



Tara’s choice

Actor Tara Sutaria opens up on whether she would ever get married to a foreigner

LEISURE | **P2**



‘July Declaration’

Bangladesh government to unveil August 5 the 'July Declaration', coinciding with first anniversary of Sheikh Hasina's ouster

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



RBI may cut rates

RBI expected to cut repo rate by 25 bps in light of softening inflation and global uncertainties

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Flamboyant ton

Yashasvi Jaiswal's 118 and half-centuries from Akash Deep, Jadeja and Washington help India set a stiff 374-run target against England

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Over 34L farmers receive ₹697cr: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday urged farmers to diversify into crops other than paddy to take advantage of government schemes.

He said that over 34 lakh farmers received the 20th instalment of financial assistance under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.

Majhi said this while attending the state-level PM Kisan Samman Nidhi event here, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi disbursed the assistance to 9.7 crore farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) at the main function in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

“Today, I participated in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme in Bhubaneswar. Today, the Honourable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji is providing ₹20,500 crore to 9.7 crore farmers across the country from Varanasi. In this context, today, more than 34.85 lakh farmers in Odisha are being provided a total of 697 crore rupees,” Majhi posted on X.

Stating that the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi or PM Kisan Yojana has been instrumental in making farmers progressive, Majhi said the programme integrates farmers into the mainstream of the economy.

This scheme plays a significant role in the development of farmers and in reducing poverty, the CM said. He also said that over 34.85 lakh eligible farmers in Odisha received ₹2,000 each, and a total of around ₹697 crore was disbursed into their bank accounts.

Asserting that the Odisha government has implemented many schemes for farmers within a year of his party coming to power, Majhi said the cultivators are getting the benefits.

More than 50 lakh farmers of the state are getting assistance of ₹4,000 per year under the CM Kisan scheme.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Stay home to avoid rape, advise Guj traffic cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 2: Posters allegedly sponsored by the Ahmedabad traffic police for a safety campaign have stirred up a controversy, as some of them urged women to stay home to avoid getting raped.

The posters, which were pasted in a few localities in the city, have invited criticism from the Opposition, which raised questions about women’s safety in Gujarat. Posters with statements, “do not attend late night parties, you could be raped or gangraped,” and “do not go with your friend to dark, isolated areas, what if she is raped or gangraped?” were pasted on road dividers in Sola and Chandlodia areas and have since been removed.



RESCUE ACT: A man, holding a dog, runs from a blaze raging through a neighbourhood of Salta, Argentina

AP PHOTO

Talks to resolve Mahanadi dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 2: In a positive development to the long-standing Mahanadi river water-sharing dispute, Odisha and Chhattisgarh have agreed for an amicable settlement, prompting the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) to grant additional time for negotiations.

At a hearing held Saturday, the tribunal took note of the recent correspondence and statements from both states advocating for a negotiated resolution.

“We deem it appropriate to request the secretaries concerned of the respective states to remain present before the tribunal on the next date and apprise it about the progress of settlement talks between the two states,” the tribunal, headed by chairperson Justice Bela M Trivedi, said.

The tribunal, also comprising Justices Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur, fixed September 6 as the next date of hearing.

Earlier in the day, a team from Odisha comprising Advocate General (AG) Pitambar



Acharya and 13 lawyers informed the tribunal that both the states have begun exploring an amicable resolution to the dispute and there has been progress in discussions at both the chief secretary and political levels.

The AG said that the state government believes a breakthrough is possible if the matter is approached with a ‘positive mindset’ by the CMs of both states.

Acharya placed on record a copy of the letter dated July 25 along with the draft minutes of the proceedings of high-level meeting chaired by Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, a copy of letter written by Majhi to his Chhattisgarh counterpart sending a proposal of an amicable settlement of Mahanadi water dispute.

Acharya also placed a copy of Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai’s reply to Majhi and stated that the matter for settlement of the water dispute between the two states was under consideration.

“On August 1, the Chhattisgarh CM acknowledged receiving his Odisha counterpart’s July 25 letter and stated that the matter is under consideration, keeping the option for

a negotiated resolution open,” the Odisha AG said.

Besides, senior advocate for the Chhattisgarh government AK Ganguly also informed the tribunal that the issue of settlement of the disputes is under active consideration before their CM. The Mahanadi water-sharing dispute has continued for nearly a decade.

Odisha has time and again alleged that Chhattisgarh’s construction of barrages and dams in the upstream has blocked the natural flow of water, adversely affecting agriculture and livelihoods in the lower basin areas, especially during non-monsoon months.

After early talks between the states failed, Odisha moved the Supreme Court in November 2016, seeking formation of a tribunal under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

The Centre formed the MWDT in March 2018, initially headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar. The proceedings continued between 2018 and 2023 with data submissions, arguments, and inspections from both states.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The 15-year-old girl who was allegedly set on fire by three unidentified miscreants in Balanga in Puri district succumbed to her burn injuries while undergoing treatment in AIIMS-Delhi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Majhi in a post on X said: “I am deeply shocked to hear the news of the death of the girl from Balanga area. Despite all the efforts of the government and the round-the-clock endeavours of specialist medical team at AIIMS-Delhi, her life could not be saved. I pray for the eternal peace of the girl’s soul and pray before God to grant strength to her family to bear this irreparable loss.” The Opposition Congress and BJD slammed the state government following the girl’s death.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das said, “We are saddened to hear about the passing of the Balanga victim. Even after two weeks of the incident, the culprits are still at large. The state government has failed to nab the culprits. This clearly shows how the

Ex-MP Revanna gets life term in rape case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 2: A Special Court here Saturday sentenced to life imprisonment, former MP and suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna in a rape case.

The Special Court for MPs/ MLAs Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat also imposed a total fine of ₹10 lakh on the accused.

The court had Friday convicted the 34-year-old in one of the four sexual abuse and rape cases registered against him and reserved the sentencing for Saturday.

The case pertains to a 48-year-old woman who was working as a help at the family’s Gannikada farmhouse in Hassan district’s Holenarasipura. She was allegedly raped twice – at Hassan farm house and Bangalore residence-- in 2021 and the act recorded by the accused on his mobile phone.

Earlier in the day, while the prosecution sought life sentence for Revanna, the 34 year-old sought leniency, claiming he did nothing wrong and that his only mistake was his ‘fast’ growth in politics.

He broke down in court as he appealed to the judge for a lesser punishment.

He told the court that he is a BE Mechanical graduate, and has always passed on merit.

No other person involved: Police

Bhubaneswar Hours after the death of the 15-year-old girl from Puri district at AIIMS, Delhi, Odisha police Saturday claimed that no other person was involved in the incident, even though the victim’s mother in her FIR had alleged that three unknown miscreants had set her daughter on fire. The police, however, did not make it clear how the girl was set on fire.

P3

Home department functions in the state. We condemn the government and the police for their inaction in this matter.”

Former chief minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik also expressed deep sorrow over the demise of the Balanga victim and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

The minor girl was allegedly abducted by three men and set on fire on the banks of river Bhargavi under Balanga police limits in the morning of July 19 while she was on her way to a friend’s house. The girl, who sustained 70 per cent burn injuries, was airlifted from AIIMS-Bhubaneswar to AIIMS-Delhi July 20.

A tomato connection to potato’s origin 9mn yrs ago

REUTERS

Washington, August 2: Potato is one of the world’s food staples, first cultivated thousands of years ago in the Andes region of South America before spreading globally from the 16th century. But despite its importance to humankind, the evolutionary origins of the potato have remained puzzling - until now.

A new analysis of 450 genomes from cultivated potatoes and 56 genomes of wild potato species has revealed that the potato lineage originated through natural interbreeding between a wild tomato plant and a potato-like species in South America about 9 million years ago.

This hybridisation event led to the appearance of the nascent potato plant’s tuber,

an enlarged structure housing nutrients underground, according to the researchers, who also identified two crucial genes involved in tuber formation. Whereas in a tomato plant the edible part is the fruit, in the potato plant it is the tuber.

“Potatoes are truly one of humanity’s most remarkable food staples, combining extraordinary versatility, nutritional value and cultural ubiquity in ways few crops can match,” said Sanwen Huang, a genome biologist and plant breeder at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and senior author of the study published Friday in the journal Cell.

“People eat potatoes using virtually every cooking method - baking, roasting, boiling, steaming and frying. Despite being stereotyped as carbohy-



drates, potatoes offer vitamin C, potassium, fibre and resistant starch, and are naturally gluten-free, low-fat and satiating - a nutrient-dense calorie source,” Huang added.

Resistant starch is a type of carbohydrate that resists di-

gestion in the small intestine and ferments in the large intestine, feeding beneficial bacteria in the gut.

The modern-day potato plant’s scientific name is Solanum tuberosum. Its two parents identified in the study were

plants that were the ancestors of a potato-like species now found in Peru named Etuberosum, which closely resembles the potato plant but lacks a tuber, and the tomato plant.

These two plants themselves shared a common ancestor that lived about 14 million years ago, and were able to naturally interbreed when the fortuitous hybridisation event occurred five million years after they had diverged from each other.

“This event led to a reshuffling of genes such that the new lineage produced tubers, allowing these plants to expand into the newly created cold, dry habitats in the rising Andes mountain chain,” said botanist Sandra Knapp of the Natural History Museum in London, a co-author of the study.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will remain undecided to-day, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesha. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself, unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships.

TAURUS
People around you will be surprised to witness the considerate and compassionate side of you today, says Ganesha. Problems may come knocking but you, along with support from your loved ones, will handle them with brilliant tact. Enjoy the company of near and dear ones and let your presence be felt in social outings, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, says Ganesha.

CANCER
New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success. you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesha.

LEO
Talk of being busy! It seems like today, you shall take the cake, and perhaps, be the icing on it as well, says Ganesha. It is likely that the day is going to be very hectic for you in terms of work and business. You may be engaged in official conversations and dealings. Also, don't be surprised to find yourself in meetings as you attempt to take stock of your business situation.

VIRGO
You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesha. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today. Towards evening you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

SCORPIO
It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner.

SAGITTARIUS
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesha. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

CAPRICORN
The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesha. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

AQUARIUS
You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If married, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesha says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

PISCES
You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone. On the brighter side, your travels are unlikely to involve the cramps of flying economy class, says Ganesha.



MILEY PLANNING 'SPECIAL' FOR HANNAH MONTANA ANNIV

Miley Cyrus is planning ‘something really special’ for Hannah Montana’s 20th anniversary next year. Miley, 32, shot to fame in the Disney show – which ran for four seasons from 2006 to 2011 – and she revealed she would love to pay tribute to the series with a special celebration next year.

AKON: INDIA IS LIKE A SECOND HOME

In an exciting update for all the music lovers out there, pop sensation Akon will be performing in India this November. Sharing his excitement of performing in India, the *Smack That* singer said, “The energy, the culture, the fans... it’s on another level. India is like a second home.”



Gargi: I don't let my skin tone define me

Mumbai: Actress and content creator Gargi Kundu has opened up about the harsh criticism she has faced over the years.

She revealed that she was often mocked for her skin tone, appearance, and identity. Speaking candidly, she shared how these experiences shaped her journey and strengthened her resolve. Gargi, who is known for her role in the show *Society* on Jio Hotstar, shared, “I was mocked for my looks every day. People called me ‘behenji’, said my specs were too big, and even made fun of my skin colour. It hurt—but I never let it define me.”

“It felt like I was being judged for just being myself. I wear my glasses with pride. I love my skin. And I’m not here to meet someone else’s standards,” she asserted.

For the unversed, Gargi Kundu began her artistic career with classical training in Bharatanatyam and folk dance, and was actively involved in theatre and Bollywood-style performances from a young age. Her early exposure to the performing arts laid the groundwork for her later work across various creative platforms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gargi worked as a medical profes-

sional. Her growing popularity on social media led to roles in Bengali television and films, and eventually to appearances in pan-Indian OTT content including web series, music videos, and advertisements.

IAN S

Tara's life choices

Mumbai: Actor Tara Sutaria has reacted to a question on whether she would ever get married to a foreigner. In an interview with Ranveer Allahbadia on *The Ranveer Show*, Tara called herself “very native”, adding that she would want “nativeness”. Currently, Tara is rumoured to be in a relationship with Veer Pahariya.

Tara shared that she wants “simplicity and comfort” in her life. “I don’t think so because I’m very desi actually and I need all this like desipana (nativeness). There’s a certain chilled out thing that we have, whether it’s food related, whether it’s family related, there’s a certain way of being here, and I enjoy that, so I would want that. I need simplicity and I need comfort,” she said.

She said that she wants her partner to be aware of himself. “I need the person to know who they are. If you know who you are, everything else falls into place, I feel. Self-awareness, self-worth to a certain extent and having a sense of self as well are very important. Knowing who you are in essence and knowing your beliefs, what you stand for, what you don’t stand for, what you will never stand for, what you could possibly change to stand for, all of these things are so important,” she added.



AGENCIES

‘Travelling shifts one’s perspective’

Mumbai: Actress Natasha Fernandes, who will be seen in the upcoming film *Andaaz 2*, plays Priyanka—a character defined by early responsibility and emotional sacrifice. Natasha values travelling in her life. For her, travel plays a deeper role than leisure.

“Travelling is not just a break. It shifts your perspective. Places rich in silence and nature bring peace, and that in itself is healing. As actors, we need to observe life closely—different places and cultures feed that ability.”

