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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

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State gets 16 NACs, seven municipalities

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; Gondia 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

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;

Loisingha Narasinghpui Salipur Jagannath Prasad

Chandikhol Jaipatna Tangi Borigumma Kaptipada **Jashipur** Rasgovindpu

Municipalities

Bhanjanagar Chhatrapur Kabisuryanagar

Karanjia Boudh

Betnoti, Bangiriposi and Chitrada in Mayurbhani 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



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

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 mem bers 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 back home after the doctor administered 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 pro nounced her dead. Police have assured

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



impactful... if fewer people kept checking the facts

India wants to befriend China

AGENCIES

Tianjin (China), August 31: Amid ongoing India-US trade tensions following imposition of a steep 50% tariffs on Indian goods by the US, India and China signaled revival of ties at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin. Both sides agreed to seek a "fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable" solution to the border issue and pledged to boost trade and investment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed resuming direct flights and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, while President Xi Jinping urged viewing bilateral ties from a strategic, long-term perspective. Xi emphasised that the border dispute should not define the overall relationship, calling India and China "friends and good neighbours." Relations had soured since 2020 Galwan clashes, but both leaders appeared committed to mending ties and fostering stability.

The two leaders vowed to expand bilateral trade and investment ties, reduce trade deficit and agreed to expand common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues and challenges like terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms, ac-



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, accord-

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

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

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 availed 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 rain fall 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.

'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.

'Re
Tuna' 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 lowcost, 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 inven-

tory but its atmosphere. Consum-

ers describe it as "accessible",

"curated" and "convenient". The

mirror conventional retail spaces, making secondhand shopping feel stylish and enjoyable.

One shop manager told me customers often mistake the secondhand items for new, a testament to how fashionability and design are used to make reuse attractive without increasing cost. At 'ReTuna', the clean, calm environment helps make ethical consumption feel desirable and emotionally rewarding. As one shopper put it: "It's not just ethical, it's beautiful.

Retailers use low-cost stock and infrastructure to create visually appealing stores. The result is a pleasurable shopping experience that challenges the stigma of secondhand. While affordability and environmental values remain central, 'ReTuna' also reimagines what sustainable retail can look

Consumer interest in "preloved" 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.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2025



DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT

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

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

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

Selected entries will be awarded the **Dharitri Climate Grant** as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at Dharitri Youth Conclave 2025 to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

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

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





eisure



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.

FRANKENSTEIN EARNS 13- MINUTE

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.



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 vour 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.

The ever energetic Scorpio's 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.

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.

Expect some annovance 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. 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's 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-con fidence 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 environ-mental 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.



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 sup-

port system in her own

life, especially her fath-

er. 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 cause him and the wonderful men in my life. I am stand ing 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 mannaah) and (Diana Anahita Penty), two best friends who venture into the startup world with a bold idea—launchtheir own craft beer brand. Directed by Collin D'Cunha and Archit Kumar, the series will stream on Prime Video from September 12.

Mumbai: Bollywood star Kiara Advani, who recently embraced motherhood, opened up about a recurring fear she faces on the industry.

> 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 wor-

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

> 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

film sets despite her years in The actress revealed that the bustling environment of a shoot-Kiara's

ries 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

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

drug mafia.

Janhvi shares her future plans

Mumbai: Since her debut in 2018, Janhvi Kapoor has steadily carved a place for herself in Bolly wood, 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.

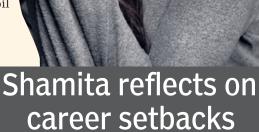
Earlier, during her appearance in Starry Nights with Komal Nahata, Janhvi had described her dream scenario of settling down in Tirumala, Tirupati, with her husband and three children. She painted a vivid picture, saying she imagined a life where the family would eat meals on banana leaves, hear chants 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

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. Profes

sionally, Janhvi's upcoming film is Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, co-starring Var un Dhawan Sanya Malho tra, and Ro hit Saraf. AGENCIES



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

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

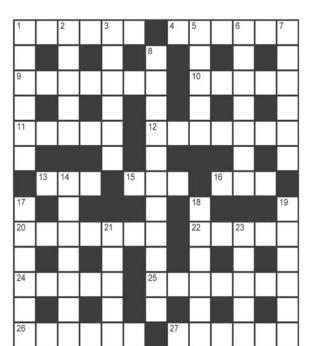


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 24 Annoyed

25 Forestalled

26 Scandinavian

kingdom

Across

- 1 Luge or pung
- 4 Wetlands
- 9 Pasta dish 10 Italian seaport
- 11 Vast chasm

- 12 Kitchen set
- 13 Medicinal amt.
- 15 Reef dweller
- 16 Small number 20 Jam ingredient

22 Lustrous fabric

- Down 1 Shriek

27 Mooch

- 2 Emissary
- 3 Game bird
- 5 Police van 6 Sea cow

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- **19** Antsy (2,4) 21 Soft creamy

7 Charred

14 Handcuff

17 Beer mugs

18 Out for the

night

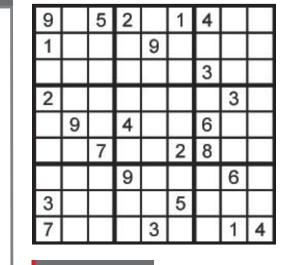
8 Musical sand

creature? (7,4)

- candy 23 Moon of
- Saturn

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

ASSSWINDLER T S O A RECHARGEMARES

SUDOKU

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 2 1 7 8 6 3 9 6 3 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

owntown

IDOL IMMERSION

An idol of Lord Ganesh being immersed in an artificial pond on the banks of the Kathajodi river near Devi Gada in Cuttack, Sunday



Gujarat man arrested in ₹7 lakh fraud case

MONEY BY POSING AS A COURIER AGENT AND LINKING THE VICTIM TO A FAKE POLICE OFFICER

GUJARAT; POLICE RECOVERED PART OF THE MONEY AND HUNT FOR OTHERS CONTINUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Odisha Police have arrested a 27-year-old man from Gujarat's Rajkot district for allegedly duping a state-based engineer of ₹7 lakh.

The accused, identified as Vishal Ramesh Bhai Makhvana, was apprehended from his native village in Gujarat and brought to Bhubaneswar on transit remand and produced before a court here Saturday,

BJD terms BJP's new

NACs, municipalities

police said, adding nearly ₹3 lakh of the total amount was transferred to his account.

The complainant had received a phone call from a fraudster claiming to be a representative of a courier company of Mumbai, a senior police officer said.

The caller claimed that a parcel had been received at their office, booked in the complainant's name and scheduled to be sent to Iran.

"The fraudster told the

contained illegal drugs, and then connected him to another individual, who identified himself as a police officer,' Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said.

The caller threatened the complainant with arrest and freezing of assets, he said.

Fearing legal consequences, the victim was forced to reveal his bank account details. Upon learning that the account had a minimal balance, the fraudsters instructed the complainant to secure a loan in the same account, Meena said.

"Subsequently, the complainant was forced to avail of a loan of ₹6.94 lakh. The victim then transferred the amount to different bank accounts of the fraudsters," the DCP added.

Later, he approached the police and lodged a complaint, following which the arrest was made. A manhunt has been launched to nab other accused persons

CM launches CRUT digital mobility drive

ODISHA ROLLS OUT NCMC AND DIGITAL TICKETING FOR SEAMLESS URBAN TRANSIT



CM Mohan Charan Majhi attends state-level Local Self-Governance Day at Rail auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Marking Local Self-Governance Day, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched a series of digital initiatives by Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) under the Housing and Urban Development department, highlighting a major step in Odisha's urban mobility transformation.

These include the launch of the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) for Odisha, a WhatsApp-based ticketing service for Ama Bus, special digital ticketing discounts (10

per cent for all commuters, 15 per cent for women), and the introduction of a digital pass system with plans for expan sion to other cities.

The event, attended by Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh and other dignitaries, underscored Odisha's commitment to smart, seamless and inclusive public transport.

With this launch, Odisha became part of the national "One Nation, One Card" initiative through the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), introduced in collaboration with SBI and Airtel Payments Bank. The card facilitates cashless. integrated travel across buses. e-rickshaws, metros and more, with an issuance fee of ₹50, a re-issuance fee of ₹200, and a validity of five years.

Ama Bus tickets can now be booked via WhatsApp by messaging +91 9078050218 on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, offering commuters a fast and user-friendly experience. To promote digital adoption, CRUT has introduced a 10 per cent discount for all passengers and 15 per cent for women. Ticket

booking is also available on the Odisha Yatri app, further enhancing travel convenience

Commuters can avail NC MC cards at designated centres including CRUT Head Office (Patia), BSABT & OD Terminal (Master Canteen). Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal, Puri Bus Stand, Rourkela Bus Stand, Ainthapali Bus Stand (Sambalpur) and Berhampur Railway Station.

These initiatives reaffirm the state government's commitment to modern urban mobility, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Odisha.

Workplace safety training for women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: A training on workplace safety for informal women workers and slum-level human rights defenders was organised Sunday at Red Cross Bhawan by ActionAid Association in collaboration with the Centre for Child and Women Development

(CCWD), Bhubaneswar. Addressing the gathering, Debabrata Patra, associate director of ActionAid Association, said workplace safety is crucial for all workers in both organised and unorganised sectors, stressing the need for greater awareness of the POSH Act.

Guest speaker Mahendra Parida, member of the Unorganised Workers' Welfare Board, stressed that an Internal Complaints Committee is vital for workers' well-being. Another guest, Sumita Rani Ghosh, member of the Child Welfare Committee, Khurda, highlighted the need for a gender-friendly and safe

work environment. Among others, Suvenu Kumar Ray, Senior Lead Programme, spoke on the situation of women workers and their rights and entitlements.

ED seizes dozen luxury cars, super bikes in state

New Delhi / Bhubaneswar, August 31: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized 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 was carried out in the alleged bank loan fraud case against a Himachal Pradesh-based company named Indian Technomac Company Ltd (ITCOL).

