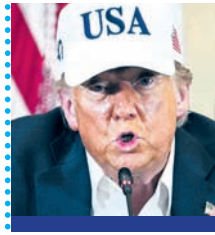




Triggering conversation

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh opens up about the harsh reality of harassment faced by women in everyday life

LEISURE | P2



30% tariffs on EU, Mexico

US President Donald Trump announces tariffs of 30 per cent against the European Union and Mexico starting August 1

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Household credit surges

Household credit extends heavily to 42.1% of the GDP in FY24, which was steady in the range of 32 to 35% during FY13 to FY20

BUSINESS | P11



Glory for Swiatek

Iga Swiatek wins her first Wimbledon championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova in a historic one-sided clash

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

IIM-Calcutta student 'raped'; one held

Kolkata: A woman studying at the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta was allegedly raped by a student inside a hostel of the business school, police said Saturday. The accused has been arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged by the woman at Haridevpur Police Station, they said. He was later remanded to police custody till July 19. The alleged incident inside the boys' hostel of IIM-Calcutta took place Friday, a police officer said. "The woman stated in the FIR that she was called to the hostel for a counselling session. She then became unconscious after consuming a drink laced with drugs at the hostel. The woman realised she had been raped after regaining consciousness," he said. **P8**

Bird flu in Puri: Mass culling begins

Puri: The Puri district administration has initiated culling of poultry in Muninda Gram Panchayat under Delang block in Puri district after bird flu was confirmed in two broiler farms. Authorities have imposed a ban on the transportation of birds from the affected area and instructed all check gates to strictly monitor and prevent the movement of poultry. According to official sources, around 6,000 to 8,000 birds across three poultry farms have been affected by the outbreak, as confirmed by sample tests conducted by the state Veterinary department.

Female cheetah dies of injuries in Kuno

Sheepur (MP): An eight-year-old cheetah named Nabha, translocated to Kuno National Park (KNP) from Namibia, succumbed to injuries Saturday, an official stated. "Nabha was badly injured a week back, probably during a hunting attempt inside her soft release enclosure. She had fractures in both ulna and fibula on the left side along with other injuries," Cheetah Project Field Director Uttam Sharma said in a statement. She was under treatment for a week but succumbed to her injuries. Further details will be known after the postmortem, he added. After Nabha's death, KNP is now left with 26 cheetahs, including nine adults (six females and three males) and 17 cubs born in KNP.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You're close to power? So am I—I drive the ambulance that squeezes past VIP convoys



MONSOON MAGIC: A family takes cover under an umbrella during rain at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Student immolates herself over sexual harassment

■ Victim battles for life at AIIMS Bhubaneswar with 90% burns ■ Principal suspended ■ Teacher held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, July 12: A female student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) college, in Balasure district, who had lodged a sexual harassment complaint against a teacher, allegedly set herself on fire in the college campus Saturday, sustaining 90 per cent burns, police said. The victim is a second year student of Integrated BED course. A male student, who attempted to save her, also sustained burns and both were rushed to the DHH here.

The incident occurred when the students were staging a sit-in over the issue on the college premises. The Principal called the victim into his office and held discussions with her. However, she poured petrol on her and set her ablaze after returning.

The injured male student was identified as Jyoti Prakash Biswal, a Plus III second year student. He has sustained burn injuries on his face and hands. The incident sparked tension in the college premises as police force was deployed to maintain law and order.

SP Raj Prasad reached the spot with a scientific team and



Principal Dilip Kumar Ghose

conducted a probe. The Higher Education department suspended the Principal, Dilip Kumar Ghose, and Samir Kumar Sahu, the HoD of Education department from service. Sahadevkhunta police later arrested Sahu in this connection. The victim was referred to AIIMS Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment afterwards, police said.

Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said a three-member high-level committee comprising Higher Education Director Kali Prasanna Mohapatra, Higher Education department Joint Secretary Mousumi Nayak and Professor Jhumi Rath of BJB (Autonomous) College will conduct a thorough



HoD Samir Kumar Sahu

inquiry into the incident. Sources said the victim had earlier lodged a complaint July 1, alleging that Sahu had demanded sexual favours from her six months back. Sahu allegedly threatened to fail her on the pretext of her absence from class when she rejected his advances.

Sources said the victim had to often skip of her classes as she is martial arts trainer, and attends government training camps, as well as for some personal reasons.

Taking advantage of the situation, Sahu would humiliate and mentally torture her. She also tried to commit suicide earlier. College authorities had assured to conduct a probe and

take action in the presence of ASP Niranjan Behera and Sahadevkhunta IIC Ajay Kumar Murmu, sources said.

However, she alleged that a day after filing complaint with the principal, Sahu again tried to harass her with the help of his colleagues and some students. Students' organisation ABVP had staged a protest and demanded a probe into the matter. They even met the MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi who spoke to the Principal and SP.

Officials said the victim had also staged a protest in the college campus for one week demanding action against the teacher. Principal Dilip Ghose said the student had met him and sought action against the teacher. "I counselled her as she looked tense. She had lodged a complaint and an internal complaint committee (ICC) inquiry was going on," he said.

Meanwhile, Balasure MLA Manas Dutta, who visited the hospital, said the condition of the victim was critical.

The victim's friends said she was under severe mental stress for the past several days over the alleged harassment by Sahu.

Oppn slams govt | P3

BLAME IT ON PILOT

The preliminary investigation report on the June 12 Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crash at Ahmedabad, killing all but one of the 242 onboard and another 19 on the ground, has compellingly identified the abrupt movement of both engine fuel-cutoff switches - from 'run' to 'cutoff' at approximately 180 knots - as the catalyst for dual engine flameouts. The finding by AAIB has been supported by flight data and cockpit voice evidence. The dialogues between the two pilots underline profound cockpit confusion. Though the report did not identify the pilots in the voice recording, it said no fault was found in the aircraft - leaving only the possibility of pilot error as the cause. However, Airlines Pilots Association of India has slammed the investigation, claiming it is 'shrouded in secrecy' and 'appears to be biased against the pilot'. Union Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said it will be immature to jump to conclusions over the preliminary report.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: Seconds before Air India flight 171 crashed while ascending from Ahmedabad, the fuel control switches of both its engines were cut off, a preliminary investigation report said Saturday, suggesting a catastrophic pilot error in the cockpit of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

The Airlines Pilots Association of India disagreed with

LIGHTNING STRIKE KILLS 3 IN NILAGIRI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, July 12: Three labourers, including two women and a JCB operator, were killed after a temporary camp near their worksite was struck by lightning, here in Balasure district Saturday. Two more women were injured in the incident.

The victims—identified as Mami Singh, 30, of Ashokanal village; Alamani Singh, 50, of Badheipala village under Berhampur police limits; and Ajit Kumar Hajira, 28, the JCB operator from Nalabaha under Basta police limits—were part of a group of over 10 labourers working on a branch canal near the Rishia Dam under Barhampur police jurisdiction.

Due to heavy rain, the workers took shelter at a nearby temporary camp. Around 2pm, while they were having lunch, lightning struck the camp. The trio—Mami, Alamani and Ajit collapsed immediately, while two more women sustained injuries.

Doctors at Berhampur hospital, pronounced the three labourers dead. The injured women were later transferred to Nilagiri Sub-Divisional Hospital for treatment.



the report, saying the investigation is 'shrouded in secrecy,' appears to be biased against the pilot and has come to a conclusion hastily.

A 15-page preliminary investigation report into the disaster revealed fuel-control switches of the two engines moved from the 'run' to the 'cutoff' position, within the space of one second, leading to immediate loss of altitude. In the cockpit voice recording, one pilot is heard asking the other why he cut off the fuel. The other denied having done so.

The report by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), released early Saturday, neither concluded any reason for the switches moving nor apportioned explicit blame for the crash. It also did not identify the pilots in the voice recording. But it also said no fault was found in the aircraft, leaving only the possibility of pilot error as the cause.

At the controls was First Officer Clive Kunder, 32, while Sumeet Sabharwal, a veteran with 30 years of experience at Air India, was the senior cockpit occupant in command monitoring the flight. **P9**

Inspired by movie, Kerala schools remove backbenchers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kollam (Kerala), July 12: At Ramavilasom Vocational Higher Secondary School (RVHSS) in Valakom in this South Kerala district, a proud tribute to former student GP Nandana greets visitors at the gate, celebrating her remarkable feat of securing the 2nd rank in Kerala and 47th nationally in the Civil Services Examinations.

But the school's acclaim doesn't end there, as it has also become a model for innovation in education, thanks to a unique classroom setup that eliminates the idea of backbenchers entirely.

By rearranging seating to ensure every primary student gets equal attention, RVHSS

has drawn admiration and imitation.

Influenced by the recently released Malayalam movie, 'Sthanarthi Sreekkuttan', the school has brought in an innovative seating arrangement where single row seats are aligned with the four walls of the classroom, so everyone sits in front benches.

Eight schools in Kerala have already adopted this seating arrangement, and even a school in Punjab has adopted it.

"I got a message that a school in Punjab has also adopted it after the principal saw the movie on the OTT platform. He also screened the movie for the students. I am happy that it got national attention," Vinesh Viswanathan, director



of the movie 'Sthanarthi Sreekkuttan', said.

He said the movie had just one scene showing this arrangement, as an idea implemented by a 7th standard student in the film.

"It was his experience of being insulted sitting on the backbench that gave him such an idea. I never thought it would get such attention.

"It is not an idea created by us, but we did have such a

seating arrangement earlier in classrooms, as part of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and we had lost it somewhere in between," Vinesh said. In fact, it was the farsightedness of Minister KB Ganesh Kumar, whose family runs RMVHSS, that paved the way to introducing this system in this school.

Ganesh Kumar had watched the preview of 'Sthanarthi Sreekkuttan', a year before its release and discussed the possibility of introducing it in primary classes in RMVHSS with the teachers.

"Ganesh Kumar discussed this with us and his wife, who manages the school. We also agreed to start it in one class. The results we got were very

positive and we introduced them to all lower primary classes," Sunil P Sekhar, Headmaster of RMVHSS, said.

He said this system enabled teachers to give equal attention to all students in the classroom and helped them monitor the students better. Moreover, it eliminated the concept of backbenchers and put all students at the forefront.

He said many more schools have now shown interest in adopting this model.

"Lower primary classes are where students learn a lot of new things and they naturally get rid of the concept or taboo of sitting on the backbenches. It also helps students to have a more direct interaction with the teachers," he added.

Want break from fighting polls: Oram

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Veteran tribal leader and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram Saturday said that he wants to take a break from contesting elections to pave the way for the young generation. Oram, who is a member of the Narendra Modi council of ministers, made this announcement while attending a 'Nijukti Mela' (job fair) function at Sambalpur.

The minister said that he would not run for either MP or MLA positions in the future. A six-time MP and two-time MLA, Oram, however, said that he would serve the party and may not hesitate to become a Rajya Sabha MP or the governor of any state, but is not interested in direct elections.

leisure

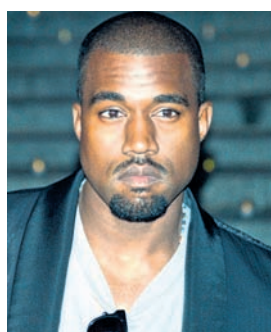


PARIS CONCERNED ABOUT DAD'S ESTATE PAYMENTS

Michael Jackson's daughter Paris Jackson is concerned about premium payments being made by her father's estate to three law firms. The 27-year-old singer has objected to a request for court approval of the estate executors' payments to these firms in her position as a beneficiary of the *Thriller* hitmaker's estate.

KANYE ACCUSED OF 'ORAL RAPE'

Rapper Kanye West has been accused of sexual assault and 'oral rape' by his former assistant in an amended complaint to her lawsuit. The Stronger hitmaker was first sued by Lauren Pisciotta - who worked for the rapper from 2021 until she was fired the following year - in 2024 for sexual harassment.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
At times it is a good thing to be under pressure, because it brings out your potential to the fullest. You will outsmart all your colleagues in the work you do. However, results may not match your expectations. Ganesha advises patience as results don't come overnight.

TAURUS
This is a great day for expressions your ideas and feelings. Ganesha urges you to open up and share hopes and concerns, dreams and aspirations with your others. Romance is in the air. You could be flying deliriously high on the wings of love, in the company of your sweetheart.

GEMINI
A fantastic day to enter into all kinds of partnerships. A day to bond with your close friends, open joint accounts, strike deals, and make plans for a bright future, says Ganesha. You will be at the top of your game in almost everything you do. Some of you, who want to go for further studies, may take a well-informed decision today.

CANCER
Today, you may find yourself marooned in a sea of emotions, and the tides of turmoil will keep on getting stronger as the day progresses. However, such dire circumstances bring out the best in you, and you will be able to wade through the storm with nothing but patience on your side.

LEO
Some promises are like whispers in the wind - never meant to be realised. Today holds something similar, in that you shall be so close and yet so far from what you desire most. Ganesha advises you to be a generous winner and a graceful loser. Remember, every day is not Sunday; also, you cannot win each time.

VIRGO
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesha. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesha advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

LIBRA
If ever there was a time when that industrious nature of yours was to listen to your conscience, it is today. Call it a positive day to embark upon new business adventures, particularly for freelancers. It is mighty hard to go wrong when you listen to your inner voice and back it up with zeal.

SCORPIO
Better get down to serious business if you want to reap the benefits of your past actions. You are liable to treat subordinates as equals when deciding the best course of actions to achieve your goals. A golden favourable day for you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Zoom in on complicated problems and solve them with style, says Ganesha. Don't fret over problems; instead concentrate on ways to solve them. Your day will get even better when perhaps, news from an overseas friend reaches you.

CAPRICORN
Drag yourself out of the house, do some shopping, or better still, appoint an interior designer. You are very likely to move into a new house very soon, foresees Ganesha. This, of course, may also eat into your savings and force you to be thrifty by the end of the day, but you won't regret this once-in-a-while extravagant outing.

AQUARIUS
A romantic liaison is headed towards you. Quite naturally, you don't want to be caught dead in a ratty old tee. Today, you want to keep everyone happy and amused, both at home and at work. And you manage wonderfully, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Being a graceful loser is just about as important as being a generous winner, for success does not come by every day. Lowering your expectations will help steel you against disappointments today. There are indications you will embark on a pleasure trip with your soul mate, says Ganesha.

DP defines 'self care'

Mumbai: Top actress Deepika Padukone, known as DP to her fans, said that for her self-care is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy.

Deepika took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a mirror selfie. In the image, the actress has a facemask on and is seen giving a slight smile as she posed for the picture.

For the caption, she wrote: "Self-care for me is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy. As we celebrate self-care month, consider taking a moment for yourself?"

In other news, the actress has joined Allu Arjun and Atlee's magnum opus tentatively titled *AA22xA6*.

It was last month, taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house had mentioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Pictures. @alluarjun @Atlee_dir #SunPictures #AA22 #A6"

The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika and narrating the script to her.

The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script.

Mumbai: Top actress Deepika Padukone, known as DP to her fans, said that for her self-care is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy.

Deepika took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a mirror selfie. In the image, the actress has a facemask on and is seen giving a slight smile as she posed for the picture.

For the caption, she wrote: "Self-care for me is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy. As we celebrate self-care month, consider taking a moment for yourself?"

In other news, the actress has joined Allu Arjun and Atlee's magnum opus tentatively titled *AA22xA6*.

It was last month, taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house had mentioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Pictures. @alluarjun @Atlee_dir #SunPictures #AA22 #A6"

The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika and narrating the script to her.

The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script.

Mumbai: Top actress Deepika Padukone, known as DP to her fans, said that for her self-care is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy.

Deepika took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a mirror selfie. In the image, the actress has a facemask on and is seen giving a slight smile as she posed for the picture.

For the caption, she wrote: "Self-care for me is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy. As we celebrate self-care month, consider taking a moment for yourself?"

In other news, the actress has joined Allu Arjun and Atlee's magnum opus tentatively titled *AA22xA6*.

It was last month, taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house had mentioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Pictures. @alluarjun @Atlee_dir #SunPictures #AA22 #A6"

The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika and narrating the script to her.

The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script.

Mumbai: Top actress Deepika Padukone, known as DP to her fans, said that for her self-care is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy.

Deepika took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a mirror selfie. In the image, the actress has a facemask on and is seen giving a slight smile as she posed for the picture.

For the caption, she wrote: "Self-care for me is about embracing the small, everyday rituals that bring joy. As we celebrate self-care month, consider taking a moment for yourself?"

In other news, the actress has joined Allu Arjun and Atlee's magnum opus tentatively titled *AA22xA6*.

It was last month, taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house had mentioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 - A Magnum Opus from Sun Pictures. @alluarjun @Atlee_dir #SunPictures #AA22 #A6"

The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika and narrating the script to her.

The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika's motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script.



Fatima's harassment story

Mumbai: Fatima Sana Shaikh, known for her bold roles and fearless persona on screen, recently opened up about the harsh reality of harassment faced by women in everyday life. In a candid interview with *Hauterfly*, the actress recalled deeply disturbing incidents that left a lasting impact on her sense of safety and self-awareness.

Revealing one particularly traumatic experience, Fatima said, "Once, a man had touched me inappropriately, and I hit him. But he hit me back so hard, that I was fully down. I only hit him because he touched me, but that pissed him off and he hit me to the point that I fell." The shocking incident served as a wake-up call for the actress,

changing how she navigates such situations. "After that incident, I got a little more cautious. I realised that we also have to check how to react in such situations. But look at the irony... Something wrong is happening with us, and we only have to think how to react to it," she added.

