



Nargis schools troll

Actor Nargis Fakhri reminds a troll that ageing is not just natural; it is something to be embraced

LEISURE | **P2**



Hasina in soup

Bangladesh's ousted and self-exiled PM Sheikh Hasina sentenced to six months in prison in a contempt of court case

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Expensive rides

Central government allows cab aggregators to charge up to two times the base fare during peak hours

BUSINESS | **P11**



Unbeaten run

Indian women's football team thrashes Iraq 5-0 in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

SPORTS | **P12**

Window frame of Spicejet aircraft dislodges mid-air

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 2: A window frame of Spice Jet's aircraft operating its flight to Pune from Goa was found dislodged mid-air but there was no impact on passengers' safety, the airline said Wednesday.

The frame was fixed once the aircraft landed at the next (Pune) airport, in accordance with standard maintenance procedures, the airline said in a statement. SpiceJet, however, did not share other details.

"A cosmetic (interior) window frame on one of the Q400 Aircraft became loose during flight and was found dislodged," the airline said in a statement.

SpiceJet also said that cabin pressurisation remained normal throughout the flight, and there was no impact on passenger safety, adding that the dislodged part was a non-structural trim component, fitted onto the window for the purpose of shade, and did not compromise the safety or integrity of the aircraft in any way.

Questioning the airworthiness of the aircraft, a passenger posted a video of the dislodged window on social media platform X, while tagging the aviation safety regulator DGCA in the post.



ON THE EDGE: A house damaged following cloudbursts and flash floods at Seraj in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, Wednesday. The death toll has risen to 11, with search underway for 34 missing people **(Report P8)**

PTI PHOTO

Congress slams govt over rise in per capita debt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The Congress Wednesday slammed the Centre over the rise in the per capita debt of individual borrowers and said the government is constantly trying to hide the real shortcomings by taking the help of statistics and experts, but the debt burden on the country is at its peak in Modi Raj.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared screenshots of media reports to attack the government.

One media report stated that the average debt of every person in the country has increased by ₹90,000 in the last two years and the per capita debt of individual borrowers increased to ₹4.8 lakh in March 2025 from ₹3.9 lakh in March 2023. The other report shared by Ramesh said 25.7 per cent of the common man's disposable income is going towards paying EMIs of loans which are non-productive for him in the future.

Ramesh said the latest report of the Reserve Bank of India has revealed a worrying picture of India's economy. In 2 years, the per capita debt has increased by ₹90,000 to ₹4.8 lakh, he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Just keep raising the fuel prices and toll tax—people will even junk their new cars!

SHORT TAKES

Parl Monsoon session from July 21 to Aug 21

New Delhi: The government Wednesday said the Monsoon session of Parliament will begin July 21 and continue till August 21, a week longer than planned earlier, signalling a heavy legislative agenda. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said President Droupadi Murmu has approved the government's proposal to convene the Session from July 21 to August 21. "In view of Independence Day celebrations, there will be no sittings on the 13th and 14th of August," Rijiju said in a post on X. Earlier, the session was to conclude August 12, but now it has been extended by a week. The longer duration of the session comes amid the government's plans to bring in key legislations, including one to facilitate the entry of the private sector in the atomic energy domain.

4 from Odisha killed in T'gana factory blast

Bhubaneswar: At least four workers from Odisha were killed and four others injured in the explosion at a pharmaceutical factory in Telangana, an officer said Wednesday. So far, 36 people were killed and several others injured in the powerful blast at a pharmaceutical manufacturing unit in Telangana's Sangareddy district. The explosion occurred Monday at Sigachi Industries' plant in Pashamylaram. The deceased were identified as R Jagannathan from Chatrapur area in Ganjam district, Lagnajit Duari from Tigiria area in Cuttack district, Manoj Rout from Simulia in Balasore district and Dolagovind Sahu from Dharmasala in Jajpur district, he said.

OFFICIAL WORK PARALYSED ACROSS STATE

Resume duty, govt appeals to officers

OAS Association demands immediate arrest of BJP leader Jagannath Pradhan

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 2: With official work across Odisha paralysed for two days because of a 'cease work' by Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) and Odisha Revenue Service (ORS) officers, the state government Wednesday appealed to the agitating officers to resume duty.

State government officials launched the protest Tuesday; a day after BMC Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo was dragged out of his office and assaulted by a group of miscreants. Five people have been arrested so far in connection with the incident.

To resolve the ongoing deadlock, CM Mohan Charan Majhi convened a meeting with senior officials. After the meeting, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari urged the officers to end their agitation and assured that such an incident would not happen again.



He said the OAS Association has already held meetings with the CM and the Chief Secretary. "If they (officers) want, we are ready for further discussions. This is not the proper time to go on 'cease work'. I appeal to them to resume their duties. We can hold discussions on their demands," Pujari said.

He also pointed to the ongoing flood situation in parts of northern Odisha and the Rath Yatra festival as reasons why the agitation is untimely.

In their memorandum to the Chief Secretary, the agitating officers demanded the arrest of BJP leader Jagannath Pradhan for his alleged involvement in

the attack, adequate security for all field-level executive officers to discharge their duties, and public condemnation of the incident by the government.

On OAS Association's demand for arrest of Pradhan, Pujari said, "Police are investigating the incident from all angles. Once they complete the investigation, it can be ascertained who was behind the assault. It will not be right to arrest someone without an investigation. So, let's allow the law to take its course."

Meanwhile, Pradhan stated that he had a meeting with party president Manmohan Samal Wednesday and that he would accept whatever decision the party takes. Samal said the party would take a decision after conducting a review.

Due to the absence of sufficient field-level and district officers, government and public service works have almost come to a standstill, an officer said.

Landslide disrupts train services

Normal life in Koraput thrown out of gear due to heavy rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, July 2: Train services on the Koraput-Kirandul route were completely disrupted Wednesday afternoon after a massive landslide near Jarati village blocked the railway tracks.

According to Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shak Sandeep, the landslide, which occurred around 3:15pm near Jarati station in Koraput block, led to the cancellation of three express trains for the day.

Due to the blockage, the Jagdalpur-Rourkela Express narrowly escaped the affected zone and is now stranded at Maliguda station. Similarly, the 18448 Hirakhand Express from



Jagdalpur to Bhubaneswar has been halted at Jeypore station.

The Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Express, along with two other trains scheduled to run Wednesday, has been cancelled due to the obstruction.

A rescue team has been dispatched from Koraput to the site of the incident. The landslide occurred around the 208-km mark between Jarati and

Chit fund scam: CM orders compensation to 5L more

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday directed authorities to compensate an additional 5 lakh small depositors who were duped by different chit fund companies in the state.

The depositors will get back their money within three to

four months, a release by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. The CMO stated that the new government has disbursed ₹47.07 crore to 1,26,137 small investors over the past year.

Between 2014 and 2024, the previous BJD government had refunded only ₹119 crore to 2,79,109 small investors, officials claimed.

Dalai Lama says he will be reincarnated

The Dalai Lama's affirmation that his spiritual lineage will continue after his death has reignited tensions with China, which insists it holds the sole authority to approve reincarnations of the Tibetan Buddhist leader. By declaring that the Gaden Phodrang Trust alone will oversee the identification of the 15th Dalai Lama, he directly challenges China's long-standing claim of control over Tibetan religious succession. The Dalai Lama's move, just days ahead of his 90th birthday, reinforces Tibetan autonomy in spiritual matters and sends a clear signal to exiled communities and international supporters. It also undercuts China's attempts to manipulate religious traditions for political gain, particularly in its efforts to name a rival Dalai Lama in the future, a prospect many Tibetans fear and reject.

REUTERS

Dharamshala, July 2: The elderly Dalai Lama assured his followers Wednesday that upon his death he would be reincarnated as the next spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and spelt out a succession process that sets up a renewed clash

with China.

The eagerly awaited statement, made days before the frail Nobel peace laureate turns 90, puts to rest speculation, started by the Dalai Lama himself, that he may be the last of Tibet's spiritual leaders, ending a line that stretches back centuries.



Speaking during a week of celebrations in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamshala to mark his birthday, the Dalai Lama said a non-profit institution he has set up will have the sole authority to identify his reincarnation, countering China's insistence that it will choose his successor.

Beijing reiterated Wednesday that it had to approve the reincarnation and that it had to be done in China through a centuries-old ritual.

Beijing views the Dalai Lama, who fled to India from Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, as a separatist. The Dalai Lama

has said his successor will be

born outside China and urged

his followers to reject anyone

chosen by Beijing. In previous

years, he had also said it was

possible that there might be no

successor at all.

"I am affirming that the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue," the Dalai Lama said in a video message, setting off

claps and cheers from more than 100 monks in maroon robes who had gathered in a library in Dharamshala.

The event was also attended by journalists from around the world and long-time supporters including Hollywood star Richard Gere, who sat in the audience in a hall that had ornate paintings of the Buddha and photographs of the Dalai Lama on the walls.

LADY TEACHER HELD FOR RAPING STUDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 2: A 40-year-old woman teacher from a prominent school in Mumbai has been arrested for allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old male student, a police official said Wednesday. The English language teacher, who is married, took the minor to luxury hotels where she allegedly abused him, the official said.

The woman, who was taken into custody last week, was so obsessed with the minor that she tried to contact him even after he passed out of school this year, police said.

According to the police official, the accused became attracted to her student during various meetings in connection with the school's annual function in December 2023. She allegedly made her first sexual advance in January 2024.

Soon after the accused teacher started taking the teenager to expensive hotels to sexually assault him, the student developed acute anxiety. She then allegedly gave him some anti-anxiety pills, the official said. The boy cleared his Class X exam a few months ago and left the school, but slipped into depression, said the official. His family decided to speak up when the accused again sent the boy a message, through their domestic staff, to meet her, the official said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Today ideas will flood your mind, but it is good that you will be able to carry them out efficiently. However, Ganesha warns you not to take rash decisions. Wise people will help you along the way. Pay heed to the advice of experienced people.

TAURUS
Ganesha predicts that today, you will be successful in money matters. There is, at best, only an outside chance that any stimulating event or thrilling escapade will occur today. In short, the day may be boring. Fret not as the dreary day may change into an exhilarating evening, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI
It is better for you to swim with the current in all of today's dealings, suggests Ganesha. This will help you effortlessly deal with even the most morbid state of affairs. No need to be a hero, today. Pleasure is the key word for you. Your performance will be satisfying at work, and more than satisfying back home.

CANCER
You will not only make plans, but will also act on them. So you can save money, time and energy for creative pursuits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accomplishments in career or business.

LEO
Today, Ganesha advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet. Also, Ganesha reminds you that anybody can enjoy pleasure.

VIRGO
You better identify your worth in the realms of emotions, feelings and sentiments. You shall warm up to and about everything – from play to colleagues to family. Simultaneously, you may realise where your limitations are. Ganesha predicts that the artist in you will flourish beginning today.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that today in your office you should be very careful in your work. It is likely that your superiors will not be happy about your work or your ability today. Those of you who are businessmen should try and delay sending off tenders today. Those who have given their job interviews may not get a favorable response to it. There may be a delay in getting your call letters.

