

Daily News Updates

1st Sept 2025

Topics Covered

- India China relations
- Mini Cloud Brusts
- J&K Statehood
- Orkas
- APK Fraud : Cyber security
- Steps against US tariff rise
- New Income Tax



8260224080

Odisha News :

The Odisha government on Sunday announced the formation of seven new municipalities and 16 new Notified Area Councils (NACs) across the state.

The newly declared municipalities are- **Karanjia, Boudh, Bhanjanagar, Aska, Chhatrapur, Kabisuryanagar and Polasara.**

ସମ୍ବାଦ

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଭେଟି

୧୭ ନୂଆ ଏନ୍ଏସି, ୭ ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲିଟି

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୩୧/୮ (ଇମିପ): ୨୦୨୬ ଏପ୍ରିଲ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଗର୍ଭମୁକ୍ତ କରା। ଏଥି ସହ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଥିବା ମୁକୁଳା ତ୍ରେନ୍ ବନ୍ଦ କରିବା ଦିଗରେ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବାକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଣି ଗୁରୁ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗକୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି। ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରସ୍ଥିତ ରେଳ ପ୍ରେସାଳୟରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କହିଲେ, ୨୦୩୬ରେ ଆମେ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖୁ। ସେ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳଗୁଡ଼ିକ ହେଉଛି ବିକାଶର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା। ସେଗୁଡ଼ିକର ରାସ୍ତାଘାଟ ଯଦି ପରିଷ୍କାର ପରିଚ୍ଛନ୍ନ ନ ରୁହେ, ଗର୍ଭମୁକ୍ତ ନ ହୁଏ ତେବେ ଆମର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ପୂରଣ ହୋଇପାରିବ ନାହିଁ। ଉନ୍ନତ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରି ସେ କହିଲେ,



ଅନେକ ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ ସମସ୍ୟା ପାଇଁ ଲୋକେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର ନ ହୋଇ ବିଧାୟକ କିମ୍ବା ସାଂସଦଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରିଥାନ୍ତି। ଯଦି ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସଂସ୍ଥାର ଅଧିକାରୀ କିମ୍ବା ଜନପ୍ରତିନିଧି ସମମାନଙ୍କ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱକୁ ମୂଳାବୁତ୍ତପେ ପାଳନ କରିବେ, ତେବେ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ,

- ଏପ୍ରିଲ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଗର୍ଭମୁକ୍ତ କରିବାକୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ
- ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ୩୯୪ ପରିବାରକୁ ଗୃହ ବଣ୍ଟନ
- ସମସ୍ତ ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳକୁ 'ସହଯୋଗ' ସଂପ୍ରସାରିତ
- 'ଆମ ବସ୍' ପାଇଁ ହ୍ୱାର୍ଡସଅପ୍ ଟିକେଟିଂ ସେବା
- ୧୫୭ କୋଟିରେ ୪୩ଟି ବହୁମୁଖୀ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଲୋକାର୍ପିତ
- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ୬ଟି ଗୋଶାଳାର ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ

ବିଧାୟକ, ସାଂସଦଙ୍କୁ ଏ ସବୁ ସମସ୍ୟାରେ ମୁକ୍ତ ପୁରାଇବାକୁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହୁଅନ୍ତା ନାହିଁ। ଏବେ ସ୍ଥିତି ଏମିତି ହୋଇଛି ଯେ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଖାଲଖମା, ତ୍ରେନ୍ ମୁକୁଳା ପଡ଼ିବା ଭଳି ସମସ୍ୟା କେବଳ ଜନସାଧାରଣ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିପ୍ରାୟ ପ୍ରକାଶରେ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚି ଯାଉଛି। ଯେଉଁ କାମ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଜନପ୍ରତିନିଧି କିମ୍ବା ପ୍ରଶାସନ କରିବା କଥା, ତାହା ସେଠାରେ ହୋଇପାରୁ ନଥିବା ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ କରାଯାଉଛି। ତେଣୁ ଆମର ଏପ୍ରିଲ ମାସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳ ରାସ୍ତାଘାଟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଯେପରି ଗର୍ଭମୁକ୍ତ ହେବ ତାହାକୁ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ କର।

