

Candid confession

Adah Sharma candidly shares how she copes with rejection and the pain of being replaced in movies

LEISURE | P2

Thai PM suspended

Thailand's Constitutional Court suspends Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra pending ethics investigation into phone call leak

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Price revision

Price of jet fuel rises 7.5 per cent, while the cost of commercial LPG falls by ₹58.50

BUSINESS | P11

New sports policy

Union Cabinet approves the National Sports Policy 2025, replacing the two-decade-old National Sports Policy of 2001

SPORTS | P12

Reservation for SC employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: In a first, the Supreme Court has introduced a formal reservation policy for the direct appointment and promotion of its staffers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The decision was communicated in a circular issued June 24 to all Supreme Court employees. "As per the directions of the Competent Authority, it is to notify for the information of all concerned that the Model Reservation Roster and Register has been uploaded on the Supnet (internal email network) and it is made effective from June 23, 2025," the circular said.

As per the circular and the model roster now in effect, top court employees will receive a 15 per cent quota and ST employees a 7.5 per cent quota in promotions.

₹1.07L-cr scheme to create 3.5 crore jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The Central government Tuesday approved an Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme with an outlay of ₹1.07 lakh crore to create 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years through social security schemes run by the retirement fund body EPFO.

The ELI scheme to support job generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector, was approved by the Union Cabinet in a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over two years. The scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to boost job creation. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Carrying a blank placard is a great idea! You can outrage about anything, anywhere

Flood situation grim, 100 villages hit

■ 2 persons swept away ■ Floodwaters above danger mark in Subarnarekha

Balasore/Bhogarai, July 1: The flood situation in Balasore remained critical Tuesday, as people of around 100 villages in northern parts of the district grapple with inundated roads and fields, officials said.

The villages have been impacted in four blocks - Bhogarai, Baliapal, Jaleswar and Basta, due to the recent flood in Subarnarekha river following heavy rain and discharge of water by Jharkhand, officials said. The flood in Jalaka river has affected some villages under Basta and parts of Balasore Sadar block, they said.

Though the water level in river Subarnarekha and Jalaka was gradually receding, it is still running above the danger mark or remains just below that at Rajghat and Mathani, respectively, for three days, the officials said. The Balasore collector along with senior officials visited and monitored the present flood situation in Basta, Jaleswar, Baliapal and Bhogarai.

"We are alert and field officials are taking measures in the flooded areas," Jajpur Collector P Anvesha Reddy said.

Meanwhile, two persons were swept away in floodwaters. They were identified as Rakesh C, 32 of ward no-3 in Bishnupur village under Baliapal block and Shatrughna Bindhani, 50, of Kalanda village under Singla police limits in the district. Rakesh was going home wading through floodwater when he fell off a bridge and swept away.



Special teams to meet health emergencies

BHUBANESWAR: In view of the post-diarrhoea care and health conditions arising out of flood situation, the state government has deployed two specialised health teams in Keonjhar, Balasore, and Mayurbhanj districts to monitor, manage, and support the local response efforts. A dedicated team under Dr. Prameela Baral, Additional Director of Public Health, has been deployed to Keonjhar district to oversee the situations while another team led by Dr. Binay Das Mohapatra, Joint Director, has been sent to Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts to assess the impact of the ongoing flood situation and to help prevent the emergence of water-borne diseases.

HEAVY RAIN FOR A WEEK: IMD

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said monsoon will remain active in many parts of northwest, central and east India for the next 6-7 days. It will bring very heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim and Jharkhand. Some days may see heavy showers in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press briefing that there is a high chance of heavy rainfall in central India and the adjoining southern peninsula. This includes east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, adjoining areas of Vidarbha and Telangana and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

CM ASKS PRIVATE BANKS TO EXPEDITE LOANS TO POOR

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday asked major private banks to extend more credit to poor people of the state under various welfare schemes.

Majhi said this while meeting representatives of ICICI, Axis and HDFC Banks and suggested that they should provide more loans to the poor in various welfare schemes, an official statement issued by the CMO said.

The CM issued such a suggestion after it was noticed that the performance of these banks in various welfare schemes such as agricultural loans, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Shrusti Yojana, PM Swanidhi Yojana, Standup India Yojana, housing loans, education loans and export loans is very low.



Given their dismal performances, the state government has removed these banks from its empanelled List June 21, sources said.

Majhi informed the private banks that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is implementing many poor welfare schemes. The government's goal is to involve people in economic activities through loans and increase their in-

come, he said.

The CM categorically told the representatives that the performance of these three banks in all these schemes is not at all satisfactory in the state.

Stating that the banks are a big medium in the government's poor welfare schemes, Majhi suggested that all these banks should provide more loans to people under various welfare schemes that benefit the poor.

The representatives of the banks accepted Majhi's suggestion and said that they are interested in providing loans to people in all these schemes and they assured the CM that this performance will improve soon, the release said. The Principal Secretary of Finance Department, Shashawat Mishra, apprised the chief minister about the performance of these banks.

Majhi directs cops to make accurate crowd estimation

Puri, July 1: Following the death of three persons in a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple here, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said safety and security of devotees is of paramount importance during Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra and asked the police to make accurate crowd estimation. During the day, Majhi held discussions with all stakeholders including the servitors of the 12th-century shrine here, two days after the stampede.

During a meeting, the CM stressed the need to keep in mind several aspects of security - smooth operation of chariots, safety of devotees, traffic control and fire services. Majhi stressed that the administration's top priority is the smooth conduct of the remaining key rituals like Bahuda Yatra, Sunavesha, and Niladri Bije.

BMC staffers launch 'cease-work' protest



Bhubaneswar, July 1: Employees of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), including sanitation workers, Tuesday launched a 'cease-work' protest over the alleged assault on an on-duty senior colleague the previous day.

Due to the protest by the sanitation workers, cleanliness activities have been stopped and garbage has not been cleared.

On the other hand, police arrested two more accused in the assault case, taking the total number of arrests to five. They were identified as Sanjeev Mishra and Sachikant Swain, residents of Bhubaneswar.

Wearing black badges, all employees of BMC arrived at the office this morning and staged a 'cease work' protest demanding immediate arrest of all persons involved in the incident and adequate security for them at the office.

"The way in which our senior officer was dragged from the

office and assaulted despite the presence of security guards, we are all shocked and are feeling insecure in the office," a woman employee of the BMC said.

BMC commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil said, "Our officers and employees are hurt by the unfortunate incident which happened in our office on Monday. They are staging a protest over the incident." P3

No more rockets, cars: Trump threatens Musk

The war is on between world's richest man and the powerful one. Following weeks of relative silence after clashing with US president Donald Trump over his 'big beautiful bill', billionaire Elon Musk has stepped up his attack. He has vowed in an X post to unseat politicians who support the bill. The posts attracted a swift reply from the president, who claimed the billionaire may get more subsidies than any human being in history for his electric car business and without them, he would have to down his shutter and head back home to South Africa

Washington, July 1: US President Donald Trump suggested Tuesday that the government efficiency department should take a look at the subsidies that Tesla CEO Elon Musk's companies have received in order to save money.

As Musk renews criticism on Trump's tax-cut & spending bill and calls for a new political party, the latter suggests review of subsidies to former's companies.

"Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa. No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social, referring to the federal Department of Government Efficiency



(DOGE).

In response to Trump's post, Musk, on his own social media platform X, said "I am literally saying CUT IT ALL. Now."

Trump previously threatened to cut Musk's government subsidies and contracts when their relationship dissolved into an all-out brawl on social media in early June over the bill, which non-partisan analysts have said would add about \$3 trillion to the US debt.

Musk's businesses include rocket company and government contractor SpaceX, which has about \$22 billion in federal contracts, and its satellite unit Starlink.

His rift with Trump also caused volatility for Tesla, with shares of the electric car company losing about \$150 billion of its market value June 5, the largest single-day decline in the company's history, though it has since recovered. Tesla shares trading in Frankfurt tumbled 5% on Tuesday.

After weeks of relative silence following his earlier feud with Trump over the legislation, Musk rejoined the debate Saturday as the Senate took up the package, calling it "utterly insane and destructive" in a post on X.

On Monday, he said lawmakers who had campaigned on cutting spending but backed the bill "should hang their heads in shame!" "And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth," Musk added.

5 BJP men suspended

Bhubaneswar: The state unit of the BJP Tuesday suspended five of its workers, including corporator Jeevan Rout, from the preliminary membership of the party for their alleged involvement in the violence in the BMC office. The suspended members were Rout, Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, Debashish Pradhan, Sachikant Swain and Sanjeev Mishra. The action comes after a group of people assaulted an on-duty Odisha Administrative Services (OAS) officer in his office chamber on BMC premises. The assailants slapped, punched and kicked the official, dragged him from his office and forced him to apologise to BJP leader Jagannath Pradhan, according to reports.

OAS OFFICERS ON 'MASS LEAVE'

Bhubaneswar: Despite Odisha Administrative Service Association's decision to defer the 'mass leave' agitation, OAS officers in all 30 districts, went on 'mass leave' Tuesday to protest against the alleged assault of a senior OAS officer Monday. Earlier, the association of OAS officers had decided to put their 'mass leave' protest on hold after they got an assurance from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi that strong action will be taken against all culprits involved in the alleged assault of their senior colleague, an official said Tuesday.

leisure

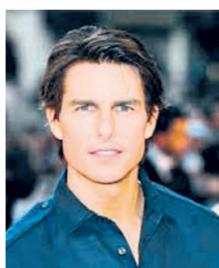


MACKENZIE DAVIS TO STAR IN NEWFOUNDLAND SERIES

Blade Runner 2049 actor Mackenzie Davis will feature alongside Josh Hartnett in Netflix's limited series set in *Newfoundland*. Davis made her debut with *Smashed* in 2012 and went on to feature in projects such as *Black Mirror* and *Terminator: Dark Fate*.

TOM CRUISE PULLS OUT LAVISH GIFT TO WOO 'FUTURE WIFE'

Tom Cruise seems to be sparing no expense and reportedly is in full charm mode as he tries to win over Ana de Armas with a series of extravagant romantic gestures, including a custom-made perfume crafted just for her.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today is an ordinary day, it is business as usual, but there will be some progress. You can while away your time doing petty chores. And, Ganesha says, while day-dreaming think about that coveted home, as that's how the first plans materialise.

TAURUS
Feel your imagination run wild as you star-gaze throughout the day wondering about the existence of the extra terrestrial. You will paint the workplace in your flavour of innovation, combined with a drive to work equally hard. Add some smooth talk to the equation and you will find a lot of people in awe of your charm, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesha. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool during the day.

CANCER
Financially, you may be in a bit of a bother today. Payment of bills, taxes and loans may keep you busy for most part of the day. You may even contemplate borrowing money to meet the demands. However, you are likely to receive one of your pending payments, which will be enough to get you out of the fix.

LEO
Being good to oneself is not vanity. To Ganesha, it seems as if you take this statement to heart, since it looks quite possible that you make your personal care number one priority today. On the flip side though, you become aware of the fact that the harder you try the more it seems you have to.

VIRGO
The time today is ripe to venture into a new business. Projects that have been put-off will finally be completed. Looking into the week ahead, you are most likely to give yourself an energy zap. Parties will be all fun and entertainment. Your kids will bring home joy and pride and this will brighten the mood even more, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
The Bhagavad Gita says, "Do your duty without expecting the fruit." Remember this important lesson and strive hard to put in extra efforts to finish off whatever you undertake to do. Worrying about results will only hamper your progress. Go with the flow and let results come to you. You may want to discuss some urgent matters with your close friend today, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-lion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop when winning, counsels Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

CAPRICORN
Whether you're an artist, performer, professional or an entrepreneur, career issues will take the foreground today, while personal matters will wait in queue for your attention, says Ganesha. Your performance will be at its all-time high, and your efforts will be duly rewarded, but credit for this must go to your loved ones who will lend their unceasing support for all your endeavours.

AQUARIUS
Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than everyone's estimation. That's the way to go, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesha.



Adah on handling rejection

Mumbai: Adah Sharma has carved out a versatile career in both Bollywood and South Indian cinema. She first gained recognition with her gripping performance in *1920* and went on to impress audiences in films like *Haseena Parkar* and *Commando 3*.
In a recent interview, Adah opened up about dealing with rejection and the pain of losing roles or being replaced after initial selection. She candidly admitted that such experiences do hurt her deeply. "Yes, all of the above," she shared, acknowledging how she feels bad, cries, and gets emotional depending on how invested she was in the project. However, Adah revealed that she channels this pain into her craft, storing the trauma as emotional memory to deliver more authentic performances. She believes this honesty enriches her acting, helping her connect more truthfully with her characters and resonate with audiences.
On the professional front, Adah was most recently seen in *Tumko Meri Kasam*, written and directed by Vikram Bhatt. The film, which premiered March 21, 2025, featured her alongside Anupam Kher, Ishwak Singh, and Esha Deol. Adah played a key role in the movie, further showcasing her ability to portray powerful and relatable characters.



Konkona's mantra on work-life balance

Mumbai: Konkona Sen Sharma is gearing up for the release of Anurag Basu's *Metro... In Dino*, and in a recent conversation, she shared insightful views on work-life balance in the film industry. Konkona highlighted what she described as the "motherhood penalty" that women face, explaining, "There is something called the fatherhood premium and the motherhood penalty. As fathers advance in their careers after having children, they tend to earn more. But for women, each child brings a financial setback, since they cannot participate fully in ways society or workplaces expect."
She emphasised that this imbalance discourages women from having children altogether, as balancing work responsibilities and motherhood is becoming increasingly challenging. Konkona called for policy changes, saying, "Eventually governments will have to change policies for working mothers. Otherwise, it's not going to happen."
Konkona, who was married to Ranvir Shorey from 2010 until their divorce in 2020, shares a son, Haroon, with him.
Metro... In Dino, which also stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta, and Anupam Kher, is slated to hit theatres July 4, promising an engaging ensemble drama under Basu's direction.

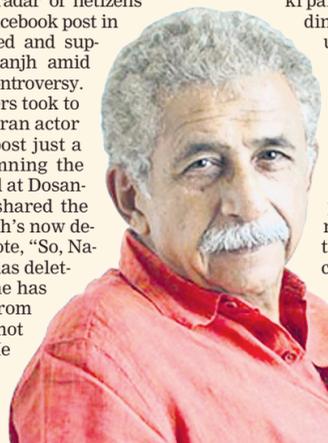
Rashmika talks about professional choices

Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna recently attended the We The Women festival in London, curated by Barkha Dutt, where she spoke candidly about her journey, professional choices, and the challenges women face in cinema. Rashmika revealed she draws strict personal boundaries, refusing any role that requires smoking on-screen, explaining, "I personally would never smoke on-screen or in real life. If someone asks me, I might have to let the film go."
Addressing the criticism surrounding *Animal*, which starred Ranbir Kapoor, she said she views films purely as artistic works and does not believe audiences should be influenced by on-screen behavior. The film sparked debates over its gender dynamics and violence.
Reflecting on her career, Rashmika admitted that sustaining success has been her toughest challenge, noting, "For women, maintaining success is the real battle."
She also unveiled the first-look poster of her upcoming film *Mysaa*, directed by Rawindra Pulle, describing it as an unexplored world and a new version of herself. Rashmika's packed schedule includes projects like *Thama* with Ayushmann Khurrana, *The Girlfriend*, *Rainbow*, and *Pushpa 3*. She was recently seen in Dhanush's *Kuberaa*, still running in theatres, though her latest Hindi release *Sikandar* struggled at the box office.



Naseer draws flak for defending Dosanjh

Mumbai: Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has come under the radar of netizens for deleting his Facebook post in which he defended and supported Diljit Dosanjh amid the *Sardaar Ji 3* controversy.
A section of users took to X to troll the veteran actor for deleting his post just a day after condemning the criticism directed at Dosanjh. One netizen shared the screenshot of Shah's now deleted post and wrote, "So, Naseeruddin Shah has deleted his post. But he has deleted it only from the social media, not from his mind. He never supported Bharat, and he never will." Another user

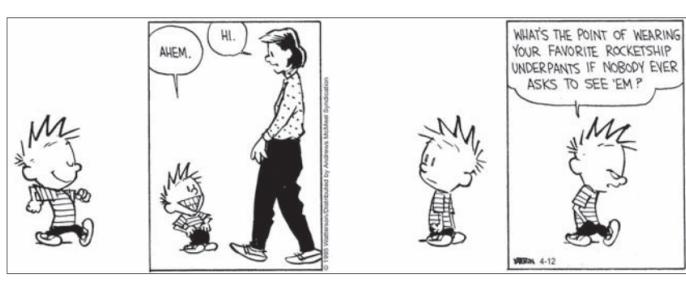


trolled the actor, writing, "Yaad aa gya hoga ki paisa kamane kahan jaayega." "Naseeruddin nai post delete kr di... dar gya," wrote a user. One angry Twitterati said, "Fattu. They only act up when they have the numbers!!"
#NaseeruddinShah has been trending on the microblogging site, with several netizens taking digs at the veteran actor.
Monday, the *Sarfarosh* actor penned a lengthy note where he made religious remarks against those criticizing Diljit Dosanjh's collaboration with Pakistani actress Hania Aamir in the film *Sardaar Ji 3*. Defending the actor, Shah stated that Diljit was not the one responsible for casting Hania Aamir in the movie.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

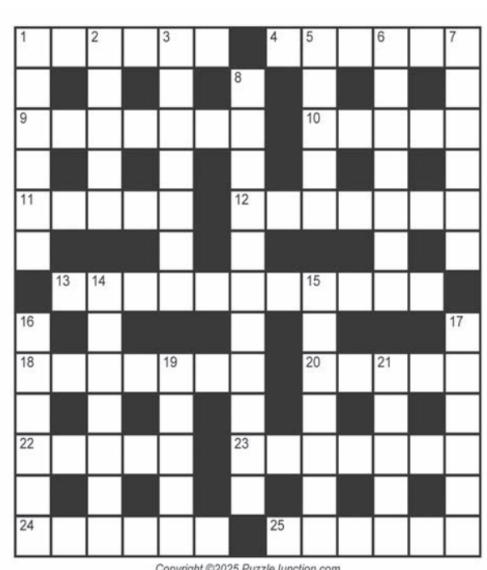


BREVITY



FUN POST

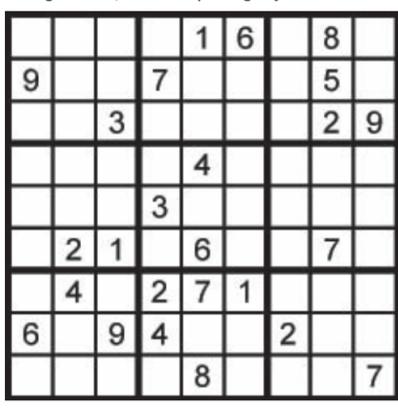
CROSSWORD



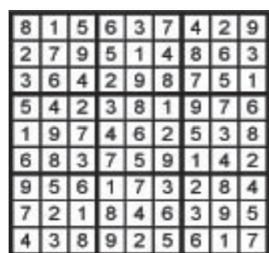
- Across**
- 1 Cleric's stand
 - 4 Gabled extension
 - 9 Napoleon Bonaparte's birthplace
 - 10 Implied
 - 11 Swift
 - 12 Beseech
 - 13 Money man?
 - 18 Soothing drink (4,3)
 - 20 Exhilarate
 - 22 Below
 - 23 Support
 - 24 Puts forth effort
 - 25 Emeralds. e.g.
 - 6 Large heavy knife
 - 7 Spin
 - 8 A real live wire (5,6)
 - 14 Old sewing machine part
 - 15 Delinquent
 - 16 Dense
 - 17 Adjourn
 - 19 Gypsy's deck
 - 21 Come to terms
- Down**
- 1 Soothe
 - 2 Supersized
 - 3 Nutty
 - 5 Musical group

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Commuters negotiate a waterlogged road at Meria Bazaar in Cuttack as rain lashed the Millennium City, Tuesday



downtown

OAS officers condemn attack, seek stern action

The brutal assault on BMC Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo, a senior OAS officer, Monday, has not only drawn widespread condemnations but also raised serious concern over the safety of on-duty public officials. Immediately after the incident, the Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) Association called for a statewide cease-work protest beginning July 1, and met CM Mohan Charan Majhi demanding stringent action against perpetrators. However, despite the CM's assurance for ensuring justice, arrest of five of the accused by Kharvel Nagar police and the association's decision to withhold the stir, OAS officers across Odisha went on cease-work stir Tuesday



Some hooligans attacking BMC Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo on the civic body office premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Highly condemnable

Khurda ADM Pratap Chandra Beura said, "The incident of a senior OAS officer and Additional Commissioner, Ratnakar Sahoo, being assaulted inside the BMC office is highly condemnable. Such actions should be condemned by all sections of society. On Tuesday, OAS officers from the Khurda district association wore black badges in protest."

