



### Mrunal’s revelation

Actor Mrunal Thakur reveals she has been following a certain ritual during the release of her films since 2022

LEISURE | P2



### Bangladesh chaos

A year after a bloody uprising ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led government political stability remains a far cry in Bangladesh

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### GST evasion

GST evasion of ₹7.08 lakh crore has been detected by tax officials in 91,370 cases during the last five financial years

BUSINESS | P11



### High-stakes meet

AIFF will meet with CEOs of eight Indian Super League clubs in New Delhi Thursday to address concerns over the league’s future

SPORTS | P12

## First Mobile Migrant Resource Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo inaugurated the state’s first Mobile Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) at Krushi Bhavan here Monday.

The initiative, a joint effort by Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment department, in partnership with FAO, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and with support from UN Migrant Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMTF), aims to raise awareness and provide critical support to migrants in five high-migration blocks of Ganjam and Kendrapara districts.

Singh Deo, who is also the chairman of the high-level task force formed by the state government to check distress migration, said the state is conducting various livelihood development programmes for women, youth, and migrant workers who have returned to the state.

To check distress migration, a toll-free migration resource centre helpline number- 1800-345-7885 has been issued.

## MP R Sudha’s chain snatched in Delhi

**New Delhi:** Unidentified assailants allegedly snatched a gold chain from Mayiladuthurai (Tamil Nadu) MP R Sudha in the diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri here while she was out on a morning walk Monday, police said. Chankyapuri houses several embassies and official residences of state governments. Sudha, who is staying at Tamil Nadu Bhavan in the area, was out for a routine morning walk when the unidentified miscreants snatched her gold chain and fled the spot, police said. “A case has been registered and an investigation is underway,” a senior police officer said.

P9

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There’s no lawsuit, Milord! I’m just here to collect my True Indian certificate – heard it’s being handed out here

## Shibu Soren dies at 81



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi/New Delhi, August 4:** Jharkand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founder Shibu Soren, the veteran tribal leader who played a key role in Jharkhand’s creation, breathed his last Monday. He was 81.

Soren was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Delhi for over a month for kidney-related problems.

# INDIA’S OVAL MIRACLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 4:** India pulled off an incredible six-run victory over England in the seesawing fifth and final Test here Monday to secure a creditable 2-2 draw in a block-buster series which ebbed and flowed over weeks of slugfest between the two cricketing powerhouses.

The tireless Mohammed Siraj (5/104) emerged as the team’s biggest hero with one of his finest bowling efforts. He finished the series with 23 wickets, the highest across both teams.

Set a record target of 374, England were placed at 339 for six when bad light and torrential rain forced an early stumps on the fourth evening.

India picked up the remaining four wickets in quick time, as England’s second innings ended at 367 in 85.1 overs.

Siraj and Prasidh Krishna (4/126) sizzled with the ball when their team needed them the most.

Down with a shoulder injury and his left arm in a sling, Chris Woakes came at number 11 and battled tremendous pain while he was in the middle.

England won the opener by five wickets at Leeds, but India came back strongly with their crushing 336-run victory in the second match at Birmingham, before the hosts regained their series lead by edging out the Shubman Gill-led visitors by 22 runs at Lord’s.

India produced a remarkable fifth day batting display to share honours in the fourth game at Manchester.

Then came the memorable comeback by the tourists after Joe Root and Harry Brook had hit what looked to be series-clinching centuries, setting up a tantalising final day’s play with three wickets on the fourth evening.



**FIERY SPELL:** Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj poses after being named the ‘player of the match’ following their win in the fifth Test match against England at The Oval cricket ground in London, Monday

PTI PHOTO

## How does Rahul know: SC

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 4:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi faced a stern rebuke from the Supreme Court over his remarks during 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra concerning the Indian Army and 2020 Galwan Valley clash with China. The top court asked Gandhi as to how he knew China had occupied 2,000 sq km of Indian territory. “If you are a true Indian, you wouldn’t say such a thing,” the SC said. It also criticised Gandhi for airing such serious concerns on social media rather than raising them in Parliament. The BJP swiftly responded, labelling Gandhi as “China guru” and accusing the Congress party of harbouring disdain for Indian armed forces.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government and the complainant in the case.

“You are Leader of Opposition. Why don’t you say things in Parliament, why do you have to say it on social media?” the bench asked. The SC said, “How do you get to know that 2,000 sq km of Indian territory has been occupied by Chinese? Were you there? Do you have any credible material?”

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, submitted if the LoP cannot raise issues, it would be an unfortunate situation.

“If he can’t say these things which are published in the Press, then he can’t be a Leader of Opposition,” Singhvi submitted.



On the bench’s true Indian remark, Singhvi replied, “It is also possible that a true Indian will say that our 20 Indian soldiers were beaten up and killed. This is also a matter of concern.” The SC then said, “When there is a conflict across the border, is it unusual to have casualties on either sides?” Singhvi said Gandhi was only on the point of proper disclosure and raising concerns about the suppression of information.

Justice Datta said being a

responsible LoP, Gandhi ought not have done it as there was a proper forum to raise such questions.

While agreeing that Gandhi could have made the comments in a better manner, Singhvi said the complaint was nothing but an attempt to harass the petitioner.

Singhvi referred to Section 223 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and said a prior hearing of the accused was mandatory before the court took cognisance of a criminal complaint, which was not done in the present case. The top court then issued notice on the plea while seeking response in three weeks and stayed the proceedings in the Lucknow trial court. The Allahabad High Court May 29 dismissed Gandhi’s plea.

MORE P8

## Will raise tariffs even more on India: Trump

AGENCIES

**New York/Washington/New Delhi, August 4:** In a fresh trade threat against India, US President Donald Trump Monday said he will “substantially” raise tariffs on New Delhi, accusing it of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

“India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits,” Trump said in a social media post Monday. “They don’t care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA,” he added. On

### India calls out US, EU

India Monday mounted a sharp counterattack on US and European Union (EU) for their “unjustified and unreasonable” targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the continuing trade relations US and EU have with Russia. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a rare statement rebutting the criticism against New Delhi’s energy ties with Moscow, hours after Trump threatened more tariffs on India. The MEA said India’s imports are meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. “They are a necessity compelled by global market situation. However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia,” it said.

August 1, Trump signed an Executive Order, raising tariffs for over five dozen countries, including a steep 25% for India.

## Indians blamed as paan stains dot London streets

AGENCIES

**London, August 4:** A viral video capturing distressing scenes from the streets of Harrow has triggered outrage on social media, even as the presence of a large migrant population of Indians and their love for paan and gutka prompted the natives to blame the latter for the undesirable development.

The scene has left many people angry and disgusted. The video, shot in Harrow, a borough in London, shows paan stains splattered outside shops and on the roads, especially around Rayners Lane and North Harrow. Locals say these ugly stains are now a common sight, mostly outside stores and takeaway joints that sell chewing tobacco products.

The viral video shows paan spit over a dustbin placed on

the roadside. As the clip progresses, several stains can be seen on the trees and pathways.

Shared by Harrow Online, the report states that the stains are mostly found in Rayners Lane and North Harrow. Residents in the area claimed that the stains have become common outside shops and takeaway restaurants selling chewing tobacco products. “Paan spitting is becoming a big problem in Harrow – with stains spreading from Rayners Lane to North Harrow. Residents are calling for more action,” the caption read.

The video quickly gained traction, triggering outrage as several users blamed Indians. “The paan shop needs to take some responsibility for selling this tobacco,” a user wrote. “It’s these illegal students and Uber eats drivers. Polluting Harrow



**The video, shot in Harrow, a borough in London, shows paan stains splattered outside shops and on the roads, especially around Rayners Lane and North Harrow**



near the college on the hill,” another user commented.

“Indians doing their thing,” a third user reacted. “It’s disgusting and causes mouth cancer so puts more strain on the already overstretched NHS,” another user reacted.

Indians are being blamed primarily because of the popularity

of gutka in India. And it’s a fact that London has a large migrant population of Indians. This has led many viewers to surmise that Indians are to be blamed for the paan stains in London.

One person commented, “Gujaratis, Punjabis, Goans all menace in the UK. Trump needs to take over the UK soon.” Another wrote, “We don’t need other people to destroy the image of India. Our people are already doing their best work across whole world.”

“One of the reasons Indian passport is losing its dignity,” commented another.

“The British took over India, Now, Indians are taking over Britain,” wrote the next.


Earlier, in 2019, the Leicester City police installed bilingual signboards in English and Gujarati warning residents against paan spitting.




# leisure


## FORTUNE FORECAST


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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
  
Your big ambitions may come to fruition today by the evening. Ganesha says that you will do your best not to make impulsive choices; whatever the expected results may be, you will take sensible decisions.

**TAURUS**  
  
Ganesha sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention. This naturally implies that you will be spending a lot of time with your friends and family members, sorting differences and misunderstanding, if any.

**GEMINI**  
  
You will be in an extremely sensitive and emotional frame of mind today. While it is alright when it comes to family matters, you need to put your head over your heart when making decisions at the workplace. It is a good day to sign new contracts and to take up new projects, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
  
A chance of misunderstanding likely with anyone, says Ganesha. Not the time to take a decision, whereby you repent later. Transfer to a new place, or auspicious function at home are indicated. Ganesha sends his blessings.

**LEO**  
  
You will need to curb down on your aggressive nature today. You will face a lot of situations today where you may lose your temper owing to minor issues and will later feel depressed. Calm and peace is required to progress in life, along with courage.

**VIRGO**  
  
Today will be an unusually lucky day full of unexpected things, but you will manage to tackle them all with great maturity. If someone takes you for granted, they will later regret their lack of good judgement as you don't like being pushed around.


**LIBRA**  
  
Ganesha says you will wish to spend the maximum time with your beloved only. After some intimate discussions with the person you will find yourself growing closer to them. Today you will be the center of attention for a lot of people today. People will be happy and impressed by your wit and ability.

**SCORPIO**  
  
Today, you may think with your brain and not with your heart. As a result, your decisions are likely to be practical and reasonable. Be careful while conversing with your seniors, as there are chances of you being misunderstood. When it comes to relationships, communication is the base of it.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
  
The day has to offer a mixture of activities. Today, work comes after home & family. Your attention is diverted towards your kith and kins today. You are an important member of the family and your opinion matters to them.

**CAPRICORN**  
  
Increase in workload will not make you tensed, in fact, you will rise to the challenge and try to complete your targets as fast as you can. Your colleagues will play a major role in enabling you to dispose of the pile of files lying on your desk, predicts Ganesha. If you are a businessman, keep your eyes and ears open.

**AQUARIUS**  
  
Mark this day on the calendar as it is going to turn out to be an important day in your life. You will experience some cash inflow and get the adequate finances for your education or business. You are in a joyous mood and everyone who interacts with you will experience your happiness as well, says Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
  
You are likely to embark on a picnic or travel today, or will be busy planning for the same. You will not be able to concentrate on your work till noon, but later on you will find yourself making excellent progress. You will be able to meet all your deadlines and hence will be able to implement your plans for travel, says Ganesha.



## LINDSAY LOHAN ENJOYS 'NORMAL LIFE' IN DUBAI

Lindsay Lohan thinks Dubai is the perfect place to raise her son. The 39-year-old actress relocated to Dubai in 2014, and she thinks it's the best possible environment for her family. "Dubai is a safe place where we can just have a normal life, outside of what I call 'the noise,'" the actress added.

## HOLLAND ON 'PEAK' OF HIS CAREER

Hollywood star Tom Holland has shared that playing the role of the suave spy James Bond would be the 'pinnacle' of his career. The *Spider-Man* star is reportedly set to portray agent 007 in Denis Villeneuve's upcoming movie in the franchise.



# MRUNAL'S 'little ritual'

**Mumbai:** Mrunal Thakur revealed that her "little ritual" is watching her movies with her fans. The Bollywood actress saw her latest release *Son Of Sardaar 2* in a theatre and called it "real magic."

Mrunal took to Instagram to share a video of her-self watching the movie with fans. The clip showed her grooving to the song *Pahle Duja Tu* and engaging with the audience by getting their feedback and clicking pictures after the screening.

The actress revealed that the "little ritual" started with her 2022 blockbuster *Sita Ramam*.

She shared: "Ever since *Sita Ramam*, I've held on to this little ritual of watching the film in theatres with all of you. Because truly, the real magic happens when I hear your laughter, your cheers, your love echo through the halls. There's no bigger reward for our hard work than feeling your energy live in that moment."

"Go catch SOS 2 in theatres if you haven't already. And I hope it leaves you smiling, laughing, and feeling just a little more full-hearted," she added.

*Son of Sardaar 2* is a Hindi-language comedy film directed by Vijay Kumar Arora. It is a standalone sequel to the 2012 action comedy film *Son of Sardaar*, and stars Ajay Devgn, Mrunal Thakur, Ravi Kishan and Sanjay Mishra..

IAN S



# Isha calls out ageism in films

**Mumbai:** Actress Isha Koppikar, who is known for her work in *Don*, *Kya Kool Hai Hum*, and others, feels that ageing for an actor is an enriching experience as they can use their understanding of the world, courtesy the experience, as a strength adding a lot to their performance.