Talking about her character, Natasha says, “Priyanka is someone who had to take charge of her family at a very young age. She gave up her own happiness to build a business and support them.

In the process, she never had the time for love or even friendships.”

The actress went on to add, “She’s successful and strong, but she’s also lonely. She maintains grace through everything life throws at her. Despite being a boss lady, she has a vulnerable side, and that vulnerability is eventually exploited, which leaves her with resentment.”

AGENCIES



Rubina shares her relationship mantra

Mumbai: Popular television actress Rubina Dilaik will soon be seen in the highly-awaited reality show, *Pati Patni Aur Panga* with her actor husband Abhinav Shukla.

Interacting exclusively with this agency, she was asked if she believes in discussing everything with her partner.

To this, Rubina reacted by saying, “Avoid is a strong word, and I’ve never done that. Avoiding is a no-no, but discussing absolutely everything is also not wise in a relationship.”

“Sometimes it’s better to leave certain things as they are after understanding them,” she added.

When asked if she and Abhinav ignore fights, Rubina denied, saying, “Ignoring is not the way. Now we’ve learned to pick our battles. Some fights need to be resolved thoughtfully, while others are too trivial to give importance to.”

The Bigg Boss 14 contestant noted that the key is to know what matters at what point in time.

Pati Patni Aur Panga will be premiering on Colors TV on Saturday. IAN S

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

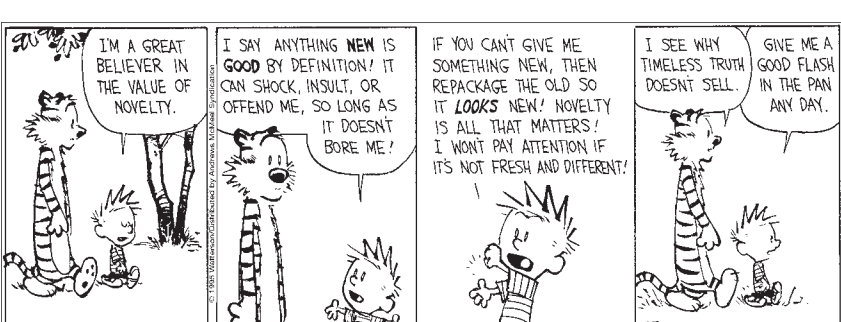
E	X	H	I	B	I	T	B	L	E	N	D
M	A	A	R	A	M	A					
M	O	T	O	R	B	O	A	T	B	O	W
E		N	T	H	R		D				
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C	O	O		W	A		I	E			
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T	A	E	A	P							
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9	1	8	6	4	7	2	3	5			
2	7	6	8	3	5	1	4	9			
4	5	3	1	2	9	8	7	6			
3	6	7	5	8	1	4	9	2			
5	8	4	2	9	3	7	6	1			
1	9	2	7	6	4	5	8	3			
6	2	9	4	5	8	3	1	7			
7	4	5	3	1	6	9	2	8			
8	3	1	9	7	2	6	5	4			

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10		11		12		
13				14		15
			16			
17		18			19	20
21			22	23		
	24			25		

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Across

- Digs a tunnel
- Ear part
- Speech defect
- Royal topper
- Freudian topic
- War paint
- Tyrant
- Consternation
- Booked
- Butterfly catcher

- Out in the country
- Quartz glass
- Air pollution
- Sawbones

Down

- Butter up?
- Strident
- Driving around (2,3,4)
- Tennis starters

- Auction unit
- Face fungus
- Ireland's Bay
- Salon necessity (4,5)
- Kalahari, e.g.
- Sea cow
- Positions
- Sheik's bevy
- Eagle's claw
- Race part

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Ideas, innovation key to progress: Governor



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati urges graduates to be innovators and ethical leaders as Odisha rises as tech hub

Bhubaneswar, August 2: In this era of the knowledge economy, ideas and innovation are the driving forces of progress, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati while addressing the second convocation of Silicon University here Saturday.

“Institutions play a critical role in shaping the future of the nation by producing not just job-seekers but job creators, innovators, and problem solvers who will lead India into a new era of growth and transformation,” the Governor emphasised.

Highlighting Odisha’s progress, Kambhampati noted that the state is emerging as a prominent hub for IT, electronics, and semiconductor industries, driven by the proactive vision of its institutions and people. “The state is fostering a vibrant ecosystem for start-ups, innovation, and sustainable development. Silicon University is a vital pillar of this ecosystem,” he said, adding that the knowledge and innovative spirit of the university’s students will contribute significantly to this momentum.

He commended Silicon University for its rapid emergence as a centre of academic excellence and technological relevance. “The university has made significant strides in nurturing talent in cutting-edge areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, VLSI Design,

Silicon University praised for a academic excellence in emerging fields like AI, Cyber Security and Smart Grid Technologies

Convocation marks students' transformation into professional ready to lead with knowledge, values and innovation

Governor emphasises role of institutions in creating job creators, not just job seekers, for India's transformative growth

Embedded Systems, and Smart Grid Technologies,” he noted.

“Convocation is more than a ceremonial milestone—it is a celebration of perseverance, dedication, and intellectual growth. It symbolises your transition from students to professionals, from learners to leaders—ready to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation,” he added.

Advising graduates to be responsible change-makers, the Governor urged them to uphold the values of ethics, empathy, and inclusivity in their professional lives. He also lauded the faculty, staff, and parents for their commitment to academic excellence and encouraged the university to continue fostering innovation and global collaboration.

Cong seeks Min Patra’s ouster, flags tribal issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has intensified its attack on the state government, demanding the resignation of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra for allegedly filing a false affidavit during the 2024 general elections. Simultaneously, the party submitted an 11-point charter of demands to the Governor, focusing on tribal rights and welfare.

At a press conference held at Congress Bhawan here Saturday, senior party leaders Debasis Patnaik, Lalatendu Mohapatra, and spokesperson Rajani Mohanty accused Minister Krushna Chandra Patra of concealing a key financial transaction in his election affidavit. They claimed that in 2021, Patra had reportedly paid Rs 25 lakh in advance to one Nirranjan Satapathy for a land deal, which later led to a cheating complaint. Despite this, the transaction was not mentioned in his affidavit, which declared assets worth Rs 7.35 lakh, an annual income of Rs 20 lakh, and no outstanding loans.



Citing provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and constitutional norms, the Congress urged the Election Commission to take immediate and suo motu action against Minister Patra. The party also questioned the Chief Minister’s silence and inaction in removing Patra from the Cabinet, despite his involvement in previous controversies, including alleged irregularities in paddy procurement and potato import. Meanwhile, stepping up its advocacy for tribal welfare, a delegation from the OPCC tribal unit, led by former MP Yashbant Narayan Singh Laguri, met Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and submitted a memorandum outlining 11 key demands.

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati has called upon real estate developers to invest in tier II and III cities for balanced urbanisation and ensuring sustainable development.

He also stressed the need for ethical business practices and customer-centric models to build trust in the sector.

“Odisha stands at a critical inflection point - emerging as the growth engine of Eastern India. Smart cities like Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri Corridor, and major industrial corridors are unlocking immense potential,” he said.

Addressing an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers’ Associations of India (Credai) Friday, the Governor said, “The real estate developers should focus on tier II and III cities for balanced urbanisation and invest in affordable housing, green development, and digital infrastructure.”

SOA holds talk on AI’s impact on job prospects

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has ushered in exciting times with a question mark hanging on job prospects, but students have to chart their own course by creating jobs, said Persistent Systems founder chairman and managing director Anand Deshpande while having an interaction with students of SOA Deemed to be University here Saturday.

“We are moving towards a situation where work will increase but jobs will decrease. Instead of looking for jobs, you have to think how to create jobs,” Deshpande said.

Replying to a question on AI and the future, he said AI would have amazing ability to solve problems and push up productivity. AI writes better codes than humans today but it can also distort facts like no one can, he said.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Pradip Kumar Nanda presided over the programme organised by the university and the Atal Incubation Centre-SOA Foundation.

SOA Advisory Board chairman Damodar Acharya and Corporate Relations and Industry Engagement director Ripti Ranjan Dash also addressed the occasion. Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) additional dean (student affairs) Renu Sharma proposed vote of thanks.

from the atmosphere and store it safely.

Despite the promise, these technologies face major challenges. Many innovations aimed specifically at reducing emissions are unlikely to attract significant private investment, as they don’t offer quick returns. Instead, government support will be essential to help guide these solutions from lab to market. That support should include funding for basic research, inclusive public engagement, fair regulation, and long-term policy tools like tax credits or green procurement.

Countries like the United Kingdom and the United States are already investing heavily in engineering biology, recognising its potential role in the green economy. Australia, too, is taking early steps with its proposed “Future Made in Australia” strategy.

The future of climate mitigation may involve rethinking life itself. Whether this vision succeeds will depend on science, policy, and public trust working hand in hand.

(THE VONVERSATION)

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Invest in tier II & III cities, real estate developers told

Currently contributing 8.4 per cent to India's GDP, it (real estate sector) is the second-largest employment generator after agriculture. With RERA streamlining the industry, 95 per cent of the sector is now organised. By 2030, it is projected to become a USD 1 trillion sector, contributing 10 per cent to the GDP

SHEKHAR G PATEL | CREDAI PRESIDENT

sation and invest in affordable housing, green development, and digital infrastructure.”

The EGM of the association returned to Odisha after a nine-year gap.

The event brought together a distinguished panel of national leaders, developers, policymakers, and stakeholders to deliberate on the future of real estate, investment prospects, and sustainable urban development.

Credai president Shekhar G Patel highlighted the evolution of Bhubaneswar over the last decade, stating, “From a twin city, we now see a vision for a dynamic tri-city cluster comprising Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Puri. This region is poised to be one of India’s top 50 urban centres.”

He underscored the contribution of the real estate sector to India’s economy.

“Currently contributing 8.4 per cent to India’s GDP, it is the second-largest employment generator after agriculture. With RERA streamlining the industry, 95 per cent of the sector is now organised. By 2030, it is projected to become a USD 1 trillion sector, contributing 10 per cent to the GDP.”

Credai Bhubaneswar president and MLA Sofia Firdous said that with strategic central initiatives like the Smart City Mission, Bhubaneswar is emerging as the real estate capital of Eastern India.

Vedanta skill training push achieves 92pc placement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalahandi, August 2: Vedanta Aluminium, India’s largest producer of aluminium, through its flagship skills training initiative in Lanjigarh has successfully completed its first batch of food and beverage (F&B) training, achieving an impressive 92 per cent placement rate.

Beyond job placements, the programme made remarkable strides in digital education. All participating trainees completed 40 hours of IT literacy training, marking a pivotal step in digital empowerment.

Vedanta Alumina Business CEO Pranab Kumar Bhat-tacharyya said, “At Vedanta, we view community development as a strategic imperative for sustainable growth. When youth are equipped with the right skills and exposure, it sparks a chain reaction of progress - for families, communities, and the local economy. This outstanding placement milestone reflects what’s possible when industry and community participation come together.”

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) district development manager Maheshwar Das said, “Initiatives like these are powerful enablers of transformation. They bridge the gap between rural potential and mainstream opportunities. We look forward to deepening this partnership to drive holistic, grassroots-led development across the region.”

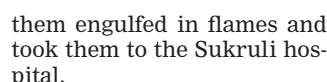
Following a comprehensive skilling framework, Vedanta Lanjigarh Skill Training initiative in collaboration with Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and NABARD aims to train more than 1200 rural youth over the course of three years, using a two-pronged approach—offering training as well as entrepreneurial and employment avenues.

So far, 701 youth have already been trained under this initiative, marking a significant milestone in its journey. By helping them secure stable livelihoods, these placements have significantly augmented the family incomes, integrating the youth into the socio-economic mainstream.

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	36.0°	34.8°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	26.2°	24.8°	
Humidity	92%	77%	
Rainfall	73 mm	Nil	

70 students fall ill after lizard found in MDM

POST NEWS NETWORK



Doctors said Bharati sustained 90 per cent burns and died shortly after, while Harishankar suffered 80 per cent burns and remains critical.

Police have launched an investigation, but the exact motive remains unclear.

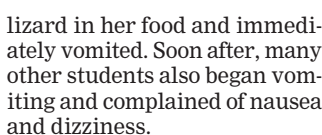
While Bharati succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment, Harishankar, whose condition deteriorated, was shifted to Keonjhar and then to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, officials said Saturday.

Both families rushed to the hospital following the incident. In response, Karanjia SDPO Nabakrushna Nayak and the local police IIC arrived at the scene and launched an investigation. Police seized a plastic bottle containing petrol from the spot.

Police registered a case of unnatural death (14/25) and sent the woman's body to the Karanjia hospital for post-mortem. Whether this was a criminal act remains shrouded in mystery; nevertheless the incident has raised serious concerns over women's safety in the state.

Family members, still reeling under the tragedy, expressed distress over the uncertainty surrounding the case's resolution. Experts have suggested that grassroots-level awareness on suicide prevention is urgently needed to curb such incidents.