Exemplary action should be taken

According to Bhadrak Sub-Collector Sourav Chakrabarty, the incident of a working OAS officer being attacked in a pre-planned and organised manner is highly condemnable. "Officers must be provided with safety and security at their workplaces. In addition, all

those involved in this attack should be arrested, and exemplary action should be taken against them. Administrative officers, while sincerely performing their duties to serve the public, often become targets of anger or even physical assault," Chakrabarty said, adding the government must take necessary steps to find a permanent solution to such issues.

Ensuring security is essential

Gajapati ADM Falguni Majhi said the Gajapati OAS and ORS Association strongly condemns the incident of the attack on BMC Additional Commissioner. "OAS officers have no proper security arrangements while on duty. If this can happen to an OAS officer, it raises serious concerns about the safety of ordinary citizens. It is imperative to ensure the security of OAS

officers," Majhi said.

An unpardonable crime

Angul Sub-Collector Mayadhar Behera said attacking a BMC officer in the office is an unforgivable crime. "No amount of condemnation is enough. When administrative officers are attacked, they feel threatened, and as a result, they cannot effectively fulfill their responsibility of delivering public services as entrusted by the government. Such disgraceful acts must be completely stopped," Behera added.

Such incidents must not be repeated

According to Athamalik Sub-Collector Upendra Luha, everyone should condemn such inhuman incident. "No one should take the law into own hands. To ensure

that such incidents are not repeated, administrative officers must be provided with security personnel. If everyone works according to the law, it will benefit all," said Luha.

Taking law into hands is unacceptable

Cuttack Sadar Sub-Collector Dibyajyoti Smruti Ranjan Deo said, "An attack on a working officer is never acceptable. It is inappropriate for anyone to take the law into their own hands. We, the OAS officers, strongly oppose such actions. The culprits must be punished appropriately. In protest, we have decided to go on mass leave. We also demand that working officers be provided with adequate security," added Deo.

Such behaviour not healthy for democracy

CDA Secretary Sweta Kumar Dash said in a democratic country, such behaviour towards a working officer is never desirable. "There is a legal system in place, and no one is above the law. Therefore, both public and government officials should act responsibly. At the same time, we officers must also adopt a positive mindset and focus on addressing people's problems with sincerity. Incidents like these discourage us from performing our duties with enthusiasm," added Dash.

Deploy PSOs

Keonjhar ADM Rabindra Kumar Pradhan said senior officials should be provided with security guards. "The attack on BMC Additional

Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo is very inhuman. Such incidents should not happen again. We have decided to go on a mass leave in protest. Strict action should be taken against the culprits. Personal security officers (PSOs) should be provided for the protection of senior officials," Pradhan said.

Attack condemnable

Mayurbhanj ADM Netrananda Mallick said the attack on the BMC Additional Commissioner is condemnable. "The OAS Association members have decided to go on leave demanding concrete action against the culprits. The protest will continue until a permanent solution is reached. We hope that the IAS association, engineers' union, revenue inspectors' union and civil servants' union will also support our demand," Mallick said.

Protection needed

According to Balasore ADM Sudhakar Naik, the attack on the BMC Additional Commissioner is very unfortunate. "The government should take legal action against all the accused. The working officers should be provided with protection. All the officers working in the district are on leave till the next step of the government. Government measures should be implemented for the safety and security of the officers serving the public," Naik added.

Dignity at stake

Soudamini Sethi, Special Secretary to Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department, said, "We provide service to the people. The attack on a

public servant in broad daylight reflects a negative state of society. Our dignity is at stake."

Act condemnably

Similarly, Deepak Routrai, Additional Secretary of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department, said, "We vehemently condemn this incident and will follow whatever course of action our association will take. The officers are public servants and they should not be handled. The government must ensure that."

Need stringent action

"Our officers play a key role in implementing policies and overseeing administrative works. However, this attack on the officer has shocked us and raised questions on our safety. Stern action must be taken against the attackers and they should be booked under stringent Sections of BNS," said Niranjana Jena, Deputy Secretary of Labour and Employee's State Insurance department.

Strong legislation required

Susanta Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary to Public Enterprises department, urged the government to bring strong legislation to avoid such kind of incident. He said, "We deeply condemn this act of violence. If we commit any mistake, there are authorities and court of law, where people can make their appeal. But, taking law into hands is no body's right. The government should provide security to its officers and ensure that no on-duty official is assaulted."

Crime Branch identifies 23 fake hotel websites

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The social media team of the cybercrime unit under the Crime Branch (CB) has identified 23 fake hotel websites and has sent them for immediate blocking, official sources said Tuesday, adding that 15 websites have already been blocked, while action is underway to block the remaining ones.

The cybercrime unit is on high alert this year, especially during the Rath Yatra, as many people from Odisha and other states were defrauded by similar scams last year, they said.

This year, the team began its vigilance drive in June and has been actively working to identify fake hotel websites, report them promptly, and issue timely alerts to the public, they added.

The crackdown will continue until the 'Sunabesha' ritual of the holy Trinity.

"To protect the public, the team is also regularly posting awareness messages and safety alerts about such scams through its official cyber safety pages," a CB official said.

According to the cybercrime unit, cybercriminals are cre-



«Cybercriminals are creating fake websites mimicking hotels in Puri, especially during Rath Yatra, to deceive the public with attractive discounts on online bookings

«Innocent tourists, especially those in urgent need of accommodation, are being tricked by these fraudulent sites

«Once the victims are convinced, fraudsters demand full payments via UPI, digital wallets, or bank transfers and issue fake booking confirmations

ating fake websites mimicking hotels in Puri, especially during Rath Yatra, to deceive the public with attractive discounts on online bookings.

Innocent tourists, especially those in urgent need of accommodation, are being tricked by these fraudulent sites. These fake websites are made to closely resemble genuine hotel websites in design, branding, and even URL, making it difficult for users to tell the difference.

Once the victims are convinced, fraudsters demand full payments via UPI, digital wallets, or bank transfers and issue fake booking confirmations. CB sources noted that these fraudulent websites are often promoted to appear

at the top of Google search results.

The CB has urged the public to book hotels only through trusted platforms or official tourism websites.

It also advised verifying the hotel's phone number and location through Google Maps, and to always confirm the booking by calling the hotel directly. Additionally, people are advised not to make full advance payments, to use only secure payment gateways, and to avoid transferring money through UPI or wallets.

"If anyone comes across suspicious hotel websites or fake listings, they are urged to report them immediately by calling the cyber helpline at 1930," the CB said.



PREPARATORY MEET: Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo interacts with a team from Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and IIT-Kanpur as the state gears up to host Energy Ministers' Conclave by the end of 2025, at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Rahul to visit state July 11

Bhubaneswar: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would visit Odisha July 11 to address a public meeting here, OPEC president Bhakta Charan Das said Tuesday. Das said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal would accompany Gandhi. The top Congress leaders would address 'Samvidhan Bachao' rally at Baramunda ground here July 11, he said in a release.

e-Admission process for 3-year LLB begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Higher Education (HE) department has officially announced the commencement of the e-Admission process for the three-year LLB course for 2025-26 academic year under Students Academic Management System (SAMS).

Students aspiring to pursue law can fill the common application form (CAF) online through the official SAMS portal, www.samsodisha.gov.in, starting 4pm July 1, 2025, according to a notification issued by the HE department. The last date for submission of applications is till 11:45pm, July 15.

Those who have successfully passed a Plus III examination (in any stream) or an equivalent qualification from a recognised Indian university can apply for the LLB course.

Significantly, there won't be any entrance test this year, and admission will be grant-



The first round publication of provisional seat allotment will be done July 21 (4pm) while the selection of Slide/Freeze option & Fee Payment by students will be done from July 21 (6pm) to July 24 (2pm). Students reporting to the HEIs will be done between July 22 and 24.

The second and final round of provisional allotment will be done July 29 while reporting by students for admission will be done between July 30 and August 1.

The classes will commence from August 11.

Applicants have been advised to consult the Common Prospectus (CP) available on the SAMS portal before completing the application process. Any changes to the admission timeline will be published on the portal and through major newspapers.

For any query, students can contact the toll-free e-Admission helpline at 155335 or 1800-345-6770.

DA CASE Soil Conservation Jt Director arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Vigilance officials Tuesday arrested the Joint Director of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development, Dayanidhi Bagh, for possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

He was produced before the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhawanipatna, which sent him to judicial custody.

According to the Vigilance report, Bagh was found to be

in possession of a three-BHK flat (No. 1-D) at Mahanadi Apartment in Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar, an under-construction house covering 3,000 sqft near Majhiguda Square in Nabarangpur town, a shopping complex comprising five shop rooms over 1,400 sqft in Nabarangpur town, a plot with a house in the Chandrasekharpur Housing Board Colony in Bhubaneswar, a 40-acre farmhouse in Bijaraguda under Tentulikhunti Tehsil of Nabarangpur district, which

includes agricultural equipment and inputs worth Rs 1 crore, another farmhouse on 6 acre at Patakot village under Nabarangpur tehsil. The total area of land possessed by Bagh was estimated to be 27 acres in Nabarangpur district and 11 acres in Bhawanipatna town.

The Vigilance Technical Wing is making efforts to determine the actual market value of the houses, flats, farmhouses, and other properties.

Additionally, 312 grams of gold jewellery were recovered

from his house. It was also found that he holds bank deposits, its amounting to Rs 58,41,422.

Furthermore, one benami four-wheeler (a Maruti Brezza), a two-wheeler, and household items worth Rs 9 lakh were also found in his possession.

He failed to satisfactorily account for these assets during searches conducted by Vigilance officials.

A case (24/2025) has been registered against Bagh, and the investigation is currently underway.

OSSSC faces heat over new exam dates row



Aspirants under Students Against Corruption (SAC) hold a press meet at Lohia Academy in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday over OSSSC exam date row

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The controversy surrounding the Combined Recruitment Examination (CRE) 2023 (IV), conducted by the Odisha Sub-ordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC), has deepened with the announcement of revised main exam dates. The recruitment drive — for posts like Revenue Inspector (RI), Assistant Revenue Inspector (ARI), Amin, ICDS Supervisor, and Statistical Field Surveyor (SFS) — will now be held from August 1 to early September 2025.

Concerns over the integrity of the recruitment process are not new. Last year, hundreds of aspirants staged protests in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, alleging major irregularities in the preliminary exams conducted by OSSSC. Held between September 20 and October 20, 2024, the exams drew flak for being outsourced to a blacklisted private firm and conducted at privately-run cyber cafes and computer centers.

Adding fuel to the fire, OSSSC declared that all candidates—except nine caught

cheating—were qualified to sit for the main exam. This blanket decision has sparked sharp criticism from aspirants and civil society groups, who question its alignment with merit-based and transparent recruitment principles.

Bibhuti Bhusan Mahapatra, convener of Students Against Corruption (SAC), which has been protesting the exam irregularities, alleged that bribes were paid in advance and exam tickets would be 'sold'. SAC, agitating for over a year, has accused OSSSC officials of corruption—manipulating recruitment and profiting from the sale of government school books. The group is demanding that exams be held offline in a single-shift format to ensure fairness.

Mahapatra said recruitment corruption and job selling have become rampant and systematic in Odisha. He called the decision to retain the same online format—despite qualifying all candidates for the mains—as clear evidence of a rigged system, where “advance payment guarantees a confirmed job sale.”

He said the RI-Amin recruit-

ment process has lacked transparency since 2023, pushing many deserving candidates to the brink of severe mental distress. He urged the government to restore trust by holding the exam offline in a single shift and launching a probe into the alleged corruption, with strict action against those involved.

Critics have flagged the suspicious timing of official moves. Former OSSSC chairman Saswat Mishra was removed amid controversy but appointed Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister June 29. The very next day, OSSSC announced the new exam in the same disputed online format, which Mahapatra called a ‘conspiracy’. He also questioned what action was taken against the firm behind the original irregularities. SAC has warned of a statewide strike starting July 4 if their demands remain unmet.

Earlier, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari acknowledged issues, particularly with exam centers run by private agencies. He assured the public of the government’s commitment to transparency in future exams. The state has also announced plans for a new law imposing strict penalties to curb cheating and malpractices in public recruitment exams.

Despite assurances, discontent is rising among job seekers, many believing the system favours the corrupt. Candidate Umakanth Sahoo urged the Odisha government to immediately revise OSSSC’s decision and adopt a more transparent exam format. Shuvendu Pradhan slammed OSSSC for its ‘corrupt mindset’, saying that despite protests and evidence from students, the commission repeats mistakes, indicating that corruption has become a deliberate practice rather than a mere incident.



DEVOTIONAL CONCERT: Artistes perform during Shree Jagannath Bhakti Sangeet Samaroh – Guhari 2025 at Utkal Rangamancha in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

49,818 students in final UG merit list

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The State Higher Education department Tuesday released the Phase-I third and final merit list for Undergraduate (UG) admissions for the 2025-26 academic sessions, with a total of 49,818 students shortlisted. So far, 1,09,400 students have taken admission through the first and second rounds.

While the first round saw 1,75,722 students selected from 2,65,590 applicants, only 79,752 students took admission. In the second round, 45,502 candidates were selected, with 29,468 confirming admission.

In the third and final round, 49,818 students have been shortlisted, including 21,023 males,



28,792 females, and three transgender students.

Just like in the first and second rounds, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, has remained the top choice in the third round as well, leading across all three streams — Science,

Commerce, and Arts.

In the Arts stream, Ravenshaw University recorded the highest cut-off at 90.83 per cent in Political Science. For Physical Science, the cut-off stood at 92.33 per cent, while Biological Science saw a 91.83 per cent

cut-off. The university also led in Commerce, with a cut-off of 89.83 per cent, reaffirming its position as the most sought-after institution.

In self-financing courses, Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar recorded a cut-off of 87.33 per cent for Computer Science.

In the Law stream, University Law College, Utkal University posted a cut-off of 82.83 per cent for the five-year Integrated BA LLB programme.

Authorities have stressed the importance of timely reporting at the allotted institutions between July 2 and July 4, from 10am to 5pm, for candidates to confirm admission and complete the necessary formalities.

Cong demands judge probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Tuesday demanded a judicial probe into the recent stampede-like chaos during the Rath Yatra, calling for the inquiry to be led by a sitting judge.

OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said only a judged-led investigation could ensure justice and uphold Odia pride. “A probe by the Development

Commissioner or any internal committee will not yield justice. Only a sitting judge can ensure transparency and accountability,” he asserted.

Das accused the BJP of politicising the sacred festival, alleging that the presence of 1,500 BJP workers in chariot pulling duties contributed to the disorder. “The government claimed full preparations but failed to disclose the involvement of BJP cadres, which led to confusion and mismanagement,” he alleged.

ECoR records 9.69 pc growth in freight loading

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has achieved a robust performance in freight loading during the first quarter of the current financial year 2025-26, registering significant growth compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

According to ECOR sources, From April to June 2025, the zone loaded a total of 68.19 million

Q1 OF FY 2025-26



tonnes, compared to 62.2 million tonnes during the same period last year, reflecting a commendable 9.69 per cent increase.

In June 2025 alone, freight loading reached 23.15 million tonnes, reflecting a 7.72 per cent increase over the 21.49 million

tonnes loaded in June 2024.

The daily average freight loading by ECOR currently stands at 0.75 million tonnes, keeping the zone on track to achieve its annual target for the fiscal year 2025-26.

ECOR attributed this consistent growth to efficient planning, improved operational management, and proactive coordination with freight customers across sectors like coal, iron ore, cement, and fertilisers.