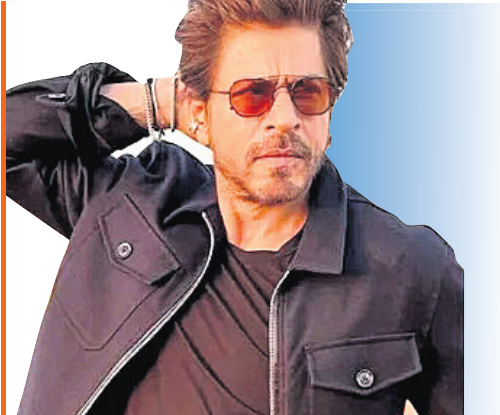
Reflecting on a well-known example, she said, "A film was made in 2019, titled *Saand Ki Aankh*.

They made the film with youngsters in it, and Neena Gupta had also said that if you have written a role for a 50-year-old or a 60-year-old woman, then why are you casting and portraying 30-year-old girls as old? Why not take actors who have proven that they are really good, talented actors? Why are you not taking them now? Why do you think they are jaded?"

The actress is hopeful about the direction the industry is heading in. In recent years, more films have started to feature older female protagonists, and discussions around representation have become more common. Isha sees this as a step toward a more inclusive approach to storytelling, one where both youth and maturity have their place.

She added, "Age shouldn't be seen as a limitation but as a valuable asset. It's about telling stories that feel real and allow actors of all ages to shine".

IAN S



# SRK channels inner Tharoor

**Mumbai:** Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan recently achieved a landmark moment in his illustrious career—winning his first National Award after more than 30 years in the industry. He was honoured for his powerful performance in Atlee's 2023 action blockbuster *Jawan*. The recognition marks a significant milestone, acknowledging SRK's enduring impact on Indian cinema.



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For context, the words magniloquent and sesquipedalian are a playful nod to Tharoor's famously elaborate vocabulary. Magniloquent means speaking in a lofty or grandiose style. Sesquipedalian refers to the use of long, often obscure words—or someone who tends to use such words.

AGENCIES

# TRIPLE win for Sanya

**Mumbai:** The 71st National Film Awards turned out to be a golden hat-trick for Sanya Malhotra, as three of her films—*Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery*, *Jawan*, and *Sam Bahadur*—swept honours across major categories, cementing her place as one of the most impactful actors in contemporary Hindi cinema.

In a rare feat, *Kathal*, the social satire led by Sanya, won Best Hindi Film, a nod to both its cleverly written narrative and her nuanced performance. The film, which was released on Netflix and became an instant favourite for its quirky take on bureaucracy and justice, struck a chord with both audiences and critics alike.

Meanwhile, Meghna Gulzar's war biopic *Sam Bahadur*, in which Sanya delivered a stand-out performance opposite Vicky Kaushal, triumphed with three major awards: Best Makeup, Best Costume Design, and Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values. The film's period detailing and commitment to historical authenticity received widespread acclaim, and Sanya's

role as Silloo Manekshaw added an emotional depth that resonated strongly with viewers.

In yet another massive win, *Jawan*, the blockbuster action entertainer headlined by Shah Rukh Khan, received recognition at the National Awards with King Khan being honoured for his impactful role. Sanya's turn in the film, though part of an ensemble, was lauded for its grit and emotional complexity. Overwhelmed by the recognition, Sanya took to social media to express her gratitude.

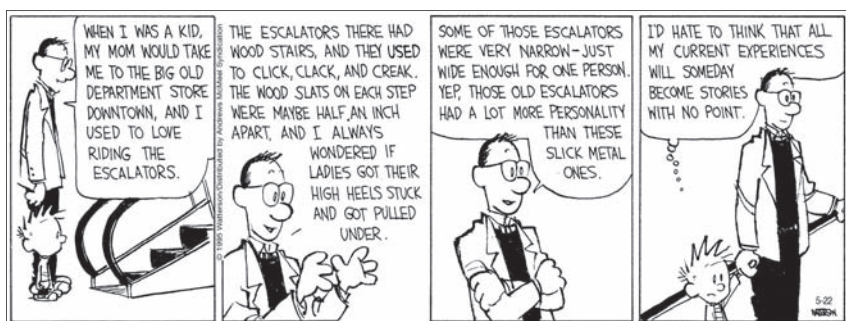
IAN S



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY

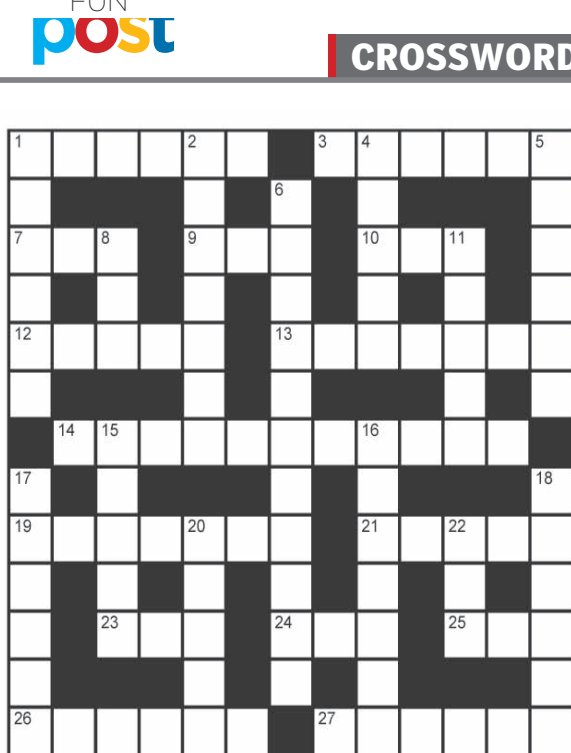


## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



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- Across**
- Garden decorations
  - Man of the cloth
  - Napkin's place
  - Duffer's goal
  - Welcome site
  - Hot coal
  - Type of flight
  - Nightmarish (4-7)
  - Small crown
  - Assumed name
  - Pertinent
  - Valuable rock
  - Grassland
  - Soaked through
  - Bread topping
  - Ship's kitchen
  - Kind of penguin
  - Fish flavouring
  - Appetiser
  - Business deal
  - Taproom
  - Hyperion, for one
  - Major artery
  - Advice from a personal trainer (5,2)
  - Quick breads
  - Cyprus, e.g.
  - Plant food
  - Off one's feed

## 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.

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

## SOLUTIONS

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

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW







# City CBI arrests chit fund kingpin from Tamil Nadu

*The accused Sivakumar Gangadharan was on the run since 2018 and frequently changed his whereabouts*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** The Bhubaneswar unit of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested the director of Rightmax Technotrade International Limited, a money circulation company which duped thousands of investors from Odisha, from Tamil Nadu, the premier investigating agency said Monday.

The accused, Sivakumar Gangadharan from Karur in Tamil Nadu, had been on the run since 2018, frequently changing his location to evade arrest, the agency said.

Rightmax Technotrade, a



money circulation firm with its headquarter in Bangalore, was listed among 44 ponzi firms by the CBI which is probed into the multi-crore chit fund scam.

Initially registered in 2014, the case involved allegations of fraud, criminal conspiracy, and violations of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978. Sivakumar, declared a proclaimed offender in 2019, was eventually tracked down using technical surveillance and intelligence inputs.

A CBI team from Bhubaneswar apprehended him Sunday, and produced him before the Special Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, which remanded him to 14-day judicial

**R**ightmax Technotrade, a Bangalore-based firm listed among 44 Ponzi companies by the CBI, lured investors with promises of up to 10 per cent monthly returns

The case, registered in 2014, led to the arrest of proclaimed offender who was remanded to 14 days' judicial custody

custody, CBI added.

The money circulation company offered an attractive package for investment with return as high as 10 per cent monthly interest on the deposits.

The gullible investors, largely unaware of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s investment regulations, deposited their money with the company. After receiving high returns initially, they were deceived when the company failed to repay the promised amount.

# City AIIMS hosts UROSCOPIA 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** UROSCOPIA 2025, a three-day national operative workshop focused on advanced laparoscopic and retroperitoneoscopic urological surgery, concluded successfully at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday, marking a significant milestone in Eastern India's medical landscape.

Organised by the department of Urology and Renal Transplantation, in collaboration with the Odisha Urology Association, the

event was the first-of-its-kind in the region, drawing eminent urologists and young surgeons from across the country.

The workshop combined expert-led live and semi-live surgeries, academic sessions, and hands-on training using the internationally renowned Tübingen model, introduced in Eastern India for the first time.

The programme focused on patient-centric innovations in minimally invasive surgery for adrenal tumours, kidney and prostate cancers, and complex

reconstructive procedures. Discussions highlighted how cutting-edge surgical techniques are translating into quicker recovery, safer interventions, and improved clinical outcomes.

Institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas lauded the organising team for hosting an event of national relevance. "AIIMS-Bhubaneswar continues to lead in delivering high-quality surgical education and advancing patient care," he remarked.

Chairmen Prasant Nayak and Subodh Das expressed grati-

tude to the national faculty and delegates for their enthusiastic participation. Organising secretary Manoj Das noted the overwhelming academic response and reaffirmed the department's commitment to nurturing the next generation of skilled urologists.

The success of UROSCOPIA 2025 has sparked calls from the medical fraternity to make it an annual flagship event, positioning Eastern India as an emerging hub of surgical innovation and excellence.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.75AA162581 sworn before the Notary Public, Cuttack, dtd- 01.08.2025. I, Bratisundar Jena, S/o Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, At/P.O.- Dadhibamanpur, P.S.- Bentkar 42 Mouza, Dist.- Cuttack, Odisha, declare that my father's actual name is Bibhuti Bhusan Jena which has been mentioned my Aadhaar Card. But wrongly my father's name has been mentioned Bibhutibhusan Jena in my all Educational Certificates. That Bibhuti Bhusan Jena & Bibhutibhusan Jena is one and same person. Bratisundar Jena

## DAV student shines in nat'l innovation contest



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** In a remarkable achievement, Debabrata Das, a Class VII student of DAV Public School, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar, has secured a prestigious position at a national-level innovation competition organised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Debabrata's project, titled 'Multipurpose Cleaning Tool', was among the top 27 selected innovations out of more than 1.4 lakh entries submitted from across the country. The event was held in New Delhi as part of the National Education Policy Day celebrations, jointly organised by the Department of School Education & Literacy, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), NCERT, and NITI Aayog.

Guided by his mentor Tanmay Kumar Nayak, Debabrata received consistent support from Principal Ipsita Das, School Chairman Santosh Upadhyay, and Regional Director of DAV Institutions (Odisha) K.C. Satapathy. He credited their encouragement and mentorship as instrumental in achieving this milestone.

The school community has lauded Debabrata's success, calling it a proud moment that will inspire other young innovators to pursue their creative potential.

## Cong, BJD youth protest for burn victims' justice

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** Youth and student wings of the BJD and Congress protested in Bhubaneswar Monday demanding justice for burn victims from Balasore and Balanga. Pradesh Yuva Congress activists, led by State Youth Congress president Ranjit Patra, gheraoed the Chief Minister's residence, accusing the BJP government of failing to protect women amid rising violence. Patra highlighted that Odisha records about 15 daily

rape cases and criticised the state for framing the Balanga incident as a suicide.

The activists also condemned the ABVP, blaming it for a student's suicide at a private university in Balasore, and called for a statewide ban on the organisation's campus activities. Police stopped the protesters from breaching security and took them away from the site.

Simultaneously, the Biju Yuva and Chattra Janata Dal staged a protest at Master Canteen Square.



Apart from this, notifications have also been issued by the Law department for the establishment of one Additional District Judge Court each at the following locations- Pipili in Puri district, Ranpur in Nayagarh district, Banpur in Khurda district, Basudevpur in Bhadrak district, Talcher in Angul district, Rajgangpur in Sundargarh district, Banki in Cuttack district, and G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district.

# DUMPING YARD HC directs BMC to file affidavit within 7 days



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 4:** The Odisha High Court has directed the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to file an affidavit within seven days regarding the illegal dumping yard located on the Sainik School campus in Gadakana — a matter that has long troubled local residents due to environmental and health hazards.

The directive was issued in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Bhubaneswar Unnayan Parishad president Basudev Bhatta. The PIL highlights the severe

pollution caused by the dumping yard, which has reportedly been in operation for over 18 years without the necessary environmental clearances, in violation of multiple environmental laws.

During the hearing, the court noted inconsistencies in the information provided by BMC, particularly concerning the source and processing of the 30 kiloliters of leachate generated daily from the site. The BMC had previously submitted a plan for processing this waste to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), but the court expressed dissatisfaction with the clarity

and completeness of the details submitted.

The petitioner's counsel presented photographs of the dumping yard and the accumulated leachate, reinforcing claims of gross negligence. The case is being monitored by Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court Biraja Mohapatra, along with legal experts Biplav Bahal and Surya Mishra, on behalf of Bhubaneswar Unnayan Parishad.