By sharing her story, Fatima has not only opened up a crucial dialogue about harassment but also reinforced the importance of collective responsibility in creating safer spaces for women everywhere. Fans have praised Fatima for her courage and honesty with many calling her voice "necessary" and "resonant" in an age where women's safety continues to be a pressing concern.

Eli, Ashish make relationship Insta official

Mumbai: It was being speculated for some time now that YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani is romantically involved with actress Elli AvrRam. Now, putting the rumour mills to rest, the couple has decided to make their relationship Insta official with a heart-melting post. Ashish and Elli dropped a joint Instagram post Saturday, confirming their relationship status. The love-filled photo showed the two posing by the water in the backdrop of a stone bridge, looking blissfully happy in each other's company.

Elli was seen in Ashish's arms holding a bouquet of flowers in the still captioned, "Finally." This post is being taken as an affirmation of their relationship by the netizens. As soon as the post was uploaded, netizens started flooding the comment section with congratulatory messages. Actor Pulkrit Samrat commented, "Congratulations!!"

Another netizen penned in the comment section, "Oh my god. Did you really post that? (sic)." One of the cybercitizens shared, "Radhe bhaiya gaye kaam se (Radhe Bhaiya is done now." Another one wrote, "Main nahi manta.. prank hoga pakka. (I don't believe this, it must be a prank)."

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

along with two red heart emojis.

Another netizen penned in the comment section, "Oh my god. Did you really post that? (sic)." One of the cybercitizens shared, "Radhe bhaiya gaye kaam se (Radhe Bhaiya is done now." Another one wrote, "Main nahi manta.. prank hoga pakka. (I don't believe this, it must be a prank)."

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

It must be noted that Ashish and Elli first sparked dating rumours back in February this year as the couple appeared together at the Elle List 2025 event. This unexpected appearance at the event left the media and fans wondering about the nature of their relationship.

Restored 'Do Bigha Zamin' to premiere at Venice

Mumbai: Do Bigha Zamin (1953) marked a turning point in Indian cinema. While most films of that era were shot within the confines of a studio, director Bimal Roy broke the mould and took the camera to the streets, paving the way for realism in Indian filmmaking. Now the film, restored by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), the Criterion Collection and Janus Films, will be screened at the Venice Film Festival's Classics section.

Gulzar, who worked with Roy, said, "It's amazing that Do Bigha Zamin is restored and will be shown in Venice. The most important element is that all of his films were based on literature. Not many people know that Do Bigha Zamin is based on a poem by



A screengrab from the Bimal Roy classic

Rabindranath Tagore, with the same title."

Do Bigha Zamin was restored in 4K by the Criterion Collection and Janus Films, in collaboration with Film Heritage Foundation, at L'Immagine Ritrovata and Resillion, and in

association with the Bimal Roy family.

The restoration process took over three years. It began in 2022, when the Criterion Collection/Janus Films and Film Heritage Foundation initiated the project. The FHF accessed

the original camera negative and sound negative, which had been deposited by the Bimal Roy family at the NFDC-National Film Archive of India (NFAI) for preservation.

However, the sound negative presented several issues, including poor audio quality, interrupted dialogues, and missing sections. The original camera negative was also incomplete. A combined dupe negative - on Dupont/Kodak stock from 1954-55 was found at the British Film Institute (BFI) which was also used for the restoration.

The restoration drew from the best surviving elements the 35 mm picture and sound negatives preserved at NFAI and the 35 mm combined dupe negative from the BFI.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

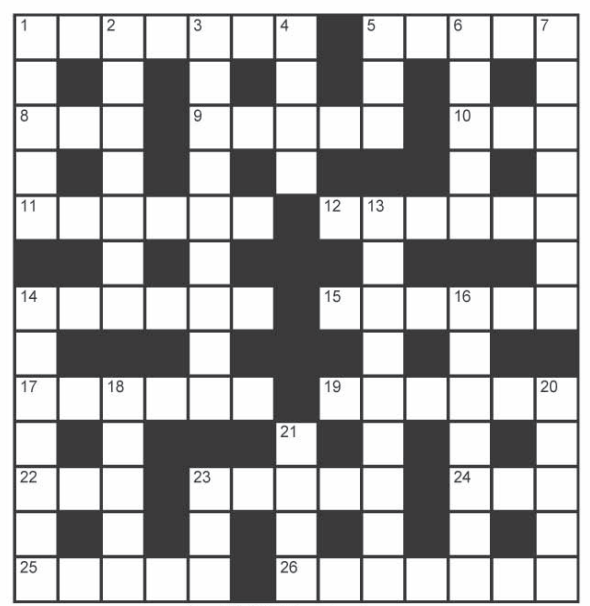


BREVITY



FUN POST

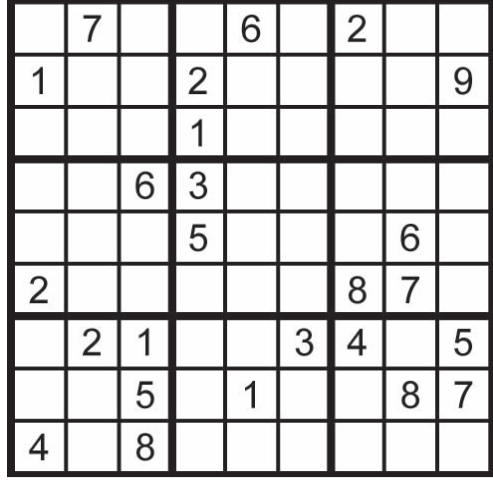
CROSSWORD



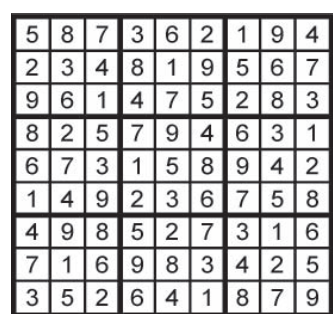
- Across**
- 1 Family tree entry
 - 5 Soothing ointment
 - 8 Raises
 - 9 Small three-masted vessel
 - 10 Collar
 - 11 Film genre
 - 12 "Lady" on a horse
 - 14 Edema
 - 15 Little rock
 - 17 Jeanne d'Arc, for one
 - 19 Break out
 - 22 Joke
 - 23 Sarcastic
 - 24 Leave speechless
 - 25 Airport problem
 - 26 Military meals, at times
 - 4 Dwindles
 - 5 Dry, as wine
 - 6 Hawaiian veranda
 - 7 Hug
 - 13 Alibi for being tardy
 - 14 Broken
 - 16 Swagger
 - 18 Star in Orion
 - 20 Decorative pitchers
 - 21 Docking spot
 - 23 Like a wallflower
- Down**
- 1 Spa feature
 - 2 Italian rice
 - 3 With apprehension

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

Dignitaries unveil a book 'Bandhuta' on the occasion of silver jubilee celebration of Helpmate, a social organisation, at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



downtown

CM meets PM in Delhi, discusses devpt issues



Majhi, who is on a tour of Delhi, expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister and said he was grateful for the PM's unwavering support for Odisha's development

veloped India," Majhi said in an X post.

In another post, he said, "Today, I had a courtesy meeting with Odisha's pride, President Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. On this occasion, we discussed Odisha's development journey, our roadmap for building a prosperous Odisha, and how to further accelerate the state's development through effective coordination between the Centre and the state."

The Chief Minister had met the Prime Minister last month when Modi visited Odisha June 20 to attend the BJP government's first anniversary in the state.

Majhi had met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday.

the PM's unwavering support for Odisha's development.

"On this occasion, important discussions were held regarding various developmental activities in Odisha, future strategies, coordination between the Centre and the state, and accelerating the state's overall progress. The Centre and the state are committed to working together to achieve the goal of a prosperous Odisha and a de-

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital and discussed different issues relating to the state's development.

Majhi, who is on a tour of Delhi, expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister and said he was grateful for

Never shy away from asking questions: Satpathy



Loyola School, Bhubaneswar hosts its first Model United Nations conference

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Never shy away from asking questions as knowledge is power, Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said at Loyola School, Bhubaneswar's first-ever Model United Nations (MUN) conference here Saturday.

The premier educational institution hosted its first-ever MUN conference as part of its silver jubilee celebrations on its premises. The two-day event, scheduled to conclude Sunday, saw enthusiastic participation from 19 schools and colleges of the City, with over 210 student delegates engaged in high-level deliberations on global issues across four committees — UNGA-DISEC, UNHRC, AIPPM, and IPC.

Satpathy, who graced the event as chief guest, said, "Collaborative platforms, such as MUN conference,



teach students the importance of teamwork, critical thinking, and informed dialogue. In real life, success is achieved by working in collaboration, not in isolation."

"As Chief Executive, I've seen two kinds of candidates during interviews — those curious to learn and those who take pride in ignorance. Taking pride in ignorance is toxic. Passion comes from action and curiosity. Never shy away from asking questions as knowledge is power. When

you actively engage with your interests, stress fades. That's how true growth and success begin."

The event began with a ceremonial lamp-lighting by Satpathy, school's Rector Fr. Augustine Ezhakunnel, SJ, Principal Fr. A. Amaladoss, SJ, Vice-Principal (Senior Section) Ms. Nandita Pattanayak, and MUN Secretariat leaders Anwesha Priyadarshini Pradhan and Srishti Roy. Vice-Principal (Junior Section) Sr. Esther Toppo was

also present. The school choir set the tone with a soulful performance, followed by a welcome address and cultural presentations.

The school principal welcomed all participants and highlighted the MUN's educational impact. "This platform nurtures diplomacy, public speaking, and conflict resolution. The skills gained here will empower students to tackle real-life complexities with confidence," he said.

Oppn condemns Balasore incident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress Saturday strongly condemned the incident in Balasore district wherein a college student, who had lodged a sexual harassment complaint against a teacher, allegedly set herself on fire on the institute premises and sustained 90 per cent burn injuries.

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "We are shocked not only for what has happened in Balasore today, but also for what has been happening in Odisha in the past one month."

"One college girl was gang-raped at Gopalpur beach and a couple is forced to plough land. Odisha is a peaceful place, and we have never seen such things happening in the state," he added.

The BJD, in a statement, held the state's BJP government 'responsible' for the Balasore student suicide attempt and said that the students are even unsafe in colleges. "We demand the arrest of the college principal. The Balasore MP fails to provide justice to the student even as he was approached prior to the incident," the BJD statement added.

Condemning the Balasore incident, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das demanded the resignation of the Higher Education minister and alleged that

A student of a college in Balasore, who had lodged a sexual harassment complaint against a teacher, allegedly set herself on fire on the institute premises and sustained 90 per cent burn injuries

the government failed to give justice to a college student who was forced to attempt suicide.

"Let the minister admit failure and resign," Das said.

Stating that the Balasore incident came a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, at a public meeting here, expressed concern over safety of women in Odisha, Das said there is no permanent principal in any of the government colleges across the state.

"We pray for the recovery of the young woman who is struggling for survival after trying to die by suicide due to lack of justice," Das said.

He said the authorities were aware of the sexual favours demand of the teacher, but did nothing to protect the girl or provide justice leading to such an incident. "We demand strict action against the culprits. The minister and officials of the Higher Education department are equally responsible for this incident," he added.

New lease of life for lymphoma patient

Bhubaneswar: The KIMS Cancer Centre has successfully treated a patient suffering from Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma using Electron Beam Therapy (EBT), a specialised radiation technique designed to precisely target cancers on or near the skin, official sources said Saturday. The patient, a resident of central Odisha, had been struggling with painful and oozing growths across the body caused by Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma — a rare form of cancer that primarily affects the skin. Prior to visiting KIMS, the patient had undergone surgery to remove some of the lesions and had also received multiple rounds of chemotherapy. Upon arrival at the KIMS Cancer Centre, the patient was received with numerous nodular skin lesions, accompanied by severe pain and fluid discharge. Under the leadership of Dr Shitih Das, senior consultant, the medical team devised a treatment plan using EBT.

Naveen back in City after spine surgery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik returned to Bhubaneswar Saturday after fully recovering from his spine surgery for cervical arthritis in Mumbai.

Patnaik's special flight landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here at about 2pm. He returned to Odisha after 21 days, said BJD senior vice president Debi Prasad Mishra.

The former chief minister of Odisha was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the party workers, who gathered at the airport since morning. The 'Jai Jagannath' slogan rented the air as Patnaik stepped out of the airport.

Holding placards and BJD flags, thousands of people stood on both sides of the road leading from the airport to Naveen Niwas, the residence of Patnaik, to welcome and greet their leader. He waved to the people at the airport.



Patnaik, the Leader of the Opposition in Odisha Assembly, had left for Mumbai June

20 and underwent spine surgery for cervical arthritis at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani

Hospital in Mumbai June 22. He was shifted to a private room from the ICU after being kept under observation for two days and was discharged from the hospital July 7.

The surgery was conducted by Dr S Rajasekaran, an orthopaedic surgeon and chairman of Ganga Medical Center and Hospitals in Coimbatore.

In Patnaik's absence, the BJD's 15-member committee, led by vice president Debi Prasad Mishra, was looking after party affairs in the state.

FIGHTING FIRE



Personnel of Odisha Fire Services try dousing a blaze that broke out at OCA Conference Hall in Cuttack, Saturday

BJD targets govt over delay in Ratna Bhandar inventory

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday accused the BJP government in the state of misleading people on the much-awaited inventory of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar in Puri.

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty made the allegation after Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said that the inventory of the Lord's treasury would begin after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allocates two of its experts for the process.

The minister, on the other hand, stated that the process of inventoring the Lord's treasury has already commenced, with the state government having written a letter to the RBI authorities to engage two experts with relevant experience.

"The Lord's valuables, now stored in a temporary strong room on the temple premises, would be shifted to the Ratna Bhandar after completion of its



THE PREVIOUS INVENTORY OF THE LORD'S VALUABLES WAS MADE IN 1978

THE STATE GOVERNMENT REOPENED THE INNER CHAMBER OF RATNA BHANDAR IN JULY 2024, AFTER 46 YEARS, FOR REPAIR AND INVENTORY

repair and conservation works. As soon as the RBI provides its experts, we will go for the inventory," the minister said.

The BJD leader, however, termed it 'a delay tactic' adopted by the state government, stating there is uncertainty regarding the Ratna Bhandar inventory for the past year.

"Unfortunately, the Law minister says that the inventory

will take more time even after repair of the Ratna Bhandar," Mohanty said.

The BJD leader rejected the state government's move to involve the RBI in the Ratna Bhandar inventory process.

"Has the help of the RBI ever been taken during the previous inventories? Is there a provision in the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 to take the

help of the RBI during inventory? If not, for what reason is it being delayed in the name of the Reserve Bank?" Mohanty asked.

The Lord's valuables are stored in a temporary strong room for one year, he said.

"Now, we have seen how some people trespassed into the temple premises in Puri by scaling the main boundary wall. The devotees of Lord Jagannath are worried over the safety of the valuables," he said.

The senior BJD leader said that the government should start an inventory of valuables as soon as possible.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has recently completed repair work in the Ratna Bhandar.

The previous inventory of the Lord's valuables was made in 1978. The state government reopened the inner chamber of Ratna Bhandar in July 2024, after 46 years, for repair and inventory.

Drivers' protest splits; min urges end to stir

Bidyut Prabha Devi's centenary at RDWU

Internal divisions surface within drivers' ranks as some members resume work despite ongoing strike call, deepening the unrest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The Odisha Drivers' Mahasanga protest entered its fourth day Saturday, showing signs of internal division as private buses and goods trucks resumed operations despite the outfit president's call to continue the agitation. A video released by the outfit's president, Prashanta Menduli, showed him making an emotional appeal to drivers who resumed services during the ongoing strike. He urged them to leave the association if they wished to continue working. "Those drivers who want to

provide service can go ahead, but we will take their photos and suspend them from the association. We won't get another chance like this to fulfill our demands," he said. Meanwhile, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Bhakta Charan Das voiced support for the drivers' protest, accusing the government of conspiring to disrupt the 'Save the Constitution Rally' by ignoring the drivers' demands. "The government should meet their demands. I thank the Drivers' Mahasanga for showing maturity and restraint by allowing Congress vehicles during

Rahul Gandhi's visit," he said. Praising the driver community for preventing the situation from escalating, Das urged all Congress workers and affiliated organisations across the state to support the drivers' demands and movement. "We fully support their cause and will continue to back their democratic protests," he said. On the other hand, the All Odisha Mini Truck Owners' Association lodged a formal complaint Friday against Drivers' Association President Prashanta Menduli and his associate Aditya Prasad Behera at Mancheswar Police Station,

alleging they are using undemocratic methods and violence to press their demands. According to the complaint, truck owners and drivers not participating in the protest are being harassed and humiliated. The association has demanded strict legal action against the individuals and the Drivers' Mahasanga involved. State Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena has urged drivers to end their protest, assuring them the government supports their demands. "Following the Chief Minister's instructions, we met with district coordinators and addressed their concerns. A decision was made to call off the protest, but some were provoked by others to continue, causing hardship to the public. I appeal to those inciting the drivers for political motives to stop, and I urge the drivers to end the protest as the government stands with them," Jena said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The 100th birth anniversary of Bidyut Prabha Devi, a pioneering figure in Odia literature, was marked with grandeur at the auditorium of Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) Saturday. The event was organised by Odisha Sahitya Akademi with support from the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, chief guest on the occasion, paid tribute to the late poet, calling her a pioneering feminist voice. "Her dedication to literature continues to inspire. In the age of AI, we must use technology to take Odia literature global," he said. Eminent writer and Padma Bhushan awardee Pratibha Ray attending as guest of honour described Bidyut Prabha Devi as "an exceptional poet whose verses reflect deep emotional resonance, rooted in feminism and socialism."



Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj hailed her as "a powerful advocate of feminism and a shining symbol of women's strength," while emphasising the role of women in building a "Viksit Odisha 2036 and Viksit Bharat 2047." Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh called her the "guiding light of Odia literature," stressing the need for youth to draw inspiration from her life. On this occasion, a book titled 'Bajiraout' and the latest issue of the Odisha Sahitya Akademi's magazine "Konark" were released. A panel discussion on the life

and works of Vidyut Prabha Devi was also held. Sachidananda Mohanty, former vice-chancellor of Central University of Odisha, Koraput and son of Bidyut Prabha Devi, offered insightful reflections on her mother's literary journey and contributions. The event saw participation from Odisha Sahitya Akademi secretary Chandrasekhar Hota, RDWU VC Chandi Charan Rath, Odia Language, Literature and Culture department director Bijaya Ketan Upadhyaya, writers, intellectuals, students, and cultural enthusiasts.

Heatwaves to worsen in India, warns IMD expert



AGENCIES

(+0.40°C), 2010 (+0.39°C) and 2017 (+0.38°C). Speaking at the two-day international conclave on 'Climate Change and Global Warming—Issues and Prospects' at SOA Deemed to be University recently, Srivastava emphasised that it is not only high temperatures that contribute to the severity of heat waves. Several other meteorological factors also play a significant role in amplifying their impact. "A combination of meteorological parameters—such as maximum and minimum temperatures, relative humidity, wind speed, heat wave duration, and intensity—worsens the effects of heat stress," he explained. Srivastava also pointed out that the number of heat wave events increased by about 24 per cent during 2010 to 2019 compared to 2000 to 2009. Meanwhile, the associated mortality rate rose by approximately 27 per cent during the same period. He further stated that although the mortality rate due to tropical cyclones has dropped by 94 per cent over the past two decades, deaths related to heatwaves have surged by more than 62 per cent. "Heatwaves are emerging as the second deadliest form of extreme weather in terms of human casualties and losses, he said. "With ongoing climate change, their intensity and impact are expected to grow," Srivastava added.



CLOGGED LANES: Commuters face slow-moving, long traffic queues near Rasulgarh-Bomikhil flyover in Bhubaneswar after heavy rain battered the City, Saturday

51K job letters handed over at Rozgar Mela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The 16th nationwide job fair was held across 47 locations, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi, via video conferencing, distributed appointment letters to over 51,000 newly-recruited youth and women for various government departments and organisations. In Bhubaneswar, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan personally handed over appointment letters to 204 to new recruits from departments including Railways, Postal, Banking, Health, and Home Affairs. So far, over 10 lakh appointment letters have been issued under the Rozgar Mela initiative, reflecting the government's ongoing commitment to employment generation. Calling it a significant milestone, PM Narendra Modi congratulated the appointees and urged them to approach their new roles with a spirit of national service. "Though your roles may differ, your common purpose is public service, guided by the 'Citizen First' principle," he said. Emphasising India's demographic strength, he added, "India's youth is its greatest capital, and we are committed to transforming this into long-term prosperity." Modi also highlighted India's rapid industrial growth, noting the country's emergence as the world's largest locomotive producer and the strong FDI inflow of \$40 bil-



'CSCs promoting rural entrepreneurship'

Bhubaneswar: Common Service Centres (CSCs) have emerged as a cornerstone of the Digital India initiative, playing a crucial role in bridging the digital divide and promoting rural entrepreneurship across the country, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Speaking at the 16th Foundation Day celebration of the Common Service Centres here, Pradhan highlighted the massive scale of operations achieved by the CSC ecosystem. "Over the past 11 years, CSCs have facilitated transactions worth ₹45 lakh crore, significantly contributing to the nation's economy. This is a remarkable achievement," he said. Pradhan emphasised that CSCs have become instrumental in delivering government services in a transparent and accessible manner.

lion into the automobile sector over the past five years. "Our Prime Minister has laid a strong foundation for youth empowerment. India is on track to becoming the world's third-largest economy, and this growth is creating unprecedented job opportunities," said Union Minister Pradhan.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Pramod Kumar Mohanty, S/o- Kapila Charan Mohanty, Resident of plot No.- 327/A-65, At-Kantilo, P.O.-Kuha, Sunderpada, Bhubaneswar, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 65, dated- 20.01.2025. That now onwards I shall be known as Pramod Mohanty for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate BHUBANESWAR, on dated 8th July 2025 I KANHU GOUDA, Address AT-MARADAHARIHARPUR, PO -KUMUNDA, PS-KANIHA, DIST-ANGUL, Odisha declare that I have changed my name from KANNU GOUDA to KANHU GOUDA. Henceforth, I shall be known as KANHU GOUDA for all purposes. KANHU GOUDA

CARE Rebound 2.0 unites healthcare experts in City

POST NEWS NETWORK



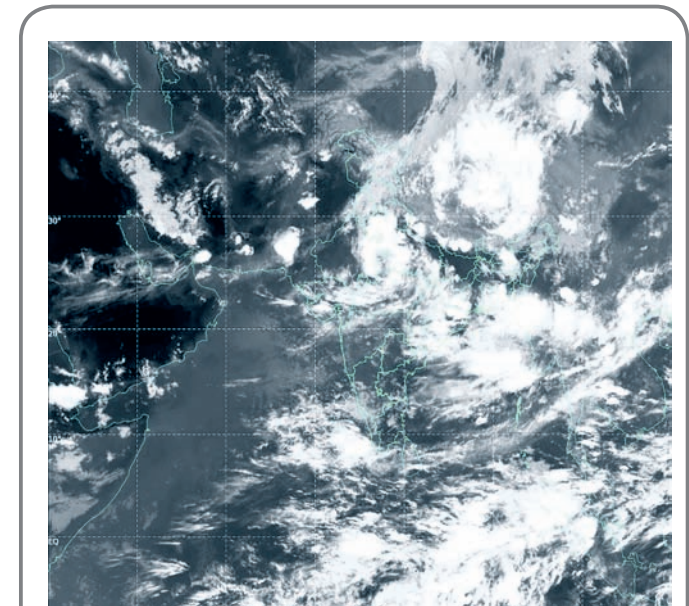
Bhubaneswar, July 12: CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with The Billion Knee Project and Health & Harmony Trust, hosted CARE Rebound 2.0—a landmark healthcare conclave aimed at fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and driving innovation in patient-focused care. Organised with knowledge partners Indian Association of Physiotherapy and Health & Harmony Trust, the event brought together top doctors, physiotherapists, and healthcare professionals from across Odisha and West Bengal. Over 60 physiotherapists from 30 districts participated, along with 16 eminent delegates. Joining the event as chief guest, Health & Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said, "Initiatives like CARE Rebound

are critical in shaping the future of healthcare in Odisha. We are building a robust healthcare ecosystem that is prepared for tomorrow's challenges." Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy attended the occasion as guest of honour. "Robotic and advanced surgeries are changing the way we treat patients—making it safer, faster, and more accurate," said Sandeep Singh, head of Orthopaedics department & Chief Consultant in Robotic Surgery and Sports Injury.

"CARE Rebound helps spread awareness and extend these benefits to more people across Odisha," he added. The keynote address was delivered by Health & Harmony Trust founder Amlan Jyoti Mohanty who urged for stronger integrative health approaches and community engagement. Other key attendees included Care Hospitals' Zonal COO Kislay Anand, and Marketing & Business Development AVP Lokanath Dash.

Archana Nag alleges BJD conspiracy behind arrest

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Archana Nag, arrested in a high-profile honeytrap case, has alleged a political conspiracy involving senior BJD leaders and police officers behind her arrest. Speaking at a press conference here Saturday, Nag claimed she was illegally detained on October 4, 2022—two days before her official arrest—and held at Baliana Police Station without being informed about the charges or the complainant. Nag named BJD leaders Bobby Das, Manas Mangaraj, and Amaresh Jena as key conspirators, accusing them of framing her. She also implicated senior police officers, including then Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh, ACP Prakash Pal, and Baliana IICs Himansu Sahu and Anup Kanungo. She further alleged that an attempt was made to kill her in jail through a poisonous injection and that she was labelled mentally unstable and pressured to leave the City. Nag claimed that complainant Shradhanjali Behera confessed to being bribed by the BJD, and said she had proof. No official response from the BJD or police has been received yet.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.8°	35.2°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershower.
Min Temp	25.8°	25.2°	
Humidity	75%	80%	
Rainfall	9.4mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

School projects on forest land draw NGT scrutiny



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 12: Development projects worth ₹61.60 crore reportedly undertaken on forest land in Jajpur district without prior approval and environmental clearance from the Forest and Environment department has drawn legal scrutiny.

Taking cognisance of the issue, National Green Tribunal (NGT) has registered a case (109/2025/EZ) alleging unauthorised construction activity in Sukinda and Danagadi blocks under the Forest Protection and Expansion Mission-2023 of the Union government. The complaint was filed by a local resident Kailash Chandra Nayak before the NGT.

A two-member bench of the NGT comprising Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jajpur Collector, Tehsildars of Danagadi and

Sukinda blocks, Cuttack DFO, and BDOs of both blocks to file detailed responses within four weeks as per the provisions of the law July 7.

As per the complaint, over 140 school infrastructure units like additional classrooms, new classrooms, toilets and 73 library rooms are being constructed in forest-classified areas in mineral and industrial-rich regions of Danagadi and Sukinda blocks. The work, reportedly sanctioned and funded through the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), has already begun without the necessary environmental clearances.

The DMF has sanctioned ₹13.20 crore for new classrooms in Sukinda block and ₹14 crore in Danagadi block. Additionally, library room construction in Danagadi has received ₹7.30 crore, while ₹14 crore has been sanctioned for additional classrooms in the same block.

Another ₹13.10 crore has been approved for similar

classroom construction in Sukinda. The total sanctioned amount stands at ₹61.60 crore.

These projects are being implemented on "Sabak Jungle" (recorded forest) and "Hal Jungle" (current forest) land, raising serious environmental concerns. The Jajpur Collector, acting as the Managing Trustee of the DMF, reportedly approved these projects and released funds despite the absence of mandatory forest clearance.

The NGT's directive marks the beginning of legal scrutiny into the alleged violations, potentially stalling or halting ongoing construction activities if found to be non-compliant with forest protection laws.

In a petition dated March 30, 2025, complainant Kailash Chandra Nayak drew the attention of the state government to the illegal construction activity being taken up without mandatory environmental clearance.

Following the complaint, the Undersecretary of the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department of the Odisha government issued a letter April 9, 2025, to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, directing an inquiry into the matter and necessary action.

However, no action has reportedly been taken so far to stop the illegal construction work on forest land.

The next hearing in the matter has been scheduled for August 25, 2025.



MAKING HAY: Two boys prepare to catch fish from a swollen Mahanadi as Hirakud dam discharges floodwater through its 14 sluice gates, Saturday

NHRC seeks ATR on boy's death after fall into hot ash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 12: The tragic death of a minor boy after falling into a hot ash pile of a rice mill in Mahule village under Bheden police limits of Bargarh district has drawn the attention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The deceased, Pratyush Bhaena of Baipura village, reportedly slipped and fell into a hot pile of ash near the Kaleswar Rice Mill while he was on his way to a nearby stream to bathe February 26 morning. The smouldering ash heap caused severe burn injuries leading to the boy's death.

Following the incident, social activist Dillip Kumar Dash from Nandol under Bhawanipatna brought the matter to the notice of the NHRC. Acting on his complaint, the commission



registered a case and initiated a probe.

As part of the investigation process, the NHRC has issued notices to the Chief Secretary of the state government, the Director General of Police and the Bargarh Collector, seeking detailed reports on the actions taken regarding the incident within seven days. The commission has also scheduled a hearing in Bhubaneswar July 21, directing the concerned authorities or their representatives to appear in person.

After undergoing treatment at VIMSAR, Burla for 40 days,

Response sought over police excess

Keonjhar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to take action and submit a report within a week regarding an alleged incident of police misconduct in Keonjhar district. The directive follows a complaint filed January 20 by Narayan Rath, a human rights activist from Jajpur district, on behalf of local women who were heading to a public hearing organised by a company January 18 at Mahadejoda Panchayat, under the jurisdiction of Sadar police station. According to the complaint, the women were allegedly blocked from attending the meeting by police officers, who reportedly beat them with lathis, confiscated and broke their mobile phones, and used excessive force. Following Rath's petition, the NHRC registered a case and issued a notice July 10 informing Rath of the development. Rath has demanded strict action against the responsible officials and compensation of ₹10 lakh for each of the victims.

Balasure girl to be honoured in Canada for agri research

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, July 12: Swagatika Priyadarsini Mohanty, a native of Balikhanda in Purushottampur panchayat under Simulia block in Balasure district, has been invited to Toronto, Canada, to be honoured for her groundbreaking research in agricultural science.

Currently pursuing research in the Department of Agricultural Science at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, Mohanty will be recognised for her study on disease control in groundnut cultivation using artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Her work has received high acclaim from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), a prestigious organisation based in Toronto, which extended the formal invitation for her visit and recognition.

A former student of Navodaya Vidyalaya in Bagudi, Mohanty later pursued higher studies at OIAT Bhubaneswar before enrolling at IIT Kharagpur. She is the daughter of Khagendra Mohanty, a teacher, and Sarojini Mohanty, a homemaker.

Swagatika credits her success to the guidance of her teachers and the inspiration of her grandparents and maternal relatives.



Man dies, sexagenarian critical in tusker attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Patana, July 12: A person was trampled to death and an elderly man sustained critical injuries in a tusker attack under Patana forest range of Keonjhar district, late Friday night, forest officials said Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Biranchi Jena, 40, of Sanparu village under Jenapur police limits in Jajpur district. The critically injured person is Jogendra Bahalia, 60, of Kampalu Mangarajpur village under Barchana police limits, also in Jajpur district. Both were working for a private contractor staying at a temporary camp set up near a construction site.

According to forest officials, a bridge is being constructed by the Rural Development department across Pichhulabeda Chaturi nullah in between Jamuleibeda and Bhalupahadi Sahi villages under the Tandabita-Dumuria panchayat. A private contractor had engaged a team for soil testing at the site while four workers, including Biranchi and Jogendra, were sleeping in the temporary tent pitched near the nullah Friday night.

At around 3:30am, a tusker reportedly stormed into the camp and trampled the tent. While two of the men managed to flee, Biranchi and Jogendra were caught by the animal. Biranchi died on the spot while



Jogendra sustained critical injuries.

Patana forest range officer Banbihari Sardar and forester Niranjan Sathy rushed to the spot and shifted the body to the Patana Community Health Centre for post-mortem. Jogendra was later referred to Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar for advanced treatment.

Biranchi was working as a technician under the contractor. After the post-mortem, his body was handed over to family members. Ghatagaon police station officials have registered a case (32/25), IIC Prashant Samal confirmed.

Forest officials said compensation hasn't yet been disbursed to the deceased's family due to technical glitches in the mobile application used for such transfers. Meanwhile, locals are living in fear as the tusker is believed to be roaming in Atei reserve forest area.

Student jumps to death from third floor of hostel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, July 12: A Class X student studying at an English medium school here in Keonjhar district committed suicide by jumping off the third floor of the school hostel building Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Krishna Pradhan, 15, son of Sudhansu Sekhar Pradhan of Sareikala area in neighbouring Jharkhand. Family members alleged that their son was beaten up and tortured in the school. After reports surfaced, tension prevailed on the school and hospital premises.

The deceased was studying in the school staying in its hostel. He went back to his room after attending the prayer classes Saturday morning. Later, he jumped down from an open window. School authorities rescued and admitted him to the Champua hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Later, the school authorities informed the police and the guardians of the student. His parents alleged that their son was beaten up and urged the police to scan the CCTV footages in the school to ascertain the veracity of their claims.

2 unidentified bodies recovered from Berhampur railway station

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 12: Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered the bodies of a man and a woman from Platform No-4 of the Berhampur railway station, Saturday afternoon. Police said both persons appeared to be between 55-60 years old and their identities have not been ascertained yet.

The bodies were found lying under the foot overbridge on the Chhatrapur end of the platform. Preliminary investigation suggested that the two might have consumed poison, as no external injury marks were found on the

bodies. GRP has registered two cases of unnatural death (66/25 and 67/25). The bodies were sent to MKCG Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem after an inquest was conducted. Authorities said the exact cause of death would be confirmed following the autopsy. The bodies have been preserved for identification purposes.

Investigators are reviewing CCTV footage from the platform to determine whether the victims consumed poison voluntarily or if someone spiked their food. Further investigation is underway, GRP station in-charge Bikash Polai said.