CIVIL SERVICE CORNER

India, China committed to fair resolution of border issue: Modi

After PM meets the Chinese President, MEA says ready for 'reasonable and mutually acceptable' solution on border; Xi says border issues should not define overall relations; Foreign Secretary says India, China economies can stabilise world trade

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh
TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday, underlined the importance of peace and tranquillity on the India-China border for continued development of bilateral relations.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin, the two leaders agreed on the need to strengthen people-to-people ties through direct flights and visa facilitation, building on the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and tourist visas, amid an improving relationship between the neighbours. Mr. Xi said the border issue should not de-



Improved ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin. PMO

fine overall relations.

"The two leaders noted with satisfaction the successful disengagement last year and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the border areas since then. They expressed

commitment to a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement following the meeting.

Mr. Modi called for mu-

tual support in combating terrorism, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing on Sunday night.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Both countries are victims of terrorism, Modi tells Xi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

In what could be a shift in New Delhi's recent positions on the issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Chinese President Xi Jinping that both countries are "victims" of terrorism, and should work together to combat the "scourge".

Asked whether the PM raised the issue of terrorism and Pahalgam attacks, the Foreign Secretary said it was discussed at the meeting.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

'India, China committed to resolve border issue'

Mr. Misri added that the two leaders exchanged views on balanced bilateral trade, recognising that their economies could stabilise world trade.

They agreed to facilitate trade and investment ties while reducing their trade deficit, he said. The two leaders discussed the international economic situation, with Mr. Modi telling Mr. Xi that growing trade will contribute to a change in the world's perception of China, the Foreign Secretary added.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff wars, but Mr. Modi insisted that the relationship between India and China should not be seen through a "third-country lens". While the Prime Minister noted that both countries pursue strategic autonomy, the two leaders said they would expand their common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues and challenges, such as terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms, the MEA statement said.

'Positive momentum'

"Had a fruitful meeting with President Xi Jinping... We reviewed positive momentum in India-China relations since our last meeting in Kazan [in Russia, in October 2024]," Mr. Modi said in a post on X. "We agreed on maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas and reaffirmed our commitment to cooperation based on mutual respect, mutual interest, and mutual solidarity," he added.

The two countries should work together to ensure peace and not let the border issue define their overall relations, Mr. Xi said, adding that the "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant should be the right choice for the two countries". China and India are not rivals, but cooperation partners, Mr. Xi said, a sentiment which is echoed by Mr. Modi. Both leaders reaffirmed that the two countries are "development partners and not rivals, and their differences should not turn to disputes", the MEA said.

The Prime Minister also met with Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlain and reiterated India's readiness to support developmental needs of the crisis-hit country. He noted that India attaches importance to its ties with Myanmar as part of its 'Neighborhood First', 'Act East', and Indo-Pacific policies, the MEA said in a statement.

Mr. Modi expressed the hope that the forthcoming elections in Myanmar will be held in a fair and inclusive manner involving all stakeholders. He underlined that India supports a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned peace process, for which peaceful dialogue and consultation is the only way forward, the MEA added.

Signals support for Tianjin Declaration

The Prime Minister also attended a banquet gala with other SCO leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, hosted by Mr. Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan on Sunday night.

Mr. Modi expressed support for China's presidency of the ongoing summit, the MEA said, indicating that he is unlikely to raise any objections to the Tianjin Declaration that is expected to be signed and issued on Monday, following the meeting of the heads of state of the 10-member grouping.

Mr. Modi also invited Mr. Xi to the BRICS summit that India will host in 2026. Mr. Xi extended support for India's presidency of that grouping, the MEA statement added.

The Prime Minister also met with Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, seeking support to "realise the vision of the two leaders". Mr. Cai reiterated the Chinese side's desire to expand bilateral exchanges, the Ministry said. *(The writer is in China on the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy Association)*

Both countries victims of terrorism, PM tells Xi

"[The] Prime Minister outlined his understanding very crisply and very specifically. He outlined the fact that this is a scourge that both China and India have been victims of, and India is still combating this menace, and he asked for China's support on this particular issue," Mr. Misri said at the media briefing held in Tianjin after Sunday's meeting.

