



Tamannaah's stance

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia addresses the controversy surrounding a scene from the multilingual film *Baahubali: The Beginning*

LEISURE | **P2**



Syria boils again

New outbreaks of violence Sunday night rock Syria at two distinct flashpoints, straining a fragile ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



UAN activation norm

EPFO mandates UAN through Aadhaar-based Face Authentication Technology in UMANG App from August 1

BUSINESS | **P11**



England near win

Joe Root makes his 39th Test hundred and Harry Brook his 10th as England reaches 339 for six at stumps against India

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WAKING FROM SLUMBER: This photo taken from a video by Artem Sheldr shows an aerial view of the eruption of Krasheninnikov volcano associated with the Eastern volcanic belt and is located 200 km northeast of the regional centre of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia Far East, Sunday **PTI PHOTO**

BSE vice-president held for paper leak

Six Odia workers killed in AP quarry

The adage “Who will guard the guardians?” aptly reflects the dismal state of Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha tasked with ensuring the integrity of the Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (SOTET). A serious breach occurred when BSE vice-president Nihar Ranjan Mohanty failed to delete the question paper after proofreading it and granted access to data entry operator Jitan Moharana, the prime accused, who had no authority over it. Mohanty, now apprehended for negligence and abuse of power, exchanged over 100 calls with Moharana outside office hours over the past three months

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, August 3: Police Sunday arrested vice-president of BSE Nihar Ranjan Mohanty for his alleged involvement in the question paper leak of Special OTET-2025, a senior officer said.

The BSE was supposed to hold the exam July 20. However, the Board was forced

Nihar Ranjan Mohanty

to postpone it after a handwritten question paper with answers went viral on social media a day before, the police officer said.

Mohanty was having a suspicious relation with prime accused Jitan Moharana, who was working as a data entry operator at the office of the BSE,” said Vinaytosh Mishra, Director General of Police (Crime Branch).

So far, eight persons, including the BSE vice-president and Moharana, have been arrested in the question paper leak case, he said.

During the investigation, the police found that Moharana had first circulated

the handwritten question paper to two other accused persons, and then it went viral on social media.

As per protocol, Mohanty only had access to the question paper using an ID and password. He was supposed to proofread the question paper, make necessary corrections and then delete it from the computer, he said.

“However, we found that he had not deleted the question paper from his laptop and gave its access to Moharana even though he has no business with dealing with the question set,” the DGP (CB) said. The CB found that Mohanty had telephonic conversation with Moharana for more than 100 times beyond official hours during past three months, he added.

Mishra said Moharana had no role in conduct of the examination. Still, the BSE vice-president had deliberately given him laptop access.

Police will start a financial investigation into the question paper leak case, he said.

PNN & AGENCIES

Ballikurava/Berhampur, August 3: Six migrant workers from Odisha were killed and at least nine others sustained grievous injured after a massive granite rock fell on them at a quarry in Bapatla district Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Banamali Behera, 30, of Bangarada village, Danda Badatya, 48, of Chasa Nimakhandi under Digapahandi block, Santosh Goud, 36, and Musa Jaan, 35, of Kasia village in Dharakote block, of Ganjam district and Bhaskar Bisoi, 40, and Tukuna Dalai, 37, of Alara village in Dhepaguda panchayat of Mohana block in Gajapati district. Eight Odia workers have been injured.

According to police, the

incident occurred around 10:30am Sunday when at least 16 workers were engaged in the mining works.

“All victims are from Odisha. We suspect water seepage caused the rock to give way. Forensic teams are investigating,” the police said, adding there were no blasts or seismic activity.

Rescue operations were immediately launched, with AP Mines department officials joining the police at the site.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed grief over the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced ₹4 lakh ex gratia each from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) to the next kin of the deceased.

Army officer attacks SpiceJet staffers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delhi, August 3: Police have registered a case against a senior army officer for allegedly assaulting and injuring four employees of a private airline at Srinagar International Airport last week, causing a spinal fracture to one of them, officials said here Sunday.

A case under Section 115 of BNS has been registered against Lieutenant Colonel RK Singh for assaulting employees of SpiceJet airline

following a disagreement over payment of extra baggage charges by the army officer July 26, they said.

Section 115 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) deals with the offence of voluntarily causing hurt to another person.

Lt Colonel Singh, who is currently posted at Army’s High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) at Gulmarg in Baramulla district, was to board a SpiceJet flight to Delhi when the incident took place.

Asked about the incident,

Army officials said they are awaiting the conclusion of the pending investigation and the Army is fully committed to maintaining discipline and mutual respect in all civil spaces across the country.

The incident was caught on camera and a video which has gone viral on social media showed the enraged army officer hitting several airline employees with an iron stand.

The airline issued a detailed statement about the incident, saying one of the four victims of the assault had suffered spinal injuries.

The airline also said it has initiated the process to place the passenger on the no-fly list in line with civil aviation regulations.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Never collect conclusive proofs – who knows how long the courts will take, or who will be in power then?

11 die as SUV falls into canal

AGENCIES

Gonda (UP), August 3: An SUV fell into Saryu canal in the district Sunday, leaving 11 people dead and four others injured, police said.

Station House Officer (SHO), Itiathok police station, Krishn Gopal Rai, said the victims were going from Sihagaon village to offer holy water at Prithvinath Temple in Khargupur when the accident occurred near Belwa Bahuta.

Rai said the SUV was carrying

15 people, including the driver. With the help of villagers and rescue teams, 11 bodies were recovered from the submerged vehicle.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish at the loss of lives and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000, he said.

He said on X, “Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to an accident in Gonda,

Uttar Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in the mishap. May the injured recover soon.”

SP Vineet Jaiswal said those killed in the accident included six women, two men and three children.

The victims were identified as Beena, 35, Kajal, 22, Mehak, 12, Durgesh, Nandini, Ankit, Shubh, Sanju Verma, Anju, Anasuya and Saumya.

The SP said four people, including the SUV driver, were rescued and sent to a hospital.

It pours when CM prays: Raj Min

AGENCIES

Jaipur, August 3: In a bizarre answer to a question on severe waterlogging and polluted water entering homes and fields in Balotra area in Barmer district, Rajasthan Minister of State for Industry and Commerce KK Vishnoi said that every time Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma offers prayers to Lord Krishna, it rains so heavily that he is compelled to request Lord Indra to slow it down. Criticising the minister’s comments, the Congress said it was ridiculous to shift responsibility of a man-made crisis to Gods.

“In the district we are talking about, Barmer-Balotra, Lord Indra is very generous. Whenever a BJP

government is formed and our chief minister prays to Lord Krishna in Bharatpur, there is such heavy rainfall here that the chief minister has to request Lord Indra to ease the rain, so that people can carry on with their lives,” Vishnoi said during his Barmer visit Saturday.

Balotra has been gripped by the persistent problem of polluted water flowing

through Jojari river. The river, which carries industrial waste from factories in Jodhpur and Pali, overflows during monsoon inundating villages in Balotra with blackish and foul-smelling water.

Criticising Vishnoi’s remarks, Congress MLA from Barmer’s Baytoo constituency Harish Choudhary said that shifting responsibility

of a man-made crisis to gods was ridiculous.

“The minister has not just diverted the real issue but also implicated that the government is incapable of addressing it and only prayers can help. This is ridiculous,” the former minister said.

Choudhary claimed that areas near Jojari river are submerged, and contaminated water enters homes, farmlands and other buildings. The problem worsens when the river swells during rains.

Locals backed this, saying that they have been affected by the problem for several years now, and no concrete action has been taken yet to stop the discharge of pollutants from factories in Jodhpur and Pali into the river.

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PRESENTS



Reviving Quizzing

METTLE MEET 2025

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Prelims

9th AUGUST



Grand Finale

10th AUGUST

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ARIES
Whip up some excitement in your life — put on your walking shoes and go explore some unknown destination, suggests Ganesha. Keep yourself busy, but take care not to overdo anything. Today, you will be the centre of attention in group activities.

TAURUS
You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesha. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to be rather emotional and sentimental, says Ganesha. Your love for performing arts may make you take up lessons in classical music or traditional dance. And much to your delight, your sweetheart will treat you to a surprise candlelit dinner.

CANCER
You will be in a joyous mood. You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension. Ganesha says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings.

LEO
The passionate Scorpio might be the master of arousing passionate emotions, but it is the very same emotions that enslave it. But today is different, says Ganesha. You are all set to be lively on this lovely day, as your energy levels touch new peaks. Ganesha guesses it's your healthy eating habits that are the reason behind this super-charged feeling!

VIRGO
The booster rockets of your ambitions and spirit to work will kick in at the maximum today. Seek recreation after a hard day's work and look to relax at private parties, social-dos and even weddings, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Today is the day when you seem to agree with everything that people say, without striking even a note of criticism. It's just one of those days when you are amazed by all things around you. Such an elastic approach will enable you to be reasonable in your views and sensible in your ways. Ganesha wishes you the very best.

SCORPIO
You will find yourself thinking with your heart rather than your head today, says Ganesha. You may not be able to repress your feelings, and you should not even try. But you should be careful about how you express them, particularly in public as people may judge you wrongly on the basis of it, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
No wonder, if you feel like you are stuck in a rut. Your energy level and enthusiasm has gone for a toss due to mundane routine. Unfortunately, your stars too seem to be lazy today, and there's nothing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesha advises to let the day pass calmly and wait for a better tomorrow.

CAPRICORN
Duping the wisest with your extraordinary power of convincing may have been your forte, but you may have to prove yourself all over again, for Ganesha says you will be tested today. This apart, you are likely to find answers to questions lingering in your subconscious mind for long. The outburst of creativity in the second half of the day will draw the attention of your peers, and this will also be the best time to seek their support, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
For a moment, it seems that you're swamped with problems. But you are brave enough to deal with any ugly issue that crops up suddenly. Ganesha hints at a romantic evening, which may just be time together in a jacuzzi, or simply preparing a meal together. Pure ecstasy!

PISCES
All the dieting that you have been undergoing will finally begin to show results, with compliments galore coming your way from your friends. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are likely to be high. A bright and beautiful day waits, says Ganesha.



LINDSAY LOHAN ON BEING TYPECAST IN HER CAREER

Lindsay Lohan says she was type-cast earlier in her career and admits she has to fight for the same even now, which she finds frustrating. Lohan was 10 when she made her acting debut with the soap opera *Another World* in 1996.

JENNA ORTEGA SHARES HER PERSPECTIVE ON DIGITAL AGE

Jenna Ortega shares her perspective on the digital age. She finds it isolating. Ortega believes it hinders the development of self-identity. People seek community online, leading to isolation. She highlights the importance of family and personal interests.



Tamannaah clears the air

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia recently addressed the controversy surrounding a scene from *Baahubali: The Beginning*, where her character Avantika is with Prabhas' character, Shivudu. The scene received backlash, with some critics labeling it "the rape of Avantika." Tamannaah strongly disagreed with that interpretation, explaining that the moment was meant to be transformative, not harmful.

In a recent interview, she said the intent was to help Avantika reconnect with her lost sense of softness and femininity, which had been buried under years of hardship and emotional armour.

According to Tamannaah, director SS Rajamouli envisioned Avantika as someone who had become emotionally hardened. Shivudu's actions were designed to remind her of her beauty, grace, and capacity for love. "It was about healing, not control," she emphasised. She also reflected on how society often misinterprets art based on its own shame and discomfort around themes like love and intimacy. "Even if you show something pure, people see what they believe. That's their perception," she noted.

Tamannaah called out societal hypocrisy, especially in India, where natural emotions and physical expression are often stigmatised. "It wasn't rape," she stated firmly. "It was Avantika finding herself through someone who was gently wooing her."

AGENCIES

BAAHUBALI SCENE CONTROVERSY



Uorfi embraces self-love

Mumbai: In a rare moment of unfiltered honesty, digital sensation and fashion iconoclast Uorfi Javed made headlines—this time not for her bold outfits, but for a deeply personal decision. After nearly a decade of using lip fillers, the *Bigg Boss OTT* alum revealed she has chosen to dissolve them and embrace her natural look.

The announcement came through a candid Instagram video, showing the immediate aftermath of the procedure—her face swollen, puffy, and vulnerable. Far from glamorising cosmetic enhance-

ments, the video captured an authentic journey of self-acceptance. As the swelling began to subside, Uorfi appeared radiant in a white co-ord set, wearing minimal makeup and a confident smile.

In her usual tongue-in-cheek style, she captioned the post "Shrek or Jasmine?", earning praise from fans for her humour and courage. Many applauded her transparency and called the decision beautiful and empowering.

Uorfi has consistently challenged norms around body image, fashion, and self-expression. Her decision to reverse cosmetic enhancements adds a new layer to her public persona—one grounded in vulnerability and self-love. In a world chasing curated perfection, Uorfi's honest transformation resonates as a bold reminder that realness can be just as powerful, and perhaps even more beautiful.

AGENCIES



Rashmika's dream crush

Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna, one of the most sought-after actors in Indian cinema, has made her mark across languages including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi. Among her many collaborations, one of the most special remains her pairing with Tamil superstar Thalapathy Vijay in the 2023 film *Varisu*.

During early promotions for *Bheeshma*, Rashmika had confessed her long-time admiration for Vijay, calling him her dream crush since childhood. When asked to name her ideal friend, boyfriend, and husband from the industry, she quickly named Nithiin as a friend and chose Vijay as her dream boyfriend.

