



Shilpa’s idols

Actor Shilpa Shetty reveals the three iconic women, who have always inspired her throughout her career and life

LEISURE | P2



China dismisses concerns

China defends building a dam on the Brahmaputra in Tibet, assuring it won't impact downstream countries India and Bangladesh

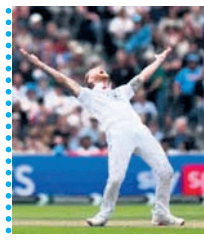
INTERNATIONAL | P10



Silver shines

Silver prices surge by ₹4,000 to hit a record high of ₹1,18,000 per kilogram, while gold rises by ₹1000

BUSINESS | P11



Mixed day for India

India play the old-fashioned way to reach 264 for four at stumps on day one of the fourth Test Wednesday

SPORTS | P12



ADIEU PRINCE OF DARKNESS: A fan pays tribute following the death of Ozzy Osbourne at the Black Sabbath Bridge, on Broad Street in Birmingham, Britain (Obit P2)

HC orders probe into transfer of tribal land to private individuals

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, July 23: Expressing deep concern over transfer of tribal land to private individuals by revenue officials contrary to the process of law, the Orissa High Court has directed the Keonjhar Collector to conduct inquiry into ‘willful’ administrative lapse and take to task the erring revenue officials.

“The Collector, Keonjhar is directed to cause an inquiry into the manner in which permissions for the sale of coparcenary property were granted without scrutiny, and how mutation and other revenue entries were affected in favour of a private individual in the absence of due process and consultation with all interested parties, particularly members of the Scheduled Caste community,” Justice SK Panigrahi ruled in a judgment.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He was appointed a govt law officer because of his long experience of taking the law into his own hands

9 killed in lightning strikes

Bhubaneswar: At least nine people lost their lives and several others were injured in lightning strikes across Odisha Wednesday. The incidents were reported from Angul, Dhenkanal, Puri, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Ganjam, and Nayagarh districts. In Angul, two persons died while working on their farmlands. Two quarry workers were killed and two others critically injured in Dhenkanal. In Puri, a youth was struck by lightning while working in a field. Keonjhar reported one death and one injury. A woman died in Cuttack’s Choudwar area. One person died in Ganjam while grazing cattle. In Nayagarh, one person died and another was critically injured. All victims were engaged in outdoor activities when the lightning struck during severe thunderstorms.

Balanga horror: Police still clueless about perpetrators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Four days after three miscreants set a 15-year-old girl on fire in Balanga area of Puri district, Odisha Police was clueless about the attackers till Wednesday evening.

The police contacted AIIMS, Delhi, where the girl is being treated, to seek its permission to talk to her, sources said.

The girl, who sustained 75 per cent burns July 19, was airlifted from AIIMS Bhubaneswar and admitted at the Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery of AIIMS Delhi July 20. Her condition continues to be critical.

Though the case on record is being probed by the Balanga police station, a five-member Crime Branch team has launched an investigation into the matter. The police have engaged experts of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), cyber crime cell, forensic science and dog squad.

Top police officers, including DGP YB Khurania, have visited the place of occurrence and spoke to the villagers, but no clue regarding the miscreants’ identity or how they fled was found.

A senior officer said the place is in a village and no CCTV footage was available to help the police.

“We have been making all efforts to get a clue to nab the miscreants, but to no avail. The police scanned the mobile numbers of different people in the area. This effort also failed,” the officer said.

Therefore, it is planned to again meet the victim in Delhi. The Odisha Police has sought permission from the hospital authorities to facilitate a meeting with the victim, as her statement is very crucial to reach the culprits, the officer said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and Nimapara MLA Pravati Parida visited the victim at AIIMS during the day.

“The girl’s health condition remains stable. One procedure of skin drafting has been made and a second one will be undertaken. From her talks, I could know that her pain has reduced. Let us pray for her speedy recovery. I hope that the girl will be fully recovered in 50/60 days,” she said.

Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal and some other party MPs also visited the AIIMS and enquired about the health condition of the girl.

The BJD minority cell held a prayer session at the party’s state headquarters for the speedy recovery of the girl.

28% kids stunted, 12% underweight in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Nearly 28 per cent children under six years of age in Odisha are stunted while 12 per cent are found to be underweight. Similarly 3.21 per cent of children in the 0-5 age group were found to be wasted and 11.63 per cent children underweight, according to Poshan Tracker data for the month of June 2025.

Meanwhile, about 37.07 per cent of children under five years of age registered on the Poshan Tracker were found to be stunted, 15.93 per cent underweight and 5.46 per cent wasted nationally, according to official data.

Poshan Tracker consists of pregnant women, lactating mothers, children up to 6 years of age and adolescent girls as beneficiaries.

Nearly 8.61 crore children up to the age of six were registered on Poshan Tracker as of June 2025, which is a slight decline from the previous year’s 8.91 crore, according to national data.

It keeps track of intervention to the beneficiaries and their



progress is further monitored by Supervisors, CDPOs and DPOs through daily and monthly reports.

The levels of underweight and wasting in children as obtained from Poshan Tracker are much less than those projected by NFHS-5, said official sources.

While concerns about chronic under-nutrition and its impact on child growth remain, the trend indicates Odisha is moving in the right direction.

According to Ministry of Child and Women Development, Odisha has recorded a consistent decline in major indicators of child malnutrition since 2022: Stunting fell from 30.6 per cent

to 29.1 per cent, wasting dropped sharply from 5.9 per cent to 2.9 per cent and underweight children reduced from 14.7 per cent to 12.8 per cent.

As per the World Health Organization’s Child Growth Standard, stunting causes irreversible physical and mental damage to children. A stunted child is too short for their age, does not fully develop and stunting reflects chronic under-nutrition during the most critical periods of growth and development in early life, said pediatricians.

Similarly, children are regarded as underweight if they are in the bottom 5th percentile for weight compared to their height. Underweight is not only classified compared to other children their age, but to their height as we clinically look for a child to be proportionate, they said.

The child stunting and underweight issues occur to below five years of kids mostly due to malnutrition and lack of unhygienic living conditions, they said adding that nutrient content in food intake could help them recover from these physical deficiencies.

POST 5-YEAR GAP

India resumes issuing tourist visas to Chinese

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 23: India has announced resuming issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals from this week, a move that comes as part of efforts to repair bilateral ties that came under severe strain following the military clashes in Galwan Valley.

India had suspended issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals in 2020 largely due to Covid-19 pandemic but the restrictions continued in view of the eastern Ladakh border row.

The Indian embassy in Beijing said Chinese nationals may apply for tourist visas from Thursday. In a notification, it also explained the required procedures to apply for the visas as well as documents required to be submitted at respective Indian visa application centres in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

China Foreign Ministry has welcomed India’s decision to open the tourists’ visas saying it is a positive move to facilitate cross-border travel.

“It is a positive move,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said in a media briefing here answering a question on India’s decision.

Fake embassy busted in Ghaziabad

MAN POSING AS ‘WEST ARCTICA’ DIPLOMAT ARRESTED



AGENCIES

Ghaziabad, July 23: In one of the most bizarre incidents to emerge from Uttar Pradesh this year, police have uncovered a fake embassy operating in Ghaziabad — complete with diplomatic flags, license plates, passports, and even a self-styled “ambassador.” The only catch: The country doesn’t exist.

The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police said Wednesday it arrested Harsh Vardhan Jain, a resident of Kavi Nagar in Ghaziabad,



who had been running the bogus consulate while claiming to represent the non-existent “West Arctica.”

Authorities said Jain allegedly duped individuals by promising job placements abroad and is suspected of operating a hawala network through shell companies. He also used doctored photographs showing him alongside high-ranking officials, including the Prime Minister and the President, to gain credibility.

Additional Director General of Police Amitabh Yash said Jain had

been projecting himself as a consul or ambassador of fictional countries including West Arctica, Saborga, Poulvia and Lodonia. He travelled in luxury vehicles bearing counterfeit diplomatic license plates.

The STF said Jain was arrested Tuesday and that four vehicles with fake diplomatic tags were seized. Investigators also recovered 12 forged diplomatic passports of the so-called micronations, two fake PAN cards, 34 rubber stamps of various fictitious entities, two bogus press cards, and documents stamped with counterfeit Ministry of External Affairs seals.

Police also found Rs 44.7 lakh in cash, foreign currency, 18 fake diplomatic plates, and documents linked to several shell companies.

Jain’s interrogation revealed past associations with controversial godman Chandraswami and international arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. He was previously booked in 2011 in connection with the recovery of an illegal satellite phone.

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ARIES
For you, it's creativity today and logic tomorrow, even where work is concerned. You seem determined to succeed, but Ganesha says this requires steadiness and dedication to work. You may want to spend a quiet evening with your spouse, or your book.

TAURUS
Ganesha predicts that you will work extremely hard to meet your targets today. The dividends may not be what you anticipated, but do not let that bog you down. There will be no cause for anxiety or trouble today, says Ganesha. Partnership matters may end up in a cat and mouse chase.

GEMINI
It will be more or less a hassle-free day, predicts Ganesha. Some of your personal belongings are very dear to you. But you need not be too possessive about them, especially when you have no options but to share them with others. Your ability to keep the mood light during the most morbid of situations will be tested today.

CANCER
There is a sound prospect that you will work hard to improve the welfare of your children, portends Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may hear good news about their academic success. In the evening, meditation and prayer will take much of your time, hopes Ganesha.

LEO
Humanity is something that is missing a lot these days, and you believe it to be your duty to ensure that you reach out to everyone around you, says Ganesha. But don't expect anything as revolutionary and emphatic in your personal life. At work, you may expect smooth sailing of sorts towards the latter part of the day, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Sunshine time today, says Ganesha. The spotlight is on you, and it'll be one of those excellent days. Difference of opinions might crop up at work, but stroll over them, says Ganesha. Late in the day, candles and dinner will make you feel blessed. You'll make quite an impression today.

LIBRA
Some private possessions are close to your heart, and you may want to keep them that way, says Ganesha. Let your mind walk the hidden alleyways of mysticism in the afternoon as you seek peace of mind. Also, do not discount a trip to a sacred place, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
Health issues are on top of the list today. Spend more time working out those muscles than working, says Ganesha. Those in marketing and advertising shall have a golden day today. The correct dose of marketing mix will help reap maximum profits.

SAGITTARIUS
Investments for the future, especially for your children, should be made today, advises Ganesha. Work extra hard to clear up tasks you have been putting off for sometime now. Romance is stirring, so take a break from your usual routing to enjoy its sweet smell.

CAPRICORN
The usually high spirit that you display at work is likely to be dampened today by a trivial issue. So, try not to let too many thoughts trouble your mind today, advises Ganesha. Money matters may be pressing, forcing you to take risks. In the circumstances, keeping your cool will be the best thing to do, for a minor slip can cost you all that you may not be prepared to lose.

AQUARIUS
Mixed fortunes today. At work, demanding schedules may drive you up the wall, and you may struggle to keep pace with others. Don't be dejected, says Ganesha, these things happen once in a while. It is only after such a busy day that you can bask in the pleasure of a foot massage from your beloved.

PISCES
An important day awaits you. Your spirits will be high, and your intuition uncanny. Guided by these, it is likely that you will make several significant decisions today in matters of finance and relationships. Your energy levels will be unflagging and you will find yourself at the peak of your abilities, says Ganesha.



