

Deepika's record

Actor Deepika Padukone's latest promotional reel garners 1.9bn views in eight weeks, marking digital history

LEISURE | P2



Gaza takeover

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favours a complete military takeover of Gaza for the first time in two decades

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Tariff threat

US president Donald Trump likely to raise pharmaceutical tariff as much as 250 per cent

BUSINESS | P11



In safe hands

After five fiercely fought Tests in England, the relatively inexperienced Indian cricket team give a fine blueprint for the future

dies at 79

SPORTS | P12

Satyapal Malik

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Flash flood: Many dead & trapped

AT LEAST HALF OF A UTTARAKHAND VILLAGE WAS BURIED UNDER THE FAST FLOWING MUDSLIDE OF SLUSH, RUBBLE AND WATER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

(Uttara-Uttarkashi khand), August 5: Disaster swept through the Himalayan village of Dharali on way to Gangotri Tuesday with a massive cloudburst leading to flashfloods that barrelled through homes, trees and cars, trapping 60-70 people and leaving at least four dead.

Dharali is the main stopover on way to Gangotri, the origin of the Ganges, and home to many hotels, restaurants and home stays.

At least half the village was buried under the fast flowing mudslide of slush, rubble and water, officials said as rescue personnel battled the elements in the ecologically fragile heights to contain the damage of the afternoon.

Contiguous buildings, including three and four-storey houses, fell like a pack of cards as the surging waters washed over them. The devastating flashflood came in the wake of a cloudburst somewhere in the catchment area



DISASTER STRUCK: Houses being swept away in a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst at Dharali in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, Tuesday

the same hill, one towards agement Secretary Vinod hampering rescue efforts.

Dharali was not the only hit. Dharali and the other to- Kumar Suman. The rain The raging waters flowed wards the village of Sukki, continued through the af-

Besides. down two different sides of said state Disaster Man-ternoon and till evening, five national highways, sev-preventing personnel from

blocked 163 roads, including further impeding rescue and en state highways and two getting to the far-flung area,

landslides border roads across the state.

about 140 km from the state capital Dehradun and usually a five-hour drive. An army team from the nearest location of Harsil was immediately rushed to the spot to launch rescue operations but teams from other places found it difficult to reach due to bad weather and disrupted roads, Suman said.

According to initial reports, at least four people have died, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya told reporters in Dehradun before rushing to the spot.

There was no official confirmation on the number of people who went missing after the flashflood but it is likely to be high as the sudden rush of floodwaters gave people no time to run towards safety.

Uttarakhand Principal Secretary R K Sudhanshu said 40 to 50 buildings are damaged. He added that helicopters could not be pressed into service either because of bad weather.

NDRF deploys cadaver dogs for rescue ops & more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik died Tuesday at a hospital here after a prolonged illness, his personal staff said He was 79.

Malik, who had also held the positions of governor of Goa, Bihar, Meghalaya, and Odisha, besides being a member of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in his long political career, died at 1.12 pm at the Ram Manohar Lo hia hospital here.

He was in the ICU of the hospital for a long time, getting treatment for various ailments, the staff said.

Malik attracted a lot of controversy after alleging that he was offered a bribe to clear files of two major projects in Jammu and Kashmir and questioned the BJP-led central government over issues related to farmers and the Pulwama terror attack. P8

INDIA bloc backs Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: IN-DIA bloc parties Tuesday termed 'unwarranted' the Supreme Court observations against Rahul Gandhi for his alleged remarks on the Army, and asserted it was the responsibility of political parties to comment on issues of national interest.

The remarks came a day after the Supreme Court to comment on issues of naer of Opposition in the Lok ment said. Sabha, over his alleged de-

Bharat Jodo Yatra.

dia parties agreed that the position he has every right sitting judge has made an to question the government. extraordinary observation which is unwarranted on the democratic rights of political parties," the Congress said in a statement.

"It is the responsibility of political parties especially the Leader of Opposition

rogatory remarks about the Gandhi Vadra also said that party General Secretary.

Indian Army during his Rahul Gandhi holds the Indian security forces in high "All the leaders of the Inesteem and as Leader of Op-

> Asked about the top court's observations, she told reporters at the Parliament House complex, "With due respect to the honourable judges of the Supreme Court, they do not decide who is a true Indian."

"My brother holds the Arcensured Gandhi, the Lead- tional interest," the state- my in the highest respect. So it is a misinterpretation (of Congress leader Priyanka his remarks)," added the

SHORT **TAKES Honour for Odisha**

in organ donation

Bhubaneswar: Odisha has been conferred with the national award as the 'Emerging State in Organ Donation' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) in New Delhi. official sources said. Tuesday. The award citation noted that Odisha's commitment and contribution are commendable and have played a vital role in giving new life to patients suffering from end-stage organ failure. Additional Director of Medical Education and Training Dr Umakanta Satapathy and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) in-charge Dr Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak received the award on behalf of the state,

Bhubaneswar: The state government Tuesday appointed Shovana Mohanty as the chairperson of the State Commission for Women (SCW). and Babita Patra as the chief of the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR), according to notifications issued Tuesday. The government also appointed six new members to the OSCPCR, Mohanty and Patra will serve as the chairnerson of the SCW for three years, the

SCW, OSCPCR get new chairpersons

notification said.



He's just a murderer and a rapist, Milord-but never said a word against the govt. A true Indian. Let him go

IRREGULAR by MANJUL No more Regd Post from Sept 1 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Indian Postal Department a strategic integration with job offers, legal notices, and

The decision comes after official data showed a 25% drop in registered items 12 to 184.6 million in 2019-20.

The Department's Director will be phased out as part of General has instructed all departments, courts, educational institutions, and users to transition to the new system by September 1. The merger aims to improve tracking ity, and legal validity. The accuracy, delivery speed. service was used for deliver- and operational efficiency by consolidating services under Speed Post.

government correspondence, playing a vital role in the

has announced the discontinuation of its iconic Registered Post service, marking from 244.4 million in 2011the end of a 50-year era. From September 1, 2025, the service Speed Post, aimed at modernising operations. The Registered Post was known for its reliability, affordabiling important documents like

lives of millions of Indians.

official sources said.

Will raise tariffs on India in 24 hrs: Trump

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Moscow, August 5: US President Donald Trump Tuesday said India has not been a good trading partner and announced that he will raise the tariffs on New Delhi "very substantially" over the next 24 hours because it is buying

Russian oil. "With India, what people don't like to say about India, they're the highest tariff nation. They have the highest tariff of anybody. We do very, very little business with India because their tariffs are so high," Trump said in an interview with CNBC

Squawk Box.



trading partner, because they do a lot of business with us, but we don't do business with them. So we settled on 25% (tariff), but I think I'm going to raise that very substantially over the next 24 hours, because they're buying Russian oil. They're fuelling the war machine," he added. Firmly rejecting the crit-

When asked about the trade deal with India that double standards in targetseemed imminent, Trump "India has not been a good said the "sticking point"

with India is that its tariffs but also fertilisers, mining are too high. Hours later, products, chemicals, iron India mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil.

icism, India pointed out the

ing it on the issue and said

continuing their trade relations with Russia. "Unlike our case, such

trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. The Europe-Russia trade

includes not just energy,

and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the MEA said. "Where the US is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV

chemicals," it added Russia defends India | P8 both the US and the EU are

industry, fertilisers as well as



eisure



Hollywood star Liam Neeson has spoken about actors who arrive hours late to set. The Taken star said that he has heard 'disturbing stories' about stars who show up late for filming and insisted he would 'never work with those people'.

LIAM NEESON ON ACTORS

COMING LATE ON SET

JESSIE JAMES DECKER TO MAKE ACTING DEBUT

Pop singer Jessie James Decker is set to make her acting debut with the adaptation of the novel *The Christmas Ring* by Karen Kingbury. The 37-year-old singer shared the news by uploading a series of pictures on her Instagram handle.



accuracy • reliability • trust

Today you will feel like displaying your power. If you find that people are awe-struck when you pass by, take it that your labours are doing the trick. Otherwise, take it that you have to get things in better order. Ganesha says either ways vou have more work to do.

TAURUS

This day, Ganesha sees you brimming with pep and vigour. You'll be feeling playful and frisky and will want to amuse yourself, keep others amused. You are likely to hang out with old friends and cronies and will love very second of it. Long breezy drives on the wide open roads, jungle treks are distinctly in the cards.

GEMINI

An auspicious and progressive day awaits you. Alongwith your daily work you will also be able to tackle your personal issues as well. You will establish an emotional bonding with some person, or will feel the need to. It is a good day to ponder over issues such as partner ship or marriage. It is a profitable day to sell anything, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Be ready to get into the shoes of a juggler today, says Ganesha. Multi-tasking is the need of the hour, my friend! But, no worries for you will be energetic and deft. Pending pile of work will be finished with ease. Seemingly impossible tasks will be finished in a blink of an eye

You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front, you will need to watch against minor conflicts with your partner cropping up. You will be able to take part in entertaining and fun activities, says Ganesha.

Your driving force will be a single-minded desire to take your destiny in your own nands. Your organisational abilities will be

flawless, and a burning desire to succeed will motivate you to keep pegging at your tasks. Ganesha says your managerial abilities will be enhanced by your decision-making and reasoning abilities.

Ganesha says that you will be able to spend more time with your friend circle. You will be attracted to someone of the opposite sex. In the evening today you will be able to take out your beloved for a romantic evening combined with a drive and dinner at a restaurant.

SCORPIO

It seems, the book, 'How to win friends and influence people' has left a great impact on vour mind, bringing about a lot of change in your practical life too. As you switch to a new business venture, your efforts will be appreciated. In short, you are a personality that every one would take a note of.

SAGITTARIUS

Amid chaos and confusion, don't forget the direction and destination, advises Ganesha. You may be running short of time today and may not find a single moment in peace. Taking a break at this point of time won't be a crime, go for it.

CAPRICORN

Unless you be calm and patience, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesha. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan.

Keep your focus on your target so that

you don't miss a step on the ladder.

AQUARIUS Do you wish to have a new

car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you

can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesha.

PISCES You will have frequent mood swings today but you will still manage to fix a work related goal. Your mood will be better if you focus on work. You might feel stressed about some personal matter, but Ganesha says it is not a matter to worry. You will receive

some good news by the end of the day.

MRUNAL FINDS **LOVE AGAIN!**

MUMBAI: A recent viral video featuring actors Dhanush and Mrunal Thakur has sparked dating rumours, showing the duo holding hands and engaged in what seemed like an intimate conversation. The clip, reportedly taken at the screening of Mrunal's latest film Son Of Sardaar 2 in Mumbai, was shared online with the caption, "Dhanush and Mrunal Thakur are dating?" fueling speculation. Dhanush's presence at the screening, alongside Ajay Devgn, further

Now, a source has confirmed that the two are indeed dating. According to a news agency, the relationship is still new, and the couple has no immediate plans to go public, though they're not hiding their outings either. Friends close to them say they share similar values, choices, and thoughts, which has created a strong bond. Their connection report-

intensified the buzz.

edly began during a South Indian film event, where they first met. Mrunal, who rose to prominence in the South with Sita Ramam. frequently travels between Mumbai and Hyderabad for work and is currently shooting Dacoit: A Love

Story with Adivi

Dhanush, previously married to Aishwarya Rajinikanth for 18 years, shares two sons with her. The couple announced their separation in 2022 and

officially divorced in 2024.



who

tivist

unknowingly lucky his While the film fare well at the fice, its music a chord with remains mem-

Vidya recently Interestingly, this chatter that revealed, "There was you have to look young if you want to work with some of the actors. I remember before I did Kismat Konnection, someone called me and said Shahid is two years younger than you. And you are being cast opposite him. Therefore you have to shed weight and make sure you look even younger than him.

Vidya added, "Of course, the world has changed now," reflecting on how perceptions in the industry have evolved. Currently, Shahid is prepping for *Ariun Ustara*, an action thriller co-starring Triptii Dimri and directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, reportedly inspired by gangster Hussain Ustara. Vidya was last seen in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, alongside Kartik Aaryan and Madhuri Dixit, making headlines for her transformation thanks to an anti-inflammatory diet.

DEEPIKA'S new milestone **MUMBAI:** Deepika Padukone Fans flooded the comments continues to reign as one of with amazement, celebrating the milestone with messages the most followed and admired

global celebrities. With a career like, "Queen for a reason!" and spanning nearly two decades "Imagine that! It's just an ad!" and a massive Instagram fol-The reel has surpassed sevlowing of 80 million, she has eral popular videos, including not only delivered numerous Hardik Pandya's BGMI clip (1.6 billion) and even Cris hit films but also established herself as a digital powertiano Ronaldo's viral content house. Currently embracing (~500 million). This phenommotherhood, Deepika keeps her enal reach highlights Deepika's fans entertained with a mix of unmatched global appeal and charming, quirky stories and reels.

influence Adding to her accollatest achieveades, Deepika is set to ment is nothing short receive a star on the



Watch out! It is raining tariffs this Shravan...

s I drove past hordes of *Kanwariyas* (devotees of Lord Shiva) carrying pitchers of holy water in the spiritual month of Shravan, the epic tale of Samudra Manthan came to my mind's fore. How the Gods (suras) and demons (asuras) churned the ocean for amrit/ nectar and Jata-dhari Lord Shiva consumed snake Vasuki's venom to save all three worlds! Ultimately, by deceit, the Gods got away with the offering of amrit for immortality while the demons were fooled out of getting any

One golden-haired gentleman, not so gently,(I would prefer the moniker 'unstable God particle' if at all) assumed Sura/ God like stance. He churned...err...of course...the world and the gray matter of his prefrontal cortex to pull out offerings of tariff that were subsequently distributed among the nations. The immortal wish was to make America rich again! So, Richie Rich needs to slap tariffs on what he counts as 'dead economies' (billions of Indians may *ROFL*) to achieve *THAT*? He



must consider all the countries as equivalent of asuras/ demons to not have spared amrit for anyone. Bachelor boy RaGa may receive a drop or two of amrit as he seems to share Trump's 'dead economy' sentiment.

A new choropleth world map may emerge in varying shades of the imposed Trump-tar-

iff. Brazil slapped at 50% (obviously the asura in Trump's gaze) would take on a burgundy red while the European Union, light at 15% shall sport a rose-red. Countries imposed with additional penalties may choose from a variety of sad face emoticons to be printed on their redness. Those without tariffs or no business with USA, would have no place on this map as they are not eligible for the nectar-churning charade. Won't all this crazy churning spew some venom (inflation) to hurt his own people too? I can hear Britney Spears croon on my iPod... "Oops! I did it again, I played with your heart, got lost in the game...Oh! Baby, baby" ...

becomes

charm.

didn't

struck

fans and

box

of-

Her

chain,

within

The delusional Sura justifies imposing tariffs as means to another end; a peace initiative underlying his timeless act of bullying to end war. The veritable *amrit* he deserves for such a noble initiative being the Nobel Peace Prize...of course...God-speed!

Care to ask Bollywood Badshah how it felt receiving the national award for best actor

stagram reels ever.

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2 8

9 1

4

4

5

5

9

1

6

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5

4

6

2

5 2 8

SOLUTIONS

7

3

8 9

PEANUTS

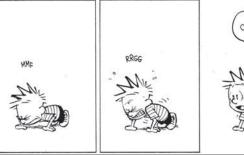
THERE'S A STRANGE FEELING OF LONELINES AFTER A BALL GAME 15 OVER ...

THE FIELD IS EMPTY .. THE AIR IS SILENT... THE SHADOWS BEGIN TO LENGTHEN ..





CALVIN AND HOBBES







BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**

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21 Varnish

ingredient

24 Knight fights

25 James Joyce

novel

22 Nut tree

Across

1 Hungarian dish

5 Jellied garnish

8 Just say you're sorry

9 Hilo garland

10 Excuse

12 Hot sauce

13 Do a slow burn

14 Poorly made

17 West Indies

island 19 Fine thread

<u>Down</u> 1 Tropical fruit

4 Boosts

2 ET's craft 3 Get rid of

5 Having a bite

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

China 18 Olympic

contests

20 Tests 23 More, in Madrid

6 Fortifications

substitute

11 Exactly alike

16 Last imperial

dynasty of

13 Blood-red

15 Vacation

7 Coffee

CROSSWORD

NOMESCLERIC

SUDOKU

owntown

Be sensitive while dealing with tribals: CM to Forest officers



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday asked Forest officers to be sensitive while dealing with tribals

Addressing the State-level Forest Officers' Conference at Lok Seva Bhawan here, the Chief Minister noted that nearly one-fourth of the state's population belongs to the tribal community, most of whom reside in forested and adjoining areas.

"It is the moral responsi-

ODISHA STATE SEED CORPORATION TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY FRUIT

bility of the government to ensure peaceful and harmonious coexistence for tribal communities and to protect them," Majhi stated.

Highlighting the pivotal role of Forest officers, he said, "Since Forest personnel regularly interact with the poor, tribals, and Dalits, it is imperative that they approach these communities with sensitivity while enforcing forest conservation laws.' In a bid to mitigate the growing human-elephant conflict, the Chief Minister advised Forest, Environment and Climate Change department to culti-

He further recommended planting fruit-bearing and flowering trees in populated areas to encourage community care and involvement. For

vate rice within forest areas

as a food source for elephants.

emphasised the importance of choosing tree species that are beneficial to the local population. "Tree plantation alone is not enough. We must also ensure proper protection, management, and enhancement of the green cover," Majhi added.

Urging a collaborative approach, Majhi called for widespread public awareness, the application of modern technologies, and active participation of voluntary organisations and civic safety forums to strengthen forest conservation efforts.

Reiterating his government's strong stance on transparency, Majhi emphasised a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and warned Forest officers to steer clear of any unethical practices.

On the occasion, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Regional Plant Resource Centre, the Horticulture department, and the Odisha State Seed Corporation to provide high-quality fruit seedlings to farmers at affordable prices. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja also addressed the gathering.

racy under pressure." Mohapatra noted that

this year's contest will be even more competitive, with top-tier teams from outside the state — including IIT, Kharagpur and NIT, Raipur — entering the fray. Participants from KIIT In-

ternational School and DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar the first and second runners-up of last year's junior category, respectively - also shared that their prime focus this year is strengthening current affairs knowledge and improving cross-disciplinary awareness.

Swastika Mishra of KIIT International School said, "We'll give our best. Now, we're leaving no stone unturned to strengthen our teamwork and current affairs knowledge."