She revealed that working with him was a long-cherished dream and although she was earlier offered a role in Vijay's *Master*, scheduling conflicts prevented it. But the dream finally came true with *Varisu*. She marked the milestone with a heartfelt Instagram post during the film's Pooja Muhurat, expressing her excitement to act and dance with someone she had admired for years.

While Rashmika's professional life is thriving, her personal life has also been under the spotlight, especially due to ongoing dating rumours with her *Dear Comrade* co-star Vijay Deverakonda. Though neither has confirmed the relationship, fans continue to speculate. Rashmika was last seen in *Kuberaa* and has *The Girlfriend*, *Thama*, *Mysaa*, and *VD14* lined up.

AGENCIES



Vikrant on comparisons with SRK

Mumbai: Vikrant Massey recently bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor for his stellar performance in *12th Fail*. Interestingly, he shares the honour with none other than Shah Rukh Khan, who won for his role in *Jawan*. While fans are thrilled to see both talents celebrated equally, comparisons between the two actors have been circulating on social media for some time.

During an interview, Vikrant ad-

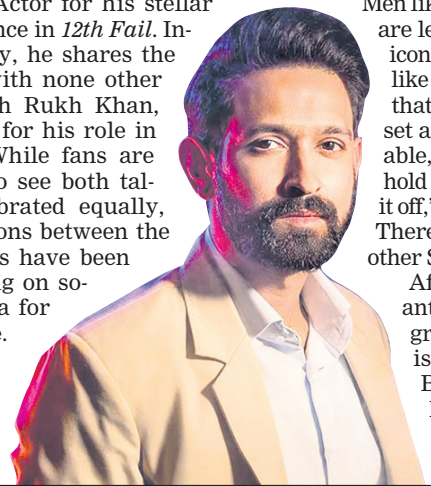
ressed these comparisons, calling them "unfair." He said, "He's Shah Rukh Khan. Men like him and Amitabh Bachchan are legends—once-in-a-generation icons. Comparing them to someone like me is not right." Vikrant added that Shah Rukh's legacy and skill set are unique and irreplaceable, and such parallels hold little weight. "I laugh it off," he said. "It's futile. There will never be another Shah Rukh Khan."

After his win, Vikrant expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the National Film Awards jury, and especially director Vidhu Vinod Chopra for believing in him.

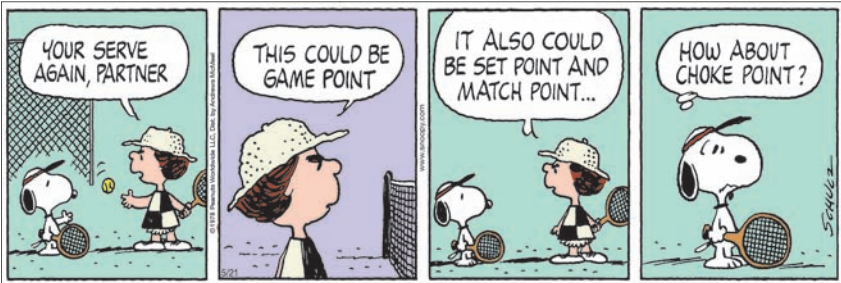


Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan posted a thank-you video, acknowledging his directors, writers, fans, and family. "To be honoured with a National Award is a moment I'll cherish forever," he said, expressing pride, humility, and gratitude.

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

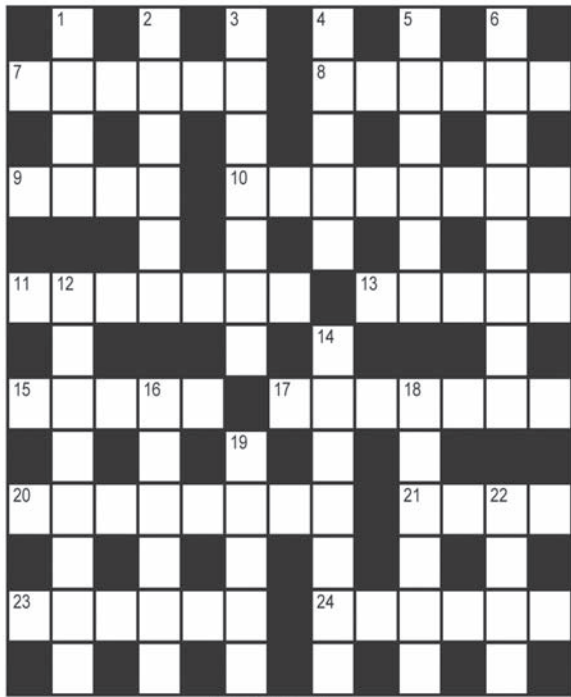


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Duel participant
 - 8 Rank
 - 9 Spheres
 - 10 Squid dish
 - 11 Bewails
 - 13 Coffee order
 - 15 Spiral-horned antelope
 - 17 Crumbs
 - 20 Movie extras (5-3)
 - 21 Diversify
 - 23 Shirt part
 - 24 Cracks up
 - Down**
 - 1 Lightly burn
 - 2 Creamy dessert
 - 3 Instruct
 - 4 Hibachi
 - 5 Buffalo
 - 6 Pub (4,4)
 - 12 Screen test
 - 14 Comfort
 - 16 Declares invalid
 - 18 Enjoy immensely
 - 19 Unit of petrol
 - 22 Rhine tributary

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

Oppn slams govt over Balanga girl's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Following the death of the Balanga minor girl Saturday night during treatment at AIIMS-Delhi, Opposition parties launched a scathing attack on the state government, accusing it of failing to ensure women's safety.

At a press conference held at Congress Bhawan here, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) demanded the immediate resignation of Deputy Chief Minister and Nimapara MLA Pravati Parida on moral grounds.

Mahila Congress leaders Sonali Sahu, Madhusmita Acharya, Manisha Das Pattnaik, Jayashree Patra, and Pranati Mishra alleged that, despite her statements being recorded multiple times, no concrete action was taken against the accused.

"The victim was mentally alert and showing signs of recovery. Her sudden death raises serious doubts. This is not mere



apathy—it appears to be part of a larger political conspiracy," said Congress spokesperson Sonali Sahu.

The Mahila Congress leaders warned of statewide protests if justice is denied. "We demand the arrest of the accused within seven days, failing which we will gherao the DGP's office," they said. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) also hit out at the government, calling the Balanga victim's death "suspicious". Senior BJD leaders Pramila Mallick, Lekhasri Samantsinghar, and Tukuni Sahu alleged that police are pushing a suicide theory to shield those linked to Deputy CM Pravati Parida.

They questioned the isolation of the victim's family and the lack of arrests, claiming it reflects a larger pattern under the BJP regime—where women's safety is neglected and justice is buried under hush money and cover-ups.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) state committee issued a statement expressing deep sorrow and anger over the girl's tragic death, and demanded urgent action through a four-point charter of demands which includes a high-level judicial inquiry, immediate arrest of the accused, ₹50 lakh compensation, and a government job for the victim's family.

The Mahila Congress leaders warns of statewide protests if justice is denied

CPI (M) demands ₹50 lakh compensation, and a government job for the victim's family among others

Responding to the allegations, BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra said, "The victim's family is satisfied with the government's support in treatment and other facilities. Her death has saddened everyone—except the Opposition, which is indulging in dirty politics."

"While the girl was undergoing treatment, the Opposition disrupted the hospital environment with protests, causing distress to other patients. Despite the family's plea to not politicise the matter, the Opposition continues to exploit the tragedy for political gain. They should refrain from such actions" he added.

Bhubaneswar-Delhi flight cancelled over cabin heat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 3: A Delhi-bound Air India flight from Bhubaneswar was cancelled Sunday due to 'high temperature' in the aircraft cabin just prior to its departure for the destination, the airline said in a statement.

Air India did not provide details such as the number of people on board the aircraft, the type of aircraft or even the time the now-grounded flight was scheduled to take off from Bhubaneswar.

This is the second incident of an Air India flight confronting a technical glitch in a day.

This comes amid the aviation safety regulator DGCA detecting over 100 violations and observations, with some of them identified as critical safety risks, during an audit of the Tata Group-run private carrier, and one of its Boeing 787-8 plane operating its London Gatwick flight crashing on a medical college within minutes of its take-off June 12, killing 241 people on board and 19 on ground.

"Flight AI500 scheduled to operate from Bhu-

baneswar to Delhi August 3 has been cancelled due to a technical issue causing high cabin temperature on ground prior to the departure," Air India said in a statement.

"Our airport team in Bhubaneswar is assisting the impacted passengers with alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination to Delhi. We regret the inconvenience caused," the airline said.

The flight, according to flight tracking website flightradar24.com, was to be operated by an Airbus A321 aircraft at its scheduled time of 12:35pm, and land in Delhi at 2:55pm.

Earlier in the day, Air India said its flight AI349 scheduled to operate from Singapore to Chennai was cancelled due to a maintenance task identified prior to departure, which required additional time for rectification.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation last week detected around 100 violations and observations related to Air India's training, crew's rest and duty period norms, and airfield qualification, among others, sources had said.

Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha to hit streets from August 6



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha Sunday announced to hold statewide protest from August 6, demanding development and empowerment of artisans and weavers in state.

The federation called for the immediate formation of a functional governing council to oversee the development activities and ensure long-pending welfare schemes reach traditional craftsmen.

According to an official statement from Odisha Shilpa Mahasangha, the council was originally established to act as a vital bridge between the state government and the artisan community. However, due to administrative negligence and lack of political will, the council has remained dormant, failing to support thousands of weavers, handloom workers, and artisans across the state.

Demands include a hike in wages for traditional weavers, training programmes, raw material procurement at subsidised rates, promotion of local

crafts and a permanent council office near Khandagiri area in City.

Despite previous government announcements, schemes meant for weavers and artisans have failed to benefit the ground-level beneficiaries. The Federation accused the current administration of merely continuing the schemes of earlier governments without effective implementation.

The federation urged the inclusion of experienced artisans on the council's board, arguing that their participation would lead to more realistic and impactful policies. They stressed that Odisha, known for its rich craft traditions, must preserve its cultural heritage by supporting rural artisans with proper schemes and financial assistance.

The protest campaign will begin August 6 in the districts of Khurda, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Balasore, where symbolic protests will be held to highlight local issues. The next phase of agitation will commence August 11, covering other districts of Western Odisha.



सत्यमेव जयते
Government Of India



75 National Sample Survey
Celebrating 75 years of NSS

Data for Informed Policy Decision on Travel and Tourism

Let us strengthen the National Statistical System

National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is conducting **Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES)** and **National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)** from July 2025 to June 2026.

Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES):

Information being collected on:

- Purpose of Trip** - Holiday, Health, Pilgrimage, Shopping, Social, etc.
- Type of Trip** - Package, Non-package
- Mode of Travel** - Air, Rail, Water, Road Transport
- Type of Stay** - Commercial, Non-commercial
- Destination** - Within State, Outside State
- Trip services booked** - Online, Offline
- Trip Expenditure**

National Household Travel Survey (NHTS):

Information being collected on:

- Purpose of Trip** - For work/pursuing education
- Cost of trips**
- Mode of travel**
- Same-day trips (excluding work/education)**
- Origin and Destination of trips, distance, travel time**

Contribute to nation-building, participate in the survey

Households are requested to cooperate with the enumerators of NSO and provide accurate data. Identity of the households participating in the survey is kept confidential in all reports/microdata of MoSPI.

www.mospi.gov.in @GoIStats f/GoIStats in GoIStats Ministry of Statistics & PI



LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DAY

BMC gears up for grand celebration



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has finalised an elaborate plan to celebrate Local Self-Government (LSG) Day August 31, 2025 with a series of community-centric events and cultural programmes.

At a planning meeting here recently, chaired by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, attended by deputy mayor Manjulata Kanhar, new BMC commissioner Chanchal Rana, and other senior officials, it was decided to mark the occasion with both recreational and developmental activities to reflect civic pride and community participation.

Key highlights of the celebra-

tion includes friendly sports matches (Cricket & Football) between the Mayor's XI and Commissioner's XI, indoor and outdoor games like Chess, Carom, Badminton, and musical chairs for both men and women, coordinated by the BMC Recreation Club.

A cultural programme at Rabindra Mandap will be organised September 2, including various school-level competitions in poetry, essay, speech, and drawing, 'Nagar Bandhu Award' to be conferred on three citizens from different BMC zones for outstanding service, cleanest wards from each zone to be recognised and felicitated on the occasion.

In addition, community-level

events will also be held at local parks by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Senior Citizens' Associations, with support from corporators, coordinated by ward officers.

On LSG Day, the grand celebration will commence with flag hoisting at the BMC headquarters, followed by visits to Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) facilities, where BMC officials will distribute fruits and sweets among the inhabitants. Newly completed developmental projects by BMC will also be inaugurated on the same day.

The evening will feature a special ceremony at Soochana Bhawan, including the 'Nagar Bandhu Samman', release of the souvenir 'Aahwan', and prize distribution to winners.



IN ACT: Artistes from 'Ragesri Nilayam' from Nayagarh perform drama 'Jaughara' at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday

OP PHOTO

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES 2025

KIIT felicitates medal-winning athletes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kaling Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) felicitated 11 athletes from the university who represented India in various sporting events and won medals at the recently concluded World University Games (WUG) 2025 in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, in presence of several sporting personalities, including Olympians, presented a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh each to silver medal winners at the WUG 2025, while bronze medal winners were awarded Rs 1 lakh each.