ANGUL: Seven people, including five personnel of the Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP), were injured Saturday after a vehicle, in which they were travelling, hit a truck on NH-55 in Angul district, police said. The accident took place near Jarpada area early Saturday morning when a van with 16 OSAP jawans on board rammed into the truck which was parked on the side of the road, a senior officer said. The van was travelling from Jharsuguda to Bhubaneswar when the accident occurred, he said. "Five OSAP jawans, the driver and his assistant were injured in the accident. Four of them were referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack," said an officer of Jarpada police station. Three others are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital, Angul, he said. The remaining jawans are safe and have started their journey to their destination, the officer said. The driver lost control over the van and it crashed into the stationary truck, he added.



uation became tense for some time, prompting school authorities and parents to call ambulances. Critically ill students were first shifted to the hospital, while others followed as multiple ambulances were requisitioned due to the large number of affected children.

Some parents, seeing the delay in ambulance arrivals reportedly took their children to hospitals in private vehicles. Later, a medical team rushed to the village to provide on-site treatment.

Titilagarh sub-divisional hospital confirmed it had treated over 70 students. On being informed, Kantabanji MLA Laxman Bag visited the hospital and inquired about the health condition of the affected students. He assured that a proper investigation would be conducted.

District Education Officer Pradeep Kumar Nag confirmed that the health scare began after a student spotted a tail of a dead lizard in her food. "All affected students have been treated and are currently stable," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

major role in the identification, documentation, sustainable conservation and promotion of heritage sites, a recent letter issued by the Department of Panchayati Raj to District Collectors said.

"We have received data of around 20 sites so far and expect to receive more in the next few days," said Prahallad Pradhan, District Panchayat Officer (DPO) of Ganjam. There are 503 panchayats in the district.

“Several heritage sites exist in rural areas of the cultural-

ly rich Ganjam district. There is a need to urgently identify those for their development. We thank the government for this initiative," said Subash Chandra Padhy, a retired professor at Berhampur University.

Manoranjan Gouda, sarpanch of Kaithakhandi panchayat in Digapahandi block, said they have already identified several such sites.

“We have discussed the matter with other village heads and urged them to accord this exercise high priority. The heritage sites are the pride of the district,” said Gouda, who is also the president of the Ganjam Sarpanch Association.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 2: Koraput District Collector Manoj Satyaban Mahajan visited the scenic region of Kotia, a border panchayat in the middle of a dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, to assess ongoing infrastructure projects and explore opportunities for development of tourism. The visit was aimed at improving connectivity, public amenities, and showcasing Kotia's natural and cultural beauty to a wider audience.

Highlighting the importance of inclusive development, the Collector emphasised the need to ensure that benefits of state and Central government schemes reach the local population. He interacted with residents and officials, inspected key natural and cultural sites, and reviewed road conditions, water supply, and accommodation facilities.

"We aim to promote sustainable tourism that highlights the rich heritage of Kotia while creating employment and improving the quality of life for locals," the Collector said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 2: A 25-year-old man, wanted in at least 20 criminal cases, was arrested in Ganjam district Saturday after a gunfight with the police, officials said.

Sunil Nahal alias Mala, a resident of Kabisuryanagar, received a gunshot wound on his left knee in the exchange of fire, they said.

He was wanted in at least 20 cases, including those related to murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, bombing, robbery and chain-snatching, said SP (Berrhampur) Saravana Vivek M

A country-made pistol with three rounds of ammunition was seized from his possession, he said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police



On seeing the police vehicle, Mala attempted to escape by firing two rounds, he said.

“Though no policeman was injured in the firing, a bullet fired by him damaged a part of the vehicle,” he added.

In self-defence, police fired two rounds at him and he was hit on the knee, officials said.

“His condition is good. He would be forwarded to the court after being discharged from the hospital,” the SP said.

“We are expecting to recover all the chains snatched by the group with the arrest of Sunil, the gang leader,” he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 2: A tragic road accident on National Highway-326 near the Kanyashram School gate in Podagada panchayat under Dashmantpur block claimed the lives of a man and his 4-year-old son. The deceased's nephew, who was riding with them, sustained critical injuries and was battling for life at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital here.

The incident took place when the trio on a motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding truck belonging to the Bol Bom Seva Sangha. The impact was so intense that the motorcycle caught fire, killing the father-son duo on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as Kailash Khara and his son Anish Khara, residents of Tikra Sahi under Koraput Sadar sub-division. Kailash's nephew, Aman Reddy, was seriously injured and rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment.

Koraput Sadar IIC Runu Majhi reached the spot soon after the accident, recovered and sent the bodies for post-mortem. The involved truck has been seized and a case has been registered.

 इंडियन बैंक इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD	ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 2ND FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJAPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in	<h2 style="margin: 0;">E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE</h2> <p>(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property lies under SARFAESI Act 2002)</p>		
Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)				
<p>Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com.</p>				
Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Mortgagees/Co-Borrowers	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	CHATUANKA BRANCH, MOB. NO.: 7978576785 / Borrower : Mrs. Mamata Singh Thakur, W/o.: Tirath Singh Thakur / Co-Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Tirath Singh Thakur, S/o.: Inder Singh Thakur, Both are At: Ward No.: 5, Kadopada, Kantabanji, Dist.: Bolangir, PIN-767039 Open to Sky, South: Flat No.: 305, East: Open to Sky, West: Flat No.: 303	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Tirath Singh Thakur, S/o.: Inder Singh Thakur, Flat No.: 304 (Third Floor) of Sai Tower, Mouza: Chatuanaka, Tahasil: Kantabanji, Dist.: Bolangir, bearing Khata No.: 149/332, Plot No.: 211/1713 and Plot No.: 212/1712 with Area: 1350 Sqft., Bounded by North: Open to Sky, West: Flat No.: 303	29.08.2024 / 18.11.2024 / ₹25,04,801/- as on 28.08.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹31,00,000/- / ₹3,10,000/- / ₹10,000/-
2.	VSS MARG BRANCH, MOB. NO.: 9778399766 / Borrower & Mortgagor : Smt. Sanjukta Panda, W/o: Sri Pabitrabhanu Panda / Co-Borrowers: 1) Sri Dhiraj Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Pabitrabhanu Panda, 2) Sri Saroj Kumar Panda, S/o: Sri Pabitrabhanu Panda, All are At: Naksapali, P.O./P.S.:Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur-768005	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building Immovable Property of Area: Ac.0.060 Dec., in the name of Smt. Sanjukta Panda, W/o.: Pabitrabhanu Panda, bearing Khata No.: 370/356, Plot No.: 1797, at Mouza: Naksapali Town Planning SDA Area, Dist.: Sambalpur-768005, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1794, South: Plot No.: 1797/3591, East: Plot No.: 1793, West: Road	04.05.2024 / 19.10.2024 / ₹20,63,140/- as on 03.05.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹33,50,000/- / ₹3,35,000/- / ₹10,000/-
DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 20.08.2025 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration				
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 19.08.2025 upto 05.30 PM by online				
Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 11.08.2025 to 19.08.2025 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses				
TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: https://www.baanknet.com Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list, 2) This is a statutory 15 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, 3) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date, 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.				
STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.				
Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.				
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 02.08.2025			Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank	

POPULISM IN JAPAN



Despite harping on some common themes – vaccines, immigrants, diversity, gender, and nationalism – the Japanese populists are a little different from far-right parties in other countries and from the older extreme right in Japan

longed to Japan. Kamiya, for his part, also refuses to acknowledge that Japan did anything wrong in World War II. But the topic that excites Japanese Firsters most is the presence of an increasing number of foreigners in Japan – immigrants, workers, and tourists. Compared to most countries, Japan has traditionally hosted few foreigners. But this has started to change. There are now 3.8 million foreign residents in Japan, and more than 20 million tourists have benefited from the cheap yen in the first half of this year. These numbers are hardly overwhelming. Foreigners comprise only 3% of Japan’s population, compared to 10% in France, while Italy welcomed 65 million international visitors in 2024. The Japanese government has encouraged mass tourism and immigration to create revenue and fill much-needed

jobs in a rapidly aging society. But the results have dismayed enough Japanese that Sanseito was able to gain ground by blaming foreigners for a host of ills, from inflation and the rising cost of living to stagnant wages and rice shortages. Many foreign tourists and new residents are Chinese. This, too, marks a change from the past. Starting from the early twentieth century, Japanese right-wing nationalism was mostly anti-Western. Before WWII, Americans were blamed for polluting the purity of Japanese culture with crass commercialism, and for standing in the way of Japanese supremacy in Asia. After the war, the nationalists’ bugbear was the “peace” constitution. These days, it is an increasingly powerful China that scares people. Many Japanese view the new crop of affluent Chinese tourists in the same way that Europeans regarded the “ugly Americans” who vis-

ited in the 1950s: they are repelled by their rough manners, insensitivity to local customs, and the flaunting of their new wealth. This ostentatiousness is perhaps most irritating to locals feeling economic pain. Asian workers and students, including Chinese, used to be relatively poor. Now, rich Chinese immigrants who find Japan a pleasant place to live and a safe place to park their money are snapping up high-end properties in Tokyo. None of this would matter much if the People’s Republic of China were seen as a benign power. But Chinese threats to expand its military reach and regain its traditional status as an imperial Asian hegemon are alarming to the Japanese. The irony is that US dominance in East Asia, including the postwar constitutional framework, was partly aimed at protecting Japan against the threat posed by China and other Communist powers. With Trump – a kind of hero to the Japanese Firsters – in the White House, the US can no longer be relied on to provide a security guarantee. China seeks to push the US out of Asia. If the Chinese were able to invade Taiwan and seize control of the sea lanes around Japan without US intervention, Japan would likely acquire its own nuclear weapons and lurch much further to the right. This is surely not what most Japanese would wish for. But nor, if they carefully thought about it, would the Chinese.

The writer is the author of numerous books, including *Spinoza: Freedom’s Messiah*.

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Ian Buruma

MANY JAPANESE VIEW THE NEW CROP OF AFFLUENT CHINESE TOURISTS IN THE SAME WAY THAT EUROPEANS REGARDED THE “UGLY AMERICANS” WHO VISITED IN THE 1950S



Aakar Patel

AS THE REST OF THE WORLD GROWS EQUAL TO THE WEST, ITS ABILITY TO CONTROL AND DOMINATE IS SLIPPING. IT HAS GIVEN UP ON THE RULES BASED ORDER FOR THIS REASON, AND IS RESORTING TO PURE MIGHT

“

In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?

THE MOTHER

Rules Abandoned

The United States has 34 crore people (the size of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). Americans represent 4 per cent of the global population and they are the biggest beneficiaries of what the US called the rules-based order. This order, imposed by the US and its European allies after the Second World War, seeks global cooperation through institutions like the United Nations and also the World Trade Organisation. Americans refer to their president, unironically, as the ‘leader of the free world’. America’s per capita income is almost \$90,000 according to the one of the institutions of the ‘rules-based order’, the International Monetary Fund. India’s per person income is less than 1/30th, at under \$3000. The US economy has surged over the last few decades because its companies have sent their products — like planes, phones and computers — and services — like social media companies — around the world, where they dominate. Even with the recent downward revision in their jobs numbers, the US is running at what is referred to as full employment, meaning that joblessness is around 4%, which is optimal. This means that from the standpoint of income and jobs, the US is in a very good place, particularly when compared to nations like India, where poverty and joblessness, particularly in the absence of regular, salaried employment, are a serious problem. And yet the US is unhappy with the world, which it says is ‘ripping it off’, in the words of the US president. He has reversed this theft, as he sees it, by making it more difficult for countries to export their products into the US. America is India’s largest export market, and a 25% tariff on our goods will weaken demand, hurting our exporters. There is no getting around that fact. If the tariffs remain, our interests will be harmed, no matter who ultimately pays the tariff. There is no meaningful debate inside the US’s democracy of whether the actions taken by president Trump harm the global rules-based order and its friends and allies, to say nothing of poorer nations. What the US has done is tear up the system where tariffs existed but were used under a system of WTO rules and regulations that could be appealed. The US has disregarded that, and weakened the system that for decades has served it well. In doing so it is damaging the rest of the world. There is a second disregarding of the rules based order and that is the American enabling of the genocide in Gaza. Ever eager to free the world from tyranny and despotism through war, the US has protected Israel while it massacres and starves thousands of Palestinians, and wages illegal war on Iran. The majority of the world’s nations have called for an end to the horror in Gaza, through their vote in the United Nations General Assembly, but the US has used its veto to allow this 21st century holocaust to continue. Like in the matter of the tariffs, the US is telling the world that it is leaving the rules-based order and prefers to use its strength to extract, and even extort, what it can from the world. There are a few things that we can take away from these actions. One is that America has set now a precedent. The next nation that becomes powerful will have an example of how to behave with weaker nations, and might is right is as legitimate as rules-based order. There is today quite weak resistance to this from the global south, and the fissures inside BRICS, which we need not go into here, have helped American bullying. The second is that we should seriously consider what the benefit of our personalised style of diplomacy has been. We have thrown away decades of institutional consensus on matters like Palestine, for a hug with the Israeli leader. All the honours we have bestowed on the US president, whether in rallies here or there, and indeed encouraging Indian-Americans to vote for him, have not produced any benefit or even mercy. Emperors do not listen to anything other than the voice inside their head but this must be said nonetheless. The last thing that we should consider is what is agitating the US at this point in time. Why is it, given the wealth and power it has and its comfortable economic situation, that the US is going through this spell of madness? The answer is to be found in the rise of the global south and in particular, the rise of China. If things continue as they have been for the last 30 years, in a decade or two the US will for the first time in more than a century, not be the largest economy in the world. This is unacceptable to what is called ‘the west’. It will not be able to continue doing what it has done for centuries in north America, in Australia, in South Africa, or what it is doing today in Palestine. As the rest of the world grows equal to the west, its ability to control and dominate is slipping. It has given up on the rules based order for this reason, and is resorting to pure might. This is a most dangerous time for the world and, in particular, for those countries which need a few more decades of stability and global cooperation to pull themselves out of poverty.

