





Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Mob-7205050700 | Master Canteen Square, Bhubaneswar, Mob-9238307043 | Cantonment Road, Cuttack, Mob-9238307044 | Amalapada, Lane-2, Angul, Mob-9090066000

leisure



JOHN CENA, KEVIN HART TO STAR IN THE LEADING MAN

Hollywood actors Kevin Hart and John Cena are set to star in an upcoming action comedy The Leading Man from Netflix. The film is based on the comic book series from Jeremy Haun and B Clay Moore. Hart and Cena will also produce the project

KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS NOT TO DIRECT HERSELF

Actor-filmmaker Kristin Scott Thomas says she wouldn't want to direct herself again. The actor stepped into direction with The Sea Change, in which she also acted. The film was released in 2017. Her latest film, My Mother's Wedding (2023), which she scripted, saw her portraying Diana alongside other cast members



Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 👮

If you are a gadget freak, today you will have enough opportunity to flaunt your knowledge and impress everyone else. Students with a scientific bent of mind will excel in studies. Ganesha advises housewives to experiment with their own recipes, and not to worry about the oven - it will not burst.

TAURUS

This day, you need to watch out against your selfish and possessive tendencies. Ganesha advises you not to be too determined or demand ng. Try to not to be self centred. Do not impose your need and wishes on anyone. You should act generous and large hearted towards one and all; particularly towards your spouse.

GEMINI

You will be more inclined towards religious teachings probably visit a place of worship and spend some time there and this will bring you mental peace and calm. However, you still need to do justice to your duties,

CANCER

It is high time you paid have been so lost in work and in making money that you have almost forgotten the very people you have been slogging for. Your spouse has been trying hard to improve the relationship.

If you are wondering whether you'll get the carrot or the stick today, then Ganesha has some good news for you: the day promises to bring only rewards for you. This will be especially true for your workplace, where your innate talents get recognised today.

VIRGO Ganesha feels that today may be an important turning point

in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at medita-

Get a bigger wallet, since it is very likely that today shall prove to be a money-making day for you. It might be through some sort of a partnership deal that this may happen, a helping hand and guides you in your goals. But it is your sentiments that may darken your thoughts today.

SCORPIO

You are quite vocal about your ambitious plans, says Ganesha. But, being too harsh on yourself or others for that matter may spoil your relationships with many people. Stay away from lengthy discussions to avoid any conflicts.

SAGITTARIUS

You nearly become a superhero in the eyes of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. And what more? You loving your new avatar. Good news is on its way as promotion or increment is on the cards.

CAPRICORN

Paradise is where patience leads you, success is the other terminus, says

Ganesha. Keeping your cool will benefit you in more ways than you would have imagined, so think twice before you unleash your vengeance on your foes. You are also likely to have a heart-to-heart conversation with your beloved and make him/her feel wanted.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Today you will feel generous and calm. You will shower those in the family who are younger than you with this generosity and as a result be the object of their fondness. With a clear perspective you will be able to see things for what they are. The only downside of the day is that your expenses might take a toll on your wallet, says Ganesha.

importance of journaling

stantly to pause and Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanreflect on everything. That's where journa has emphasised the importance of naling really helps. self-reflection and No matter what's happening around journaling to stay connected with her me, I try to stay connected to what's hapinner self. Talking about what pening within me. That's what Dear Di-

keeps her grounded through all the fame, travel, and chaos of being a pan-India star, Rashmika told this news agency, "It's the people that surround me. My family, my friends & my team provide me with utmost support, but they also help me stay grounded."

"Of course, my fans, who remind me why I do what I do; help me push through and give my The actress says

there are times when she tells herself to hit the pause button.

"All of this, plus there are days when remind myself



promise connections and opportunities, only to later ask if you're willing to 'party' or have the 'qual-

it a harsh real-

ity that still af-

fects many as-

piring actors.

Clarifying her

stance,

next be seen in the Telugu drama The Girlfriend, which is touted as a compelling romantic drama and is funded by GA2 Pictures, Mass Movie Makers and Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment. It was in December 2024, when the film's teaser was

released. IANS

ary is all about, too

- checking in with

your own truth and

leading with kind-

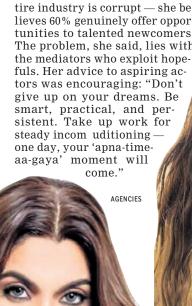
ness, always," said

the actress, who is

the founder of Dear

The actress will





Natasha stressed that not the entire industry is corrupt — she believes 60% genuinely offer opportunities to talented newcomers. The problem, she said, lies with





nostalgic dive

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra took

New book celebrates legacy of Odissi icon Sanjukta Panigrahi

titled Grace in Motion - Life and Art of Saniukta Panigrahi pays tribute to the renowned Odissi dancer, highlighting her ground-

breaking contributions to the classical dance form. Authored by senior

iournalist and writer Parichha, Bhaskar the book delves into Sanjukta's remarkable journey, showcasing her dedication to the art form and her extensive work.

For the unversed, Sanjukta Panigrahi, an Padma Shri awardee, was a for an August 24 release co-

CROSSWORD

trailblazer in popularising Odissi globally. Her performances, marked by elegance and precision, continue to inspire generations of dancers.

Malti Marie.

al storytelling. Currently

in Hyderabad shooting

SS Rajamouli's SSMB

29 with Mahesh Babu, Priyanka is accompanied by her daughter,

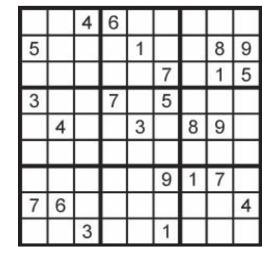
One of India's oldest classical dance forms, Odissi dates back

to the second century BCE. dance The style is char-acterised by its therapeutic spiritual, and metaphysical dimensions. making it a unique and captivating

art form. The book is slated inciding with the dancer's birth anniversary.

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

OPYCAT SCOLD MUGON THETASERPENT

PEANUTS

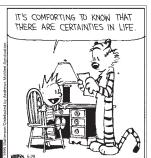


CALVIN AND HOBBES



3. ANYTHING THAT WAS POPULAR in the '70s. 4. LICORICE, YAMS, OR RAISINS THAT HIGH-PITCHED SCREECH

that Babies Make WRITHING MAGGOTS



BREVITY



20 Explosive Across compound

1 Rhymes

4 Llama relatives

DOST

8 Reykjavik locale

9 Salaries

10 Australian state

12 New Zealand

parrot

15 Fishing aid

Down

17 Hard wood

18 Perceive 19 Kimono tie

25 Buddies

26 Fuel type

3 Old salt

1 Untouched

27 Young haddock

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24 One of the senses

2 Fencing swords

4 Append

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

21 Kind of tube 22 Escalator part

5 Chess piece

6 Young swans

11 Tusk material

attraction

13 Egypt's

14 Set free

16 Hot sauce

7 Just O.K. (2-2)

23 Star in Lyra

25 Doctor's charge

SUDOKU

www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | AUGUST 10, 2025

India shot down six Pakistan aircraft: IAF chief

Bangalore, August 9: Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh Saturday said the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large aircraft during Operation Sindoor, describing it as the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill by India. The remarks were made at the 16th Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture here.

"We have an indication of at least one AWC in that AWC hangar, and a few F-16s, which are under maintenance there. We have at least five fighters confirmed killed and one large aircraft which could be either an aircraft or an AWC, which was taken at a distance of about 300 kilometres. This is actually the largest ever recorded



surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," he said.

The operation also resulted in a large number of UAVs, drones and some of their missiles falling into Indian territory. Based on specific intelligence, Singh said, the IAF decided to attack the airfield. "So the airfield was attacked and the main building where the planning goes on, which was also used as the civil terminal building at times. As far as the Sukkur airbase is concerned, we attacked the UAB hangar and radar site," he said.

"You have the visuals available here — this is the hangar which is flattened, this is the radar site before and after. The AWC hangar was attacked again. Here we have very clearly an aircraft inside where the attack took place," he said.

Regarding Sargodha, the IAF chief said, "We have grown up in our Air Force dreaming about days like this. Someday we will get a chance. Just so happens that I got a chance before my retirement. We attacked the airfield that had the very hard info on the F-16s.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Show some respect - I'm an honourable chornot some vote chor!

mid a symphony of tinkling bells, some 300

black, brown and dap-

pled goats trot along a paved

road in Spain's northeastern

Catalonia region, stopping

every now and then to nibble

with gusto on the dry shrubs

The herd wandering from

town to town is part of a pi-

lot project set up in the city

of Mataro, which forms

part of a broader European

Union-funded effort to mit-

igate the risk of wildfires.

The Independent reported.

Mataro's local councillor in

charge of agriculture, said

the project was a success and was "here to stay."

Each summer, scorch-

Antonio Ricis,

Jose

lining the edge of a forest.

16 teams set for final showdown



BATTLE OF BRILLIANCE: The junior teams who qualified for the finals of Mettle Meet-2025 pose for photo op with Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy in Bhubaneswar, Saturday PIC: RIKASH NAVAR

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August **9:** The seventh edition of Odisha's premier quizzing event. **Orissa POST** Mettle Meet-2025, commenced with great enthusiasm Saturday at Hotel Swosti Premium, drawing participation from over 80 leading educational institutions from the state and beyond.

Following a challenging ed preliminary round, 16 top teams—eight each from junior and senior categories—secured their spots in It's exciting to see the Grand Finale scheduled for Sunday.

to the competition this year, to see them again in 2026.

teams from West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh joined the fray, making Mettle Meet a national-level event.

participants, **Orissa POST** Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said. 'We start-Mettle

Meet to give

Welcoming the

a platform to brilliant minds. for the event. I wish all par-Adding a new dimension ticipants the best and hope

Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy inspired the young quizzers saying, "Be the best version of yourself. For me, all of you are winners today. I

> zing experience will help you beyond academics." The venue buzzed with energy from early morning,

as participants arrived from various parts of Odisha nationwide growing interest and the three neighbouring states with many enduring overnight journeys.

category are SAI International School, KIIT International School, ST Paul's School, Rourkela, Loyola School, Bhubaneswar Model Public School, DAV Kalinga Nagar, DAV CDA, Cuttack hope this quizand DAV Unit VIII (the de-

> fending champions). Finalists in the senior category are IIM Calcutta, AIIMS Bhubaneswar (defending champions), KIIT University, NISER, Bhubaneswar, IIT Kharagpur, XLRI, Jamshedpur, National Law University, Cuttack, and VIMSAR, Burla.

Renowned quizmaster Ajay Poonia returned to host the event, delivering a high-octane experience. "I

FINALISTS **SENIOR CATEGORY**

JUNIOR CATEGORY

- SAI International School KIIT International School
- ST Paul's School, Rourkela (KIIT University
- Loyola School Bhubaneswar Model **Public School**
- DAV Kalinga Nagar
- DAV CDA, Cuttack DAV Unit VIII

questions per category, test-

• IIM Calcutta

- · AIIMS Bhubaneswar
- · NISER, Bhubaneswar
- · IIT Kharagpur
- · XLRI, Jamshedpur · National Law University,
- Cuttack
- · VIMSAR, Burla

expected strong preparation, and the students exceeded that. The response has been fantastic," he said. The prelims featured 35

ing the quizzers' knowledge across politics, sports, history, global affairs, health, and culture, with audio-visual rounds enhancing the

A wager point system was introduced in the junior category where students could wager 1, 2, or 4 points per answer, with partial penalties for incorrect answers.

Likewise, in the senior category, a streak-based bo nus system, where correct answers in a streak of 3, 4, or 5 could earn bonus points. only if claimed correctly. was introduced.

All eyes are now on Sunday's Grand Finale, where AIIMS Bhubaneswar and DAV Unit VIII aim to defend their titles, while first-time entrants IIT Kharagpur, IIM Calcutta, and XLRI Jamshedpur hope to claim the **MORE P6&7**

1 cr women get Subhadra funds

1,783 women from Kotia receive Subhadra benefit Govt to set up South Odisha Development Council



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday distributed ₹5,000 crore to around one crore women as the third instalment under the Subhadra Scheme

Maihi released the amount to beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) at a special event in Jeypore, Koraput district. Among the beneficiaries,

1,783 women are from Kotia panchayat in Koraput district near the Andhra Pradesh border, he said.

by Prime Minister Narendra try for creating the maxicuted with a total cost of Modi September 17 last year mum number of 'Lakhpati ₹452 crore.

ing in the third year of the

worst drought in a century,

the number of outbreaks

decreased, with the regional

government attributing the

decline to improved fire pre-

and in just six-and-a-half

"To make women economically independent, our government came up with this scheme," he said, adding that it has become the biggest women empowerment programme of the state. The CM added that the scheme helped lakhs of women to start their own businesses.

scheme, he added.

He said the scheme also helped 17 lakh women to become 'Lakhpati Didis', part of an ambitious programme envisioned by PM Modi.

Odisha has now secured The scheme was launched the first position in the counfor 436 projects to be exe-

ideal for clearing brush and

other combustible materials

to create natural firebreaks.

The practice of using live-

stock to clear flammable

undergrowth dates back cen-

Didis', Majhi informed. The CM said his government has resolved to develop southern Odisha, which remained under-developed for decades.

Majhi said his government has decided to set up the South Odisha Development Council (SODC) in line with the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC)

A task force headed by Minister Nityananda Gond has been formed and a budgetary provision of ₹200 crore was months, all eligible women made to accelerate develophad been covered under the ment in the region, he added.