Expressing his delight over the achievement, Samanta said



that the highest number of players in the Indian contingent at WUG were from KIIT. India secured a total of 12 medals in the event, with KIIT athletes contributing 6 of them. This accomplishment is a matter of pride for both KIIT-KISS and Odisha, he added. Samanta also highlighted that KIIT is the

first Indian university to win the highest number of medals at the WUG in the past 65 years.

Three KIIT students — Ankit in the 3000m Steeplechase, Praveen Chithraval in the Triple Jump, and Seeman in the 5000m Final — each won silver medals.

KIIT University showcased its

sporting excellence across various events. In the Men's 4x100m Relay, Sahkanth Hoblidhar, Animesh Kujur, Lalu Prasad Bhoi, and Matyam Jayaram Dandapati won bronze medals. In the Women's 20km Race Walk Team event, Munitap Rajpathi, Mansi Negi, and Sejal Anil Singh walked in unison to clinch bronze. Avinash Mohanty also contributed with a bronze medal in Badminton, bringing KIIT's total medal tally to six.

Among others, KIIT-DU VC Sharanjit Singh, Registrar JR Mohanty, and Sports and Yogic Sciences School director general Gaganendu Dash were present at the ceremony. Olympians Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, Amiya Mallick, Shradhanjali Samantray, and Bhavani Devi also graced the occasion.

Govt to launch Mobile Migration Resources Centre

Bhubaneswar: In order to provide support services directly to migrant workers in need, the state government is set to introduce Mobile Migration Resources Center, a mobile van equipped with counseling services, legal aid, job information, and helpline access. The van, which will be flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at Krushi Bhavan here Monday, symbolises a people-first approach, ensuring no migrant is left behind. The van will reach across migration-prone districts, offering timely assistance and connecting families to government schemes. The van is designed for last-mile outreach in remote rural households, who have been migrating in search of better livelihood.

Awareness camp on breastfeeding

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: As part of World Breastfeeding Week 2025, an awareness camp was organised at Nilamadhaba Niwas in Chandrasekharpur, focused on empowering the economically weaker sections (EWS) with the knowledge and support related to breastfeeding practices.

The event was jointly organised by Ankura Hospital for Women and Children, 9M Fertility and AAYU Foundation, in alignment with this year's global theme 'Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems'.

Renowned lactation expert from Ankura Hospital, Dr Bishnupriya, delivered an informative talk highlighting the long-term physical, emotional, and economical benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child. She also addressed common myths, challenges, and the importance of timely support and guidance for new mothers, especially in underserved communities.

A powerful skit was performed by the hospital's nurs-



ing staff, depicting two contrasting scenarios — one where a new mother receives active support from her family and healthcare system, and another where she is left to struggle alone. The performance resonated deeply with the audience and effectively communicated the transformative impact of a supportive environment during the breastfeeding journey.

The session concluded with an open interaction, distribution of educational pamphlets, and on-the-spot lactation counselling for mothers in attendance.

This initiative is a part of Ankura Hospital's on-going commitment to community health and maternal well-being, especially among vulnerable populations.

Admission begins for 3-year integrated BEd-MEd course

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The admission process for the 3-year Integrated BEd-MEd course for the academic session 2025-26 has officially begun under the Student Academic Management System (SAMS).

The eligible candidates can now apply by filling out the Common Application Form (CAF) available on the official website www.samsodisha.gov.in. The course is designed to integrate professional teacher training with advanced academic education and is open to candidates who have completed their post-graduate (PG) studies in Science, Social Science, or Humanities from a recognised institution.

A total of 200 seats are available across four higher education institutions in the state. These include Maharaaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjadeo University in Baripada with 50 seats in regular mode, Sambalpur University with 50 seats in



SAMS
Student Academic Management System

self-financing mode, Rajendra University in Bolangir with 50 seats in self-financing mode, and Fakir Mohan University in Balasore with 50 seats in self-financing mode.

Admissions will be carried out through a centralised selection process based on the candidate's academic (career) marks and applicable reservation categories. There will be no entrance examination for the course. Candidates will be allotted seats through a system that allows them to choose between 'Freeze' and 'Slide' options during the admission process.

The application timeline begins August 4, 2025, from 11am. The last date to submit the online application form is August 17, 2025, by 11:45pm. An editing

window will be available August 18, 2025, for candidates who need to make corrections in their previously submitted application forms.

The provisional seat allotment list for the first round of selection will be published August 22, 2025, at 2pm. Further details on the slide and freeze option, online fee payment, and reporting to the allotted institutions will be communicated via the SAMS portal.

Candidates are strongly advised to refer to the Information Brochure available on the SAMS website before filling out the application form. All updates and changes in the admission schedule will be published on the official portal <https://imed.samsodisha.gov.in>.

Thunderstorms, lightning likely till August 8

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a series of 'Yellow' warnings, forecasting thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty surface winds, reaching speed of 30 to 40kmph across various districts of Odisha.

According to the IMD's mid-day weather bulletin, light to moderate rainfall or thundershowers are likely at a few places in North Odisha and isolated locations in South Odisha until August 8. IMD warned of thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds August 4 at one or two places in districts including Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara,

Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati.

The warning was extended August 5 to include Rayagada and Koraput along with the aforementioned districts, again predicting similar weather conditions at isolated locations.

IMD issued another 'Yellow' alert August 6 for thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds over an expanded list of districts, including Subarnapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, and Malkangiri, alongside previously mentioned districts.

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	25.0°	24.8°	
Humidity	94%	89%	
Rainfall	1.4mm	Nil	

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Monalisa Sahoo
Alias Monalisha Sahoo,
D/o Srikanta Kumar Sahoo, Residing At-Plot No. 3794/8172, Lavanya House, Prachi Vihar, Ggp Colony, Vtc-Koradakanta, P.O.-Jharapada, Sub District-Saheednagar, District-Khorda, Odisha, 751006 have changed my name to Monalisha Sahoo for all future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: Odisha Arthritis and Rheumatology Foundation Trust (OARFT) organised a national conference, focused on the critical intersection between Rheumatology and Gynecology, aimed to shed light on the complex challenges faced by women dealing with autoimmune diseases, especially during their reproductive years.

The conference titled 'Connecting Flares & Fertility in Rheumatology,' brought together leading experts, clinicians,

WOMEN SUFFERING FROM RHEUMATIC DISEASES



and researchers from across the country.

The conference was attended by IRA Odisha Branch president Sisir Kumar Mahapatra, emeritus gynecologist PC Ma-

hapatra and KIMS Hospital department of Rheumatology head Prasant Padhan, along with other esteemed dignitaries from medical fraternity.

Attending the conference, Padma Shri Dr Ashok Kumar Mahapatra emphasised the critical need for interdisciplinary collaboration, underscoring unified efforts across various departments which is essential for delivering truly comprehensive patient care.

Delivering his address, Dr PC Mahapatra shared valuable insights into treating infertility in women with autoimmune

diseases, offering practical and compassionate strategies for managing the complex cases.

For his guidance on the safety of rheumatologic drugs during pregnancy and for helping clinicians make informed evidence-based decisions to protect both mother and child during critical cases, Dr AN Malaviya was honoured with 'OARFT Tribute 2025'.

With over 300 delegates in attendance, the conference created a space for deep conversations, meaningful learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

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Rly personnel killed in IED blast along J'khand border

Police suspect involvement of Naxalites in the blast as Maoist posters were found near the blast site

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bonai (Sundargarh), August 3: A railway personnel was killed in an IED blast on a railway track about 3 km from Ranchda railway station under Bimlagarh-Kiriburu section of Chakradharpur railway division near Odisha-Jharkhand border in Sundargarh district Sunday, police said.

This is a major violence triggered by the Maoists on the last day of the Martyr's Week.

The deceased was identified as Itua Oram, who was working as a 'key man' in the Indian Railways, the police said. Another railway employee Budhuram Munda sustained critical injuries in the explosion. He was rescued and admitted to Ispat General Hospital in Rourkela.

Rourkela Railways SP, CRPF jawans, K Bolang police and railway personnel rushed to the spot and



launched an investigation.

A bomb defusing and detecting squad was also pressed into the service. It is apprehended that it might take more than 12 hours for train services to become normal on the route as the gang man and track repairing personnel have refused to go the track for repairs until they are given clean chit on their security.

Police suspected involvement of Maoists in the blast as Maoist posters were found near the blast site.

The blast occurred near Pillar No-478/1 of the railway track about 3 km from the Ranchada railway station at about 11.33 pm Saturday when Buddhuram was on duty at the site.

Buddhuram sustained critical injuries in the incident and was admitted to IGH. However, the second blast occurred near

Pillar No-477/34-35 of the railway track at 9.11am Sunday as none took serious note of the first blast. The Maoists had also put up banners in Odia warning of offensives near the Pillar No-478/1 of the railway track Saturday night.

The Maoists had given a call to observe martyrs' week or 'Shahid Saptah' from July 28 to August 3. The blast site is under Saranda forest range, a local police officer said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the demise of the railway personnel in the blast and announced ₹10 lakh ex-gratia to his family.

The financial assistance would be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X.

Missing fisherman rescued; search on for three relatives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Balasure, August 3: One of the four fishermen, who went missing after venturing into the sea in Balasure district, was rescued near Digha coast in West Bengal, police said here Sunday. Search operations are underway to rescue the three others, a senior officer said.

They belong to a family in Baliapal block of the district, he said, adding that these fishermen ventured into the sea Saturday morning and did not return. They have been identified as Gopal Giri (60), his two sons Madhusudan (35) and Rabindra (38) and Madhusudan's brother-in-law Jagannath Pal (23), the police said. Jagannath was rescued near Digha coast in West Bengal, and he was admitted to a local hospital there, the police said. Fishermen usually return to the coast by afternoon on the same day. But they had not returned home till evening Saturday. So, their family members began to panic and informed the local police. A search operation is underway by the Odisha Police to rescue three of them, he said.

Balasure SP Raj Prasad said, "We are continuing our efforts to trace and rescue the missing fishermen in coordination with the fishermen community, marine police and coast guard."

Modern equipment like state-of-the-art drones and boats of the marine police are being used in the search operations, he added. At the request of the state police, the Indian Coast Guard has also joined the rescue operation, they said.

CM reviews devpt work in Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 3: On the first day of his two-day visit to Keonjhar, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday reviewed various development works in the district at the Durbar Hall.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held discussions with the District Collector and other senior officials on key areas including forest protection, tourism, rural development, roads, transport, health, education, irrigation, women's empowerment, agriculture and industry. Expressing satisfaction over the progress of these initiatives, he instructed officials to expedite the execution of all ongoing projects.

Emphasising the importance of connectivity and transportation, the CM reviewed progress on several key infrastructure projects including the Raisuan Airstrip, Keonjhar Bypass, Iconic Bridge, Railway Station Road, Nudurpada to Kaliahata

Road, Pithagola Road (linking Harichandanpur to Telkoi), Suakati-Duguna Bridge over the Baitarani River, the Mining Corridor, and other major road developments.

He instructed the administration to address delays and remove bottlenecks, especially those involving the Forest department. He stressed the need to finalise tenders in a timely manner while maintaining the quality of work.

The CM also reviewed plans for enhancing regional connectivity through the Barbil Bypass Project and the NH-49 extension. He called for strengthening healthcare and education services across the district.

Congratulating the district administration for significant achievements under the Subhadra Yojana and Lakhpati Didi Yojana, Majhi urged officials to address law and order challenges and work towards transforming Keonjhar into a model district.

14 held for killing man over suspected sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 3: A 40-year-old man was brutally murdered under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district on suspicion of practising sorcery and witchcraft, police said Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Gopal Mallik from Rachaguda village. After a complaint was filed, police launched an investigation and arrested 14 individuals in connection with the killing.

The accused have been identified as Mara Mallik, Simanchal Mallik, Ramakanta Mallik, Kumar Mallik, Ghasiram Mallik, Subash Mallik, Prafulla Mallik, Ajay Mallik, Prashant Mallik, Sudaya Mallik, Shibnanda Mallik, and three others.

According to police sources, Jhunu Mallik, wife of accused Subash Mallik, died under mysterious circumstances about 15 days ago. Believing Gopal Mallik had caused her death through witchcraft, Subash and his associates allegedly plotted to kill him.

Fearing for his life, Gopal fled the village and took shelter at his in-laws' home in Khandi village under Badagada police limits in neighbouring Ganjam district. However, he returned to Rachaguda Saturday afternoon to retrieve his livestock — cows, goats, and sheep — that

he had left behind.

Before his return, Gopal had asked his sister-in-law, Sita Mallik, to collect the animals and meet him at Palashpadar, which is located at some distance from the village. She complied and handed the livestock over to him.

As Gopal prepared to leave, a group of villagers, who were allegedly tipped off, arrived at the spot, overpowered him, and forcibly took him back to the village. He was confined in a house, beaten, and tortured.

The group later took Gopal near the Harabhangi Dam, tied his hands and legs, mutilated his genitals, and murdered him. They then dumped his body in the dam.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Sita Mallik, Mohana police registered a case (113/25). Two special teams were formed and raids were conducted in multiple locations.

All 14 accused were apprehended while fleeing in three auto-rickshaws. Police recovered the victim's body, a stone and rope allegedly used in the crime and the vehicles.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the murder, police said. Gajapati Superintendent of Police Jatindra Kumar Panda confirmed at a press conference that all 14 accused will be produced in court Monday.