SCORPIO
It is likely that you shall learn an important lesson in life today. Remember that spite and envy beget enemies. Ganesha advises you to display some errors so as to make you seem more human and approachable.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, find yourself driving all your thoughts and actions towards your family. You will also spend some superb time with your dearie and discuss intimate matters. A relaxing day today as you spend time with your friends and family, chilling out and having a good laugh or two.

CAPRICORN
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesha. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them. You will also let them know that they mean the world to you, and no matter what, you will be there whenever they need you.

AQUARIUS
The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

PISCES
For you, today will be all work and no pay, says Ganesha. This, however, will not stop you from putting in extra efforts to finish your pending projects and to meet your deadlines. Who else but a Virgo to handle the pain nonchalantly without bemoaning the lack of pleasure?



SIMONE'S ANXIETY AFTER BRIDGERTON SUCCESS

Bridgerton actress Simone Ashley suffered a lot of anxiety after the Netflix series catapulted her to global fame, so much so she didn't want to leave the house for fear of being recognised. The 30-year-old actress plays Kate Bridgerton in the Netflix megahit.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CANCELS KANYE'S VISA

The Australian government has revoked Kanye West's visa. The country's Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke told *ABC*: "He's been coming to Australia for a long time. "He's got family here and he's made a lot of offensive comments that my officials looked at again."



Shahana on making personal lives public

Mumbai: Versatile actress Shahana Goswami shared her opinion on actors putting their personal lives on social media these days.

When asked "Do you think actors should share their personal lives on social media?" during an exclusive interaction with this agency, she said that this is everyone's personal choice.

Speaking to *IAN S*, Goswami said, "Some people keep their lives private and only post work-related content—I completely respect that. For me, I'm not very active, but I post things I genuinely enjoy—photography, thoughts, and work. It's my way of expressing myself, like a form of personal PR."

"I've built real connections through Instagram, even with people I've never met. There's a balance—I share some personal aspects, but mostly things that reflect who I am authentically. Everyone should do what feels right to them," she added.

IAN S

Nargis schools ageist troll

Mumbai: Actor Nargis Fakhri recently responded powerfully and gracefully to an ageist comment on her latest social media video, reminding fans and trolls alike that ageing is not just natural; it is something to be embraced.

The *Rockstar* actor recently shared a playful and stylish reel on Instagram on the latest viral song *Dame Un Grrr* by Fantomel and Kate Linn. Nargis can be seen transitioning from a no-makeup, tank top and jeans casual look into a stunning, body-hugging grey dress.

While many fans showered her with love, one user decided to point out signs of ageing. The comment read, "Damn she looks old.. we really are growing up". Rather than ignoring the remark, Nargis addressed it head-on, with confidence and fun. Nargis replied to the comment, "Yes u are LOL (laughing emoji) embrace it (sic)"

Many fans came in support of Nargis under the comment and gave their piece of mind. One user said, "She looks pretty young for 45 wdm (sic)?" A second comment read, "Are you kidding, she freaking GORGEOUS (sic)". A third fan wrote, "Ageing like fine wine (fire emoji) (hear emoji)". Another fan went on to say, "She does NOT look her age, totally looks in her 30s. She's ageing like fine wine (sic)." Another fan commented, "What!!!! She looks extremely amazing for her age, though. Anyways, everyone ages."

Two Lord-inspired movies to celebrate Bahuda Yatra



Bhubaneswar: As the state prepares to celebrate Bahuda Yatra, the return journey of Lord Jagannath and His siblings, two Odia films inspired by the Trinity are set to hit screens July 4, offering audiences a devotional cinematic experience deeply rooted in cultural and spiritual identity.

The first film, *Shree Jagannathanka Nabakalebara*, is a grand cinematic adaptation of the deeply spiritual ritual of Nabakalebara, where the wooden idols of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra are ceremonially replaced. After the success of its stage show, Sai Shradha Production Trust is bringing this revered story to the big screen. Directed by Saubhagyalaxmi Jena (Bini) and co-produced with Dilip Kumar Jena, the film is based on the book *Nabakalebara* by Shankar Tripathy. The movie features an ensemble cast including Siddhant Mohapatra, Suryamayee Mohapatra, Jyoti Ranjan Nayak, Sivani Sangita, Pinky Pradhan, Sritam Das, Kuna Tripathy, Meghna Mishra, and Navpreet Arora,

among others.

The second release, *I Am Kalia*, takes a more intimate approach to devotion, focusing on the unwavering faith of Lord Jagannath's devotees in modern times. Directed by and starring Harihar Mohapatra, the film is presented under the banner of Lee Bliss Entertainment and portrays the enduring spiritual bond that people continue to share with Lord Jagannath. The



film also features a unique cast, including renowned Russian theatre actress Aniya, along with Kuna Tripathy, Pushpa Panda, and Satwaki Mishra. The story is written by Monalisa Mahapatra, while Subash Sahu is the producer of the movie.

PNN

Huma talks about being boxed

Mumbai: Actor Huma Qureshi is currently garnering praise for her dance number, *Dil Thaam Ke* in Rajkummar Rao's film *Maalik*. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Huma spoke about how she has been boxed into doing serious roles in Bollywood.

Huma thinks that her choice of serious and intense roles at the beginning of her career stopped filmmakers from giving her a full-fledged dance number in films. She further talked about getting stereotyped and said, "I think why should people box me that you can only do intense film, you are only good or doing this. I am like, who made this rule? Why should I adhere to your idea of what I am good for? I can do this also and that too, and choose when I want to do what."

Talking about the criticism surrounding item songs, Huma said, "There are some songs that are clearly male gaze-driven. Where you know there is objectification of women, and it's being done for a purpose. And as a woman, you get that feeling 'I've ended up in the wrong place'. But as far as you are talking about the song which is celebrating the female form, her sensuality and glamour, there's nothing wrong with it."

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

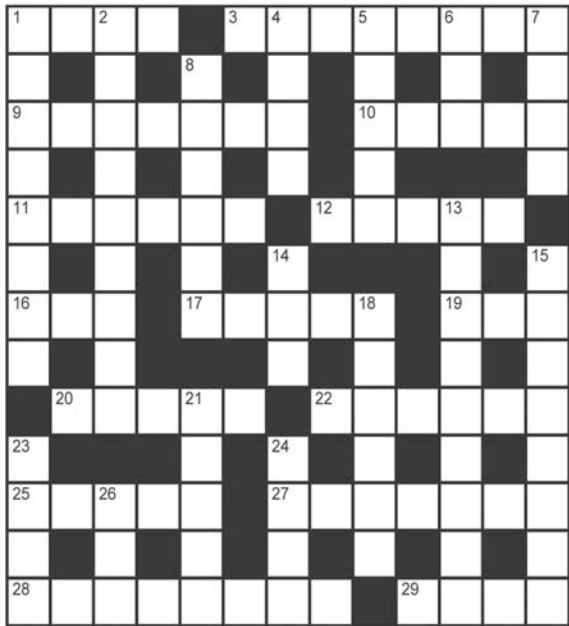


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright © 2025 PuzzleJunction.com

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Across | 25 Discover | 8 Wine order |
| 1 Fortuneteller | 27 Sudden increase | 13 Made loud demands |
| 3 Disney was one | 28 Merits | 14 Epoch |
| 9 Quick bread | 29 Creative spark | 15 Skin cream ingredient (4,4) |
| 10 Place for a barbecue | | 18 Register |
| 11 Hot spots | Down | 21 Like some eclipses |
| 12 Dog command | 1 Kind of hare | 23 Musher's transport |
| 16 Egg cells | 2 Followers | 24 Hoodwink |
| 17 Tidal bore | 4 Call for | 26 Commercials |
| 19 Feel flush | 5 Syrup flavor | |
| 20 Dabbling ducks | 6 Moppet | |
| 22 Nook | 7 Chess piece | |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

BMC reviews security after attack on officer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Following the recent attack on BMC Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) convened a high-level meeting Wednesday to review security protocols and assess the situation.

The meeting, held at the BMC office, was attended by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Twin City Police Commissioner S Debadatta Singh, representatives from Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), the security agency, and members of the civic body’s standing committee.

The meeting primarily focused on evaluating the failure of surveillance systems, especially the malfunctioning of CCTV infrastructure. Officials reviewed existing lapses and



« Mayor Sulochana Das slams BSCL for CCTV failure; demands accountability
« Plans underway to deploy trained ex-servicemen for office security

discussed measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

In the meeting, Singh said, “We are currently analysing the situation, and the investigation is ongoing. The attack on Sahoo took place during a grievance redressal meeting, when the public is allowed into the office. In the meeting, we discussed security arrangements with the BMC Commissioner and are planning to deploy ex-servicemen, who will be given proper training.”

Mayor Sulochana Das also raised concerns over the secu-

rity arrangements at the civic body office and emphasised the need to strengthen them.

“The building is currently maintained by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), and it’s their responsibility to ensure the surveillance system functions properly. The unavailability of CCTV footage from the incident was shocking. BSCL must act responsibly—or step down. We will enhance security at the BMC and shift surveillance responsibility directly to the civic body,” Das said.

19TH FOUNDATION DAY ‘Study Smart’: Mugdha Kalra inspires KiiT Int’l students



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: ‘Study smart,’ urged renowned journalist, author, and neuro-diversity advocate Mugdha Kalra while addressing students during the 19th Foundation Day of KiiT International School. Her impactful message struck a chord with the school community on a day that celebrated inspiration, leadership, and inclusivity.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Kalra stressed the importance of staying grounded in today’s competitive world. “The real struggle lies at the hu-

man level—the constant comparison with peers,” she said. She urged students to maintain balance by staying healthy, staying connected with family and friends, remaining focused, and above all, to “study smart.” Kalra also praised KiiT’s inclusive approach of integrating special needs and mainstream students in the same classrooms, calling it a rare and commendable initiative.

The ceremony began with the oath-taking of the newly-elected Student Cabinet where the young leaders pledged to uphold the values of the school and contribute to the holistic development of their peers.

KiiT International School chairperson Mona Lisa Bal encouraged students to embrace bold thinking. “Don’t be afraid to ask ‘why not?’ Strange ideas change the world,” she said, urging them to lead with empathy and innovation.

KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta congratulated students, teachers, and staff, and expressed pride in the school’s achievements over the past 19 years.

Left parties protest, demand arrests over BMC assault case

Protesters raise slogans, hold placards and banners to press for action



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Members of Left parties, including Communist Party of India (M), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (ML) Liberation and All India Forward Block (AIFB), Wednesday, staged protest at Master Canteen Square here, demanding stringent action against the culprits involved in assaulting BMC’s Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo.

Leaders of the parties includ-

ing Jayant Das, Jyoti Ranjan Mohapatra, Dushmantha Das and Ashok Pradhan were among the attendees.

Protestors held placards, banners and raised slogans in support of their demands.

Das, CPI state secretariat member said, “BJP has become the den of goons. The state government has failed to exercise democratic process in the state. The recent attack on the BMC additional commissioner is a burning example of law and order failure in the state.”

“The government has also

failed to ensure safety of women, dalits, and minorities. The state government should be answerable for its failure. We also demand the arrest of prime accused in the BMC assault case,” Das added.

“If the government can’t protect a senior officer, how can it ensure our safety? It appears to be favouring criminals, as the main accused in the attack has not been arrested yet. We demand every person involved behind the incident should be arrested,” said another protestor.