Responding to a request by local MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati (Congress) at the programme, the CM assured that a Vande Bharat train would run from Jeypore to Bhubaneswar.

He also informed that his government was making efforts to revive the shut Jeypore paper mill and set up a new degree college there.

On this occasion, the CM also inaugurated 126 projects worth ₹309.42 crore and laid foundation stones

OrissaPOS' **PRESENTS** A Quiz Extravaganza

orissapostlive o mettlemeet 7 orissapostlive 7 mettlemeet

GRAND FINALE 2 PM ONWARDS

IndianOil
The Energy of India

EMPRE (MD)

नालको 🙆 NALCO





DION



imfa











favoured in modern times and back to goats and other animals in search of more sustainable farming techniques. In Spain's Galicia region, wild

Whistling in short bursts, Francesc Teixido and Pedro Alba, both 38, instruct their working dogs to get the goats moving along the perimeter of a residential area in wildfire-prone Maresme county, hugging central Catalonia's coast. The constantly moving animals graze on a wide variety of plants and don't require supplemental feed such as lucerne - resulting in a sweeter, fattier and more protein-rich curd with a higher vield and flavours that change with the ing heat sparks wildfires vention measures, of which turies, but some farmers are season, the pair explain.





True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

PRIME

WAS THAT

MINISTER

NARENDRA

MODI WAS

WITH THE

HARES. AT

THE SAME

TIME AS HE

WAS HOLDING

ALSO WINKING

HANDS WITH

XI, HE WAS

AT TRUMP'S

STRATEGY

INDO-PACIFIC

HUNTING WITH

THE HOUNDS

AND RUNNING

THE PROBLEM

Strategic Blunder

n February 2018 the Trump White House drew up the 'US strategic framework for the Indo-Pacific'. This paper, declassified in January 2021, says America's intent is 'to maintain US strategic primacy ... while preventing China from establishing new, illiberal spheres of influence'. It says China's rise will change the region and challenge US influence globally, and concludes that 'a strong India, in cooperation with likeminded countries, would act as a counterbalance to China'. To this end, the 'desired end state' the US sought, was to be India's preferred partner on security issues', and 'the two cooperate to preserve maritime security and counter China's influence'

America's objective was the creation of a quadrilateral ('Quad') framework that would pull in the navies of India, Japan, Australia and the US as the 'principal hubs' ranged against China. This plan would make India a 'Major Defense Partner' and 'a strong Indian military (would) effectively collaborate with the United States' and 'prevent China's acquisition of military and strategic capabilities'

Why was India signing up for this? It is not clear. With no discussion in parliament, with no interviews to the media and no press conferences, with no reference to this in his manifestos, Modi began drifting India into this strategic partnership and military alliance with the US.

In February 2020, during Trump's visit to India and days before the Ladakh crisis began, Modi committed India to the agreement against China. On 27 October 2020, during the visit of US defence secretary, Mike Pompeo, India signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). This would help India access American intelligence to improve the accuracy of the Indian Army's missiles and armed drones. This portended air force-to-air force cooperation. The second agreement signed was the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA). It allows the two nations' militaries to replenish from each other's bases, and access supplies. spare parts and services from each other's land facilities, air bases and ports, which could then be reimbursed. LEMOA is for India-US navv-to-navv cooperation.

Signing the BECA pact in Delhi, Pompeo attacked China directly: 'I am glad to say that the United States and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party.' Secretary of State Mike Esper said: 'We stand shoulder to shoulder, in support of a free and open Indo Pacific for all, particularly in light of increasing aggression and destabilising activities by

Rajnath Singh and Jaishankar, who were standing next to Pompeo and Esper, did not name China. Rajnath Singh's prepared remarks contained this line, which was later deleted: 'Excellencies, in the area of defense we are challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders.' This deletion was not given to the Indian translator in English, who read out the original text and the Americans

When the paper was declassified, China said 'the US side is obsessed with ganging up, forming small cliques and resorting to

despicable means such as wedge-driving, which fully exposed its true face as a trouble-maker undermining regional peace, stability, solidarity and cooperation'

India did not publicly react to the release of the US document. A third pact, signed six months after the US drew up its strategy, was the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCA-SA). It allows India access to encrypted communications equipment and systems so that Indian and US military commanders, and the aircraft and ships of the two countries, can communicate through secure networks. BECA, LEMOA and COMCASA completed a troika of 'foundational pacts' for deep military cooperation between the two countries. COMCASA was signed in September 2018, five months after Modi travelled to Wuhan to meet Xi. The Wuhan spirit in the agreement between Modi and Xi, signed on 28 April 2018, specifies that India and China would not be rivals but would cooperate with each other. They would also 'push forward bilateral trade and investment'.

The problem, obvious to anyone, was that, whether he fully understood it or not. Modi was hunting with the hounds and running with the hares. At the same time as he was holding hands with Xi, he was also winking at Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy. China's response was to activate the Ladakh border so that India's military focus and resources would remain on land and not the sea.

Former national security advisory MK Narayanan, writing the same day as the casualties in Ladakh were revealed, cautioned Modi. saying: 'This is not the time for India to be seen as the front end of a belligerent coalition seeking to put China in its place' and that 'almost all India-China border agreements are premised on the presumed neutrality of both countries.

Narayanan wrote that 'as the Special Representative for Border Talks with China (2005 to 2010), this sentiment was an ever present reality during all border discussions. The document, "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" (2005), one of the very few documents relating to the China India border, reflects this reality.

Why is your columnist raising issues so many years in the past? Because, as the events of this month show, they are not only relevant, they are crucial in understanding why India finds itself in the position it is in today: confused and friendless.

Essentially, India's actions under this government have been to undo the agreements of 1993 and later, giving China space and options. And there does not seem to be much understanding about the sanctity and significance of treaties, formal and informal, that this government has signed India up for.

WISDOM CORNER

Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of a problem

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness

The question of bread for myself is a material question, but

the question of bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question

JOHN DEWEY

FOCUS UN REFORM

FUNDING FAULTLINE

Nations General Assembly this September, participants will have to confront the escalating development finance crisis that is engulfing the UN system. So far, responses to financial pressures have focused on cutting costs, such as by reducing overhead and improving efficiency. But a lasting solution will require deeper changes, which begins with a fundamental question: What kind of UN does the world need today, and are current funding models fit for purpose?

This year, a liquidity crisis created by non-paying or late-paying governments means that the UN faces a shortfall of \$2.4 billion in regular UN budget dues, and \$2.7 billion in peacekeeping contributions. Moreover, if the UN fails to spend any funds before vear's end - say, because they were delivered late - it is required to return them to member states as credits, rather than rolling them over to the following year.

While the scale of the UN's current funding and liquidity crisis is unprecedented, the underlying issues are not new. With its regular budget covering only a fraction of its needs, the UN is highly dependent on ad hoc, voluntary government funding. The UN Development System (UNDS) is particularly dependent on voluntary contributions that can be quickly pulled back. Investment in the UNDS fell 16% in 2023 (nearly \$9 billion), with 93% of total funding coming from voluntary sources and 7% from assessed membership dues.

To meet this crisis, UN Secretary-General António Gu-

he recent India-UK trade



Only with a robust and predictable financing framework, guided by a strong consensus on goals, can the UN serve as a credible channel for members' investments in global development

terres has launched the UN80 Initiative, which comprises three "workstreams": finding ways to improve efficiency, reviewing implementation of the UN's mandates, and examining possible structural changes and program realignments. The findings and proposals of the first two workstreams are supposed to inform thinking on the third.

In fact, it is the third workstream that has the greatest transformative potential. If done right, the effort could mark a turning point for both the "what" and the "how" of the UN. But success will require the UN to avoid the mistakes of past reform efforts, which have sought to decentralize and improve coordination between agencies but avoided deeper questions about the UN's purpose and financing.

As for purpose, the unique value of the UNDS lies in its power to advance and sustain globally agreed norms. Country-level activities that advance norms like gender equality, sustainability, and human rights should be at the top of the list.

Fulfilling this function depends on the UNDS' technical competencies, convening power, international credibility, and diplomatic relationships But, importantly, it also rests on access to ample, predictable funding that sustains operations in support of these norms. While assessed contributions can provide this, in practice they currently account for a tiny fraction of

total UNDS resources. As a result, cash-starved UNDS funds, agencies, and programs end up accepting contributions attached to narrowly defined projects, which can fragment efforts and reflect the whims and preferences of a handful of major voluntary donors. This effectively turns the UN into a contractor accountable to its paymasters, instead of a trusted adviser to host governments and a global agenda-setter.

The UNDS is most effective when staff can steer policy strategically and deliver remost, rather than where donors dictate. That is why two successive Funding Compacts called for more core financing for the UN's development activities, and less dependence on earmarked contributions. In return, the UN committed to improving transparency. strengthening reporting, and boosting the efficiency of its operations. In 2023, UN agencies met 56% of their Compact targets -more than twice the 24% share met by member states. The inefficiency for which member states criticize the UN is thus at least partly the result of their own funding practices.

Ultimately, the Compact failed to gain traction among UN member governments because it did not make a sufficiently compelling case for the UN's development role.

As for the financing itself, one solution would be to strengthen and expand the use of assessed contributions by re-examining the formula for allocating fiscal obligations among UN member states.

Whatever happens next, one thing should be clear: countries get the UN they fund. Only with a robust and predictable financing framework, guided by a strong consensus on goals, can the UN serve as a credible channel for members' investments in global development. These are the missing pieces of the UN reform jigsaw that must now be quickly found.

Nilima Gulrajani is Principal Research Fellow at ODI Global while John Hendra is a former **UN Assistant** Secretary-General. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM

Dhurjati Mukherjee

ECONOMISTS

BELIEVE THAT

IS MISPLACED

ABOUT GROWTH

TARIFFS IMPOSED

JUBILATION

WITH THE

BY THE US

and John Hendra

SCALE OF THE

UN'S CURRENT

FUNDING AND

UNPRECEDENTED,

THE UNDERLYING

LIOUIDITY

CRISIS IS

ISSUES ARE

NOT NEW

WHILE THE

ECONOMY

Nagging uncertainty clouds future



Several sectors are currently exempt from the reciprocal tariffs, including oil and petroleum products, active pharmaceutical ingredients, smartphones, and electronic goods. The recently published 'State of Economy' report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raises concerns about potential challenges facing India's economic outlook. Some economists note that in the absence of a final deal within two to three months, there could be a measurable impact on fullyear GDP growth estimates for India. Conversely, some analysts believe that, given the economy's reliance on domestic demand, overall growth may remain relatively stable.

According to the RBI report, the future trajectory of the economy faces uncertainty due to both global and domestic factors. If the report had been released after the announcement of the US tariffs, the tone might have reflected additional negative pressures. The report highlights positive prospects for the kharif crop owing to widespread rainfall, while industrial growth is described as modest. It also notes that industrial activity has weakened, with production dropping to a nine-month low in May and demand indicators remaining subdued.

Progress on the 'Make in India' initiative remains limited, primarily because private sector expansion has not occurred at scale. However, defence manufacturing within public sector organisations continues to show resilience. The government has provided support to industry, but challenges persist in integrating suitable technology and achieving cost-efficient production.

The report indicated that bank credit growth has slowed across major sectors, as has lending by non-banking financial companies. Public finances have also experienced pressure, particularly due to increasing state deficits and a significant decrease in Union government grants. State finances are described as vulnerable, citing factors such as governance challenges, expenditure management, and limitations in resource generation.

The rural situation is deteriorating, as highlighted in the central bank's report noting high demand for job schemes due to rural distress—a fact the government refuses to heed or even denies

Though the country's growth is quite high, as measured by GDP, this is contributed mainly by the business leaders and per capita income has not increased significantly, except for the rich and the upper middle-income sections.

Economists believe that jubilation about growth is misplaced with the tariffs imposed by the US. The challenge lies in sustaining the present situation to prevent export disruptions from derailing growth and a fiscal stimulus programme may be considered to shore up weakening business sentiment.

Another aspect ignored by the present dispensation is revitalisation of the rural economy and developing backward districts. In fact, the rural sector has not been given sufficient attention as a result of which villages could not be made agents of change and part of the development process, resulting in crores of people not increasing their income and getting the necessities of life.

One may mention here that the World Bank recently estimated that the claim of reduced income inequality in India does not represent any improvement in the equalization of earnings nor does it indicate an upgradation in economic capacity. Meanwhile, income inequality in the country rose between 2004 and 2023 while wage inequality remains high - in 2023-24 the top 10 percent median earnings exceeded those of the bottom 10 percent by 13 times. The critical situation existing amongst most workers in the unorganized sector continues with even the declared minimum wage not being implemented

False assurances and widespread corruption have worsened the county's socio-economic conditions. Without effective solutions, economic recovery remains unlikely, especially now. While resources are crucial for reforms and infrastructure development, measures like wealth and inheritance taxes—common in many countries—could be considered.

Finally, the role of the private sector has a crucial role to play in this critical scenario. Instead of making easy money and profits from hospitals and educational institutions, they should put sharp focus on manufacturing and developing cost-effective quality products with appropriate technology. This, additionally to meet global standards and help in diversifying to new markets as there is every possibility of there being a fall in exports to the US. All eves are now on how the Centre deals with the American demand.