Woman makes suicide bid as hubby killed in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 3: A woman attempted to commit suicide by consuming poison Sunday after her husband was trampled to death by a female elephant at Gobindpur village near Taramakanta forest beat and Bhuyan Juangpidha forest range in Keonjhar district the previous night.

The deceased farmer was identified as Debadhi Barik, 48. After learning about his death, his wife Rukmini Barik plunged into distress and tried to commit suicide by consuming poison Sunday.

Family members rescued her in critical condition and admit-

ted her to Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar. Later, the doctors shifted her to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as her condition remained critical. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the village after reports of both the incidents spread.

Sources said that a herd of six elephants has been on the rampage after straying into the area. The animals were destroying crops after straying into Gobindpur village Saturday night.

Alerted, the villagers tried to drive the elephants away. Meanwhile, a female elephant turned back while fleeing and chased the villagers. The vil-

lagers managed to escape but Debadhi fell down. The animal picked him on its tusk when he was trying to get up and trampled him. On being informed, Forest officials rescued and admitted him in critical condition where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

DFO Dhanraj HD said a female elephant turned back and ran after the villagers after someone flashed a torch at her. The animal attacked the farmer after he fell down, he said. The family members will be provided ₹10 lakh financial assistance while ₹1 lakh will be given as ex-gratia for performing his last rites.



RELIGIOUS FERVOUR: Bol-Bom devotees perform rituals on Aunli river ghat in Chhendipada block of Angul district Sunday, before leaving for various Shiva temples for the fourth and last Monday of Shravan month

OP PHOTO

Vig raids Boudh MVI, detects 44 plots, 1kg gold

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Boudh, August 3: Vigilance sleuths Sunday detected 44 plots, 1kg gold, deposits worth ₹1.34 crore and other valuable items allegedly in the possession of a state government employee working as a motor vehicle inspector (MVI) in Boudh district.

The valuables were located in six locations of Golap Chandra Hansdah, MVI, Boudh, an official of the anti-corruption wing said.

A search was conducted in his houses based on an allegation that he had accumulated

properties disproportionate to his known source of income.

The Vigilance team found ₹2.38 lakh in cash, a dairy with details of 'benami' money transaction and spending of ₹40 lakh for the medical studies of his daughter, a statement said.

He also possessed a double-storeyed building with an area of 3,300 sq ft at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, it said.

Of the 44 plots in possession of Hansdah and his family, 43 were located in and around Baripada town and one was on the outskirts of Balasure town, the Vigilance statement said.

"The sale deed value of

plots comes to ₹1.49 crore.

A thorough probe has been initiated in this regard. The measurement and valuation/assessment of the buildings/plots are being carried out by the Vigilance Technical Wing. One kg of gold, 2.126 kg of silver and bank deposits worth ₹1.34 crore were detected," the Vigilance said.

Hansdah had joined the government services in 1991 and worked in the DIC (District Industries Centre) offices of Sambalpur and Deogarh.

He was promoted to junior MVI in 2003 and worked in several districts.

Missing minor girl's body found hanging from tree in forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, August 3: The body of a minor girl, who was missing since last Friday, was found hanging inside a jungle near her home in Sundargarh district Sunday morning, police said.

The incident happened at Lulki-dih village under the jurisdiction of the Talwara police station in the district. According to the police, the girl had gone to the forest to graze cows and goats Friday.

When she did not return home in the afternoon, her father searched for her in the locality and reported the matter to the police after failing to find her, the police said.

The police began searching for the girl with the help of sniffer

dogs Sunday morning and found her body hanging from a tree in the nearby forest, a police officer said. Local youths had seen the deceased girl talking to a person from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. Another local was also present there, he said. The police have detained the two men and initiated an investigation into the case.

It is learnt that the girl had come in contact with one of the detained persons through social media, the police officer said.

The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Sundargarh, Nirmal Mishra, said, "We have just got some clues and have detained two. The actual reason behind the girl's death can only be known after we get the post-mortem examination report."

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHHENDIPADA INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

IDENTIFICATION No: - CHHB- 01/2025-26
E-mail address: - ori-chen dipada@nic.in

The Block Development Officer, Chhendipada on behalf of the Governor of Orissa invites Percentage rate bid in single cover system for the Const. of Govt. Upper Primary School at Para GP.. "C" & "D" contractors accordingly, registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / Class registered with Central Government/ MES / Railway, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-I form, for execution of Building .The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement. Bidders may submit bids for any or all the Buildings. The details of the Eligibility criteria, enclosures etc. along with the project and date and time of receipt and opening of bid documents can be viewed & downloaded from the District website i.e www.angul.odisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Chhendipada

idco **DISHA**
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL HEAD (ELECTRICAL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. BBSR/ELECT/E-4696/25-26/2358 Dated : 30.07.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the : SITC of 11 KV line and 11/0.4 KV, 63 KVA DP work Mounted DSS for providing power supply to Street Light at Kalibeti I.E., Khordha

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding	
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Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal, www.tendersorissa.gov.in Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in the e-procurement portal as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd./- Divisional Head (Elect) IDCO, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-14003/11/0222/2526

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Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God



SRI AUROBINDO

On The Back Foot

Last week, US President Donald Trump imposed a sharp 25 per cent tariff on India and an unspecified penalty for buying Russian oil and arms, sending financial markets in the country on a downward spiral. Adding insult to injury, a day after this announcement, he went on to remark that he doesn't care if India's "dead economy" implodes any further. To be sure, Trump's ruthless treatment of India has left New Delhi scurrying. For, it was only in February that he saw India as a major strategic partner and after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the White House both agreed to boost bilateral trade, currently worth \$129 billion, to \$500 billion by 2030. Interestingly, India was one of the few countries that did not feel too concerned about Trump's second term in the White House. The first Trump administration had gone pretty smooth for India, and New Delhi was looking forward to a Trump 2.0 that it thought would be just as manageable. However, for India, things do not seem to unfold on expected lines.

Three factors appear to be behind Trump's changed and hardened stance on India. Firstly, New Delhi continues to import oil and military equipment from Russia, much to the chagrin of the US-led Western order. The West sees this as akin to financing Russia's war efforts against Ukraine as it kind of nullifies the sanctions that Europe and the US have imposed on Moscow. Trump, it seems, has made New Delhi's arms and oil imports from Russia a key component of his India policy, especially after he got his nose burnt by Putin who has not heeded him on the ceasefire issue. As tensions rise between the US-led West and Russia, Trump appears to be sending warning signals that India will have to face consequences if it does not align with the West.

India has significantly increased its purchases of Russian oil since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia accounts for over a third of India's oil imports, a huge jump from less than one per cent before the conflict. In the early days of the Ukraine war, New Delhi faced a lot of pressure to reduce its economic ties with Russia. That pressure continued as Indian oil imports soared. However, by the second year of the war, the conversation around India's imports started to change mainly propagated by local media. It was projected like India had managed to convince the US and Europe that buying more affordable Russian oil—thanks to a price cap set by the European Union and G7—was actually helpful in keeping global oil prices stable. Now that Trump is unable to bring a ceasefire in Ukraine as he had promised during his election campaign, something he had said he could do in "one day," his disappointment has increased over India's continued oil and arms imports from Russia.

Secondly, despite several rounds of talks since the February meeting between Trump and Modi, a consensus is yet to be reached for a bilateral trade deal between India and the US. The US wants India to open up its politically sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors to American imports, and it is also looking for more relaxed rules on data storage and digital trade, which are still points of contention. Unfortunately for India of today, it does not possess experts in updated global affairs who can help it formulate foreign policies based on current geopolitical situations, just as it does not have economists with proven track records of implementable ideas who could guide in creating national economic policies and in international manoeuvrings in situations as the country is in today. India's foreign and economic policies and responses are all bureaucrat driven, thereby resulting in failures on all fronts at the same time.

The last and most important reason could be India's refusal to acknowledge Trump's contribution in the ceasefire after four days of a mid level military confrontation with Pakistan following the Pahalgam massacre. Since the ceasefire, Trump has been all praise for Pakistan and its leadership, much to New Delhi's chagrin. Apart from that Trump has, at least two dozen times on record, claimed that it was he who brought the truce between India and Pakistan and deserves a Nobel Peace prize for this achievement. Indian political authorities, however, have steadfastly denied this credit to him and most probably that has upset him.

The India-US strategic relationship has been cultivated over the last 25 years, thanks to the efforts of leaders from both countries, including Trump during his first term. In recent years, India and the US have proudly called themselves "engaged democracies," moving away from the "estranged democracies" label of the Cold War era when they were on opposite sides. Since 2000, the bond between India and the US has been getting stronger, peaking with the signing, during UPA-I administration, of the 2008 India-US civil nuclear deal. With growing strategic trust, India has also been purchasing defence equipment from America.

Now, an unpredictable and transactional Trump has put India on the back foot. And, primarily due to its clueless foreign policy, India does not seem to have too many options open for it except floundering ahead in an already dire situation.

WISDOM CORNER

“People don't realize that now is all there ever is; there is no past or future except as memory or anticipation in your mind

ECKHART TOLLE

“The moment you have in your heart this extraordinary thing called love and feel the depth, the delight, the ecstasy of it, you will discover that for you the world is transformed

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might also pray in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance

KAHLIL GIBRAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1704:** Gibraltar captured by Britain. During the War of the Spanish Succession, Britain took control of Gibraltar on this day in 1704 after Spain surrendered, and "the Rock" subsequently became a British colony and a symbol of British naval strength.
- **1914:** Britain declares war on Germany. Seen by many as the decision that began the First World War, Britain declared war on Germany after Germany refused to accept its ultimatum of getting out of Belgium.
- **1944:** Anne Frank is captured. One of the most well-known figures of the 20th century and a victim of the Holocaust, 14-year old Frank and her family were captured and arrested by the Germans from their hiding place in Amsterdam.
- **1984:** The Republic of Upper Volta is Renamed Burkina Faso. The West African country was first created in 1958 as a self-governing French colony. It gained its independence from the French in 1960. Between then and 1983, several coups dotted its political landscape. In 1983, a military coup installed Captain Thomas Sankara as the country's president. He changed the name of the country to Burkina Faso a year later on the coup's anniversary.

FOCUS NATION

THE UNVEILING

The three-day slugfest between the government and the Opposition during discussions on the Pahalgam killings and Operation Sindoor (28-30 July) drew blood from both sides alike. In the process the vital issues on failure of security, surveillance, foreign policy and leadership role, and enmeshing of politics in warfare, lay unanswered. Surely, it was an emotive issue but turned to be extremely divisive during the course of the discussions.

The Home Minister displaying the findings of Operation Mahadev right at the start of the Lok Sabha session that three terrorists alleged to have been linked to the Pahalgam massacre were hunted down by Indian forces on the outskirts of Srinagar could perhaps settle this key question although the unsettling part is the timing of the findings coinciding with the Parliament session.

The US government's decision to list the TRF, a front of the banned LeT, which had initially claimed responsibility for the killings, as a terrorist organisation followed by the UN doing the same would have proved the point that India had been a victim of Pak-based terrorism. However, India's justification in using its Air Force to attack and decimate nine terrorist hideouts deep inside Pakistan and calling it a non-escalatory strike failed to get approbation in sensitizing global public opinion on Pakistan's role as evidenced from the lacklustre success of the multiparty delegations which were sent out soon after Operation Sindoor to 30-odd destinations worldwide.

The important issues which were listed from the Opposition side were either not answered or rebuffed with whataboutery alluding to the earlier government's weaknesses. In the process the discussions lost their core outcomes. Thus, for example, why has GOI not disclaimed US President Trump's asser-



The important issues which were listed from the Opposition side were either not answered or rebuffed with whataboutery alluding to the earlier government's weaknesses

tion made 26 times that he had brought the ceasefire on 10 May giving the threat of stopping trade with both warring parties? If there was no phone call between the leaders during Operation Sindoor and trade was never discussed, then why didn't the PM refute the US President's assertive claim? In fact, Trump was never mentioned from the government's side at all.

India's silence on this vital issue signalled the government's buckling under US pressure with the narrative that the ceasefire was effected at the instance of the Pak DGMO in a conversation with his Indian counterpart which came after Trump's declaration of the ceasefire on his 'Truth Social' website. This negated GOI's stated position of denying third party mediation in bilateral matters between the two nuclear-armed neighbours dating back to the Simla Agreement of 1972. The related question was, if India was gaining ground in the conflict on 9 May by pulverizing Pak air power with attacks on strategic airfields and assets, why wasn't it pursued further and POK reclaimed? To which the Defence Minister stated that it was not the mandate of the operation while countering with the statement that it was during the 1947-48 ceasefire that POK was acquired by Pakistan.

The second issue of impor-

tance was that the government did not name China at all though it was well known that China was strongly behind Pakistan in strengthening its Air Force having supplied 5th generation missiles, aircraft, swarm drones, real time intelligence and cyber and AI aided spatial support. This could be a frightening scenario for India calling for defence preparedness to the hilt and galvanizing air defence systems while understanding the new battlefield techniques of the adversaries.