The money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Himachal Pradesh Police CID against ITCOL and its promoters, alleging that its directors, in connivance with staff of various companies and CAs,



siphoned off loans availed from a consortium of banks.

ITCOL obtained loans from a consortium led by the Bank of India between 2009 and 2013 by submitting "forged" detailed project reports before the banks and by showing fake sales to dummy/shell companies, the ED said in a statement Sunday.

The loans obtained by IT-COL were not utilised for the purposes they were sanctioned for, and the "fraud" was to the

The federal probe agency had attached assets worth ₹310 crore in this case earlier, out of which, it has restituted (re

stored) properties worth ₹289 crore to the victim banks in ITCOL and its related shell entities "diverted" ₹59.80 crore into the bank accounts of AM PL, and it is alleged that Dash "knowingly" assisted ITCOL

promoter Rakesh Kumar Shar-

ma in utilising these funds for mining activities in Odisha. During searches, 10 luxury vehicles and three super bikes belonging to Dash and companies beneficially owned by him were seized, the ED statement said. The includes a Porsche Cayenne, a Mer cedes-Benz GLC, a BMW X7 an Audi A3, a Mini Cooper

₹13 lakh in cash and jewellery worth ₹1.12 crore have also been seized, while two lockers belonging to Dash have been frozen during the search operation.

and a Honda Gold Wing Bike

worth more than ₹7 crore.

a copy-paste model POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 31: Following the state government's announcement Sunday

on the formation of 16 new Notified Area Councils (NACs) and seven municipalities across Odisha, the Opposition BJD, once again hit out at the move, dubbing it a 'copy-paste' gover-The BJD, in a post on its offi-

cial Facebook handle, criticised Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's announcement of new municipalities and NACs as part of the state's urbanisation drive. While the CM projected it as a major step forward, the party alleged that the declarations lacked originality.

The BJD further pointed out that of the seven newly announced municipalities, four – Boudh, Karanjia, Aska and Chhatrapur — had already been approved by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in February 2024. Likewise, seven of the 16 newly declared Notified Area Councils (NACs) overlap with the list released by the previous BJD government. The party alleged this shows that most of CM Majhi's announcements are not fresh initiatives but a repackaging of earlier development plans.

The BJD alleged that instead of introducing fresh ideas, the BJP government is repackaging existing plans for political mileage. "The BJP government appears incapable of initiating anything new. There is neither foresight nor determination in its governance," the party said in its statement, adding that the people of Odisha have already seen through the BJP's 'copy-paste' strategy.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE DAY

BMC hosts events on smart, green projects



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) marked Local Self-Governance Day with a series of key launches, showcasing the City's progress in sustainability, waste management and digital governance.

A total of 27 projects were inaugurated by BMC, including three inaugurated by the Chief Minister The most notable being Odis-

ha's first Mega Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Palasuni. With a capacity of 150 TPD, the semi-automatic plant will strengthen dry waste management and supplement the 22 decentralised MRFs already functional in the City.

The Palasuni MRF, built at a cost of Rs 10.93 crore, is equipped with conveyor belts, trommels, magnetic separators and air blowers to ensure efficient recovery of recyclables. Funded through the Swachh Bharat Mission and BMC's own resources, the facility also generates high-qual-

ity Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and provides employment to 50 people from marginalised communities through self-help groups (SHGs). Another milestone was the

launch of a 10 TPD Plasma Processor for Domestic Hazardous Waste (DHW) at the Sainik School TTS site. Currently in its trial phase, the Rs 5.89 crore facility employs plasma arc technology to safely treat waste such as batteries, chemicals and sanitary items. The project is funded through CSR contributions and government grants.

To enhance public access to civic services, BMC also launched a WhatsApp-based AI chatbot.

Mayor Sulochana Das and Commissioner Chanchal Rana inaugurated several other key projects. On the occasion, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krusha Chandra Mahapatra announced that a new Bhubaneswar City would be developed on 800 acres of land.

Canoeist Rashmita Sahu gets PM's praise in Mann Ki Baat

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday lauded Odisha's canoeist Rashmita Sahu, who recently clinched two gold medals at the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival at Dal Lake in Srinagar, during the 125th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

More than 800 athletes from all over India participated in the Festival, Modi said in his radio address

Rashmita won gold medals in the 200-metre singles and 500-metre doubles events. "Women athletes were also not far behind... their participation was also almost at par with men. I would like to congratulate all the players who participated in it. Special congratulations to Madhya Pradesh, which won the maximum number of medals, followed by Haryana and Odisha," the PM said.

Modi also called up Rashmita, and the conversation was aired during the radio programme. Sharing her experi-

ence of talking to PM, Rashmita said, "I was astounded when I got the call from the Prime Minister himself. He (Modi) greeted me, saying Jai Jagannath. It was a very happy moment for me.

> The phone call lasted about three minutes. When I informed my relatives about it, no one believed me. Today, all are feeling proud," she said. During the telephonic con-

versation, Modi asked Rashmita to share her experience at the water sports festival held in Jammu and Kashmir. In her reply, Rashmita said, "I went

to Kashmir for the first time. The first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' was organised there. I had two events in it -200-metre singles and 500-metre doubles. And I have won gold medals in both, sir. The PM then lauded her, saying, "Oh

wow! You won both! Many congratulations." Modi also asked her to convey his regards to her father because he gave so much encouragement to his daughter to move forward amid difficulties. "My best wishes are with you. Thank you," he said.



downtown



No fertiliser shortage, **Govt assures farmers**

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The state government urged farmers not to panic over "misleading reports" of fertiliser shortage in the state, assuring them that sufficient stocks are available.

According to official source es, 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

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

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

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

Samata Conclave 2025 concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The inaugural edition of 'Samata Conclave', a celebration of democracy and freedom of speech, concluded at the Press Club of Odisha here, Sunday.

two-day 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 Paranjoy 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.

Collective awareness key to fight diabetes: Governor



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati felicitates Dr Sidhartha Das with Lifetime Achievement Award on the occasion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Awareness and prevention hold the key to combating the growing burden of diabetes, which has emerged as one of the most serious public health challenges of our time, remarked Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Sunday.

Inaugurating the 13th annual conference of Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Odisha Chapter, at SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Kambhampati urged all sections of society to adopt healthier lifestyles and work together to build a culture of health consciousness. "Diabetes is a silent epidemic that not only affects individuals but also places a heavy burden on families, communities, and the economy. Its complications — ranging from cardiovascular diseases and kidney failure to vision loss and neuropathy - demand urgent and comprehensive attention," the Governor said.

He stressed that while advances in medical science such as artificial intelligence, digital health technologies, new therapies, and personalised medicine are reshaping diabetes care, prevention remains the most effective strategy. "Balanced nutrition, regular exercise, stress management, and time ly check-ups can significantly reduce risks. Schools, colleges workplaces, civil society, and the media must come together to promote health awareness, Kambhampati added.

Drawing a parallel with India's success in eradicating po lio, he said a similar collective spirit is required to fight diabe tes. He also appreciated national and state-level initiatives such as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Can cer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) while calling for stronger collaboration among healthcare pro viders, researchers, and com munity organisations to ensure that quality healthcare reaches every corner of the state.

Among others, Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad senior consultant physician Dr CH Vasanth Kumar, RSSDI Odisha's patron Dr Siddhartha Das, chairman Dr Ramesh Kumar Goenka and secretary Dr Suresh Kumar Bansal spoke on the occasion.

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AFFIDAVI

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, dtd. 30.08.2025, I Dipak Mohapatra (38 yrs) S/o-Maruta Mohapatra, Vill/P.O.- No.- 201 Atto, P.S.- Sabarang, Dist.-Bhadrak, PIN-756123, Odisha declare that I have changed my name in my Passport bearing No.- M2685540 from Dipak Kumar Mohapatra to Dipak Mohapatra. Henceforth, I shall be known as Dipak Mohapatra for all future purposes.

The Original ROR document of our esteemed customer KANHU CHARAN ADAK, Son of Srinibas Adak, residing at Kaliakhia, Po-Narayanpur, Ps-Baliapal, Dist-Balasore, Pin-756083, pertaining to Plot No.1597, Khata No.722/690 of Mouza Narayanpur, Tehsil-Baliapal, District Balasore was submitted to our branch State Bank of India, Pratappur, in connection with loan application facility could not be traced and presumed to be lost while in the custody of the bank. An FIR for this incident has been registered in Baliapal Police Station SDE M 04 Dated 29.08.2025.

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 $chemical \hbox{-} free food.$

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.

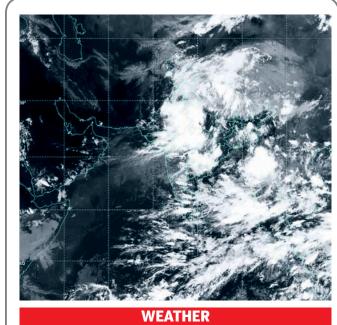
Justice Sarangi also discussed the interconnection between human rights and agriculture, stressing the importance of ensuring healthy and nutritious food as a fundamental right. Speaking at the event, Mishra called for more government support to bring such initiatives to the public's

As part of the celebration, the natural farming bulletin by KGA and a book titled 'Krushi Sahityare 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 preserva tion and bee-keeping. Several individuals, practicing urban farming, shared their experiences and insights.

The programme was pre sided 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



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

OUR BOOKING STA CLASSIFIED AD **ERTISEMENTS** CONTACT

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

Missing woman's body found in vending zone

Pattamundai, August 31: The partially charred and decomposed body of a woman was recovered Sunday from a municipal vending zone cabin in front of the LIC office under Pattamundai Model Police Station in Kendrapara district.

The deceased was identified as Bandita Raut of Narendra¬pur village under Aul police station. Sources said her husband works abroad, while she had been living in Belatala village for the past one and a half years to in view of her 8-year-old son's studies.

Police said Bandita went missing August 28 after leaving her son at home to visit the local market. When she did not return, her mother lodged a missing person complaint at Pattamundai Model Police Station. A case (81/2025) was registered, and investigation launched.