Minor detained, 2 others held for extortion bid posing as Maoist



Rayagada/Tikiri: Police in Doraguda have arrested two youths and detained a minor for allegedly demanding 500 lakh from a local man by impersonating Maoists. The accused - Binod Bag of Kupakhala village, Naresh Nayak of Mailiguda village, and a minor - allegedly threatened Chandrasekhar Bishoi of Hatimunda Tikiri village through a letter and phone call, claiming to be members of the Niyamgiri Maoist group. Following a written complaint, Doraguda IIC Kiranbala Samal registered a case (88/25) and began an investigation. The trio was traced and apprehended. Police later confirmed that they were not affiliated to any Maoist outfit. Binod and Naresh have been forwarded to court, while the minor has been sent to a juvenile correctional home.

members of the Niyamgiri Maoist group. Following a written complaint, Doraguda IIC Kiranbala Samal registered a case (88/25) and began an investigation. The trio was traced and apprehended. Police later confirmed that they were not affiliated to any Maoist outfit. Binod and Naresh have been forwarded to court, while the minor has been sent to a juvenile correctional home.

AI CAMERAS HELP NAB 3 POACHERS IN SIMILIPAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 12: Three suspected poachers were arrested and a cache of weapons and hunting gear was seized from the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district after they were captured on artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled camera traps.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Jagannath Nayak of Manabhangra village, Budhiram Singh of Pagadadiha, and Kuanr Murmu of Gandadhar village, all under the jurisdiction of Kaptipada police station. Forest officials seized three country-made guns and a large quantity of explosives from the suspects.

One more accused, Budhiram Nayak of Pagadadiha, managed to escape. Efforts are underway to apprehend him, according to



Similipal South Division Deputy Director Samrat Gouda.

The suspects were charged under the Wildlife Protection Act and produced in court Saturday. An additional case will be registered under the Arms Act by the police, Gouda confirmed.

According to forest officials, all four suspects had illegally entered the buffer area of the Notto Forest Range under the Similipal South Division Friday. Their movements were captured by AI-powered Trail Guard cameras.

70K monsoon birds arrive at Bhitarkanika

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 12: With monsoon active in Odisha, thousands of residential birds have arrived at the Matha Dia, Durgaprasad Dia, and Laxmiprasad Dia heronries within Bhitarkanika National Park for the annual monsoon breeding and nesting season.

According to Manas Kumar Das, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Kanika Forest Division, around 70,000 residential birds have recently been spotted at these heronries.

Prominent species among the arrivals include Open-billed Storks, Black-headed White Ibises, Purple Herons, Grey Herons, Pond Herons, and Little Cormorants. The birds are drawn to the region's dense mangrove forests and its



serene, pollution-free environment, which continue to serve as an ideal habitat for nesting.

Each year, 11 species of residential birds flock to Bhitarkanika National Park during

White Ibis and Cattle Egret. These birds typically construct their nests on specific mangrove trees, including Guan, Sundari, Sinduka, Bani, Jagula, Keruan, and Oruan.

The Matha Dia, Durgaprasad Dia, and Laxmiprasad Dia heronries have become long-established and favoured nesting grounds for these birds. However, ACF Das noted that, once again, the birds have avoided the Bagagahan Heronry, which was once a prime location for monsoon species.

During the 2024 annual residential bird census, enumerators recorded 1,30,123 birds across ten species. Last year, 27,282 nests were identified on 1,300 mangrove trees, with the highest concentration found in Laxmiprasad Dia during the current monsoon season.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
S&T-OT-AMC-IPS-STATCON ENERGIAA-477
Date: 04.07.2025

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF SMPS BASED INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANUFACTURED BY M/S STATCON ENERGIAA INDIA LIMITED IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Tender Value : ₹ 43,35,466.74, EMD : ₹ 86,700/-, Bidding Start Date : 14.07.2025, Tender Document Cost: ₹ 3,540/-, Date of closing of Tender: At 1100 Hrs. of 28.07.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-345/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRMI/Engg/KUR/25-26/
E-Tender/40, Dt. 08.07.2025

(1) Tender No. eTender-CenKUR-141-2025, Dtd.: 30.06.2025

DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF CTR (S) FOR A LENGTH OF 5.822 KMS AT MANCHESWAR WORKSHOP YARD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 186.62 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,43,300/-

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-143-2025, Dtd.: 30.06.2025

DESCRIPTION: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO SERVICE BUILDINGS AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED/ ANGUL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ ANGUL OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 185.48 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,42,800/-

(3) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-134-25, Dtd.: 30.06.2025

DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF PARKING SHED OR TYPE-I (OLD), TYPE-II (OLD), TYPE-III (OLD) BUILDINGS AT RAIL AWAS COLONY AND TYPE-III (G+8) & TYPE-IV QUARTERS AT MANCHESWAR / HEAD QUARTER COLONY, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 93.76 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 1,87,500/-

Completion Period : 10 (Ten) Months (for Sl. No. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 2) and 06 (Six) Months (for Sl. No. 3).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 23.07.2025 (for all the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer(s) / bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-349/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

FOCUS POLITICS

ATTACKING ACADEMY



Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO

Socialist Democrat

One of the most remarkable democratic developments of recent times came from New York City this month. A 33-year-old man of Indian origin won the Democratic Party nomination to run for the mayor of the city. The nomination is a sort of semi-final match, but because New York is a very Democratic Party-leaning city, he is the frontrunner and the likely winner of the election, which is later this year.

Zohran Mamdani is from a Gujarati Muslim family, and his father is a university academic who wrote a famous text after 11 September, 2001, titled 'Good Muslim Bad Muslim'. Zohran's mother is Mira Nair, the director of such movies as 'Monsoon Wedding' and 'Salaam Bombay'. But his background is not the important part of Zohran's story: it is the way in which he competed against and defeated a stalwart of his party, Andrew Cuomo, who was governor of New York state.

The development is important because New York's mayor has serious powers. He oversees a budget of over \$100 billion which is more than that of most countries. He appoints judges, the police commissioner, and heads of more than 40 city agencies and members of boards and commissions. The reason figures like Rudy Giuliani are famous is that they were in this position.

Zohran's platform was socialism and he refers to himself as a democratic socialist. This, as many readers will know, is a term that is almost derogatory in the United States because of its history against communism. But Zohran owns the term socialist proudly and says he is there to represent the working class, blue collar and immigrant New Yorkers and not the wealthy. He said he would as mayor freeze rent on 20 lakh homes; he would make city buses free; he would make child care free (a sort of anganwadi programme); and he would experiment with state-run grocery shops, starting with one in each of New York's five boroughs. This would be like our ration shops, aimed at subsidising food. He says he will pay for this by marginally raising income taxes, but only on those New Yorkers who have an income of more than \$1 million (over 8 crore) per year.

The second important thing was the quality of Zohran's campaign, which was conducted mostly on social media outlets TikTok and Instagram. Short videos of Zohran, who is a most attractive individual, himself going around the city and talking to New Yorkers about their concerns. These videos are also available on YouTube and they are worth watching for what a low-cost, effective and fresh campaign looks like.

Zohran speaks excellent Hindi, Spanish and Bengali in some of these videos to directly address those from South Asian and Latino backgrounds. He has no problem being comfortable with his identity as a South Asian, compared to other political figures in the US who are of Indian origin. The campaign has a very Bollywood touch to it, including the typefaces used and the editing of the videos.

The third striking thing about Zohran is that he speaks out for the rights of Palestinians and criticises the actions of the Israeli state. This is a most unusual position, because it opens him up to attack from what scholars like John Mearsheimer have called the Israel Lobby. Zohran's courage shows from his refusal to back down or soften his stand even when running for an election with such high stakes. This is not how politicians behave. The US is the only nation whose democratic candidates are expected to show enthusiastic loyalty to another country.

The fact that he achieved a thumping victory despite having the media including the New York Times attack him viciously and unfairly shows that this courage was respected and admired and rewarded by New York's residents. His own Democratic Party offered him little support and few endorsements even after he won the nomination. There is no Clinton, Biden or Obama today by his side, because of their fear of association with Zohran and what he says and does. In the past, Democrats who have promoted socialist policies, such as Bernie Sanders, have been seen as likeable but marginal figures. Zohran is different.

His victory means that his party will have to learn from him, because after the rise of Donald Trump, the Democrats have been in disarray. Currently the Republicans control all three branches of government, the White House, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Democrats have had no real answer to the Trump phenomenon and Zohran, with his emphatic and clear policies aimed at working class Americans offers them a national path for a return. It is a fact, among other things, that the position of most Americans on the issue of Palestine has shifted because of the ongoing genocide in Gaza. It is Zohran who represents this majority which is voiceless in his party.

If he is able to win the general election later this year and is then able to deliver on the substance of his policies over the short term, his party will come to him. The US goes into its crucial mid-term elections late next year and the Democrats now have a desi hero to teach them how to contest and on which issues.



Aakar Patel

DEMOCRATS HAVE HAD NO REAL ANSWER TO THE TRUMP PHENOMENON AND ZOHAN, WITH HIS EMPHATIC AND CLEAR POLICIES AIMED AT WORKING CLASS AMERICANS OFFERS THEM A NATIONAL PATH FOR A RETURN



Susan Stokes

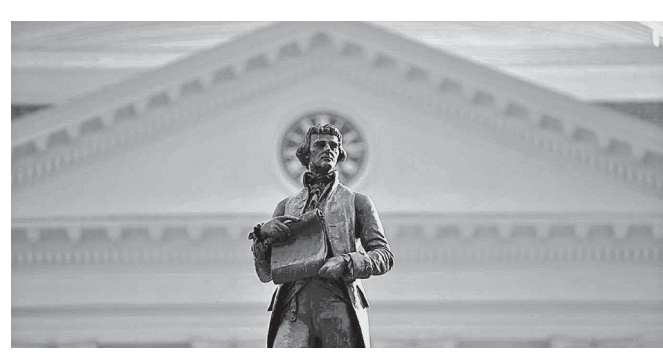
THE TRUMP ADMIN'S OSTENSIBLE AIM IS TO MAKE THESE INSTITUTIONS MORE 'VIEWPOINT-NEUTRAL'

The resignation of University of Virginia President James E. Ryan under political pressure from US President Donald Trump's minions and the Virginia state government is the latest shocking turn in the administration's all-out attack on American higher education. Officials from Trump's Justice Department and members of the University's Board of Visitors – several of whom were appointed by Republican Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin – accused Ryan of moving too slowly to dismantle the university's diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. By the end of June, Ryan had announced his departure.

It is highly unusual for politicians to call the shots at major universities in the US. But such interference is common in failing democracies. Power-hungry presidents and prime ministers replace university leaders with partisan loyalists. They defund or dismantle universities – often the most elite ones. Trump's assault on the University of Virginia – as well as on Harvard, Columbia, and many others – is following this playbook and should be understood as a measure of America's slide into autocracy.

Trump's rationale for the crackdown is that many of the top US universities are bastions of "woke" culture and have become dominated, as he put it in 2023, by "Marxist maniacs and lunatics." The universities can't be trusted, the argument goes, to protect students from biased treatment and harassment. The administration's ostensible aim is to make these institutions more "viewpoint-neutral."

Other right-wing autocrats around the world have made the same argument – that universities are too progressive – when attacking higher education. But that is far from the only justification. Leftist autocrats have complained that universities are too conservative.



When politicians try to muzzle universities by ousting their leaders, interfering with their research and teaching, and cutting off their funds, the writing is on the wall – and not only for once-great academic institutions

Some politicians might deem universities too secular or too religious. Universities' real threat to autocrats, though, lies in their independence as sites of critical inquiry, which implies an institutional check on these regimes' authority.

Consider Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who, despite initially coming to power through fair and free elections, has censored the press, crushed legitimate protests, and overseen the country's slide toward autocracy. Most recently, Erdogan ordered the imprisonment of his top political rival, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu.

As part of his efforts to solidify his rule, Erdogan has engaged in a years-long attack on Bogaziçi University, a prestigious public institution known for its academic rigour and diverse and engaged student body. After a failed coup attempt in 2016, Erdogan issued a decree that gave the president the authority to appoint university rectors – a task that normally fell to professors. Soon after, he installed Mehmed Özkan, a biomedical engineering professor at Bogaziçi, as the university's head, instead of the faculty's choice. In 2021, Erdogan further re-

stricted Bogaziçi's academic autonomy by appointing as rector Melih Bulu, an outsider and a loyalist to the president's Justice and Development Party (AKP). This set off student demonstrations and a series of silent protests by faculty members. Erdogan accused protesters of being "communists, terrorists, and traitors," and his government prosecuted many of them, while also imposing other controls that have triggered an exodus of top talent.

While Erdogan's AKP represents a nationalist-conservative alliance, autocratic-minded leaders from the political left have framed their attacks on universities in their own terms. During his tenure as Mexico's president between 2018 and 2024, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO), a populist who raised the minimum wage and increased pension payments as he consolidated his power, disparaged top Mexican universities "neoliberalism." The hostility went beyond rhetoric: Mexico's attorney general made repeated attempts to arrest a group of 31 top scientists on corruption charges, spawning enormous controversy.

AMLO's attacks roiled Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, one of Mexico's top public-research centers and universities. CIDE students protested the government's appointment of a new director, who demoted several administrators. Over the course of its conflict with López Obrador, many CIDE faculty members departed for other schools.

Some autocrats are not satisfied with merely changing the leadership of annoyingly independent universities. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán forced the Central European University out of Budapest; it moved to Vienna, where its faculty continues to engage in excellent research and teaching. At the opposite end of the ideological spectrum, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega assumed control of the Jesuit-run Central American University, fired the university's leadership and staff, hired party loyalists, and changed its name. Only the buildings remain the same.

When politicians try to muzzle universities by ousting their leaders, interfering with their research and teaching, and cutting off their funds, the writing is on the wall – and not only for once-great academic institutions. As the US careens toward autocracy, Trump has set his sights on other independent institutions as well. From media outlets to law firms and judges, the president is trying to demolish the pillars of democracy.

Many are resisting, but many are capitulating, normalizing Trump's anti-democratic behaviour in the process. In the case of the University of Virginia, founded by Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of America's Declaration of Independence, the submission to despotism is particularly poignant.

The writer is Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago.

SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

A BRICS threat for dollar

The "King Dollar" is feeling threatened—not by a rival superpower, but by a non-currency from BRICS. In response, President Donald Trump has proposed a 10% additional tariff on imports from the bloc. The threat may seem minor, but Trump's reaction tells a different story. Much like the mythical tale of a dwarf almost defeating Arjun, the Mahabharata's warrior-hero, BRICS—despite lacking a common currency—has rattled Washington. Why else would Trump warn that losing the US dollar as the global standard would be akin to losing a "major world war"?

This is not just bluster. It signals a grave threat in the making. Trump's brand of America First nationalism is again squaring off against an emboldened, expanded BRICS. This isn't an ideological standoff of capitalism versus socialism; it's a structural battle—unilateralism versus multipolarity, petrodollar dominance versus de-dollarisation, US-led hegemony versus a Global South resurgence.

At the heart of this confrontation lies an entire worldview. BRICS—now expanded to include Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and the UAE—rep-

resents over 40% of the world's population and more than 30% of GDP (PPP). Over the past decade, BRICS has swelled from five to ten members, with Indonesia joining this year. Saudi Arabia is listed as a member but has yet to formally confirm its status. Additionally, nine partner countries and dozens more are queuing up to join.

Trump, who scorns multilateralism and prefers bilateral muscle-flexing, views this growing coalition as a direct threat to the post-WWII US-led order. He once threatened sanctions on European firms dealing with Iran. Now, with BRICS pushing for a bloc payment system, potentially involving a basket of mutual currencies, his old playbook of dollar leverage is under siege.

Trade among BRICS nations remains modest. Intra-BRICS trade accounted for just 3%—about \$1 trillion—of the global \$33 trillion trade volume in 2024. India's combined trade with Brazil and South Africa stands at around \$31 billion. Dollar dominance still looms large over global commerce. But in this context, the BRICS initiative is undeniably bold. Ambitions like a gold-backed

common currency, dubbed the "Unit," have stalled. India, wary of China's yuan hegemony, has rejected the plan. Brazil, the 2025 summit host, also prefers local currency trade over a single BRICS currency. Trump, who previously slashed US funding to WHO and sparred with WTO and NATO, is unlikely to support any multilateral setup that doesn't obey his directives. In contrast, BRICS is building institutional alternatives—creating a vacuum that many neutral or non-aligned countries may now gravitate toward.

Though not a military bloc, BRICS shows signs of developing a strategic security understanding—especially between Russia and China. Meanwhile, Trump is expected to ramp up Indo-Pacific militarisation, provoke Taiwan confrontations, and push for NATO expansion. His erratic past—pulling out of Syria, threatening to exit NATO, abandoning Afghanistan—has already diminished US credibility. If BRICS maintains a steady hand in promoting regional security dialogues, it could further shift the global balance.

India walks a tightrope. As a founding BRICS member

and a key US strategic partner through the QUAD and bilateral deals, it is under pressure to pick sides. Trump may again press India to align against China, Iran, or Russia. Yet New Delhi appears to be hedging: buying discounted Russian oil, testing rupee-based trade with Africa, investing in Iran's Chabahar port, and simultaneously deepening defence ties with Washington. A heavy-handed Trump approach could push India further into the BRICS fold.

BRICS apparently is no longer a talking shop. It is a growing counterweight with economic muscle, political ambition, and strategic unity. This is not just about Trump versus BRICS. It's a battle between legacy dominance and emergent pluralism. The unipolar world is fading, and Trump's familiar tactics may see a tough challenge against an unfamiliar, more coordinated resistance.

