



Controversial comment

Actor Rashmika Mandanna faces backlash over her latest remarks on Ranbir Kapoor's controversial character from Animal

LEISURE | P2



Rubio meets Wang

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio calls talks with China's Wang Yi 'positive and constructive'

INTERNATIONAL | P10



India-EFTA trade deal

Switzerland greenlights India-EFTA mega trade pact, sets stage for October rollout

BUSINESS | P11



Bumrah picks 5 for 74

Jasprit Bumrah's spell results in a five-wicket haul as India bowl out England for 387 on the second day of the third Test

SPORTS | P12

Talcher, Rourkela among 10 most polluted Indian cities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Talcher and Rourkela are among the 10 most polluted cities in India, according to a new analysis.

Byrnihat, located on the Assam-Meghalaya border, ranked as the most polluted city in the country in the first half of 2025 while Delhi stood a distant second, according to the analysis by independent research organisation Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

Byrnihat recorded an average PM2.5 concentration of 133 micrograms per cubic metre, while Delhi's PM2.5 levels reached twice the national ambient air quality standard at 87 micrograms per cubic metre.

Hajipur (Bihar), Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Sasaram (Bihar), Patna, Talcher (Odisha), Rourkela (Odisha) and Rajgir (Bihar) were the other cities in the top 10 most polluted list.

Aizawl in Mizoram was the cleanest city in the country in the first half of the year.

From January to June, CREA said, particulate matter data was available for over 80 per cent of the days in 239 out

of 293 cities with continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS).

Among the 239 cities, 122 exceeded the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 40 micrograms per cubic metre, while 117 cities remained below the annual limit.

CREA said that while the introduction of vehicle restrictions, such as the end-of-life ban in Delhi, is an important component of air quality management, focusing solely on vehicular emissions risks overlooking other critical year-round sources of pollution.

According to source apportionment studies from the Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities (PRANA) and IIT Delhi, in addition to transport (17 per cent-28 per cent) and dust (17 per cent-38 per cent), several other sectors contribute significantly to PM levels, including residential combustion (8 per cent-10 per cent), agricultural burning (4 per cent-7 per cent) and industrial activities and power plants (22 per cent-30 per cent).

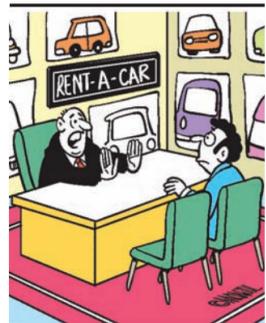


INHUMAN TREATMENT: A mob ties a young couple to a yoke like oxen and makes them plough a field for marrying against societal norms at Kanjamajhira in Rayagada dist (Report P5) OF PHOTO

Private buses to resume services

PURI: The All Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association has decided to distance itself from the ongoing cease-work agitation launched by the Odisha Drivers' Association. In a major relief to commuters, private buses will resume operations from Saturday after four days of strike. The association made this announcement after a meeting in Puri. Bus services had been disrupted throughout the state due to an ongoing protest by the drivers' association, leaving thousands stranded and impacting daily transportation. After thorough discussions, the association has decided to restart services.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sorry, sir. Not for the Kanwariya route

BJP FOR RICH, CONG FOR POOR: RAHUL

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday launched a broadside against the BJP government in Odisha, accusing it of handing over the state's land, water, forests, and other resources to a handful of billionaires.

Addressing a 'Sambidhan Bachao' rally at the Baramunda Ground here, Gandhi alleged that the current government does not belong to the people, but to industrialists like Adani and a few other billionaires who, he claimed, are now running the state government.

"This government has handed over land, mines, forests, and water to just four or five big industrial houses," he said. He also blamed both the present BJP government and the previous BJD government for allowing the state's resources to be exploited by 5-6 private companies.

Gandhi claimed that it was evident Adani is running the BJP government in Odisha, citing the instance when the chariot of Lord Jagannath



was allegedly stopped during the Rath Yatra for the Adani family.

"Development is not meant for just two or three billionaires, but for the poor, the Dalits, and the backward communities," Gandhi said.

He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking thousands of crores from poor farmers in the name of Fasal Bima Yojana and Central government funds, and handing them over to large corporate houses.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also alleged that the BJP government in Odisha is evicting tribals from their land and depriving them of

land pattas while allocating the same land to large companies.

He emphasized, "Jal (water), jungle (forest), and jameen (land) belong to the Adivasis and will remain with them." Gandhi assured that the Congress will return land to the Adivasis if voted to power in the state.

He reminded the public that the Constitution protects the rights of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis, and backward communities. "Nowhere in the Constitution is it written that it belongs to Ambani, Adani, or any other billionaire," he said.

Gandhi also remarked that in Odisha and Chhattisgarh,

"wherever you go, you see only Adani, Adani, and Adani."

Expressing serious concern over women's safety in Odisha, he said more than 40,000 women have gone missing in the state, and their whereabouts remain unknown. "Every day, 15 women are subjected to sexual abuse or rape in the state," he said.

He called on Congress workers to unite and fight against the BJP government and remove it from power.

"A caste census is a must if you want change in Odisha," he said, adding that such a census would empower Dalits, Adivasis, the poor, and backward communities. Gandhi also criticised the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of working for the BJP.

"The ECI remained silent when we questioned how one crore new voters suddenly appeared between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Maharashtra and asked for the updated voter list," he said.

He alleged that the BJP 'stole' the elections in Maharashtra and is now attempting to do the same in Bihar.

Row over Bhagwat's 'retire@75' remark

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent remarks suggesting that leaders should retire at the age of 75 has sparked a political controversy, with the Congress and other Opposition leaders interpreting it as a veiled message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who turns 75 in September this year. Interestingly, Bhagwat is also turning 75 in the same month. The remarks, which have armed the Opposition with fresh salvo, could also be seen in the context of a continuing power struggle between the BJP and RSS that began ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with both organisations trying to establish their supremacy over the other

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 11: The Congress Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's reported remarks on stepping aside at 75 years of age, saying what kind of a homecoming is this for the PM that upon returning from abroad he was reminded by the Sarsanghchalak that he will turn 75 this year.

The Opposition party

termed Bhagwat's remarks as 'good news' and said 'achche din' for the country and its Constitution are going to come as both Bhagwat and Modi are going to go when they turn 75 this year.

During an event in Nagpur Wednesday, Bhagwat mentioned Sangh ideologue late Moropant Pingley's statement about stepping aside after 75 years of age. Bhagwat specifically referred to Pingley's remarks that when the shawl of 75 years is draped over you, it means that you have reached a certain age and should step aside and let others work.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Poor award 'jeevi' Prime Minister. What a homecoming this is - or returning he was reminded by the Sarsanghchalak that he will turn 75 on 17 September 2025."

"But the Prime Minister can also tell the Sarsanghchalak that - he too will turn 75 on 11 September 2025! One arrow, two targets!" he said.

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara claimed there has been a wave of excitement and happiness since the time Bhagwat made the remarks.

Was taunted for living off her income: Radhika's killer father



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, July 11: Former state-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was cremated Friday evening, a day after her father allegedly shot her dead at point blank range, bringing the curtains down on a life cut short cruelly and leaving behind questions aplenty.



Deepak Yadav, 49, who confessed to the crime and told police he was taunted for living off her income from a tennis academy, was produced in court Friday and remanded to one-day police custody.

Deepak confessed he shot Radhika because he was often mocked for living off her income, police sources said. P8

3,000-yr-old Sahara dance contest still alive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Djanet (Algeria), July 11: In one hand, the dancers hold swords symbolising battle. On the other hand, a piece of cloth symbolising peace. They dance a shuffling "step-step" to the beat of drums and chanting from the women encircling them, all adorned in their finest traditional garments and jewellery.

They're performing the rituals of the 3,000-year-old annual Sebeiba festival of Djanet, a southeastern Algerian oasis town deep in the Sahara, just over 200 kilometres from the Libyan border.

Sebeiba is a core tradition of the Tuareg people, native to the Sahara and parts of West Africa. The Tuareg are Muslim, and their native language

is Tamasheq, though many speak some combination of French, Modern Standard Arabic, Algerian Arabic (Darija) and English.

The festival lasts 10 days, and ends with a daylong dance competition between two neighbourhoods in Djanet — Zelouaz, or Tsagit, and El Mihan, or Taghorfit. The winner is decided by judges from a third neighbourhood, Adjahil, by selecting the group with the most beautiful costumes, dances, jewellery, poetry and songs.

The Tuaregs in Djanet say there are two legends explaining the significance of Sebeiba, though oral traditions vary. The first says the festival was put on to celebrate peace and joy after Moses defeated the Pharaoh in the Exodus story.



"In commemoration of this great historical event, when God saved Moses and his people from the tyranny of the oppressive Pharaoh, the people of Djanet came out and celebrated through dance," said Ahmed Benhaoued, a Tuareg guide at his family's

tourism agency, Admer Voyages.

He has lived in Djanet all his life.

The second legend says the festival commemorates the resolution of a historic rivalry between Zelouaz and El Mihan.

"The festival is a proud tradition of the Tuareg in Djanet,"

Benhaoued said. "Some call it the Sebeiba celebration, or the war dance without bloodshed, or the dance of peace."

Today, Sebeiba is also a point of cultural pride. Recognised by UNESCO since 2014 as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Sebeiba coincides with Ashoura, a day marking the 10th day of Muharram, or the first month of the Islamic year. Some in Djanet fast for up to three days before Sebeiba.

This year, Ashoura and Sebeiba fell on July 6, when temperatures in Djanet reached about 38 °C (100 F). Still, more than 1,000 people gathered to watch Sebeiba at a sandy square marking the centre point between the two neighbourhoods, where the festival is held each year.

leisure



STEINFELD TO STAR IN WINTER GAMES

Sinners actor Hailee Steinfeld is set to feature in Paramount's upcoming Olympics film, titled *Winter Games*. Also known for working in projects such as *Hawkeye* and *True Grit*, Steinfeld will star alongside Miles Teller. The film is directed by Paul Downs Colaizzo.

AMY LUCIANI RESPONDS TO GOLD-DIGGER SLUR

NBA star Dwight Howard faces divorce from Amy Luciani, just six months after their January 2025 wedding. Luciani, responding to accusations of being a gold-digger, asserted she never sought financial support from Howard and even encouraged a prenuptial agreement.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be very enterprising and industrious today. You make your plans very carefully and execute them perfectly. Despite this, your progress will be very slow. However, Ganesh advises you not to despair and showers his blessings on you.

TAURUS
This one of those ordinary days that, somehow, do not turn out too well. Unexpected expenses, that could totally upset your budget, cannot be ruled out. Something or the other is likely to give you an uncomfortable stomach upset. Ganesh urges you to take your medicines on time, and exercise moderation and discretion while deciding what and how much you should eat.

GEMINI
You had better start sharing your feelings with your family today, says Ganesh. Also, it's time to tell your family about your current financial status. It will help you feel better. Your energy levels will soar and you will approach everything with renewed vigour. Your spouse will bring good luck to you.

CANCER
You may discuss certain serious issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesh. Your time till afternoon will be spent in discussions and deliberations about the issue. However, this issue may not be enough in letting you off the hook on the work front. Think twice before you act.

LEO
After a long time, it seems as if the stars are aligning to bring something special for you. Call it your field day, but today, everything will go your way, says Ganesh. Expect to get appreciated for your hard work in office. As for the home front, you will get all the support you need from your family members for refurbishing your home.

VIRGO
The extraordinary way in which you do things will earn you many admirers. Superiors at work will laud you for your commitment. Evenings will be fun-filled and entertaining. Look to relax with some meditation or music... or both.

LIBRA
Working for the government is always a key responsibility, says Ganesh. But today of all days proves to be fabulous and phenomenal for all those in government service. Your actions will translate into accomplishment and you may rest assured that you shall be duly recognized and rewarded for your meritorious service.

SCORPIO
Your business associates will emerge as intangible assets for you today, says Ganesh. You will probably start off an innovative joint venture without any doubt or indecision. Hard work and enthusiasm are always a good combination for achieving success. Your skill and business sense will bring you positive feedback from your seniors, feels Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
The horizons of your thoughts are open and serene. Forgive and forget will be your mood today - even for the most serious mistakes. Generosity was never your Achilles' heel, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
It's a busy day at work, and you're probably involved in some pending project work. It's advisable that you don't get complacent. Keep an eye on your opponents to have an edge over them, suggests Ganesh. Colleagues will be supportive, and so will family.

PISCES
A day wherein you will be handling responsibilities on both the home front and at the workplace awaits you, says Ganesh. Expect to be involved in home refurbishing projects, where expenses are likely to soar. Appreciation and gratitude will come your way at the end of a hard day's work.

Rashmika under fire

Mumbai: Ranbir Kapoor's *Animal*, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, faced heavy criticism for glorifying toxic masculinity, despite its massive box office success. In the film, Rashmika Mandanna played the female lead opposite Ranbir. During a recent interview, Rashmika was asked if she would date someone like Ranbir's character in real life. She replied, "If you love someone and someone loves you, the changes will happen." The interviewer playfully questioned the idea, calling it a romantic notion. Rashmika explained that people often evolve together when they grow up with a partner, suggesting mutual growth can lead to change. However, when an audience member responded, saying women in their 30s and 40s no longer be-

lieve men can change, Rashmika laughed, which sparked backlash online. The clip went viral on Reddit, where netizens criticised her take. Many argued her comments reflected a problematic societal mindset that burdens women with the responsibility of 'fixing' men. One user said, "She messed up here. The right answer should have been: 'No, I wouldn't date someone like that.'" While Rashmika hasn't directly addressed the criticism, the discussion continues to trend. In real life, she is rumoured to be dating actor Vijay Deverakonda, although neither has confirmed the relationship. AGENCIES

Shruti's life-changing moment

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan, one of South Indian cinema's most acclaimed actors, recently reflected on her defining role in Pawan Kalyan's *Gabbar Singh*, calling it the true launchpad of her career. In a candid conversation on a podcast, Shruti re-

vealed that she was initially not finalised for the 2012 Telugu blockbuster, a remake of Salman Khan's *Dabangg*. However, director Harish Shankar championed her inclusion, believing she was the perfect fit for the role. "He really fought for me, and my life just changed after that," she shared. Shruti credits Telugu cinema for giving her the recognition she had longed for, describing it as her "first home of success." Recalling her experience working with Pawan, she admitted being intimidated by the superstar's presence but praised his calm, gentlemanly nature. She likened his demeanor to Tamil icon Vijay, noting both were respectful and grounded. When asked about Pawan's political

journey, Shruti said it came as a surprise, though his connection to farming and rural life now makes it seem fitting. On the professional front, Shruti is gearing up for her role in *Coolie*, starring Rajinikanth and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, alongside a star-studded ensemble cast. AGENCIES

Manushi prioritises internal growth

Mumbai: Manushi Chhillar says more than box office success, her focus is on internal growth as an actor. Chhillar, who stars opposite Rajkumar Rao in the upcoming film *Maalik*, is known for her role in movies such as *Samrat Prithviraj*, *The Great Indian Family*, *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*, and *Operation Valentine*. "My focus is on the internal journey, rather than what happens at the box office. When an audience reacts to your film in a certain way, it gives you an idea, a different perspective, and sometimes that might be useful in understanding whether there's something you should be doing differently or trying something differently. So, that's the sort of feedback is great to have. But the box office number of a film, I don't think, has ever made me make a different choice in my life," Chhillar told this news agency. The action thriller, directed by filmmaker Pulkit of *Bhakhshak* fame, features the former Miss World in the role of a small town woman. In the movie, set in the backdrop of Allahabad of the 80s, the actor said she was required to have an in-depth understanding of her character, Shalini, who is Rao's love interest. Besides, she also had to adopt the mannerisms and language of the heartland of India. PTI



The untold chapters of Guru Dutt's life

Mumbai: Born as Vasanth Kumar Shivashankar Padukone in Bangalore in 1925, Guru Dutt later adopted his screen name to reflect his spiritual and artistic sensibilities. Belonging to the Saraswat Brahmin community of Karnataka, he was multilingual—fluent in Kannada, Hindi, and Bengali. His artistic journey began at Uday Shankar's India Culture Centre in Almora, where he trained in classical dance and drama, shaping his aesthetic sensibility. Dutt's initial foray into cinema was as a choreographer at the Prabhat Film Company, which laid the groundwork for his filmmaking career. Although he once applied to the renowned Bombay Talkies studio and was rejected, a turning point came

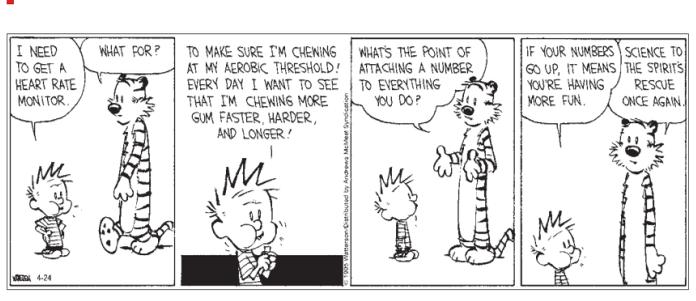


when his close friend Dev Anand offered him the chance to direct *Baazi* (1951) under the Navketan banner. The film's success marked the beginning of Dutt's illustrious career as a director known for his poetic storytelling and visual flair. A lesser-known chapter of his life involves *Gauri*, a film he completed in the early 1950s starring Geeta Bali. Mysteriously shelved, its negatives are now lost. Guru Dutt's tragic death in 1964 was officially deemed a suicide, though many believe it may have been accidental, as he had future projects planned despite his battles with depression and personal turmoil. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

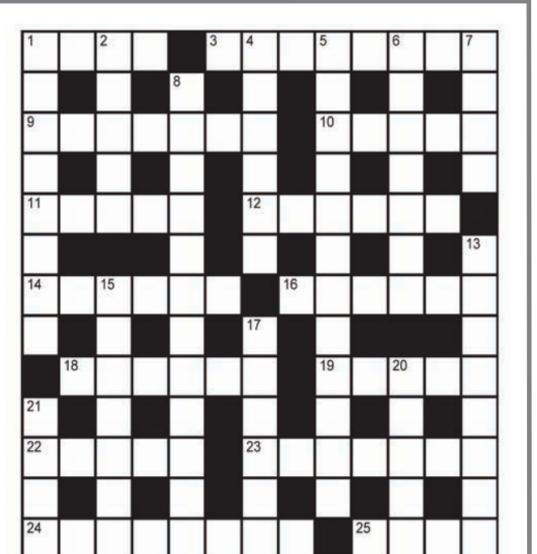


BREVITY



FUN POST

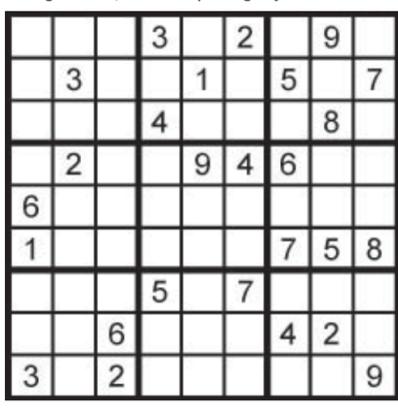
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Heroic tale
 - 3 Mythical hero noted for his strength
 - 9 Old World plover
 - 10 Spear
 - 11 Vast chasm
 - 12 Colourful bird
 - 14 Crazy bones
 - 16 To the rear, at sea
 - 18 Dress code
 - 19 British wasteland
 - 22 Ballroom dance
 - 23 Sends for junkets, e.g.
 - 25 Highchair feature
 - 5 Decorator's chore (6,6)
 - 6 Genealogy
 - 7 Flower holder
 - 8 It comes in many pieces (6,6)
 - 13 Furtively (2,3,3)
 - 15 Hound dogs
 - 17 Skeleton's place?
 - 20 French romance
 - 21 Thunderstruck
- Down**
- 1 Saved
 - 2 Aquarium fish
 - 4 They're in the middle of the deck

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

Members of Nikhila Odisha Mini Truck Malika Mahasangha lodge an FIR against the drivers' association (Odisha Driver Mahasangha) over alleged coercive tactics by the latter at Mancheswar police station in Bhubaneswar, Friday



downtown

BJP attempting to drop secularism, socialism from Constitution: Kharge



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Friday alleged that the BJP-led Central government was attempting to omit secularism and socialism from the Constitution, and weakening legislations meant to protect the poor and tribals.

Addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' here, Kharge also said that tribals, dalits, women and youths of the country will have to learn to fight for their rights under the BJP rule.

"The saffron party has a mission to change the Constitution... The BJP government at the Centre is attempting to omit secularism and socialism from our Constitution," he asserted.

Kharge said the Congress had introduced the Forest Rights Act in 2006 to protect the poor and tribals. However, the Narendra Modi-led government is trying to weaken the legislation, he alleged.

"In the name of industry, the BJP government is destroying forests everywhere... They will also wipe out dalits, tribals and youths unless they learn to fight for their rights," he claimed.

Kharge also accused BJP supporters in Odisha of attacking dalits and government officers in Odisha.

"Two dalit men were recently tonsured, made to crawl on their knees, forced to eat grass and drink dirty water in Odisha's Ganjam... A government officer in Bhubaneswar was also assaulted in full public view," he alleged.

Hitting out at the Centre, he also said that the Congress governments set up 160 PSUs in India, while the BJP dispensation 'privatised 23 of those'.

"Modiji is selling public assets created by the Congress to his friends. He has only one agenda - to destroy the Constitution. During the last Lok Sabha elections, he had urged voters for 400-plus seats so that he could change the Constitution," the Congress president said.

Later in a post on X, Kharge said during the Congress governments, the Paradeep Port, Rourkela Steel Plant, Hirakud Dam, NALCO, NTPC, Chilika Naval Academy, Rail Coach Factory in Mancheswar, HAL in Koraput, and the Ordnance Factory were established.

"Under Congress rule, AIIMS, NISER, Institute of Physics, and many educational institutions were set up in Bhubaneswar. A plan was made for the transformation of Kalahandi, Balangir, and Koraput KBK districts. But what is happening today?"

"Modiji is handing over the hard-earned money of Odisha's

Little girl thrilled meeting Rahul



A nine-year-old girl was delighted after a pleasant interaction on the dais with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who addressed a public meeting here Friday. The girl, Neelam Bastia from Cuttack, said the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha offered chocolates to her. "I hugged Rahul-ji... he also asked my name," she told reporters. Gandhi also asked Neelam about her favourite subject and whether she is interested in sports. "I told him my favourite subject is Mathematics and I get good scores in it. I also said I love running," a beaming Neelam said.

people to his billionaire friends. All government factories, government companies, mines, port, airport, forests, land - everything is being given to a few of Modiji's friends," he claimed.

Kharge asserted that the BJP, 'which makes tall claims',

has 'zero' contribution towards Odisha and Bhubaneswar.

The saffron party wants to take credit without doing anything for the state, but the Congress stands with the people of Odisha, he said.

"The question is, Odisha is the richest state in India in terms of natural resources, so why are the tribal people here living in the greatest poverty in the world?" the senior Congress leader said. Continuing his attack on the Central government, Kharge alleged that constitutional institutions do not operate according to the Constitution but 'at the behest of the BJP'.

"In the same way, there is now a direct attack on people's voting rights. First Maharashtra, and now Bihar. Just before the elections, the voting rights of the poor, oppressed, exploited, and deprived people in Bihar are being snatched away," he claimed.

Kharge was referring to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, where Assembly polls are due later this year.

The Election Commission has issued instructions to carry out the exercise in Bihar to weed out ineligible names, and ensure that all eligible citizens are included in the electoral roll, allowing them to exercise their franchise in the polls.

"But, the Supreme Court intervened in the matter and raised questions on the Election Commission's decision. It directed that Aadhaar Card, Voter ID, and Ration Card be included in the list of documents," said Kharge. Commenting on the recent India-Pakistan military conflict, Kharge criticised the BJP government over its 'silence' on US President Donald Trump's claims of brokering a ceasefire.

"Trump made such statements 16 times, claiming that he has asked India for a ceasefire. But, Modiji remained silent because he doesn't have the guts to speak against Trump," he asserted.

Rahul's remark on chariot halting for Adani 'illogical': Harichandan

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Rejecting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim that Lord Jagannath's chariots in Puri were halted for Industrialist Gautam Adani, the Odisha government Friday said such comments are 'inconsequential and illogical'.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that Adani visited the pilgrim town June 28, a day after the chariots were halted during the Rath Yatra festival. Addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' here, Gandhi alleged that Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra in Puri was also halted for 'Adani and his family', and it indicated the influence of the industrialist on the Odisha government.

Responding to the allegation, the minister said, "Adani, as a devotee, came to Puri a day after the Rath Yatra. Usually, Lord Jagannath's chariots reach their destination (the Gundicha temple) on the second day of chariot



pulling."

What Rahul Gandhi claimed about Adani was also alleged by the BJD, Harichandan said.

"By making such statements, the politicians prove their foolishness," the Law minister said.

The Jagannath temple in Puri functions under the Law department of the Odisha government.

Adani and his family members visited Puri June 28 and paid their obeisance to Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath, by standing in front of their chariots near Shree Gundicha Temple.

The Law minister attributed the delay on the first day of the Rath Yatra to overcrowding and

uncontrolled pulling of Lord Balabhadra's chariot.

"It was difficult to control Lord Balabhadra's chariot which had veered off course in the midway. The devotees pulled the chariot in different directions, and it took almost an hour to bring the chariots to line," the minister said.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "None can stop chariots in Puri unless Lord Jagannath himself desires so."

Samal also ridiculed AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's statement that Congress established AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

"Khargeji might have lost memory due to his age. Then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was the founder of AIIMS Bhubaneswar," Samal said. Samal claimed that the Congress has been rejected by the people of Odisha.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo also described the Congress' rally as a 'political theatre'.

Experts hail YouTube's new monetisation rules

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: YouTube's latest move to tighten monetisation guidelines has drawn praise from industry experts and content creators alike, who view it as a much-needed step toward preserving creativity and authenticity on the platform.

Effective from July 15, 2025, YouTube will implement updated monetisation rules under the YouTube Partner Program (YPP). The changes are designed to curb the monetisation of content that is mass-produced, templated, or heavily reliant on AI tools without creative transformation.

Joyeeta Roy, a social media expert and founder director of Signature 24 Productions, hailed the update as a strong stance in favour of genuine, human-driven storytelling. "An absolute welcome and much-needed step towards preserving authenticity



and creativity on the platform."

She noted that in an era of rapidly growing AI-generated content, the new guidelines will send a clear message in favour of original, human-driven storytelling. "While AI tools have their place in enhancing productivity, relying solely on repetitive AI content can erode the value of real human interaction," Roy said. She added that by tightening monetisation around low-effort videos, YouTube is encouraging creators to invest in quality and originality, thereby strengthening viewer trust and advertiser confidence. "This policy isn't about limiting innovation—it's about ensuring AI remains a tool, not a replacement,

for authentic expression," she emphasised.

Satya Mohapatra, a digital content creator, echoed the sentiment, saying the policy would push creators toward better standards.

"This decision is a welcome step and must be appreciated, as it will inspire creators to focus more on originality and meaningful content," Mohapatra said. "It encourages us to move beyond shortcuts and invest in real creativity," he added.

According to the new policy, videos on YouTube that reuse existing clips without significant edits, rely solely on automated voiceovers, or follow generic formats with little added value, may no longer qualify for ad revenue.

While formats like reaction videos, compilations, and AI-assisted content are still allowed, they must feature clear commentary, context, or edits by the creator to remain eligible.

Govt approves ₹10.48 crore development plan for STR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The state government has approved an annual plan of ₹10.48 crore for the ecological and socio-economic development in an around the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district to be utilised in financial year 2025-26.

The approval was made by Forest Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia during the fourth governing body meeting of the Similipal Tiger Conservation Foundation (STCF) at Kharavela Bhawan

here Friday.

Singh Khuntia, who chaired the meeting, proposed a host of initiatives to support higher education for meritorious rural students and impart skill training in driving, electrical and mechanical work, and sewing to local youth. "These programs aim to empower forest-dependent communities and promote eco-tourism through local engagement," he said.

Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu who is the vice president of the Foundation, emphasised the need for infrastructure development for eco-tourism, training of

eco-guides, and operation of ambulances for remote villages. He also stressed investing ₹4.2 crore in skill development, calling for integration with Mayurbhanj district administration.

Key allocations under the programme include skill development & income generation, wildlife conservation education and awareness, Eco-tourism infrastructure and management, welfare and training for forest staff and support for research, monitoring, and community outreach

The meeting also approved audited accounts for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, during which the Foundation implemented projects worth ₹1.26 crore and ₹3.56 crore respectively, a release said.

Established in 2011, STCF is governed by a 10-member governing body led by the Forest minister, and its activities are executed by the Similipal Tiger Conservation Authority under the area director.



FOR A PRIZE CATCH: Fishermen cast their nets in Kuakhai River on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, as water level rises owing to heavy downpour in upper catchment areas

Vaishnav sanctions Cuttack-Nergundi 4th line, flyover

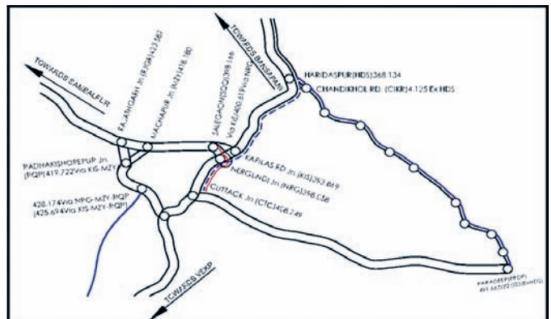
PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has sanctioned the Cuttack-Nergundi fourth line along with a rail flyover at Nergundi at an estimated cost of ₹802.9 crore, officials said Friday.

This project aims to enhance the capacity and efficiency of train operations in the Howrah-Chennai mainline section and the Cuttack-Paradeep section, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) said in a statement Friday.

The Cuttack-Nergundi section (15.99 km) is part of the Howrah-Chennai High-Density Network (HDN). This corridor currently faces heavy congestion due to traffic from Paradeep port intersecting the mainline at Cuttack. With no direct junction arrangements at Cuttack for Talcher-bound trains, significant delays often occur due to surface-level crossings, the statement said.

The fourth line and rail flyover are designed to decongest this corridor by separating port-bound traffic from the mainline routes, particularly between Cuttack and Dhenkanal. This



will help reduce detention of passenger and express trains

in the mainline section operating to and from Cuttack and

Inter-state loot gang busted; 5 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 11: Keonjhar police Friday apprehended five members of an inter-state loot and snatching gang, including two receivers, from Jharkhand.

Several items, including 29,530 gm gold ornaments and 3681.27 gm silver ornaments and one bike were recovered from their possession, an officer said.

The accused were identified as Rajendra Pingua,32, Deepak Gope,30, of Majhagaon police station area in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, Saroj Keshari, 32, of Jagannathpur police station of West Singhbhum

in Jharkhand. The receiver of the looted items arrested are Shivprakash Prasad,54, and Rajendra Prasad,50, of Begbeda police station in East Singhbhum of Jharkhand. They were involved in several criminal activities across Odisha and neighbouring states, the officer added.

SDPO Barbil, Debendra Pingua, said the gang was actively involved in multiple robbery cases across Barbil, Joda, and Champua areas of Keonjhar district. Acting on intelligence inputs, police conducted a cross-border raid in Jharkhand which led to the arrest of all five accused, he said.



HOLY SHRAVAN: Kanwaris take water from Gadagadia Ghat of Mahanadi in Cuttack, Friday

Traffic jam as egg-laden truck overturns near Pahala

Bhubaneswar: Traffic on National Highway 16 near Pahala on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar was disrupted Thursday night after a truck carrying a load of eggs overturned, police said. Reports said the truck was traveling from Andhra Pradesh to West Bengal when the driver allegedly dozed off, lost control, and caused the vehicle to topple, scattering hundreds of eggs across the road. The incident led to temporary traffic congestion, affecting both commuters and commercial vehicles. In the aftermath of the accident, locals were seen collecting the eggs from the NH, with some reports suggesting it turned into a competitive scramble, further hindering traffic clearance efforts. Police and Fire Services personnel reached the spot and worked to clear the NH and restore vehicular movement.

NHRC seeks report from state govt on Lingaraj servitor's fall

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from the district magistrate (DM) of Khurda and special secretary of Home department within one week in connection with a mishap at Lingaraj Temple in the City in February.

The NHRC move came while hearing a petition filed by rights activist Akhand. The petitioner informed the commission that servitor Jogendra Samartha, while carrying the sacred 'Mahadeepa' (holy lamp) to the peak of the 11th century temple on Mahashivaratri in February this year, sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet.

Akhand said the incident highlighted the absence of safety measures for servitors who routinely undertake high-risk climbs in temples such as Lingaraj Temple and Srimandir in Puri to perform traditional rituals. "Despite being state-managed temples, there is a glaring lack of safety equipment like helmets, or other protective gear, thereby endangering their



While seeking report from the Khurda DM and Home department special secretary, the NHRC listed the hearing for July 21

KEY TAKEAWAYS
◀ A Lingaraj temple servitor sustained critical injuries after falling from a height of nearly 20 feet while carrying 'Mahadeepa' to the peak of the temple
◀ Expressing concern over the mishap, rights activist Akhand moved NHRC seeking an inquiry into the February incident and introduction of mandatory safety gear as well as protective protocols for servitors

lives. Such neglect amounts to a violation of their fundamental right to life and safety," the petitioner maintained.

The petitioner also urged the NHRC to ensure the introduction of mandatory safety gear and protective protocols for servitors, conduct an independent inquiry into the Lingaraj Temple incident, ensure adequate compensation to the injured servitor, and issue preventive directions to safeguard the rights and lives of all temple servitors.

The matter has been listed

for hearing during the NHRC's camp sitting/open hearing scheduled for July 21, 2025 in Bhubaneswar. The commission has also directed that all officials concerned, the complainant, and the victim or their representatives be present during the hearing.

Radha Kishan Sharma, Special Secretary, Home department, has been appointed as the nodal officer for coordinating the participation of the servitors involved and ensuring necessary assistance for their presence at the hearing.

WORLD POPULATION DAY

Min launches Population Stabilisation Fortnight

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling Friday launched 'Population Stabilisation Fortnight', a campaign aimed at mobilising citizens for the cause of sustainable population growth. The minister also announced that the state's average fertility rate has dropped to 1.8 children per couple, below the national average and the replacement level of 2.1. Additionally, the unmet need for family planning in Odisha has fallen from 13.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent, marking a significant milestone in public health outcomes.



State's average fertility rate has dropped to 1.8 children per couple, below the national average and the replacement level of 2.1
The unmet need for family planning in Odisha has fallen from 13.6% to 7.2%, marking a significant milestone in public health outcomes, said H&FW Minister Mukesh Mahaling

This was revealed during the state-level World Population Day-2025 celebration held at Gita Govinda Sadan here Friday.

In his keynote address, the minister emphasised the importance of family welfare, gender equality, maternal health, and human rights, noting that population stability is crucial to building a healthy and prosperous society.

"Rapid population growth is a burden on development. Through awareness, education, and services, we are seeing positive change—and Odisha is leading by example," he said.

The minister credited the state's success to a robust network of trained service providers, including ASHA workers

and group-level volunteers, who have played a pivotal role in reaching communities with essential health and family planning information.

To acknowledge their contributions, the minister awarded financial incentives to health workers, doctors, and nurses—marking the first such recognition under the new government. Several districts were also felicitated for outstanding performance in family welfare programmes.

During the meeting, Mahaling voiced concern over instances of child marriage in parts of the state, emphasising that such practices are illegal and contribute to early motherhood, which poses serious health risks. He stressed the importance of appropriate

birth spacing and educational outreach to ensure better maternal and child health outcomes.

Observed globally July 11, World Population Day is a reminder of the urgent need to address population-related challenges. In Odisha, the focus remains on creating a healthy, informed society through information-education-communication (IEC) strategies and community-driven engagement.

With the launch of the Population Stabilisation Fortnight, which will continue till July 24, Odisha has taken a bold step forward—setting an example for other states to follow in the journey toward population stabilisation and human development.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Karanjia on dt.19.06.2025. I, Birakishore Hembram, At - Khandeipada, P.O. : Bholpada, PS - Patana, Dist. - Keonjhar, declare that my son's name has been mentioned in his IDBI Karanjia Branch Bank Pass Book as Subash Hembram as per his old Aadhaar Card, but my son changed his name as Dasarathi Hembram, which is mentioned in his new Aadhaar Card. So Dasarathi Hembram and Subash Hembram is one and same person. Henceforth, my son shall be known as Dasarathi Hembram for all purposes. Birakishore Hembram

LOST

Mouza - Sinduria, Sale deed No.947 of dated 27.03.2002, Sale deed No.402 and 403 of dated 04.02.2000, Sale deed No.3129 of dated 13.07.1999. R.O.R (Patta) No.988/898 is missing some where near Nayagarh Old Busstand. If any one find this please contact. Contact details Rahasha Bihari Sethi, Ph : 9840609513, 8917242307

Rich tributes to Sriballav Panigrahi on 10th death anniv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Leaders from across the political spectrum gathered in Bhubaneswar to pay tributes to Sriballav Panigrahi on his 10th death anniversary Thursday.

Panigrahi, inducted into the state Cabinet at just 32, was once India's youngest Cabinet minister. As Revenue minister, he introduced state's first land reforms, and as Irrigation minister, brought water to drought-prone regions. His tenure in Parliament was equally impactful—marked by powerful speeches, strong advocacy for Odisha's development, and a commitment to value-based politics.