Local residents and activists have long been campaigning for the closure of the site under the "Sainik School Bachao, Dumping Yard Hatao" movement. "We are hopeful that the court's intervention will finally bring an end to this menace," said Bhatta.

Committee members Ashok Paikray and Prasanna Bisoi, along with several environmental activists, have welcomed the High Court's directive to BMC, expressing hope that judicial intervention will lead to long-overdue environmental justice.

When contacted, BMC officials declined to comment, stating that the matter is currently sub judice before the Court.

# PARIDA INTERACTS WITH SUBHADRA BENEFICIARIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** In a significant step to engage directly with women beneficiaries of the Subhadra Yojana, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida held a virtual interaction with 'Subhadra sisters' from various districts of Odisha Monday. The interactive session was organised at the departmental conference hall by the Women & Child Development department.



Addressing the participants, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the transformative role of digital outreach and economic empowerment in rural Odisha. She commended the Subhadra platform for fostering collective growth and self-reliance among women through cooperative, value-added entrepreneurial chains.

Reaffirming the scheme's core mission of promoting economic self-sufficiency among women, Parida noted that many women have begun realising their aspirations through Subhadra Yojana. She encouraged beneficiaries to contribute

thoughtful suggestions by writing directly to her or to the department to further strengthen the initiative.

Several beneficiaries shared their success stories during the session. Merry Harijan from Malkangiri has taken up tailoring; Saraswati Jena from Balasore has expanded her beauty parlour; Mamta Pattanayak from Khurda is engaged in Chandua (appliqué) craft; and Pramila Tandi from Balangir is actively weaving handloom sarees.

Other women shared experiences of cultivating mushrooms and operating tiffin stalls to support their households. These stories, Parida said, re-

flect not just economic independence but also the spirit of entrepreneurship being nurtured at the grassroots level.

She concluded the session with a call for continued innovation and collaboration, stressing that all stakeholders must work together to amplify the scheme's positive impact.

The session was attended by senior W&CD officials including principal secretary Shubha Sharma, director Monisha Banerjee and other departmental officers.

Odisha government will release the third installment of ₹5,000 financial assistance under Subhadra Yojana to over 1 crore beneficiaries August 9.

# Workshop on just transition at UU



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** A stakeholder consultation on Just Transition in Odisha was held here at Utkal University Monday. The event was jointly organised by Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), Germanwatch, Vasudha Foundation, and the University's Department of Geography and Centre for Rural Studies.

The event brought together decision makers, CSOs, entrepreneurs, fossil fuel workers, communities, bilateral and multilateral banksto deliberate on inclusive pathways for the state's transition from fossil fuels to a low-carbon economy.

The consultation focused on aligning Odisha's green growth ambitions with principles of equity, sustainability, and community engagement. With Odisha aiming to become a green manufacturing hub

and a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047, participants stressed the importance of inclusive policy frameworks, skilling, and institutional support.

Speaking at the event, Utkal University's Acting Vice-Chancellor Jagneshwar Dandapat said, "It is a proud moment to see many Utkal alumni present in the hall and contributing to the critical discourse on energy transition. Discussions and decisions must be inclusive if we are to ensure a truly sustainable future."

CANSA director Sanjay Vashist emphasised the urgency of action in the face of climate impacts. "Climate change is already disrupting our lives, from floods in cities to distressed livelihoods. A just transition must ensure that no community is left behind as we shift to clean energy," he said.

The consultation featured technical sessions covering the Implementation Status of India's Nationally Determined Contribution, Moderator by Ruchi Chaudhary, CAN South Asia), Panel Discussion on Just Transition in Odisha – Opportunities and Way forward, Moderator by Swayamprabha Das, Development Alternatives.

MARKET WATCH			
CURRENCY		BOURSES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.75 ▲ 0.17	SENSEX	81018.72 ▲ 418.81
EURO	101.64 ▲ 1.44	NIFTY	24722.75 ▲ 157.40
COMMODITIES		INDEX	VARIATION
		GOLD	₹100,660 ▲ ₹1873
		SILVER	₹112,334 ▲ ₹2076

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.0°	33.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	27.1°	26.2°	
Humidity	89%	81%	
Rainfall	1.4mm	Nil	

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## TENSION AS TRAIN RUNS OVER MAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandbali, August 4:** A 30-year-old man was killed after being struck by a train near a level crossing in Bhadrak district early Monday, prompting a rail blockade by villagers demanding compensation.

The deceased, identified as Shashikant Behera, son of Surendra Behera of Balasahi village under Jashipur panchayat in Chandbali block and the only earning member of his family, according to police.

Sources said Behera was on the way to his farmland around 4am when he attempted to cross the railway track near the Balasahi level crossing. He was hit by a train travelling from Bhadrak toward Dhamara and died on the spot.

Following the incident, his kin along with other residents, sat on the railway track, demanding ₹20 lakh compensation for the victim's family and the deployment of a guard at the level crossing.

# Lack of fund, GST hassle dry up Pani Panchayats

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 4:** Aiming to ensure better irrigation through community participation, the state government had once handed over the responsibility of canal maintenance to farmer-led Pani Panchayats.

These grassroots bodies, comprising local farmers, had been repairing main and branch canals in their respective areas to maintain a steady water supply to farmlands. In return, they benefited from government grants and assistance.

However, recent years have seen a breakdown in this system, with Pani Panchayats across the state alleging that they are no longer receiving maintenance grants as they did earlier.

The situation has worsened since the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2021. After the tax regime was introduced, all Pani Panchayats were required to register for GST in order to continue receiving government funds.

Once registered, these panchayats were compelled to file monthly GST returns—many relying on lawyers, paying them an average of ₹500 per month or ₹6,000 annually for their services.

Now, members of several Pani Panchayats are raising concerns that if no work is being undertaken due to the lack of funds then why should they continue paying GST consultants out of own pocket.

They argue that if the government has no intention of releasing annual grants, it should deactivate

## Sexual harasssment survivor pleads for justice

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bari, August 4:** A survivor of alleged sexual harassment at Abhimanyu Samantasinghar College here in Jajpur district is yet to get justice despite passage of six months since the incident occurred. The survivor, a Plus III final year student of the college, has been running from pillar to post to get justice but in vain.

Inaction has left her heart-broken and dejected while she still hopes for justice. “She might resort to extreme step if she fails to get justice,” her mother warned with trepidation.

The issue assumes significance as a girl student at FM (Autonomous) College in Balasore committed self-immolation following inaction over her sexual harassment allegation against a professor.

Meanwhile, after their release from jail on bail, the perpetrators are calling her and

## Minor victim meets collector seeking action

**RAYAGADA:** A minor girl from Gunupur area in Rayagada district has appealed to Rayagada District Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni for intervention, alleging sexual assault by a relative and inaction by local police despite a formal complaint filed nearly a month ago. Accompanied by social worker Binodini Garadia, the girl visited the District Collector's grievance cell Monday, detailing her ordeal. She said that a young man from her village, also a relative, forcibly took her to a nearby forest and attempted to sexually assault her July 8. The girl alleged that the accused threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident. Initially silent due to fear for her safety and reputation, she filed a written complaint with the Gunupur police station July 11. Despite her complaint, the girl claims no significant action has been taken against the accused. She met with the Rayagada Superintendent of Police, who instructed the Gunupur Sub-Divisional Police Officer to investigate. With no progress or arrest, she approached the District Collector. Kulkarni discussed the allegations with police authorities and assured the girl and her representative that a prompt investigation would be conducted and assured appropriate legal action based on the findings.

family members over phone and threatening them to withdraw the complaint, the survivor alleged. They are even threatening her of dire consequences, her mother alleged. Sources said Bidyadhar Dhal,

an economics lecturer in the college, attempted to rape the girl six months back.

The incident had then sparked shockwaves in the whole state. Police arrested Dhal and produced him in the

court while the state government also dismissed him from service. Police also arrested Principal Sudhir Rout and a Class IV employee Pratap Rout in this connection but they were soon released from the jail on bail.

Meanwhile, the survivor met Bari MLA Biswa Ranjan Mallick and prayed for justice. Being a resident of Barchana Assembly constituency, she also met the local MLA Amar Nayak and made similar demands. Later, a delegation of Congress party led by OPCC President Bhakta Charan Das and state party in-charge visited her residence March 18 and assured all support from the party. They assured to take to the streets if needed. Since then six months have passed but none has taken upon her cause to provide her justice, the survivor alleged in a choked voce with tears rolling from her eyes.



## Jajpur man detained for sexual assault on 4-yr-old

**JAJPUR:** A 26-year-old man identified as Alekh Malik was detained by Jajpur Town police for allegedly sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl, police said Monday. As per the complaint, the incident occurred in Kantabania village under Dasarathpur block. Mallick, a resident of the village, allegedly lured the child to Rambag Bazaar around 5pm Sunday on the pretext of buying her chocolate. He allegedly sexually assaulted her before dropping her at home. The girl reportedly experienced pain while urinating and was bleeding from her genitals, prompting her family to question her. Although she was unable to provide clear details, other children in the village, familiar with Mallick from previous visits, confirmed he had taken her away, police said. The girl's father filed a written complaint with Jajpur Town police late Sunday night and detained Mallick for questioning. The girl was admitted to Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital for medical examination and treatment, authorities confirmed.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. MCSW-AOMC-ETP-25-26-13  
**Name of the Work: OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF MAIN ETP (CAPACITY: 30000 L/DAY) AND ETP OF ROLLER BEARING CLEANING PLANT AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.**  
**Advertised Value : ₹ 28,23,481.28, EMD: ₹ 56,500/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months.**  
**Bidding start date: 06.08.2025, Tender closing date & time: At 1500 hrs. of 20.08.2025.**  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details & tender documents will be available at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH)/ PR-427/Q/25-26** CRW/Mancheswar

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender No. MDCHBBSLP 251001A Date: 25.07.2025  
**DESCRIPTION OF WORK :** "TO SUPPLY MEDICINES, SURGICAL ITEMS AND CONSUMABLES WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STOCK OF CENTRAL HOSPITAL, EAST COAST RAILWAY, BHUBANESWAR & CSP HEALTH UNIT AS PER DAILY REQUIREMENT".  
**Approximate procurement value during the year 2024-25 : ₹ 65,00,000/-, EMD: ₹ 1,30,000/-, Validity of contract : 2 years + 6 months**  
**E-Tender Closing Date and Time :** 18.08.2025 (Monday) at 1500 hrs.  
**Note :** The prospective vendors / drug stores are advised to registered in IREPS and visit the tender section on IREPS for detail information.  
Website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Additional Chief Health Director(Stores)  
**PR-430/Q/25-26** Central Hospital, Bhubaneswar

### SALES AND MARKETING NOTICE- For the 100 percent Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilisers

In pursuance of the order No. S.O. 2900 (E) dated 24th October, 2015 and its amendment dated 30th December 2017, issued by Department of Agriculture Co-operation and Farmer Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Govt. of India. M/s Mosaic India Private Limited, registered office: S-194, UGF, School Block, Street No. 4, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, India hereby notifies that it intends to sell 100 percent Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilisers Grades as per specifications given below.

S. No.	Grades/Specifications	NPK 19:19:19	NPK 13:40:13	NPK 00:60:20	NPK 00:48:47	NPK+ MgO 0:55:18 +7 MgO	NPK+ CaO 12:06:22 + 12 CaO
1	Moisture per cent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2	Total Nitrogen per cent by weight, minimum	19	13	0	0	0	12
3	Water Soluble Phosphate (as P2O5) per cent by weight, minimum	19	40	60	48	55	6
4	Water Soluble Potash (as K2O) per cent by weight, minimum	19	13	20	47	18	22
5	Water Soluble Magnesium (as MgO) per cent by weight, minimum					7	
6	Water Soluble Calcium (as CaO) per cent by weight, minimum						12
7	Total Chloride per cent by weight, maximum	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
8	Matter Insoluble in water per cent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
9	Sodium as NaCl, percent by weight, maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
10	Lead (as Pb) percent by weight, maximum	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
11	Cadmium (as Cd) per cent by weight, maximum	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
12	Arsenic (as As) per cent by weight, maximum	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

To know more about doses, method of application and benefits, please contact below given office  
Marketing Office Address and Contact Details, Mosaic India Private Limited, 11th Floor, Building 8 C, DLF Cyber City, Phase-II  
Gurugram-122002 (Haryana), India. CIN U24129DL2004PTC126157, Customer Care No. 0124-4546400, Email-care.india@mosaicco.com, website-www.mosaiccoindia.com

## Fish biz faces slump in holy month of Shravan



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paradip, August 4:** The seasonal surge in religious activities during the holy month of Shravan left Paradip's bustling fish trade centres, especially the prominent wholesale fish depot at Baliplot in Atharbanki in this port town, nearly deserted.

According to fish trader Paresh Mandal, the footfall drastically declined since the onset of Shravan month. Typically, the market bustles with activity on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays – the days known for high sales of non-vegetarian items.

However, this year's Kanwar Yatra or Bol Bom rituals and religious observances have significantly affected

local consumption of non-vegetarian food items like fish.

