

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

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | AUGUST 5, 2025

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 dis-

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.

MIRACLE 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 blockbuster series which ebbed and flowed over weeks of slugfest between the two cricketing 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 tor-

rential rain forced an early stumps on the fourth evening. India picked up the remaining four wick-

ets 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

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



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

BJD calls for Puri Bandh August 7; Cong plans rally

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Puri district unit of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday called for Puri Bandh August 7 while Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) announced to hold Nari Nyaya Yatra, demanding justice for Balanga, who succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at Delhi AIIMS August 2.

During a presser at Puri, district BJD president Umakanta Samantaray announced that they will observe bandh demanding justice for the minor girl. "The bandh will be observed from 6am to 12pm. The sudden change in the statements of the victim's father and the police after her death is hinting toward a conspiracy. We will not rest until the victim gets justice."

IMMOLATION DEATHS

Samantaray also said that they will carry out district-wide protest until the culprits behind the incident are nabbed.

Similarly, OPCC announced to hold 'Nari Nyaya Yatra' to seek justice for Balasore and Balanga burn victims.

During a presser at Congress Bhawan here, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said, "We will hold a series of demonstrations demanding justice for the burn victims, particularly the Balanga victim. We'll hold 'Nari Nyaya Yatra' August 14 from FM College in Balasore to Bhogarai, and another rally will be organised August 12, from Balanga crime site to Nimapara. We have given the authorities a seven-day ultimatum to ensure justice for the Balanga victim.'

How does Rahul know: SC Will raise tariffs even more on India: Trump

New Delhi, August 4: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi IRREGULAR by MANJUL 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, There's no lawsuit, Milord! I'm labelling Gandhi as "China iust here to collect my True guru" and accusing the Con-Indian certificate - heard it's gress party of harbouring disbeing handed out here

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 it 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 infor-

Justice Datta said being a

not have done it as there was a proper forum to raise such

While agreeing that Gandhi could have made the comments in a better manner. Singhyi 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 nlea while seeking response in three weeks and stayed the proceedings in the Lucknow trial court. The Allahabad High Court May 29 dismissed Gand-**MORE P8** hi's plea.

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 sell-

ing 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

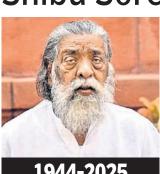
ndia Monday mounted a sharp

counterattack on US and Europear Union (EU) for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delh 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

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

in trade with Russia," it said.

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.

"Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all... I have become 'shunya' (zero) today," Hemant Soren posted on X.

dain for Indian armed forces.

"The demise of Shri Shibu Soren Ji is a big loss in the space of social justice. He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the state of Jharkhand," President Droupadi Murmu said in a post on X. Murmu said besides his work at the grassroots, Soren also contributed as the CM of Jharkhand, as a Union minister and as a Member of Parliament.

Similarly, PM Narendra Modi paid tributes to Soren, saying, "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden," he posted

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



Indians blamed as paan stains dot London streets

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 disgust-

ing 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



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.



'UNE FORECAST

👼 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

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.

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.

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.

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.



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 herself watching the movie with fans. The clip showed her grooving to the song Pahele 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

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

Son

energy live in that

Sardaar 2 is a Hindi-language comfilm edv 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



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".

TRIPLE win for Sanya

Mumbai: The 71st National Film Awards turned out to be a golden hattrick 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

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 standout 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 Sanva'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

CROSSWORD

5 Appetiser

8 Taproom

one

(5,2)

6 Business deal

11 Hyperion, for

15 Major artery

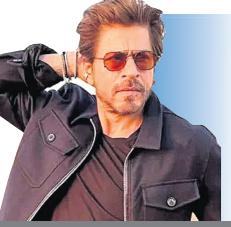
16 Advice from a

17 Quick breads

personal trainer

emotional complexity. Overwhelmed by the recognition, Sanva took to social media to express her grati-

tude.



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 action blockbuster *Jawan*. The recognition marks a significant milestone, acknowledging SRK's enduring impact on In-

dian cinema. Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan recently achieved a landmark mo-ment 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 rec ognition marks a significant milestone acknowledging SRK's enduring impact on Indian cinema.

> For context, the words magniloquent and sesquipedalian are a playful nod to Tharoor's famously elaborate vocabulary. Magniloquent means speaking in a lofty or often obscure

PEANUTS



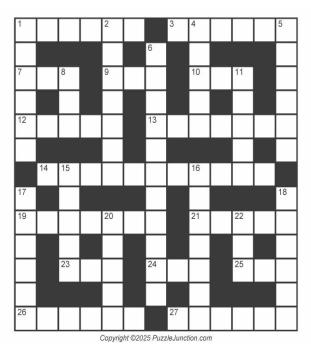
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST



Acre	OSS
1	Garden
	decorations
3	Man of the
	cloth
7	Napkin's place
9	Duffer's goal

- 10 Welcome site 12 Hot coal **Down**
- 13 Type of flight 14 Nightmarish 2 Kind of (4-7)penguin
- 19 Small crown

- 21 Assumed name 23 Pertinent 24 Valuable rock
- 25 Grassland 26 Soaked through
- 1 Ship's kitchen
- 27 Bread topping

- 4 Fish flavouring

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 18 Cyprus, e.g. 20 Plant food 22 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

9

3

5

1

9

3

4

4

8

6

2

9

5

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

4

8

3

8

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

2

2 5

ORB MENTSDECAF

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

SUDOKU

downtown

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) declared presidents for four of its organisational districts – Ganjam, Kendrapara, Kalahandi and Cuttack – Monday. According to a statement issued by the regional party, Bikram Panda has been named the president of BJD's Ganjam organisational district, Shiva Prasad Bhol (Kendrapara), Pradip Kumar Dishari (Kalahandi) and Prafulla Singh (Cuttack).

ODISHA 'ASPIRANT' IN NITI'S '24 ELECTRIC MOBILITY INDEX

ARINDAM GANGULY, O

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Odisha stands as 'aspirant' in NITI Aayog's first India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2024 which evaluates performance of states and UTs across three themes.

In its report, the premier policy think tank evaluated all states and UTs in terms of 16 indicators under the three themes – Transport Electrification Progress, Charging Infrastructure Readiness and EV Research & Innovation Status.

"The IEMI score is a composite figure indicating the overall performance and efforts of states and UTs in terms of development of the e-mobility ecosystem. States and UTs are evaluated at three levels – the IEMI, theme and indicator scores – assessed on a 0-100 scale. A state or UT with IEMI score of 100 is termed as 'achiever', 65-99 as 'frontrunner', 50-64 as 'performer' and 0-49 as 'aspirant'," according to NITI Aayog.

According to the report, Odisha, with IEMI score of 49 and rank 7, stands as an 'aspirant'.

Under Transport Electrification Progress, Odisha, with a score of 56, stands as a 'per-



Introduce subsidies for EV conversion kits, reserved parking and low emission zones

Establish R&D centres for skill development

Improve EV charging infrastructure by introducing a single-window system for charger approvals

former'. "Odisha scored 97 out of 100 in private EV adoption, 18 in commercial EV adoption, 100 in government initiatives, 2 in purchase incentives, 50 in transition incentives, 33 in operational support initiatives and 88 in fuel price parity indicators," the report said.

Similarly, under Charging Infrastructure Readiness, Odisha, with a score of 43, stands as an 'aspirant'. "Odisha scored 16 out of 100 in EV-to-EV charger ratio, 100 in capital subsidies for charging infrastructure, 67 in charging infrastructure development initiatives, 100 in building byelaws for charging, 22 in share of RE generation capacity and only 10 in power availability

indicators," the NITI Aayog report added.

Moreover, under the EV Research and Innovation theme, Odisha, with a score of 41, stands as an 'aspirant'. The coastal state scored 41 out of 100 in EV startups, 67 in R&D initiatives and zero in patents indicators, according to the think tank's report.

The NITI Aayog recommended Odisha to introduce subsidies for EV conversion kits, reserved parking and low emission zones. It also recommended the state to improve EV charging infrastructure by introducing a single-window system for charger approvals and establish R&D centres for skill development.



REVIEW MEET: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reviews Godabarish Mishra Model Primary School programme, at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, монау

'Ready to resign if that could bring Balanga girl back to life'

PNN & AGENCIE

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Monday said she is ready to resign from her post 100 times if that could bring the 15-year-old Puri's Balanga girl, who succumbed to her burn injuries, back to life.