On Sunday morning, her decomposed body was found inside the locked vending zone cabin. Police, assisted by a scientific team, recovered the partially burnt body and sent it for post-mortem. A fresh case (266/2025) has been registered, IIC Bandana Patra said.

Police sources said the cabin was allotted by the municipality in the name of Amulya



Navak of Belatala, who had rented it to Susanta Parida aka Chakuli of Bari area in Jajpur district. The cabin had been closed for several days. When Nayak opened it Sunday, he noticed a foul smell and alerted the police.

Bandita's brother, Arabinda Jena of Bodhagaon village under Pattamundai rural limits. alleged foul play. He said Chakuli had borrowed money from Bandita and called her August 28 for repayment. Leaving her son behind, she went to meet him but never

Her family alleged Chakuli killed her to avoid repaying the loan. They protested at Pattamundai Sub-Divisional Hospital, refusing to allow post-mortem until the accused was arrested. SDPO Kshamasagar Panda later intervened and the body was sent to Aul Community Health Centre for

Locals have raised questions as to how the cabin, locked for four days, was opened; how the key was obtained, and whether others were involved. Police said an investigation is

OAS officer suspended over misappropriation of funds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Belpahar, August 31: Senior Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer Madhusmita Singh has been suspended over alleged financial irregularities Municipality Executive Officer, according to a notification issued Saturday by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.

While under suspension, Singh will serve in the office of the Rai-

rangpur Sub-Collector and will not be allowed to leave the Mayurbhanj district headquarters without the Collector's permission. She is

currently posted as the tehsildar of Jamda in Mayurbhanj district.

Officials said the alleged irregularities occurred during the 2024-25 financial year when Singh was in charge of the Belpahar Municipality. A complaint lodged by the current executive officer led to an inquiry, which revealed that government grant funds had been diverted to unauthorised projects without departmental approval. Several works were also undertaken without proper sanction. Following the findings, the District Collector drew the state government's attention to the matter, prompting an independent audit of the municipality's finances. The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has since taken over the investigation. Singh's bank account has been frozen,

Leopard hide seized; ex-cop among 7 arrested in Ganjam

Bhanjanagar, August 31: Forest officials of the North Ghumusar division here in Ganjam district seized a leopard hide Sunday morning and arrested seven persons, including a retired assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police and a

This was stated here by Divisional Forest Officer Himanshu Shekhar Mohanty at a presser held at the Mujagada forest range office Sunday. Meanwhile, efforts are underway to nab another suspect on the run, he said.

The accused were identified as retired ASI Kali Charan Jani of Bedingi village under Ramgiri police limits in Gajapati district, Bipin Charan Pradhan of Adamangi village, also under Ramgiri police limits, Surendra Pradhan and his son Lakshman Pradhan of Gunduribadi village under Belguntha police limits in Ganjam district, Sushant Dakua of Pantikhadi village under Belguntha police limits, Kshetriya Mallik of Gochhagada village under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district and Trinath Biswal of Soma village under Purushottampur police limits in Ganjam district.

Officials also seized a leopard hide, three sharp-edged weapons, five mobile phones, and worship materials used in

Youth's mutilated

body discovered

body of a 30-year-old man near a

abandoned by the roadside has

deceased has been identified as

grew suspicious after spotting

the unattended motorcycle near

On searching the area, they found

Mali's body lying in a ditch nearby

and alerted the Dumuriput police. A

police team led by Satyananda Patra,

Inspector-In-Charge of Koraput Town

Police Station, reached the spot with

a scientific team and a sniffer dog

squad. The body, bearing multiple

injuries, was sent to SLN Medical

College & Hospital for post-mortem.

Mali had reportedly gone to Dumuriput

Saturday for work and did not return.

suspected prior enmity as the reason

His family has alleged foul play and

behind the murder. Police have

stating that all angles are being

be determined after the autopsy.

The incident has sparked concern

among locals, who are calling for a

transparent probe and swift action

against those responsible.

assured a thorough investigation,

explored and the cause of death will

Ante Mali of Mali Talagaon under

Podagada panchayat. Local villagers

Ponshaput-Banshguda Chowk Sunday.

prompted a police probe. The

hill here Sunday with his motorcycle

Koraput: The discovery of a mutilated



three persons from Gajapati district and one from Purushottampur in Ganjam had brought the leopard hide to Bhanjanagar Saturday and handed it over to Surendra Pradhan, a local holy man. Believing that worshipping the hide would bring wealth, Pradhan and others performed rituals Sunday morning. They later planned to sell the hide.

Acting on a tip-off, DFO Mohanty formed five special teams, deploying personnel disguised as traders and farmers. The teams raided Pradhan's house around 8am Sunday, seized the hide, and arrested them.

Officials said three people were initially arrested, and based on their information, four more staying in a lodge Raj Palace in Bhanjanagar were also nabbed. Another suspect in the case managed

The raid was led by ACF Bibek Das, Bhanjanagar police inspector Jibananda Je na, ranger Prithiviraj Prad han, Jagannathprasad ranger Sujatarani Panda, Mujagad ranger Bimbadhar Sahu, and foresters Anup Bisovi, Jiban Tripathy and Babul Sethi.

The seized leopard hide was a month old. Officials said the animal had died after being caught in a snare set up for wild boar poaching in the Mohana range of Gajapati district The accused allegedly dried the hide and kept it with them for several days before bringing it to Bhanjanagar Saturday in order to perform rituals for its sale. The hide was handed over to Pradhan for the rituals, but the suspects were arrested be fore it could be sold.

Forest authorities said a high-level inquiry has been launched into the case.

Labour Commissioner probes worker's death during pipeline laying

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonihar, August 31: Two days after a labourer was killed in a soil cave-in during slurry pipeline laying work of a company in Keonjhar district, the divisional labour commisioner conducted an inquiry Sunday. officials said. The deceased, identified as

Kartik Samant, 35, of East Midnapore in West Bengal, died after soil collapsed at the company's worksite at Hensabeda village under Bamebari police limits in Keonihar district.

He was engaged by a consultancy agency in the slurry pipeline laying work. Locals alleged the accident occurred due to negligence in safety measures.

Divisional Labour Commissioner Surya Narayan Mali visited the site and conducted an inquiry. Bamebari police IIC Jhasaketan Bhoi was also present.

According to the commissioner's preliminary findings, the cave-in was triggered by vibrations caused during the pipe-laying process. He said there was a clear lack of workplace safety measures at the site. Compensation will be provided to the worker's family under the

Employees' Compensation Act. Bhoi confirmed that the company has already given compensation to the family.



The pipeline is being laid to transport iron ores from the Sagasahi mines in Sundargarh district to a factory at Dubuna.

The incident occurred Friday afternoon after soil collapsed on the labourer while he was working about 8 feet underground during a pipeline welding operation.

According to witnesses, vibration while welding one pipeline to another caused loose soil from the upper side of the trench to cave in. The worker was buried under the debris and later declared dead at a hospital.

Following the incident, fellow workers staged a protest by placing the body in front of the factory gate, demanding compensation for the victim's family. The demonstration ended after assurances of compensation were given. Plant officials said the pipeline-laying work had been outsourced to a private contractor. The contractor described the incident as "deeply unfortunate" and pledged necessary support to the family. Labour leader Maheshwar Raut demanded strong police action against those responsible for negligence in taking safety measures.



PROMOTING SPORTS: Students take out a bicycle rally organised by the district administration to promote sports and games in Sambalpur, Sunday оррното

Man beaten to death by younger brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 31: A dispute over a salap tree went awry in Rudhichua village under Kasandi panchayat of Nandapur block in Koraput district as a man died after being assaulted by his younger brother Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as 38-year-old Jayaram Pangi. His wife, Mani, lodged a written complaint at Padua police station regarding the incident.

According to the complaint. Jayaram and his younger brother, 35-year-old Ram Pangi, quarreled over a salap tree

Rajnagar, August 31: In a bid

to prevent the influx of Ban-

gladeshi foreign nationals and

curb criminal activities along

the Odisha coast, the Talachua

Marine Police Sunday carried

out coastal surveillance using

Talachua Marine Police Sta-

tion, Bimal Kumar Mallick,

said the surveillance was con-

ducted following the detention

of a youth suspected to be a

The youth, who was appre-

hended by locals near the Gupti

ferry ghat Saturday, was found

According to locals, the sus-

pect spoke in a dialect distinct-

ly different from that of the

local Bengali-speaking popu-

in possession of a firearm.

Bangladeshi infiltrator.

Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of

drones in the Talachua sea.

PNN & AGENCIES

on their property August 22. In a fit of rage, Ram allegedly attacked Javaram with a wooden stick. Jayaram sustained head injuries and was receiving treatment at home.

As his condition worsened Saturday morning, his wife and Ram first took him to the Nandapur community health centre and later to the district hospital in Koraput. Doctors there referred him to Visakhapatnam due to the severity of his head injuries. However, the family brought him back home to prepare for the referral, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Following his wife's complaint, police registered a case (100/25). Padua PS Officer-In-Charge Ashok Kumar Bishoi, Nandapur PS Inspector Mamata Panda, Sub-Inspectors Hrushikesh Benia and Tuna Sabar, along with Surendra Sethi, reached Rudhichua village and seized the body.

The body has been kept at the Nandapur community health centre morgue. Ram has been detained for questioning. Police said a forensic team from the district headquarters will visit the village for further investigation Monday.

OIC issues notice to Keonjhar CDMO over Covid-19 data

Keonjhar/Hatadihi: The Odisha Information Commission has issued a notice to the Chief District Medical d-19 under the Right to Information no. 502/2021, directed its assistant 22. The hearing is scheduled for both the public information officer and the first appellate authority the cannot attend for any urgent reason another officer with knowledge of the case and authority to respond to November 17, 2020, when an RTI application was filed seeking details about funds allocated to Keonihar district for Covid-19 management by the state government and district tion was not provided, the applicant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, August 31: A horrific murder took place Sunday afternoon in Kenalpada Khutman Bhera village under the Dharmabandha police station in Nuapada Sadar block. A man brutally hacked his wife to death with an axe. The deceased has been identified as Tirita Kamar, 40. The police have arrested the accused husband, Santosh Kamar, 44.