Rajdhani, Puri-Gunupur Exp add extra coaches

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The East Coast Railway (ECOR) has announced to temporarily add extra AC-3 Tier coaches to the Rajdhani and Puri-Gunupur Express trains to handle the surge in passengers.

This move aims to provide travelers with a more comfortable and hassle-free journey during the peak travel season.

As part of this initiative, Train No 22823/22824 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express will be equipped with one additional AC-3 Tier coach. The extra coach will be added from Bhubaneswar July 8 and 11, and from New Delhi July 9 and 12.

Similarly, Train No 18417/18418 Puri-Gunupur-Puri Express will have one additional AC-3 Tier coach attached from Puri daily between July 3 and July 9, and from Gunupur daily from July 4 to July 10.

This temporary augmentation is intended to address the extra demand and ensure smoother travel during this period.

ECOR has advised passengers to plan their journeys accordingly and take note of the additional accommodation available.

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Ahead of International Plastic Bag Free Day (July 3), Bhubaneswar stands out with spirited citizen-led initiatives. From students and homemakers to environmentalists, people across the City are promoting sustainable alternatives and raising awareness about the hazards of plastic pollution.

In Bhubaneswar, change is taking root at both individual and community levels.

Gyanaranjan Das, Youth for Seva chapter coordinator, Bhubaneswar, underlined the power of small, daily choices. “The first thing we can do is carry our own bags — jute or cloth — whenever we go shopping, whether it’s for vegetables, clothes, or groceries. I personally carry my own bag and containers for groceries,” he said. “I also collect single-use plastic wrappers in bulk and hand them over to BMC cleaners during their door-to-door rounds,” Das said.

“Our voluntary team take up regular programmes — throwing seed balls in barren land for plantation, cleaning tourist spots like Khandagiri, Udayagiri, and Shanti Stupa, and creating awareness among locals



and tourists,” he added.

Similarly, Akankhya Rout, an active environmental advocate and journalist, highlighted the role of conscious consumption. “I support businesses that use sustainable packaging and eco-friendly materials. For example, I avoid regular sanitary pads that contain micro plastics and instead choose alternatives made from bamboo or banana stems,” she said.

Small steps like carrying your own tote bag, avoiding unnecessary shopping, or skipping plastic decorative

items can create a huge impact on the environment,” Rout added.

From academia, Pratibha Biswal, a PhD scholar at Rama Devi Women’s University, emphasised the role of community education and said, “I work with the NGO and conduct awareness sessions for students in government schools about the harmful impact of plastic. Personally, I always carry a cloth bag and try to avoid ordering food that generates plastic waste.”

Meghamukta Mohanty,

Odia Department, RD Women’s University, said “I always carry cotton or jute bags when shopping and encourage my students to do the same. At home, I avoid plastic containers, opting for steel or glass.”

Even homemakers are playing a crucial role. Sunita Rout, a Bhubaneswar resident, shared her simple yet impactful practices, said “As a homemaker, I have stopped using plastic bags completely. I store groceries in steel container rather than fancy plastic boxes and use steel lunch boxes for my children. It feels good to know that these small changes help protect our environment and marine life.”

Globally, an estimated 5 trillion plastic bags are produced every year, with nearly 1 million used every minute. A typical plastic bag serves its purpose for just 25 minutes but can linger in the environment for 100 to 500 years.

The toll on marine ecosystems is catastrophic—plastic bags are responsible for the deaths of about 100,000 marine animals annually, according to a UN Environment report.



INSECT STUDY: Students of Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) collect insects and flies in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday for academic research

Radio Outreach: Odisha’s 1st green energy station

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Jagatsinghpur, July 2: In a groundbreaking step toward sustainable broadcasting, Radio Outreach 90.8 FM—based in Srirampur village, Jagatsinghpur—has become Odisha’s first and only radio station to run entirely on green energy.

From transmitters to studio equipment and office systems, the community radio station now runs entirely on solar power. This major shift not only cuts its carbon footprint but also sets a benchmark for media organisations across Odisha and beyond.

“We are proud to lead this green revolution in media,” said Subrat Kumar Pati, station director of Radio Outreach. “As a community radio serving rural Odisha, we believe it is our duty to promote sustainable practices—not just through our programmes, but through our operations as well.”

Established in 2023, Radio Outreach has been a strong voice for local communities, focusing on grassroots issues such as health, education, agriculture, culture and wom-



en’s empowerment. The shift to clean energy further aligns with its mission to build an equitable and eco-conscious future.

The green energy initiative was executed with the help of a rooftop solar system. According to station engineers, the system now meets 100 per cent of the station’s daily energy needs—even during peak summer operations.

Environmental activists and community leaders have praised the move as a model for other community broadcasters. “This is a remarkable step—it proves that even small media units can make a meaningful impact on climate action,” said Basant Manjari Das, a local environmentalist.

This milestone cements Radio Outreach’s role as a media change-maker and a model of community-driven broadcasting.

MARKET WATCH			
CURRENCY		BOURSES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.72 ▲ 0.10	SENSEX	83409.69 ▼ 287.60
EURO	101.01 ▼ 0.27	NIFTY	25453.40 ▼ 88.40
COMMODITIES		INDEX	VARIATION
		GOLD	₹97,230 ▼ ₹21
		SILVER	₹106,462 ▲ ₹515

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.4°	30.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain / thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.1°	23.2°	
Humidity	94%	98%	
Rainfall	3.8mm	16.8mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Widow brutally killed in Keonjhar; 1 nabbed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 2: In a sign of utter lawlessness, a man beheaded a 58-year-old widow with a spade over suspected past enmity at Bhalughera Sahi of Phula Pahadi village under Patana police station in this district early Wednesday morning.

The victim was identified as Tulasi Majhi, 58, wife of late Kade Majhi and the accused as Debadutta Naik, son of Kaibalya Naik of the same village. The accused repeatedly assaulted the woman with a spade and severed her head from the torso.

It is suspected that the accused had harboured grudge over the alleged religious conversion of the victim's family

The victim was identified as Tulasi Majhi, 58, wife of late Kade Majhi and the accused as Debadutta Naik, son of Kaibalya Naik of Phula Pahadi village

which might have resulted in the brutal murder of the widow. The incident occurred when a villager Barial Majhi was going to his farmland passing by the victim's house around 6am Wednesday. Accused Debadutta waylaid him and attacked him with a spade. Barial fled

the scene to save his life.

Meanwhile, victim Tulasi was standing in her courtyard and was witnessing the incident. An angry Debadutta barged into her house and assaulted her with the spade and finally beheaded her. Panicked villagers preferred to stay indoors following the incident.

Acting on a complaint by the victim's daughter Duli Majhi, Patana police registered a case (143/25) and launched an investigation with the help of a scientific team. The murder weapon has been seized and sent for forensic examination, said the police.

The cops tried to interrogate the villagers as part of the probe but they chose to maintain mum over the issue.

When contacted, Patana IIC Manas Mahakud said the accused has been arrested but the actual reason behind the murder is yet to be ascertained. Further investigations are underway, he added.

Notably, Tulasi's husband Kade was beaten to death by a group of villagers at a kangaroo court held in the village after he adopted a different religion five years ago.



POURING WOES: Residents of Baliapal block in Balasore district wait in knee-deep water to board a boat to the nearest market place Wednesday, as floods in Subarnarekha river submerged several villages in Baliapal, Jaleswar and Bhograi blocks

OP PHOTO

Tigress Zeenat expects cubs by early Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Tigress Zeenat, which escaped from Similipal National Park and roamed across Odisha, West Bengal, and Jharkhand, is now suspected to be pregnant, and is expected to give birth by August or early September, according to a senior Forest department official.

Captured in Bankura district of West Bengal after a dramatic 23-day journey through three states, Zeenat was brought back to Similipal and kept in a soft enclosure from January 1, where she was observed for several weeks. She was found fit and healthy during her stay in the enclosure. On April 17, Zeenat was released into the wild, the official said.

According to the official, even during her stay in the enclosure, Zeenat had shown signs of estrus and responded to the presence of a wild melanistic male tiger, T12.



Zeenat, even during her stay in a large enclosure, showed signs of estrus towards a wild male tiger (T12). Taking this opportunity, the tigress was released from the enclosure. Mating with T12 was recorded on thermal cameras installed at Jamuna meadow in the second week of May, the official said.

Since her release, Zeenat has been moving inside the core area of STR and hunting natural prey such as cheetal, sambar, and wild boar. The tigress is being monitored 24 hours by tracking teams. Each team consists of 4 people. It is also being monitored using satellite-based GPS, he said.

She has stopped mating and has isolated herself — both strong indicators of pregnancy. Given that the gestation period in tigers ranges from 105 to 120 days, we expect Zeenat to give birth by August or early September, the official said.

Zeenat was brought to Similipal from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra as part of tiger supplementation project. She escaped from STR December 7 and roamed around three states before being captured in West Bengal's Bankura after 23 days.

According to a research by Uma Ramakrishnan of the

Captured in Bankura district of West Bengal after a dramatic 23-day journey through three states, Zeenat was brought back to Similipal in January

National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, in 2021, the population of tigers inside Similipal is genetically isolated and inbreeding is taking place within the reserve.

To counter this trend, it was proposed to translocate tigers from the central Indian landscape to STR, the official added.

Although the tiger population in Similipal has been increasing at about 18 per cent annually since 2014, nearly 50 per cent of them display pseudo-melanistic coat colour, indicating high inbreeding, he said.

Rally in Malkangiri over attack on minorities

AGENCIES

Malkangiri, July 2: A large number of people, belonging to a minority community, held a protest rally in this district Wednesday, demanding immediate arrest of those involved in an attack on them.

The rally was organised under the banner of Malkangiri District Christian Manch, and the protesters submitted a memorandum to the District Collector's office.

They alleged that several people in their community were assaulted by a group of men at Katamateru under Malkangiri police station limits June 21.

"Though we have lodged a complaint with the police, no action has been taken so far. Therefore, we are on the streets," said Pallav Kumar Lima, the secretary of the organisation.

He said nearly 30 people were injured and admitted to the district headquarters hospital.

Hundreds of community members joined the protest rally on the rain-drenched day.

There was an argument between the protesters and the police as the Collector was allegedly late to come outside his office to accept the memorandum.

When contacted, Malkangiri SP Vinodh Patil H said, "The police have registered a case and the matter is under investigation."

3 killed in Keonjhar landslide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Keonjhar, July 2: At least three persons were killed in a landslide triggered by heavy rain while extracting manganese illegally from a mine in Keonjhar district, police said Wednesday.

The incident took place at a manganese mine near Bichakundi Daspahar under Joda police limits when some people were illegally extracting minerals from the manganese mine Tuesday, they said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Western Range, Brijesh Kumar Rai confirmed the incident and said: "One body was recovered

ered at about 2 am and other two bodies early in the morning. All bodies were shifted to Tata Hospital and now all three bodies are at Tata Morgue House."

Police said a portion of loose soil gave away while the trio was extracting manganese illegally at a mine located within the Baitarani Reserve Forest area. The deceased persons were identified as Sandeep Purty, 32, Kande Munda, 19, and Guru Champia, 18. All are residents of Bichakundi under Joda police station area in Keonjhar district, the police said. The bodies were recovered after a six-hour-long rescue operation.