Parida made the comment while responding to the Opposition parties' demand for resignation over the death of the girl, who hailed from her Nimapara Assembly constit-

After attending the funeral of the minor at Bayabar village under Balanga police limits in Puri district, Parida, who also holds the Women and Child Development portfolio, denounced politics over her

"I am prepared to resign 100 times if that could bring the girl back to life, but I will never accept anyone playing politics over her death," Parida told revertees

state's BJP government did everything to save the girl, who suffered over 70 per cent

It was initially alleged that the girl was kidnapped and set ablaze by three men on the banks of Bhargavi river in Puri July 19. With over 70 per cent burns, the teenager was airlifted to AIIMS-Delhi the next day, where she underwent at least two surgeries and skin grafting. She died there Saturday evening.

Hours after her death, the Odisha Police, in a post on X, said, "... the police have con-



The girl was airlifted to AlIMS-Delhi within 24 hours of the incident. The state government has done everything required to save her. Even medicines were purchased from outside. We tried our best to save the girl, but unfortunately, she died. The state government stands by her family

PRAVATI PARIDA | DEPUTY CM

ducted the investigation with utmost sincerity. The probe has reached its final stage. According to the investigation conducted so far, it is clear that

no other person is involved."
The girl's father Sunday said
'she was under mental pressure and took her life', without

elaborating. He also requested

all not to politicise her death.

Parida said, "The girl was

airlifted to AIIMS-Delhi within 24 hours of the incident. The state government has done everything required to save her. Even medicines were purchased from outside. We tried our best to save the girl, but unfortunately, she died. The state government stands by her family."

The Deputy CM urged all not to play politics over the sensitive matter.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, protesting the girl's death, members of the youth wing of the state Congress clashed with security personnel in their bid to ghearo Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence here.

Many of the protestors were arrested while attempting to force their way into the compound of the CM's residence.

Bodies of 6 migrant workers killed in AP quarry reach Odisha

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The bodies of six Odia migrant workers, who lost their lives in a granite quarry accident in Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla district, were brought back to their native villages in Ganjam and Gajapati districts Monday.

The incident took place Sunday when a giant rock collapsed in a granite quarry, killing six workers from Odisha and injuring eight others, an officer said.

The deceased were identified as Danda Badathya, 48, Musa Jena, 43, Banamali Behera, 30, Santosh Gouda, 36, of Ganjam district and Bhaskar Bisoi, 40, and Tukuma Dalai, 37, of Mohana block in Gajapati district.

Ministers Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and Gokulananda Mallik paid their last respects to the deceased workers and met their family members at Digapahan-

di hospital in Ganjam district. "Soon after getting information about the incident, I talked to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the district collector. We sent a team to bring back the bodies of the deceased labourers," Jena said.

Mallik said the CM has announced Rs 4 lakh compensation to the families of the deceased workers. From Digaphandi hospital, the bodies of the workers were sent to their native villages, where the last rites were performed. Banamali's father Bhagaban Behera said his son went to Andhra

"We came to know about his death when one of his co-workers called me around noon. He was the only breadwinner of the family," Bhagaban said.

Pradesh around a month ago

Guv, CM, LoP & OPCC chief condole Soren's death

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik and Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das were among those who expressed grief over the demise of former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren Monday and remembered him for his fight for tribal rights.

Shibu Soren, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founder, died in the morning at the age of 81 while undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments at a hospital in Delhi. He is the father of Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren.

The Governor said in a post

The Governor said, in a post on X, "Deeply saddened by the demise of Shri Shibu Soren Ji, a veteran leader who championed tribal rights and social justice with unwavering commitment. His legacy will inspire generations. Heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers "

RICH TRIBUTES: Members of Utkal Sammilani pay tributes to Odisha's only woman Chief Minister

Nandini Satpathy on her death anniversary, near Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

In a social media post, Majhi said, "Deeply saddened by the passing of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren ji. May Mahaprabhu Jagannath grant peace to his departed soul and strength to the bereaved family. Om Shanti."

Expressing grief, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said, "Shibu Soren was a towering voice for tribal rights and regional identity. His legacy will endure in the aspirations he championed and the lives he touched. Om Shanti."

Taking to X, Patnaik, the BJD supremo, said, "Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of former #Jharkhand Chief Minister and founder of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha #ShibuSoren."

"He was a prominent tribal leader and will be remembered for his dedication to



the fight for the rights of the tribal and marginalised people. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family, friends, and followers in the hour of grief. #OmShanti @ JmmJharkhand," Patnaik, the former Odisha CM, added.

In a long social media post, the OPCC president said,

"I am deeply saddened and shocked to hear the news of the passing away of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren, former CM of Jharkhand, a leader of the Jharkhand movement and the voice of the tribal community."

"I had the opportunity to work with Guruji during the Jharkhand agitation. I also received his guidance in the Parliament. During the Niyamgiri agitation, Guru Shibu Soren came to Bhubaneswar to defend my appeal and cooperated with us. I express my condolences to the family and followers," Das said, adding that his contribution to the Jharkhand movement and the upliftment of the tribal society will always be remembered.

According to JMM sources, the body will be taken to Soren's native village Nemra in Ramgarh district Tuesday, where his final rites will be performed with full state honours.

Shibu Soren, who founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in the early 1970s, had been at the helm of the party for nearly four decades.

He served multiple terms as CM of Jharkhand and was a minister in the Union Cabinet. He is survived by his wife Roopi Soren, sons including CM Hemant Soren and Basant Soren, and other family members.

Boudh MVI with 630% DA arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Vigilance sleuths Monday arrested Boudh MVI Golap Chandra Hansdah for possessing disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 630 per cent of his known sources of income, official sources said.

On the allegation of possession of DA by the MVI, Vigilance sleuths, comprising four DSPs and seven Inspectors, carried out simultaneous searches at multiple places related to Hansdah.

During searches, the anti-corruption wing sleuths claimed to have found movable and immovable assets worth crores in the name of Hansdah and his family members.

"A two-storey building in Baripada, 44 plots, Rs 2,38,725 in cash, one kg gold, 2.126 kg silver, Rs 1,34,09,193 as deposits (bank, postal and insurance), household articles worth Rs 16.06 lakh and four vehicles were found in the name of Hansdah and his family members," a Vigilance statement said, adding that Hansdah has also spent Rs 40 lakh for the medical education of his daughter.

"After thorough search, inventory and further enquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Sri Golap Chandra Hansdah, MVI, Boudh, Dist-Boudh were calculated and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets which were 630% in excess of his known sources of income," it read.

"A case (7/2025) has been registered at Balasore Vigilance police station against Hansdah and his spouse under Sections 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 of PC (Amendment) Act, 2018," it said, adding that the MVI was taken to custody.

OrissaPOST

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 conspiracv. 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

Rightmax 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, 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, large-

ly 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.

Awareness drive for EMRS students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: In a significant step toward eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) from Odisha, a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign is being launched across selected blocks in 12 districts. Ahead of the rollout, a dedicated awareness drive was conducted in 47 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), reaching over 5,600 students. teachers, and principals re-

Organised by Health & Family Welfare department, in collaboration with the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department, the campaign aimed to educate students on LF transmission, prevention, and the vital role of drug compliance.

Health department teams set up MDA booths within schools to distribute anti-filarial drugs. Students were encouraged not only to take the medicine but also to act as awareness ambassadors within their communities.

PARIDA INTERACTS WITH SUBHADRA BENEFICIARI

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 hv the Women & Child Devel opment 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

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 Pattnayak 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, reflect not just economic indepen dence but also the spirit of en trepreneurship being nurtured at the grassroots level.

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

The session was attended by senior W&CD officials including principal secretary Shuhha Sharma, director Monisha Ba nerjee and other departmental

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

City AIIMS hosts UROSCOPIA

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

CLASSIFIED

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 cussions 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 Navak 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

Govt nod for 11 addl district judge courts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The state government Monday issued a notification regarding the establishment of 11 additional District Judge Courts to ensure speedy delivery of justice to the public.

As part of this initiative, the state government issued a notification for the establishment of one Additional District Judge (Vigilance) Court each in the districts of Puri, Nayagarh, and Kendrapara.



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- Pipi li 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.

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 ener gy transition. Discussions and decisions must be inclusive if we are to ensure a truly sustainable future."

CANSA director Sanjay Vashist emphasised the ur gency 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 Deter mined Contribution, Modera tor by Ruchi Chaudhary, CAN South Asia), Panel Discussion on Just Transition in Odisha Opportunities and Way for ward, Moderator by Swayamprabha Das, Development Al-

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 wnich 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

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bari, dated 01.08.2025, I PRAVAT KUMAR BARIK, S/o- KARUNAKAR BARIK, permanent resident of Vill/P.O.-Ishanpur, P.S.-Bari Ramachandrapur, Dist.-Jajpur declare that I have changed my name from PRAVAT BARIK to PRAVAT KUMAR BARIK. Henceforth, I shall be known as PRAVAT KUMAR BARIK for all purpose. PRAVAT KUMAR **BARIK**

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 Can-

DUMPING 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

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 Biplay Bahal and Surva 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

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





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

OUR BOOKING STA ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560. Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

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

Sexual harassment survivor pleads for justice

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 heartbroken 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 Bidvadhar Dhal.