According to reports, Santosh had gone out for some work and returned home around 5pm. An argument broke out between him and his wife, during which Santosh, in a fit of rage, struck Tirita with an axe. The blow to her neck proved fatal as she died on the spot. After the incident, Santosh attempted to flee, but the villagers apprehended him and tied him up with ropes.

Upon receiving information, the Dharmabandha police arrived at the scene, seized the body and the axe and arrested Santosh. Police have launched an investigation into the matter. The body will be handed over to the family after a post-mortem at the Nuapada district head quarters hospital Monday, according to the station officer, Tankagiri Bhoi.

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡ଼ା, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ

Man axes wife to death

ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ସାହି ଓ ରାସ୍ତା ସଫା ରଖିବା ସହ ପରିବେଶ ପରିଷ୍କାର ରଖନ୍ତୁ । ଘରର ସମସ୍ତ ଓଦା ଓ ଶୁଖିଲା ଅଳିଆକୁ ପୃଥକ୍ ଭାବେ ପରିଷଦର ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ବାହନ ଗାଡିରେ ଦିଅନ୍ତ । ବାହ୍ୟ ମଳତ୍ୟାଗ କରନ୍ତ ନାହିଁ । ସେପଟିକ୍ ଟ୍ୟାଙ୍କର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଏବଂ ପତି ୩ ବର୍ଷରେ ଥରେ ସେପଟିକ୍ ଟ୍ୟାଙ୍କକୁ ପରିଷଦର Cesspool ବାହନ (ଦେୟ ୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା) ଦ୍ୱାରା ସଫା ରଖବା । ନିର୍ମାଣ ଏବଂ ଭଗ୍ନାବଶେଷ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବୟୁ (C&D) ସଂଗ୍ରହ ଏବଂ ପରି ବହନ ବାବଦରେ ପରିଷଦରେ ୧୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଜିମା କରିବା । ପୁାଷ୍ଟିକ ଓ ପଲିଥିନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରରୁ ନାହିଁ । ଗଛଟିଏ ଲଗାରୁ ଓ ପରିବେଶକୁ ବଆରୁ । ସ୍ଥ ସୋରଡା ଓ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସହାୟକ ହୁଅନୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ଉମେଶ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ସାହୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡା ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ଶିବ ଶଙ୍କର ପଣ୍ଡା

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡା

ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୁର ପୌର ପରିଷଦ,ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୁର

ହାର୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ କଣାଇବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୂର ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ସବୁଳ, ସୁନ୍ଦର, ପୁଦୂଷଣ ମୁକ୍ତ ଏବଂ ଏକ ଅଗୁଗାମୀ ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ରୂପେ ଗଢି ତୋଳିବା ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ଅକୁଶିତ ସହଯୋଗ ଅଛି I ନିବେଦନ: ୧. ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ଦେୟ ତଥା ଘର ଟିକସ, ଲାଇସେନ୍ସ ଫିସ ଏବଂ ଦୋକାନ

ଗୃହ ଭଡ଼ା ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ପଇଠ କରନ୍ତୁ । ୨. ଘରର ଅଳିଆ ଆବର୍ଚ୍ଚନା ଏଣେତେଶେ ନ ପକାଇ ପୌରପାଳିକା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଥିବା ଡଷ୍ଟବିନ୍ରେ ପକାନ୍ତୁ । ୩. ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରକୁ ଗୋରୁ, ଗାଈ ଓ ମଇଁଷି ଛାଡକୁ ନାହିଁ । ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ମୁକ୍ତ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରକୃ ୪. ସୁଲଭ ଶୌଚାଳୟ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରକୁ, ବାହାରେ ମଳତ୍ୟାଗ କରକୁ ନାହିଁ । ୫. ଜନ୍ମମୃତ୍ୟୁ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣ ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ କରାଇ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ । ୬. ଡେଙ୍ଗୁ, ମ୍ୟାଲେରିଆ ଓ ଡାଇରିଆ ପ୍ରବୃତିରେ ନିଜର ପରିବେଶକୁ ସଫାସୁଡୁରା ରଖିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ରୋଗଗୁଡିକ ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଦେଖାଦେଲେ ଡୁରନ୍ତ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସହିତ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ । ୭. ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରକୁ ଘରର ମଇଳା ପାଣି ଛାଡକୁ ନାହିଁ । ୮. ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ସମ୍ପଭି ଆପଣଙ୍କର ସମ୍ପଭି, ଏହାର ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କରକୁ । ୯. ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ପରିଷାର, ସଫାସୁତୁରା ରଖି ଏକ ସୁପ୍ଥ ପରିବେଶ ଗଠନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ସନ୍ଦୀପ ମିଶ୍ର ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୁର ପୌରପରିଷଦ

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ନିବେଦିତା ବାଗେ ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୁର ପୌର ପରିଷଦ

ଶୀ ୟାସିର ବିଲାଲ ଅହନ୍ନଦ ବୀରମିତ୍ରପୁର ପୌର ପରିଷଦ

ଏବଂ ପରିଷଦର ସମୟ ସଭ୍ୟ ଓ ସଭ୍ୟା ବୃନ୍ଦ

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, BHUBANESWAR **INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement** No.77, Date:10475, Dt.26.8.25

Bid Identification No.C.C. (R&B) 01 e-Procurement Notice No.(41) of 2025-26									
No.B-457:The Superintending Engineer (R&B) Division No.I, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of									
Odisha invites percentage rate bids for single cover system (online) for works as detailed in table below.									
SI. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Estimated cost put to Tender (Rs. in Lakh)		Cost of Bid Document		Period of Completion			
	S/R to Both side Daya West Canal Road for the Year 2025-26 (such as repair and restoration of road with BM and SDBC in stretches from Ch. 0/000 to 3/500 Km).		Rs.42,190/-	Rs.6,000/- Online	B Class Only	01 (One) Calendar Month			

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. The website for "ONLINE BIDDING" is http://tendersorissa.gov.in. Bid documents will be available in the above website from 11.00 A.M. of 02.09.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 08.09.2025. Bids of the above work shall be opened at 12.30 P.M. of 09.09.2025. The Bidder must possess matching class compatible Digital Signa ture Certificate (DSC). Further details and other terms and conditions can be seen from DTCN in the e-Procurement website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. N.B.: Subsequent corrigendum/ addendum if required shall be available in the website as Sd./- Er. Prabhudatta Pradhan

Superintending Engineer, BBSR (R&B) Division No.I, Bhubaneswar OIPR-34076/11/0028/2526

lation, raising suspicion about his Bangladeshi origin. The IIC further informed that of Bangladesh.

Police launch drone surveillance

to check Bangladeshi infiltrators



the drone footage would be examined to ascertain whether trawlers at the jetties were carrying passengers beyond capacity or if any unlawful activities were taking place along the coast.

As per district administration reports, Bangladeshi infiltrators often enter Kendrapara through sea routes, particularly between May and September, to engage in the lucrative prawn trade near coastal areas.

Most of them are believed to come from Jshore. Khulna. Barisal, and Faridpur districts

Officer (CDMO) of Keonjhar for failing to provide information related to Cov Act.The commission, acting on appeal legal officer to issue the notice August September 23. According to the notice. CDMO cum PHO (Public Health Officer) must appear in person with relevant records. It also states that if the CDMO may be deputed. The case dates back administration, expenditures incurred, the number of Covid hospitals opened, their management responsibilities, and related spending. When the informafiled a first appeal December 18, 2020, and later a second appeal with the

commission February 8, 2021, after no

satisfactory response.



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

THE MOTHER



Endless Drift

ver 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

WISDOM CORNER

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

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

Joy can only be real if people look upon their life as a service

and have a definite object in life outside themselves and

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

their personal happiness.

- **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)
- 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 Ger-
- man 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

ical juncture: it must accelerate economic growth while meeting its climate commitments. Estimates of the country's climate-financing needs have ranged from \$160 billion to \$288 billion annually through 2030, but these top-down figures rely on broad assumptions and often fail to reflect sector-specific realities.

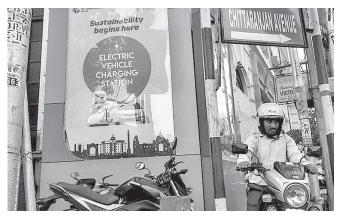
In a recent study, we take a different approach, using a bottom-up methodology to provide a more accurate estimate of India's climate-finance requirements. We focus on four of the country's highest-emitting sectors: power, steel, cement, and road transport. Importantly, our study measures only the additional capital expenditure required to fund climate mitigation, over and above the investments already expected under a business-as-usual scenario.

We estimate that these four sectors will require a total of \$467 billion in climate finance by 2030, averaging \$54 billion annually, or roughly 1.3 per cent of India's GDP. This figure is significantly lower than the hundreds of billions of dollars per year suggested by earlier studies.

Although much of the climate debate, both globally and in India, has focused on the costs of the energy transition, our study shows that India's climate-finance needs are relatively modest. Between 2023 and 2030, the additional capital expenditure required in the power sector is estimated at \$57 billion: \$47 billion for shifting from fossil fuels to renewables and \$10 billion for pumped hydro and battery storage.

Our projections are significantly lower than those in many other studies, primarily because the per-unit cost of renewable capacity has fallen below that of coal-based plants. Today, building a solar power plant costs about half as much as a coal-based facility, while setting up a wind farm costs roughly one-third.

India's steel and cement industries face far greater climate-finance requirements:



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

\$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 financ-

ing 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,

the Reserve Bank of India will need to manage external climate finance very carefully. To absorb the required inflows without jeopardizing financial stability, the government could raise the current-account deficit to around 2.5 per cent of GDP. The remaining funding gap would have to be bridged domestically, primarily by boosting the national savings rate to avoid crowding out other sectors.

