

# State gets 16 NACs, seven municipalities

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday announced the formation of 16 new notified area councils (NACs) as well as upgradation of seven existing NACs into municipalities.

Majhi made this announcement while addressing a programme on the occasion of Local Self Governance Day Sunday.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister asked officers of the urban local bodies (ULBs) to make their cities and towns pothole-free and cover all drains by April 2026. He asked the officers to submit self-certification announcing that all roads in their ULB are pothole-free.

The government will provide adequate funds for carrying out the necessary repair, maintenance and new construction works, he assured.

New NACs will be created at Loisingha town in Bolangir district; Sohela in Bargarh; Badamba, Narasinghpur and Salipur in Cuttack; Gonia in



Dhenkanal, Jagannath Prasad & Patrapur in Ganjam; Chandikhol in Jajpur; Narla & Jaipatna in Kalahandi; Tangi in Khurda; Borigumma in Koraput; and Kaptipada, Jashipur & Rasgovindpur in Mayurbhanj.

Bhanjanagar, Aska, Chhatrapur, Kabisuryanagar and Polasara NACs in Ganjam district, Karanjia NAC in Mayurbhanj and Boudh NAC will be upgraded to municipalities, he announced.

The Housing and Urban Development department has recently issued draft notification for constitution of 12 new NACs in seven districts. The proposed NACs are Pallahara in Angul district; Birmaharajpur in Subarnapur district; Simulia and Basta in Balasore district;

NACs	
Loisingha	Chandikhol
Sohela	Narla
Badamba	Jaipatna
Narasinghpur	Tangi
Salipur	Borigumma
Gonia	Kaptipada
Jagannath Prasad	Jashipur
Patrapur	Rasgovindpur
Municipalities	
Bhanjanagar	Polasara
Aska	Karanjia
Chhatrapur	Boudh
Kabisuryanagar	

Betnoti, Bangiriposi and Chitrada in Mayurbhanj district; Bissam Cuttack in Rayagada district; Bamra and Rengali in Sambalpur district; Tihidi and Dhusuri in Bhadrak district.

The government had also earlier declared the upgradation of Puri Municipality into a municipal corporation.

So, in total, 28 new NACs, seven municipalities and one municipal corporation will be formed in the state.



**FLOOD FURY:** Beas river in Kullu valley of Himachal Pradesh in full spate following heavy downpour Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## Wrong shot claims kid's life in Khaira

**Khaira:** Tension prevailed in this area of Balasore district after a 2-year-old girl died allegedly due to a wrong injection administered by an Ayush doctor. The deceased was identified as Lipsita, daughter of Balaram Ram of Raigadhia under Gagandhuli panchayat. Soon after the child's death, agitated family members and villagers blocked Soro-Kupari state highway at Tudigadia Sunday afternoon. Reports said Lipsita developed cold and fever Saturday night and was taken by her parents to a private clinic run by Debakant Padhi, an Ayush doctor, at Tudigadia Bazaar. Parents brought her back home after the doctor administered an injection. However, her condition worsened soon after reaching home and she was rushed to Soro hospital and later shifted to FM Medical College and Hospital in Balasore, where doctors pronounced her dead. Police have assured that the doctor would be arrested soon.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Your speeches would be more impactful... if fewer people kept checking the facts

# 'Secondhand only' mall is changing retail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 31:** A shopping mall in Sweden's Eskilstuna is a delightful surprise for many as it is the first in the world to sell only secondhand and repurposed items. This is not just a retail space. It is a municipality-led experiment in circular consumption, where everything sold has been donated by the public, 'The Conversation' reported, quoting Mary-Ann Ball, a researcher at Nottingham Trent University.

"During numerous visits to the shopping mall over the last 18 months, I have spoken to customers, managers and employees – all of whom seemed excited by ReTuna's innovative business model," the researcher said.

The mall instantly feels very different to the cluttered charity shops or vintage boutiques most people associate with pre-owned retail. There is a wide range of products on sale – fashion, sports equipment, household items, children's toys, antiques – and even an Ikea secondhand store selling previously used and repaired furniture.

'ReTuna' was established in 2015 as part of Eskilstuna's climate and



waste reduction strategy. Built alongside the city's recycling centre, it includes a dedicated drop-off point called 'The Return', where residents donate unwanted items. These are sorted and redistributed to the retailers in the mall, creating a low-cost, low-waste circular system.

The model is only possible because of public funding and local government support – a reminder that circular innovation often requires structural investment, not just consumer goodwill.

However, what makes 'ReTuna' so distinctive is not just its inventory but its atmosphere. Consumers describe it as "accessible", "curated" and "convenient". The



cording to an Indian readout.

Modi flagged concerns over cross-border terrorism in his talks with Xi and pitched for cooperation between India and China to combat the menace as both the countries are its victims. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the issue of cross-border terrorism was mentioned by PM Modi as a "priority".

"Our cooperation is linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people of our two countries. This will also pave way for the welfare of all humanity," Modi said in Hindi in his televised opening remarks. In a social media post, Modi described his talks with Xi as "fruitful".

Modi and Xi recognised the role of the two economies to stabilise world trade and underlined the need to proceed from a political and strategic direction to expand bilateral trade and investment ties

and reduce trade deficit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the readout.

"Both leaders welcomed the positive momentum and steady progress in bilateral relations since their last meeting in Kazan in October. They reaffirmed that the two countries were development partners and not rivals, and that their differences should not turn into disputes," the MEA said.

"They recognised the important decisions taken by the two Special Representatives in their talks earlier this month, and agreed to further support their efforts," it added.

Modi and Xi also noted the need to strengthen people-to-people ties through direct flights and visa facilitation, building on the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and tourist visa.

"On economic and trade relations, they recognised the role of their two economies to stabilise world trade. They underlined the need to proceed from a political and strategic direction to expand bilateral trade and investment ties and reduce trade deficit," the MEA said. Modi also invited President Xi to BRICS summit that India will be hosting in 2026.

Xi thanked Modi for the invitation and offered China's support to India's BRICS Presidency, according to the MEA.

that challenges the stigma of secondhand. While affordability and environmental values remain central, 'ReTuna' also reimagines what sustainable retail can look and feel like.

Consumer interest in "pre-loved" fashion is accelerating, with the secondhand market growing 2.7 times faster than the broader apparel market, according to a recent industry report. Another market research report forecasts the wider secondhand products market will reach USD 1.04 trillion by 2035, growing at a compound annual rate of 17.2 per cent.

This pioneering Swedish mall turned 10 this year. It has grown from a local government initiative to an internationally recognised model of circular retail. The mall's success shows that secondhand shopping does not have to feel like a compromise – it can be stylish, convenient and socially meaningful. "Circular retail is not just about what we buy, but how and where we buy it. ReTuna demonstrates that with the right infrastructure, design and public support, sustainable consumption can be embedded into everyday life," the researcher added.

## Bank fraud: Over a dozen luxury cars seized in state

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, August 31:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized over a dozen luxury vehicles, including a Porsche, a Mercedes, a Mini Cooper and a BMW, following searches against an Odisha-based businessman and his companies in a money laundering case linked to ₹1,396 crore alleged bank fraud.

The raids were conducted Saturday on the premises of Anmol Mines Pvt Ltd (AMPL) and Anmol Resources Pvt Ltd (ARPL), and their managing director (MD) Shakti Ranjan Dash in Bhubaneswar. The action followed the alleged bank loan fraud case against a Himachal Pradesh-based firm Indian Technomac Company Ltd (ITCOL).

The money laundering case stems from an FIR of Himachal Police CID against ITCOL and its promoters, alleging that its directors, in connivance with staff of various companies and CAs, siphoned off loans available from a consortium of banks.

## More flash floods, landslides in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** India Meteorological Department (IMD) DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Sunday warned that heavy rainfall may trigger landslides and flash floods in Uttarakhand in September and could disrupt normal life in south Haryana, Delhi and north Rajasthan.

"Many rivers originate in Uttarakhand. So, heavy rainfall means many rivers will be flooded and it will impact cities and towns downstream. We should keep this in mind," he said. He added that heavy rainfall is also expected in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi River.

DHARITRI

YOUTH

CONCLAVE 2025

DHARITRI

YOUTH

CONCLAVE 2025

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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Ganesha advises you to look before you leap. One hasty decision may undo a lot of hard work accomplished over a long period of time. After a tense morning, you may simply want an evening with kids, helping them grow the Dahlias.

**TAURUS**  
Love is on the cards, says Ganesha. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You have been aching to arrange a family reunion or get-together at your house. Well, today is the perfect day to do it. And why just family? You are also likely to invite some of your close friends and important business associates over to your place. Your spouse will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will be extremely impulsive and spontaneous, feels Ganesha. You better get rid of your negative thoughts and beliefs and start taking charge of things at hand. Also, stop focussing so much on the pitfalls, and start working. Listen to music that speaks to your heart and you will be at peace with yourself.

**LEO**  
The ever energetic Scorpio's dictionary lacks the word dependence, says Ganesha. And true to this, you shall remain very active today. Your abundant energy will allow you to take work by its horns, and this will go a long way in giving you the moniker 'workaholic'. So, wipe the slate clean by finishing all pending tasks, as today, you shall be immersed in work.

**VIRGO**  
Leadership is your forte and you shall receive kudos for the manner in which you handle your team. Much awaited promotions will materialise and so will some extra cash in your wallet. Wisely enough, you didn't get all this by not effectively balancing home and work, says Ganesha. Don't slip on this tight-rope walk.

**LIBRA**  
Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively. Stick to your task and dig into your imagination to find a way around the blips.

**SCORPIO**  
Your rung in the social ladder just went higher today. But be wary of green-eyed monsters and ill words. Fight tooth and nail – if necessary – to protect our reputation, says Ganesha. But also learn to find your enemies' Achilles' heel and target it ferociously.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your business is likely to grow with leaps and bounds, foresees Ganesha. Increase in financial returns will keep you happy for the entire day. Work in progress gives out positive signals. Your expert advise will be valued at work. In short, a day full of activities.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your exuberance and self-confidence will become the talk of the day for those around you. But it's not for nothing that you will attract so much attention. You will derive pleasure in accomplishing herculean tasks today, and Ganesha says you will do justice to work too. At home, everything will go smooth and you will enjoy and share the peace in your life with your wife. On the whole, you will have a cheerful day ahead.

**AQUARIUS**  
Team work and cooperation bring out the best in you, so you must make the most of a chance to work in a group. It could be brainstorming, or campaigning for an environmental cause or even playing beach ball! A game of cards in the evening, and consider your day well spent, says Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
The workaholic in your bursts to the fore with a vengeance, and today will see you tackle pending projects with the zeal of a Holy Templar crusader. Your energy levels will be unflagging, and your enthusiasm to wipe your slate clean admirable. Make the most of it, says Ganesha.



## FRANKENSTEIN EARNS 13- MINUTE OVATION AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Oscar-winner Guillermo Del Toro's *Frankenstein* premiered in the main competition at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, earning an extraordinary 13-minute standing ovation. Screened Saturday, the film not only impressed audiences but also marked the longest ovation recorded at this year's prestigious festival.

## JESSICA SIMPSON, ERIC JOHNSON SPARK RECONCILIATION RUMOURS

Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson, who recently announced their split, sparked reconciliation buzz after attending her sister's Las Vegas concert together. Though maintaining distance, they seemed at ease. Videos showed them boarding a flight, despite Jessica earlier confirming they live separately while prioritising their children amid trust issues.