Murder in Berhampur lodge: Cops recreate crime scene

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, July 2: A day after a youth killed his lover after inviting her to a lodge near New Bus stand under Baidyanathpur police limits in the Silk City here and later surrendered to police, police took the accused to the lodge to reconstruct the crime scene Wednesday.

The deceased, Priya Kumari Moharana, 24, was a resident of Reddyka Sahi in Lanjipalli area, while the accused Abhaya Kumar Moharana, 24, a resident of Umanagar here, police said.

Meanwhile, the accused recreated the crime scene as he admitted to have slit the throat

of his lover Priya and stabbed her various body parts with a knife Wednesday. Meanwhile, police registered a case over a complaint by the victim's father Prabhakar Moharana and took the accused to Pushpanjali lodge.

Police spotted blood stains all around room no-112 of the lodge and seized the blood stained knife, the mobile phone and bike of the accused as well as the scooter of the victim. Police also collected the viscera samples of the victim and sent them for medical examination.

According to police, Abhaya checked into Pushpanjali lodge around 11:30am after inviting Priya to the place Tuesday.



Priya arrived a little later. The couple spent some time together before Abhaya allegedly stabbed her 20 times around 3pm, resulting in her death.

Following the incident, the accused went to City Hospital

for treatment of an injury on his hand. From there, he went to Gosaninuagaon police station and surrendered, police said.

Abhaya and Priya were into a relationship for quite a few years. Enraged over Priya's

decision to marry another person, Abhaya killed her in the lodge, police claimed.

The deceased was working as a laboratory assistant in a private hospital here while the accused was unemployed, police said. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said, "The couple booked a room for a day. The accused had a clear motive to kill her and had brought a knife with him. After spending some time in the room, Abhaya stabbed her."

Police also said that Priya had tried to resist, but the accused overpowered her and stabbed her multiple times in her neck, back, chest and abdomen, leading to her death on the spot.

70 stray dog attack cases in a week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, July 2: More than 70 people have been injured in Barbil area of Keonjhar district in the past week due to stray dog attacks, health officials at Barbil community health centre (CHC) said.

The victims include pedestrians and two-wheeler riders, many of whom have sustained bleeding and injuries after being bitten by roaming dogs. On average, around 10 people are reportedly being attacked daily across Barbil, Joda Municipality and adjoining areas.

Residents say the situation worsens after evening descends, when attacks by stray dogs become more frequent. People in Barbil, Joda, and surrounding rural areas have expressed growing fear and frustration, saying they feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods and step out on road.

Chief medical officer at Barbil CHC Soubhagya Rashmi Ranjan Samal confirmed that the hospital is receiving an average of 10 dog bite cases per day from areas including Jurudi, Joda, and Kiriburu. "Over 70 people have been administered anti-rabies injections in the past week alone," he added.

Monsoon magic at Kanjipani pulls crowd

Thick clouds settling over the forested hills and descending close to the roads, creates an experience reminiscent of hill stations in Himachal Pradesh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 2: Kanjipani Ghat, one of the most known tourist destinations in Keonjhar district, is captivating nature lovers with its unique charm and breathtaking monsoon scenery.

Nestled amidst dense forests and hills, the ghat's allure intensifies particularly during the rainy and winter seasons.

With the onset of this monsoon, floating clouds and gentle rain have transform Kanjipani into a mesmerising landscape, drawing crowds of nature enthusiasts. Thick clouds settle over the forested hills and descend close to the roads, creating an experience reminiscent of hill stations in Himachal Pradesh.

Located approximately 19 km along the Kendujhar-Sambalpur NH-49 route, the spec-



tacular ghat road has emerged as a significant tourist attraction. Travellers often pause at various points along the route to soak in the tranquil and refreshing ambience.

Light showers and mist-covered forests offer breathtaking views that are frequently captured by tourists in photographs. The elevation of the ghat adds to the thrill, with many reporting a tingling sensation as clouds brush against them. Visitors of all ages can be seen strolling along the winding road, capturing selfies with scenic views and drifting

clouds in the background.

Small waterfalls, formed by rainwater cascading down the hills, flow beneath culverts and create miniature streams. These natural features, some forming small surges, further enhance the ghat's appeal.

However, lack of basic infrastructure has led tourists to take photos from unsafe spots along the roadside, and atop damaged guard walls.

Many believe that building proper shelters for rest and rain protection, as well as dedicated viewing points, could significantly improve tourist

experience. Cottages at designated locations would allow visitors to stay overnight and witness the sunrise and sunset — especially alluring moments in the ghat. Such arrangements would also encourage visitors to explore the nearby Juang tribal villages and experience their unique culture and traditions.

Bimbadhar Behera, a nature lover, suggest that tourism facilities and cottage accommodation would not only boost footfall but also offer a chance to promote tribal heritage.

Assistant Tourism Officer Ramesh Chandra Nayak informs that efforts are underway to develop various amenities for tourists at Kanjipani Ghat.

Notably, wild monkeys often wander near the road, attracting curious tourists who feed them — a practice discouraged by experts.

To address the nuisance, locals have proposed planting fruit-bearing trees - such as figs and wild bananas - at strategic spots. This would provide natural food sources for the monkeys, reducing their dependency on visitors and fostering a safer environment for both animals and people. The Forest department is reportedly considering steps in this direction.



सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
एक ही मंत्र, एक ही सेवा - "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, 1st Floor, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar- 751003, Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BC SUPERVISORS

Central Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Region invites applications for the post of BC Supervisors. Last date for receipt of application is **18.07.2025**. For details, Please visit our website: www.centralbankofindia.co.in
Sd/- Asst. General Manager

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-354
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar
Email Address : semchcircle104@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. - ACEM/MDB-23/2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works

2. No. of Works : 01 (One)

3. Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro mechanical gates.

4. Bid Identification No. : ACEM/MDB-23/2025-26

5. Estimated Cost : Rs. 10,60,259/-

6. Period of Completion : 02 (Two) calendar months

7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From Dt.03.07.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to Dt.14.07.2025 (5.30 P.M.)

8. Last date/time for receipt of : Dt.14.07.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.) bid in the Portal

9. Date and Place of opening of Bid : Dt.15.07.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)

10. Name of the Officer inviting bid : Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.
Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32405/11/0080/2526

HORROR ON CAMPUSES



The persistence of ragging, despite a seemingly robust legal framework, is fueled by its dangerous normalisation as an ‘initiation ritual’ or ‘bonding exercise’ or ‘ice breaking session’

As India’s universities reopen after summer holidays, campuses brim with the energy of returning students and new arrivals carrying dreams of academic achievement. Yet beneath this veneer of renewal festers an old terror: ragging. Countless newcomers face humiliation, violence, and psychological torture at the hands of seniors, their educational promise swiftly curdling into trauma. This systematic abuse shatters confidence, extinguishes futures, and tragically drives some to suicide, leaving families devastated and aspirations unfulfilled. Despite decades of Supreme Court directives, UGC regulations, government pledges, dedicated helplines, anti-ragging cells, and stringent penalties under laws like the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the menace persists - a damning indictment of systemic failure.

Legally, ragging is defined with damning clarity: any disorderly conduct causing teasing, hardship, psychological harm, fear, or apprehension. Established by the Supreme Court in 1999 and elaborated in UGC regulations (2009), it explicitly encompasses physical assault, verbal abuse, psychological humiliation, sexual harassment, and financial extortion. This is not benign tradition; it is criminal depravity violating fundamental human dignity. The watershed moment came in 2009 following the horrific ragging death of Aman Kachroo, a medical student in Himachal Pradesh. The Supreme Court’s intervention led to the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging, making it a cognizable offense and placing primary responsibility on higher education institutions (HEIs) for prevention and action.

Yet, the data paints a picture of alarming failure and

ride legal compliance and human decency. The cumulative human cost is catastrophic: 45 ragging-linked deaths reported between April 2022 and May 2025, contributing to an alleged 101 such deaths since 2012.

The persistence of ragging, despite a seemingly robust legal framework, is fueled by its dangerous normalisation as an ‘initiation ritual’ or ‘bonding exercise’ or ‘ice breaking session’. Compounding this is the pervasive fear of retaliation and social stigma that silences victims, leading to critical underreporting, alongside institutional apathy often prioritising reputation over student safety. To counter this, a multi-pronged strategy exists on paper. UGC mandates require every HEI to establish Anti-Ragging Committees and Squads comprising faculty, student representatives, and parents to monitor and address complaints. Institutions must declare zero-tolerance policies and collect anti-ragging affidavits during admission. A national helpline (1800-180-5522) and online portal offer reporting channels. Proactive measures include awareness campaigns, posters, counseling, securing vulnerable locations, and mentoring cells. Punish-

ments are severe institutionally—ranging from suspension, scholarship withdrawal, and rustication to permanent expulsion and debarment from other institutions for up to five years, plus fines up to ₹50,000. Crucially, ragging is a cognizable, non-bailable, non-compoundable offense. HEIs must file FIRs for every incident, invoking stringent BNS sections like 103/104 (Culpable Homicide/Murder), 106 (Abetment of Suicide), 74 (Sexual Harassment), 125/126 (Causing Hurt/Grievous Hurt), 305 (Criminal Intimidation), 79 (Insulting Modesty), and 3(7) (Group Liability).

However, the chasm between policy and practice remains vast. Enforcement is weak, investigations are often superficial, committees lack independence, and police responses can be indifferent. Eradicating this scourge demands more than punishment; it necessitates a fundamental cultural transformation within campuses. Stricter, consistent enforcement of laws is non-negotiable. Proactive monitoring through CCTVs in hostels and common areas, coupled with accessible, truly anonymous reporting mechanisms, is essential. Robust psychological support must be immediately available for victims. Most critically, continuous, impactful sensitisation programmes for students, faculty, and parents must dismantle the myth of ‘harmless tradition,’ replacing it with campuses built on empathy, mutual respect, and positive senior-junior interactions. Until this profound shift occurs, the annual reopening of India’s universities signifies not just the start of learning, but a grim ritual where countless young lives remain vulnerable to a preventable darkness.

The writer is former Principal, Nabarangpur College.



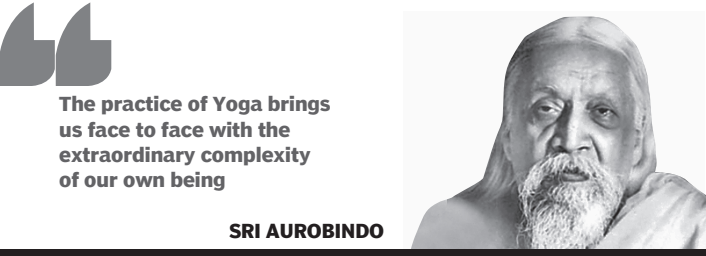
Bhaskar Nath Biswal

ERADICATING THIS SCOURGE DEMANDS MORE THAN PUNISHMENT; IT NECESSITATES A FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION WITHIN CAMPUSES



Nii Simmonds

THE COUNTRIES THAT MANAGE TO ENHANCE DOMESTIC RESILIENCE WHILE FORMING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WILL BE THE ONES DRIVING GLOBAL INNOVATION FOR YEARS TO COME



The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being

SRI AUROBINDO

Tech Sovereignty

The recent AI agreement between the United States and the United Arab Emirates, which paves the way for the UAE to establish one of the world’s largest data campuses, has sparked heated debate in the US. The New York Times questioned whether President Donald Trump was “trading away America’s tech future,” while Bloomberg warned that “offshoring AI to the Middle East could hand China a win.”