BJD, Cong flay govt over attack on BMC official

BHUBANESWAR: Strong political backlash erupted Tuesday after Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo was allegedly assaulted by BJP leaders and workers Monday. Both the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress condemned the incident, demanding the immediate arrest of those involved. Addressing a press conference at Shankha Bhawan, here BJD leaders including Ashok Panda, Mayor Sulochana Das, MLAs Ananta Narayan Jena and Sushant Rout blamed BJP leader Jagannath Pradhan for instigating the attack. They called it more barbaric than colonial-era atrocities and a direct attack on Odisha’s peaceful governance. Mayor Das said, “Sahoo was dragged and beaten during a public hearing while two women corporators who intervened were also injured.” The OAS Association expressed concern over repeated attacks on officers, citing threats to their dignity and safety.” Meanwhile, Congress president Bhakta Charan Das strongly condemned the attack and demanded the arrest of all accused, including the defeated BJP candidate allegedly involved in the assault.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.63 ↓ 0.24	SENSEX	83697.29 ↑ 90.83	GOLD	₹97,267 ↑ ₹92
EURO	101.25 ↓ 0.40	NIFTY	25541.80 ↑ 24.75	SILVER	₹105,758 ↑ ₹309

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive, Magistrate Banki, I declares that Sanjogta Pradhan, W/o- Late Jambeswar Pradhan and Sanjankta Pradhan, W/o- Late Jambeswar Pradhan of Nistipur, Banki, Cuttack is one and same person. It is for all purpose.

I, Sri G. Kutuli, S/o- G. Dandasi, Village- Dalapalanka, Post- Ramachandrapur, P.S.- K.Nuagam in the District.- Ganjam, (Odisha) declare that I have changed my name from Ghusuri Duryodhan to G. Kutuli. Henceforth, I shall be known as G. Kutuli for all purpose.

‘Aadhaar can turn potential into impact’

Subhadra Yojana cited as model for Aadhaar-enabled welfare delivery at state-level workshop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: “Through coordinated departmental efforts, the Aadhaar ecosystem can turn potential into real-world impact, improving lives and livelihoods across Odisha,” said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, delivering the keynote address at a state-level workshop Tuesday.

He highlighted Aadhaar’s transformational role in welfare delivery, citing the Subhadra Yojana as a model that leveraged Aadhaar for rapid and efficient outreach.

The workshop, titled “Deriving Maximum Impact out of Aadhaar,” was held at the Agriculture department Conference Hall and jointly organised by the UIDAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, and the Electronics & IT department.

“Aadhaar has emerged over the past decade as a trusted digital identity, streamlining governance and public service delivery nationwide,” the Chief



Secretary said.

Electronics & IT department Principal Secretary, Vishal Kumar Dev, commended Odisha’s achievements in Aadhaar linkage, made possible through the persistent work of the Electronics & IT Department and OCAC. However, he emphasised the need to intensify efforts in enrolling children under the age of five, with active steps already being taken by the Women & Child Development department in collaboration with the IT department.

UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar provided a national perspective, stating that India conducts near-

ly 9.38 crore Aadhaar authentications daily, with over 2,400 government welfare schemes integrated into the Aadhaar platform. “Aadhaar is now the most widely used and trusted identity document in India. Odisha stands out as a frontrunner in both Aadhaar adoption and innovative scheme implementation,” he said.

Dispelling common misconceptions, UIDAI officials clarified that Aadhaar contains only seven essential pieces of information, yet plays a pivotal role in digital governance. Nearly 95 per cent of India’s population now possesses an

Aadhaar number, reinforcing its position as a cornerstone of identity and service delivery.

Drawing attention to successful models from other states, Sunil Kumar Pommala, Revenue Department Commissioner of Karnataka, shared insights on the Aadhaar-enabled Land Management System in his state. The system helped uncover land record discrepancies, allowing targeted reforms, and he emphasised the potential for similar systems to benefit Odisha’s farmers.

Senior UIDAI officials, including Vivek Chandra Verma, P Sangeeta, Col Nikhil Sinha, and Sanjeev Yadav, provided detailed presentations on Aadhaar’s capabilities, applications, and future roadmap.

The event also recognised outstanding contributors to Aadhaar-linked initiatives in Odisha. Pradeep Kumar Raut, CEO of OCAC, along with Pradeep Bishoi and Sujit Kumar Raut, were felicitated for their exceptional efforts.

Mosaic of Radar Reflectivity (dBZ) (1 km)
Date : 20250701 at 00:30 (UTC)-NCMRWF

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	28.8°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	25.0°	23.2°	
Humidity	89%	84%	
Rainfall	5.6mm	TRACE	

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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-909090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Joda-Bamebari road works in limbo

Due to the poor condition of this crucial route, over 50,000 people in Joda and Jhumpura blocks continue to face hardships

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, July 1: Inordinate delay in Joda-Bamebari road works has severely hit development in the mineral rich Joda region of Keonjhar district.

For the past eight years, work on the expansion and construction of the Joda-Bamebari section of State Highway-2 has not begun. Due to the poor condition of this crucial route, over 50,000 people in Joda and Jhumpura blocks continue to face hardships.

Locals blamed the stagnation on administrative apathy and a lack of political will. Repeated appeals have yielded no results, leaving the residents frustrated over the long neglect of the region's mining belt.

The Joda-Bamebari stretch and Bamebari-Palaspanaga stretch connect two major national highways and facilitate the daily movement of over 30,000 trucks loaded with minerals. After decades of relentless heavy transport, the road and several bridges have become dangerously rickety. Serious traffic problems, frequent accidents and fatalities are now a common occurrence



ence owing to potholes and poor road conditions. In 2018, around ₹50 crore was sanctioned from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for construction and expansion of approximately 15-km stretch of the Joda-Bamebari road. However, due to inefficiencies and apathetic attitude of the Works and Revenue departments, the project remains incomplete. The road continues to remain narrow at the Banspani overbridge, while it is reportedly in hazardous condition at Jurudi Square, Hatapada Chhak, and Antaramantara bridge.

Though some patchwork was done in scattered areas four years after the funds were sanctioned, the poor quality of

repairs has left the road in a dilapidated state. Even necessary land acquisition processes remain stuck due to lapses on part of the Works and Revenue departments.

With the situation worsening, the Joda Truck Owners' Association took it upon themselves to repair stretches near the Banspani overbridge using murrum and soil June 22.

Senior Executive Engineer Sambit Mohanty confirmed that road repairs have recently commenced. He added that the state government has allocated ₹1,400 crore to widen the entire 45-km Joda-Palaspanaga stretch into a six-lane road. The tender process is complete and work will begin following land ac-

quisition.

Following the illegal mining and unchecked mineral transportation activities that came to light in 2009, the Justice MB Shah Commission, tasked with investigating the issue, highlighted the severe lack of basic infrastructure in the mining regions pointing out poor road connectivity, inadequate education and healthcare services, and lack of access to drinking water.

Following the commission's recommendations, the state government constituted the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in 2015 to support development in mining-affected areas. Since then, Keonjhar district has collected an estimated ₹11,000 crore

in mining revenues, according to sources in the state's Mines department.

In a bid to streamline fund utilisation, the state government has introduced new guidelines prioritising expenditure within a 5-km radius of mining zones. These directly impacted areas will now receive the lion's share of the DMF funds. In contrast, areas within a 10-km radius will receive proportionally lower funding.

The revised norms indicate the new government's intent to bring reforms in DMF governance. However, in practice, the policy's effectiveness remains questionable, particularly in Joda—arguably one of the most affected areas by mining. Despite being at the heart of the mineral belt, Joda still lacks basic infrastructure.

A glaring example is the poor condition of roads in the region. Though large sums have been sanctioned from DMF for development works, it remains unclear how much has actually been invested in road construction. So far, there is no clear public record detailing the expenditure and implementation status of these projects.

Gas leak from tanker: NH-49 closed, Section 144 imposed

Thousands of vehicles on the busy highway stranded near Odisha-Jharkhand border

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 1: A propylene gas leak from a tanker near the Odisha-Jharkhand border Tuesday triggered panic and paralysed movement on National Highway 49, prompting the imposition of Section 144 to ensure public safety.

The incident occurred near the Jio petrol pump at Jamshola in Mayurbhanj district.

Police said around 10 am, the tanker, which was carrying propylene gas from Kolkata to Jharpokhar in Mayurbhanj, developed a leak near the Jio fuel station under Baharagoda police limits in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. As the gas began escaping, fears of a potential explosion gripped the area.

The leak was traced to a faulty valve which occurred near Bell Square, close to Gambhar, between Baharagoda and Jamshola. Given the highly flammable nature of propylene, the local administration swiftly cordoned off the area and enforced Section 144, prohibiting public movement within a 2km radius.



Odisha and Jharkhand police jointly deployed security personnel at the site. The Fire Brigade remained on high alert at the scene. A special technical team from Balasore arrived to assess the chemical composition of the gas and determine whether it poses toxic risks.

With authorities and experts still trying to contain the leak, vehicular traffic on NH-49 has been completely halted, leaving hundreds of heavy vehicles on either side of the highway stranded. Communication between Odisha and Jharkhand has also been temporarily severed. Meanwhile, residents have been advised to remain indoors and avoid unnecessary movement. District officials have appealed to the public to stay calm, not panic, and refrain from spreading or believing in rumours.

Mayurbhanj Collector Hema Kanta Say urged citizens to cooperate with the administration, assuring that necessary precautions are being taken to resolve the situation safely.

2 killed in road mishap, another critical

Keonjhar/Champua: Two scooterists were killed while another sustained critical injuries after a speeding truck hit the two-wheeler they were riding near Taduabahal under this police limits in Keonjhar district Tuesday morning. The deceased were identified as Niranjan Mallick of Karan Sahi in Bileipada and Jagannath Mahakur of Dampur area. The critically injured, Muna Mahakur, was shifted from the spot and admitted to the Champua Hospital. He was later moved to the district headquarters hospital after his condition deteriorated. According to police, the mishap occurred when the trio was on their way to Rimuli area from Basudevpur in Joda on a scooter. The truck hit the two-wheeler from rear and sped away. The impact was so severe that the scooter broke apart. The driver of the truck fled with the vehicle after the accident, but was caught at Undala- about 35-km from the mishap site- and brought to police station. Champua police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation, IIC RK Muduli said.

2 farm labourers swept away in swollen Malkangiri river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Govindpali/Khairapat, July 1: Two farm labourers drowned in a swollen river in Malkangiri district Monday after being swept away by strong currents while returning from paddy field.

The deceased were identified as Sampati Laba Dora, 46, and Shukri Pataka, 40, residents of Naliguda and Patakaguda villages, respectively, under Khairapat block.

According to reports, the two had left for the fields Monday morning along with Debaki Dora, 38, Laba's wife, to transplant paddy seedlings. The trio crossed a river and

worked in a field across it. By afternoon, continuous rainfall had significantly raised the water level and intensified the current in the river.

While returning home, Shukri Pataka attempted to cross the river first, but lost her footing and was swept away. Laba Dora, who was right behind her, jumped in to rescue her. However, he too was dragged away by the strong current. Despite his efforts, neither could survive.

Debaki Dora, who was on the riverbank, screamed for help. Hearing her cries, local villagers rushed to the spot, but the strong current made rescue impossible. The Fire

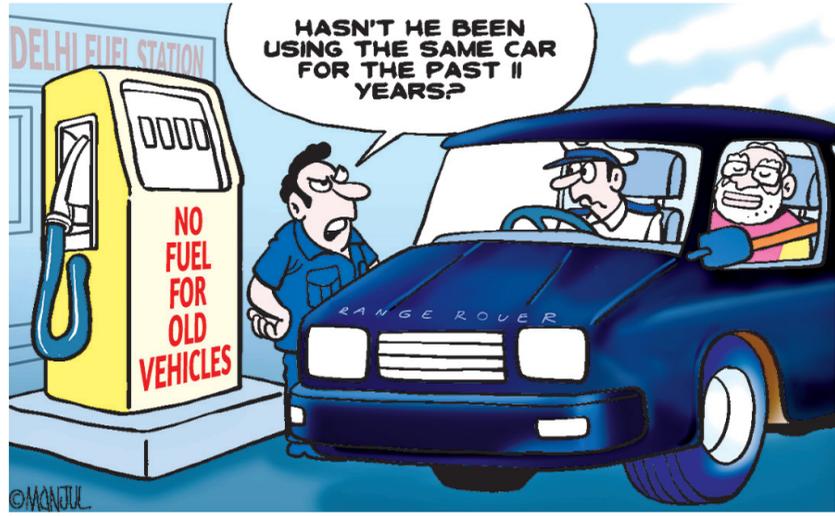
Brigade was informed and arrived soon after to begin a search operation.

Laba Dora's body was recovered later Monday, while Shukri Pataka's body was found Tuesday morning, about one kilometre downstream from the incident site.

Police sent both bodies for post-mortem before handing them over to their respective families.

Locals said Laba is survived by his wife and two sons, while Shukri Pataka is survived by one son. Villagers have urged the administration to provide financial assistance to both bereaved families and support the children's education.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



TWIN MURDERS ROCK GANJAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur/Berhampur, July 1: Two ghastly murders at separate locations rocked Ganjam district Tuesday.

A youth was killed and four of his kin and friends sustained critical injuries in an organised attack at Goba village under Chhatrapur police limits, while a jilted lover killed his girlfriend by slitting her throat at New Bus stand area under

Baidyanathpur police limits in Berhampur.

In the first case, the deceased was identified as Tophan Swain, 25, and his injured kin as Sudhir Kumar Swain, Nanda Barik, Kalia Sahu and Rahul Swain. The incident occurred over formation of a village committee when an opposite group attacked them.

In the second case, a youth identified as Abhaya Kumar Moharana, 24, killed his lover

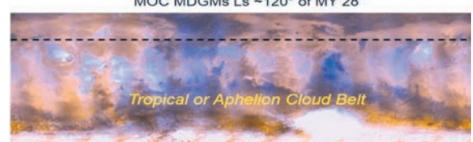
Priya Kumari Moharana, 24, at Pushpanjali lodge in New Bus stand area under Baidyanathpur police limits in the evening. After killing Priya, Abhaya, a resident of Padhi Colony in Lanjipalli, surrendered at Goshani Nuagaon police station. He is stated to have taken the extreme step after Priya's marriage was fixed elsewhere. He allegedly lost his mental balance and killed Priya by slitting her throat in the lodge.

Relative held for raping Class VII student

Gopalpur/Berhampur: Police Tuesday arrested a 22-year-old man in connection with the rape of a Class VII student in Ganjam district which came to the light Monday. The accused, who happens to be a distant relative of the survivor, was arrested from a village under the jurisdiction of Golanthara police station, a police officer said. The incident happened June 28, while the complaint was registered with the police June 30, the officer said. The incident came close on the heels of the gang rape of a college student at Gopalpur sea beach June 15 and rape of two girls within limits of the Golanthara police station June 6. In the present case, the accused and the 11-year-old victim have undergone medical tests, the police said. The survivor's statement has also been recorded. The officer said that the accused and the survivor are residents of the same village. According to the complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the accused forcibly took the survivor to a toilet of a school. He then tied her hands and legs before raping her. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said, quoting from the complaint. The accused had fled the spot, leaving the girl in distress. She was, however, located by a villager and rescued. Police have registered a case against the accused under various BNS Sections and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and launched an investigation, the SP said.

NIT Rourkela research to boost Mars mission plans

MOC MDGMs Ls ~120° of MY 28



MCC Ls ~130° of MY 34



MOC MDGM Ls ~0° MY 25



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 1: In what could enhance both robotic and human mission planning on Mars and deepen understanding of its habitability, a collaborative research by scientists from the National Institute of Technology Rourkela, UAE University and Sun Yat-sen University in China have examined how spinning dust devils, powerful dust storms and widespread wa-

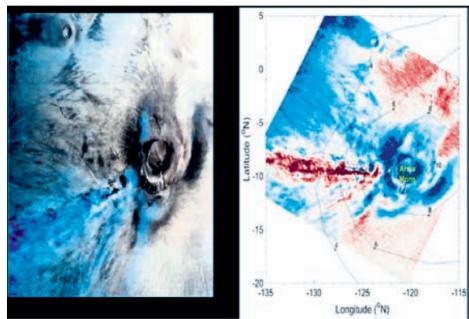
ter ice clouds can influence the atmosphere on the Red Planet.

The findings were made by the researchers through the analysis of more than two decades of satellite data with a view to improve weather prediction models for Mars. The study was recently published in New Astronomy Reviews (impact factor 26.8). Data from multiple Mars missions—including India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)—was used to analyse how dust and water ice interact to shape Mars' climate and temperature.

Lead author Prof Jagabandhu Panda, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, co-authored the paper with NIT Rourkela research scholar Anirban Mandal. Other contributors include Dr Bijay Kumar Guha and Dr Claus Gebhardt of UAE University's National Space Science and Technology Center, and Dr Zhaopeng Wu from Sun Yat-sen University (now at the Chinese Academy of Sciences).

The study focused on three main atmospheric elements: dust devils, large-scale dust storms, and water-ice clouds—including the aphelion cloud belt and polar hood. Their formation is driven by seasonal changes and dust concentration.

"Advancing weather prediction on Mars is crucial not only for safe missions but also for understanding the planet's habitability," said Prof. Panda. He also urged greater ISRO involvement and university-based investment in space research.



National Innovation Foundation - India
Autonomous Institute of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
Grambharti, Amrapur, Mahudi Road, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382650
Tel: 02764 261134/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38; Web: www.nif.org.in

Advt. No. 01/2025

National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF) invites online applications from highly motivated and eligible professionals for engagement at various levels (Managers, Associates, Fellow).

The engagement is purely on temporary and contractual basis. The detailed advertisement is available at https://nif.org.in/join_us. The last date for receipt of applications is: **25th July, 2025**.

CBC-36118/11/0001/2526 S/D Director

Chola
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CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India

Branch Office : 3rd Floor Sreemaa Construction Building, Naya Chowk Madhupatna, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 010.

Contact Nos. : Mr. B. Harikrishna (Mob. 99374 90975), Pinaki Dutta (Mob. 94374 79421), Suman Kalyan Satapathy (Mob. 79787 44193)

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee(s) that the below-described Immovable Properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred hereinafter as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" basis through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to the General public that we are going to conduct a public E-Auction through the website <https://bankauctions.in/>.