The event, organised by the Sriballav & Sunanda Panigrahi Foundation, was a poignant reminder of a life dedicated to honesty, integrity, and public service. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhakta Charan Das recalled how Sriballav mentored him across party lines, offering wisdom and patience.

MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, deeply inspired by Sriballav's parliamentary speeches, urged that they be compiled into a book for future generations.

State set to lead India's green hydrogen transition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja Friday unequivocally stated that Odisha is uniquely positioned to play a critical role in India's green hydrogen transition.

This was revealed during a review meeting of two flagship programmes of the Union government—National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) and PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG: MBY).

Ahuja emphasised that Odisha is strongly positioned to lead India's green hydrogen transition. While acknowledging key challenges such as water availability, integration of large-scale renewable energy, and developing enabling infrastructure, he underscored state's strategic coastal location, robust industrial ecosystem, and proactive policy framework offers favourable

conditions for the state to emerge as global exporter for green hydrogen derivatives.

Similarly, Sarangi highlighted that Odisha is uniquely positioned to play a critical role in India's green hydrogen scale-up and the state is attracting significant interest from domestic investors for production of green hydrogen derivatives like green ammonia and green methanol, particularly near key ports like Paradip and Gopalpur.

The meeting brought together senior officials from the state government, key Central ministries, and leading green hydrogen developers to deliberate on critical challenges in the development of large-scale green hydrogen and green ammonia projects, particularly at the SEZ in Gopalpur.

These efforts aim at paving way for comprehensive roadmap in India's rapidly growing green hydrogen ecosystem.

The state government reiterated its commitment to a collaborative ecosystem and preferred investment destination for the production and export of green hydrogen derivatives, in a time bound manner.

The MNRE also reviewed the state's performance in green energy initiatives along with the Chief Secretary.

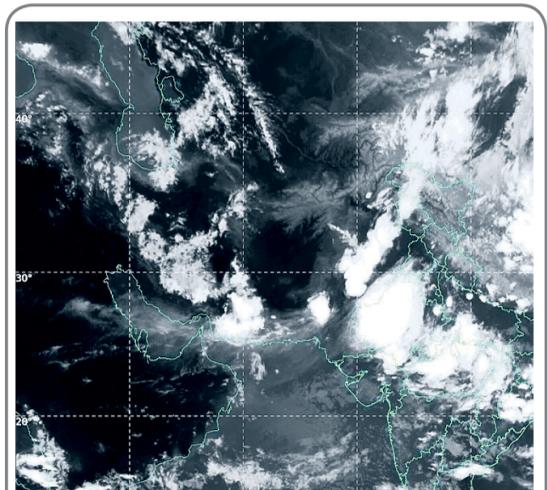
Following the review, directions were issued to District Collectors for expediting the pace of rooftop solar installations across the state.

Ahuja emphasised the need for conducting regular SLBC meetings, engage with vendors and bankers, and ensure prompt loan sanction and disbursement to facilitate implementation. He also advised to implement utility-led aggregation (ULA) model, with a focused approach towards low-income households installing systems below 1-KW capacity.

Directions were issued to District Collectors for expediting the pace of rooftop solar installations across the state

MARKET WATCH

| CURRENCY | | BOURSES | | COMMODITIES | |
|----------|---------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION | INDEX | VARIATION | INDEX | VARIATION |
| DOLLAR | 85.80 ▲ 0.17 | SENSEX | 82500.47 ▼ 689.81 | GOLD | ₹98,055 ▼ ₹1364 |
| EURO | 100.33 ▲ 0.04 | NIFTY | 25149.80 ▼ 205.50 | SILVER | ₹112870 ▼ ₹3717 |



WEATHER

| | BBSR | CTC | FORECAST |
|----------|-------|-------|--|
| Max Temp | 33.2° | 31.8° | Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or thundershower |
| Min Temp | 25.6° | 24.4° | |
| Humidity | 70% | 89% | |
| Rainfall | 0.9mm | Nil | |

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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-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar-Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

BRUTAL VILLAGE JUSTICE

Tribal couple yoked, made to plough field



Rayagada/Kalyansinghpur, July 11: A tribal couple in Rayagada district was allegedly forced to plough a field with a yoke placed on their shoulders as a form of public punishment for marrying against community traditions, officials said Friday.

The alleged incident took place at Kanjamajodi village within Kalyansinghpur police limits Wednesday, they added.

A purported video of the incident, which went viral on social media Friday, shows the young man and woman being paraded like oxen with a yoke strapped on their shoulders, made to plough a field in front of villagers and community elders.

According to villagers, the couple, who reportedly got married in defiance of customary tribal norms, was subjected to a public 'purification' ritual.

The young man is alleged to have married his paternal aunt (father's sister), which is considered a taboo by the community due to their blood relation.

Once the relationship came to light, a kangaroo court of village elders reportedly convened and ordered the punishment which was carried out in full public view.

After performing the 'rituals', the community leaders allegedly asked the couple to immediately leave the village. Their current whereabouts remain unknown.

Village head Biswanath Kurshika said, "We performed the 'purification' rituals and punished them so that they can get rid of the sin they have earned for marrying within the blood relation."

If the rituals were not conducted, the villagers would have faced crop loss as there would be no rain in the area, he claimed.

Rajendra Kurshika, another villager, said, "The rituals were performed in accordance with our tradition and they (couple) were separated."

Terming the act as 'inhuman', Rayagada Sub-Collector Ramesh Kumar Jena said he will visit the village Saturday to inquire about the incident.

"Those found guilty during the inquiry will face legal action," Jena said.

When contacted, Kalyansinghpur police station officer-in-charge Neelakanta Behera stated that no formal complaint had been received regarding the matter. However, he confirmed that an investigation is now underway following media reports.

The incident has sparked widespread criticism and raised serious questions about the continued prevalence of such punitive practices in tribal societies. While some locals justified the action, many have condemned the act as inhumane and regressive.

Man killed in bull attack; 4 injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, July 11: Panic gripped Chandiyia village in Basudevpur block after a bull went on a rampage Friday morning, killing one person and injuring four others.

The deceased has been identified as 55-year-old Nepali Jena, while the injured include his son Manas Kumar Jena and villagers Deepak Padhi, Pramod Padhi and Ritarni Padhi.

According to reports, the bull first charged at Basanti Jena when she stepped outside her house. Though she escaped and alerted her family, her husband and son who came to help were attacked, with Nepali suffering serious injuries. The bull then attacked three other villagers before fleeing the spot.

Nepali was taken to Basudevpur hospital in an unconscious state, where doctors declared him dead. Villagers suspect that the bull had gone mad possibly after it was bitten by a rabid dog or venomous snake.

Mistaken for kidnappers, police thrashed by mob

POST NEWS NETWORK



Baliguda, July 11: Three plainclothes police personnel from Kalahandi were brutally assaulted by villagers who mistook them for kidnappers in Kurtamgarh area under Tumudibandh police limits in Kandhamal district.

According to sources, Kalahandi police had tracked the location of a mobile number linked to a wanted suspect believed to be hiding in Baliguda area. Acting on the tip-off, three police officers, dressed in civilian clothes and travelling in a private vehicle, reached Sukungia village under the Paramapanga panchayat Thursday.

Without revealing their identities, the officers attempted to lure the suspect by calling him to a designated location. However,

the accused grew suspicious and fled the scene, shouting to locals that some unidentified men were trying to abduct him.

Soon, the alarmed villagers spread the message that a kidnapping attempt was under way. As the officers were returning from the area, they were intercepted near Pandaramail Chhak on National Highway 59 by a group of locals. Despite the officers revealing their identity as police personnel, the crowd refused to listen and thrashed them mercilessly.

The mob reportedly dragged the officers out of their vehicle, beat them up, and looted a police revolver, mobile phones, and ₹7,000 in cash.

Upon receiving information, Tumudibandh police station in-charge Ashutosh Jena reached the spot and managed to rescue the injured officers. The looted items, including the revolver, mobile phones and cash, were recovered. The injured personnel were given medical treatment and later transferred back to Kalahandi.

Tumudibandh police have registered a case in connection with the incident and launched a formal investigation.

Tehsildar halts Andhra health camp in Kotia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, July 11: In a move reflecting heightened administrative vigilance over inter-state border disputes, Pottangi Tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua halted a health camp being held by a medical team from Andhra Pradesh in Paniki village under the disputed Kotia panchayat in Koraput district Friday.

According to sources, a health team from Andhra's Salur block had entered the village without prior approval and was conducting a health camp for residents of Ganjeipadar and other nearby hamlets. The

camp was reportedly held in the presence of Kotia Sarpanch Dibakar Gemel.

Upon receiving the information, Tehsildar Dharua rushed to the spot and instructed the medical team and attending doctors to cease operations and return, stating that entering Odisha territory and offering services without permission was a breach of law and could lead to administrative complications.

Following the directive, the Andhra medical team stopped health check-ups and returned across the border.

The incident has reignited tensions over the

long-standing territorial dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in the Kotia region. Although the Odisha government had earlier formed a high-level committee to study the ground situation, the issue remains unresolved.

However, the tehsildar's action has drawn criticism from some local residents, who expressed disappointment over the suspension of medical services. "We feel caught in the crossfire between two states and are being deprived of basic amenities," said a resident, questioning when the ongoing dispute would finally be resolved.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

Tender Notice No. Sr.DMM/KUR/EP/2025-26/02, Dtd: 04.06.2025

The following tenders have been uploaded on website www.reps.gov.in

SL. NO. 01: TENDER NO. 81255885, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF FISH BOLTS WITH NUTS ETC. AS PER ITEM DESCRIPTION, QUANTITY: 70189 NOS.

SL. NO. 02: TENDER NO. 81255890, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SPARES FOR CCB FOR WAG-9 LOCOMOTIVE AS PER ITEM DESCRIPTION, QUANTITY: 1 SET.

SL. NO. 03: TENDER NO. 81255894, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SUPPLY AND FITMENT OF MATERIALS FOR RETRO-FITMENT OF TWIN PIPE AS PER ITEM DESCRIPTION, QUANTITY: 311 NOS.

SL. NO. 04: TENDER NO. 81255948, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SET OF VRLA BATTERY 110V, 70AH ETC. AS PER ITEM DESCRIPTION, QUANTITY: 56 NOS.

Tender Closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. of 28.07.2025 (For Sl. No. 1) and 1500 hrs. of 04.08.2025 (For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4).

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/ Khurda Road

Government of India Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Department of Youth Affairs Shastri Bhawan New Delhi

No.1-12011/2025-NPYAD 12.07.2025

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports invites nominations for the **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2024**, the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure. The Award aims to honour individuals who have demonstrated exceptional courage, skill, and spirit of adventure on land, water, air, as well as those who have made a lifelong and distinguished contribution to the field of adventure. Details regarding the award, eligibility criteria, Guidelines etc. can be accessed on the portal (<https://awards.gov.in>) or through the "Latest News" section of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports website (<https://yas.nic.in>).

Eligible individuals are encouraged to submit their nominations only through the Government of India Awards portal (<https://awards.gov.in>). The last date for submission of nominations is 15th July 2025.

Under Secretary Department of Youth Affairs cbc 47107/11/0005/2526

P.G. DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY UTKAL UNIVERSITY VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751004, ODISHA

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT

No. ICSSR-PVTGs-001/2025 Date: 11.07.2025

Application in the prescribed format are invited from eligible Indian national for the engagement of (i) One Research Assistant (RA), and (ii) two Field Investigators on PURELY ON TEMPORARY AND CONTRACTUAL BASIS for the research project entitled "A Bio-Cultural Study of the Perception and Practices around Pregnancy, childbirth, Lactation and Childcare practices of Lodha and Dongria Khondh (PVTGs) in Odisha". Under the ICSSR Multidisciplinary Studies on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India (2024-25). They will be engaged strictly as per the ICSSR Guidelines.

Interested candidates must visit <https://utkaluniversity.ac.in/recruitment/> to know the terms and conditions, including academic qualifications, remuneration, period of engagement and application submission procedures. The University reserves the right to modify the positions, number of vacancies, selection or non-selection of any candidate and cancel or modify this advertisement without assigning any reason. The last date of receipt of the filled-in prescribed application along with the required documents is 25 July 2025.

Sd/- Project Director

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग University Grants Commission शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) बहादुर शाह जफर मार्ग नई दिल्ली - 110002 Bahadur shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002 Phone : 011-23604200, 011-23604508

Advt. No.41/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATION (CEC), NEW DELHI.

UGC invites online applications for the post of Director, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi in the pay level of Rs.2,10,000/- (fixed) per month with a special allowance of Rs. 11,250/- p.m. (plus usual allowance as applicable from time to time) which is equivalent to the Vice-Chancellor of a Central University.

The application should be filled online for which the last date is **18th August, 2025**. No hard copy will be accepted. Further details are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/jobs.

CBC 21205/12/0003/2526 Secretary, UGC

No. A-12039/01/2025-Estt.III Government of India Ministry of Science & Technology Department of Science & Technology ADVT. No DST/02/2025-Estt.III

Applications are invited for filling up the '01' (One) post of Estate Officer in the Department of Science & Technology on Deputation (including short-term contract (STC)) basis as per the details below:

- LEVEL IN THE PAY MATRIX: Level-8 (Rs. 47,600-1,51,100)
- METHOD OF RECRUITMENT: Deputation (ISTC)
- NATURE OF THE POST: Permanent
- PERIOD OF DEPUTATION: Three years (including the period of deputation (ISTC) in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other organisation or Department of the Central Government) or until attaining the age of 60 years i.e. the age of retirement on superannuation for the post of Estate Officer in DST, whichever is earlier.
- Grades from which Deputation (ISTC) is to be made: Officers under the Central Government or State Governments or Union territories or Universities or recognised research institute or public sector undertakings or statutory or autonomous organisations: - (a) (i) Holding analogous post on a regular basis in the parent cadre or department; or (ii) with two years' service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in posts in level 7 (Rs. 44900-142400) in the pay matrix or equivalent in the parent cadre or department; and
- Essential qualifications & experience: i. Bachelor degree in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical or Electronics or Public Health Engineering from a recognised University or Institute; and ii. two years' experience in the upkeep and maintenance of office buildings.
- AGE LIMIT: The maximum age-limit for appointment by deputation (including short-term contract) shall be not exceeding fifty-six years as on the closing date of the receipt of applications.
- Eligible candidates are required to first apply Online on the online portal <https://recruitment.dst.gov.in/> using a valid email ID. This online portal for applying shall be available for a period of 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News / Rozgar Samachar. Thereafter, hard copy of the successfully submitted online application form, duly signed by the candidate, along with photocopies of ACRS/ APARS for the last five years, duly attested on each page by an officer not below the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India or an officer of equivalent rank and a summary sheet of the ACR/APAR gradings received in these five years, are to be mandatorily forwarded through proper channel so as to reach this Department by Registered Post or by Speed Post within 30 days (45 days for applicants from remote areas i.e. those in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh, Lahul and Spiti District and Pangri Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep) from the date of closure of the online portal. Applicants (otherwise eligible to apply) working in Organisations/Institutes that do not have the system of recording APAR/ACR, need to furnish their work profiles and gradings of the last 05 years duly certified by their Head of Organisations/Institute along with their applications through proper channel so as to reach this Department by Registered Post or by Speed Post within 30 days (45 days for remote areas) from the date of closure of online portal.
- For the application process and other general conditions and requirements, refer the detailed advertisement available on the Recruitment Cell webpage under the Administration & Finance section of our website (www.dst.gov.in).
- Prospective applicants are advised to visit the Recruitment Cell webpage under the Administration & Finance Section of this Department's website (<https://dst.gov.in>) regularly. Any addendum/corrigendum or any update regarding the recruitment process will be posted only on this Department's website.

Note 1: Advance copies of Applications will not be entertained.
Note 2: In case of any discrepancies found between Hindi & English version of the advertisement, the English version of the advertisement will prevail.

Sd./- (Vinod Kumar Sharma) Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 36101/11/0004/2526

UCO Bank Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009 GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The following persons, who have availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments, from CONCERNED BRANCHES of UCO Bank, have not repaid the amount in spite of our demand notice. Therefore, please take notice that if the principal, interest and other charges are not paid on or before Dt.28.07.2025, the pledge ornaments will be publicly auctioned on Dt.28.07.2025 at 12.00 Noon at the Respective Branch premises. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone the auction to any other convenient date without assigning any reasons.

| Sl. No. | Name & Address of Borrowers / A/c. No. | Balance Outstanding | Weight in (Grams) |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| RASULGARH BRANCH, Plot No.: 318/1294, GGP Colony, Unit-37, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Name of the Manager: Mr. Manas Pati, Mob.: 9040614980 | | | |
| 1. | Narmada Parida, At: Plot No.: 757, GGP Colony, Near Post Office, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751025 / 25430610027349 | ₹ 1,01,000/- + Interest and Charges | 33.72 |
| CHANDRASEKHARPUR BRANCH, Plot No.: 262, District Centre, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Name of the Manager: Mr. Santosh Sahani, Mob.: 9692774483 | | | |
| 1. | Sanghamitra Das, At: HIG-1/12, BDA Colony, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751016 / 25430610019429 | ₹ 1,67,000/- + Interest and Charges | 47.40 |
| 2. | Sk Akil Faza Kadir, S/o.: Sk Lokman Kadir, Qr No.: IIR-2/1, Unit-2, Near I.G.Park, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009 / 25430610022399 | ₹ 38,283/- + Interest and Charges | 12.40 |
| 3. | Pradeep Kumar Mishra, At: Plot No.: 321/2571/2586, Near NH-5, Patrapada, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar / 25430610024430 | ₹ 1,08,034/- + Interest and Charges | 27.20 |
| DALAISAIH BRANCH, At: Dalaisahi, PO: Manika Goda, Via: Bolagarh, Khurda-752066, Name of the Manager: Mr. Biswajit Sahani, Mob.: 9040701177 | | | |
| 1. | Dipak Kumar Moharana, At: Hata Sahi, P.O: Manika Goda, Khurda-752066 / 32760610019238 | ₹ 2,05,000/- + Interest and Charges | 70.40 |
| 2. | Ashok Kumar Behera, At: Kumuti Sahi, P.O: Manika Goda, Khurda-752066 / 32760610017272 | ₹ 1,73,000/- + Interest and Charges | 64.30 |
| DELANG BRANCH, At/P.O.: Delang, Dist.: Puri, Name of the Manager: Mr. Pitabas Samantaray, Mob.: 9692784260 | | | |
| 1. | Purna Chandra Palai, S/o.: Sudarsan Palai, At: Jagadapur, PO./P.S.: Delang, Dist.: Puri / 08430610035672 | ₹ 66,574/- + Interest and Charges | 15.40 |
| AIIMS SIJUA BRANCH, NH-5, At/PO.: Patrapada, Khordha, Odisha, Name of the Manager: Mrs. Debasmita Behera, Mob.: 7735140650 | | | |
| 1. | Pradeep Kumar Mishra, At: Plot No.: 321/2571/2586, Near NH-5, Patrapada, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar / 31840610029213 | ₹ 2,67,731/- + Interest and Charges | 66.60 |

The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:

- The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.
- The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working day in the bank.
- The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.
- The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).
- The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.
- If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.
- The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.
- It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.