# Tamannaah speaks on underestimation

**Mumbai:** At the trailer launch of her upcoming series *Do You Wanna Partner*, Tamannaah Bhatia opened up about women often feeling underestimated and how that very experience can become their biggest strength. Sharing her thoughts, she said, "I am sure all women here, at some point, have felt underestimated. And that becomes the strength for a woman to turn the tables around. That is the seed of what we did, and I hope you all watch and love it."

The actress also reflected on the strong support system in her own life, especially her father. She credited him, along with her brother and other men in her family, for encouraging her to chase her dreams. "My dad has been my biggest support. I have so much strength at home because of him and the wonderful men in my life. I am standing here today because of their support," she added, urging men everywhere to stand by the women around them and help them flourish.

*Do You Wanna Partner* follows Shikha (Tamannaah) and Anahita (Diana Penty), two best friends who venture into the startup world with a bold idea—launching their own craft beer brand. Directed by Collin D'Cunha and Archit Kumar, the series will stream on Prime Video from September 12.

AGENCIES



**Mumbai:** Bollywood star Kiara Advani, who recently embraced motherhood, opened up about a recurring fear she faces on film sets despite her years in the industry.

The actress revealed that the bustling environment of a shooting floor, with its heavy lights, cables and technical equipment, often makes her anxious. "Honestly, my biggest on-set fear is the light falling," she confessed, adding that dance sequences heighten her worries as crew members often work on elevated platforms above her. Kiara shared that safety precautions are always in place, but she cannot help but pray that no one gets hurt during filming.

Interestingly, this is not the first time the *Jugjugg Jeeyo* actress has spoken about prayer guiding her career. Back in 2020, she revealed how she prayed not to get stereotyped early on. Reflecting on her choices, Kiara said that she was fortunate to receive diverse roles without being boxed into a particular image. "These films came to me. I just got lucky that people didn't put me in a bracket," she explained.

After her action-packed role in *War 2* with Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, Kiara is now gearing up for *Toxic*, directed by Geethu Mohandas, co-starring Yash, set against the backdrop of Goa's 90s drug mafia.

AGENCIES



## Kiara's biggest fear



## Janhvi shares her future plans

**Mumbai:** Since her debut in 2018, Janhvi Kapoor has steadily carved a place for herself in Bollywood, winning attention not only for her films but also for her personal life. Recently, a video went viral where the young actress candidly spoke about her dreams of married life, offering fans a glimpse into her lighthearted vision of the future.

Earlier, during her appearance in *Starry Nights* with Komal Nahata, Janhvi had described her dream scenario of settling down in Tirumala, Tirupati, with her husband and three children. She painted a vivid picture, saying she imagined a life where the family would eat meals on banana leaves, hear chants of "Govinda, Govinda," adorn her hair with mogras, wake up to Mani Ratnam's music, and even give her husband oil

massages while he sat in a lungi. Her whimsical description sparked mixed reactions, with Karan Johar humorously questioning the romantic appeal of her vision, asking, "What is romantic about a man sitting in a lungi and eating from a banana leaf?"

On the personal front, Janhvi has long been linked to Shikhar Pahariya. Their bond is often visible on social media, where the couple shares affectionate posts and makes public appearances together. Professionally, Janhvi's upcoming film is *Sunny Sanskari* Ki Tulsi Kumari, co-starring Varun Dhawan, Sanya Malhotra, and Rohit Saraf.

AGENCIES



## Shamita reflects on career setbacks

**Mumbai:** Shamita Shetty's Bollywood journey has been filled with highs, lows, and countless challenges. After making a dream debut in *Mohabbatein* alongside legends like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, she seemed set for a promising career. However, soon after, her path was disrupted by setbacks.

Shamita revealed that she had completed four films with stars such as Sanjay Dutt, Chandrachur Singh, and R. Madhavan, but none of them saw the light of day. This sudden halt broke her momentum at a crucial stage, leaving her career adrift.

Her recent project, *The Tenant*, faced similar hurdles. Released after multiple delays and with little promotion, it failed to reach audiences the way she had hoped. Still, Shamita continues to pursue meaningful roles, unafraid of approaching filmmakers and casting directors directly. She believes expressing eagerness to work is no weakness, but rather a mark of resilience and determination.

Addressing comparisons with her sister, Shilpa Shetty, Shamita admitted that they once deeply troubled her. Growing up in Shilpa's shadow, she was often unfairly branded the "brat," while Shilpa was seen as the "Holy Cow." Over time, however, Shamita learned to embrace her individuality. Today, she feels assured of her identity, confident in her uniqueness, and unbothered by comparisons.

AGENCIES

## SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

## FUN post

## CROSSWORD

1				3			4		5		6			7
							8							
9									10					
11							12							
13	14						15				16			
17									18				19	
20									22		23			
24									25					
26											27			

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### Across

- Luge or pung
- Wetlands
- Pasta dish
- Italian seaport
- Vast chasm
- Kitchen set
- Medicinal amt.
- Reef dweller
- Small number
- Jam ingredient
- Lustrous fabric

### Down

- Shriek
- Emissary
- Game bird
- Police van
- Sea cow

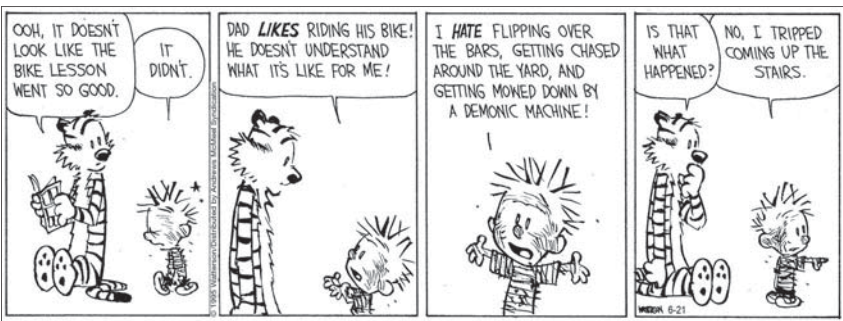
- Charred
- Musical sand creature? (7,4)
- Handcuff
- Beer mugs
- Out for the night
- Antsy (2,4)
- Soft creamy candy
- Moon of Saturn

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY









# No fertiliser shortage, Govt assures farmers

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** The state government urged farmers not to panic over “mis-leading reports” of fertiliser shortage in the state, assuring them that sufficient stocks are available.

According to official sources, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, who also holds the profile of Agriculture Minister is personally reviewing the fertiliser supply status on a regular basis. The official statement came in response to Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik’s concern over irregularities in fertiliser distribution.

Patnaik, in a letter to Union Fertilisers and Chemicals Minister JP Nadda, alleged widespread shortages, adulteration, and lack of urea availability in the open market.

He warned that the crisis had forced farmers, particularly in tribal-dominated districts, to take to the streets.

Sources said a supply plan of 10 lakh metric tonne (MT) of fertilisers was submitted to the Centre for the current Kharif season. Against this, 9.55 lakh MT of various grades was allocated by the Centre, based on monthly crop coverage.

So far, Odisha has received 8.10 lakh MT, taking the total availability to 11.04 lakh MT as of August 30.

Out of this, 8.46 lakh MT have already been sold to farmers, while 2.56 lakh MT remain available across districts.

Additionally, 11,692 MT of urea is in transit and expected to reach Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS)



**The state government has launched strict enforcement measures to curb black marketing, fake sales, and hoarding of fertilisers. So far 4,546 retail outlets have been inspected, 1,202 retailers served with show-cause notices, 30 shops sealed, 62 dealer licenses suspended or cancelled and stock seized from six dealers**

and Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPCS) within two days.

Compared to last year’s Kharif season, when only 7.03 lakh MT had been sold by this time, fertiliser availability in 2025 is significantly higher.

The state government has launched strict enforcement measures to curb black marketing, fake sales, and hoarding. So far 4,546 retail outlets have been inspected, 1,202 retailers served with show-cause notices, 30 shops sealed, 62 dealer licenses suspended or cancelled and stock seized from six dealers. Enforcement teams comprising officials from Agriculture, Revenue, and Police departments are conducting surprise checks across districts.

The state has prepared Kharif crop plan of 58.50 lakh hectares in 2025, including 34.94 lakh hectares of paddy and 23.56 lakh hectares of non-paddy crops.

Singh Deo said the government is committed to ensuring timely availability of quality fertilisers at the right price.

He clarified that farmers are free to choose the required grade of fertilisers and that IF-FCO has been instructed not to enforce tagging of inputs like nano fertilisers.

Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee is also closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Union ministry to ensure smooth supply.

## USM gets new audio & chroma recording studio

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLLC) Minister Suryabanshi Suraj inaugurated a state-of-the-art audio and chroma recording studio at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya (USM) here Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, “The newly established audio and chroma recording studio at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya is dedicated to the promotion of Odisha’s rich traditions in music, dance and theatre. This modern facility will greatly benefit our artistes and contribute towards showcasing Odisha’s glorious cultural heritage to the world. The Culture department will soon release a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for its use, enabling both government programmes and private institutions to access it. With its advanced features, the studio will play a pivotal role in popularising Odisha’s art and culture while serving the needs of the public.”



The minister also witnessed the recording of an Odissi dance performance at the chroma studio. He later visited the classical and folk instruments museum housed within the campus and encouraged students of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya to work towards enriching the literary, musical, dance and folk traditions of Odisha.



**CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE:** Artistes perform Gotipua dance during state-level Gotipua Dance Festival at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar Sunday

PIG BIKASH NAYAK

## Samata Conclave 2025 concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** The inaugural edition of ‘Sa-mata Conclave’, a celebration of democracy and freedom of speech, concluded at the Press Club of Odisha here, Sunday.

The two-day conclave brought together judges, politicians, journalists, writers and artistes for extensive discussion on democracy, media, politics, literature and art.



The conclave was organised by senior journalist Kedar Mishra. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee President Bhakta Charan Das, senior journalists Paranjyoti Guha Thakurta, Rasheed Kidwai, Rabi Das and others were among the attendees.

Former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Justice S Muralidhar inaugurated the conclave, and shared his views on press freedom, judiciary and constitutional rights. Speaking on the concluding day, Thakurta said, “We cannot have democracy without freedom of speech and expression. The current government has introduced several laws to curtail freedom of speech in information technology, digital data privacy and more. Safeguarding the rights of media is the need of the hour.”

## Sports dept hosts ‘Sundays on Cycle’



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** As part of the three-day celebration of National Sports Day from August 29 to August 31 across the country, state’s Sports and Youth Services department, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Odisha Cycling Association, organised ‘Sundays

on Cycle’ campaign at Kalinga Stadium here Sunday.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of hundreds of citizens who came together to spread the idea of fitness, healthy living and social unity. The cycle rally encouraged people to adopt an active lifestyle while supporting the vision of ‘Fit India Movement’.

Joining as chief guest, Sports

and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj flagged off the cycle rally. Addressing the gathering, he said, “National Sports Day is not only a tribute to our sporting icons but also a reminder for every citizen to embrace fitness and well-being. Through today’s cycle rally, we are encouraging everyone to remain active and healthy. Similar rallies have been organised in various districts of the state, receiving tremendous public response. To build a fit and healthy Odisha, activities like yoga, exercise and cycling should become a part of our daily routine.”