'Meanwhile, farmers are spend-

lawyers for GST filings," Sahu said.

"Initially, the government provid-

ed financial support for four years

after the Pani Panchayats were

formed, but nothing has been sanc-

This has led to declining par-

ticipation from farmers in Pani

Panchayats. Sahu warned that this

lack of support may jeopardise the state's goal of making farmers

self-reliant in canal maintenance. The association has submitted

a memorandum to Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi urging inter-

Responding to the issue, Irriga-

tion department engineer Trayoma

Kumar Kalet said, "The government

allocates annual grants for canal re-

pair works, which are distributed

among different Pani Panchayats

are shared accordingly. However,

there have been years when no

grants were received, so we couldn't

On the GST matter, he added,

"That falls under the jurisdiction

extend operational support."

of the Central government."

When grants are available, they

tioned ever since."

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 sur-

vivor 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 incharge 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

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 AB-VP 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 Navak were produced before a court, which remanded them to judicial custo

dy for 14 days. The woman, who suffered 95 per cent burn injuries, had died July 14 while undergoing treat-

ment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar. She allegedly poured petrol and set herself on fire, claim ing that the college authorities were not taking any action against the head of the depart-

ment (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 custo-

dy rose to four. Following the arrests, the opposition BJD and Congress alleged that the woman student was instigated by ABVP mem bers to take the extreme step.

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

The organisation's state sec retary 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 impli cate innocents continue. Attempts by the Odisha Police to torture ABVP workers mentally and physically will be strongly opposed".

Lack of fund, GST hassle dry up Pani Panchayats

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 Panchavats.

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



their GST registrations altogether. Otherwise, the responsibility of GST filing should fall on the concerned government department, not the panchayats.

Many Pani Panchayats also claim that administrative grants meant for operational costs have also been stopped for years. With both funding and support drying up, several members of Pani Panchavats feel their role in community water management is being quietly dismantled.

Ramsagar Sahu, president of the Chhabila Sai Pani Panchayat in Dandeipali, has raised concerns over the lack of government support and the burden of GST compliance affecting their canal maintenance work.

Sahu said the Sasan canal system covers nearly 18,500 km of distributaries, with 11 Pani Panchavats (water user associations, WUAs) functioning in Paramanapur distributary alone. Each Pani Panchayat manages irrigation for around 450-500 hectares of farmland.

"In 2002, we formed the Sahid Ch-

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

30000 L/DAY) AND ETP OF ROLLER BEARING CLEANING PLANT AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR 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 ender and any such manual offer received shall

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH)/ 427/Q/25-26 CRW/Mancheswar

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

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.

Nebsite: www.ireps.gov.in Additional Chief Health Director/(Store PR-430/Q/25-26 Central Hospital, Bhubanesw

from her eyes.

Jajpur man detained for

sexual assault on 4-yr-old

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

n 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.

	0.	Grades/Specifications	NPK 19:19:19	NPK 13:40:13	NPK 00:60:20	NPK 00:48:47	Mg0 0:55:18 +7 Mg0	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	2	Total Nitrogen per cent by weight, minimum	19	13	0	0	0	12
3	3	Water Soluble Phosphate (as P205) per cent by weight, minimum	19	40	60	48	55	6
4		Water Soluble Potash (as K20) 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	3	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
1	0	Lead (as Pb) percent by weight, maximum	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
1	1	Cadmium (as Cd) per cent by weight, maximum	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
1	2	Arsenic (as As) per cent by weight, maximum	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

DLF Cyber City, Phase-II
Gurugram-122002 (Haryana), India. CIN U24129DL2004PTC126157, Customer Care No. 0124-4546400,



खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION सुक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India राज्य कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर State Office, Bhubaneswar

No.OSO/KVIC/GVY/VIC/Advt./2025-26

Date: 4th August, 2025

NOTICE

State Office, KVIC, Bhubaneswar, Odisha is inviting applications from individual/ SHGs/NGOs/Kls-Vls/KVIB/DICs/Govt. & Semi Govt. agencies etc. of Odisha State for promotion of self-employment through training-cum-toolkit distribution under GVY/ credit linked subsidy under PMEGP.

SI. No	Application sought for	Target (No. of	Assistance			
1.	Credit Linked 1st loan under PMEGP for individual (upto Rs.50.00 lakhs) subsidy upto 35%	artisans) 1914	Establishing new unit.			
2.	Credit linked 2 nd loan for the existing PMEGP beneficiaries (Upto Rs.1 Crore).	46	Existing enterprises under PMEGP/MUDRA.			
3.	MBI-Kumbhakaar Sashaktikaran Programme	660	Artisan			
4.	FBI-Beekeeping	70	Contribution @			
5.	HMPFI-Paper Plate & Bowl (Group size-10)	240	20% for General, 10% for SC/ST			
6.	HMPFI-Paper mache (Group size-10)	40				
7.	HMPFI-Sabai rope (Group size-10)	140	and Nil for BPL			
8.	ABFPI- Palmgur	150	category on tools			
9.	ABFPI- Spices & Cond. (Group size-10)	40	and equipment.			
10.	ABFPI- Tamarind (Group size-10)	100				
11.	ABFPI- Village Oil (Group size-10)	40				
12.	PCBI-Agarbatti	20				
13.	RENTI- Waste wood craft	20				

For applying loan under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) may visit www.kviconline.gov.in/pmegpeportal/pmegphome/index.jsp. The detailed guidelines/application format for Gramodyog Vikash Yojana may be obtained online from www.kvic.gov.in. The last date of receipt of application under GVY is 30 days from the date of advertisement and send your application to this office through e-mail: sobhubaneshwar.kvic@gov.in/ directorkvicbbsr@gmail.com.

Sd/- State Director/ राज्य निदेशक

जे-16, भीमपुर, गण्डमुंडा, खंडगीरी, भुवनेश्वर,-751030 Plot No.J-16, Bhimpur, Gandamunda, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030 Tel: 06742351131 E-mail: sobhubaneshwar.kvic@gov.in, directorkvicbbsr@gmail.com देश के लिये खादी- फैशन के लिए खादी - परिवर्तन के लिए खादी, आइए हम खादी को बढ़ावा दे

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 buvers 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.



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: 4th 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

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,

directorkvicbbsr@gmail.com Office Number: 06742351131



Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge.

THE MOTHER



Unchanged Iran

t 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 Leftwing 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.'

PAPAMAHANSA YOGANANI

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 Vota 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

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 may-

hem 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 onefifth 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.

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 alibit of 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

Ajit Ranade

TARIFFS ARE

FOREIGNERS

BUT ARE PAID

BY IMPORTER

COMPANIES

IN THE US,

WHO PASS

ALONG THE

CUSTOMERS

VIA HIGHER

PRICES

COST TO THEIR

NOT A TAX ON

A daunting task ahead



Jacinda Ardern & Carlos Lopes

PRESIDENCY
MUST ESCHEW
FLASHY RESULTS
IN FAVOUR OF
PRAGMATIC
PATHWAYS TO
DELIVER ON PAST
COMMITMENTS

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

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. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Beyond flashpoints

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

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



TWO STATES





In larger public interest: U'khand HC stays scientist's conviction

Akash Yadav was acquitted of the dowry-related charges by a trial court, but was convicted for abetment of his wife's suicide and sentenced to five years'

rigorous imprisonment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nainital, August 4: The Uttarakhand High Court has stayed the conviction and fiveyear rigorous imprisonment of a vaccine scientist who was

Ahmedabad RTO

cracks down on

reckless driving

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, August 4:

Ahmedabad Regional Trans-

port Office (RTO) has suspend-

ed over 2,161 driving licenses

and collected fines amounting

to Rs 10.98 crore over the past 16

months in response to a surge

in reckless and illegal driving

With roads turning dan-

gerous due to overspeeding,

wrong-side driving, and blatant

disregard for traffic laws, the

RTO's action signals a tougher

From April 2024 to July

2025, the department initiated

stringent action against a wide

range of violations -- wrong-side

driving, overspeeding, over-

loaded vehicles, expired fitness

certificates, and even fatal acci-

RTO also cancelled the licenses

of 284 drivers who were caught

driving dangerously in other

states but held licenses issued

This move comes amid grow-

ing public concern and repeated

nudges from the Gujarat High

Court, which has criticised

local authorities for allowing

habitual offenders to walk free

The court has urged the police to initiate criminal

proceedings in serious cases, stressing that fear of the law

-- not leniency -- can bring behavioral change on the roads. Beyond private vehicle users.

the RTO also turned its focus to school vans and rickshaws.