No comment on Chinese aid to Pakistan

In response to another question, Mr. Misri reiterated that the Prime Minister mentioned cross-border terrorism as a priority. "[Mr. Modi] underlined the fact that this is something that impacts both India and China and that it's important therefore that we extend understanding and extend support to each other as both of us combat cross-border terrorism," he added, side-stepping a question on China's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Misri also said that India has received China's "understanding and cooperation" at the SCO on the issue of countering cross-border terrorism. India is hopeful of strong references to the issue of cross-border terrorism in the SCO joint statement to be released on Monday.

Shifting stance

When asked, officials did not clarify which specific incidents of terrorism against China Mr. Misri was referring to. Over the past decade, China has blamed Tibetan and Uyghur groups for violence in the country, and Baloch groups for attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan. However, India has not previously endorsed those claims, and has on occasion raised the issue of human rights in Xinjiang and Balochistan.

'Mini-cloudbursts' are on the rise: IMD chief

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

There is no "increasing trend" in cloudbursts over India in recent years and they remain "impossible" to forecast. However, there has been an increase in "mini-cloudbursts", Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said at a press briefing on Sunday.

Rainfall in September – the last official monsoon month – is, as in the previous months, expected to be "above normal", or 9% more than the usual average of 16.7 cm, he said.

Except the northeastern States and parts of "extreme" southern India, the

Northwest India got 26% more rainfall than usual for the monsoon months

rest of the country is expected to get above normal rainfall.

The three monsoon months so far have seen "above normal" rainfall, in line with what the IMD forecast in May. Rainfall during June 1 to August 31 was 6% above the 70 cm usual for the three months.

Northwest India – comprising Uttarakhand, most parts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu, Kashmir, Rajasthan, Delhi – got 26% more rainfall than what is typical for the

three months.

Less rain in the east

Central India and the southern peninsula saw 8.6% and 9.3% more rainfall than usual with only the eastern and northeastern India – which receives the most rain as a bloc during the monsoon – getting 17% less than normal. August rainfall in northern India, at 26.5 cm, was the highest since 2001, said IMD data. Rainfall over the southern peninsula, at 25 cm, was the third highest since 2001. There were more than 700 instances of heavy rain (20 cm or more in a day) in August 2025, the second highest since 2021 behind the 800-plus in 2024.

The extremely active monsoon in northern India – that saw large-scale destruction of lives and property in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Uttarakhand – was due to a confluence of several western disturbances (storms that travel to India from the Mediterranean) and storms from the Bay of Bengal moving northwards leading to several episodes of intense rain, he said.

"This is likely to prevail during September too...since 1980 we have noticed an increasing trend in the rainfall India receives during September," he told *The Hindu*.

CENTRAL TEAMS FORMED

» PAGE 12

Home Ministry forms teams to assess damage caused by rain, floods in several States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has constituted Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) to assess damage in States affected by unprecedented rainfall, floods, and other disasters over the past few days.

An IMCT each has been formed for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the impact of heavy rainfall, flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides, the Ministry said in a statement.

The teams will make on-the-spot assessments of the situation and relief measures undertaken by the State governments. They are scheduled to visit the affected areas early next

IMCT will be visiting Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and J&K to review relief work

week. An IMCT and a Multi-Sectoral Team have already visited Himachal Pradesh.

Each IMCT is led by a senior officer of the level of Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and includes officials from the Ministries of Expenditure, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jal Shakti, Power, Road Transport and Highways, and Rural Development.

The Home Ministry said it is in touch with senior officers of the affected States and has extended logistic support, including deploy-

ment of National Disaster Response Force teams, Army personnel and Air Force helicopters for rescue operations and essential services. As per a decision taken by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in August 2019, IMCTs are formed immediately after severe disasters for on-the-spot assessment without waiting for a State memorandum. Based on their reports, the Centre provides additional financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund as per procedure.

During 2025-26, the Centre has released ₹10,498.80 crore to 24 States for relief assistance, including ₹1,988.91 crore from the NDRF to 12 States and ₹3,274.90 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund to 20 States.