Odisha Cycling Association president Minati Mahapatra, Hockey Promotion Council Odisha CEO Deepankar Mahapatra, department’s additional secretaries Ashok Kumar Panda and Bijay Kumar Swain were present in today’s event.

## World Kitchen Garden Day celebrated in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** The World Kitchen Garden Day (WKGD) was observed at the State Quality Control Laboratory, organised by the Kitchen Gardeners’ Association (KGA) here Sunday. The event highlighted the importance of organic and natural farming, as well as the growing need for chemical-free food.

Distinguished guests at the event included National Human Rights Commission member Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Padmashree Ashok Kumar Mohapatra, Padmashree Sabarmatee and Agriculture department additional secretary Shubhranshu Mishra. Each of them addressed the gathering and stressed the urgent need to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

Mohapatra raised serious concerns over the excessive use of salt, spices, oil, and sugar in the diet, linking it to the rising incidence of diseases



such as diabetes and heart related issues, further warning that if these health issues are not addressed, the younger generation could face a crisis in the future.

Sharing her point at the event, Sabarmatee emphasised the relevance of organic and natural farming in today’s world and urged the youth to engage in the preservation and promotion of indigenous seeds. She explained the significance

of these seeds and called for their conservation as part of a broader movement towards sustainable agriculture.

Justice Sarangi also discussed the interconnection between human rights and agriculture, stressing the importance of ensuring healthy and nutritious food as a fundamental right. Speaking at the event, Mishra called for more government support to bring such initiatives to the public’s

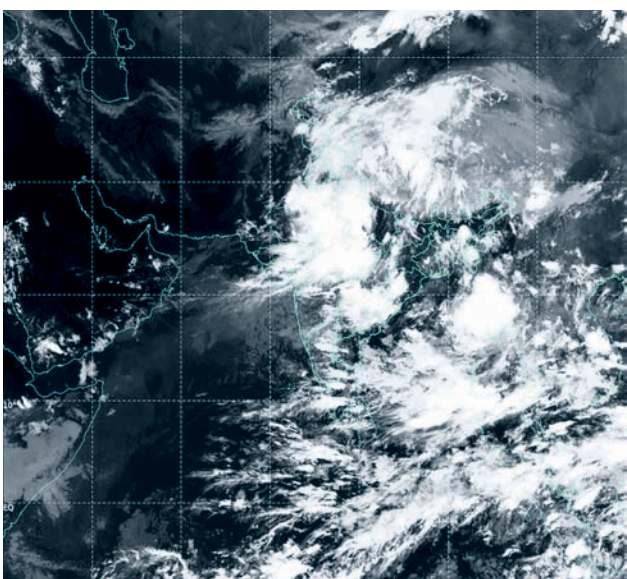
attention.

As part of the celebration, the natural farming bulletin by KGA and a book titled ‘Krushi Sahitya Adipurusha Gangadhar’, co-authored by Chaudhury Barada Prasanna Das and Ekadashi Nandi, focusing on traditional agriculture and natural farming, was officially released.


Special sessions were held on indigenous seed preservation and bee-keeping. Several individuals, practicing urban farming, shared their experiences and insights.

The programme was presided over by Archana Nayak and was coordinated by a team including Maheswar Khillar, Panchanan Kanungo, Ashok Das, Bhuban Mohan Pattnaik, Dushyant Das, and Ekadashi Nandi.

The event also featured exhibitions of locally produced food items by various organisations, showcasing a wide array of millets, saplings, fruits, honey, compost, and bio-fertilisers.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.2°	33.4°	Light to moderate rain or Thunder-shower very likely to occur at many places over the districts of Odisha
Min Temp	25.9°	24.6°	
Humidity	86%	89%	
Rainfall	23.0mm	Nil	



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The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.



THE MOTHER

## Endless Drift

Over the past two decades, India has focused on forging a strong alliance with the United States, aiming to secure its place as a counterweight to China in the region. This strategy has now hit a wall, thanks to the troubled personal ties of Prime Minister Modi with PoTUS Donald Trump. New Delhi's failure to secure a trade deal with an aggressive Trump administration has attracted sweeping tariffs of 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent duty as punishment for buying Russian oil, that are poised to severely impact India's economy as the US remains the country's largest exports market pegged at \$86.5 billion. Add to this Trump's insulting remarks on India's "dead economy" and his aides' persistent claims that New Delhi is financing Russia's war machine in Ukraine have all contributed in damaging India. As matters stand, the feud seems to have reached a point of no return with recent reports indicating that Trump has even cancelled his proposed India visit scheduled for later this year.

This cold shouldering from America has prompted New Delhi to pivot its foreign policy, forcing it to re-engage with Beijing. The mounting pressure from the US and the broader West has forced India to pursue a diplomatic thaw with China despite five years of strained ties which started in Doklam followed by the deadly Galwan clash where the Chinese military clubbed and stoned 20 Indian soldiers to death in June 2020 at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a visit to China after a gap of seven years, met Chinese President Xi Jinping on 31 August on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin. The leaders agreed to work towards a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable" solution to the India-China border issue and pledged to expand bilateral trade and investment ties. Before Modi's visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made an official trip to India on 18-19 August. Prior to that, EAM S. Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval made discreet trips to Beijing. During these talks, both sides focused on restoring travel and trade connections, revising border protocols, and preparing for Modi's visit to Tianjin.

China, for its part, is clearly out to exploit the India-US rift. That explains the tolerance Beijing has been demonstrating towards India while New Delhi's ties with Washington are deteriorating. It is an unambiguous truth that China never was nor will ever be a friend to India. With a trade gap that remains sharply in its favour, China is most likely to use India as a dump-yard for its low cost goods. In fact, forging a closer trade partnership with China will present even greater challenges for India in terms of strengthening its domestic production capabilities. With the US, India enjoyed a trade surplus of over \$40 billion. That means America owed that money to India. That is precisely what Trump aims to address. In contrast, India faces a whopping trade deficit of nearly \$100 billion with China. In other words, India owes that huge sum to China. With further growth in trade, this amount can only grow. This is bound to weaken India further as a global economic player of any consequence. None can get swayed by government fudged data on current GDP growth or the oft repeated lie that India has become the fourth largest economy of the world. It will take but a few months for all such claims to crumble and fall to shreds under the present circumstances.

Apart from trade, India's push for reconciliation with China may be seen by many in the country as a bid to legitimise Beijing's territorial aggression towards India in Ladakh and the Northeast. The Opposition Congress party has termed the normalising of ties with China despite the unresolved border dispute as the "government's spinelessness."

India's foreign policy, of late, has been like a pendulum oscillating between two ends, all in the name of "strategic autonomy." While New Delhi expects to be among the democratic world led by the United States, it also cozies up to Russia for energy and defence. Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine was a great opportunity for India to take a stand and do some course correction. But by refusing to take sides in the war, New Delhi exposed its policy ambiguity to the whole world. PM Modi talking to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy now is of little consequence. India today finds itself at crossroads -- on one side is China, a powerful aggressive inimical neighbour, while on the other end is an unrelenting America led by a President personally upset with our Prime Minister. The choice couldn't be clearer. It can either keep drifting between major powers or shape a foreign policy grounded in internal strength.

WISDOM CORNER

There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast.

CHARLES DICKENS

The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to be lived.

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

Joy can only be real if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

LEO TOLSTOY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1875: American novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs, best known as the creator of Tarzan, was born.

1914: The last known passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati (Ohio) Zoo.

1923: A great earthquake struck the Tokyo-Yokohama metropolitan area; the death toll from the shock was estimated at 142,800.

1939: German invasion of Poland. The lethal combination of German blitzkrieg tactics, French and British inactivity, and Soviet perfidy doomed Poland to swift defeat after Adolf Hitler invaded the country this day in 1939 and sparked World War II.

1952: Life magazine published Ernest Hemingway's Old Man and the Sea, his last major work of fiction; it was also released as a book, and in 1953 it won a Pulitzer Prize.


1954: The thriller Rear Window, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly, opened in American theatres, and it became a film classic.

1969: A group of young army officers led by Muammar al-Qaddafi deposed the king and made Libya a republic.


1979: Pioneer 11 makes its closest approach to Saturn. The NASA built space probe was the first probe to encounter Saturn - it flew by the planet at a distance of 13,000 miles (21,000 km). After its flyby, the probe went on a trajectory to go outside the Solar System. All contacts with it were lost a few weeks later.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE-FINANCE GAP



India's clean-energy transition is often portrayed as prohibitively expensive, with some estimates running into hundreds of billions of dollars per year. But a new study finds that actual financing needs are far more modest and concentrated in just four sectors, with steel and cement accounting for the lion's share



Rakesh Mohan & Janak Raj

FINDING THE MONEY IS NOT THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE; THE REAL CHALLENGE LIES IN RECONCILING THE ENERGY TRANSITION WITH COMPETING PRIORITIES LIKE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY EXPANSION

\$251 billion and \$141 billion, respectively. This demand is driven by two main factors. First, both sectors are projected to expand rapidly: steel manufacturing is expected to surge by about 80 per cent, from 125 million tons in 2022 to 225 million tons by 2030, while cement production is set to climb from 370 million tons to 670 million tons over the same period.

Second, India's steel industry emits approximately 2.4 tons of carbon dioxide per ton of steel, well above the global average of 1.85, due to carbon-intensive production methods. By contrast, the cement sector is less carbon-intensive, emitting 0.44 tons of CO per ton of cement, compared with a global average of 0.6.

As a result, India's average annual capital-expenditure requirements for steel (0.7 per cent of GDP) and cement (0.5 per cent of GDP) are the highest among the G20's ten emerging-market economies. Decarbonizing these industries is particularly challenging, since the only available technological solution – carbon capture and storage – remains prohibitively expensive.

When it comes to road transport, we estimate India's additional financing needs at \$18 billion: \$10 billion for shifting from internal-combustion-engine vehicles to electric ones, and \$8 billion for developing EV charging infrastructure.

Directing climate finance toward these four sectors could reduce India's coal use by 291 million tons and cut petrol and diesel consumption by 72 billion liters by 2030, lowering CO emissions by 6.9 billion tons.

But is such climate financing from external sources macroeconomically feasible? After accounting for the current-account deficit, total net capital and financial inflows to India under the business-as-usual scenario are expected to reach \$530 billion by 2030 – roughly 1.4 per cent of GDP annually. With the expansion of India's monetary base and projected annual GDP growth of 10.5 per cent, India could absorb up to \$470 billion in capital and financial inflows, net of the current-account deficit, over the same period.

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But is such climate financing from external sources macroeconomically feasible? After accounting for the current-account deficit, total net capital and financial inflows to India under the business-as-usual scenario are expected to reach \$530 billion by 2030 – roughly 1.4 per cent of GDP annually. With the expansion of India's monetary base and projected annual GDP growth of 10.5 per cent, India could absorb up to \$470 billion in capital and financial inflows, net of the current-account deficit, over the same period.

This suggests that under business-as-usual conditions,

Second, India's steel industry emits approximately 2.4 tons of carbon dioxide per ton of steel, well above the global average of 1.85, due to carbon-intensive production methods. By contrast, the cement sector is less carbon-intensive, emitting 0.44 tons of CO per ton of cement, compared with a global average of 0.6.