The steel, cement, and road transport sectors are largely privately controlled, but a significant share of the power sector remains under public ownership. Consequently, while it will largely fall on the private sector to finance India's energy transition, government support will be crucial. By providing subsidies, targeted tax breaks, and a clear regulatory framework, policymakers could reduce risks and encourage private investment in EV charging infrastructure.

Further complicating matters, India's fiscal capacity is severely constrained. With government debt at 82.6 per cent of GDP, fiscal consolidation is imperative; long-term stability hinges on nominal GDP growth significantly outpacing interest rates. Against this backdrop, mobilizing large-scale public funding for climate action will be particularly difficult.

Yet 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. Doing so will demand coordinated, well-crafted policies that sustain growth while advancing decarbonization.

Rakesh Mohan, a former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is President Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress. Janak Rai is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress.

SPECTRUM

Rakesh Mohan &

FINDING THE

THE BIGGEST

OBSTACLE;

THE REAL

MONEY IS NOT

CHALLENGE LIES

IN RECONCILING

WITH COMPETING

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITIES LIKE

DEVELOPMENT

CAPACITY

EXPANSION

AND INDUSTRIAL

THE ENERGY

TRANSITION

COMMERCE

Shrimps, tariffs, fragile coastal economies



Charudutta Panigrahi

INDIA'S OVERDEPENDENCE ON THE US MARKET **FOR SHRIMP EXPORTS REFLECTS** A BROADER LACK OF **DIVERSIFICATION IN** TRADE STRATEGY

the recent imposition of a 50 per cent (actual impact is about 60 per cent) tariff on Indian shrimp exports by the United States part of a broader retaliatory framework linked to India's energy trade with Russia—has wreaked a critical fault line in India's export architecture. While the headline impact is economic, the deeper consequences are strategic, structural, and human.

India exported approximately \$5 billion worth of shrimp in FY25, with the US accounting for nearly 48 per cent of that volume. Odisha, a key contributor to this figure, now faces a projected 60 per cent contraction in viable exports. The tariff hike—stacked atop existing anti-dumping and countervailing duties—has rendered Indian shrimp uncompetitive, with total levies nearing 60 per cent. Export volumes are expected to fall by 15-18 per cent, and revenues by up to 20 per cent.

This is not merely a trade disruption. It is a systemic shock to a sector that sustains millions of livelihoods, particularly small-holding farmers and women in processing units. These actors operate on thin margins, with high upfront costs for land lease, feed, aeration, and biosecurity. The inability to pass on tariff burdens to buyers has triggered a collapse in farm-gate prices, eroding operating margins to a decadal low of 5-5.5 per cent.

India's overdependence on the US market for shrimp exports reflects a broader lack of diversification in trade strategy. Alternative markets-Europe, China, Russia-offer limited scale, fragmented demand, and lower margins. Ecuador, by contrast, enjoys a mere 10 per cent tariff and is poised to capture displaced US demand. India's competitive disadvantage is not just tariff-based—it is structural. Moreover, domestic con-

sumption remains negligi-

ble at 400g per capita annually. This internal weakness compounds external shocks, leaving producers with few buffers. The sector's exposure to geopolitical riskwithout adequate hedging mechanisms—underscores the need for a more resilient export framework.

To mitigate the crisis and build long-term resilience, India must pursue a multipronged strategy:

Trade Diplomacy: Engage in targeted negotiations to secure tariff relief or preferential access through bilateral and multilateral channels

Domestic Market Development: Launch nationwide campaigns to boost seafood consumption, supported by cold-chain infrastructure and culinary integration.

Financial Interventions: Provide soft loans, export credit facilities, and freight subsidies to offset immediate losses and prevent mass defaults.

Export Diversification: Op-

erationalize FTAs and PTAs with the UK, EU, and East Asia to reduce dependency on any single market.

Value Addition and Compliance: Invest in processing capabilities and certification support to enhance competitiveness in premium segments.

This tariff shock is a wakeup call—not just for the seafood sector, but for India's broader export strategy. It reveals the fragility of coastal economies, the precarity of small producers, and the urgency of structural reform. Odisha's shrimp farmers are not just economic actors—they are custodians of a legacy. Their survival depends not on sentiment, but on strategic foresight.

India must respond—not with reactive subsidies, but with a reimagined trade architecture that balances global ambition with local resilience.

The writer is an author, researcher. and cultural strategist.

Beyond optics

are most welcome to contribute letters requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

Sir, This refers to "Diplomatic delusion," Orissa POST, Aug 31. The personalized diplomacy pursued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump remains a subject of nuanced debate in India's foreign policy discourse. Modi's overt camaraderie with Trump—epitomized by the "Howdy Modi" extravaganza in Houston and the reciprocal "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad—was framed as a strategic investment in leveraging personal rapport to advance India's interests in Washington. Supporters argue that Modi's approach succeeded in keeping India visible at the highest levels of American politics, bolstering cooperation in defense, counterterrorism, and energy. Yet, the pitfalls of personality-driven diplomacy are equally evident. Trump's mercurial temperament, his penchant for transactional bargaining, and his unpredictable tariff measures often left India exposed to sudden policy swings. Moreover, Modi's visible alignment with Trump risked narrowing bipartisan goodwill in Washington, traditionally one of New Delhi's strongest diplomatic assets. In hindsight, Modi's personalized diplomacy was both audacious and precarious—a gamble that reaped visibility but also vulnerability. It underscores the reality that while leader-to-leader chemistry can lubricate diplomacy, enduring bilateral ties demand institutional depth beyond the optics of personal bonhomie. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Obesity crisis

Sir, A recent report released by The Lancet paints an alarming picture on obesity in India with 21.8 crore men and 23.1 crore women likely to be overweight or obese by 2050. India has been facing a growing obesity crisis over the last some years with alarming statistics. The need for targeted public health policies and practical interventions has never been more critical than at present in combating the obesity epidemic in India. As the diabetes capital, India is burdened with the additional challenge of obesity. To combat the issue, it is important to prioritize eating less, opting for healthier choices, and incorporating more physical activity into one's routine. As we explore the causes behind the alarming rise in obesity, it becomes clear that lifestyle changes, dietary shifts, and socio-economic factors - all play pivotal roles. Understanding these underlying causes is the first step in addressing this health crisis and finding sustainable solutions for the future.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES



REACH FOR THE STARS

Tripura's remote school

opens space edu library



Sharada Bhawani temple reopens in Budgam after 30 yrs

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 sav 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 Mata 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-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kumarghat (Tripura), Au-

gust 31: Aiming to inspire the

next generation of scientists.

a space education library has

been set up at a school in Tri

pura's remote Unakoti district.

Darlong Para High School fea-

tures 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-record-

ed lectures on space science are

"Our main objective is to cre

ate facilities so that students in

remote tribal areas can visual

ise India's progress -- from car-

rving rockets on bicycles to the

present human missions. We

want to fuel interest in space

education and help it gain mo-

mentum," said Sudip Bhowmik,

also played for the students.

The library in East Raitwisa

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 ma ny 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, approxi mately 50 were destroyed, 140 were severely damaged, and the remaining houses suf fered partial damage, the offi cial spokesman mentioned, as Deputy Commissioner Kisht war 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 se verely affected Margi village, Sharma directed the Revenue Department, SDRF, and other teams to prioritise the clear ing 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 com missioner instructed the De partment of Food, Civil Sup plies & Consumer Affairs to provide a month's worth of rations to the affected fami lies 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 Horticul ture 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 spokes man said.

Responding to public de mands, 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.

Sartang. In Kibithoo, village schools have introduced 'language days' where children

must greet and converse in 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

ment portfolios, said the state

government is committed to language preservation. Mein said that third languages have been introduced

Despite official support,

For elders like Bai, Phinya

Glacial lake outburst threat looms over Kishtwar: Report

(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.

cially vulnerable due to their 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

killing 65 people and injuring

The report underlined that critical infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, and government buildings in these tehsils are "at considerable risk". Hydroelectric projects under CVPPL Limited, including the Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, and Dangduru, are also susceptible to high risks. It highlights major vulnerabilities across lake outburst floods.

The report highlighted significant ecological concerns

"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 -- Mundiksar and Hangu -- have been clas-

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

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 sci-

ence." 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 class room 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 panchavat), 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.

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

"These regions are espe-

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

four tehsils of the Kishtwar dissified as high-risk, while District Planning and Developtrict due to the threat of glacial Palta Pani and another unment Council funds specifically for GLOF preparedness. named lake have been cate-

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 organisation of the state, will conduct

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.

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-yearold 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 vil-

lages 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 popu-

lation 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-vear-old Bugun woman Sarita Phinya still recalls the wedding chants she learned as

"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 Esnam 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 es-

tablishment 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 as per the Research Department's records. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, who holds the Finance, Planning and Invest

in schools across districts to foster love for mother tongues.

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.

and Meyor, the struggle is not just linguistic but existential.



national



The home minister is solely coming here to assess the situation in the aftermath of the heavy rains and flash floods and look at our requirement from the Centre (to cope with the crisis). He has no other purpose, and he is not coming for security or development review

INDIA LOOKS AT SEALING 2 MEGA SUBMARINE DEALS

India is likely to seal two mega submarine deals worth over ₹1 lakh crore by the middle of next year to crank up its undersea warfare capabilities against the backdrop of China's increasing naval prowess, authoritative sources said Sunday



Baat' is not a political event. People across the world discuss how a Prime Minister reaches out to the people over

a radio programme MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

Buying local products will give a push to the 'Vocal for Local' campaign BHAJANLAL SHARMA

RAJASTHAN CM



intellect who removes obstacles in one's life. It is a privilege for me to visit the city during the Ganesh festival J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT **TAKES**

TV journalist shot in **Manipur's Senapati**

Imphal/Guwahati: A TV journalist was shot in Manipur's Senapati district, where he went to cover a flower festival, police said Sunday, Deep Saikia, a journalist of the Nagaland-based Hornbill TV, received gunshot wounds on his armpits and legs, they said. The incident happened Saturday evening in Laii village of the Naga-dominated district, where Saikia was covering the Zinnia flower festival, they added. The gunman was caught along with an air gun by the locals and handed over to the police, officials said.