Account No. and Name of the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee	1. Date of Demand Notice : 06.12.2024	Descriptions of the Property / Properties	Reserve Price : Rs. 78,00,000.00
Loan A/c. Nos. : HE01SMP00000036744 & HE01SMP00000067022 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Rajib Choudhury (Applicant), S/o. Narayan Choudhury At / P.O. - Attabira, Attabira, Dist - Bargarh, Odisha, Pin - 768 027. 2. M/s. Choudhury Agency (Co-applicant), Baimantikira, Attabira, Bargarh, Dist. - Bargarh, Odisha, Pin - 768 027. 3. Narayan Choudhury (Co-applicant), S/o. Dandapani Choudhury New Dan Basko Schoolpada, Atabira, Attabira, Bargarh, Dist. - Bargarh, Odisha, Pin - 768 027. 4. Sanjeeb Choudhury (Co-applicant), Sriram Vihar, Attabira, Bargarh, Dist. - Bargarh, Odisha, Pin - 768 027. 5. Barsharani Choudhury (Co-applicant), W/o. Rajib Choudhury, At / P.O. - Attabira, Attabira, Dist - Bargarh, Odisha, Pin - 768027.	2. Demand Notice Amount : Rs. 64,95,721.00 & Rs. 10,04,236.00 Totally Rs. 74,99,957.00 as on 06.12.2025 3. Total Loan Outstanding : Rs. 66,48,124.00 & Rs. 10,61,316.00 Totally amount of Rs. 77,09,440.00 as on 19.06.2025 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 4. Possession Date : 24.02.2025 (Symbolic Possession)	All that piece and parcel of the Property, bearing Khata No. 361/215 (corresponding to Hal Khata No. 361/173), Plot No. 825, Area Ac. 0.060 Decimal, Kisam Homestead, situated at Mauza - Rengalipali, Tehsil - Attabira, P.S. - Attabira, No. 27, SRO-Attabira, District - Bargarh, Odisha. Bounded as : North - Partha Charan, South - Road, East - B. Papati Chetani, West - Ramesh Patel,	Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 7,80,000.00 Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 1,00,000.00 E-Auction Date and Time : 06.08.2025 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) with unlimited extension of 3 (Minutes) EMD Submission Last Date : 05.08.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.) Inspection Date : 25.07.2025 & 26.07.2025 (10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M.)
Loan A/c. No. : HE01XBE00000059709 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1a. Puspapala Patra, W/o. Basant Kumar Patra, (Representative by Legal Heir of Basanta Kumar Patra, S/o. Maheswar Patra) 1b. Naba Jyoti Patra, S/o. Basant Kumar Patra (Legal Heir of Basanta Kumar Patra), S/o. Maheswar Patra (Represented Through Mother Gaudian Puspapala Patra, W/o. Basant Kumar Patra) All are at : Khusaliganj, Ganipur, Remuna Near Hanuman Temple, Dist - Baleswar, Odisha, Pin - 756019. 2. M/s. Maa Agency (Co-applicant) Plot No. 539, Khata No. 115, Moulana Goda, Block Road, Champua, Kendujhar, Odisha, Pin - 758 041. 3. Puspapala Patra (Co-applicant), W/o. Basanta Kumar Patra, Khusaliganj, Ganipur, Remuna Near Hanuman Temple, District- Baleswar, Odisha, Pin - 756019.	1. Date of Demand Notice : 04.02.2025 2. Demand Notice Amount : Rs. 69,59,743.00 as on 04.02.2025 3. Total Loan Outstanding : Rs. 73,43,161.00 as on 28.06.2025 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 4. Possession Date : 23.04.2025 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Plot No. 302, Khata No. 588/2091, Area Ac. 0.070 Decimals, Status - Homestead, Mauja - Ganipur, Tehsil - Remuna, P.S. - Remuna, P.S. - No. 100, District - Baleswar (Odisha), Pin - 756 019. Bounded as : North - Plot No. 301, South - Road, East - Plot No. 297, West - Plot No. 303.	Reserve Price : Rs. 66,60,000.00 Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 6,66,000.00 Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 1,00,000.00 E-Auction Date and Time : 06.08.2025 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 3 (Minutes)) EMD Submission Last Date : 05.08.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.) Inspection Date : 25.07.2025 & 26.07.2025 (10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M.)

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> and www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact - Mr. Muhammed Rahees - Ph. No. 81240 00030 / 63748 45616, M/s. 4 Closure; Rekha, Ph. No. 81420 00062, E-mail : CholaAuctionLAP@chola.murugapatt.com.

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit : <https://bankauctions.in/> and www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Date : 02.07.2025
Place : Cuttack (Odisha)

Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism



THE MOTHER

Hungary Lessons

Revolting against oppression and seeking freedom is ingrained in human nature, something that a repressive regime finds out sooner or later. Change is the only constant and therefore it is difficult to hold people under sway for an indefinite period of time through aggressive measures. This is exactly what is happening in Far-Right controlled Hungary as was revealed in the government ban on Hungary's annual Pride Parade 28 June when over 200,000 people marched through its capital, Budapest, far more than have taken part in previous such events. The punitive measure backfired. Prime Minister Viktor Orban had warned people a day before the event to stay away from the banned parade, threatening "clear legal consequences" for anyone taking part. Government warnings, however, only turned what is usually a low-key event attended by a few thousand LGBTQ+ activists and their friends, into a mass rally against Orban's government. This is what happens when empty threats are issued against the public without a plan. It helps in consolidating opposition.

Common people, including women and children, travelled from distant places to take part in the rally to showcase their opposition to Orban's policies. Their common refrain was "it is painful for us to see how stupid they think we all are," as a 46-year-old woman, Edit Rocza, who is a special-education teacher, put it. These kinds of bans and restrictions are believed to be merely a distraction from the massive corruption, economic downturn and other real problems Hungarians are facing in their country.

In fact, only in March, Orban's party rushed a legislation through Parliament, that amended the right of assembly, to make it illegal to hold gatherings like Pride parades under an earlier law banning material that "propagates" homosexuality. Participants in such gatherings faced fines of nearly \$600 apiece, while organizers risked imprisonment up to a year.

The ban was the outcome of the increasing nervousness of Orban and his party, Fidesz, over the rising popularity of Peter Magyar, a conservative opposition leader. To stop Orban's government from derailing this year's Pride parade, an annual fixture since 1995, Budapest's liberal mayor, Gergely Karacsony, recast it as a municipal event celebrating Hungary's full freedom after Soviet troops pulled out in June 1991. He allowed it to go ahead, renamed as Budapest Pride Freedom. Authorities of the Orban regime were undeterred, insisted it was illegal and threatened the mayor with jail, though they gave permission to an anti-gay march planned on the same day by a Far-Right party.

Orban, a populist nationalist, has long projected Hungary as a bastion of conservative values in his attempts to distract attention from Hungary's faltering economy and to consolidate his Right-wing rural base. Hungary's gay community has become one of his favourite targets, as has been the case of many Right-wing parties across the globe.

The rally is a tell-tale indication that Orban faces great risk in the next elections. Most opinion polls give the party of his challenger, Magyar, a comfortable lead over Fidesz. This suggests Orban's party, in power for 15 years after four landslide election victories in a row, could suffer defeat in the general election next year.

For his part, Magyar made an intelligent move by staying away from the parade, delivering nonetheless an oblique message through social media that he supported Budapest Pride, accusing Orban of trying "to turn Hungarian against Hungarian, in order to create fear and divide us."

Another sign of the decline of popular support for Orban is that while Budapest Pride had in the past attracted a few foreign diplomats, this year's march drew more than 70 members of the European Parliament and scores of politicians from across Europe. This wasn't as much about the Alphabet community's rights but more about a general opposition to Orban and his policies.

The march ceased to be an expression of protest by a particular group of the populace and became a rallying point for all those who are fed up with the government. It is time for leaders like Orban to realise that people cannot be taken for granted for an indefinite period and actual work must overtake threats and propaganda.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR QUESTION

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



Since knowledge cannot be 'obliterated,' bombing your way to a deal will invariably prove counterproductive, threatening to bring our world one step closer to nuclear Armageddon

In 1966, the US, the Soviet Union, the UK, France, and China not only were the only countries that possessed nuclear weapons; they also had enough wisdom to recognise the dangers posed by nuclear proliferation. Despite their many and deep political differences, they arrived at a consensus to halt the further dissemination of "nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices." Under the resulting 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), non-nuclear states agreed not to pursue nuclear weapons and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards on all their nuclear activities. In return, the five nuclear-weapon states committed to negotiate "in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race ... and to nuclear disarmament."

With 191 signatories, the NPT is the most widely adopted international agreement after the UN Charter. The only countries not to adhere to it were India, Pakistan, and Israel. Each went on to develop nuclear weapons. North Korea, which initially joined the treaty, later withdrew to build its own nuclear arsenal. The five original nuclear-weapon states did not keep their end of the bargain regarding disarmament. On the contrary, they have been using AI and other technologies to modernize their arsenals. The world's nuclear warheads total more than 12,000 and have become the preeminent sign of a country's power and prestige.

Just listen to Russia's leaders. Throughout their war in Ukraine, they have brandished their nuclear arsenal as a badge of invincibility. They know that the risk of a nuclear holocaust will deter all other powers from challenging them directly. Similarly, because North Korea has armed itself with nuclear weapons, the US has taken a softer approach in dealing with it, relying on diplomacy and economic incentives. By contrast, in Libya, Muammar al-Qaddafi agreed to abandon his nascent nuclear programme and ended up dead, following a NATO aerial campaign against his regime. Among the lessons that have

emerged in recent decades are that nuclear-weapon states have no intention of fully disarming. Worse, there is now only one nuclear arms-control treaty between Russia and the US (New START), and it is due to expire next February. The most powerful deterrent for any state is possession of nuclear weapons or membership in an alliance that offers a nuclear umbrella (like NATO). Around 30 states either have nuclear weapons or enjoy such protection. The rest of the world, meanwhile, must hope that the nuclear powers remain on their best behaviour.

The situation is especially fraught in the Middle East, a region plagued by wars, violence, instability, and a lack of comprehensive security arrangements. Add the fact that Israel is the only state in the region known to have nuclear weapons and you have the makings for chronic insecurity.

The wild card, of course, has been Iran, a country that has endured violence and tumult since the 1950s, when a US- and UK-organized coup ousted the country's first democratically elected government. In the 1980s, Iraq invaded Iran with the support of Western powers and neighbouring countries determined to crush its fledgling Islamist regime. Following eight years of brutal violence, with Iraq deploying chemical weapons extensively, the Islamic Republic came to the predictable conclusion that it needs to master nuclear-weapons technology. According to the IAEA, US, and other intelligence agencies, how-

ever, that programme essentially ended in 2003. For the last 20 years, the challenge has been to get Iran to come clean about its past undeclared activities. After a period of sanctions, US President Barack Obama decided to pursue diplomacy. The idea was to use economic incentives and various technical measures to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and pressure it to reveal its past undeclared nuclear activities. These were the main features of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which Iran and the five permanent members of the UNSC, plus Germany and the European Union, signed in 2015.

This framework was functioning as intended, with full compliance by Iran, until President Donald Trump abruptly withdrew the US from the agreement in 2018. Arguing that the JCPOA was only a stopgap measure, he insisted on a deal that would control not only Iran's nuclear programme but also its "disruptive" activities in the Middle East (such as its support for Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in Yemen). As a result, Iran refused to implement some of the JCPOA's key inspection measures and started to enrich uranium to a level approaching weapons-grade.

During Joe Biden's term as president, the US tried unsuccessfully to revive the JCPOA. When Trump returned to the White House this year, he demanded that Iran "surrender" its right to enrichment altogether. Following a few rounds

of desultory talks between the US and Iran, Israel and the US, lacking credible evidence of a nuclear-weapons programme, launched their illegal attack against Iranian nuclear and military targets. The ostensible aim was to destroy all of Iran's nuclear fuel-cycle facilities, though there have also been murmurings about triggering regime change in Iran – a stark reminder of the rationale for the similarly illegal military interventions in Iraq and Libya.

The root cause of nuclear proliferation is a state's sense of insecurity or aspiration to increase its power and influence. Iran's focus on nuclear capability stems from a yearning to prevent foreign interference, a sensitivity to the region's security imbalance, and a desire to be recognised as a regional power. Far from curtailing its nuclear ambitions, the use of force and humiliation is just as likely to strengthen its resolve. We saw this in Iraq after Israel destroyed its research reactor in 1981.

The only solution to Middle East nuclear proliferation is to engage in dialogue based on mutual respect, meaningful security assurances, and economic incentives. In other words, resolving the Iran nuclear question ultimately will require a return to a JCPOA-like agreement – albeit one of unlimited duration, perhaps supplemented with an agreement on the scope of Iran's missile programme.

Addressing the longstanding challenges to peace and security across the Middle East ultimately will also require a comprehensive agreement that deals with the Palestinian question, Israel's nuclear weapons, and economic and social development needs. A just peace and an inclusive security architecture are the best defenses against nuclear proliferation. Since knowledge cannot be "obliterated," bombing your way to a deal will invariably prove counterproductive, threatening to bring our world one step closer to nuclear Armageddon.

The writer, a former director general of the IAEA, is a Nobel peace prize laureate.

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Mohamed ElBaradei

THE ROOT CAUSE OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS A STATE'S SENSE OF INSECURITY OR ASPIRATION TO INCREASE ITS POWER AND INFLUENCE

IN JEST THIS

It's not just Indians who go sample-crazy

An Indian man named Arvind recently shared a photo on the social media platform X, showing a sign taken at one of Frozen Fun's locations in New Delhi. Frozen Fun offers gelato ice cream in about two dozen flavours. Customers used to be able to sample several flavours before making their choice, but that got out of hand, apparently.



Melvin Durai

MANY PLACES GIVE FREE SAMPLES AS A WAY TO ENTICE A CUSTOMER, BUT WITH NO EXPECTATION THAT THE CUSTOMER WILL ACTUALLY BUY THE PRODUCT

Here's what the sign says: "Our policy allowed customers to try any flavour until they found their favourite. However, we noticed that many people were taking advantage of this generosity. There have been numerous instances where individuals and groups of friends requested to sample 5 to 10 flavours and then left without ordering anything. No business can sustain such costs. Therefore we are now offering two sample tastings per client. We hope you sympathise with and understand our perspective."

I wonder what would hap-

pen if a customer is having trouble deciding among three flavours.

Customer: "May I please have a sample of salted butter caramel, crunch coffee and vanilla madagascar?"

Employee: "Sorry, according to our policy, you can have only two samples."

Customer: "But what if I don't like either of them?"

Employee: "Then you have to choose something else."

Customer: "Without tasting it?"

Employee: "Yes, sometimes you just have to take a risk. When you buy a TV, do you ask for a sample? No, you take a chance."

Customer: "If I don't like the TV, I can return it within seven days. If I don't like your ice cream, can I return it?"

Employee: "No, but you can give it to your mum or dad to finish. Parents are always finishing food for their children."

Customer: "Oh yes, my parents. Next time I come, I will bring my parents, so we can

get six samples total. Would that be okay?"

Employee: "Yes, but please don't bring any more relatives for samples."

Arvind's photo of the Frozen Fun sign was also shared on the Reddit group "IndiaSpeaks" under the title "Every time there's something nice, we find a way to spoil it."

The title implies that Indians like to take advantage of free stuff, and one Reddit user was quick to share an example from his workplace in the United States. He works at a company that would stock the breakroom with snacks and drinks for employees to enjoy while working. His desi co-workers would take the free stuff home, filling their bags and emptying the shelves. When he asked them why they did this, the typical response would be: "Bro, it's kept for us only, bro."

But it's not just Indians who take advantage of free stuff. It's people in other countries too – and not just the ones who

emigrated from India.

As another Reddit user states: "Only in India, customers are seen as culprits. So many times, I have seen customers pass by Cold Stone (Creamery), trying samples but not picking an order, outside of India – who are not Indians. If you can't suck up to the cost, don't be in the business, instead of blaming it on the customers."

Many places give free samples as a way to entice a customer, but with no expectation that the customer will actually buy the product. Costco, the membership-only warehouse store, which has more than 900 locations worldwide, is renowned for the free food samples it offers customers. You can get an entire meal there, as long as you're willing to walk around to each sample station. Wearing a fake mustache will help you get two samples at each station. If you're a woman, you may get a raised eye brow, but don't worry: It's worth it.

WISDOM CORNER

Our deeds disguise us. People need endless time to try on their deeds, until each knows the proper deeds for him to do. But every day, every hour, rushes by. There is no time

JOHN LOCKE

No one should be ashamed to admit he is wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday

ALEXANDER POPE

When you show deep empathy toward others, their defensive energy goes down, and positive energy replaces it. That's when you can get more creative in solving problems

STEPHEN COVEY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1839: A slave rebellion occurred on the ship Amistad, and in their trial the following year the mutineers, who were deemed to be kidnap victims rather than merchandise, were acquitted—a victory for American abolitionism.

1881: Shot on this day, U.S. President James A. Garfield died several weeks later on September 19.

1900: The Zeppelin takes off for the first time. The rigid aircraft named after Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, the inventor of the dirigible and founder of the Zeppelin Airship Construction Company, made its first flight over Lake Constance in Germany. Unlike blimps or balloons, Zeppelins are built by stretching material over a rigid framework, usually made of metal. Zeppelins can be steered and they were used by the German Air Force to conduct aerial attacks during the First World War.

1937: The airplane piloted by American aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared over the central Pacific Ocean during her attempt to fly around the world.

1962: American businessman Sam Walton opened the first Walmart (then known as Wal-Mart) store, in Rogers, Arkansas; it was the start of what would become the largest retail sales chain in the United States.