N.B.: For further details please contact Zonal Office Co-ordinator, Mob: 7873016821
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 11.07.2025 Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Balasore, July 11: Fakir Mohan University (FMU) Friday marked its 27th Foundation Day with a grand celebration at its Nuapadhi campus, reaffirming the varsity's enduring commitment to fostering a value-based, inclusive, and progressive educational environment for nearly three decades.

Former Union minister and Balasore MP Prapat Chandra Sarangi graced the ceremony as chief guest. In his inspiring

address, Sarangi emphasised the importance of value-based education and lauded FMU for being the first varsity in Odisha to fully implement National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The university also took the opportunity to honour literary excellence through its prestigious awards. The Fakir Mohan Literary Award 2025 was conferred upon Assamese author Arupa Patangia Kalita for her outstanding

literary contributions.

The Vyasa Gourab Samman 2025 was awarded to renowned writers Arun Kumar Patra and Sushil Kumar Dutta for their lifelong dedication to literature. The Fakir Mohan University Yuva Galpika Award 2025, sponsored by Kavita Barik, was presented to writer Dileswar Rana.

The Manoj Navapratibha Katha Award 2025, instituted by the Manoj Jayan Organisation, was awarded to Debabrata Mallik (College of Teacher Education) to promote excellence in story writing.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy outlined the university's transformative journey and recent initiatives.



FOCUS MAHA POLITICS

THE TIGER ROARS AGAIN



Challenging the BJP and regaining ground are the main aim as the cousins eye the civic polls. Especially important are elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation which is the richest civic body in Asia

to look at the turns the recent championing of Marathi has taken. MNS workers have been involved in instances of terrorising and threatening non-Maharashtrians for not speaking Marathi despite living in the state for years. Pride in the language may help galvanise the campaign for the civic elections but strong-arm tactics could alienate the substantial numbers of non-Marathi voters. MNS cadres have in the past attacked migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, accusing them of taking jobs away from locals.

The new alliance is adding a twist to Maharashtra's political story, but this twosome has volatility and differences which challenge long-term stability. Uddhav Thackeray has been milder and calmer with a style of functioning more aligned with his new compatriots in the opposition while Raj Thackeray continues to roar and his cadres risk alienating a sizeable section of Mumbai's workforce constituted by migrants. Estimates vary, but according to the 2011 census, migrants constituted over 43 per cent of Mumbai's population. Of this number migrants from Uttar Pradesh accounted for nearly 41%.

Over the last few years, especially since the 2019 Assembly election, Maharashtra has witnessed a lot of political flux with both the Shiv Sena and NCP breaking. A dizzying number of changes have confused the voter – who is with who? Could the Thackeray alliance make some difference to this shaky scenario? That depends on whether they can reconcile two different styles of functioning.

It is uncertain whether the cousins will be able to recreate the magic of the Bal Thackeray years, or something close.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press. Views are personal
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identity to reclaim relevance. For a long time now, Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) has not been able to make much political headway. In the 2024 Assembly elections, the MNS did not win a single seat in the 288-member Maharashtra legislature while Uddhav Thackeray's (UBT) managed only 20 seats. In the erstwhile Shiv Sena under Bal Thackeray a mix of menace, fear and charisma kept both cadres and supporters in line. Raj Thackeray always led with muscle and roar. He launched the Bharatiya Vidyarthi Sena, the party's student wing, and later moved on to hit the trail campaigning across the state for Shiv Sena candidates in elections beginning with the 1990 Assembly polls where he was seen as the inheritor of his uncle's mantle. In style, manner and speech, he was closer to Bal Thackeray. He stepped away when the mantle of inheritance went to his cousin Uddhav, Bal Thackeray's son.

Uddhav took the Shiv Sena into an alliance with the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to rule the state in 2019, after accusing the BJP of betrayal, in not keeping the understanding of shared leadership. The BJP struck back splinter-

ing the Shiv Sena and ruling the state in a coalition with the leader of a breakaway Shiv Sena faction, Eknath Shinde. They went further to split the NCP. A breakaway NCP group headed by Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit is now part of the BJP-led Mahayuti or Grand Alliance, which is the ruling coalition in Maharashtra.

Challenging the BJP and regaining ground are the main aim as the cousins eye the civic polls. Especially important are elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation which is the richest civic body in Asia and bigger than a number of Indian states with the annual budget, which for 2025-26 exceeded INR 744 billion. While the BJP is the main party in the state with 132 seats, the coming civic elections will show whether they can hold this position. Ally Eknath Shinde who heads the breakaway Shiv Sena with 52 seats in the State assembly, is the biggest loser in the face of this new development reuniting the Thackeray family. Shinde who has been positioning himself as Bal Thackeray's rightful heir is left nowhere before the son and nephew of the Shiv Sena supremo.

While there are many advantages in the cousins coming together, they would need

For nearly six decades since he founded the Shiv Sena in 1966, Bal Keshav Thackeray's party has been the noisy epicentre of politics in a state that was traditionally Congress-ruled, controlled by the sugar satraps of Western Maharashtra. The roaring tiger was synonymous with the Shiv Sena, which quickly morphed from a social outfit seeking jobs for the "Marathi manooos" to a political party championing the Hindu cause. A change from a regional outfit to a communal one, a change from street to state-level player, all worked around the popularity of its founder. The Shiv Sena and its bow-and-arrow symbol awarded in 1989 rode across the state and beyond Maharashtra. But as it divided and splintered, reaching a new low when the Election Commission gave the party's poll symbol to a faction of the Shiv Sena in February 2023, the voice of the tiger receded. Now, two decades after they parted ways, estranged cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray, son and nephew respectively of Bal Thackeray, have reunited. A joint rally in Worli on July 5 was their first shared platform since 2005. The rally "AwaazMarathicha" or the voice of Marathi was organised to protest the Maharashtra government's now withdrawn proposal to make Hindi mandatory in primary schools.

The three-language formula, viewed as an imposition of Hindi, has seen protests in the Southern states. The staunchest opposition to Hindi has been from Tamil Nadu where it is seen both as an effort to undermine the state's linguistic identity and push ahead the Central government's attempt at cultural dominance. In Maharashtra, it provided the beleaguered Thackeray cousins a handle to recover ground they have been steadily losing. With it, they have now resurrected a powerful narrative of Marathi



Lekha Rattanani

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE 2019 ASSEMBLY ELECTION, MAHARASHTRA HAS WITNESSED A LOT OF POLITICAL FLUX WITH BOTH THE SHIV SENA AND NCP BREAKING



Tripura's IAS Exodus

It's hard not to see the flight of over a dozen IAS officers from Tripura's cadre as a crypto-threshold moment. Between 2019 and 2023, young administrative talent from IAS batches of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and even 2023 have been migrating, often in tandem with life changes such as marriage, to other states, including Rajasthan, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana.

While cadre transfers for marriage aren't a scandal, what happens when they turn into a slow haemorrhage? Tripura's government is increasingly borrowing TCS (Tripura Civil Service) officers to fill gaps, piling extra roles such as acting SDM onto younger, local babus juggling too much, while swallowing senior-level responsibilities.

This isn't simply a numbers game. It is chipping away at institutional memory, weakening leadership at the district level, and leaving key developmental schemes rudderless. When the reserve pool drips out, you end up propping up the admin with less experienced folks playing catch-up.

That's not all. Sources have informed DKB that Sonal Goel, the one uniform face that should offer assurance, has reportedly been MIA in Delhi, supposedly on childcare leave since July 2023, and no one in Agartala seems certain she's even in office. That's not just puzzling, it's symbolic of a wider shrug of accountability.

The CM's office hasn't issued a peep on the broader implications. So, if replenishing talent isn't a high priority, then perhaps bold steps like offering retention bonuses, incentives for rural postings, or fast-tracking leadership development for TCS officers should be on the table. Public service shouldn't feel like a revolving door where the state loses while others gain.

Seniority doesn't wear the stars

Nitin Agarwal can't seem to catch a break. Kerala's senior-most IPS officer from the 1989 batch has once again been overlooked for the state's top police job, this time in favour of a junior, 1991-batch officer, R. A. Chandrasekhar. That's two supersessions in two years.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

And this wasn't some routine reshuffle, sources have informed DKB. Chandrasekhar's appointment as Kerala's DGP and Head of Police Force was a finely choreographed move. He was serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau and was technically not eligible for direct reassignment to the state. However, the Centre moves him to the Cabinet Secretariat as Secretary (Security) for exactly two weeks. From there, the Kerala government snapped him up. Smooth. Seamless. Suspiciously well-synced.

For Agarwal, it's déjà vu. In 2023, the state picked Shaik Darvesh Saheb from the 1990 batch over him. And now, with Chandrasekhar's entry, he's once again reporting to a junior officer, perhaps until retirement in July next year.

What's fuelling this pattern depends on who you ask. Some say Agarwal lacked the right political backing. Others hint at past run-ins with influential parties. The Congress has slammed Chandrasekhar's appointment as a compromise between the Centre and the CPM. The Left is nervously defending it, given that Chandrasekhar has a controversial past. It includes his alleged involvement in the 1994 Koothuparamba firing case, where five DYFI activists were killed. He was acquitted, but the ghosts linger.

At the end of the day, seniority, service, and spotless records mean little if you're not in favour. In Kerala's DGP musical chairs, what matters most is not the batch year, but who's got the better orchestra.

The farewell that wasn't

It was supposed to be a send-off soaked in sentiment with a shawl, coconut, and speeches. The full retirement kit. After 55 months as Chief Secretary, Amitabh Jain was all set to walk into the sunset, complete with warm words from Governor Ramen Deka and a cabinet full of farewells. Then came the twist.

Just as the state's top brass gathered to mark Jain's last hurrah, a call from Delhi hit pause on the goodbye. In a move that's unprecedented since Chhattisgarh became a state in 2000, the Centre extended Jain's tenure by three months, reportedly with just a phone call. The farewell speeches were shelved, the shrifal suddenly looked premature, and the babus were left blinking in disbelief.

Jain now holds the distinction of being the first Chief Secretary in the state's history to receive a post-retirement extension. While the corridors of power scrambled to adjust their plans, the rest of Raipur was left wondering: Why the extension? And who's next?

Until that call, the guessing game was in full swing. Four senior officers, including Renu Pillay, Subrat Sahoo, Amit Agrawal, and Manoj Pingua, were in the running. Two names had apparently already been nixed. But the big question was whether Delhi would repatriate Union Pharmaceuticals Secretary Amit Agrawal or leave the choice to the state.

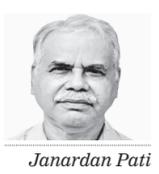
The extension may have given Delhi more time, but it also gave Raipur a political potboiler, scripted by the Centre. For now, the state has a Chief Secretary who got to retire and un-retire in a single day. Not many babus can claim that on their résumé!

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

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Does the world need more bombs and guns?

Ever since Donald Trump became the president of the USA for the second time, he has been demanding that NATO allies increase their defence expenditure to 5% of GDP. The NATO summit was held recently in The Hague, a city in the Netherlands, on 24th and 25th June 2025—the first time it took place there. Accepting Trump's dictum, the summit decided that each member country should raise its defence budget to this new benchmark.



Janardan Pati

THE WAR ON IRAN BY ISRAEL AND THE US HAS VIOLATED ALL INTERNATIONAL LAWS

NATO, the military alliance, is no doubt the most militarily powerful bloc in the world. NATO represents about one billion people. The only resolution passed at the summit was to increase spending on arms production and procurement. Global military expenditure in 2023 grew for the ninth consecutive year and reached 2.44 trillion dollars. The US and its NATO allies account for more than half of the world's military spending, even though the alliance's members comprise only one billion of the planet's 8.3 billion people. The USA is refusing to re-sign the expired nuclear-deterrence treaties. Today, per-capita military spending worldwide stands at 26,300, according to the SIPRI report.

Military actions and internal conflicts have displaced large numbers of people. More than 45 million individuals have been uprooted by war and unrest. With US-supplied arms, Israel has carried out its genocidal onslaught on Gaza for the last 21 months, killing more than 57,000 people—mostly women and children—and wounding more than 120,000 others. The US is not only providing unlimited quantities of weapons to Israel; its annual financial aid to Israel has risen from \$3-6 billion in 2023 to \$17.9 billion this year.

The war on Iran by Israel and the US has violated all

international laws. The Russia-Ukraine war has altered the global atmosphere, and the entire NATO alliance is now siding with Ukraine against Russia. Gradually, the world is entering a catastrophic situation.

Globe's other side

According to the Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC-2025), over 295 million people in 53 countries are experiencing acute hunger—an increase of 13.7 million compared with 2023.

About 402 million people are unemployed and unable to find meaningful, sustainable work. Twelve percent of the world's youth are searching for better jobs.

A UN report states that about two billion people lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation. UNICEF says four billion people face severe water scarcity for at least one month every year. Water scarcity affects women and children most, as they bear the

brunt of fetching water. The global housing crisis is a widespread issue affecting billions. 2.8 billion people do not have adequate and safe housing. Many live in slums, inside concrete pipes, on pavements, in bus stands, or on railway platforms. They have no home to call their own, while the rich possess several mansions.

When the world under the capitalist system is unable to provide sufficient food, water, and housing to billions of people, the wealthy nations are spending trillions of dollars on weapons and warfare. The warmongers seek profit by selling ever more arms and ammunition. This is the greatest challenge of the 21st century: will humanity survive, or will it perish to satisfy the greed of a few profit seekers?

The writer is former Secretary, CPI(M), Odisha State Committee. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- The only solutions that are ever worth anything are the solutions that people find themselves**
SATYAJIT RAY
- Man is a genius when he is dreaming**
AKIRA KUROSAWA
- There is a fine line between censorship and good taste and moral responsibility**
STEVEN SPIELBERG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1862:** The Medal of Honor, awarded for battlefield bravery, was created for the U.S. Army.
- 1920:** The independent republic of Lithuania, having successfully expelled invading Soviet troops, signed a peace treaty with Russia.
- 1962:** Iconic British rock band the Rolling Stones performed their first show, billed as the Rollin' Stones, at a club in London.
- 1975:** The island nation of Sao Tome and Principe was granted independence from Portugal.
- 1984:** Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale put forward Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate on this day in 1984, making her the first woman ever nominated for vice president by a major U.S. political party.

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



Horrifying act

Sir, Radhika Yadav, a rising tennis star from Gurgaon, was tragically shot dead by her own father—simply because people mocked him for "living off his daughter's earnings." Despite her hard work and success in building her own academy, her father felt ashamed rather than proud. He saw her achievements as a threat to his ego, not a reason for celebration. This horrifying act reflects a deeper mindset—one that sees empowered daughters as burdens, not blessings. As a society, we must realize: a daughter's success is not a man's defeat; it is his pride. Let's raise men who lift their daughters up, not pull them down—because when we silence our daughters, we darken our own future.

Mohammad Asad, MUMBAI

Time for accountability

Sir, The tragic collapse of the Gambhira bridge in Gujarat, which killed at least 18 people, is not an isolated incident—it is part of a grim pattern of deadly infrastructure failures in India. What makes this disaster more unforgivable is the clear paper trail of ignored warnings. Activists had flagged the bridge's deteriorating condition as early as 2022. Authorities not only acknowledged the risk—they chose inaction. From Morbi to Mizoram and from Pune to Cuttack, blood-soaked concrete keeps telling the same story: ageing infrastructure, overstretched by unchecked urban growth, and criminal negligence by the departments tasked with maintenance. Audits, if conducted at all, remain cosmetic. Reports vanish, responsibility is diffused, and lessons are rarely institutionalized. India does not lack engineers—it lacks the will to listen, the urgency to act, and the spine to publish uncomfortable truths. Infrastructure investment without a parallel focus on maintenance and transparency is a recipe for repeated funerals. Enough of retrospective condolences. It is time for real-time accountability, annual structural audits, and a statutory mechanism to ensure that infrastructure failures do not become India's new normal. Lives lost are not numbers—they are indictments.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Meghalaya on the global spirits map

Arunachal highway through tiger reserve approved by wildlife board

AGENCIES

Shillong, July 11: In the mist-draped hills of Cherrapunji, where the clouds descend like whispers and the rains write poetry across the red earth, a quiet revolution is brewing.

A bottle of gin, born from rainwater and infused with the wild heart of Meghalaya, has just stunned the global spirits world.

Cherrapunji Eastern Craft Gin, distilled by Raincheck Earth Co, has bagged the prestigious Double Gold Medal at the 2025 Spirits International Prestige (SIP) Awards held in California — a rare honour shared by less than 2 per cent of over 1,200 entries from across the globe.

But what makes this victory remarkable is not just the medal — it's the story behind the bottle.

At the heart of this gin is rain — not just any rain, but the fabled downpours of Cherrapunji, one of the wettest places on Earth. The spirit is crafted using harvested rainwater, a nod to the region's ecological uniqueness and a tribute to its fragile environment. This water forms the base of the gin, which is then layered with a dozen botanicals — Khasi mandarin, Himalayan juniper, smoked cardamom, even smoked tea — all locally sourced, all deeply evocative of the northeastern terroir.

"This award is especially meaningful because it comes directly from the people who enjoy spirits in real life," says Mayukh Hazarika, the founder of Raincheck Earth Co. "We didn't want to just create another gin. We wanted to bottle a place, a feeling, a rainfall

IN THE MIST OF HILLS, A GIN RISES



As the rainclouds gather once again over Cherrapunji, somewhere in California, someone sips a gin and tonic — unaware, perhaps, that they're tasting the rains of Meghalaya, filtered through the dreams of a mountain distiller, bottled with care, and sent across the world with a whisper from the hills

— the essence of Cherrapunji." The SIP Awards are unique in the liquor world — judged not by industry insiders, but by over 300 everyday spirit enthusiasts, who sample entries through double-blind tastings.

That Cherrapunji Gin emerged at the top is testament to its authentic flavour profile — citrus-forward with a smoky, earthy undertone that lingers like Meghalaya's

perpetual mist. But this isn't just a win for one distillery.

It's a signal flare for Meghalaya's fledgling craft alcohol industry, which is showing signs of awakening.

The state, rich in indigenous fruits, herbs, and wild aromatics, is increasingly being recognised as a potential hub for premium wine and spirit production. From pineapples

in Ri-Bhoi to wild berries in West Khasi Hills, the ingredients are here — all waiting to be distilled into liquid gold.