Indore-bound AI plane returns to Delhi airport

New Delhi: An Indore-bound Air India plane made an emergency landing in the national capital on Sunday after being airborne for over 30 minutes as the pilot received a "fire indication' in the right engine of the aircraft, according to sources. One engine of the A320 neo aircraft was shut down and the plane landed safely at the Delhi airport, Air India said.

Bengal minister escapes unhurt

Kolkata: West Bengal Panchayat and Rural **Development Minister Pradip** Majumdar Sunday afternoon narrowly escaped injury after his car was hit by a speeding lorry near Domjur in Howrah district, police said. The incident occurred on National Highway 16, when the minister was travelling from Dankuni towards Kolkata.

CM Sukhu reviews flood situation in HP

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Sunday reviewed the situation in the state and the damage caused by incessant rainfall and directed the chief secretary to accelerate rescue and relief operations. He said ensuring the safety of people remains the topmost priority of the state government, according to an official statement.

Decomposed body of woman found

Sahibganj (Jharkhand): The decomposed body of a 50-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped was found in Jharkhand's arrested after the son of the deceased woman lodged a complaint with the Barhait throttled to death, a senior officer said.

India set for wetter September No motor vehicle

New Delhi, August 31: India is likely to receive above-normal rainfall in September, capping a season that has already seen several disasters triggered by heavy downpours in many parts of the country.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Sunday that the monthly average rainfall in September is expected to be more than 109 per cent of the long-period average of 167.9 mm.

The forecast suggests most regions will get normal to above-normal rainfall, while some parts of the northeast and east, many areas of extreme south peninsular India and pockets of northwest India are likely to record below-normal rain.

Addressing an online press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra warned that heavy rainfall in September may trigger landslides and flash floods in Uttarakhand and could disrupt normal life in south Haryana, Delhi and north Rajasthan.

Mohapatra said there is a slight increasing trend in September rainfall since 1980, barring less rainfall in the month in 1986, 1991, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2015 and 2019. India received 743.1 mm of rainfall between June 1 and August 31, about 6 per cent above the long-period average of 700.7 mm, IMD data show. June rainfall was 180

U'KHAND LANDSLIDE

power house

Pithoragarh, August 31:

Nineteen employees of Nation-

al Hydroelectric Power Corpo-

ration Limited (NHPC) were

trapped inside a power house

for hours Sunday as a landslide

blocked normal and emergency

tunnels of Dhauliganga Pow-

er Project in Uttarakhand's

rescued by the administration

mal and emergency tunnels of

the 280 MW power project in the Ealagarh area near Dharchula

here in the district was blocked

due to a landslide caused by

that a joint team of the district

administration, State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF) and

Border Roads Organisation

(BRO) started rescue and re-

lief operations. He said that all

the 19 officers and employees

trapped inside have been evac-

uated and are safe. Landslides

in the area are being continu-

ously monitored and necessary

steps are being taken to ensure

people's safety Earlier, Depu-

ty District Magistrate Jitendra

Verma said that JCB machines

of the BRO and a haulage com-

pany were deployed to clear

the debris. He said that pow-

er generation was not affected

due to the landslide of the res-

Pithoragarh District Magistrate Vinod Goswami said

heavy rains.

However, all of them were

The path leading to the nor-

Pithoragarh, officials said.

by the evening, they said.

19 workers

trapped in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A red alert has been issued for very heavy to extremely heavy rains in four to six districts of Himachal Pradesh from Sunday to Tuesday and cautioned of landslides, flash floods, land subsidence, water-logging and swelling of water bodies

mm, around 9 per cent above normal, with large surpluses in northwest and central India. July brought 294.1 mm, around 5 per cent above normal, led by a 22 per cent surplus in central India. August added 268.1 mm. 5.2 per cent above normal.

Mohapatra said Northwest India recorded 265 mm of rainfall in August, the highest for the month since 2001 and the

13th highest since 1901.

The region has experienced above normal rainfall in all three months of the monsoon season so far. Cumulatively, northwest India has received 614.2 mm of rain between June 1 and August 31. about 27 per cent higher than the normal of 484.9 mm.

South Peninsular India recorded 250.6 mm of rainfall in August, about 31 per cent above

normal, making it the third highest for the month since 2001 and the eighth highest since 1901, according to the IMD.

Cumulatively, the region received 607.7 mm of rain between June 1 and August 31 against the normal of 556.2 mm, a surplus of 9.3 per cent. Mohapatra said unusually high rainfall in northwest India was triggered by strong interactions between western disturbances and monsoonal low-pressure systems. He said that low-pressure sys tems from the Bay of Bengal, instead of following their usual path through Odisha, moved across Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh or via north Andhra Pradesh. south Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. The heavy downpour in northwest India resulted in one of the worst floods in Punjab in decades, with swollen rivers and breached canals inundating thousands of hectares of farmland and displacing lakhs of people. In the Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir, repeated cloudbursts and flash floods triggered landslides and caused widespread damage to life and property.

He said the IMD has not found any increasing trend in incidents of cloudbursts. However, he said, a study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology shows an increasing trend in mini cloudbursts, defined as rainfall of 5 cm or more in an hour.

tax if not used in public place: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature and if a vehicle is not used or not kept for use in a 'public place', then its owner should not be burdened with motor vehicle tax for such period, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan delivered its verdict on an appeal challenging a December 2024 judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

"Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature. It has a direct nexus with the end use. The rationale for levy of motor vehicle tax is that a person who is using public infrastructure, such as, roads, highways etc. has to pay for such usage," the apex court said.

Referring to section 3 of The Andhra Pradesh Motor

Vehicle Taxation Act, 1963, the bench said the legislature has consciously used the expression 'public place' in this provision. Section 3 of the Act deals with levy of tax on motor vehicles. "If a motor vehicle is not

used in a 'public place' or not kept for use in a 'public place' then the person concerned is not deriving benefit from the public infrastructure; therefore, he should not be burdened with the motor vehicle tax for such period," the top court said in its judgement delivered on August 29. It said section 3 of the Act

is the charging provision and it authorises the state government to impose tax on motor vehicles. The bench said the taxable event under section 3 is when a vehicle is used or kept for use in a 'public place'

The top court said when ad-

the appellant firm in this case were confined for use within the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) premises which is a closed area, then question of the vehicles being used or kept for being used in a 'public place' does not arise.

the motor vehicles in question were used or kept for use only within the restricted premises of RINL which was not a 'public place'. "Therefore, the said vehicles are not liable to be taxed for the

The bench said in this case,

period the said vehicles were used or kept for use within the restricted premises of RINL," it said, while allowing the appeal The bench delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a

firm engaged in the business of providing logistic support since 1985. It noted the firm was award-

ed a contract in November 2020 for handling and storage of iron and steel materials at central dispatch yard within Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh, a corporate entity of RINL.

The bench said the company deployed 36 motor vehicles for plying within the central dispatch yard premises.

The firm told the apex court that the central dispatch yard was enclosed by compound walls and ingress and egress was regulated through gates where Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel were deployed and no member of public has any right to access it.

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

Tribals to be kept out of ambit of proposed UCC, says Rijiju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Sunday said the tribal population of the northeast and other areas of the country will be kept out of the ambit of the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) so that they can live their lives "freely" according to their systems.

Speaking at an event organised by RSS-affiliate Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram here, he clarified the Union government's stand on the issue, saying that "some people create a bizarre atmosphere on social media these days and build a narrative" against the Centre. Rijiju, however, did not mention anybody's name.

"Being a Union minister, I want to share the stand of our government. Our government and party (BJP) think about (bringing) a Uniform Civil Code in the country as per the Constitution. When criminal law is equal for all, why should the civil law also not be (equal for everyone)," the minister said. "But we have clearly said that tribals will be exempted from this. Let adivasis be given freedom to live in their own way. This (UCC) will not be implemented in Schedule 6, Schedule 5, the northeast and other tribal areas in the country," the minister added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 31: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati Sunday said her party will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections on its own and has finalised a roadmap for its organisational programmes after two days of high-level re-

view meetings. In a post on X, Mayawati said, "Discussions were held with senior office-bearers on the selection of candidates and overall preparedness for the polls due in the next few months." She said that programmes such as party vatras and public meetings, scheduled to begin early next month, will



be conducted under her direct supervision. Special responsibility for these initiatives has been given to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national coordinator Akash Anand, Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Gautam and the party's

Mayawati had March 2 expelled her nephew, Akash Anand from all party posts but after he issued a public apology, she took him back in April and a month later appointed him as the party's

chief national coordinator. The BSP chief said party functionaries were instructed to rectify shortcomings and work with full dedication to deliver better results in Bihar

Citing the party's preparations in Bihar along with the rapidly changing political conditions and electoral equations in the state, BSP leaders assured the party chief in the meeting that it would bring better results in the upcoming elections.

Gallstones rising in kids; docs stress early detection

In a surprising shift in pediatric health trends, hospitals and clinics across India are reporting a steady rise in cases of gallstones among children, experts said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Once considered an adult ailment, gallstones are increasingly affecting children across India, prompting paediatricians to call for greater awareness and preventive care.

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.

Gallstones are solid deposits that form in the gallbladder, often composed of cholesterol or hilirubin. While many cases remain asymptomatic, they can cause intense abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and digestive distress when they obstruct bile flow.

"We're seeing a clear increase in pediatric gallstone cases, especially in urban centres," said Dr Shandip Kumar Sinha, the director of pediatric surgery and pediatric urology at Mednata-The Medicity in Guru-



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

semia, he said.