CUMBERBATCH SLAMS 'WASTEFUL' INDUSTRY

Actor Benedict Cumberbatch has branded the film industry 'grossly wasteful.' The *Doctor Strange* star is convinced Hollywood needs to improve standards when it comes to recycling, energy efficiency and waste - insisting simple measure such as banning single-use plastic bottles would be a big help.

LINDSAY LOHAN'S SON LUAI IS ALREADY 'MOCKING' HER

Freakier Friday actress Lindsay Lohan has admitted her two-year-old son Luai has already started 'mocking' her. She told *E! News*: "I have this thing, where I'm like, 'Luai, don't do that.'"



Theatre doyen Ratan Thiyam passes away



New Delhi: Ratan Thiyam, an Indian playwright and former National School of Drama director, died on early Wednesday morning at around 1.30 am at RIMS Hospital in Imphal, Manipur, after a prolonged battle with post-COVID health complications. He was 77.

Thiyam was one of the towering figures of the Indian theatre circuit. He received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and was honoured with the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour in the country, in 1989.

A pioneer of the "theatre of roots" movement, Thiyam's masterpieces such as *Chakravyuha* and *Uttar Priyadarshi* masterfully blended ancient Indian traditions with modern narratives, earning global acclaim.

He also served as head of the National School of Drama before focusing on his own theatre, the Chorus Repertory Theatre, founded in 1976, transforming Manipur into a cultural hub.

His socially and politically charged plays reflected the rich Manipuri cultural heritage, captivating audiences worldwide with this grand visual style.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh led the tributes for Ratan Thiyam, calling him "a revered son of Manipur."

"It is with deep sorrow that I express my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Shri Ratan Thiyam, a true luminary of Indian theatre and an esteemed son of Manipur. His unwavering dedication to his craft, his vision, and his love for Manipuri culture enriched not only the world of theatre but also our very identity."

Theatre lovers and practitioners across the country shared their condolences on social media at Thiyam's demise.

Shilpa on her inspirations



Mumbai: Actress Shilpa Shetty, who is seen as a judge on the dance reality show *Super Dancer Chapter 5*, has revealed the three iconic women, who have always inspired her throughout her career and life.

Shilpa acknowledged three women as her life-long inspirations, and said: "There have always been three women in my life who have inspired me — Helen Ji, Rekha Ji, and Madhuri Dixit Ji." What made Helen Ji special for Shilpa was "that no matter what she wore or did, it never looked in-

appropriate."

Talking about Rekha, she said: "Rekha Ji could speak volumes just with her eyes — her lip-sync and expressions were phenomenal."

For Shilpa, every performance of Madhuri Dixit has a touch of class.

"I actually learned to dance by watching her videos. These three women have always been a great source of inspiration for me."

Speaking about her mother Sunanda, Shilpa shared: "My mother did far more than anyone could. When I was 17, I was very naive and didn't know much. During that time, my mother traveled with me and supported me for nearly 10 years."

IAN S

'South has more professionalism'

Mumbai: Actress Payal Ghosh has pitched in on the ever-growing South Vs Bollywood debate. She claimed that South has more clarity and professionalism.

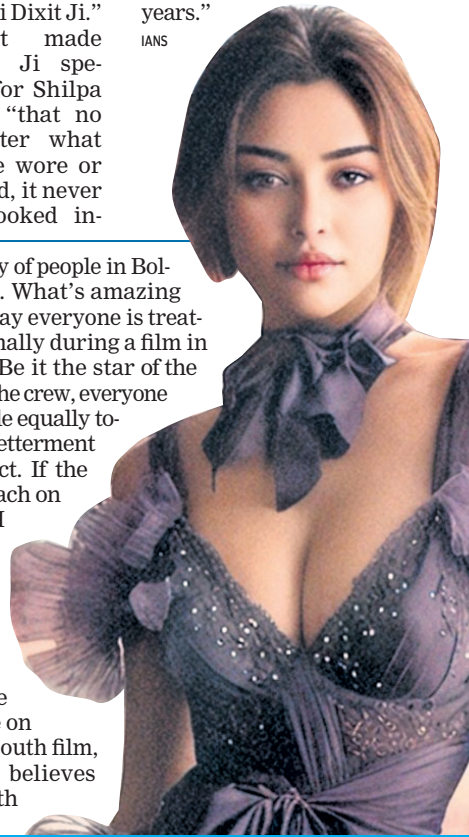
When asked to compare the work cultures of the two industries, Payal shared, "I have had the experience of working with both industries, and whatever opportunity I have got in both industries, I am very grateful to everyone for the same."

She revealed that she personally finds the South industry a little more polished and professional. "They have more clarity about what they want unlike the

majority of people in Bollywood. What's amazing is the way everyone is treated normally during a film in South. Be it the star of the film or the crew, everyone

is responsible equally towards the betterment of the project. If the crew will reach on set at 7 AM in South, even the lead actors will."

She added that while there is discipline on the set of a South film, Bollywood believes in going with the flow. IAN S



FSB's children's film fest kicks off with Chaplin masterpiece

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The third edition of the Children's Film Festival, organised by the Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), commenced Wednesday at the GKCM Odissi Research Centre, with enthusiastic participation from students of Classes VI to VII belonging to Loyola Odia Medium School and KIIT International School.

The opening day featured *Flow* (2024), an 85-minute silent animated film by Latvian filmmaker Gints Zilbalodis.

"Watching *Flow* was an amazing experience. I learnt that we should help each other in times of need," shared Somali Basantiya, a Class VI student, Loyola Odia Medium School.

"I enjoyed being part of the workshop. I can't wait to see our work presented on the final day," said Chandana Das, a Class VI student, KIIT International School. The day concluded with a screening of Charlie Chaplin's masterpiece *The Gold Rush*, a 96-minute silent



film celebrating 100th year release of the old silent classic. The film blends slap-

stick humour with heartfelt moments.

FSB President Subrat Beura, sharing his vision, said, "Our aim is to expose young minds to films from across the world. The team has been making continuous efforts to bring students from different schools together on a creative platform."

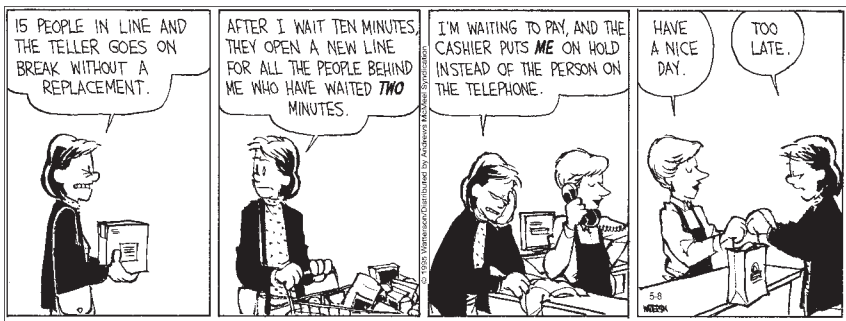
Every edition of the festival features engaging activities for the students, curated by Sankalp Mohanty, Executive Member of FSB.

PNN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

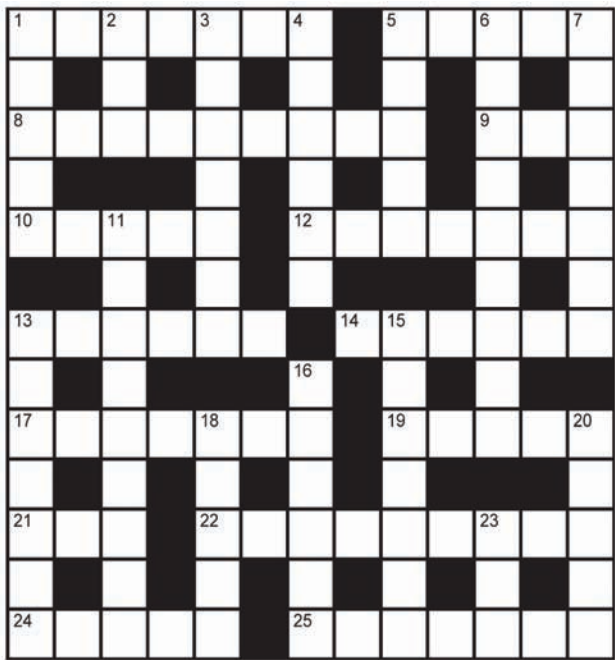


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Tire out
- 5 Winter warmer
- 8 Peron's country, once
- 9 Romaine lettuce
- 10 Artful move
- 12 Stalemate
- 13 Disappear
- 14 Renowned
- 17 Lid
- 19 Seating request

Down

- 21 ___ chi (martial art)
- 22 Winery farms
- 24 Heroic tales
- 25 Downwind
- 1 Criminal offense
- 2 Label
- 3 Mature male geese
- 4 Magical drink

- 5 Wetland
- 6 Forefathers
- 7 Secures
- 11 Eccentric person, to some (4-1-4)
- 13 Goes away
- 15 Examine closely
- 16 Dangerous cloud
- 18 Little people
- 20 Alleviated
- 23 River inlet

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



LITERARY CONFLUENCE: The Eastern Regional Writers' Meet, jointly organised by the Central Sahitya Akademi and Odisha Sahitya Akademi, concluded in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, with speakers highlighting the rich literary legacy of Eastern languages like Odia, Bengali, Assamese, Santali, Bodo, Manipuri, Nepali, and Maithili, while poets, playwrights, and scholars explored contemporary trends and shared socially relevant works

AIDSO members hit streets seeking girls' safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Hundreds of students from various educational institutions across Odisha staged a protest rally Wednesday under the banner of the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) at Lower PMG Square, demanding action on rising crimes against girl students and deteriorating conditions in the education sector.

The protest, led by AIDSO

state secretary Sidharth Rath, saw active participation from state president Somnath Behera, Central Council joint secretary Samar Mahato, and other student leaders. The rally began at Raj Mahal Square and culminated at Lower PMG, where students raised slogans and highlighted multiple concerns.

Key among the demands was justice for the Balasore FM Autonomous College student who died by self-immolation. Pro-

testers called for strict action against those responsible. They also flagged rising instances of violence against female students in places like Balasore, Balanga, Gopalpur, and Jagatsinghpur, and demanded guaranteed safety for female students inside and outside campuses.

Students urged the state government to reopen all closed government primary schools, ensure permanent recruitment of teachers and support staff in

vacant posts, and immediately announce dates for student union elections. Another key demand was the repeal of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which the students claimed was anti-student and detrimental to the public education system.

During the protest, a student delegation submitted two memorandums addressed to the CM Mohan Charan Majhi, seeking urgent intervention and fulfillment of their demands.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Jyotirani Bagh, W/o Amar Kumar Bagh & D/o Junathan Bidika, Residing At- Charch Colony Sunabeda, Sunabeda-3, D.P.Camp, Sunabeda, Koraput, Odisha- 763003, have changed my name to Supriya Bidika for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit No. 7403 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, dtd. 23.07.2025, I Anusaya Nayak, W/o - Jitendra Kumar Nayak, Vill - Samian, PS - Sabarang, Dist - Bhadrak, Odisha declare that my husband was a Indian Army Ex Havildar bearing No. 14921748F (Book No. 14832). In my daughter's discharge certificate wrongly mentioned her name Annweshya Nayak. But her actual name is Annwsha Nayak. Further declare that Annweshya Nayak and Annwsha Nayak, D/o - Jitendra Kumar Nayak same and one person.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bhawanipatna, date 09.05.2025, I, Bhabani Mahananda, S/o Ghasiram Mahananda, R/o Village/P.O.- Risigaon, P.S.- Sadar Bhawanipatna, Dist.- Kalahandi, Odisha declare that in Aadhaar Card my name has been wrongly entered as Kuna Mahananda instead of Bhabani Mahananda. That in order to correct my Aadhaar Card henceforth I shall be known as Bhabani Mahananda for all purposes.