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# Sharada Bhawani temple reopens in Budgam after 30 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 31:** The Kashmiri Pandit community Sunday reopened the Sharada Bhawani temple in Budgam district after over three decades with an overwhelming participation of the local Muslim community in the celebrations.

The ceremony in Ichkoot village of the central Kashmir district, marked by 'Mahurat' and 'Pran Pratishtha', also witnessed the return of a group of Kashmiri Pandit families to

their ancestral place for the first time since the early 1990s.

"We can say this is a branch of the Sharda Mata temple in Pakistan. We have been wanting to reopen this temple for a long time now. The local Muslims also wanted it. They used to tell us regularly to come and re-establish the temple," the president of Sharda Asthapna Community, Budgam, Sunil Kumar Bhat, said.

He said the Pandit community has reopened the temple after 35 years. "We hope that



this (gathering) will be an annual affair and we pray to Ma-

ta Rani that the community members return to Kashmir sooner," he said.

Bhat said a few Kashmiri Pandits, mostly working under the Prime Minister's Package, re-established the temple and have approached the district administration for the construction of a new one, as the old temple was in ruins.

"We are planning construction. We have established a Shivling there that we recovered while cleaning and restoring this place," he said.

The reopening ceremony reflected the valley's famed composite culture as local Muslims joined the celebrations. "Without the local community, this would not have been possible," Bhat said, adding that their support has been tremendous.

"When we came here, we were only four people. Today, the whole village is with us. This shows the support of the local community," he said.

An elderly local Muslim said the Pandit community is more than welcome to re-

turn to their roots.

"These people are residents of this village. We used to live and eat together before the situation worsened. If they need anything, we are there to support them," he said.

He said the Kashmir valley is the 'janambhoomi' of the Pandits and members from both the communities grew up together.

"How can we forget the times we spent together? We are happy that they have come here and offered prayers. This is a matter of their faith," he said.

# 224 houses damaged by cloudbursts in Kishtwar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, August 31:** As many as 224 residential houses were damaged in the recent cloudbursts in the Marwah and Warwan sub-divisions of the Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, August 26, an official said Sunday.

Of the 224 houses, approximately 50 were destroyed, 140 were severely damaged, and the remaining houses suffered partial damage, the official spokesman mentioned, as Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh, visited the affected villages.

The spokesman noted that around six to seven locations across Marwah and Warwan were hit by cloudbursts, which also damaged roads and bridges.

During his visit to the severely affected Margi village, Sharma directed the Revenue Department, SDRF, and other teams to prioritise the clearing of debris from around the houses, the spokesman said.

In light of the ration stocks that were washed away and were meant to last through November, the deputy commissioner instructed the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs to provide a month's worth of rations to the affected families on an urgent basis, which was provided on the spot.

Relief material from the Red Cross was also distributed among the people, the spokesman said.

The Agriculture and Horticulture Departments were asked to assess losses of crops and fruit trees to ensure due compensation to farmers, the official noted, adding that the deputy commissioner also reviewed the loss of cattle, as 45 animals were buried under debris.

On his directions, tractors and labourers were immediately arranged, and work for the proper disposal of the carcasses began to prevent the spread of diseases in the village, the spokesman said.

Veterinary doctors were also summoned to vaccinate and treat the surviving animals.

The deputy commissioner directed the Public Health Engineering Department to restore the damaged water pipelines and ensure a safe drinking water supply to the affected families, the spokesman said.

Responding to public demands, Sharma assured that a team from the Hydraulic and Irrigation Flood Control Department would soon visit the area to establish long-term protective measures.

Additionally, the deputy commissioner and the SSP held a public darbar in Nowapachi, where locals raised concerns regarding health, education, irrigation, and other issues, the spokesman said.

# Glacial lake outburst threat looms over Kishtwar: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, August 31:** Glacial lake outburst leading to floods is a serious threat for Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, a comprehensive risk assessment has stated, warning that it puts lives, infrastructure, and the fragile ecosystem in grave danger.

According to the GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Management Plan for Kishtwar 2024-25, the tehsils of Padder, Machail, Dachhan, Marwah, and Warwan are in peril of being the worst-affected due to their proximity to glacial lakes.

The report notes that these regions, along with the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, remain highly vulnerable to sudden flooding.

"These regions are especially vulnerable due to their proximity to glacial lakes, making them prone to sudden flooding events that can have devastating impacts on local communities, infrastructure, and the environment," the report cautioned. The danger is not theoretical.

Chishoti village in Padder tehsil, the last motorable stop en route to the Machail Mata temple, was ravaged by a cloudburst-triggered flash flood on August 14 during the yatra,



The report notes that these regions, along with the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, remain highly vulnerable to sudden flooding

gorised as moderate-risk.

Explaining the scientific basis of the warning, the report said, "The presence of multiple glacial lakes at varying elevations and their proximity to each other heightens the risk of outburst floods, which could be triggered by factors such as rapid ice melt, landslides, or seismic activity."

Kishtwar, located in the Western Himalayas, has 197 glacial lakes -- the highest in Jammu and Kashmir -- and accounts for over one-third of all such lakes in the Union Territory.

Many of these are small, but recent decades have seen a rapid expansion due to climate change, the report said.

The report called for immediate mitigation measures, including continuous monitoring, early warning systems, drainage and reinforcement of moraine dams, risk mapping, and community preparedness.

About long-term strategies, it recommended climate-resilient construction, afforestation to stabilise slopes, and sustained research and development on glacial dynamics. It also suggested earmarking a portion of District Planning and Development Council funds specifically for GLOF preparedness.

The report highlighted significant ecological concerns as well.

"Contamination of local water sources due to floodwaters could further impact public health and ecological balance," it said, while warning of potential habitat loss and biodiversity threats in the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park.

Two lakes -- Mundikar and Hangu -- have been classified as high-risk, while Palta Pani and another unnamed lake have been cate-

## REACH FOR THE STARS

# Tripura's remote school opens space edu library



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kumarghat (Tripura), August 31:** Aiming to inspire the next generation of scientists, a space education library has been set up at a school in Tripura's remote Unakoti district.

The library in East Raitwisa Darlong Para High School features scaled models of satellite launch vehicles, including the SLV Mark-II, PSLV, GSLV, and popular missions such as Chandrayaan, Mars Mission, and Solar Mission. Pre-recorded lectures on space science are also played for the students.

"Our main objective is to create facilities so that students in remote tribal areas can visualise India's progress -- from carrying rockets on bicycles to the present human missions. We want to fuel interest in space education and help it gain momentum," said Sudip Bhowmik, the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Kumarghat.

He said over 100 books and children's magazines on astronomy, space science, and legendary Indian space and astrophysics scientists are available in the library so that students can learn about them.

"Not only our students, kids from other schools are also coming to see the space education library to get firsthand knowledge about space science," he added.

According to the BDO, the library was set up using grants under 'Nanaji Deshmukh Sarbottam Panchayat Satat Vikash Puraskar', funded by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

In addition, a modern classroom has been developed at the school, featuring a smart classroom equipped with a digital panel, digital podium, and training chairs.

"All these are powered by a 5 kW solar system installed at the school. In fact, no conventional electricity is used, as the solar panels meet all the needs of the school -- from the audio system to the lights and fans," Bhowmik said.

With these advancements, Kumarghat Block Advisory Committee (BAC) aims not only to generate a scientific temperament among the tribal communities living in remote areas but also to provide them with hope for a brighter future.

"Because of a holistic approach to make the school a centre of excellence, the student count has been increasing every year. The number of students has increased from 67 in the 2024-25 academic session to 201 in the current session (2025-26)," said Ringampar Halam, one of the teachers at the school.

Halam said that altogether 57 students across districts, who used to study in private English medium schools, have taken admission in East Raitwisa Darlong Para High School during the current academic session because of its overall development.

East Raitwisa Village Committee, which serves as the local governing body (like a gram panchayat), houses over 800 tribal families from different ethnic groups, including Tripuri, Garo, Reang, Halam, and Darlong. Most villagers are engaged in agriculture, rubber cultivation, and pineapple farming.

Village Committee in-charge Mrinal Majumder said the school recorded a hundred per cent success in last year's class 10 board examination.

# Mizoram to launch special op against drug smuggling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Aizawl, August 31:** The Mizoram government will launch a special operation to curb the smuggling of drugs from outside the state, particularly from Myanmar, a senior police officer said Sunday.

The four-month-long operation will be launched Monday and will conclude December 31, Mizoram Inspector General of Police (IGP) H Ramthlengliana said. The police, in coordination with the excise and narcotics department and the Young Mizo Association (YMA), the largest civil society organisa-

tion of the state, will conduct the drive.

Earlier, Home Minister K Sapdanga had said that drug smugglers and addicts often commit theft and other crimes, endangering society, which demands the need to launch a massive fight against drug smuggling and addiction.

Ramthlengliana claimed that only 10 per cent of the drugs smuggled from Myanmar were seized by the law enforcement agencies.

He said that 32 policemen will be deployed in border areas along the Indo-Myanmar border to assist Assam Rifles



and local volunteers in curbing drug trafficking from the neighbouring country.

Last week, a team of the police and Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) led by

Ramthlengliana visited border villages in east Mizoram's Champhai district and interacted with local leaders on the proposed special operation.

Ramthlengliana said that Champhai is a hub and main gateway of drug trafficking, as 170 out of 370 drug smuggling cases registered across the state last year were done by Champhai police.

Mizoram has been grappling with the menace of drug abuse and drug trafficking from south-east Asian countries, particularly Myanmar with which it shares a 510-km-long porous border.



A woman inside her house at a flood-hit area in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

# Tribal languages struggle to survive in Arunachal

Despite official support, challenges remain. With English and Hindi dominating classrooms and digital media reshaping entertainment even in remote villages, younger generations often shy away from their ancestral tongues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Itanagar, August 31:** In a wooden house on the misty slopes of Taksing village in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh, 72-year-old Chakiap Bai leans forward and hums a lullaby in Nah, a language spoken by barely a few hundred people.

His granddaughter listens with curiosity, but when asked to repeat the lines, she replies in Hindi.

Tribal elders in remote villages of the northeastern state fear their ancestral songs and stories may vanish forever as children increasingly abandon their mother tongues.

Home to more than 40 languages and over 100 dialects, the state is one of India's richest linguistic landscapes. Yet many of its tongues are teetering on the brink of extinction.

The Nah people, with a population of little over a thousand as per the 2011 Census, live in Upper Subansiri district. Their language, Na, belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family and is closely related to Tagin. Efforts to preserve it include language



competitions and pictorial glossaries, but speakers like Bai remain anxious.

In West Kameng's Singchung area, 65-year-old Bugun woman Sarita Phinya still recalls the wedding chants she learned as a child.

"We used to sing them for hours during ceremonies. Now, my grandchildren only know Bollywood songs. Sometimes they laugh when I sing in Bugun," she laments.

Her neighbour, 52-year-old Etnam Phiang, has mobilised local youth with mobile phones to record folk songs, lullabies and folktales from elders.

"Languages like Meyor, Bugun and Nah have fewer than 2,000 speakers between them," said professor Tana Sworen, senior faculty in history at Rajiv Gandhi University, who is also a member of UGC and Sahitya Akademi.

Sworen has called for the establishment of a State Council for Vernacular Language Research and Training, modelled on the State Council for Education Research and Training.

Communities across the state are experimenting with revival initiatives.