WISDOM CORNER

“

Our future, like our past, is vast and extends beyond the realm of imagination.

MAHADEVI VERMA

“

None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free.

PEARL S BUCK

“

The man who gives up accomplishes nothing and is only a hindrance. The man who does not give up can move mountains.

ERNEST HELLO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1492:** Hoping to find a westward route to India, Christopher Columbus set sail on his first transatlantic voyage, departing from Palos, Spain, with three small ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María.
- **1583:** English navigator Sir Humphrey Gilbert arrived at St. John’s, Newfoundland, and claimed it in the name of the queen.
- **1958:** The U.S. atomic submarine Nautilus passed beneath the thick ice cap of the North Pole, an unprecedented feat.
- **1984:** American gymnast Mary Lou Retton won the all-around event at the Los Angeles Games, becoming the first American woman to win an individual Olympic gold medal in gymnastics.



Aditya Keshari Mishra

CREATING GENDER-JUST CAMPUSES REQUIRES A MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND SUSTAINED APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES BOTH STRUCTURAL AND CULTURAL BARRIERS

The unrelenting prevalence of gender-based harassment within India’s educational institutions casts a grave shadow over the structural and cultural architectures that obstruct the realisation of safety, justice, and true equity within the nation’s academic corridors. The recent and deeply disturbing incident involving a woman student at Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Balasore, Odisha, is emblematic of the systemic failures that occur when institutions fail to respond to complaints of sexual harassment with urgency and integrity. This case, like many others, is not an aberration but a reflection of entrenched institutional apathy, lack of accountability, and the silencing of student voices. The Balasore tragedy has not merely summoned questions of administrative integrity, but has profoundly unsettled the root metaphor of our educational institutions—exposing deep-seated fractures in teacher-taught integrity, institutional integrity, academic integrity, career integrity, cultural integrity, ethical integrity, and, not least, gender integrity itself. In this context, it becomes imperative to critically exam-

ine the prevailing challenges to ensuring gender-sensitive and safe educational environments for women students. This writup reflects on the gaps in institutional responses, the underutilisation of legal mechanisms such as the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), and the urgent need for a participatory, transparent, and survivor-sensitive approach to campus safety. By foregrounding the experiences of students and the responsibilities of academic institutions, this article argues for a shift from mere compliance to a proactive culture of respect, redressal, and reform. The growing prevalence of harassment in educational institutions is not merely an outcome of individual misconduct but a symptom of deeper structural, cultural, and institutional deficiencies. First, there exists a pervasive patriarchal mindset within campuses that normalises gender hierarchies and subtly legitimises male entitlement, thus breeding an environment where boundary violations are overlooked or trivialized. Second, the absence of robust sensitization mechanisms—among faculty, administrative staff, and students alike—means that awareness about consent, dignity, and legal safeguards

remains alarmingly low. Third, institutional apathy and procedural inadequacies often deter survivors from coming forward, as ICCs are either non-functional, biased, or lack the capacity to act independently and sensitively. Fourth, a culture of silence and fear of retaliation continues to dominate, where victims are stigmatised and perpetrators shielded, especially when power relations—be it hierarchical, academic, or political—are at play. Fifth, the erosion of democratic student spaces and the commodification of education have led to a devaluation of student agency, reducing safe forums for dialogue, resistance, or collective grievance. Taken together, these factors create a toxic confluence that undermines both education and justice. Unless these root causes are urgently addressed, the promise of gender-just campuses will remain a distant dream. In current scenario, creating gender-just campuses requires a multidimensional and sustained approach that addresses both structural and cultural barriers. First, cultivating teacher-taught integrity fosters mutual respect, ethical engagement, and a sense of shared responsibility.

Second, ensuring institutional accountability, especially through transparent and empowered ICCs, strengthens the credibility of redressal mechanisms. Third, replacing episodic responses with regular sensitisation initiatives builds long-term awareness and shifts campus culture. Fourth, enforcing timely interventions, rigorous fact-finding and proportionate punishment deters misconduct and reinforces justice. Fifth, an inclusive curriculum and pedagogy can dismantle deep-seated gender biases and foster critical consciousness. Sixth, promoting student participation in policy-making and redressal processes enhances transparency and inclusivity. Seventh, strengthening mental health and legal support systems ensures survivors receive comprehensive care beyond procedural formalities. Together, these interventions can reclaim institutional spaces as safe, equitable, and empowering. Only then can we truly embark on the transformative journey towards gender-just campuses.

The writer, a development sociologist, teaches at Central University of Odisha

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Game bigger than Bumrah

Sir, The statement from Indian team’s assistant coach Ryan Doeschate that the ace bowler Jasprit Bumrah had made himself available only for three of the five tests against England and the team management felt it was right to honour the star pacer’s call considering his workload needed to be viewed seriously. One can’t understand how the management can relax a selection criteria knowing well that Bumrah is injury prone and has records of surgery. This team has got abundant talents. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep are all potent enough to make a mark which was already proved by them in this series. When such is the background, the selection in future shouldn’t be viewed by fans as if one can bend norms according to the whims and fancies of the management. At the end the game is bigger than Boom Boom Bumrah. **AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI**

Swift justice

Sir, The conviction of former JDS MP Prajwal Revanna—within a year of explosive sexual abuse allegations—is a rare but powerful example of justice delivered swiftly. Grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, Prajwal is accused of multiple rapes and the deliberate recording of his crimes. His actions were exposed ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when pen drives containing explicit videos, photos, and screenshots surfaced. Disturbingly, victims were clearly identifiable, deepening public outrage. Police estimates suggest nearly 100 women—including domestic workers, government staff, and party workers—were targeted. Prajwal initially responded as many privileged offenders do—claiming political conspiracy, intimidating the media, seeking gag orders, and fleeing to Germany. His parents even reportedly abducted a victim to suppress testimony. There appeared to be an expectation that influence, connections, and coercion could make the case vanish. But this time, that playbook failed. Persistent media coverage, public anger, and the courage of survivors forced the system to act. With an honest investigation, preserved evidence, and a committed prosecution, the court delivered a prompt conviction. This verdict affirms that, when political interference is removed and institutions are allowed to function independently, even powerful predators can be held accountable. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**



Want relaxed air travel? Pet a puppy at Hyderabad Airport

The initiative offers calming and joyful interactions, with the belief that the presence of dogs--Toy Poodles in this case-- can ease travel-related anxiety, uplift moods, and create a more welcoming and peaceful airport environment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 2: The next time when you walk in-to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGAI) here, don't be surprised if you're greeted by a friendly puppy or even get a chance to pet one.

The GMR Group, which manages the airport, has introduced a "Therapy Dog Program" aimed at enhancing the passenger experience.

The initiative offers calming and joyful interactions, with the belief that the presence of dogs--Toy Poodles in this case--can ease travel-related anxiety, uplift moods, and create a more welcoming and peaceful airport environment, according to RGIA sources.



Currently, the program which features four well-trained Toy Poodles and accompanied by professional handlers, is in its early stages, and future expansion may be

considered based on passenger feedback and operational feasibility, they said.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Passengers have appreciated

the calming presence of the dogs. The initiative has been well-received as a thoughtful and comforting addition to the airport experience," sources told PTI.

While the dogs are certified therapy animals and trained for calm behavior, they are always under the supervision of professional handlers. These handlers are equipped to manage any unexpected behavior and ensure the safety and comfort of both the dogs and passengers, they further said.

A passenger who did not want to be identified said, "I was so happy to see them."

"It already feels like I'm beginning to heal. A truly wonderful initiative. Please keep up the amazing work. And a

special thanks to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for helping fund and facilitate this incredible effort."

Having a pet dog brings so much joy and the initiative was a thoughtful and heartwarming one which deserves true appreciation, the passenger added.

Importantly, the dogs are only allowed to interact with passengers who willingly approach them, minimizing stress triggers.

They are stationed at key touch points in both domestic and international departure areas from Friday to Monday, (1500 hours-1900 hours) for approximately four hours.

The city airport witnessed a passenger traffic of 29.5 million during the last financial year.

2nd unit of Telangana's Yadadri thermal power plant inaugurated



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 2: Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, along with three state ministers, Friday inaugurated the 800 MW Unit 1 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station.

With this, two units of the 4,000 MW (5x800 MW) power plant have been commissioned. The Deputy Chief Minister, who is also the Energy Minister, along with ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and Adluri Lakshman, inaugurated the unit near Damaracherla in Nalgonda district.

They also laid the foundation stone for an integrated township in Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS). The township is being constructed at a cost of Rs 970 crore on 55 acres.

Unit 2 of the plant was commissioned in December 2024. Being constructed by the Telangana Power Generation Corporation (TGGENCO), it is billed as the biggest thermal plant in the public sector.

The ministers announced that the third unit of 800 MW would be commissioned by October, followed by the fourth unit in December.

Vikramarka said the entire project would be dedicated to the nation in January 2026. He said that due to the negligence of the previous government, there was a delay of two years in the completion of the project.

The Deputy CM said the BRS government delayed the process of seeking environmental clearance, and as a result, the project's cost escalated significantly.

He claimed that within two months after the Congress

came to power, environmental clearance was obtained. He said monthly and weekly targets were fixed for the works, and as a result of these efforts, two units of 1,600 MW have been commissioned.

The Deputy CM said those who gave their lands for the power project would be paid compensation by August 15.

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government would provide employment to all families who lost their lands for the Yadadri and Pulichintala power projects.

Job appointment orders would be issued by August 15, reaffirming the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises on humanitarian grounds, he said.

The minister said that the Congress government believed in working with compassion and sensitivity, especially towards those affected by large-scale development projects. The displaced families of both Yadadri Thermal Power Plant and Pulichintala Power Project would be employed in the same plants, honouring the assurance given to them.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that providing long-term housing and facilities to workers is a commendable step.

He praised Deputy Chief Minister Vikramarka for playing a crucial role in reviving the long-stalled thermal project. He ensured the completion of public hearings and secured long-pending environmental clearances, paving the way for the project's restart. It was his leadership, initiative, and dynamism that brought this project back to life and helped us begin 1,600 MW of power generation, the minister said.

MP CM lays foundation of ₹2k-cr units in Sehore



An official release said one of the six units will be a transformer plant by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd, which is being touted as Asia's largest single-location transformer manufacturing facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sehore (MP), August 2: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Saturday performed 'bhoomi puja' (laying of foundation stone) of six new industrial units that will come up with an investment of ₹2,000 crore in Badiyakhedi area of Sehore district.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Yadav said, despite the challenges involved in setting up industries, the state government is providing all possible support to industrialists and encouraging the establishment of employment-generating units.

"We aim to ensure that the youth of the state do not have to migrate elsewhere for jobs. The MP government will provide a monthly grant of Rs 6,000 per female worker and Rs 5,000 per male worker to industrialists employing them in the state. The industries being set up in the state are centres of growth and employment. They are like temples," Yadav said.

An official release said one of the six units will be a transformer plant by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd, which is being touted as Asia's largest single-location transformer manufacturing facility.

In Jahangirpura here, an investment of Rs 888 crore is be-

ing made across 18.26 hectares, which is expected to generate around 400 jobs.

BarMalt Malting India Pvt Ltd, reportedly the country's largest malting manufacturer, will invest Rs 400 crore in a food processing unit, the chief minister said.

In the second phase at Badiyakhedi, 10.25 hectares have been allocated for another project, expected to generate over 350 jobs, he said.

Eco Concrete Creation Pvt Ltd will establish a unit in the building materials sector with an investment of Rs 170 crore on 11.15 hectares of land, Yadav said.

Underlining the country's rising global stature, the CM said, "India was once called the golden bird. Today, it is roaring like a golden tiger."

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Madhya Pradesh is receiving new industrial projects and job opportunities steadily, he added.

"An initiative to procure one lakh metric tonnes of vegetables will soon commence in Se-

hore, benefiting around two lakh families. The establishment of a power transformer unit will further enhance local employment. The city will become an important part of Bhopal metropolitan area in the coming years," Yadav said.

Over 400 industry representatives attended the event.

Yadav also announced that a state-level agriculture fair will be held in Sehore from October 12 to 14, with participation from industrialists, farmers and experts from across the country.

"We are working with the goal of making Madhya Pradesh the best in agriculture and dairy production," he added.

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Family still waits for missing witness

A court in Mumbai Thursday acquitted all seven accused including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur in the blast case, but there has been no closure for Patidar's family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, August 2: Seventeen years after his mysterious disappearance, authorities are still clueless about the whereabouts of Dilip Patidar, a witness in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, now legally presumed dead.

Patidar, related to absconding accused Ramchandra Kalsangra, was allegedly taken away by the Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) from here on the intervening night of November 10 and 11, 2008, for questioning. His family never heard from him again.

"My family fought a long legal battle to trace my father, but the result was zero," his 21-year-old son Himanshu Patidar told PTI Friday.