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:

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

Trump's sour grapes

Sir, US President Donald Trump's recent branding of India and Russia as 'dying economies' reveals more frustration than fact. Russia commands vast energy and mineral reserves; India, with over 840 metric tonnes of official gold and an estimated 25,000 tonnes privately held, is unmatched in household gold wealth. China dominates rare-earth supplies (over 60% of global production), has worldclass infrastructure, and is the planet's manufacturing powerhouse. Together, if India and Russia can amicably resolve border issues with China and strengthen the RIC bloc, they could form an economic front that would rival any G7 structure – a scenario that genuinely worries Washington. This is why the US appears to be playing a 'Joker in the Pack' strategy, using Pakistan and Bangladesh to create regional instability and unsettle India. The purchase of Russian oil is a side note: the real irritation in Washington is New Delhi's refusal to dance to Trump's tune. America's weight rests on the dollar's reserve status and 128 permanent overseas military bases. Yet it groans under \$34 trillion in public debt, with interest payments surpassing most nations' defence budgets (The Economist, 2025). Trump's promise to end the Russia-Ukraine war in 24 hours remains unfulfilled; India has already dismissed his overtures on South Asia. In the end, his only reliable audience is Pakistan — an economy on life support.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Key to remain relevant

Sir, The trend of private sector banks expanding their branches continues robustly across India. The large-scale expansion of physical branches not only aids in deposit growth, but also plays a critical role in enhancing customer relations and offering services to them. The presence of physical branches of banks helps in instilling trust and personal connection with customers, which are pivotal in the banking sector. However, to retain the customer base and remain relevant, banks must do more than opening new branches - they must invest in new strategies and adopt technologies that tear down silos and promote open customer dialogue. The key consideration is that a branch experience must complement the digital experience of a bank.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Shaktishree cells in colleges, universities BJD, Congress celebrate 'World Tribal Day' The leaders paid floral tribSudam Marndi criticised

Bhubaneswar, August 9: In a landmark move to bolster women's safety in educational institutions, the Higher Education department has directed all state public universities and government/non-government aided colleges to establish a Shaktishree Empowerment Cell. The initiative, part of the Shaktishree programme, aims to provide holistic protection—physical, legal, mental, and digital-to all undergraduate and postgraduate female

The cell will be a permanent and student-led body operating throughout the year to promote security, empowerment, and safe academic environment for women students and staffers. Activities will include six-day self-defence training, thematic workshops, awareness campaigns, yoga and meditation sessions, and collaborations with civil society experts.

students across the state.

Each cell will be guided by a



The cell will be a permanent and student-led body operating throughout the year to promote security, empowerment, and safe academic environment for women students and staffers

Shaktishree Sanjojika—a female faculty member nominated by the institution—and supported by a Shaktishree Saathi (peer leader) along with female class representatives from every department.

The Saathi will coordinate with peers and the Sanjojika to ensure smooth execution of activities and foster a respectful, inclusive environment.

The selection process for Shak-

transparently through a screening committee comprising faculty members, with emphasis on leadership, communication, responsibility, empathy, problem-solving ability, and respect for diversity. Class representatives and peer leaders will be chosen voluntarily from among willing and eligible female students.

The last date of selection of female class representative is August 14 while last dated of selection of peer leader as Shaktishree Saathi is August 20. The date of establishment of Shaktishree Empowerment Cell is August 25.

Higher Education Director Kaliprasanna Mahapatra has instructed all institutions to submit details of the newly formed cell, including the names of the Sanjojika and Saathi, via an official Google form.

The Shaktishree initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening campus safety and empowering young women to lead change in their communities.

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) marked World Tribal Day—officially the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoplesat their respective party headquarters here Saturday.

At Shankha Bhavan, senior BJD leaders—including Debi Prasad Mishra, Pratap Jena, Ashok Panda, Sudam Marndi, Snehangini Chhuria, and others-attended the celebratory event.

utes to photos of Birsa Munda and other tribal icons. The programme also featured traditional tribal dance and music performed by tribal artists. Following the celebration, the BJD held a press conference to highlight several issues faced by tribal communities.

Addressing the media, the BJD alleged that despite having a tribal Chief Minister. the government has cut the Tribal Welfare budget, reduced student stipends, and failed to fulfil promises of socio-economic upliftment.

BIGGEST SHOPPING FESTIVAL

the government for not issuing a message on the occasion and for ignoring the rising crimes against tribal women and girls, including incidents in government hostels.

Similarly, the Congress cel ebrated the day at Congress Bhawan with tribal dance and music performed by tribal artists. The event was attended by OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das, former Union minister Srikant Jena, state Congress tribal chairperson Yashbant Narayan Singh Laguri, and other tribal leaders.

'Rakhi Purnima' observed with road safety campaign



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, August 9: On Raksha Bandhan, the Commerce and Transport department launched a unique road safety awareness campaign across the state Saturday. In collaboration with the police, students, and volunteers, the department carried out this innovative drive to promote road safety.

Officers and employees of the State Transport Authority and all Regional Transport Offices tied Safety Threads' (symbolic rakhis) and urged the public to drive safely. The campaign primarily targeted traffic rule violators. As part of the initiative, officials visited traffic posts early in the morning to promote awareness and help reduce road accidents.

People riding without helmets or seat belts were gently approached and tied with specially designed safety threads. They were offered sweets and urged to be more cautious for their own safety, with the reminder, "If we follow the rules, we reach home

At the Bhubaneswar event, notable attendees included Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, Traffic DCP Tapan Mohanty, Additional DCP Ankit Verma, senior Transport department officers, members of the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris organisation,

The Transport Commissioner said the government has directed a significant expansion of road safety awareness to reduce accidents. He added, "We chose Raksha Bandhan—a day when sisters pray for their brothers' safety—as a meaningful occasion for this campaign. Our message is clear: ignoring rules can cause accidents, but following them helps us return home safely.

A similar event took place in Cuttack, attended by the Joint Transport Commissioner and Commissionerate Police officials. Additionally, all RTOs and Additional RTOs across the state organised such events in their regions. The department plans to expand these initiatives further in the future.

CII HOSTS ODISHA MPs IN NEW DELHI



New Delhi, August 9: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Odisha hosted an interactive session in New Delhi with 14 Members of Parliament from the state, joined by members of the CII Odisha State

The session focused on advancing Odisha's socio-economic growth through stronger industrygovernment collaboration.

Discussions centred on four priorities: boosting tourism by leveraging heritage and natural assets, promoting agro-based industries to enhance value addition and rural incomes, supporting MSMEs with finance and technology access, and mapping district-wise industrial potential to attract investment and ensure balanced regional growth.

The deliberations stressed the need for coordinated efforts by government, industry, and local communities to ensure inclusive, sustainable development.

The meeting saw active participation from MPs, CII Odisha State Council members, and senior industry leaders, and was moderated by Sunil Gupta,

chairman of the CII Odisha State Council. CII reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate with policymakers to accelerate Odisha's economic priorities and foster an enabling investment climate.



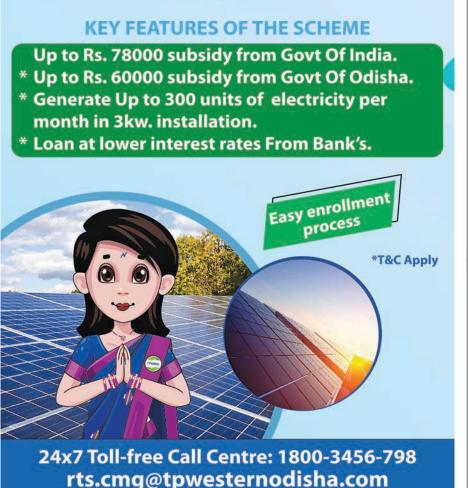
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The seventh edition of **Mettle Meet** got off to an electrifying start at a City hotel Saturday, drawing participation from over 80 premier educational institutions from the state and beyond. The edition marked a significant milestone in terms of its reach with inclusion of four national teams from prestigious institutions. Following a rigorous preliminary round, 16 top teams—eight each from junior and senior categories—earned their spots in the Grand Finale scheduled for Sunday. OrissaPOST brings you some of the most memorable moments from day-1 of the eastern India's biggest quizzing extravaganza















Teen kills younger bro, buries body

Bolangir/Titilagarh, August 9: In a spine-chilling incident, a 17-year-old boy allegedly stabbed his 12-year-old younger brother to death over a petty quarrel and later buried the body at Titilagarh town in Bolangir district, police said Saturday.

During a presser held at Titilagarh police station Saturday, Bolangir Superintendent of Police (SP) Abilash G told the mediapersons that the horrific murder, which took place about one-and-a-half months ago, had shocked the community. The SP said Manasi Podh, a woman of Hatapadapada (Gorubazarpada) in Titilagarh town, reported to the police that her 12-year-old son, a Class VII student, had been missing from home since 5pm June 28. Titilagarh police registered a case (216/25) and launched an investigation.

With no breakthrough in the



informed the police that she suspected her elder son's involvement in the disappearance of her younger son.

Manasi and her husband Cheru Podh are both daily wagers. She said that her elder son had dropped out of school after completing matriculation while her younger son was studying in Class VII. The couple returned home from work and found their younger son missing. In the evening, Manasi found her elder son cleaning the floor of the house with phenyl.

On being asked as to why he was cleaning the floor, he said he was removing dirt and soil stuck to the floor. Based on this tip, officers questioned the boy in the presence of a magistrate. He allegedly confessed to killing his younger brother and burying the body.

According to police, on the fateful day, the accused elder son stabbed his younger brother with a kitchen knife, dug a pit on the backvard of the house and buried the body. Later that

gone to bed, he reportedly dug it up, carried it on his shoulder and reburied it near a creek.

During a crime scene reconstruction Saturday, the boy told police that he had harboured grudge against the deceased as their parents showed more affection to the younger sibling during a quarrel while they were eating guavas.

Acting on the boy's statement, police along with a scientific team and sniffer dogs searched an area about 300 metres from Manasi's home and recovered a remains buried near a drain. The remains were sent to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir for an autopsy.

Residents expressed disbelief, with some speculating it could be a case of human sacrifice. However, the SP dismissed such



PROMISE TO PROTECT: School students tying rakhis to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and other leaders at a function in Jeypore of Koraput district, Saturday

Body of fisherman missing in sea found after a week

Balasore: A week after four fishermen from Odisha went missing after venturing into the sea, the body of one of them was recovered off the coast in Balasore district, police said Saturday. Gopal Giri (60), his sons Madhusudan (35) and Rabindra (38), and his brother-inlaw Jaganath Pal (23) had gone sea fishing August 2 and went missing. The body of Gopal Giri was recovered from the coast near Udaipur in Bhograi block of the coastal district Friday and handed over to the family after post-mortem examination, said Champabati Soren, Inspector In-Charge (IIC) of Talsari marine police station. Earlier, Jagannath and Madhusudan were rescued near the Digha coast

in neighbouring West Bengal's

Purba Medinipur district, while

the body of Rabindra Giri was

recovered from the coast near

Udaipur, the police said.

Op Garuda: 129 wanted criminals held in 9 days

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Odisha Police arrested 129 people, wanted in different criminal cases, over the last nine days during a special drive, a senior officer said Saturday.

'Operation Garuda' was launched August 1 for curbing crime, smuggling, and anti-social activities, ADG (Law and Order) Sanjay Kumar said, addressing a press conference.

He said it will continue till August 14, and so far, 3,159 non-bailable warrants have been executed as a part of it.

Till Saturday, 51 firearms, 95 rounds of ammunition and ₹1.45 lakh in cash were seized, Kumar said. A total of 890 excise-related cases were registered across the state, and 17,069 litres of illicit liquor



istered after 888 kg ganja and 44.57 gram brown sugar were seized, he added. Kumar said 11 cases related to gambling were lodged, and ₹2.79 lakh in cash were seized during the operation. Police have also registered 115 drunk driving cases, and seized an equal number of vehicles, mainly in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack cities, he said.

The ADG said the achievements reflect the dedication, coordination, and zeal of all districts in making 'Operation Garuda' a success. "We will intensify the operation in the coming week," he said.

LANDLORD MURDERS MAN ER MONETARY DISPUTE

Berhampur, August 9: A man hacked to death his disabled friend, who lived as a tenant in his house, following simmering dispute regarding repayment of money for the mortgaged house at Goudsahi in Haridakhandi here Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Shankar Majhi, 48, alias Shiva Shankar, a native of Rautpentha. The accused landlord was identified as Goura Behera.

Police have sealed the house where the murder took place and recovered a bloodstained sword from inside.

Majhi's brother, Chakadola Majhi, filed a complaint at the local police station, leading to the registration of a murder

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the deceased Shankar's wife was a former Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) corporator. The couple had separated from his wife for unspecified reasons, and staying at the rented house in Gou dasahi, Haridakhandi, owned by his friend Goura Behera.

Behera, who was also separated from his wife, had mortgaged the house to Shankar for ₹2.5 lakh. Despite the arrangement. both men continued living in the same house, often engaging in heated arguments. Shankar repeatedly told Behera he would vacate the property once the money was repaid, but Behera allegedly ignored his requests.

The ongoing tension even-

confrontation that claimed Shankar's life.

Goura allegedly attacked Shankar with a sword following an argument between the two Friday night, police said.

According to police, Goura locked the house from the outside and fled the scene leaving Shankar bleeding inside. Local residents called the emergency helpline 112, and officers from Badabazar police station were alerted because the door was locked from the outside.

Police broke the lock, rescued Shankar and rushed him to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The body was handed over to the family member Saturday after a post-mortem. Police said Goura remains at large.