The new Cold War won't be fought over ideology—it will be fought over systems, influence, and who gets to write the rules. And this time, the Global South isn't just a bystander. It's a player. And it's choosing sides. INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

TRUMP, WHO SCORNS MULTILATERALISM AND PREFERS BILATERAL MUSCLE-FLEXING, VIEWS THIS GROWING COALITION AS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE POST-WWII US-LED ORDER

WISDOM CORNER

Peace is a day-to-day problem, the product of a multitude of events and judgments. Peace is not an 'is,' it is a 'becoming.'

HAILE SELASSIE

Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.

BOB MARLEY

Truth is a deep kindness that teaches us to be content in our everyday life and share with the people the same happiness.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1713: Spain and Britain signed one of the treaties of Utrecht, this one giving Gibraltar and Minorca to Britain.

1939: Backed by trumpeter Harry James, American singer Frank Sinatra recorded his first single, From the Bottom of My Heart.

1977: Ethiopian-Somali War begins. The Somali National Army invaded the disputed Ogaden region between Somalia and Ethiopia. The war lasted for 9 months and ended with a Somali retreat

1985: The benefit concert Live Aid was held simultaneously at Wembley Stadium in London and JFK Stadium in Philadelphia. Organized by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure, the event drew an estimated 1.5 billion television viewers and raised millions of dollars for famine relief in Ethiopia.

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



None indispensable

Sir, This refers to news report "Row over Bhagwat's 'retire@ 75' remark," Orissa POST, July 12. I am afraid this remark of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bahgawat will not make Prime Minister Narendra Modi unnerved for he knows there is no substitute for him who is equally acceptable to Indian citizens as well as leaders worldwide. His age is only a number and his agility is beyond question. But the problem is that he is the person who convinced senior BJP leaders like Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Monohar Joshi and others to retire when they attained the age of 75. Why such rule be not followed in his case? The party discipline should be adhered to for nobody is indispensable.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Whither free speech

Sir, Shashi Tharoor's recent remarks praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and coming down heavily on the Emergency have rubbed the Congress top brass the wrong way. Tharoor is fully entitled to his views. But the grand old party will have none of it. Some senior Congress leaders have even stated that Shashi Tharoor is free to chart his own path. However, Tharoor is no ordinary politician, as politicians across party lines know it too well. In fact, he is a scholar cum academic cum author cum diplomat cum politician, all rolled into one, not to forget his fine sense of humour and his powerful vocabulary owing to which he is fondly called "Shashi Thesaurus." This being the case, the Congress party ought to have shown more tolerance towards the Thiruvananthapuram MP's statements instead of branding them as rebellious. However, one must add that this is the true face of politics in India. If you are in a political party, you are either its patron saint or its sinner. There is no third way. That the rot runs across party lines is of little or no consolation for our country, a democracy, in which free speech, which is the sine qua non of true democracy, is gasping for breath.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS

In 9 days, 1.63L pilgrims perform Amarnath Yatra



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 12: During the nine days since it started July 3, so far 1.63 lakh Yatris have performed the Amarnath Yatra and had 'darshan' inside the holy cave shrine, even as another batch of 6,639 pilgrims left for Kashmir from Jammu Saturday.

"Another batch of 6,639 Yatris left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in two escorted convoys for the Valley today. First escorted convoy of 116 vehicles carrying 2,337 Yatris left at 2.50am for Baltal base camp, while the second escorted convoy of 161 vehicles carrying 4,302 Yatris left at 3.55am for Nunwan (Pahalgam) base camp," officials said.

Bhumi Pujan of 'Chhari Mubarak' (Lord Shiva's Holy Mace) was performed at Pahalgam Thursday.

The Chhari Mubarak was taken to Pahalgam by a group of sadhus led by the sole custodian of the Chhari Mubarak, Mahant Swami Deependra Giri, from its seat at the Dashnami Akhara Building in Srinagar to Pahalgam.

In Pahalgam, the Chhari Mubarak was taken to the Gauri Shankar temple, where the Bhumi Pujan was held.

The Chhari Mubarak will reach the holy cave shrine

August 9, when the Yatra will officially conclude.

Authorities have made extensive multi-tier security arrangements for this year's Amarnath Yatra, as this takes place after the cowardly attack of April 22 in which Pakistan-backed terrorists killed 26 civilians after segregating them on the basis of faith in the Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam.

An additional 180 companies of CAPFs have been brought in to augment the existing strength of the Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB and the local police.

Meanwhile, the Army has rolled out 'Operation SHIVA 2025', deploying more than 8,500 troops alongside advanced surveillance and combat technology.

The Army said that a large-scale operation, launched in coordination with the civil administration and CAPFs is designed to provide a multi-layered security grid along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

The Army said that as part of the extensive deployment, a dedicated counter-UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) grid featuring over 50 C-UAS and EW (Electronic Warfare) systems has been positioned to counter drone-based threats.

UNESCO tag for 'Maratha Military Landscapes'

Twelve forts constitute India's 44th property on World Heritage List

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Paris, July 12: In a win for India, 'Maratha Military Landscapes', representing extraordinary fortification and military system envisioned by the Maratha rulers, has been inscribed on the coveted UNESCO World Heritage List. This is India's 44th property to receive the recognition.

This global accolade celebrates India's enduring cultural legacy, showcasing its diverse traditions of architectural brilliance, regional identity and historical continuity, the Culture Ministry said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat along with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis lauded the historic milestone and congratulated the people of India for this achievement, it said in a statement.

The decision was taken Friday 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 in a post on X. 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, Pan-

hala Fort, Vijay Durg, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

These components, distributed across diverse geographical and physiographic regions, showcase the strategic military powers of the Maratha rule, the Indian officials had earlier said.

The 'Maratha Military Landscapes' was developed between the 17th and 19th centuries.

There are more than 390 forts in Maharashtra out of which only 12 forts were selected under the Maratha Military Landscapes of India, of these eight forts are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the ministry earlier said.

The inception of the Maratha military ideology dates back to the 17th century during the reign of Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by 1670 and continued through subsequent rules until Peshwa rule till 1818, it said.

Shekhawat in post on X said, "Truly proud day for Bharat's cultural heritage."

"My heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji for his visionary leadership in preserving and celebrating India's glorious past. This is India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site - a testament to our rich civilizational legacy, indigenous military engineering, and architectural brilliance," he added.

These magnificent 17th-19th



century forts, spread across 12 iconic sites -- 11 in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu -- stand as timeless symbols of strategic mastery, ecological harmony, and the Maratha spirit of resilience. This historic inscription was granted at the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris. #MarathaForts #WorldHeritage #UNESCO #CulturalPride #ViksitBharat, the Union minister wrote.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UNESCO, Vishal V Sharma, de-

livered the statement on New Delhi's behalf after the inscription was announced.

"This is a historic day, not only for India, but especially for Marathi people all over the world. The rich cultural heritage of the Marathas has been honoured by the recognition of its Outstanding Universal Value by the international community," he said.

A few other members of the delegation stood behind him holding the tricolour.

The Maratha Military Landscapes represent a unique fu-

sion of military innovation, ecological adaptation and architectural excellence shaped by rugged landscapes of the Sahayadris and the indomitable spirit of the Maratha polity, he said.

"We dedicate this inscription to the wisdom of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose legacy lives on through these ml and the works of Marathas for the well being of the people," said Sharma, who shared the statement delivered by him with PTI.

Later in a telephonic interaction with PTI from Paris, he described this victory a result of team work and dubbed the nomination as a massive one from India.

The proposal was sent to the World Heritage Committee in January 2024 and the inscription comes after a rigorous 18-month long process involving several technical meetings with the advisory bodies and visit of the ICOMOS' mission to review the sites, the ministry said.

Last year, the mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty in Assam -- 'Moidams' -- were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi.

India ranks sixth globally and second in the Asia Pacific Region for the most number of World Heritage Sites, the ministry said.

After sandal scandal, Prada looks at collab with Kolhapuri artisans

REUTERS

Mumbai/Milan, July 12: Prada is looking to collaborate with "artisanal footwear" makers in India in a partnership, it said Friday, two weeks after the Italian luxury group triggered a controversy by debuting ethnic sandals resembling 12th-century Indian ones.

After viral photos from a Milan fashion show drew criticism from Indian artisans who make the sandals - named after the historic city of Kolhapur in Maharashtra state - Prada was forced late last month to acknowledge that its new open-toe footwear was inspired by ancient Indian designs.

The furore even saw sales of Indian sandals boom, with sellers and artisans seeing the controversy as a way to promote the heritage craft by tapping into nationalist pride.

Prada said in a statement to Reuters that it held talks remotely Friday with the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, which represents 3,000 Kolhapuri sandal artisans, and discussed potential opportunities for future collaboration.

"The next step will be for Prada's supply chain team to meet a range of artisanal footwear manufacturers," the company said.

The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce said that Lorenzo Bertelli, son of Prada's owners and head of its corporate social responsibility, joined the talks Friday.

The chamber of commerce said that during the talks Prada said it aimed to launch a limited-edition "Made in India" Kolhapuri-inspired collection of sandals in partnership with Indian artisans.

India's luxury market is small but growing, with the rich splurging on designer fashion, top end sports cars and pricey watches.

Prada does not have any retail stores in India, and its products are usually reserved for the super rich who shop overseas.

The sandal scandal left the social media abuzz for days with criticism and sarcastic memes, with Indian politicians, artisans and the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce demanding due credit to Indian heritage.

Lotus beds reappear in Wular Lake after 3 decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bandipora (J&K), July 12: After nearly three decades, the lotus has bloomed once again in the Wular Lake in north Kashmir - the second largest freshwater lake in Asia - thanks to conservation efforts after the devastating floods in 1992 had wreaked havoc with its rich ecosystem.

A sea of pink lotuses -- not just crucial for ecology but for the livelihoods of locals -- can be seen in a part of the lake, which is spread in a total area of 200 sq km, covering almost 24 km in length, stretching from the foothills of the Haramukh mountain range in the Bandipora district to Sopore town in the neighbouring Baramulla district.

"This is nothing short of a miracle," Abdul Hameed, a resident, said.

He said that earlier, the locals used to disperse the lotus seeds into the lake, but they achieved nothing. "It did not work. They could not grow because of silt," Hameed said.

Kashmir Valley witnessed a devastating flood in 1992 that caused damage to the rich ecosystem of Wular Lake, situated about 70 km from Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

The flood deposited a large quantity of silt in the lake that buried the lotus vegetation over the years.

However, owing to the con-

'MIRACLE' IN WATERS



servation efforts by Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) - including desilting of the lake - in the last few years, the lotus beds have appeared once again.

"Last year, there were signs of revival of lotuses. Then this year, the WUCMA dispersed lotus seeds in the lake, and there was a bloom," said Mudassir Ahmad, an official of the lake authority.

Ahmad, who is the zonal officer at WUCMA, said the bloom has spread to nearly 3 sq km of the lake, and the turnaround was achieved by desilting the lake as part of the restoration of the water body.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir Division, Irfan Rasool,

said the return of the lotus is a strong indicator of the improving ecological health of the lake, which had suffered significant degradation over decades, with heavily silted area reported up to 27 sq kms, impacting its water holding capacity, ecological functions and the livelihoods of communities.

He said WUCMA embarked on the major project by utilising Cutter Suction Dredgers.

Rasool said the project aimed to restore the critically silted-up area by undertaking dredging. "As of July 2025, around 80 lakh cubic metres of silt has been cleared by WUCMA from Wular Lake. By removing vast quantities of silt, the project has successfully restored nearly

5 sq km of the lake's area, significantly increasing its water holding capacity," he added.

The desilting initiative has been instrumental in restoring the lake's original depth and improving water flow, the official said.

Rasool said it restored sunlight penetration to the lake bed and revitalised conditions, allowing the dormant root structures of the lotus plant to regrow.

The return of lotuses has renewed hopes among the locals of harvesting their edible stems, known as 'nadru' in local parlance.

The water body was once a major source of income for hundreds of families. 'Nadru'

is one of the popular delicacies in Kashmir, and its harvesting provided seasonal employment to many.

The harvesting involves diving neck deep into the water to retrieve the stem. "Nadru was non-existent in the lake for all these years," Ahmad said, adding that it can now be grown and harvested.

The economy of the local population would get a boost now, he said.

Hameed expressed gratitude to the WUCMA for the dredging undertaken in the lake, saying it contributed to the revival of the aquatic plant.

"It is all because of dredging and desilting that we are seeing lotuses blooming once again. This is a blessing from God," Hameed said.

He implored the people to safeguard the biodiversity of the lake and stop polluting it.

"We have to mend our ways now. It was taken away from us once, and if we do not change, it may be taken away again," he added.

And it is not just the comeback of lotuses. The increased water depth and improved water quality in the lake have also created a more hospitable environment for diverse aquatic flora and fauna, Rasool said.

"This ecological revival has thus contributed to attracting a greater variety of migratory birds, enhancing the lake's biodiversity," the chief conservator of forests said.



People offer prayers during a prayer meeting held for the late crew members of the Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad June 12, at a church in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Saturday

PTI PHOTO



India never allowed material progress to become a means of geographical expansion and exploitation. We created spiritual and human symbols for material progress as well. Its divine form is visible in India's rich culture
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHUKLA TO UNDERGO 7-DAY REHAB POST RETURN TO EARTH

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will undergo a seven-day rehabilitation programme after his splashdown off the California coast July 15 as he returns to the Earth from an 18-day sojourn at the International Space Station (ISS)



of the day quote

During a global pandemic like Corona, he not only acted as a shield to protect India but also delivered vaccines to many countries, and brought back Indians from abroad safely under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'
NAYAB SINGH SAINI | CHIEF MINISTER, HARYANA

In Andhra Pradesh, however, this fundamental democratic process is being ruthlessly crushed under the weight of an authoritarian regime led by Chandrababu Naidu
YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | YSRCP CHIEF

We saw the baggage-handling system, which is the most efficient in which the barcode of the baggage can be read 360 degrees scanning systems, ensuring it reaches the right place
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

CALCUTTA RAPE CASE

Student 'raped' on IIM-C premises

A court remanded a student of the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta Saturday, who has been accused of raping a woman on the campus, to police custody till July 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 12: A woman was allegedly raped by a student inside a hostel of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, police said Saturday.

The accused has been arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged by the woman at Haridevpur police station, they said. The alleged incident took place inside the boys' hostel of IIM Calcutta Friday, a police officer said.

"The woman called in the FIR that she was called to the hostel for a counselling session. She then became unconscious after consuming a drink laced with drugs at the hostel. The woman realised she had been raped after regaining consciousness," he said.

She also alleged that the accused had threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone, the officer said.

"The accused student was detained on Friday night before being formally arrested," he said.

Further investigation was underway. The development



came almost a fortnight after a student was allegedly gang-raped inside a law college in Kolkata.

Opposition Congress and CPI(M) Saturday lashed out at the government over the incident, stating it showed "worsening" law and order situation in the state, and "lapse in security" in a central educational institute where criminals are not scared to commit brutalities on women.

Around 100 members of the Congress staged a protest before the gates of the IIM Calcutta campus, demanding an audience with the director.

Congress leader Asutosh Chatterjee said, "The security guards are stopping us from entering the campus. But where was this security for women if the allegation inside the boys' hostel of a premier institute is

Around 100 members of the Congress staged a protest before the gates of the IIM Calcutta campus, demanding an audience with the director

true? After the South Calcutta Law College gang rape of a woman student by her own college seniors and alumni on campus, now another allegation has surfaced involving a central educational institute. It puts our heads to shame."

He said IIM Calcutta being a premier educational institution, the BJP government at

'Oppn must tell govt-- no support on Varma issue without probe into Yadav'

Sibal's remarks come amid the government beginning the exercise of collecting signatures of MPs to move a motion in Parliament to remove Justice Varma



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The Opposition must not support any move by the government to impeach Justice Yashwant Varma till an inquiry is set up under impeachment proceedings against Justice Shekhar Yadav for his "communal" remarks, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said Saturday.

In an interview with PTI, Sibal contended that the case of Varma, who is embroiled in a row following the discovery of burnt wads of currency at his residence after a fire incident, was not one of corruption and so the parties thinking that they should support action against the judge as it is graft matter should review their position.

The Independent Rajya Sabha MP claimed there could be two motives of the government in moving ahead with bringing an impeachment motion against Varma -- they are unhappy with him because he is "one of the most independent High Court judges" and alternatively they may be thinking that this is a "great opportunity to put pressure on

the courts" and try to bring another form of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).

"I think the institution has broad enough shoulders to withstand such moves of the government," he said. Asked if the situation arises would he be ready to defend Varma in Parliament during impeachment proceedings, Sibal, who is also a senior advocate, said, "This is just an academic issue, first the judge has to ask me."

Sibal's remarks come amid the government beginning the exercise of collecting signatures of MPs to move a motion in Parliament to remove Justice Varma.

Sources said signatures of many MPs from the Lok Sabha have been collected for the impeachment exercise, an indication that the motion may be moved in the Lower House.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that a motion to remove Varma will be brought in Parliament's next session, beginning from July 21.

Slamming the government for moving ahead with collecting signatures, Sibal said, "First of all, what has the government got to do with this? Under the Constitution, either 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha can move a motion for impeachment. The Constitution process dehors the government."