C. B. P. Srivastava

The story so far:

The Supreme Court has recently sought a detailed response from the Centre on the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the significance of the principle of the separation of powers, the top court rightly said that it did not possess all the expertise and that there are some decisions to be made by the government. The court is hearing the plea in *Zahoor Ahmed Bhat versus UT of Jammu and Kashmir*. It has been argued that the failure to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is affecting the rights of the citizens there. Another argument in this context is that it is also violating the essential features of federalism and thereby the basic structure of the Constitution.

How are States created?

There are three processes enshrined in the Constitution of India for creating States – admission, establishment and formation. For admission of a new State into the territory of India, the entity should have its own organised political unit. It is also required that admission through acquisition shall be guided by international law. This was the process by which Jammu and Kashmir was admitted into India's territory through the Instrument of Accession in 1947. By executing this Instrument under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the then ruler of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede his State to India.

For establishing a new State, territory shall be acquired as per the definition of acquisition in international law. India acquired Goa and Sikkim and established them as States.

The process of forming a new State has been, in fact, the reorganisation of an



For the federation: Congress workers participate in a protest march demanding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, in Jammu, on July 20. PTI

existing State which led India to take its number of 14 States in 1956 to 29 States before the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Article 3 of the Constitution provides for this process of reorganisation wherein Parliament may by law – form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State; increase the area of any State; diminish the area of any State; alter the boundaries of any State; or alter the name of any State. However, while the Union may diminish the area of a State, it cannot take it away by making it a Union Territory. This would be a step against the

federal features of India. Therefore, it is mandatory for the Union to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. It may wait for sometime depending upon the situation at the ground level.

What about India's federal design?

India has been made a Union of States which means that it is indivisible and that States have no right to secede. This provision in Article 1 may be interpreted in the sense that the word 'India' reflects a unitary federation while the word 'Bharat' is a cultural connotation which signifies that India has a composite culture and that there is unity in diversity. Despite being a two-tier system of

governance, the word 'federation' is not used but rather 'Union' is written expressly. The idea behind this unique feature is to ensure India's federal character and unitary spirit. This design is in tandem with the philosophy of the Constitution. While the express use of the word 'Union' makes the Centre strong enough to protect the unity and integrity of the nation, the federal character is created to equitably distribute the resources establishing India as a welfare state. This is the reason that India's federal character has been included in the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Without a federal design, India's union would lose its existence. Hence, the Rajya Sabha has been made a permanent House in Article 83 (1) which writes that it shall not be subject to dissolution. The States' representation must always be there at the Union level to maintain and sustain India's unitary federation. Thus, it is imperative that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir be restored to protect the sanctity of federation.

What next?

To recall, on December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A, and also directed the Union Government to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and hold Legislative Assembly elections. Elections for the 90-member Assembly were held in October 2024, but there has not been any hint so far from the Government to restore the statehood as asked by the Court.

Critics may point out that restoration of statehood would definitely empower the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir and that the powers of the Lieutenant Governor would be curtailed affecting the present position of the Union over the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. If this is to be agreed, it would be inconsistent with the constitutional design of India and would definitely erode its federal features.

C. B. P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi.

rner.in



8260224080

Why are orcas offering fresh prey to humans?

Are these killer whales waiting for a human response before recovering or abandoning the offered prey?

Rohini Karandikar

The story so far:

Many orcas, which are the largest species of dolphins and are often called killer whales, have been found sharing freshly killed prey with humans. And they don't just offer their prey: they wait for the humans to respond. In a new study in the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, researchers have investigated why orcas are provisioning humans.

How did the team collect data?

While orcas are known to be prosocial animals, they rarely interact with humans. The research team collected data from the period 2004-2024 from five ocean parts: Eastern North Pacific, Eastern Tropical Pacific, Western South Pacific, Western South Atlantic, and Eastern North Atlantic. The team included only those instances in their

analysis where human observers were a significant distance from the orcas before the animals approached. For example, the criterion for humans underwater at the time of provisioning was that they had to have been at least 15 m away from the killer whales before an interaction. The animals would then have come to within their own body length and release their prey in front of their bodies.

Are orcas smart?