METTLE MEET 2025

Defending champs, runners-up share mantra of success

The battle of brains is back again with the seventh edition of Odisha's biggest quizzing extravaganza — **Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2025** — commencing August 9. The much-anticipated two-day cerebral fight will see the brightest young minds from the country's top educational institutions locking horns in a battle of wits for the coveted champion's title. The top eight teams from junior and senior categories will advance to the grand finale August 10 after clearing the prelim hurdles August 9. As the excitement builds, defending champions and runners-up from the leading institutions share their mantra of success

haring his experience, Arush Das of DAV Public School, Unit-8 – the champion in the sixth edition's junior category - said, "Last year's win has boosted our confidence, but this time, we're focusing more on lateral thinking and rapid recall. Hoping to make it two in a row, he added, "Our strate gy is to emphasise trivia and current affairs. We're also working on carefully listening to the questions - often, the clues lie within them."

Praising Mettle Meet, Das called it 'one of the top quizzing competitions in the coun-

Adarsh Kumar Mohapatra of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar – the winner of last year's senior category - said, "We're sharpening our focus on trivia and current affairs while also fine-tuning our teamwork and communication skills to improve our speed and accu-

Omkar Mohanty of DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar



said that their team has

devised a 'secret strategy'

for this year's competition,

though he chose not to dis-

close specific details. "We're

focusing on strengthening our

weaknesses and ensuring we

don't repeat the mistakes we

made last time," Mohanty

said, expressing confidence

in their preparation to clinch

Meanwhile, teams from

SCBMCH and NIT, Rourkela

first and second runners-up

of last year's senior category,

respectively - have revamped

their preparation modules to

include more mock quizzes

and real-time simulations to

adapt to the intense pressure

Debasis Patro of SCBMCH

said their team is putting in

wholehearted efforts to pre-

pare for Mettle Meet 2025

"Right now, we're focusing

the title this year.

of the finals.

on individual preparation, and a few days before the event, we'll come together to combine our plans and strengthen our teamwork,' Patro explained. "Each of us brings a unique strength to the table, and this time, we're determined to win and take revenge for last year's defeat,'

Dibyajyoti Tarai of NIT, Rourkela shared that their team is placing a strong emphasis on current affairs this year. "We're reading newspapers, especially Orissa POST, daily to gather as much current affairs knowledge as possible," he said, adding, "Our team is almost new this time, with three members participating in Mettle Meet for the first time. So we're also working on building chemistry and learn-

CM, LoP condole **Uttarkashi deaths**

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Odisha Assembly Naveen Patnaik were among those who condoled the deaths in the devastating flash floods in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi Tuesday.

Taking to X, Majhi stated, "Deeply saddened by the tragic incident in Dharali, Uttar-

He offered his heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and prayed to Lord Jagannath for the safety and speedy recovery of those affected by the disaster.

"I am deeply anguished by the devastating cloudburst in #Uttarkashi, which has unleashed havoc in Dharali village, claiming precious lives and leaving many others missing. My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families, and my thoughts are with all those enduring this unimaginable tragedy," Patnaik posted on X.

"We pray to Lord Jagannath to grant strength and protection to everyone affected by this calamity. I also salute the tireless efforts of the rescue teams who are bravely working to save lives amidst these challenging conditions," Patnaik, the former CM, said.

Notably, a cloudburst led to flash floods in the high-altitude villages of Dharali on the way to Gangotri, with the raging waters sweeping away several houses and leaving at least four people dead. Dharali is the main stopover on the way to Gangotri, and many hotels, restaurants and home stays are located there.

Parida lays stone for Silver Filigree Common Facility Centre in Cuttack

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida laid the foundation stone for the Silver Filigree Common Facility Centre at Bidanasi in Cuttack Tuesday. Parida said the initiative

marks a significant step toward preserving Odisha's heritage while empowering the local artisan community

"This centre will become a laboratory for the next generation of filigree artisans. It will blend tradition with innovation and carve out a unique identity for Cuttack on the global stage,

The facility, spread over 1.500saft and estimated to cost Rs 8.5 crore, will house stateof-the-art equipment, provide



modern training to artisans and offer integrated marketing support — all under one roof.

Highlighting the potential of the sector, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that while around 500 filigree artisans are currently active in Cuttack. the long-term goal is to expand this to 5,000 artisan families, thereby fostering sustainable

The facility will also serve as an artisan incubation hub. supporting startups and cre-

'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global' initiatives, the centre is expected to evolve into a cultural tourism hotspot where visitors can witness live demonstrations of the intricate filigree-making process. Parida emphasised that the

centre would be developed as a heritage artisan village with construction scheduled for completion within the next eight months.

In line with the government's

Barabati-Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous remarked, "Silver filigree will no longer be confined to ornaments—they will illuminate the lives of artisans and families in Cuttack. This centre will help the city carve its own identity, much like Karimnagar and Bada Bazaar in Telangana."

Spy cam inside Srimandir cognizable offence soon

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Puri, Au**gust 5:** The state government Tuesday said it is contemplating to amend the Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 to make provision of taking spy cameras and taking pictures or video inside the 12th-century shrine in Puri as a cognizable offence with provision of punishment.

This was stated by Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan while reacting to frequent trespassing of individuals into the temple, taking hidden cameras in different ways.

The latest such incident took place Tuesday morning when the security personnel

nabbed a man identified as Pratish Pal of West Bengal. He was detained and his mobile and glasses were seized.

This came a day after Bipul Patel, a native of Gujarat, was caught while entering the temple with spy camera-equipped glasses. A week ago, a man from Puri town, identified as Abhijit Kar, was intercepted in a similar incident.

The Puri man admitted that he had taken the spy camera-fitted spectacles to capture visuals of deities and interiors.

In all three cases, the police had to release the alleged offenders due to lack of proper legislation to punish such people, a police officer said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BABY CROCS BREAK OUT OF EGGSHELLS IN BHITARKANIKA

Kendrapara, August 5: More than 1.500 baby saltwater crocodiles have broken out of their eggshells to make their way to water bodies in and around Bhitarkanika National Park, officials said Tuesday.

Bhitarkanika, according to Forest officials, houses around 70 per cent of India's estuarine crocodile or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975. The saltwater crocodile population in Bhitarkanika has increased manifold from 96 in 1975 to 1,826 so far.

Officials said the mortality rate of baby crocs is exceedingly high. Female crocodiles lay 50 to 60 eggs, and the hatchlings usually emerge from the nests after 70 to 80-day incubation period. However, hardly one out of every hundred baby crocs grows to become adults. In the wild, babies are devoured by predating aquatic animals, said crocodile researcher Sud-

This year, 117 nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles were spotted in the national park. The reptiles build nests by the man-

AROUND 70 PER CENT OF NDIA'S ESTUARINE CROCODILE OR SALTWATER CROCODILES, ONSERVATION OF WHICH WAS **STARTED WAY BACK IN 1975**

THE SALTWATER CROCODILE OPULATION IN BHITARKANIKA AS INCREASED MANIFOLD FROM

grove twigs, leaves and mud on high ground which is free from watery inundation during the rainy season. Crocs build nests at a place where they can get direct sunlight, he said.

The sight of baby crocs

breaking out of eggshells and their act of loitering aimlessly before hopping into the water bodies and creeks is a visual treat to watch. The emergence of hatchlings has commenced for the past two days and would continue for a fortnight, said Manas Das, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of the national park.

However, the ground-level staff engaged in maintaining watch and vigil of the nests got the chance to watch the rare natural phenomenon. The fledgling crocs emerged from the shells sans mothers. However, the Forest personnel maintained a safe distance from the nests as human interference turns the reptiles violent and aggressive, the official said.

The wildlife sanctuary had been kept out of bounds for tourists and visitors from May 31 and was later lifted July 31 to ensure disturbance-free annual nesting of crocs. The animals turn violent and restive over human interference in their habitat, said officials.

Estuarine crocodiles are also found in West Bengal's Sundarbans, which has the country's largest mangrove cover. Besides, the mangrove wetlands in Andaman Islands are home to these species. However, the density and population of crocodiles in wild habitats of Bhitarkanika is much more pronounced, he said.

Crocodiles are also an important part of the ecosystem and help keep the riverine ecology clean and guard the mangrove forest from tree cutters and poachers, as locals are scared to venture into the mangrove forest because of the presence of crocodiles in the swampy patches in the forest, the official said.

State receives 2% more rain

ing to function effectively as a

team," Tarai added.

Bhubaneswar, August 5: With Odisha till Tuesday recording two per cent more rainfall than normal during the ongoing monsoon, the state has achieved about 60 per cent progress in planned crop area

a senior official said. Odisha has received 627.5 mm of rainfall between June 1 and August 5 (8.30am), which exceeds the normal rainfall of 615.6mm, around two per cent more, IMD sources said.

"Kharif crop sowing is complete in 35.11 lakh hectares, comprising 8 lakh hectares (broadcasting), 15 lakh hectares (transplanting), and 1.42 lakh hectares (nursery) of paddy till Monday Maize and cotton sowing are 79 per cent and 96 per cent complete respectively. The overall crop situation is normal, with 60 per cent progress in planned crop area,' Agriculture and Farmers' Em powerment department Princi pal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee said in a post on X.

While chairing the Crop Weather Watch Group meeting. Padhee reviewed the rainfall situation, supply of agri-inputs fertiliser availability, crop status and farm advisories. Seven districts have recorded poor rainfall, while four received excess rainfall. 19 districts experienced normal rainfall While Puri tops the list of poor rainfall districts by minus 40 per cent, Sundargarh recorded the highest 45 per cent more rainfall than normal.

Nadda urged to allow MBBS seats in two medical colleges



the medical education sector

principals of these two insti-

tutions had already submit-

ted their applications for LoP

January 18, 2025, through the

National Medical Commission

(NMC) portal, the statement

The NMC teams had also con-

ducted physical inspections of

the Pavitra Mohan Pradhan

Medical College in June 2025

and Government Medical Col-

provided the budgetary grants

to enhance facilities and ensure

quality medical education at

When the LoP is granted,

two more government medical

colleges will be added to the

state's healthcare infrastruc-

ture, increasing the total num-

ber from 14 to 16 government

medical colleges. Consequently,

the total number of MBBS seats

in government institutions will

increase to 1800.

both institutions, it said.

The state government has

lege, Phulbani in May last.

The respective deans and

of Odisha.

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The state government Tuesday urged Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda to grant permission for admission in 100 MBBS seats each in two new government-run medical colleges of the state for the academic session 2025-26.

Health & Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, along with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who hailed from the state, and others, met Nadda in New Delhi and raised this demand.

Mahaling requested Nadda to issue for Letter of Permission (LoP) for admission of 100 MBBS seats in the 2025-26 session in each of Pavitra Mohan Pradhan Medical College (PMP-MC). Talcher and Government Medical College (GMC), Phulbani, a statement issued by the

health department said here. Both institutions have recently been established to cater to the growing demand in

National Handloom Day, Ekta celebration Aug 7

CM Mohan Charan Majhi to inaugurate event with Bollywood icon Madhuri Dixit attending the occasion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Odisha will celebrate National Handloom Day 2025 and the 'EKTA' Celebration with grandeur and pride through a weeklong series of events starting August 7.

Addressing a press conference at the State Guest House, organised in connection with the upcoming events, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta said, "The weavers of Odisha are the soul of our cultural heritage. Our handloom is not just a piece of cloth, it is a legacy. Odisha handlooms weave heritage.'

The celebrations will open with a state-level function, to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, with Bollywood icon Madhuri Dixit Nene in attendance.

A key highlight will be EK-TA (Exhibition cum Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage) August 8 and 9, followed by a mega Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition at Janata Maidan



The celebrations run from August 7 to 13, showcasing Odisha's weaving heritage through exhibitions, live demos, and

cultural shows

from August 7 to 13.

from August 7 to 9.

Cultural performances—in-

cluding Odissi, Sambalpuri

folk, contemporary dance, fash-

ion shows, and laser displays—

will take place every evening

The exhibition will showcase

Odisha's rich weaving legacy

through 60 stalls, a food court,

play zone, and live demonstra-

Over 1,500 weavers from Odi-

Over 1.500 weavers from Odisha and eight other states will participate, with seven knowledge sessions and the felicitation of State Handloom Award winners

The event will feature cultural performances, live demonstrations. and exhibitions highlighting Odisha's rich handloom and handicraft heritage

expected to participate. Seven knowledge sessions and the

felicitation ceremony are also scheduled. Commissioner-cum-Secretary GothaPoona Tapas Kumar, Director Premchandra Choudhary, Additional Secretary Bikramaditya Barik and other departmental officers were

present at the press conference.

sha and eight other states are

State Handloom Award 2023-24

Nashik NGO backs women mangrove conservation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 5: In a significant boost to grassroots climate efforts, Give Welfare Organisation, Nashik, has extended support to the 'Women for Mangroves' team—women and fisherfolk from Sana Jhadling village near the Devi River Mouth in Odisha's Puri district.

The community, which relies on traditional fishing and wetland-based livelihoods. has emerged as a powerful force in mangrove ecosystem conservation—having planted over 33,000 saplings and actively protecting natural

mangrove forests along the coast.

As part of this support all-weather protective umbrellas were distributed to help the women and fishermen continue their plantation, patrolling, and livelihood ac tivities during Odisha's challenging monsoon season.

The distribution event was attended by social activist Sangram Nayak, OPSA Trust Managing Trustee Soumya Ranjan Biswal, along with Su man Pradhan and Siba Prasad Mallick. Community members Purna Chandra Kandi, Laxmidhar Kandi, and others were also present.



Training on counselling skills for peace committee

Bhubaneswar: A special training programme on counselling skills for peace committee leaders was conducted Tues-day by Society for Nature, Education, and Health (SNEH), with support from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), at the SNEH Counselling Training Centre in Salia Sahi. The session was led by Madhumita Das, Principal Counsellor at Khurda Court, and attended by 30 members from Peace and Sahi Committees across eight habitations. The program focused on equipping participants primarily slum women-with conflict resolution tools, counselling techniques and strategies for community healing. Participants actively engaged in discuss ing real-life challenges faced by women and explored ways to build stronger community ties. An open session, Dibakar Mahali, delved into methods of addressing harm and fostering reconciliation between conflicting parties.

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AFFIDAVIT

I Remesh P K Alias P K Ramesh, S/o. Kumaran residing At: F-118, Bhel Colony, Talcher Thermal NTPC/TTPS Campus, Digi (Part), Angul, Odisha - 759101 have changed my name to P K Ramesh for all future purposes.

I, Banita Rout, W/o Subash Kumar Rout, Resident of KBSD ROAD, Jeypore, Koraput, Odisha 764001, declare by this affidavit dated 05/08/2025, that Banita Rout and Bonita Rout are same person. That now onwards I will be know as Banita Rout for all future purpose.

I, Subash Kumar Rout S/o Late Binayak Rout, Resident of KBSD ROAD, Jeypore, Koraput, Odisha 764001. Declare by this affidavit dated 05/08/2025, that Subash Kumar Rout and Subash Rout are same person. That now onwards I will be known as Subash Kumar Rout for all future purpose.

Cong announces Nari Nyaya Yatra



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 5: In view of the alarming rise in crimes against women, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Tuesday announced a weeklong statewide campaign, 'Nari Nyaya Yatra'. As part of the protest, the party will gherao the Director General of Police's office in Cuttack August 8, demanding justice for burn victims and urging the government to take swift action against

Congress state chief Bhakta Charan Das said, "Thousands of Congress workers will gherao the office of the Director General of Police in Cuttack Friday (August 8), to demand the immediate arrest of the three accused in the brutal burning of a minor girl in Balanga.

Das recalled that soon after the victim's death August 2, Congress had given the govern-

ment a seven-day ultimatum to act. He added that Sunday, August 10, a special 'Nari Nyaya Padayatra' will be held from Bayabar to Nimapara to seek justice for the Balanga minor.

Additionally, the Congress leader announced a march in Balasore August 14, demanding justice for another victim. The rally will start from Fakir Mohan College, with senior party leaders and workers marching through the city.

Das also raised serious concerns over the failure to file even an FIR in the Balasore case until public pressure mounted. He demanded that individuals who suppressed the case be brought under investigation as accused. Das warned that if the demands are not met. Congress will escalate its agitation by gheraoing police stations across all districts as part of the weeklong protest.

Dy CM highlights state's organic farming drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo participated in the Virgin Land Security Summit 2025 at the India International Centre, New Delhi, Tuesday. The event was sponsored by 'Uday India' and brought together stakeholders to discuss the vast potential of India's underutilised land.

Highlighting Odisha's pioneering initiatives, Singh Deo stated, "With the 'Balabhadra Jaivik Chasa Mission', we are transforming pristine tribal regions into organic clusters. Already, 32 per cent of our cultivable land uses minimal chemical inputs." He also announced the scaling-up efforts through the One District – One Organic Cluster model and development of agro-processing units for mango, turmeric, millets, and ginger, export-oriented agri parks, and eco-farming hubs.

The Deputy CM emphasised that Odisha is investment-ready, offering land, power, and water subsidies, capital incentives, and fast-track clearances. He invited global agripreneurs and partners to collaborate in this transformation, stating, "Odisha is where nature meets enterprise and tradition meets innovation.

Notably, India possesses over 60 million hectares of barren or underutilised land, with about 20 million hectares ideal for organic farming. With global demand for organic products increasing, Singh Deo emphasised it as a golden opportunity for India—particularly Odisha—to lead in sustainable agriculture.

H&UD min launches monthly 'First Tuesday Review Drive'

Bhubaneswar: In a strategic move to accelerate state's urban development agenda, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra chaired a high-level review meeting at Kharavela Bhawan here Tuesday. Marking the start of a new governance mechanism, the Minister announced that the first Tuesday of every month will now be a dedicated review day for the H&UD department. This institutionalised review frameworktitled the 'First Tuesday Review Drive'-aims to ensure real-time monitoring, swift implementation, and improved accountability across all flagship schemes and initiatives under the department. During the meeting, the minister conducted a comprehensive review of the 'Mukhyamantri Sahari Bikas Yojana' and its key components. He assessed the progress of sanitation, infrastructure, the implementation of the 'GARIMA' scheme for dignity and welfare of sanitation workers.

and budget utilisation.