LOL

DEALING WITH JUGGLER

A juggler, driving to his next performance, was stopped by the police. "What are those knives doing in your car?" asked the officer. "I juggle them in my act." "Oh yeah?" says the cop. "Let's see



you do it." So the juggler starts tossing and juggling the knives. A guy driving by sees this and says, "Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're making you do now!"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Combating colourism

Sir, Over the years, Indians have become sickeningly colour-conscious towards human skin. We scream about racism abroad, but see no problem in ill-treating the black-skinned fellow citizens or anyone who looks different at home. Shamefully, we discriminate against, look down upon certain races and treat them as if they are beneath us. Combating colourism in India needs the work of all of society to make India equitable for all Indians, regardless of skin colour. As we look to the future, there is a growing hope that through persistent educational efforts, policy reforms, and a cultural celebration of diversity, society can move towards true inclusivity. The objective must be to create a world where skin colour ceases to dictate one's opportunities or value, and future generations can exist free from the constraints of colour-based prejudices. This vision for the future emphasises the need for continuous action and commitment at all levels of society to eradicate the shadows of colourism once and for all. As Alfred Adler, the eminent psychologist postulated, "superiority complexes are essentially inferiority complexes in order to mask feelings of insecurity."

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Two-language model

Sir, Despite numerous attempts by various committees, India's language unrest continues to simmer. It is time for a decisive and unified approach to end the controversy once and for all—whether through democratic consensus or firm policy. A practical and sustainable solution would be the adoption of a two-language formula in academics. Under this, the first language should be either English or Hindi, and the second should be the respective state language—or vice versa, depending on regional preference. This ensures both national connectivity and cultural preservation. A third language, if any, must be strictly optional and not mandated academically. India cannot afford prolonged debates over language. For national integration and educational clarity, the time has come to implement this two-language model firmly and uniformly, even if it meets with initial resistance.

RS Narula, PATIALA

FROM NETHERLANDS TO KASHMIR

J&K orders opening of 'buried' cases for families of terror victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 1: A special cell and a toll-free number will be established in the secretariat of Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor for addressing the concerns of the families of terror victims and to bring the culprits to justice.

Chairing a high-level meeting Tuesday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also directed deputy commissioners and SSPs to reopen terror cases which were "deliberately buried."

The development comes days after Sinha met the family members of some of the Kashmiri civilians killed in terror attacks and said justice was denied to victims of terrorism for decades before 2019.

"Special Cell to be established in LG Secretariat to address concerns of families. A similar cell to be set up in Chief Secretary's office. Every possible assistance would be provided to terror victim families & culprits roaming free for many decades will be brought to justice," Sinha posted on his official X handle.

Sinha said a toll-free number should also be notified for the assistance of terror victim families.

The LG chaired the meeting to discuss issues concerning victim families whose loved ones were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

"Directed DCs & SSPs to reopen cases which were deliberately buried & file an FIR and ensure jobs are provided to NoKs (next of kin) on priority," Sinha said.

He said the deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police were directed to free the property and land grabbed by terrorists or their sympathisers.

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69-year-old woman quietly cleaning Dal Lake of plastic for 5 years

Armed with her love for nature, Ellis Hubertina Spaaanderman can often be seen rowing her boat quietly in the waters of the lake to collect plastic waste and other trash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 1: It is 'Hol-landse Schoonmaak' (Dutch cleaning) in Kashmir as a 69-year-old woman from the Netherlands has made it a mission to clean the waters of the famous tourist attraction Dal Lake of plastic waste.

Armed with her love for nature, Ellis Hubertina Spaaanderman can often be seen rowing her boat quietly in the waters of the lake to collect plastic waste and other trash.

She picks up the trash items one by one carefully from the waters and places them in a bag on her boat to clean the lake inch-by-inch.

"I also did it in the Netherlands as I was living on the seaside. In general, the Nether-

lands is clean, but ships throw waste, so I started collecting the waste, it is in my nature. When I see it, I cannot avoid cleaning up," Spaaanderman said when asked about her passion.

The Dutch tourist came to Kashmir first nearly 25 years ago and instantly fell in love with the place.

When she returned about five years ago, she stayed in the valley, but was dismayed with the levels of pollution in the lake.

"I started picking the trash right from the day I came to Kashmir. Now, it has been five years," she said.

Spaaanderman got a boat of her own in November last year to get help in her campaign.

"I thought if no one is doing it, I am gonna do it. Maybe it is only a drop in the ocean,



but I have learnt one thing that if you want to teach people, the best thing is to be an

example. People start noticing," she added. The foreigner said she wants

Dal is not just a lake. The famous water body is a source of livelihood for many Kashmiris and a famed tourist attraction. However, over the years, the lake has witnessed pollution and encroachment

While there have been efforts by the government like dredging, de-weeding and anti-encroachment drives, the water body still faces a threat

to create a mass awareness about the environment.

"I care about the environment, I want it to be clean. But, it is so much dirty here, I cannot do it alone. This is my way to clean it and create awareness among the people. I notice that now when I am collecting waste, not only here but in streams and forests,

people start helping me. I am convinced that if everyone will help me, the whole of Kashmir can be cleaned within two years. I really believe in that. Many Kashmiris say it will take 1,000 years...no you can teach within a generation," she said.

Spaaanderman said she has grabbed some attention for her work.

"The vice-chairman of J&K LCMA (Lake Conservation and Management Authority) asked me to come and speak with him. They want to work with me and want to use my knowledge to educate the children in schools," she said.

Spaaanderman does the cleaning all alone - without any support or funding. Her small 'shikara' is like a wooden manual de-weeder.

Delhi: Artificial rain project postponed to August-end

Following consultations with meteorological experts and in light of the current weather patterns, the project team proposed a revised window - August 30 to September 10 - when the monsoon is expected to recede



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: With monsoon drenching the capital, Delhi's pilot cloud seeding project to curb air pollution was deferred to the end of August, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said Tuesday.

The minister announced the change in schedule during a press conference here, citing ongoing rains that may not provide ideal conditions and could fail to yield the desired results.

Last week, he revealed that the initial time window for cloud seeding was set between July 4 and July 11, as conditions were not suitable before July 3.

However, following consultations with meteorological experts and in light of the current weather patterns, the project team proposed a revised window - August 30 to September 10 - when the monsoon is expected to recede.

Sirsa expressed confidence that this new period is likely to offer more suitable cloud formations for the seeding

process. The cloud seeding sorties will be conducted using aircraft VT-IIT (Cessna 206-H), fully equipped with cloud seeding instruments.

According to the tentative flight plan, the aircraft will cover Alipur, Bawana, Rohini, Burari, Pavi Sadakpur, and regions along the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, including areas near the Kundli border zones, identified for their combination of low-altitude cloud potential and high pollution retention.

The operation will be carried out by the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur, which has prior experience in similar airborne missions. The crew has undergone training, and all necessary DGCA certifications and permissions were obtained, he said.

The cloud seeding process involves releasing hygroscopic particles, such as sodium chloride, into clouds to trigger precipitation. "This not only helps generate rain but also improves pollutant washout in the lower

atmosphere," said Sirsa.

The DGCA laid down stringent conditions: the flights must operate under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), with full visibility of terrain and obstacles. No aerial photography is permitted, and the aircraft must stay within approved airspace unless further clearances are secured. Operators are also required to inform the DGCA of any unusual incidents and follow all safety and documentation protocols under the applicable Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR).

Sirsa also stated that this pilot trial is part of the government's broader Environment Action Plan 2025, and the data gathered from these flights will help boost efforts during the winter season when Delhi's AQI levels typically spike.

"These trials are not just symbolic but are part of a data-driven strategy. We are preparing now so that when October and November arrive, we have a tested, ready mechanism to combat pollution," he said.

Calling it a "historic milestone," Sirsa underlined that Delhi is the first state to receive the DGCA's approval for cloud seeding aimed at pollution control.

"We're ending the era where action only followed court intervention," he said. "The previous governments wrote letters for ten years. We held multiple rounds of meetings, got clearances in just four months, and now, we are ready with aircraft, crew, and equipment."



An artiste takes part in the Ghatasthapana Ghatam procession during the Bonalu festival celebration at India Gate, in New Delhi, Tuesday

Pilgrims make beeline for Amarnath yatra registration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 1: Hundreds of pilgrims from all over the country flocked to Jammu Tuesday as the administration started on-the-spot registration of devotees for the Amarnath yatra.

The yatra to the 3,880-metre shrine in south Kashmir Himalaya will formally begin July 3. The 38-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks-- the traditional 48-km long Nunwan-Pahalam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district-- July 3.

"On-the-spot registration has begun for devotees arriving in Jammu city from other parts of the country for their onward journey to Amarnath. This is being done after devotees are given tokens," Sub Divisional Magistrate Manu Hansa said.

While on-the-spot registration centres have been set up for unregistered pilgrims in



Shalimar area of the city, a special camp for registration of sadhus has been set up at the Purani Mandi-based Ram temple complex, officials said.

"The registration is being done at three centres - Vaishnavi Dham, Panchayat Bhawan, and Mahajan Sabha. Saraswati Dham is the only centre from

where devotees can get the token. The centres opened at 7 am," he said.

The registration of sadhus has begun at the Ram temple in Jammu, officials said, adding all arrangements have been put in place for them.

Over 300 sadhus from various parts of the country have

arrived at the Ram temple complex, which serves as the base camp for them, they said, adding boarding and lodging arrangements have been made for them here.

Amid multi-tier security arrangements, over 1,600 pilgrims have arrived at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for their onward journey to Kashmir tomorrow, officials said.

"Arrangements have been made to provide boarding and lodging facilities for over 50,000 people at various lodgement centres across the Jammu region, from Lakhnapur to Banihal. A total of 106 lodgement centres have been set up for the purpose," Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar told reporters here.

Kumar said the yatra will commence from Jammu July 2 and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will flag it off from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp amid tight security.

Chundawat family's fate continues to evoke curiosity

Ten of the 11 members of the family were found hanging from an iron mesh in the ceiling, while the body of 77-year-old Narayan Devi, the head of the family, was lying on the floor in another room of the house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Seven years after the mysterious deaths of 11 family members inside their home in north Delhi's Burari July 1, 2018, life in the neighbourhood has seemingly returned to normal. Coaching centres and shops operate as usual, yet the building, which once captured national headlines and inspired numerous theories, still draws quiet glances and recognition from passersby.

"Sometimes, students, especially girls from the nearby academies, point to the build-

ing, stop for a moment, speak in whispers, get scared, and then turn away," Madan, an ironing shop worker who has lived in the area for nearly two decades, said.

Ten of the 11 members of the Chundawat family were found hanging from an iron mesh in the ceiling, while the body of 77-year-old Narayan Devi, the head of the family, was lying on the floor in another room of the house.

Devi's daughter Pratibha (57) and her two sons, Bhavnesh (50) and Lalit (45), were among the deceased. Bhavnesh's wife Savita (48) and their three children—Maneka (23), Neetu (25), and Dharendra (15)—were also found dead. Lalit Bhatia's wife Tina (42) and their 15-year-old son Dushyant were among those who died. Pratibha's daughter Priyanka, who had gotten engaged in June 2018, was also found hanging.

The police tried their hand at everything, including the occult, psychology, superstition and used the latest investigative techniques to crack one of the most sensational cases in the national capital.

BURARI DEATHS



A senior officer, involved in the investigation of the case, stated, "When the bodies were found, the district police initially registered a murder case. However, when family members were questioned, no motive was discovered. Then the registers were uncovered, and gradually the mystery began to unravel."

He added that it was a challenging case since authorities had to go through eight registers filled with detailed entries made over a period of 11 years

about a set of rituals on how to replicate 'badh tapasya' a banyan tree formation.

The factor that seems to grab the most eyeballs in this case is that of Lalit Chundawat allegedly being 'visited' by his dead father, who dictated instructions for the family.

"In 2006, his father had passed away and a few months after his death, Lalit met with an accident and lost his voice. He appeared to have gained his voice back after some time and started believing that he was

being visited by his father. He would give sermons to his family members who would make the notes in those registers," the officer recalled.

This discovery led to widespread media attention, speculation, and multiple investigations. A psychological autopsy revealed that none of the family members had any intention of taking their own lives; rather, it was an accident that occurred during a ritual that went wrong. Monica, a teacher at an academy directly across from the Chundawat residence, noted that while the fear surrounding the house has subsided, some rare instances of superstition still persist.

"Everything's calm now, but there are still a few superstitious parents. They link minor illnesses, like headaches or stomachaches, to the building. One student missed class for a few days, and when she returned, she told me her mother had taken her to a spiritual guru instead of a doctor. The guru supposedly said that a spirit might still be around because of what happened there."

Boating at Delhi's Purana Qila now close to reality

NEW DELHI: A leisurely boat ride along the ancient walls of Delhi's Purana Qila is now a possibility, as boating trials began this week at the historic site's artificial lake. The new feature aims to offer tourists a refreshing experience amid centuries-old heritage. The trial run of the boating service will continue till August, an official said. He said the boating services for public will formally be inaugurated September 1.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-342
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
"e" Procurement Notice - BAID 01 of 2025-26
BID IDENTIFICATION No. BAID 01 of 2025-26

1	Name of the Work	Engagement of Manpower through service provider for smooth running of Baitarani Irrigation Division Salapada
2	Total No. of Package	1 No.
3	Tender Cost	Rs. 17.38445 Lakhs as per DTCN
4	Bid Security	Rs. 17,500/-
5	Cost of Tender Paper (Online)	Rs. 6,000/- as per DTCN
6	Period of Completion	As per DTCN
7	Availability of Tender online for bidding	From 02.07.2025 at 12.00 Noon to 16.07.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.
8	Date and place of opening	At 17.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Baitarani irrigation Division, Salapada
9	Tender Inviting Authority	Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in> / www.dowrodisha.gov.in. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

OIPR-32439/11/0001/2526



Self Help Groups in Goa received a credit linkage of ₹365 crore during the fiscal 24-25 which has empowered thousands of women to start small enterprises, take up farming, and launch service-based businesses
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

AKHILESH YADAV TURNS 52

Several political leaders, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, took to microblogging site X to extend birthday wishes to Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, who turned 52 Tuesday



of the day uote

Some of you asked me are you taking opinion on leadership change. The answer I had given



RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

The state government will talk to the company management that ₹1 crore each compensation will be paid to the deceased families. I have issued orders that from both the government side and company side ₹1 Crore compensation will be paid



REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

For crores of people here, the train journey is not a fashion, pleasure or tourism, rather it is a very painful journey and compulsion due to the increasing poverty, inflation, acute shortage of respectable permanent employment in the country, compulsion to leave their homes and migrate to feed the family



MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

Oppn mounts pressure on DMK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Sivaganga, July 1: The Opposition in Tamil Nadu Tuesday mounted pressure on the ruling DMK over the custodial death of a temple security guard in the state's Sivaganga district, demanding a CBI probe into the matter, even as the state government initiated action against policemen, including putting the district police chief on "compulsory wait". Also, a DSP was placed under suspension.



Stalin hands probe to CBI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Tuesday ordered transferring to the CBI, the probe into the custodial death. The CM said he was anguished to know that Ajithkumar, picked up for enquiry died under mysterious circumstances in Tiruppuvanam "only because of the assault by the police during interrogation." "This is unjustifiable and cannot be excused," he said in a statement. While initially six policemen were suspended, five were later arrested for murder charge. The district SP has been put on compulsory wait while a DSP has been suspended, he recalled. He said he spoke to the family of the deceased and assured them of a honest and transparent probe to ensure them justice.

Sivaganga) youth should not happen to anyone; it's an unjustifiable mistake. This government will ensure punishment for those who have failed to do their duty (policemen), will stand by the family," he said.

In a social media post, he said, "Some media may believe in your drama, like holding a review meeting or transferring the case to the CB-CID. Whether the people or us- we just don't believe in the drama."

The matter also came up before the Madras High Court bench in Madurai, which appointed an Enquiry Officer to look into the issue and submit a report July 8, while allowing a CB-CID probe into the case. The victim's family had filed a writ petition. Ajithkumar of Tiruppuvanam was picked up last week by the local police in connection with a theft case and was allegedly repeatedly thrashed by a "special team" and died later. His death has sparked outrage from political parties and civil societies alike.

The Opposition lashed out at the DMK over the incident. The principal Opposition party, AIADMK, demanded a CBI probe into the custodial death, saying people have lost faith in the state police.

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay sought the constitution of a Special Investigation Team to probe the matter. Meanwhile, addressing a press meet here, CM Stalin said action has been taken in connection with the death of the security guard. Lawyer-activist Henry Tiphagne said in Madurai that a "special team" operating under the Manamadurai DSP was involved in the incident. In the HC, the government side submitted that the official concerned has been placed under suspension, Ti-

phagne, one of the counsels who argued the case, said. Further, five policemen have been arrested in connection with the incident. A probe was launched into the matter, and following the post-mortem report received Monday night, the next course of action was initiated "without any delay", an official release said.

Subsequently, murder charges were invoked, and "five policemen involved in the matter have been arrested," it added. Meanwhile, State Law Minister S Raghupathy said the CM has made it clear nobody involved in the incident will be spared.

Amid criticism from various quarters, the Chief Minister spoke to the family of the deceased over the phone and consoled them. "I am very sorry, have asked action to be taken, serious action. Stay strong," he told the victim's mother.

Referring to reports, Palaniswami claimed that the post-mortem on the victim revealed a number of injuries on his body and called it a "murder that happened due to police

Record: 14th judge refuses to hear defamation case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nainital, July 1: In a unique record in the country, 14 judges have refused to hear a criminal defamation case filed by Indian Forest Service officer Sanjeev Chaturvedi against Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) judge Manish Garg.



The second ship of Project 17A stealth frigate, 'Udaygiri', equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, was delivered to the Navy Tuesday, officials said. These multi-mission frigates are capable of operating in "a 'Blue Water' environment dealing with both conventional and non-conventional threats" in the area of India's maritime interests, the defence ministry said

Chaturvedi enjoys the reputation of a whistleblower officer who uncovered the Haryana forestry case and blew the lid off various scams in the health sector during his stint as the chief vigilance officer, AIIMS, New Delhi.

The defence ministry said

In the latest instance, additional chief judicial magistrate Neha Kushwaha recused herself from hearing Chaturvedi's case in which he accused Garg of using foul language against him during open court proceedings in 2023.

With Kushwaha, the tally of judges who have recused from cases in which Chaturvedi was a party stands at 14.