A court in Mumbai Thursday acquitted all seven accused including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur in the blast case, but there has been no closure for



Patidar's family.

"Despite all efforts, no clue could be found about Patidar. Finally, we had to file a case in the local court on behalf of his family and get his civil death declared so that his dependents can get legitimate benefits and rights," said the family's lawyer Deepak Rawal.

The Indore civil court declared Patidar's 'civil death' December 19, 2018, following an application filed by his wife Padma and son Himanshu. A civil death is declared when a person is missing for seven years or more.

Patidar, an electrician by profession, used to live in the house Ramchandra Kalsangra

alias Ramji who was named as an accused in the blast case.

Himanshu said the ATS took away his father saying he would be released after recording a statement.

"Later, ATS officials kept claiming they had released my father, but they never gave us any concrete information about it," he said.

"My family fought a long legal battle to trace my father, but the result was zero. Our financial condition is not good ever since he went missing. The government should help us," said Himanshu, the only child of his parents.

Kalsangra's son Devvrat said that like Patidar, his father is also missing for the last 17 years.

Another wanted accused in the Malegaon blast case, Sandeep Dange, is also missing since 2008. Dange's 88-year-old father VK Dange lives in Lokmanga Nagar locality of Indore. He claims to have no information about where his son is.

A total of 12 accused were arrested by the Maharashtra ATS in the Malegaon blast case, while Kalsangra and Dange were declared fugitives. The probe was later taken over by the National Investigation Agency.

Six people were killed and 101 others injured in a blast in Malegaon town in Nashik district of Maharashtra September 29, 2008.

MP anti-drug drive earns global honour



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, August 2: The Madhya Pradesh police department's fortnight-long anti-drug campaign has earned a place in the World Book of Records, with state Director General of Police (DGP) Kailash Makwana getting an invitation to attend a felicitation event in British Parliament, officials said.

The state-wide campaign titled 'Nashe Se Doori, Hai Zaroori' (staying away from

drugs is necessary) was held between July 15 and 30. It was implemented across 1,175 police stations in 57 districts, directly engaging around 23 lakh individuals and reaching over 6.35 crore people via social media platforms, they said.

The campaign achieved this global recognition as a result of its large-scale success and "unprecedented" public participation, according to the officials.

World Book of Records CEO and president Santosh Shukla

presented a certificate to DGP Makwana Friday and Additional Director General (Narcotics) KP Venkateshwara Rao at the Madhya Pradesh police headquarters in recognition of the honour.

Shukla also formally invited DGP Makwana to attend the felicitation ceremony in the UK Parliament scheduled for September 13, where he will be honoured.

Accepting the invitation, the DGP said, "Keeping our youth and adolescents free from drugs is not merely a government duty but a moral obligation. This campaign turned into a mass movement due to the tireless efforts of the police personnel, partner departments and public organisations."

Over 7,000 children rescued in Telangana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 2: The Women Safety Wing, Telangana has rescued 7,678 children, including 529 girls, across the state under the Operation Muskaan in the month of July. The operation is aimed at identifying and rescuing missing children forced into labour in hazardous conditions, begging and other such activities.

Women Safety Wing (WSW) chief Charu Sinha said that 7,149 boys and 529 girls were rescued from July 1 to July 31 in the state. Out of them, 3783 are from 12 different states, including Odisha,

'OPERATION MUSKAAN'-XI



Bihar and Rajasthan.

Among the rescued victims, 6,718 were child labourers, 42 beg-

gars, 357 street children, two bonded labourers while 559 were found engaged in other employment.

A total of 1,713 cases were registered and 1,718 persons arrested during the operation.

As part of the rehabilitation programme, 6,593 children were reunited with families, 1,049 admitted to rescue homes, Rs 47.76 lakh fine amount was imposed on employers under the Minimum Wages Act by the Labour department. As many as 2,600 migrant children have been enrolled in 29 urban bridge schools.

Charu Sinha said that Operation Muskaan XI reinforced Tel-

angana police's commitment to eradicating child trafficking and bonded labour through sustained, multi agency coordination. In the Hyderabad commissionerate limits, a total of 1,247 children were rescued, including 1,173 boys and 74 girls. Among these rescued children, 673 belong to Telangana, while 560 were identified as hailing from other states across India.

To ensure stringent legal action against the perpetrators, the police have registered 55 FIRs in various police stations against employers who were found engaging children in illegal labour practices.

OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, KHARIAR ROAD

AT/PO - KHARIAR ROAD, DIST. - NUAPADA, PIN-766104
E-mail : rmcckhariaroad@gmail.com

Tender Call Notice no. 460 Dated : 30.07.2025
Bid Identification No-03 e-Procurement Notice No.03 of 2025-2026

e-procurement notice IFB (Invitation for bids)

Sr. No.	Item	Details
1	The Collector, Nuapada-Cum-Chairman, RMC Khariar Road	invites percentage rate bids in Double/Single cover system in ONLINE MODE only for work as detailed below :
2	Nature of the work	Construction of Infrastructure Development Work at different PPC of RMC Khariar Road
3	No. of work	06
4	Bid Cost	Rs 6000.00 to 10000.00 online transfer
5	Value of Tender	Rs.409.36 lakhs
6	Class of Contractor	C & B Class
7	Availability of BID Documents in the website	Dt.02.08.2025 to Dt.19.08.2025
8	Last date/time of Receipt of bids in the portal	Dt.19.08.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
9	Date of opening of bid	Dt.20.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of the Tender etc. can also be seen in the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in	

Sd./- Collector, Nuapada-cum-Chairman, RMC, Khariar Road
OIPR-01511/11/0012/2526

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W.DIVISION, BALASORE

e-Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. 02/SERW/BLS/2025-26

1. Name of the work : Road, 2. Total No. of Works : 1 No., 3. Estimated Cost : Estimated Cost Rs.86.44 lakh, 4. Class of Contractor : 'B' Class, 5. Time of Completion : 3 Month (Three Calendar Month), 6. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Balasore	
		From	To			
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division : Balasore	02/SERW/BLS/2025-26	02.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	11.08.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	11.08.2025 up to 1.00 P.M.	Technical 12.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Opening of Financial bid will be intimated after Technical Evaluation

Further details can be seen from the website - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W.Division, Balasore
OIPR-25108/11/0013/2526

of the day quote

If you want to bring industries, you have to do it by respecting Marathi manooos. You cannot do that without it



RAJ THACKERAY | MNS PRESIDENT

If there is any bottle-neck in the development of Pune, it is this dadagiri that has crept into the industrial and business sectors. It restricts an investor's freedom to choose what is feasible and economical



This is not the first time that the Congress has questioned the courage of our soldiers. During the Kargil Operation Vijay also, the Congress, in 'jugabandi' (tandem) with Pakistan committed the sin of creating confusion over India's victory



MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Ramdas Soren on life support

Ranchi: Jharkhand Education Minister Ramdas Soren was on life support and a multidisciplinary team of senior specialists was closely monitoring his condition, the private hospital in Delhi where he was undergoing treatment said in a statement on Saturday evening. The 62-year-old leader of the JMM was airlifted to the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in the national capital from Jamshepur after he fell in the bathroom of his house.

Pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumes via trek route

Rudraprayag: The pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumed Saturday via the trek route after remaining closed for a few days. A group of pilgrims was sent to Kedarnath from Sonprayag via Gaurikund when the road meant for pedestrians became walkable to some extent Saturday, Rudraprayag SP Akshay Prahlad Konde said. However, the national highway going to the temple continues to remain closed between Sonprayag and Gaurikund, and efforts are being made by the PWD to clear it, he said.

Etah: Man dies after police interrogation

Etah (UP): A 23-year-old man in Etah district died allegedly after being assaulted in police custody, prompting authorities to order an inquiry into the matter, officials said Saturday. Satyaveer Kumar, from Chandrabhanpur village, was detained for questioning on suspicion of eloping with a local girl. His family claimed he was brutally assaulted in the police station and subjected to third-degree torture, leaving him critically injured. They further alleged that he was left in a near-dead state late at night and died shortly after being released from custody Friday.

Fire breaks out at medicine factory

Kolkata: A fire broke out at a plant of Dey's Medical in south Kolkata Saturday, engulfing the vicinity in thick black smoke, officials said. The blaze was reported at the Bondel Gate area where the plant is located, around 4 pm, following which 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. "So far, there are no reports of anyone being trapped or any fatalities," an official said. However, one firefighter reportedly fell ill while trying to douse the blaze and was rushed to hospital in an ambulance, he said.

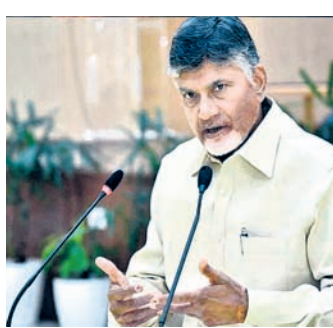


If we provide religious freedom, then we provide unity. The word used for unity in the Preamble of the Constitution is fraternity

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

AP GOVT DEPOSITS ₹7K EACH TO 47 LAKH FARMERS

The Andhra Pradesh government-led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday deposited ₹7,000 each to 47 lakh farmers as part of the 'Annadatha Sukhibhava' scheme, which offers ₹20,000 financial aid to farmers per annum



Chandrachud vacates official residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has vacated the official residence of the head of the judiciary in the national capital.

Justice Chandrachud, who was the 50th Chief Justice of India, had superannuated from the office November 8, 2024. Recently, a controversy had arisen over his stay at the official residence of CJI at 5, Krishna Menon Marg, New Delhi, beyond permissible time.

Talking to the PTI July 7, Justice Chandrachud had cleared the air saying that his luggage was packed and he, along with his wife and children, would soon move to a paid government accommodation. Justice Chandrachud, his wife Kalpana and daughters Priyanka and Mahi, both of whom are persons with disabilities, were living in the official CJI residence. "We have actually packed up our luggage. Some of the luggage is already gone to the new house and some are kept here in the storeroom," Justice Chandrachud had said while elaborating on the reasons for his overstay.

The former CJI had bemoaned the controversy and referred to the medical condition of his daughters, who required a wheelchair-friendly home, and said that he was waiting for the new home to be ready for occupation.



MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Was asked to name Modi: Pragya Thakur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 2: Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, acquitted in the September 2008 Malegaon blast case, Saturday alleged that she was tortured by the investigating officers who asked her to name several persons including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This is the first time Thakur has made this sensational claim which finds no mention in the 1036-page judgment of the special NIA court acquitting all seven accused in the case.

Thakur appeared before the sessions court here Saturday to complete her surety formalities. Speaking to reporters outside, she claimed that she was tortured during her interrogation.

Notably, special judge A K Lahoti in his judgment has dismissed Thakur's claims of torture and ill-treatment.

"They (officers) told me to take PM Modi's name, as at the time I was staying in Surat (Gujarat). There are several names like Bhagwat (apparent reference to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat) and so on, but I did not take anyone's name as I did not want to lie," Thakur told reporters. She had put all this in writing, she claimed.

"Their objective was to torture me. They said if I did not take the names, then they will torture me. The names include Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Sudarshan ji, Indresh ji, Ram ji Madhav, and many more, which I can't recall at the moment," Thakur said. The former BJP MP alleged that she was detained illegally even in the hospital where she



had fainted and her lungs had collapsed.

"I am writing my story in which I will mention all this. The truth will come out. This is a victory of religion, victory of Sanatan dharma, and victory of Hindutva...this is a Sanatani Rashtra, and it is always victorious. They tried very hard by torturing me and bringing all devotees of the country in this....we will try so that they are punished," she said.

The court in its judgment said while Thakur had alleged ill-treatment, no evidence was presented to support her claims. It also referred to a Supreme Court order of 2011 in which it rejected her claims of illegal custody, torture and detention. The trial court further said that Thakur had not made any complaint before the court in Nashik when she was produced for remand after her arrest. "There is no evidence (of torture and ill-treatment) brought to my notice and hence, I am not inclined to accept the submission," judge Lahoti said. Thakur, meanwhile, said the whole case against her was baseless.

Rajnath dares Rahul to detonate 'atom bomb of evidence' against EC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna/New Delhi, August 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday dared Rahul Gandhi to detonate at once the "atom bomb of evidence of vote theft" which he claimed to have against the Election Commission even as the Congress leader said release of data collected by the party in Karnataka will send a 'shockwave' through the electoral system.

Gandhi repeated his claim made Friday that the data to be released soon will be literally like an 'atom bomb' and escalated his offensive against the EC, alleging that the polling system in the country is "already dead" and the 2024 Lok Sabha election was "rigged".

"In the coming few days, we are going to prove to you without any doubt how a Lok Sabha election can be rigged, and it was rigged," he claimed at an event in Delhi. A protest by Gandhi has been planned in Bangalore August 5 against the alleged incidents of "vote theft".

Amid the raging row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has alleged that elections are being "stolen" in the



country and claimed that his party has figured out the modus operandi of "vote theft" by studying a parliamentary constituency in Karnataka.

Addressing a function in Patna organised by a media house, Singh slammed Gandhi for his claim.

"Rahul Gandhi says he is in possession of an atom bomb. If it is so, he should detonate it at once. He should just ensure that he is himself out of harm's way", said the former BJP president, tongue in cheek.

The EC termed Gandhi's remarks as "baseless and wild allegations".