“Local buyers have almost vanished. Many young people from nearby areas are now taking part in Kanwar Yatra to various Shaivite shrines, avoiding all non-vegetarian food items like meat, fish, prawn and poultry for an entire month,” Mandal explained. Traders from other states continue to buy fish at open market rates, but local demand remains unexpectedly low.

Farmers from Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur bring their fish to Baliplot, storing those in ice for sale during the days when non-vegetarian food items are consumed. The traders sell their fish before the daybreak.

On an average, 120 to 150 quintals of fish are sold daily at around 30 stalls. Now, half of those stalls are shut.

Only 10 to 15 women now work as fish cutters, compared to the usual dozen who handle 3 quintals on the non-vegetarian days. “We barely get 10-15 kg of fish to cut now,” said fish cutter Shukdeb Haldar. “The market is almost at a standstill,” he added.

## Police nab drug peddler, seize 112 kg of cannabis

**BALASORE:** Balasore police Monday arrested a 36-year-old man and seized 112.1 kilograms of cannabis from his possession during a raid. The accused has been identified as Maheswar Das, a resident of Begunia village under Sahadevkhunta police station limits. Balasore Superintendent of Police Raj Prasad said the accused had been under surveillance for quite some time. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a rented house under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Area police station, where the contraband was discovered. The police recovered 112.1 kg of ganja, packed in five cardboard cartons. The SP said Das was operating his drug trade under the guise of selling spices. He was arrested and produced in court after being booked under Section 20(b)(ii)(C) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

## खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार/Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India  
राज्य कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर/State Office, Bhubaneswar  
No.OSO/KVIC/Legal/Advt./2025-26 Date : 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

### CAUTION NOTICE

We, KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (KVIC), are a statutory body registered under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956 as amended by Act No 12 of 1987 & Act No 10 of 2006), having its head office at Gramodaya, 3, Irla Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056, India and State office at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

It is hereby brought to the notice of the general public and other individual that KVIC provides financial and technical assistance to the Societies and Charitable Trusts (commonly known as 'Khadi Institutions') for undertaking Khadi and Village Industries programmes/activities on the strength of mortgage of their immovable properties created in favour of KVIC. Not only has land been given for charitable purposes, but a slew of measures of welfare support have been extended over years from Government funds, which is itself repository of Taxpayer remittances to the Country/State. Therefore, KVIC, representing the public interest, holds authority on these assets created for specific use. Members of the public are hereby cautioned that the properties of Khadi institutions should not be purchased or taken on lease from the Khadi institutions without the written consent of KVIC. Anybody who is purchasing the properties of Khadi institutions without obtaining the written consent of the KVIC will be doing it at their own risk and consequences. If anyone comes to note such malpractice, he/she, is requested to report to KVIC and jurisdictional Revenue authority.

**KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION**  
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India  
State Office  
Place : Plot No.J/16, Bhimpur, Gandamunda, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751030  
Email ID: [sobhubaneshwar.kvic@gov.in](mailto:sobhubaneshwar.kvic@gov.in),  
[directorkvicbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:directorkvicbbsr@gmail.com)  
Office Number: 06742351131

## FM SELF-IMMOLATION

# ABVP leader, another arrested for abetment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar/Balasore, August 4:** An Odisha ABVP functionary and a student who shot the video of the 20-year-old woman setting herself on fire on a college premises in Balasore district, were arrested Monday on charges of abetment of suicide, police said. An officer said that one of the two arrested men knew the woman's plan. Those arrested were identified as Subhra Sambait Nayak, the state joint secretary of ABVP and Jyoti Prakash Biswal, a student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College, where the woman studied, they said.

Biswal was initially hailed for trying to save the woman, who set herself on fire July 12 over alleged inaction on her sexual harassment complaint against a professor. He had also suffered burn injuries while trying to douse the blaze.

The two were arrested Sunday night and booked under BNS section 108 (abetment of suicide) and 61(2) (a) (criminal conspiracy), police said.

Biswal was recently discharged from the SCB Medical College and Hospital after recovering from burn injuries. The state government had praised him for his “heroic” attempt to save the woman.

Initially, it was believed that Biswal attempted to save the burning woman. But, during the investigation, it came to the fore that he was aware of the woman's plan and filmed the

self-immolation attempt on his mobile phone. In the process, he sustained burn injuries, the officer said.

Biswal and Nayak were produced before a court, which remanded them to judicial custody for 14 days.

The woman, who suffered 99 per cent burn injuries, had died July 14 while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

She allegedly poured petrol and set herself on fire, claiming that the college authorities were not taking any action against the head of the department (HoD) of the Integrated BED course, who allegedly sought sexual favours from her.

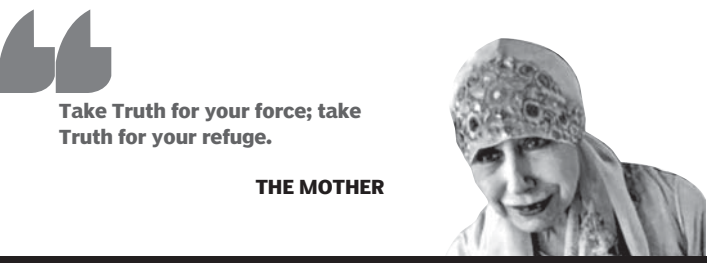
The HoD, Samira Kumar Sahoo, and the college's Principal Dillip Ghose were earlier arrested on abetment of suicide charges. With the fresh arrests, the number of persons in custody rose to four.

Following the arrests, the opposition BJD and Congress alleged that the woman student was instigated by ABVP members to take the extreme step.

Meanwhile, the ABVP in a statement condemned the arrest of two student leaders.

The organisation's state secretary Diptimayi Pratihari said, “ABVP is ready to extend full cooperation to the police in this matter, but the Vidyarthi Parishad will not remain silent if its workers are harassed and attempts to implicate innocents continue. Attempts by the Odisha Police to torture ABVP workers mentally and physically will be strongly opposed”.





## Unchanged Iran

It kind of seems stupid on the part of anyone who expects any change of attitude in the hearts of rulers of Moslem nations anywhere. For instance, Iran witnessed a rare solidarity among its people in the face of the recent bombardment and missile attacks by the US Air Force and Israeli IDF. The opponents of the theocratic regime had been clamouring for democracy and free speech for the past few decades erupting in frequent protests defying brutal crackdown. But they buried their animosity against the rulers and joined them in the fight against the US-Israel forces. There was some expectation that the rulers would return the gesture by toning down their repression of critics and try to find a common meeting ground to handle domestic problems, including soaring price rise and livelihood crisis. But, the hardline clerics used the war as an alibi to hound out their opponents with even greater ferocity than before and executed two political prisoners—Behrouz Ehsani, 69, and Mehdi Hassani, 48 - recently. Both were long-time members of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), a Left-wing outfit branded as terrorists. They had been imprisoned since 2022. Subjected to brutal torture and convicted through a sham trial, the two men were charged with “baghi” (anti national and armed rebel) and “membership in the Mojahedin.” Their only real crime, however, was opposing the ruling dictatorship.

This calculated act of violence, ordered by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, was meant to serve as a warning to Iran’s restive population and the growing network of Resistance Units. However, instead of bringing the people to their knees, the execution has triggered a powerful backlash.

The UN says over 600 people in Iran have been judicially murdered so far this year and slams Iran for having more executions per capita than any country in the world. Since June’s US and Israeli attacks, growing numbers of victims are political dissidents. This shows nothing remotely positive has resulted from the bombing raids and missile strikes mounted by US President Donald Trump and Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, despite their boasts of world-changing success. Iran’s nuclear facilities were not “obliterated,” as Trump claimed. Nor has Tehran given up its uranium enrichment programme. On the contrary, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is even more defiant as displayed by new crackdowns on opponents since the attacks.

Ehsani and Hassani had allegedly been tortured, forced to sign confessions and sentenced last year after a five-minute trial. The decision to execute them now, as Amnesty International says, highlights the authorities’ ruthless use of the death penalty as a tool of political repression in times of national crisis to crush dissent and spread fear. In fact, hundreds have been arrested since June by the regime on the specious plea of exposing spies and collaborators, real or imagined. It is evident that glaring intelligence failures of the rulers of Iran had allowed Israel to locate and bomb a national security council meeting, injuring Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian. But that has given the regime to officially blame supposed fifth columnists for the security breach and resume crackdown on its critics with renewed vigour. Iran’s parliament reportedly wants to expand use of capital punishment. About 60 political prisoners face execution.

The mood of the people opposing the regime is that they want to taste freedom and oppose all forms of repression by either the present rulers – the mullahs – or the past autocrats – the Shahs. In his last message, Ehsani said, “I will not bargain with anyone over my life and am ready to sacrifice my life for the cause of the liberation of the Iranian people.” The words are resonating with a large number of Iranians. This path of the Iranian regime clearly shows the direction that other Moslems leaders will be tempted to follow, no matter which soil they are living on.

### WISDOM CORNER

How is it possible that a being with such sensitive jewels as the eyes, such enchanted musical instruments as the ears, and such fabulous arabesque of nerves as the brain can experience itself anything less than a god.

ALAN WATTS

This life is not man's own show; if he becomes personally and emotionally involved in the very complicated cosmic drama, he reaps inevitable suffering for having distorted the divine 'plot.'

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

It's very important that we re-learn the art of resting and relaxing. Not only does it help prevent the onset of many illnesses that develop through chronic tension and worrying; it allows us to clear our minds, focus, and find creative solutions to problems.

THICH NHAT HANH

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1772:** Russia, Prussia, and Austria signed a treaty creating the First Partition of Poland, depriving that country of approximately half of its population and almost one-third of its land.

**1930:** U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

**1960:** Burkina Faso gains its independence. The landlocked West African country, known as Upper Volta until 1984, became a French protectorate in the late 19th century. In 1958, the Republic of Upper Volta was created as a self-governing French colony. After independence, Maurice Yaméogo became the first president of the country, whose name was changed to Burkina Faso in 1984.

**1962:** Nelson Mandela is arrested. The South African anti-apartheid activist and adherent of nonviolence was arrested by the government at Rivonia, a suburb of Johannesburg. After a year-long trial, Mandela was imprisoned at the infamous Robben Island prison where we spent the next 18 years. He was released from prison in 1990 after spending 28 years as a political prisoner.

**1963:** Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is signed. Also known as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the document was signed by the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States in Moscow. The treaty, which came as a response to the heightening tensions due to the frequent testing of nuclear weapons by the these 3 countries during the Cold War, banned the testing of nuclear weapons anywhere on land, over water or in space. Underground testing was still allowed under the treaty, until it was also banned in 1996 after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty came into force.

### FOCUS TARIFFS ON INDIA

# REFORMS ARE URGENT NOW

It is not the time to teach basic international macroeconomics to the President of the USA. Renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs put it very well in a public speech. He said that high trade deficits, which are bothering Donald Trump are not because of trade policies like low tariffs. The high deficit simply means that Americans like to buy beyond their productive or earning capacity. It is like a consumer buying stuff, and going on a buying binge with a credit card. America’s production, earning, investing, saving and buying activity is captured by a basic equation, called an identity in the macroeconomics textbook. The equation says that the trade deficit is equal to the savings investment imbalance. In other words, the excess of imports over export earnings of America is just the mirror image of excess of investment over domestic savings. This basic equation identity is unaltered by any changes in import tariff rates, any sanctions imposed on Russia or China or any military spending or aid given to Israel or Ukraine. It reflects consumer behaviour and investor preferences. It is not an expression of business sentiment such as that expressed by the stock market. We may observe that America’s stock market remains at historic highs, despite the tariff mayhem unleashed by Trump.

The above equation identity means, that any dollar shortfall needed to pay for the trade deficit is supplied by foreign investment inflows, which is the savings investment imbalance. But that inflow comes at a cost. If it is as debt capital inflow, it increases the indebtedness of the country. No wonder the aggregate debt of the US sovereign alone is \$37 trillion, representing 125% of its GDP. The cost of this debt, i.e. the long term interest rate is close to 5%, even though inflation is quite low. The difficulty of continuing to attract foreign inflow of cap-



Use this Trump tariff alibi to push forth on all sorts of reforms to make the economy chug faster and inclusive for all sections

ital means interest rates will remain stubbornly high. The other variable that can affect the trade deficit is the dollar exchange rate. Since no other country in the world is seriously considering strengthening their own currency, the dollar will remain strong keeping the trade deficit high.

The bottom line is that harsh tariff policies against trading partners of USA will not drastically reduce the size of the deficit, but will hurt domestic imports because of higher cost, and will hurt exporters from foreign countries, as their net earnings and net export volumes may go down. Production, volume of imports and exports (to some extent) and incomes will go down hurting GDP in the medium term. The tariffs are not a tax on foreigners but are paid by importer companies in the US, who pass along the cost to their customers via higher prices. Exporters may face lower profits or volumes, but one estimate is that exporters bear only one-fifth of the rising costs from tariffs, while Americans will bear most of the brunt. But Trump’s policies change so frequently, that it is impossible to make a firm prediction based only on current policy action.