At the center of the deal is a commitment to sell the UAE 500,000 of Nvidia’s most advanced semiconductors per year (for comparison, 200,000 chips reportedly are used to power Elon Musk’s Colossus, believed to be the world’s largest AI supercomputer). This is a clear win for the UAE, which aims to position itself as a tech leader. But the agreement also highlights a profound shift in global power dynamics: technological sovereignty is no longer a choice; it has become a strategic imperative.

The economic and geopolitical implications could be far-reaching. As countries compete for dominance in AI, semiconductors, and cloud infrastructure, the real challenge is to achieve technological autonomy without resorting to protectionist policies. That requires striking a delicate balance between international cooperation and addressing national-security risks.

The UAE’s push for AI leadership is a prime example. To become a tech powerhouse, it needs to foster homegrown innovation while navigating an increasingly interdependent digital landscape.

As the race for technological supremacy intensifies, tech sovereignty has become a top priority for governments around the world. The ability to design, build, and maintain critical systems and production capacity independently is now essential to both economic competitiveness and national security, especially as global supply chains realign.

At its core, technological and manufacturing sovereignty is about maintaining control over the foundational tech stacks that underpin modern economies, from semiconductors to 5G networks. Relying on foreign chipmakers or cloud services can lead to delays, shortages, and strategic vulnerabilities. Consequently, economic competitiveness increasingly hinges on the strength of domestic innovation. For developing countries, in particular, bolstering local capacity is a prerequisite for job creation, value generation, and long-term resilience.

The global economic shocks of the past few years, especially Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and pandemic-related semiconductor shortages, have underscored the link between national security and technological independence. To shield key sectors like defense, energy, finance, and health from foreign influence, governments require secure communication networks, uncompromised defense systems, and AI solutions based on reliable data.

In the digital age, sovereignty also means protecting citizens’ privacy. Control over data governance, encryption, and storage infrastructure is crucial to avoid exposure to foreign surveillance or legislation that undermines national privacy protections and civil liberties.

But tech stacks are not just a combination of hardware and software. They are socio-technical ecosystems that comprise human capital, research institutions, supply chains, intellectual-property frameworks, and the broader policy environment. Achieving technological sovereignty, therefore, requires more than building a fabrication plant or hosting data on a local server. It calls for government, academia, and industry to work together to advance shared objectives.

Governments, in particular, have an important role to play in setting strategic priorities, funding research, regulating platforms, and leveling the playing field for domestic innovators. In addition to investments in education, research and development, and industrial policy, public procurement can help unlock new opportunities for local tech providers.

To be sure, innovation cannot be commercialised or scaled without the private sector. From chipmakers to AI startups, industry actors need clear incentives, supportive policy frameworks, and a stable investment climate to grow. Public-private partnerships can help mitigate risks, bridge knowledge gaps, and accelerate the development of frontier technologies.

Meanwhile, universities and research labs must continue to serve as talent incubators of innovation engines. By fostering collaboration between academic institutions and private companies, policymakers can ensure a steady flow of skilled professionals and promising ideas into the broader economy.

In its efforts to build a thriving innovation ecosystem, then, the UAE must look beyond capital investments in physical infrastructure. Its success will depend on strengthening ties between academic institutions and the private sector while continuously refining its policy frameworks to attract and retain a diverse, highly skilled workforce.

But the quest for tech sovereignty must not veer into digital protectionism. Instead of chasing an unrealistic vision of total self-sufficiency, policymakers should pursue strategic autonomy by setting national tech policies while remaining open to international cooperation.

The European Union offers a useful model. Dozens of European tech companies and organisations have expressed support for the EuroStack initiative, which aims to reduce dependence on foreign infrastructure by developing competitive domestic alternatives in cloud computing, AI, and software. At the same time, the EU aims to curb US firms’ market power by enforcing the Digital Markets Act, despite pushback from Big Tech.

Although the US-UAE agreement has attracted significant media attention, little is known about its approach to national-security concerns and geopolitical risks. How these issues are addressed will determine whether the UAE’s AI campus becomes a model for strategic international collaboration or a cautionary tale about the dangers of overlooking digital security.

The obstacles to achieving tech sovereignty are significant and multifaceted. The high costs of semiconductor production, the complexity of global supply chains, and the market dominance of major tech firms make it difficult for any single country to secure full sovereignty without trusted international partnerships.

Given this reality, policymakers must integrate sovereignty considerations into trade agreements and data-sharing frameworks. The deepening US-UAE tech partnership, the EU’s efforts to balance regulation with competitiveness, and the formidable barriers to semiconductor self-sufficiency all show that strategic collaboration remains vital even in a volatile geopolitical landscape.

At stake is not just who develops the fastest chips and most powerful algorithms, but who writes the rules that govern the digital world. This kind of influence depends on more than technological prowess; it requires balancing national security with economic openness. The countries that manage to enhance domestic resilience while forming international partnerships will be the ones driving global innovation for years to come.

The writer is a visiting fellow at New America’s Planetary Politics initiative.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Bigotry & democratic backsliding



Dhurjati Mukherjee

OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES, MUCH LESS THAN ONE-FIFTH OF THE WORLD’S COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS FULLY DEMOCRATIC

The BJP is marking the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, emphasising how power was misused by Indira Gandhi for personal interests without considering the broader national interest. Going into top gear, Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “nation first” approach. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge launched a counter attack stating that an “undeclared emergency” has prevailed for the past 11 years and claimed that Modi is addressing the Emergency issue to divert attention from “governance challenges and institutional control.”

The BJP insisted that it’s imperative to discuss the sufferings the then government inflicted on people so that it is never repeated. As against this, critics of the NDA government are raising questions about freedom of expression in the country and accusing the government of lacking tolerance and trampling liberty and fraternity. In particular, they allege journalists and student activists are being imprisoned for simply being critical of the government and opposing its policies. A recent study undertaken by the Clooney Foundation for Justice’s TrialWatch initiative in part-

nership with the National Law University, Delhi and Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute analysed 624 incidents of criminalisation of journalists in relation to their work from 2012 to 2022. The dataset breaks down 423 criminal cases against 427 journalists across states and Union Territories of the country. Of the arrested reporters, 24% were from metro cities and 58% from small towns and villages. The latter are more vulnerable to arrests and detentions as they lack necessary legal support and access to justice. Across the country, police invoked a multitude of offences against journalists and registered a large number of cases against them.

Additionally, recent data from India Hate Lab, an international research centre, witnessed a rise in anti-minority hate speeches by an astonishing 74% in 2024, the year of the general election. Worse, the crisis of free speech transcends its contamination by hate, it noted. The foundational tenet of regimes endorsing free speech, as was pointed out in a recent talk by one of the country’s foremost intellectuals Pratap Bhanu Mehta, has traditionally been rooted in a milieu of trust between the State and citizens.

While the imposition of Emer-

gency has to be condemned in the strongest possible terms, the Opposition flags the BJP’s dislike for civil society. A deeper analysis perhaps may reveal that both the Congress and the BJP have misused the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) to target NGOs and civil society, particularly those criticising environmental and human rights issues. This reflects the government’s fear of an independent scrutiny. Additionally, there have been attacks on the press, with journalists and activists jailed under the UAPA for criticising government policies and highlighting its failures.

The overall hostility towards the civil society and independent thought is common worldwide. Statistics spell out how democracy is increasingly in peril across the globe. The Economist’s recent Global Democracy Index (GDI) indicates that just 6.6% of the world’s total population, residing in 25 out of the 165 countries assessed, enjoyed full democracy in 2024. The first GDI in 2006 had credited 28 countries covering 13% of the world population with ‘Full Democracies’. Ten years later in 2016, it reported a sharp decline with 19 countries and just about 4.5% of the world population in that category. The Economist

distributed its results based on 60 parameters in four categories – ‘full democracies’, ‘flawed democracies’, ‘hybrid systems’ and ‘authoritarian regimes’. Over the last two decades, much less than one-fifth of the world’s countries have been described as fully democratic. Despite the dilution of its content, democracy is still in circulation in political discourse though they may be practicing ‘hybrid systems’ or ‘flamed democracies’.

Some political analysts have observed that despite her dictatorial ways, Indira Gandhi upheld the plural idea of India enshrined in the Constitution, wherein citizenship is not defined in terms of language, religion or ethnicity. However, in the present times, the poison of religious bigotry has pervaded society and brought enmity, jealousy and hatred among communities. This resulted in hate speech among political leaders and a steady loosening of bonding among communities. This bigotry is increasing day by day with the tacit support of political leaders, who are only interested in reaping electoral advantage. If unchecked, this may not just destroy democratic plurality but also the social fabric of the country.

INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Criminal complicity

Sir, This refers to “Custody of 3 accused extended till July 8,” **Orissa POST**, July 2. No words are strong enough to condemn the gangrape of a law student in Kolkata and it is more painful to know that the college authority allowed the prime accused Monojit Mishra to work as a temporary employee knowing full well of his criminal background. Was the principal of the college aware of the fact and abetted the crime? The chairman of the governing body of the college should also be held responsible and be brought to book. I would expect the investigating officer in the case to complete the investigation within the given time frame and make sure to plug all the loopholes in the probe.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Strategic location

Sir, Pakistan has become a crucial arena in the intensifying strategic rivalry between China and the United States—a modern-day “Great Game” shaped by trade routes, rare minerals, and shifting alliances. Its geographic location at the crossroads of Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean, combined with its nuclear capability and untapped mineral reserves, makes it a strategic asset for competing powers. China’s deep involvement through the CPEC—especially its development of Gwadar Port—demonstrates Beijing’s ambition to secure direct access to the Arabian Sea and expand its influence via infrastructure investment and non-conditional aid. In response, the US has sought to reinvigorate its military and intelligence partnership with Pakistan, including F-16 upgrades and closer ties with the Pakistani military. Yet, this move comes with diplomatic friction, as Washington tries to balance outreach to Islamabad while deepening its strategic alignment with India—reviving fears in New Delhi of being re-grouped with its historical rival. Pakistan, for its part, is navigating a delicate balancing act. It is trying to extract economic and military benefits from both superpowers without slipping into overdependence on either. But this hedging strategy is risky, particularly in volatile regions like Balochistan—rich in rare earths and marred by instability—where the interests of China and the US subtly collide.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Concerns grow over poaching in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 2: Concerns over poaching in Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve have intensified after it was found that three tigers killed by an interstate gang of poachers were likely from RTR.

The development follows a joint operation by Madhya Pradesh's State Tiger Strike Force, Rajasthan Forest department, and Sawai Madhopur-based NGO Tiger Watch last month that led to the arrest of six poachers, including three from Rajasthan. Over 225 pieces of big cat bones were seized near Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh June 5, according to an official statement.