Oppn slams govt's night shift policy for women

Move to boost women's employment sparks Opposition criticism and mixed response from working women

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The state government, Monday, issued an official notification allowing women to work night shifts, provided they submit a mandatory written consent. The move, aimed at boosting employment opportunities for women, drew sharp criticism from the Opposition, which termed it a curb on women's freedom. The decision also sparked mixed reaction from working women.

Sonali Priyadarshni, a banker, said, "I don't understand why consent is mandatory. Earlier, women in medical and other sectors also worked night shifts. Women in our state are empowered enough to decide when they want to work. The government should focus more on ensuring our safety, which is the real issue.

Latika Das, a PR profession-



al, said, "We welcome this initiative, but ensuring women's safety should be the government's sole responsibility. If the government can guarantee safety, there will be no need for mandatory consent. This policy should first be run on a trial basis and improved thereafter."

The Opposition criticised the move as an unaccountable step

by the government, accusing it of failing to curb rising atroci-

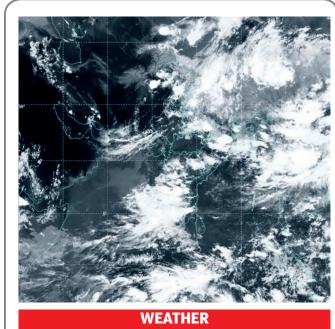
ties against women. spokesperson Lekhashree Samantsinghar said, "Issuing this notification on women's night shifts amidst rising crime in Odisha, even with consent, raises questions about the state government's intent. Public spaces and

women under all circumstances. By seeking permission, the government admits there is no safety and shifts responsibility onto women. This is an indirect confession of its failure to provide security. In a democratic state, who is the government to 'allow' women to work at night?"

State Congress spokesperson Manisha Das Patnaik said, "This initiative puts chains on women's freedom. If the government truly supports women's empowerment, why is consent required? Would it be logical for our Deputy CM Pravati Parida to seek permission for night duty? Women have long worked night shifts in many sectors without such conditions. This move shows the government is shirking its responsibility to protect women.'

State AISF president Sanghamitra Jena said, "When women are not safe during the day in this state, how can we expect them to return safely from a night shift? Even if they give consent, who will ensure their security? Faced with unemployment, the government is pushing women into night shifts. This clearly shows it is shirking its responsibility to ensure women's safety.

MARKET WATCH CURRENCY BOURSES VARIATION **INDEX** VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 87.87 \$ 0.15 | SENSEX 80710.25 \$ 308.47 GOLD ₹101,399 ▲ ₹195 EURO **101.60 0.07** NIFTY **24649.55 73.20** SILVER ₹113,384 **↑** ₹1148



WEATHER		
BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
35.0°	33.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
27.1°	25.8°	
88%	84%	
Nil	Nil	
	BBSR 35.0° 27.1° 88%	BBSR CTC 35.0° 33.4° 27.1° 25.8° 88% 84%

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Jr asst sanctions DMF funds; CM orders probe



Keonjhar/Hatadihi, August 5: The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has directed the state Planning and Convergence (P&C) department to conduct a thorough probe into the alleged sanction of funds for various projects by a junior revenue assistant (JRA) in the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in Keonjhar district without official approval.

JRA Uday Narayan Jena posted with DMF, Keonjhar has allegedly approved funds for various projects without any official directive or approval. The CMO has, August 1, ordered a probe into the alleged misuse of power

The office of the Chief Secre-

tary has also issued a directive to the P&C department to initiate an investigation. As per reports, Jena was

and procedural violations.

appointed to Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) cell as per District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) order no-4302, dated September 30, 2021. His posting also required him

to assist the senior revenue assistant (SRA) in the DMF office. However, Jena allegedly took decisions on fund sanctions and independently processed project files, without any official approval or instructions from his superiors.

It has been alleged that he approved several projects arbitrarily including unapproved ones and increased grant allocations for approved projects. involving funds to the tune of crores of rupees. Despite being a government servant, he also re-

muneration from the DMF fund. The irregularities further deepen as previous directives such as order no-273 issued by the then DMF Chairperson and Collector N Thirumala Naik September 7, 2017 were allegedly ignored in the process.

portedly received substantial re-

Multiple complaints have been filed regarding this matter with the Collector, state Chief Secretary, Finance department, and the CMO. Based on complaint number CMO-20251289239, the CMO has directed the Planning and Convergence department to conduct an inquiry.

The department has confirmed that the complaint is currently under examination. Additionally, the General Administration and Public Grievances department, as well as the Finance department, have reportedly sought a detailed report from the Collector in this regard.

ଂପୋକହୁଙ୍ଗା ନୋଡାଲ ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପୋକଡୁ

Missing trader found murdered

Rayagada, August 5: A jack fruit trader, who had been missing for the past three months. was found murdered and buried at a cremation ground in Halua Tota area under Rayagada police limits, officials said Tuesday.



manath Jani of Mediput under Nandapur police station in Koraput district had reportedly been abducted three months ago

Following an investigation, Nandapur police traced his decomposed body to a burial site near Halua village cremation ground in neighbouring Rayagada district. The body was recovered in the presence of family members and other locals. Police said Jani was abducted and killed, and his body was secretly buried. As part of the investigation, three individuals have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Although the body was found in Rayagada district, the case is being handled by Nandapur police with full cooperation and assistance from the Rayagada police.

Junior clerk caught taking bribe

Koraput, August 5: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday caught Sambit Tripathy, a junior clerk at the office of the Block Education Officer (BEO), Nandapur while accepting a bribe of ₹15,000.

Sharing the details, the anti-corruption wing officials said the bribe amount was the first installment of a ₹30,000 demand made to process the pending salaries and revised pension benefits of a deceased primary school teacher. The teacher passed away

October 27, 2019, while in service. His widow—an elderly woman—has been surviving on a modest family pension. Though the competent authority sanctioned the RACP/MACP



deliberately delayed the file, apparently to extort money from the widow.

Acting on her complaint, the Vigilance team laid a trap and caught Tripathy red-handed while accepting the bribe. The

entire tainted money has been recovered and seized from his

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Additional SP, Vigilance, Koraput Division, AK Mallick and executed by a team comprising three DSPs and three inspectors, including inspector Surya

Prakash Naik. Following the trap, simultaneous searches are underway at two locations associated with Tripathy, to assess dispropor

tionate assets. A case (26/2025) has been registered under Koraput Vigilance division under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2018. Further investigation is

Man held for raping 5-yr-old girl in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

in progress.

Jajpur Town, August 5: A 26-year-old man, Abhimanyu Mallick, was arrested and forwarded to court following alle gations of raping a five-year-old girl in Jajpur Town, police said Tuesday. The Jajpur Town po lice held a press conference to provide details of the incident.

According to authorities, a written complaint was filed at Jajpur Town police station accusing Mallick, son of Alekh Mallick from Kantabania in Dasarathpur block's Asanpur panchayat, of sexually assault ing the minor Sunday. The com plaint alleges that Mallick lured the girl under the pretense of buying her chocolate, took her on his motorcycle to the Ram bag intersection market, and assaulted her before abandon ing her on the road.

The girl returned home crying and recounted the incident to her family, who filed a complaint with the police late Sunday night. Based on the complaint, police registered a case (357/25) under Sections 65(2), 296, and 3(5) of the Bhara tiva Nyava Sanhita and Section 6 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act Mallick was arrested, and his motorcycle was seized. He un derwent a medical examination, as did the victim, who was sent to Jajpur District Headquarters

Hospital for treatment. Jajpur SDPO Prashant Kumar Majhi and sub-inspector Ajay Kumar Sahu provided details of the case during a press





Jajpur, August 5: A court in Jajpur district Tuesday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) after convicting him for repeatedly raping his 16-year-old daughter.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abhijit Palei, who also serves as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) judge, imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on convict Prashant Das of Binjharpur, with an additional six months' imprisonment if the fine is not paid. The court also directed the District Legal Services Authority (DL-SA) to provide ₹5 lakh in compensation to the victim.

According to case details. Das frequently abused his wife. both verbally and physically. On one occasion, he assaulted her and drove her out of their home. She fled to her parents' house with her two vounger children, leaving her teenage daughter behind. Taking advantage of his wife's absence, ter at night and later raped her multiple times. He threatened to kill her if she disclosed the When the victim's moth-

Das began molesting his daugh-

er returned home November 11, 2024, the girl confided in her about the assaults. When confronted. Das attacked both his wife and daughter. The two sought refuge at a neighbour's house that night. The next day, November 12, Das followed them and assaulted them again, prompting villagers to alert Binjharpur police. Officers rescued the victim and her mother, arrested Das, and sent him for medical examination before presenting him in court.

Since his arrest, Das has been lodged in Jajpur District Jail as an undertrial prisoner. The judge delivered the verdict after finding Das guilty based on the testimony of 18 witnesses. Special public prosecutor Rajib Mohanty represented the

conference.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Dt. 01.08.2025 (1) Tender No. eTender-CenKUR-175-2025, Dt. 22.07.2025

Description : EXECUTION OF P.WAY
RELATED WORK FOR PROPOSED

RAISING OF SPEED FROM 30 KMPH TO 50 KMPH IN LOOP LINES FROM RAJATHGARH TO GURUDIJHATIA OF

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 47.83 lakh, EMD:

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such

e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's

letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be

rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tend

documents of the above e-tender is available in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (ten) days before the date

of closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) E-Tender Notice No. : ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-22, Dated: 17.07.2025

Name of the work: SIGNALLING ZONAL WORK FOR JARAPADA (JRPD)

SAMBALPUR CITY (SBPY) SECTION

SSE)/SIG/ RAIRAKHOL (RAIR) IN

SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR ONE YEAR

Tender Value : ₹ 52,35,958.89. Bid

(2) E-Tender Notice No. : ST-SBP-

TENDER-2025-23, Dated: 18.07.2025

Name of the work SHIFTING OF

SYSTEMS AND AUTO ANNOUNCEMENT

SYSTEM AT AMRIT BHARAT STATIONS

AT SAMBALPUR (SBP), BARGARH ROAD

(BRGA), BALANGIR (BLGR), TITILAGARH (TIG), KESINGA (KSNG), KANTABANJI

KBJ), SAMBALPUR CITY (SBPY) 8

IAHASAMUND (MSMD) STATIONS OF

Tender Value : ₹ 1,31,57,772.86

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) 2/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

website www.ireps.gov.in

PR-432/Q/25-26

13.08.2025

Paradip Port adjudged Drones monitor fault detection under TPSODL 'Major Port of the Year'

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Paradip Port, Odisha's lone major port, has bagged the prestigious "Major Port of the Year - Non-Containerised Cargo" award at the 15th All India Maritime and Logistics Awards (MALA) 2025.

The high-profile ceremony, organised by Exim India, was held in Mumbai August 1 to celebrate excellence and innovation across the Indian maritime and logistics sector, port officials

The award recognises Paradip Port's exceptional performance and outstanding contribution in handling non-containerised cargo, showcasing its operational efficiency and strategic importance in the country's maritime

ager, Paradip Port Authority (PPA), accepted the award on behalf of the port.

Congratulating the entire team, PL Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, stated, "This notable achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit of Team PPA. We are honoured to be recognised by our industry peers and remain committed to continuously improving our services to support India's growing

This accolade underscores Paradip Port's strategic initiatives and robust infrastructure. which have contributed to its success in managing a high volume of diverse non-containerised cargo, including dry bulk

VACANCY WOES: Students of Pokatunga Nodal High School in Angul district Tuesday locked the school gate and staged a sit-in demanding immediate

Berhampur, August 5: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has expanded its drone-based survey and inspection services to Rayagada and Jeypore circles, in a move aimed at enhancing power distribution reliability and customer service, an offi-

The total area of Jeypore and Rayagada circles is 31,195 sq km, covering the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, and Gajapati.

"The move is a broader strategy to integrate smart technologies into operations, particularly in geographically challenging and remote areas of southern Odisha. The drone operations, managed under the supervision of the trained employees, are being conducted



at flight heights ranging from 30 to 80 metres, with an operational range extending up to 2km depending on elevation, the official said. The advanced drones used in the power distribution operation are equipped with high-resolution cameras and GPS systems, enabling real-time aerial surveillance of the electrical network.

"The objective of drone deployment is to capture detailed

3617, Stage-5, Mahavir Nagar, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar, Dist.

Total Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, Registered Sale Deed No.: 10231403529, Dated: 30.07.2014

imagery of critical installations and map the distribution network from the bird's eve view. thereby aiding precise documentation and efficient plan-

Through this initiative, TP-SODL aims to continuously monitor its infrastructure, including 33 kV and 11 kV feeders, transformers, and poles, across challenging hill terrains where conventional inspection suming and difficult.

The GPS-enabled drones also facilitate faster detection of faults and damages, which will preempt proactive steps, allowing the central command centre to coordinate timely responses during major breakdowns. This not only minimises downtime but also significantly improves the reliability of supply and overall customer satisfaction, he said.

"The expansion of drone surveillance to Ravagada and Jevpore reflects our commitment to innovation and service reliability. In areas where physical access is limited, drones offer a smart, safe, and time-efficient solution. This is another step towards building a smarter, more responsive distribution network in southern Odisha," TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg said.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

Two arrested for murder over sorcery

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, August 5: A day after a 60-yearold man was found murdered on the rail tracks near Dahikhal in neighbouring Rayagada district, allegedly on suspicion of practising sorcery, police Tuesday arrested two persons for their involvement in the crime. The deceased, identi-

fied as Raghu Patra of Kandama village under Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district, was missing since July 30.

After receiving a missing person complaint from Raghu's family members, Biswanathpur police in Kalahandi district started an investigation. The police were able to trace the body of Patra Monday.

The body was found lying on the rail tracks near Dahikhal in neighbouring Rayagada district. Local police sent it to Government Railway Police (GRP) station at Rayagada as it was an unidentified body at that time, a police officer said.

After receiving the body, Biswanathpur police Monday conducted an investigation with the help of a sniffer dog and a scientific team in the village and detained two suspects—Naresh Dora and Sunai Harijan,

During interrogation, Naresh admitted to committing the crime with the help of his associates, the officer said.

Naresh and his accomplices intercepted the deceased and murdered him and threw the body on the railway track near Dahikhal

station. From preliminary investigation it was established that accused Naresh's father Dushamanta died a month ago and the family suspected that Raghu killed him by using his black magic power. Since then, Naresh was following Raghu's movement.

Inspector-in-charge of Biswanathpur police station, Tulsiram Sabar, said the two accused persons involved in the incident were arrested and forwarded to court. Further investigation is going on, he said.

Central Bank of India Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar,

Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with

in Securitisation

Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general tha he undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him unde Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Date of Amount demanded Securitisation

ning," he said.

NAYAPALLI BRANCH Name of the Account / **Borrowers & Address**

Khordha, Odisha-751006

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 05.08.2025

Name and Address of Guarantor/Mortgagor

Borrowers: 1) M/s. Subhalaxmi Guarantor / Mortgagor: Mrs Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Ajay Kumar Jayantilata Majhi, W/o: Mr. Majhi, At: Kheranga Village, Near Ajay Kumar Majhi, Vill/PO: Marketing Gate, Chandabali, Dist.: Kheranga, PS: Chandabali, Bhadrak, PIN-756131, 2) Mr. Ajay Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN - 756131, Kumar Majhi, At: Plot No.: 1021/ Odisha

Notice

₹2.04.29.936/as on 01.05.2025 + interest thereon & other

02.05.2025 01.08.2025

Notice/Date of

Description of Mortgaged / **Charged Properties**

All that part & parcel o the Property in the name of Mrs. Jayantilata Majhi, W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar Majhi, situated over Mouza: Baudapur, Tahasil Bhadrak, P.S.: Bhadrak, Dist. Bhadrak, Khata No.: 400/379 Ac. 0.017 Dec., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 218, West: Private Road, North: Vendee, South: Rest part of the Plot, Khata No.: 400/386

Plot No.: 219/1545, Area: Ac. 0.153 Dec., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 218, West: Private Road, North: Private Road, South: Vendee

Authorised Officer

Central Bank of India

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 rs. on 11.08.2025 (for both tenders). No manual offers sent by Post/Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted agains he e-tenders. complete information including e-tende

SAMBALPUR DIVISION

Bid Security: ₹ 2,15,800.00.

vailable in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advise revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days befor he date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender Divisional Signal & Telecom. Enginee R-433/Q/25-26 (Tele), Sambalpur



There is nothing small in God's eyes; let there be nothing small

SRI AUROBINDO



Far-Right In Japan

ow, it is the turn of Japan and history comes full circle. The country is fast catching the contagion of Far-Right ideology that is sweeping vast swathes of land in Europe and other continents. Pro-Nazi forces have emerged in Germany as the second largest outfit getting wide popular support. A pro-Fascist political party in Italy has already captured power. These two countries along with Japan, known as the Axis powers, were primarily responsible for the hate-politics that brought about the Second World War. In Japan, these forces were hardly visible till the outbreak of CoVID-19 in 2020. But, now tell-tale signs of a movement that draws its inspiration from anti-migrant and xenophobic ideas such as US President Donald Trump's clarion call of MAGA (Make America Great Again) are clearly visible with the Far-Right party Sanseito winning 14 seats in the upper house recently. The numbers may not, on the surface, signify much since Japan's upper house has a total of 248 members. But what is most disconcerting for liberal parties is that the Right-wing populist party is gaining national traction. Just as Far-Right populist parties in Europe initially found success in modest and underestimated ways within select elections and regions, the Japanese version of such political forces shows how populism serves as a flexible political platform as exemplified by Sanseito's MAGA-inspired "Japanese First" politics.

Sanseito's platform focuses on three main issues: the perceived threats from "globalist" elites, an "uncontrollable" influx of allegedly criminal foreigners and a "corrupt" political establishment "burdening" young people with taxes. These narratives virtually replicate the themes of globalised populism, resembling the rhetoric of Germany's Right-wing party leader Alice Weidel and others of that ilk. Like many populist agendas, these issues capture the imagination of people as the political parties raise them to leverage a sizable segment of the people's resentment against migrants or corrupt elites.