City hospital performs landmark brain surgery

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: In a major breakthrough for neurosurgery in eastern India, doctors at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital in Bhubaneswar have successfully removed a brain tumour using advanced cortical and subcortical brain mapping techniques.

The technique offers new hope for patients with complex brain tumours located near vital regions of the brain, such as those controlling speech and motor functions.

IMS and SUM Hospital department of Neurosurgery Associate Professor Srikanth Kumar Swain led the procedure on a young adult whose tumour was located near areas responsible for speech and motor control.

Speaking to media, Swain said, "Mapping techniques were used during the procedure to precisely identify and preserve key functional areas, ensuring safe and effective tumour removal."

The intricate surgery was performed by a multidisciplinary team led by Swain, along with consultant Neurologist Srimanta Pattnaik, and Debi Prasad Mohapatra, who

played a critical role during intraoperative neurological monitoring.

Explaining the methodology, Swain noted, "Cortical and subcortical brain mapping allows us to protect essential brain functions while removing high-risk tumors from eloquent areas."

By employing direct brain stimulation and advanced intraoperative monitoring, the team was able to differentiate and safeguard brain regions responsible for movement and language.

The patient is reported to be recovering well, having retained all essential neurological functions. Post-surgery, the patient is undergoing radiotherapy, as advised following the histopathological report.

Renowned neurosurgeon Ashok Kumar Mahapatra hailed the achievement as a proud moment for Odisha.

"Cortical and subcortical brain mapping is a highly advanced neurosurgical technique. Its successful use here underscores the growing excellence of neurosurgical care in the state," said Mahapatra, Principal Advisor (Health Sciences) at the university.

Udit Pradhan's aide arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 23: An associate of suspended National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Odisha unit president was arrested in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a 19-year-old college student four months ago, police said Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Ayushman Sahu, was apprehended in Bhubaneswar Tuesday, a senior officer said.

NSUI Odisha unit president Udit Pradhan was arrested Sunday after the woman lodged a complaint before the Mancheswar Police Station, alleging that the Congress student wing chief and his associate mixed an intoxicating substance in her drinks and raped her in a hotel.

"While recording her statement before the police and the court, the woman alleged that both Pradhan and Sahu had raped her by mixing some intoxicated substance in her drinks," Assistant Commissioner of Police (zone-5) Biswaranjan Senapati told PTI.

Following her statement, Sahu was arrested, and preliminary investigations suggested that the woman was gang-raped, the ACP said.

Cal HC seeks Odisha's reply on migrant detention claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 23: The Calcutta High Court Wednesday directed the Odisha government to file an affidavit in opposition to the contentions in habeas corpus petitions that two Bengali-speaking migrant workers from West Bengal were illegally detained in the neighbouring state.

The Odisha government strongly denied before the court the contention that they were illegally detained.

The court was informed that the two migrant workers over whom the habeas corpus petition was filed -- Sainur Islam and Rakibul Islam -- have already returned to their residences.

Alleging that the two were illegally detained in Odisha, the petitioners' lawyer claimed that they are entitled to compensation.

This contention was disputed by the Advocate General of Odisha.

A division bench presided over by Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty directed the Odisha government to file an affidavit in opposition to the contention of the petitioners by August 20.

The petitioners were directed to file their reply to the contention of the Odisha government in its affidavit by August 27.

The court directed that the



matter will come up for hearing again August 29.

Odisha Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, appearing before the court through the virtual mode, submitted that there was no arrest of the persons over whom the habeas corpus petitions were filed.

He stated before the court that the law engrafted in the Foreigners' Act authorises the civil authority to do certain things in respect of the suspected persons whose citizenship is in doubt.

He stated that there was no arrest and that it was a lawful verification of documents as provided in the law, claiming that it was a frivolous petition.

Acharya stated that the Odisha government has already submitted a status report on the matter before the court.

Appearing for the West Bengal government, senior counsel Kalyan Banerjee stated that the opinion about a person's citizenship must be reasonable.

The division bench had July 10 directed the Odisha government to place before it relevant documents on whether the two had been detained or were

missing.

They were directed to answer that if they have been detained, whether such detention was in connection with any court's order and the grounds for that.

The Odisha government was also asked to answer whether there has been any correspondence between the West Bengal and Odisha governments.

After the order was dictated, Banerjee claimed that this was not a simple habeas corpus petition. Acharya stated that this was not an issue between the state governments of Odisha and West Bengal.

He said that it is not about the citizenship of any of the two states, but of the nation.

When Banerjee claimed that several Bengalis have been detained in Odisha over citizenship issues, Acharya said, "Bengalis are our neighbours and brothers and sisters. Most of the Odia people are very fond of Bengalis."

He said that the current Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court is a Bengali.

"We are not opposed to you, why are you opposing us?" Acharya asked, to which Banerjee said, "We must know how many Bengalis have been detained in this process."

Banerjee further claimed that the alleged targeting of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in some states has become a national issue now.

Governor felicitates achievers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday honoured a distinguished group of achievers from the state at a special felicitation ceremony held at the New Abhishek Hall, Raj Bhavan.

The ceremony celebrated Padma Shri awardees, Kendra Sahitya Akademi Awardees, international gold medal-winning sportspersons, and successful candidates from the state who cleared the Civil Services Examination 2024, along with their parents

First Lady Jayashree Kambhampati, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Governor Roopa Roshan Sahoo, and senior officials were present on the occasion.

"This is not merely a felicitation ceremony. It is a celebration of values like hard work, excellence, discipline, creativity and national pride," the



Governor said in his address.

He praised the Padma Shri awardees for their lifelong commitment to selfless service and innovation, and commended the Sahitya Akademi winners for enriching the state's cultural legacy. He described the sportspersons as "embodiments of youth, discipline, and patriotism," whose global victories have brought pride on international stage.

Congratulating the newly selected All India Services officers, the Governor remarked, "Let your work reflect sensitivity to the needs of the last person in the queue, and let your decisions be guided by the principles enshrined in our Constitution."

He also acknowledged the silent support of parents, calling them the 'foundation of every success story'.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	86.46 ▲ 0.01	SENSEX	82726.64 ▲ 539.83	GOLD	₹99,904 ▼ ₹425
EURO	101.39 ▲ 0.26	NIFTY	57210.45 ▲ 454.45	SILVER	₹116,271 ▲ ₹616

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.5°	34.6°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
Min Temp	26.2°	25.6°	
Humidity	83%	85%	
Rainfall	6.6mm	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- Jangpath 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.



Doubt is not a sport to indulge in with impunity; it is a poison, which drop by drop corrodes the soul

THE MOTHER

Digital Sovereignty

When I built my first website back in 1998, the internet felt expansive. You could publish something in Berlin, and someone in Boston or Belgrade might stumble on it within seconds. But today, as a small number of tech monopolies Hoover up attention and strangle innovation, that spirit of connection has been lost. Through their powerful platforms, social-media giants control a large share of the digital world’s underlying architecture. Meta (which owns Facebook and Instagram), X, and others operate as walled gardens, and their algorithms discourage users from leaving by deprioritizing posts with outgoing links. People end up stuck on one platform, scrolling mindlessly – an outcome diametrically opposed to the early vision of the internet as a web of interlinked sites and communities.

Europe should recognize this for what it is: a systemic dependency that threatens the continent’s digital sovereignty. Just as the European Union seeks to reduce its reliance on external providers for semiconductors, cloud computing, and AI, it must do the same for social media. The dominant platforms extract value from European users by capturing their attention and selling their data, while paying little in taxes and skirting regulations. Their proprietary infrastructure increasingly shapes our lives, from the news we see to the way we speak online.

While European policymakers have long expressed concern about the concentration of corporate power among the big social-media companies, and their outsize influence on society and politics, last year’s presidential election in the United States should be sounding alarm bells across the continent. Tech billionaire Elon Musk weaponized X, the platform formerly known as Twitter that he acquired in 2022, to help Donald Trump win re-election by promoting content favorable to him. He has since threatened to interfere in European elections.

One solution is to invest in EU-based alternatives. But time and again, policymakers trot out the same excuse: there are no viable options. The European Commission’s new International Digital Strategy is likewise skeptical that the bloc can wean itself off Big Tech, instead calling for collaboration with the US to address its dependency.

But this stance ignores the emergence in recent years of social-media sites built on decentralized, open protocols. These new platforms are fundamentally different, in principle and design, from American behemoths like Instagram and X. They restore control to users, reduce gatekeeping, and encourage innovation.

Perhaps the best example is the AT Protocol, which serves as the foundation for Bluesky, a fast-growing platform that has amassed nearly 36 million users. Designed for interoperability, the AT Protocol allows users to own their data and control the algorithms that curate their feeds. Anyone can develop apps on the decentralized system – which means that no single company can dominate – and users can easily move between platforms, taking their followers and content with them. That means they never have to start over from scratch.

This dedication to pluralism helps break Big Tech’s monopoly power over social media, which has stifled European innovation for decades. Europe-based firms have already used the AT Protocol to create platforms like SkyFeed and Graysky.

Others are trying to protect and build out this social ecosystem free from Big Tech’s grip. The Free Our Feeds campaign is working to ensure that the underlying infrastructure continues to be governed in the public interest. And Eurosky is a new pro bono effort by a group of European technologists, including myself, to create tools (such as built-in content moderation aligned with EU laws) and infrastructure on the AT Protocol that help European developers build and scale platforms that can rival the social-media giants.

Open protocols are not some utopian project. They are poised to upend the status quo of social media, creating a more democratic digital world. That is why European policymakers should designate these social-networking frameworks as critical infrastructure and invest in developing them.

Social media should be at the heart of Europe’s digital-sovereignty agenda. Building platforms in Europe that rely on an open-source framework would help safeguard democratic discourse from foreign manipulation, create economic value for the continent, and ensure European social-media users control the algorithms that shape what they see. Countries outside the EU could also benefit from these efforts to challenge Big Tech’s dominance.

The online world has gone astray, with America’s tech sector largely calling the shots on how it is developed and used. Europe can help return the internet to its roots by fostering a social-media ecosystem built for pluralism, not polarization, but it needs political leaders who are willing to fight for a new, truly social digital infrastructure.

The writer is Developer of Flashes, a photo- and video-sharing app built on the AT Protocol.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Do what you will today and not wait for tomorrow

SUNDERLAL BAHUGUNA

Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come.

GRETA THUNBURG

There is no question that climate change is happening; the only arguable point is what part humans are playing in it.

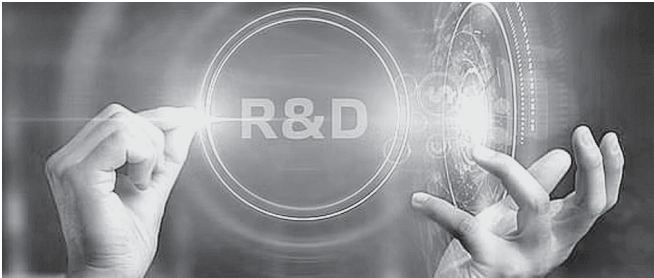
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1915:** In one of the worst maritime disasters in American history, the passenger liner SS Eastland capsized in the Chicago River, killing more than 840 people, in Chicago.
- 1917:** Dutch-born dancer and courtesan Mata Hari, whose name became a synonym for the seductive female spy, went on trial, accused of spying for Germany, and was subsequently found guilty and shot by a firing squad.
- 1923:** The Treaty of Lausanne, the final treaty concluding World War I, was signed at Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 1998:** The World War II drama Saving Private Ryan, starring Tom Hanks, was released, and it became a critical and commercial success, earning five Academy Awards, including best director for Steven Spielberg.