Raincheck Earth Co has become a trailblazer, not just for its award-winning recipe, but for its sustainable approach.

The gin is packaged in sleek, reusable stainless steel bottles — a bold design move that aligns with the eco-conscious ethos of the region.

Behind the brand lies a partnership with a Dutch master distiller, blending global expertise with indigenous knowledge. The result is a gin that feels both modern and ancient — a nod to Meghalaya's deep-rooted traditions and its evolving contemporary identity.

While states like Goa and Himachal Pradesh have made

■ **At the heart of this gin is rain — not just any rain, but the fabled downpours of Cherrapunji, one of the wettest places on Earth**

■ **The spirit is crafted using harvested rainwater, a nod to the region's ecological uniqueness and a tribute to its fragile environment**

■ **This water forms the base of the gin, which is then layered with a dozen botanicals — Khasi mandarin, Himalayan juniper, smoked cardamom, even smoked tea — all locally sourced, all deeply evocative of the northeastern terroir**

headlines for their craft brews and boutique spirits, Meghalaya — with its clean air, fertile land, and unmatched rainfall — is quietly carving a niche.

This gin offers a different story: one of innovation, sustainability, and global aspiration.

Mayukh, a son of the soil, believes that the hills of Meghalaya can inspire a new wave of artisanal alcohol rooted in place and story. "Cherrapunji Gin is just the beginning," he says. "There's so much more here. The world is thirsty for authenticity, and we have that in abundance."

As the rainclouds gather once again over Cherrapunji, somewhere in California, someone sips a gin and tonic — unaware, perhaps, that they're tasting the rains of Meghalaya, filtered through the dreams of a mountain distiller, bottled with care, and sent across the world with a whisper from the hills.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife has cleared a proposal to divert 310 hectares of forest land from the core area of Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh for the construction of the Arunachal Frontier Highway (NH-913).

The decision comes even as some members flagged serious concerns over inadequate wildlife mitigation measures and the planned felling of over 1.5 lakh trees. The project in the Changlang district, connects NH-215 near Kharsang to the Miao-Gandhigram-Vijaynagar road, a stretch of the strategic NH-913 corridor close to the India-Myanmar border, according to government records.

The Public Works Department (PWD), Arunachal Pradesh, had sought 248.79 hectares (ha) of forest land for intermediate laning and 61.21 ha for muck disposal.

Member secretary of the committee said June 26 a meeting regarding the project proposal had been held with committee members H S Singh and R Sukumar, along with the state's chief wildlife warden (CWW).

It was observed that "the mitigation measures proposed, including underpasses, are quite rudimentary when compared to earlier proposals".

The member secretary added that the animal passage plan lacked adequate site specific research and several proposed

structures follow "standard PWD culvert or causeway designs rather than designs tailored for effective wildlife movement."

"There was consensus that a comprehensive, research-based animal passage plan is necessary, one that clearly specifies the appropriate design, location, height and length of underpasses and overpasses based on actual animal movement patterns," he said.

Sukumar, while raising two key concerns, acknowledged the strategic importance of the road, which had already been approved two years ago as an all-weather corridor.

"First, the plan would result in the felling of approximately 1,55,000 trees and the justification for such extensive widening is unclear; second, the animal passage plan must be aligned with actual ground realities regarding wildlife presence and crossing points and the current plan is weak in this respect," he said.

However, Singh suggested that 'the animal passage plan may be re-examined and thereafter the proposal may be approved.'

Responding to the objections, the CWW of Arunachal Pradesh said the widening was "not extensive" and involves an upgrade from "3.5 m width to intermediate laning".

After detailed discussions, the committee decided to approve the proposal.

Rajasthan min drops book citing 'Gandhi family bias'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 11: School students in Rajasthan will no longer study two-part supplementary textbooks with state Education Minister Madan Dilawar arguing that these reading materials are not required because they glorify the Nehru-Gandhi family and carry no marks for students.

The Congress has attacked the minister over the decision, saying that the government can remove textbooks from the syllabus but cannot change people's minds.

Minister Dilawar said that the books 'Azadi ke Baad ka Swarnim Bharat' Part-1 and



Part-2 carry no marks and, therefore, he directed the officials of the department to discontinue teaching these books.

"These books, which the previous Congress government introduced, do not carry any marks for the exams. They were only meant for reading. Without any academic weight, there was no point in continuing them so

I have directed that the Education Department will not teach such books," Dilawar said.

Stressing that positive things should be taught, he said that the contributions of those who served the country and the state should be equally mentioned but those Congress leaders who imposed the Emergency and killed democracy have been glorified in these textbooks.

"The books only glorified Congress leaders, specifically the Gandhi family. Key figures such as Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr Ambedkar and even Congress leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who later founded the Bharatiya Janata

Sangh, were ignored. The textbooks failed to highlight their contributions while extensively promoting the Gandhi family," he said Thursday.

The book talks about the freedom movement, the role of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and others. The book also focuses on the contributions of former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

It mentions various programmes and achievements such as Right to Education and Right to Information among others of the former UPA governments headed by Manmohan Singh. The minister said that talking extensively about certain lead-

ers was glorification and insisted that the book should also have details of the contributions of other leaders. Since it was last revised in 2019, the book also has references to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, demonetisation and GST implementation.

In the topic related to demonetisation, the book says, "While announcing demonetisation, Narendra Modi included the benefits of demonetisation from curbing black money to extremism and terrorism. In the initial days of demonetisation, the common people had to face many difficulties. They had to stand in long queues at banks to exchange their currency."

Tribals in remote part of Rajasthan get electricity connections

The long wait for electricity for around 200 people of the Sahariya tribe living in 40 houses, 3 km off Sanvara village and 175 km from the district headquarters, was finally over June 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan) July 11: A remote hilly area in Baran district in Rajasthan received electricity connections for the first time, 78 years after Independence.

The long wait for electricity for around 200 people of the Sahariya tribe living in 40 houses, 3 km off Sanvara village and 175 km from the district headquarters, was finally over June 30, officials said.

Now, Baran district has achieved 100 per cent electricity connection, district collector Rohitashva Singh Tomar said Thursday.

The work was done within 20-25 days of receiving the grievance from people during a 'ratri chopal' (night meeting) last month, he said.

This was a "remarkable example of quick resolution of public issues", the collector said.

"People in the entire village are elated and in high spirits now that their nights are lit up. The electricity has eventually reached the village after a decades-long," said Arun Sahariya, grandson of Badri Sahariya. Badri Sahariya, a former sarpanch

78 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE



and other locals raised the matter during the night 'ratri chopal'.

Sahariyas are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

During the 'Ratri Chopal' May 23, Badri Sahariya informed the district collector that 40 families of the Sahariya community do not have electricity and have been living in darkness for years.

The district collector inspected the site the next day and instructed Superintendent Engineer NM Bilotia to conduct a survey and complete the electrification work within 15 days.

Bilotia, with help from other de-

partments, completed the exercise in around 20-25 days.

Bilotia said approximately 2 km of 11 kV line, 1 km of low-tension line, 2 single-phase lines, 25 kV transformers, and 38 new electric poles were installed. The entire work was carried out on rocky and hilly terrain.

Under PM-JANMAN, or Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan, the Sahariya families have also received the government nod for permanent houses.

PM-JANMAN caters to improving the socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

बैंक ऑफ बरौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)
G.M. College Chowk,
Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Immovable Property)

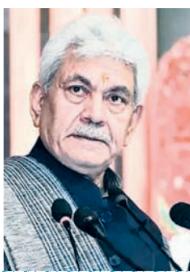
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

| BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor | Description of the Immovable Properties | Demand/Possession Notice Date | Total Dues as on |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| RENGALI BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Akhila Kumar Mahana, S/o: Sri Siba Narayan Mahana, At: Mauli Nagar, P.O: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768212 | Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land situated at Mouza: Babuchakuli, PS: Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, bearing MS Khata No.: 165/307, Plot No.: 441/2416, Area: Ac. 0.15 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, standing in the name of Sri Akhila Kumar Mahana, S/o: Sri Sibanarayan Mahana., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 441, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 441 (P), South: Plot No.: 440 | 14.10.2024 / 10.07.2025 | ₹9,37,102.64 as on 06.07.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment |
| VSS MARG BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Ladies Garments, Prop.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Panda / Guarantor: Mr. Bishi Keshan Panda, S/o: Late Dibakar Panda, Both are At: Medical Para, P.O: Themara, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768005 | Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Themara, Thana: Sambalpur Sadar, Thana No.: 29, Tahasil: Maneswar No.: 248, Plot No.: / Survey No.: 7184/8688, Khata No.: 508/840 to an extent of Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Deepak Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Bishi Keshan Panda, Bounded by East: Open Land, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 7175, South: Plot No.: 7183 | 01.03.2025 / 08.07.2025 | ₹6,79,696.29 as on 06.07.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment |
| KHETRAJPUR BRANCH / Borrowers: Mr. Mangraj Bhatta, S/o.: Maheswar Bhatta, 2) Mangraj Bhatta and Mr. Suryaraj Bhatta, Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768112 | Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Jayantpur, PS: Sadar, Tahasil: Jujomura, Dist.: Sambalpur, bearing Chaka Khata No.: 352/149, Non Consolidable Plot No.: 1021/2204, Area: Ac. 0.070 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari and Chaka Khata No.: 352/374, Non Consolidable Plot No.: 2267/2407, Area: Ac. 0.0017 Dec. or 75 sqft., standing in the name of Sri Mangraj Bhatta, S/o: Sri Maheswar Bhatta, Khata No.: 352/149, Plot No.: 1021/2204 (P), Khata No.: 352/374, Plot No.: 2267/2407 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 2204, West: Road, North: Plot No.: 2204, South: Plot No.: 2204 | 11.04.2025 / 10.07.2025 | ₹76,20,391.69 as on 06.07.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment |
| KHETRAJPUR BRANCH / Borrowers: Mangraj Bhatta and Mr. Suryaraj Bhatta, both are resident of Dakdarpada, Jayantpur, Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768112 | Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land situated at Mouza: Lapanga, PS No.: 11, Katarbaga, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, having MS Khata No.: 362/818, Plot No.: 355/3423, Area: Ac. 0.090 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari and Plot No.: 354/3422, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.010 Dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.100 Dec., standing in the name of Sri Mangraj Bhatta, S/o: Sri Maheswar Bhatta, Plot No.: 354, West: Plot No.: 355, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 2472, Plot No.: 354/3422 is Bounded by East: Plot No.: 354, West: Plot No.: 354, North: Plot No.: 3423, South: Plot No.: 341 | 11.04.2025 / 10.07.2025 | ₹17,05,854.36 as on 06.07.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment |

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 11.07.2025

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narratives. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU AND KASHMIR
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KANWAR YATRA BEGINS

The Kanwar Yatra began Friday amid tight security arrangements as thousands of Kanwariyas reached the holy city of Haridwar to collect Ganga water



of the day quote

Shri Ram, Shri Krishna, Lord Shanka and the epics associated with them are not just stories, they are symbols of our faith, heritage and the highest ideals of a civilised culture. It is the duty of every Indian to safeguard and uphold these legacies. Ram, Krishna and Shiva are living embodiments of Sanatan Dharma

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

What's worse — Thiru Palaniswami (AIADMK chief) and his party are standing with Delhi, not with Tamil Nadu. They're backing unfair delimitation that punishes us for our progress

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

The Chief Minister has already answered all your questions. It's not appropriate for me to keep repeating the same, and it's not right for you to keep asking

D K SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA CM

Shocking revelations in Radhika murder case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, July 11: Former state-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was cremated Friday evening, a day after her father allegedly shot her dead at point blank range, bringing the curtains down on a life cut short cruelly and leaving behind questions aplenty. Deepak Yadav, 49, who confessed to the crime and told police he was taunted for living off her income from a tennis academy, was produced in court Friday and remanded to one-day police custody.

The 25-year-old received four bullets, three in the back and one in the shoulder, according to the postmortem report by a board of three doctors, said police. That done, her body was handed over to the family and taken for last rites to the family's village in Wazirabad close by. There was stunned silence and many tears too as the young woman was cremated, said a villager.

About 150 people, including her grieving family, attended the funeral with her brother Dheeraj lighting the pyre. "There were many questions about the murder. Everyone was surprised how Deepak could have killed his daughter, the one he loved the most," said one of the mourners. What

THE 25-YEAR-OLD RECEIVED FOUR BULLETS, THREE IN THE BACK AND ONE IN THE SHOULDER, ACCORDING TO THE POSTMORTEM REPORT BY A BOARD OF THREE DOCTORS, SAID POLICE

DEEPAK YADAV (FATHER) CONFESSED HE SHOT RADHIKA BECAUSE HE WAS OFTEN MOCKED FOR LIVING OFF HER INCOME, POLICE SOURCES SAID

POLICE ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THE TENNIS ACADEMY RADHIKA RAN WAS THE BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER

could have led the father to pump bullets into his daughter's back while she was cooking in their home in upscale Sushant Lok in Gurugram? Was it the tennis academy she ran? Was it a music video she made last year? Was it wounded pride? Or was it something else entirely? The speculation swirled as people took in the scant details of the shock murder of the clearly successful woman set to go places.

The accused, who police said was depressed for the last 15 days, also felt he was financially well off and had good rental income so there was no need for his daughter to run an academy. Radhika had appeared in a romantic music video in 2024 alongside an independent artist. According to sources, this

too could have triggered tensions at home.

Police officials said they were investigating all possible angles in the murder, including what her mother was doing when the incident occurred.

According to an FIR based on the complaint of her uncle Kuldeep Yadav, Radhika's mother Manju Yadav was present on the first floor of the house when the shooting took place.

Around 10.30 am Thursday he suddenly heard a "loud explosion" and rushed to the first floor, the FIR stated.

"I saw my niece Radhika lying in a pool of blood in the kitchen, and the revolver was found in the drawing room. My son, Piyush Yadav, also rushed to the first floor. Both of us picked up Radhika and rushed her in our car to Asia Maringo Hospital in Sector 56 where doctors declared her dead," the uncle said in his statement.

It was earlier said the mother was on the ground floor, and she rushed upstairs after hearing the gunshots, which, she said, sounded like a pressure cooker blast.

The accused, wearing a T-shirt and trousers, had his head covered with a towel as he stepped out of the vehicle near the court complex under police escort for the court appearance.

Former CJs flag some provisions of ONOE Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Former chief justices of India, D Y Chandrachud and J S Khehar, Friday flagged certain provisions of the constitutional amendment Bill for simultaneous elections, including powers it vest with the Election Commission, but rejected the suggestion that the idea falls foul of the Constitution, sources said. Khehar is the third ex-CJI to question the wide leeway the bill confers on the poll body under its 82A(5) Section in deciding on holding the election of an assembly after Ranjan Gogoi and Chandrachud.

While Chandrachud appeared before the Joint Committee of Parliament headed by BJP MP P Chaudhary after Khehar, he had submitted his written opinion earlier.

Summarising the views expressed by the two jurists on what has come to be known as the one nation, one election (ONOE) Bill, a source said both of them suggested that the bill has certain grey areas that should be addressed by the committee and made some suggestions as well.

He added that both of them made it clear that the proposed law does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution, as alleged by Opposition parties. "It does not hamper the basic structure of the Constitution," Chandrachud is learnt to have said. Opposition members, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of the Congress, raised queries about the constitutionality of dissolving assemblies midway to synchronise their polls with Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

Khehar, they added, suggested that Parliament or the Union Council of Ministers should have a say in taking the call on holding the election of an Assembly, as envisaged under the 82A(5) section of the Constitution (One hundred and twenty-ninth) Amendment Bill.

Mann again questions Modi's foreign visits



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 11: A day after the External Affairs Ministry disapproved of his criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Friday again raked up the issue, this time in the state assembly, and asked him to "address the concerns" of 140 crore Indians.

On MEA's reaction, Mann asked whether he did not have a right to question about a foreign policy.

The MEA Thursday disapproved of Mann's criticism of Modi's foreign visits, terming his comments "irresponsible".

Without naming Mann, it said the government of India "disassociates" itself from the "unwarranted" comments made by a "high state authority" that undermined India's ties with friendly countries.

Participating in a debate over the resolution against the deployment of CISF personnel at the Bhakra-Nangal project during the second day of the Punjab Assembly here, Mann again asserted that the prime has no time to address the concerns of 140 crore Indians but has time to tour abroad.

"The MEA has reacted. Don't we have a right to ask the PM

about foreign policy? Do the countries which he visits support our nation afterwards? When our relation with Pakistan turned bad, did any country stand by us," he asked.

"He visits the countries 'Magneshia, Tarveshia, Garveshia' (sic), do not know where these countries are. Pradhan Mantri sahib got the biggest award there. What is the population there? It is 9,500. I said that many people gather just to watch the JCB machine here," Mann said.

On Thursday, Mann had criticized Modi for celebrating a foreign honour from a country with a population of just 10,000 while "neglecting" the nation's pressing issues.

"Pradhan Mantri ji has gone to Ghana? Has he come back from Ghana? Will he come back today? He will be welcomed upon his return in the country." "... He is not staying in the country where 140 crore people live. The countries which he is visiting have a population of 10,000. And he got the biggest award there. Over here, 10,000 people gather to watch the JCB machine (earth moving machine)," Mann had said.

Modi returned to India Thursday after a five-nation tour of Brazil, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina and Namibia.

SHORT TAKES

Goods train derailed; traffic hit for 2 hours

Mumbai: A goods train derailed at Monkey Hill in Borh ghat, a mountain pass, on the busy Mumbai-Pune route Friday afternoon, affecting the railway traffic for around two hours, an official said. Nobody was injured in the incident that occurred around 4 pm, and the train was brought back on tracks later, Central Railway (CR) chief public relations officer Swapnil Nila said. "The brake van of the goods train derailed near Monkey Hill, a halt station in the mountainous Borh ghat stretch," he said.

Death toll in toddy tragedy rises to six

Hyderabad: The death toll in the "adulterated" toddy tragedy here rose to six, police said Friday. Three deaths each were reported in the limits of Kukatpally and KPHB police station limits, a police official told PTI. State Health Minister C Damodar Rajanarasimha was informed that 18 patients are currently under treatment at state-run Gandhi hospital, while 35 others were being treated at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS). Of the 35, five are expected to be discharged soon, an official release said. The Health Minister directed health officials and senior doctors to ensure all victims receive continued care till they make a full recovery.

TMC MLA's close aide shot dead

Kolkata: A 38-year-old Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said Friday. The incident occurred in Bhangar area Thursday night when Rajjak Khan, a close aide of TMC's Canning Purba MLA Saukat Mollah, was shot at by a few gunmen, a senior officer said. A police team has been deployed in the locality, and the body has been sent for post-mortem examination, he said.

3 of family die from generator smoke

Surat: Three members of a family died after allegedly inhaling smoke from a generator while they were asleep in their house in Gujarat's Surat district, police said Friday. The incident occurred in Bhatia village of Surat district Thursday night, an official said.