According to Dr Sinha, the condition is often overlooked due to its vague symptoms. "Children may complain of stomach aches or refuse food, and parents assume it's a routine digestive issue. But persistent or recurring pain in the upper abdomen should never be

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 saturated fats.

Dr Raman Kumar, Chairman, Academy of Family Physicians of India, emphasised the importance of timely diagnosis.

In symptomatic cases and in children with complications, laparoscopic cholecystectomy is the standard procedure. However, complexities arise in asymptomatic children, where an ultrasound has been done for non-specific symptoms and gallstones are diagnosed.

According to Dr Sinha, watchful waiting or surgery are the options for asymptomatic children.

Dr Sinha added that laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a minimally invasive procedure to for children and often results in quick recovery. Paediatricians are now ad-

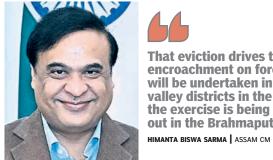
remove the gallbladder, is safe

vocating for greater awareness among parents, schools, and community health workers. Key preventive measures in clude encouraging a balanced diet rich in fibre, fruits, and vegetables and limiting intake of junk food, sugary beverages, and saturated fats.

They are also promoting regular physical activity and reducing screen time and routine health check-ups, especially for children with a family history of gallstones or metabolic disorders "This is a wake-up call for all of us," said Dr Sinha.



national



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

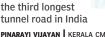
The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will launch a dedicated portal to provide faster, transparent and easily-accessible welfare services to its personnel from September 1

CISF TO LAUNCH DEDICATED





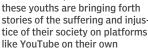
With the completion of this project, it will become the longest tunnel road in Kerala and the third longest tunnel road in India



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







RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER





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

BTC polls: BJP, UPPL, **AGP name candidates**

President's office said.

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 postmortem and family members have been informed," SSP (Gaya) Ramanand Kumar Kaushal said.

Congress slams Modi-Xi meet

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 bullving and the "government's spine-

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 eves" to China and said national interest and not photo-op diplomacy should govern the

Shah launches

Gujarat govt's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

related service.

'Dial 112' project

Gandhinagar, August 31:

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah Sunday launched the

Guiarat government's 'Dial 112

Emergency Response Support

System (ERSS)' and said it was

an important step towards new

age smart policing system as a

unified number will be avail-

able for any kind of security

The Dial 112 service will free

the people of Gujarat from dif-

ferent types of toll free num-

bers such as 100 for police, 108

for ambulance, 101 for fire,

181 for women's help, 1058 for

child helpline, and 1070 and

1077 for disaster, which used

Shah also said in the 11

years of the Narendra Modi

government, India has given

a strong message to the world

that it will go to any extent to

government's commitment

to eradicate Naxalism by

The BJP government, un-

der the then chief minister

Narendra Modi, worked to

make Gujarat, one of the

most sensitive border states

of the country, an impene-

trable fortress, something

which was neglected by erst-

while Congress governments,

government's Dial 112 Inte-

grated ERSS, dedicated Jan

Rakshak vehicles and Rs

217 crore worth residential

and non residential housing

units of Police Housing Cor-

"The integration of all these

(emergency) services through

a sophisticated software-op-

erated, ultra-modern control

room, and the GPS-equipped

vehicles tracking the caller's

location and scientifically

sending information to the

nearest ambulance, is an

important step taken by the

Gujarat government in the

direction of new age smart

policing," Shah said.

He launched the Gujarat

Shah also reiterated his

protect its citizens.

March 31, 2026.

Shah said.

to confuse them, Shah said.

bilateral relationship. In his meeting with President Xi on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation 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 incharge 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 Galway 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 gi-

gantic 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

MARATHA Jarange threatens to give up water

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 govern-

ment 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 Radhakrish na 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 Patil said Advocate General Biren Saraf and retired HC judge Sandeep Shinde told the panel that they would require time to study whether the Hyderabad and Satara gazetteers can be implemented as demanded by Jarange.

"I will meet Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and apprise him of the deliberations the sub-committee had. There is a Supreme Court observation regarding the recognition of Marathas as Kunbis. We cannot override the SC observations (that Marathas and Kunbis are not the same). We are open to discussions as a solution needs to be found,' he said.

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 Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

A day earlier, the quota leader refused to soften his stand after a delegation led by retired HC judge Sandeep Shinde met him.

As political charges flew thick and fast, Maratha protesters blocked the car of NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule after she met Jarange at his protest venue, and raised slogans against

Over 7K cases probed by CBI pending in courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: As many as 7,072 corruption cases probed by the CBI were pending trial in different courts, with 379 of them for over 20 years, according to the latest annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

Of the total cases, 1,506 were pending for less than three years, 791 for more than three vears and up to five years, and 2.115 for more than five years and up to 10 years, as December 31, 2024, it said. A total of 2,281 such corruption cases were pending trial for more than 10 vears and up to 20 years, and 379 for more than 20 years, said the report made public recently by the anti-corruption watchdog.

According to the report, as many as 13,100 appeals/revi sions, filed by the Central Bu reau of Investigation (CBI) and by the accused, were pending in different high courts and the Supreme Court. Of these, 606 were pending for more than 20 years, 1,227 for more than 15 years but less than 20 years. 2.989 for more than 10 years but less than 15 years, 4,059 for more than five years but less than 10 years, 1,778 for more than two years but less than five years and 2,441 for less than two years, it said.

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

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

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

Latest party craze has no couples, just celebrations

Cong submitted 89L plaints 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. Separate ly, 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.

FAKE WEDDING, REAL FUN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Décor? Tick. Mehndi, music and mad dancing? Of course. Lavish buffet? That too. Baraatis? Yes. Bride and groom? Err... no. Not necessary at all.

Welcome to the new world of partying in urban India. With the band, baaja, baraat in place, these big fat Indian 'weddings' are as fun as they can be - sans family fuss and an actual couple entering into matrimony. The faux wedding theme has become all the craze with the urban young and maybe not so young too grooving their way through commitment free

"It's about letting guests dress up, dance, eat, and play the part -- purely for the joy of it," said Nishant Kumar, founder of Tahia, a rooftop restaurant

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 irresistible 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 wed-

dings 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 experi-

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. "Ra tatouille" 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 fan-"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 addi tion to our core focus, which is showcasing music and art ists 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



international



plead **God to stop the** pandemic of arms large and small, which infects our

PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION

An Indian non-profit working for education of out-ofschool 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



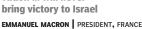


country for people who seek to divide and undermine our socia cohesion. Nothing could be less Australian TONY BURKE | MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, AUSTRALIA

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



SHORT **TAKES**

Norway to buy fleet of **British-made frigates**

Oslo: The Norwegian government said Sunday that it plans to buy a fleet of Britishmade 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 longrunning Houthi crackdown against the United Nations and other international organisations working in rebel-held areas in Yemen.

SCO bears greater responsibilities: Xi

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 Livuan, 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

Jerusalem, August 31: Israel

is considering annexation in

the occupied West Bank as a

possible response to France and

other countries recognising a

Palestinian state, according to

three Israeli officials and the

idea will be discussed further

Extension of Israeli sover-

eignty to the West Bank - de

facto annexation of land cap-

tured in the 1967 Middle East

war - was on the agenda for

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's security cabinet

meeting late Sunday that is ex-

pected to focus on the Gaza war,

a member of the small circle of

It is unclear where precisely

any such measure would be ap-

plied and when, whether only

in Israeli settlements or some of

them, or in specific areas of the

West Bank like the Jordan Val-

lev and whether any concrete

steps, which would likely entail

a lengthy legislative process,

in the West Bank would likely

draw widespread condemna-

tion from the Palestinians,

who seek the territory for a fu-

ture state, as well as Arab and

Western countries. It is unclear

where US President Donald

would follow discussions. Any step toward annexation

ministers said.

Sunday, another official said.

REUTERS

organisation this year, has invited 20 foreign leaders and 10 heads of international organisa-

tions, including the UN Secre-

tary 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

global

annexation

condemnation

Follows pledges

Palestinian state

by several

recognise

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

Netanyahu's office did not

immediately respond to a re-

quest for comment on whether

the prime minister supports

A past pledge by Netanyahu

to annex Jewish settlements

and the Jordan Valley was

scrapped in 2020 in favour of

normalising ties with the Unit-

ed Arab Emirates and Bahrain

in the so-called Abraham Ac-

cords brokered by Trump in

court in 2024 said that Israel's

occupation of Palestinian ter-

ritories, including the West

Bank, and its settlements there

are illegal and should be with-

drawn as soon as possible.

The United Nations' highest

his first term in office.

annexation and if so, where.

countries to

Israel mulls West

Bank annexation

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 progress, making a greater contribution to boosting the unity and cooperation among member states, pooling the strength of the Global South and pushing for more progress of human civilisation

Founded in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has expanded from six founding members into a 26-nation family of 10 members, two observers and 14 dialogue partners spanning Asia, Europe and Africa.

With major emerging mar-

the world's population and a quarter of the global economy.

The Tianiin summit is the largest-ever annual summit of the group. Member states are expected to adopt key documents, including the organisation's development strategy for the next decade.

Prior to the summit, Xi held more than a dozen bilateral meetings with arriving leaders in Tianjin, including one with Modi.

Xi told the guests at the banquet that as an open and inclusive city, Tianjin serves as a pioneering zone for China's reform and opening-up, and hosting the summit here will undoubtedly inject new vitality into the sustainable development of the SCO.

Tianjin, regarded as one of China's high-tech cities, was totally deserted during the past few days, with residents either staying indoors or moving out temporarily.

Besides 20 foreign leaders, the city is also hosting over

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 un der control by the London Fire Brigade, which said no injuries were reported at the scene.

The Shree Sorathia Prajapat 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 sug gest that it was started deliber ately," 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 neigh bourhood officers discovered the fire while on regular patrol in the neighbourhood and alert ed 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 discov ered 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 re ceived around 14 calls about the fire, and its control officers mobilised six fire engines and around 40 firefighters from II ford, Barking, Stratford, Ley ton, Hainault and Romford fire stations to the scene.

kets and developing countries 3000 journalists descended on such as China, Russia and Inthis from all over China and dia among its members, the

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

I rump vows to mandate voter

Washington, August 31: US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will issue an executive order to require voter identification from every voter.