INNOVATE OR STAGNATE

FOCUS DEVELOPMENT



It has been found that in FY2023, the total expenditure on R&D by the Indian industry was USD 7.4 billion. This was less than a fifth of what Alphabet as a single firm spent on R&D

compared to global standards.

Delving into statistics, it has been found that in FY2023, the total expenditure on R&D by the Indian industry was USD 7.4 billion. This was less than a fifth of what Alphabet as a single firm spent on R&D. If India has to see high economic growth of say 7-8 percent over the next two decades to cross the USD 20 trillion-mark, its industry will need to lead the way through its investments in R&D.

It’s therefore imperative that Indian industry must capitalise on its strengths in pharmaceuticals & biotechnology, automobiles and auto parts, aerospace and defence and software and computer services. It must continue to grow its capabilities in sectors such as electronics and electrical equipment and seek new opportunities in sectors like healthcare equipment & services where there is a clear and strong domestic demand.

At the same time, it must prepare itself for the rapid developments taking place in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) and quantum computing which are likely to disrupt several if not all industries.

Another aspect is the fact that competition can always

encourage companies to build state-of-the-art products. If necessary, the government has to aid innovation to universities, reducing bureaucratic hurdles to accessing and using funding, even while demanding more high-quality research from the faculty. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation is a step in the right direction, but its resources need to be multiplied manifold. This is unfortunately not happening, and most universities are starved of funds.

As regards flow of funds, over the years statistics reveal that research funding has decreased, barring that for the IITs and some other research institutions. Most universities, which are old and quite well known, are starved of funds, not just for payment to research scholars but also for upgradation of laboratories. Does the government believe that only funding a handful of institutions in such a large country will bring in the much-needed innovation?

The focus is primarily on technology and fundamental and applied sciences, which are mostly taught in universities, are by and large neglected. This trend cannot be allowed, more so when the country is emerging as a big global play-

er and has an ardent ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047. There has to be an all-round focus both on technology upgradation and science research because the synergy would yield the desired results.

Industry bodies have a big role in charting out areas where collaboration would yield results and formulate a time-bound action plan.

In this connection, it is heartening to know that rare earth magnets would be domestically produced in Hyderabad and the Centre has tasked the National Institute for Transforming Science & Materials (NIFTSM) to carry out this work in partnership with industry players. Reports indicate that such manufacturing would be ready within the next three-four months, which is highly encouraging.

Thus, innovation must be given prime consideration, and the government should allocate more funds for the purpose. Not just the few specialised IITs but also many other universities spread across the country. Private sector funding for innovation and research has also to be ensured through collaborations in projects that are useful for industry.

The industry organisations and associations must consider evolving a plan of action in this regard and the government needs to ensure its successful implementation. If these measures are taken up earnestly, the quality of Indian products would improve significantly and be in a position to compete in the global market. It goes without saying the contribution of manufacturing in India’s GDP needs to increase in the coming years while exports of various products need to find new markets and more acceptability internationally. A steady and concerted effort to march ahead is how India would reach the position it aims for.

INFA

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Addressing erosion of trust in academia

The recent controversies engulfing Fakir Mohan College in Balasore and Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur have unequivocally exposed a deeply troubling compromise in the integrity of some college teachers. These incidents have not only tarnished the reputation of the teaching profession but have also ignited widespread public outrage, prompting serious questions about accountability within academia. Now, the time has come to take decisive action to restore the dignity, trust, and accountability that are fundamental to the teaching profession.

I recently watched an enlightening interview on a national channel where the anchor posed a thought-provoking question to the chief guest: “What is the most productive work in the world?” The guest’s response was immediate and profound: “The 45-minute classroom in an educational institution.” I was struck by the simplicity and truth of this answer, and I wholeheartedly agree with it.

Indeed, it is at the classroom that the seeds of future development are sown, and the minds of students are shaped. Although teachers and students may not

always realize the significance of this process, it is undeniable that the classroom is where the foundation for future success is laid.

Teaching is not just a profession, but a sacred trust. College teachers play a pivotal role in shaping the minds of future generations, and as such, are expected to uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

As role models and mentors, college teachers have a profound impact on the lives of their students. The ethics of college teachers are therefore of paramount importance, influencing not only the learning environment but also the values and principles that students carry with them throughout their lives. This article delves into the key ethical considerations that college teachers must navigate, and highlights the critical role that ethics play in promoting academic excellence and integrity.

Recognizing the vital role of teachers, the University Grants Commission (UGC), established standards of ethics as far back as 1989. Under the leadership of Prof. Yashpal, then Chairman of UGC, a Task Force was formed to develop a code of professional ethics for university and col-

lege teachers. Since then, the Commission has periodically released guidelines for teachers in colleges and universities to follow. The task force outlined six key areas of teacher ethics to guide professional conduct: teacher-student, teacher-colleague, teacher-authority, teacher-guardian, teacher-non-teaching staff, and teacher-community/society ethics. These categories ensure respectful, accountable, and professional relationships across all aspects of education. Teachers must uphold integrity, respect students’ dignity, and treat them impartially, fostering their academic and personal growth while promoting values like democracy, patriotism, and peace. They should avoid vindictive behavior, support students beyond class hours, and refrain from inciting division.

With colleagues, teachers should maintain professionalism, offer support, and avoid baseless complaints. They must adhere to institutional rules, advocate for positive changes, and avoid external commitments that conflict with their duties. Collaboration with authorities is essential to uphold the profession’s dignity and improve institutions. Teachers

should also respect non-teaching staff as equal partners, fostering cooperation through joint initiatives.

Open communication with guardians is vital to keep them informed about their child’s progress, building a collaborative partnership.

Continuous professional development through research, seminars, and conferences ensures teachers stay updated and provide high-quality education. Dedication to students, participation in co-curricular activities, and community service further demonstrate their commitment to education and societal well-being.

Ultimately, it is essential that educator s, administrators, and policymakers prioritize ethics and accountability in higher education. By promoting a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability, we can ensure that college teachers uphold the highest ethical standards, providing students with a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment.

The writer is founder of Supporting Shoulders – an organization striving for mental health of college students



Dhurjati Mukherjee

INDIA’S ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS DOMINATED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS WHO ARE GIANTS DOMESTICALLY BUT HAVE VERY LITTLE PRESENCE INTERNATIONALLY



Sebastian Vogelsang

ANYONE CAN DEVELOP APPS ON THE DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM – WHICH MEANS THAT NO SINGLE COMPANY CAN DOMINATE – AND USERS CAN EASILY MOVE BETWEEN PLATFORMS, TAKING THEIR FOLLOWERS AND CONTENT WITH THEM



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

IT IS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A CLASSROOM THAT THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE AND IMPACTFUL WORK TAKES PLACE

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Vice-President’s role

Sir, The abrupt resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on the very first day of the Rajya Sabha’s monsoon session has cast a long shadow over parliamentary decorum. Regardless of his reasons, the timing and manner of his exit reflect poorly on the expectations placed on constitutional office-bearers. His tenure was marked more by rhetorical aggression and confrontations than by the calm stewardship the Rajya Sabha demands. Whoever is chosen next as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will face a daunting task. In a deeply polarised political environment, maintaining decorum, fairness and impartiality in the House will be a true test of leadership. Presiding officers must rise above partisan temptations and uphold the dignity of Parliament by ensuring a balanced platform for all voices—especially the opposition. While the NDA’s numbers assure a smooth election of the next V-P, restoring institutional credibility and parliamentary civility will take more than numerical strength; it demands vision, restraint and a deep respect for the democratic process. **Gopalaswamy J.** CHENNAI

Balancing ties crucial

Sir, Benjamin Netanyahu, once politically written off, has repeatedly staged a comeback to power by stoking war sentiment. Yet this time the conflict shows no sign of ending, with Israel drawing global condemnation; 25 nations, including the UK’s Foreign Minister David Lammy, have criticised Israeli actions. Netanyahu banks heavily on US backing, but tensions simmer. Contrary to perception, Donald Trump repeatedly prevented Netanyahu from escalating conflicts, especially in Syria, though he appeased Israel by recognising the Golan Heights and shifting the US embassy to Jerusalem. Trump’s frustration reportedly grows behind closed doors, as Israel fails to recover the hostages or achieve a decisive victory, and is now entangled with Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iran. This uneasy US-Israel equation risks further destabilising the Middle East. For India, balancing ties is crucial: while maintaining strategic relations with Israel, it must also strengthen its neutrality and advocate peace to safeguard its own regional interests amid escalating tensions. **RS Narula,** PATIALA

NARCOTICS, COERCION, ABUSE

Bhopal under shadow of drugs

MDMA was often introduced as a party enhancer or fitness supplement, distributed freely at first to hook users by the criminals. Once addicted, victims were reportedly coerced into acting as couriers or recruiters—fueling what officials describe as a ‘chain-marketing’ model of drug proliferation



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 23: In a sweeping crackdown that has rattled Bhopal’s underbelly, the Crime Branch has unearthed a sprawling drug and exploitation network operating across the city’s social hotspots.

The arrests of Yasin Malik and his uncle Shahwar—both caught with MDMA and an unlicensed pistol after a high-speed chase—have exposed a disturbing nexus of narcotics, coercion, and abuse.

Investigators recovered 22 grams of MDMA, two vehicles, and a country-made firearm from the duo.

But it was the contents of Yasin’s mobile phone that deepened the gravity of the case – over twenty videos allegedly depicting drugged young women being sexually exploited and boys subjected to violent beatings.

Police officials, while confirming the authenticity of the footage, noted that none of the victims have yet come forward, complicating the legal pursuit.

Yasin, son of known criminal Mukhtar Malik, already faces multiple cases across city police stations. His arrest, along with Shahwar’s, is believed to be part of a larger supply chain targeting college

students and gym-goers.

MDMA was often introduced as a party enhancer or fitness supplement, distributed freely at first to hook users. Once addicted, victims were reportedly coerced into acting as couriers or recruiters—fueling what officials describe as a “chain-marketing” model of drug proliferation.

In a parallel operation, the Crime Branch arrested Saifuddin and Ashu alias Shahrukh from Govindpura, seizing 15.14 grams of MD powder, a scooter, and a mobile phone valued at approximately ₹3 lakh.

Saifuddin, who had been absconding with a ₹5,000 bounty on his head, was allegedly ac-

tive in Bhopal’s club circuit, using parties to lure young women into drug use and then leveraging them to expand the network.

The racket’s reach extended into gyms, clinics, and lounges, where MDMA was peddled under the guise of weight-loss solutions or high-paying job offers. Victims were drawn in with promises of transformation and status, only to be trapped in cycles of addiction and exploitation.

Police have initiated a wider probe into establishments suspected of facilitating drug distribution.

Licenses may be revoked for venues found complicit, and several drug-dependent youth have already been referred to rehabilitation centers.