Besides, what was wrong in the government's declaring the losses of military assets in the war even after Trump put it in Truth Social that India lost aircraft, echoing the Pak briefing of 7th May which was reported in several global news outlets? Observers had then noted that Pakistan was winning a perception battle and that could have proved the clinching factor why Pakistan thereafter became a peer competitor of India and more than that was embraced by the US with a lunch invite to the man who was behind the Pak operation, General (now Field Marshal) Asim Munir. Even the French Parliament in a resolution expressed concern that the SPECTRA warfare system on India's Rafale jets failed to detect or jam Pakistan's Chinese made PL15 missiles though the Chinese government subse-

quently denied having extended support to Pakistan against any third party while India raised no objections to the statement.

As an aside, during my recent visit to Dharamshala/Mcleodganj for a personal audience with the Dalai Lama on the eve of his 90th birthday, I ran into a nondescript Kashmiri shop in the bustling streets of the town where the shop-owning couple, inhabitants of Srinagar, who were present on that fateful day, April 22, echoed the sentiments of the local populace and astounded me with their statement that the killers were from Balochistan, and not sent by Pakistan's terror factories. Why on earth would Baloch militants, fighting against the Pak government with their demand for a separate Baloch state seeking India's support evidenced from Baloch leader Yar Mir Baloch's letter addressed to the Lok Sabha speaker, HM and PM, kill Indian nationals? On contrary, Yar Mir's letter expressly stated that an independent Balochistan if realized would cut off Pakistan's access to the Arabian Sea and deprive it of strategic minerals and energy resources while delinking Gwadar from the CPEC.

The special session ended with a walk-out by the opposition protesting the PM's absence in the Rajya Sabha though there were several questions directed at him. The larger question related to an appraisal of India's foreign policy which showed itself to be shifty and riddled with contradictions. Navigating a complex multi-polar world driven by strategic autonomy and dictated by national interests which has run foul in the US' estimation turning the Comprehensive Global partnership to a transactional equation, and juggling between the Global South and North, India could be struggling to find a respectable place in the current geopolitical firmament.

The writer is a retired diplomat and political analyst.

SPECTRUM FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Currency dominance in the digital age

For more than 80 years, the US dollar has enjoyed unrivaled supremacy in world trade and finance, thanks to America's unique combination of economic scale, credible institutions, deep and liquid financial markets, and geopolitical might, as well as, crucially, network effects. But a new variable is poised to reshape the global monetary order: data integrity.

As digital technologies increasingly act as the rails upon which money moves – through stablecoins, tokenized assets, and central bank digital currencies – the resilience and credibility of currency networks increasingly hinge not only on macroeconomic fundamentals, but also on the technological strength and security of the relevant infrastructure. Of course, macroeconomic fundamentals still matter, and digital currencies raise some conventional macro challenges. In particular, by privatizing seigniorage and facilitating tax evasion, stablecoins could shrink countries' fiscal revenues.

Moreover, if a stablecoin breaks its peg – say, because its liquidity buffers prove insufficient – its credibility could collapse, triggering a run. If the stablecoin's interconnection

with other assets is sufficiently dense, this may have systemic consequences. A disorderly run on US dollar stablecoins – privately issued digital tokens that are backed significantly by US Treasuries and can theoretically be exchanged one-for-one with dollars – could prove particularly disruptive. Opacity in reporting and auditing, and insufficient regulations in some jurisdictions, compound the risks.

The world could also face a new kind of "cyber" run, triggered by weaknesses in the technological infrastructure underpinning digital assets. Mitigating this risk will not be easy: as the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the US Department of Commerce warned in 2016, quantum computers may soon be able to break many of the public-key cryptosystems currently in use. In other words, infrastructure that appears robust today may turn out to be flimsy tomorrow.

The implications for the global monetary order are far-reaching. As the issuer of the dominant international currency, the US has long enjoyed an "exorbitant privilege," which includes the ability to borrow at low interest rates

even in times of economic stress and run persistently large trade deficits. President Donald Trump's administration seems to be betting that the US will be able to retain this privilege, as the dollar's existing global status translates into demand for US dollar stablecoins and, in turn, US Treasuries, thereby lowering the US Treasury's financing costs.

Ultimately, America's exorbitant privilege is based on trust in its institutions, legal frameworks, and fiscal capacity. In a world where money circulates on programmable platforms, however, the credibility and integrity of the code, the quality of cryptographic standards, and the resistance of systems to hacking are as important as any of these factors. This fundamentally changes the logic of monetary competition: if the technological gap is large enough, the currency that is best protected from cyber threats – not necessarily the one backed by the most powerful economy or the most credible central bank – becomes the most attractive.

As stablecoins are being used for a growing share of cross-border payments, and as an on- and off-ramp for speculative crypto investments, much about their

security and governance remains unknown. Regulators and citizens should thus be asking questions. Who is responsible for governing the ledger? To what extent is the system protected from malicious actors? What happens if a currency's cryptographic backbone is compromised by developments in quantum computing? If policymakers fail to act accordingly, we might find ourselves with the kind of volatile and fragmented monetary system that characterized the nineteenth century, when the unfettered issuance of private money opened the way for panics, runs, manipulation, and collapse.

Preserving international monetary stability in such a landscape will require more than technological innovation. Global coordination on standards for tokenization, cryptographic interoperability, data privacy, and post-quantum resilience will be essential. The alternative – the proliferation of balkanized networks governed by conflicting rules and exposed to systemic shocks – is a recipe for instability.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the London Business School.

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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

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Justice prevails

Sir, Former Janata Dal (S) leader and Karnataka ex-MP Prajwal Revanna getting life imprisonment in a rape case marks a critical moment in the fight against sexual violence. It also highlights the necessity for swift and candid judicial processes when influential individuals are accused. The verdict serves as a reminder that no one is above the law, regardless of their political pedigree or family connections. The courage of the victims who came forward despite threats and intimidation, has been vindicated by this conviction. Their bravery in speaking truth to power has not only secured justice for themselves but has also potentially prevented future crimes by removing a predator from a position of influence. As India continues to grapple with issues of sexual violence and abuse of power, the Prajwal Revanna case stands as a beacon of hope that justice, though sometimes delayed, will ultimately prevail.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Healthy beginning

Sir, World Breastfeeding Week is observed in the first week of August every year. Led by the WHO and UNICEF, this global campaign highlights the importance of breastfeeding for a child's health, growth, and development. The 2025 theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," serves as a reminder to support mothers with the care, guidance, and information they need throughout their breastfeeding journey. In India, the emphasis is on "Prioritising Breastfeeding and Creating Support Systems." Although many women deliver in hospitals, only a small percentage of them begin breastfeeding within the first hour—an important time for both mother and baby. Breast milk provides complete nutrition, protects against infections, supports brain development, and helps mothers recover more quickly, both physically and emotionally. Across the world, efforts are being made to shield breastfeeding from misleading marketing, especially on digital platforms. Governments and health organisations are working hand in hand to improve maternity care, ensure paid family leave, and create environments that support breastfeeding at home and in the workplace. By supporting breastfeeding, we are investing in a healthier, more resilient future for all.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

New social media game in Kashmir raising concerns

Srinagar police, which has been making every effort to track social media sites to counter the radicalisation process, found out about this modus operandi after detaining some youth behind such accounts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: Security agencies have uncovered a new trend among some youngsters in the Kashmir Valley of using social media to glorify separatist and terrorist figures not out of ideological conviction, but as a calculated tactic to gain followers and earn money from advertisers.

Srinagar police, which has been making every effort to track social media sites to counter the radicalisation process, found out about this modus operandi after detaining some youth behind such accounts.

During interrogation, the youngsters allegedly admitted that the employment of inflammatory imagery -- such as that of slain terrorist Burhan Wani of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen -- was a calculated plan to gain a high and active fan base.

This engagement farming subsequently enabled them to capitalise on their social media accounts by receiving payment from advertisers for endorsement.

After gaining a number of followers, especially from across the border and overseas, the account handlers used to replace these pictures with other images



es such as mountains or Chinar trees, the officials said.

The officials added that the emerging trend may be unsettling as the online propaganda environment within the region is blurring the lines among political opposition, radical elements and opportunists seeking online renown and wealth.

While the police are determined to intensify their surveillance and take strict action

against those who exploit sensitive security situations for personal gain, efforts are also being made to make the families understand about the implications of this on the future of their children.

As many as seven children, who had been detained recently by police, were released after counselling in front of their parents, the officials said.

Officials feel that the motivations behind the rise of social media influencers using provocative imagery in the Kashmir Valley are financial, and in the digital landscape, where monetising content is the new goal, the pursuit of engagement and revenue has led to a murky grey area.

The officials said most of these influencers relied on brand partnerships on social media platforms, where they either promote products or integrate them into their content.

According to two prominent influencers operating on three social platforms, the revenue-sharing model remains opaque despite its blue-tick verification system.

One influencer, requesting anonymity, described the process as “unclear,” noting that the factors determining the frequency and amount of payments are a mystery.

While understanding the digital gold rush as to how social media monetisation works, the probe into young Kashmiris using separatist imagery for follower growth shows a deeper, more complex story about the modern digital economy.

The quest for online celebrity is frequently overtly linked with the aim of monetisation -- a process that is sometimes easy or not necessarily guaranteed.

K'taka proposes size-based buffer zones for lakes, tanks

The move follows representations from elected representatives, including the MLA from Kundapura and the Deputy Commissioner of Udupi, who sought changes in the uniform 30-metre buffer zone rule



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 3: The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCD) has proposed a scientific revision of buffer zone regulations based on the size of waterbodies, becoming the first state in the country to take such an approach.

In a press release, KTCD said, “For the first time in the country, a proposal has been made to scientifically modify buffer zone regulations based on the size of waterbodies/tanks in the state.”

The move follows representations from elected representatives, including the MLA from Kundapura and the Deputy Commissioner of Udupi, who sought changes in the uniform 30-metre buffer zone rule, citing its disproportionate application to both small and large waterbodies.

Based on its recommendations, the KTCD has proposed a graded buffer system -- zero metre for up to 5 guntas of water body, three metres buffer zone for water bodies between five guntas and one acre, six metres for lakes above one acre to 10 acres, 12 metres for lakes above 10 acres to 25 acres, 24 metres for lakes above 25 acres to 100 acres, and 30 metres buffer zone for lakes above 100 acres.

The release said, “This buffer distance has been framed using

a scientific approach, as the buffer zone serves to facilitate the natural inflow of rainwater into lakes... smaller tanks will have smaller buffers, while larger tanks will have larger buffers.”

The proposal also includes revised norms for nala buffers, replacing the existing 30, 15 and 10 metre norms for primary, secondary and tertiary nalas respectively, which were found to be unscientific.

As per the revised proposal, the buffer zone will be 15 metres for primary nalas, 10 metres for secondary nalas and 5 metres for tertiary nalas.

KTCD added, “The modification allows only public utility within buffer zones, without reducing the tank capacity or obstructing water flow... this modification is not intended for real estate development; it aims solely to bring uniformity in buffer zones for different tank sizes.”

Karnataka is the only state to have framed incremental buffer guidelines scientifically linked to tank size, after reviewing practices in other states like Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. According to KTCD, the changes will not increase flood risks, but instead help mitigate them in urban areas, while supporting essential infrastructure like sewage treatment plants, water pipelines, and roads.

PM to inaugurate B'lore's Yellow Line Metro Aug 10



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 3: BJP leader Tejasvi Surya Sunday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bangalore and inaugurate the Yellow Line Metro August 10.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for Metro Phase-3, he said. In a post on 'X', Surya said, “Hon. PM Sri @narendramodi Ji's visit to Bangalore August 10 will be a landmark moment for Bangalore South.”

“He will not only inaugurate the long-awaited Yellow Line Metro operations but also lay the foundation stone for Metro Phase 3 - a project that received Cabinet approval within the first 100 days of his third term.”

He said the Yellow Line will cater to close to eight lakh riders and the ‘infamous Silk Board jam’ will be addressed greatly. Public transport is the only option to reduce traffic congestion. “Together, these projects

will benefit nearly 25 lakh people in Bangalore South,” he said. The MP said by inaugurating it August 10, the Yellow Line Metro project would meet the August 15 deadline.

Surya said this could happen because of Modi's personal insistence that this must be open to public without any further delay.

Surya, who is also the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) national president, quoted Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who said on 'X', “I am pleased to announce that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has kindly agreed to inaugurate 19.15 km Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra of Bangalore metro with 16 stations at the cost of Rs 5,056.99 crore and lay the foundation stone of 44.65 km of Bangalore phase-3 at the cost of Rs 15,611 Crore on 10th August 2025.” Surya had staged a demonstration to open the Yellow Line of Bengaluru Metro Rail project recently.

J&K marks six years of Article 370 abrogation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 3: As Jammu and Kashmir observes six years since the abrogation of Article 370, the region reflects a transformative shift in governance, infrastructure, and civic participation. The move, executed August 5, 2019, revoked the erstwhile state's special status and integrated it more fully into the Indian constitutional framework.

While political debate continues, the government's defensive approach emphasises tangible improvements in public welfare, democratic deepening, and economic revitalisation.

One of the most visible changes has been the surge in democratic participation. Inspired by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's doctrine of “Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat, Kashmiriyat”, the region has witnessed a 70 per cent increase in voter turnout in local panchayat elections.

The District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020 marked the first grassroots democratic exercise post-abrogation, followed by municipal and panchayat polls.