SHORT TAKES

Search ops resume at bridge collapse site

Vadodara: The search and rescue operations resumed in the Mahisagar River in Gujarat's Vadodara for the fourth consecutive day Saturday to retrieve the body of a man still missing since the bridge collapse and to remove vehicles and the main slab of structure that fell into the river. The toll in the tragedy rose to 20 on Friday after one more body was recovered from the river and another injured person died at the hospital while undergoing treatment.

Chirag gets death threat on social media

Patna: Union minister Chirag Paswan has received a death threat from an Instagram user, his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) said Saturday. The party also shared on its X handle screenshot of a complaint lodged with the cyber police station in Patna, by chief spokesman Rajesh Bhatt.

3 tiger cubs die in Biological Park

Bangalore: Three tiger cubs that were allegedly abandoned by their mother after littering have died in Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) recently, officials said Saturday. Tigress Hima Das gave its third litter of three cubs July 7, and after giving birth, she did not take care of them, and consequently, all three cubs were injured, they said.

SNIPPET

23 Naxalites with cumulative bounty of Rs 1.18 cr surrender in Chhattisgarh

Sukma: As many as 23 hardcore Naxalites, including three couples, carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 1.18 crore, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Saturday, a senior police official said. The surrendered Naxalites include 11 senior cadres, most of them active in the Peoples' Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion no.1, which is considered the strongest military formation of Maoists, the official said. They turned themselves in before senior police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officials, citing their disappointment with "hollow" Maoist ideology, atrocities committed by Naxalites on innocent tribals and growing internal differences within the banned outfit, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said. He said there were nine women among surrendered cadres. The official said some of the surrendered Naxalities were active in the Aamdai, Jagargunda and Kerlapal area committees of Maoists. All the surrendered Naxalites were provided assistance of Rs 50,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy, he added.

Arunachal: Migrant youth lynched for sexually assaulting girls, curfew imposed

Itanagar: Curfew was imposed in Roing town in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Dibang Valley district as tensions flared after a migrant youth from neighbouring Assam was lynched by a mob for allegedly sexually assaulting several girls, police said. The 19-year-old man, identified as Riaz-UI Kurim from Bongaigaon, was taken into police custody Friday after it came to light that he had allegedly sexually assaulted several girls of a school. The parents of the girls, who filed a complaint with the school authorities, had nabbed the youth and thrashed him before police rescued him and took him into custody. However, a mob barged into the police station, dragged the youth outside and beat him up. As he was rescued and taken to the hospital, they followed him and thrashed him again, ultimately leading to his death. The youth used to work at a construction site near the school, police said. So far, eight minor girls -- aged between six and nine -- have undergone medical examinations. A curfew has also been imposed in Roing town and additional security forces have been deployed to maintain law and order.



Silhouette of boys playing, seen against the setting sun, in Bamutia, Tripura, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

6 dead, 8 injured in Delhi building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: Six people, including a two-year-old girl, died and eight sustained injuries when a four-storey building collapsed in the Welcome area of northeast Delhi on Saturday morning, an official said.

The bodies of the owner of the building, his wife, two sons and two others were retrieved from the debris and sent to GTB Hospital, he said.

Eight people have been hospitalised, while attempts are underway to rescue those still trapped under the rubble. Multiple agencies, including the NDRF, have been deployed for rescue operations, the official said.

A senior police officer said, "Around 7.04 am on Saturday, we received information regarding the collapse of a four-storey building near Idgah, Welcome. When the police team reached the spot, they found that three storeys of the building had collapsed."

"So far, eight injured persons have been rescued -- seven have been shifted to JPC Hospital and one to GTB Hospital for treatment. All the listed missing persons have been rescued; however, the rescue operation is still ongoing," he added.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Sandeep Lamba said, "The owner of the building, Matloob, lived in the building with his family members. The ground floor and first floor were unoccupied. The building opposite also sustained damage."

The building collapsed when locals were out on their morning walks, many of whom acted as first responders and began trying to rescue those trapped before fire officials arrived at the spot.



Indian legal system facing unique challenges, says CJI Gavai

Delivering the convocation address at Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad near here, Justice Gavai advised students to go abroad for studies on scholarships and not put pressure on family finances

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 12: The Indian legal system has been facing unique challenges and delays in trials can sometimes go on for decades, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said Saturday.

Delivering the convocation address at Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad near here, Justice Gavai advised students to

go abroad for studies on scholarships and not put pressure on family finances.

"Our country and legal system are facing unique challenges. Delays in trials can sometimes go for decades. We have seen cases where someone has been found innocent after spending years in jail as an undertrial. Our best talent can help us resolve the problems that we are facing," he said.

The Chief Justice quoted Jed S Rakoff, a senior federal district judge in the United States in this connection. The American judge in his book, "Why the Innocent Plead Guilty and the Guilty Go Free: And Other Paradoxes of Our Broken Legal System," had made the following remark. "Even though I conclude that our legal system is in bad need of fixing, I remain cautiously optimistic that



Our country and legal system are facing unique challenges. Delays in trials can sometimes go for decades. We have seen cases where someone has been found innocent after spending years in jail as an undertrial. Our best talent can help us resolve the problems that we are facing'

BR GAVAI | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

my fellow (citizens) will rise to the challenge." This comment of the American judge was quoted by CJI Gavai.

Further, the Chief Justice advised the passing out graduates to seek mentors for the sake of integrity and not for

their power. On the "pressure to pursue a master's degree abroad", Justice Gavai said, "A foreign degree alone is not a stamp of your worth. Don't take this decision in the reflex of thought or under your peer pressure. What happens next? Years of debt, anxiety, career decisions made under financial burden."

He cited examples of some young graduates or lawyers taking loans of as much as Rs 50-70 lakh for foreign education. In fact, a small portion of a big amount like Rs 50-Rs 70 lakh can be used as an investment to start independent practice or build an office chamber. The young lawyers can go abroad for studies at a later stage in life when they are stable, he said.

The growing trend of going abroad also reflects a structural issue, signalling a lack

of confidence in the state of postgraduate legal education and research in our country, Justice Gavai said.

Many who study abroad come back with renewed passion and fresh perspectives, but when they return, they often find institutions unwelcoming, under-resourced or close to new ideas. There are few structured pathways for postdoctoral research, limited funding for early career scholars and opaque hiring processes that discourage even the most committed.

"This must change if we want to keep our best minds or bring them back. We must build nurturing academic environments, offer transparent and merit-based opportunities, and most importantly, restore dignity and purpose to legal research and training in India," he said.



Extreme weather events have become the norm. Flash floods and intense rains, which used to be spread across months, are now occurring in a single day, causing immense damage to people and property

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
UNION FINANCE MINISTER

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION: NEXT JPC MEETING LIKELY JULY 30

The next meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' is likely to be held July 30, panel chairman P P Chaudhary said. In an interview with PTI Videos, Chaudhary said Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha and Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde might be called to express their views in the next meeting



Pilots' body seeks fair, fact-based probe

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has released its preliminary report into the fatal Boeing 787-8 plane crash June 12 that killed 260 people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 12: Airline Pilots' Association of India Saturday demanded a fair and fact-based probe into the Air India plane crash as it claimed that the tone and direction of the investigation into the Air India plane crash suggests a bias towards pilot error.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has released its preliminary report into the fatal Boeing 787-8 plane crash June 12 that killed 260 people. The report has found that the fuel supply to both engines of Air India flight AI171 was cut off within a second of each other, causing confusion in the cockpit and the airplane plummeting back to the ground almost immediately after taking off.

The 15-page report says that in the cockpit voice recording, one unidentified pilot asked the other why he had cut off the fuel, which the other denied.

"The tone and direction of the investigation suggest a bias towards pilot error... ALPA India categorically rejects this presumption and insists on a fair, fact-based inquiry," Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA) said in a statement.



Wreckage of Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft, which was operating flight AI 171 from Ahmedabad to London, placed under tight security, seen a month after the tragedy, in Ahmedabad, Saturday, July 12

AI PLANE CRASH

The association has also demanded that its representatives should be observers in the investigation process to ensure transparency and accountability.

ALPA India is a member of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association (IFALPA).

"We are once again surprised at the secrecy surrounding these investigations. We are

also reiterating the fact that suitably qualified personnel are not taken on board for these crucial investigations," the Association alleged in the letter.

"We feel that the investigation is being driven in a direction presuming the guilt of pilots and we strongly object to this line of thought," it alleged.

Noting that the report refers to a serviceability bulletin concerning the fuel control switch

gates, which indicates a potential equipment malfunction, the Association said, "while the bulletin exists, ALPA India demands clarity on whether the recommendations outlined in the bulletin were implemented prior to the flight."

The London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner began to lose thrust almost immediately after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport June 12 and ploughed

Experts flag mechanical, electrical malfunctions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 12: The Air India aircraft, which crashed soon after takeoff in Ahmedabad last month, might have suffered mechanical or power supply issues that could have led to the change in the position of the switches that feed fuel into the plane, experts said Saturday.

They also opined that the reasons for the change in fuel switch position will be known during further investigations.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's (AAIB) preliminary report has mentioned that fuel switches of engine 1 and 2 of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft were cut off within a gap of one second and later turned on before the crash June 12.

Federation of Indian Pilots (FPI) President and former Air India pilot Captain C S Randhawa said the position of the fuel switches can be changed only with a human interface.

These switches are spring-loaded and have a lock. If they have to be put into RUN position, then first, it has to be pulled out and move into the position, he said.

According to him, the switches are generally used in case there has been a flameout of both engines or the pilots have recycled the switches. "It is not clear from the preliminary report as to why the position of the switches was changed", he said and added that there could also have been an interruption in the power supply.

"When the fuel control switch has to be cut off, the pilot flying will say, fuel control switch left, confirm. So, after the confirmation is made by the second pilot, the pilot monitoring will cut off (the switch). In this case, the first officer was taking off the aircraft and the captain was pilot monitoring. Now, did this transfer of controls take place between the captain and the first officer? It is not clear from the report at all," he noted.

The fuel switches are below the throttles.

"Now, in case of a dual engine flameout, the auto-throttle switches are put off and fuel control switches are made to cut off and run. Basically, they reactivate," he said.

A former Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) official said there was a change in the position of the fuel switches and the question is why it happened.

"Now, the investigation will lead in this direction to why this switch position changed, whether it was a mechanical failure, whether it was intentional or unintentional or anything else or if there was a problem. The question is also whether there was a software glitch and or not," he said.

In the report, there is no mention on whether there was any malfunctioning of the fuel switches earlier.

A senior Boeing commander said it is not exactly clear from the preliminary report why the fuel switch was turned to CUT-OFF from RUN position. The change might have happened inadvertently, he added.

According to a senior official, who has been part of various aircraft accident investigations, investigations in the coming months will help in ascertaining the reasons, including whether there were any mechanical issues, for the change in position of the fuel switches.

"The aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec.

The Engine N1 and N2 began to decrease from their take-off values as the fuel supply to the engines was cut off. In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," the report said.

Kin of passengers on same route admit to anxiety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 12: Gajanan Pandya sat on a bench for three hours outside the airport till AI 159 to London took off Saturday. His daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter were on it, and he couldn't bring himself to leave earlier - AI 171 had crashed exactly a month ago, and it was something he just couldn't shake off.

Once news came in that the plane had taken off, Pandya got into a taxi and headed back home to Bhavnagar, about 150 km away. Dates don't always matter but this one-month anniversary of the horrific air disaster that killed 241 onboard and 19 on the ground did.

"They came here to spend some time with us and went back today on the same flight. I stayed back at the airport because I was a little worried. Though I know that such plane crashes happen very rarely, it is natural for a father to have concern for his children. That is why I did not leave for Bhavnagar immediately," Pandya said.

Flight code AI 171 was suspended after that unforgettable afternoon when the



Family of First Officer Clive Kunder, co-pilot of the Air India plane mourns during a prayer meeting held for the late crew members, at a church in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Saturday

Dreamliner plane lost altitude seconds after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1:39 pm June 12 and exploded into a ball of fire as it crashed into the BJ Medical College hostel in Meghaninagar. The flight resumed June 16 with the new code, AI 159.

It was another afternoon one month later, and the anxiety was evident. Pandya said he had read news reports about

both engines of the ill-fated flight shutting down mid-air seconds after take-off due to a technical issue.

He wasn't the only one overwhelmed by unease, worry, or fear outside the airport Saturday.

Though most of the kin left after passengers they had come to see off entered the sprawling terminal building, following check-in at 10 am, a few more, other than Pandya, stayed back.

They milled around waiting for the flight to depart. Air India's website informed that the flight took off from here at 1:08 pm.

Bhartiben Prajapati, a resident of Kadi town in Mehsana, waited along with her husband Rajesh Prajapati and other kin. After a brief stay in Kadi, Bhartiben and Rajesh's daughter Dharti was going back to London to be with her husband.

"We are a little nervous because Dharti is going on the same flight that crashed a month ago. That is why we are staying back till her flight takes off. We can't change what is written in our fate. But I am confident my daughter will reach safely," Bhartiben said.

Rajesh Prajapati was far more poised, asserting that no one can reach anywhere if people start latching on to such tragedies.

"Whatever happened has happened. We must move forward. Such incidents do not happen often. We have to forget the past. Otherwise, we can never reach anywhere. I am not worried because I am confident the government is taking adequate steps to see such incidents do not take place," he said calmly.

ONE MONTH AFTER AHMEDABAD PLANE CRASH

Silence, soot-covered buildings stand as grim reminders

One month later, barring a contingent of police personnel, the crash site shows no signs of activity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 12: A month after the Air India plane crashed on the bustling medical hostel complex near Ahmedabad airport, charred trees, soot-covered walls, and empty buildings now serve as grim reminders of the deadliest aviation accident in a decade.

On that day, Air India flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft en route to London Gatwick, crashed into the BJ Medical College hostel complex shortly after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport.

The aircraft burst into flames, killing 241 out of 262 people onboard and 19 individuals on the ground, including several BJ Medical College students.

ny medical students and resident doctors were either in their hostel rooms or gathered in the mess for lunch.

The tail section of the aircraft rammed into the mess building, turning an ordinary afternoon into a horrific scene of fire and destruction. Wreckage was scattered across the hostel grounds, and thick soot still clung to the damaged buildings.

One month later, barring a contingent of police personnel, the crash site shows no signs of activity. Additional Commissioner of Police, Jaipal Singh Rathore, said approximately 50-60 police personnel have been deployed to guard the crash site.

He said the arrangement will be withdrawn after AAIB gives us a report in the next 2-4 days stating they are no longer needed at the spot.

According to a preliminary report by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), the wreckage was spread over an area approximately 1,000 feet by 400 feet.

The aircraft's descent began



The crash site of Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft, which was operating flight AI 171 from Ahmedabad to London, seen a month after the tragedy, in Ahmedabad, Saturday, July 12

with an impact against several trees and an incineration chimney within the Army Medical Corps compound before it crashed into the northeast wall of Building A (the mess building), it said.

The crash site is located just 0.9 nautical miles from the departure end of the airport

runway.

Four hostel buildings—Atulyam 1 to 4—and the mess building were severely damaged. BJ Medical College Dean Dr. Minakshi Parikh stated that approximately 150 students were displaced and promptly relocated to vacant rooms in other hostels or private apart-

ments rented by the college.

"Within a week, we had made alternative arrangements for accommodation. The damaged mess building is no longer in use, and students are now being served at canteens operating in other hostel buildings," she said.

The AAIB stated, "As the aircraft was losing altitude, it initially made contact with a series of trees and an incineration chimney inside the Army Medical Corps compound before impacting the northeast wall of Building A (hostel mess)".

The distance between the tree on which the aircraft made its initial contact and the point on Building A where the aircraft impacted is 293 ft.

As the aircraft moved forward, it continued fragmenting and colliding with other structures and vegetation, it said.

The report stated that the vertical stabiliser of the plane separated and came to rest about 200 feet south of the initial point of contact with the first building. The tail section and the main

landing gear (MLG) of the aircraft were found embedded in the northeast wall of the same building while the rest of the aeroplane continued its forward movement, it said. The damaged terrace of the mess building is leaning, with a gaping hole created by the tail which was removed ten days after the crash.

Further describing the impact of the crash, the AAIB report stated that the right engine of the aircraft struck the concrete water tank structure and rested underneath it after separating from the aeroplane.

Different parts of the aircraft separated after its initial contact with the first building, and struck four other buildings. The parts of the right wing were found in two affected buildings and the surrounding areas, while the left engine hit the north corner of the fourth building at ground level.

"The engine, remaining portions of the attached cowl, and the surrounding area were heavily damaged by fire," it said.



“The technologies used by North Korea are the result of the work of its own scientists. We respect North Korea's aspirations and understand the reasons why it is pursuing nuclear development”
SERGEY LAVROV | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

UK'S OLDEST WWII VETERAN DIES AT 110

Britain's oldest World War II veteran, Donald Rose, has died at the age of 110. Rose participated in the D-Day landings June 6, 1944, and was part of the division that liberated the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in northern Germany.



of the day quote

The US will continue to stand for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Cuba, and make clear no illegitimate, dictatorial regimes are welcome in our hemisphere
MARCO RUBIO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

Al Udeid Air Base remains fully operational and capable of conducting its mission, alongside our Qatari partners, to provide security and stability in the region
SEAN PARNELL | PENTAGON SPOKESMAN

People evacuating from front line areas need support. But at the same time, we have to continue helping Ukraine's immediate recovery, so that people who want to stay in Ukraine can actually do that
KAROLINA LINDHOLM BILLING | UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE

Trump: 30% tariffs against EU, Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bridgewater, July 12: President Donald Trump Saturday announced he's levying tariffs of 30 per cent against the European Union and Mexico starting August 1.