The goal is to "reclaim" the nation from these threats no matter whether they are real or imaginary. Kamiya Sohei, Sanseito's leader, openly admits to borrowing this strategy from Trump and other Right-wing populists

Experience from other countries where Right-wing populism has become entrenched shows how potent the ideology is. Even if such parties rise and fall or even disappear, the ideology often leaves its deep imprint on the minds of the people. The aim of the populist agenda is to completely change the political trajectory and introduce a new political narrative manipulating the latest communication technology to undermine democratic institutions through strategic attacks. Their ultimate objective is not to promote a new ideology, but to deepen the people's distrust in democratic norms and institutions. The intent is to cause long-term damage that cannot be easily reversed, even if the party loses influence or dissolves. In short, it can be said such parties now are busy dismantling the democratic fibre across the globe.

It is no mere coincidence that Kamiya has chosen the social media to indoctrinate the people with his own political belief the way the world's richest man and owner of 'X' Elon Musk is eliciting the people's response to his grand plan of launching a political party. In 2013, Kamiya launched a YouTube channel called "ChGrandStrategy." promoting Far-Right propaganda, historical revisionism, and conspiracy theories. As of June 2025, the channel boasts 338,000 subscribers and over 3,000 videos. This is far more than any other mainstream political party could do. It is important to note that most Right-wing populists know how to use social media. Therefore, it is from these platforms that they have created their base, and these platforms are their constituencies

Both Musk and Kamiya seem to know their limitations and hence are not eyeing to chalk up a parliamentary or congressional majority. Their aim is to win a few seats and use them as bargaining chips for their political ambition.

The surge in Sanseito's popularity came in the backdrop of a historic loss by the long-governing conservative coalition of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, with Sanseito attracting frustrated voters struggling with economic woes. Kamiya has already ruled out forming an alliance with conventional parties like Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party, or LDP.

However, he is open to cooperating with other emerging parties. His ambition appears to have more influence to form a multiparty coalition like those in Europe.

Some see grave dangers in the emergence of such autocratic forces at the centre-stage of world politics. This could be ominous for peace, order and growth.

WISDOM CORNER

The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself.

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make

you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1806:** After a thousand years the Holy Roman Empire came to its official end, with the secession of its confederated states, when Emperor Francis II of Austria put down the imperial crown.
- **1809:** English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, often regarded as the chief representative of the Victorian Age in poetry, was born in Somersby,
- 1926: First woman to Swim across the English Channel. Gertrude Ederle, an American Olympic swimmer swam across the English channel a body of water between England and France, in 14 hours and 34 minutes. Only 5 other people, all men, had swum across the channel before Ederle.
- 1945: US bombs Hiroshima. In the first of the only two times nuclear weapons have been used in warfare, the United States dropped a nuclear bomb, nicknamed Little Boy on the industrial city of Hiroshima in Japan. Over 150,000 people were estimated killed by the resulting explosion. Japan had joined the Second World War in December 1941 on the side of the Axis powers. After the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings 3 days later on August 9, Japan surrendered to the Allies and ended the Pacific War.
- 1962: Jamaican independence. The Caribbean island country was first colonized by the Spanish in the early 16th century. In 1655, the British invaded Spanish Jamaica and made it a colony after the Spanish surrendered. Jamaica soon became one of the most profitable colonies of the British Empire, especially after sugarcane was brought to the island by the English. The Jamaica Independence Act of July 1962, which was a result of anti-colonial sentiments that were spreading throughout the globe, gave Jamaica full independence by leaving the Federation of the West Indies.

A FAUSTIAN BARGAIN

Trump's tariff policies have unleashed global economic turmoil and a wave of protectionist measures. While many of his frequently changing tariffs may prove short-lived, their use as geopolitical weapons is poised to reshape international trade for years to come.

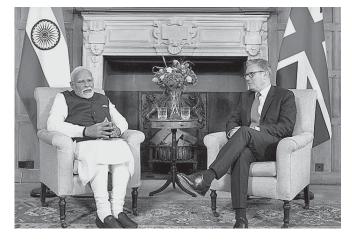
But the current fixation on Trump's tariffs diverts attention from the larger goal: the United States is leveraging its economic power to push for market liberalisation and preferential access for Ameri can firms, often at the expense of lower-income countries' development prospects.

Today's US-China standoff is a prime example. America's hostile posture toward China - maintained under both Trump and former President Joe Biden - has never been just about trade. Rather, it reflects a strategic ambition to preserve US technological dominance by preventing China from catching up in key sectors.

That effort has since become part of a broader campaign to restrict access to advanced technologies across the developing world. The primary tool for achieving this goal has been the imposition of increasingly restrictive intellectual-property (IP) rules that aim to privatise knowledge through patents, copyrights, and industrial designs.

This helps explain why the trade agreement with Indonesia includes several provisions designed to limit the country's ability to move up the value chain into knowledge-intensive industries. Tellingly, Indonesia will eliminate 99 per cent of its tariffs on American industrial, food, and agricultural imports, while Indonesian exports to the US will face an average tariff rate of 19 per cent.

The immediate impact will be felt most acutely by Indonesian farmers, who must now compete against subsidised US agricultural products. But the longer-term risks lie in the



India's willingness to make concessions to a weakened former colonial power - one that is no longer a major trading partner - makes the potential outcome of its trade talks with the EU and the US all the more alarming

dismantling of non-tariff barriers, which could severely constrain Indonesia's ability to diversify its economy and curtail its access to critical technologies.

According to the joint statement announcing the deal, American firms will receive sweeping privileges. Indonesia will remove all content requirements for US-made goods and accept American vehicle-safety and emissions standards, which are far more lenient than its own. It must also recognise Food and Drug Administration approvals for medical devices and pharmaceuticals, exempt US food and agricultural imports from local licensing regimes, and accept US certifications for meat, dairy, and poultry products.

Indonesia has also agreed to eliminate tariffs on intangible goods and support a global moratorium on digital customs duties - issues that remain highly contested within the World Trade Organisation. Even more troublesome are the IP provisions: the deal compels Indonesia to resolve key disputes over traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and compulsory licenses. In

effect this will make it easier for US companies to exploit traditional knowledge without consent or compensation and avoid compulsory licensing measures aimed at curbing monopolistic and abusive practices.

The US is not alone in pursuing this agenda. While Indonesia's concessions are baffling. India's recent trade agreement with the United Kingdom raises even more questions. Despite being years in the making, the deal has little commercial significance, as bilateral trade accounts for less than 2.5 per cent of either country's exports. Nevertheless, both governments have hailed the agreement as transformative.

Once again, media coverage of the UK-India deal has focused on tariff reductions: 92 per cent of UK exports to India will receive full or partial tariff relief, while up to 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UK will be tariff-free. Optimistic forecasts suggest the agreement could double export volumes in certain sectors: textiles, clothing, and jewelry for India: alcoholic beverages and automobiles for the UK.

sia deal, the most consequential element of this agreement is its IP provisions, which tilt the regulatory balance in favour of Western patent holders. By prioritising the interests of Big Pharma over those of Indian citizens and domestic producers, it poses a serious threat to India's pharmaceutical industry and public health

For example, the deal promotes the use of "voluntary licenses" over compulsory ones, potentially discouraging future price reductions. Another clause endorses the harmonisation of patent standards, opening the door to "evergreening" - the extension of patents through minor tweaks to existing drugs.

A particularly damaging provision extends the deadline for disclosing how a patented product is being used in India from one year to three. This change will make it significantly harder - if not impossible - for applicants to prove unmet demand, a necessary step for invoking compulsory licensing protections.

It is deeply disturbing that the Indian government has accepted these terms, which jeopardise not only the future of its pharmaceutical industry but also the global supply of affordable drugs. India may also have limited its access to green technologies, impeding the transition to a low-carbon economy.

India's willingness to make such concessions to a weakened former colonial power one that is no longer a major trading partner - makes the potential outcome of its trade talks with the EU and the US all the more alarming. To ensure India's economic future, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must stop cracking down on domestic dissent and start defending India's interests on the global stage.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amhorst. COPPOIECT SYNDICATE

JEST THIS

Jayati Ghosh

INDONESIA'S

CONCESSIONS

ARE BAFFLING,

RECENT TRADE

AGREEMENT

WITH THE

KINGDOM

EVEN MORE

QUESTIONS

UNITED

RAISES

WHILE

INDIA'S

What's free today may not be free tomorrow



Melvin Durai

COMPANIES ARE JUST NOT MAKING ENOUGH MONEY. JUST THE OTHER DAY, I HEARD **ABOUT A CEO** WHO HAD TO **SHARE A HOTEL ROOM IN BOSTON** WITH HIS HR **DIRECTOR**

don't know about you, but I love things that are free. That's why I signed up for a Yahoo Mail account more than two decades ago. It was FREE. They even gave me 1 TB of free storage space. I had no idea what "TB" meant, but I did a quick search and came across a website that said: "Got TB? See a doctor immediately.'

My doctor wasn't much help though. She said she couldn't vouch for Yahoo Mail, but to check back with her if my email caused me to cough. "Watch out for any chest pain too," she said.

Well, I didn't have any chest pain until recently, when I received an email from Yahoo that said: "Dear Member, the Yahoo Mail free storage is now 20 GB, and your mailbox is currently over that limit. Don't worry — we offer additional plans with extra space for emails and attachments, along with smarter tools and flexible options to help you manage everything easily.'

That's a nice way of saying "We just shrunk your free storage space by 98 per cent,

Apparently I'm now 12 GB over the limit and if I don't do a lot of deleting within a couple of weeks, my sending and receiving privileges will be suspended. Yahoo Mail says that they've "introduced new flexible plans" to enable me to easily expand my inbox. These plans include the 100 GB plan for \$2.79 (Rs 245) per month and the 1 TB plan for \$13.99 (Rs 1,200) per month.

I consulted my doctor and she says that \$13.99 per month for a TB plan isn't bad at all. But I've been so used to free email that the idea of paying for it gives me chest pains. What was free before will now cost me one pizza per month! (Translating a cost to food helps put it in perspective for me, as I explained to a car salesman recently when I said, "Do you really think I'm going to pay

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

100 pizzas for your extended warranty?") Paying for things that used

to be free is something we all have to get used to. After all, companies are just not making enough money. Just the other day, I heard about a CEO who had to share a hotel room in Boston with his HR director.

The belt-tightening is happening in the public sphere as well, thanks to rising costs and reductions in government funding. Public entities are scrambling to stay afloat. Don't be surprised if sometime in the near future, you receive letters or emails similar to these:

From your local library: "Dear patron, as you know, our costs have increased considerably over the last few years, and our current funding just isn't sufficient anymore. Therefore, beginning next month, we will be introducing three new membership tiers in addition to free membership. For just Rs 200 per month, you

will get priority seating at all book discussions. For just Rs 300 per month, you will get priority notification (text and email) whenever we receive a new Nora Roberts novel. For just Rs 400 per month, you will get priority borrowing privileges, allowing you to take home not just novels, biographies and self-help books, but one of the librarians.

From your child's teacher: "Dear parents, as you know, teacher salaries have not kept up with inflation and many of us can barely afford to pay for necessities. In order for me to continue working in this profession, I am asking parents to support me by buying one item each month from my online store. Just one item. Whatever you can afford is fine. Don't worry: each child will receive the same amount of instruction, whether their parents buy a Rs 200 coffee mug or a Rs 10,000 test answer booklet.

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:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Hiroshima healing

Sir, The world cannot thrive without peace and tranquility despite bombastic war rhetoric and rituals by powerful countries. Physical and emotional scars left behind by world wars are indescribable. Hiroshima in Japan was rattled on 6 August, 1945 when the United States dropped a lethal atom bomb on it during the World War II to leave a trail of unimaginable destruction. The "Little Boy" released 15,000 trinitrotoluene (TNT) force killing about 80,000 people on the spot, and the number rose to 1,40,000 by the end of that year. Extremely tragically, the survivors of the incident, termed Hibakusha, experienced life threatening diseases like malignancies that crippled their lives. 6 August is aptly observed as the "Hiroshima Day" to offer tributes to all those who were directly and indirectly affected by the atomic bomb. Hiroshima should be a symbol of hope and healing, resilience and reconstruction.

Test is the best

Sir, Even those cricket pundits who keep on reiterating that Test cricket is fast fading would have been on the edge of their seats, biting their nails with adrenaline gushing watching India and England play one of the most thrilling Test matches ever played in the history of cricket! The morning session of the fifth day of the last Test of this extraordinary series had everything - the tension, the pressure, thrill, chill and suspense that even ODI's and T20's don't have often! Siraj, the bowler who shed tears in the Lords tragedy, cried with joy in Oval as he took the final wicket taking his team to a historic win and levelling the series with pride. This young team led by the dynamic Subhman Gill is sure to stay for long and the experience they have had in England is sure to achieve more in future. Along with both the teams it was Test cricket that won. The series, especially the Oval Test, will be remembered forever and as the BBC puts it - none will match what we have witnessed over the past seven weeks. What a series!

M Pradyu, KANNUR



TWO STATES





IN 20 YEARS

LARGEST LITTER Delhi zoo welcomes 6 Bengal Tiger cubs

Bengal

tigers

In a success for conservation breeding, the cubs were born between 9 AM and 11 AM to a seven-year-old tigress, Aditi, who was brought to the zoo from the Gorewada Rescue Centre in Nagpur

New Delhi, August 5: The Delhi Zoo Monday celebrated the birth of six Bengal Tiger cubs -the biggest litter recorded at the facility in the last two decades.

In a success for conservation breeding, the cubs were born between 9 AM and 11 AM to a seven-year-old tigress, Aditi, who was brought to the zoo from the Gorewada Rescue Centre in Nagpur. This is her first litter, officials said.

Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar said the mother and cubs are being closely monitored through CCTV surveillance as the first 48 hours are critical for the newborns.

"The tigress is of wild origin and is taking care of the cubs. We are observing her round-

to this litter. the zoo housed six white tigers the-clock," he said.

Royal Bengal tiger birth at the and seven Royal zoo in nearly 18 years. However, only two cubs survived. In 2005. a six-cub litter was also born, but only two

Veterinary officer Abhijit Bhawal said the zoo had been trying to breed Aditi since 2023. Initial mating attempts with tigers Karan and Hari were un-

It was only after pairing her with white tiger Vijay -- the father of previous cubs Avni and Vvom -- that the

pregnancy occurred. The confirmation came May 26

from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). "The

are in the cell with their mother. Five of them appear to be doing well. We're keeping a

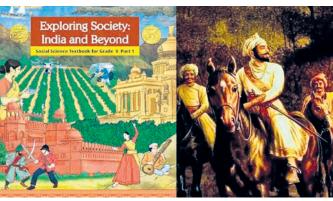
close watch," Bhawal said.

White tiger Vijay, who sired the litter, also fathered cubs in 2022. White tigers lack the orange pigment pheomelanin but are considered the same species as Royal Bengal tigers. "They are technically Royal Bengal tigers, just with different colouring," Kumar explained.

The last white tiger birth at Delhi Zoo took place in 2022 when tigress Sita delivered three cubs, of which two survived. Another five-cub litter was recorded in 2015.

The Delhi Zoo, which opened in 1959, is part of the Central Zoo Authority's conservation breeding programme for endangered species under the National Zoo Policy, and has been designated for tiger conservation since 2010.

NCERT shows Jaisalmer under Maratha Empire, attracts royal family's ire



Jaisalmer, August 5: A controversy has erupted after a map featured in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Class 8 social science textbook depicted present day Rajasthan as part of the erstwhile Maratha Empire.

The map depicts vast portions present-day Rajasthan including Jaisalmer, Mewar (present day Udaipur), Bundi and Jaipur under the Maratha Empire in 1759.

Several erstwhile royal families, including BJP MP from Rajsamand Mahima Kumari and her MLA husband Vishwaraj Singh, both members of former royal family of Mewar, have condemned the depiction, calling it "factually incorrect, misleading and agenda-driven".

The issue was highlighted by Jaisalmer's erstwhile royal family member Chaitanya Raj Singh in a social media post Monday night.

Singh termed the representation "historically misleading, factually incorrect, and seriously objectionable.'

He said such unverified and historically unsubstantiated information not only raises serious questions about the credibility of institutions like NCERT but also hurts the sentiments of people and undermines the region's proud

Tagging Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and NCERT in the post, he urged the government to take serious note of what he called a "blatantly erroneous, malicious, and agenda-driven depiction" and to ensure immediate corrections are made.

"This is not merely a textbook error, it appears to be an attempt to distort the legacy of our ancestors, their sacrifices, sovereignty and valour," he

OIPR-08146/11/0027/2526

mention of Maratha control, invasion, taxation or dominance over Jaisalmer in any authentic historical sources. "On the contrary, even our

government books clearly state that the Marathas never had any involvement in the affairs of the princely state of Jaisalm er," he added.
"This is not just about cor

recting a factual error, it concerns the dignity of our history, our self-respect, and the integ rity of the national curriculum. Prompt and decisive action is expected in this matter," Singh

BJP MLA and member of the erstwhile Mewar royal family Vishvaraj Singh Mewar and his wife along with Rajsamand MF Mahima Kumari also objected to the depiction in the map Tuesday.

Former union minister and Congress leader Bhanwar Jitendra Singh, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Al war, said that history must be presented based on verifiable facts, not regional or political agendas.

Singh said that historical records clearly show that in the 18th century, princely states of Rajasthan including Marwar, Mewar, Bikaner Jaipur, Bharatpur, Jaisalmer and Alwar among others maintained their independence and

autonomy Brigadier (Retired) Bhupesh Singh Hada, member of erstwhile Bundi royal family, called it "an imaginary empire".

The region signifies the Maratha Empire including tributary states. The map also shows the extent of Maratha influence stretching from Peshawar in the northwest to Thaniavur in the south, and from Surat and Mumbai in the west to Cuttack and Patna in the east, highlighting the empire's peak territorial spread.

DELHI ASSEMBLY

Speaker calls 'Phansi-ghar' a tiffin room; BJP, AAP spar

New Delhi, August 5: The BJP and AAP sparred in the Delhi Assembly Tuesday after Speaker Vijender Gupta told the House that the so-called British-era "phansi-ghar" (execution room), inaugurated on the Assembly premises in 2022 following renovation by then chief minister Arvind Keiriwal with much fanfare, was originally a "tiffin room".

PWD minister Parvesh Verma accused the previous AAP government of "distorting facts" and said photos of freedom fighters put up in the room will be removed. During the Assembly proceedings, Gupta, citing a map of 2011 when the Delhi Assembly building was constructed, said the claim of a tunnel running from the Assembly premises to the Red Fort (Lal Qila) was also incorrect.