Singh also said the nation remembers his past rhetoric. "He had threatened Parliament of an earthquake, but when he spoke, it turned out to be a damp squib".

The Union minister said the Election Commission of India is an institution that enjoys a reputation for unquestionable integrity.

"It is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar are held in a free and fair manner. It does not behoove the Leader of the Opposition to make frivolous statements about a constitutional body," the BJP leader said. Addressing the inaugural function of the day-long legal

'TRAFFICKING' CASE

Two nuns freed after getting bail



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Durg/Bilaspur, August 2: Two nuns from Kerala and a co-accused arrested for alleged human trafficking and forced conversion were released from Durg Central Jail in Chhattisgarh Saturday, after a court granted them bail holding that the case was based on "mere suspicion".

The court also noted that the parents of the alleged victims denied that their daughters had been in anyway lured, or forced to convert to Christianity, by the accused. Catholic nuns Preethy Mary and Vandana Francis were received

outside the jail by several leaders from Kerala, including LDF MPs and Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar, and also some Congress leaders, including former MLA from Durg, Arun Vora.

The nuns left the place with Chandrashekhar in a vehicle. Earlier, LDF MPs and some members of the Christian community were seen sharing sweets outside the jail after receiving the news of bail order. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) shared a picture on its Facebook account with the message "LDF MPs John Brittas, Jose K Mani, and P Santhosh Kumar celebrate the bail order with the brother of the one of the nuns outside Durg Central jail".

Elsewhere, the alleged victims of 'trafficking' approached Narayanpur police in Chhattisgarh to lodge a complaint against Bajrang Dal activists.



National Students' Union of India (NSUI) National President Varun Choudhary and other members raise slogans during their protest demanding the restoration of fellowships and scholarships for SC, ST, OBC, minority and marginalised students, outside Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

What is ISRO's 10-day HOPE analogue mission in Ladakh

ISRO's HOPE station in Ladakh will serve as a testing ground for future Moon and Mars missions by simulating extreme space-like conditions on Earth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Significantly advancing India's future human space exploration, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the country's first analogue mission in Ladakh.

The analogue station -- the Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE) station -- formally inaugurated by Dr V Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, has isolated aerospace engineer Rahul Mogalapalli and astrobiologist Yaman Akot.

"This analogue mission

is more than a simulation; rather, it is a rehearsal for the future," said Narayanan during the inauguration.

The duo will spend the next 10 days at the analogue site in Ladakh's Tso Kar. It will test their physical and psychological endurance in interplanetary conditions. "The mission is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 10th August 2025 at Tso Kar, Ladakh (elevation: 4,530 metres)," ISRO shared in a post on the social media platform X.

The mission comes as India plans to launch astronauts to space by 2027 and to the



Moon by the year 2040 as its space programme soars. "The mission marks a significant milestone in India's preparations for future human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit, and Moon/Mars class exploration

missions," the Indian space agency said.

WHAT IS THE HOPE STATION? HOPE station is developed by Bengaluru-based space tech company Protoplanet, along with the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO). It is a specially designed Dia 8 metre habitat module for crew living and a Dia 5 metre utility module for operations and support systems, which are interconnected for seamless workflow.

"Tso Kar valley was specifically selected for this analogue mission due to its striking environmental parallels with early Mars, due to high UV flux, low air pressure, cold extremes, and saline permafrost," ISRO said.

"Set in one of Earth's most Mars-like environments, HOPE is designed to simulate planetary conditions for testing human physiological responses, validating mission protocols, and evaluating spaceflight technologies.

The 10-day mission consists of experiments shortlisted

from partnering national institutions such as IIST and RGCB, Trivandrum; IIT Hyderabad; IIT Bombay; and the Institute for Aerospace Medicine, Bangalore.


The experiments will examine epigenetic, genomic, physiological, and psychological responses of two analogue mission crew members and validate health-monitoring protocols, planetary surface operations, and refine sample collection and microbial analysis techniques, ISRO said.

"The valuable data generated through these analogue missions will form the basis for the design of protocols and infrastructure for future Indian human exploration missions by providing key insights into technology performance, crew workflows, and environmental adaptation," the Indian space agency said.

of the day


quote

Congress' history is country's history, Congress' strength is country's strength. The Gandhi family has kept the Congress family united and the Congress has kept the country united. Otherwise our country would have been broken into various pieces




D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

Those who come to the hospital should be seen as beneficiaries of health initiatives and not as patients by the doctors



M K STALIN | TN CM

We have faith in the one who is the master of all. We will get our rights



FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

X

POST OF THE DAY

Next time ECI says we are transparent, every Indian should take out their chappals.



@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Man on bail in rape case shoots woman

New Delhi: A woman was shot at in Delhi's Vasant Vihar allegedly by a man who was out on interim bail in a rape case she filed against him last year, an official said Saturday. The woman, a head manager at a salon, was hit on the chest and was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre in a PCR van. The woman remains under treatment and is reported to be in stable condition, officials added. Abuzair Safi (30), and his accomplice Aman Sukhla have been arrested for attempting to kill the woman Wednesday. The arrests were made Thursday and Friday.

Six Naxals held, explosives seized

Sukma: Six Naxalites have been arrested from Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh, police said Saturday. Podiyam Nanda (40) who carried a reward of ₹2 lakh on his head, Hemla Joga (28), and Hemla Ganga (45) were arrested and explosives were seized from them in Sukma district Friday, a senior police official said. They were apprehended from a forest in Rabdipara village under the Kerlapal police station limits during an anti-Naxal operation of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), local police and 159th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

India gets Airbus C-295 military plane

London: India Saturday received the last of its 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft from Spain, marking an important milestone in strengthening its defence capabilities, the Indian Embassy in Spain said. The C-295, a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology, is set to replace the ageing Avro aircraft of the IAF. Indian Ambassador to Spain Dinesh K Patnaik, along with senior Indian Air Force officials, received the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville, the Indian mission posted on social media.



Education and employment are not on the agenda of the BJP government. The double engine government of BJP has failed on every front. Students and teachers are forced to protest on the streets

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

ASSAM: OVER 1,500 FAMILIES DISPLACED

The first phase of a massive eviction drive to clear alleged encroachments from almost 11,000 bighas (nearly 1,500 hectares) of forest land in Assam's Golaghat district concluded Wednesday, officials said



DHARMASTHALA BURIAL CASE

No skeletal remains found at 2 more suspected sites



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharmasthala (Karnataka), August 2: No skeletal remains were recovered during the exhumation Saturday at the ninth and tenth sites identified by the anonymous complainant-witness in connection with the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala, police said.

The latest round of digging—conducted in the presence of the complainant—follows earlier exhumations at eight of the 15 sites marked along the Netravathi riverbank in a forested stretch beside the Ujire-Dharmasthala-Kokkada highway.

So far, skeletal remains have been recovered only from site No 6 Thursday, where 15 bone fragments—no skull—were found.

On-site forensic experts have given a preliminary assessment indicating the remains were male. Subsequent excavations at sites 7 and 8 yielded no human remains, Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials said. Security has been heightened in the forested zones, particularly around site No 6, following the discovery. Armed police personnel and teams from the forest, revenue, and forensic departments are participating in the multi-agency

operation. Mobile phone usage remains restricted at the excavation sites and is permitted only for senior officers, police added.

Meanwhile, the SIT probing the case is set to interrogate a police officer accused of threatening the complainant-witness. The officer, Manjunath Gowda, was part of the initial investigation before the case was handed over to the SIT.

According to police, the complainant has alleged that Gowda attempted to coerce him into retracting his statement and tried to paint him as “mentally unstable.”

An advocate representing the complainant, Manjunath, has also lodged a complaint against the officer.

The SIT team has been assisted by daily wage workers, machinery operators, and mechanical grass-cutting tools during the exhumation. A mechanical excavator was deployed for deeper digging at some sites. The skeletal remains recovered from site No 6 have been sent for forensic analysis. No other major recoveries have been reported from the remaining sites. However, during Tuesday's digging, a PAN card bearing a man's name and a debit card with a woman's name were recovered.

Tejashwi claims his name deleted from electoral roll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 2: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Saturday claimed that his name was missing in the draft electoral rolls published by the Election Commission as part of the special intensive revision in Bihar, ahead of the Assembly polls.

However, Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Samrat Choudhary, besides the Patna district administration, refuted the claim, sharing a screenshot of the draft electoral rolls in which Yadav's details, along with a photograph, could be seen.

At a press conference, Yadav, a former Deputy CM himself, connected his phone to a large screen and tried to search his own EPIC number, which threw up the result “no records found”.

The young leader exclaimed, “Now look! I am myself not registered as a voter. This disqualifies me from contesting elections. Perhaps, I cease to be treated as a citizen and stand deprived of the right to live in this house.”

Yadav, who is now the leader of the opposition in the state Assembly, also claimed that he was not provided with any receipt by the booth-level officer who came to his place with an enumeration form.

“But, leaving nothing to chance, I had photographed myself while handing over my signed and duly filled-up form,” the RJD leader said.

Some of the journalists suggested that he look up a print-out of the draft electoral rolls, provided to all political parties by the EC Saturday, and his name might be there.

Yadav shot back, “The online method is what more people have access to. Would you ex-



EC junks claims as 'baseless'

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission Saturday dubbed as “baseless” claims of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav that his name was missing from the draft electoral rolls of Bihar. Officials said that in the relevant portion of the draft roll, his name appears at serial number 416. “He should ask the 47,506 booth-level agents of his party to file claims and objections if they find that name of any eligible is left out or if name of any ineligible voter has been included,” the EC said. It pointed out that no booth level agent (BLA) of any political party including RJD has submitted a single case to the booth level officers for inclusion or deletion during the past 24 hours. “All BLAs have agreed to go through the booth wise draft lists given to them on August 1 carefully. The EC is not able to understand as to why he is continuing to make baseless allegations that his name is not there,” the EC said.

pect someone residing outside Bihar to come down to look up his name in the electoral rolls? My point is to emphasise that when people like us are at the receiving end, what to speak of the common people. I have heard that even an IAS officer couple has found their names missing.”

The RJD leader had recently caused a flutter by threatening to boycott the upcoming polls, alleging that the EC was trying to help the ruling NDA through the special intensive revision.

He also remarked wryly, “I would like to see if any BJP leader also has his name missing in the draft rolls.”

Meanwhile, Choudhary came out with a post on his X handle, accusing Yadav of lacking the qualifications to do a proper search and find his name.

“Your name is very much alongside that of your father, respected Lalu Prasad (RJD supreme). You would do better to shut your shop dealing in fraudulent and false claims”, said Choudhary.

The district administration in Patna also came out with a tweet, debunking “news reports suggesting that the name of the honourable leader of the Opposition, Tejashwi Yadav, was not in draft rolls prepared as part of special intensive revision in Bihar”.

The administration also said “upon investigation”, it was found that Yadav's name was very much there and his booth was still at the library of the veterinary college, as before, but with changes in his own serial number as well as that of the polling station. The administration, too, shared a screenshot of the relevant part of the draft electoral roll.

INDIGO IMPOSES FLYING BAN ON UNRULY PASSENGER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: IndiGo has imposed a flying ban on the passenger who slapped a co-traveller onboard the Mumbai-Kolkata flight Friday.

The incident occurred on flight 6E138, and after landing, the perpetrator was handed over to the security authorities at the Kolkata airport, a source said Friday. The perpetrator was also declared as unruly.

In a post on X, the airline Saturday said that following due diligence, the incident involving an unruly customer has been formally reported to the relevant authorities for necessary action.

“In line with our commitment to discourage such unruly behaviour onboard flights, the individual has been suspending from flying on any IndiGo flights, in accordance with regulatory provisions,” the carrier said. The duration of the flying ban could not be immediately ascertained.

On Friday, a video clip of the incident shared on social media showed a passenger sitting in his seat suddenly slapping another passenger on the aisle who started crying and was moved away from the spot. Also, a cabin crew member was heard telling the passenger on the seat “don't do” while another passenger was heard asking why did he slap and that he does not have any right to hit anybody. One of the passengers was also heard saying that the person who was hit was having a panic attack.



Ramdev announces medical tie-ups at Patanjali event

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, August 2: A grand two-day Anamayam International Conference was organised under the joint aegis of Patanjali University, Patanjali Research Institute, and Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi.

Nearly 300 participants from around 200 academic institutions across 16 states joined the conference through both online and offline modes. Medical experts, researchers, policymakers, and health technology specialists from various premier medical and educational institutions of the country participated and shared their views.

On this occasion, the Chancellor of the University, Pujya Swami Ramdev Maharaj, made a major announcement.

He said that soon, keeping in view public welfare, world-class treatment will be provided at minimal cost through modern methods at Patanjali Ayurved Hospital in collabora-



tion with AIIMS, Tata Cancer Hospital, and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

In the inaugural session, Yoga Rishi Swami Ramdev, Patanjali University Vice-Chancellor and Ayurveda Shiromani Acharya Balakrishna, along with the guests, also released three important books: Ayurveda Avataran, Integrated Pathy, and the Proceedings Book of the Conference. During this time, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to promote education and research between Dr Shreya, Dr Radhika, and Dr Mukesh from IIT Ropar and Patanjali University Vice-Chancellor Acharya Balakrishna.