In a recent drive, 280 cases were registered against school

transport vehicles flouting

safety norms -- ranging from

expired licenses and unfit vehi-

cles to dangerously overloaded

rickshaws. Twenty-seven ve-

hicles were seized, and Rs 3.80

The situation is particularly

lakh in fines were collected.

after paying spot fines.

Notably, the Ahmedabad

dents, as per data issued.

in Ahmedabad.

practices across the city.

stance on road safety.

found guilty of abetting his wife's suicide.

Granting relief to the scientist, Akash Yadav, who has done PhD in biotechnology from IIT Kharagpur, the single bench of Justice Ravindra

Maithani said suspending his conviction was in the larger public interest.

The court observed that the convict was a scientist actively engaged in vaccine research and development and due to his conviction, he was unable to perform his duties.

It also said that the scientist's research holds critical value for the society at large.

Yadav was booked under the

Dowry Prohibition Act and the dowry death of his wife.

He was later acquitted of the dowry-related charges by a trial

"The objective is not just to

create job seekers but to em-

power a new generation of job

givers—technologically savvy

entrepreneurs and innovators.

Schools of Excellence initia-

tive launched by Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi. Gujarat

inaugurated over 50,000 smart

classrooms and 19,600 modern

computer labs, signaling a

state-wide shift towards tech-in-

Now, Surat has taken it a step

further -- students are being

trained in front-end develop-

ment, drone aviation, robotics

programming, and AI applica-

In 2023, under the Mission

court in Rudrapur, but was convicted for abetment of his wife's suicide and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment.

Earlier, the high court granted him bail and stayed the execution of the sentence during the pendency of the appeal.

Subsequently, Yadav filed an appeal seeking a stay on the conviction, arguing that it was necessary for him to continue his vital work in vaccine

development. Based on several legal precedents concerning the suspension of conviction and execution of sentence, the court ordered a stay on the execution of both until the final disposal of the appeal.

For the last three years, Yaday has served as senior manager at Indian Immunologicals Ltd, a leading vaccine manufacturer, where he is directly involved in vaccine R&D.

informed the authorities that she polled fewer votes than her rival and that he should be declared the winner. This played out after the re sult for the election to the post of Tarkuli gram panchayar head were declared. The gram panchayat is part of Uttara-

Rival candidate got more votes than me: Panchayat poll 'winner'

Champawat, August 4: A pan-

chayat poll candidate who was

given the certificate of victory

by the election officer here has

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singh Dhami's assembly constituency, Champawat. While Kajal Bisht, who was declared the winner, secured 103 votes, her rival candidate

khand Chief Minister Pushkar

Sumit Kumar got 106. "I told the election officer that I did not win the election, I lost. My opponent got three more votes than me, so the certificate should be given to the rightful

When the matter was not re solved at the level of the election officer, Bisht filed a case in the court of Sub-Division al Magistrate (SDM) Anurag

The SDM accepted Bisht's ob iection and ordered the election officer to get the votes recount ed within 30 days. Officials said the date for recounting is likely to be announced soon.

Gujarat ranks 2nd in

AHMEDABAD: With the longest

CRACKDOWN ON ID FRAUD

Fake Aadhaar, voter cards under scanner

Dehradun, August 4: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday asked all district magistrates to take strict legal action against people who have illegally obtained civic identification documents such as ration cards, Aadhaar and voter IDs and also against those involved in their fraudulent issuance.

At a meeting held with the DMs through video conferencing, Dhami also asked them to ensure that the removal of ille gal encroachments in their respective districts continues and regular action is taken under 'Operation Kalanemi' against those who mislead the public in the name of faith.

Operation Kalanemi, which was launched by the state government last month, targets people impersonating as sadhus to cheat the public.

He said legal action must be taken against people who have obtained ration cards, Aadhaar cards, voter cards, Ayushman cards and other such documents in an inauthentic way.

Those involved in making these cards should also be brought to book, he said.

The DMs were also directed to regularly inspect government hospitals in their respective districts to check the avail ability of medicines, the pres-



ence of doctors, the condition of equipment and cleanliness and hygiene.

The chief minister said that he will also conduct surprise inspections of hospitals from time to time.

He asked the DMs to expedite work related to infrastructure development after the rains.

Special attention should be paid to the quality of work and timeliness in the construction of roads, bridges and drains, Dhami said.

The flagship schemes of the state and central government should be reviewed regularly, he said. Use of indigenous products should be given priority in all government offices of the state and the general public should also be motivated to use them. he said.

Public awareness campaigns should be conducted. Regular efforts should be made towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local', he said.

winner," Bisht said. Arya.

marine fish output

coastline of 2,340 kilometers, Gujarat is making significant contribution to development of blue economy in the country. Gujarat has ranked second in the country in the marine fish production and is expected to consolidate its position further, under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The average annual fish production figure in Gujarat in the last 4 years has been 8.56 lakh metric tonnes. In 2023-24, the total fish production in the state stood at around 9,07,901 metric tonne It is estimated to be around 10,36,773 metric tonnes in the year 2024-25 with an estimated 7,64,343 metric tonnes of marine fish production and 2,72,430 metric tonnes of inland fish production in the state. The Gujarat government has implemented various promotional initiatives and policies to increase fish production in the state and make the fishermen more economically

Guj schools pioneer Al, robotics, drone learning

The smart education model is being implemented as a pilot project across 18 Suman schools, with 12 state-of-the-art Al labs already functional. benefiting over 11,000 students with free-of-cost technical education

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Surat, August 4: Surat Municipal Corporation has emerged as the first civic body in India to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Drone Technology, 3D Printing, and ARVR in its classrooms from grades 9 to 12.

This smart education model is being implemented as a pilot project across 18 Suman schools, with 12 state-of-the-art AI labs already functional, benefiting over 11,000 students with free-of-cost technical education.

The initiative aligns with India's New Education Policy and the Gujarat Government's vision of merging innovation and smart learning. Under this model, students

in municipal schools are now actively engaging with futuristic technologies that are reshaping sectors like defence, agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing.

From building robots to flying drones, and designing in 3D environments, students—many from economically modest backgrounds—are not just studying textbooks but are gaining hands-on, project-based experience in cutting-edge fields.



just a trend—it is a necessity. The objective is not just to create job seekers but to empower a new generation of job givers-technologically savvy entrepreneurs and innovators

SHALINI AGARWAL MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, SURAT

Weekly lectures in AI, design thinking, and STEMbased curricula are helping these students develop real-world problem-solving skills. "Smart education is not just a trend—it is a necessity,' said Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal, who has been instrumental in rolling out this transformation

The AI labs were inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, who called the initiative a "gateway to new possibilities

tion development.

tegrated education.

The impact is already visible -- 34 students from Suman schools have been selected for national-level competitions. and their projects in AI, robotics, and 3D printing were recently showcased during the CM's visit to Sanjivkumar Auditorium, Adajan. Last month, Delhi's Education Minister Ashish Sood also expressed admiration for Surat's tech-empowered education model.

Haldwani-based SHGs send 'silk rakhi' to PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dehradun, August 4: The women-led Self-Help Group (SHGs) in Haldwani district of Uttarakhand are churning out 'silk rakhis' ahead of the pious Raksha Bandhan festival. They have gained prominence not just in the state but also across the country because of the silk-made rakhis.

In a special gesture, the women members of SHGs have sent a rakhi, made of silk, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The silk-made rakhis are getting recognition and acceptance across a broad spectrum and are also witnessing huge demand from across the country. The SHGs are also dispatching 'silk rakhis' to Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Rajasthan, Lucknow, Gujarat and Chandigarh.

The women functionaries of SHGs said that they have made special silk rakhis for PM Modi, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, as well as Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi and want to see them tie these rakhis on the occasion of

Raksha Bandhan.

The SHGs have also done a good business by making rakhis this year.

around Rs 15,000 in the past few

'We have done business of

days. People are liking these rakhis, due to which the group is getting orders," said a SHG member. Kiran Joshi, president of Ma-

hila Sahayata Samuh, says that the women of the group have been engaged in making rakhis for the last several months, through which their economic condition is getting stronger.

"There is a demand for this rakhi from other states of the country. These rakhis are eco-friendly," she said.