Eight killed in cracker factory blast in TN's Sivakasi, CM announces solatium

Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu): At least eight workers, including two women, were killed in a sudden blast at a firecracker manufacturing factory in Sivakasi in the district Tuesday, police said. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, who consoled the accident, announced solatium to the kin of the deceased. The devastating fire gutted the unit and left many injured, police said. Smoke that billowed from the factory as the firecrackers burst, could be seen from a distance. Police and fire and rescue services personnel who reached the spot rushed the injured to the hospital. The fire was later brought under control, a fire and rescue services official said. Revenue officials who arrived at the private firecracker manufacturing unit in Chinnakamanpatti near Sivakasi and police are inquiring into the incident. The CM announced a relief of ₹1 lakh each to those who were seriously injured and undergoing treatment in the hospital, besides ₹50,000 to those who sustained simple injuries and were admitted to the hospital, an official release said.

Fadnavis announces SIT to investigate coaching class sexual harassment case

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday announced a special investigation team (SIT), headed by a senior woman officer, to probe the alleged sexual harassment of a minor girl at a coaching class in Beed. NCP legislator Chetan Tupe raised the issue through a point of information in the state Assembly. Tupe said two people had been arrested and remanded to a three-day police custody. He said the person protecting the accused needs to be unmasked. "Who is protecting the accused?" he asked. Responding to Tupe's demand, Fadnavis stated that those trying to shield the accused will not be spared. "The SIT will probe the case in a time-bound manner, and the guilty will be punished," the Chief Minister said, adding that a woman officer will head the prob team. Two male teachers of a coaching centre were booked by Shivajinagar police in Beed for allegedly molesting and sexually harassing a 17-year-old female student between July 30, 2024 and May 25, 2025.

So far, two judges of the Supreme Court, two judges of the Nainital High Court, CAT chairperson, a judge of a subordinate court in Shimla and seven CAT judges of Delhi and Allahabad bench have recused themselves from Chaturvedi's cases.

According to Chaturvedi, this is a unique record in the country in which 14 judges recused themselves from hearing a person's case.

Saying I love you isn't sexual harassment: Bombay HC

If somebody says that he is in love with another person or expresses his feelings that in itself would not amount to an intent showing some sort of sexual intention, says the court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 1: Saying 'I love you' is only an expression of feelings and does not in itself amount to "sexual intent", the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench has said acquitting a 35-year-old man accused of molesting a teenage girl in 2015.

passed Monday. As per the complaint, the man had accosted the 17-year-old victim in Nagpur, held her hand and said 'I love you'.



sexual contact with the victim. "Words expressed 'I love you' would not by itself amount to sexual intent as contemplated by

Any sexual act includes inappropriate touching, forcible disrobing, indecent gestures or remarks made with an intent to insult the modesty of a woman, the court said. In the present case, there is no evidence that reveals the accused had said 'I love you' with a sexual intent, the HC said. "If somebody says that he is in love with another person or expresses his feelings that in itself would not amount to an intent showing some sort of sexual intention," the order said.

A sessions court in Nagpur had convicted him under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2017 and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment. The HC quashed the man's conviction, noting there was no circumstance to indicate his real intention was to establish

HASSAN HEART ATTACK CASES

Siddaramaiah flags Covid vaccine link



The Chief Minister said that more than twenty people have died due to heart attacks in the past month alone in just one district of Hassan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 1: In the wake of recent cases of deaths due to heart attacks in Hassan, Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday said that "hasty approval and distribution" of the Covid vaccine to the public could also be a reason for these deaths.

families," he said. Siddaramaiah condemned the actions of BJP leaders, alleging that they are using such matters for their political gains. "It cannot be denied that the hasty approval and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the public could also be a reason for these deaths, as several studies worldwide have recently indicated that COVID vaccines could be a cause for the increasing number of heart attacks. Before the BJP criticise us on this matter, they should ask their conscience," he added.

He urged everyone to visit the nearest health center immediately for a check-up if they have symptoms such as chest pain or difficulty breathing, and not to ignore these signs.

The chief minister said the state government is fully committed to finding the true cause behind these sudden series of deaths in Hassan district and across the state and to preventing them.

The Chief Minister said that more than twenty people have died due to heart attacks in the past month alone in just one district of Hassan.

"With this goal, we have already implemented schemes like Hridaya Jyothi and Gruha Arogya to monitor public health. Based on the report from the expert committee under Dr Ravindranath's guidance, necessary actions will also be taken. As a government we are making every possible effort to protect the health of the people," he said.

"The government is taking this matter very seriously. To identify the exact cause of these series of deaths and to find solutions, a committee of experts has been formed under the leadership of Dr Ravindranath, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, and they have been instructed to submit a study report within 10 days," he said, in a post on X.

According to the health department, a directive has also been issued to form a district-level committee to verify the facts of each reported cases of heart attack death in the media. The committee headed by Dr Ravindranath has been instructed to investigate this matter in collaboration with Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences and to submit a report within 10 days.

According to him, orders were given to the same committee back in February to conduct a thorough study on the reasons behind sudden deaths among young people in the state, and whether the COVID vaccines could have had any adverse effects.

"We've taken it seriously. If there are any factors beyond medical reasons, those will also be examined and verified. A proper scientific analysis will be done once the report is ready. We have asked the committee to submit the report within 10 days, and based on that, we will take further decisions," he told reporters here.

In this regard, the process of examining and analysing heart patients is also underway. "We too value the lives of children, youth, and innocent people who have their entire lives ahead of them, and we share the concerns of their

Man sentenced to 25 years RI

Shillong: A court in Meghalaya's Shillong has sentenced a man to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a girl five years ago, an official said Tuesday. Special POC SO Judge MK Lyngdoh Monday pronounced Teiboklang Wahlang guilty of sexually assaulting the minor in 2020 and sentenced him to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment, they said.

India, France hold joint military drills

New Delhi: Indian and French militaries carried out a two-week wargame in France that focused on boosting joint operational preparedness to deal with security challenges. About 50 armoured and tactical vehicles and fighter jets were deployed in the Indo-French army exercise Shakti that was held from June 18 to July 1. The exercise involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the French Army, the Foreign Legion, as well as the French Air and Space Force, and the French Navy, according to a French readout.

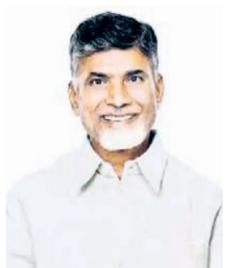
133 held in Assam for illegal cattle slaughter

Guwahati: At least 133 people were apprehended Tuesday for their role in alleged violation of the Assam Cattle Preservation Act and over one tonne of suspected beef were seized across the state, a senior police officer said. According to Inspector General Police (Law and Order) Akhilesh Kumar Singh, a suo-motu drive was initiated across the state to check reported incidents of illegal cattle slaughter and selling of beef in restaurants unauthorisedly.

Man rapes 2-yr-old in Bawana; arrested

New Delhi: A man was arrested for allegedly raping a two-year-old girl from his neighbourhood in outer north Delhi's Bawana area, an official said Tuesday. The alleged incident happened Friday and came to light when the girl's mother came home from work and found her crying. When the mother asked her elder daughter about it, she said a neighbour allegedly took her younger sister to his room, a senior officer said.

SHORT TAKES



Pensions are being given to 13 per cent of people and Andhra Pradesh is the one and only such state. Per month Rs 2,750 crore pensions are being given and nearly Rs 33,000 crore are being spent (annually)

FUEL BAN FOR OVERAGE VEHICLES KICKS IN DELHI

Amid high surveillance, tight security and multi-agency coordination, the fuel ban on overage vehicles kicked in Delhi Tuesday, with 24 such vehicles being impounded, officials said



of the day quote

Conveyed my deep appreciation for the unwavering support extended by the US to India in its fight against terrorism. Looking forward to meet him at an early date



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

President Murmu embodies the journey from the grassroots to the highest constitutional post. Her life is a living example of overcoming adversity with resolve and working selflessly for the nation and the welfare of the underprivileged



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Some people from Maharashtra are stuck at Yamunotri Dham. I have personally spoken to one of the affected tourists from Mahabaleshwar (in Satara district). We are in touch with the government in Uttarakhand, and they have informed us that rescue operations are underway. Once rescued, the stranded pilgrims will be transported to a safer location in Rishikesh



EKNATH SHINDE | MAHA DEPUTY CM

POST OF THE DAY

A middle-class person saves money their entire life and somehow manages to buy a car on a 5-year EMI. Now the government says cars older than 10 years can't be used. We're not like politicians who can buy a new car every 5 years with corruption money. This 'End of Life Vehicle' rule is a stupid idea.

@NalinisKitchen

SHORT TAKES

Ravindra Chavan BJP's new Maha unit chief

Mumbai: Former minister Ravindra Chavan was Tuesday unanimously elected as the Maharashtra unit president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at a meeting here, replacing Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule ahead of the crucial municipal polls. Union minister and BJP's central observer Kiren Rijiju made this announcement following the meeting. Chavan, a close aide of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, has become the 12th president of the party's state unit. He succeeds Bawankule, who held the post since August 2022.

J&K: Several PDP leaders detained

Srinagar: Police Tuesday detained several leaders of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party as they tried to take out a protest march against the National Conference-led government over its alleged "failure" to fulfil its poll promises. PDP leaders and activists assembled at the party headquarters near the Sher-e-Kashmir Park here and attempted to march towards the Lal Chowk city centre. The police asked the protesters to disperse, but they continued their march.

MP HC stays retest of NEET-UG candidates

Indore: The Madhya Pradesh High Court Tuesday stayed the retest of candidates affected by power cuts at exam centres in Indore and Ujjain during the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) held May 4 for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

₹1.07L-cr ELI scheme to create 3.5 cr jobs in 2 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The central government Tuesday approved an Employment Linked Incentive scheme with an outlay of Rs 1.07 lakh crore to create 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years through social security schemes run by the retirement fund body EPFO.

The ELI scheme to support job generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector, was approved by the Union Cabinet in a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over two years, an official statement said. The scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to boost job creation. Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000), the employers will be given incentives for a period of two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

The ELI scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore. The ELI scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of 2 years, it stated. Out of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027. The plan consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers (em-



Cabinet clears 11-crore plan to boost pvt R&D investment

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet Tuesday approved the Research Development and Innovation Scheme with a corpus of Rs one lakh crore to spur private sector investment in research. The scheme, approved by the Cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development and innovation in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance. "Today's Cabinet decision relating to Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme will be a game changer in the world of research and innovation. This scheme, with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore will have a major impact on emerging and sunrise sectors. It will also boost private sector participation in the world of R&D," Modi said in a post on X.

employees) and Part B focused on employers.

Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part A will offer a one-month wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments.

Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible. The first instalment will be payable after 6 months of service, and the second instalment after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

Part B of the scheme will cover the generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. The employers will get incentives with respect to employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.

The government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at

least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees) on a sustained basis for at least six months.

The benefit to the employer (per additional employment per month) will be up to Rs 1,000 for employees with a monthly wage of Rs 10,000, while this will be Rs 2,000 for employees with wages of more than Rs 10,000 and up to Rs 20,000.

Employees with wages up to Rs 10,000 will get a proportional incentive. The benefit will be Rs 3,000 per month to the employers for employees with a wage of more than Rs 20,000 (up to a salary of Rs 1 lakh/month).

TELANGANA PLANT BLAST: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 36

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 1: The toll in the explosion at the Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Sangareddy District of Telangana rose to 36 and the state government will engage with the management of the firm to ensure that a compensation of Rs 1 crore is paid to the kin of those who died in the horrific accident, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said Tuesday.

A senior police official said 34 people who were injured in the blast are undergoing treatment in various hospitals. The toll has risen from 15 last night after more bodies were found during the removal of debris, officials said. The fatal accident Monday is suspected to have been caused by a chemical reaction. The Chief Minister, who visited the site, also said those who are

seriously injured will receive Rs 10 lakh, while those who are injured but can resume work after some recovery will be provided Rs 5 lakh. "Thirty-six people have lost their lives. Some are still missing. Officials are in the process of collecting information," the CM said, adding that stringent action will be taken against those responsible for the incident. "The state government will talk to the company management to ensure that each Rs 1 crore compensation is paid to the deceased families. I have issued orders that from both the government side and company side Rs 1 Crore compensation will be paid," Reddy said.

He said the state government will pay Rs 1 lakh each to the family of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured to meet any immediate and emergency expenses.

Monsoon havoc in Mandi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 1: Cloudbursts and flash floods triggered by heavy overnight rains battered Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, leaving five people dead, five injured and 16 missing, officials said Tuesday.

The state witnessed 11 cloudburst incidents, four flash floods and a major landslide on Tuesday, most of them in Mandi district, disrupting normal life. Mandi received extensively high rainfall of 253.8 mm since Monday evening.

Ten houses, 12 cattle sheds, one bridge and several roads have been damaged, 26 cattle perished and efforts are on to rescue stranded nine people in Mandi district, the officials said.

A total of 287 people including 233 in Mandi, 51 in Hamirpur and three in Chamba have been rescued safely, according



to the state emergency operation centre. In Mandi district, cloudbursts were reported in four places in Gohar, three in Karsog, two in Dharampur and one place in Thunag.

Two deaths were reported in Bada and one in Talwara, both in Gohar area, one in old Bazaar in Karsog while one body was recovered at Neri-Kotla in Jogindernagar. Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, Apoorv Devgan said that several people have been rescued and shifted to safe places as cloudbursts and flash floods following heavy rains caused extensive damage at some places in the district.

KOLKATA LAW COLLEGE GANGRAPE

Custody of 3 accused extended till July 8



A police personnel stands guard outside a lock-up before the accused arrested in connection with the alleged gang rape of a student at a law college, are produced at Alipore Court, in Kolkata, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 1: The police custody of the three accused in connection with the alleged gangrape of a first-year student at a law college in Kolkata's Kasba area Tuesday were extended by eight days till July 8 by a city court.

The accused include the prime suspect, Monojit Mishra, a former student and temporary staffer of the college, and two current students - Zaib Ahmed and Pramit Mukherjee. They were arrested on Thursday and produced before the court the following day, which initially remanded them to four days of police custody. Upon production at Alipore Court Tuesday, their police custody was extended till July 8.

A security guard of the college, Pinaki Banerjee, was also arrested Saturday in connection with the case and was sent to police custody till Tuesday. His police custody was extended till July 4. On completion of the initial remand period, all four were produced before the Alipore court, which extended their police custody, allowing further

interrogation by investigators.

According to sources, the defence lawyers of the three - Mishra, Ahmed, and Mukherjee - did not move bail pleas and instead told the court that the accused were fully cooperating with the investigation and were willing to help bring out the truth. They also urged the court to ensure that no media trial takes place before the charges are proven and requested that the accused not be "victimized" in the process.

The defence counsel prayed that they be allowed to accompany the accused to the crime scene and also be present during their interrogation by the police. The defence counsel said while the phones of the accused were confiscated, it was not known if the mobile of the complainant was also examined by the investigators. The defence counsel of the arrested security guard, meanwhile, pleaded for bail, arguing that his client had no prior criminal record and had not left his place of duty. He also submitted that the guard had a meagre income and was not involved in any way in the act of rape.

Najeeb's mother slams CBI, vows to move apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Fatima Nafis, the mother of JNU student Najeeb Ahmed who went missing in 2016, accused CBI and Delhi Police Tuesday of "negligence" in her son's case and said that even if she has to knock on the Supreme Court's doors for justice, she will do it.

In a Facebook post, she said she will fight till her last breath.

A Delhi court "Monday allowed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to close Ahmed's case, saying that the agency "exhausted all options". Ahmed, a first-year student, went missing from the Mahi-Mandi hostel of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) October 15, 2016, after a scuffle with some students allegedly affiliated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) the previous night.

The case was initially probed by Delhi Police and later transferred to the CBI.

"And if I have to go to the Supreme Court of this country, I will go there too," she said. "It's been... (almost) nine years since my Najeeb went missing. But the negligence shown by Delhi Police and CBI from the very first day has led to this moment -- the court accepted the CBI's closure report," Nafis said in her post. "Many times I ask myself -- how can I give up hope? How can I let my courage break? He is my son after all. I want my son back. If I have to go to every court in this country for that, I will. I will fight till my last breath," she said.

Neither Delhi Police nor CBI arrested or took any action against the ABVP-linked students, "the goons who assaulted my son and then made him disappear," she charged.

IAF airstrip used in 3 wars illegally sold in 1997

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ferozepur, July 1: An airstrip used by the Indian Air Force during the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars as an advanced landing ground at a village here close to the Pakistan border was allegedly sold by a woman and her son in collusion with some revenue officials in 1997.

But after a retired revenue official filed a complaint that led to an inquiry, the land was given back to the defence ministry, officials said. On June 28, police registered a case against Usha Ansal and her son Naveen Chand Ansal, both residents of Dumni Wala village, under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code including 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) at



Kulgarhi police station.

This piece of land was part of 982 acres of land earlier acquired by the British government in 1939 for the use of the Royal Air Force during World War II. Even the IAF used this

air strip during 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars for emergency landings and defence purposes.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Karan Sharma said that based on the complaint submitted to the Chief Director Vigi-

lance Bureau by Nishan Singh, a retired revenue official, an inquiry was conducted and after the report was submitted, the FIR was registered against the accused.

According to the inquiry report, the accused allegedly sold the air force land to private persons in collusion with some lower rung revenue officials. The matter was first raised by Nishan Singh.

After the matter regarding fraudulent sale of chunk of land (measuring 118 Kanal 16 Marla) situated at Fattuwalla village came to fore, the Commandant of the Air Force Station Halwara through Station Headquarters Ferozepur April 16, 2021 wrote to the then deputy commissioner Ferozepur to conduct an inquiry into this

matter. Nishan Singh also filed a petition over inordinate delay in the inquiry, after which the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Ferozepur DC December 21, 2023 to complete it in six months.

Later, the DC Ferozepur submitted a three-page report which stated that the land was in the same condition as per the revenue record of 1958-59 and its possession was still with the IAF.