SNIPPETS

AAP will go alone in Bihar Assembly polls: Sanjay Singh

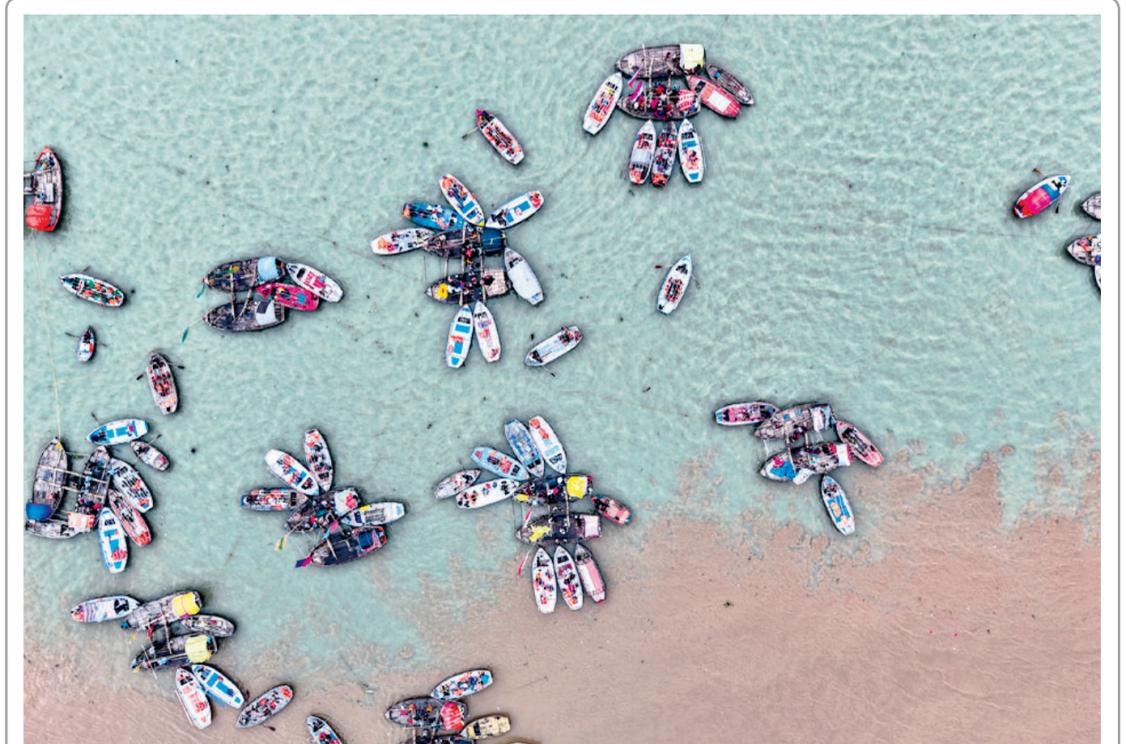
PATNA: Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh Friday said his party will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections independently, even as he backed INDIA bloc's allegation of voter list manipulation at the behest of the BJP. In a free-wheeling conversation with PTI Videos here, the Rajya Sabha MP also strongly defended his party colleague and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, who is under fire for ridiculing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to small countries. The AAP leader also claimed that Modi has been given "a big signal" from RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who has said that people aged over 75 years should not remain in active public life.

Non-cognisable case registered against Shiv Sena MLA

MUMBAI: A non-cognisable case was registered Friday against Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad and his supporter for assaulting a worker at the MLA hostel canteen in south Mumbai, police officials said. A non-cognisable case is registered in minor offences. Police can not make arrest without a court warrant in such cases. Gaikwad and one of his supporters assaulted the worker at the Akashwani MLA hostel canteen for 'serving stale food' Tuesday night. A viral video showing the two-time MLA from Buldhana punching and slapping the canteen worker created outrage across the state.

Three-storey building collapses in Delhi; 1 dead

NEW DELHI: A 46-year-old man was killed after a three-storey commercial building collapsed in Delhi's Bara Hindu Rao area in the early hours of Friday, an official said. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the deceased's family, they said. The deceased, identified as Manoj Sharma (46), an employee at one of the shops housed in the building, was trapped under the rubble of the collapsed structure. He was pulled out of the debris and taken to the Hindu Rao Hospital, where he was later declared dead, the official said. The location of the incident falls within the influence zone of the ongoing tunnelling works being carried out for the Janakpuri West -- RK Ashram Marg corridor of the Delhi Metro.



Boats anchored at the Sangam amid an increase in the water level of Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Experiments, research mark Axiom-4 crew's final days on ISS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission are making the most of their final days on the International Space Station, pushing forward a wide range of experiments that could shape the future of space exploration.

The SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft, carrying the four-astronaut crew, reached the orbital outpost June 26 and is scheduled to undock from the International Space Station (ISS) no earlier than Monday, July 14, at 7:05 am

ET (4:35 pm IST), according to an update on X by Axiom

Space, which is spearheading the mission.

Shukla and the other three astronauts are expected to board the spacecraft about two hours before the undocking, wear their space suits and carry out the necessary tests before they begin their journey to the Earth.

The ISS is orbiting the Earth at a speed of 28,000 km per hour, and the spacecraft will initiate the autonomous undocking



THE SPACEX'S CREW DRAGON SPACECRAFT, CARRYING THE FOUR-ASTRONAUT CREW, REACHED THE ORBITAL OUTPOST JUNE 26 AND IS SCHEDULED TO UNDOCK FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS) NO EARLIER THAN MONDAY, JULY 14, AT 7:05 AM

process to gradually slow down and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere for a splashdown at a designated spot. Shukla worked

on the microalgae experiment, deploying and stowing samples that could one day provide food, oxygen and biofuels for deep

space missions, Axiom Space said in a statement.

The resilience of the microalgae makes them a promising asset for sustaining life beyond Earth, it said. "Exercise research and spacesuit maintenance topped the schedule for the Expedition 73 and Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) crews Thursday," a NASA statement said.

The crew also continued the Voyager Displays study, which examines how spaceflight affects eye movement and coordination.

The crew collected data for a study to explore how astronauts perceive and interact with their environment in orbit, which is critical for designing mentally

supportive habitats for long-duration missions.

Another study focused on cerebral blood flow, investigating how microgravity and elevated carbon dioxide levels affect cardiovascular function, which could later benefit both astronauts and patients on Earth.

Radiation exposure was monitored using the compact Rad Nano Dosimeter, a tool for assessing astronaut safety.

The crew took part in the Acquired Equivalence Test, a cognitive experiment that measures learning and adaptability in space and supported the PhotonGrav study by collecting brain activity data to explore neuroada



Many people purchase second-hand vehicles or retain older cars for personal and family use. Removing 60 lakh vehicles in one go will severely impact their lives. Affording a new vehicle is not a viable option for most

DELHI POLICE BAN ONLINE SALE OF FIRECRACKERS

The Delhi Police has written to e-commerce and social media platforms directing them to immediately cease the listing and delivery of firecrackers in the national capital, an official said Friday



of the day quote

The truth is that only those who escape the attention of criminals are secure. The entire state has been pushed into jungle raj



The Mexico-based CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) has long played a crucial role in catalysing and sustaining the Green Revolution in India



While some states are unable to fully utilise their shares, Meghalaya has effectively used its entire allocation to build capital assets. I will put on record my appreciation of Meghalaya's efforts



SHORT TAKES

SC orders ex-Haryana MLA to return to jail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday asked former Congress MLA from Haryana, Dharam Singh Chhoker, to surrender back to jail July 12 in connection with an alleged multi-crore rupees money laundering case as it refused to entertain his plea against an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Second earthquake in 2 days jolts Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: An earthquake of magnitude 3.7 struck near Jhajjar in Haryana Friday evening, sending tremors across parts of Delhi-NCR, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said.

5 killed as borewell truck falls into ravine

Raipur: Five workers were killed and four others injured after a borewell drilling truck they were travelling in fell into a small ravine in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district Friday, police said.

Man held for promoting terror

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday arrested a key accused for his alleged involvement in the promotion of the activities of the banned Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terror group, officials said.

OPERATION SINDOOR

India smashed nine terror targets: Doval



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 11: India smashed nine terror targets with precision, crisscrossing Pakistan, under Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said here Friday and dared the foreign media to show "even one image" of damage to any Indian structure, even a "glass pane having been broken".

Speaking at the 62nd Convocation of IIT Madras, Doval also asserted that not a single intended target in Pakistan was missed during the May 7 military offensive, which was in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons dead.

"Mention of Sindoor was made here. We are really proud of how much indigenous content there was. We decided to have nine terrorist targets in the crisscross of Pakistan, it was not in the border areas. We missed none. We hit nowhere else except that. It was precise to the point where we knew who was where. The entire operation that started at 1.05 am took 23 minutes," he said amid loud cheers from the gathering.

Criticising the foreign media, Doval, who specifically named the New York Times, said: "They (international media) wrote these things and put out things. The images only showed 13 air bases in Pakistan before and after May 10, whether it was in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Chaklala or Rawalpindi."

di," but images only showed damage done by the Indian Air Force on Pakistan's bases.

Addressing the students, Doval also emphasised the link between technology and warfare and said the country should develop indigenous technology to meet its requirements. Referring to the earlier speaker, Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary danseuse Padma Subrahmanyam, who congratulated Doval for the success of Operation Sindoor, the NSA said, "I am really proud of it (Operation Sindoor). Much of it was driven by indigenous content."

"We are proud of it—that some of our best systems worked, whether it was BrahMos (missiles), the integrated air control and command system...or battlefield surveillance. We decided on nine terrorist targets, not in the border areas but in the crisscross of Pakistan, and we missed none," he added.

Earlier, speaking at the convocation, Subrahmanyam said the historic victory of Operation Sindoor was a manifestation of adherence to the valour that the Bhagavad Gita preaches. "As a proud Indian, I have always offered my salutations to our jawans, who are our national guardian angels," she said, congratulating Doval for his role in the operation.

At the event, Doval said the country could not afford to lose the technology battle and remain behind or fall decades behind others. He acknowledged the role of IIT, Madras, and the private sector in developing 5G in two-and-a-half years' time, whereas the Chinese took over 12 years and spent 300 billion dollars to develop 5G technology. A total of 3,227 students graduated. As many as 3,661 Degrees (including Joint and Dual Degrees) were awarded to the students on the occasion.



Pedestrians during rainfall in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

BENGAL VARSITY FACES BACKLASH

Reacting to it, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew, Chandra Kumar Bose, told PTI Videos, "To call revolutionaries — who laid down their lives for the country's freedom — as terrorists is an act of sacrilege," and demanded strict action against those responsible for preparing the question paper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 11: A controversy erupted in West Bengal after a history question paper at the state-run Vidyasagar University described Indian revolutionaries as "terrorists," triggering strong political reactions and forcing the institute to issue a public apology, calling it a "printing mistake."

Reacting to it, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew, Chandra Kumar Bose, told PTI

TERRORIST TAG FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS



Videos, "To call revolutionaries — who laid down their lives for the country's freedom — as terrorists is an act of sacrilege," and demanded strict action against those responsible for preparing the question paper.

The contentious reference appeared in question 12 of the sixth semester BA Honours history exam (in Bengali), which asked students to name three district magistrates of Midnapore "killed by terrorists" during British rule. The university later acknowledged the error, attributing it to a proofreading lapse.

"It was a printing mistake that went unnoticed during proofreading," Vice Chancellor Dipak Kar said Friday.

"Once the paper was circulated, there was no time to make corrections. I have asked the controller of examinations to submit a detailed report," he added.

The three slain magistrates referred were James Peddie, Robert Douglas and Bernard Berge, who were gunned down in a span of three years for their tyranny in then Midnapore district.

Bose said, "Distortion of history of our freedom struggle has been happening for a long time. But to call Khudiram Bose and other revolutionaries, who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom, as terrorists cannot be accepted." He added that stringent ac-

tion must be taken against the faculty and people who were in charge of drafting the question paper.

"History must be told in the right perspective and the younger generation must be made aware about the right picture of our freedom struggle. They should know the heroic battle of INA and the leadership of Netaji," Bose commented in this context.

Academic Pabitra Sarkar condemned the error, saying, "It is unthinkable in independent India to refer to youths who fought British oppression as 'terrorists', a term used by the colonial rulers."

Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari in a post on X described the terrorist reference as "absolutely outrageous."

"The administrative authorities of Vidyasagar University have once again insulted our revered freedom fighters by labeling the brave revolutionaries of Medinipur as 'militants' and 'terrorists' in the 2025 History Honours sixth semester question paper," he said.

SAVARKAR ROW

Rahul Gandhi pleads not guilty in defamation case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 11: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday pleaded not guilty in a Pune court in a defamation case pertaining to his comments on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) and Special Judge (MP/MLA court) Amol Sriram Shinde read out the charge, levelled by Satyaki Savarkar, a grandnephew of V D Savarkar, to which Gandhi pleaded not guilty through his lawyer Milind Pawar.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was not present in the court and his lawyer Pawar pleaded not guilty on his behalf before the court.

The judge, during the recording of the plea, asked whether the accused has received copies of the complaint and accompanying documents, to which Pawar said yes.

On the second question on whether the accused has understood the particulars of the offence levelled against him, the defence lawyer replied in the affirmative.

On the third and last question, which was "do you plead guilty", Pawar replied "no, I do not plead guilty" on Gandhi's behalf.

Advocate Sangram Kolhatkar, who is representing Satyaki Savarkar, said since the phase of recording of plea of the accused is over, the trial in the case will proceed now.

Satyaki Savarkar had approached a court here in April 2023 with a criminal defamation complaint against Gandhi accusing him of making false allegations against the Hindutva ideologue during his address in London in March 2023.

Family of eight thrashed for taking shelter in shop

Jaipur: Members of a family from Madhya Pradesh, who were visiting a temple in Rajasthan's Sikar district, were allegedly beaten up for taking shelter in front of a shop during rain Friday, police said. Two shopkeepers and two employees were arrested in connection with the incident, they said.

Gujarat bridge collapse death toll rises to 20

Vadodara: The death toll in the Mahisagar river bridge collapse in Gujarat's Vadodara district rose to 20 Friday after an injured man died in hospital and the body of a missing person was found in the river, officials said. One more person was still missing, and efforts to find him will be resumed Saturday as the search and rescue operation concluded in the evening, they said.

UP woman sentenced to death for killing her 3 kids

Auraiya (UP): A court here has sentenced a woman to death for killing her three minor children by drowning them in the Sengar river in 2024, while her paramour was sentenced to life imprisonment in the case. The woman's nine-year-old son, who survived the attempt on his life, provided crucial testimony in the case. Additional Sessions Judge Saif Ahmed Thursday found Priyanka guilty of murdering her own children and pronounced the death penalty. Her paramour Ashish alias Danny was sentenced to life imprisonment.

SNIPPETS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Slum dwellers of Jai Hind Camp in Delhi's Vasant Kunj area, home to Bengali-speaking migrants from West Bengal's Cooch Behar, have been without electricity and water for over three days, prompting allegations of discrimination and administrative negligence.

Tucked away behind upscale residential blocks, the camp is largely inhabited by domestic and sanitation workers, who have now been plunged into darkness amid stagnant rainwater, broken kutchha lanes, and rising humidity amidst the monsoon.

"We've had no power or water for days now. Electricity was disconnected without any notice," said Shyam Singh, a long-time resident. He claimed that the two main meters in the camp, registered in the names of a temple and a mosque, were targeted despite their dues being cleared. "Officials came with CRPF jawans,



cut our cables, and left without explanation. We've shown our bills, approached the electricity office, but no one has responded," he told PTI.

However, official sources told PTI that the electricity supply was disconnected based on court orders.

Residents allege their repeated appeals to the local administration and politicians have gone unanswered. "Our children are suffering the most. Schools reopened after

summer vacations July 2, and now, they can't study or attend properly," Fatima, a 35-year-old resident, said. "We've been paying ₹9-10 per unit for electricity, but for what?"

The disconnection, residents said, was carried out by local authorities and BSES officials, who they claim refused to speak to them directly about the issue. "They didn't let us talk. They said bills are pending, which we are not able to understand," Mateer Rehman said, adding

'Maratha Military Landscapes' nominated for UNESCO list



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 11: 'Maratha Military Landscapes', representing extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers, was Friday inscribed on the coveted UNESCO World Heritage List, the UN body announced in

a post on X. The decision was taken during the ongoing 47th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) being held in Paris.

"New inscription on the @ UNESCO #WorldHeritage List: Maratha Military Landscapes of India, #India," UNESCO said. The nomination for UNESCO tag was for the 2024-25 cycle. Its 12 components are - Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

Bengali-speaking migrants slum cut off from basic services

The incident has drawn the ire of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who alleged a broader pattern of hostility against Bengali-speaking communities

that no household was given any notice.

Other residents, including Mohsin and Bablu Singh, echoed similar grievances, saying they felt "deliberately targeted" despite having all payment receipts in place.

The incident has drawn the ire of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who alleged a broader pattern of hostility against Bengali-speaking communities.

"This is not just about one camp. We've seen similar incidents in Gujarat, Maharashtra,

Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. There's a worrying trend of targeting Bengali-speaking citizens," Banerjee said in a post on X. Several slum dwellers of Jai Hind camp also linked the situation to broader linguistic and regional bias. "We've lived in Delhi for decades and vote here. Are we being treated this way just because we speak Bangla? Are we not Indian citizens?" asked Nabi Hussain, another slum dweller.

As broken drainage lines overflow and the stench of stagnation worsens, families in Jai Hind Camp continue to cope with hand fans, shared water pots, and no official clarity on when, or whether, essential services will resume at all.

The issue has also revived recent memories of the June 1 demolition of the Madras Camp in Jangpura, another informal settlement in Delhi. Local authorities carried out the demolition after the Delhi High Court ruled that the land, located along the Barapullah drain, needed to be cleared to prevent flooding during the monsoon.

international



We deeply regret the decision to impose sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the European Union strongly supports the United Nations human rights system

SK, US, JAPAN HOLD AERIAL DRILL

Top South Korean, US and Japanese military officers urged North Korea to cease all unlawful activities that threaten regional security, as the three nations flew advanced war-planes for a joint exercise in a show of force against the North



of the day quote

You have to also bear in mind that the U.S. is mounting considerable pressure on African countries to accept Venezuelans to be deported from the U.S., some straight out of prison



YUSUF TUGGAR | FOREIGN MINISTER, NIGERIA

It would be wrong to turn a blind eye to the media that are deliberately engaged in discrediting Russia. Therefore, I believe that this regime (mentorship) is justified now



DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

Lebanon has no plans to have normal relations with Israel at the present time, and Beirut's main aim is to reach a state of no war with its southern neighbor



JOSEPH AOUN | PRESIDENT, LEBANON

SHORT TAKES

China bans surgical treatment of Alzheimer's

Beijing: China has banned surgical treatment of Alzheimer's disease after it was performed in about 400 hospitals over four years, saying there is a lack of high-quality medical evidence to support its safety and effectiveness. The procedure, known as lymphatic-venous anastomosis (LVA), involves connecting the patient's lymph vessels to veins near the neck to speed up the flow and drainage of lymph fluid. The aim is to boost the removal of harmful brain proteins and slow the disease's progression. The National Health Commission said it has recently learned that some medical institutions are conducting lymphaticovenous anastomosis, also known as LVA surgery, on patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

23 dead after airstrike on Buddhist monastery

Bangkok: An airstrike on a Buddhist monastery in Myanmar's central Sagaing region killed at least 23 people who were taking shelter in the compound, separate sources said Friday. The overnight aerial attack on the monastery in Lin Ta Lu village, in Sagaing region's Sagaing township, injured about 30 other people, of which 10 were in a critical condition, according to a member of a resistance group. The resistance member — who spoke on condition of anonymity — told The Associated Press that 23 civilians including four children were killed after a jet fighter dropped a bomb around 1 am on a building in the village's monastery where more than 150 people from nearby villages were taking shelter to avoid fighting in the region in recent weeks.