Those arrested are Dauji Bheel and Sunita Dauji, residents of Dausa in Rajasthan, and Besta Bheel of Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh with big cat skulls and bones. Madhya Pradesh forest officials picked up Baniram Moghiya and Naresh, both from Shivpuri in the state, and Rajaram Moghiya, a resident of Tonk in Rajasthan.

In an official communication, Madhya Pradesh forest authorities have asked Rajasthan to share DNA profiles from Ranthambore's tiger population to match with the confiscated remains.

"We received the correspondence and a response will be provided after due examination. Our teams are actively pursuing the matter," a senior Rajasthan Forest department official said.

Ranthambore Field Director Anoop K R, in a report sent to Rajasthan's chief wildlife warden, said, "A few bones have been identified as that of a tiger. As part of further investigation to find out the origin of these bones, the joint team of MP and Rajasthan forest departments is working in



Investigations reveals that a tiger was killed around six months ago and a leopard around Holi, both likely within Rajasthan

coordination."

DNA testing in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur confirmed that the seized remains were of three tigers and one leopard. The samples have since been sent to the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, for advanced matching with Ranthambore's tiger database. The report is expected in three weeks, forest officials said.

According to sources, the poaching is suspected to have occurred on Rajasthan's side of the Chambal landscape.

Investigations revealed that a tiger was killed around six months ago and a leopard around Holi, both likely within Rajasthan, the sources said.

Wildlife activist and RTI campaigner Ajay Dubey demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into what he called a "well-organised inter-state and interna-

tional trafficking network".

"Given that only tigers from Rajasthan are known to use the Kuno-Madhav-Ranthambore corridor, these deaths point to a much bigger poaching racket that must be investigated thoroughly," he said.

Rajasthan Forest department records show five Ranthambore tigers -- T79, T131, T138, T139, and T2401 -- went missing under suspicious circumstances between June 2022 and May 2024. The missing tigers include two females and three males aged 3 to 12 years.

Forest officials said if the DNA tests confirm that the seized remains are of Ranthambore's missing tigers, it will not only highlight the vulnerability of big cats straying beyond protected zones but also the urgent need for tighter interstate anti-poaching coordination.

Delhi to Jaipur in 3 hrs; trial run begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 2: The trial run on the Bandikui-Jaipur Link Expressway, connecting the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to Jaipur, started Wednesday. The journey from Jaipur to Delhi will now take just 2.5 to 3 hours, offering a faster and smoother travel experience

The trial run started at 8 am, and no toll will be levied during this trial period of ten days.

The ultramodern expressway is undergoing quality checks and facility testing through the trial runs to identify and rectify any shortcomings before toll collection officially begins in the coming days, said officials. On the first day, the expressway was opened directly for traffic.

Additionally, the Khuri Interchange has been made operational to manage traffic coming from the Manoharpur-Kauthun highway. If all goes smoothly, traffic from other interchanges will also be allowed on the expressway within a day or two.

The 67-kilometre-long, four-lane access-controlled express-



way stretches from Bandikui in Dausa district to Jaipur in Rajasthan and is nearly complete.

Vehicles will be permitted to travel at speeds of up to 120 km/h on this modern roadway. Impressively, construction was completed ahead of schedule.

Once fully operational, the expressway will significantly reduce travel time and will reduce the journey from Bandikui to Jaipur to just 25-30 minutes, compared to the previous duration of over an hour, which will eventually reduce travel time

from Jaipur to Delhi and so on. Furthermore, with its link to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, travel time from Gurugram to Bandikui will be reduced to just three hours.

Other tracks which will be connected on the Expressway include Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Manoharpur-Kauthun Highway (via Khuri Interchange) and additional interchanges which will be opened soon, depending on trial success.

"All preparations for toll collection are complete. As soon

as we receive the green signal from higher authorities, toll operations will commence," said BS Joiya, Project Director, NHAI Dausa Unit.

According to officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the 66.91-kilometre-long Bandikui-Jaipur Expressway has been constructed at a cost of ₹1,368 crore.

During the ongoing trial phase all vehicles except tractors, motorcycles, and other restricted categories will be allowed to pass without interruption.

Once fully operational, the new expressway is expected to significantly reduce travel time, with the journey from Jaipur to Delhi expected to take just 2.5 to 3 hours.

Proposed Toll Rates (for private cars) include ₹150 for the 66.91 km Jaipur-Bandikui Expressway, ₹550 to ₹560 for the full Jaipur-Bandikui-Sohna stretch, ₹130 for the Sozna-Gurugram six-lane highway and ₹680 to ₹690 total toll between Jaipur and Delhi.



Search and rescue operation underway following landslides, near Silai Band on the Yamunotri National Highway, in Uttarkashi district, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

UTTARAKHAND BUS ACCIDENT

Another victim's body found; toll rises to 7



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudraprayag, July 2: The body of another victim of the bus accident in Uttarakhand was retrieved Wednesday, six days after the 31-seater bus taking devotees to Badrinath fell into the Alaknanda river at Gholtri.

Another body has been recovered from the Srinagar Dam area at Kirtinagar in the Tehri district more than 50 km from the accident site, District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said.

The victim was identified by her family members as Mayuri Soni (24), a resident of Surat in

Gujarat, he said.

The recovery takes the death toll in the bus accident to seven. Five people are still missing for whom the search operation continues, Rajwar said.

The accident occurred on June 26 when the bus taking pilgrims from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh fell into the Alaknanda river near Gholtri between Rudraprayag and Gauchar.

District administration, police, NDRF, DDRF, and SDRF personnel are continuously engaged in rescue and search operations, he said.

Char Dham Yatra resumes after 24-hour suspension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, July 2: The 24-hour suspension on the Char Dham Yatra was officially lifted Monday, officials confirmed, allowing the pilgrimage to resume after a temporary halt due to relentless rainfall and heightened risks of landslides in Uttarakhand.

Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey told IANS, "The 24-hour ban on the Char Dham Yatra has been lifted."

However, he added that all District Magistrates along the Yatra route have been instructed to regulate vehicle movement based on the prevailing weather conditions in their respective areas.

The temporary suspension had been imposed Sunday as a precautionary measure to protect the lives and property of pilgrims and residents

amid severe weather.

Authorities had issued advisories urging pilgrims to remain where they are and avoid travelling to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri until conditions improve.

The suspension followed a severe cloudburst near Silai on the Barkot-Yamunotri road in Uttarkashi district that left at least nine road construction labourers missing.

At least two labourers lost their lives, and seven others are still missing after a devastating cloudburst. The incident occurred near an under-construction hotel in the Silai area along the Yamunotri National Highway, washing away a labourers' campsite where 29 workers had taken shelter.

While 20 people were rescued, nine were reported missing. Later, it was confirmed that two people were dead. The search for the seven others is

still underway.

The Yamunotri National Highway was blocked at multiple points near Silai Band, severely affecting the route. Authorities at NH Barkot were alerted to manage the situation, and the debris was cleared.

Elsewhere in the state, the National Highway near Nandprayag and Bhaneropani was also blocked due to debris, while the Sonprayag-Munkatiya road in Rudraprayag -- an essential route for Kedarnath pilgrims -- was closed because of landslides.

Heavy rain continues to lash several districts, including Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal, Dehradun, Rudraprayag, and others.

As rivers swell dangerously close to banks, the administration has issued a fresh advisory urging people living near riverbanks to remain alert and take all necessary precautions.

Heavy rains in Kota region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan) July 2: Heavy rains in the Kota region of Rajasthan inundated several colonies and public buildings with water, prompting authorities to open eight gates of the Kota barrage.

Rainwater entered hospitals, schools and ATMs in Modak town in Kota district following heavy rain at night.

Many areas in Kota city, including residential areas and the Khade Ganesh Temple, were waterlogged.

Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar and Baran districts received intermittent heavy to moderate rains from Tuesday noon to midday on Wednesday noon, the local Met department said.

A 30-year-old pregnant woman and her family were rescued by a team of the SDRF on a boat across Ahu river from the flooded Gargon village. She was then rushed to a hospital in Jhalawar in an ambulance.

Five gates of Kota barrage were opened around 8.30 am Wednesday, releasing 75,000 cusecs of water. Three more gates of the dam were opened in the afternoon due to a rise in water level in Gandhi Sagar and Jawahar Sagar dams, taking the amount of water released to 1.4 lakh cusecs, officials said.

Kota district collector Peeyush Samariya visited Kota barrage Wednesday noon and took stock of the situation and gave necessary directions to the officials.

Kota district collector Peeyush Samariya visited Kota barrage Wednesday noon and took stock of the situation and gave necessary directions to the officials

Executive engineer at Kota barrage, Arun Kumar Meena, said eight gates have been opened due to the constant flow of rainwater from the catchment areas. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the region is expected to receive a substantial amount of rainfall till around July 6.

Water level at the dam will be maintained depending on the amount of rain, Meena said.

Heavy rains also threw normal life out of gear in Jhalawar, where 9,000 cusecs of water were released from three gates of Bhim Sagar Dam and 122.26 cusecs of water from one gate of Kalisindh Dam.

Baran district administration, in view of the rains, Wednesday, conducted a mock drill on rescue operations in case of an emergency.

Baran district collector Rohitashv Singh Tomer, SP Rajkumar Choudhary, ASP Rajesh Choudhary and several other officials with SDRF, civil defence personnel, Home Guard, police and medical teams were present for the drill.

52 border villages in U'khand to be linked to nat'l power grid

Pithoragarh: Fifty two border villages will soon be linked to the national power grid, a move that would ensure them round-the-clock electricity supply and cut their dependence on solar energy, an official of the Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) said Wednesday.

The project will see 20 villages in Darma Valley, 18 in Vyas Valley and 14 in Johar Valley being linked to the national power grid, said Narendra Singh Tolia, chief engineer, UPCL Rudrapur zone. These villages located on the India-China border have for years been dependent on solar panels or electricity provided through micro-projects run by the Uttarakhand Renewable Electricity Development Agency. Tolia said the Central government has approved ₹131.43 crore for the new project, the tender process for which has been wound up and whose timeline for completion is 18 months. The project will also be highly beneficial for the security forces deployed in border areas, he added.

Eateries on Kanwar Yatra route must display food licenses

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 2: The Uttarakhand government has mandated all food vendors catering to Kanwar Yatra pilgrims to prominently display their photo ID and shop license number, in a bid to ensure food safety and hygiene amid the massive influx of devotees.

This rule applies across the board, from large eateries to roadside stalls.

Violators found operating without the required identification risk heavy penalties, with fines reaching up to ₹2 lakh under the Food Safety Act.

While the move has been welcomed by many as a necessary step to safeguard public health, it has also triggered political criticism, with opposition leaders calling the penalty excessively harsh, particularly for small-time street vendors.

Former Samajwadi Party MP ST Hasan, expressed his disapproval of the steep fine, stating, "We have no objection to putting up nameplates. Islam teaches us not to deceive anyone in business. But if a fine of ₹2 lakh is imposed on a street vendor, that is excessive. The fine can be of ₹1000-2000, but the said amount is too much."

Countering Hasan's remarks, Mahant Ravindra Puri, President of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, defended the state government's decision and accused critics of selective outrage.

"Hasan did not speak when people were spitting in food or urinating in our juice. The Chief Minister has taken this decision to ensure that our religion is not corrupted. Crores of people from Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal, etc., come to Uttarakhand for the Kanwar



Yatra," he told.

