

On December 22, 2011, the then Indian Hockey Federation

also made a recommendation to the Centre. A delegation led by cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi met the then Sports Minister Jitendra Singh in 2013 and reiterated this request.

Then in August 2014, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju told the Lok Sabha that his ministry had recommended Dhyan Chand's name for Bharat Ratna but the result was the same.

In the last 10 years, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya (2015), Pranal Mukherjee, Bhupen Hazarika, Nanaji Deshmukh (2019), Karpoori Thakur, LK Advani, PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and MS Swaminathan (2024) have been awarded the Bharat Ratna. Even after so many years and so many efforts, the wait for Bharat Ratna for the magician of hockey is not ending and the hope seems to be fading away.

LACKLUSTRE START

India scrape past lowly China

Captain Harmanpreet bags hat-trick as India clinch dramatic 4-3 win against China on Asia Cup opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), August 29: Skipper Harmanpreet fired a hat-trick but India were far from impressive in their narrow 4-3 win over lower-ranked China in their Asia Cup opener, here Friday.

Harmanpreet (20th, 33rd, 47th minutes) converted three penalty corners but missed a penalty stroke. The other goal getter for India was Jugraj Singh (18th).

China's goals came through Shihao Du (12th), Benhai Chen (35th) and Jiesheng Gao (41st).

India stood on the right side of the result but the hosts didn't have a very good day in office and were guilty of letting China come into the match.

India also squandered plenty of chances, converting just four out of 11 penalty corners.

As expected India started on an offensive note and created their first opportunity with the first move. Mandeep Singh set it up for Sanjay but his shot was saved by Chinese goalkeeper Weihao Yang.

India kept up the pressure



and seconds later secured their first penalty corner from which Mandeep scored but the goal was disallowed for a push by the striker after China went for referral.

Minutes later Dilpreet Singh's reverse hit from close range was saved by the Chinese custodian. It was China who took the lead from their first penalty corner in the 12th minute through Shihao Du.

A minute from the end of first quarter India had two more bright chances but on the first

occasion Abhishek was denied by Weihao and then skipper Harmanpreet Singh flicked wide from the home team's second penalty corner.

India restored parity three minutes into the second quarter with a perfect penalty corner conversion by Jugraj. Two minutes later India earned their fourth set piece and this time Harmanpreet scored with a powerful dragflick.

A minute later the hosts secured another penalty corner but wasted the chance.

China also got another penalty corner soon but shot wide.

It was raining penalty corners for India as the hosts secured another three minutes from halftime, but Harmanpreet's flick was brilliant saved by a diving Weihao to his left.

India continued from where they left in the first half and extended their lead three minutes into the third quarter from another penalty corner conversion by Harmanpreet.

China, however, pulled a goal back two minutes later through

Benhai Chen, whose flick from a penalty corner went through the legs of India keeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

In the 39th minute India had a golden opportunity to extend their lead when they were awarded a penalty stroke for a foul on Mandeep but Harmanpreet hit the post.

India had to pay heavy price for that miss as two minutes later Jiesheng Gao converted a penalty corner to level the scores at 3-3 as Pathak was found wanting yet again.

But luck favoured India as they secured three back-to-back penalty corners in the 47th minute, the last of which was put into goal by Harmanpreet. Three minutes from the final hooter, India secured another penalty corner but didn't score.

In the first match of Pool A, Japan crushed lowly Kazakhstan 7-0.

For Japan, Koji Yamasaki (13th, 36th) scored a brace, while Kosei Kawabe (1st), Naru Kimura (5th), Ken Nagayoshi (48th), Shota Yamada (50th) and Ryosuke Shinohara (54th) were the other goal scorers.

The India-China match was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who paid tribute to Major Dhyanchand on the occasion of National Sports Day before the start.

India will next play Japan Sunday.

Asian Shooting C'ship: Medal rush for India

India concludes their campaign with 31 medals, including 14 gold, eight silver and nine bronze in the senior category, placing them second behind China



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shymkent, August 29: Young pistol marksman Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu gave himself a belated birthday present by winning the 25m centre fire event, while former world champion Ankur Mittal netted the double trap gold as India made merry in non-Olympic disciplines at the Asian Shooting Championships here Friday.

India also made a clean sweep in women's double trap with Anushka Bhati (93), Pranil Ingle (89) and Hafiz Contractor (87) finishing on the podium. The trio also cornered the team gold with an aggregate of 269.

India thus concluded their campaign with 31 medals, including 14 gold, eight silver and nine bronze in the senior category, placing them second behind China, who finished with 15 gold, 12 silver and three bronze. Overall, India won 103 medals, including 52 gold, 26 silver, and 25 bronze, in the three categories -- senior, junior and youth

Overall, India won 103 medals, including 52 gold, 26 silver, and 25 bronze, in the three categories -- senior, junior and youth

silver in the junior world cup in 2018 and 2022 respectively.

Army stalwart Gurpreet (579) finished fourth, while Korea's Jaekyoon Lee (580) and Iran's Javad Foroughi (579) took silver and bronze respectively.