The 2024 state legislature elections further cemented political engagement, with notable participation from youth and women, including emerging Sarpanchs from South Kashmir. Education and empowerment have also seen a



Tourist arrivals skyrocketed from 7 lakh in 2021 to nearly 35 lakh in 2024. Srinagar's recognition as a UNESCO “World Craft City” and the successful hosting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in 2023 showcased global confidence in Kashmir's stability

The Tulip Garden alone drew 8.5 lakh visitors in 2024

Infrastructure has seen remarkable upgrades

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is fully operational, while major tunnel projects like Zojila and Z-Morh are underway to boost connectivity

Over 9,700 homes have been digitally connected under BharatNet, expanding digital access in remote areas. Education and employment have also flourished

boost. New institutions such as IIT Jammu, AIIMS Awantipora (expected to be operational by late 2025), and a medical college in Reasi are expanding access to higher education.

The region has produced UPSC qualifiers from remote areas, and job fairs have catalysed startups -- many led by women. The government data indicates Rs 80,000 crore in post-2019 investments, with schemes targeting employment and entrepreneurship.

Ancient Hindu idols recovered during excavation in Anantnag



— The idols and ‘Shivlings’ were recovered at Karkoot Nag in the Salia area of Aishmuqam in the south Kashmir district

— The site holds significance for Kashmiri Pandits, who associate it with the Karkoota dynasty that ruled Kashmir from 625 to 855 CE

someone might have kept them there for preservation”. He said the site, about 16 km from the district headquarters, has been a pilgrimage centre.

“These were recovered from the sacred pond. Some Shivlings, a sculpture and other items have been recovered. We want them to be protected. We have heard there used to be a temple here, and so a new temple be built here and these ‘Shivlings’ be kept there,” he said.

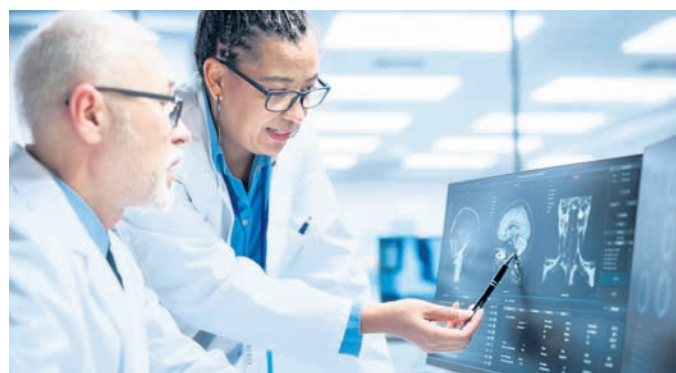
Cancer care: B'lore deep-tech startup proposes quantum leap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 3: A Bangalore-based bootstrapped deep-tech startup is leveraging quantum technology to detect cellular damage even before the symptoms appear, in just hours, possibly changing the game for cancer care.

One among the 20-odd exhibitors at the recently concluded Quantum India Bengaluru Summit, Quantum Biosciences Private Limited's “predictive tech” uses quantum biosensor to detect unique ‘magnetic fingerprints’ of oxidative stress in cells, allowing detection of tissue injury.

When somebody close to him was diagnosed with cancer and had to undergo radiation therapy, Ravi Puvvala, Managing Director of Quantum Biosciences, who was earlier developing sensors for automotive industry, said he started exploring the possibility of using sensors to predict radiation-induced cardiotoxicity before irreversible damage. “Radiation therapy is essential for treating cancer. However, it kills not only the cancerous cells, but also the good ones. This leads to long-term complications such as fatigue, cognitive decline, organ



dysfunction and secondary cancers. It also potentially induces a heart disease or fibrosis.” Puvvala told PTI.

Existing diagnostic tools, such as MRI, PET scans and blood biomarkers only detect harm after significant damage has already occurred, said Puvvala. Things took a quantum leap when he partnered with the Netherlands-based QT Sense, led by another Banglorean, Deepak Veeregowda. QT Sense was formed to take forward the 15 years of academic research done in this area at the University of Groningen.

QT Sense's Quantum Nuova is a platform technology built for detecting quantum-level phenomena like subcellular free radicals and magnetic

4.14 lakh pilgrims visited Amarnath shrine this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: More than 6,000 pilgrims paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas on the final day of this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, taking the total number of yatis to 4.14 lakh, officials said.

The last year saw more than 5.10 lakh pilgrims pay their respects at the shrine.

A total of 6,497 pilgrims had darshan at the 3,800-metre-high holy cave shrine on Saturday, the officials said. They said the yatis included 4,586 males, 1,299 females, 62 children, 51 sadhus, five sadhvis and 494 security forces personnel.

So far, 4,14,311 yatis have visited the cave shrine since the yatra started on July 3, the officials added. The authorities Saturday suspended this year's annual Amarnath Yatra, just a week before its scheduled conclusion, due to the need for maintenance on the tracks that were damaged by the recent heavy rainfall. The yatra was scheduled to conclude on August 9 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. However, authorities decided to shorten it by a week, citing “critical repair and maintenance works” to be undertaken in the wake of the heavy rainfall.

Anantnag (J&K), August 3: Ancient Hindu idols were recovered during excavation work for the renovation of a spring in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said.

The idols and ‘Shivlings’ were recovered at Karkoot Nag in the Salia area of Aishmuqam in the south Kashmir district. The site holds significance for Kashmiri Pandits, who associate it with the Karkoota dynasty that ruled Kashmir from 625 to 855 CE.

The Public Works Department is undertaking revival and restoration works in the spring and the labourers recovered the idols during the excavation work, officials said Saturday. They said the officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums visited the site, and added the idols will be sent to Srinagar for material and dating testing to determine their age and origins.


“We will shift them to SPS museum where they will be studied by research scholars and the department,” they said.

According to a Kashmiri Pandit, “There has been an impact of the Karkoota dynasty in this ar-

of the day


quote

According to an estimate, the increase in collector rate will put a burden of ₹5,000 crore on the people of Haryana annually...the steep hike in collector rates will shatter the common man's dream of owning a house




ranDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONG GENERAL SECY

Nehruji used to say that we need maximum production, and Gandhiji used to say that we need maximum production with the involvement of maximum number of people



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

The Tripura Cricket Association (TCA) had to struggle a lot to build an international cricket stadium in West Tripura's Narsinghgarh. Now, all the obstacles have been removed and the international cricket stadium is likely to be inaugurated in December



MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT TAKES

Man dies after being beaten up by BSF

Silchar (Assam): A 30-year-old man died after allegedly being thrashed by a few Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Assam's Cachar district, triggering protests by locals, an official said Sunday. The incident took place Friday night near the India-Bangladesh border in Katigorah, and the man succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on Saturday, he said.

Carcass of lioness found in Amreli

Amreli: A lioness was found dead on the outskirts of a village in Gujarat's Amreli district, amid concerns being raised by local leaders over the death of felines in the region as they urged the forest department to probe if any serious virus outbreak was causing the fatalities. The adult lioness was found dead in a farm land on the outskirts of Mandardi village Saturday, with the death caused due to natural causes, sources in the forest department said. The carcass was taken to the Babarkot animal centre for postmortem, which confirmed that the animal died due to natural causes, they said.

Man found hanging in Kolkata home

Kolkata: A 63-year-old man was found hanging in his residence in Kolkata Sunday morning, with his family claiming that he had been living in fear that he would be sent to Bangladesh if the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was implemented. Initial probe revealed that the deceased, Dilip Kumar Saha, had arrived in Kolkata in 1972 from Nawabganj in Dhaka and had been living in Anandapally West in the Regent Park area, a police officer said.

12 held for gambling

Dehradun: Dehradun Police and Uttarakhand STF in a joint operation busted an illegal casino running in a house in Dehradun, and arrested 12 alleged gamblers. Police said that three gamblers from Delhi and one from Nepal were also among those arrested in the operation conducted on the night of Saturday-Sunday. When the police raided the house, 12 people present in a room were allegedly gambling in the casino. All of them were arrested from the spot under the Gambling Act, police said.



There is a law in the country and whoever has done mistake or has committed crime, the court has examined and court has given the verdict. It has to be accepted by everybody

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

140 PEOPLE OF NICOBARI TRIBE, PVTGS TO JOIN ANDAMAN POLICE

A total of 140 people from Nicobari tribe and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) will join the Andaman and Nicobar Police as part of their gradual integration in Port Blair, a senior officer said



Rivers in spate in Bihar after heavy rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 3: The water levels in several rivers in Bihar have risen due to heavy rain in the last 24 hours, officials said Sunday.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed all officials concerned to remain alert. According to the latest district-wise rainfall bulletin issued by the Meteorological Department Sunday, "Light to moderate rain was recorded in many districts, including Patna, Banka, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Gayaji, Jehanabad, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria, Munger, Nalanda and Vaishali since August 2."

Several key roads and many low-lying areas in Patna were waterlogged following incessant rain in the state capital Sunday.

The Meteorological Department issued an 'orange' alert (be prepared) for several districts, including Patna, Gayaji, Jamui, Aurangabad, Khagaria, Banka, Vaishali, Samastipur, Seikhpora, Lakhisarai, East Champaran, Arwal, West Champaran and Nawada for the next 48 hours. Officials of the state Water Resources Department (WRD) said that incessant rain in several districts has caused rivers and streams to overflow. The increased inflow also caused the water level in many dams to rise, they said.

Besides, incessant rainfall in catchment areas of Nepal has also led to the rivers touching or flowing above the danger level in several places, they added.

No causality has been reported so far, and in certain areas in East and West Champaran, Bhagalpur and Patna districts, villagers of low-lying areas have been shifted to safer places by the district administration.

"Owing to moderate to heavy rain in certain areas in the state, major rivers, including Ganga, Kosi, Sone, Bagmati, Gandak, Kamla, and Adahrwa, are maintaining a rising trend in their courses in the past couple of days," the latest report of the WRD said.

EC asks Tejashwi to hand over EPIC card



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 3: The Election Commission Sunday asked RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav to "hand over for investigation" a voter ID card that he claimed to be in possession of despite having been "not issued officially".

The leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly had Saturday demonstrated an online search, with the EPIC number, to claim that his name was missing in the draft electoral rolls published as part of special intensive revision (SIR) and, upon rebuttal from the authorities concerned, alleged that his voter ID card number was "changed".

In a letter addressed to the former deputy CM, the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Patna Sadar-cum-Electoral Registration Officer for Digha assembly constituency said, "Our preliminary investigation suggests that the EPIC number you mentioned at the press conference August 2 was not issued officially. You are therefore requested to hand over the EPIC card in original for detailed investigation".

The RJD leader, thereafter, alleged that his EPIC number had been "changed", but District Magistrate Thiyyagaraja S M repudiated the claim.

"The EPIC number in the electoral rolls is the one that was submitted by the honour-

able leader of the opposition in his affidavit in the 2020 assembly polls. If he is in possession of another EPIC card with another number as well, then it is a matter of investigation," the district magistrate said. Meanwhile, at a press conference here, spokespersons of the ruling NDA in the state Ajay Alok (BJP), Neeraj Kumar (JDU) and Rajesh Bhatt (Lok Janshakti Party Ram Vilas), among others, demanded that a case be registered against the RJD leader.

They said Yadav should be booked for having two EPIC cards, which is not allowed. The NDA functionaries said they want to know from his alliance partner Rahul Gandhi whether this "fraud" by the RJD leader is the "atom bomb" he was threatening the Election Commission with.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday claimed that his party has an "atom bomb" of evidence to prove "vote chori" by the Election Commission for the BJP.

The NDA leaders claimed that the INDIA bloc was "starving at a certain defeat" in the upcoming assembly polls, and its leaders are trying to look for an "excuse", by raising doubts over the special intensive revision carried out by the EC. It was comparable to "anticipatory bail sought by criminals", they claimed.

Hero's welcome for Purohit after acquittal in Malegaon blast case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 3: Not even an enemy can question my patriotism and loyalty towards the nation, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case after a bruising 17-year battle, said here Sunday amid a rousing welcome by kin and well-wishers as he arrived home.

A special Mumbai court Thursday acquitted Purohit, former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and five others who were accused of involvement in a blast that killed six and injured 101 in Malegaon in Nashik district September 29 that year.

Outside Shantisheel Housing Society on Law College Road, where he lives, the military officer was mobbed by friends, family members, supporters, members of various right-wing organisations

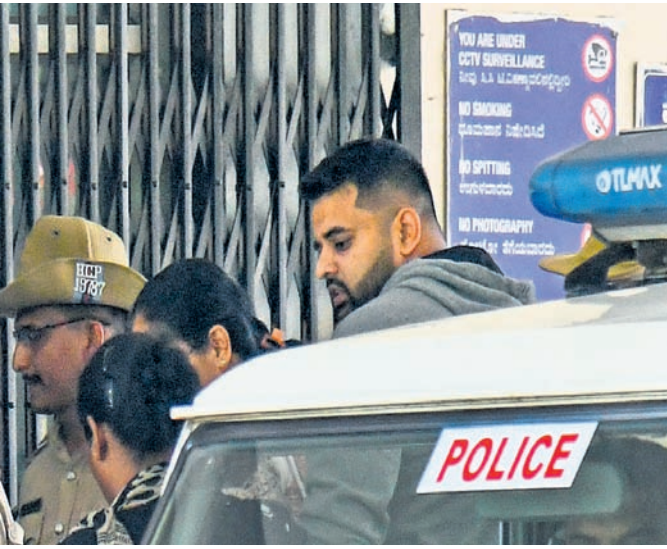
and others. He rode an open jeep, accompanied by his wife Aparna, amid the beating of 'dhol-tasha' (traditional drums) and showering of flower petals, with participants raising slogans of "Jai Shree Ram" and "Sanatan dharm ki jai" as well those hailing his acquittal. Several of them waved saffron flags.