Food Safety Officer Sanjay Kumar Singh clarified the state's position and emphasised that the measure is rooted in law.

"There is a provision for licensing under the Food Safety Act, and individuals involved in food-related businesses are required to obtain licenses. Regarding the ongoing Kanwar Yatra, a video meeting was held

with our Hon'ble Commissioner and district officials to ensure proper food safety measures are in place," he said.

He added that every food business operator along the yatra route -- including small vendors, hawkers, and street food stalls -- must display their license or registration certificate along with a visible photo ID.

Failure to show this iden-

of the day

quote

To the entire nation, especially PTI workers and supporters, I urge them to rise against this tyrannical system after Ashura. I would rather live in a dark prison cell than accept this slavery

IMRAN KHAN | JAILED FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

The steam-roller of repressions doesn't stop, and the authorities continue to stifle any dissent in Belarus, opening new high-profile cases. No one, absolutely no one can feel safe in Belarus

PAVEL SAPELKA | A RIGHTS ADVOCATE, BELARUS

There's a better chance for Russia to come to some kind of terms with Ukraine in the fall when the Russians see the extent of their offensive

SERGEY RADCHENKO | RUSSIAN-BRITISH MILITARY HISTORIAN

SHORT TAKES

Pak to boost water storage capacity

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that his government decided to enhance the water storage capacity, as India continued to hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance. A day after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, India took a series of punitive measures against Pakistan that included putting the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in "abeyance". State-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Sharif, during a visit to the National Emergencies Operations Centre Tuesday, talked about the water issue. Sharif said the "enemy" wants to take steps against the waters treaty. "For that, the government has decided that we will build our water storage," he said.

Indian charged over collision of two ships

Singapore: An Indian national was charged in a Singapore court Wednesday under the Merchant Shipping Act over a collision of two vessels a year ago in which one man was killed and another was badly injured. Soosai Antony Vainer, 35, and a Sri Lankan, Wickramage Viraj Amila Shavinda Perera, 40, were the two crew members on the Singapore-registered Hafnia Nile, which collided on the morning of July 19, 2024, with Ceres I, registered with the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Channel News Asia reported. Perera was the officer in charge of the navigational watch on the Hafnia Nile at that time, the report said, citing charge sheets.

US halts some arms to Ukraine; Kyiv concerned

The move comes as Russian forces, which control about a fifth of Ukraine, have made significant gains in a grinding summer campaign in the east

Washington, July 2: A decision by Washington to halt some shipments of critical weapons to Ukraine triggered warnings in Kyiv Wednesday that the move would weaken its ability to defend against intensifying Russian air strikes and battlefield advances. Ukraine said it had called in the acting US envoy in Kyiv to stress the importance of continuing military aid from Wash-

Gaza truce on cards

Trump's ceasefire statement raises hopes in Gaza as Israel presses on with attacks



REUTERS

Cairo, July 2: Word from US President Donald Trump that Israel has agreed to the conditions needed to finalise a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza raised hopes Wednesday in the enclave, where health officials said at least 20 people had been killed in Israeli attacks.

A "final" proposal would be delivered by the mediators, Qatar and Egypt, to Hamas, Trump said in a social media post Tuesday, after what he described as a "long and productive" meeting between his representatives and Israeli officials.

Gazans said even a temporary pause would bring relief. "I hope it would work this time, even if for two months, it would save thousands of innocent lives," Kamal, a resident of Gaza City, said by phone.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar wrote on X Wednesday that a majority within the coalition government would back an agreement that would see the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas militants in Gaza.

"If there is an opportunity to do so - we must not miss it!", he wrote on X. Of 50 hostages still held, around 20 are believed to

- Trump says Israel has agreed to conditions for a ceasefire
- Israeli minister says most of cabinet backs a deal
- Hamas source says militants will study the proposal
- Gazans hope a 60-day truce will lead to end of war

be still alive.

For Gazans, who have fled multiple times and face daily struggles to find food 21 months into Israel's military campaign, the statements provided a glimmer of hope.

"Everyone is hopeful that it would work this time, there is no room for more failures, every day more costs us our lives," said Tamer Al-Burai, a businessman.

"We are living the most difficult days. People want an end to the war, an end to the starvation and humiliation."

There was no immediate official comment by either Israel or Hamas to Trump's latest statement on the progress of the plan.

"Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War,"

CONTEMPT CASE

Hasina sentenced to six months

REUTERS

Dhaka, July 2: Bangladesh's ousted and self-exiled Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to six months in prison by the country's International Crimes Tribunal Wednesday in a contempt of court case, a top prosecutor said.

Hasina has been facing multiple cases since she fled to India after deadly student-led protests in August, but it was the first time the former leader was sentenced in one of them.

Shakil Akand Bulbul, a leader of the Awami League party's banned student wing Chhatra League, was also sentenced to two months in prison in the same case, Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam told reporters. The party had been led by Hasina for years.

A three-member ICT tribunal, led by Justice Golam Moztuza Mozumder, delivered the verdict in their absence, noting



that the sentences will take effect upon arrest or surrender, the prosecutor added.

The contempt charges stem from a leaked phone recording where Hasina was allegedly heard saying, "there are 227 cases against me, so I now have a licence to kill 227 people."

A forensic report by a government investigative agency later confirmed the audio's authenticity.

The ICT was originally set up in 2010 by Hasina's own government to try 1971 war crimes.

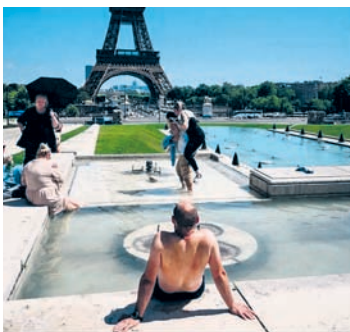


The United States is very pleased with the successful integration of many US defence items into India's inventory

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

EUROPE BAKES IN HEAT WAVE

Two people died in Spain in a wildfire that spread quickly before firefighters brought it under control, authorities said, as a European heat wave sent thermometers soaring again Wednesday. The blaze broke out in the rural province of Lleida. The thick plume of ash and smoke reached 14,000 metres of altitude, making it the largest registered by firefighters in Catalonia



University students scuffle with police during a protest called by main opposition Republican People's Party or (CHP), in Istanbul, Turkey

PTI PHOTO

Quad condemns Pahalgam attack without naming Pak

AGENCIES

Washington, July 2: The Quad grouping of the United States, India, Japan and Australia called Tuesday for the perpetrators of an Islamist militant attack that killed 26 in India-administered Kashmir to be brought to justice without delay.

The April 22 attack sparked heavy fighting between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan in the latest escalation of a decades-old rivalry as India blamed it on Pakistan, which denied responsibility while calling for a neutral investigation.

The US State Department issued, opens new tab a joint statement by the foreign ministers of the grouping, who met in Washington, but stopped short of naming Pakistan or blaming Islamabad.

The Quad unequivocally



- Attack in India-administered Kashmir sparked hostilities
- Ceasefire between India, Pakistan announced May 10
- Trump takes credit for ceasefire, India differs

condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, the ministers said in the statement.

They called on all members of the United Nations to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in delivering justice

to the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act, without any delay.

India is an increasingly important US partner in Washington's effort to counter China's rising influence in Asia while Pakistan is a US ally.

On May 7, Indian jets bombed sites across the border that New Delhi described as terrorist infrastructure, setting off an exchange of attacks between the two countries by fighter jets, missiles, drones and artillery that killed dozens until a ceasefire May 10.

Iran suspends cooperation with IAEA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, July 2: Iran's president Wednesday ordered the country to suspend its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency after American and Israeli airstrikes hit its most-important nuclear facilities, likely further limiting inspectors' ability to track Tehran's programme that had been enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels.

The order by President Masoud Pezeshkian included no timetables or details about what that suspension would entail. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi signalled in a CBS News interview that Tehran still would be willing to continue negotiations with the United States.

"I don't think negotiations will restart as quickly as that," Araghchi said, referring to Trump's comments that talks could start as early as this week. However, he added: "The doors of diploma-



cy will never slam shut."

Iran has limited IAEA inspections in the past as a pressure tactic in negotiating with the West — though as of right now Tehran has denied that there's any immediate plans to resume talks with the United States that had been upended by the 12-day Iran-Israel war.

A diplomat with knowledge of IAEA operations, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the situation in Iran, said that IAEA inspectors were

still there after the announcement and hadn't been told by the government to leave.

ISRAEL CONDEMNS MOVE

Iran's decision drew an immediate condemnation from Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar.

"Iran has just issued a scandalous announcement about suspending its cooperation with the IAEA," he said in an X post. "This is a complete renunciation of all its international nuclear obligations and

commitments."

Saar urged European nations that were part of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal to implement its so-called snapback clause. That would reimpose all UN sanctions on it originally lifted by Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, if one of its Western parties declares the Islamic Republic is out of compliance with it.

Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, and the IAEA doesn't have access to its weapons-related facilities.

Iran's move so far stops short of what experts feared the most. They had been concerned that Tehran, in response to the war, could decide to fully end its cooperation with the IAEA, abandon the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and rush toward a bomb. That treaty has countries agree not to build or obtain nuclear weapons and allows the IAEA to conduct inspections to verify that countries correctly declared their programmes.

Combs faces possible jail time after mixed verdict

Sean "Diddy" Combs, who elevated hip-hop in American culture while building a music and clothing empire that made him a billionaire, was found guilty of prostitution-related offenses but cleared of sex trafficking

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, July 2: Sean "Diddy" Combs was convicted of a prostitution-related offence but acquitted Wednesday of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put one of hip-hop's most celebrated figures behind bars for life.

The mixed result came on the third day of deliberations. It could still send Combs, 55, to prison for as long as a decade, and is likely to end his career as a hitmaking music executive,



fashion entrepreneur, brand ambassador and reality TV star. Combs was convicted of flying people around the country, including his girlfriends and paid male sex workers, to engage in sexual encounters, a felony violation of the federal Mann Act. But the jury of eight men and four women acquitted Combs of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges, related to allegations that he used his money, power and frightening physical force to manipulate his girlfriends into hundreds of drug-fuelled sex marathons with the men.

REUTERS



ington, saying any cut-off would embolden Russia as diplomatic efforts to end the war falter.

The Pentagon's pause due to concerns that US stockpiles are too low came in recent days and includes precision munitions and air defence interceptors that knock down Russian drones and missiles, two people

familiar with the decision said Tuesday. "The Ukrainian side emphasised that any delay or procrastination in supporting Ukraine's defense capabilities will only encourage the aggressor to continue the war and terror, rather than seek peace," Kyiv's foreign ministry said in a statement.

- US pausing weapons shipments due to low stockpiles say sources

- Ukraine says the military aid is vital as Russian attacks rise

- Dozens killed in air strikes on Ukrainian cities in recent weeks

Ukraine's defence ministry said it had not been officially notified of any halt in US shipments and was seeking clarity from its American counterparts.

Dozens of people have been killed in recent weeks during air strikes on Ukrainian cities, including the capital Kyiv, that have involved hundreds of attack drones in addition to ballistic and cruise missiles.