India also won the team gold in the event with Gurpreet coming up with a commanding performance for the second day in a row.

A day after he won the 25m standard pistol individual gold and helped the country to a top-podium finish in the team category as well, the 37-year-old Army shooter, along with Sandhu and Ankur Goel, secured another big win in centre fire with an aggregate score of 1733 points.

The Olympian, who came close to making it to the rapid-fire pistol final at the 2016 Rio Games, had a combined precision and rapid round score of 579, and together with Sandhu (583) and Ankur (571), the trio aggregated 1733 points, which earned them the team gold.

Vietnam (1720) and Iran (1700) won the silver and bronze respectively.

Neeraj finishes 2nd in Diamond League Finals

Weber wins maiden trophy as he goes 3-1 against Chopra in head-to-head this season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Zurich, August 29: Two-time Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished runner-up in the Diamond League Finals for the third time in a row as Julian Weber of Germany lifted his maiden trophy with two 90m-plus throws in a commanding show here Thursday.

Chopra was lying third till the fifth round following his opening throw of 84.35m before his final effort of 85.01m took him to the second spot, overtaking 2012 London Olympics gold winner Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago who ended third with 84.95m.

Weber achieved a season world leading throw of 91.57m, his personal best, in his second attempt. He began with 91.37m effort, and after that it was a one-man show in the seven-man field. None of Weber's rivals could even come near his mark, as his best effort of the day was over 6m more than that of Chopra. The German had a foul, 83.66m, 86.45m and 88.66m after his second throw.

Clearly, Chopra was not at his best in the season's Diamond League grand finale. He had three legal throws out of the six attempts.

Known for his consistency in producing 88m-plus throws, it was a rare instance of the 27-year-old Indian star just being able to touch the 85m mark.

The timing was not so good, run-up was not so good. There is something I didn't find today, but I still have three weeks for the World Championships, and I will try my best

NEERAJ CHOPRA

He was hoping to regain the trophy he had won in 2022, but ended up finishing second for the third time after 2023 and 2024.

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada was fourth with 82.06m.

Chopra was not his usual self as he began with 84.35m and then followed it up with 82m and a foul. He was at third spot at the halfway stage, and he fouled his fourth and fifth attempts before coming up with a 85.01m effort in his last throw.

Chopra said everything "will be different" in Tokyo during the World Championships (September 13-21).



Shuttlers go down fighting

Sindhu's sixth World Champion medal bid ends in agony, Dhruv-Tanisha also bow out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 29: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu's quest for a sixth World Championships medal ended Friday after losing a hard-fought three-game quarterfinal thriller to Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani.

Sindhu, the 2019 world champion and five-time medallist at the event, was eyeing a record sixth podium finish but faltered at the finishing line, losing 14-21



21-13 16-21 to ninth seed Wardani in a pulsating 64-minute contest.

Earlier in the day, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Cras-

India submits bid to host Commonwealth Games

London: India Friday officially submitted its proposal to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking a significant step in its ambition to bring the multi-sport event back to the country after two decades. The formal bid was submitted to the Commonwealth Sport (the Commonwealth Games Federation) by a delegation with representation from the Commonwealth Games Association of India and the Government of Gujarat. The bid positions Ahmedabad as the host city for the Centenary edition of the Games, marking 100 years of the Commonwealth Games.

Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi said India's Games will be based on the ancient principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', meaning "the world is one family," offering unity and human connection. Atithi Devo Bhava, or "the guest is divine," will guide the planning for all the stakeholders that will visit India for the Games.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buenos Aires, August 29: Lionel Messi has not yet announced when he plans to retire, but he knows that next week's match against Venezuela could be his last one playing at home in a World Cup qualifier with Argentina's national team.

"It's going to be a very, very special match for me because it's the last qualifying match," the 38-year-old Messi said Wednesday night after Inter Miami progressed to the Leagues Cup final by beating Orlando City.

Argentina, with a spot already secured in next year's World Cup, will host Venezuela next Thursday at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Ai-

Messi drops WC retirement hint

Argentina star to play last home World Cup qualifier

res for the penultimate round of South American qualifiers. Its last match will be at Ecuador September 9.

Messi has hinted that he will retire from the national team after next year's World Cup, where Argentina is going to defend the title they won in Qatar 2022.

The qualifiers for the 2030 World Cup will begin in 2027, when the soccer star will be 40 years old.

"I don't know if there will be friendlies or more matches after (Venezuela), but it is a very special match, so my family will be there with me: my wife, my children, my parents, my siblings," Messi said. "We're going to live it like that. I don't know what will happen next."

Following Messi's statements, CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing body, wrote on social media that "the last dance is coming," with a picture of Messi in an Argentina shirt.

Meanwhile, the Argentine Football Association (AFA)

is trying to capitalize on Messi's last home match by raising ticket prices, with the cheapest going for \$100 and the most expensive costing around \$500.



It's going to be a very, very special match for me because it's the last qualifying match

LIONEL MESSI