Of the 34 instances the team was able to finalise, the orcas awaited a human response before they recovered or abandoned the offered prey and retreated in 33 instances. Their offerings included seaweed, invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Some people also reported not accepting the offering at first. Jared Towers, a marine biologist at the Bay Cetology research institute in British Columbia, Canada, was one of them. "I didn't accept the offerings

because it was a shock when it happened," Mr. Towers said. "And there's only a few seconds to decide what to do. Easier just to observe." Like humans, orcas are at the top of their food chain. They also have a larger brain size relative to the size of the body. Research has linked this trait to better cognition, learning, and social behaviour. Orcas live and hunt in groups led by a matriarch, the oldest female, and the group's behaviour largely depends on the matriarch.

What are the orcas doing?

Some experts have said that the killer whales might just be playing. However, this activity is usually associated with juveniles whereas the new study found adults and juveniles alike to provision humans. Animals also play only when their own nutritional needs have already been met. The study, however, found that in half of all the instances, the killer whales were offering whole prey, not

partly eaten. For these reasons, the authors said, the killer whales may have been exploring, not playing.

Animals explore their surroundings to reduce uncertainty about their physical, social, and/or environmental surroundings. Exploration is technically the conscious pursuit of knowledge and reflects the dolphins' evolved intelligence. In a few instances when humans tossed the prey back, the orcas immediately reciprocated, suggesting they were learning what humans preferred. "Some of these things are associated with play, but some of these things may also be defined as scientific thinking, which has been described as the ability to ask questions and then pursue answers," Mr. Towers said. While the animals' behaviour appeared to be prosocial and altruistic, the researchers warned that their actions could be manipulative or deceptive, for personal gain. Killer whales have been known to behave in this way to steal fish and to damage vessels.

Do the findings help conservation?

As humans and orcas interact more often, orcas are likely to adapt their behaviour to become more friendly or more hostile, depending on the female leading the group. These interactions could pique human curiosity about killer whales and potentially improve conservation efforts. *Rohini Karandikar is a science educator, and works with the TNQ Foundation.*

APK fraud is one of the fastest-growing cybercrime threats in the country today. These scams, driven by malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files, exploit public trust in digital systems while using sophisticated technical tools to stay undetected and operational across State lines

Lavpreet Kaur

The story so far:

Thousands of Indians with cell phones are losing money after answering a call or clicking on a message. Sometimes it begins with a phone call – calm, polite, and urgent. The voice at the other end warns of a blocked bank account, a missed government subsidy, or a pending electricity bill. Moments later, a message follows with a link to an app that promises a quick fix. The app looks official, bears the logo of a trusted institution, and installs without issue. The user grants a few routine permissions – contacts, SMS, notifications – not realising that, in that instant, their phone had become an open vault.

What happens after users install the app?

In less than 10 minutes, money begins disappearing from bank accounts. Fixed deposits are prematurely closed, and OTPs intercepted. The app, which now runs in the background, monitors, mirrors and mines everything, right from locations to private messages. The user is unaware until it is too late. And by the time help is sought, the funds have travelled through layers of digital laundering, impossible to retrieve.

APK fraud is one of the fastest-growing cybercrime threats in the country today. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal has logged 12,47,393 different types of cases in the last six months. Parliament has been informed that there has been a 900% jump in cyber crimes between 2021 and 2025. Data from the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) revealed that a total of 2,188 such cases were reported

between January and July of 2025, leading to losses of ₹779.06 crore. Officials said that 20 to 30 such cases are reported every single day, with daily financial losses between ₹10 and ₹15 lakh. In high-stake scams like investment and business, losses can go up to ₹30 to ₹40 lakh. These scams, driven by malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files, exploit public trust in digital systems while using sophisticated technical tools to stay undetected and operational across State lines.

How does the fraud work?

APK files on Android devices are much like .exe files on Windows computers; both are used to install apps, and both can be exploited by fraudsters to spread malware.

Fraudsters build or source these apps to mimic the appearance and language of official portals, including government subsidy schemes like PM-Kisan, tax refund platforms, electricity boards, or banks asking for KYC updates. These fake apps are often circulated through social media platforms like WhatsApp, accompanied by convincing messages that urge users to act immediately.

Developers use encryption techniques that hide malicious code from detection tools. By remaining dormant during installation, these APKs sidestep scans through antivirus software. Once downloaded, the app seeks multiple permissions, including access to contacts, messages, call logs, location, microphone, and notifications.