Authorities have appealed to parents and community leaders to remain vigilant and proactive in shielding children from the lure of synthetic drugs.

As custodial remand continues for the accused, Bhopal’s Crime Branch is working to dismantle the entire network—one that has turned aspirations for fitness and glamour into a pipeline of dependency and abuse.

The investigation remains on-going, with more arrests expected in the coming days.

Govt jobs for athletes, laptops for toppers: Delhi bets big on youths



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 23: The Delhi Cabinet Tuesday approved a new set of measures aimed at offering record cash rewards and government jobs to athletes, along with digital up-grades in government schools.

The decisions were cleared at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. After the meeting, Sports and Education Minister Ashish Sood confirmed that Delhi will now offer the highest cash prizes in the country to international medal-winning athletes, with Olympic gold winners set to receive ₹7 crore.

"These figures make Delhi the most rewarding state in India for sportspersons," Sood said in the press briefing.

CASH REWARDS INCREASED FOR INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES

Under the revised Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana, Olympic and Paralympic gold medalists will now receive ₹7 crore. Silver and bronze medalists will get ₹5 crore and ₹3 crore respectively.

The government has also raised rewards for other international competitions. Gold medalists at the Asian and Para Asian Games will receive ₹3 crore, silver ₹2 crore, and bronze ₹1 crore. In the Commonwealth and Para CWG categories, winners will get ₹2 crore for gold, ₹1.5 crore for silver, and ₹1 crore for bronze.

Athletes will also be eligible for financial support up to ₹5 lakh for training and medical insurance of the same amount. For elite-level sportspersons, support will go up to ₹20 lakh, with insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh.

Those competing in events recognised by the International Olympic Committee will receive up to ₹2 lakh to cover travel, accommodation, meals, and tournament registration fees.

GOVERNMENT JOBS BASED ON MEDAL PERFORMANCE

The Cabinet also approved a policy to offer government jobs

to medal-winning athletes.

Athletes winning Olympic gold or silver, or Asian Games gold, will be eligible for Grade A posts in the Delhi government. Those with Olympic bronze, Asian Games silver or bronze, and CWG or Para Games gold and silver will qualify for Grade B roles. Other international medalists will be considered for Grade C positions.

"This is a landmark step towards cultivating a robust sports culture in the city and empowering young athletes to dream big," said Minister Sood. "The government will closely monitor the implementation to ensure Delhi becomes a premier sporting hub."

LAPTOPS AND LABS FOR GOVT SCHOOL STUDENTS

In the education sector, the Cabinet cleared a ₹50 crore project aimed at improving digital access in government schools. Starting in the 2025-26 academic year, all meritorious Class 11 students will receive free laptops. In addition, the government will roll out fully equipped computer labs in two phases, 175 labs in Phase I, followed by another 175 in Phase II during 2026-27.

The focus will be on 544 schools operating across 350 buildings, many of which currently run in double shifts and lack adequate digital facilities. Each lab will be equipped with 40 desktop computers and essential digital learning tools. A monitoring unit will oversee rollout and ensure timelines are met.



Members of Tamil Nadu Farmers Protection Association stage a protest against the BJP-led central government, demanding immediate withdrawal of the recently introduced genetically modified rice varieties and other issues, at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

At Madhya Pradesh Police Training Centres, Ramcharitmanas may be recited every night

BHOPAL: In Madhya Pradesh’s Police Training Centres, a fresh cultural and moral dimension may soon be added to the daily routine of police trainees. In a recent meeting with the Superintendents of Police from all Police Training Schools, Additional Director General (Training) Rajababu Singh suggested that recruits could begin collectively reciting Chhapais from the Ramcharitmanas every night in their barracks before going to sleep. Singh said this practice, if adopted, would not only help trainees absorb the deeper meaning of these verses but also encourage them to implement those teachings in real life, ultimately shaping them into more grounded, value-driven police officers.

Describing Ramcharitmanas as a “treasure trove of wisdom” and “a guide for ideal, value-based living,” Singh said the aim was to instill inner strength, discipline, and ethical clarity among those preparing for a challenging public service career. The suggestion comes at a time when several recruits undergoing the nine-month constable basic course training have been requesting transfers to centres closer to their homes. Singh expressed concern over this trend, noting that such preferences risk weakening the state-level character of the Madhya Pradesh Police force.

Inspired by crime shows, BSF constable robs jewellery store using toy gun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: A BSF constable, who joined the force a month ago, was arrested for robbing a Delhi jewellery store with a toy gun in broad daylight, after allegedly getting inspired by crime shows following losses in online gambling, an official said Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Gaurav Yadav (22), had completed his training in May 2025 after he enrolled in the Border Security Force (BSF) in 2023, the official added.

“Yadav was posted in the BSF in Fazilka, Punjab. On June 18, a day before the robbery, he took leave and travelled to Delhi, where he planned the heist while waiting to switch trains,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said.

The incident occurred June 19 at a jewellery store in Farsh Bazar, when a man entered the store brandishing what appeared to be a pistol and stole four gold bracelets before fleeing on foot.

A case under Section 309(4) (robbery) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at the Farsh Bazar Police Station, and an investigation was launched, the DCP added.

Police carried out technical surveillance, analysed multiple CCTV footage, call detail



records (CDRs), and Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR) dump data, and raised several queries on the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

"After sustained efforts and detailed analysis, the accused was identified as a BSF constable posted in Fazilka, Punjab. A raid was conducted at his native village in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, where he was apprehended. During interrogation, he confessed to the crime," DCP Gautam said.

According to the police, Yadav allegedly developed a gambling addiction, incurred significant losses, and plotted the robbery after watching crime shows. "He bought a toy pistol from a local shop and used it to commit the robbery. He later travelled to Meerut, then Lucknow, and finally reached his home in Shivpuri, where he sold two of the stolen bracelets and deposited ₹2 lakh into a bank account," the DCP added.

Rare 1914 revolver donated to BSF’s arms museum in Indore

The ‘Webley .455 Mark 5’ revolver, belonging to late Sitaram Rungta, would cost several crores in the international market of antique weapons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, July 23: The family of a businessman from Jharkhand has donated a revolver made in Britain in 1914 to the arms museum of the Border Security Force’s Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT) in Indore, officials said Wednesday.

The ‘Webley .455 Mark 5’ revolver, belonging to late Sitaram Rungta, would cost several crores in the international market of antique weapons.

But his son Nandal Rungta, a businessman from Chaibasa in Jharkhand, has donated it as the family wants to make Sitaram Rungta’s memory ev-

er-lasting, they said.

The businessman donated his father’s weapon on the basis of permission from the West Singhbhum district’s arms magistrate, the officials said.

After all the legal formalities were completed, a representative of Rungta handed over the revolver to the BSF museum in the presence of CSWT’s officiating Inspector General Rajan Sud, they said.

According to officials, Nandal Rungta was inspired by an article published in a Kolkata newspaper two years ago on CSWT’s arms museum and decided to donate his family revolver.



All India BSF Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association president Ajay Kumar Jain helped the businessman in donating the revolver to the BSF museum.

"The price of this revolver is being estimated in crores

of rupees in the international market of antique weapons, but Rungta decided to donate this weapon to the BSF museum to make the memory of his father ever-lasting," Jain told PTI.

The rare revolver will be safe

in the BSF museum and will make the coming generations aware of the history of weapons, he said.

Nearly 300 rare weapons have been preserved in the museum, established in 1967 at the behest of BSF’s first Director General KF Rustamji, as per officials.

These include guns, pistols, revolvers, rifles, sub-machine guns, light machine guns, medium machine guns, rocket launchers, mortar and grenade launchers, they said.

The museum specially displays weapons from the 14th century to those of the later generations, the officials said.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

COLLECTORATE, JAJPUR

NOTIFICATION

No. XXIV-13: **SO-3840(E) Dt.06.09.2024.**- Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **1313 Dated:13.03.2024**, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 in the stretch of land from Km. 62 to Km. 98 (Collectorate - Jajpur, LA (Civil) Section, AT/PO/ PS/Dist. - Jajpur) in the district of Jajpur in the State of ODISHA.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in “Samaj” and “OrissaPost” both dated 21.04.2024; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH-16 in the stretch of land from Km. 62 to Km. 98 (Collectorate - Jajpur, LA (Civil) Section, AT/PO/ PS/Dist. - Jajpur) in the district of Jajpur in the State of ODISHA.

State: ODISHA			District: Jajpur		
Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of Land Owner/Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Vyasanagar					
Village: Mirjapur - 209					
1	931	Private	Gharabari	0.0040469	Sk. Ayub Alli, S/o. Golap Alli
2	931/1011	Private	Sarada - II	0.0040469	Sk. Ayub Alli, S/o. Golap Alli
Taluk: Dharmasala					
Village: Jalasukha - 777					
3	392	Private	Sarada Jala Dofasal - I	0.0012141	Brajakishore Mohanty, S/o. Paban Mohanty
4	392/469	Private	Gharabari	0.0080939	Rashimrekha Sahoo, W/o. Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo, Swadeshna Sahoo, Sukanya Sahoo, Subham Sahoo, S/o. Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo - 392/469
5	392/474	Private	Gharabari	0.0141643	Rashimrekha Sahoo, W/o. Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo, Swadeshna Sahoo, Sukanya Sahoo, Subham Sahoo, S/o. Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo - 392/474
Village: Sankharidiha - 778					
6	1044	Private	Chaka	0.0121408	Suresh Chandra Sahoo, S/o. Paramananda Sahoo, kismat 5ana 4pahi of Village: Brundadeipur, Manorama Das, W/o. Chandan Kumar Das kismat 5ana 4pahi of Village: Darpani. Prafulla Kumar Sahoo, S/o. Makar Sahoo Kismat 5ana 4 pahi - 1044
7	1045	Private	Chaka	0.0101174	Prafulla Kumar Sahoo, S/o. Makar Sahoo - 1045
8	1051	Private	Chaka	0.0080939	Bhagaban Rout, Raghunath Rout, S/o. Nanda Rout - 1051
9	1052	Private	Chaka	0.0040469	Anjali Kumar Padhi, S/o. Raghunath Padhi of Village/P.S.: Badagarh Hal Sakin Nijagan - 1052
10	1053	Private	Gharabari	0.0141643	Naliniprava Mallik, W/o. Niranjan Mallik, Kismat 9ana 7pahi of Village: Mahulia, P.S.: Badamba Hal Sakin Badamangalpur, Niranjan Mallik, S/o. Bansidhar Mallik, Kismat 6ana 5pahi of Village: Mahulia, P.S.: Badamba Hal Sakin Nijagan - 1053
11	1084	Private	Gharabari	0.0121408	Samsul Joha, Samsul Hoque, Jafar Ahemad, Sabnam Era Begum, W/o. Saha Rasid Ahemad of Village: Badamangalpur Hal Sakin Pandua - 1084
12	1085	Private	Gharabari	0.0161878	Samsul Joha, Samsul Hoque, Jafar Ahemad, Sabnam Era Begum, W/o. Saha Rasid Ahemad of Village: Badamangalpur Hal Sakin Pandua - 1085
13	1088	Private	Dalua - I	0.0080939	Prakash Chandra Baral, S/o. Surendranath Barala - 1088
14	1091	Government	Patita	0.0020235	Abada Jogya Anabadi - 1091
15	607	Private	Chaka	0.0169972	Saha Mohammad Farahim, Saha Mohammad Abdul Raheman, Saha Mohammad Abdul Majid, Kamrun Nisha, Taslim Khatun, S/o. Saha Mohammad Yasin, Almara Banu, Mohammad Sabir Alam, Sanjiba Banu, S/o. Saha Basir Ahemad - 607
16	610	Private	Chaka	0.0271145	Saha Mohammad Abdul Rajak, W/o. Saha Mohammad Abdul Latif - 610
Village: Saroi - 786					
17	200	Private	Gharabari	0.0157831	Pruthiraj Sendha, S/o. Pradeep Kumar Sendha - 200
18	201	Private	Gharabari	0.0121408	Sankarsan Sethy, Bela Sethy, Jira Sethy, S/o. Kanhu Sethy, Chandana Sethy, Bhagyadhar Sethy, Badana Sethy, Sasmita Sethy, S/o. Purastam Sethy - 201
19	202	Private	Gharabari	0.0315662	Diptikanta Dora, S/o. Sanyasi Dora - 202
20	204	Private	Karakhana	0.0194253	Triveni Eearthmoovers Private Limited Ba: B. Pravakaran, S/o. P. Bala Subhramnyam of Bhadrasahi - 204
21	205	Private	Karakhana	0.014569	Triveni Eearthmoovers Private Limited Ba: B. Pravakaran, S/o. P. Bala Subhramnyam of Bhadrasahi - 205
22	206	Private	Karakhana	0.0169972	Triveni Eearthmoovers Private Limited Ba: B. Pravakaran, S/o. P. Bala Subhramnyam of Bhadrasahi - 206
23	207	Private	Chaka	0.0161878	Sansanka Sekhar Rout, Susanta Kumar Rout, Sukanta Kumar Rout, S/o. Babaji Charan Rout - 207
24	208	Private	Gharabari	0.0109268	Gajendra Mallik, S/o. Banchhanidhi Mallik - 208
25	209	Private	Chaka	0.0113314	Gajendra Mallik, S/o. Banchhanidhi Mallik - 209
26	210	Private	Chaka	0.0242817	Hrushikesh Sahoo, Amaresh Sahoo, Pitabas Sahoo, S/o. Harekrushna Sahoo - 210
27	211	Private	Gharabari	0.0242417	Swarnamaya Patra, S/o. Sarat Patra - 211
28	212	Private	Chaka	0.0141643	Bhagaban Biswal, S/o. Krushna Chandra Dakhandray - 212
29	242	Government	Sarada Jala Dofasali	0.0040469	Irrigation Department - 242
30	243	Government	Cenal Bandha	0.0040469	Irrigation Department - 243
31	244	Government	Cenal	0.0040469	Irrigation Department - 244
32	245	Government	Cenal Bandha	0.0080939	Irrigation Department - 245
33	269	Private	Chaka	0.0020235	Fidros Nasrin, W/o. Sk. Amin Hosen - 269
34	270	Private	Gharabari	0.0242817	Shyama Sahoo, S/o. Benu Sahoo of Village, Kundapatana Hal Village, Badamangalpur - 270
35	271	Private	Gharabari	0.0121408	Abdul Bari Khan, S/o. Abdul Sakur Khan - 271