Since US President Donald Trump took office in January, he has softened Washington's position toward Russia, seeking

a diplomatic solution to the war and raising doubts about future US military support for Kyiv's war effort. Last week, Trump said he was considering selling more Patriot air defense missiles to Ukraine following a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Politico, which reported the pause Tuesday, said it includes the critical Patriot air defence missiles which Ukraine has relied on to destroy fast-moving ballistic missiles.

Fedir Venislavskyy, a member of the Ukrainian parliament's national security and defense committee, called the decision to halt the shipments "very unpleasant for us".

The Kremlin Wednesday welcomed the news of a halt, saying the conflict would end sooner if fewer arms flowed to Ukraine.

Gill's hard-fought ton



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Birmingham, July 2: Shubman Gill was at his determined best to hit a hard-fought seventh Test hundred – his second as India's captain – as the visitors' reached 310/5 in 85 overs at stumps on day one of second Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test against England at Edgbaston Wednesday.

Under sunny blue sky,

Gill, coming after making 147 in Headingley, showed immense responsibility as well as patience and played like someone extremely determined to grind it out to be unbeaten on 114 off 216 deliveries, laced with 12 boundaries.

During his unbeaten knock, which is his fourth Test hundred against England, Gill has become just the second Indian captain af-

ter Mohammad Azharuddin to score hundreds in consecutive Tests in England.

He is also the third India captain with hundreds in consecutive Tests against England, after Azharuddin (Lord's and Old Trafford in 1990) and Vijay Hazare (Delhi and Brabourne in 1951/52). After Yashasvi Jaiswal hit an enterprising 87, Gill and Ravindra Jadeja, who ended the day

GILL TON, JAISWAL'S 87 TAKE INDIA TO 310 FOR 5 ON DAY 1 OF 2ND TEST AGAINST ENGLAND

PACE SPEARHEAD JASPRIT BUMRAH WAS RESTED FROM THE SECOND TEST AS PART OF HIS WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT

on 41 not out, shared an unbroken 99-run stand for the sixth wicket and helped India recover well from 211/5.

For England, local lad Chris Woakes was the standout bowler with two wickets and could easily have had at least a couple more if he was on the right side of DRS. Brydon Carse, Ben Stokes and Shoaib Bashir all claimed one apiece. The final session began sedately, before a ball change was made due to it being stuck in the gauge. Gill then used his feet nicely to take a four each off Woakes and Bashir – second of which got him his fifty in 125 balls.

While Jadeja took boundaries off Bashir and Tongue, Gill cut off the pacer for four, before sweeping on consecutive deliveries off Joe Root to bring up his seventh Test hundred off 199 deliveries, with a trademark roar and gentle bow. After the second new ball was taken, Gill and Jadeja got a boundary each before a solid day of Test cricket came to an end.

BRIEF SCORES

India 310/5 in 85 overs (Shubman Gill 114 not out, Yashasvi Jaiswal 87; Chris Woakes 2-59, Brydon Carse 1-49) against England

SHORT TAKES

Yarraj suffers injury

New Delhi: Asian champion and national record holder 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraj has suffered a knee injury while training a "few days back", in a big blow to her World Championships hopes later this year. Yarraj, also an Asian Games silver medallist, has a high chance of qualifying for the World Championships in Tokyo in September. However, the recent injury could derail those ambitions.

"Due to an unfortunate injury to my knee during training a few days back, I've had to put a pause on my season," Yarraj, who holds the national record of 12.78 second, posted on her Instagram story.

Athletes' ban reduced

New Delhi: The four-year bans on track and field athletes Pooja Rani, Kiran, Pankaj and Chelimi Pratyusha for evading dope tests has been reduced by one year after they accepted their offence within 20 days of being charged. The quartet was among several athletes who were suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) earlier this year under Article 2.3 of the anti-doping rules, which deals with "evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete" without compelling justification.

Madrid beat Juventus

Miami Gardens: Breakout tournament star Gonzalo Garcia scored his third goal of the Club World Cup to power Real Madrid past Juventus 1-0 in the round of 16 and into the quarterfinals. Garcia has started all four of Real Madrid's matches because of a gastrointestinal illness to star striker Kylian Mbappé. The 21-year-old broke a second-half tie with a header in the 54th minute on Tuesday, giving him a goal contribution in every match of the tournament. Garcia subbed out in the 68th as Mbappé checked in, making his Club World Cup debut after he was briefly hospitalized with the illness. He missed Real Madrid's three group stage matches.

Blue Tigresses extend unbeaten run

INDIA BEAT IRAQ 5-0, A STEP AWAY FROM WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP QUALIFICATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chiang Mai (Thailand), July 2: The Indian women's football team produced another commanding performance in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, thrashing Iraq 5-0 here Wednesday.

India led 2-0 at half-time.

First-half goals from Sangita Basfore and Manisha set the tone before a dominant second half saw Karthika Angamuthu, Phanjoumba Nirmala Devi, and Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi add to the scoreline, taking India's goal tally to an impressive 22 from three games, all without conceding a single one.

With this result, the Blue Tigresses remain unbeaten.



India are currently atop Group B with nine points and a goal difference of +22. With Thailand, currently second in the group with six points and set to face Mongolia later in the

day, the stage is set for a high-stakes showdown between India and the host country Saturday.

With only the group winner progressing, it will be a winner-takes-all

affair Saturday.

On Wednesday, India, coming off thumping wins against Mongolia (13-0) and Timor-Leste (4-0), were high on confidence and wasted no time in asserting their authority.

Crispin Chhetri's side played with fluency and control, showcasing impressive cohesion across all areas of the pitch.

From the opening whistle, India seized control and used the full width of the pitch to stretch the Iraqi defence. Their midfielders dictated the tempo with intelligent passing and quick transitions.

India continued their relentless press with waves of attacks, keeping Iraq pinned back in their own half.

Alcaraz ends Tarvet's adventure, Sabalenka avoids upset

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, July 2: Carlos Alcaraz spoiled Oliver Tarvet's Wimbledon adventure as the defending champion moved into the third round with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win over the British amateur Wednesday after Aryna Sabalenka stemmed the tide of shock exits.

A record-breaking number of seeds crashed out at the All England Club in the first round, but Alcaraz and women's world number one Sabalenka avoided seismic shocks on Centre Court. Second-seeded Alcaraz needed two hours and 17 minutes to subdue world number 733 Tarvet, who produced flashes of his emerging talent to delight the partisan crowd.

"First of all I have to give big praise to Oliver. In his second match on the tour, I just loved his game to be honest," Alcaraz said. "I knew I had to play my best tennis. I was really happy with my performance but big praise to him as well."

Alcaraz has won his



past 20 matches since losing to Holger Rune in the Barcelona final in April, a blistering streak that has brought him titles at the Rome Masters, the French Open and Queen's Club.

The 22-year-old Spaniard, who fought back from two sets down to beat Jan-nik Sinner on clay in an epic final at Roland Garros last month, has won 31 of his 34 Tour-level matches on grass.

His last defeat at Wimbledon came against Sinner in the fourth round in 2022.

Having vanquished Novak Djokovic in the past two Wimbledon finals, Alcaraz is looking to join an elite group of Wimbledon icons.

The world number two hopes to become the fifth man in the Open Era to win at least three consecutive Wimbledon titles after seven-time champion Djokovic, Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer and Pete Sampras.

'I hope it's no upsets anymore'

Sabalenka had opened

proceedings on Centre Court Wednesday, out-duelling 48th-ranked Marie Bouzkova 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in a heavy-hitting contest.

The Belarusian, who suffered painful defeats in the finals of both the Australian Open and the French Open this year, lashed an impressive 41 winners in a match lasting one hour and 35 minutes.

It meant she avoided the fate of several top stars including second seed Coco Gauff, third seed Jessica Pegula and fifth seed Zheng

Amanjot, Rodrigues power India to win over England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bristol, July 2: Indian juggernaut in the white-ball tour continued as Amanjot Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues hit radiant fifties to propel the visitors to a commanding 24-run win over England in the second T20 International here.

Tuesday night's win handed Harmanpreet Kaur's side a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, having won the opener by a record-shattering 97-run margin last week.

Amanjot (63 not out off 40 balls), who scored her maiden T20I fifty, and Rodrigues (63 off 41 deliveries) posted a formidable 181 for 4 after being asked to bat.

The Indian bowlers, led by spinners, then did their bit to restrict the home side to 157 for 7 in 20 overs despite Tammy Beaumont's



35-ball 54, marking the first time any team has been able to beat England in a women's T20I in Bristol.

"Good win for us, the way the entire team performed today was special to see. The way Jemimah and Amanjot played gave us a platform. When boundaries were not coming they were looking for twos. Still it's a long time to see how it'll be in the World Cup. Just focus on this series. Spin is our strength and I want to back that," Harmanpreet said after the win.

Under-fire Marquez quits as head coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: Embattled India football head coach Manolo Marquez stepped down Wednesday after reaching a "mutual agreement" with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), which was under pressure to fix accountability for the recent downward spiral of the national team.

The AIFF Executive Committee, in its meeting here, agreed to relieve the 56-year-old Marquez after he expressed his desire to do so despite one year still left in his contract.

"The AIFF and Manolo decided to mutually part ways without any financial implications to any of the two parties. So, he is relieved from being India coach. The AIFF will shortly advertise for the post of head coach," AIFF Deputy Secretary General K Satyanarayana told PTI.

The Spaniard was appointed as head coach in June 2024 for a two-year tenure. He worked in a dual role last year as he was also the head coach of Indian Super League side FC Goa in 2024-25 season.

India logged just one win from their last eight matches under Marquez's tutelage, the lone victory coming against Maldives in March.

This year, India have so far played four matches, out of which they have won one, drew another, and lost two. The poor results prompted the return of former skipper and iconic striker Sunil Chhetri to the squad but that has done little to improve the team's fortunes.

Marquez has been one of the longest serving foreign coaches in Indian football, having managed multiple Indian clubs. He has secured trophies, including the Super Cup and the ISL Cup.

His tenure of one year is the shortest among Indian head coaches in the last decade -- Stephen Constantine was India head coach from 2015-2019 before Igor Stimac (2019-2024).

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

MEETLE MEET 2025

OrissaPOST

A QUIZ Extravaganza

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.**

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

TODAY'S QUESTION

Turning 45 today is the lead actor of the 2021 Tamil film *Friendship*. While he does have both films and TV entries in his Filmography section on Wikipedia, he became known to Tamil audiences when he spent significant time there playing his trade in the profession he is best known for. Who?

ANSWER TO WEDNESDAY'S QUESTION

Kalindi Charan Panigrahi

RULES & REGULATIONS

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

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

AMRIT KUMAR MUNDA

SALONI MOHAPATRA

Others who answered correctly are

Abha Priyadarshini, R Sekhar Rao, Madhura Roy, Anurag Samantaray, Bhubanananda behera, Dibyanshu Pani, Amrit Kumar Munda, Rudra Sabitru Bhanja, Bhubanananda behera, Ronan Slade Toppo, Saloni Mohapatra, Biswajit Sahoo, Smruti Ranjan Senth, Sushanta Kumar Das, Amar Kumar Jena, Jigyansa Priyadarshini, Pratyush Satapathy, Ruchismita Prusty, Debashree Manshi Mishra, Sarat Chandra Misra

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha;Phone:7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159