Addressing the gathering, a visibly emotional Purohit said, "I never imagined that I would get such a grand welcome from all of you. I am speechless and unable to gather my thoughts or express my feelings." Purohit said he could never tell his wife and mother about the torture he endured and the insults he was subjected to but they always understood. Through all these years, his kin, friends and a huge number of well-wishers always stood by him, the Lt Colonel added.



An Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) worker carries an idol of Goddess Dashama, which was immersed on the last day of 'Dashama' festival, from a makeshift pond, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

A day after being sentenced in the rape case, the suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna was assigned the prisoner number at Bangalore's Parappana Agrahara Central prison



pronounced the verdict on Saturday, after convicting Prajwal a day earlier.

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

Prajwal was booked under sections 376(2)(k) (being in a position of control or dominance over a woman, commits rape on such woman), 376 (2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman), 354A (sexual harassment), 354B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 354C (voyeurism), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 201 (disappearance of evidence) of the IPC, and Section 66E (violation of privacy) of the IT Act, by

the Special Investigation Team (SIT) which probed the case.

The court sentenced Prajwal Revanna to imprisonment for life and imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh as fine, under section 376(2)(k), and imprisonment for life which shall mean remainder of natural life along with ₹5 lakh fine under section 376(2)(n).

He has been also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three years and ₹25,000 fine under section 354A, rigorous imprisonment for 7 years and ₹50,000 fine under section 354B, rigorous imprisonment for 3 years and ₹25,000 fine under section 354C.

A two year RI has also been given to Prajwal, with a fine of ₹10,000 under section 506, imprisonment of 3 yrs and fine of ₹25,000 under section 201, and imprisonment of 3 yrs and fine of ₹25,000 under section 66 E of IT Act.

INDIA bloc to have dinner meeting Aug 7, march to EC Aug 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Opposition INDIA bloc leaders are likely to have a dinner meeting August 7 to discuss strategy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue, sources said Sunday.

The opposition parties are also planning to take out a march to the office of the Election Commission of India August 8 in protest against the SIR of electoral rolls exercise, they said.

This comes amid a standoff on the SIR issue in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which has been a near washout as the Opposition's demand for a discussion has failed to draw a positive response from the ruling alliance.

According to the sources, the INDIA bloc party leaders will hold a dinner meeting August 7 to discuss their strategy on the SIR issue.

Unscientific mining pushing Bageshwar toward disaster: Govt

The "Geological Assessment and Recommendations For Sustainable Mining Practices in Bageshwar District" report, submitted to the National Green Tribunal July 30, called for sweeping reforms in mining practices and stringent monitoring to mitigate the risks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: A government-appointed panel has warned that unscientific mining in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district is destabilising slopes, threatening villages and agriculture, besides disrupting water sources in the fragile Himalayan region.

The "Geological Assessment and Recommendations For Sustainable Mining Practices in Bageshwar District" report, submitted to the National Green Tribunal July 30, called for sweeping reforms in mining practices and stringent monitoring to mitigate the risks.

The assessment was conducted following rising complaints of landslides, cracks in houses, drying springs and crop losses in several villages in Bageshwar. Bageshwar, particularly the Kanda-Kanyal valley region, is known for some of India's richest deposits of soapstone, a soft metamorphic rock widely used in paper, paint and cosmetics and in construction.

The case is similar to Jyotirmath (earlier named Joshimath), where cracks developed in homes, roads and agricultural fields in 2023 following incidents of land subsidence.

The tribunal had sought an expert evaluation after resi-



dents in Bageshwar alleged that mining in the district was being carried out without regard for environmental safeguards.

The panel, comprising ex-

perts from the Geological Survey of India, the Uttarakhand Landslide Mitigation and Management Centre, the Department of Geology and Min-

ing and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, examined 61 mines across Bageshwar, Kanda and Dugnakuri tehsils.

According to the report, most mines have altered natural slopes through steep vertical cuts and lack proper benches, making the terrain highly "vulnerable to landslides" and rockfalls. The team observed cracks, ground subsidence and rockslides at multiple sites.

It noted that debris from mining was often dumped haphazardly into natural streams, choking drainage channels and aggravating waterlogging and slope failures.

Several leases overlap with

villages, farmland and water sources, directly endangering local communities.

The committee highlighted that Bageshwar lies in seismic zone V, one of the most earthquake-prone regions in the country. Mining activities in such zones, if not regulated scientifically, could amplify ground instability.

The experts stressed that the current monitoring system is inadequate and there is "no record" of how slope modifications have evolved over time. Satellite analyses also indicated land deformation around several mines, confirming the risk of further subsidence.

of the day


quote

We have a very, very good plan that we're working on collectively with the Israeli government, with Prime Minister Netanyahu ... for the reconstruction of Gaza. That effectively means the end of the war



STEVE WITKOFF | US SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST

A 1% threat must be perceived as a 100% threat. We should not underestimate the enemy and consider its threats as over



AMIR HATAMI | COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, IRAN

Selling the false promise of a safe journey to the UK and a life in this country — whether on or offline — simply to make money, is nothing short of immoral



YVETTE COOPER | HOME SECRETARY, UK

SHORT TAKES

Ukrainian drone hits Russian oil facility

Moscow: An overnight Ukrainian drone attack on an oil depot near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi sparked a major fire, Russian officials said Sunday, as the two countries traded strikes. More than 120 firefighters attempted to extinguish the blaze, sparked after debris from a downed drone struck a fuel tank, Krasnodar regional Gov Veniamin Kondratyev said on Telegram. Videos on social media appeared to show huge pillars of smoke billowing above the oil depot. Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, temporarily stopped flights at Sochi's airport. Further north, authorities in the Voronezh region reported that four people were wounded in another Ukrainian drone strike.

New ICAC in Dallas to serve growing diaspora

Houston: The Consulate General of India in Houston has announced the launch of a new Indian Consular Application Centre (ICAC) in Dallas, Texas, bringing essential consular services closer to thousands of Indian-origin residents in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The new centre, located at 8360 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway, Suite A-230, was virtually inaugurated by India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra. The Dallas ceremony was led by Consul General DC Manjunath, who was joined by local elected officials and Indian-American community members. The Dallas ICAC is among nine such centres being opened across the United States to enhance accessibility to consular services.

Ex-Trump prosecutor Smith faces probe

Bridgewater: An independent watchdog agency responsible for enforcing a law against partisan political activity by federal employees has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who brought two criminal cases against then-candidate Donald Trump before his election to the White House last year. The Office of Special Counsel confirmed Saturday that it was investigating Smith on allegations that he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump. Smith was named special counsel by then-Attorney General Merrick Garland in November 2022, and his special counsel title is entirely distinct from the agency now investigating him.

Fresh violence erupts in Syria

The Syrian government under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has been struggling to consolidate control since he led a surprise insurgency that ousted former President Bashar Assad in December, ending the Assad family's decades-long autocratic rule

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, August 3: New outbreaks of violence overnight in to Sunday rocked Syria at two distinct flashpoints, straining a fragile ceasefire and calling into question the ability of the transitional government to exert its authority across the whole country.

In the north, government-affiliated fighters confronted Kurdish-led forces who control much of the region, while in the southern province of Sweida, they clashed with Druze armed groups.

The outbreaks come at a time when Syria's interim authorities are trying to maintain a tense ceasefire in Sweida province after clashes with Druze factions last month, and to implement an agreement with the US-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces that would reintegrate large swaths of northeastern Syria with the

rest of the country.

The Syrian government under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has been struggling to consolidate control since he led a surprise insurgency that ousted former President Bashar Assad in December, ending the Assad family's decades-long autocratic rule. Political opponents and ethnic and religious minorities have been suspicious of Sharaa's de facto Islamist rule and cooperation with affiliated fighters that come from militant groups.

State state television said clashes between government forces and militias belonging to the Druze religious minority rocked the southern province of Sweida Saturday after Druze factions attacked Syrian security forces, killing at least one member. The state-run Alikhbaria channel cited an anonymous security official who said the ceasefire has been broken. The Defence Ministry has not issued any formal statement.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said in addition to the member of the security forces killed, one Druze was killed and at least nine others were wounded in the clashes that took place in the in the western part of Sweida province. The Observatory said the clashes took place at the strategic Tal al-Hadeed heights that overlook Daraa province next door.



Russian, Chinese navies carry out drills

The drills are taking place two days after US President Donald Trump said he had ordered two nuclear submarines to be positioned in 'the appropriate regions'

REUTERS

Moscow, August 3: The Russian and Chinese navies are carrying out artillery and anti-submarine drills in the Sea of Japan as part of scheduled joint exercises, the Russian Pacific Fleet was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The drills are taking place two days after US President Donald Trump said he had or-



dered two nuclear submarines to be positioned in "the appropriate regions" in response to remarks by former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev. However, they were scheduled well before Trump's action.

Interfax news agency quoted the Pacific Fleet as saying Russian and Chinese vessels were



People react on a boat filled with participants, which cruises the UNESCO World Heritage recognized canals during the annual gay pride parade in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday

REUTERS

DEADLIEST WAVE

Lynching claims 637 in B'desh

The political transition after the August 2024 uprising, which saw ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her office, has seen a rise in mob violence in Bangladesh

INDO-ASAIN NEWS SERVICE

Dhaka, August 3: At least 637 people, including 41 police officers were killed in mob lynching incidents in Bangladesh from August 2024 to July 2025, marking one of the deadliest waves of extrajudicial killings in country's recent history.

The political transition after the August 2024 uprising, which saw ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her office, has seen a rise in mob violence in Bangladesh, said a report by leading Canadian agency.

"A total of 51 lynching deaths were recorded in 2023, under



the Sheikh Hasina-led government. Mob lynching deaths rose more than 12 times in comparison to 2023," Canada-based Global Center for Democratic Governance said in a report Saturday.

As many as 24 people were burnt to death at 'The Zabeer Jashore Hotel' in Jashore on August 4, 2024. Among 637 deaths, 182 people were burnt in Gaji Tyres in Rupganj, Narayanganj August 25, 2024.

According to the report, the names and details regarding the victims were not published. In the report, Global Center for Democratic Governance stated

that they could not gather complete information on all mob lynching deaths due to strong media censorship and stressed that the list should be considered incomplete.

In the report, Global Center for Democratic Governance stated, "This sharp increase underscores a dangerous erosion of law and order during a period of political instability and weakened state control. The fall of a longstanding regime created both a power vacuum and a public crisis of confidence in the country's justice system, which many now perceive as either absent or co-opted by political agendas. With police forces overstretched, court systems paralyzed, and local leaders either targeted or in hiding, citizens increasingly took justice into their own hands."

According to the report, public spaces which were once protected by law have now become flashpoints for mob killings, often caused by nothing more than suspicion, rumour, or political resentment.

Israeli forces kill over 20 seeking food in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir al-Balah, August 3: Israeli forces killed at least 23 Palestinians seeking food Sunday in the Gaza Strip, according to hospital officials and witnesses, who described facing gunfire as hungry crowds surged around aid sites as the malnutrition-related death toll surged.

Desperation has gripped the Palestinian territory of more than 2 million, which experts have warned is at risk of famine because of Israel's blockade and nearly two-year offensive.

Yousef Abed, among the crowds en route to a distribution point, described coming under what he called indiscriminate fire, looking around

Four Indian-origin persons killed in car crash in West Virginia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 3: In a tragic incident, four senior Indian-origin persons were killed in a car crash in West Virginia authorities said Sunday.

Kishore Divan, Asha Divan, Shailesh Divan, and Gita Divan were found dead following a vehicle crash, Marshal County Sheriff Mike Dougherty said in a statement.

The four individuals were reported missing from Buffalo, New York. Their vehicle was located on August 2 at approximately 9:30 PM off a steep embankment along a road in Marshal County, West Virginia.

First responders were on the scene for more than five hours. Dougherty extended condolences to the families of the victims. Siblu Nair, Director of Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs at Office of New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, had posted an 'Missing Persons - Please Help' alert on Facebook Saturday, asking for help to locate the four senior individuals who had gone missing.

Nair said that the Divans, "beloved members of our community", had gone missing. They were last seen Tuesday after visiting a temple in Pittsburgh, travelling to Palace Lodge Hotel in Moundsville, West Virginia.

"Sadly, they never arrived," Nair added.

Giving further details, Nair said they were driving a light green coloured car and were last spotted at a fast food joint in Erie, Pennsylvania, according to security footage.

"It has now been over 3 days with no contact," Nair had said. He had asked people travelling in the area or along the expected route the seniors would have taken to keep an eye out for them, "especially the final 22-minute stretch near the hotel, which is known to be difficult terrain".

Nair had also uploaded photos and details of the family and their last-known clothing. "Let's come together and do all we can to bring them home safely," Nair had said.



and seeing at least three people bleeding on the ground.

"I couldn't stop and help them because of the bullets," he said. Southern Gaza's Nasser Hospital said they had received bodies from near multiple distribution sites, including eight from Teina, about three km away from a distribution site in Khan Younis, which is operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

US U-turn: Trump to deport more migrants to third countries

US PRESIDENT'S TACTIC STOKES FEAR AMID PUSH FOR MASS DEPORTATIONS

REUTERS

Washington, August 3: The Trump administration says that some serious criminals need to be deported to third countries because even their home countries won't accept them. But a review of recent cases shows that at least five men threatened with such a fate were sent to their native countries within weeks.