36	272	Private	Chaka	0.0072845	Farida Begum, W/o. Mursid Alli Kismat 8 ana of Village, Brahmarabada, Saib Akatar, S/o. Mohammad Sadak Kismat 8ana - 272
37	273	Private	Chaka	0.0072845	Sk. Amin Hosen, S/o. Sk. Abdul Gafar - 273
38	275	Private	Sarada Jala Dofasal - I	0.0194253	Laxmidhar Moharana, Paramananda Moharana, Dharanidhar Moharana, S/o. Sunakar Moharana, Kulamani Moharana, S/o. Sunakar Moharana, Kismat 8ana Mohan Chandra Moharana, Chaitanya Kumar Moharana, Kailash Moharana, S/o. Purna Chandra Moharana kismat 3ana Jagannath Moharana, Pyus Ranjan Moharana, S/o. Pravakar Moharana, Amit Kumar Moharana, S/o. Pravakar Moharana kismat one ana of Village: Samantarapur, P.S.: Jajpur, Umesh Chandra Sahoo, Ramesh Chandra Sahoo, S/o. Damodar Sahoo, Manas Kumar Sahoo, S/o. Damodar Sahoo kismat 4 ana of Village: Rasik Nagar, P.S.: Tangi, Dist.: Cuttack - 275
39	276	Government	Sarada Jala Dofasal - I	0.0315662	Irrigation Department Government of Odisha - 276
Village: Sundaria - 784					
40	270	Private	Gharabari	0.0121408	Kiranbala Behera, W/o. Krushna Chandra Behera, Prafulla Chandra Behera, S/o. Krushna Chandra Behera of Nijagan - 270
Village: Rathia - 789					
41	770	Private (Gharabari)	Gharabari	0.0060704	Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo, S/o. Pranakrushna Sahoo - 770
42	772	Private	Chaka	0.0020235	Baikunthanath Sahoo, Mrtyunjaya Sahoo, S/o. Krushna Chandra Sahoo - 772
43	773	Private	Gharabari	0.0064751	Trilochan Biswal, S/o. Krushna Chandra Biswal, Sima Biswal, W/o. Sanjaya Kumar Biswal - 773
44	774	Private (Chaka)	Chaka	0.0020235	Anuwar Mohammad, Manuwar Mohammad, S/o. Abdul Mohammad - 774
45	777	Private	Gharabari	0.0161878	Baikunhanath Sahoo, Mrtyunjaya Sahoo, S/o. Krushna Chandra Sahoo - 777
46	786	Private	Gharabari	0.0364225	Krushna Chandra Sahoo, Narayan Sahoo, Gobinda Chandra Sahoo, S/o. Uchhab Sahoo, Indramani Sahoo, S/o. Chuin Sahoo - 786
47	787	Private	Chaka	0.0412788	Dhirendra Kuamr Sahoo, S/o. Ganeswar Sahoo - 787
48	788	Private	Chaka	0.0020235	Kedarnath Nayak, S/o. Chakradhar Nayak - 788
49	789	Private	Chaka	0.0020235	Manata Prasad Gupta, Sadananda Gupta, Paramananda Gupta, Shrmananda Gupta, S/o. Singhasan Gupta - 789
50	790	Private	Patita	0.0202347	Laxman Dash, Bharat Dash, S/o. Sahar Dash - 790
51	791	Government	Nayanjori	0.0323756	Purtabibhag - 791
52	792	Private	Chaka	0.0546338	Laxman Dash, Bharat Dash, S/o. Sahar Dash - 792
53	804	Private	Chaka	0.029138	Banshidhar Swain, S/o. Daitari Swain - 804
54	805	Private	Chaka	0.0036423	Surendra Biswal, Bhikari Charan Biswal, Pabitra Biswal, Tapan Biswal, S/o. Bhagaban Biswal - 805
55	806	Private	Chaka	0.0036423	Bhagaban Biswal, S/o. Krushna Chandra Dakhinray - 806
56	807	Private	Chaka	0.0202347	Bhagaban Biswal, S/o. Krushna Chandra Dakhinray, Dhirendra Kuamr Biswal, S/o. Surendra Kumar Biswal - 807
Taluk: Rasulpur					
Village: Suansahi - 71					
57	1765	Private	Sarad Anajala Sechita - III	0.0652	Manu Mallik, S/o. Rai Mallik - 1765
58	1773	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0202	Bhagaban Sundarray, S/o. Bharatabandhu Sundarray - 1773
59	1774/ 2103	Private	Sarada Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0081	Rabinarayan Aich, Biranchinarayan Aich, Narendra Kumar Aich, S/o. Harekrushna Aich - 1774/2103
60	1775	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.004	Narana Aich, S/o. Raghunath Aich, Kuntala Aich, W/o. Raghunath Aich - 1775
61	1775/2104	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.004	Rabinarayan Aich, Biranchinarayan Aich, Narendra Kumar Aich, S/o. Harekrushna Aich - 1775/2104
62	1776	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0081	Akshaya Kumar Aich, S/o. Rajkishore Aich - 1776
63	1795	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.004	Naran Malik, Karunakar Malik, Debakar Malik, Girirdhari Malik, Rama Malik, Laxmidhar Malik, Gouranga Malik, S/o. Bhagu Malik, Kuntala Malik, W/o. Bhagu Malik of Nijagan - 1795
64	1822	Private	Gharabari	0.0202	Parameswar Malik, S/o.Indra Malik, Hari Malik, Nari Malik, Sambhunath Malik, S/o.Kali Malik, Gagan Malik, Panchanan Malik, Raghav Malik, Pandab Malik, S/o. Shyam Malik, Muturi Malik, W/o. Syama, Baja Malik, S/o. Balei Malik, Kanda Malik, Nanda Malik, Manu Malik, S/o. Rai Malik, Dhruba Malik, S/o. Bai Malik, Sudarsan Malik, Keshab Malik, Bhaskar Malik, Minaketan Malik, S/o. Babaji Malik, Malli Malik, W/o.Babaji Malik, Bhikari Malik, Krushna Chandrn Malik, S/o. Baishnab Malik, Kanhei Malik S/o. Maguni Malik of Nijagan - 1822
65	1824	Private	Gharabari	0.0364	Parameswar Malik, S/o.Indra Malik, Hari Malik, Nari Malik, Sambhunath Malik, S/o.Kali Malik, Gagan Malik, Panchanan Malik, Raghav Malik, Pandab Malik, S/o. Shyam Malik, Muturi Malik, W/o. Syama, Baja Malik, S/o. Balei Malik, Kanda Malik, Nanda Malik, Manu Malik, S/o. Rai Malik, Dhruba Malik, S/o. Bai, Sudarsan Malik, Keshab Malik, Bhaskar Malik, Minaketan Malik, S/o. Babaji Malik, Malli Malik, W/o.Babaji Malik, Bhikari Malik, Krushna Chandrn Malik, S/o. Baishnab Malik, Kanhei Malik S/o. Maguni Malik of Nijagan - 1824
66	1825/2276	Private	Gharabari	0.0121	Hari Malik, Nari Malik, Sambhunath Malik, S/o. Kali Malik of Nijagan 1825/2776
67	1833	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0121	Sahadeb Khuntia, S/o. Basu Khuntia of Nijagan - 1833
68	1837	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0202	Janaki Sahoo, W/o. Prabhakar Sahoo - 1837
69	1841	Private	Gharabari	0.0121	Umesh Chandra Mallik, S/o. Bhikari Charan Mallik - 1841
70	1842	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.004	Panchanan Sahoo, S/o. Nidhi Sahoo of Nijagan - 1842
71	1850	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0162	Nanda Malik, S/o. Rai Malik of Nijagan - 1850
72	1851	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0202	Bhikari Charan Malik, Krushna Chandra Malik, S/o. Baishnab Malik, Baja Malik, S/o. Balei Malik of Nijagan - 1851
73	1852	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.0121	Madhusudan Malik, S/o. Ratnakar Malik of Nijagan - 1852
74	1854	Private	Gharabari	0.0202	Madhusudan Malik, S/o. Ratnakar Malik of Nijagan - 1854
75	1864	Private	Sarad Ana Jalasechita - III	0.004	Kumudini Mallik, W/o. Umesh Chandra Mallik of Viilage: Nijagan - 1864

see next page

international

of the day quote

US is getting along with China very well. We have a very good relationship

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the UK's role in de-escalation of tensions during the Pakistan-India standoff and reiterated that Pakistan was ready for a meaningful dialogue with India on all outstanding issues

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Failure of a state to take appropriate action to protect the climate system... may constitute an internationally wrongful act

YUI IWASAWA | UN COURT PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Racist attack: Indian student hospitalised

Melbourne: An Indian student, Charanpreet Singh, has been hospitalised after sustaining injuries in an alleged racist attack in Australia's Adelaide, local media reported. Singh, 23, was assaulted by a group of men in a parking lot Saturday in Kintore Avenue over a parking dispute, 9news reported Tuesday. Singh said the group approached his vehicle and hurled racist abuse, before beating him unconscious, the report said. "I've suffered trauma to the head, torn tissue around my left eye, and swelling in my jaw. The swelling in my head still hasn't gone down," SBS Punjabi quoted Singh as saying. A 20-year-old man from Enfield has been arrested after the incident and was charged with assault causing harm, 9news reported. Police have appealed to the public for information regarding the other attackers, who fled the scene.