The app gains access to the phone's program files, harvests data in real-time, and transmits it in encrypted bits to external servers operated by fraudsters. These bits, while unreadable to ordinary

users, are decoded to extract valuable information, including banking credentials, OTPs, contacts, and location coordinates, among others.

Who operates these apps?

The fraudsters who circulate these APKs are rarely the ones who build them. Instead, these apps are part of a well-structured underground economy. Cybercrime officials estimate that 60 to 70% of malicious APKs used in India are developed locally by tech savvy masterminds in Delhi NCR, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, Jamtara, and parts of Jharkhand. The remaining 30-40% originate internationally, with traces leading to the U.S., U.K., and China. Telegram channels and dark web marketplaces serve as prime distribution channels, offering pre-built APK kits and modules for a fee.

Once in circulation, the same APK file is reused with minor modifications in the interface (name, logo and URL or web address of the file), allowing it to bypass detection even after earlier versions are blacklisted.

Cybercrime officers say that across hundreds of scam cases each month, only about 10 distinct APK files are found, pointing to the widespread reuse of a few malicious apps.

How are users targeted?

The choice of victim is anything but random. Much like a recce before a physical crime, cyber fraudsters carry out extensive digital surveillance before striking.

"Fraudsters purchase leaked databases, sourced from customer directories of malls, hospitals, or service portals, readily available on the dark web, Telegram, or even local search engines

like Just Dial," said an official from the TGCSB. "These datasets include names, phone numbers, email IDs, addresses, and at times even income or professional details, which help criminals customise their approach," the official explained.

High-earning professionals, including doctors, bank staff, teachers, and real estate agents, are often in the crosshairs. Using partial information already known about the target, fraudsters craft convincing, urgent messages designed to manipulate trust and prompt action.

How are investigators tackling the problem?

When a fraudulent app is seized, cyber forensics teams decrypt it to trace server origins or identify developer signatures. But the results are mixed. Only 2-3 out of every 10 APKs are decrypted successfully. Most reveal only the server addresses, or general code structures. Rarely do the files contain identifiable developer signatures.

Even when financial trails are followed, they usually end in mule accounts, temporary bank or wallet accounts used to receive stolen funds, which are quickly converted into cryptocurrency. Arrests do happen, particularly of local accomplices managing these mule accounts or distributing the APKs. But the masterminds and coders, especially those offshore, remain elusive.

Google has removed nearly 50 malicious apps in recent months based on reports from investigators. "Google or any other intermediary does not scrutinise every application that is being hosted on their server. Fraudsters also use mule accounts and shell identities to pay for hosting and publishing on search engines," explained the official.

Govt. to offer quick liquidity to exporters hit by U.S. tariffs

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

The Union government has come up with an “action plan” to respond to the tariff escalation by the U.S., which includes short-, medium-, and long-term measures aimed at not only addressing the short-term pain points but also increasing long-term competitiveness, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

According to sources, the short-term measures include providing immediate liquidity and compliance relief to exporters and helping them maintain order levels and employment in vulnerable sectors.

“The Government of India is proactively responding with a timely, well-calibrated, and comprehensive multi-tiered strategy designed

not only to safeguard Indian exporters but also to strengthen our long-term competitiveness in global markets,” the spokesperson said.

“The Department of Commerce has framed a short-, medium-, and long-term action plan to respond to this tariff escalation.”

‘Guiding principles’

According to sources in the Ministry, this action plan is based on a few “guiding principles”: providing immediate relief to exporters with regard to liquidity, compliance, and order levels, building resilience in supply chains, leveraging existing trade agreements, and providing other non-financial assistance to exporters.

“It is anticipated that exporters may face delayed payments, stretched receivable cycles, and cancelled orders due to the tariff shock,” a source said. 7

Simplifying the mammoth Income Tax Act in six months

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

How did the Income Tax Department complete the “mammoth” task of rationalising and simplifying the huge Income Tax Act, 1961 in just about six months, and then implementing the Select Committee’s voluminous suggestions in just one month? By cramming in 75,000 man-hours of work in that time and even putting probationers on the job, that’s how.

The result was the hugely condensed and significantly more user-friendly Income Tax Act, 2025.

“The announcement by the honourable Finance Minister was made on July 23, 2024 that within six months the entire process of simplification of the law, to make it more lucid, clear, and precise will be achieved,” R.N. Parbat, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) member in charge of legislation, told

The Hindu. “The task was given to the Department of Revenue and the CBDT. It was to be done in-house.”