However, not satisfied with the report, Nishan Singh, filed another petition in the high court alleging that several facts had been concealed in the report submitted to the state government, further accusing that the mutation of this land was executed in favour of private persons in 2001 in connivance with the revenue officials.

international



We are delivering a complete reset of our immigration system to restore proper control and order, after the previous government allowed net migration to quadruple in four years
YVETTE COOPER | UK HOME SECRETARY

'LOVEBUGS' IN SOUTH KOREA

Swarms of 'lovebugs' are back in South Korea, blanketing a mountain peak, entering houses and sticking to car windows. Flying attached to one another while mating, the insects, known to scientists as *Plecia nearctica*, are also called united bugs, double-headed bugs or honeymoon flies.



of the day quote

The world ahead is more uncertain, and that uncertainty is likely to make inflation more volatile
CHRISTINE LAGARDE | EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT

I think in many ways, you can see that we have very strong convergences with the United States. At the same time, we are China's largest neighbour. We share a land boundary. We want stable relations with China
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

No date (for US talks) is announced, and it's not probably very soon, but a decision hasn't been made in this field
FATEMEH MOHAJERANI | IRAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Prophet cartoon: 3 more held in Turkey

Istanbul: Turkish police detained three more employees of a satirical magazine Tuesday, raising the number of people taken into custody over a cartoon that allegedly depicted the Prophet Muhammad to four. The cartoon, published in LeMan magazine, drew a string of condemnation from government officials who stated it represented the Prophet Muhammad and sparked an angry protest outside the magazine's Istanbul office. LeMan, in a statement late Monday, denied the allegations and insisted the drawing was intended to portray a Muslim man named Muhammad and was meant to highlight the suffering of Muslims. The pro-government Yeni Safak newspaper said the cartoon showed "two figures alleged to be Prophet Muhammad and Prophet Moses — with wings and halos — shaking hands in the sky, while a war scene unfolds below with bombs raining down." The independent Birgun newspaper also said the winged figures hovering in the sky were interpreted by some as Prophets Muhammad and Moses. Overnight, LeMan's Editor-in-Chief Zafer Aknar, graphic designer Cebraill Okcu and manager Ali Yavuz were also detained, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Detention warrants were also issued for two editors who are believed to be abroad.

Militants attack gov offices in Balochistan

Karachi: Heavily-armed militants attacked government offices and a bank in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Tuesday, killing a boy and wounding eight civilians, officials said. A government official said two terrorists were killed when security forces resisted the attempt of around a dozen militants to take control of a town in Mastung district in the restive province. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Deputy Commissioner Mastung Athar Abbas Raja said that the militants attacked government offices and the bank around 11:00 AM and there was panic after multiple gunshots and explosions in the area. "But the security forces, including police and Frontier Constabulary, responded swiftly to the situation and the affected areas were placed under lockdown," he said. He said two terrorists were killed while one 16-year-old boy also lost his life in exchange of firing. "Around eight people were injured during the firing by the terrorists," he said, adding that they have been taken to hospital for treatment and the situation is under control now.

LEAKED PHONE CALL

Court suspends Thai PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, July 1: Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra Tuesday, pending an ethics investigation over accusations she was too deferential to a senior Cambodian leader when the two discussed a recent border dispute in a phone call that was leaked.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the dispute, which involved an armed confrontation May 28 in which one Cambodian soldier was killed. In a call with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, she attempted to defuse tensions — but instead set off a string of complaints and public protests by critics who accused her of being too fawning.

Paetongtarn's suspension raises the possibility of renewed instability in Thailand, a still fragile democracy that has suffered several similar bouts of uncertainty. At the root of much of that were concerns from the conservative establishment, including the military, that the political dynasty started by Paetongtarn's father, the popular but divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was growing too powerful.

She is the third member of her family to hold the prime minister's office — and the third to face the possibility of removal before her term



ended. Thaksin was removed from office in a 2006 coup and driven into exile, while his sister and former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was removed by a court order in 2014, followed shortly after by a coup.

The suspension also comes at a time when the country is facing an economic slowdown and growing discontent with Paetongtarn and her Pheu Thai party, in general, with critics saying her government's performance has been underwhelming.

The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to take the petition accusing her of a breach of the ethics, and voted 7-2 to immediately suspend her from duty as a prime minister until the ruling is given. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

After the court order, Paetongtarn said she would accept the process and defended her actions.

"I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confront-

ation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss. I wouldn't be able to accept it if I said something with the other leader that could lead to negative consequences," she said.

She also apologised to people upset over the leaked call and left the Government House shortly after.

Suriya Jungrungrangkit, who is a deputy prime minister and a transport minister, will take charge as the acting prime minister, said Chousak Sirinil, minister of the prime minister's office.

Zohran Mamdani wins NYC's Democratic mayoral primary

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, July 1: Indian-origin politician Zohran Mamdani has won New York City's Democratic mayoral primary, a new vote count confirmed Tuesday, cementing his stunning upset of former Gov Andrew Cuomo and sending him to the general election.

The Associated Press called the race after the results of the city's ranked choice voting tabulation were released.

Mamdani's win had been widely expected since he took a commanding lead after the polls closed a week ago, falling just short of the 50% of the vote needed to avoid another count under the city's ranked choice voting model.

The system allows voters' other preferences to be counted if their top candidate falls

out of the running. Mamdani, who declared victory the night of the June 24 primary, will face a general election field that includes incumbent Mayor Eric Adams as well as independent candidate Jim Walden and Republican Curtis Sliwa.

Cuomo conceded defeat on the night of the June 24 primary but is contemplating whether to run in the general election on an independent ballot line.

Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist and member of the state Assembly, was virtually unknown when he launched his candidacy centered on a bold slate of populist ideas.

But he built an energetic campaign that ran circles around Cuomo as the older, more moderate Democrat tried to come back from the sexual harassment scandal that led to his resignation four years ago.

Europe swelters under punishing heat wave

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 1: France and the rest of Europe were still in the grips of the first major heat wave this summer with health warnings in effect Tuesday, even as conditions began to improve in some parts of the region.

Punishing temperatures were forecast to reach 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Paris and to stay unusually high in Belgium and the Netherlands. In contrast, temperatures were falling in Portugal, where no red heat warnings were issued.

In France, the national weather agency Meteo-France placed several departments under the highest red alert, with the Paris region particularly hard hit. The heat wave — defined as consecutive days of very high temperature — is expected to intensify Tuesday and more than 1,300 schools



were expected to be partially or fully closed, the Education Ministry said. Visitors to the Eiffel Tower without tickets were told to postpone their visits, and the summit of the city's landmark was closed until Thursday.

Farther south, 17 of Italy's 27 major cities were experiencing a heat wave, according to the Health Ministry.

Meteo-France also warned of the heightened risk of wildfires

due to the drought-stricken soil, compounded by a lack of rain in June and the recent surge in temperature.

Climate experts warn that future summers are likely to be hotter than any recorded to date. By 2100, France could be up to 4 C (39 F) warmer, with temperatures exceeding 40 C expected every year and extreme heat spikes potentially reaching 50 C (122 F). According to Meteo-France,

the country may face a tenfold increase in the number of heat wave days by 2100.

In Portugal, Lisbon was forecast to reach 33 C (91 F), typical for this time of the year, though some inland areas could still see peaks of 43 C (109 F), according to the national weather agency. June temperature records were broken in two locations in Portugal on June 29.

Barcelona recorded its hottest month of June since records started over a century ago, Spain's national weather service said Tuesday.

The Fabra Observatory, located on a hill overlooking Barcelona, reported an average temperature of 26 degrees Celsius, breaking records since 1914. The previous hottest average for June was 25.6 C in 2003.

The same weather station said that a single-day high of 37.9 Celsius for June was recorded Monday, June 30.

Ancient Himalayan village relocates as climate shifts reshape life

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Samjung (Nepal), July 1: The Himalayan village of Samjung did not die in a day.

Perched in a wind-carved valley in Nepal's Upper Mustang, more than 13,000 feet (3,962 meters) above sea level, the Buddhist village lived by slow, deliberate rhythms — herding yaks and sheep and harvesting barley under sheer ochre cliffs honeycombed with "sky caves" — 2,000-year-old chambers used for ancestral burials, meditation and shelter.

Then the water dried up. Snow-capped mountains turned brown and barren as, year after year, snowfall declined. Springs and canals vanished and when it did rain, the water came all at once, flooding fields and melting away the mud homes. Families left one by one, leaving the skeletal remains of a community transformed by climate change: crumbling mud homes, cracked terraces and unkempt shrines.

The Hindu Kush and Himalayan mountain regions — stretching from Afghanistan to Myanmar — hold more ice than anywhere else outside the Arctic and Antarctic. Their glaciers feed major rivers that support 240 million people in the mountains — and 1.65 billion more downstream.

Such high-altitude areas are warming faster than lowlands. Glaciers are retreating and permafrost areas are thawing as snowfall becomes scarcer and more erratic, according to the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development or ICMOD.

Kunga Gurung is among many in the high Himalayas already living through the irreversible effects of climate change. "We moved because there was no water. We need water to drink and to farm. But there is none there. Three streams, and all three dried up," said Gurung, 54.

Climate change is quietly reshaping where people can live and work by disrupting farming, water access, and weather patterns, said Neil Adger, a professor of human geography at the University of Exeter. In places like Mustang, that's making life harder, even if people don't always say climate change is why they moved. "On the everyday basis, the changing weather patterns... it's actually affecting the ability of people to live in particular places," Adger said.

Around the globe, extreme weather due to climate change is forcing communities to move, whether it's powerful tropical storms in The Philippines and Honduras, drought in Somalia or forest fires in California. In the world's highest



mountains, Samjung isn't the only community to have to start over, said Amina Maharjan, a migration specialist at ICMOD. Some villages move only short distances, but inevitably the key driver is lack of water. "The water scarcity is getting chronic," she said.

Retreating glaciers — rivers of ice shrinking back as the world warms — are the most tangible and direct evidence of climate change. Up to 80% of

the glacier volume in the Hindu Kush and Himalayas could vanish in this century if greenhouse gas emissions aren't drastically cut, a 2023 report warned.

It hasn't snowed in Upper Mustang for nearly three years, a dire blow for those living and farming in high-altitude villages. Snowfall traditionally sets the seasonal calendar, determining when crops of barley, buckwheat, and potatoes are planted and affecting the health

of grazing livestock. "It is critically important," Maharjan said.

For Samjung, the drought and mounting losses began around the turn of the century. Traditional mud homes built for a dry, cold mountain climate fell apart as monsoon rains grew more intense — a shift scientists link to climate change. The region's steep slopes and narrow valleys funnel water into flash floods that destroyed homes and farmland,

triggering a wave of migration that began a decade ago.

Moving a village — even one with fewer than 100 residents like Samjung — was no simple endeavour. They needed reliable access to water and nearby communities for support during disasters. Relocating closer to winding mountain roads would allow villagers to market their crops and benefit from growing tourism. Eventually, the king of Mustang, who still owns large tracts of land in the area nearly two decades after Nepal abolished its monarchy, provided suitable land for a new village.

Pemba Gurung, 18, and her sister Toshi Lama Gurung, 22, don't remember much about the move from their old village. But they remember how hard it was to start over. Families spent years gathering materials to build new mud homes with bright tin roofs on the banks of the glacial Kali Gandaki river, nearly 15 kilometers (9 miles) away. They constructed shelters for livestock and canals to bring water to their homes. Only then could they move.

Some villagers still herd sheep and yak, but life is a bit different in New Samjung, which is close to Lo Manthang, a medieval walled city cut off from the world until 1992, when foreigners were first allowed to visit.

of the day **QUOTE**

India views steel not just as a material, but as the backbone of our infrastructure, mobility, energy, and manufacturing sectors. Ras Al Khaimah's mineral wealth, industrial potential, and clean energy focus make it an ideal partner for India's next-generation steel and resource strategy



Despite the global headwinds such as war in the Middle East, war between Russia and Ukraine, global logistical challenge, tariff uncertainty by US and slowdown in many global markets, India's garment exports are poised to touch \$40 billion by 2030



A retreat in US dollar, driven by concerns over the ballooning US fiscal deficit and the market's focus on President Donald Trump's proposed tax-cutting and spending bill, has made gold more attractive



SHORT TAKES

Power consumption dips by 1.5%

New Delhi: Power consumption in the country dipped slightly by 1.5 per cent to 150.04 billion units (BU) in June, compared to the year-ago period, mainly due to reduced usage of cooling appliances amid early onset of monsoon. Power consumption was recorded at 152.37 BU in June, 2024, according to official data. Experts believe the early arrival of monsoon affected the power consumption as well as demand in June. The highest supply in a day (peak power demand met) in June also dipped to about 242.49 GW last month, from around 244.52 GW in June 2024. The peak power demand was about 231 GW. It had touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May 2024. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023.

CCI penalises FPBAI

New Delhi: Competition Commission has penalised the Federation of Publishers' and Booksellers' Association in India (FPBAI) and its three office-bearers for unfair business practices. The association was found to be fixing conversion rates higher than usual bank/RBI rates for importing of international journals and books by its member booksellers/publishers, among other violations. Also, the association stipulated terms and conditions with respect to price, credit period and interest rates, among other aspects. These were to be followed by its member booksellers/publishers while supplying books, journals and e-resources to libraries, schools and other consumers, according to CCI. In a release Tuesday, the watchdog said such practices contravened competition law and imposed penalties totalling Rs 6.33 lakh on FPBAI and its three office bearers.

Module for coal block operators

New Delhi: The government Tuesday said it will launch a module for coal block operators to submit an exploration proposal through online mode using the single window clearance system. After submission, the proposal will be processed and approved by the Centre through the integrated system, according to an official statement. The module covers the entire process of exploration of coal, including approval of geological report and final approval, all within a single digital interface.



Using advanced technologies like Continuous Miner, our goal is to enhance underground coal production and achieve a target of 100 million tonnes from underground mines by 2030

SATISH CHANDRA DUBEJ | MINISTER OF STATE, COAL AND MINES

CLEANMAX, TOYOTA TSUSHO INDIA TO CATER 300 MW GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

Renewable energy solutions provider CleanMax and Toyota Tsusho India have joined hands to develop 300 megawatt capacity of renewable energy projects in India. The new partnership aims to leverage synergies between both companies to develop and operate renewable energy projects for Japanese corporates in India, CleanMax said in a statement



STOCK MARKETS CLOSE HIGHER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 1: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a range-bound trade Tuesday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 90.83 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 83,697.29 with 13 of its constituents closing higher and 17 in the red. The 50-share NSE Nifty gained 24.75 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 25,541.80.

Among Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics was the lead gainer, rising by 2.51 per cent after the company announced securing orders worth Rs 528 crore. Reliance Industries advanced 1.84 per cent as analysts expressed optimism over the launch of a solar manufacturing facility.

Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank were also among the major gainers. Axis Bank, Trent, Eternal and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.18 per cent and mid-cap index dipped 0.07 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, telecommunication rose by 0.52 per cent, energy by 0.46 per cent, consumer durables by 0.43 per cent and metal by 0.30 per cent.

FMCG declined 0.68 per cent, power (0.41 per cent), utilities (0.32 per cent), IT (0.24 per cent) and BSE Focused IT (0.25 per cent). As many as 2,025 stocks advanced while 1,985 declined and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in the positive territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower. Markets in Hong Kong were closed. European markets were trading mostly lower.

ATF price hike by 7.5%, commercial LPG rate cut

Price of jet fuel increased, whereas this is the fourth straight reduction in commercial LPG rates. Prices were last reduced by Rs 24 per 19-kg cylinder June 1. Prior to that Rs 14.50 cut May 1 and a Rs 41 per cylinder reduction was effected April 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The price of jet fuel (ATF) was sharply increased by 7.5 per cent Tuesday, while the cost of LPG used in commercial establishments was reduced by Rs 58.50 per cylinder, reflecting shifts in international benchmark rates.

After three rounds of price cuts, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 6,271.5 per kilolitre, or 7.5 per cent, to Rs 89,344.05 per kl in the national capital - home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The increase amounts to half of the total reduction implemented over three monthly installments since April.

ATF price was last reduced by Rs 2,414.25 per kl (2.82 per cent) to Rs 83,072.55 per kl June 1. Prior to that, rates were cut by 4.4 per cent (Rs 3,954.38 per kl) May 1 and a steep reduction of 6.15 per cent (Rs 5,870.54 per kl) April 1.

The increase in ATF price is in line with the spurt in international oil rates that fol-



lowed Israel's attack on Iran last month.

This increase will add to the burden on commercial airlines, for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost.

No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of price hike.

The ATF price in Mumbai was hiked to Rs 83,549.23 per kl from Rs 77,602.73 per kl, while those in Chennai and Kolkata were increased to Rs 92,526.09 and Rs 92,705.74 per kl, respectively.

Rates differ from city to city depending on incidence of local taxes such as VAT.

Alongside, oil firms reduced the price of commercial LPG by Rs 58.5 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,665 in the national capital and Rs 1,616.50 in Mumbai.

This is the fourth straight reduction in commercial LPG rates. Prices were last reduced by Rs 24 per 19-kg cylinder June 1. Prior to that a Rs 14.50 cut May 1 and a Rs 41 per cylinder reduction was effected April 1. In all, prices have been cut by

Rs 138 per bottle since April. While oil prices have been on the boil, benchmark LPG rates have softened because of low demand during summer months.

Prices of ATF and LPG differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT. The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 853 per 14.2-kg cylinder. The price of the domestic LPG was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder in April.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate.

Domestic rates of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates were cut by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March last year, ahead of the general elections. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 a litre in Delhi, while diesel is priced at Rs 87.62.

DoT launches Saral Sanchar portal

Private 5G network has the potential to transform these industries through secure, high-performance connectivity, and there is a need to strengthen policy frameworks, and foster closer collaboration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The telecom department has started the process to reassess fresh spectrum demand for captive non-public networks, also known as 5G private networks, according to an official memorandum.

This is the second such exercise by the Department of Telecom after issuing a provision for 5G private networks in June 2022.

"The Department has decided to assess a fresh demand for spectrum in various prospective frequency bands and carry out a demand survey, through the Saral Sanchar portal to identify the prospective frequency bands for the direct assignment of spectrum for CNPN (captive non-public network) based services," the memorandum dated June 30 said.

CNPN providers can set up a network by leasing out spectrum allocated to telecom operators or even by directly taking it from the DoT. Telecom operators have opposed the direct allocation of spectrum to enterprises or entities that want to set up 5G private networks.

The DoT said that certain frequency bands were initially proposed for direct assignment of spectrum to CNPN licensees. However, it was observed that there was a lack of a device ecosystem in the frequency band identified for them.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had recommended spectrum in the

frequency range of 3700-3800 MHz, 4800-4990 MHz and 28.5-29.5 MHz for CNPN.