Despite showing early willingness to negotiate a mutually beneficial trade deal, and despite cultivating friendship and goodwill with Trump and

his team, the outcome has been very bad for India. The tariff of 25% on all merchandise exports to America plus unspecified penalties makes India’s position worse than peers like Vietnam, Indonesia or Mexico. It will bring down GDP growth by 0.2 to 0.3%, and badly affect the exporting sectors of textiles and garments, gems and jewellery, electronics, mobile phones, auto components and metals, steel and aluminium.

India chose to draw the line on three things. Firstly, no liberal access to agriculture and dairy market in the country. This is especially for maize, corn, soybean and dairy produced from cattle fed with animal protein. Secondly, no access for genetically modified crops or agriculture products. Thirdly, no import of ethanol for fuel purposes. An additional fourth point proving to be sticky is India’s continued insistence on its freedom to import crude oil from Russia. This seems to have irritated Trump the most, since he sees it as a direct affront to sanctions against Russia.

India must now ponder on what its response would be on Trump’s harsh and negative actions. It is a testament to Trump’s peculiar strategy that he puts the other side always in reactive mode. Most of the trading partners end up either giving too much for too little (like the UK, the EU or Indonesia) or use leverage to counter

strike (like China with the rare earths export ban). India was tilting toward giving in too much, given the critical importance of the US market, and it being the only large economy with which India enjoys a substantial trade surplus.

This mini crisis must be used to accelerate the progress on various economic, administrative and other reforms. This is certainly not a 1991 moment of crisis when India had to beg for short term foreign credit to fill its forex coffers. There is size, resilience, diversification and united will that can withstand the shock of Trump’s action.

But let us not lose sight of worrying economic signs. Near zero net foreign direct investment, stagnant private sector investment spending, 30% unemployment among college graduates who scramble for UPSC jobs, low productivity (half the world average) across agricultural crops, water stress as water tables sink deeper and free electricity keeps pumps working overtime, the increasing burden of doles to beneficiaries, the large mismatch between skills demanded (in age of AI and automation) and output of educational institutions, and most importantly the continued shackling of the farmer, at the mercy of procurement policies, fickle bans, prohibition on forward trading and illiquid land markets. The farm laws need a consensus and consultative approach. The labour laws passed in Parliament need to be applied and implemented via the four codes in all states. And the education sector needs massive reforms, whose spirit is embedded in the National Education Policy, but which awaits full implementation, to make the education to employment pathways effective.

Use this Trump Tariff alibi to push forth on all these reforms, to make the economy chug faster and inclusive for all sections.

The writer is a noted economist.  
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### SPECTRUM COP30

## A daunting task ahead

In 2015, the landmark Paris climate agreement set the ambitious but necessary goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and ensuring that the increase stays “well below” 2°C. With the average global surface temperature having already reached 1.1°C above the twentieth-century baseline, time is running out to reach this goal. Yet governments have so far failed to agree on a strategy for doing so.

At last month’s 62nd session of the United Nations Climate Change Subsidiary Bodies (SB62) in Bonn – the mid-year negotiations intended to lay the groundwork for November’s COP30 in Belém – countries got so hung up on the details of the agenda that little progress was made. Such delays have long characterised the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, but they are at odds with scientific reality, which demands rapid and unified action.

Building consensus is thus a key challenge facing Brazil’s COP30 presidency. The task ahead is formidable – not only because of the challenges inherent in the UNFCCC process, but also because four interconnected global developments are undermining trust and imped-

ing multilateral cooperation.

First, the global-governance architecture, with the UN at its core, is showing signs of disarray. Institutions that were designed to nurture and facilitate cooperation are increasingly hamstrung by bureaucratic inertia and outdated organisational structures. With reform efforts gridlocked, the UN system risks losing its relevance, and multilateralism its credibility.

Second, the rise of transactional diplomacy has meant countries prioritise their own short-term interests over collective long-term needs. This approach – based on a narrow conception of national interest – effectively precludes broad-based cooperation, as it erodes the norms that have traditionally underpinned international engagement.

Third, compromise is increasingly being rejected in favour of “realism,” leading to extreme polarisation and entrenched negotiating positions. Multilateral negotiations regularly come down to the wire, and the results are often disappointing, further encouraging transactional engagement at the expense of cooperation and compromise.

Finally, climate change is increasingly taking a back

seat to other challenges, with armed conflicts, a global trade slowdown, intensifying growth headwinds, and record debt levels consuming countries’ political attention, diplomatic space, and financial resources.

Brazil clearly has its work cut out for it. Above all, it must resist the tendency for COP presidencies to emphasise fresh agreements and ambitious commitments – the kind that grab headlines and make the negotiations look like a smashing success but often fall short when the hard work of implementation begins. Brazil’s COP30 presidency must eschew flashy results in favour of pragmatic pathways to deliver on past commitments.

Fortunately, Brazil recognises this. Its Fourth Letter to the International Community outlines an Action Agenda aimed at making progress on what the world has “already collectively agreed” during previous COPs and in the Paris climate agreement. Specifically, the Agenda seeks to leverage existing initiatives to complete the implementation of the first “global stocktake” under the Paris agreement, which was concluded at COP28.

This focus on previously agreed outcomes is well-suited

to the current geopolitical context, in which any agreement can be difficult to reach. Representatives at the SB62 in Bonn did not achieve a consensus, and the last G7 summit failed to deliver a joint communiqué. Rather than perpetuating stalemates, the Action Agenda invites stakeholders to make progress where agreement already exists.

Since responsibility for the implementation and governance of climate policy is distributed among many actors – which must have some level of trust that others are doing their part – the Agenda also establishes “transparency, monitoring, and accountability” as top priorities.

As COP30 Special Envoys, we extend our full support to the Action Agenda. By emphasising consolidation, rather than spectacle, Brazil is setting the stage for a highly productive COP30 – one focused on bridging divides, building trust, and delivering genuine progress. The task ahead is daunting, but the chance to rebuild momentum is real.

Jacinda Ardern is former Prime Minister of New Zealand. Carlos Lopes is Chair of the African Climate Foundation.

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Jacinda Ardern & Carlos Lopes

BRAZIL’S COP30 PRESIDENCY MUST ESCHEW FLASHY RESULTS IN FAVOUR OF PRAGMATIC PATHWAYS TO DELIVER ON PAST COMMITMENTS

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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



Sir, This refers to “On The Back Foot,” Orissa POST, August 4. While President Trump’s latest actions toward India—tariffs, penalties, and public insults -- have understandably stirred anxiety, it’s important to look beyond the obvious flashpoints. India must now reassess its diplomatic playbook and approach this moment not as a setback, but as an inflection point. First, the volatility of Trump’s leadership exposes the risk of placing too much faith in personalities over institutions. India’s previous comfort with Trump’s first term may have led to a false sense of continuity. In reality, transactional politics has always been a hallmark of Trump’s style. What matters most to him is immediate advantage, not long-term partnerships. India must now prioritise building bipartisan, institutional relationships within the US especially with Congress, think tanks, and civil society to balance out any one leader’s whims. Second, New Delhi must recognise the growing fragility of “strategic autonomy” in an increasingly polarised world. Sitting on the fence is no longer sustainable when major powers are drawing lines in the sand. That doesn’t mean India should abandon its independence but it must communicate its position with greater clarity, confidence, and consistency. Quiet diplomacy, backed by public coherence, is vital..

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

### Beyond flashpoints

### Political immaturity

Sir, The Supreme Court’s rebuke of Rahul Gandhi over his unsubstantiated allegations that China has conquered Indian land during Galwan clashes is a timely and appropriate step. As the Leader of the Opposition, a constitutional position of significant responsibility, Rahul Gandhi is expected to speak with accountability and uphold the dignity of the nation. However, his repeated loose and factually questionable statements reflect political immaturity and disregard for national interest. His recent endorsement of Donald Trump’s derogatory comment that India is a “dead economy” is equally troubling and offensive. Such remarks not only tarnish India’s global reputation but also embolden foreign criticism against the country. In his eagerness to target the ruling government, Rahul Gandhi often ends up attacking the very integrity and honour of the nation itself.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE







**of the day** **quote**

Militancy will not end here till our relations with our neighbour do not become better

**FAROOQ ABDULLAH |**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

You must have seen it during the Mahakumbh. Over 66 crore devotees from across the world came at their own expense. The whole world was there. But the Congress and the Samajwadi Party were uncomfortable. They were troubled by the fact that Sanatan Dharma's glory is rising so high

**YOGI ADITYANATH |**  
CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

When Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two parts and Ladakh was made a Union Territory, one section was welcoming it and the other section was against it

**MOHAMMAD HANEEFA |** MP

**SHORT TAKES**

**Pressure IED planted by Naxals explodes**

**Bijapur:** A 50-year-old man was injured after a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxals went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Monday, police said. The incident took place at around 5 pm when Kalmu Ganga had gone to a forest near his village Pujarikanker under Usoor police station limits to graze cattle, an official said. "He inadvertently came in contact with the pressure IED, which exploded, causing injuries to the legs. Ganga was provided preliminary treatment by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel at Pujarikanker camp and later shifted to Community Health Centre in Usoor for further medication," the official said.

**IndiGo flight develops flat tyre at airport**

**Jabalpur (MP):** A Mumbai-bound IndiGo aircraft developed a flat tyre in the apron of the Dumna airport in Jabalpur Monday, delaying its take-off by more than four hours, an airport official said. Most of the passengers of the stranded flight were later flown to their destination via Bangalore and Delhi after a replacement tyre was flown in from Delhi, he said. IndiGo spokesperson could not be contacted for comments. The IndiGo flight arrived at the Dumna airport from Mumbai at noon. One of the tyres of the aircraft deflated while it was parked in the apron after the passengers had alighted safely, Dumna Airport Director Rajeev Ratan Pandey told PTI over the phone.

**Punjab to set up special fraud detection unit**

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema Monday said a state-level special fraud detection unit will be set up in Patiala to uncover and probe high-value Goods and Services Tax violations. This dedicated unit will detect and investigate GST frauds, with particular focus on breaking down circular trading operations, unearthing benami transactions, and eliminating the practice of fake invoicing. "The Special Fraud Detection Unit (SFDU) will be empowered to initiate stringent enforcement actions, including cancellation of suspicious GST Identification Numbers (GSTIN), blocking wrongful Input Tax Credit claims, and recommending prosecution against offenders to uphold legal accountability," he added.

**We are paying more attention to progress in all sectors such as semiconductor manufacturing, electric vehicle manufacturing, solar cells, green hydrogen production, and information data centers**

**MK STALIN |** CHIEF MINISTER, TAMILNADU

**WILDLIFE CRIME CASES DECLINE SIGNIFICANTLY: GOVT**

India recorded over 2,700 wildlife crime cases from 2020 to 2024, with West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana reporting some of the highest numbers, according to government data



# TRIBAL TITAN SHIBU SOREN

## A legacy of power, struggles



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, August 4:** Shibu Soren, the iconic tribal leader and founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), passed away at the age of 81, leaving behind a legacy that transformed tribal politics and led to the creation of Jharkhand. Born January 11, 1944, in Nemra village of Ramgarh (then Bihar, now Jharkhand), Soren rose from personal tragedy and deep-rooted socio-economic struggles. At 15, he lost

his father, Shobaran Soren, who was allegedly killed by moneylenders—a turning point that propelled him into political activism. Soren co-founded JMM in 1973 alongside AK Roy and Binod Bihari Mahto. Under his leadership, JMM emerged as the principal voice for a separate tribal state, mobilizing masses across the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana regions. After decades of agitation, Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar November 15,



2000—a culmination of the movement he helped spearhead. Known as 'Dishom Guru' (leader of the land), Soren became a political institution, deeply rooted in grassroots activism. He was elected to the Lok Sabha multiple times from Dumka and briefly served as Union Coal Minister in the UPA government. His influence extended well beyond state politics. However, Soren's journey



Despite these setbacks, Soren remained a formidable force in Jharkhand politics, serving as Chief Minister three times—though none of the terms lasted long due to unstable coalitions. In 2007, he survived a bomb attack on his convoy, highlighting the volatile political climate he navigated. Soren led the JMM for 38 years until April 2025, when he became the party's founding patron. His son, Hemant Soren, succeeded him as JMM

president and currently serves as the state's Chief Minister. Another son, Basant, is also a legislator, while his daughter Anjani heads the party's Odisha unit. Shibu Soren is survived by his wife Roopi Soren and his children. For many in Jharkhand, he remains a symbol of resistance, tribal pride, and the enduring struggle for identity and self-rule—a legacy now carried forward by the next generation.