By August 14, the drafting committee under Chief Commissioner of Income Tax V.K. Gupta was formed, and that’s when the work began in earnest. Subcommittees were formed to look at every aspect of the law with a view to remove redundant sections and review the rest.

26 subcommittees

As the scope of the work became more clear – the original 1961 Act had 819 sections – the number of subcommittees also grew. By the end of it, there were 26 different subcommittees, according to Mr. Parbat.

Apart from this, the process also incorporated a review committee that was tasked with reviewing the work done by the drafting subcommittees.

“Once the review com-



On deck: The Income Tax Act, 2025, will come into effect from the next financial year, beginning April 1, 2026. GETTY IMAGES

mittee completed its work, it came to the Tax Policy and Legislation [TPL] division of the CBDT,” Mr. Parbat explained. “And after that, when a draft was formed, it was reviewed by another set of senior officers of the CBDT.”

Throughout this, the Revenue Secretary and the Finance Minister took regular briefings with the drafting committee and the TPL, while the Ministry of Law was also consulted.

“The work was broad-

based, with more than 150 officers of the Department working on it,” Mr. Parbat said. “That included our Chairman, who was from the 1988 batch. At the same time, the junior-most person on the team was from the 2018 batch. Officers from all over India were selected for this purpose. We also involved our probationers who were undergoing training in Nagpur involved in the process.”

The draft of the Bill was laid before Parliament on

February 13, 2025, six months after the drafting committee was formed. The number of chapters has been slashed from 47 to 23 and the number of sections from 819 to 536.

The new Bill included 57 tables as explanations, up from 18, and 46 formulae compared with the previous six.

The language was greatly simplified, jargon and archaic words such as ‘notwithstanding’ were removed as far as possible, and examples were provided where needed.

To put this in context, the Parliamentary Select Committee that was tasked with reviewing these changes took five months to submit its report.

“They forwarded around 1,312 suggestions to us, so again our TPL division officers along with the core committee members of the drafting committee formulated the written replies and submitted them

to the Select Committee,” Mr. Parbat said.

After receiving the written and oral replies from the Revenue Secretary, the Chairman of the CBDT, Mr. Parbat and his team, along with the core members of the drafting committee, the Standing Committee submitted its report to Parliament on July 16, 2025.

‘Mammoth task’

The revised Bill was then passed in Parliament on August 12, 2025 – just one year after the drafting committee was formed.

“The process was started and completed within the time given to us, so there is no question any longer of whether we would have preferred more time to do it,” Mr. Parbat said. “It was a mammoth task that involved 75,000 man-hours, so whether you put it in two years or six months, that is the amount of work that was needed.”

'New normal' defined by aggressive Beijing and spineless govt.: Cong.

Party says Prime Minister's visit to Tianjin should be evaluated in the context of the bilateral relationship beginning with the conflict at Galwan Valley in 2020; it speaks of the Chinese tango with Pakistan as seen during Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Indian government's push on reconciliation with China a "de facto legitimising" of its territorial aggression, the Congress demanded to know, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Tianjin on Sunday.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a long post on X, said it seemed the "new normal" was to be defined by Chinese bullying and "government's spinelessness".

Mr. Ramesh said the Prime Minister's visit should be evaluated in the context of the bilateral relationship, beginning with the conflict at Galwan Valley in 2020 in which 20 Indian armed forces person-



Diplomatic meet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, in Tianjin. PTI

nel were killed. Mr. Ramesh said rather than identifying the Chinese aggression on June 19, 2020, Mr. Modi gave an "infamous" clean chit to China.

He said the Army chief had demanded a full restoration of the status quo on the border with China in Ladakh.

"Despite failing to achieve that, the Modi government has pushed forward on reconciliation with China, de facto legitimising their territorial aggression," Mr. Ramesh noted.

On July 4, 2025, the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen Rahul Singh,

spoke forcefully and candidly on China's *jugalbandi* with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, he said. "Rather than respond to this unholy alliance, the Modi government has quietly accepted it as fait accompli and is now rewarding China with state visits," Mr. Ramesh wrote.