A farmer ploughs a field during the monsoon season in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

After 7 years, red panda cubs born in Sikkim zoo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, August 2: Two Red Panda cubs were born in the Himalayan Zoological Park (HZP), Bulbuley near Gangtok, after seven years, an official statement said.

The cubs were born to parents Lucky(II) and Mirak. This is the pair's first litter together and marks a significant milestone in the park's conservation efforts, it said.

A statement issued by the Park Friday said that the birth of the cubs recently is especially heartening as it comes after a difficult period in the Red Panda Conservation programme's history - a seven-year gap in successful births due to challenges like the two outbreaks of canine distemper that nearly



decimated the captive red panda population.

Initiated in 1997, HZP's Conservation Breeding Programme began with a pair of red pandas—Preeti from Rotterdam Zoo and Jugal from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological

Park, Darjeeling. Their successful breeding laid the foundation for a thriving genetic lineage. In 2005, the programme was further strengthened with the inclusion of a wild-origin pair, Lucky and Ram, helping expand and diversify the genetic

pool, it said.

The statement said that all red pandas born under this programme are tracked through national and international studbooks to ensure healthy genetic variability and global breeding cooperation.

Red pandas typically breed in the winter months between November and January. After a gestation period of around five months, females give birth between June and August, in warm, hidden nests. Remarkably, both Lucky(II) and Mirak were observed participating in nest-building—a rare instance of male involvement. However, cub-rearing

remains the mother's responsibility, who teaches the young to climb and forage. Any disturbance by predators or humans can result in the cubs being abandoned at this vulnerable age, said the statement.

It said that the cubs will be raised by their parents away from the public eye until they are old enough for viewing.

These new cubs will stay with their mother for over a year, reaching full size by 12 months and becoming sexually mature by 18 months. Their health and compatibility will then be assessed as part of future breeding strategies.

Mob thrashes two, applies salt, chilli water on wounds

Golaghat (Assam): Two youths, alleged to be involved in a theft, were allegedly assaulted by a mob led by three brothers in Golaghat district of Assam, police said Saturday. Of the three accused brothers, one is a local BJP leader, and another is associated with the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). “The incident took place at the Gelabil area in Sarupathar yesterday. Two young men were brutally beaten up and subjected to inhumane torture as salt and chilli water were put on their wounds,” a police officer said. The victims were subjected to torture for allegedly being involved in a theft, he said. “The two injured youths, one of whom is a minor, have been admitted to a hospital, and they are recovering now,” the officer said. A purported video of the assault has gone viral on social media, attracting sharp reactions.”

of the day

quote

AI is rewriting the playbook. It's blurring identity, scaling social engineering, and overwhelming SecOps. This is not an incremental shift. It's foundational

PRAYANK SWAROOP | PARTNER, ACCEL

Despite some global pressures and temporary dips, the overall trend shows a stable consumption pattern and consistent growth trajectory of the economy. The government's timely refund process is also a great help to businesses, ensuring they have the working capital they need

SAURABH AGARWAL | TAX PARTNER, EY INDIA

We are doing capital review of all public sector undertakings on a weekly basis and we are working on strategies that can insulate our economy from geopolitical risks

ARUNISH CHAWLA | SECRETARY, DIPAM

SHORT TAKES

GST mop-up rises 7.5% to ₹1.96L-cr

New Delhi: Gross GST collection increased 7.5 per cent to about ₹1.96 lakh crore in July on higher domestic revenues. Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up was ₹1.82 lakh crore in July 2024. Last month, the collection was ₹1.84 lakh crore. The gross domestic revenue grew 6.7 per cent to ₹1.43 lakh crore, while tax from imports rose 9.5 per cent to ₹52,712 crore. GST Refunds shot up 66.8 per cent year-on-year to ₹27,147 crore. The net GST revenue stood at ₹1.69 lakh crore in July 2025, recording a 1.7 per cent year-on-year growth.

Data sharing: NSE, SEBI settle case

Mumbai: The National Stock Exchange of India has paid ₹403.5 million (\$4.6 million) to the markets regulator to settle a case involving the indirect sharing of confidential information on listed companies with a third-party vendor. India's largest bourse operator shared the information with its unit NSE Data and Analytics Limited (NDAL) "for onward distribution to a 3rd party vendor, without having any legally binding agreement in place," the Securities and Exchange Board of India said in its settlement order Friday. NSE, the world's most active derivatives exchange, has been embroiled in litigation with SEBI since 2019 when it was fined 11 billion rupees for failing to provide uniform access to all its trading members.

Federal Bank Q1 profit drops 15%

Mumbai: Federal Bank's net profit declined by 15 per cent to ₹862 crore in the June quarter as a compression in margins impacted core income and an uptick in bad assets led to higher provisions. The bank management said that the second half of the fiscal year must see higher credit growth, and also an uptick in the net interest margins, and blamed the industry-wide issues on the microfinance front for the uptick in non-performing assets. For the reporting quarter, its core net interest income rose by just 2 per cent to ₹2,337 crore. The other income was up 22 per cent to an all-time high of ₹1,113 crore on a surge in core fees and also a jump in treasury income.



No real winners in trade conflicts. Despite some countries securing better terms, the overall impact is negative

THOMAS RUFF | CO-HEAD SINGAPORE AND CIO ASIA, VP BANK

JSW CEMENT SLASHES IPO SIZE

JSW Cement, part of Sajjan Jindal-promoted diversified JSW Group, is set to launch its truncated ₹3,600-crore initial public offering (IPO) August 7. The total size of the issue, however, is lower than the earlier proposed issue of up to ₹4,000 crore



CRUDE CLARITY

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 2: India will keep purchasing oil from Russia despite US President Donald Trump's threats of penalties, two Indian government sources said, not wishing to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter. "These are long-term oil contracts," one of the sources said. "It is not so simple to just stop buying overnight."

Trump last month indicated in a Truth Social post that India would face additional penalties for purchases of Russian arms and oil. On Friday, Trump told reporters that he had heard that India would no longer be buying oil from Russia.

The New York Times Saturday quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy, with one official saying the government had "not given any direction to oil companies" to cut back imports from Russia.

Reuters reported this week that Indian state refiners stopped buying Russian oil in the past week after discounts narrowed in July.

"On our energy sourcing requirements ... we look at what is there available in the markets, what is there on offer, and also what is the prevailing global situation or circumstances," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters during a regular briefing Friday.



Jaiswal added that India has a "steady and time-tested partnership" with Russia, and that New Delhi's relations with various countries stand on their own merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country. Indian refiners are pulling back from Russian crude as discounts shrink to their lowest since 2022, when Western sanctions were first imposed on Moscow, due to lower Russian exports and steady demand, sources said earlier this week.

The country's state refiners - Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd - have not sought Russian crude in the past week or so, four sources

familiar with the refiners' purchase plans told Reuters.

INDIA'S TOP SUPPLIER

On July 14, Trump threatened 100% tariffs on countries that buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a major peace deal with Ukraine. Russia is the

top supplier to India, responsible for about 35% of India's overall supplies.

Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India during the first six months of 2025, accounting for about 35% of India's overall supplies, followed

BIAS IN US TARIFFS HITS INDIAN AUTO SECTOR

The 25 per cent US tariff on Indian exports places domestic auto component industry and tyre makers in an unfavourable position as compared with Asian peers like Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia, which face lower duties, rating firm Icra said Saturday. The US administration has announced imposition of the tariff on all goods coming from India from August 7. "Imposition of a 25 per cent tariff by the US on Indian imports has raised concerns across India's automotive and tyre industries, both of which maintain substantial export exposure to the US market," it noted. With the US accounting for 27 per cent of India's auto component exports and 17 per cent of tyre exports, the tariff hike places Indian manufacturers at a disadvantage compared to Asian peers such as Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia, which face lower or preferential duties, Icra said. The increased tariffs could dent the competitiveness of Indian suppliers, especially in off-highway and replacement tyre segments, and across various automotive components, it said. While Indian tyre exporters previously enjoyed a modest advantage over Chinese competitors, that edge may now be offset by the lower tariff rates granted to other Southeast Asian nations. Auto component exporters, particularly those heavily reliant on the US market, are expected to diversify their geographies and improve cost efficiencies to lessen the impact, it said. The auto components industry reported a turnover of \$80.2 billion (Rs 6.73 lakh crore) for FY2025, a growth of around 10 per cent as compared with FY2024. Exports of auto components grew by 8 per cent to \$22.9 billion (Rs 1,92,346 crore) in FY25 from \$21.2 billion (Rs 1,75,960 crore) in FY24.

Forex kitty zooms by \$2.7bn to \$698.1bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 2: India's forex reserves rose by \$2.703 billion to \$698.192 billion during the week ended July 25, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped \$1.183 billion to \$695.489 billion.

For the week ended July 25, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$1.316 billion to \$588.926 billion, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves grew by \$1.206 billion to \$85.704 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$126 million to \$18.809 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was higher by \$55 million at \$4.753 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

RBI may announce 25 bps rate cut in August MPC meet

With US imposing fresh tariffs and global uncertainties rising, RBI's MPC meeting from August 4 to 6 has taken on greater importance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 2: RBI is expected to cut 25 bps in repo rates in light of soft inflation and global uncertainties, aiming to reinforce growth momentum while it has a policy window, a report said Saturday. "We expect the RBI to continue frontloading with a 25 basis point cut at its August MPC meeting. Tariff uncertainty, better GDP growth and CPI numbers in FY27 are all frontloaded," SBI Research said in a report. A frontloaded rate cut in August could bring an "early Diwali" by boosting credit growth, especially as the festive season in FY26 is also frontloaded, it said.

According to the report empirical evidence suggests a

strong pick up in credit growth whenever the festive season has been early and has been preceded with a rate cut.

The report suggested that policymakers at central banks should avoid missing the window for effective intervention by acting too late, saying, "No point in backloading or committing a type II error."

A Type II error occurs when the central bank fails to reject the null hypothesis, assuming that the inflation undershoot is temporary, and hence does not cut rates—but in reality, inflation remains persistently low and the output gap continues to weaken.

"The good news is that the new CPI series, which gives more weightage on e-commerce and less weightage on food,

Factory growth hits 16-month high, biz outlook darkens

REUTERS

Bangalore, August 2: Indian manufacturing growth expanded at its fastest pace in 16 months in July, driven by robust demand, but business confidence fell to a three-year low amid competitive pressures and inflation concerns, a survey showed Friday.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 59.1 in July from 58.4 in June, slightly below a preliminary reading of 59.2. The index remained well above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction.

New orders increased at the fastest pace in nearly five years, buoyed by favourable market conditions and marketing efforts. That propelled output growth to a 15-month high.

International demand continued to support overall sales although growth in export orders moderated from June's more than 17-year high.

Despite the strong performance, manufacturers' optimism fell to its lowest level since July 2022. Companies cited mounting competition and inflation concerns as key challenges.

The contrast between present conditions and future outlook was reflected in hiring patterns with employment increasing at the weakest pace since November 2024. A substantial 93% of manufacturers surveyed indicated their current workforce was adequate for production needs.

Tata Motors launches iconic Harrier EV at Gugnani Autocars



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 2: Tata Motors has officially launched Harrier EV, an all-electric SUV at Gugnani Autocars, Pratapnagari, Cuttack, marking a major leap forward in the electric vehicle landscape of Odisha.

The unveiling event witnessed the presence of Rajan Gugnani, Yashneet Gugnani, Asmit Prarahaj, Regional Manager, SBI; Abhishek Chokraborty, Area Manager, Tata Motors; Manoj Kumar Senapati, General Manager, IDBI Bank.

The Harrier EV is poised to redefine performance, design, and sustainability in its segment. Equipped with a dual-motor powertrain, the Harrier EV delivers a powerful 238 PS and accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 6.3 seconds—making it the fastest in its category. It boasts a robust 75 kW battery that supports ultra-fast charging, providing an impressive 250 km range in just 15 minutes of charging time.

The vehicle's cutting-edge Frequency Dependent Damping Suspension ensures enhanced ride comfort and stability, while the 504 Nm torque and XWD dual-motor all-wheel drive system promise optimal control across diverse terrains. Designed for Indian roads, the Harrier EV comes in four colors and includes a lifetime battery warranty, reinforcing Tata Motors' commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

With this launch, Tata Motors further strengthens its EV portfolio and accelerates its mission toward sustainable mobility in India.

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With this launch, Tata Motors further strengthens its EV portfolio and accelerates its mission toward sustainable mobility in India.

Stranded renewable projects in India double to 50 GW

DELAYS IN CRITICAL TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE - ESPECIALLY IN SUN-DRENCHED STATES SUCH AS RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT - HAVE FORCED MANY SOLAR PLANTS TO MISS COMMISSIONING DEADLINES, RISKING FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES, THE SPDA SAID

REUTERS

Singapore, August 2: India's stranded renewable power capacity - projects awarded but unable to come online - more than doubled over nine months, due to unfinished transmission lines, and legal and regulatory delays, letters from an industry group to the government showed.

Renewable projects that won tenders to generate power but are yet to sign power purchase agreements with buyers have surged to over 50 gigawatts (GW), India's Sustainable Projects Developers Association (SPDA) said in a letter to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy June 27.

That compared with stranded projects of over 20 GW, another

letter sent by the SPDA October 4 showed. Both letters were reviewed by Reuters.

The stranded solar and wind capacity without buyers of over 50 GW reported by the SPDA is about quarter the size of India's current installed renewable capacity of 184.6 GW.