The BJP demanded an apology from AAP chief Kejriwal for "misleading" the House. while AAP MLAs questioned the Speaker for raising the issue at a time when the national capital was grappling with several pressing problems.

The treasury and Opposition benches were involved in heated exchanges, with a visiting delegation of British Parliament witnessing the noisy scene.

In his remarks, Gupta said that the map also showed that the present Speaker's room was formerly the members' library and that the Deputy Speaker's room was the Viceroy's chamber during British rule.



Prior to this litter, the zoo

A similar birth was recorded

housed six white tigers and

in 2023 when tigress Siddhi, al-

so from Gorewada, gave birth to

five cubs -- the first successful

seven Royal Bengal tigers.

The map also indicated the presence of a smoking room in old times, he said. He slammed the previous AAP government for inaugurating the tiffin room as "phansi-ghar" August 9 2022, which was the anniversary of the Quit India

"A meeting was also held with historians who said that the so-called phansi-ghar and the associated structure were actually a tiffin room and a lift. The National Archives documents provided to us also proved this," Gupta said.

"The claim of a tunnel running from the Assembly to Lal Qila was also incorrect," the Speaker said, adding, "Historians said that in old times such buildings used to have underground ventilation ducts. Such a space is also there in the old Parliament House.

BJP chief whip Abhay Verma said the so-called "phansi-ghar" was actually a rope-operated lift system connected to a chamber used as the "tiffin

BJP MLAs demanded that AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Kejriwal tender an apology for "misleading" people with "false claims" and "distorting" history.

NSUI protest over student union polls

Sachin Pilot, Cong leaders face water cannons, 30 detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 5: National Students' Union of India (NSUI) workers and senior Congress leaders, including AICC General Secretary Sachin Pilot, Monday staged a protest in Jaipur demanding the immediate restoration of student union elections.

The Rajasthan Police used water cannons to disperse the protesters when, after a demonstration at the Shaheed Smarak, they tried to breach police barricades to march towards the chief minister's residence in Civil Lines area. Mild scuffles and pushing

were also seen between NSUI workers and police personnel. More than 30 party leaders and students' wing workers, including Ladnun MLA Mukesh Bhakar and NSUI State President Vinod Jakhar were detained.

Earlier, speaking at the demonstration, Pilot hit out at the BJP-led state government and said it was working in a dictatorial manner, taking inspiration from Delhi.

"This is a double-engine government that is doing nothing. When elections arrive, they raise issues of Hindu-Muslim, temple-mosque and try to polarize voters. If people continue to vote based on religion and caste, this will happen,'



ernment should resume the student union elections and by not taking action, the state government was acting in a "dictatorial manner", he said

"Not conducting elections is a sign of growing authoritarianism. This dictatorial attitude is inspired by Delhi," he said.

"Just as the Opposition's voice is being silenced in Parliament. Rahul Gandhi not being allowed to speak and microphones of INDIA bloc leaders being switched off, the same style of functioning is now visible in Jaipur too,' Pilot charged.

"Development in rural area has come to a standstill. Bureaucracy is dominating. Advisers are telling the CM not to hold elections. But if elections happen, even ABVP candidates will get a chance. NSUI will not win every seat. Let the best candidate win. Victory or decess of elections is," Pilot said. The protest took place at the city's Shaheed Smarak on MI

Road and witnessed the par-

ticipation of several senior Congress leaders and NSUI national president Varun Chaudhary. Pilot said that young people are struggling with problems like lack of jobs, growing pri-

vatisation of education and absence of opportunities. He urged students to bring about a "revolution of awareness" and demanded account-

ability from those in power. Speaking to reporters after the protest, Pilot said, "Students across the state are demanding elections. There is

no valid reason to stop them."

The government's decision to halt the elections is arbitrary and undemocratic. Student politics is the first step into politics, he added.

Chinese manjha menace persists in Delhi

Over 250 birds were rescued between August 1 and 4, with most of these cases involving deep cuts, broken limbs or loss of eyesight due to the banned maniha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Despite a complete ban on the sale, storage and use of Chinese manjha, the deadly glass-coated kite string, is still being sold across the national capital under different names with over 1,800 reels being seized by the city police since June 26.

The Delhi Police's Crime Branch Unit and teams of different districts in multiple recent crackdowns have seized large quantities of the banned Chinese manjha from various parts of Delhi and arrested many people for selling it.

However, police officers admit the seizures are merely a small part of a much larger and dangerous network.

These materials are being sold secretly under different brand names and continue to enter Delhi from nearby areas.

"Some of the names we got to know are Moye-Moye, Dhurandhar, Delhi King and Super Fighter." the officer said.

According to police sources, sellers have adapted to the ban by rebranding Chinese manjha rolls with fancy names.

The double danger

Chinese manjha poses a threat to humans, birds and animals as its sharp glass-coated string can easily cause fatal injuries.

An officer of the Delhi Fire Service said that not only humans, but Chinese manjha are very dangerous for the birds

"Mid-flight, birds get entangled and the string causes deep cuts, leading to their death. We are receiving over 100 calls regarding animal and bird rescue in the national capital," the DFS official said.

As kite-flying activity intensifies in the run-up to Independence Day, veterinarians and wildlife rescue groups in Delhi are witnessing a sharp surge in bird injuries, most of them caused by the banned Chinese manjha.

Over 250 birds were rescued between August 1 and 4, with most of these cases involving deep cuts, broken limbs or loss of eyesight due to the banned manjha, according to Vidya



Sagar Jeev Daya Parivar, an NGO that runs round-the-clock bird ambulance services across Delhi-NCR.

The organisation said it received around 300 distress calls during this four-day period.

A tale of danger: How the Chinese manjha kills?

In the past decade, many people, especially motorcyclists, have lost their lives in Delhi due to the razor-sharp Chinese maniha.

In most cases, the manjha gets entangled on electric poles or trees and forms a deadly trap or a loop across the roads.

Riders, unaware of the invisible trap, often suffer fatal cuts on the neck or fall from their bikes after getting tangled in the thread.

In some of the most shocking cases that occurred in the national capital, a sevenyear-old who was heading to a Paschim Vihar market in west Delhi with her father to buy new clothes, stood in front of the scooter as her father drove the two-wheeler, her mother and sister as pillion riders.

Then, came a sharp interruption. Near Guru Harkishan Nagar, a nearly-invisible thread affixed to a kite dangling in the sky wrapped itself around the young girl's neck and slit her throat without a hesitation.

Blood spraying from her throat, the father rushed his daughter to a hospital; only too late. She was brought in dead.

Smuggled through NCR's porous borders

Chinese manjha continues to make its way into Delhi through towns bordering the city. Police investigations have revealed that consignments are being brought from Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurugram, Bahadurgarh, and even smaller towns in western Uttar Pradesh and

These locations serve as stocking and dispatching hubs for clandestine delivery into Delhi.

Police sources said these suppliers maintain low profiles and use unmarked packaging, shifting consignments frequently to avoid police radar.

Delivery is often done late at night or during early morning hours to avoid attention.

The Delhi government had earlier launched a helpline and also directed local authorities to enforce the ban strictly. Several awareness drives in schools and residential areas were carried out to discourage the use of Chinese maniha.

The Crime Branch has arrested two men from Ghaziabad with 660 rolls of Chinese manjha. These were meant for distribution across the capital. Police say several such consignments have been intercepted in recent months.

OFFICE OF THE 🥮 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, REDHAKHOL DIVISION Mobile No.: 06644-299949, Email ID: dfo.redhakhol@odisha.gov.in Tender Notice No. 09/1F TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. MM-150: Divisional Forest Officer, Redhakhol Forest Division invites sealed tenders from reputed intending Manufacturing Firms/ Dealers/Suppliers having valid GSTIN and PAN Registration No Procurement of Solar - Powered Early Warning System (EWS) for Redhakhol Forest Division. The tender papers with detailed terms and conditions documents can be downloaded from website www redhakholforest.com or https://sambalpur.odisha.gov.in o www.odishaforest.in from 11.00 hours of 04.08.2025 to 17.00 hours of 11.08.2025. The cost of tender paper of Rs.1,000/- (One thousand) only to be deposited through Demand Draft in favou of Divisional Forest Officer, Redhakhol Forest Division payable at Redhakhol. The tender papers can be submitted at the below mentioned address on or before 11.08.2025 till 05.00 P.M. by Speed Post/Registered Post by hand only. The tender will be opened in the O/o, the undersigned on 12,08,2025 at 11,00 A.M. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the

enders without assigning any reason thereof Last date submission of Bids 11.08.2025 till 05.00 P.M. 12.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M. The date of opening of Tenders Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer

Redhakhol Forest Division

Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO. III, BHUBANESWAR

Government of Odisha "e" - Procurement Notice No. (18) of 2025-26

Bid Identification No.: C.C. (R&B) 03 No. B-378 1 Name of the Work Road Works 6 Nos. Works 2 Total No. of Works Estimated Cost iii) Rs.48,47,000.00, iv) Rs.44,52,800.00 y) Rs.48,07,900.00, vi) Rs.48,20,000.00 4 Class of Contractor "B" Class Contractor

5 Period of Completion 1 (One) Calendar Month Single Cover System (Online) Date & time of availability of bid From 07.08.2025 at 11.30 A.M. to 16.08.202 document in the portal Last date & time for receipt of 16.08.2025 upto 5.30 P.M. bids in the portal

Name & address of the Officer

III, Bhubaneswar urther details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:/

endersorissa.gov.in N.B.: Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available n the website as indicated above

Sd./- Superintending Engineer BBSR (R&B) Division No. III, BBSR OIPR-34185/11/0008/2526

national



We are talking to companies to ask them what exactly we can do to ensure our HR or talent is most employable. We are getting a survey done with the companies on Al affect in workforce

BIHAR JOBS: 85% TEACHER POSTS RESERVED FOR STATE RESIDENTS

The Bihar Cabinet Tuesday gave its nod for the implementation of domicile policy in the recruitment of teachers, reserving around 85 per cent of posts for "native residents" of the state. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had Monday announced that the policy will be implemented for the recruitment of school teachers





mitted, action must be taken, but targeting people based on

caste or religion is against the Constitution AKHILESH YADAV I SP CHIEF

historically mired by violence. We

meetings and the elders of BTR know that there was a time when people could not vote as people with AK-47s roamed the streets and forced people to vote for candidates of their choice

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM



the agitation August 29, thev can return...We will require nearly one lakh volunteers during the agitation

MANOJ JARANGE | MARATHA QUOTA ACTIVIST

SHORT **TAKES**

Suvendu Adhikari's convoy attacked

Cooch Behar (WB): The convoy of Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, came under attack allegedly from TMC workers during a protest programme in Cooch Behar Tuesday, triggering tension in the Khagrabari area of the district. Bulletproof glasses of the vehicle in which Adhikari and former Union minister Nisith Pramanik were seated were smashed. At least one police escort vehicle had its window panes shattered. The TMC, however, dubbed the charges

Four cops suspended over custodial death

a "well-scripted drama".

Udaipur: Four policemen were suspended in the over the custodial death of a ieweller, officials said. The custodial death Monday evening led to public outrage and protests Tuesday. The deceased, identified as Suresh Panchal, had been taken into custody in connection with a theft case. He was a resident of Bicchiwada in Dungarpur. He died under suspicious circumstances late Monday evening in police custody.

Anti-terror operation enters fifth day

Srinagar: The anti-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district entered the fifth day Tuesday as security forces tightened the noose around the ultras engaged in the gun battle with them. As tight cordon has been laid in the Akhal area. the authorities Tuesday evacuated some of the villagers who needed medical attention. "The encounter has entered its fifth day as intermittent exchange of firing has been

DRDO guest house manager held

going," an official said.

Jaipur: Manager of a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) guest house was detained in Jaisalmer district on suspicion of spying for Pakistan, police said. Mahendra Prasad, a resident of Uttarakhand's Almora, was posted as the manager of DRDO guest house in Chandan area of Jaisalmer. "He was detained on Monday. A joint interrogation will be conducted today,' Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer, Abhishek Shivhare said.

Congress takes dig at PM Modi after Trump's fresh threat





New Delhi, August 5: The Congress Tuesday took a swipe at the government over US President Donald Trump's fresh trade threat against India with the iconic Mukesh song 'dost dost na raha' and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "huglomacy" has "completely collapsed".

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also slammed as "meek" the Ministry of External Affairs' statement on the "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. Ramesh also questioned as to why the prime minister is not speaking on this issue.

He alleged that the Modi government's foreign policy is about "headline hunting" and aimed at appealing to a domestic audience, whereas it should

The Opposition party's attack came after Trump Monday said he will "substantially" raise US tariffs on New Delhi, accusing it of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

Asked about the remarks, Ramesh told PTI, "Well you know I am reminded of an old Mukesh song from the Raj Kapoor, Vyjayanthimala and Rajendra Kumar starrer 'Sangam' -- 'Dost dost na raha, pyaar pyaar na raha. Trump humein tera aitbaar na raha'. This is a complete collapse of the so-called friendship of Mr Modi and Mr Trump."

Ramesh said there was 'Howdv Modi' in September 2019. Namaste Trump' in February 2020, 'Abki baar Trump Sarkar' slogan was given by Mr Modi and there was photo-op in February 2025. It was said that Modi was amongst the first heads of government to call on the new President Trump, he said. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Modi, Ramesh said that the PM once spoke of the TOP -- Tomato, Onion and Potato -- challenges in prices, but



post, Trump said, "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"

the country now has to contend with the political challenges arising out of CAP --China, America and Pakistan. He hit out at Modi for personalising

This is the same President Trump who gave a special lunch to Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, which was unprecedented, the Congress lead er pointed out. Ramesh pointed out that over the last three decades, India's relationship with the US had transformed especially after the economic reforms of 1991 as it went through a lot of tension between 1972-82.

Indira Gandhi went to the US to meet President Ronald Reagan in 1982 and that was the turning point. Then Rajiv Gandhi visited America in 1985 and that saw the take off of the Indo-US relationship, he said.

It is not the job of the opposition to repair the Indo-US relationship, but it is that of the government, he said. Why the statement by the MEA does not mention Trump by name, Ramesh asked.

In a social media post, Trump said, "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." '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,"

Russia defends India's right to select trade partners

Water tanker falls into caved-in drain on Road No. 1, at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, August 5: Russia Tuesday said sovereign countries have the right to select their partners in trade and economic cooperation based on their interests, a day after President Donald Trump threatened to "substantially" raise US tariffs on India for buying Russian oil.

"We believe that sovereign countries must have and do have the right to choose their trade partners, the partners in trade and economic cooperation, on their own and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists, commenting on the US' threats regarding India.

President Trump Monday said he will "substantially" raise US tariffs on India, accusing it of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

Hours later, India mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. Firmly rejecting the criticism. India pointed out the double standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with

"Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national



compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the MEA said.

'Where the US is concerned it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals, it added.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy. India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA said. On Monday, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakahrova accused the US administration of continuing a neocolonial policy against the nations of the Global South to maintain American hegemony. "Sanctions and restrictions are a regrettable reality of today's historical stage, which affects the entire world," Zakaharova said in a statement

"Washington cannot come to terms with the loss of hegemony in the emerging multipolar world order and continues to pursue a neocolonial policy in an attempt to maintain its position, using politicised levers of economic pressure against those who refuse to follow in its wake in the international arena," she added.

Trump had earlier announced a 25 per cent tariffs on imports of Indian goods along with an unspecified "penalty" for buying "vast majority" of Russian military equipment and crude oil.

48 people placed on 'no-fly list' this year, says govt

New Delhi, August 5: As many as 48 air passengers were placed on the 'no-fly list' this vear till July 30, according to the government. Unruly passengers can face

flying ban for extended periods depending on the severity of their misconduct. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol has informed the Rajya Sabha that 48 people have been placed on the 'no-fly list' till July 30 this year.

A total of 82 and 110 passengers were placed on the list in 2024 and 2023, respectively. As per the data shared by the minister as part of a written reply Monday, a total of 63 people were placed on the 'no-fly list' in 2022, 66 in 2021 and 10 in 2020.

Under the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on 'Handling of unruly/ disruptive passengers' issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DG-CA), unruly passengers are categorised into three levels based on the severity of their misconduct onboard an aircraft.

In recent weeks, there have been incidents of unruly passenger behaviour. On August 1, a passenger slapped a co-traveller onboard IndiGo's Mumbai-Kolkata flight, and the airline has banned the perpetrator from taking its flights.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet, August 3, said it has initiated the process to place a senior army officer in the no-fly list in relation to an incident at the Srinagar International Airport July 26.

From loyalist to controversial critic

Malik,

79, who had

of Article 370

revocation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Veteran politician Satyapal Malik's five-decade-long political career spanned across multiple political parties and included several high-profile gubernatorial appointments before he transitioned into an outspoken critic of the very establishment he had served.

He served as the governor of four states -- Bihar (2017), Jammu and Kashmir (2018), Goa (2019), and Meghalaya (2020). But his most impactful assignment commenced in August 2018, when he was named the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

The tenure saw two significant events -- the 2019 Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF personnel lost their lives, and the August 5, 2019 revocation of Article 370 and the division of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Malik was the last governor of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Though he rose to prominence as a loyalist in the BJP, his recent years have been characterised by his vociferous condemnation of the central government's policies, reworking his public image from

that of a seasoned administrator to that of a vocal dissident.

From J-K, he had been relocated to Goa, where his relationship with the state government soured as he was openly critical of its COVID-19 response and accused it of corruption. His term in Goa came to an abrupt

halt and he was posted to Meghalaya, his On re-

final assign ment. tirement from goverthe sixth anniversary norship, pubhe licly confronted the central government over crucial

matters, which included a contention that the Pulwama attack was an outcome of indifference. governmental and vocally backed the farmers' protests against the three central laws, contending that the government had not listened to them.

During his last days of life, Malik was also named in the CBI chargesheets filed in May

this year in connection with the alleged corruption in the ₹2,200 crore Kiru Hydro power project. He strongly refuted the charges from his hospital bed, calling it "political vendetta". Malik

was born July 24, 1946, in the Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh been hospitalised His political journey started as a stufor some time, passed dent leader with away in a Delhi hospital socialist ideology Tuesday, which marks

but his career was later characterised by party hopping as he switched from the Bharatiya Kranti Dal (BKD) to the Congress. then the Janata Dal and

The Jat leader was first elected to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in 1974 on Charan Singh's BKD par-

finally the BJP.