In Nafra, parents are reviving bedtime storytelling in

Sartang. In Kibithoo, village schools have introduced 'language days' where children must greet and converse in Meyor.

Deputy Director of Research Bulton Dutta said UNESCO has listed 34 of the state's languages in varying categories of endangerment.

Dutta added that there are 73 spoken languages in Arunachal as per the Research Department's records.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, who holds the Finance, Planning and Investment portfolios, said the state government is committed to language preservation.

Mein said that third languages have been introduced in schools across districts to foster love for mother tongues.

Despite official support, challenges remain. With English and Hindi dominating classrooms and digital media reshaping entertainment even in remote villages, younger generations often shy away from their ancestral tongues.

For elders like Bai, Phinya and Meyor, the struggle is not just linguistic but existential.



Traditionally viewed as a condition affecting middle-aged adults, gallstones are now being diagnosed in children as young as six, raising concerns among medical professionals and public health experts.

The causes are multifactorial, ranging from obesity and poor dietary habits to genetic predisposition and certain blood disorders like thalas-

A recent survey conducted by the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) across five metropolitan cities found that nearly one in 200 children admitted for abdominal pain had gallstones. The prevalence was notably higher among children with sedentary lifestyles and diets high in processed foods and

Dr Sinha added that laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a minimally invasive procedure to

The issue arose after the firm requested the Andhra Pradesh authority for exemption from payment of motor vehicle tax for the period its vehicles were confined and used within the central dispatch yard premises.



of the day

quote

With the completion of this project, it will become the longest tunnel road in Kerala and the third longest tunnel road in India

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

Shockingly, no Congress leader has apologised or even condemned this shameful act, which shows tacit approval. But this nation will never accept it

ANIL VU | HARYANA'S ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTER

When the voice of the Bahujans and their issues have been removed from the mainstream media, these youths are bringing forth stories of the suffering and injustice of their society on platforms like YouTube on their own

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

X

POST OF THE DAY

"The fastest growth story in Modi's India isn't GDP. It's Jay(Amit) Shah's 16000% jump & Nikhil Gadkari's 3000% jump — in just ONE year. For the rest of India only Unemployment & Inflation." Who All Agree ?

@RavinderKapur2

SHORT TAKES

Prez on three-day visit to K'taka, TN

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu will be on a three-day visit to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from Monday, her office said. On September 1, the President will grace the diamond jubilee celebrations of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysuru, Karnataka, it said. Murmu will grace the 120th foundation day celebrations of City Union Bank in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, September 2, the President's office said.

BTC polls: BJP, UPPL, AGP name candidates

**Kokrajhar/ Guwahati:** The BJP and two key NDA constituents in Assam Sunday announced candidates for the upcoming polls to the 40-member Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), with the saffron party fielding nominees in 28 seats, UPPL in 34 and the AGP in four segments so far. The allies of the BJP-led NDA had decided to fight the BTC elections, scheduled for September 22, separately. Incumbent BTC chief Pramod Boro was nominated from Goibari constituency by the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in its second list of 16 candidates announced during the day.

ASI found hanging from ceiling of barrack

**Gayaji:** A 50-year-old assistant sub-inspector was Sunday found hanging from the ceiling of his barrack in Gaya district of Bihar, an official said. The deceased was identified as Rajesh Kumar Singh, a resident of Saran district. "He was an ASI, posted here with the Bihar Military Police. His body has been sent for post-mortem and family members have been informed," SSP (Gaya) Ramanand Kumar Kaushal said.



That eviction drives to clear encroachment on forest land will be undertaken in the Barak valley districts in the same way the exercise is being carried out in the Brahmaputra valley

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Congress slams Modi-Xi meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** As Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Congress attacked the Centre on Sunday, asking whether the "new normal" is to be defined by Chinese bullying and the "government's spinelessness".

The Congress also asked whether the Modi government's push for reconciliation with China is de facto legitimising its territorial aggression.

The Congress also said that the BJP owes answers to the nation on whether PM Modi raised imperative issues and whether he showed "red eyes" to China and said national interest and not photo-op diplomacy should govern the

bilateral relationship. In his meeting with President Xi on the margins of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) in Tianjin, Modi said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Xi Jinping today must be evaluated in the following context - In June 2020, Chinese aggression in the Gal-way Valley cost 20 of our bravest of brave jawans to sacrifice their lives. "Yet, rather than identify the Chinese aggression, on June 19, 2020, Prime Minister Modi gave an (infamous) clean chit to China." He said the Army chief has demanded a full restoration of the status quo on the border

with China in Ladakh.

"Despite failing to achieve that, the Modi government has pushed forward on reconciliation with China, de facto legitimising their territorial aggression," he said.

On July 4, Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen Rahul Singh spoke forcefully and candidly on China's 'jugalbandi' with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, he said.

China has announced a gigantic hydel project on the Yarlung Tsangpo that has very grave implications for the northeast, he said, adding that the "Modi government has not spoken a word on this issue".

Ramesh claimed that uncontrolled "dumping" of imports from China continues to devastate India's MSMEs.



Farmers work at a chili plantation field in Bastar

PTI PHOTO

MARATHA QUOTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 3:** Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange has vowed to stop drinking water from the third day of his hunger strike Monday and brave "bullets" for reservation under the OBC category, demanding that the state government issue a GR based on the reservation based on available records.

For its part, the state government Sunday said it will seek a legal opinion on implementing the Hyderabad gazetteer on the Kunbi status- an OBC caste- for the Maratha community.

Jarange, however, remained unimpressed and said he won't budge from the protest venue in Azad Maidan till his demands are met, even if the Fadnavis government fires bullets at protesters.

He demanded that the government issue a GR on the Maratha reservation based on available records.

"The government should say that Marathas are a sub-caste of Kunbis. There are 58 lakh records that have been found, which show links of Marathas as Kunbis. Those who want a reservation will take it. Don't generalise Marathas as Kunbis if there is a legal issue," Jarange told a press conference



Jarange has been staging an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai from Friday over his demand for a 10 per cent quota for Marathas under the OBC category

on Sunday night.

He said no one can stop Marathas from getting reservations under the OBC category. The Kunbi community is associated with agriculture-related occupations and is grouped under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

Forced to do a political tight-rope ahead of civic elections, the government said the cabinet sub-committee will seek a legal

view on implementing the Hyderabad gazetteer regarding the Kunbi status for Marathas, which was a key demand of Jarange.

State Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who heads the cabinet sub-committee on the Maratha reservation issue, chaired two meetings on the quota issue during the day.

Addressing media persons after the sub-committee met here in the evening, Vikhe Pa-

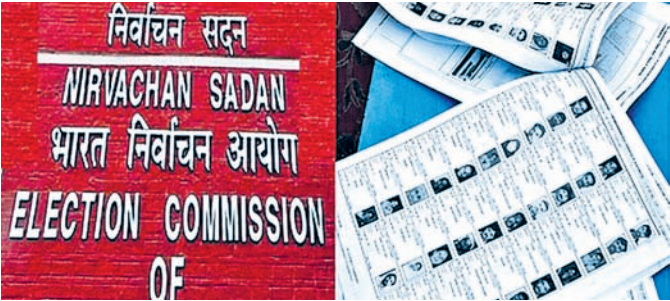
Bihar: EC targets new voter cards post SIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** The Election Commission plans to issue new voter identity cards to all electors of Bihar after the completion of the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the state, officials said Sunday.

They added that a final call on when the new cards will be issued is yet to be taken by the poll authority.

Officials said while the plan is to issue every Bihar voter with a new voter card, a final call on when and how the exercise will be carried out is yet to be taken. When electors were given enumeration forms, they



were asked to submit the filled up document along with their latest photograph.

The new photograph will be used to update records and issuing fresh voter cards. According to the draft electoral roll of Bihar published on August 1,

the state has 7.24 crore electors.

The final voters list will be published on September 30 and assembly elections in the state are likely to be held in November.

The term of the present assembly ends on November 22

Cong submitted 89L complaints to EC during SIR, all rejected: Khera

**Patna:** Senior Congress leader Pawan Khera Sunday claimed that a staggering 89 lakh complaints of irregularities were flagged by the party's Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in Bihar during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, but all were rejected by the Election Commission. Alleging that the irregularities cast a doubt on the intention of the EC, Khera demanded that the entire exercise be conducted again.

and a new House has to be constituted before that. According to the EC, 99 per cent of those who had filled up enumeration forms have so far submitted their documents. Nearly 30,000 people have filed pleas for inclusion in the voters list as their names were missing

from the draft rolls. Separately, Bihar has become the first state where the number of electors per polling stations has been reduced from 1500 to a maximum of 1200 as part of rationalisation exercise to ensure lesser crowding of polling stations on voting day.

Latest party craze has no couples, just celebrations



in Noida, who recently hosted a sold out fake wedding event.

The idea worked.

The ticketed events, priced between Rs 1,500 and above Rs 10,000, have partygoers unleashing their inner baraatis in not-wedding season.

The quirky invites and irre-

sistible event descriptions are hard to ignore. Think lines like "BaraatIs. Bass. Booze. Rishtedars Prohibited" or specialty cocktails with names like the cheeky "Shaadi Waali LIIT".

Next, before anyone knows, girls are getting mehndi done and slipping into sequin lehen-

gas, while boys turn up in embroidered kurtas. Strangers become friends and hit the dance floor to celebrate a wedding that's quite literally unreal.

Apoorva Gupta, a Delhi-based media professional in her 30s who typically avoids social events, was surprisingly happy to accompany her friend and her friend's mother to a relaxed, no-strings-attached wedding in south Delhi.

What drew her in wasn't the idea of a wedding itself, but the absence of everything that usually makes such events exhausting.

With numerous fake weddings held across Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Goa last month, and many more lined up for this month, the future of this trend looks just as sparkly as the venues themselves.

According to Sid Mathur, founder of the food consulting firm Secret Ingredient, the events also offer a prime moment for experiential dining with consumers increasingly looking for more than just good food -- they want stories, surprise, and something a little off-centre.

And there's no shortage of out-of-the-box trends when it comes to immersive experiences.

The Piano Man, a chain of jazz clubs across Delhi-NCR that combines great music and food, has come up with the 'Gourmet Cinema' concept, where classic films are screened alongside menus inspired by the movie's setting, mood, and storyline.

It recently screened "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" along with a Spanish menu inspired by the

film to reflect its setting. "Ratatouille" was accompanied by dishes actually made in the hit animation. And "The Grand Budapest Hotel" was paired with a dining experience that captured the whimsical elegance of the film.

The response, said Arjun Sagar Gupta, founder of The Piano Man, is "absolutely fantastic".

"Every show has been sold out and it is currently scheduled to run for an extended period, with fortnightly shows at both our Eldeco Centre and Gurugram venues. In addition to our core focus, which is showcasing music and artists from around the world, we have spent the last 10 years curating a variety of experiences across performance arts, education, fine art and more," he added.



of the day

quote

There is no place in our country for people who seek to divide and undermine our social cohesion. Nothing could be less Australian

TONY BURKE | MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, AUSTRALIA

We are ready to resolve the problem by political and diplomatic means. But so far we do not see reciprocity from Kyiv in this. So we shall continue the special military operation

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

The occupation of Gaza, the forced displacement of Palestinians, their reduction to starvation ... will never bring victory to Israel

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

SHORT TAKES

Norway to buy fleet of British-made frigates

**Oslo:** The Norwegian government said Sunday that it plans to buy a fleet of British-made frigates for its navy. Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said at a news conference that the Nordic country plans to buy five or six frigates, public broadcaster NRK reported. The NATO member needed the frigates because it "is facing its most serious security situation since World War II," he said. The United States, Germany and France were in the final round to get a contract to sell frigates to Norway, but the choice fell on the United Kingdom, Støre said. "Norway and Great Britain are close allies with common interests and very close ties," Støre said. European countries that share a border with Russia have become increasingly nervous about their own security after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The British Type 26 frigates were specially designed for locating, tracking and combating submarines. This was also one of the government's main criteria for the purchase, NRK reported.