Meanwhile, Hemchandra, Deputy Director of the Silk Department, said that the women of the SHG group are becoming self-reliant with this initiative

He further informed that such products were being made for the first time in the country

"Women of Mahila Swayam Sahayata Samuh have succeed ed in doing a business of more than Rs 9 lakh in just nine months," he said.

concerning as schoolchildren continue to be ferried in vehicles that are barely roadworthy, putting young lives at risk every day. Adding to the chaos, Ahmedabad has seen a worrying rise in crimes involving shuttle rickshaws. Passengers -- particularly those new to the city -- have reported being threatened, robbed. and abandoned mid-journey by rogue rickshaw drivers operating illegally from transit hubs like Kalupur Railway Station Stranded people being rescued after the water level of a river increased during the monsoon season, at Prem Nagar in Dehradun, Monday

Legacy of friendship: Surat bungalow spans four generations

The bungalow 'Maitri' in Surat symbolizes an 80-year-old friendship between Gunwant and Bipin Desai. This legacy of friendship has been passed down from fathers to sons, then to grandchildren, and now to great-grandchildren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and Ranip Bus Stand.

Surat, August 4: A bungalow named 'Maitri' in Surat city stands as a testament to a more than 80-year-old friendship between two families, a bond that began before Independence and has thrived across four gener-

The saga of friendship between Gunwant Desai and Bipin Desai dates back to the 1940s. It blossomed during their school days and endured the test of time.

"My father, Gunwant Desai, and his friend Bipin Desai lived in the Sagrampura area of Surat in the 1940s," reminisced 63-vear-old Parimal, son of Gunwant Desai.

Inspired by Mahatma Gand-

hi, both participated in the freedom struggle and were even imprisoned together, he recalled. After graduating from an ag-

ricultural university in Pune, the friends returned to Surat and launched a joint agriculture and dairy business. "They started their joint

venture while living in a mud house in the Chanakyapuri area. The thought of separation or bringing in another business partner never crossed their minds." he added.

As their families grew, they decided to move into a larger home, together.

"In 1970, the two built this duplex bungalow with separate kitchens and bedrooms, but a shared drawing room where members of both families could



gather, relax, and enjoy life together," said Parimal, now a real estate developer.

Gautam Desai (70), son of Bipin Desai, added, "The bond between our fathers was so strong that people often mistook them

for brothers.'

This legacy of friendship has been passed down from fathers to sons, then to grandchildren, and now to great-grandchil-

Gautam and Parimal share

the same deep connection their fathers did. Similarly, Gautam's son, Rahul, is close to Parimal's son, Hardik

Even the youngest generation continues the tradition.

"Rahul's son Dwij, a class 10 student, and Hardik's daughter Vyomi (4) share a special bond—she ties Rakhi on him every Rakshabandhan," said Parimal.

The families jointly run the Maitri Trust, established in 1990 by the two friends to promote Gandhian ideals.

The two pillars of this enduring bond passed away within a year of each other—Bipin Desai in 2012 at age 87, and Gunwant Desai in 2013 at age 88. Both had pledged to donate their bodies for medical research.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, **RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA**

At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladeview, Email : eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement] Bid Identification No. RWS/38/2025-26

No.O-533 Letter No. 4834 / Dated: 01.08.2025

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid (G2) in SINGLE cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible Civil contractors for execution of Drinking Water Supply projects in Kendrapara District. Name of the work

Construction of OHT for different RPWS

No. of Work Concerned tender inviting authority

Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) (Online Cost of EMD @ 1% (Online) Class of Bidder

9 Period of Completion10 Availability of bid documents in the

11 Last Date & Time of seeking tender

"C" and "B" date 22.08.2025 till 5.30 P.M. Upto 11.08.2025 upto 5.30 P.M

Schemes in Kendrapara District

02 Nos. (Two) only ₹ 24.03 Lakhs to ₹ 30.00 Lakhs

Kendrapara

Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division

₹ 24100/- to 30000/- as applicable

12 Date of opening of Bid

12 Date of opening of Bid

13. 25.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in the tender through ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be had from the website i.e. http://tendersodisha.gov.in. The bid shall be accompanied with valid Contractor Registration Certificate, PAN, GST, No relation certificate i Schedule-A, Affidavit in support of authenticity of documents in Schedule-F and information regarding litigation in Schedule-E. ubsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall only be appeared in the above

OIPR-25004/11/0042/2526

Sd./- Executive Engineer

national



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





relations with

FAROOO ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

ou 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 risina so hiah

YOGI ADITYANATH |

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 MOHMAD 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.

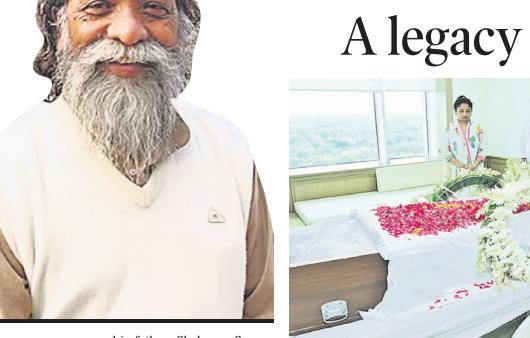
IndiGo flight develops flat tyre at airport

Jabalpur (MP): A Mumbaibound 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





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 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 spear-

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

was marred by legal controversies. In 2004, he was arrested in connection with the 1975 Chirudih massacre case but was acquitted in 2008. More notably, he was convicted in 2006 in the kidnapping and murder case of his former aide Shashinath Jha. The case, linked to alleged political deals during a 1993 no-confidence vote, gained national attention. Soren was later acquitted, and the Supreme Court upheld the verdict

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

as the state's Chief Minister Another son, Basant, is also a legislator, while his daughter Anjani heads the party's Odi

sha 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

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 "Jibran"—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 'CandvLand' 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.

'dhok' (seasonal hut) in Hill Park near Baisaran April 21. aided by two locals—Parvaiz and Bashir Ahmad Jothar-who provided food and shelter before they moved to the attack site the next day. Both men were later arrested, and their testimonies corroborated the terrorists movements.

Ballistic evidence also linked the terrorists to the attack. Shell casings found at the scene matched 100 per cent with the rifles recovered from the slain attackers. These weapons were flown to Chandigarh for urgent forensic testing, which confirmed the match within hours.

Officials also revealed a deeper command network behind the attack. LeT's south-Kashmir operations chief, Sajid Saifullah Jatt from Lahore, was identified as the handler, with his voice matching recordings from the recovered satellite phone. Additionally, Rawalakot-based LeT leader Rizwan Anees was seen visiting the families of the slain attackers July 29 and organizing 'Ghaibana Namaze-Janaza' (funeral prayers in absentia), further confirming

their Pakistani ties. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing Parliament, shared details of the evidence and emphasized the precision of the investigation. He also disclosed 'Operation Sindoor,' a retaliatory cross-border strike, carried out in response to the Pahalgam attack.

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



from the Leader of the Opposition are extremely harmful for the nation, and they demoralise our forces," the minister 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 higgest territorial sethack 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.



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 Di rector 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 Ban-

glegudde. 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 pre-

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.

serve critical evidence.

Attempts to exhume at four other locations-labelled sites 7 to 10--had earlier failed to produce conclusive evidence, further in tensifying 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 ac tively engage with the ongoing investigation. Officials said that recovering as many skeletals as possible remains a top priority in one of Karnataka's largest foren sic-led investigations. The SIT investigation continues under tight secrecy, with daily operations expected to proceed based on emerging findings.

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 into 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.



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

national



About 10 crore employment generation is recorded in the last 10 years during the Modi government...If we work of ten years of **UPA rule, then only 3 crore jobs** were created. We don't say at our own as it is the data of RBI

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT MINISTER

'ANCIENT BUDDHIST SITE, SARNATH' SUBMITTED ON UNESCO LIST

India has submitted this year a dossier titled 'Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath' to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the 2025-26 nomination cycle, the government informed Parliament Monday. The nomination process takes "approximately 1.5 years" from the date of submission of the dossier, after following the process of inscription as laid down in Operational Guidelines, 2024





another training

ment employees to go beyond the routine, to act with empathy, to serve with humility, and to solve PEMA KHANDU I

CHIEF MINISTER, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Congress MP made "anti-India comments and his remarks that China has taken away Indian territory

without providing proof to back his claim demoralised armed forces who protect each and every inch of the country even in minus 40 degrees temperature DEVENDRA FADNAVIS I

CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

The opposition parties came together to form INDIA bloc. The name is 'INDIA' but if you listen to them, it

feels like they are spokespersons for Pakistan... Even in the Lok Sabha, many people raised questions on Operation Sindoor

REKHA GUPTA | CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI





This isn't just a debate anymore, it's a serious concern for millions Let's make it louder. Like, Retweet, and use the hashtag below in your

tweets to spread awareness:

#IndiaDemandPurePetrol Time to demand what's right. Not blended, not diluted, but also just "Pure Petrol" at the same price. Let the consumers decide what they want to use, not the government, not oil companies. Stop forcing Ethanol Blended

@venkat_fin9

SHORT **TAKES**

Abhishek named TMC's leader in LS

Kolkata: In a significant organisational shake-up, TMC Monday named its national general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee as the party's new parliamentary leader in the Lok Sabha, replacing veteran leader Sudip Bandopadhyay, who has been unwell for months. The decision was taken at a closed-door virtual meeting of TMC MPs from both Houses of Parliament, chaired by party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, who attended virtually from Kolkata.