Malik was elected twice to the Rajya Sabha -- from 1980 to 1986 and then from 1986 to 1989 -- before he decided to contest the Lok Sabha elections on the Janata Dal ticket. He won from the Aligarh parliamentary seat.



national



initiative will achieve the zero-poverty target by 2029. We've taken the first step and are setting a benchmark for the entire country

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU

AIR INDIA CANCELS DELHI-MILAN FLIGHT FOLLOWING TECH PROBLEM

Air India Tuesday cancelled its flight from Delhi to Milan due to a technical snag detected in the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft prior to departure. The airline also said that arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Milan at the earliest



CM and I had 🗐 requested the PM to inaugurate the Yellow line and he has given the time now. This is not a project of the central government alone, the state too has 50 per cent share in

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DY CM

the project. We are all serving the

Our government is committed to make the state safe, developed and a role model for women empow-

Today morning, I came across a video of a vound boy cleaning a bus

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM

BHAJANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM







Ambani refines it into petrol, diesel and jet fuel.

Ambani sells it in international market to earn huge profits. What did the common Indian get? -Nothing. No relief. No price cut. The Prime Minister of India is working 24x7 for people like Adani

SHORT **TAKES**

Thousands bid tearful adieu to Shibu Soren

Nemra (Jharkhand): A sea of mourners from all sections of the society -- ranging from political stalwarts to villagers -- gathered at Nemra. the native village of former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren, as his mortal remains were consigned to flames Tuesday, Soren, fondly called 'Dishom Guru' (leader of the land), passed away Monday at the age of 81 in a Delhi hospital while undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments. The founding father of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and a towering figure in the state's tribal movement was accorded a farewell with a gun salute from Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) personnel as his last rites were performed with full state honours amid tight security.

Pak army violates ceasefire along LoC

Mendhar/Jammu: In the first ceasefire violation post Operation Sindoor in May, Pakistan army Tuesday evening indulged in "unprovoked" firing on forward Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said. The Indian Army strongly retaliated and the exchange of small arms firing between the two sides continued for nearly 15 minutes in the Mankote

UP rains: 2 dead in Bijnor, Budaun

sector, they said.

Biinor/Budaun (UP): A threeyear-old girl and a 45-yearold farmer died in separate incidents of house collapse triggered by continuous heavy rainfall in Uttar Pradesh Tuesday, while several others were seriously injured, officials said.

Flash flood havoc in Uttarakhand

Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand). August 5: A cloudburst in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district has caused flash floods, wreaking havoc in high-altitude villages of Dharali. Here's an explainer on what a cloudburst is. Dharali is the main stopover on way to Gangotri, the origin of the Ganges, and home to many hotels, restaurants and home stavs

At least half the village was buried under the fast flowing mudslide of slush, rubble and water, officials said as rescue personnel battled the elements in the ecologically fragile heights to contain the damage of the afternoon.

Contiguous buildings, including three and four-storey houses, fell like a pack of cards as the surging waters washed over them. The devastating flashflood came in the wake of a cloudburst somewhere in the catchment area of the Kheer Ganga river.

Counted among the most devastating natural disasters in the Indian Himalayas, a cloudburst causes an enormous amount of rainfall across a limited area within an extremely short span of time. According to the India Meteorological Department, rain falling at a rate of over 100 millimetres an hour with strong winds and lightning across 20-30 square kilometres of area is termed a cloudburst. However, in a 2023 paper, researchers from the Indian Institute of Technolo-



gy, Jammu, and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, define cloudburst as a "sudden downpour of rainfall in a range of 100-250 millimetres an hour in a short span covering a smaller spatial extent similar to one square kilometre". It is published in the International Handbook of Disaster Research. The Indian Himalayas are considered vulnerable to unusual and extreme weather events, including cloudbursts, extreme precipitation, flash floods, and avalanches, the risk of all of which is said to increase as climate change intensifies. Extreme rainfall events in the

region, including districts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, have been studied to commonly occur during the monsoon season. This results in widespread damage to property and lives, and potential flash floods and landslides. Houses collapse, traffic is disrupted and human casualties occur on a large scale. Further, cloudburst events per unit area are "very high in Uttarakhand", compared to other regions in the Indian Himalayas, with recent events being more severe and impacting more communities, it says. On July 26, heavy rains lashed Uttarakhand's

Cloudbursts are counted as among the most devastating natural disasters in the Indian

ccording to the India AMeteorological Department, rain falling at a rate of over 100 millimetres an hour with strong winds and lightning across 20-30 square kilometres of area is termed a cloudburst

NDRF deploys cadaver dogs for Uttarkashi ops

New Delhi: The NDRF has decided to deploy its first-ever team of cadaver dogs to help locate those feared dead in the cloudhurst incident in Uttarakhand, official sources said Tuesday. A pair of these dogs will be airlifted from Delhi even as three teams of the force, comprising 35 rescuers in each, have been rushed to the incident site from various locations in the state. Two more National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams are awaiting airlift from the Dehradun airport, they said.

Rudraprayag district, causing boulders to slide down a hillside and blocking the trekking route to Kedarnath. Over 1.600 Chardham pilgrims were evacuated to safety. A sudden cloudburst June 29 at Silai Band on the Barkot-Yamunotri Marg in Uttarakhand left an under-construction hotel site damaged and eight to nine workers missing, according to officials.

Researchers call for concrete policies, planning and management of cloudburst events by national and global organisations. No stone is being left unturned in providing assistance to the people, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said in a post on X. "I express my condolences to the people affected by this tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. Along with this, I pray for the well-being of all the victims. I have spoken to Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami ii and obtained information about the situation. Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to Dhami and ordered the dispatch of seven rescue teams to assist the affected people. Defence Minister Rainath Singh added that the Centre and the state government are working in tandem, taking all possible measures to save precious lives. "Have been seeing disturb-

ing visuals from Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand) on the devastation caused by flash floods. Praying for the well-being of the people affected by the tragedy...," he wrote on X. Beds have been kept ready at AIIMS. Rishikesh and ambulances rushed to Dharali. Dhami, who happened to be in Andhra Pradesh, cancelled his trip to return to Dehradun. He said he is constantly in touch with senior officials and the situation is being closely monitored. Tomorrow might not bring much relief either. The Meteorological department has put out an orange alert for heavy rain for seven districts, including Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Bageshwar, Pauri Tehri, Haridwar and Dehradun.

DAC clears projects worth ₹67,000cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The defence ministry Tuesday cleared key military projects including procurement of long endurance drones, mountain radars and missile systems at a cost of around ₹67,000 crore.

The projects aimed at boosting India's military capabilities were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about ₹67,000 crore, the defence ministry said. For the Indian Navy, approv-

al was accorded for the procurement of compact autonomous surface craft, BrahMos fire control system and launchers and upgradation of BARAK-1 point defence missile system, it said

The procurement of compact autonomous surface craft will provide the capability to the Indian Navy for detection, classification and neutralisation of threats in anti-submarine warfare missions, the ministry said. For the Indian Air Force approval was given for procurement of mountain radars and upgradation of Saksham Spyder weapon system.

The procurement of mountain radars will enhance the air surveillance capability along and across the borders in the mountainous region. The upgradation of Saksham/Spyder system for integration with integrated air command and control system will enhance the air defence capability, the ministry said.

ED questions Anil Ambani for 10 hrs



New Delhi, August 5: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday questioned Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani for around 10 hours in a money laundering case linked to alleged multiple bank loan fraud cases worth crores of rupees against his group companies.

The businessman reached the office of the central probe agency in central Delhi in an EV vehicle around 10:50 am and made an exit shortly before 9 pm.

The statement of the 66-yearold businessman has been recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), official sources said. He was asked about a dozen questions, they said.

It is understood that Ambani denied any wrongdoing and said his companies have made

timely disclosures about their financial health to regulators.

The ED investigators are, however, not convinced and he is expected to be summoned again. The summons come after the agency conducted searches at 35 premises of 50 companies and 25 people, including executives of his business group, in Mumbai July 24.

The ED has notified a Look Out Circular (LOC), as per standard operating procedure in large bank 'fraud' cases, against Ambani even as some executives of his group have also been summoned to appear for questioning during the

week as part of this probe. In a related case, the ED had recently arrested Partha Sarathi Biswal, the MD of a Odisha-based company, for allegedly providing a fake bank guarantee of ₹68 crore for a Anil Ambani Group company.

The action against Ambani pertains to alleged financial irregularities and collective loan "diversion" pegged at more than ₹17,000 crore by multiple group companies of Anil Ambani, including Reliance Infrastructure (R Infra).

The first allegation pertains to "illegal" loan diversion of around ₹3,000 crore, given by the Yes Bank to the group companies of Ambani between 2017

The ED suspects, the sources said, that just before the loan was granted, Yes Bank promoters "received" money in their companies. The agency is investigating this nexus of "bribe" and the loan.

The sources said the ED is also probing allegations of "gross violations" in Yes Bank loan approvals to these companies, including charges such as back-dated credit approval memorandums and investments proposed without any due diligence/credit analysis in violation of the bank's credit policy.

The loans are alleged to have been "diverted" to many group companies and "shell" (bogus) companies by the entities involved.

The agency is also looking at some instances of loans given to entities with weak financials, a lack of proper documentation of loans and due diligence, borrowers having common addresses and common directors in their companies, etc., according to the sources.



Women collect Chrysanthemum flowers ahead of 'Varalakshmi Vratham' festival, in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka

Parl extends Prez's Rule in Manipur by 6 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Parliament Tuesday approved a statutory resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur for another six months beyond Au-

The resolution, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last week, was approved by the Rajya Sabha, amid uproar by Opposition members over the issue of electoral rolls revision in Bihar.

As Opposition MPs contin-



ued their protests on SIR, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said it was a "constitutional obligation" to pass the resolution.

"It's a statutory resolution. All of us, as MPs, have to follow constitutional provisions. These have a time limit within which it has to be disposed

The social media

post comes amid

mounting criticism by

Washington on New

Delhi's purchase of

crude oil from Russia

asked YSRCP member Subhash Chandra Bose Pilli to speak on the resolution. Opposition MPs however started raising slogans against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise with TMP MPs raising slogans while standing next to the YSRCP member.

of..." Hariyansh said. He then

BJD MP Muzibulla Khan said, "When Manipur law and order situation was bad, Article 356 was imposed. Today. the situation of law and order in Odisha is bad..."

Army highlights US role in arming Pakistan since 1954

New Delhi, August 5: In the backdrop of mounting US criticism of India's purchase of crude oil from Russia, the Indian Army Tuesday posted a news clip of August 1971 which highlighted the role played by the US in arming Pakistan "since 1954".

The news clip was shared in a post by the Eastern Command on X. "#IndianArmy #Eastern-Command #VijavVarsh #LiberationOfBangladesh #Media-Highlights 'This Day That Year' Build Up of War - 05 Aug 1971 #KnowFacts. US Arms Worth \$2 Billion Shipped to Pakistan Since '54." it said.

The news, published few months before the Indo-Pak

War of 1971 that led to creation of Bangladesh, talks about the role US had played in arming Pakistan the preceding nearly two decades.

"US Arms Worth \$2 Billion Shipped to Pakistan Since '54," the headline says. The report quotes V C Shukla, then minister for defence production, who had told the Rajya Sabha about the estimated valuation of the arms supplied for that period.

The social media post comes amid mounting criticism by Washington on New Delhi's purchase of crude oil from Russia. India Monday mounted an unusually sharp counterattack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi

crude oil.

U.S. Arms Worth \$2 Billion Shipped To Pakistan Since '54

for its procurement of Russian

hours after US President Don-

ald Trump asserted that Wash-

New Delhi's response came

ington will substantially raise

tariffs on goods from India over

its energy ties with Russia.

Firmly rejecting the criticism,

India pointed out the double

standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia.

"Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the MEA said in a late-evening statement. Where the US is concerned,

it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," it added "In this background, the target ing of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy. India will take all nec essary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA said.

It said India has been "targeted" by the US and the EU for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine

international



If anyone imagines that we can reach every terrorist and every pit and every weapon and in parallel bring our hostages home — I think it is

IRAN'S POWER CRISIS

Authorities in Iran ordered government offices and banks across much of the country to close Wednesday as surging summer temperatures and a worsening water crisis strain the power grid. As temperatures across the capital, Tehran, have exceeded 40 degrees Celsius, authorities urged residents to avoid outdoor activities during peak heat hours and conserve energy.





We need to get a solution to this problem. Everybody wants it. I've yet to meet somebody who is in favour of plastic pollution

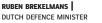


INGER ANDERSEN | UNITED NATIONS ENVIRON MENT PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR









SHORT TAKES

Indian-origin cabbie

attacked in Dublin London: An Indian-origin taxi driver based in Ireland for over 23 years has become the latest to be targeted in an unprovoked attack in the capital Dublin, with local police (Gardai) launching an investigation into the violent assault. Lakhvir Singh, in his 40s, told local media that he picked up two young men in their 20s Friday night and dropped them at Poppintree. in the Ballymun suburb of Dublin. Upon arriving at the destination, the men are said to have opened the vehicle door and struck him twice on the head with a bottle. As the suspects fled, they reportedly shouted: "Go back to your own country." "In 10 years I've never seen anything like this happen." Singh told 'Dublin Live', "I'm really scared now and I'm off the road at the moment. It will be very hard to go back. My children are really scared," he said, A Dublin police spokesperson said Singh was taken to the city's Beaumont Hospital with injuries determined as not life-threatening. "Gardaí are investigating an assault reported to have occurred in Poppintree, Ballymun, Dublin 11 at approximately 11:45 pm on Friday, 1st August 2025. A man, aged in his 40s, was brought to Beaumont Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injury. Investigations are ongoing. the spokesperson said. The incident followed an Indian Embassy advisory, also issued on Friday, expressing safety concerns following recent attacks in and around the capital Dublin and urging

Shipwreck off Yemen kills 56 migrants: UN

Indian citizens to take safety

precautions.

Cairo: A boat carrying African migrants that capsized over the weekend off the coast of war-torn Yemen killed 56 and left 132 missing, the UN immigration agency said Tuesday, revising casualty figures released earlier. It is the latest in a series of shipwrecks off Yemen that killed hundreds trying to reach wealthy Arab Gulf countries in the hope of a better life. The vessel had 200 people on board when it sank early Sunday off the coastal town of Shuqrah in Yemen's southern province of Abyan, the International Organisation for Migration said in a statement. Authorities recovered 56 bodies, including 14 women, while 12 men were rescued as of Tuesday morning, the agency said. An operation to find those missing is underway, Abyan security directorate said late Monday, adding that the body of the boat captain, a Yemeni citizen, was recovered among 14 others off Zinjibar, the provincial capital. "This heartbreaking incident highlights the urgent need to address the dangers of irregular migration along the

Eastern Route," the IOM said.

Israel considers full Gaza takeover

Tel Aviv/Cairo, August 5: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favours a complete military takeover of Gaza for the first time in two decades, media reported, and was to meet senior security officials to finalise a new strategy in the 22-month war.

Mediation between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas has collapsed despite intense international pressure for a ceasefire to ease hunger and appalling conditions in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Eight more people died of starvation or malnutrition in the past 24 hours, Gaza's health ministry said, while another 79 died in the latest Israeli fire.

Netanyahu was to meet Defence Minister Israel Katz and military Chief of Staff Eval Zamir to decide on a strategy to take to cabinet later this week, an Israeli official told Reuters. Strategic Affairs Minister Rob Dermer, a confidant of Netanyahu, would also be present.

Israel's Channel 12, citing an official from Netanyahu's office, said the prime minister was leaning towards taking control of the entire territory. That would reverse a 2005 decision to pull settlers and military out of Gaza while retaining control over its borders, a move right-



wing parties blame for Hamas gaining power there.

It was unclear, however, whether Netanyahu was foreseeing a prolonged occupation or a short-term operation aimed at dismantling Hamas and freeing Israeli hostages. The prime minister's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Channel 12 report.

A Palestinian official said it may be a tactic to pressure Hamas into concessions, while the Palestinian Foreign Ministry urged foreign nations to take heed of the reports.

"The ministry urges countries and the international community to treat these leaks

with utmost seriousness and to intervene urgently to prevent their implementation, whether these leaks are meant to exert pressure, test international reactions, or are genuine and serious," it said.

Israel's coalition government, the most right-wing and religiously conservative in its history, includes far-right politicians who advocate for the annexation of both Gaza and the West Bank and encourage Palestinians to leave their homeland.

Nearly two years of fighting in Gaza has strained the military, which has a small standing army and has had to repeatedly mobilise reserv-

ists. It has throughout the war pushed back against the idea of Israel fully occupying Gaza and establishing military rule.

In a sign of differences between some members of Israel's ruling coalition and the military, far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir on X challenged military head Zamir to state he would comply with government directives even if a decision was made to take all of Gaza.

Foreign Minister Gideon Saar then said the military chief must give his professional opinion, while Defence Minister Katz weighed in to say the military would professionally implement whatever policy the government set.

"Defeating Hamas in Gaza, while creating the conditions for the return of the hostages. are the central goals of the war in Gaza, and we must take all necessary actions to achieve them," Katz said.

The war was triggered when Hamas-led militants on October 7, 2023, attacked Israel, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and capturing 251 hostages, taking them into Gaza.

Israel's military response has devastated the tiny, crowded enclave, killing more than 61,000 people - mostly civilians according to Palestinian health

Haley: Don't burn ties with 'strong ally' India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 5: The US should not burn its relationship with a "strong ally like India" and give a pass to China, Indian-American Republican leader Nikki Haley said Tuesday, amid President Donald Trump's attacks against New Delhi over tariffs and purchases of Russian oil.

"India should not be buying oil from Russia. But China, an adversary and the number one buyer of Russian and Iranian oil, got a 90-day tariff pause,' Haley said in a post on X.

"Don't give China a pass and burn a relationship with a strong ally like India," she said.

Haley, the former Governor of South Carolina, was the US Ambassador to the United Nations under Trump's first presidential term, becoming the first Indian-American to be appointed to a cabinet-level post in the US administration.

In 2013, she officially announced her candidacy for the 2024 presidential election and withdrew from the race in March last year.

Her comments came hours after Trump said India has not been a "good trading partner" and announced he will raise tariffs on India "very substantially over the next 24 hours"



because New Delhi is buying Russian oil and "fueling" the 'war machine.'