Pak, B'desh reach agreement on visa

Islamabad: Pakistan and Bangladesh Wednesday reached an agreement to permit visa-free entry for holders of diplomatic and official passports. The decision was taken at a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Lieutenant General (retired) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in Dhaka, the state-run Radio Pakistan reported. The move signals a further thaw in bilateral ties long shaped by historical hostility, observers opine. Relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh have witnessed a marked improvement following the establishment of the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka.

Iraqi gov resigns after mall fire

Baghdad: The governor of an Iraqi province where a fire in a shopping mall killed more than 60 people resigned Wednesday. The fire last Wednesday tore through a newly opened shopping centre in the town of Kut in Wasit province. While an investigation is ongoing, officials and residents have said that lack of safety measures in the building exacerbated the tragedy. Provincial Gov Mohammed al-Miyahi said he had resigned "in honour of the blood of the martyrs, as they are in need of a gesture that may soothe part of their deep wounds, and in loyalty to them and to the people of this province". The provincial council elected a new governor, Hadi Majid Kazzar.

BANGLADESH JET CRASH

Teacher dies saving students from inferno



At least 29 people, most of them children, were killed when the F-7 BGI crashed into the school, trapping them in fire and debris

REUTERS

Dhaka, July 23: When a Bangladesh Air Force fighter jet crashed into her school and erupted in a fireball Monday, Maherin Chowdhury rushed to save some of the hundreds of students and teachers facing mortal danger, placing their safety before her own. The 46-year-old English teacher went back again and again into a burning classroom to rescue her students, even as her own clothes were engulfed in flames, her brother, Munaf Mojib Chowdhury, told Reuters by telephone. Maherin died Monday after suffering near total burns on her body. She is survived by her husband and two teenaged sons. "When her husband called her, pleading with her to leave

the scene and think of her children, she refused, saying 'they are also my children, they are burning. How can I leave them?'" Chowdhury said. At least 29 people, most of them children, were killed when the F-7 BGI crashed into the school, trapping them in fire and debris. The military said the aircraft had suffered mechanical failure. "I don't know exactly how many she saved, but it may have been at least 20. She pulled them out with her own hands," he said, adding that he found out about his sister's act of bravery when he visited the hospital and met students she had rescued. The jet had taken off from a nearby air base on a routine training mission, the military said. After experiencing mechanical failure the pilot tried to divert the aircraft away from populated areas, but it crashed into the campus. The pilot was among those killed. "When the plane crashed and fire broke out, everyone was running to save their lives, she ran to save others," Khadija Akter, the headmistress of the school's primary section, told Reuters on phone about Maherin.

PM Oli's party rejects ex-prez's bid to re-join party politics

Kathmandu: Nepal's ruling CPN-UML has blocked former president Bidya Devi Bhandari's bid to re-enter active politics, saying it would be inappropriate for a former head of state to engage in a partisan role. During a meeting of the CPN-UML's Central Committee, the party also endorsed the proposed statute amendment - passed by the party's Secretariat and Politburo - to remove the age limit of 70 years and the two-term cap for leadership. With this amendment, 74-year-old Prime Minister and CPN-UML chairman KP Sharma Oli, who is serving his second term as party chairman, can continue to serve the party in his position. Bhandari's decision to re-join party politics was anticipated as a challenge to Oli, who has been elected as the party's chairman twice. He is planning to contest for the post of the party's chairperson for the third time. Briefing the media, party's General Secretary Shanker Pokharel said Wednesday that Bhandari's general membership of the party has become ineffective as the central committee made the decision towards that direction. The central committee has concluded that it is not appropriate for the former president to return to party politics, Pokharel said.

May 9 riot: 7 leaders of Khan's party get 10-year jail term

Lahore: Seven prominent leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Tuesday were sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment in the 2023 riots cases. "The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore handed down 10-year sentences each to Senator Ijaz Chaudhry, former Punjab governor Sarfraz Cheema, former provincial ministers Yasmin Rashid and Mahmoodur Rashid, and Advocate Azeem Pahat, who contested the last election against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore, in the May 9, 2023, case related to the Sharpao Bridge riots," a court official told PTI. All these leaders are facing multiple May 9 cases under terrorism charges. Political observers anticipate that these leaders may also be convicted in other May 9 cases. The court, however, acquitted PTI vice-chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in this case. In a separate case, ATC Sargodha handed down a 10-year jail term to Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar, PTI parliamentarian Ahmed Chattha, and former lawmaker Bilal Ejaz in the May 9 case.

SNIPPETS

REUTERS

Munich/Berlin/Frankfurt, July 23: Germany is undergoing a dramatic defence transformation, aiming to become a central force in Europe's military rearmament. Triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and growing doubts about US security guarantees, Chancellor Friedrich Merz's government is fast-tracking investment in AI, robotics, and defence startups, reshaping a sector long hindered by bureaucracy and pacifist tradition.

STARTUPS AT THE CORE

Munich-based Helsing, Europe's most valuable defence startup at \$12 billion, and ARX Robotics, a maker of autonomous tank-like robots, are part of a booming ecosystem. These firms, once starved of capital, are now advising the government alongside estab-

lished giants like Rheinmetall and Hensoldt. Berlin is cutting red tape to fast-track innovation, including a draft procurement law enabling upfront payments and limiting tenders to EU firms. DEFENCE BUDGET SURGE Germany plans to nearly triple its annual defence budget to 162 billion by 2029, committing to NATO's 3.5% of GDP target faster than most allies. Defence Minister Boris Pistorius declared, "Money is no longer an excuse - it's there now." AI and drone warfare are prioritized, as Berlin aims to rival US defence tech leaders like Lockheed Martin and Anduril.

FROM PACIFISM TO POWERHOUSE

Long hesitant due to WWII legacy, Germany's attitude has shifted sharply. Defence innovation is now seen as both a strategic and economic imperative. Military R&D is



being likened to the WWII-era Manhattan Project. Already the second-largest military backer of Ukraine after the US, Germany is increasingly viewed as Europe's defence leader.

SPY COCKROACHES AND BATTLEFIELD AI

Startups like Swarm Biotactics are developing cybernetic

We all hear what society is saying. We see what people expect from state institutions - ensured justice and the effective functioning of each institution

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINIAN

Brahmaputra dam will not impact India, B'desh: China

Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the start of the construction of the dam in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra River, locally known as Yarlung Zangbo, at Nyingchi City located close to the Line of Actual Control in the Arunachal Pradesh sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 23: China Wednesday defended the launch of the construction of a dam over the Brahmaputra river in the ecologically sensitive Tibet region and allayed concerns over its impact in the lower riparian countries such as India and Bangladesh. It is learnt that India is keeping a close eye on the construction of what is said to be the world's largest hydropower dam. Chinese Premier Li Qiang Saturday announced the start of the construction of the dam in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra River, locally known as Yarlung Zangbo, at Nyingchi City located close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Arunachal Pradesh sector. The project "will not have any negative impact on the downstream regions", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a media briefing, while responding to a question on concerns in India and Bangladesh over the dam. There have been mounting concerns in India over the potential environmental impact of the dam. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu recently called it a ticking "water bomb", an existential threat and a bigger issue than any-



Critics point out that the dams in Brahmaputra present an enormous engineering challenges as the project site is located along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur frequently

The Tibetan plateau, regarded as the roof of the world, periodically experiences earthquakes as it is located over the tectonic plates

thing else apart from the military threat. In an interview to PTI Videos July 8, Khandu said the world's largest dam project on the Brahmaputra river is a matter of grave concern as China is not a signatory to the international water treaty that could have forced it to abide by international norms. "The issue is that China cannot be trusted. No one knows what they might do," said Khandu. The dam is expected to generate more than 300 billion kWh of electricity each year, enough to meet the annual needs of over 300 million people. Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water that could flood border areas on the Indian side. Playing down the concerns of the lower riparian states, Guo said China has cooperated with them by sharing hydrological data, flood prevention and disaster alleviation. China had necessary commu-

nication with the two countries on the project, he said, adding that China would continue to enhance cooperation with downstream countries to benefit the people along the river. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said the development of the project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River is a matter of China's sovereignty. The project was aimed at building clean energy, improving local people's lives and in response to climate change, he added. In the planning, design and construction of the hydro power projects in the lower reaches, China strictly follows the highest industrial standards in protecting ecological environment in an all-round way, he said. He also claimed that the development of the project will help prevent disasters along the whole river and will not have a negative impact on the downstream regions. China has already operationalised the \$1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet, in 2015, which raised concerns in India.



A horseback rider performs a fire stunt during a show organized for the participants of the "Gallops" orienteering and endurance equestrian race, involving international teams of 5 or 6 members, near Lake Song Kol in an alpine valley in the Naryn region, Kyrgyzstan

REUTERS

Spy cockroaches, AI robots: Germany plots the future of warfare

- Two of three European defence "unicorns" are German
- Government more supportive of defence startups, CEOs say
- Govt creating fast track to bypass procurement red tape, sources say
- Smaller firms advising govt alongside Rheinmetall, source says

ECONOMIC BOOST FROM DEFENCE

Germany's economy, hit by energy costs and weak exports, may benefit from the defence pivot. Defence-driven innovation has historically created civilian breakthroughs, from the internet to GPS. Engineering talent from struggling sectors like automotive is already migrating to startups. Stefan Thumann of Donaustahl, which

makes loitering munitions, reports daily applications from auto workers. RISING INVESTMENT AND GLOBAL ROLE Venture capital funding in German defence startups reached \$1.4 billion over five years—Europe's highest. The number jumped to \$1 billion in 2024 alone. Unicorns like Helsing, Quantum Systems (drones), and Portugal's Tekever are evidence of Europe's changing landscape. The US began funding startups years earlier, but Europe is rapidly catching up, with 19 countries projected to outspend the US in procurement this year. Germany is no longer the reluctant military power of old. By embracing defence innovation, empowering startups, and ramping up spending, it's setting the pace for Europe's future of warfare—powered by AI, robotics, and even cyborg insects.

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Real Estate Ltd (ABREL) Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 27.08 crore for the first quarter of this fiscal. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 17.35 crore in the year-ago period. Total income also declined to Rs 157.41 crore during the April-June period of FY26 from Rs 365.24 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing.