TIONS! I Will Be Doing An Executive Order To That End!!!," Trump said on Truth Social. "Also, No Mail-In Voting, Ex-

Every Single Vote, NO EXCEP-

"Voter I.D. Must Be Part of

cept 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 far less accurate than machine counting.

Earlier in August, Trump pledged to issue an executive order to end the use of mail-in ballots and voting machines ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. However, federal elections are administered at the state level and it is unclear whether the president has the constitutional power to enact such a measure.

The November 3, 2026, elections will be the first nation wide referendum on Trump's domestic and foreign policies since he returned to power in January. Democrats will be seeking to break the Republicans' grip on both the House of Representatives and the Sen ate to block Trump's domestic

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 coun-

Overseas travel to the US fell 3.1% year-on-year in July to 19.2 million visitors, according to US 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



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

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

Deadly stirs force Indonesia to take U-turn on lawmakers' perks

REUTERS

Jakarta, August 31: Indonesian political parties have agreed to cut lawmakers' benefits. President Prabowo Subianto said Sunday, in a bid to calm anti-government protests that have killed at least five people in the country's worst violence in decades.

Protests began Monday over what demonstrators called excessive pay and housing allowances for parliamentarians, escalating into riots on Friday after a motorcycle rideshare driver was killed during police action at a protest site.

Homes of political party

members and state buildings were ransacked or set ablaze, shaking investor confidence in the Southeast Asian economy and triggering a steep selloff on its stocks and currency markets Friday

Looters broke into a house owned by Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati outside the capital Jakarta overnight, state news agency Antara re ported on Sunday. She was not in the house at the time and it was not clear if she uses the property often.

More protests are planned for Monday, and student groups did not call them off after Prabowo's announcement.

business



ployment-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

There are certain em-

ANURADHA THAKUR

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)



describing today, is a sweet spot. We merce is all about things, and groceries

minute deliveries, which is very perfect for impulse buys, urgent

ABHISHEK CHAKRABORTY CEO, DTDC EXPRESS



broadens access, and strengthens purchasing power at the right time

SAAHIL GOEL | MD AND CEO, SHIPROCKET





sectors like textiles, leather and automotive components ADESUWA LADOJA |

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, LFZ

SHORT **TAKES**

Hyundai's Nexo **SUV sales hit**

Seoul: Hyundai Motor said Sunday that sales of its facelifted 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 Flectronics, 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 largescreen models, including Neo OLED 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

India pushes rice exports to Philippines

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

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,

trade fair, and International Rice Conference October 30-31 Further, the CIS (Common-

wealth of Independent States) region continues to be a significant export destination for India's agricultural and processed food products

During 2023-24, exports to the CIS stood at \$480 million, which increased to \$628 million in 2024-25, reflecting a strong upward trend.

Russia, being a major trading partner within the CIS, plays a pivotal role in this growth.

Meanwhile, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been actively participating in key trade events such as World Food Moscow, which serve as vital platforms for promoting Indian agricultural and processed food products.

These events offer exporters substantial opportunities for networking, establishing new business partnerships, and strengthening existing trade relationships across the CIS region, the official added.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Foreign investors pulled out ₹34,993 crore (around \$4 billion) from Indian equity markets in August, making it the sharpest sell-off in six months, weighed down by US tariffs on Indian exports and pricey domestic valuations.

The withdrawal was nearly double the ₹17,741 crore outflow recorded in July.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached ₹1.3 lakh crore mark so far in 2025, data with the depositories showed.

Market experts believe that withdrawals were triggered by a combination of global and domestic factors. The latest withdrawal was

the sharpest since February, when FPIs dumped Indian equities worth ₹34.574 crore. "The announcement of steep

US tariffs of up to 50 per cent on Indian exports dented sentiment significantly, raising concerns over India's trade



competitiveness and growth outlook," Himanshu Srivas tava, 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 According to V K Vijayaku

mar, 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.

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, Tanishg Corporate Team, Bengaluru further added, "At Tanishg, 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.'

India Post suspends all postal service to US

New Delhi, August 31: India Post has suspended all categories of mail operations destined to the US in the absence of clarity over new rules issued by the American Customs Department, an official statement said Sunday.

Earlier, the country's postal department had temporarily suspended postal services for gifts valued above \$100 due to the new custom rules issued by the US government.

"In continuation of the Public Notice dated August 22, 2025, the Department of Posts has reviewed the suspension of booking of mail to the United States of America. In view of the ongoing inability of carriers to transport US-bound mail and in the absence of defined regulatory mechanisms, it has been decided to completely suspend the booking of all categories of

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 "Customers who have al-

ready booked items that could not be dispatched may claim a refund of postage," the state-

August 23, the department had said the postal services from India to the US had been temporarily suspended due to denial of carrving 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

effect from August 29 onwards.

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

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

US-bound Consequently, 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 depart-

MPL TO SACK 60% OF LOCAL STAFF

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-toplay 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-toplay 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.

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 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 Rayindra Kumar Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director POWERGRID along with Yatindra Dwivedi, 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 CPSUs, 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.

BSE, NSE fine Dish TV

New Delhi, August 31: Direct to-home operator Dish TV has been penalised again by leading bourses BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE) over composi tion 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-compli ance of Regulations 17(1) and 19 (1)/(2) of the Sebi (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Re quirements) Regulations, 2015 ('Listing Regulations'), for the quarter ended June 30. "The above-mentioned non-compli ances 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

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.

or the company," Dish TV said

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".

MARKET OUTLOOK

GST meeting, macro data to drive markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Equity markets this week would keenly track the upcoming GST meeting, macroeconomic data announcements and analysts said.

trading activity of foreign investors for further movement, Moreover, developments related to tariff negotiations, global market trends and auto sales

sentiment. "Looking ahead, India's resilience, supported by strong Q1 GDP print driven by government spending and policy measures, may provide a buffer against external headwinds,

data would also drive investors'

though fiscal concerns remain. A resolution of tariff disputes could act as a key catalyst for market sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. India's economy grew by a

stronger-than-expected 7.8 per cent in April-June, its fastest pace in five quarters, before US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs that now cloud the outlook, threatening key exports like textiles "This week will be event-

heavy, marking the start of a new month with several high-frequency indicators due for release. Investors will closely track auto sales data, along with HSBC manufacturing,



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

Ltd. said. Markets would also track

the rupee-dollar trend and movement in crude oil prices, experts noted Siddhartha Khemka -- Head

of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said, "On the domestic front, focus will be on the GST Council meeting scheduled for September 3-4 to discuss the proposed GST reforms. Additionally, markets on Monday would react to India's GDP data released after market hours Friday.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,497.2 points, or 1.84 per cent, and the Nifty declined 443.25 points, or 1.78 per

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.

HOCKEY ASIA CUP India survive late scare Sat-Chi bag bronze

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.

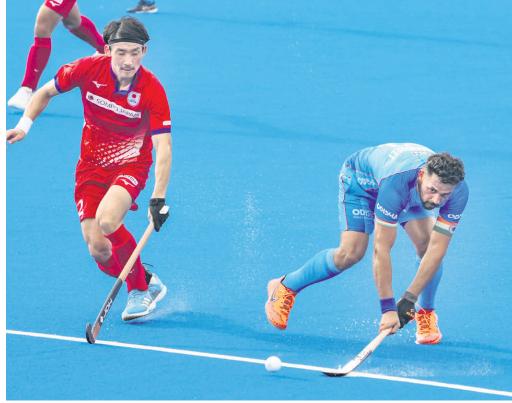
For Japan, Kosei Kawabe (38th, 58th minutes) scored bot the goals.

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-im-

proved 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

But India restored their twogoal 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.

Satwik & Chirag al at the Worlds, having won a bronze in 2022. become the first Indian On Friday, Asian Games pair to win two medals champions Satwik and Chirag at the BWF World had stunned their nemesis, Malaysia's two-time Olympic Championships medallists Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, in the quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

pionships here.

Paris, August 31: Top Indian

pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

and Chirag Shetty signed off

with a bronze medal after go-

ing down fighting to China's

11th seeds Chen Bo Yang and

Liu Yi in the men's doubles

semifinals of the World Cham-

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 cham-

pionships fell short as they lost

19-21, 21-18, 12-21 in a 67-minute

This is the pair's second med-

battle on Saturday evening.

gan in 2011. The Indians, however, could not break through the resolute defence of the Chinese pair, which retrieved relentlessly

to extend India's medal streak

in the tournament, which be

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 Olym pics. 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 tourna-

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 Champi-

Sinner, Swiatek advance; Osaka-Gauff clash ahead



REUTERS

Washington, August 31: Jannik 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

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-vear-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 midmatch 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-yearold 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

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 between 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. Al-

pi Akter restored Bangladesh's

lead in the 34th minute, and

Sauravi Prity made it 3-1 in

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

glimithang 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. Odi sha 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 OCA holds Special General Meeting

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

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, August 31: An 18-year-old weightlifter from India, Sairaj Pardeshi, made the entire world stand up and take notice as he clinched a gold medal in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2025 in Ahmedabad.

Competing in the men's 88 kg category, he aggregated a total lift of 348kg - 157kg in snatch and 191 kg in clean & jerk - hence breaking several records. Pardeshi hails from Maharashtra and is the son of a scrap dealer in Manmad, a small town in the state.

Pardeshi's triumph at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships isn't his first international achievement. He also won a gold medal at the Asian Youth & Junior Championships in Doha, lifting a



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 Champion-

ships 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

(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.



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 discussions 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

scheduled each day till September 24. The matches will telecast Live on Star Sports and stream on Fancode (OTT). Players' draft will take place

September 15 with 2 matches

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 Cen tre 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 In ternational 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.

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