**PAHALGAM ATTACK**

# Trail leads to Pak: Security agencies

*Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing Parliament, shared details of the evidence and emphasized the precision of the investigation*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**IndiGo flight develops flat tyre at airport**

**New Delhi, August 4:** In a significant breakthrough in the Pahalgam terror attack probe, Indian security agencies have confirmed the Pakistani nationality of the three terrorists involved in the July 28 encounter near Srinagar. The confirmation comes through a combination of biometric data, official Pakistani documents, and digital evidence, officials said Monday. The three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commanders—Suleman Shah alias "Faizal Jatt," Abu Hamza alias "Afghan," and Yasir alias "Jibril"—were identified as Pakistani nationals and hardcore militants. Shah, the lead shooter and mastermind, was listed as an A++ category terrorist. Hamza and Yasir were both classified as A-grade commanders. The trio were killed in 'Operation Mahadev,' a joint effort by the Army's Para SF unit, CRPF, and Jammu and Kashmir Police. They had been hiding in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt since the April 22 attack on tourists in Baisaran meadow, Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives. Authorities said biometric



records from Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), along with digital satellite phone data and voter slips, confirmed their identities and Pakistani origins. A damaged satellite phone's micro-SD chip yielded NADRA fingerprints, facial data, and family tree details. Further evidence included Pakistani-manufactured items like candy wrappers of 'CandyLand' and 'ChocoMax' chocolates found in their bags. Lot numbers traced the items to a May 2024 consignment delivered to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The terrorists reportedly infiltrated through the Gurez sector in May 2022, confirmed by intercepted radio transmissions. Intelligence agencies tracked their location via a Huawei satellite phone (IMEI 86761204-XXXXXX), which pinged Inmarsat-4 F1 satellites regularly between April 22 and July 25. GPS data from a Garmin device recovered from Suleman Shah matched eyewitness reports of the terrorists' positions during the attack.

## SC asks ex-CM Bhupesh Baghel, son to move HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** The Supreme Court Monday censured the practice of affluent persons coming to it directly seeking reliefs in criminal cases as it asked former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel and his son to go to the high court in cases probed by central investigating agencies. The matters relate to the alleged liquor scam in Chhattisgarh and other cases. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the father and son duo

why should the top court go in to their pleas against FIR, arrest and remand and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provisions. The top court asked why did the petitioners not move the high court, which too were constitutional courts and could adjudicate the issue. "This is the problem we are facing. Why can't the high court decide the issue otherwise what is the use of having those courts? This is the new trend, when an affluent person approaches the Supreme Court, we start changing our directions.

## After SC rap, BJP takes 'China guru' jibe at Rahul

*The Supreme Court Monday stayed the proceedings against Gandhi before a Lucknow court over his remarks about the Army during his December 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** As the Supreme Court rapped Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the Army, the BJP Monday took a swipe at him saying he has vowed to "strengthen China" while the Congress asserted that every patriotic Indian has sought answers since the Galwan incident but the government has chosen to "obfuscate" the truth. Calling Gandhi "China guru", the ruling party claimed that the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and his party also "hate" the Indian armed forces and that he is being "remote controlled by foreign forces". The Supreme Court Monday stayed the proceedings against Gandhi before a Lucknow court over his remarks about the Army during his December 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra. The top court, however, censured the Congress leader, saying if he is a true Indian, he would not say such a thing. Latching on to the apex court's observations, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said he hoped that the Congress leader would mend his ways after being "rebuked" by the Supreme Court for making "unsubstantiated claims".



"These kinds of statements from the Leader of the Opposition are extremely harmful for the nation, and they demoralise our forces," the minister said. He said several leaders had appealed to Gandhi not to make unsubstantiated statements, but he was unwilling to take any counsel. "I am happy that the Supreme Court has given him a warning. It is a strong rebuke for making unsubstantiated claims. I hope he and the Congress mend their ways after the rebuke from the Supreme Court," Rijiju said. Meanwhile, the Congress said every patriotic Indian has sought answers on China since the 2020 Galwan incident but the Modi government has chosen to "obfuscate and hide" the truth with its policy of "DDLJ -- deny, distract, lie, and justify". The opposition party also alleged that the Modi government is responsible for the biggest territorial setback India has faced since 1962, and accused it of pursuing "normalization" with a hostile China because of its cowardice and misplaced economic priorities. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said ever since 20 brave soldiers were martyred in Galwan June 15, 2020, every patriotic Indian has sought answers.



People wait in queues to offer prayers on the last 'somwar' of the holy month of 'Shravan', at Marsilli Hill, in Ranchi, Monday

**MASS BURIAL**

## Skeletal remains found at new site in Dharmasthala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dharmasthala (Karnataka), August 4:** The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala Monday recovered multiple skeletal remains from a new site identified by the anonymous complainant, police sources said. Under the supervision of Director General of Police (DGP) Pranab Mohanty, the SIT halted exhumations at the designated 11th site and redirected operations to a previously unexamined spot at a place called Banglegudde. The new site, located on an elevated terrain nearly 100 feet high, has yielded several skeletal fragments, including skulls and other human bones, sources in the police said.



According to sources, the SIT, which is investigating the case of hundreds of alleged illegal burials between 1995 and 2014, has already gathered Unnatural Death Report (UDR) records for the period. Despite earlier records being tampered with or missing from Belthangady police archives, prior data collection ordered by Mohanty soon after the SIT's constitution helped preserve critical evidence. Police officials said the recovered skeletal remains have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to determine age, gender, and possible cause of death. The skeletal remains that were recovered from site No 6 July 31 have been sent for forensic examination. Attempts to exhume at four other locations—labelled sites 7 to 10—had earlier failed to produce conclusive evidence, further intensifying focus on the new site. Minor injuries were reported among a few personnel during the operation due to the difficult terrain, police officials said. The SIT has invited residents who had earlier lodged complaints or shared information to actively engage with the ongoing investigation. Officials said that recovering as many skeletal remains as possible remains a top priority in one of Karnataka's largest forensic-led investigations. The SIT investigation continues under tight secrecy, with daily operations expected to proceed based on emerging findings.







of the day

quote

People be shocked to learn that India is basically tied with China in purchasing Russian oil

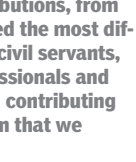


STEPHEN MILLER | WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

As we celebrate SG60 (60 years of independent Singapore), may this be a reminder of each of our communities' contributions, from the labourers who led the most difficult of lives to the civil servants, educationists, professionals and entrepreneurs, each contributing to making this nation that we treasure



Those countries who thought Russia was ready for talks, and that the war could end at any moment if Ukraine would only agree to negotiations, they can now see that Russia is not ready for any real talks



THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM | SINGAPORE PRESIDENT

MYKHAILO PODOLYAK | UKRAINIAN POLITICIAN

Contrary to the basic provisions in the area of free trade, which the Western countries themselves once promoted, there is politically motivated protectionism and voluntaristic build-up of tariff barriers



MARIA ZAKHAROVA | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

JAPAN'S OLDEST PERSON

Shigeko Kagawa, a 114-year-old retired physician from Nara Prefecture, has become Japan's oldest living person, following the death of 114-year-old Miyoko Hiroyasu, according to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. At 109, Kagawa became one of the oldest torchbearers in Olympic history during Tokyo 2021 torch relay



WAR IN UKRAINE

Stakes rise as Trump's Kremlin deadline nears



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Moscow, August 4:** The coming week could bring an important moment in the war between Russia and Ukraine, as US President Donald Trump's deadline for the Kremlin to reach a peace deal approaches — or it could simply melt away.

US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff was expected in Moscow in the middle of this week, just before Trump's Friday deadline for the Kremlin to stop the killing or face potentially severe economic penalties from Washington.

Previous Trump promises, threats and cajoling have failed to yield results, and the stubborn diplomatic stalemate will be hard to clear away. Meanwhile, Ukraine is losing more territory on the front line, although there is no sign of a looming collapse of its defences.

Witkoff was expected to land in the Russian capital Wednesday or Thursday, according to

Trump, following his trip to Israel and Gaza.

"They would like to see (Witkoff)," Trump said Sunday of the Russians. "They've asked that he meet so we'll see what happens."

Trump, exasperated that Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't heeded his calls to stop bombing Ukrainian cities, a week ago moved up his ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia as well as introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil, including China and India.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that officials are happy to meet with Trump's envoy. "We are always glad to see Mr Witkoff in Moscow," he said. "We consider (talks with Witkoff) important, substantive and very useful."

Trump said Sunday that Russia has proved to be "pretty good at avoiding sanctions." "They're wily characters," he said of the Russians.

A year after bloody uprising, B'desh far from political stability

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dhaka, August 4:** Abdur Rahman Tarif was talking to his sister Meherunnesa over the phone when the voice on the other end of the call suddenly fell silent.

In that moment, Tarif knew something bad had happened. He rushed home, dodging the exchange of fire between security forces and protesters on the streets of Dhaka. When he finally arrived, he discovered his parents tending to his bleeding sister.

A stray bullet had hit Meherunnesa's chest while she was standing beside the window of her room, Tarif said. She was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Meherunnesa, 23, was killed Aug 5 last year, the same day Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee the country in a massive student-led uprising, which ended her 15-year rule. For much of Bangladesh, Hasina's ouster was a moment of joy. Three days later, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over the country as head of an interim government, promising to restore order and hold a new election after necessary reforms.

A year on, Bangladesh is still reeling from that violence, and Hasina now faces trial for crimes against humanity, in ab-



sentia as she is in exile in India. But despite the bloodshed and lives lost, many say the prospect for a better Bangladesh with a liberal democracy, political tolerance and religious and communal harmony has remained a challenge.

"The hope of the thousands who braved lethal violence a year ago when they opposed Sheikh Hasina's abusive rule to build a rights-respecting democracy remains unfulfilled," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, a New York-based human rights group.

Bangladesh's anti-government movement exacted a heavy price. Hundreds of people, mostly students, were

killed in violent protests. Angry demonstrators torched police stations and government buildings. Political opponents often clashed with each other, sometimes leading to gruesome killings.

Like many Bangladeshis, Tarif and his sister took part in the uprising, hoping for a broader political change, particularly after when one of their cousins was shot and killed by security forces.

"We could not stay home and wanted Sheikh Hasina to go," 20-year-old Tarif said. "Ultimately we wanted a country without any discrimination and injustice."

Today, his hopes lie shattered. "We wanted a

change, but I am frustrated now," he said.

After taking the reins, the Yunus-led administration formed 11 reform commissions, including a national consensus commission that is working with major political parties for future governments and the electoral process.

Bickering political parties have failed to reach a consensus on a timetable and process for elections. Mob violence, political attacks on rival parties and groups, and hostility to women's rights and vulnerable minority groups by religious hardliners have all surged.

Hasina's Awami League party, which remains banned, says more than two dozen of its supporters have died in custody over the last one year.

Human Rights Watch in a statement July 30 said the interim government "is falling short in implementing its challenging human rights agenda." It said violations against ethnic and other minority groups in some parts of Bangladesh have continued.

"The interim government appears stuck, juggling an unreformed security sector, sometimes violent religious hardliners, and political groups that seem more focused on extracting vengeance on Hasina's supporters than protecting Bangladeshis' rights," said Ganguly.

2 killed, 6 hurt in shooting in downtown LA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Los Angeles, August 4:** A shooting erupted during a music festival after-party in downtown Los Angeles, killing two people and wounding six others early Monday, authorities said.

Authorities first responded around 11 pm Sunday to shut down a "big party" after officers saw a person possibly armed with a gun go inside a building in a downtown warehouse district, said Officer Norma Eisenman. That person was arrested at the scene, she said.

The party had been promoted on social media as an after-party for Hard Summer, a weekend techno-music festival held at Hollywood Park, about 14 km away in Inglewood, KTLA-TV reported.

Shortly after officers had cleared the area, police received a report of shots fired around 1 am when the officers returned, they found one person dead and learned multiple people had been struck by gunfire, Eisenman said in an email.

More Gazans die as burial shrouds run short

REUTERS

**Cairo/Gaza, August 4:** At least 40 Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire and airstrikes on Gaza Monday, including 10 seeking aid, health authorities said, adding another five had died of starvation in what humanitarian agencies warn may be an unfolding famine.

The 10 died in two separate incidents near aid sites belonging to the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, in central and southern Gaza, local medics said. The United Nations says more than 1,000 people have been killed trying to receive aid in the enclave since the GHF began operating in May 2025, most of them shot by Israeli forces operating near GHF sites.

"Everyone who goes there, comes back either with a bag of flour or carried back (on a wooden stretcher) as a martyr, or injured. No one comes back safe," said 40-year-old Palestinian Bilal Thari.

He was among mourners at Gaza City's Al Shifa hospital Monday who had gathered to collect the bodies of their



Palestinians struggle to get donated food at a community kitchen in Gaza City, northern Gaza Strip, Monday **AP PHOTO**

loved ones killed a day earlier by Israeli fire as they sought

aid, according to Gaza's health officials. At least 13 Palestin-

ians were killed Sunday while waiting for the arrival of UN

Somalia's camel milk revolution improving nutrition

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mogadishu, August 4:** Camels have long been the backbone of Somalia's pastoralist culture, feeding families, transporting goods and standing tall in local folklore. But on the dusty outskirts of the capital, the camel now finds itself at the centre of an agricultural revolution that could redefine Somali farming.

On a breezy Wednesday morning in mid-June, The Associated Press visited Beder Camel Farm -- one of a new generation of camel dairies springing up around Mogadishu.

Dozens of camels sauntered around sandy paddocks while others nibbled on fresh fodder under the watchful eyes of herders. In a nearby shed, workers carefully milked the animals and collected the frothy yield in sanitised containers.