Sisters swept away in Subarnarekha

Balasore: Two minor sisters went missing after being swept away by strong currents of the Subarnarekha River under Jaleswai police limits in Balasore district Saturday, police said. The missing siblings were identified as Nandini Das, 14, and Chandni Das, 11, both daughters of Kanhu Charan Das in Chakahari village. A search has been started for the two girls, who ventured into the river to collect water from the Sikharpur Ghat in Jaleswar to offer in a Shiva temple in their village, they said. They accidentally slipped and were swept away. Three others who were also swept away have been rescued. After receiving information about the incident, Fire Service and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel launched a search operation, SDPO (Jaleswar) Subrat Behera said. He said the girls went near the river without the knowledge of their family. Two teams of firefighters and one ODRAF team are conducting the search, he added

rape minor girlfriend

Baripada, August 9: A youth was arrested for allegedly attempting to rape his minor girlfriend along with his friends in Mayurbhanj district, police said Saturday.

The accused has been arrested while his friends are currently absconding since the incident, a police officer said.

The complainant, a 17-yearold girl, was on her way home from tuition August 2 when the vouth took her to a nearby jungle on some pretext. The accused person's two to four friends also joined him, the officer said.

They then allegedly attempted to rape her, but the girl managed to escape and



reach home. On the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim's family August 4, a case was registered at Udala police station, and the prime accused was arrested Friday, said Inspector In-Charge of Udala police station, Banamali Barik.

"We are searching for the prime accused person's friends. Two to four other persons are suspected to be involved in the case," the inspector said.

Youth held for bid to Woman dies at AIIMS after suicide bid over viral photo

Umerkote/Raighar,

August 9: A young woman from Raighar block in Nabarangpur district, who attempted suicide by consuming poison after her photos went viral, died Saturday afternoon while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, hospital officials said. The autopsy is scheduled for Sunday, they added.

Following her death, Opposition leaders have targeted the state government. Former Nabarangpur MP and BJD leader Pradeep Kumar Majhi blamed the state administration's inaction and police neg-

ing timely intervention could have prevented the suicide attempt.

He alleged that cases of violence against women are rising daily because the government is not taking strict action against offenders. He demanded measures to prevent such incidents in undivided Koraput district and sought ₹1 crore in compensation for the victim's family.

Congress leader Sanraj Gond also demanded compensation and warned of statewide protests if strict laws against violence on women are not enacted and justice is not delivered to the victim's family.

victim was a second-vear BSc Nursing student at a college in Jeypore, Koraput district, Satyajit Sarkar, a man from a neighbouring village, was allegedly infatuated with her. When she rejected his advances, he reportedly assaulted her in Jeypore July 13 and circulated photos and videos of her with a male friend. Humiliated, the woman consumed pesticide July 17. She was shifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar July 24 where she died.

Jevpore in connection with

conversion. priests and nuns and that it re-

Raighar police later arrested Satyajit from Daspalla and the woman's male friend from the case.

priests, nuns as 'Hindutva vigilantism' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA flected the ongoing communal

Kerala CM terms 'attack' on Catholic

Thiruvananthapuram, August 9: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has termed the alleged attack on Catholic priests and nuns in Odisha's Jaleswar as Hindutva vigilantism.

He also said that those reported attacks were carried out on false charges of religious

In a post on social media platform X, Vijayan alleged that Sangh Parivar goons were behind the alleged attack on the

witch-hunt against Christians in the country.

"Reports of an assault on Keralite Catholic priests and nuns by Sangh Parivar goons in Jaleswar, Odisha, on false charges of religious conversion, reflect the ongoing communal witchhunt against Christians in the country, exemplified by the arrest of nuns in Chhattisgarh weeks ago. Such Hindutva vigi lantism, enabled by the regime's impunity, must be unitedly re

sisted by secular and democrat-

ic forces," he said Friday.

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Bhapur, Dated: 25.04.2025, I, Joginath Mallik, S/o - Aintha Mallik, Address: At-Karabar, P.O - Karabar, P.S. - Fategarh, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha -752063, declare that I have changed my name from Bhikari Mallik to Joginath Mallik. Henceforth, I shall be known as Joginath Mallik for all purposes. Joginath Mallik

BJD to organise farmers' rally in Bargarh

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Dubbing the ruling BJP as anti-farmer, opposition BJD Friday announced to hold a massive farmers' rally in Bargarh August 18 to make them aware how the saffron party has been exploiting them.

Addressing a press conference here, BJD farmers' cell convenor Prasanna Acharva said the BJP governments both at the Centre and the state are working against the interest of farmers.

The state's agricultural growth rate has dropped from 7.6 per cent in 2023–24 to just 3.8 per cent in 2024–25, Acharya claimed, adding that the overall central assistance to the state has declined by 18.19 per cent during this fiscal.



Allocation to Odisha for the agriculture sector has been slashed from ₹21,011 crore in 2023-24 to ₹17.089 crore in 2024-25. While the state received ₹146 crore under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2023-24, it has come down to only ₹32 crore in 2024-25, he claimed.

Acharya also said the farmers in the state are annoyed over issues related to paddy procurement.

BJD vice-president Sanjay Das Burma alleged that the new paddy procurement registration rules — requiring legal heir certificates — are deterring farmers and being used as a tactic to avoid paying the promised ₹800 per quintal input subsidy.

This apart, the party alleged that farmers are being forced into distress sale as the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is not lifting the paddy on time.

Acharya said BJD's 'Krushak Samabesh' (farmers' conventions) will be held across the state, with the first such protest set to be held in Bargarh August 18.

Tushar Kanti new GSTAT judicial member

Cuttack: Senior advocate Tushar Kanti Satapathy of the Orissa High Court has been appointed



member of the state bench of the Goods and pellate Tribunal (GSTAT). The appointment was made by President of India

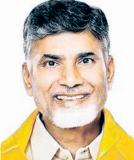
via order no. JM-02/2025, dated August 8, 2025. Satapathy has been practicing in the Orissa High Court since 1991, with 34 years of experience in Direct and Indirect Tax, Education matters Company Law, and Constitutional law. Satapathy, a resident of Samanta Sahi in Cuttack, is the grandson of the late Banchhanidhi Satapathy, founder and first headmaster of Ranihar Government High School, and the son of the late Binodini and Ajit Kumar Satapathy. His appointment has been

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N CHANDRABABU NAIDU ANDHRA PRADESH CM

WOMAN PUSHED OFF RUNNING TRAIN. ROBBED

A 64-year-old woman was pushed off the slowly moving Sampark Kranti Express shortly after it left Kozhikode railway station and robbed of over Rs 8,000 in cash and a mobile phone, Railway police said Saturday. The woman, along with her brother, was travelling to Thrissur in Kerala from Panvel in Maharashtra



Why stopped Op Sindoor: Cong to PM

New Delhi, August 9: The Congress Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why he stopped Operation Sindoor May 10 and under whose pressure, the Indian Air Force revealed that it shot down five Pakistani fighter jets during

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said in Bangalore that the IAF shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large aircraft during Operation Sindoor, describing it as the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill by India.

"In view of the new revelations made by the Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh today, it becomes all the more shocking why the PM suddenly stopped Operation Sindoor on the evening of May 10th," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "Where did the pressure on the PM come from and why did he capitulate so very soon?' he asked.

The remarks by the air chief were made at the 16th Air Chief Marshal L M Katre Memorial

New Delhi, August 9: The Election

Commission Saturday said it has delist-

ed 334 registered unrecognised political

parties which have failed to fulfil the

essential condition of contesting even a

single election for six years since 2019.

so not be physically located anywhere.

These 334 registered unrecognised po-

litical parties (RUPP) are from different

states and Union Territories across the

Out of the total 2.854 registered unrec-

ognised political parties, 2,520 remain af-

ter the cleanup exercise. At present, there

are six national parties and 67 state par-

ties. In June this year, the poll authority

had started proceedings against 345 such

Since 2001, the EC has weeded out

defunct RUPPs "three to four" times, of-

ficials said. The Supreme Court had ear-

lier barred the poll panel from "derecog-

nising" political parties, noting that it

was not prescribed under law. However.

the EC has found a way to "delist par-

country, the poll panel said.

parties and finally delisted 334.

The offices of these parties could al-



DRDO CHIEF HAILS OP SINDOOR

dication of at least one AWC in that AWC hangar, and a few F-16s, which are under maintenance there. We have at least five fighters confirmed killed and one large aircraft, which could be either an aircraft or an AWC, which was taken at a distance of about 300 kilometres. This is actually the largest ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," Amar Preet Singh said.

The operation also resulted in a large number of drones and some of the missiles falling into Indian territory. "So

EC delists 334 registered unrecognised parties

the main building where the planning goes on, which was also used as the civil terminal building at times. As far as the Sukkur airbase is concerned, we attacked the UAB hangar and radar site," he said.

Under Operation Sindoor in May, the IAF carried out precision strikes on multiple targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir linked to terror groups. The operation was aimed at destroying terror infrastructure and neutralising key operatives as a consequence of the April 22

Uttarkashi: More than 1000 airlifted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, August 9: Helicopters made multiple sorties Saturday to evacuate people from areas surrounding the disaster-hit Dharali in Uttarkashi as rescue operations entered the fifth day with the thrust on improving road connectivity and supplying food packets to the affected people.

SDRF's dog squad walked through dilapidated buildings swamped with rubble in search of those who went missing after the devastating mudslide in Kheer Ganga Tuesday tore through Dharali bazar razing hotels and homestays to the ground and swept away all that came in its way killing people and leaving behind a trail of destruction. The SDRF is searching for people trapped under the debris in Dharali by conducting a thorough search in the damaged buildings with the help of state-of-the-art equipment like victim locating and thermal imaging cameras and a dog squad.

RG Kar doc's mother alleges police assault

to mark one year

of the rape and

Kolkata, August 9: The mother of the RG Kar victim Saturday alleged that she was roughed up by women police personnel during a march to West Ben-'Nabanna', called

murder of her daughter at the state-run hospi-The assault allegedly took place when Kolkata Police ba-

ton-charged protesters at the Park Street crossing in the central part of the city to disperse the crowd, which was trying to breach police barricades and move towards Vidyasagar Setu in their bid to reach the

'The police shoved me and pinned me to the ground. They broke my 'shankha' (traditional

and above: 3%.

i.e. 03.09.2025 at 1530 hrs.

conch shell bangle) and I sustained injury on my forehead," the victim's mother alleged.

She claimed that four to five police personnel manhandled her during the scuffle between police and protesters.

The police, though denied having used any force on the parents of the victim. "We have no in-

formation about

the victim's par-

ents getting beaten up by the police at the Park Street crossing. Police did not do anything to the parents at

this point. But their allegations will be duly investigated," DC (Port), Harikrishna Pai told Undaunted by the police's

resistance, both parents of the RG Kar victim walked all the way up to Hastings at the foot of the Vidyasagar Setu, where they were again stopped by a police barricade.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION OF PASSENGER HALT AGENT FOR

DULAKHAPATNA AND BADAPADAGAON PASSENGER HALTS

No. G.51/P.H/DLPT & BDPG/Notification/3066 Dated: 01.08.2025

Applications are invited from interested applicants for appointment as

Passenger Halt Agent to sell tickets for Dulakhapatna (DLPT) Passenger

Halt (DLPT PH in between Manjuri Road (MZZ) and Baitarani Road (BTV

Railway stations) and Badapadagaon (BDPG) Passenger Halt (BDPG

PH in between Charbatia (CBT) and Gurudijhatia (GJTA) Railway stations

• ₹ 1/- to ₹ 15,000/- : 15%, • ₹ 15,001/- to ₹ 50,000/- : 12%, • ₹ 50,001/-

to ₹ 1,00,000/-: 9%, • ₹ 1,00,001/- to ₹ 2,00,000/-: 6%, • ₹ 2,00,001/-

Security Deposit for above Halt is ₹ 2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only)

Application duly filled should reach this office by 1500 hrs. on or before

03.09.2025 (Wednesday). If the last day i.e. 03.09.2025 happens to be

or is declared to be a holiday, applications will be received by the same

time on the next working day. The Tender will be opened on same day

The details and the prescribed format for filling application please visit

PR-447/Q/25-26 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road

our website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

COMMISSION PAYABLE to the Halt Agent will be as under

Amount of Sale of Tickets per month & Commission payable :

Massive crackdown on terror ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 9: The Jam mu and Kashmir Police Saturday conducted searches at 26 houses, including that of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Mohammad Amin Bhat alias "Jehangir Saroori", in a massive clampdown on the terror ecosystem in the Kishtwar dis trict, officials said.