The department said it has observed during a recent analysis that the device ecosystem for CNPN is mostly available in IMT bands, and 5G technology has also considerably advanced with different use cases.

The memorandum said system integrators are keenly interested in establishing CNPN-based networks.

The DoT has invited comments from enterprises that have a net worth of more than Rs 100 crore and are willing to set up CNPN by obtaining spectrum directly from the department, and system integrators interested in establishing CNPN networks for enterprises by July 31. Tidal Wave Technologies CEO Ankit Dixit said enterprise and industrial adoption of private 5G networks remains at a nascent stage, with active deployments to date remaining in low single digits.

"This slower pace can be attributed to factors, such as the high cost of spectrum, slow responsiveness to enterprise-specific needs, and expectations of free trials or proof-of-concepts," Dixit said.

Private 5G networks have the potential to transform these industries through secure, high-performance connectivity, and there is a need to strengthen policy frameworks, ease access to spectrum, and foster closer collaboration across the ecosystem for realising its potential, he added.

Financial services MFs see 37% surge in AUM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Investment in banking and financial services sector-based mutual funds jumped 37 per cent year-on-year to Rs 48,000 crore in May 2025.

The surge in assets is backed by the strong performance of the segment. Industry data showed that these funds have delivered returns ranging from 22 to 30 per cent over the past year, highlighting the sector's robust fundamentals and growing appeal.

According to the industry data, there are currently 22 banking and financial services mutual funds in the Indian market, managing combined assets under management (AUM) of Rs 48,000 crore in May 2025 against about Rs 34,971 crore in May 2024.

The sharp rise suggests growing investor confidence in the long-term potential of the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) sector.

The BFSI sector, which holds the distinction of being the largest by market capitalisation in India's listed space, has remained resilient amid recent market volatility. BSE financial services index has gained nearly 14 per cent in the first three months of the current financial year alone, while BSE Bankex rose 10 per cent during the period under review.

Moreover, the BFSI space is likely to expand further with unlisted players in insurance, fintech, wealth management, and digital lending expected to access public markets. This trend will further broaden the investment landscape within the sector and encourage wider market participation.

The new fund offer (NFO) is open until July 11 and aims to provide investors with an opportunity to participate in the sector's growth story through a portfolio aligned with current market dynamics.

Mfg sector growth hits 14-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India's manufacturing sector growth rose to a 14-month high of 58.4 in June marked by improved trends in output and new orders, alongside a record upturn in employment, a monthly survey said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index - an indicator of sector performance - was 57.6 in May.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's manufacturing PMI reached a 14-month high of 58.4 in June. Robust end-demand fuelled expansions in output, new orders, and job creation," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

June also saw a quicker upturn in new order inflows. The rate of expansion was the strongest in close to a year. According to panel members, the increase was supported by mar-



keting efforts and a substantial rise in exports. Indeed, growth of new export orders gained considerable momentum in June.

"To keep up with strong demand - particularly from international markets, as evidenced by the substantial rise in new export orders - Indian manufacturing firms had to tap deeper into their inventories, causing the stock of finished goods to continue shrinking," Bhandari said.

Companies also welcomed one of the fastest increases in external orders in the over 20 years of survey history. Goods producers lifted input buying to the greatest extent in 14 months, which supported a further ex-

Iron ore output rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Country's iron ore production rose marginally by 0.6 per cent to 53 million metric tonnes (MMT) in the April-May period of the ongoing fiscal. As per provisional data, production of iron ore was 52.7 MMT in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The production of manganese ore, bauxite, zinc concentrate and limestone rose in the April-May period of the ongoing fiscal, the mines ministry said in a statement. In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production in April-May grew by 1.3 per cent to 7.07 lakh tonnes (LT) from 6.98 LT in the year ago period. During the same period, refined copper production has grown by 43.5 per cent from 0.69 LT to 0.99 LT.

India is the second largest aluminium producer, among top ten producers in refined copper, and third largest iron ore producer in the world. Continued growth in production of iron ore in the current financial year reflects the robust demand conditions in the user industry viz. steel.

Maruti, Hyundai see double-digit fall in June sales amid demand slowdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Automakers Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor India reported a double-digit drop in vehicle dispatches in June amid a demand slowdown in the domestic market.

Mahindra & Mahindra saw an increase in dispatches to dealers last month, while Tata Motors witnessed a dip compared to June last year.

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki said its total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers dipped 13 per cent to 1,18,906 units last month compared to 1,37,160 units in the year-ago period.

Sales of mini-segment cars Alto and S-Presso declined to 6,414 units against 9,395 units in the same month last year. Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift,

and WagonR, also fell to 54,177 units from 64,049 units in June 2024.

Utility vehicles Grand Vitara, Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, and Jimny clocked sales of 47,947 units last month compared to 52,373 units earlier.

"The slowdown in passenger vehicle sales is largely due to a sharp decline in the smaller segment cars. Historically, passenger vehicle sales used to grow at 1.5 times the GDP growth. But now, even after 6.5 per cent GDP growth, the car market is nearly flat," MSI Senior Executive Officer Rahul Bharti said.

Hyundai Motor India said its dispatches to dealers in the domestic market declined 12 per cent to 44,024 units in June compared to 50,103 units in the year-ago period. "In the domestic market, the geopolitical situation continued



to affect the market sentiment," Tarun Garg, Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer, HMIL, said in a statement.

As the company comes closer to the beginning of production at the Talegaon plant, it remains cautiously optimistic about a gradual recovery of demand, supported by a reduction in repo rates and improving liquidity on account of a cut in

CRR, he added.

"We are closely watching the global geopolitical scenario and are committed to delivering value and innovation to our customers across both domestic and export markets," Garg said.

Mahindra & Mahindra reported an 18 per cent increase in sales of utility vehicles to 47,306 units in the domestic market last month against

The slowdown in passenger vehicle sales is largely due to a sharp decline in the smaller segment cars. Historically, passenger vehicle sales used to grow at 1.5 times the GDP growth. But now, even after 6.5 per cent GDP growth, the car market is nearly flat

RAHUL BHARTI | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MSI

40,022 units a year ago.

"The quarter ended on a very positive note for us, marking the highest quarter ever for SUVs," Nalinikanth Gollagunta, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) CEO - Automotive Division, said.

Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle sales, including EVs, in the domestic market, were down 15 per cent to 37,083 units compared to 43,524 units

in the year-ago month.

"Looking ahead, while overall industry growth is expected to remain subdued, Tata Motors is well positioned to leverage its new launches to outperform across segments, including hatchbacks and SUVs, while continuing to build on the EV momentum," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra said.

In the two-wheeler space, Bajaj Auto said its total domestic sales, including commercial vehicles, fell 13 per cent to 1,88,460 units last month compared to 2,16,451 units a year ago.

Royal Enfield said its domestic sales increased 16 per cent to 76,957 units last month against 66,117 units in June 2024.

TVS Motor Company's two-wheeler sales in the domestic market witnessed a 10 per cent year-on-year growth to 2,81,012 units in June.

ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY SECOND TEST

Bumrah uncertain; India aim comeback



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 1: India will need to shed their conservative selection approach and give themselves the best chance to take 20 wickets on what is expected to be another batting surface in the second Test against England, beginning here Wednesday. By the team management's own admission, India missed a specialist bowler at Leeds, Kuldeep Yadav to be specific, as England comfortably chased down a record 371 on day five of a game that the visitors should have won. In the words of assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, India are grappling to find a team combination that doesn't compromise on batting depth and yet has the bowlers to take 20 wickets. "In terms of managing the strategy there, we're looking at each bowler individually, feeling what we feel they can get wickets-wise. And then

it's just trying to balance up and trying to calculate as best you can what the best chance of getting into the Test match. "But you need 20 wickets. So the attacking party is obviously finding someone who can get wickets as well. And we are grappling with that. We don't stop talking about that. We're trying to figure it out," Doeschate admitted. The weather has been rather hot in Birmingham and the surface, bound by a decent covering of grass, is dry underneath. On this very ground three years ago, England had gunned down a daunting 378 with ridiculous ease to draw the series. Of late, the same 22 yards have offered plenty of runs to the batters in county cricket. The spinners will eventually come into the game and India need to decide whether they want someone like Washington Sundar who can

assist Ravindra Jadeja or get Kuldeep, who is a much better wicket-taking option. But what is confirmed is that India will go in with two spinners. Shardul Thakur was the fast bowling all-rounder at Leeds but there is a strong possibility that batting all-rounder Nitish Reddy starts on Wednesday. Thakur did not have the best of outings but dropping him after one opportunity would be borderline harsh on him. **Will Bumrah play?** The question mark ahead of the game is over Jasprit Bumrah's availability. Skipper Shubman Gill said a decision on his lead pacer will be taken only after taking a look at the pitch. However, Gill said Bumrah is available for selection. "Bumrah is definitely available. We are just going to see how to manage his workload in the upcoming

Test matches. We are trying to find the right combination where we can take 20 wickets and score runs as well on these kind of wickets." "We just thought we are going to have a final look once we come to the ground and see what kind of combination that we want to go with tomorrow," said Gill in the pre-match press conference. If Bumrah indeed doesn't play the second of his decided quota of three Tests, the pace line-up is expected to be Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and Prasadh Krishna. With Bumrah hard to handle at the other end, the other pacers did not have the required consistency in their lengths to test England batters. The likes of K L Rahul, Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and captain Shubman Gill would be aiming to build on the gains made in the series opener. Rookie Sai Sudharsan and comeback man Karun Nair are certain to get another opportunity after an underwhelming start to the series.

Squads:

England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (WK), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir. **India:** Shubman Gill (captain), Rishabh Pant (VC & WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Prasadh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

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METTLE MEET 2025

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OrissaPOST

QUIZ Extravaganza

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- OrissaPOST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a **passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address.** Otherwise the entries will not be entertained.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - **Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card** (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee or families of **OrissaPOST** team can be part of the competition.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Born on this day in 1901 in Puri, which Odia literary stalwart wrote the classic *Matira Manisha* and was awarded the Padma Bhushan? His daughter went on to become the CM of Odisha.

ANSWER TO TUESDAY'S QUESTION

State Bank of India (SBI)

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



ABINASH PRUSTY



DIBYANSHI DEBIPRIYA

Others who answered correctly are

Archit Mahapatra, R Sekhar Rao, Dibyanshu Pani, Amrit Kumar Munda, Bhumi Subhalaxmi, Smruti Ranjan Senth, Madhura Roy, Rudra Sabitru Bhanja, Saloni Mohapatra

Bhowmick wins gold at Asian Youth TT C'ships

Tashkent (Uzbekistan), July 1: Young Divyanshi Bhowmick made history by becoming the first Indian in 36 years to win the U-15 girls' singles title at the Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships here. The 14-year-old defeated China's Zhu Qihui 4-2 in a high-pressure final, capping a sensational run that included victories over three Chinese players — an unprecedented feat in Indian youth table tennis. With this win, Divyanshi, who was seeded second, also sealed a berth in the World Youth Championships. Her standout moment came in the semifinals, where she edged past China's Liu Ziling in a thrilling seven-game battle to keep India's gold medal hopes alive. Divyanshi is part of the Dani Sports Foundation's development programme, which works alongside Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) to identify and nurture young prospects.

Table-toppers ready to experiment against Iraq

Chiang Mai (Thailand), July 1: The Indian football team will be open to experimentation when it clashes with a comparatively easy rival Iraq in a Group B clash of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, here Wednesday. Winger Soumya Guguloth, who suffered a nasal bone fracture during the match against Timor-Leste, has been ruled out of the contest. India currently sit atop the table with six points and a goal difference of +17 after wins against Mongolia (13-0) and Timor-Leste (4-0). Thailand are in second place, also with six points but with a goal difference of +11. Iraq have already played three games and are on four points. They must defeat India to have any chance of staying alive on the road to Australia. While it has turned into a race between India and Thailand to increase their goal difference before they meet on the final day (July 5), Blue Tigresses coach Crispin Chettri affirmed that earning three points are the bigger priority, and the focus is only on the game against Iraq for now. "Thailand is the last match, but for now, our full focus is on Iraq. We shouldn't worry about how many goals Thailand or we have scored, or will score. The priority is to approach the Iraq match with a positive mindset and go for the win," said Chettri. After defeating Timor-Leste on Sunday, Chettri and his coaching staff stayed at the stadium to watch Iraq suffer a 0-7 drubbing at the hands of the hosts. It has been a rollercoaster ride for the 173rd-ranked West Asians, who were held goalless by Timor-Leste in the first game, before defeating Mongolia 5-2 to earn their first-ever victory on the international stage.

Cabinet approves Khelo Bharat Niti

New Delhi, July 1: Calling it a "strategic roadmap" for India's elevation into the top five of world sports, the cabinet Tuesday approved the Khelo Bharat Niti to create "world-class systems" of coaching and athlete support along with a robust administrative set-up to make the country a strong contender for the 2036 Olympics. Previously called the National Sports Policy and introduced for the first time in 1984, the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 will supersede the 2001 policy. It is a "guiding document" to formulate plans and schemes for betterment of the country's sporting ecosystem. "We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Information and Broadcast Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters while unveiling the policy and other cabinet decisions. India is bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games for which there has been a massive push to create infrastructure and bring events of international stature to the country. A statement from the Press Information Bureau described the new policy as an outcome of "extensive consultations" involving central ministries, NITI Aayog, state governments, National Sports Federations (NSFs), athletes, domain experts, and public stakeholders. "Today is a landmark day for India's efforts to encourage sporting talent and become a hub for sports! The Cabinet has approved Khelo Bharat Niti, a national policy for sports," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X. "This policy is anchored on 5 pillars: Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement, Integration with Education (NEP 2020)." "May Indian sporting talent always flourish!" he added. The country of over a bil-

Spotlight on Praggnanandhaa in Zagreb

The brain behind the Grand Chess tour was Garry Kasparov who, after Bobby Fischer, was the first person to initiate the concept of professional chess and today the young generation has been reaping benefits of the same. Praggnanandhaa has crossed a lot of boundaries winning as many as three classical super events this year. The Indian was particularly phenomenal in his last outing at the Uzbekistan when he won two games on the trot in Classical chess and tied for first before eclipsing everyone in the tiebreaker that he won handsomely. Magnus Carlsen has officially announced he will not be a part of the FIDE events anymore. Chess-wise, nothing could be more hurting for the apex chess body. Carlsen's comeback to the format where he excels like no one else might trigger something for his global fans. Carlsen obviously starts as the hot favourite but if anyone can stop him its Pragg, suspects Fabiano Caruana of United States, Alireza Firouzja, the immigrant from Iran to France, and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan. Down and out, Pragg won his last two games in the UZ masters tournament and then went on to win the tiebreak games to continue what he is known for: consistency. The Croatian leg will also see world's best player Magnus Carlsen in action along side D Gukesh, the reigning world champion, who is still trying hard to make a foray in to the faster version of classical chess. The presence of Carlsen and Gukesh apart, Pragg also have to figure things out among the other usual

WIMBLEDON 2025

Pegula loses in first round

London: Third-ranked Jessica Pegula thought she was done with first-round hiccups. Then she faced Elisabetta Cocciaretto, who needed just 58 minutes to stun the American 6-2, 6-3 at Wimbledon Tuesday. It was the third-seeded Pegula's earliest exit at a Grand Slam tournament in five years. And it came days after Pegula won the grass-court Bad Homburg Open in Germany on Saturday, beating Iga Swiatek in straight sets. "This is definitely probably the worst result I've had all year," she said. Pegula, a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon in 2023, hit only five winners and made 24 unforced errors. "For this to happen today, it's disappointing. I don't know how else to put it," she said. "I'm upset that I wasn't able to turn anything around. But at the same time, I do feel like she played kind of insane. Hats off to her. Kudos to her for playing at a high level that I couldn't match it today."

OP constables shine at WPFPG 2025

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Odisha Police (OP) constable Susmita Tigga has brought pride to the state by securing a silver medal in the 800m race at the prestigious World Police and Fire Games (WPFPG) 2025, held in Birmingham, USA. Similarly, constable Ashok Dandasena of Odisha Police has also clinched the gold medal in the 800m race at WPFPG 2025. Constable Susmita Tigga, bearing the service number C/286, showcased exceptional athletic prowess and resilience in the global competition, which brings together law enforcement and firefighting personnel from across the world. Her silver medal win highlights not only her personal dedication but also the growing prominence of Odisha's police force in international sporting arenas. Representing India, C/344 Ashok Dandasena showed

exceptional speed and stamina to outrun global competitors and secure the top podium finish. His stellar performance has drawn praise from across the country, with Odisha Police saluting his achievement on social media, calling him a "true champion in uniform."



POST NEWS NETWORK



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Sanjay to lead Indian A men's squad

New Delhi, July 1: Hockey India Tuesday announced a 20-member Indian men's A squad for an exposure tour to Europe which will feature eight matches from July 8-20. In a statement issued here, HI said the tour is "aimed at providing valuable international exposure to a mix of emerging and experienced players". The India A team will play two matches against France, Ireland and the Netherlands along with one game each against England and Belgium. "These high-intensity games are expected to test the depth and readiness of India's talent pool as the national setup looks to build a strong pipeline for the senior team," HI said. The India A team will be led by Sanjay and Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh will be his deputy. Goalkeeper Ankit Malik, defender Sunil Jojo, and forward Sudeep Chirmako will be on standby. Indian national team's assistant coach Shivendra Singh will be the coach of the 'A' side, which will take on Ireland in their first match July 8. Shivendra said, "This tour is an important platform for our players to experience the tempo, structure, and intensity of European hockey."

EUROPE TOUR

The Squad: Goalkeepers: Pawan, Mohit Honnenahalli Shashikumar. Defenders: Pratap Lakra, Varun Kumar, Amandeep Lakra, Parmod, Sanjay (c). Midfielders: Poovanna Chandura Boby, Mohammed Raheel Mouseen, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh (vc), Vishnukant Singh, Pardeep Singh, Rajinder Singh. Forwards: Angadbir Singh, Boby Singh Dhami, Maninder Singh, Venkatesh Kenche, Aditya Arjun Lathe, Selvam Karthi, Uttam Singh. Standbys: Ankit Malik (goalkeeper), Sunil Jojo (defender), Sudeep Chirmako (forward).