Houthis raid UN agencies in Yemen

**Cairo:** The Iran-backed Houthis Sunday raided offices of the United Nations' food and children's agencies in Yemen's capital, detaining at least one UN employee, officials said, as the rebels tighten security across Sanaa following the Israeli killing of their prime minister and several Cabinet members. Abeer Etefa, a spokesperson for the World Food Program, told The Associated Press that security forces raided the agencies' offices in the Houthi-controlled capital Sunday morning. The raids were the latest in a long-running Houthi crackdown against the United Nations and other international organisations working in rebel-held areas in Yemen.

REGIONAL PEACE

World leaders from Central, South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East are attending the summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin in a show of Global South solidarity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tianjin (China), August 31:** The 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit formally kicked off here Sunday night with a massive banquet hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which was attended, among others, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Xi accompanied by his wife, Peng Liyuan, hosted the banquet in China's port city of Tianjin to welcome international guests. This year's summit was stated to be the largest 10-member SCO group as China, which holds the Presidency of the



organisation this year, has invited 20 foreign leaders and 10 heads of international organisations, including the UN Secretary General António Guterres. The summit meeting will be held Monday at a specially designated convention centre where the leaders of the 10-member grouping, along with invited leaders, will deliver speeches. The speech of Prime Minister Modi will be keenly watched for its content in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's tariff war and his meeting with Xi on Saturday, which was

Potential annexation could face global condemnation

Follows pledges by several countries to recognise Palestinian state

NETANYAHU'S PAST ANNEXATION PLEDGE SCRAPPED FOR ABRAHAM ACCORDS

Trump stands on the matter. A spokesperson for Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar did not respond to a request for comment on whether Saar had discussed the move with his U.S. counterpart Marco Rubio during his visit to Washington last week. Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether the prime minister supports annexation and if so, where. A past pledge by Netanyahu to annex Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley was scrapped in 2020 in favour of normalising ties with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in the so-called Abraham Accords brokered by Trump in his first term in office. The United Nations' highest court in 2024 said that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, and its settlements there are illegal and should be withdrawn as soon as possible.



widely expected to provide a new road map for the ties. In his welcome banquet address, Xi said the SCO bears greater responsibilities in safeguarding regional peace and stability, and for boosting the development of various countries in a world of increasing uncertainties and accelerated changes. Addressing the banquet, Xi expressed confidence that with concerted efforts of all parties, the summit will be a complete success, and that the SCO is certain to play an even bigger role and achieve more



Pyrotechnics go off as the Air Bandits aerobatic team, led by Lithuanian pilot Jurgis Kairys, performs above the runway of the Aurel Vlaicu airport, at the end of the first day of the Bucharest International Air Show, BIAS 2025 in Bucharest, Romania

PTI PHOTO

Trump vows to mandate voter ID

REUTERS

**Washington, August 31:** US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will issue an executive order to require voter identification from every voter. "Voter I.D. Must Be Part of Every Single Vote. NO EXCEPTIONS! I Will Be Doing An Executive Order To That End!!!," Trump said on Truth Social. "Also, No Mail-In Voting, Except For Those That Are Very Ill, And The Far Away Military," he added. Trump has long questioned the US electoral system and continues to falsely claim that his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of widespread fraud. The president and his Republican allies also have made baseless



claims about widespread voting by non-citizens, which is illegal and rarely occurs. For years, he has also called for the end of electronic voting

machines, pushing instead for the use of paper ballots and hand counts - a process that election officials say is time-consuming, costly and

Visa fee raises total cost to \$442, among highest globally

REUTERS

Council. The visa fee reinforces a bleak perception of the US under Trump, whose immigration policies, cuts to foreign aid and sweeping tariffs have eroded America's appeal as a destination - even with major events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and Los Angeles 2028 Olympics on the horizon. The Trump administration Wednesday proposed government regulation that aims to tighten the duration of visas for students, cultural exchange visitors and members of the media.



management company. "As the summer ends this will become a more pressing issue, and we'll have to factor the fees into travel budgets and documentation."

International visitor spending in the US is projected to fall below \$169 billion this year, down from \$181 billion in 2024, according to the World Travel & Tourism

New \$250 visa fee risks deepening US travel slump

Fee impacts travelers from non-visa waiver countries like Mexico, India, China

REUTERS

**New York, August 31:** A new \$250 "visa integrity fee" imposed on travelers to the United States risks piling more pressure on the struggling travel industry, as overseas arrivals continue to fall due to President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration and hostility to many foreign countries. Overseas travel to the US fell 3.1% year-on-year in July to 19.2 million visitors, according to US

government data. It was the fifth month of decline this year, defying expectations that 2025 would see annual inbound visitors finally surpass the pre-pandemic level of 79.4 million. The new visa fee, set to go into effect October 1, adds an additional hurdle for travelers from non-visa waiver countries like Mexico, Argentina, India, Brazil and China. The extra charge raises the total visa cost to \$442, one of the highest visitor fees in the world, according to the US Travel Association, a membership organization. "Any friction we add to the traveler experience is going to cut travel volumes by some amount," said Gabe Rizzi, President of Altour, a global travel

PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION

An Indian non-profit working for education of out-of-school girls in remote villages is among the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees, it was announced Sunday. The Foundation to Educate Girls Globally, widely known as 'Educate Girls,' has made history as the first Indian organisation to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award. Considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, recognises greatness of spirit shown in selfless service to the peoples of Asia



GANAPATI VISARJAN

Community centre in London catches fire; no one injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 31:** A Hindu community centre in east London caught fire causing significant damage to the building before it could be brought under control by the London Fire Brigade, which said no injuries were reported at the scene. The Shree Sorathia Prapajati Community Centre on Cleveland Road in Ilford had been decked out for a Ganapati Visarjan event on Saturday, with members of the Hindu community converging for prayers and festivities. Some local reports suggest that fireworks may be a likely cause, while the Metropolitan Police said it has found no evidence to suggest that the fire may have been started deliberately.

"No one was injured in the incident, however the building suffered significant structural damage. The cause of the fire is under investigation - at this stage, the investigation team have found no evidence to suggest that it was started deliberately," a Metropolitan Police spokesperson said. "We are working closely with Redbridge Council to support the local community. Residents are advised to keep windows and doors closed due to smoke," the spokesperson said. The Met Police said its neighbourhood officers discovered the fire while on regular patrol in the neighbourhood and alerted the London Fire Brigade. "We were called at 2000 (hours) yesterday (Saturday) to reports of a building fire on Cleveland Road in Ilford. Firefighters attended and discovered a single-storey community centre fully alight," a London Fire Brigade spokesperson said. "The fire was safely brought under control by crews by 2121 (hours) and there were no reports of any injuries. However, the building has sustained a significant amount of damage as a result of the fire," the spokesperson said. The brigade said it had received around 14 calls about the fire, and its control officers mobilised six fire engines and around 40 firefighters from Ilford, Barking, Stratford, Leyton, Hainault and Romford fire stations to the scene.



of the day

quote

Rapid commerce, as we were describing today, is a sweet spot. We know quick commerce is all about minute deliveries, which is very perfect for impulse buys, urgent things, and groceries

ABHISHEK CHAKRABORTY | CEO, DTDC EXPRESS

Families plan purchases around festivals. The deduction in slabs is a plus; it improves affordability, broadens access, and strengthens purchasing power at the right time of the year

SAAHIL GOEL | MD AND CEO, SHIPROCKET

The recent tariff adjustments in the US have created real challenges for Indian companies, particularly in sectors like textiles, leather and automotive components

ADESUWA LADJOIA | MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, LFZ

SHORT TAKES

Hyundai's Nexo SUV sales hit

**Seoul:** Hyundai Motor said Sunday that sales of its face-lifted Nexo hydrogen-powered sport utility vehicle (SUV) have reached nearly 7,000 units since its launch in June, far outpacing its predecessor. Sales of the upgraded hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) model came to 6,767 units in the June-August period, far surpassing the 1,500 units recorded by the first-generation model during the first three months after its release in 2018, according to the company. The new model boasts a driving range of up to 720 kms on a single charge and a high-efficiency powertrain with a maximum motor output of 150 kilowatts, reports Yonhap news agency. To promote hydrogen cars, Hyundai Motor provided 32 Nexo SUVs as protocol vehicles for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministerial Meeting held in the southern port city of Busan last week. The investment marks a sharp rise from the \$21 billion pledge made in March.Under the plan, Hyundai will build a steel plant in the US state of Louisiana with an annual production capacity of 2.7 million tons, providing quality low-carbon steel for key strategic industries.

Samsung tops Indian TV market

**Seoul:** Samsung Electronics ranked first in the Indian TV market in the first half of 2025, data showed Sunday, backed by robust sales of large-sized premium models. The South Korean tech giant accounted for 23.8 percent of the market during the January-June period, maintaining the top spot since 2017, according to data compiled by global market research firm Omdia. LG Electronics, Samsung's smaller South Korean rival, ranked second with a 16.5 percent share, followed by China's Xiaomi with 7.9 percent, reports Yonhap news agency. Industry watchers said Samsung was able to sustain strong sales in India with its cutting-edge large-screen models, including Neo QLED and OLED TVs. Educational content offered through Samsung's smart TV platform, along with global entertainment titles, including programs from South Korea, also helped the company maintain its leading spot, they added. The combined sales of TVs in India were estimated at 11.29 million units in 2024. The Microsoft AI will be applied to Samsung's latest TVs and monitors launched this year, including the premium Micro RGB TV. Samsung said users can experience natural voice interaction to receive personalised responses, such as music recommendations or weather information.



There are certain employment-heavy sectors which do have exposure to the US and to that extent may get affected. The government is well aware of that and is assessing the possible impact and working towards possible solutions

ANURADHA THAKUR | ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

AUDITOR FLAGS FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS IN HNG

Transactions auditor BDO India has detected three potentially fraudulent or wrongful transactions worth ₹63.34 crore under the erstwhile management of Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd (HNG) during the three financial years 2019-20 to 2021-22.The three entities reportedly involved in the fraudulent trading are Rafbrix International (₹15.10 crore), Maithan Ceramic Ltd (₹5.78 crore), and Durvish Vyapaar Pvt Ltd (₹42.46 crore)



India pushes rice exports to Philippines

India exported agricultural products worth \$413 million to the Philippines in 2024, accounting for about 2 per cent of the Philippines' total agricultural imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** India is pushing rice exports to the world's largest importer of the commodity -- the Philippines -- and to tap the opportunity, a large delegation of leading exporters will visit the Southeast Asian nation next month, an official said.

The Philippines is an important market for India in agricultural products exports.

In 2024, the Philippines imported agricultural goods worth about \$20 billion, with key imports including semi-milled rice, wheat and meslin, oilcake, food preparations, and palm oil.