20 peacocks found dead, probe ordered

Tumakuru (Karnataka): Twenty peacocks were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Tumakuru district in Karnataka Monday, and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered a probe led by the Deputy Conservator of Forests. Of the deceased, three were male and 17 female, officials said. The farmers who discovered the dead peacocks in a field near Medigeshi in Hanumanthapura village of Madhugiri taluk in the district alerted the police, following which they, along with the forest department officials, reached the spot. The cause of the death is yet to be ascertained, a senior police official said.

In a first, India, Philippines stage joint naval drill in South China Sea

Manila, August 4: India and the Philippines have staged joint naval exercises in the disputed South China Sea for the first time, a high-profile military deployment that antagonised China. Armed Forces of the Philip-

pines chief of staff Gen Romeo Brawner said Monday that the two-day joint naval sail and exercises which began Sunday went successfully, and expressed hopes that Filipino forces could engage India's military in more joint maneuvers in the future.

Asked if Chinese forces carried out any action in response. Brawner said without elaborating that "we did not experience any untoward incident but we

were still shadowed. We expected that already."

Two Chinese navy ships. including a guided-missile destroyer, were spotted about 25 nautical miles from one of two Philippine navy frigates that participated in the joint sail Sunday, the Philippine military said.

The Chinese military's Southern Theater Command said it conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea on Sunday and Monday and added that it remains resolute in defending China's territory and maritime rights and interests.

Without mentioning India by name, the Southern Theater Command accused the Philippines of drawing in outside countries to organise joint patrols that it said undermine



regional peace and stability. China's Foreign Ministry said territorial disputes should be resolved by those directly involved without any third-party

Beijing's expansive claims to virtually the entire South China Sea, a key global trade route have led to tense confrontations with other claimant states, particularly the Philippines and

Vietnam. Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also lay claims to parts of the contested waters

Brawner said the Philippines has to boost deterrence to prevent war. "The way to do that is, number one, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has to be strengthened through modernisation, and secondly, we need to partner with like-minded nations and that's

what we're doing with India," he said last week.

During a reception on board an Indian navy tanker, the INS Shakti, Thursday, Brawner said the vessel's port call in Manila was more than ceremonial. It "sends a powerful signal of solidarity, strength in partnership and the energy of cooperation between two

vibrant democracies in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

Brawner welcomed the deepening of relations between the two Asian countries and "reaffirmed the shared commitment to maritime security, regional stability and a rules-based international order in one of the world's most geopolitically sensitive regions.

Philippines Prez Marcos kicks off India visit

Where is law, order: **Oppn slams Centre**

Sudha, a Congress MP from Tamil Nadu, was out on a morning walk near Tamil Nadu Bhavan around 6 AM when an unidentified motorcycle-borne man snatched her gold chain and tore her clothes before fleeing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. August 4: Several MPs Monday slammed authoricident involving Congress Lok Sabha member R Sudha in the high-security Chanakyapuri area, calling it a glaring failure of law and order in the national capital. Sudha, a Congress MP from

Tamil Nadu, was out on a morning walk near Tamil Nadu Bhavan around 6 AM when an unidentified motorcycle-borne man snatched her gold chain and tore her clothes before fleeing. She also sustained minor injuries. "When I shouted, no one came to help. After some time, I saw a patrol vehicle 200 metres away, but they did not respond. I then called our party whip Mr Manickam Tagore, and he arranged for the police to come," she said.

"I have filed a complaint with the police and also written to the Speaker and the Home Minister," Sudha told PTI Videos inside the Parliament complex.

The incident has sparked sharp criticism from opposition MPs who questioned the state of women's safety in the national capital and demanded accountability from the Union Home Ministry, which oversees Delhi Police.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi noted that areas housing embassies are generally seen as secure. "It is a new thing that such an incident took place there," she said.

She said that when Sudha approached a nearby patrol

Haridwar, August 4:The

vehicle, they failed to respond, calling it a worrying sign for the safety of ordinary women, especially in cities like Delhi, where crimes against women are rampant.

'That attentiveness must be there, and I think everybody across party lines would agree with that," she told reporters inside the Parliament complex.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said, "This is extremely unfortunate. An MP's chain is snatched in broad daylight in a highly secured area like Chanakyapuri. What must be happening to the common public?

She said that Chanakyapuri is touted as a zone with heightened security and surveillance, and yet a woman MP was "attacked".

"Where is the Centre's accountability? What happened to the double-engine government promise?" she said.

Congress MP Jebi Mather

also raised serious concerns, saying, "Where do we stand on women's safety in the national capital? A woman MP is attacked, her clothes are torn, her chain is snatched -- all in the most secure area filled with embassies.' "This shows even women

of the Home Minister. What happened to 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'? It's only a slogan, she said. Congress Rajya Sabha MP

MPs are not safe under the nose

Pramod Tiwari called the incident a daily reflection of Delhi's "deteriorating" law and order under Central rule.

"It seems there's no law and order left under the Modi government. This happened in Chanakyapuri, which is considered the most secure area. What does that say about the safety of ordinary citizens? he said, adding that states ruled by the BJP, like Bihar, are also witnessing daily violence.

Modi to address **NDA** parliamentary meeting today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the BJP-led NDA parliamentary party meeting Tuesday, a get-together of the ruling alliance's MPs which is being held after a considerable gap. The NDA meeting comes

a couple of days before the filing of nomination for vice president's election begins from August 7. The NDA will have to announce its candidate, whose election will be a certainty due to the alliance's majority in the electoral college, by August 21, the last date of nomination-filing and the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The meeting comes in the middle of a session which has been all but a washout so far, except for a two-day discussion on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, due to a united Opposition's ceaseless protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar by the Election Commission.

PM Modi is expected to speak on a host of current issues as the Opposition has been raising the heat over the poll body's alleged partisan conduct favouring the government, and the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation

The prime minister is also likely to be felicitated by the parliamentary party over his government's military response to the terror strike.

The electoral college for the vice president poll includes MPs of the Lok Sabha and the Raiva Sabha, and its current strength is 782. If the Opposition also names a candidate, a distinct possibility, then the poll is scheduled to be held September 9.

RAIN WREAKS HAVOC IN NORT

THIRTEEN

New Delhi, August 4: Three people drowned in Uttarakhand and another three killed in Himachal Pradesh when their vehicle fell into a gorge after skidding off a wet road, as rain continued to wreak havoc in the region. Thirteen districts in Uttar

Pradesh have been flooded, with major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna and Betwa flowing above the danger mark at several places. Rajasthan Chief Minister

Bhajanlal Sharma conducted an aerial survey in Sawai Madhopur district to assess the damage caused by flood-like situation following heavy rainfall. In Uttarkhand, one person

was swept away by strong currents of the Bhakhra stream near Haldwani. Another two

drowned in a swollen stream near Bhuiiyaghat on Haldwani road Sunday. Two were buried un-

der boulders and

debris falling from the hillside in Rudraprayag district in the wake of a landslide cy operation centre here said. Heavy overnight rains con-

tinued in Dehradun with the district administration closing schools and aanganwadi centres for the day. Major rivers in the state

were in spate, including the Ganga in Haridwar and Kali. In Himachal's Mandi, three people were killed when their vehicle fell into a gorge. Police identified the deceased

as Devrat, Mangal Chand, and

The incident, in which two more were injured, occurred late Sunday night when the vehicle skidded off the narrow road and ended up in a deep gorge near a Saini drain between Magrugla and Majhwal.

All five were returning home from Shankardehra, where they DISTRICTS IN **UTTAR PRADESH**

had been for the apple season. HAVE BEEN FLOODED, In Rajasthan WITH MAJOR RIVERS LIKE GANGA, YAMUNA AND Sharma flew over BETWA FLOWING ABOVE Chakeri, Jadawa

THE DANGER MARK AT ta, Ajanoti, Mainpura, Dhanauli and Surwal villages, and inspected the damaged overnight, the state emergen- Bodal culvert in Khandar, officials said

The state has been predicted to witness heavy to moderate rain in some northeastern districts over the next two to

three days.