Demand for camel milk is growing, buoyed by a wave of local entrepreneurs who see untapped potential in a traditional

resource.

Somalia is home to over seven million (70 lakh) camels -- more than any other country on Earth -- but only a fraction of that milk has ever reached urban grocery shelves, according to industry estimates.

At the heart of the shift toward a modern approach to camel milk production is Dr Abdirisak Mire Hashi, a veterinarian and the farm's manager. For Hashi, it is not only about profit -- it is about preserving heritage while embracing progress.

"Somalis take pride in their heritage of raising camels. However, the way camels are raised has changed significantly over time," Hashi told The Associated Press as he inspected a milking herd.

Each camel at Beder now produces up to 10 litres (2.6 gallons) of milk daily -- double what traditional herders typically yield. The increase is attributed to new investments in vet-



erinary care, better feed, and modern milking practices. The camels are routinely checked by vets, given nutritional supplements, and grazed on scien-

tifically-blended fodder, a far cry from the roaming nomadic herds of decades gone by.

"We were among the first to establish this kind of farm back

in 2006, when very few people even knew about commercial camel milk production," said Jama Omar, CEO of Beder Camel Farm. "Other farms have entered the market since then, but we currently hold around 40 per cent of the market share."

"We employ nearly 200 full-time staff," he added. "In addition, we bring in seasonal workers during key periods such as planting and harvest."

The farm's biggest leap may be its yogurt factory -- the first in Somalia dedicated to processing camel milk into yogurt.

Inside the factory, workers in white coats oversee stainless steel vats as fresh milk is cultured and packed. The final product is sold under the Beder brand which now retails in urban supermarkets across Mogadishu.

Nelson Njoki Githu, a Kenyan-born food engineer overseeing the production line, says camel milk yogurt is not just a novelty -- it fills an important

nutritional gap for local consumers.

"The number one benefit compared to cow milk is that camel milk has lower levels of lactose," Githu explained. "People with lactose intolerance can consume this milk without any issue. Again, the vitamin levels are higher, especially vitamin C, iron and zinc, compared to cow milk."

For nutritionist Dr Yahye Sholle, camel milk yogurt is a public health boost in a country where malnutrition remains a challenge.

"It is rich in magnesium and calcium, which support bone health. Additionally, it contains vitamins B12, C and D. It also includes friendly bacteria known as probiotics, which are beneficial for gut health," he said.

From ancient caravans that crossed deserts to supermarket shelves stocked with yogurt, the Somali camel's journey continues, one cup at a time.



of the day

quote

The bank can still achieve the level of profit earned in the last financial year helped by about ₹2,100 crore savings due to migration to the new tax regime

ASHOK CHANDRA | CEO, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Removal of import re-strictions by a major Indian rice importer will help boost the grain's exports and reduce the impact of fresh US tariffs

PREM GARG | CHAIRMAN, INDIAN RICE EXPORTERS FEDERATION

The industrial electronics segment must be recognised as a national strategic priority. It is the brain and nervous system of every advanced manufacturing setup

PANKAJ MOHINDROO | CHAIRMAN, ICEA

Q1 RESULTS

DLF profit rises

**New Delhi:** DLF Ltd Monday reported an 18 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹762.67 crore in June quarter of this fiscal year while the company's sales bookings surged 78 per cent to ₹11,425 crore on strong housing demand.The country's biggest real estate developer had posted a net profit of ₹644.67 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to ₹2,980.88 crore in April-June period of the 2025-26 fiscal year from ₹1,729.82 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Bosch net surges

**New Delhi:** Auto component maker Bosch Ltd Monday reported an over twofold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,115 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025, aided by one-time income due to the transfer of a business vertical. The company posted a net profit of ₹465 crore for the April-June quarter of the last fiscal. Total income increased to ₹5,077 crore during the quarter against ₹4,496 crore in the year-ago period, Bosch Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

Siemens Energy profit jumps

**New Delhi:** Siemens Energy India Monday posted an over 80 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹263 crore in June quarter compared to a year ago, mainly on the back of higher revenues. It had a net profit of ₹146 crore in the quarter ended June 2024, a company statement stated. Revenues from operations rose to ₹1,785 crore in the quarter from ₹1,484 crore in the same period a year ago.

Practo turns profitable

**New Delhi:** Health-tech platform Practo turned profitable in 2024-25, posting an operating profit of ₹15 crore, and looks to focus on global expansion and AI-led healthcare in the coming years, according to its FY25 Annual Letter. The company, which plans to come out with its IPO soon, reported operating EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) of ₹15 crore for 2024-25.

Ather Energy net loss

**New Delhi:** Electric scooter maker Ather Energy Monday reported a net loss of ₹178 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025. The company had posted a net loss of ₹183 crore for the April-June quarter of the last fiscal.Total income increased to ₹673 crore for the period under review against ₹368 crore in the year-ago period, Ather Energy said in a regulatory filing.

As the nation advances its electric mobility ambition, this report provides valuable insights and policy-aligned recommendations to overcome existing barriers and unlock scale

RAJIV GAUBA | NITI AAYOG MEMBER

PHONEPE'S INDUS APPSTORE, ALCATEL ANNOUNCE STRATEGIC OEM PARTNERSHIP

French consumer technology brand Alcatel's smartphone will come pre-loaded with indigenously developed Phone-Pe's Indus Appstore under an agreement signed between the two companies, a joint statement said Monday. Phone-Pe's Indus Appstore has a catalogue of verified mobile apps and games across 45 categories. It supports 12 Indian languages, enables voice search in 10 regional languages, and features a video-led app discovery experience that allows users to preview apps before downloading them



MPC deliberations on bi-monthly policy begins

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee commenced a three-day meeting amidst expectations of a pause in rate easing. While the RBI has already reduced the repo rate by 100 bps this year, experts anticipate a status quo due to US tariffs and incomplete transmission of previous cuts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 4:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra-headed rate-setting panel Monday started the three-day deliberations to decide the next bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations of pause in the rate easing cycle.

RBI started the rate easing cycle in February and since then has reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 100 basis points in three tranches.

Governor Malhotra-headed six-member rate-setting panel -- the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- is scheduled to announce the next bi-monthly policy rate Wednesday (August 6).

Experts were of the opinion that the Reserve Bank may go in for a status quo this time and wait for more macro data after the announcement by US to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports beginning August 7.

However, a section of industry players do hope for a 25 basis points rate cut Wednesday.

Bank of Baroda Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said the credit policy will not be based on the most recent developments of low inflation for June and the 25 per cent US tariff.

In June, he said, the policy already would have buffered in the 26 per cent tariff, which was the deferred rate in April.

"Therefore, the tariff per se may not really change the view on growth, though it would be interesting to see how the RBI looks at this number. There can be a slight downward revision in inflation projection for the year by 0.1-0.2 per cent, i.e. 3.5-3.6 per cent instead of 3.7 per cent," Sabnavis said.

However, in the current context, the cost of oil for the economy will also be a consideration.

"Therefore, we do not expect any change of stance or policy

Airtel's Xtelify launches cloud, AI software suite

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** Xtelify, the digital arm of Bharti Airtel, Monday announced the launch of 'Airtel Cloud' along with a new suite of AI-powered software solutions designed for telecom enterprises.

This "built-in-India" telco-grade cloud platform will deliver Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and advanced connectivity, ensuring secure migration, seamless scalability, reduced costs, and freedom from vendor lock-in, the company said in a statement.

"Tailored to handle 140 crore transactions per minute for Airtel's own use in India, this sovereign cloud platform is now being extended to meet the ever-evolving needs of businesses in India.

"Hosted on next-gen sustainable data centres, with Gen-AI based provisioning, and managed by 300 certified cloud experts... Airtel Cloud offers IaaS, PaaS and advanced connectivity..." the statement said.

The company claims its cloud service can reduce cloud

spending for Indian businesses by up to 40 per cent.

The software suite includes four core platforms -- Work, Serve, Data Engine, and Airtel IQ -- delivering capabilities such as business process automation, personalization, real-time customer engagement and task optimisation, and AI-powered analytics and intelligence.

Xtelify has already secured three global partnerships for the platform with Singtel, Globe Telecom, and Airtel Africa.

Highlighting the scale of Airtel's internal usage, Bharti Airtel Vice Chairman and MD Gopal Vittal stated: "We are processing 2 trillion transactions per day. So, it's the real scale that we have. This is the largest cloud that runs in India. There are 10,000 physical servers, almost 7,600 network and security devices."

These software solutions, he said, have enabled Airtel to maintain high Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) while achieving the world's lowest technology spend as a percentage of revenue.

India emerges as world's fifth biggest aviation market in 2024

As per the grouping, international premium class travel business and first class grew 11.8 per cent, outpacing growth in global economy travel of 11.5 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** India emerged as the world's fifth biggest aviation market, handling 241 million passengers, while Mumbai-Delhi was one of the busiest airport pairs in 2024, according to data released by global airlines' grouping IATA.

The International Airport Transport Association (IATA), which represents around 350 airlines, Monday released the

latest edition of the World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024.

India saw 211 million air passengers last year, a growth of 11.1 per cent compared to 2023, ahead of Japan, which handled 205 million passengers with an annual rise of 18.6 per cent.

"US remain the world's biggest aviation market with 876 million passengers in 2024 on the strength of its domestic market, growing 5.2 per cent year-on-year.

"China was the second-biggest passenger market, with 741 million passengers, a growth of 18.7 per cent compared to 2023," it said in a release.

While India stood at the fifth place, UK at 3rd spot (261 million passengers) and Spain at 4th position (241 million).The figures include all internation-



al and domestic passengers departing or arriving in each country.

Among the top 10 airport pairs, Mumbai-Delhi was the 7th busiest, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.

Tesla launches first charging station in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 4:** Global EV giant Tesla Monday launched its first charging facility in the country weeks after entering the Indian market with an experience centre in Mumbai.

The Tesla charging station set up at One BKC in the Bandra-Kurla Complex, features four V4 supercharging stalls (DC charging) and four destination charging stalls (AC charging), the company said.

The company said it plans to set up three more such facilities, one each at Lower Parel, Thane and Navi Mumbai by the September quarter. Tesla made its much-awaited entry into India, on July 15 with the launch of its Model Y with price starting at ₹59.89 lakh while opening its first experience centre here.

Tesla, led by American tech billionaire Elon Musk who had in the past cited India's high import tariffs for the company not entering the country earlier, will be importing the Model Y as a completely built unit (CBU), from its Shanghai manufacturing facility in China.

The mid-sized electric SUV Model Y, which was once the world's best-selling car, will be offered in India in two variants -- rear-wheel drive with base price at ₹59.89 lakh and long-range rear wheel drive at a base price of ₹67.89 lakh.

The deliveries are slated to start in the third and fourth quarter of 2025, respectively, for the two variants.

The Tesla Supercharging Stalls offer a peak charging speed of 250 kW starting at ₹24/kW and destination chargers providing 11kW at ₹14/kW, the company said.

Sensex rises 419 pts to close above 81k



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 4:** Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by nearly 419 points to close above the 81,000 level Monday following gains in metal, commodities and auto shares amid a firm trend in global markets.

Snapping the two-day falling streak, the 30-share Sensex gained 418.81 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 81,018.72 with 26 of its constituents ending higher and four down. During the day, it climbed 493.28 points or 0.61 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,093.19.

50-share NSE Nifty jumped by 157.40 points or 0.64 per cent to close at 24,722.75. In the intraday session, it rose 169.3 points or 0.6 per cent to hit a high of 24,734.65.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel was the lead gainer, humping by 4.31 per cent. BEL, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers.

However, Power Grid, HDFC

Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever were among the lag-gards.

The domestic equity market edged higher, supported by strong performance in the metal and auto sectors. A weakening US Dollar, along with robust monthly auto sales and encouraging quarterly results from leading automakers, helped renew investor interest in these sectors.

The BSE smallcap gauge rose 0.76 per cent and the midcap index by 1.11 per cent

Among sectoral indices, metal rose by 2.58 per cent, realty by 1.88 per cent, commodities by 1.79 per cent, services by 1.74 per cent, auto by 1.54 per cent, focussed IT by 1.48 per cent, teck by 1.46 per cent and IT by 1.38 per cent.

FMCG and Bankex were the only laggards.

In Asian markets, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index closed in the positive territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index in the red territory.

Markets in Europe were trading in green. US markets ended in negative territory Friday.

IOC buys 7mn barrels from US

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 4:** Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's top refiner, has bought 7 million barrels of September-arrival crude from the United States, Canada and the Middle East via a tender, several trade sources said Monday.

IOC's large spot crude purchase comes after the arbitrage window for US crude to Asia opened and as Indian state refiners paused buying of Russian crude oil on narrowing discounts. US President Donald Trump has warned countries not to purchase oil from Moscow, which is under sanctions over its February 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

IOC bought 4.5 million barrels of US crude, 500,000 barrels of Canada's Western Canadian Select (WCS) and two million barrels of Das oil produced in Abu Dhabi, the sources said. The higher-than-normal purchases are partly to replace Russian barrels, two of the sources said.