India exported agricultural products worth \$413 million to the Philippines in 2024, ac-



counting for about 2 per cent of the Philippines' total agricultural imports.

India's major exports to this market were bovine meat, groundnut, rice, and tobacco.

"Philippines" is the largest importer of rice in the world, with imports in 2024, valued at \$2.52 billion. However, there is significant opportunity to expand India's rice exports in the Philippines as, despite India being the world's largest rice exporter -- worth \$11.83 billion in 2024-25 -- India's rice exports were only \$48.91 million to the Philippines in the same period,"

the official said.

This reflects a significant untapped opportunity for India in the Philippine rice market, the official added.

"To build on this potential, a delegation of leading exporters of rice, and other key potential exports to Philippines like vegetables (onion and potato), groundnut, and meat visiting the Philippines in early September," the commerce ministry official said.

Additionally, a delegation of the Philippines food importers will participate in World Food India from September 25-28,

Tanishq showcases the best of natural diamonds

Bhubaneswar:

Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata, hosted an exclusive exhibition of its high value natural diamonds assortment in Bhubaneswar held August 31, at Mayfair Lagoon Convention Centre, Bhubaneswar. The exhibition displayed the finest in natural diamond jewellery, known for its design supremacy and exceptional craftsmanship, featuring four of Tanishq's exquisite collections - Radiance in Rhythm, Elan, Unbound and Enchanted Trails. Speaking on the occasion, Arindam Pramanik, Circle Business Manager, Tanishq, Orissa & North-East said, "At Tanishq, we were delighted to bring our latest natural diamond collections to Bhubaneswar through this exclusive exhibition. The showcase was a true celebration of craftsmanship, innovation, and timeless design. Bhubaneswar is a very important market for us, and we were thrilled to witness the overwhelming response from our valued customers." Misha Hari Bose, Manager - Customer Engagements, Tanishq Corporate Team, Bengaluru further added, "At Tanishq, creating meaningful experiences for our customers goes beyond just showcasing jewellery, it is about building trust and celebrating relationships. With this exclusive exhibition in Bhubaneswar, we wanted to offer the power of information directly in the consumers' hands, helping them understand every facet of the diamond they are investing in -- from its sparkle and craftsmanship to its origin and authenticity."



MPL TO SACK 60% OF LOCAL STAFF

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 31:** Indian online gaming app Mobile Premier League (MPL) will sack about 60 per cent of its local workforce as part of a major downsizing after the government banned paid games, said a company source.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government this month banned online paid games, citing financial and addiction risks especially among youth, leading to a shutdown of many gaming apps offering paid fantasy cricket, rummy and poker games.

The law shocked an Indian industry backed by venture capital firms such as Tiger Global and Peak XV Partners that was set to be worth \$3.6 billion by 2029. MPL and rival Dream11 became popular in recent years by offering paid fantasy cricket games that allow winners to receive financial prizes.

The industry says the games



rely on skill and therefore are not gambling, which was already highly restricted in India.

As MPL focuses on free-to-play games and bolsters its business in the US market, the company source said Sunday it would let go of roughly 300 of its 500 India staff in divisions like marketing, finance, operations, engineering and legal.

MPL CEO Sai Srinivas wrote in an email "with a heavy heart we have decided that we will be downsizing our India Team significantly." He did not specify the number of job cuts in the email.

"We are committed to providing those impacted with every possible support during

this transition period ... India accounted for 50 per cent of M-League's revenues and this change would mean that we would no longer be making any revenue from India in the near future," he added.

Backed by Peak XV Partners, formerly known as Sequoia Capital India, MPL was valued at \$2.3 billion in 2021, Pitchbook data shows. It also has free-to-play offerings in Europe and paid games in United States and Brazil.

The company source said that MPL's India revenue last year was roughly \$100 million. MPL's rival, Dream11, valued at \$8 billion, has also discontinued its fantasy cricket offering. Many other apps offering paid poker and rummy card games have also stopped.

In a first, Indian gaming company A23 challenged the government's ban last week, but MPL and Dream11 have decided not to pursue legal challenges.



services, and composite PMIs. "Additionally, the GST Council meeting will be a key focus, with expectations building around an accelerated implementation of proposed reforms. These events are likely to set the near-term tone for risk sentiment," Ajit Mishra -- SVP, Research, Religare Broking

India Post suspends all postal service to US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



mail, including letters, documents, and gift items valued up to \$100, destined for the USA," the statement said.

The Department of Posts said that it is closely monitoring the situation and making every effort to restore services at the earliest.

"Customers who have already booked items that could not be dispatched may claim a refund of postage," the state-

ment said.

August 23, the department had said the postal services from India to the US had been temporarily suspended due to denial of carrying shipments by US-bound air carriers due to the lack of clarity in new norms issued by the US Customs Department.

Under an executive order issued by the US administration July 30, 2025, goods valued above \$100 are subject to

President confers SCOPE Eminence Award to PGCIL



**Delhi:** Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL or POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred with the SCOPE Eminence Award for Human Resource Management by President of India, Droupadi Murmu August 29 in a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The award was received by Ravindra Kumar Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director, POWERGRID along with Yatindra Dwiwedi, Director (Personnel), POWERGRID. On this occasion, Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Finance and K Moses Chalai, Secretary, DPE, Ministry of Finance were present along with senior officials of CPUS, SCOPE and POWERGRID. This recognition highlights POWERGRID's progressive HR practices that emphasize employee-focused policies, continuous upskilling and leadership development, while nurturing a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and holistic well-being across the organisation. POWERGRID has commissioned and is operating 286 sub-stations and more than 1,80,849 Circuit Kilometer (CKM) transmission lines and 5,74,331 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of the latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain an average transmission system availability of more than 99.85 per cent.

cent. Sentiment was dampened by concerns over the impact of US tariffs on Indian exports that came into effect during the last week.

Tariff-related uncertainty dominated market sentiment last week, curbing risk appetite, an expert said.

"This week presents a challenging environment for Indian equities, as markets grapple with significant headwinds from the recently implemented 50 per cent US tariffs on Indian goods, which took effect on August 27. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) have turned net sellers, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) have provided strong support.

FPIs withdraw ₹35,000cr in Aug; sharpest sell-off in six months



competitiveness and growth outlook," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

"At the same time, corporate earnings for the June quarter for a few key sectors fell short of expectations, further dampening investor appetite," he added.

According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, the simple explanation for this massive selling by the FPIs is the relatively high valuations in India compared to valuations in other markets. This is making FPIs to move money to cheaper markets.

customs duties in the US with effect from August 29 onwards.

As per the Executive Order, transport carriers delivering shipments through the international postal network, or other "qualified parties" approved by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), are required to collect and remit duties on postal shipments.

While CBP had issued certain guidelines August 15, several critical processes relating to the designation of "qualified parties" and mechanisms for duty collection and remittance remain undefined.

Consequently, US-bound air carriers expressed their inability to accept postal consignments after August 25 citing lack of operational and technical readiness.

The latest development came under blurred notifications from the US customs department.

BSE, NSE fine Dish TV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** Direct-to-home operator Dish TV has been penalised again by leading bourses BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE) over composition and lack of quorum on its board, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

Dish TV, which has been embroiled in a tussle at the board level for the last few years among its promoters, was fined by the bourses in 2023 and 2024 for the same reason.

It has received a latest notice on August 29 from the bourses, wherein a fine has been imposed on the company, for non-compliance of Regulations 17(1) and 19 (1)/(2) of the Sebi (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('Listing Regulations'), for the quarter ended June 30. "The above-mentioned non-compliances in respect to reduction in the board strength was on account of non-approval of shareholders for the appointment of directors and that the same was beyond the control of the board or the company," Dish TV said.

Moreover, the company has also been advised by the bourses to "inform the promoters about the non-compliance and place the said communication before the board at its next meeting" and the comments made by the board shall be informed to the exchange.Both the NSE and the BSE have imposed fines of ₹5.69 lakh each on Dish TV for violation of listing rules and has directed it to pay within 15 days from the date of the stock exchange communication.

Dish TV said it "shall be making the payment of the fines as levied on the company" and added that "there is no impact on financial, operational or other activities of the company, other than the monetary fine amount payable".



HOCKEY  
ASIA CUP

India survive late scare

HARMANPREET'S BRACE HANDS INDIA 3-2 WIN OVER JAPAN TO TAKE TOP SPOT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajgir (Bihar), August 31:** Skipper Harmanpreet Singh continued to play awe-inspiring hockey, scoring a brace as India defeated a fighting Japan 3-2 to qualify for the Super Four stage of the Hero Men's Asia Cup here Sunday.

After scoring a hat-trick in the opener against China, Harmanpreet (5th, 46th minutes) converted two penalty corners, while Mandeep Singh struck a fine field goal in the fourth minute to give the hosts a deserving win.

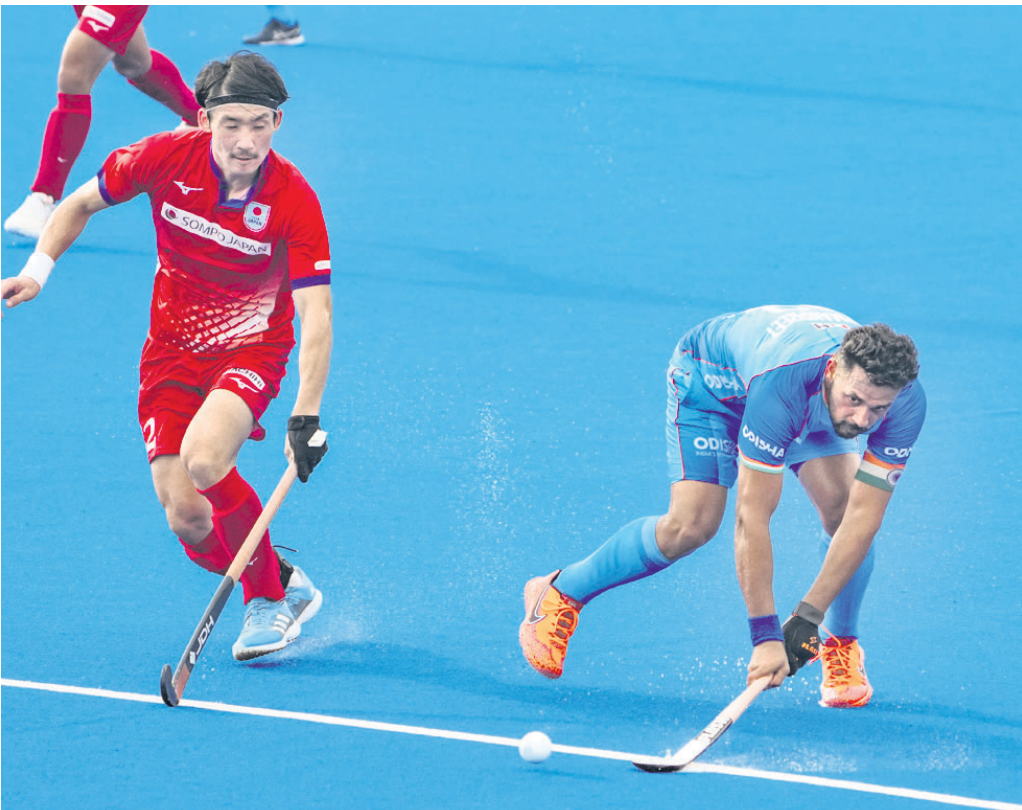
For Japan, Kosei Kawabe (38th, 58th minutes) scored bot the goals.