Trump announced the planned tariffs on two of the United States' biggest trade partners in letters posted to his social media account. They are part of an announcement blitz by Trump of new tariffs with allies and foes alike, a bedrock of his 2024 campaign that he said would set the foundation for reviving a US economy that he claims has been ripped off by other nations for decades.

In his letter to Mexico's leader, Trump acknowledged that the country has been helpful in stemming the flow of undocumented migrants and fentanyl into the United States. But he said the country has not done enough to stop North America from turning into a "Narco-Trafficking Playground."

"Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has done, is not enough," Trump added.

Trump in his letter to the European Union said that the US trade deficit was a national security threat.

"We have had years to discuss our Trading Relationship with The European Union, and we have concluded we must move away from these long-term, large, and persistent, Trade Deficits, engendered by your Tariff, and Non-Tariff, Policies, and Trade Barriers,"



Trump wrote in the letter to the EU. "Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from Reciprocal."

European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen responded by noting the bloc's "commitment to dialogue, stability, and a constructive transatlantic partnership."

"At the same time, we will take all necessary steps to safeguard EU interests, including the adoption of proportionate countermeasures if required," von der Leyen said in a statement.

Trump, as he has in previous letters, warned that his administration would further raise tariffs if the EU attempts to hike its own tariffs on the United States.

With the reciprocal tariffs, Trump is effectively blowing up the rules governing world trade. For decades, the United States and most other countries abided by tariff rates set through a series of complex negotiations known as the Uruguay round.

Countries could set their own tariffs - but under the "most favored nation" approach, they couldn't charge one country more than they charged another.

The Italian government said Saturday it continues to "closely monitor" the ongoing trade negotiations between the European Union and the United States, fully supporting the EU Commission's efforts.

"We trust in the goodwill of all stakeholders to reach a fair agreement that can strengthen the West as a whole, given that - particularly in the current scenario - it would make no sense to trigger a trade war

between the two sides of the Atlantic," Premier Giorgia Meloni's office said in a statement.

The Mexico tariff, if it goes into effect, could replace the 25 per cent tariffs on Mexican goods that do not comply with the existing US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement.

Trump's letter did not address if USMCA-compliant goods would still be exempt from the Mexico tariffs after Aug. 1, as the White House said would be the case with Canada. Trump sent a letter to Canada earlier this week threatening a 35 per cent tariff hike.

With Saturday's letters, Trump has now issued tariff conditions on 24 countries and the 27-member European Union.

The European Union's chief trade negotiator said earlier this week that a trade deal to avert higher tariffs on European goods imported to the US could be reached "even in the coming days."

Maroš Šefčovic told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France Wednesday that the EU had been spared the increased tariffs contained in the letters Trump sent Monday, and that an extension of talks would provide "additional space to reach a satisfactory conclusion."

The bloc collectively sells more to the US than any other country. US goods imports from the EU topped USD 553 billion in 2022, according to the Office of the US Trade Representative.

GAZA TRUCE TALKS FALTER

REUTERS

Cairo/Jerusalem/Gaza, July 12: Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza are stalling over the extent of Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha said Saturday.

The indirect talks over a US proposal for a 60-day ceasefire are nonetheless expected to continue, the sources said.

In Gaza, medics said 17 people trying to get food aid were killed Saturday when Israeli troops opened fire, the latest mass shooting around a US-backed aid distribution system that the UN says has resulted in 800 people killed in six weeks.

Witnesses who spoke to Reuters described people being shot in the head and torso. Reuters saw several bodies of victims wrapped in white shrouds as family members wept at Nasser Hospital.

The Israeli military said its troops had fired warning shots, but that its review of the incident had found no evidence of anyone hurt by its soldiers' fire.

Delegations from Israel and Hamas have been in Qatar for a week in a renewed push for an agreement which envisages a phased release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals and discussions on ending the war. US President Donald Trump,

who hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the past week, had said he hoped for a deal soon. But the Israeli and Palestinian sources described longstanding issues that remain unresolved.

A Palestinian source said that Hamas had rejected withdrawal maps which Israel had proposed that would leave around 40% of Gaza under Israeli control, including all of the southern area of Rafah and further territories in northern and eastern Gaza.

Two Israeli sources said Hamas wanted Israel to retreat to lines it held in a previous ceasefire before it renewed its offensive in March.

The Palestinian source said matters regarding aid and guarantees on an end to the war were also presenting a challenge. The crisis could be resolved with more U.S. intervention, the source said.

Hamas has long demanded an agreement to end the war before it would free remaining hostages; Israel has insisted it would end the fighting only when all hostages are released and Hamas is dismantled as a fighting force and administration in Gaza.

Saturday's reported mass shooting near an aid distribution point in Rafah was the latest in a series of such incidents that the United Nations rights office said Friday had seen at least 798 people killed trying to get food in six weeks.

SHORT TAKES

Russian attacks kill 6 in Ukraine

Kyiv: At least six people were killed overnight and Saturday as Russia continued to pound Ukraine with hundreds of drones and missiles as part of a stepped-up bombing campaign that has further dampened hopes for a breakthrough in efforts to end the more than three-year-old war. Two people died and 14 were wounded when Russian forces overnight attacked the Bukovina area in the Chernivtsi region of southwestern Ukraine with four drones and a missile, regional Gov Ruslan Zaporaniuk said Saturday. He said that the two people died due to falling debris from a drone. A drone attack in Ukraine's western Lviv region wounded 12 people, regional Gov Maksym Kozmitskiy said. Russia fired 597 drones and decoys, along with 26 cruise missiles, into Ukraine overnight into Saturday, Ukraine's air force said. Of these, 319 drones and 25 cruise missiles were shot down and 258 decoy drones were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

Blast in Yemen kills 5 children

Aden: Five children in southwestern Yemen died after an explosive device detonated in a residential area where they were playing soccer, rights groups and eye witnesses said Saturday. The circumstances surrounding their deaths Friday night in the Al-Hashmah subdistrict of Taiz province remain unclear. However, the Yemen Centre for Human Rights and another rights group called Eye of Humanity along with Houthi-controlled Al-Masirah TV said an artillery shell was fired by militias backed by the Islah party, which is allied to the internationally recognised government in south Yemen. A spokesperson for the United Nations children's agency UNICEF told The Associated Press that they are aware of reports about the incident but can't verify the facts at the moment. Two local residents who were eyewitnesses, Ahmed al-Sharee and Khaled al-Areki, told the AP that the children were playing soccer when the explosion happened. At least three people with minor to moderate injuries were also taken to the hospital, according to the eyewitnesses. Meanwhile, Mahmoud al-Mansi, another eyewitness, said the explosive was directed from an area where forces allied with the Islah party were present.

N-talks with US to resume if no further attacks: Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, July 12: Iran's foreign minister said Saturday that his country would accept a resumption of nuclear talks with the US if there were assurances of no more attacks against it, state media reported.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a speech to Tehran-based foreign diplomats that Iran has always been ready and will be ready in the future for talks about its nuclear programme, but, "assurance should be provided that in case of a resumption of talks, the trend will not lead to war."

Referring to the 12-day Israeli bombardment of Iran's nuclear and military sites, and the US strike on June 22, Araghchi said that if the US and others wish to resume talks with Iran, "first of all, there should be a firm guarantee that such actions will not be repeated. The attack on Iran's nuclear facilities

has made it more difficult and complicated to achieve a solution based on negotiations."

Following the strikes, Iran suspended cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, which led to the departure of inspectors.

Araghchi said that under Iranian law, the country will answer the agency's request for cooperation "case by case," based on Iran's interests.

He also said any inspection by the agency should be done based on Iran's "security" concerns as well as the safety of the inspectors.

"The risk of proliferation of radioactive ingredients and an explosion of ammunition that remains from the war in the attacked nuclear sites is serious," he said. He also reiterated Iran's position on the need to continue enriching uranium on its soil.

US President Donald Trump has insisted that cannot happen.

Boeing settles with man whose kin died in 737 crash

REUTERS

San Francisco, July 12: Boeing reached a settlement with a Canadian man whose family died in the March 2019 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX, the man's lawyer said on Friday.

The terms of the settlement with Paul Njoroge of Toronto were not released. The 41-year-old man's wife Carolyn and three young children - Ryan, 6, Kellie, 4, and nine-month-old Rubi - died in the crash. His mother-in-law was traveling with them and also died in the crash.

The trial was scheduled to start Monday in US District Court in Chicago and would have been the first against the US planemaker stemming from two fatal 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 that together killed 346 people.

Boeing also averted a trial in April, when it settled with the families of two other victims in the Ethiopian Airlines crash.

The planemaker declined to comment on the latest settlement. The two accidents led to a 20-month grounding of the company's best-selling jet and cost



Boeing more than \$20 billion.

In another trial that is scheduled to begin on November 3, Njoroge's attorney Robert Clifford will be representing the families of six more victims.

Boeing has settled more than 90% of the civil lawsuits related to the two accidents, paying out billions of dollars in compensation through lawsuits,

a deferred prosecution agreement and other payments, according to the company.

Boeing and the US Justice Department asked a judge earlier this month to approve an agreement that allows the company to avoid prosecution, over objections from relatives of some of the victims of the two crashes.

The agreement would enable Boeing to avoid being branded a convicted felon and escape oversight from an independent monitor for three years. It was part of a plea deal struck in 2024 to a criminal fraud charge that it misled US regulators about a crucial flight 737 MAX control system which contributed to the crashes.

UNESCO heritage tag for sites of Khmer Rouge brutality

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phnom Penh, July 12: Three locations used by Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime as torture and execution sites 50 years ago have been added by UNESCO to its World Heritage List.

The three locations were inscribed to the list by the United Nations cultural agency Friday during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris.

The inscription coincided with the 50th anniversary of the rise to power by the communist Khmer Rouge government, which caused the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians through starvation, torture and mass executions during a four-year reign from 1975 to 1979.

UNESCO's World Heritage List lists sites considered important to humanity and includes the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and Cambodia's Angkor archaeological complex.

The three sites listed Friday



include two notorious prisons and an execution site immortalised in a Hollywood film.

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, located in the capital Phnom Penh, is the site of a former high school used by the Khmer Rouge as a notorious prison. Better known as

S-21, about 15,000 people were imprisoned and tortured there.

The M-13 prison, located in rural Kampong Chhnang province in central Cambodia, also was regarded as one of the main prisons of the early Khmer Rouge.

Choeung Ek, located about 15

kilometresouth of the capital, was used as an execution site and mass grave. The story of the atrocities committed there are the focus of the 1984 film "The Killing Fields," based on the experiences of New York Times photojournalist Dith Pran and correspondent Syd-

ney Schanberg. The Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975, and immediately herded almost all the city's residents into the countryside, where they were forced to toil in harsh conditions until 1979, when the regime was driven from power by an invasion from neighbouring Vietnam.

In September 2022, the UN-backed Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, better known as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, concluded its work compiling cases against Khmer Rouge leaders. The tribunal cost USD 337 million over 16 years but convicted just three men.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet issued a message Friday directing people to beat drums simultaneously across the country Sunday morning to mark the UNESCO listing.

"May this inscription serve as a lasting reminder that peace must always be defended," Hun Manet said in a video message posted online. "From the darkest chapters of history, we can draw strength to build a better

future for humanity."

Youk Chhang, executive director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, said the country is "still grappling with the painful legacies of genocide, torture, and mass atrocity." But naming the three sites to the UNESCO list will play a role in educating younger generations of Cambodians and others worldwide.

"Though they were the landscape of violence, they too will and can contribute to heal the wounds inflicted during that era that have yet to heal," he said.

The UNESCO inscription was Cambodia's first nomination for a modern and non-classical archaeological site and is among the first in the world to be submitted as a site associated with recent conflict, Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts said in a statement Friday.

Four Cambodian archaeological sites were previously inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Angkor, Preah Vihear, Sambo Prei Kuk and Koh Ker, the ministry said.



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

SHIPROCKET LAUNCHES SHUNYA.AI

E-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket launched a multimodal AI engine, Shunya.ai, for MSMEs and D2C businesses. The AI stack is developed to support multilingual commerce, regional customer experiences, and scalable automation, the company said in a statement



of the day quote

We are seeing the leasing cost in the country reduce up to 10 to 15 per cent (after setting up the GIFT City) which is ultimately going to benefit more aircraft and more aircraft fleet developing in the country

K RAMAMOHAN NAIDU | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

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

The housing boom, coupled with policy evolution, highlights the need for reforms that ease approvals, re-define affordable housing in urban India, and incentivise sustainable development

MANISH SINGHAL | SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSOCHAM

Household credit zooms sharply to 42% of GDP in FY24

This growing credit footprint highlights increased financial access and confidence among households in the post-pandemic phase

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: Household credit extended heavily to 42.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY24, which was steady in the range of 32 to 35 per cent during FY13 to FY20, a report revealed Friday, showing growing optimism in the resilient economy.

This comes after a sharp increase in household financial liabilities post-pandemic period, according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) market

pulse report.

This growing credit footprint highlights increased financial access and confidence among households in the post-pandemic phase. "Household credit has expanded meaningfully, from remaining stable at 32-35 per cent of GDP during FY13 to FY20 to witness a marked increase to 39.9 per cent in FY21 and further to 42.1 per cent in FY24," the report stated.

The report also observed that net household financial savings, which saw an exception-



al rise to 11.7 per cent of GDP in FY21 due to pandemic-induced caution and reduced

opportunities for spending or borrowing, have gradually normalised. In FY24, savings

In FY24, savings stood at 5.2% of GDP

stood at 5.2 per cent of GDP, according to the report.

This decline can partly be attributed to the decline in household financial liabilities, rising from 3.7 per cent of GDP in FY21 to 6.2 per cent in FY24.

"Post Covid, household financial liabilities have nearly tripled from ₹7.4 lakh crore in FY21 to ₹18.8 lakh crore in FY24," according to the report.

The increase in the liabilities has compressed net financial savings from a peak of ₹23.3 lakh crore in FY21 to just ₹15.5 lakh crore in FY24.

The post-Covid developments in net financial savings and financial liabilities contributed to a substantial recovery in private consumption, with an average growth of 6.7 per cent during FY23-FY25. The consumption growth is partly driven by a surge in household credit, according to the NSE market pulse report.

Competition heats up in quick comm

Amazon takes on Zepto, Blinkit with 10-min dash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: Amazon's launch of 10-minute delivery service, Amazon Now, in Delhi following its debut in Bengaluru, has heated up the quick commerce space, which is already marked by fierce competition among Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart, making India one of the few markets globally where ultra-fast delivery is thriving.

A report by ICICI Securities in April this year, in fact, had talked about how quick commerce platforms are building deep-habit loops, are no longer confined to speed and snacked occasions, and structurally reshaping retail behaviour through high-frequency engagement and curated category expansion.

Amazon has begun its ultra-fast delivery service 'Amazon Now' in select pin-codes in Delhi with "curated selection of everyday essentials"; the 10-minute delivery service was launched in Bengaluru in December last year.

'Amazon Now' tab now appears within the app in select pin-codes it is available in, and the company intends to launch the offering in other cities soon.

Amazon 10-minute delivery service covers daily essentials including groceries, fruits and vegetables, personal care and beauty products, wireless accessories, small appliances. Orders with minimum value of ₹99 for Prime users, and ₹199 for non-Prime users are delivered free of charge.

Market watchers believe that app-based quick commerce plat-



Amazon 10-minute delivery service covers daily essentials including groceries, fruits and vegetables, personal care and beauty products, wireless accessories, small appliances

Orders with minimum value of ₹99 for Prime users, and ₹199 for non-Prime users are delivered free of charge

Quick-commerce market size is pegged at staggering \$40bn by '30, a jump from \$6.1bn in '24

forms have cracked the code when it comes to recreating the convenience and familiarity of shopping at local kirana stores. Amid fast paced lifestyles and busy work schedules, they offer customers online stacks of a diverse choice of products and, of course, the ease of doorstep delivery.

Moreover, quick commerce boom is riding on the India's smartphone penetration, low data costs, and predominantly young demographics.

According to a report earlier this year by Flipkart and Bain and Company, more than two-thirds of all e-grocery orders and one-tenth of e-retail spends happened on quick commerce platforms in 2024, underlining how QCom is revolutionising the way consumers buy in India.

Jefferies, in a recent report, had noted that the quick commerce has indeed become mainstream and entry of horizontal platforms like Flipkart and Amazon is more out of force as the users and their share of wallet have been rapidly moving to quick commerce platforms.

"The market in some pockets may get cluttered, as in certain places, there may be as many as six different quick commerce platforms, with some trying to woo users via aggressive discounts. Specifically, on Amazon, we think these are early days and the offering needs to have enough scale in terms of coverage to be a meaningful player in the overall Q/C (quick commerce) market.

"This may require serious effort including burn given Ama-

zon lacks brand recall for Q/C unlike incumbents - currently, Q/C is part of main Amazon app while experience suggests higher traction in case of verticals like Blinkit (Swiggy too has launched separate app for Q/C)," Jefferies had said in a note in June this year.