India Monday mounted an unusually sharp counterat tack on the US and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. New Delhi's response came

after Trump asserted that Washington will substantially raise tariffs on goods from India over its energy ties with Russia. Meanwhile, Trump, in an in-

terview with CNBC responded to a question on China and its leader, Xi Jinping, and said, We have a very good relation-Trump added that he might

have a meeting with the Chinese President "before the end of the year, most likely, if we

B'desh general polls in Feb, says Yunus



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 5: Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus Tuesday announced that the next general election will be held in February, as thousands of people joined a rally in Dhaka to mark the first anniversary of the 'July Uprising' that toppled longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

"On behalf of the interim government, I will send a letter to the chief election commissioner requesting that the Election Commission hold the national election in February 2026, before Ramzan," Yunus said in a televised address to the nation on the first anniversary of last year's student-led protest movement - dubbed as 'July Uprising'.

The month of Ramzan is set

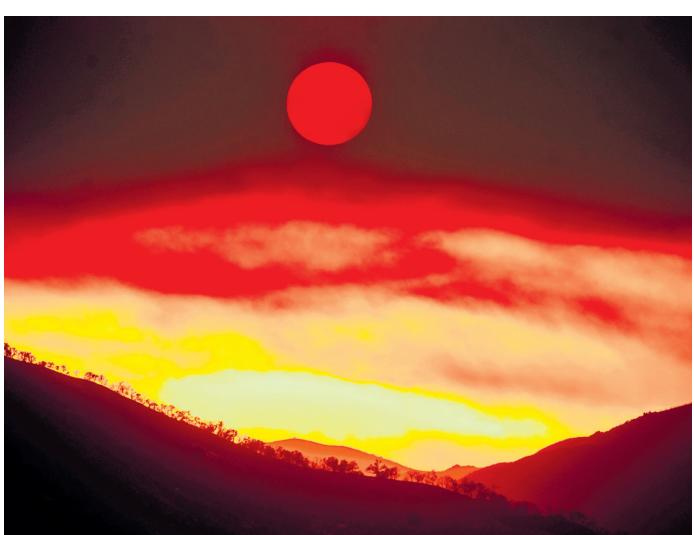
to begin February 17 or 18 next year, depending on the sighting of the moon. Earlier, general elections in Bangladesh were scheduled for the first half of April next year. We want this election to be

memorable in our nation's history - in terms of joy and festivity, peace and order, voter turnout, and in terms of harmony and sincerity," Yunus said as he promised to extend all possible support to ensure a "free, fair, peaceful, and festive" election.

Yunus, 85, said his government would start "both mental and institutional readiness to accomplish all necessary prepa-

rations, starting tomorrow". The interim government led by Yunus has disbanded all activities of Hasina's Awami League and arrested its top leaders, resulting in the emergence of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) as the single major

actor in the political arena. A large offshoot of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), which led the protests against Hasina, formed the National Citizen Party (NCP) in February, apparently with Yunus' blessings.



Smoke from the Gifford Fire fills the sky as the sun sets over Los Padres National Forest, California

Hiroshima survivors speak out against nuclear weapons

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hiroshima, August 5: Eighty years after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a dwindling number of the aging Japanese survivors are increasingly frustrated by growing nuclear threats and the acceptance of nuclear weapons by global leaders

The US attack on Hiroshima August 6, 1945, and three days later on Nagasaki killed more than 200,000 people by the end of that year. Others survived but with radiation illness. About 100,000 survivors

are still alive. Many hid their experiences to protect themselves and their families from discrimination that still exists. Others could not talk about what happened because of the trauma they suffered.

Some survivors have begun to speak out late in their lives. hoping to encourage others to push for the end of nuclear

Despite numerous health issues, survivor Kunihiko Iida, 83. has devoted his retirement years to telling his story as a way to advocate for nuclear

He volunteers as a guide at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. He wants to raise awareness among foreigners because he feels their understanding of the bombings is lacking.

It took him 60 years to be able to talk about his ordeal in public.

When the US dropped a uranium bomb on Hiroshima, Iida was 900 metres away from the hypocentre, at a house where his mother grew up.

He was three years old. He remembers the intensity of the blast. It was as if he was thrown out of a building. He found himself alone underneath the debris, bleeding from shards of broken glass all over his body.

"Mommy, help!" he tried to scream, but his voice did not come out. Eventually, he was rescued by his grandfather.

Within a month, his 25-year old mother and four-year-old sister died after developing nosebleeds, skin problems and fatigue. Iida had similar radiation effects through elementary school, though he gradually regained his health.

He was almost 60 when he



finally visited the peace park at the hypocentre, the first time since the bombing, asked by his aging aunt to keep her company.

After he decided to start telling his story, it was not easy. Overwhelmed by emotion, it took him a few years before he could speak in public

In June, he met with stu-

dents in Paris, London and Warsaw on a government-commissioned peace programme. Despite his worries about how his calls for nuclear abolishment would be perceived in nuclear-armed states like Britain and France, he received applause and handshakes.

Iida says he tries to get students to imagine the aftermath of a nuclear attack, how it would destroy both sides and leave behind highly-radioactive contamination.

"The only path to peace is nuclear weapons' abolishment. There is no other way," Iida

Fumiko Doi, 86, would not have survived the atomic bombing on Nagasaki if a train she was on had been on time. The train was scheduled to arrive at Urakami station around 11 am, just when the bomb was dropped above a nearby cathedral.

With the delay, the train was five kilometres away. Through the windows, Doi, then six years old, saw the flash. She covered her eyes and bent over as shards of broken windows rained down. Nearby passen-

gers covered her for protection. People on the street had their hair burnt. Their faces were charcoal black and their clothes

were in pieces, she said. Doi told her children of the

experience in writing, but long hid her status as a survivor because of fear of discrimination.

vivor. She worried their four

Doi married another sur-

symptoms. He later became a teacher and described what he had seen, his sorrow and pain in poetry, a teary Doi explained Doi began speaking out after seeing the 2011 Fukushi-

children would suffer from ra

diation effects. Her mother and

two of her three brothers died

of cancer, and two sisters have

Her father, a local official,

was mobilised to collect bodies

and soon developed radiation

struggled with their health.

ma Daiichi nuclear disaster following a strong earthquake and tsunami, which caused radioactive contamination. She travels from her home

in Fukuoka to join anti-war rallies, and speaks out against atomic weapons.

"Some people have forgotten about the atomic bombings .. That is sad," she said, noting that some countries still possess and develop nuclear weap ons more powerful than those used 80 years ago.

"If one hits Japan, we will be destroyed. If more are used around the world, that is the end of the Earth," she said. "That is why I grab every chance to speak out."

business



To safeguard the interests of farmers and the domestic industry, international trade negotiations allow for the inclusion of sensitive, negative, or exclusion lists -- categories of goods on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted JITIN PRASADA | MINISTER OF STATE, COMMERCE

TATA AUTOCOMP, ICHIKOH TO **ACQUIRE VALEO'S LIGHTING BIZ**

Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd Tuesday said it will form a joint venture with Japan's Ichikoh Industries Ltd to acquire Valeo's lighting business in India for an undisclosed sum. Valeo's lighting business in India will be acquired through the acquisition of the Valeo Lighting Systems (VLS) business of Valeo India Pvt Ltd, together by Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd (TACO) and Ichikoh Industries Ltd (Ichikoh), a company listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime Market



With ETS port, we aim to establish clear benchmarks that dustry meet global



K SYAMA RAJU | FHRAI PRESIDENT

Definitely want to look into expanding into the tier two cities... We will partners



ADRIAN HIA | MD, KASPERSKY (ASIA PACIFIC)

Dovish remarks from Federal Reserve officials. along with last



SAUMIL GANDHI | SENIOR ANALYST HDFC SECURITIES

Q1 **RESULTS**

Berger Paints profit down

New Delhi: Berger Paints India Ltd Tuesday reported 11 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 315 crore for June quarter of 2025-26 financial year. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 354 crore for the April-June period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Berger

Nerolac Paints net down

New Delhi: Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd has reported a decline of 4.12 per cent in consolidated net profit to Rs 215.6 crore for the June quarter of this financial year. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 224.87 crore in the April-June period a year ago. according to a regulatory filing from Kansai Nerolac Monday.

KP Energy profit rises

New Delhi: KP Energy Tuesday said it has posted a nearly 40 per cent rise in its net profit to Rs 25.42 crore in the June quarter compared to a year ago, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company has recorded its highest-ever Q1 Profit After Tax (PAT) on a consolidated basis for Q1FY26 at Rs 25.42 crore in comparison to that for Q1FY25 at Rs 18.21 crore.

Adani Ports profit zooms

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) Tuesday posted a 6.54 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,310.60 crore for the June quarter of the current financial year on account of higher income. It had reported a net profit of Rs 3,107.23 crore in the April-June period of FY25, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Airtel net jumps

New Delhi: Telecom operator **Bharti Airtel Tuesday reported** a 43 pc year-on-year increase in its consolidated profit at Rs 5,947.9 crore in the first quarter ended June 2025. The company had posted a profit of Rs 4,160 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue from operations increased by 28.4 per cent to Rs 49,463 crore during the reporting quarter from Rs 38,506.4 crore in the June guarter of the last year. Welcure posts profit New Delhi: Welcure Drugs

& Pharmaceuticals Tuesday

23.29 crore for the April-June

quarter of FY2025-26, driven

reported a net profit of Rs

by strong order flow.

TRADE Pharma tariffs may reach 250%: Trump

New Delhi, August 5: US President Donald Trump Tuesday said that upcoming tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals could eventually rise as high as 250 per cent, as part of his push to bring drug manufacturing back to the United States.

In an interview with CNBC, Trump said the tariffs would start at a lower rate -- without specifying the exact figure -and then increase over the next vear to 18 months.

"We'll be putting (an) initial-

ly small tariff on pharmaceuticals, but in one year, one-and-ahalf years, maximum, it's going to go to 150 per cent and then it's going to go to 250 per cent because we want pharmaceuticals made in our country,' he said.

Trump also revealed plans to impose tariffs on foreign semiconductors and chips "in the next week or so", but gave no further details. The announcement comes

as the US President has been threatening major penalties on the pharmaceutical industry to



push manufacturing back home. He has also recently demanded that major drug suppliers cut costs significantly or face

These fresh tariff threats follow Trump's hardening trade stance against India. Earlier. he said he would substantially raise tariffs on New Delhi within 24 hours, revising the previously announced 25 per cent rate. Trump has accused India of buying large quantities of Russian oil and reselling it for profit, claiming it fuels Moscow's war machine.

Rejecting the claims made by US, India has called the allegations "unjustified and un-

fairs said that India will take all necessary steps to safeguard its national interests and economic security.

Russia has also criticised Trump's remarks, describing US pressure tactics as "illegitimate" and backing India's right to choose its own trade partners. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov (Russian diplomat) stressed that sovereign nations must decide for themselves with whom they engage in trade and economic

EXITS PAYTM PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ANT FINANCIAL

New Delhi, August 5: Bil lionaire Jack Ma's Ant Fi nancial Tuesday exited One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, by selling its entire 5.84 per cent stake for around Rs 3,803 crore.

Following the stake sale shares of One97 Communica tions fell 1.45 per cent to Rs 1,062.60 apiece on the NSE, while the scrip of the compa ny went lower by 1.23 per cent to Rs 1,065 on the BSE.

Ant Group, through its affiliate Antfin (Netherlands) Holding BV, has offloaded the shares of Noida-based One97 Communications. Ant Group, formerly known as Ant Financial, is an affiliate company of the Chinese conglomerate Alibaba Group.

According to the term sheet, the sale involves up to 37.3 million or 3.73 crore equity shares or 5.84 per cent stake in One97 Communications.

Markets slide ahead of RBI policy decision

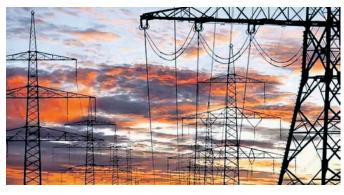
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 5: Equity market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower Tuesday amid selling in oil & gas and banking shares ahead of the Reserve Bank's monetary policy announcement.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 308.47 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 80,710.25. The broader NSE Nifty fell 73.20 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 24,649.55 Among Sensex shares, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Eternal, BEL, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, ITC and Sun Pharmaceutical were the major laggards.

However, Titan, Maruti Trent, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, L&T, HCL Technologies and NTPC were among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge went lower by 0.27 per cent and the midcap index by 0.14 per cent. Among sectoral indices, Oil & Gas fell by 0.96 per cent, Energy by (0.74 per cent), FMCG by (0.61 per cent). Services and Focussed IT by (0.59 per cent each), IT and Realty by (0.52 per cent each) and

trade volume



New Delhi, August 5: Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) Tuesday said it had achieved highest-ever monthly electricity traded volume of 12,664 million units (MU) in July, marking an increase of 25.5 per cent on a year-on-year basis

A total of 16.26 lakh Renewable Energy Certificates (RECa) were traded during the month, an IEX statement said.

According to the statement, the market clearing price in the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) was Rs 4.18/unit during July, down 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY). Similarly, price in the Real Time Market was at Rs 3.83/ unit during July this year, a fall of 23 per cent YoY.

The Day-Ahead Market (DAM) including HPDAM achieved 5,510 MU volume in July 2025, as compared to 5,056 MU volume in July 2024, an increase of 9 per cent YoY.

The Real-Time Electricity Market (RTM) reported the highest-ever monthly traded

New Delhi, August5: The

Indian services sector growth

touched an 11 month high in

July, supported by a pickup in

new exports orders and sharp

rise in overall sales, a monthly

The seasonally adjusted HS-

BC India Services Purchasing

Managers' Index (PMI) Busi-

ness Activity Index was at 60.5

in July, little-changed from 60.4

in June, and the rate of expan-

sion was the best seen since

above 50 means expansion,

while a score below 50 denotes

indicated a strong growth mo-

mentum, led by a pick-up in

new export orders," said Pran-

jul Bhandari, Chief India Econ-

Sustained increases in new

business intakes were the main

In PMI parlance, a print

"At 60.5, the services PMI

survey said Tuesday.

August 2024.

contraction.

omist at HSBC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RTM volume increased to 5,109 MU in July 2025, from 3,334 MU in July 2024, registering an increase of 53 per cent YoY. Day-Ahead Contingency and

Term-Ahead Market (TAM), comprising of HPTAM, contingency, daily & weekly and monthly contracts up to 3 months, traded 917 MU in July 2025, as compared to 714 MU volume in July 2024, an increase of 28 per cent YoY. IEX Green Market, compris-

ing the Green Day-Ahead and

Green Term-Ahead Market

segments, achieved 1,025 MU volume during July this year, as compared to 990 MU in July 2024, registering an increase of 4 per cent YoY. The weighted average price in Green Day-Ahead Market

(G-DAM) for July 2025 was Rs 3.91/unit. A total of 16.26 lakh RECs were traded in the trading ses-

sions held July 9, 2025 and July 30, 2025, at a clearing price of Rs

REC traded volume in July this year decreased by 48 per

Services sector growth hits 11-month high

aspect behind output growth.

the survey said, adding that

Indian service providers also

welcomed a stronger improve-

ment in international demand

for their services. "They report-

edly secured new work from

Asia, Canada, Europe, the UAE

Going ahead, service provid-

ers were on average optimis-

tic about their expectations

for output in the year ahead.

Among the factors supporting

business confidence were effi-

ciency gains, marketing, tech

innovation and a growing on-

line presence, they said.

and the US," it said.

IEX logs record ₹ hits all-time low

Mumbai, August 5: The rupee revisited its all-time low level and ended with a loss of 22 paise at 87.88 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as risk-off sentiment deepened after US President Donald Trump renewed threats to raise tariffs on Indian goods over New Delhi's continued purchases of Russian oil.

Forex traders said the rupee is likely to slide further as India-US trade deal uncertainty continues to dent domestic market sentiments.

Moreover, weak equity markets dented investors' sentiments further. However, the domestic unit pared some of its losses on supposed intervention by the Reserve Bank of India

A soft US dollar and overnight decline in crude oil prices also cushioned the downside to some extent, they said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 87.95 against the greenback, its lowest-ever intra-day level that was previously recorded on February 10 this year. During the session, it touched the high of 87.75 against the American currency.

At the end of Tuesday's trad ing session, the domestic unit was at 87.88, down 22 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee depreciated 48 paise to close at 87.66 against the US

In a fresh trade threat against India, President Donald Trump Monday said he will "substantially" raise US tariffs on New Delhi, accusing it of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and

On the price front, input

costs and output charges rose

at faster rates than in June.

'The solid rise in output prices

reflected greater cost burdens

and demand strength," the sur-

"On the price front, both in-

put and output prices rose a

tad faster than in June but this

could change going forward as

indicated by the recent CPI and

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 wholesale price

inflation (WPI) turned negative

after a gap of 19 months, declin-

Meanwhile, RBI Gover-

nor Sanjay Malhotra-headed

rate-setting panel Monday

started the three-day delib-

erations to decide the next

bi-monthly monetary policy

amid expectations of a pause

in the rate easing cycle.

ing 0.13 per cent in June.

WPI prints," Bhandari said.

Last week, the Trump adminscheduled to announce the policy rate Wednesday. Dilip

istration slapped a 25 per cent duty on all Indian goods. The US president also announced a penalty for buying "vast majority" of Russian military equipment and crude oil. 'We expect the rupee to con-

tinue to slide as India-US trade deal uncertainty continues to dent domestic market sentiments. Weak tone in the domestic equities and FII outflows may further pressurise the rupee, Anuj Choudhary, Research Analvst. Commodities Research Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Investors also stayed cautious ahead of the RBI monetary policy decision this week.

Choudhary further said: "Market expects a rate cut by the central bank. However, overall weakness in the US dollar amid rising odds of a rate cut by the Fed in September may support the rupee at lower levels.'

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra-headed rate-setting panel on Monday started the three-day deliberations to decide the next bi-monthly monetary policy.

The six-member Monetary

Parmar, Senior Research Analvst. HDFC Securities, said concerns over potential tariff hikes weighed on the Indian rupee. The currency consolidated within a narrow range after a

weak start, supported by expected dollar inflows from state banks and lower imported commodity prices. However, caution persists amid ongoing foreign fund outflows and trade uncertainties. "Attention now turns to the

Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy announcement. While a status quo is expected, any surprise rate cut or easing signal could boost market sentiment," Parmar said. Meanwhile, Brent crude pric-

es fell 0.97 per cent to \$68.09 per barrel in futures trade, after OPEC+ agreed to hike another large output increase in September, adding to oversupply concerns after US data showed lacklustre fuel demand.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six curren-Policy Committee (MPC) is cies, rose 0.18 per cent to 98.68.