With two wins in as many games, India are leading Pool A with six points and are ahead of Japan and China, who have one win each.

India will conclude their group engagement with the match against Kazakhstan on Monday, while the winner of the tie between Japan and China will decide the other Super Four team from Pool A.

India displayed a much-improved performance from their previous match. They looked more coordinated and played fast-paced hockey, which resulted in frequent forays inside the rival circle.

India go their first chance as early as in the second minute when Harmanpreet found



Manpreet whose shot from just inside the circle went inches wide. It didn't take India too long to take the lead as they surged ahead a couple of minutes later through Mandeep's fine field goal.

A brilliant set-up by Harmanpreet, Jarmanpreet Singh and a final feed by Sukhjeet

Singh found Mandeep in front of the goal. Mandeep beat two defenders and the goalkeeper with his body movement to push the ball in.

India earned back-to-back penalty corners in the fifth minute and Harmanpreet scored from the second to double India's lead.

Two minutes before the end

of the first quarter, Japan secured their first penalty corner, followed by another but on both the occasions Indian goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, playing his 150th international match, made fine saves to keep the lead intact. Japan had their chances in

the second quarter in the form of four back-to-back penalty corners but the Indians defended stoutly.

India too had a chance to extend their lead when they earned another set piece three minutes from half time but missed the opportunity to go into the halfway break with a two-goal cushion.

Minutes after the change of ends, Sukhjeet fed Mandeep inside the circle, whose hit from top of the circle was saved by the Japanese goalkeeper.

Japan pulled one back in the 38th minute through Kawabe with a first-time shot after receiving a pass from Kaito Tanaka.

But India restored their two-goal lead just at the stroke of the third quarter through Harmanpreet who converted another set piece with a powerful low flick.

In the 49th minute, Japan secured another penalty corner but Suraj Karkera came up with two brilliant saves. Japan upped the ante in the final few minutes and earned a couple of penalty corners but failed.

Two minutes before the final hooter, Kawabe scored his second goal of the day, catching Jarmanpreet off guard inside the circle. In the other Pool A match, China thrashed Kazakhstan 13-1 to register their first win and stay alive in the Asia Cup.

Sat-Chi bag bronze



*Satwik & Chirag become the first Indian pair to win two medals at the BWF World Championships*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, August 31:** Top Indian pair Satwicksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with a bronze medal after going down fighting to China's 11th seeds Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the men's doubles semifinals of the World Championships here.

A day after assuring India of a medal, the former world No 1 duo's bid to become the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach the final of a world championships fell short as they lost 19-21, 21-18, 12-21 in a 67-minute battle on Saturday evening. This is the pair's second med-

al at the Worlds, having won a bronze in 2022.

On Friday, Asian Games champions Satwik and Chirag had stunned their nemesis, Malaysia's two-time Olympic medallists Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, in the quarterfinals to extend India's medal streak in the tournament, which began in 2011.

The Indians, however, could not break through the resolute defence of the Chinese pair, which retrieved relentlessly and countered with precision.

Satwik and Chirag had first clinched a world championships bronze in Tokyo in 2022, a year after narrowly missing out on a medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Their second medal in the prestigious tournament also comes a year after an Olympic heartbreak at the Paris Games.

It also brought an end to India's campaign in the tournament.

Neeraj to lead India in World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 31:** India will have the most number of men's javelin throwers among competing countries in next month's World Championships in Tokyo, with Neeraj Chopra leading the pack of four, in a remarkable reflection of the 'revolution' brought by the two-time Olympic medallist's exploits at the global stage.

Besides Chopra, three other rising javelin throwers -- Sachin Yadav, Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav -- were also picked for the men's javelin event as India named a 19-member team for the September 13-21 showpiece.

This is the first time four Indians will be competing in an event in the World Championships.

Meanwhile, the overall Indian team of 19 has five women with Rohit, men's 110m hurdler Tejas Shirse and men's 35km race walker Sandeep Kumar being the last-minute inclusions after they got invites from World Athletics due to the pulling out of other competitors who were above them in world rankings in their respective events.

Odisha's national record holder Animesh Kujur is set to be the first Indian to compete in 200m in the World Championships.

Sinner, Swiatek advance; Osaka-Gauff clash ahead



REUTERS

**Washington, August 31:** Jan-nik Sinner and Iga Swiatek proved they are only human at the US Open Saturday, showing that even the world's best players sometimes have to work things out on the fly when pure talent is not enough.

Wimbledon champion Swiatek embodied the day's theme of triumph through adversity, clawing her way back from 5-1 down in the opening set against Anna Kalinskaya before grinding out a 7-6(2) 6-4 victory.

Swiatek steadied herself at the key moments, saving four set points in the first set and breaking late in the second to notch her 20th major match win of the season and draw level with defending champion

and world number one Aryna Sabalenka.

World number one Sinner showed similar resolve, surrendering the opening set to 27th seed Denis Shapovalov before rallying to prevail 5-7 6-4 6-3 6-3.

The victory extended the 24-year-old Italian's unbeaten run at hardcourt Grand Slams to 24 matches, a streak built not just on talent but on his ability to problem-solve when his best tennis abandons him.

Déjà vu

Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka overcame a mid-match wobble to overpower 15th seed Daria Kasatkina 6-0 4-6 6-3, while last year's champion Coco Gauff dismissed Poland's Magdalena Frech 6-3 6-1 in her most convincing performance of the week.

Organisers could not have scripted it better for US fans: a showdown between two charismatic former champions six years after their memorable first meeting at Flushing Meadows.

In 2019, defending champion Osaka routed a tearful 15-year-old Gauff 6-3 6-0, then comforted her opponent and urged her to address fans in the stadium, a display of sportsmanship that delighted the crowd.

DOMINATING PERFORMANCE

Young Tigresses crowned champions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thimphu, August 31:** India were Sunday crowned champions of the SAFF U-17 Women's Championships, despite suffering a 3-4 loss to Bangladesh in their last league match here Sunday.

This was India's lone defeat in the tournament which was played among four countries in a double round-robin format. India topped the league table with 15 points after six matches and thus declared winners of

the tournament.

They had secured the title even before Sunday's match after winning five matches on the trot.

India had earlier beaten Bangladesh 2-0 in the first league clash in the two sides on August 22.

Bangladesh made a dream start when Purnima Marma scored in the opening minute, before Anushka Kumari equalised for India in the ninth. Alpi Akter restored Bangladesh's lead in the 34th minute, and

Sauravi Prity made it 3-1 in the 48th.

India staged a fightback with Pritika Barman reducing the margin in the 65th minute and skipper Julian drawing level in the 89th. But Prity struck again in stoppage time to hand Bangladesh the win at the Changlimithang Stadium.

The Indian team will now base in Bengaluru to continue preparations for the upcoming AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers in October in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

HIL 2026

Gonasika, Odisha Warriors pull out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajgir, August 31:** Hockey India League's next edition will be held at three venues instead of two in January 2026. Federation president Dilip Tirkey said Sunday.

The top Hockey India (HI) official said the men's HIL will continue to be an eight-team competition but the women's event could see participation of six teams instead of present four.

He also said that two teams -- Gonasika (men) and Odisha Warriors (2025 women champions) have withdrawn from the competition after just one season, citing personal reasons.

"HIL will happen both in men and women category. In men mostly same teams will be there apart from Gonasika which withdrew because of personal reasons and we will name their replacement soon," Tirkey said.

"The Odisha Warriors were late in paying the players, so we paid on behalf of them after discussing with them. Odisha Warriors were champions among women, so their prize money was with us and we paid from there after taking their approval," he added.

From lifting scrap to clinching gold

**Pardesi's triumph shines as a beacon of India's emerging talent and fuels hope for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**

AGENCIES



then-record 310 kg overall. In the youth category, he had also won a gold and a silver medal at the 2024 Commonwealth Youth, Junior, and Senior Weightlifting Championships in the youth and senior categories, respectively.

Despite the success he has achieved over the last few years, Sairaj has remained focused on the next milestone he wishes to hit. The teenager is keen to perform at the 2025 National Games, with nothing less than a podium finish being his ambition.

While sports remain the platform he wishes to build his career on, Sairaj is also keen to balance it with academics. The young boy is looking forward to doing well in his 12th-grade board examinations, for which he has chosen Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

"I haven't studied anything yet but I'm quite confident that I can clear the exams if I get 15 days for preparations," a confident Sairaj said.

Sairaj, the reigning Asian Youth and Junior Championships winner, totaled 348kg

GOLDEN GLORY

18-year-old Sairaj Pardesi from Manmad, Maharashtra, clinched gold at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad in the junior men's 88kg category

With a total lift of 348kg (157kg snatch + 191kg clean & jerk), he not only set new junior Commonwealth records but also surpassed the senior category winner's total

(157kg+191kg), bettering the existing Commonwealth junior snatch record of 155kg held by Fiji's Nehemiah Elder, while also surpassing his own junior clean and jerk (186kg) and total (338kg) marks.

Pardeshi's tally was good enough to win gold in the senior event as well, where Canada's Braydon Kennedy topped the field with 347kg (164kg+183kg).

In the same class, three-time Commonwealth champion Ajay Singh endured a forgettable outing, finishing sixth with a total effort of 315kg (140kg+175kg) which was 33kg shy of Pardeshi's effort.

OCA holds Special General Meeting



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 31:** The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) convened its Special General Meeting (SGM) at Swosti Premium Beach Resorts, Puri Sunday.

The meeting was presided over by Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, President, OCA, in the presence of office bearers Jagamohan Pattnaik (Vice President), Sanjay Behera (Secretary), Prabhat Bhol (Joint Secretary), Bikash Pradhan (Treasurer) and Pratap Chandra Pradhan (Apex Council Member, OCA). Members from all affiliated units of the association were also present.

As per the Special General Meeting notices, four meetings took place consecutively.

Odisha Pro T20 League 2025

The members held discus-

sions on the smooth conduct and successful organisation of the Odisha Pro T20 League 2025 (OPTL).

The tournament will feature 6 franchise teams. The league will be organized in association with Arivaa Sports (Sports Event Management Company).

The tournament starts from September 15 with 2 matches scheduled each day till September 24. The matches will telecast Live on Star Sports and stream on Fancode (OTT).

Players' draft will take place in the near future, where franchises will select players for their respective teams.

Former Australian fast bowler Brett Lee and Odisha's former international cricketer Debashish Mohanty will serve as the brand ambassadors of the Odisha Pro T20 League 2025.

OCA Centre of Excellence

Deliberations were held on the progress of the Dr Harekrushna Mahatab Feeder Centre (U-14 Residential Cricket Academy for Boys & Girls) and the Sachin Tendulkar Sports Science Centre. It was further mentioned that the Centre of Excellence is tentatively scheduled to be inaugurated in January 2026.

Ind vs SA at Barabati Stadium

The House also discussed preparations for the T20 International between India and South Africa, scheduled to be held December 9 at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

The House unanimously authorised the President, Secretary, and OCA office bearers to take necessary decisions in consultation with the Government of Odisha to ensure smooth conduct of the international match and to make all major arrangements.

Elections of OCA

It was unanimously proposed and approved that the procedure of elections will be conducted after the completion of the international cricket match December 9.