Haiti gang violence claims 5,000 lives: UN

Geneva: The surge in violence is deepening Haiti's humanitarian crisis, destabilizing the country and raising concerns of spillover effects in the region. Between October 2024 and June 2025, 4,864 people have been killed in Haiti amid worsening gang violence nationwide. Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas accounted for more than 1,000 of the deaths. Gangs have increasingly taken control across Haiti, overwhelming local security forces and forcing international aid organizations to scale back operations and forcing tens of thousands of residents from their homes. Hospitals, including the key University Hospital of Mirebalais, have closed due to insecurity, worsening Haiti's fragile health sector.

Support for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh risks collapse: UN

At least 150,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh in the last 18 months, according to UNHCR



Geneva, July 11: Essential services for the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh are at risk of collapsing unless more money is found, the United Nations refugee agency said Friday, with its appeal for \$255 million to support them just 35% funded.

More than 1 million Rohingyas have been crammed into the camps in southeastern Bangladesh, the world's largest refugee settlement. Most fled a brutal crackdown by Myanmar's military in 2017, although some have been there for longer. "There is a huge gap in terms

of what we need and what resources are available. These funding gaps will affect the daily living of Rohingya refugees as they depend on humanitarian support on a daily basis for food, health and education," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees spokesperson Babar

Baloch told reporters in Geneva. The humanitarian sector has been roiled by funding reductions from major donors, led by the US under President Donald Trump and other Western countries, as they prioritise defence spending prompted by growing fears of Russia and China. "With the acute global funding crisis, the critical needs of both newly arrived refugees and those already present will be unmet, and essential services for the whole Rohingya refugee population are at risk of collapsing unless additional funds are secured," Baloch said. Health services would be severely disrupted by September, and by December essential food assistance

would stop, UNHCR said. At least 150,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh in the last 18 months, according to UNHCR. Violence and persecution against the Rohingya, a mostly Muslim minority in mainly Buddhist Myanmar's western Rakhine state, have continued to force thousands to seek protection across the border in Bangladesh, it added. "This movement of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh is the largest from Myanmar into Bangladesh since 2017 when some 750,000 Rohingya fled the deadly violence in their native Rakhine state in Myanmar," Baloch stated.

Lankan Tamil party demands justice for mass graves



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 11: Sri Lanka's main Tamil party Friday asked the government to take decisive action to "uncover the truth" at an ongoing excavation site believed to be a mass grave linked to a bloody conflict that ended in 2009.

"We urge urgent and decisive action to uncover the truth, ensure forensic protocols meet internationally recognised standards and bring perpetrators to justice," the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) wrote in a letter to President Anura Kumarama Dissanayake. Earlier this year, skeletal remains were discovered during redevelopment work at Chemmani in the northern Jaffna peninsula's Ariyalai crematorium.

Thereafter, the Jaffna Magistrate's Court officially declared it a mass grave and ordered a court supervised excavation. In 1998 also, Chemmani had been suspected to be a mass grave and a 1999 excavation had led to the discovery of 15 skeletons. The ITAK said Chemmani and several other suspected mass graves in the north and east "constitute clear evidence of war crimes and a genocidal campaign against the Tamil population".

The party claimed that in the latest excavation, over 40 skeletons, including of infants, have emerged. It urged President Dissanayake to hold forensic inquiries with international experts on the findings of both excavations in order to deliver justice. In May 2009, the Sri Lankan Army declared victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which for three decades had run a parallel administration in the northern and eastern part of the country in their quest to set up a separate Tamil homeland. Some 27,000 troops lost their lives over the three decades out of which over 6,200 soldiers and 22,000 LTTE cadres died in the final phase which began in July 2006.

Rubio meets China's Wang

REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, July 11: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday he had "positive and constructive" talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, as the two major powers vied to push their agendas in Asia at a time of tension over Washington's tariff offensive.

The top US diplomat was in Malaysia on his first Asia trip since taking office, seeking to stress the United States' commitment to the region at the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum, where many countries were reeling from a raft of steep US tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump this week.

Rubio had his first in-person talks with the Chinese foreign minister, coming as Beijing has warned the United States against reinstating hefty levies on its goods next month and threatened retaliation against nations that strike deals with the US to cut China out of supply chains.

Wang has sharply criticised Washington during talks with Asian counterparts in Malaysia, calling the US tariffs "typical unilateral bullying behavior".

But both sides described the bilateral meeting as positive and constructive Friday. And Rubio said the odds of Trump meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping were high.

"We're two big, powerful countries, and there are always



- Rubio's makes first Asia trip amid tariffs angst
- Wang meeting to establish baseline for more talks, Rubio says
- Wang tells Southeast Asian counterparts US tariffs are abusive
- 'I think it's coming' Rubio says of Trump-Xi meeting
- ASEAN ministers say tariffs troublesome, need to diversify trade

going to be issues that we disagree on. I think there's some areas of potential cooperation and I thought it was a very constructive, positive meeting, and a lot of work to do," he told reporters.

Rubio emphasised that his sitdown with Wang was not a negotiation, but rather about establishing a constructive baseline to continue talks.

Asked about a possible

Trump-Xi meeting, Rubio said both sides wanted to see it happen.

"We have to build the right atmosphere and build deliverables, so that a visit isn't just a visit, but it actually has some takeaways from it that are concrete. But there's a strong desire on both sides to do it."

China's foreign ministry said Wang had emphasised that both countries should translate consensus reached by their leaders into policies and actions.

"Both sides agreed that the meeting was positive, pragmatic and constructive," it said.

TRIP OVERSHADOWED BY TARIFFS

Rubio's visit is part of an effort to renew US focus on the Indo-Pacific region and look beyond conflicts in the Middle East and Europe that have consumed much of the administration's attention since Trump's return to office in January.

Kurdish PKK militants burn weapons in Iraq to launch disarmament

REUTERS

Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, July 11: Thirty Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants burned their weapons at the mouth of a cave in northern Iraq Friday, marking a symbolic but significant step toward ending a decades-long insurgency against Turkey.

Footage from the ceremony showed the fighters, half of them women, queuing to place AK-47 assault rifles, bandoliers and other guns into a large grey cauldron. Flames later engulfed the black gun shafts pointed to the sky, as Kurdish, Iraqi and Turkish officials watched nearby.

The PKK, locked in conflict with the Turkish state and outlawed since 1984, decided in May to disband, disarm and end its separatist struggle after a public call to do so from its long-imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan.

After a series of failed peace efforts, the new initiative could pave the way for Ankara to end an insurgency that has killed over 40,000 people, burdened the economy and wrought deep social and political divisions in Turkey and the wider region.

President Tayyip Erdogan said he hoped the PKK's dissolution would bolster Turkish security and regional stability. "May God grant us success in achieving our goals on this



Disarmament process begins in northern Iraq after long-jailed leader calls on PKK to disband

Ceremony attended by Turkish, Iraqi officials and pro-Kurdish DEM party

Disarmament could bolster regional stability, including in Syria

Kurds want Turkey's Erdogan, parliament to address demands for more rights as part of peace push

path we walk for the security of our country, the peace of our nation, and the establishment of lasting peace in our region," he said on X.

Friday's ceremony was held at the entrance of the Jasana cave in the town of Dukan, 60 km (37 miles) northwest of Sulaymaniyah in the Kurdistan region of Iraq's north.

The fighters, in beige military fatigues, were flanked by four commanders including senior PKK figure Bese Hozat, who read a statement in Turkish declaring the group's decision to disarm.

SNIPPET

Ex-PM Nepal, ex-deputy PM Gautam agree to unify their communist parties

Kathmandu: Nepal's former prime minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and former deputy premier Bamdev Gautam have agreed to unify their respective parties, according to a media report Friday. In a joint statement, Nepal and Gautam said the decision to unify CPN (Unified Socialist) and CPN Ekta Rastriya Abhiyan respectively was made in view of the "historical necessity" of uniting Nepal's communist movement. Republica newspaper reported. Madhav Nepal's party has 10 members in the House of Representatives (lower house) and eight members in the National Assembly (upper house) while Gautam's party has no representation in either house. The formal merger will be announced July 18 at the National Assembly Hall in Kathmandu, the newspaper said quoting the statement. Last month, Nepal, who is also chairman of the CPN-Unified Socialist, was charged by Nepal's anti-graft agency in a land misappropriation case. The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) filed a case at a special court against Madhav Nepal and 92 others for their alleged involvement in the land deal with a private company.

India presents candidature for Int'l Maritime Organisation Council

London: India has presented its candidature for re-election to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council at the organisation's 134th session in London, where the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways highlighted key aspects of maritime safety and gender inclusivity. At a special India-themed reception at the IMO Headquarters on Thursday evening, Ministry Secretary TK Ramachandran and Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami announced the decision to seek re-election in Category B of the Council. The election for the 2025-26 biennium will take place at the organisation's Assembly later this year and follows India's re-election with the highest tally back in December 2023. "India embraces the philosophy of One Earth, One Family, One Future, and we bring this vision to life through fostering robust and collaborative maritime efforts," said Ramachandran in his address at the reception. "Under our Vision 2047, we see maritime growth as a corner of global progress, and we deeply value a growing engagement with the IMO and its member states... we have several pillars, including shipbuilding, ship recycling, ship financing, ship ownership and ship flagging, the entire ecosystem," he said.



A Bosnian Muslim woman reacts amid grave stones of victims killed during the Srebrenica genocide, at the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial in Potocari, Bosnia and Herzegovina

REUTERS

Ukraine's capital buzzes during day but it's battleground at night

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, July 11: By day, the Ukrainian capital hums with life — crowded metros, dog walkers and children on playgrounds. By night, Kyiv becomes a battleground as Russia unleashes relentless drone and missile attacks that chase much of the population underground for safety.

The nighttime assaults have intensified in the fourth year of the full-scale invasion, with the number of drones sometimes exceeding 700. Swarms of 1,000

drones could soon become the norm, officials say.

Many people in Kyiv describe the recent attacks as the most terrifying of the war, and even residents who previously ignored sirens have been driven into bomb shelters in the subway system. "During the day, you walk around, drink coffee, smile, meet friends, talk, have hobbies, chill," said 25-year-old Karyna Holf. "But at night, you brace for death every time you hear the sound of a Shahed drone or a missile."

A Russian attack Thursday



badly damaged her apartment. She was in the living room near a window when she heard the whistling sound of an incoming weapon. Moments later, the

home shattered into pieces. She was lucky to survive.

The constant proximity to death often fuels dark humour. At night, many are paralysed by

fear. But by day, they joke that they don't sleep naked, just in case they end up under rubble and rescuers have to pull them out. "It's like a computer game where you try to survive and still remain functional," said 35-year-old Danylo Kuzemskyi, describing the balance between daily life and war.

The buzzing of drones — often ending in explosions — and the constant thud of air defences can last for hours. The noise leaves many people chronically exhausted from lack of sleep.

The drones blanket wide

areas of the city, covered in darkness pierced only by the flashes of air defence fire. The air is filled with smoke and the smell of gunpowder.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 800 sites in Kyiv have been hit, including over 600 residential buildings, said the head of the Kyiv city administration, Tymur Tkachenko.

"They are deliberately hitting apartment buildings and urban districts," he said. "This is their tactic — to spread fear and increase the number of civilian casualties."



There has to be greater cybersecurity awareness. There has to be greater awareness of making sure that we pay adequate attention to the space so that capacity is developed in the country, because this is one space where we cannot depend on anybody else

S KRISHNAN | ELECTRONICS AND IT SECRETARY

GOLD ₹99,370/10 G; SILVER RALLIES ₹1,500/KG

Gold prices climbed by ₹700 to ₹99,370 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday tracking safe-haven demand as heightened global trade tensions stoked investor worries. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹98,670 per 10 grams Thursday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by ₹600 to ₹98,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had ended at ₹98,200 per 10 grams in the previous market close.



of the day **quote**

The membership application of AITeC should be seen as Pakistan's way of gaining access to our R&D and technology with the aim of weaponizing AI through their specialized labs

ARVIND GUPTA | CO-FOUNDER, DIF

Real estate developers should focus on online marketing of properties to boost their sales and help consumers in faster decision making

DURGA SHANKAR MISHRA | FORMER SECRETARY, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Exporters are now burdened with a dual regulatory bottleneck - domestically through CDSCO's NOC/new drug classification delays, and internationally due to slower regulatory submissions and approvals abroad

K RAJA BHANU | DG, PHARMEXCIL

SHORT TAKES

Merc retail sales surge

New Delhi: Luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India Friday reported a 10 per cent year-on-year increase in retail sales at 4,238 units in the April-June quarter, aided by robust off-take of top-end luxury models and battery electric vehicles. The Pune-based luxury car market leader, which sold 3,850 units in the first quarter of the last financial year, said it turned out to be the best first quarter sales performance for the company so far in the country. The company said sales of top-end vehicles grew by 20 per cent year-on-year in the April-June period, with strong demand for S-Class, Maybach and AMGs. The sales of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) rose by 157 per cent, accounting for 8 per cent of the company's total sales.

Avenue Supermarts Q1 marginally down

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts Ltd Friday reported a marginal decline in consolidated net profit to ₹772.81 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2025, impacted by higher expenses. The company, which runs supermarket chain under the brand DMart, had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹773.68 crore in the April-June quarter last fiscal, Avenue Supermarts Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at ₹16,359.7 crore against ₹14,069.14 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in the first quarter was higher at ₹15,321.66 crore compared to ₹13,056.61 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal.

Forex reserves drop

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by \$3.049 billion to \$699.736 billion in the week ended July 4, the RBI said Friday. Previously, the overall reserves had jumped by \$4.849 billion to \$702.784 billion. The reserves had touched an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in end-September 2024. For the week ended July 4, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, dropped by \$3.537 billion to \$591.287 billion, the data released Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. The gold reserves were up by \$342 million to \$84.846 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$39 million to \$18.868 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF jumped by \$107 million to \$4.735 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

INDIA-EFTA TRADE DEAL

In March, the four-nation European grouping signed the TEPA with India following nearly 16 years of negotiations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Switzerland has finally completed the ratification process for a landmark trade deal between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) that would reduce trade barriers and significantly open up the Indian market to Swiss exports.

Swiss Ambassador to India Maya Tissafi described Switzerland's ratification of the trade pact as a "significant milestone" in her country's bilateral relationship with New Delhi. The envoy told that the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is expected to come into force in October.

Under the mega trade pact, the EFTA States of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are looking at making an investment of \$100 billion in India over the next 15 years. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have already ratified the trade deal.

In March, the four-nation European grouping signed the TEPA with India following nearly 16 years of negotiations.

"At midnight yesterday (Swiss time), the referendum deadline for the EFTA-India TEPA officially expired. With no referendum, the Swiss people have expressed their tacit



approval of the agreement," Tissafi said in a social media post. Switzerland's ratification of the trade pact came more than seven months after the Swiss Council of States approved it.

"The TEPA paves the way for long-term cooperation between our countries. Apart from reduced tariffs, it will help streamline customs procedures, enhance intellectual property protections and establish a framework for sustainable trade practices," Tissafi said.

Most importantly, the EFTA states will invest \$100 billion and create one million (10 lakh) jobs in India over 15 years, she said, adding that this will be a "win-win situation" for all countries involved.

Currently, Switzerland is the

12th-largest investor in India. Swiss investments in India have grown exponentially over the last 25 years, rising from CHF 551 million (approximately ₹5,935 crore) in 2000 to CHF 10 billion (Rs 1,07,736 crore) in 2024, the envoy said.

"The TEPA is expected to enter into force in October, date upon which the agreement will be effective. Of course, in the specific domain of trade in goods, some categories of products will be subject to progressive dismantling periods, spanning over 10 years in some cases," she added.

Tissafi said the Swiss government's priority would be to successfully implement the TEPA for the Swiss companies that want to invest in India.

Vedanta's Project Sakhi promotes women-led biz



POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Kalahandi, July 11: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, showcased the role of women-led enterprises from Kalahandi at Vikas Mela 2025, hosted to mark the first anniversary of BJP led Odisha government. The company showcased products from its flagship women empowerment initiative Project Sakhi, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of rural women, shaping Kalahandi's development.

Through a vibrant display of handmade products crafted by women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the company's stall drew widespread appreciation from dignitaries including SP-awar Sachin, District Magistrate of Kalahandi, and senior representatives from Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS), Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), and the District Planning and Monitoring Unit (DPMU). Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO - Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "The development of Kalahandi is intrinsically linked to the

empowerment of its people. At Vedanta Aluminium, we believe women are the cornerstone of inclusive growth. Through Project Sakhi, we are enabling them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs and active agents of socio-economic change."

Project Sakhi's presence at the Vikas Mela offered rural women a valuable platform to showcase their products. It aligns seamlessly with Vedanta's broader vision of transforming Kalahandi through focused interventions in sustainable livelihoods, healthcare, education, infrastructure, and grassroots sports and culture, thereby reshaping the region's future.

Launched in 2016, Project Sakhi has steadily evolved into a cornerstone of women's development in Kalahandi district - home to Vedanta's world-class alumina refinery. It supports over 4,900 women across 4,701 SHGs. By providing comprehensive training, leadership mentoring, and market access across farm and non-farm sectors, the initiative is helping build sustainable livelihoods and fostering financial independence.

X slashes subscription fees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Social media platform X has slashed subscription fees for account holders in India by up to 48 per cent, according to updates on its portal.

The social media firm has slashed premium account subscription fee for mobile app by about 48 per cent to ₹470 from ₹900 it charged earlier on a monthly basis.

The subscribers of premium and premium-plus service at X get a checkmark next to their name or id.

Similarly, X has reduced premium subscription fee by about 34 per cent for web accounts to ₹427 from ₹650 charged earlier.