Indians, it is estimated, ordered goods worth ₹64,000 crore from quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit and Instamart in Financial Year 2024-25, more than double from the previous fiscal year's ₹30,000 crore. The gross order value (GOV) is estimated to grow more than three times to touch ₹2 lakh crore by FY28, the report by one of the arms of domestic rating agency Careedge Ratings said.

That said, despite its strong growth and promising prospects, quick commerce has courted its fair share of controversies, including regulatory scrutiny from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) over issues such as food safety lapses, claims, and compliance gaps.

Late last year, the consumer protection regulator issued notices to several companies for failing to comply with mandatory product disclosure requirement. The notices were issued to 3-4 quick commerce companies for violations related to packaged product disclosures - the law requires online and offline retailers to display key product information, including maximum retail price, expiration date, weight, manufacturer details, and consumer grievance addresses on packaged goods.

D-St drifts lower amid tariff jitters this week

Q1 earnings season key to lift sentiment



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 12: Markets drifted lower during the week and lost over a per cent, primarily pressured by the lingering uncertainty surrounding global tariffs and a disappointing start to the earnings season, analysts said Saturday.

While the tone remained largely stable in the first three sessions, profit booking in the final sessions dragged the indices lower. Eventually, both the Nifty and Sensex settled near their weekly lows at 25,149.85 and 82,500.47, respectively.

According to Ajit Mishra-SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, sentiment weakened amid heightened global trade tensions following US President Donald Trump's renewed tariff threats on Canada and other key partners.

"Although there were expectations of an interim trade deal between the US and India, the lack of clarity kept risk appetite in check. Additionally, a weak start to the Q1 earnings season - especially after IT major TCS reported below-par results - added pressure to the markets in the final session," he mentioned.

Consumption-oriented sectors such as FMCG and discretionary stocks experienced selective buying, supported by signs of urban demand revival and improving margins.

A backdrop of easing inflation, declining interest rates, and a favourable monsoon contributed to the overall

We anticipate a consolidation phase in the Nifty index with a negative bias in the near term, following the recent fall. Volatility is expected to persist amid global uncertainties and the unfolding earnings season

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

positive undertone. "Broader indices slipped into negative territory due to a lack of triggers to sustain current premium valuations and unispiring results from a key IT bellwether, which raised concerns over FY26 earnings estimates," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

As Q1 FY26 earnings unfold, investors are closely monitoring guidance on margins and sector dynamics. Looking ahead, the earnings season will be in full focus. A packed calendar includes results from HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Wipro, JSW Steel, L&T Finance, and HDFC Bank, among others.

On the macroeconomic front, participants will closely track the WPI and CPI inflation data scheduled for July 14 for further cues on the economy. Apart from these, the trend in FII flows and movement in crude oil prices will also remain on traders' radar, said market watchers.

Both the Nifty and Sensex settled near their weekly lows at 25,149.85 and 82,500.47, respectively

VinFast signs pacts with 13 dealer groups; aims 35 dealerships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, July 12: VinFast Auto India, a subsidiary of Vietnam-based electric vehicle maker VinFast, has signed agreements with 13 dealer groups for opening 32 dealerships across 27 cities, a statement said Saturday.

VinFast, which is gearing up to launch its electric vehicles in the Indian market, aims to establish 35 dealerships across the country by the end of 2025, according to the statement.

These collaborations underscore VinFast's commitment to establishing a robust 3S (sales, service, spares) network and laying the groundwork for the upcoming pre-booking of the VF 6 and the VF 7 models July 15, it said.

The agreements are part of VinFast's plan to expand its footprint in the country. The initial set of dealerships will be established in key urban and emerging EV markets, including Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Cochin, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram, Chandigarh, and Lucknow.

These cities have been strategically selected based on their growing EV adoption, infrastructure readiness, and strong demand potential.

JMG Automobiles unveils VIDA VX2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: JMG Automobiles, Odisha's largest two-wheeler dealership and one of the top five VIDA dealers in India, launched the all-new VIDA VX2 electric scooter in Bhubaneswar Saturday.

The VIDA VX2, powered by Hero MotoCorp, aims to redefine smart and accessible electric mobility for Indian commuters. The launch marks a significant milestone in the state's growing EV adoption, with JMG Automobiles being the exclusive



VIDA dealer for twin city.

The VX2 is available in two variants—Go and Plus. The Go

variant comes with a 2.2 kWh removable battery offering a range of up to 92 km, while the Plus variant boasts a 3.4 kWh battery with a range of up to 142 km. Both variants support Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS), enabling customers to subscribe to batteries starting at just Rs 0.96/km.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradeep Agarwal, Managing Director, JMG Automobiles, said, "At JMG, we take pride in driving Odisha's shift to electric mobility. As the top VIDA dealership in the state, we are thrilled to introduce the VIDA VX2 to our eco-conscious customers."

Govt eases sulphur emission rules for coal power plants

Federal environment ministry issued a gazette notification that exempted 79% of the coal-fired power plants, outside a 10-km (6 mile) radius of populated and polluted cities, from the 2015 mandate

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 12: India has reversed a decade-old mandate to install \$30 billion worth of clean-air equipment, easing sulphur emission rules for most coal-fired power plants, a government order said.

Reuters in December reported the government was reviewing 2015 norms that required nearly 540 coal-based power units to install flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems that remove sulphur from the plants' exhaust gases in phases starting in 2027.

The federal environment ministry late Friday issued a gazette notification that exempted 79% of the coal-fired power plants, outside a 10-km (6 mile) radius of populated and polluted cities, from the 2015 mandate.

The mandate to install FGD for another 11% of the plants near populated cities would be taken on a "case-to-case basis," the notification said.

The balance of 10% of the coal-fired power plants closer to New Delhi and other cities with a million-plus population will be required to install the



desulphurisation equipment by December 2027, according to the new mandate.

The notification comes after state-run NTPC, India's top electricity producer, spent

about \$4 billion on installing the equipment at about 11% of the power plants, and about 50% of the units either placed orders for the desulphurisation systems or are installing them.

The Friday notification did not mention the impact on the competitiveness or recovery of costs by these power plants. It said the decision was taken after the Central Pollution Control Board carried out a detailed analysis of the increase in "carbon dioxide emission into the atmosphere due to operation of control measures being deployed."

KLassic ton by Rahul

India amble to 316/5 after centurion Rahul becomes second India batter after Vengsarkar to score more than one Test ton at Lord's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 12: KL Rahul racked up his second hundred at the iconic Lord's before India matched England's first innings total of 387 on an attritional day three of the third Test to leave the game on even keel on a deteriorating pitch.

Besides Rahul's high quality effort (100 off 177), Ravindra Jadeja (72 off 131) and Rishabh Pant (74 off 112) propped up India's first innings total.

It would be a challenge for India to bat last on a surface where the odd ball is taking off after pitching besides offering some turn.

When England batted, Zak Crawley wasted precious time to ensure that he faced only solitary hostile over from Jasprit Bumrah as hosts went into fourth day with a slender two-run lead.

But in the final five minutes on third day, there was enough drama with Shubman Gill and Crawley engaged in a confrontation which could have turned uglier after Indian skipper in some choicest language urged the English opener to show some guts while facing Bumrah.

It was a spectacle once again to see Jofra Archer go about his business and consistently breaching 90 mph mark. Ben Stokes got the ball to rise sharply from back of length and one of them crashed into Nitish Reddy's helmet grille.

Like the case in England innings, India chose to play waiting game on a two-paced track, scoring at less than 3.5 runs per over.



Indian lower-order consumed a lot of balls but was not able to push the scoring rate. After scoring his third fifty in a row, Jadeja got a faint edge down the leg side off Chris Woakes.

Akash Deep got two on field lbw decision was overturned via DRS but perished

ter completing his 10th Test hundred.

Rahul reached his hundred shortly after the lunch break with a single off Archer. He became second Indian batter after Dilip Vengsarkar (3 hundreds) to score multiple ton at the Lord's.

However, he had a lapse in concentration in the very next over when he went for a drive off a flighted delivery from Shoaib Bashir but ended up edging it to Harry Brook at first slip.

Runs were hard to come by in the session with India accumulating only 68 runs.

Bashir was forced off the field soon after getting into the wickets column as he took a blow on his left finger while fielding off his own bowling.

The poor running between the wickets between Reddy and Jadeja also stood out in the session. Either of them could have been run out thrice.

England took the second new ball immediately but did not get much out of it. Rahul gifting his wicket early in the session was their sole success of the session.

Earlier, Rishabh Pant overcame pain in his left index finger to score an entertaining half-century before getting run out at the stroke of lunch, leaving India at 248 for four in 64 overs.

BRIEF SCORES	
England:	387 and 2 for no loss in 1 over
India 1st innings:	387 all out in 119.2 overs (KL Rahul 100, Rishabh Pant 74, Ravindra Jadeja 72; Chris Woakes 3/84)

METTLE MEET 2025

HERE . NOW
OrissaPOST

QUIZ Extravaganza

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

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.

As a reader of OrissaPOST, this is a chance for you to be part of the exciting Grand Finale if you can give correct answers in the daily quiz. Starting July 01, 2025 there will be one question each day for you to answer till July 31, 2025. Every day two winners will be selected from correct entries. Then winners will be decided by draw of lots. The winners will be invited for the Grand Finale which will be conducted by a nationally acclaimed quizmaster. So buckle up and get set for some brainstorming.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Being held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, the Live Aid concert took place on this day in 1985 as a fundraiser to combat famine in which country?

ANSWER TO SATURDAY'S QUESTION

Malala Yousafzai

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

KOUSHIK PANDA

SHRADHA SUMAN SAHOO

Others who answered correctly are

Niranjan Nayak, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Pratyush Satapathy, Tanishna Biso, Saswat Sourabh, Mayank Mandal, Papuni Nayak, Kaushik Panda, Rudhisundar Rath, Lipan Behera, Abha Priyadarshini, Amandip Lakra, Parameswar Dalai, Manoranjan Behera, Sarthak Sushobhit, Subham Jena, R Sekhar Rao, Om Prakash Rath, Reena Ravichande

SNIPPETS

Historic first: Italy bag berth in T20 WC

Dubai: International Cricket Council Chair Jay Shah has congratulated the Netherlands and Italy for qualifying for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to be held in India and Sri Lanka next year. Italy has scripted history by securing a maiden berth in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 despite their nine-wicket loss to the Netherlands in the final match of the European Qualifiers at the Sportpark Westvliet, The Hague. "An amazing result for @KNBCricketand @FedCricket, qualifying for the @ICC Men's @T20WorldCup 2026 through the Europe Qualifier. For Italy, it will be their first-ever appearance at the tournament that India will defend early next year. Well done to both teams!" said Jay Shah in a post on X, formerly Twitter. This marks the first time the Italian men's cricket team will feature at a senior ICC world event—an unprecedented achievement in the nation's cricketing journey.

Jota's jersey no 20 retired

Liverpool: Liverpool has retired the No 20 shirt worn by Diogo Jota following his death in a car crash last week. The 28-year-old Jota died along with his brother Andre Silva, also a soccer player, near the northwestern city of Zamora, Spain. On Friday, Liverpool said his number would be retired across all levels of the club, including the women's team and academy. "It was the number he wore with pride and distinction, leading us to countless victories in the process — and Diogo Jota will forever be Liverpool Football Club's number 20," the Premier League club said in a statement. Jota had just completed the most successful season of his career — helping Liverpool to a record-equating 20th English league title and winning the UEFA Nations League with Portugal.

Swiatek's historic triumph

Iga Swiatek defeats Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 to win her first Wimbledon title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 12: Iga Swiatek won her first Wimbledon championship with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova Saturday in the first women's final at the tournament in 114 years in which one player failed to claim a single game.

Swiatek's victory on a sunny, breezy afternoon at Centre Court took just 57 minutes and gave Swiatek her sixth Grand Slam title overall. She is now 6-0 in major title matches.

The 24-year-old from Poland finished with a 55-24 edge in total points and accumulated that despite needing to produce merely 10 winners. Anisimova was shaky from the start and made 28 unforced errors.

Swiatek already owned four trophies from the French Open's red clay and one from the US Open's hard courts, but this is first title of her professional career at any grass-court tournament. And it ended a long-for-her drought: Swiatek last won a trophy anywhere more than



a year ago, at Roland-Garros in June 2024. Kate, the Princess of Wales, was sitting in the Royal Box Saturday and took part in the on-court ceremony afterward.

Swiatek is the eighth consecutive first-time women's champion at Wimbledon, but her triumph stands out from the others because it came in a stunningly dominant performance against Anisimova, a 23-year-old American who was participating in her first final at a major.

Anisimova eliminated No 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in the semifinals but never looked like she was the same player Saturday. Not at all. When it was over, while Swiatek climbed into the stands to celebrate with her team, Anisimova sat on the sideline in tears.

Cash-Glasspool bags men's doubles title

The pair becomes first British pair of modern era to claim men's doubles title at Wimbledon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 12: Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool are celebrating history, at the All England Club as the pair defeated Australian-Dutch duo Rinky Hijikata and David Pel 6-2, 7-6(3) Saturday to become the first British pair of the modern era to claim the men's doubles title at Wimbledon 2025.

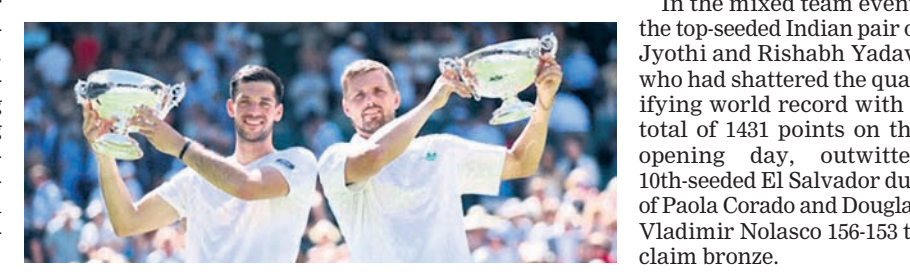
Supported by an enthusiastic Centre Court crowd, Cash and Glasspool completed their milestone victory in one hour and 23 minutes.

"We played a crazy amount of tennis on the grass. There was a lot of pressure on our shoulders. The fact that

we could do it was surreal. Thank you for coming out today. The support was incredible. It would be mad of me to stand here and not thank my family. Mum, Dad, Jamie, and the coaches. This is what it's all been for. It means the world," said Cash.

It marked a 14th consecutive match win for the British combination, who were also crowned champions at Queen's Club and Eastbourne.

"I mean, it's something we spoke about going into the year. We had two goals - one was to make it to Turin, another was to win a Slam. A lot of people probably wouldn't have believed us. Our team backed us all the way. To do it here - I mean, it couldn't mean more. To do it on the most special court in the world! Incredible," he added while reflecting on the achievement.



Carlsen makes ChatGPT surrender sans losing a piece

The chess great dismantled ChatGPT in 53 flawless moves

AGENCIES

Washington, July 12: Magnus Carlsen, the reigning titan of chess, has claimed yet another victory—this time against an AI opponent.

In a casual online game played during travel downtime, Carlsen dismantled ChatGPT in just 53 moves without sacrificing a single piece. The game ended with the chatbot conceding defeat and praising the Nor-



wegian grandmaster's clinical strategy and execution. Carlsen shared screenshots of the match on social media with a tongue-in-cheek remark: "I sometimes get bored while travelling." What followed was a masterclass in control, patience, and calculation. ChatGPT, despite starting strong, quickly found itself outplayed in the middle game and failed to mount any real counterattack. The result? A textbook win that further cements Carlsen's standing as one of the greatest chess players in history.

All my pawns are gone... I resign

Following the loss,

HUMAN VS AI

thodical, clean and sharp." The AI engine recognised the gap in play and praised Carlsen's strategic clarity. When asked to estimate his strength, ChatGPT amusingly guessed a FIDE rating between 1800-2000—a significant underestimation for a player with a peak rating of 2882.

ChatGPT's post-game analysis gave credit where it was due. It highlighted how comfortably Carlsen handled the Philidor Defence, controlled the board with accurate piece placement like ...Bf8 and ...Re8, and executed a sharp tactical shift with ...Nf3+. The AI also commended his

endgame finesse, describing how a small positional edge was transformed into a decisive win with "discipline and precision."

Interestingly, Carlsen also caught an illegal move during the match—a sign of his over-the-board instincts and deep pattern recognition that even AI couldn't override.

While it was far from a competitive showdown, the game served as a reminder of the enduring gap between elite human intuition and artificial pattern matching in chess. It also showcased Carlsen's relaxed brilliance and how, even during a casual match, his standards never slip.

Kujur finishes fourth in Monaco Diamond League

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: India's fastest man, Animesh Kujur, etched his name into Indian athletics history by becoming the first Indian sprinter to compete at a Diamond League event, participating in the U23 200m race at the Meeting Herculis EBS (Monaco Diamond League) Friday evening.

Animesh clocked an impressive 20.55s to finish fourth, continuing his breakout 2025 season.

The 22-year-old sprinter from Ghuitangar village in Chhattisgarh, who trains

at the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar, has had a sensational season—setting national records in the 100m (10.18s), 200m (20.27s (w), 20.32 s) and 4x100m relay (38.69 s)

The Monaco Diamond League is one of the world's most prestigious athletics meets, and this year's event at the Stade Louis II featured nine Paris 2024 Olympic Champions, including sprint legends Noah Lyles, Letsile Tebogo, and pole vault world record holder Armand Duplantis.