President Donald Trump aims to deport millions of immigrants in the US illegally and his administration has sought to ramp up removals to third countries, including sending convicted criminals to South Sudan and Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, two sub-Saharan African nations.

Immigrants convicted of crimes typically first serve their US sentences before being

deported. This appeared to be the case with the eight men deported to South Sudan and five to Eswatini, although some had been released years earlier.

The US Department of Homeland Security said in June that third-country deportations allow them to deport people "so uniquely barbaric that their own countries won't take them back." Critics have countered that it's not clear the US tried to return the men deported to South Sudan and Eswatini to their home countries and that the deportations were unnecessarily cruel.

Reuters found that at least five men threatened with deportation to Libya in May were sent to their home countries weeks later, according to interviews with two of the men, a family member and attorneys.

After a US judge blocked the



Trump administration from sending them to Libya, two men from Vietnam, two men from Laos and a man from Mexico were all deported to their home nations. The deportations have not previously been reported.

DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin contested that the home countries of criminals deported to third countries were willing to take them back, but did not provide details on any attempts to return the five men

Trump admin deported over 200 Venezuelans accused of being gang members to El Salvador

Over 5,700 non-Mexican migrants have been deported to Mexico since Trump took office

home before they were threatened with deportation to Libya.

"If you come to our country illegally and break our laws, you could end up in CECOT, Alligator Alcatraz, Guantanamo Bay, or South Sudan or another third country," McLaughlin said in a statement, referencing El Salvador's maximum-security prison and a detention center in the subtropical Florida Everglades.

FAR FROM HOME

DHS did not respond to a request for the number of third-country deportations since Trump took office Jan-

uary 20, although there have been thousands to Mexico and hundreds to other countries.

The eight men sent to South Sudan were from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, South Sudan and Vietnam, according to DHS. The man DHS said was from South Sudan had a deportation order to Sudan, according to a court filing. The five men sent to Eswatini were from Cuba, Jamaica, Laos, Vietnam and Yemen, according to DHS.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said the men deported to South Sudan and Eswatini were "the worst of the worst" and included people convicted in the United States of child sex abuse and murder. "American communities are safer with these heinous illegal criminals gone," Jackson said in a statement.

India's dramatic comeback

Copa glory for Brazil



Rain brings early end to riveting day four, sets stage for thrilling day five as England need only 35 runs while India require four wickets for an epic win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 3: Bad light and subsequent rain forced an early end to play on Day Four of the fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at The Oval Sunday. With the stage set for a thrilling day five, England need 35 more runs to win, while India requires



four wickets for a miraculous victory. Rain forcing the match to go into the fifth day means every Test of the ongoing riveting five-match series has now gone into the last day. England looked all set to complete the chase of 374 on day four, thanks to Joe Root hitting his 39th Test century off 137 balls, and paid a fitting tribute to Graham Thorpe. While Root eventually made 105 off 152 balls, Harry Brook hit a stunning 111 off 98 balls – his tenth hundred in the longer format and was given a reprieve on 19 by Mohammed Siraj. Just when it felt that victory was inevitable for England, Root and Jacob Bethell fell to Prasidh Krishna as overcast conditions meant India found seam movement and made life difficult for Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton – unbeaten on two and zero respectively. Before India could bring more twists to the game, the rain gods intervened and brought a premature end to the day's play. With Chris Woakes, with his left arm in a sling, pacing up and down in the dressing room in his Test whites, another fascinating day five finish looms large to decide the scoreline of this closely-fought Test series. The final session began with a slight delay due to rain. But once it went away, Root brought up his 39th Test century off 137 balls. From the other end, Jacob Bethell struggled for fluency despite advancing to drive

England resumed the day at 50 for one, needing another 324 runs for an improbable win. The highest chase at The Oval is 263 achieved by England back in 1902

Akash Deep past cover for four, and his stay ended when he went for a big heave, but bottom-edged to his stumps off Prasidh Krishna. Suddenly, things began to grow tighter as Prasidh had Jamie Smith inside-edging to his pads, before beating him on the outside edge. From the other end, Siraj hit Smith

and Root on pads with his nip-backers, before India burnt a review when Prasidh hit Root on pads. But India found some hope as Prasidh struck again by having Root edge behind to Dhruv Jurel, who dived to his right to take a good low catch and dismiss the batter for 105. With Smith and Jamie Overton struggling to find gaps, India were well on top before bad light and then heavy rain forced players to go off the field and push the series decider to day five.

Brief scores:

India 224 and 396 lead England 247 and 339/6 in 76.2 overs (Harry Brook 111, Joe Root 105; Prasidh Krishna 3-109, Mohammed Siraj 2-95) by 35 runs

US sets relay record at swim worlds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singapore, August 3: The United States, which had a frustrating swim world championships, ended on a high note Sunday with a record in the women's 4x100 medley in the last event of the eight-day championships. The Americans swam a record time of 3 minutes, 49.34 seconds, breaking their own old mark of 3:49.63. The United States finished with nine gold medals — one more than Australia — but has battled a case of “acute gastroenteritis” picked up at a training camp in Thailand. The malady clearly affect-



ed the team's up-and-down performances in the eight days in Singapore. “This is the best way to end the meet,” Gretchen Walsh said. “And I feel like we have such a good opportunity when you have this stacked group of women

ABD's fiery ton helps Proteas beat Pakistan to win WCL title

AGENCIES

Edgbaston, August 3: AB de Villiers delivered a match-winning performance on Sunday, August 2, scoring 120 runs off just 60 balls. This helped the South Africa Champions chase down a target of 196 runs in 16.5 overs, securing a nine-wicket victory in the World Championship of Legends 2025 final. The match was held at Edgbaston in Birmingham. De Villiers, opening the innings, hit 12 fours and 7 sixes. He formed a 72-run partnership with Hashim Amla, who scored 18 runs from 14 balls, in the first six overs. He then built an unbeaten 125-run partnership with Jean-Paul Duminy, who scored 50 not out from 28 balls, to seal the win. De Villiers' performance Sunday marked his third century in the WCL 2025. Earlier, he had scored a century in 41 balls against the England Champions and a 39-ball century against the Australia Champions.

In the first innings, Sharjeel Khan of the Pakistan Champions scored 76 runs from 44 balls, contributing to a total of 195/5 in 20 overs. Meanwhile, In 2024, Indian cricket fans witnessed Yu-



PCB issues ‘blanket ban’ on participation

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Sunday announced a blanket ban on its players' participation in future editions of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), accusing the tournament organisers of being “biased” and lacking sporting integrity. The decision follows a sequence of events in which the Indian team forfeited both their group-stage clash and semifinal against Pakistan, citing the country's stand against bilateral sporting ties with the neighbouring country after the gruesome Pahalagam terror attack.

vraj Singh lead the India Champions to victory. This year, AB de Villiers was standing at the forefront to take the crown and secure the title for South Africa. Backed by a stellar line-up featuring Hashim Amla, Imran Tahir, Wayne Parnell, and Chris Morris, the South Africa Champions earned their place in the fi-

nal with a commanding win over the Australia Champions in the semi-final, as per a press release from South Africa Champions. WCL 2025 has been a celebration of cricket's golden era. Sanctioned by the England & Wales Cricket Board, the tournament has brought together some of the biggest names in world cricket.

ASIA CUP

India-Pakistan matches in Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 3: The two marquee India versus Pakistan games will be held in Dubai during the upcoming Asia Cup which is scheduled to start in the UAE from September 9, the ACC announced Saturday. India and Pakistan will square off September 14 in Dubai and one more time, potentially September 21, at the same venue. The final September 29 will also be held in Dubai. The tournament will be held in T20I format keeping in mind the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year. While the fixtures were announced July 26, the ACC had not announce the venues. Out of 19 games in the tournament, 11 will be held in Dubai and eight in Abu Dhabi. India will play two of their league games September 10 (vs UAE) and September 14 (vs Pakistan) at Dubai while the final league game against Oman will be held at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi September 19. In Super Six games, only one game is scheduled in Abu Dhabi.

Norris wins Hungarian Grand Prix

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budapest, August 3: Lando Norris held off his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in a tense finish to win the Hungarian Grand Prix Sunday and boost his Formula 1 title chances heading into the mid-season break. Norris clung on with worn tires as Piastri loomed behind him in the final laps. He claimed McLaren's 200th F1 win by less than a second to cut Piastri's standings lead to nine points from 16. I'm dead. It was tough, it was tough,” Norris said. “The final stint,



with Oscar catching, I was pushing flat out.” Norris briefly dropped to fifth on the first lap but made his tires last to stop only once, while Piastri changed tires twice.

India's second FIFA Talent Academy, first for girls, launched

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 3: India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls was launched in Hyderabad after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Government of Telangana signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Saturday, during the first Telangana Sports Conclave at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre. The initiative is a key component of FIFA's Talent Development Scheme

(TDS), and will help provide elite training to talented footballers who have been scouted from various parts of the country, reinforcing India's commitment to inclusive and structured grassroots development. The academy will be located at the Gachibowli Stadium Complex in Hyderabad and will offer year-round high-performance training, with residential facilities, education, medical care, nutrition, and mental wellness to 60 elite play-



ers – 30 boys (U14) and 30 girls (U16), including 10

players from Telangana in each category.

Marta's late heroics lead Brazil to ninth Copa America Femenina title

REUTERS

Quito, August 3: Brazil successfully defended their Women's Copa America crown by defeating Colombia 5-4 in a shootout Saturday to claim their ninth continental title after a roller-coaster final in Quito ended 4-4. The decider at the Estadio Rodrigo Paz Delgado saw Colombia take the lead three times, only for Brazil to respond on each occasion. Brazil great Marta forced extra time with a late equaliser and the veteran struck again in the 105th minute to seemingly seal victory. But a resilient Colombia found yet another equaliser to send the encounter to penalties, where Brazil's experience ultimately prevailed. “I think women's soccer has been growing a lot. I

think the trend is for it to be more competitive. Everyone here deserved a match like this. Congratulations to Colombia too,” Brazil's Amanda Gutierrez said. “This means a lot. I think it's Brazil's job. It's that mentality of never giving up. That's a source of pride for Brazil. I think it means a lot to Brazilians.” Both teams created early chances but the breakthrough came in the 25th minute when Colombia's Linda Caicedo capped off a tidy passing move with a composed low finish from close range. Brazil got the equaliser in the dying moments of the first half when Angelina stepped up to calmly convert a penalty after VAR confirmed a foul by Jorelyn Carabali on Gio Garbelini. Colombia regained the lead in the 69th minute via a Brazil own goal, defender Tarciane attempting a routine back pass to goalkeeper Lorena but unaware that she had already charged off her line to collect the ball. Gutierrez equalised for

Brazil again 10 minutes from time with her sixth goal in the tournament, a fierce strike off Garbelini's pass, but striker Mayra Ramirez restored Colombia's lead by netting after a quick counter-attack eight minutes later. ‘Las Cafeteras’ were within touching distance of their first continental title until Marta, introduced as a late substitute, delivered a moment of magic with a stunning equaliser six minutes into stoppage time, forcing the game into extra time. Marta struck again in the 105th minute when she tapped in a fine cross from Angelina but Colombia turned things around again as Leicy Santos' brilliant free kick sailed into the top corner in the 115th minute. The penalty shootout mirrored the drama of the match, with Colombia taking the early advantage after Angelina's miss. However, when Manuela Pavi failed to convert and goalkeeper Lorena saved Leicy Santos' effort Brazil held the advantage.



SNIPPETS

Swimming Worlds: India's disappointing campaign ends

Singapore: India's forgettable campaign at the Swimming World Championships came to an end with Shoaan Ganguly's 28th place finish in the men's 400m individual medley here Sunday. The 20-year-old, who entered the meet on the back of a record-breaking swimming nationals, clocked 4:30.40s as he failed to make the eight-man final. The effort was far inferior to his 'Best Indian Time' of 4:24.64s he set on the way to winning a gold at the nationals in June. Four-time Olympic champion Leon Marchand did just enough to make the final. The French star, who set a new world record en route to the 200 individual medley title earlier in the week, clocked 4:13.19s to take the seventh spot. Indian swimmers endured an underwhelming run at the world meet with none of them making it past their heats or even improving their personal best timings.

Sreeshankar wins long jump title in Kazakhstan

New Delhi: Star long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched his third straight title after coming back from a long injury lay-off as he won the event at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Saturday. The 26-year-old Indian produced a winning leap of 7.94m on his opening attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze label (category C) meet. His other efforts were 7.73m, 7.58m, 7.57m, 7.80m and 7.79m. He has a personal best of 8.41m. This was Sreeshankar's third competition since returning from a knee injury, which he suffered in April last year. He had undergone surgery and consequently missed the 2024 Olympics despite qualifying for the global showpiece in the French capital. Sreeshankar won the Indian Open in Pune with a jump of 8.05m jump in his first comeback competition and followed it up with a 7.75m effort to top the podium at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Portugal. Before injury, Sreeshankar's last international appearance was a silver-medal finish at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2023. He is yet to qualify for the Tokyo World Championships in September, for which the men's long jump qualification standard is 8.27m.