Ganga is flowing above the danger mark in UP's Varanasi, Mirzapur, Ghazipur and Ballia Yamuna is above the red mark in Auraiya, Kalpi, Hamipur, Pravagrai and Banda, accord ing to a report issued by the

relief commissioner's office. Betwa was flowing above the danger mark in Hamirpur,

Acharya Balkrishna's birthday celebrated as herbal day

birthday of Patanjali Yogpeeth's General Secretary Acharva Balkrishna was celebrated as Herbal Day at the Yoga Bhavan Auditorium of Patanjali Wellness, Patanjali Yogpeeth-2. On this occasion, Swami Ramdev and Acharva Balkrishna inspired the gathered audience to take a pledge for a healthy individual, healthy family, healthy society, healthy nation, and a healthy world by planting trees. Both Swamiji and Acharya Ji led by example, participating in tree plantation and blood donation, motivating the masses.

During the event, Swami Ramdev congratulated Acharya Ji on his birthday, stating that the celebration is just symbolic — the real objective is to see every home in Bharat Mata and every corner of Mother Earth adorned with medicinal herbs, ensuring health and happiness for all humanity. He remarked

that herbs are a divine gift



from nature and a means of experiencing the grace of the Supreme. Herbs, he emphasized, serve not only as remedies but as a medium for self-realisation. Swami Ji praised Acharya Ji as a living embodiment of tireless effort and unwavering resolve in restoring the glory of India's ancient sages. He highlighted AcharyaJi's immense contributions to various Pataniali institutions like Patanjali Ayurveda Hospital, Yoggram, and Patanjali Wellness. He described Acharya Ji's life as an offering dedicated entirely to public welfare and an inspiration to devote one's life to the service of Bharat Mata, humanity, nature, and culture.

New Delhi, August 4: Corneal blindness, once considered a condition largely confined to the elderly, is now emerging as a major threat to India's This serious, yet largely pre-

ventable cause of blindness is across the country.

brought into focus at the recently concluded Indian Society of Cornea and Kerato-Refractive Surgeons (ISCKRS) Meet 2025, held in Delhi, where leading ophthalmologists from across India gathered to discuss what is fast becoming a national eye health emergency. Speaking at the conference, Dr

Rajesh Sinha, General Secretary of ISCKRS and Professor of Ophthalmology at AIIMS, New Delhi, said that a large number of fresh corneal blindness cases in India are now being seen in individuals under the age of 30 years.

"We are witnessing a dangerous shift. Young people



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

showing a sharp uptick among teenagers and young adults The disturbing trend was

tween 20,000 to 25,000 new cases of corneal blindness every year. and the number is growing. The ISCKRS panel high-

Corneal opacities are now the

second leading cause of blind-

ness in India, affecting tens of

thousands annually. Experts

estimate that India records be



conditions that are entirely factors behind this disturbing avoidable. Simple infections rise. Among the most pressing untreated injuries and lack of are trauma-related injuries, awareness are turning into perparticularly among youth enmanent visual disabilities," he gaged in agriculture, manual said. Corneal blindness occurs labour or industrial work. when the transparent front part These injuries often go unof the eye, the cornea, becomes treated or are addressed with cloudy or scarred due to infechome remedies, leading to setions, trauma, or nutritional deficiencies

rious infections and scarring. Simultaneously, Vitamin A deficiency, still prevalent in many parts of the country, continues to cause severe corneal damage in children and adolescents. These issues are compound-

ed by low awareness, lack of early diagnosis, and inadequate access to specialised eye care in rural and underserved regions.

tant (Cornea, Cataract and Re fractory Surgery) at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Delhi Eye Centre, said, "It is unaccept able that in 2025, we are still losing thousands of young eves to entirely preventable causes India must treat corneal blind ness among youth as a public health emergency.' He said a national strategy

with strong community engage ment is the need of the hour.

Despite the magnitude of the problem, India's capacity to treat corneal blindness remains severely limited, said Sinha.

The country requires more than 100,000 corneal trans plants annually, but is currently able to perform only about 40,000, covering about one-third of the need. The shortfall is largely due to a shortage of do nor corneas, a limited number of trained corneal surgeons and under-equipped eye banks. The ISCKRS forum stressed

the need to build infrastructure, train manpower, and promote voluntary eye dona tion through public awareness.



international



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

JAPAN'S OLDEST PERSON

Shigeko Kagawa, a 114-year-old retired physician from Nara Prefecture, has became Japan's oldest living person, following the death of 114-yearold 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



India is basically tied with China STEPHEN MILLER I



WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAF



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

THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM I SINGAPORE PRESIDENT

Those countries who thought Russia was ready for talks, and that the war could end at any moment



MYKHAILO PODOLYAK | UKRAINIAN POLITICIAN

SHORT TAKES

Tesla awards Musk millions in shares

Washington: Tesla is awarding CEO Elon Musk 96 million shares of restricted stock valued at approximately USD29 billion, just six months after a judge ordered the company to revoke his massive pay package. The electric vehicle maker said in a regulatory filing Monday that Musk must first pay Tesla USD 23.34 per share of restricted stock that vests, which is equal to the exercise price per share of the 2018 pay package that was awarded to the company's CEO. In December Delaware Chancellor Kathaleen St Jude McCormick reaffirmed her earlier ruling that Tesla must revoke Musk's multibilliondollar pay package. She found that Musk engineered the landmark pay package in sham negotiations with directors who were not independent. At the time McCormick also rejected an equally unprecedented and massive fee request by plaintiff attorneys, who argued that they were entitled to legal fees in the form of Tesla stock valued at more than USD 5 billion. The judge said the attorneys were entitled to a

Christian worker beaten up in Pak

fee award of USD 345 million.

Lahore: A Christian sanitary worker was brutally beaten by a group of people for refusing to remove the building material belonging to an influential local in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said Monday. Police officer Abdur Razaaq Paras told PTI that the suspect, Saqib Rabbani, asked Shahid Masih to remove building material lying on the roadside in Sadigabad tehsil of Rahim Yar Khan, some 400-km from Lahore. When Masih told him that removing building material from roads was not his job, Rabbani and 15 others started thrashing him. "Masih got injured when Rabbani threw a brick at him, causing him a head injury," the police officer said. Masih was shifted to a hospital where his condition was stable. Police have arrested the main suspect, Rabbani, and registered a case against him and 15 others. "A Christian man, barely surviving on his daily labour, was struck with a brick to the head, not for wrongdoing, but for daring to say no," the Voice of Pakistan Minority, an NGO, said in a statement. It said for the Christian community of Sadiqabad, especially the sanitation workers of Suthra Punjab, the attack is a cruel reminder that

their lives are still seen as

expendable.

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

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 Yorkbased 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'

WAR IN UKRAINE

Stakes rise as Trump's Kremlin deadline nears



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.

Donald US President 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 vield 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 cit ies, a week ago moved up his ultimatum to impose addition al 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.

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

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

"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 Palestinians were killed Sunday while waiting for the arrival of UN were wrapped in thick patterned blankets because white shrouds, which hold special significance in Islamic burials, were in short supply due to continued Israeli border

ing on the Israeli border with

the northern Gaza Strip, the

At the hospital, some bodies

officials added.

restrictions and the mounting number of daily deaths, Pales-"We don't want war, we want peace, we want this misery to end. We are out on the streets we all are hungry, we are all in bad shape, women are out there on the streets, we have nothing available for us to live a normal life like all human beings, there's no life," Thari

told Reuters. There was no im-

mediate comment by Israel on

the incidents of shootings on

Sunday and Monday. Israel blames Hamas for the suffering in Gaza and says it is taking steps for more aid to reach its population, including pausing fighting for part of the day in some areas, air drops

and announcing protected routes for aid convovs. 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 eves 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 un-

tapped potential in a traditional

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 pro-

duces 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 sup-

plements, 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 fulltime 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 vogurt is not just a novelty -- it fills an important nutritional gap for local con

"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,

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

business



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

As the nation

RAIIV GAURA I 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





the last financial year helped by about ₹2.100 crore new tax regime

ASHOK CHANDRA

CEO, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

Removal of import restrictions by a major Indian rice importer will help 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



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

Bosch net surges

preceding year

New Delhi: Auto component maker Bosch Ltd Monday reported an over twofold iump in its consolidated net profit to ₹1.115 crore for the first guarter 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 guarter of the last fiscal. Total income increased to ₹5.077 crore during the quarter against ₹4,496 crore in 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 to ₹673 crore for the period under review against ₹368 Ather Energy said in a

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 Saniay 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 shortterm 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 ba-

sis 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 consid-

"Therefore, we do not expect any change of stance or policy more cautious with some comfort being drawn on the resilient growth front," he pointed

CareEdge Ratings further said that given the incomplete transmission of the previous rate cuts, the RBI is expected to hold off on further easing, allowing time for the full impact of earlier measures to materi-

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation has remained below 4 per cent since February. It was at 2.1 per cent in June. The government has mandated the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icra, opined that with the recent CPI prints signalling a lower trajectory for the second half of this calendar year, the average for FY2026 is likely to be pared from the MPC's June 2025 guidance of 3.7 per cent.