'Govt. in silent mode'

China has announced a gigantic hydel project on the Yarlung Tsangpo that has very grave implications for Northeast India, he said, adding the "Modi government has not spoken a word on this issue".

Mr. Ramesh said that uncontrolled "dumping" of imports from China continued to devastate the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country. "Unlike other countries, we have largely let the Chi-

nese importers have free rein," he said. "Is the 'new normal' to be defined by Chinese aggression and bullying and our government's spinelessness," Mr. Ramesh asked.

In his televised opening remarks during his meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Modi said the welfare of 2.8 billion people was linked to cooperation between India and China.

The talks between the two leaders on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit came against the backdrop of turbulence triggered by the Trump administration's tariff tussle.

Mr. Modi landed in Tianjin on Saturday from Japan on the second leg of his two-nation trip. It is his first trip to China after the eastern Ladakh border row that began in May 2020.

ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନି ୨୦% କମିବ

ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ, ୩୧/୮: ଆମେରିକା ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ତୋନାଲ୍ଡ ଟ୍ରମ୍ପ ଭାରତ ଉପରେ ଲଗାଇଥିବା ୫୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଶୁଳ୍କ ପ୍ରଭାବରେ ଦେଶରୁ ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନି ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ୧୫-୧୮ ପ୍ରତିଶତ କମ୍ ହେବ ବୋଲି ରେଟିଂ ଏଜେନ୍ସି କ୍ରିସିଲ୍ ରେଟିଂସ୍ ଆକଳନ କରିଛି। ଚଳିତ ମାସ ୨୭ରୁ ବର୍ଦ୍ଧିତ ଶୁଳ୍କ ଲାଗୁ ହୋଇଛି।

କ୍ରିସିଲ୍‌ର ଆକଳନ

ଏବେ ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ଉପରେ ପ୍ରଭାବୀ ଶୁଳ୍କ ୫୮.୨୬ ପ୍ରତିଶତକୁ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଛି।

ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନିକାରୀମାନେ ନିଜ ଉତ୍ପାଦ ପୋର୍ଟଫୋଲିଓକୁ ବଢ଼ାଇବା ଏବଂ ନୂତନ ବଜାରରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବା ବିଷୟରେ ବିଚାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି। ଶୁଳ୍କ ବଢ଼ିବ ବୋଲି ପୂର୍ବାନୁମାନ କରିଥିବା ରସ୍ତାନିକାରୀମାନେ ଆଗୁଆ ବୁକିଂ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ତଥାପି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ରାଜସ୍ୱରେ ୧୮-୨୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହ୍ରାସ ଘଟିବା ଆଶା କରାଯାଉଛି।



୨୦୨୪-୨୫ରେ ଭାରତରୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ୪୪ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନି କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ସେଥିରୁ ୪୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି କେବଳ ଆମେରିକାକୁ ପଠାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଓଡ଼ିଶାରୁ ଗତ ଆର୍ଥିକ ବର୍ଷରେ ୪୭୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର

ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନି କରାଯାଇଛି। ତାହାର ଏକ ତୃତୀୟାଂଶ ଆମେରିକାକୁ ଯାଇଛି।

କ୍ରିସିଲ୍ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ୬୩ ରସ୍ତାନିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ କରାଯାଇଥିବା ଅନୁଶୀଳନରୁ ଏହି ରିପୋର୍ଟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି। ସେହି ରସ୍ତାନିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଶିଳ୍ପର ୫୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ରାଜସ୍ୱ ରହିଛି।

ଆୟ କମ୍ ହେଲେ ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ କ୍ରେଡିଟ୍ ପ୍ରୋଫାଇଲ୍ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେବା ଆଶଙ୍କା ରହିଛି ବୋଲି କ୍ରିସିଲ୍ ଜଣାଇଛି। ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଆମେରିକା ୧୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଶୁଳ୍କ ଲଗାଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ଭାରତୀୟ ଚିକ୍ଳୁଡ଼ି ରସ୍ତାନି ବିଶେଷ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୋଇନଥିଲା। କାରଣ ସେହି ଦରବୃଦ୍ଧିକୁ ଆମେରିକା ଗ୍ରାହକ ସହ୍ୟ କରିନେଇଥିଲେ।