New Delhi: Global Payments firm PayPal Wednesday announced a tie-up with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for integration of UPI on PayPal World's platform for seamless cross border payment. This is part of a series of global partnerships unveiled by the company that will connect many of the world's largest payment systems and digital wallets on a single platform, starting with interoperability with PayPal and Venmo. Together, the launch partners represent nearly two billion users globally, PayPal said in a statement. The announcement outlines the vision for PayPal World and how it will transform the way people send money, shop online, in-store, and with AI agents across borders, it said. The challenge of moving money across borders is incredibly complex, and yet this platform will make it so simple for nearly two billion consumers and businesses, said PayPal President and CEO Alex Chriss. Speaking on the development, NPCI International Payments Ltd MD & CEO Ritesh Shukla said the integration of UPI on PayPal World's platform will mark a significant step in expanding UPI's global footprint. It aligns with our vision to make cross-border payments more seamless, secure, and inclusive.

India reach 264/4 at stumps

Fifties from Jaiswal, Sudharsan steer India to commanding position



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, July 23: Sai Sudharsan made the opportunity count in his comeback game with a fifty while Rishabh Pant suffered another injury as India played the old-fashioned way to reach 264 for four at stumps on day one of the fourth Test here Wednesday.

At stumps, Ravindra Jadeja (19 batting off 37) and Shardul Thakur (19 batting off 36) were holding fort in fading light.

Put in to bat in overcast conditions, Indian openers KL Rahul (46 off 98 balls) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (58 off 107) put on 94 runs for their highest stand of the series before Sudharsan (61 off 151) produced a dogged knock under pressure to justify his selection over Karun Nair.

Batting alongside Sudharsan, Pant (37 retired hurt off 48) had just started

flexing his muscles before missing a reverse hit off a full ball from Chris Woakes.

The impact of the ball was on Pant's right foot, leaving him in a lot of pain and eventually he had to be taken off the field in a golf cart.

There were also blood stains on the foot, enough to unsettle the Indian fans and the dressing room. Pant

had come into this must-win game after recovering from a finger injury he suffered while keeping during the Lord's Test.

The sun stayed away for the majority of the day but the slow nature of the pitch gave the batters enough time to tackle the extra pace of Jofra Archer.

While Sudharsan was at

the crease, he looked comfortable and also had luck going his way, having been dropped down the leg side on 20 by keeper Jamie Smith off Ben Stokes.

He rode that luck to play a couple of pull shots off Archer before playing a crisp back foot punch off Stokes.

Until his injury, Pant played his usual way, successfully sweeping Archer before dispatching Carse for a six down the ground.

In the afternoon session, England removed a well set Rahul and Jaiswal before sending back Shubman Gill to leave India at 149 for three at tea.

Despite backing Nair on the eve of the game, Gill dropped the number three batter for Sudharsan.

The other two were forced changes with uncapped Anshul Kamboj and Shardul Thakur making way for the injured Akash Deep and Nitish Reddy respectively.

BRIEF SCORES

India: 264 for 4 in 83 overs (Sai Sudharsan 61, Yashasvi Jaiswal 58, KL Rahul 46; Ben Stokes 2/47) vs **England**

Farokh devastated over 'not receiving recognition' in India

Farokh Engineer was Wednesday bestowed with a rare honour of having a stand named after an Indian cricketer in an overseas ground – the storied Old Trafford in Manchester. The B Stand, located in between the Player and Media Centre and the extension of the Hilton hotel at Old Trafford, was formally named as the Sir Clive Lloyd and Farokh Engineer Stand before the toss of the fourth Test. Both Engineer and legendary West Indies captain Lloyd were in attendance as the stand was unveiled in recognition of their immense contribution to the Lancashire Cricket Club. "It is a proud moment not only for me but for India as well. Both Clive and I were talking about it in the morning. We never thought something like this would be done in our honour. God is Great. This makes up for not receiving recognition in my own country," Engineer told PTI. Engineer, 87, played the majority of his cricket in Bombay, particularly at the Brabourne Stadium. "It is a shame that my achievements are not recognised where I played most of my cricket," he said.



Learning from internet, teen sets 5 Guinness World Records

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, July 23: Janvi Jindal, a 17-year-old self-taught freestyle skater from Chandigarh, has made history, becoming the youngest girl to hold the maximum Guinness World Records in India with five records to her name.

Janvi also gained recognition for being the youngest person to perform Bhangra on skates. She was featured in the India Book of Records 2021 for this unique feat.

Without any formal coaching, Janvi trained herself using YouTube and home setups, for which she has won multiple national medals and is a pioneer of Bhangra and Yoga on skates. She has set the following records, which have been ratified in the July 2025 edition of Guinness World Records.

Her journey from practising on footpaths to global records is a testament to passion, discipline, and innovation, making her a role model for India's



youth. She is the second person from Chandigarh

after Yuvraj Singh to enter the Guinness World Records. Yuvraj has two records in his name.

Janvi gives credit to her parents for this big achievement.

"Janvi's training began 5-7 years ago. We couldn't find a coach, so I learned from the internet and trained her myself. It was tough balancing work and staying up late to watch videos," said her father, Munish Jindal, who is also her coach and played a pivotal role in her rise.

Janvi said her aim in life is to motivate more children, especially girls, to take up skating and sports. She believes that if anyone has passion for something, it has to be followed to a logical end.

STELLAR SKATER

Most 360-degree rotations on inline skates in 30 seconds – 27 spins

Fastest slalom (20 cones) on two wheels – 8.85 seconds

Most one-wheeled 360-degree spins in 30 seconds – 42 spins

Most one-wheeled 360-degree spins in one minute – 72 spins

Most consecutive one-wheeled 360-degree spins – 22 spins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, through its flagship Sports Training Initiative in Lanjigarh has been supporting young archers from Kalahandi district.

Khirod Kumar, a young archer from the region bagged two gold and one bronze medal at the prestigious CBSE East Zonal

Archery Championship held in Kolkata.

Competing in the Under-19 Indian round category, Khirod displayed remarkable focus and precision to emerge as a top performer. A dedicated student-athlete, he has previously secured five gold medals at the National School Archery Championship and has been receiving structured coaching under Vedanta's Archery Training Initiative for the



past three years. Speaking on the occasion,

Pranab Kumar Bhat-tacharyya-CEO, Vedanta

Alumina Business, said, "Khirodd's achievements is a powerful testament to the transformative impact of our grassroots sports initiatives. At Vedanta, we are deeply committed to empowering rural youth through sports, fostering discipline, confidence, and national pride. We are proud of Khirodd's dedication and talent, and we remain committed to nurturing many more such champions from Kalahandi".

FIDE Women's WC: Divya enters finals

In a historic milestone, Divya becomes the first Indian to make it to the Candidates' tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Batumi (Georgia), July 23: International Master Divya Deshmukh stormed into the final, defeating former world champion Zhongyi Tan of China in the second game of the semifinals and winning the mini-

match 1.5-0.5 in the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup here Wednesday.

The stakes are high here as the final berth also ensured her entry in the women's Candidates' tournament next year that will decide the challenger to Wenjun Ju, the reigning women's world champion.

Having already eliminated second seed Zoner Jhu of China and then compatriot Grandmaster D Harika in the quarter-finals, Divya continued to be the giant slayer of the event and her game against



Tan was a testament to her growing chess skills.

With the Indian boys making a great headway at the top of the chess world, it was already time for

the girls to have a say and Divya is the new girl on the block after R Vaishali.

Divya had an outside passed pawn after the dust subsided and it should have been an easy picking, but the fortunes fluctuated a lot. For the record, the game lasted 101 moves.

In the second semifinal, Koneru Humpy drew with top seed Tingjie Lei of China. Playing white, Humpy faced the Slav defense and went for the iconic exchange variation that normally yields to either equal or giving white the better prospect.

Sports governance bill introduced for greater transparency in NSFs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Wednesday introduced the National Sports Governance Bill in Lok Sabha that proposes to institute a Board which will have sweeping powers to lay down rules and oversee the functioning of federations, including the cash-rich BCCI.

Mandaviya introduced the bill that has provisions for a National Sports Board (NSB) to create a stringent system of accountability. All National Sports Federations (NSFs) will have to attain NSB's recognition for access to central government funding.

Another striking feature is the proposal for a

National Sports Tribunal, which will have the powers of a civil court and decide disputes ranging from selection to election involving federations and athletes. Once instituted, Tribunal's decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court.

The bill makes some concessions on the issue of age cap for administrators by allowing those in the bracket of 70 to 75 to contest elections if the concerned international bodies' statutes and bye-laws allow for it. It is a departure from the national sports code that capped the age limit at 70.

"...as a part of the preparatory activities for the bidding of Summer Olympic Games 2036, it is imperative



that the sports governance landscape undergoes a positive transformation to bring better outcomes, sporting excellence and aids in improved performance in major international competitions," read the bill's statement of objectives. All recognised national sports bodies would also come under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act,

something that the BCCI has vehemently opposed since it is not dependent on government funding.

"Now we have to study the bill and we will have to see if we need to place it before the Committee (Apex Council). We can only comment after that," BCCI vice President and Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Shukla said outside

the Parliament. "Obviously BCCI members will study the bill and its clauses and if put forth to any committee, they will study and then we will see what needs to be done. We will also have discussions with the government," he added.

The NSB will comprise a chairperson and its members will be appointed by the central government from "amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing." The Board's constituents will also be expected to possess "special knowledge or practical experience in the field of public administration, sports governance, sports law and other related fields."

The appointments would be done based on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection com-

mittee, according to the draft bill that has been finalised after extensive consultations with stakeholders and public inputs.

The selection committee would be made up of the Cabinet Secretary or Secretary Sports as chairperson, the Director General of the Sports Authority of India, two sports administrators who have each served as the President or Secretary General or Treasurer of a National Sports Body and one eminent sportsperson who is a Dronacharya, or Khel Ratna or Arjuna awardee.

The bill also provides for a National Sports Election Panel consisting of former members of the Election Commission of India or the State Election Commission

or former Chief Electoral Officers of the States or Deputy Election Commissioners.

Mandaviya also introduced The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill-2025 that seeks to incorporate the changes sought by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which objected to "government interference" in the functioning of the country's Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

The act was originally passed in 2022 but its implementation had to be put on hold due to objections raised by WADA. The world body objected to the institution of a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports, which was empowered to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulations.

USOPC bars transgender women from competing in women's sports

REUTERS

Washington, July 23: The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has updated its policy to align with an executive order signed earlier this year by US President Donald Trump barring transgender women from competing in women's sports.

"The USOPC will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities, e.g., IOC, IPC, NGBs, to ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act," the USOPC said in an update to its Athlete Safety Policy.

The USOPC did not respond to a request for comment on the change.

USOPC President Gene Sykes and CEO Sarah Hirshland referenced Trump's executive order in a memo to the Team USA community sent out this week, ABC News reported, which said, "As a federally chartered organization, we have an obligation to comply with federal expectations."

Trump signed the "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" order in February in a bid to exclude transgender girls and women from female sports, a directive that supporters said will restore fairness but critics argue it infringes on the rights of a tiny minority of athletes.

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | JULY 24, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

MEETLE MEET 2025

OrissaPOST

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

QUIZ Extravaganza

RULES & REGULATIONS

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

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



SAROJ NAG



OMM PRAKASH SAHOO

Others who answered correctly are

Dr Joseph John, Parsuram Swain, Sarthak Sushobhit, Rajendra Kumar Panda, BishnuPrasada Dash, Madan Harijan, Firoja Kumar Badhai, Sachim Minj, Ayushi Pradhan, Gobinda Sahoo, Divyanshu Mohanty, Dinabandhu Pradhan, Himansu Sekhar Behera

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