BIZ BUZZ

Hero MotoCorp launches Xoom 125



Bhubaneswar: Hero MotoCorp has launched the all-new Hero Xoom 125 in Bhubaneswar. redefining the 125cc scooter seament with a perfect fusion of power, style, and

innovation. Xoom 125 boasts a bold, aerodynamic design and a host of first-in-segment features aimed at elevating urban mobility. Powered by a robust 125cc engine delivering 7.3 kW at 7,250 rpm and 10.4 Nm of torque at 6,000 rpm, the scooter sprints from 0 to 60 kmph in just 7.6 seconds-making it the fastest in its category. Key design highlights include LED projector headlamps with a distinctive 'Eyes of a Falcon' signature position light and sequential LED winkers that ensure an assertive road presence. Built for superior ride dynamics and safety, the scooter is equipped with 14-inch wheels, wider tires, a longer wheelbase, and a front disc brake for enhanced stability and control. The Xoom 125 also stands out with advanced features like a Bluetoothenabled digital speedometer with turn-by-turn navigation, illuminated start button, and a front glove boxwith a built-in phone charger-bringing both convenience and smart connectivity to riders. Available in four vibrant colours-Matte Neon Lime, Inferno Red, Matte Storm Grey, and Metallic Turbo Blue-the Xoom 125 comes in two variants: VX at Rs 93,869 and ZX at Rs 99,290 (ex-showroom).

TPCODL empowers women

As the muchfestival draws near, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited



venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha is spreading joy beyond power supply through its flagship CSR initiative Samridhi. Focused on women empowerment and cultural preservation, TPCODL is supporting rural women artisans in crafting eco-friendly Rakhis using Odisha's traditional art forms like Pattachitra, Dhokra and Palm Leaf. Through training, capacity-building, and market linkage support, TPCODL is helping over 300 women artisans gain economic independence. A special stall was installed at IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar, to showcase the Rakhis prepared by the artisans. Hundreds of people visited the stall and admired these beautifully handcrafted Rakhis, supporting both tradition and empowerment.

E-comm export hubs to lower logistics cost for Indian SMEs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 5: The E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs) initiative aims to provide dedicated zones that will reduce the cost and time associated with logistics and simplify regulatory processes, the government said Tuesday.

These hubs will boost cross-border e-commerce exports from India and simplify

re-imports for e-commerce

returns or rejects. Five ECEH

pilot projects have been proposed for implementation, said Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

ECEHs will offer integrated services at a single location, including customs clearance, quality certification, packaging, and off-port warehousing.

Some of the proposed ECEHs are to be implemented directly by logistics service providers to ensure integrated delivery of warehousing, packaging, and

regulatory facilitation. Further, the government

has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key stakeholders, including global

e-commerce platforms and domestic logistics providers, the minister informed. These partnerships aim to

build awareness, enhance ex-

port readiness, and promote cross-border e-commerce, especially for MSMEs. Regional authorities of DGFT have conducted outreach and capacity-building programs with these entities to support SME sellers and familiarise them with export procedures. To another query, the Centre

informed about the steps taken to simplify customs, logistics, and compliance procedures for small exporters, particularly for e-commerce exports.

was launched to provide small exporters access to international trade-related information. It integrates inputs from Indian Missions, Export Promotion Councils, and Commodity Boards, the minister said. The Department of Posts, in

The Trade Connect ePlatform

collaboration with CBIC, has established Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras (DNKs) to assist exporters with documentation, packaging, and regulatory compliance.

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 6, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

An English Summer to remember

London, August 5: Not much was expected out of Shubman Gill and his team when they landed in England roughly two months ago. Five fiercely fought Tests later, the relatively inexperienced bunch not only exceeded expectations, it also gave a fine blueprint for

In the words of two captains, Gill and his rival number Ben Stokes, 2-2 is probably a fair result after a 45-day slugfest. The two games that India lost, the series-opener at Leeds and the third Test at Lord's, could have easily gone the other way around but those are the learnings that the players would take back home.

The times Gill and his men looked down and out, specifically Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval, they refused to give up and on two occasions made a gladiatorial comeback that would aptly sum up the spirit of this team.

PTI looks back at the iconic moments of the series and the contributions of the players who came of age during the series or are returning home wiser.

Captain Gill's giant impact

Young leaders would dream of what Gill managed to achieve in his first series as Test captain. Having not done well in English conditions during past outings, there was a major question mark over his abilities as a batter, not to forget as

Gill needed to earn the respect of the dressing room and he did that with a stellar 147 in his first innings of the tour.

Having made a few technical and mental adjustments, Gill OREAM11 Ravindra Jadeia excels

Tests due to workload man-

agement, Siraj rose to the

occasion. Like opposition

captain Ben Stokes, he put

his hand up when a few extra

overs needed to be bowled to

maintain pressure.

took his game to the next level and what followed was a double With the peerless Jasprit Bumrah not around for two hundred and a hundred in the

Gill had his issues against the incoming ball but he found a way to deal with them. After the low returns at Lord's, Gill came up with his most significant knock of the tour -- a match saving 103 in Manchester, In the end, he aggregated a staggering 754 runs in 10 innings.

emphatic win at Edgbaston.

Gill came of age as a batter but as captain, he knows he remains a work in progress.

Siraj throws workload management out of window

Mohammed Siraj, the only fast bowler on either side to play in all five Tests, fittingly took the final wicket of the series at The Oval and ended up as the leading wicket taker with 23 scalps.

Jadeja's exploits flew under the radar when the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were around. With the superstars now retired, Jadeja had to make up for the inexperience in the batting department.

With 516 runs in the middle order including five fifties and a

After muted celebrations, players head home in batches

opted for quiet downtime before leaving for home Tuesday morning. A chunk of the India squad members,

including Mohammed Siraj, boarded an Emirates flight less than 24 hours after a dramatic finish to the fifth

and final Test of a long and gruelling series. The team members will landed in Dubai on Tuesday evening

before taking a connecting to flight their respective home cities in India. Siraj, the architect of the victory,

will take the next available flight to Hyderabad after landing in Dubai. Arshdeep Singh and Shardul Thakur

were among the ones to head back home. Some of the players have chosen to stay back in the country for

a well-deserved break. Roughly four hours after the nail biting finish, some of the squad members including

Arshdeep and Prasidh Krishna were seen spending time with their families in the heart of London. "There

were no celebrations last night. It has been a long and hectic series. The players spent time on their own or

with families. Most of the players are heading back to India, some are heading elsewhere," said a BCCI source.

London: A famous series levelling win at The Oval called for a major celebration but the Indian squad members

ford, the 36-year-old ended up having a series to remember.

Tempers flare: Last over on day three at Lord's

The series will be remembered for its highly competitive nature. The first two Tests were played in a relatively incident-free environment but with stakes getting higher, on-field tensions between the two team added to the spice.

The most significant of those moments was Jasprit Bumrah's final over at Lord's on day

Pant and Woakes' iconic acts of

What also lifted the profile of the series was the iconic acts of heroism from Rishabh Pant and Chris Woakes.

While Pant came out to bat with a fractured foot to add crucial runs in the first innings in Manchester, Woakes, already ruled out of the game due to a shoulder injury, came out to bat on day five of the final Test with the series on the line.

His left hand was tied with a sling and he was in no position to bat but he was still out there fighting for his team, summing up the intensely competitive environment of the series.

CHENNAI GRANDMASTERS

Erigaisi to face daunting

challenge from Gujrathi, Giri

New Delhi, August 5:India No

1 Arjun Erigaisi will face tough

competition from seasoned

compatriot Vidit Gujrathi and

Netherland's top player Anish

Giri during the expanded third

edition of the Chennai Grand-

masters chess tournament.

starting here from Wednesday.

winner's purse of Rs 1 crore,

will be competed for the first

time over nine rounds in clas-

sical round robin format across

Masters and Challengers seg-

This year's Masters field in-

cludes a powerful mix of global

Alongside Erigaisi and Li-

ang, the opening round will

see top-seeded Dutch GM

Anish face American GM

Ray Robson, while Gujrathi,

Vincent Keymer, Nihal Sa-

rin, and others are all set for

high-stakes match-ups. World

No. 5 Erigaisi will open his

campaign against American

While the highly-anticipat-

ed clash between two Indian

grandmasters Erigaisi and Gu-

jrathi is set for Round 8 on Au-

gust 14. The tournament, which

was played over seven rounds

in the previous two editions.

will see participation from 19

Grandmasters and will offer

prodigy Awonder Liang.

and Indian talent.

The event, which carries a

As for the format, the latest edition marks a significant expansion, growing into a 20-player event split into two distinct 10-player sections: the Masters and the Challengers.

This new structure provides a direct pathway for rising stars to compete at the high est level, with the Challengers winner earning a guaranteed spot in the 2026 Masters. Meanwhile, the Challengers section features some equally exciting talents in D Harika, who was a part of the gold winning women's team at the 45th Chess Olympiad last year.

R Vaishali, Harshvardhan GB, Abhimanyu Puranik experienced Grandmaster Adhiban Baskaran, who is known for his aggressive style, will also be in contention.

Round 1 Pairings:

Masters: Arjun Erigaisi vs Awonder Liang, Anish Giri vs Ray Robson, Vidit Gujrathi vs Jorden Van Foreest, Vincent Keymer vs Nihal Sarin, Pranav

V vs Karthikevan Murali **Challengers:** Leon Luke Mendonca vs Harshavardhan GB, Abhimanyu Puranik vs Adhiban Baskaran, Vaishali Rameshbabu vs Iniyan P, Dronavalli Harika vs Diptayar Ghosh, Pranesh M vs Aryan

SHORT TAKES

Odisha win pool match at **Junior Women National C'ship**

Kakinada: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Association of Odisha won their respective pool matches of the Junior Women's National Championship here Tuesday. In the first Division 'A' match, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Chandigarh 5-0. Krishna Sharma (36', 45') scored two goals whereas Kajal (29'), Aayushi Patel (50'), and Annu (58') netted one each. In the next match, Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Bengal 7-1. While Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Karnataka 2-0 in a closely contested penultimate match of the day, the final match saw Hockey Association of Odisha defeat Hockey Andhra Pradesh 3-1.

Karnataka champions in sub-junior nat'l swimming

Bangalore: Karnataka emerged overall champions in the 41st **Sub-Junior National Swimming** Championships, securing 104 points here Tuesday. Manipur were the runners-up with 81 points, even as Koijam Athoiba Singh from the state was adjudged the best male swimmer with 28 points. The corresponding award in the girls' section went to Goa's Purvi Ritesh Naik with 19 points. Athoiba Singh shone on the final day of the swimming competition, winning the 100m freestyle gold.

Sub-junior Boxing nat'l from August 7

New Delhi: More than 700 pugilists, including 400 boys and 300 girls, will compete in the Sub-junior (U-15) National Championships to be held in Greater Noida from August 7 to 13, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said Tuesday. As part of BFI's broader vision to build a robust grassroots-to-elite pathway, the Sub-Junior Nationals, to be held across 15 weight categories, will serve as a crucial platform to identify young talent and prepare them for bigger competitions. "The Sub-Junior Nationals are where India's boxing journey truly

begins," said Ajay Singh, the BFI's Interim Committee presidentchairperson. "This platform helps identify talented individuals and allows them to experience real competition early in their careers. The skills, discipline, and confidence developed here are the first building blocks of international success. This is a significant grassroots step in these young boxers' journeys, and we're sure we'll see many stars of the future in action.'

RFC INDIA 2025

Namshum, Chengappa win in 4x4 extreme category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, August 5: Chow Ujjal Namshum from Arunachal Pradesh and his co-driver Chethan Chengappa from Karnataka emerged champions in the in the '4x4 Extreme' category of the 11th edition of the Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India, after a week-long off-road motorsport competition held here. The duo secured 2302 points

out of a possible 2600, completing all 26 special stages and winning 12 of them with perfect 100 scores. They also clocked the fastest timings in 14 special stages.

While Namshum won the title for the first time, Chengappa enjoyed fourth win as a co-driver, a release said.

Namshum also earned a free automatic entry into the Rainforest Challenge Global Grand Finale, scheduled to be held in Malaysia later this year.

Cedrick Jordan Da Silva and co-driver Mackwin Dias finished runner-up 1999 points, while Telangana's Rambabu Mareedu and Kumaraswamy Thalam were third with 1957 points.

In the newly introduced '4x4 Modified' category, Goa's Steven Fernandes of Goa and



his co-driver Balwant Jagram clinched the top spot with 1622

points out of 2000. Cyril Dmello with co-driver Ameer Sadiq of Maharashtra and Manoj Biradar with co-driver Sachin Gadashetti from Karnataka finished second and third respectively.

Mihir Dharkar and co-driver Shantanu Grover of Maharashtra won the '4x4 Stock' category with 1303 points out of 1400, followed by Bopaiah Kongettira with co-driver Bopanna Maleyanda and Prathan Chittiyappa with co driver Anush Byramudi, both from Karnataka. All three top finishers in this category competed in Maruti

Suzuki vehicles. The competition, which featured 77 teams from 11 states, is the India chapter of the globally renowned Rainforest Challenge of Malaysia, considered among the world's top 10 toughest motor races.

7 boxers assured of medals at U19 Asian Boxing C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, August 5: Indian boxers continued their march towards a significant medal count at the U19 and U22 Asian Boxing Championships with seven women pugilists assuring themselves of a podium finish here Tuesday.

Competing in the U-19 category, Yakshika (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Muskan (57kg), Vini (60kg), Nisha (65kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg) and Aarti Kumari (75kg) reached the semifinals of their respective weight classes.

India is already assured of over a dozen medals in the U22 category and the contingent will be looking to bag as many gold medals as possible in the business end of the competition.

Yakshika began India's march in the last four stage with a hard-fought 3:2 split decision victory in the 51kg bout over Mukhtasar Alieva of Uzbekistan before Nisha showed her attacking prowess to force the referee to stop the bout against Milana Shikhshabekova of Kyrgyzstan in the 54kg contest.

Muskan then came to the party and earned a unanimous decision against Robiya



Ravshanova of Uzbekistan in the 57kg quarterfinals and Vini then forced the referee to stop the bout in the very first round with a flurry of punches to knock out Adelia Asylbek Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan.

In the evening session, Nisha was the first to add another medal to India's growing tally as she dominated the three rounds against Yu-En Li of Chinese Taipei for a unanimous verdict in the 65kg quarterfinals.

Akansha then packed off Enkhgerel Gerelmunkh of Mongolia in the very first round in the 70kg bout to force a RSC before Aarti wrapped up the day with a 4:1 win over Zarina Tolybai of Kazakhstan.

Suman Kumari was the only Indian boxer to miss out as she went down 2:3 in a very close contest against Maftuna Musurmonova of Uzbekistan in the 48kg category.

India bag Racketlon World Championship Challengers Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rotterdam (Netherlands), August 5: India, led by Vikramaditya Chaufla, clinched the the Racketlon World Championship Challengers Cup after a registering a thrilling victory over Denmark in a dramatic

The road to the title was far from smooth. India battled past USA in the quarter-finals before pulling off a tense win against Germany in the semifinal. Each tie came down to the wire, testing the grit and resilience of every player on court.

Chaufla's calm leadership. strategic clarity, and match temperament steered India through one of their most memorable racketlon runs. Already a Nations Cup gold medallist, this becomes the former badminton player's second world title.

The title-winning squad also included Prashant Sen, Nihit Singh, Suhail Kapur Krishna Kotak, Nidhi Tiwari and Raghav Jatia. Racketlon is a combination sport in which the competitors are required to play four racket sports: table tennis, badminton, tennis and squash.

Celebrating past laurels won't let me chase bigger dreams: Aman

Orphaned at a tender age, life has not been a bed of roses **Birohar-born** wrestler Sehrawat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 5: The Paris Olympics success took a lot of burden off Aman Sehrawat's shoulders but the young wrestler says he has already forgotten his bronze-medal feat, as sitting on past laurels won't let him chase bigger dreams.

Orphaned at a tender age, life has not been a bed of roses for the Birohar-born wrestler. His paternal uncle supported him wholeheartedly but family responsibilities did weigh on

His bronze-winning show in Paris last year brought recognition and money that made his life easy, as Aman carried on the country's tradition of bringing home a medal in wrestling from every Olympic Games since 2008.

"The Olympic medal changed my life 90 per cent. No one knew me before. I would not be noticed anywhere, but after the Paris success, people began to know me, respect me. I felt I did something for the country and the hard work of 10-15 years has paid off," Aman told PTI after winning the 57kg selection trials for the World Championships.

"An Olympic medal is God's blessing. I was not even expected to win. Expectations were higher from the women wrestlers. Ye to prasad hi hai bhagwaan ka (This is God's gift)." "It motivated me as well.

People are now expecting gold



Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat (in blue) competes during the World Wrestling Championships trials, in Lucknow

from me. I have already forgotten my bronze medals; I can't settle for that and say I have achieved enough. Now I am preparing for gold." Elaborating how success at the highest level had changed his life, the soft-spoken wrestler said, "I can buy whatever I want now."

"There was pressure that in future I need to get my younger sister educated and get her married. Now I can practice with a free mind; I don't need to worry about money. "It's not that we were not tak-

en care of. My uncle has always supported us, but you do think about the responsibility of being an elder brother.'

"After the Olympics, I thought I will train abroad but things do not always go as you

expect. Then I got injured also." 'The fear of losing after winning an Olympic medal also weighed on me. I thought, If I

lose people would say success

has spoilt me. So, coaches said you are at a different level and need to be at your best to take the mat." On his comeback, Aman competed in the Ulaanbataar Open in Mongolia in June and settled for a bronze, losing to Mexico's Roman Bravo-Young in the semifinals.

Indian wrestlers are stronger and not expected to lose against Mexican rivals. But Aman said he would take the defeat in his stride. "I lost a close bout to a Mexican. I was not ready Though I fought a good bout, I lost because of my own mistakes not that he beat me hands down.

"I was competing after one year, it takes time to get mat sharpness. I could not wrestler the way I wanted to.'

Aman emphasised the need to go on exposure and training trips abroad to spar with better partners. "We need to go for exposure trips, especially to Russia and USA, who are better than us.

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