Besides Bhat, the raids mostly targeted homes of terrorists operating from Paki stan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and smuggling arm and ammunition from across the border, they said. The raids in Kishtwar came a day after similar searches were conducted at 15 locations in nearby Doda district.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/

Description: RENOVATION OF TRAVERSER PIT NO. 01 AND RENOVATION OF WATER TANK SECTION WITH PROVISION OF STACKING SHELVES, PALLET STACKERS (28 MTR X 10 MTR.), MT SHOP (OFFICE & STORE (50 MTR. X 25 MTR.) WITH NEW ROOM 3M X 4M FOR SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SSE)/MT OFFICE AND OFFICE OF POH SHOP AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP MANCHESWAR

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 242.82

(2) Tender No. : eTender-EastKUR-183-2025, dtd. 29.07.2025

Description: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRACK MOUNTED AUTOMATIC (ELECTRONIC TYPE GAUGE FACE LUBRICATOR ON 15 NOS. CURVE LOCATIONS ON TALCHER - PARADEEP SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

181-2025, dtd. 28.07.2025

Description: BETTERMENT OF OHE & MODEL OHE AT CUTTACK AND RAHAMA OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

for sl. no. 1), 60 (Sixty) Months (for sl no. 2) & 10 (Ten) Months (for sl. no. 3). Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500

No manual offers sent by Post/Cour Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

such e-tenders.

locuments of the above e-tender is available n website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before ne date of closing of tender to note an

changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. PR-451/Q/25-26

176-2025, Dtd. 28.07.2025

Description: MISCELLANEOUS

REPAIRS TO SERVICE BUILDINGS BETWEEN SADASHIBAPUR TO TALCHER SECTION UNDER THE

JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION

ENGINEER (SSE)(W)/TALCHER OF

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 195.23

(2) Tender No. : e-TenderSouthKUR-

185-2025, Dtd. 30.07.2025

Description: CONSTRUCTION OF RCC

PRE-CAST BOUNDARY WALL NEAR STATIONS & ITS APPROACHES TO PREVENT ENCROACHMENT/

TRESPASSING AT GOLANTHRA (GTA),
NIRAKARPUR (NKP), KALUPARA GHAT
(KAPG), CHILKA (CLKA) & KHALLIKOT
(KIT) STATIONS UNDER SR.
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (DEN) (SOUTH)

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 908.74 Lakh, <u>EMD</u>: ₹ 6,04,400.00.

(3) Tender No. : eTender-SouthKUR-182-

2025, Dtd. 28.07.2025

RENEWAL (TFR) AND THROUGH

FITTINGS RENEWALS OF TURNOUTS (TFRTO) BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD

PALASA SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (DEN) (SOUTH) OF KHURDA

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 159.61 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,29,800.00.

(4) Tender No. : e-TenderNorthKUR-180-

2025, Dtd. 30.07.2025

escription: VARIOUS P.WAY WORKS UCH AS CASUAL SLEEPER RENEWAL

RAIL RENEWAL, LIFTING & PACKING OF

PSC SLEEPERS, DISTRESSING, CUT RAIL WELDING, BOXING OF BALLAST

CLEANING OF JUNGLE, SHIFTING OF

MATERIALS FROM SECTION ETC. AND OTHER ENABLING WORKS IN SENIOR

SECTION ENGINEER (SSE)/P.WAY

JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR) UNIT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF

ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER

(ADEN)/JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 170.76

Completion period : 12 (Twelve) Month

escription: RENEWAL OF 1 IN 12 FAN HAPED LAYOUT, THROUGH FITTINGS

OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

wall collapses

SHORT **TAKES**

New Delhi: Seven people were killed when a wall collapsed near Mohan Baba Mandir in Jaitpur amid heavy rains in the national capital Saturday morning, police said. While the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) earlier claimed that eight people had died in the incident, police later stated that seven victims were confirmed dead and one injured person was undergoing treatment.

Two goods trains derail

Jamshedpur/Kolkata: Two goods trains got derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharswan district Saturday under South Eastern Railway's Adra division, leading to the cancellation of several express trains. The accident occurred when the two goods trains were passing each other in opposite direction between Chandil and Nimdih stations in Jharkhand, an official said.

AP ranks 2nd in justice delivery

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has secured the overall second rank among 18 large and midsized states with a population of over one crore in delivering justice, according to the India Justice Report 2025.

Staff member dies in fire at hospital

New Delhi: A 28-year-old housekeeping staff member

by the poll authority without getting into the process of giving them fresh recognition, a former EC functionary pointed out. Some RUPPs were, in the past, seen flouting income tax laws and the anti-money laundering law.

ties". Those delisted can be listed again

Political parties (national/state/RUP-Ps) in the country are registered with the EC under the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People

Under this provision, any association once registered as a political party gets certain privileges and advantages, such as tax exemptions, amongst others. This exercise has been conducted with the aim of cleaning up the political system and delisting of such parties which have not contested any election to the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies of states/UTs or byelections since 2019, and those which could not be physically traced as well, the officials said. The latest move comes ahead of the Bihar polls. Parties delisted cannot field their candidates to contest elections.

SNIPPETS

Over 300 flights delayed at

Delhi airport amid heavy rain

NEW DELHI: More than 300 flights were delayed at

diversions at the Indira Gandhi International Airport

(IGIA) in the national capital, which witnessed heavy

rains. IGIA is the country's largest airport, handling

around 1.300 flight movements daily. Over 300 flights

were delayed at the airport and some were cancelled.

The average delay in flight departures was around 17

minutes, according to data available on flight tracking

morning, IndiGo said there was heavy downpour over

schedules. "If you're travelling today, please be aware of potential delays and allow additional time for your

usual, "We're monitoring the situation closely and will

Koradi temple gate collapse injures 17

NAGPUR: Seventeen workers were injured, including

three critically, after a slab of an under-construction

Koradi in Nagpur collapsed Saturday, officials said.

workers were injured, three of whom are critical.

The incident took place at 8pm, they said. "Seventeen

They have been hospitalised. Rescue operations were

launched immediately by the police, fire brigade and

those in the vicinity. NDRF personnel are also at the

Collector Vipin Itankar and Deputy Commissioner of

Police Niketan Kadam," an official said. The cause of

the collapse is yet to be ascertained, he said, adding

Woman's body parts found at 10 places

experts will be inspecting the site in some time.

Tumakuru (Karnataka): The severed head and

dismembered body of a woman were found stuffed in

multiple plastic bags along the road at Kolala village

in Koratagere. According to police, initially August 7,

seven covers with the woman's body parts stuffed were

site. The operation is being monitored by District

gate of the Mahalaxmi Jagadamba Devasthan in

Delhi, causing some temporary disruption to flight

iourney, especially with traffic moving slower than

get you airborne as soon as possible," it said.

website Flightradar24.com. In a post on X in the

the Delhi airport Saturday due to adverse weather

conditions. An official said there were no flight

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

National Olympiad Programme

in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding National Standard Examinations (NSEs) (for science subjects) on November 22 and 23, 2025, conducted by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT). Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participatior

in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2026 NSEs: https://www.iapt.org.in (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2025)

For more details: https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in https://www.iapt.org.in

cbc48143/12/0005/2526

Bank of India Zonal Office : Sambalpur, Near Sarlakani

Liabilities due | Date of Demand

POSSESSION NOTICE Chowk, Sambalpur - 768006 (Odisha)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial

Description of the

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor/Co-Borrowers in the loar account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Mortgagor Co-Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub- section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the said rules. The Borrower/Mortgagor/Co-Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amour mentioned below with interest & other expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset. BRANCH /

ı	Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgagor/Co-Borrowers	as per Notice	Notice/ Date of Possession	Properties
ı	JEYPORE BRANCH /	₹31,56,000/-		1) All that Part & Parcel of the Land & Building situated at
١	Borrowers/Mortgagors: 1) Mr. Samir		30.05.2025	Khata No.: 69/1140, Plot No.: 101/1420 & 102/1440, Area:
	Kumar Patnaik, S/o.: Simadri Patnaik,		1	Ac.0.011 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Dubli, Tahasil:
١	2) Mrs. Kajal Mallick, C/o.: Mr. Samir	& expenses thereon	06.08.2025	Jeypore, Dist.: Koraput, Standing in the name of Mr. Samir
١	Kumar Patnaik, Both are At: Bapuji	·		Kumar Patnaik, Bounded by East: Balance Portion of Plot
Nagar, Near Deepti Convent School, No.: 102, West: 20 feet Road, North: Rest portion of Su			: Rest portion of Sub Plot No.: 232 of Samir Pattnaik, South:	
ı	Jeypore, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha-764001	Sub Plot No.: 233	, 2) All that Part & I	Parcel of the Land & Building situated at Khata No.: 69/1502,
Plot No.: 101/1424 & 102/1443, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Dubli, Tahasil: Jeypore, Dist.: Koraput, Standin				
ı	name of Mr. Samir Kumar Patnaik , Bounded by East: Balance Portion of Plot No.: 102, West: 20 feet Road, North: Sub Plot No.: 231 South: Sub Plot No.: 233, Total Aggregating Area: Ac.0.021 Dec.			
ı				
ı	MAIN ROAD BRANCH, ROURKELA /			All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Khata
ı	Borrower: Mr. Nandlal Prasad,			No.: 294, Plot No.: 3151/1, Area: Ac.0.025 Dec, Mouza/

30.05.2025

08.08.2025

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 08.08.2025

Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

₹12,07,410.71

as on **30.05.2025**

& further interest

& expenses thereon

No.: 294, Plot No.: 3151/1, Area: Ac.0.025 Dec, Mouza/ P.S.: Brahamanitarang, SRO: Rourkela, Tahasil: Lathikata, Kissam: Gharabari, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha Standing in the name of Mrs. Bimala Devi, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 3157, East: Plot No.: 3152 (House of Hira Gupta), West: Plot No.: 3151/P (House of

Ramchandra Prasad Soni) Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Chola

CORPORATE OFFICE: "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Maa Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010 POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(1) - FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned the account calling upon the respective Borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the Proper mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the date mentioned against the account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under. The Borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned against the account along with Interest and other charges.

Loan Account No.: HE01CUK00000037174 Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower

S/o.: Jagdish Prasad / Co-Borrower:

Mr. Amit Prasad Soni, S/o.: Mr. Nandla

Prasad / Co-Borrower/Mortgagor:

Mrs. Bimala Devi, W/o.: Nandial Prasad

All are At: Viswakarma Vihar, Near TC

Dandiapalli, Plot No.: 1914/2866,

1. Suryamani Sahoo (Applicant), S/o. Sankarsan Sahoo - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050

2. M/s. Shree Krishna Mobile Sales And Service (Co-applicant) 140, Ground Floor, Collage Road, Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala District-Jajpur, Odisha - 755 050.

 M/s. Shree Krishna Jeweller (Co-applicant), 140, Ground Floor, Collage Road Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District-Jajpur, Odisha - 755 050. 4. Santosh Kumar Sahoo (Co-applicant), S/o. Sankarsan Sahoo Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050. Binapani Sahoo (Co-applicant), W/o. Suryamani Sahoo
 Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050.

6. Chandramani Sahoo (Co-applicant), S/o. Sankarsan Sahoo Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050. Jayanti Sahoo (Co-applicant),
 Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050.

8. Priyadarshini Jena (Co-applicant) Village - Jaraka, Post - Jarka, P.S. - Dharamsala, District - Jaipur, Odisha - 755 050.

Description of the Immovable Property/ies: Date of Demand Notice Property 1: All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Plot No. 269, Khata No. 477/203, Area -A0.040 Decimals, Status - Sthitiban, Kisam Gharbari, Mauja, Village - Jaraka, P.S. Dharmsala, Tahsil - Dharmasala, District - Jajpur,

Property 2: All that part and parcel of the property bearing Plot No. 269/1257, Khata No. 477/199. Area - A0.040 Decimals, Status - Sthitiban, Kisam-Gharbari, Mauja, Village - Jaraka, P.S.

Property 3: All that part and parcel of the property bearing Plot No. 269/1259, Khata No. 477/201, Area - A0.040 Decimals, Status - Sthittban, Kisam-Gharbari, Mauja, Village - Jaraka, P.S. Dharmsala, Tahsil - Dharmasala, District - Jaipur

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 52,29,560.00 (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand

Date of Symbolic Possession: 07.08.2025

Authorised Office

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500

Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,35,400.00.

ROAD DIVISION

No manual offers sent by Post/Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

such e-tenders.

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

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note an hanges/corrigenda issued for this tender

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg. PR-450/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

the server room of the Kosmos of Police, Ashok K V, to comb Kolala village near Koratagere, where the body parts were discovered, as well as neighbouring villages.

brought to their notice by passersby. Later, Koratagere police combed the crime spot and found seven more plastic bags stuffed with body parts and the head August 8. An official, who is part of the investigating team, said they have zeroed in on the identity of the woman with the help of the head. "But we are yet to confirm the identity," said the official to PTI. On Friday, special teams were set up by Tumakuru Superintendent

died after a fire broke out in Hospital in Anand Vihar Saturday, police said.

Place : Cuttack (Odisha)

Date: 10.08.2025

Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

international



As I have been telling my friends in India, one of the most consequential things they could do to improve India-US relations is to help President Trump end this bloodbath in Ukraine

SINGAPORE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Singapore celebrated 60 years of independence, SG60, with a National Day Parade (NDP) by the Armed Forces and civil units at the Padang Saturday, marking the diamond jubilee of the city state. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam led the celebration, joined by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, his cabinet members and the members of parliament





Pakistani aircraft was hit or destroyed by (the) Indian (side). For three months, no such claims

were voiced - while Pakistan, in the immediate aftermath, presented detailed technical briefings to the international media

KHAWAJA ASIF DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

The involvement of non-regional players should strengthen the peace agenda. not create new



SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTRY, RUSSIA



ical meeting, a move that follows pressure from Beijing to exclude

JEREMIAH MANELE | PRIME MINISTER SOLOMON ISLANDS

SHORT **TAKES**

Thai soldiers hurt by landmine in Cambodia

Bangkok: Three Thai soldiers were injured by a landmine Saturday while patrolling a border area near Cambodia the Thai army said in a statement, days after the two neighbours agreed to a detailed ceasefire following a violent five-day conflict last month. One soldier lost a foot and two others were injured after one of them stepped on a landmine as they patrolled an area between Thailand's Sisaket and Cambodia's Preah Vihear provinces. The soldiers are being treated at a hospital. the army said. Thailand said the incident took place within its territory and in an area recently cleared of landmines.