The charges for premium subscription on mobile apps are



higher at ₹470 due to additional fees charged by app stores.

The company has slashed monthly subscription for basic subscribers on their handle by 30 per cent to ₹170 from ₹243.75 earlier.

The basic account holder gets featured to enable them to edit posts, write longer posts, background video playback and

Tesla gears up for India debut



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Global EV giant Tesla is all set to formally debut in the Indian market next week with the opening of its first experience centre at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex.

The Elon Musk-led firm has sent out select invites presenting the inaugural event, July 15 as the "launch of Tesla in India".

As per industry experts, the Austin-headquartered company has already shipped in first set of cars, apparently Model Y rear-wheel drive SUVs, from its China plant. Last month, Tesla India took on lease 24,565 square feet warehousing space in Lodha Logistics Park in Mumbai for a period of five years.

In June, Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaras-

wamy stated that the electric carmaker is not interested in manufacturing cars in India but keen on establishing showrooms in the country. However, US President Donald Trump has shared his views over Tesla launch in India.

The electric car maker was seeking an initial tariff concession that would allow it to offset 70 per cent of customs duty for cars priced less than \$40,000, and 100 per cent for cars of higher value.

However, earlier this year, the government announced a special scheme for the EV manufacturers to invest in India because it recognises the need for a vibrant EV ecosystem as greater use of battery-run vehicles will cut carbon emissions as well as the staggering oil import bill.

Sensex tanks 690 pts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 11: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third session in a row Friday, dropping nearly 1 per cent.

30-share BSE Sensex tanked 689.81 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 82,500.47. As many as 2,450 stocks declined while 1,557 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on the BSE. Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.40 points or 0.81 per cent to 25,149.85. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent, and the Nifty tanked 311.15 points or 1.22 per cent.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Titan, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Trent, Infosys and HDFC Bank were among the other major laggards from the pack. Meanwhile, shares of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) surged 4.61 per cent. Axis Bank, NTPC, Eternal and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.70 per cent, and the midcap index dropped 0.65 per cent.

On BSE sectoral indicators, teck tumbled 1.85 per cent, BSE Focused IT tanked 1.77 per cent, IT (1.65 per cent), auto (1.72 per cent), oil & gas (1.28 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.23 per cent), and telecommunication (1.22 per cent).

Net direct tax mop-up dips

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Net direct tax collection fell 1.34 per cent to about ₹5.63 lakh crore till July 10 of the current financial year, mainly on account on higher refunds, according to government data released Friday.

Net corporate tax collection dropped 3.67 per cent to around ₹2 lakh crore, from ₹2.07 lakh crore in the year-ago period. Non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, HUFs and firms) mop-up stood flat at ₹3.45 lakh crore between April 1 and June 10, 2025. Securities transaction tax (STT) collection was ₹17,874 crore till July 10.

Total net collections stood at ₹5.63 lakh crore, registering a decline of 1.34 per cent over ₹5.70 lakh crore collected in the year-ago period.

Net refunds issued so far this fiscal year jumped 38 per cent to ₹1.02 lakh crore. Gross collections (before refunds) stood at ₹6.65 lakh crore from April 1-July 10, posting a 3.17 per cent growth over ₹6.44 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

US actions pushing countries to seek dollar alternatives for trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: US President Donald Trump has proposed a 10 per cent tariff on all BRICS nations for conducting trade in non-dollar currencies, overlooking that such moves were prompted by Washington's own economic and geopolitical actions, economic think tank The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said Friday.

BRICS members are India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran.

GTRI said US sanctions and SWIFT bans on countries like

Russia, Iran, and Venezuela, have blocked dollar-based payments, forcing nations like India and China to trade in local currencies with Russia.

SWIFT is a global messaging system that routes payment instructions between banks worldwide.

"The shift from dollar wasn't a revolt; it was the only route left," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding "over 90 per cent of Russia-China trade is now settled in rubles or yuan; India pays for Russian oil in rupees and dirhams; even Saudi Arabia is open to non-dollar oil trade -- cracking the 1970s petrodollar pact".



"Trump ignores the fact that it is US actions that forced countries to search for the dollar alternatives in the first place," it said.

He added that Trump's 10 per cent tariff plan on BRICS and 500 per cent penalty on countries buying Russian oil makes it difficult for countries to negotiate trade deals with the US.

"In essence these deals are MASALA deals -- Mutually Agreed Settlements Achieved through Leveraged Arm... India must stay cautious," he said.

Srivastava further explained that SWIFT connects over 11,000 banks in over 200 countries and was designed to be a neutral platform for trade-related payments.

But under US pressure, he said, SWIFT has blocked access to countries under American sanctions, like Iran, Venezuela, and Russia.

"As a result, countries importing oil and gas from sanctioned suppliers had no option but to bypass the dollar. India

pays for Russian crude in rupees and UAE dirhams through non-SWIFT channels. China uses yuan to settle Russian gas trade. This isn't an anti-dollar strategy -- it's a survival mechanism triggered by US sanctions," the GTRI said.

"India has rejected China's call for a BRICS common currency," Srivastava said.

On the issue of trading in local currencies, he said it is a country's sovereign right as with proper planning local currency trade can cut transaction costs by up to 4 per cent by avoiding double-dollar conversions at both the buyer and seller end.

V-Guard launches AirWiz series

MUMBAI: V-Guard Industries Limited, India's leading brand in consumer electronics and electricals, introduces the AirWiz Series, a cutting-edge range of energy-efficient BLDC ceiling fans. The lineup includes four thoughtfully engineered models: AirWiz Light, AirWiz Prime, AirWiz Plus, and AirWiz N, each tailored to meet diverse lifestyle needs. AirWiz fans deliver a top speed of 370 RPM powered by a robust motor consuming merely 35W power, boasting energy efficiency while delivering high-speed airflow. AirWiz Light, the flagship model, features an integrated under-light, combining illumination with air comfort to transform living spaces. AirWiz Prime follows closely, boasting a distinctive UI LED indicator that subtly displays the fan's speed level. Mithun Chittilappilly, Managing Director, V-Guard Industries Ltd commented, "The launch of the AirWiz BLDC fan marks a significant milestone in V-Guard's journey towards building more energy-efficient homes for our consumers. The fan category continues to be a strategic pillar for our business, both in terms of growth and innovation. With rising consumer awareness around sustainability and energy savings, BLDC technology is not just the future—it is the need of the hour." Ramachandran V, Director & COO, V-Guard Industries Ltd, further added, "At V-Guard, our focus has always been on delivering value-driven innovations that shape a smarter tomorrow. The AirWiz series is a testament to this vision—seamlessly blending sleek design and powerful performance. These are more than just fans; they're crafted to elevate everyday living through enhanced comfort, better hygiene, and exceptional cooling efficiency, all tailored to the needs of the modern lifestyle."



BIZ BUZZ

ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY THIRD TEST AT LORD'S

Bumrah, Archer pep on topsy-turvy day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 11: Jasprit Bumrah and Jofra Archer produced edge of the seat spells before KL Rahul's classy unbeaten fifty put India very much in sight of England's 387 on day two of the Lord's Test here Friday.

Bumrah earned his name on the honours board with a menacing morning spell that resulted in a five-wicket haul, allowing India to bowl out England for 387 in the second session after Joe Root's 37th hundred.

At stumps, India were for 145 for three, having lost the in-form skipper Shubman Gill (16 off 44), Yashasvi Jaiswal (13 off eight) and Karun Nair (40 off 62), who looked good for his first half-century in three games.

A sellout crowd got to witness special spells of fast bowling from Bumrah and Archer, who is playing in his first Test since February 2021.

First it was Bumrah before Archer made a roaring return to the traditional format with the wicket of Jaiswal in his very first over, getting the attention of every single soul at the ground.

The injury-prone England fast bowler is a sight when in full flow and he breathed fire from the word go. He squared up the Indian opener with a ripper that seamed away and Harry Brook did the rest at second slip. Nair once again got a start



but could not convert it into something meaningful with Root taking a spectacular left-handed catch inches off the ground at first slip.

Gill's fall was a result of a well thought out plan. Considering the Indian captain had been outside his crease in the previous two games, England had the wicket-keeper backing up to him against the medium pace of Chris Woakes.

Pushed back into the crease, Gill got a faint edge off a ball that straightened a shade, marking a rare failure on the tour. However,

er, he managed to cross the 600-run mark in the series.

Batting alongside Rahul, Rishabh Pant played some attacking strokes to keep the scoreboard ticking. Pant had not come out to field after being hit on his finger on day one. As often has been the case in the series, Rahul hardly put a foot wrong and from time to time, regaled the crowd with his impeccable cover drives.

In the second session, Bumrah (5 for 74) eclipsed Kapil Dev's record of 12 five-wicket hauls on foreign soil.

Bumrah now has 15 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket and he has achieved the milestone in back-to-back Tests that he has played, including the one at Leeds.

The morning session well and truly belonged to the peerless Bumrah, who was rested during the Edgbaston Test as a part of the workload management program.

While Root (104 off 199 balls) got the boundary off the very first delivery to score his eighth hundred -- most by any batter at the Lord's -- it was Bumrah's turn to ensure his name in the esteemed 'Honours Board' with a three-wicket burst that reduced England to 271 for seven at one stage.

Skipper Ben Stokes (44), Root and Chris Woakes (0) were gone in quick succession before in-form Jamie Smith (51 off 56 balls) and Carse (56 off 83 balls) added 84 for the eighth wicket stand to take the hosts past the 350-run mark.

Smith was given a lifeline when Rahul dropped the wicket-keeper batter off Mohammed Siraj. Stokes was the first batter to be dismissed on the day.

One ball after he square cut Bumrah for a four, Stokes got a beauty from the Indian pace spearhead that seamed back in from round the wicket to hit the top of off-stump. There was nothing Stokes could do apart from shaking his head.

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF
METTLE MEET 2025
OrissaPOST

It's time for **METTLE MEET**. An initiative by the state's only home grown English daily, **OrissaPOST** to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the Preliminaries will take place August 9 and the Grand Finale August 10. Like in the previous years, top educational institutions of the State both from schools and higher education institutions will be competing for Prizes worth ₹3,50,000 & the Champions Title in both Junior and Senior segments.

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.

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



Others who answered correctly are

Niranjan Nayak, Saswat Sourabh, Parameswar Dalai, Om Prakash Rath, Tanishna Bisoi, Pratyush Dhal, Shoumik Jena, Amar Kumar Jena, Jigyansa Priyadarshini, Alok Ranjan Sahoo, Debadatta Tripathy, Ruchismita Prusty, R Sekhar Rao & Abha Priyadarshini

TODAY'S QUESTION

Born on this day in 1997, who is the youngest Nobel Prize laureate in history? July 12 is recognized in her name by the United Nations.

ANSWER TO FRIDAY'S QUESTION

World Population Day

INDIAN OPEN PARA ATHLETICS C'SHIP DAY 1

Gold for Sumit, Preeti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 11: Two-time Paralympic champion Sumit Antil reaffirmed his dominance by clinching the men's javelin throw (F12 & F64) gold day 1 of the 7th Indian Open Para Athletics Championship here Friday.

Haryana's Antil sent the spear to an outstanding 72.25m to be on the top step of the podium. His compatriot Manjeet secured silver with a commendable effort of 54.56m, while Pradeep Kumar of SSCB earned bronze with a 45.17m throw.

This edition of the championship holds critical importance as it serves as the final selection trial for the Indian contingent heading to the prestigious New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships later this year.

In the F40 & F41 javelin category, Haryana's golden streak continued with Parise Paralympics champion Navdeep Singh throwing 42.63m to secure top honours. Prince, also from Haryana, bagged the silver medal with a 31.90-meter effort, and Delhi's Ritender completed the podium with a 30.85-m throw.

In the javelin F46 category, Rajasthan's Sundar

Singh Gujjar emerged victorious with a throw of 64.53m, narrowly edging out Haryana's Rinku Hooda (63.98m) and Uttar Pradesh's Ajeet Singh (63.25m).

On the track, Uttar Pradesh's Preeti Pal dazzled the crowd in the women's 100m (T35, T37 & T42) by winning gold with an impressive 15-second sprint.

She was followed by Gujarat's Bina Mordiy, who clocked 17.20s, while Haryana's Avani claimed bronze at 20.40s.

In the Women's 100m (T12 & T13) category, Simran from Uttar Pradesh continued her fine form finishing in 12.30s to take the gold, ahead of Odisha's Janaki Oram (14.20s) and Goa's Sakshi Kale (14.90s).

In men's shot put (F56 & F57), the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) executed a clean sweep, with Hokato Sema claiming gold with a throw of 14.88m, followed by Soman Rana (14.66m) and Shubham Juyal (13.58m).

Telangana's Deepthi Jevanji dominated the women's 400m (T11, T12, T13 & T20) event, clocking 56.70s to win gold. Gujarat's Damor Tejal Amaraji (58.70 seconds) and Haryana's Bhuv Agarwal (1:09.60) completed the podium.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 11: Either Amanda Anisimova or Iga Swiatek will leave the All England Club's grass courts as Wimbledon's eighth consecutive first-time women's champion.

Why has there been such a revolving door? Chris Evert has some thoughts about various elements that, as she put it ahead of Saturday's final, "make it difficult to feel completely secure and confident on this elusive surface."

For one, there's the amount of talent in the game -- "deeper now than ever," said Evert, a Hall of Famer who won three of her 18 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon in the 1970s and 1980s and was the runner-up six times during an era when Martina Navratilova won a record nine singles championships there.

Plus, Evert noted, there's a short turnaround after the red clay of the French Open, leaving only two to three weeks to practice and prepare for what she called a "polar opposite" surface. Another contributing factor are the uneven bounces and other

WIMBLEDON FINAL

Its Sinner vs Alcaraz

London: Jannik Sinner overwhelmed a not-fully-fit Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 in the Wimbledon semifinals Friday to set up a showdown for the championship against Carlos Alcaraz. The No 1-ranked Sinner's victory at Centre Court put him in his first final at the All England Club. No 2 Alcaraz defeated Taylor Fritz 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (6) earlier Friday to move within one victory of a third consecutive Wimbledon title. Sinner, a 23-year-old Italian, and Alcaraz, a 22-year-old Spaniard, now head into a rematch of their epic final at the French Open four weeks ago. Alcaraz is 5-0 so far in Grand Slam title matches. Sinner owns three major trophies. They are far and away the leaders of men's tennis -- and are at the height of their games right now.

adjustments required on grass.

And with no completely dominant figure since Serena Williams retired after the 2022

US Open, there is more room for new faces such as the 13th-seeded Anisimova, a 23-year-old American who will be participat-



How a suspension in Class V fuelled Sohail to a historic win

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 11: Sohail Khan made history in Bulgaria as he became the first Indian to reach the final of the Kudo World Cup, securing the silver medal, but his decade-long journey began in the most interesting way possible.

Hailing from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Sohail described himself as a notorious kid in school, which ultimately led to his being suspended in the fifth class. Upon his return from suspension, he was determined to change his image in front of those around him.

In an exclusive conversation, Sohail revealed his journey, why he chose Kudo as a discipline, and more. "I was suspended from

school in the fifth grade. I was a notorious student, never studied, and hardly played any sports. I used to notice that students who used to be good at sports were recognised in the assemblies. I saw it as an opportunity to change my image to a good boy. The school head coach, Mohammad Aijaz Khan, who is also my personal coach, suggested that I should start Karate, which is where my Martial Arts journey started before settling on Kudo," Sohail told.

After getting a walkover against Pakistan's Abdulla, as the athlete missed his weight mark, Sohail defeated hometown favourite Rusev Radoslav 1-0 in the quarterfinals. He breezed past Lithuania's Andzej



Voinius to register a dominant 4-0 victory.

In the gold medal bout, Sohail could not get over the final hurdle against France's Quentin Miramont but pushed him to the limits, forcing the referee to extend the bout to a rare third round for the first time in the World Cup. "It's a great feeling for

ing in her first major final against Swiatek, a former No 1 who won four trophies at Roland-Garros and one at the US Open but hadn't been past the quarterfinals at Wimbledon until now.

"I never even dreamt that it's going to be possible for me to play in the final," said Swiatek, a 24-year-old from Poland who hadn't been in a title match as a professional at any grass-court tournament until three weeks ago, when she was the runner-up at Bad Homburg, Germany. "I thought I experienced everything on the court," Swiatek said. "But I didn't experience playing well on grass."

Sure did Thursday during her 6-2, 6-0 win against Belinda Bencic in the semifinals. "Maybe I would have had to play my absolutely best tennis of my life and risk every shot to beat her today, the way she played," Bencic said.

Odisha to host World Athletics Continental Tour



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Over 150 athletes from more than 10 countries will compete across 20 events at next month's World Athletics Continental Tour -- a bronze-level global meet -- to be held here, Odisha Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj announced Friday.

Athletes from India, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, the Philippines, South Korea, Malaysia, Iraq, Vietnam, the Republic of Cameroon, Sri Lanka, Iran and the Maldives will participate in the competition to be held at the Kalinga Stadium August 10.

"Hosting the World Athletics Continental Tour for the first time in our state reflects our commitment to sporting excellence. We are taking all necessary steps to ensure the event's smooth and successful conduct—from world-class in-

frastructure to hospitality," the minister said.

"Our athletes have brought laurels to the state by excelling in various global competitions. I am confident they will deliver outstanding performances in this tournament as well," he added. The Continental Tour is an annual series of track and field competitions held under the aegis of World Athletics and it forms the second tier of international one-day meetings after the prestigious Diamond League. The bronze level Tour meet is below the gold and silver levels.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) Secretary General Sandeep Mehta said, "We are proud to host the World Athletics Continental Tour (bronze level) in India. With world-class athletes competing, this promises to be a spectacular event and Odisha provides the perfect setting for its successful conduct."

been for the tutelage of Mohammad Aijaz Khan.

"He is like a father figure to me. I used to hate him in school because he was the only teacher who used to scold me, hit me, while other teachers did not even talk to me. Over time, I realised those who scold you are the ones who actually care about you. If there is anyone I listen to anyone after my father, it is him. If I were not under his guidance, my life would have been in a different direction," he added.

"I am from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Before going into Kudo, I was into Karate and other combat sports, but Kudo appealed to me because when I was learning Karate, I was only using kicks, when I was boxing, I was only learning how to punch.

Kudo is a combination of all combat forms," he said.

With a silver medal in the Kudo World Cup and a bronze medal at the 2024 Eurasian Cup now in his bag, Sohail has already shifted his focus to a busy 2025 that awaits him, including the vital 2025 Kudo Asia Cup, scheduled to be played in Tokyo.

"The Asian Cup trials begin in Gujarat next month. First, we need to qualify for that. I am aiming for a top-of-the-podium finish there. We have the district and state tournaments, followed by the official nationals and Akshay Kumar International Tournament, which is the icing on the cake in terms of experience before the Asian Cup in Tokyo," he concluded.