"India's energy transition is not just about building solar and wind capacity, it is also about ensuring that clean power reaches in a most optimum cost and timely manner," the SPDA said in the June 27 letter to the renewable energy ministry.

India has been ramping up renewables as it pushes to more than double its non-fossil fuel power capacity to 500 GW by 2030. A record 22 GW of solar and wind capacity came online



in the six months ended June, government data showed.

However, tendered projects cumulatively worth billions of dollars awarded to companies including JSW, NTPC, Adani Green, ACME Solar, Renew

and Sembcorp are stranded, two industry officials familiar with the matter said.

The companies did not respond to Reuters requests seeking comment.

The SPDA includes leaders of

SHORT OF TARGET

THE STRANDED SOLAR AND WIND CAPACITY WITHOUT BUYERS OF OVER 50 GW IS ABOUT QUARTER THE SIZE OF INDIA'S CURRENT INSTALLED RENEWABLE CAPACITY OF 184.6 GW

INDIA HAS BEEN RAMPING UP RENEWABLES AS IT PUSHES TO MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS NON-FOSSIL FUEL POWER CAPACITY TO 500 GW BY 2030

A RECORD 22 GW OF SOLAR AND WIND CAPACITY CAME ONLINE IN THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE

some of India's largest renewable energy producers Renew Power, ACME Group and Avaada Group as members of its core committee.

Delays in critical transmis-

sion infrastructure - especially in sun-drenched states such as Rajasthan and Gujarat - have forced many solar plants to miss commissioning deadlines, risking financial penalties and potential loss of government incentives, the SPDA said in the June letter.

The SPDA urged the government in the same letter to recognise delays in approvals and transmission construction as force majeure events to help protect developers from financial penalties, and to expedite regulatory permissions.

Renewable projects are also stuck due to prolonged legal disputes over land and environmental permissions, it said, adding that several developers have paused operations over unresolved court cases.

INDIA SET RECORD 374-RUN TARGET AFTER GRITTY JAISWAL HUNDRED, WASHINGTON'S WHIRLWIND FIFTY

Jaiswal leads the way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 2: Yashasvi Jaiswal enhanced his reputation as an all-conditions opener with a gutsy hundred on a tough pitch before Washington Sundar's whirlwind fifty allowed India to set a record 374-run target for England on an absorbing day three of the final Test here Saturday.

Jaiswal (118 off 164) rode his luck to complete his sixth Test hundred while the other significant contributions came from nightwatchman Akash Deep (66 off 94), Washington (53 off 46) and Ravindra Jadeja (53 off 77), who has been phenomenally consistent with the bat this series.

The highest successful chase is 263 at The Oval but with the way England approach their game, one would not bet against the hosts just yet, having made short work of a 378 run target against India at Edgbaston three years ago and more recently the 371 they gunned down in the series opener at Leeds.

At stumps, England were 50 for one loss in 13.5 overs with Mohammed Siraj castling Zak Crawley with a yorker at the stroke of stumps.

India were all out for 396 in the second innings courtesy the fireworks from Washginton Sundar displayed exemplary six hitting skills against Gus



Atkinson and Josh tongue.

Having a scored his maiden Test hundred last week, Washington looked supremely confident as he put the opposition pacers to sword to swell India's lead.

England continued to drop catches, taking their innings tally to six. Jaiswal (118 off 164), who was dropped twice on Friday, was given another life on day three. Fair to say, he made the most of the lifelines offered to him for his second hundred of the series.

Shubman Gill (11 off 9) produced two sublime fours before falling to the incoming ball once again with Gus Atkinson removing the Indian captain first ball after lunch. With that, Gill ended the series with a staggering 754 runs, just 20 shy of Sunil Gavaskar's all time record by an Indian.

Akash Deep's memorable knock Earlier, nightwatchman Akash Deep smashed his way to a maiden half-century, frustrating a lacklustre England and putting India in a strong position at lunch.

Resuming the day at 75 for two, India did exceedingly well to reach 189 for three at the break with Jaiswal and Akash Deep sharing a 107-run stand off 150 balls.

The India pacer, who was on four overnight, was eventually dismissed by Jamie Overton towards the end of the session via a short ball he could not con-

trol, giving an easy catch to Gus Atkinson at point.

Akash Deep, who had just one first class fifty to his name prior to this game, made his intentions clear in the first over of the day bowled by left-arm spinner Jacob Bethell.

Brief scores:
India 224 & 396 in 88 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 118, Akash Deep 66, Ravindra Jadeja 53, Washington Sundar 53; Josh Tongue 5/125) **lead England** 247 & 50/1 in 13.5 overs (Ben Duckett 34 batting; Mohammed Siraj 1/11) by 324 runs



India's campaign ends in Macau Open

Lakshya, Mannepalli bow out in semifinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Macau, August 2: India's campaign at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament came to an end Saturday after Lakshya Sen and Tharun Mannepalli suffered semifinal defeats in their respective men's singles matches.

Lakshya, a 2021 world championship bronze medallist and reigning Commonwealth Games champion, couldn't match the pace and precision of Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, going down 16-21 9-21 in a 39-minute contest to continue his patchy run that has seen him struggle with form and fitness this season.

In the other semifinal, India's Tharun Mannepalli went down fighting against Malaysia's Justin Hoh in a gripping three-game contest that lasted an hour and 21 minutes.

The 23-year-old Mannepalli, ranked 47th in the world, squandered a strong start to lose 21-19 16-21 16-21 in a match marked by fluctuating momentum and a flurry of unforced errors.

It has been a tough season for world number 17 Lakshya, who has had seven first-round exits and two second-round ousters this season. The 23-year-old, who has been affected by shoulder, back and ankle issues this season, had entered the tournament to gain some confidence before heading to the World Championships in Paris.

Mannepalli started well, racing to an 11-6 lead in the opener. A pair of wide returns helped him build a 17-12 cushion before Justin clawed back to level at 18-all. After wasting one game point, Mannepalli closed it with a straight return.

WCL FIASCO

PCB bars use of Pak's name in private cricket leagues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 2: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has put a ban on using the name of the country in teams representing it in private cricket leagues following the fiasco in the World Championships of Legends (WCL) in which Indian players refused to play against the 'Pakistan Champions'.

According to reports, the PCB has decided to pull the plug on the use of the country's name in private cricket leagues after the ongoing WCL in the UK was made out to be a clash between India and Pakistan.

"The decision was taken after a detailed discussion in the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday," sources said Friday. "The high-level authorities felt Indian players refusing to play Pakistan in the WCL's second edition twice is hurtful to the name of the country."

In the future, no permission will be given to any private organization to use the name of the country for private leagues. However, the current Pakistan Legends team will be allowed to play Saturday's final against South Africa.

The reports said that vari-



ous private organisations have used the name of Pakistan to feature in minor and low-profile leagues in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and the USA.

"All private organizations will face legal action in case they use Pakistan's name. PCB has the sole right to allow its use for cricket events if it finds the authenticity of the League and the organization as reputable," the report quoted sources close to the PCB as saying.

It is also learnt that the Pakistan government and the IPC (Inter-provincial coordination committee), which is looking after the sports in the country, has sent an advisory to the PCB to control the use of the country's name in private cricket leagues in the future.

World chess champion Divya receives ₹3cr prize money

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, August 2: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday felicitated newly-crowned FIDE Women's Chess World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh here and handed over a cash award of Rs 3 crore to her.

Deshmukh, 19, became the youngest to win the Wom-

en's World Cup title held at Batumi in Georgia on July 28 after she outwitted compatriot Koneru Humpy in the tie-breaker of the final. The victory not just earned her the prestigious title, but also made her a Grandmaster.

Deshmukh is a native of Nagpur, the same place from where CM Fadnavis also hails.

During the programme held



WEEKS AFTER ANNOUNCING SEPARATION

Saina posts picture with Kashyap

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Weeks after announcing separation from husband Parupalli Kashyap, Olympic medallist shuttler Saina Nehwal has posted a picture with the former claiming that they are "trying again".

Saina took to Instagram to share a photo with Kashyap, set against a stunning backdrop of the sea and mountains.

"Sometimes distance teaches you the value of presence. Here we are—trying again," she wrote in the caption.

On July 13, Saina, in a surprising move, announced her separation from Kashyap. The couple, who have been together for over a decade, tied the knot in 2018.



"Life takes us in different directions sometimes," Saina had written in her post last month. "After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing – for ourselves and each other."

Sometimes distance teaches you the value of presence. Here we are—trying again

SAINA NEHWAL

I'm grateful for the memories and wish nothing but the best moving forward. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy during this time."

Commenting on the post, fans welcomed the news and expressed their elation at the reunion of the couple.

The separation announcement had come as a surprise to the sports community and fans alike, given Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap's long-standing bond both on and off the court.

Spurs captain Son quits club

Son, who is a fifth in Spurs all-time goalscoring list with 173, last season became only the seventh player in the club history to make 450+ appearances, reaching 454

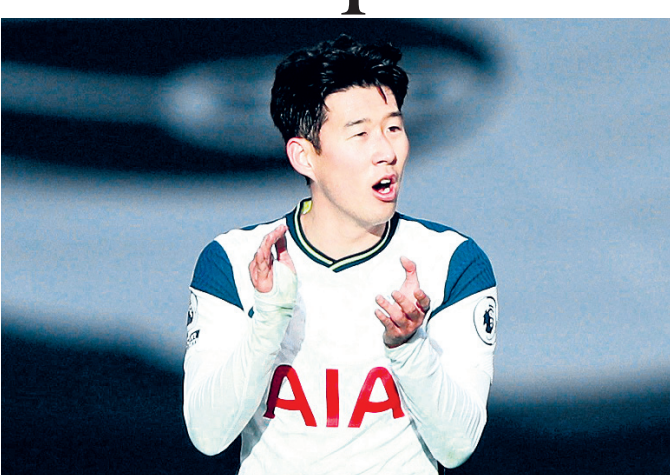
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Tottenham captain Son Heung-min has announced that he will leave the club this summer after spending 10 years.

The South Korea international joined Spurs at the end of August 2015 and celebrated his 10th year at the club by lifting the UEFA Europa League trophy back in May.

The 33-year-old, who is under contract with Spurs until 2026, announced his decision to leave the club at a press conference alongside Thomas Frank in Seoul.

"I wanted to say I have decid-



ed to leave the Club this summer. Respectfully the club is helping me with this decision. It was the most difficult decision I have made in my career. Such amazing memories. It was so hard to make the decision. I need a new environment to push myself. I need a little bit of change - 10 years is a long time. I came to north London as a kid, 23 years old, such a young age. I leave this club as a grown man, a very proud man. I want to say thank you to all the Spurs fans for giving me so much love. I hope the goodbye is also good

timing and this is the right time to make that decision. I hope everyone can accept that and respect that," Son said in a press conference.

Asked for his reaction to the decision, coach Frank said, "For me, personally, I would have loved to have worked with this fantastic person and player. He is a true Spurs legend in every aspect, one of the greatest players to play in the Premier League. It is never easy to find the perfect timing and me coming in from the side, it makes it a bit easier to end on a high."

Messi's India tour to start from Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 2: If all the pieces fall in place, football devotees in Kolkata will have the first sighting of iconic Lionel Messi after a decade, and the City of Joy will be the first stop in the Argentine's whirlwind journey across Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi, culminating in a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The sources privy to the development informed PTI that all arrangements have been finalised including booking the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, but an official confirmation from Messi is still awaited.

"It's been finalised and we are waiting for an official announcement from Messi, maybe on his social media handle anytime soon," said the source.

"As of now we have agreed on the proposed itinerary and we are just awaiting an official announcement from his social media, which would be in any time soon," the source added.

As per the itinerary, Messi will land in Kolkata on the night of December 12 around 10pm and will stay for two days and one night -- the longest stop

on his tour. 70-ft statue, GOAT Cup with Ganguly

The Argentina captain's Kolkata schedule December 13 will begin at 9am with a meet-and-greet event, followed by the unveiling of a 70-feet statue of him at the Lake Town Sribhumi on VIP Road.

Organisers claim this will be the first-ever and tallest statue of the World Cup winner anywhere in the world. He will then head to Eden Gardens, where the GOAT Concert and GOAT Cup will be held from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

"I don't want to mislead people. So basically, it will be a celebration of Messi, a master class with Messi. He will play the GOAT Cup in a seven-side soft-ball, soft-touch game with Sourav Ganguly, Leander Paes, John Abraham, Bhaichung Bhutia among others. It will be a celebration play in respect of Messi," the source explained.

He hoped for a sellout crowd as it will be a fully ticketed event. "This will be at Eden. It

will be a ticketing event. Denominations are yet to be decided. It would be a little expensive -- should not be less than Rs 3,500.

"Entire stadium will be open, so, we can expect a full capacity of 68,000. For 1 hour 20 minutes Messi will be there with musical tribute and masterclass with kids," he added.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to felicitate Messi during the Eden Gardens programme.

Flashback 2011

In wee hours of August 31, 2011, Messi made his first appearance in India, landing in Kolkata as hysteric fans gathered at the airport to welcome him. He was here with his team to play an exhibition match against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium a match they won 1-0. Messi's arrival sparked "Messi fever" in Kolkata, with thousands of fans lining the streets, donning Messi jerseys, and packing the 75,000-capacity stadium.