Explosion kills 6 army experts in Lebanon

Beirut: Munition in an arms depot in south Lebanon exploded Saturday as army them, killing six of them and wounding several others, the army said. The incident occurred on the edge of the southern village of Zibqin in Tyre province, the army said. It added that efforts were being made to determine the cause of the blast but gave no further details. The depot is believed to have been used by the militant group Hezbollah. The blast took place south of the Litani River in an area where Hezbollah withdrew its fighters under the terms of a ceasefire that ended a 14-month conflict with Israel in November. Over the past months, Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers have been taking over Hezbollah posts in the area. Lebanese Cabinet voted in favour of a US-backed plan to disarm Hezbollah and implement a ceasefire with Israel Thursday.

Gunman wounds 3 in **Times Square shooting**

New York: Three people were wounded during a shooting at New York City's iconic Times Square, police said Saturday. One person was held in custody and questioned over the shooting, the New York Police Department said. No charges have been pressed yet. Video on social media shows people running away from the scene, police surrounding a vehicle and attending to the wounded lying on the ground. Several people have been hospitalized, but their injuries are not life-The shooting took place at 1:20 am. No details have been released so far on how it unfolded.

Zelenskyy rejects land concessions

Kyiv/London, August 9: Ukraine will not cede its land, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Saturday, rejecting US suggestions that a deal with Russia could involve swapping territories as Washington and Moscow prepared for talks between their leaders on ending the war.

US President Donald Trump announced Friday that he would meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska August 15, saying the parties, including Zelenskiy, were close to a deal that could resolve the three-and-a-halfyear conflict.

Details of the potential deal have yet to be announced, but Trump said it would involve "some swapping of territories to the betterment of both". It could require Ukraine to surrender significant parts of its territory - an outcome Kyiv and its European allies say would only encourage Russian aggression.

"Ukrainians will not gift their land to the occupier," Zelenskiy said in a video address, adding that Ukraine's borders were fixed in the country's con-

"No one will deviate from this - and no one will be able to," he said.

US Vice President JD Vance



Trump's Russia-Ukraine

will meet Ukrainian and Euro-

pean allies in Britain Saturday

to discuss Trump's push for

peace, Downing Street said,

adding that British Prime Min-

ister Keir Starmer had spoken

vital forum to discuss progress

towards securing a just and

lasting peace," the Downing

'CLEAR STEPS NEEDED'

of calls with Ukraine's allies

since Trump's envoy Steve Wit-

koff's visit to Moscow Wednes-

day which Trump described as

having achieved "great prog-

"Clear steps are needed, as

Zelenskiy has made a flurry

Street spokesperson added.

"They agreed this would be a

about it with Zelenskiy.



Putin August 15



well as maximum coordination

between us and our partners,

after his call with Starmer.

partners to end the war."

Zelenskiy said in a post on X

"We value the determina

tion of the United Kingdom,

the United States, and all our

Ukraine and the Europe-

an Union have pushed back

on proposals that they view

as ceding too much to Putin,

whose troops invaded Ukraine

in February 2022, citing what

Moscow called threats to Rus-

sia's security from a Ukrainian

Kyiv and its Western allies

say the invasion is an imperi-

pivot towards the West.



Ukrainians and **Europeans Saturday**

Russian forces do not ful-

Ukraine says its troops still

Kursk in April.

Moscow has previously

claimed four Ukrainian regions Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson - as well as the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, which was annexed in 2014.

'just' peace

ly control all the territory in the four regions and Russia is demanding that Ukraine pull out its troops from the parts of all four of them that they still

have a small foothold in Russia's Kursk region a year after its troops crossed the border to try to gain leverage in any negotiations. Russia said it had expelled Ukraininan troops from

ers as "over the years, people

ous challenges.

Nagasaki mayor warns of N-war as city marks 80 years since bombing

Nagasaki, August 9: Thousands bowed their heads in prayer in Nagasaki Saturday to mark the 80th anniversary of the city's atomic bombing, as the mayor warned that current global conflicts could push the world again into nuclear war.

The western Japanese city was levelled August 9, 1945, when the United States dropped a 10,000-pound plutonium-239 bomb, nicknamed "Fat Man". instantly killing some 27,000 of the city's estimated 200,000 people. By the end of 1945, the death toll from acute radiation exposure had reached about 70,000. Nagasaki's destruction came

three days after a US uranium-235 bomb destroyed Hiroshima. Japan surrendered August 15, ending World War Two.

After a moment of silence at 11:02 am, marking the time of the blast, Mayor Shiro Suzuki called on leaders to return to the principles of the UN Charter and show a concrete path toward abolishing nuclear weapons, warning that delay was "no longer permissible".

"This is a crisis of human survival that is closing in on each and every one of us," Suzuki told the crowd, estimated by Japanese media at 2,700. He quoted the testimony of a

survivor to illustrate the reality of a nuclear attack, "Around me were people whose eyeballs had popped out... Bodies were strewn about like stones.'

"Is it not this 'global citizen perspective that will serve as the driving force behind stitched world?" Suzuki asked, calling for a solution based on mutual understanding and solidarity.

The US military is believed to have chosen Nagasaki as a target due to its significance as a major industrial and port city. The city's geographical features, including its hilly terrain, were also thought to concentrate the blast.

Representatives from 95 countries and territories, including nuclear superpower the United States, and Israel which neither confirms nor denies having nuclear weapons - attended the annual ceremony at the Nagasaki Peace Memori al Park for the milestone year. Russia, which possesses the

world's largest nuclear stockpile, was also represented. Daiji Kawanaka, a 14-year

old tourist from Osaka, echoed the mavor's sentiments. "I truly believe a tragedy like

this must never be repeated, he told Reuters, saying the anniversary prompts conversations about peace even among his young peers. "We can only pledge to take the initiative ourselves in making a step toward peace."

Japan's leading organisation of A-bomb survivors, Nihon Hidankyo, won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for campaign ing for a world without nuclear weapons.

Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear attacks, has stated its commitment to nuclear disarmament but is not a signatory or observer of the UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons.



Leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan sign deal at WH peace summit



Washington, August 9: The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shook hands at a White House peace summit before signing an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict.

President Donald Trump was in the middle as Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan flanked him on either side Friday. As the two extended their arms in front of Trump to shake hands, the US leader reached up and clasped his hands around theirs.

The two countries in the South Caucasus signed agreements with each other and the US that will reopen key transportation routes while allowing the US to seize on Russia's declining influence in the region.

The deal includes an agreement that will create a major transit corridor to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, the White House said.

Trump said at the White House Friday that naming the route after him was "a great honour for me", but "I didn't ask for this."

B'desh polls in 1st week of Feb 2025

al-style land grab.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 9: Bangladesh's poll body chief on Saturday said general elections would be held in the first week of February 2025 but ensuring it in a free, fair and impartial manner remained a major challenge.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin, however said the exact date would be disclosed two months before the schedule was announced.

"People have lost confidence in the election system, the Election Commission and the administrative machinery involved in the electoral process. state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) quoted Uddin as saying at a function in northwestern Rangpur district.



er, was "working tirelessly to restore this lost trust."

The CEC's comments come four days after interim government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus announced that the polls would be held in February next year. Yunus had made the announcement coinciding with the first anniversary of the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime August 5.

Uddin feared that there was a growing apathy among vothave become disengaged from the voting process" but added 'as long as the Election Commission remains conscious of its responsibilities, all actions will strictly follow the rules regulations and laws.

Contrary to civic and rights groups' concerns over the law and order situation in the country, Uddin said, "the law and order is currently stable and we aim to make it even better so that citizens can vote peacefully and without fear."

The CEC, however, said the exact date of election would be disclosed two months before the schedule was announced while his office was preparing to conduct the polls within a short time frame despite vari-

Jim Lovell, commander of Apollo 13, dies at 97

Washington, August 9: James Lovell, the commander of Apollo 13 who helped turn a failed moon mission into a triumph of on-the-fly can-do engineering, has died. He was 97

Lovell died Thursday in Lake Forest, Illinois, NASA said in a statement Friday.

"Jim's character and steadfast courage helped our nation reach the Moon and turned a potential tragedy into a success from which we learned an enormous amount," NASA said.

"We mourn his passing even as we celebrate his achievements.

One of NASA's most travelled astronauts in the agency's first decade, Lovell flew four times - Gemini 7, Gemini 12, Apollo 8 and Apollo 13 - with the two Apollo flights riveting the folks back on Earth.

In 1968, the Apollo 8 crew of Lovell, Frank Borman and William Anders was the first to leave Earth's orbit and the first to fly to and circle the moon. They could not land, but they put the US ahead of the Soviets



in the space race. Letter writers told the crew that their stunning pale blue

dot photo of Earth from the moon, a world first, and the crew's Christmas Eve reading from Genesis saved America from a tumultuous 1968.

But the big rescue mission was still to come. That was during the harrowing Apollo 13 flight in April 1970. Lovell was supposed to be the fifth man to walk on the moon. But Apollo 13's service module, carrying Lovell and two others, experienced a sudden oxygen tank explosion on its way to the moon. The astronauts barely survived, spending four cold and clammy days in the cramped lunar module as a lifeboat.

"The thing that I want most people to remember is (that) in some sense it was very much of a success," Lovell said during a 1994 interview. "Not that we accomplished any thing, but a success in that we demonstrated the capability of

(NASA) personnel.3 A retired Navy captain known for his calm demean our. Lovell told a NASA historian that his brush with death did affect him.

As Gaza faces starvation, Germany starts to curb support for Israel

Berlin, August 9: The worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Israel's plans to expand military control over the enclave have pushed Germany to curb arms exports to Israel. a historically fraught step for Berlin driven by a growing public outcry.

Conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz, hitherto a staunchly pro-Israel leader, made the announcement Friday arguing that Israel's actions would not achieve its stated war goals of eliminating Hamas militants or bringing Israeli hostages home.

It is a bold move for a leader who after winning elections in February said he would invite Benjamin Netanyahu to Germany in defiance of an arrest warrant against the Israeli prime minister issued by the International Criminal Court.

The shift reflects how Germany's come-what-may support for Israel, rooted in its historical guilt over the Nazi Holocaust, is being tested like never before as the high Palestinian civilian death toll in Gaza. massive war destruction and images of starving children are chipping away at decades of policy.

"It is remarkable as it is the first concrete measure of this German government. But I would not see it as a U-turn, rather a 'warning shot'," said Muriel Asseburg, a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Af-It caps months of the German

government sharpening its tone

over Israel's escalating military

campaign in the small, densely

populated Palestinian enclave,

though still shying away from

tougher steps that other European countries and some voices in Merz's ruling coalition were calling for. The suspension of arms de-

liveries to Israel would affect just those that could be used in Gaza.

The move reflects a harden-

ing mood in Germany, where public opinion has grown critical of Israel and more demanding that its government help ease a humanitarian disaster most of the 2.2 million population is homeless and Gaza is a sea of rubble. According

ARMS EXPORTS THAT **COULD BE USED IN ISRAEL'S WAR IN GAZA STRIP «** BOLD STEP FOR PRO-

GERMANY TO SUSPEND

ISRAEL CONSERVATIVE **CHANCELLOR MERZ**

REFLECTS PUBLIC ANGER **OVER WAR-INDUCED HUMANITARIAN DISASTER** IN GAZA

GERMAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL LONG ROOTED IN GUILT FOR NAZI HOLOCAUST

ARD-DeutschlandTREND survey released Thursday, a day before Merz's announcement, 66% of Germans want their government to put more pressure on Israel to change its behaviour.

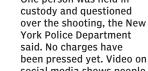
That is higher than April 2024, when some 57% of Germans believed their govern ment should criticise Israel more strongly than before for its actions in Gaza, a Forsa poll

Despite Germany helping air drop aid to Gaza, 47% of Germans think their government is doing too little for Palestinians there, against 39% who disagree with this, the ARD-DeutschlandTREND this week showed.

Most strikingly perhaps, only 31% of Germans feel they have a bigger responsibility for Israel due to their history - a core tenet of German foreign policy

Germany's political establishment has cited its approach, known as the "Staatsraison", as a special responsibility for Israel after the Nazi Holocaust, which was laid out in 2008 by then-Chancellor Angela Merkel





threatening, the police said.

business



not just about providing banking access but also about enabling individuals to improve their lives through financial literacy and contribute to the country's economic growth

Financial inclusion is

SWAMINATHAN JANAKIRAMAN I

TESLA SET TO ARRIVE IN DELHI

Musk-run electric car maker Tesla is all set to inaugurate its second showroom in India in Delhi, August 1, after it opened the Mumbai showroom last month. In a post on social media platform X, Tesla posted, "Arriving in Delhi - stay tuned," along with a graphic showcasing its upcoming arrival in the national capital. The new Tesla Experience Centre will open at Aerocity's upscale Worldmark 3 complex in the national capital



the Green Revolution, we moved forward

deontological concept

DEVESH CHATURVEDI | UNION AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

attract global tourists. They will more than



cities to tier IV towns, we're witnessing a workforce that is bold, mobile, and

It's a clear signal that India's next big leap will come from the ground up, and platforms like ours have a responsibility to fuel that momentum

SHORT **TAKES**

NBCC profit rises

New Delhi: State-owned NBCC (India) Ltd has reported a 26 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹135.03 crore for the first quarter of the current fiscal on higher income. Its net profit stood at ₹107.19 crore in the year-ago period. The total income grew to ₹2,465.48 crore during the April-June period of 2025-26 fiscal from ₹2,196.20 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according NBCC Ltd is into project management consultancy (PMC) and real estate businesses. During 2024-25, NBCC Ltd posted a net profit of ₹557.42 crore and a total income of ₹12,272.99 crore.