On monetary policy expectations, Rohit Arora, CEO & Co-Founder, Biz2X & Biz2Credit opined that as India's MSMEs brace for fallout from the latest US tariffs on exports, the timing of RBI's policy response is crucial.

"These tariffs not only present uncertainty into external trade but also risk squeezing smaller exporters who are already grappling with tightening domestic liquidity. With the festive season approaching, a 25-basis-point rate cut could help MSMEs absorb external shocks, maintain credit access, and power job-creation," Arora said.

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 des tination 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 char gers providing 11kW at ₹14/ kW, the company said.

Sensex rises 419 pts to close above 81k

BSE SENSEX

AUGUST 04, 2025



CHANGE: +418.81(+0.52%)

+2.53 % PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

+3.24 %

GAINERS

ADANI PORTS

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

-0.60 % LOSERS

Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustar Unilever were among the lag-

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

0.76 per cent and the midcap index by 1.11 per cent Among sectoral indices, met-

al 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 trad ing in green. US markets ended in negative territory Friday.

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 con-

nectivity..." 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 Al-powered analytics and

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

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.

GST evasion of ₹7.08L-cr detected in last 5 fiscal years

New Delhi, August 4: Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion to the tune of ₹7.08 lakh crore has been detected in crackdowns carried out by tax officials in 91.370 cases during the last five financial years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Parlia

ment was informed Monday. As much as ₹1.79 lakh crore of the evasion amount comprised ITC fraud in as many as 44.938 cases that were detected during the five years.

The amount of GST recovered during this five-year period as voluntary deposits stood at over ₹1.29 lakh crore. In financial year 2024-25, over ₹2.23 lakh crore of GST evasion was detect ed by CGST field officers, data tabled by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha showed.

Of the 30,056 cases of GST evasion detected in 2024-25, more than half, or 15,283 cases, were related to input tax credit (ITC) fraud, in which the amount involved was ₹58.772 crore.

In the financial year 2023-24,



the GST evasion detected by tax officials added up to ₹2.30 lakh crore, of which ITC fraud comprised as much as ₹36.374 crore. Similarly, in 2022-23. around ₹1.32 lakh crore GST evasion was detected, which included ₹24,140 crore as ITC fraud. In financial year 2021-22, the GST evasion detected stood at ₹73,238 crore, of which ITC fraud constituted ₹28.022 crore. while in 2020-21, the GST evasion amounted to ₹49,384 crore, while ITC fraud comprised ₹31.233 crore.

The minister also said that the net CGST collection was 96.7 per cent of the revised estimate (RE) in the 2024-25 fiscal.

'The Central government and GSTN are taking various steps to prevent tax evasion, such as

digitisation through E-invoicing, GST analytics, highlighting of outliers based on system-flagged mismatches, providing actionable intelligence and selection of returns for scrutiny and selection of taxpayers for audit based on various risk parameters. These measures are helpful in safeguarding the revenue and nabbing the evaders," he said.

Besides, certain projects were also undertaken, such as "Project Anveshan" (Analytics, Verification. Shortlisting of Anomalies) whereby newer techniques like Facial Recognition System (FRS), E-way bill data, etc., were used for early identification of GSTINs with propensity for fraudulent activity to generate Intelligence reports, he added.

IOC buys 7mn barrels from US

New Delhi, August 4: Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's top refiner, has bought 7 million barrels of September-arriv al 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 windov for US crude to Asia opened and as Indian state refiners paused buying of Russian crude oil or narrowing discounts. US Presi dent 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.

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

latest edition of the World Air Transport Statistics (WATS)

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-big-

gest 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

al and domestic passengers departing or arriving in each

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

"Asia Pacific dominated the ranking for the world's busiest airport pairs, with Jeju-Seoul two airports in 2024.

"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 premi um travel, with 39.3 million premium passengers, while premi um travellers as a percentage of all travellers were highest in the Middle East at 14.7 per cent." IATA said.

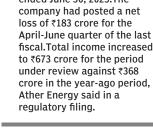
Last year, narrow-body planes of Boeing and Airbus were among the most used

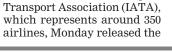
Boeing's B737 alone flew 10 million flights with 2.4 tril-

(ASKs) in 2024. "This was followed by the Airbus A320 with 7.9 million

lion Available Seat Kilometres

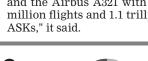
flights and 1.7 trillion ASKs and the Airbus A321 with 3.4 million flights and 1.1 trillion





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

(CJU-GMP) the most popular route globally, with 13.2 million passengers flying between the



Red-hot, ruthless, relentless

INDIA'S HIGHEST WICKET-TAKER IN ENG

OVERS 185.3

AVERAGE: 32.43

WICKETS: 23

вы: 6/70

pacity facility in no time.

ticket helped fill the 27,500 ca-

began, the new ball was due in

22 balls but England expect-

edly went on the offensive in

overcast conditions from the

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

back fours

for England,

reducing the

target to 27

When proceedings finally

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 re-

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

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

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 en by KL

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.

Rishabht

Chris

came out to bat

with a fractured

foot for India,

walked into the

Woakes

up in the morning and checked google on my lieve' 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 centre with a tied broken left arm, prompting everyone in the stadium to stand

In his fol-

lowing over,

Siraj foxed

with a nip

backer as

ed the

batter

er

Overton

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

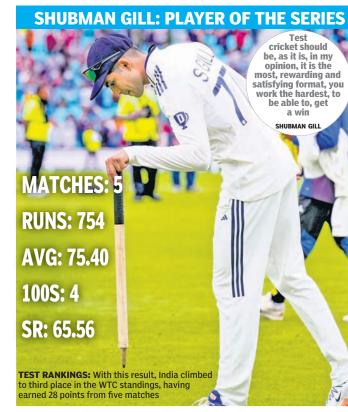
digits and with Atkinson doing well to keep himself on strike, India had to go for one final roll

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

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



Tendulkar leads praise Next-gen scripts gritty comeback to shut doubters after stunning victory NDO-AISAN NEWS SERVICE RECORDS GALORE

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

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

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 #EN-GVIND.

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 ..

stoic

the series.

made the old

ball talk in his

from the pavilion

end and immedi-

ately got the ball to

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

Every ball of that Siraj over

Following the much-needed

breakthrough, a half chance

was created against Gus Atkin-

stadium to erupt in unison.

was an event.

opening

shane away

warrior in

expect-

contin-

off-stump

The on-

field deci-

sion was

reviewed by

iust

England

Overton but

the ball was

the leg-stump.

needed 20 to win

clipping

still

bowl-

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 call-

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.

DREAMIN

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
- Five batters scored over 400 runs
- achieved only thrice before. ■ Gill (754), Rahul, Jadeia each
- crossed 500 runs-joint-most in any ■ Gill's 754 runs: Second-highest by
- a Test captain, beating Gooch's 752
- Jadeia's 516: Highest by an Indian
- Jadeja's run tally in England at No 6 or lower (1,131) broke Clive Lloyd's
- Akash Deep's 66: Third-highest by
- Jaiswal's 118 included 94 runs be
- hind square off-side-most since 2003

expectations they always have to shoulder while playing for

Hockey India names 24-member squad AIFF to meet ISL club CEOs

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-



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 Sanjeep Xess, Jugrai Singh and Karnataka's Poovanna will take care of the

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.

FORWARDS: Mandeep Singh, Shilanand Lakra Abhishek, Sukhj

UNCERTAINTY SHROUDS LEAGUE'S FUTURE

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 contin-

ues. signalling a potential difference in vision between the federa tion and l

heart of the issue lies the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) tween

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 sur-

rounding the league's long-term direction. Given the ISL's traditional Septem ber-to-April schedule, planning for the 2025-26 season would typi cally begin well in ad vance. Clubs, broad

casters and sponsors require clarity on timelines commitments and commercial terms to organise logistics. player signings and mar keting activities.

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