Indian state refiners - IOC, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp, and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd - had not sought Russian crude in the past week.

"In the top 10, only one airport pair -- Jeddah-Riyadh (JED-RUH) -- was not in the Asia Pacific region," IATA said.

As per the grouping, international premium class travel -- business and first class -- grew 11.8 per cent, outpacing growth in global economy travel of 11.5 per cent.

In 2024, the total number of international premium class travellers was 116.9 million or 6 per cent of the total international passengers.

"Leading the regions in terms of percentage growth was Asia Pacific with a year-on-year growth of 22.8 per cent, with 21 million premium passengers -- although it was outpaced in growth by economy class passenger numbers, up 28.6 per cent to 500.8 million.

"Growth in premium travel

exceeded economy class travel in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. Europe remained the largest market for international premium travel, with 39.3 million premium passengers, while premium travellers as a percentage of all travellers were highest in the Middle East at 14.7 per cent," IATA said.

Last year, narrow-body planes of Boeing and Airbus were among the most used ones.

Boeing's B737 alone flew 10 million flights with 2.4 trillion Available Seat Kilometres (ASKs) in 2024.

"This was followed by the Airbus A320 with 7.9 million flights and 1.7 trillion ASKs and the Airbus A321 with 3.4 million flights and 1.1 trillion ASKs," it said.



# Red-hot, ruthless, relentless

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 4:** The perseverant Mohammed Siraj's warrior spirit steered India to a series-levelling six-run victory over England in the fifth and final Test here Monday, bringing a fitting end to one of the most intensely-fought and drama-filled showdowns in recent times.

With four wickets in hand and 35 runs to get, England held the edge before start of play but the gladiator in Siraj made life hell for the opposition batters from ball one.

In the end, his effort, complemented quite well by Prasidh Krishna at the other end, left England short by the thinnest of margins and allowed India to sign off 2-2 in the high-pressure five-match rubber.

The decision to call off play on day four before cut-off time after a brief spell of rain was questioned by the likes of Stuart Broad and Michael Vaughan but it seemed fitting that the series-decider went to the final day with both teams fighting tooth and nail from start to finish.

The day started with bright sunshine but two hours before start of play, the clear skies made way for dark clouds, giving more hope to India and their fans who ensured a sellout crowd at The Oval on day five. The 25 pounds non-refundable

INDIA'S HIGHEST WICKET-TAKER IN ENG

OVERS: 185.3

WICKETS: 23

AVERAGE: 32.43

BBI: 6/70

ticket helped fill the 27,500 capacity facility in no time.

When proceedings finally began, the new ball was due in 22 balls but England expectedly went on the offensive in overcast conditions from the word go.

Prasidh Krishna, who had four balls left from his 23rd over overnight, bowled a short ball to start with and Jamie Overton did well to pull it away for a four. An inside edge the following ball meant back to back fours for England, reducing the target to 27 runs.

Siraj, In-

dia's stoic warrior in the series, made the old ball talk in his opening over from the pavilion end and immediately got the ball to shape away.

The dangerous Jamie Smith (2) was beaten in the first two balls before a third one in the off-stump area took the outside edge on way to the keeper, causing the sizeable Indian fandom in the stadium to erupt in unison.

Every ball of that Siraj over was an event.

Following the much-needed breakthrough, a half chance was created against Gus Atkin-

Mohammed Siraj emerged as the match-winner for India in a heart-stopping finish at The Oval, where the visitors defeated England by just six runs to level the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2. In what turned out to be India's narrowest victory margin in Test history, Siraj delivered a memorable performance, claiming 5 for 104 in England's second innings, including a fiery burst of 3 for 9 on the final

son the very next ball on the fifth stump but that half chance was not taken by KL Rahul at sec-

at that stage.

Prasidh backed up Siraj from the other end by reducing England to 350 for nine, a full ball trapping Josh Tongue in front and drawing a deafening roar from the partisan crowd.

What followed next would feature among the great moments of on-field bravado.

I woke up in the morning and checked google on my phone and took out a 'Believe' emoji wallpaper and told myself that I will do it for the country. I always believe that I can win the game from any point, and I did it in the morning

MOHAMMED SIRAJ

and slip.

In his following over, Siraj foxed Overton with a nip backer as batter ed the er to ue the line.

A game after Rishabh Pant came out to bat with a fractured foot for India, Chris Woakes walked into the centre with a tied broken left arm, prompting everyone in the stadium to stand in respect.

That moment of immense courage took one back to 1963 when Colin Cowdrey came out to bat with a broken arm and helped England secure a draw against the West Indies. With Woakes in no position to bat, Atkinson did not have an option but to use the long handle.

He targeted the straight boundary and managed to clear Akash Deep who got his hands on the ball only to send it over the ropes.

The target soon was in single digits and with Atkinson doing well to keep himself on strike, India had to go for one final roll of the dice.

With field spread out, Siraj fired a yorker to shatter Atkinson's off-stump, bringing a heart-stopping end to the game.

## Bitterly disappointed we couldn't get over the line: Eng captain Stokes



**London:** England Test captain Ben Stokes, who missed the fifth Test due to a shoulder injury, said that finishing on the losing side at The Oval was bitterly disappointing after India snatched a nail-biting six-run win on the final day to level the five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2. "It's obviously always difficult when you can't participate in the game. Another hard-fought game, down to Day 5, both teams have put in so much energy and effort into it. Bitterly disappointed we couldn't get over the line. But really proud of my team with everything they've put in," Stokes said in the post-match presentation. On the India and England Test rivalry, Stokes said he is happy with the intensity of the series from both sides. "India-England is always a big series, you get so much emotion. We won't be going to our bed crying about what was said (on the field), and neither would the Indian players; it's all part of the passion. Worked incredibly hard to be able to go out there and fulfil my role as an allrounder," he said.

### SHUBMAN GILL: PLAYER OF THE SERIES

Test cricket should be, as it is, in my opinion, it is the most, rewarding and satisfying format, you work the hardest, to be able to, get a win

SHUBMAN GILL

MATCHES: 5

RUNS: 754

AVG: 75.40

100S: 4

SR: 65.56

TEST RANKINGS: With this result, India climbed to third place in the WTC standings, having earned 28 points from five matches

## Tendulkar leads praise after stunning victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 4:** The legendary Sachin Tendulkar led the way as the Indian cricket fraternity on Monday lavished praise on the Shubman Gill-led team after the stunning win in the fifth Test against England, which helped them square the five-match series.

Tendulkar lauded the team's performance, rating them a perfect 10. "Test cricket... absolute goosebumps. Series 2-2, Performance 10/10! SUPERMEN from INDIA! What a Win," Tendulkar tweeted.

Kohli, who retired from the Test format before this tour of England, wrote on 'X', "Great win by team India. Resilience and determination from Siraj and Prasidh has given us this phenomenal victory. Special mention to Siraj who will put everything on the line for the team. Extremely happy for him." Siraj promptly thanked Kohli for "believing" in his abilities.

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly praised the team's con-

sistency and key performers. "Exceptional series from Jadeja, Washington, Pant... so much consistency from this young team. @bcci."

Former batter Wasim Jaffer wrote on 'X': "Series drawn but India take the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy on boundary count @MichaelVaughan #ENGvIND."

Lauding the team's effort, former India captain and spin great Anil Kumble wrote: "Well played India!! What a series... #INDvsENG. Well done to everyone involved from both teams. Stunning performance today by @mdsirajofficial and @prasidh43 to hold their nerves. Congratulations @ShubmanGill and the team for a great series!"

Former all-rounder Irfan Pathan praised Siraj's grit, tweeting: "Iron body with heart of a Lion. Mohammed Siraj."

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan also chimed in, saying: "Wow... I haven't witnessed anything quite like that... an incredible series... #ENGvIND."

## Next-gen scripts gritty comeback to shut doubters

INDO-AISAN NEWS SERVICE

**London, August 4:** The proof that heart and hunger can trump experience in a contest was reinforced in the form of Shubman Gill's spirited young Indian side, which defied expectations in English conditions to draw the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series 2-2 with a thrilling six-run win in the fifth and final Test at The Oval here.

Before the start of the series, many pundits had predicted a 1-4 defeat for India, citing the absence of stalwarts like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and R Ashwin, and a seam-friendly English summer.

Yet, under first-time Test captain Gill, a fearless bunch of youngsters rose to the occasion, fought fire with fire, and delivered a result that few had dared to imagine.

There were moments of heartbreak along the way, as injuries forced key players like Rishabh Pant and Nitish Kumar Reddy to withdraw from the series. But the visitors never backed down. Their fierce attitude, especially from a raw pace attack



powered by Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, and Akash Deep, drew admiration even from a partisan English crowd at The Oval.

India's youngsters matched the hosts punch for punch. In the absence of experience, grit and belief became India's calling cards.

Gill, still only 24, was scrutinised for his tactical decisions, particularly during England's fast-scoring middle sessions. However, his calm temperament, willingness to trust his bowlers, and refusal to panic in crunch moments proved decisive.

A 2-2 result marks a land-

mark achievement for Indian cricket's Next-Gen brigade. Most importantly, it sends a strong message that even without marquee names, India have the bench strength to remain a formidable force overseas — thanks to the efforts of brave, talented players who are unfazed by the huge

### RECORDS GALORE

- India scored 3,809 runs—second only to Australia's 3,877 in the 1989 Ashes.
- Combined series aggregate was the second-highest ever after 7,221 runs in the 1993 Ashes.
- India registered eight 300+ totals and eight 350+ scores, a new record.
- Hit 470 boundaries—the most by any team in a Test series.
- Notched up 12 individual centuries, India's highest in any series.
- Five batters scored over 400 runs—achieved only thrice before.
- Gill (754), Rahul, Jadeja each crossed 500 runs—joint-most in any series.
- Gill's 754 runs: Second-highest by a Test captain, beating Gooch's 752 (1990).
- Jadeja's 516: Highest by an Indian at No 6 or lower; also six fifty-plus scores.
- Jadeja's run tally in England at No 6 or lower (1,131) broke Clive Lloyd's overseas record.
- Akash Deep's 66: Third-highest by an Indian nightwatchman.
- Jaiswal's 118 included 94 runs behind square off-side—most since 2003.

expectations they always have to shoulder while playing for the country.

## Hockey India names 24-member squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** India, Monday, included young defender Poovanna CB in the 24-member men's hockey team to be led by ace drag flicker Harmanpreet Singh for the four-match Tour of Australia, starting August 15 in Perth.

The assignment will serve as an exposure tour for the team ahead of the all-important Asia Cup at home in Rajgir from August 29, which is also a World Cup Qualifier.

"We are heading to Perth Australia to sharpen up ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. The focus will be on improving our physical conditioning and technical execution through quality training and warm up matches," chief coach Craig Fulton said.

Fulton also spoke about test-

OZ TOUR

We are heading to Perth Australia to sharpen up ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. The focus will be on improving our physical conditioning and technical execution through quality training and warm up matches

CRAIG FULTON | CHIEF COACH, INDIA

giving them the exposure ahead of important outings.

"We have brought in some younger players to give them valuable exposure and test combinations under pressure. This camp is a key part of our preparation and a chance to build in-

before competing at home."

The team will feature Krishan Pathak and Suraj Karkera as goalkeepers while Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Amit Rohidas, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Jugraj Singh and Karnataka's Poovanna will take care of the

defence.

Talented young midfielder Rajinder Singh, who is often likened to stalwart former India captain Sardar Singh, has been named in the squad as a midfielder along with Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vishnu Kant Singh.

TEAM

GOALKEEPERS: Krishan B Pathak, Suraj Karkera.

DEFENDERS: Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Sanjay, Amit Rohidas, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Jugraj Singh, Poovanna C.

MIDFIELDERS: Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vishnu Kant Singh.

FORWARDS: Mandeep Singh, Shilpanand Lakra Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Selvam Karthi Aditya Lalage.

## AIFF to meet ISL club CEOs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 4:** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) will meet with CEOs of eight Indian Super League (ISL) clubs in New Delhi Thursday to address concerns over the league's future.

The meeting comes in the wake of Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) announcing July 11 that the 2025-26 ISL season has been placed "on hold" due to unresolved contractual issues.

"AIFF officials will meet with CEOs from eight Indian Super League clubs, on Thursday, August 7, 2025, in New Delhi, to discuss issues regarding #IndianFootball," the Indian Football Team posted on X.

FSDL, the commercial partner and organiser of the league, cited ongoing negotiations and a lack of agreement on key terms as the reason behind its decision. The following day, the AIFF responded by stating it would take all necessary steps to ensure the ISL continues, signalling a potential difference in vision between the federation and the FSDL.

At the heart of the issue lies the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between FSDL

and AIFF, which defines the operational, structural and commercial framework of the ISL. The MRA is set to expire on December 8, 2025. Without a renewed or revised agreement, stakeholders are concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the league's long-term direction.

Given the ISL's traditional September-to-April schedule, planning for the 2025-26 season would typically begin well in advance. Clubs, broadcasters and sponsors require clarity on timelines, commitments and commercial terms to organise logistics, player signings and marketing activities.