Tata Motors' net plunges

New Delhi: Tata Motors Limited's (TML) net profit for the first quarter of the first financial year (O1 FY26) stood at ₹4,003 crore, down 62 per cent year-on-year (YoY), as per an exchange filing Friday. The automobile manufacturer had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹10.597 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago (O1 FY25). The profit declined by over 50 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter too, from ₹8.556 crore in the preceding quarter.

Ramco Sys records profit

Chennai: Global enterprise software company Ramco Systems Ltd has reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1.08 crore for the April-June 2025 quarter. The city-based company incurred a net loss of ₹19.55 crore during the corresponding quarter of the last financial year. For the year ending March 31, 2025, the net loss was ₹34.21 crore, Ramco Systems Ltd said in a company statement

ITD releases ITR-5 excel utility for AY 2024-25

New Delhi, August 9: The Income Tax Department, Saturday, released the ITR-5 Excel Utility for Assessment Year 2024-25. This utility can be used by partnership firms, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), and cooperative societies to file their annual returns.

Associations of Persons, Bodies of Individuals, artificial juridical persons, cooperative societies, societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, local authorities, and certain business trusts and investment funds are other eligi-Entities other than individu-

als, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), companies, and those required to use ITR-7 can use the ITR-5 form.

The ITR-5 structure includes detailed financial disclosures. including general information, balance sheet, manufacturing and trading accounts, profit and loss statement etc.

Income schedules from various sources, loss set-off, depreciation, deductions, exempt income, foreign assets, GST reconciliation, and tax relief are part of the ITR-5 filing structure. Key updates for AY 2024–25

include new sections for MSME registration and Section 80-IAC startup deductions, along with expanded reporting for emerging income categories like virtual digital assets (crypto/ NFTs)

The updated ITR-5 now per-

SEBI proposes norms to boost

Indian participation in FPIs

fund management entity or as-

sociate for IFSC FPIs. SEBI has

also proposed allowing Indian

mutual funds to invest in over-

seas funds with India exposure.

crease investment options for

Indian investors to diversify

their portfolios. If implement-

ed, these reforms could bridge

the gap between India's domes-

tic savings pool and interna-

Currently, only certain in-

stitutional investors meeting

SEBI's criteria can register as

FPIs to invest in foreign secu-

rities. The proposed changes

focus on retail-oriented invest-

tional opportunities.

These proposals aim to in-



mits reporting of buyback losses only if the related dividend has been taxed.

The deadline for filing returns for non-audit cases is September 15. Taxpavers can do e-verification or physically verify their

which would allow a broader

range of India-based entities

to channel domestic capital

into foreign assets through a

At present, non-resident In-

dians (NRI), overseas citizens

of India (OCI) or resident Indi-

ans are not eligible to register

as FPIs. However, NRIs. OCIs

or resident Indian individuals

are permitted to be constitu-

ents of FPIs, subject to certain

conditions in terms of limits on

contribution and control of the

The Reserve Bank of India's

liberalised remittance scheme

permits individuals to remit

up to ₹2.5 lakh annually for

overseas investments. Retail

investors depend on indirect

channels and FoF opportuni-

ties in global mutual funds for

IFSC is a special economic

zone (SEZ) acting as a global

financial hub within India. al-

lowing institutions to conduct

international financial transac

The capital market regulator

has sought public feedback on

its proposals till August 29.

tions and operations.

foreign market exposure.

regulated framework.

returns by sending the signed form to the Centralised Processing Centre (CPC) in Bengaluru within 30 days

Supporting documents are not needed, but tax credits must match Form 26AS. Before filing,

taxpayers must ensure portal registration, bank account validation for refunds, updated digital signatures, and submission of applicable statutory forms. The income tax department

has released Excel utilities for ITR-2 and ITR-3 for AY 2025-26. ITR-1 and ITR-4 were released earlier. In the recent budget. long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on all financial and non-financial assets has been revised to 12.5 per cent (up from 10 per cent for equities). Short-term capital gains (STCG) tax on some assets, like equities, is now 20 per cent (up from 15 per

All listed financial assets held for more than a year would be classified now as

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Intel CEO refuses to resign

New Delhi, August 9: US tech major Intel's CEO Lip-Bu Tan has said he would not resign despite US President Donald Trump's public call for his resignation for alleged "deeply conflicted" links to China. In a letter to Intel's employees

Tan affirmed his commitment to the company and US national security, adding that he has the full support of Intel's board. The controversy stemmed

from Tan's previous role as CEO of another US company Cadence Design Systems. This firm plead ed guilty in a criminal case involving the sale of chip design to a blacklisted Chinese military university Further, media reports sug-

gested that Tan also invested \$200 million in hundreds of Chinese tech startups, includ ing some linked to the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Two Republican senators questioned Tan's leadership of Intel and US President Trump's and strained relations between Tan and Intel's board over corpo rate direction. Intel's stock fell 3 to 5 per cent in response to the In the letter to Intel employ

"misinformation" and stressed his long-standing ties to the United States. "I've lived in the US for over 40

ees, Tan called the accusations

years. I love this country and am beyond grateful for its chances,' he wrote.

Tan stressed that Intel is in active talks with the White House to clarify the facts and reaffirmed his commitment to Intel and US national interests. Tan also noted that high-volume manufacturing using the most modern US semiconductor pro cess technology will begin later

this year. Intel's board has publicly ex pressed support for CEO Lip-Bu Tan's leadership and reform ef forts. The stock had dipped over 3 per cent after US President called for Tan's resignation or

ICICI Bank raises min balance to ₹50,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: ICICI Bank has raised the minimum balance requirement for its new savings bank accounts opened on or after August 1 by five times to ₹50,000.

The minimum monthly average balance (MAB) for savings bank accounts till July 31, 2025 for ICICI Bank customers was

Similarly, MAB for semi-urban locations and rural locations ₹25,000 and ₹10,000, respectively, according to information avail able on the ICICI Bank website. In case account holders fail to meet the MAB, customers will be liable to pay penal charges of 6 per cent of the shortfall in required MAB, or ₹500, whichever is lower.

The balance in the savings bank account of ICICI Bank earns interest of 2.5 per cent per annum, it said.

The increased MAB will be applicable for new accounts opened on or after August 1 2025. Customers who have opened accounts before August 1 will have to maintain the old level of MAB as of now.

Salary account holders or PM Jandhan account holders



account holders are exempt from this high MAB as these are zero balance accounts. Account holders with higher

MAB will enjoy certain benefits like free NEFT fund transfer, complimentary three cash transactions per month, thereafter ₹150 per transaction, GST shall be applicable on all mentioned charges, it said. The hike in MAB comes at a

time when public sector banks have rationalised their penalties or completely waived them off. Led by the country's larg-

est lender, State Bank of India (SBI), other public sector lenders like Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, and Indian Bank, too, waived off penal charges for failing to maintain the MAB in all savings accounts.

MAB is the minimum balance that a customer is required to maintain in the bank account. If the balance in the bank account falls below the required amount, then banks levy a penalty.

social media. Intel shares, however, recov ered slightly Friday after Tan's response, closing at \$19.95, up 0.9 per cent from the previous earlier showed a 15 per cent up-

day's close of \$19.77. The stocks surge after Tan's appointment as CEO in March 2025, to a high of approximately \$25.94.

India, Oman FTA soon

Mumbai, August 9: The Se-

curities Exchange Board of In-

dia (SEBI) has proposed easier

norms for resident Indians and

mutual funds to invest in for-

eign funds. The regulator pro-

posed to enable retail schemes

based in IFSCs in India with

resident Indian non-individu-

als as sponsors or managers to

The investment limit is

capped at 10 per cent of the tar-

geted corpus, in line with IFSC

rules, a release from SEBI said.

The suggestion is to replace

the sponsor and manager with a

register as FPIs.

New Delhi, August 9: The conclusion and signing of the proposed free trade agreement between India and Oman is expected to be announced soon, an official has said.

The trade pact text is being translated into Arabic in Oman. After that, the cabinets of both countries will approve the agreement, according to the official.

"Both countries have, in principle, decided to announce the conclusion and signing together," the official added. When asked if it would take two to three months, the official said: "Much less" than that. The talks for the agreement, officially termed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), formally began in November 2023. In such agreements, two trading partners either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on a maximum number of goods

Gold prices end firm amid tariff concerns TATA TEA PREMIUM'S

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 9: Indian bullion prices ended marginally higher this week amid global market cues and higher festive demand. By mid-week, gold prices saw a significant dip, with the price of 24-carat gold dropping by ₹91, but the price inched up higher toward the weekend.

Despite the short-term dip, gold continues to price in the broader impact of trade tariff uncertainty and dollar weakness, keeping the overall trend supported. Gold is expected to trade in a volatile range of ₹99,000 to ₹1,01,500, analysts said.

The price of 24-carat gold (10 gram) started the week at ₹1,00,167 Monday, rose to ₹99,017 Wednesday, and ended the week at ₹98,534, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

"Gold prices traded volatile,



with rupee weakness supporting domestic prices, as MCX Gold settled at ₹1.01.180 with gains of ₹350, while Comex gold hovered around \$3390 in a tight range between \$3380 to \$3405. Going ahead, prices are expected to remain choppy as Trump's tariff stance continues to create uncertainty, especially with the India deal appearing off the table for now. Any positive movement in the rupee could limit gold's upside," said Jateen Trivedi from LKP Securities.

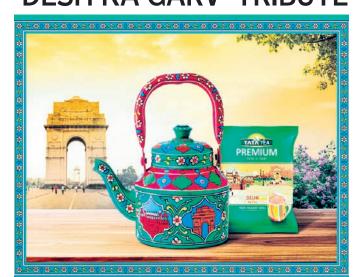
India's wealthiest households hold nearly 60 per cent of their financial assets in physical assets like real estate and gold, according to a report from Bernstein.

Large trade and budgetary deficits are straining the US, which threatens the dollar's reserve currency status. Gold is the only plausible alternative attracting reserve flows. Global foreign exchange reserves are \$12.5 trillion, while India holds 15 per cent of the \$23 trillion global gold market. A 5 per cent transfer of global reserves towards gold might spark a huge price surge, according to analysts.

The RBI forecast 3.1 per cent CPI inflation for FY2025-26, citing the sustained rainfall and strong kharif sowing, while food prices remain low.

Unfavourable base effects and policy-induced demand side effects will likely push CPI inflation beyond 4 per cent by the end of FY26. An increase in gold prices helped boost core inflation to 4.4 per cent in June from 4.1-4.2 per cent in February-May, the

'DESH KA GARV' TRIBI



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pune, August 9: Tata Tea Premium, the flagship tea brand from Tata Consumer Products. continues its unwavering commitment to honoring India's vibrant cultural heritage with the launch of the 2025 edition of its acclaimed 'Desh Ka Garv campaign.

"At Tata Tea Premium, our hyperlocal strategy is rooted in the belief that India's rich diversity is its greatest strength," said Puneet Das, President - Packaged Beverages (India & South Asia), Tata Consumer Products. "With 'Desh Ka Garv – Pradesh Ki

Arnab Chatterjee, Design Head, Tree Design, adds "In our country, there are artists still keeping alive age old traditions of storytelling through hand painting, which we have harnessed to showcase India's diverse art forms and brought them alive on Tea Kettles as a fitting tribute to India's tea drinking tradition."

Azazul Haque, Group Chief Creative Officer, Creative land Asia further states, "This film is a first of its kind branded content that uses only AI and VFX to create hyperlocal content that proudly celebrates culture and art forms of India.

Mrinalika Jain Bhardwaj Founder of Kaushalam, fur ther adds, "This collaboration is about giving folk art a new language. At Kaushalam, we believe that tradition is not just preserved in museums but thrives in everyday life. These kettles are not just functional objects-these are canvases to tell stories. We are proud to be associated with one of India's iconic brands, Tata Tea Pre mium.' This year's Desh Ka Garv

Collection will be available for purchase exclusively on www ÎndiakiChai.com, with 100 per cent of the proceeds directed to train and empower women through Indian Army Skill Development Centers.

Millennials, Gen Z makes two-third of all blue collar jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 9: In the blue collar category, Millennials and Gen Z continued to remain among the country's highest job-seeking population, accounting for 65 per cent of all job applications in 2024 as well as 2025, a report said Saturday.

Among these, the surge in jobseeking has been most among the 20-?23 years cohort, which saw a 50.7 per cent yearon-year increase in applications, according to a report by blue and grey-collar job platform WorkIndia.

This youngest working-age group, largely comprising recent graduates, contributed to an 85.5



flecting a strong intent to enter the workforce early, it stated.

formal education levels (below 10th standard) showed a 37.4 per cent growth, indicating a widening base of job readiness and aspiration across educational backgrounds, the report added. Millennials are those between

the early 1980s and the mid-1990s and Gen Zs are those born from the mid-1990s to the early 2010s. The report is based on da-

ta analysis of 111.71 million job seekers on the WorkIndia platform from January 2024 to July 2025

The report further revealed that while both young men and women are actively applying for jobs early in their careers, gender dynamics reveal some divergence in the late-20s.

Women application rates in the 27-?29 year age group have

stagnated, while those of their male counterparts continued to rise, indicating the need for a closer look at career drop-offs or barriers for women in that age bracket.

It also found the growing willingness to travel for jobs, reflecting increased flexibility among the youth. Applications for 'labourer'

roles have surged by 98 per cent, with a surge of 136 per cent increase among 20-23-year-olds. Other fast-growing job cate-

gories include typist and data entry roles (67 per cent) and law-related positions (61 per cent), followed by steady interest in sales, HR, and manufacturing roles, said the report.

Kalinga Stadium set to host historic meet today

India will host the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event for the first time today. Set to be hosted in Kalinga Stadium, several top Indian athletes will be seen fighting for glory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The spotlight will shine on Kalinga Stadium Bhuhaneswar Sunday as it hosts the Indian Open 2025 World Athletics Bronze Level Continental Tour, marking India's first-ever Bronze Level meet under the prestigious Continental Tour banner.

The event, known as the 1st Indian Open, will bring together over 90 Indian athletes and international competitors from 16 countries, battling across 19 medal events - nine for men, nine for women, and one mixed relay. The one-day meet carries a prize purse of \$25,000.

For Indian track and field stars, this is not just about medals; it's a golden chance to secure World Ranking points and boost their qualification prospects for next month's World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

TOP STARS IN ACTION

Home favourites Annu Rani, Animesh Kujur and Murali Sreeshankar will spearhead the country's challenge when India's maiden World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze level competition gets underway at the Kalinga Stadium, here Sunday.

The seasoned javelin thrower and 2023 Asian Games champion, Annu Rani will be buoyed by a 62.59-metre throw in Poland earlier this month. Ranked 30th in the Road to Tokyo World Championships list, the 32-year-old from Uttar Pradesh is confident of clearing 60m again in familiar Bhubaneswar conditions.

"I think a throw of 62.59m during Continental Tour in Poland has come at the right time, Annu said Saturday. "I would like to add some distance to my performance in the next two weeks. I'm used to Bhubaneswar's local weather conditions... I should be able to do my best," she added.

The deadline for athletes to achieve automatic qualification time or mark in their respective events for the World Athletics Championships in Japan is August 24. They can also earn tickets to the Worlds via the world rank-

FULL SCHEDULE

Morning session

7:40 AM - Men's 400m Heats 7:55 AM - Women's 400m Heats 8:25 AM - Men's 100m Heats

8:35 AM - Women's 100m Heats 8:55 AM - Men's 200m Heats

Evening session

5:00 PM - Women's Javelin Throw Final 5:05 PM - Men's 400m Final

5:15 PM - Women's 400m Final 5:23 PM - Women's Long Jump Final 5:30 PM - Men's Triple Jump Final 5:35 PM - Men's 100m Final

5:45 PM - Women's 100m Final 6:00 PM - Men's 800m Final 6:10 PM - Women's 800m Final

6:22 PM - Men's Javelin Throw Final - Women's 100m 6:35 PM **Hurdles Final**

6:45 PM - Men's Long Jump Final 6:48 PM - Women's Triple Jump Final

7:00 PM - Women's 1500m Final 7:10 PM - Men's 5000m Final

7:30 PM - Men's 200m Final 7:40 PM - Women's 200m Final

7:55 PM - Mixed 4x400m Relay Final - Men's Javelin Throw Final (Second Group)

- Men's Long Jump Final (Second Group) 8:20 PM - Men's 4x400m Relay Final ing quota system.

The national 200m record-holder Animesh Kujur (20.32s) sits 42nd in the world rankings, with the top 48 earning Tokyo berths.

The 21-year-old sprinter is hoping the home track will push him closer to the 20.16s automatic qualifying mark.

"I'm looking forward to gaining home advantage on Sunday," Kujur said of his plans for Continental Tour in Bhubaneswar. "My focus for Sunday will be only 200m."

The men's 100m dash may also see some spark as Kujur, who holds the national record of 10.18 seconds, will be up against Malaysia's Muhammad Azeem Fahli who ran wind-assisted 10.01 seconds and a legal 10.20 seconds,

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar. fresh from three straight tion home soil will be a golden opportunity for Indian athletes to earn valuable ranking points and give their chances of qualifying for next month's **World Athletics Championships in** Tokvo a boost

A World Athletics

Continental Tour event

tles since his comeback, will look to strengthen his world ranking and fine-tune for major championships ahead.

The meet will also feature India's women's long jump stars Shaili Singh (season's best 6.64m) and Ancy Sojan (6.54m), Asian Championships 800m record-holder Mohammed Afsal. and a high-quality men's javelin field led by Asian silver medallist Sachin Yadav and Sri Lanka's 85m throwers Sumeda Ranasinghe and Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage.

Odisha's Commissioner cum secretary sports, Sachin Jadhav says all necessary arrangements for the mega event has been done. "The Government of Odisha is excited to host the inaugural edition of World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze in Bhubaneswar.' Jadhav adds. "We will continue to organise global competition in

Heats will be conducted in the morning session and the main event will commence in the evening.

Fans can catch all the action live on the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) YouTube channel. There will be no television broadcast in India.

What is the World Athletics Continental Tour?

The World Athletics Continental Tour, launched in 2020, is a series of international track and field competitions ranked just below the elite Diamond League, The Bronze Level, one of four tiers (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Challenger), offers competitive opportunities and ranking points crucial for global qualification. Hosting this meet marks a milestone for India in the international athletics calendar.

Surfer Ramesh scripts history



Chennai: Ramesh Budhial became the first-ever Indian to enter the Open Men's final at the Asian Surfing Championships here Saturday. Ramesh started the day topping his quarterfinal heat race with a score of 14.84 points ahead of Philippines' Neil Sanches (12.80 points). In the semifinal, Ramesh continued his solid effort to score 11.43 points to finish second behind Indonesia's Pajar Ariyana 13.83, and it ensured a maiden final berth for the Indian surfer. India's Kishore Kumar too entered the semifinal but finished fourth behind compatriot Ramesh, Ariyana and China's Shidong Wu (9.10) with 8.03 points. In the Under-18 boys' section, Indian campaign ended with the exit of Harish P and Aadya Singh and in the corresponding girl's segment eliminated in the quarterfinals.

CHENNAI GRAND MASTERS ISL UNCERTAINTY

Erigaisi in second place, AIFF assures referees German GM Keymer leads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 9: A strong performance from world No. 5 Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi saw him defeat American GM Ray Robson to stay in sole second position behind Germany's Vincent Keymer after three rounds of the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters, here

With six more rounds to go in the round-robin competition in the Masters category, Erigaisi is on 2.5 points, while Keymer continues to lead with a perfect score of three points after scoring another victory, this time against Karthikeyan Murali in the classical chess tournament.

Another Indian GM, Vidit Gujrathi bounced back with a crucial win against country-mate Nihal Sarin, while American GM Awonder Liang scored his first victory of the tournament, stunning Dutch



GM Jorden van Foreest.

players in the field, impressed by holding top seed Anish Giri to a draw.

In the Challengers section, P Iniyan.

Leon Luke Mendonca

V Pranav, one of the youngest

Abhimanyu Puranik maintained his steady rise with victory over Harshavardhan GB, while M Pranesh defeated

overcame R. Vaishali, while Adhiban Baskaran split point with D Harika. Aryan Chopra and Diptayan Ghosh also played out a draw.

Kiwis see biggest Test triumph

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulawayo, August 9: New Zealand recorded its biggest-ever test win when it crushed Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs in the second test to wrap up a lopsided series 2-0 Saturday

Zimbabwe, trailing by 476 runs, was bowled out for 117 in an extended first session on Day 3 against a rampant fourpronged New Zealand pace at-

Debutant fast bowler Zakary Foulkes followed his four-wick-

New Zealand crush Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs in record Test win

et haul in the first innings with 5-37 in the second outing and narrowly missed out a 10-wicket haul in his memorable debut

But still Foulkes' match haul of 9-75 was New Zealand's best bowling figures by a test debutant, surpassing Will O'Rourke's match figures of 9-93 against South Africa at Hamilton last year.

Fast bowlers Matt Henry (2-16) and the two other pace bowling debutants Jacob Duffy (2-28) and Matthew Fisher (1-22) were also among the wickets as Zimbabwe was dismissed in 28.1 overs for its lowest total in the series.

Obviously we lost the toss, but we bowled very well in the first innings," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner. "We talked about keeping the standards up.'

of contract renewals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: Grappling with unprecedented uncertainty over the fate of the upcoming Indian Super League (ISL) season, the AIFF Saturday moved in to "calm" fears among its referees, assuring them that their contracts will be renewed "as per established procedure."

The AIFF said it received a joint letter from nine referees August 5, requesting extension of their professional match official contracts due August 31.

"The AIFF would like to assure that these contracts shall be renewed in accordance with the established procedures. subject to the existing process of the Elite Referees' Development Programme," the AIFF stated in a notice.

"The AIFF urges all parties to remain calm, as several competitions are currently ongoing, where many of our referees are officiating in matches, like in Durand Cup, and the Futsal Club Championship," added the AIFF.

"Other activities such as the U20 women's National Team's matches in the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers in Myanmar, and the U23 men's and U17 women's National Team camps in Bengaluru are currently underway as well."

The anxiety among referees could be traced to the ongoing deadlock over the ISL's 2025-26 season.

On July 11, league organisers Football Sports Development Limited announced the season was being put "on hold" due to uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the Master Rights Agreement it signed with the AIFF in 2010.

The Supreme Court has directed the AIFF not to negotiate new MRA terms until it delivers a final judgment in the AIFF draft constitution case. That has left the league, normally held from September to April, in limbo. On Friday, 11 of the 13 ISL clubs (excluding Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal) wrote jointly to AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, urging the federation to bring the matter before the Supreme Court for urgent listing and judgment.

Yadav's bronze only bright spot as Indian compound archers flop

Chengdu (China), August 9: Youngster Rishabh Yadav's bronze medal was the saving grace on a disappointing day for Indian compound archers at the World Games here Saturday as the top-seeded mixed team crashed out in the opening round.

None of the women contenders could make it to the podium, adding to the gloom.

Yadav, seeded 10th, produced a flawless display to beat senior teammate and multiple World Cup gold medallist Abhishek Verma 149-147 in the men's individual compound bronze medal match.

Verma, who qualified as the fifth seed, trailed by one point after the first end (29-30) as Yadav opened with three perfect 10s.

The second end was tied at 29-all, but Yadav maintained his narrow advantage. Both archers shot three perfect 10s in the third end, before Yadav capitalised on a single-point drop by Verma in the fourth to stretch his lead to 119-117.

Maintaining his composure, the 22-year-old Yadav

drilled three more arrows into the 10-ring in the final end to seal the win without dropping a single point in his last nine arrows.

In the semifinals, Yadav had lost 145-147 to American Curtis Lee Broadnax while Verma went down 145-148 to top seed Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands.

India's challenge in the women's individual compound section ended in the quarterfinals.

Parneet Kaur, 12th seed, was beaten 140-145 by Colombia's fourth seed Alejandra Usquiano, while third seed Madhura Dhamangaonkar lost 145-149 to Estonia's sixth seed Lisell

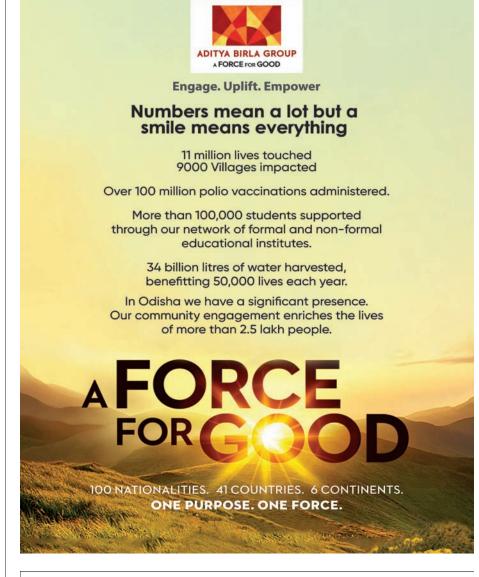
Mixed team concern The biggest disappoint-

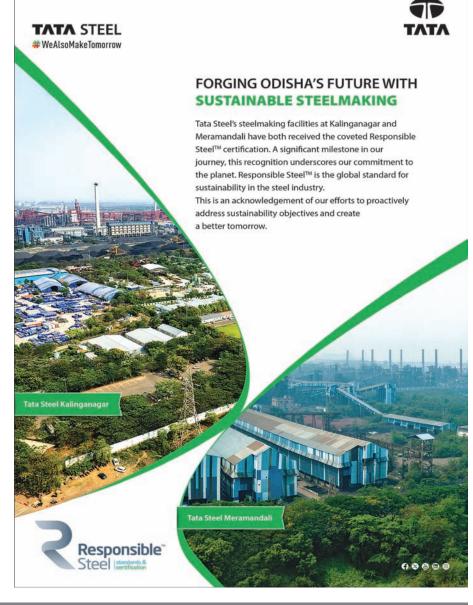
ment, however, came in the mixed compound event Having topped the qualification round, the Indian pair of Verma and Madhura entered as favourites but succumbed to their familiar nemesis. South Korea in the very first round.

The duo lost 151-154 to Moon Yeeun and Lee Eunho, bringing curtains on the Indian campaign. No one is competing in the recurve category.

The Koreans edged the first end 38-37 before stepping on the gas with a perfect second end, while the Indians faltered with a 27 to fall four points behind.

The third end was tied 37-37, and although the Indians edged the final end 40-39, it was too late.





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