

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST




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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES



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 you 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. Along with 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 partnership 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.

LEO




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.

VIRGO



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

LIBRA




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 your 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.



LIAM NEESON ON ACTORS COMING LATE ON SET

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'.

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.



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 intensified the buzz.

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 reportedly 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 Sesh. 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.

AGENCIES



MUMBAI: Fresh on-screen pairings have always intrigued Bollywood audiences, and back in 2008, *Kismat Konnection* introduced one such unexpected duo—Shahid Kapoor and Vidya Balan. Directed by Aziz Mirza, the film followed the story of Raj Malhotra (Shahid), a struggling architect, and Priya (Vidya), a passionate social activist who unknowingly becomes his lucky charm. While the film fare well at the fice, its music a chord with remains memorable. Interestingly, revealed, "There was this chatter that 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 gets candid

becomes charm. didn't box of struck fans and orable.

Vidya recently posted in collaboration with a luxury hotel chain, has reportedly amassed a staggering 1.9 billion views within just eight weeks—making it one of the most viewed Instagram reels ever.

AGENCIES

DEEPIKA'S new milestone

MUMBAI: Deepika Padukone continues to reign as one of the most followed and admired global celebrities. With a career spanning nearly two decades and a massive Instagram following of 80 million, she has not only delivered numerous hit films but also established herself as a digital powerhouse. Currently embracing motherhood, Deepika keeps her fans entertained with a mix of charming, quirky stories and reels.

Her latest achievement is nothing short of historic. A recent promotional reel, posted in collaboration with a luxury hotel chain, has reportedly amassed a staggering 1.9 billion views within just eight weeks—making it one of the most viewed Instagram reels ever.

Fans flooded the comments with amazement, celebrating the milestone with messages like, "Queen for a reason!" and "Imagine that! It's just an ad!" The reel has surpassed several popular videos, including Hardik Pandya's BGMI clip (1.6 billion) and even Cristiano Ronaldo's viral content (~500 million). This phenomenal reach highlights Deepika's unmatched global appeal and influence.

Adding to her accolades, Deepika is set to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in the Class of 2026. On the film front, she will soon be seen in *AA22xA6, King*, and sequels to *Kalki 2898 AD* and *Brahmastra: Part Two – Dev*.

AGENCIES



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

As 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



PIC: INTERNET

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" ...

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!

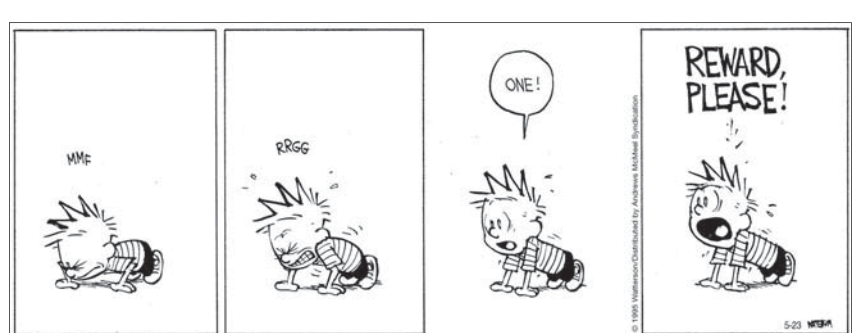
Care to ask Bollywood Badshah how it felt receiving the national award for best actor after a 33-year wait. *Amrit*?

DR RACHNA RATH

PEANUTS



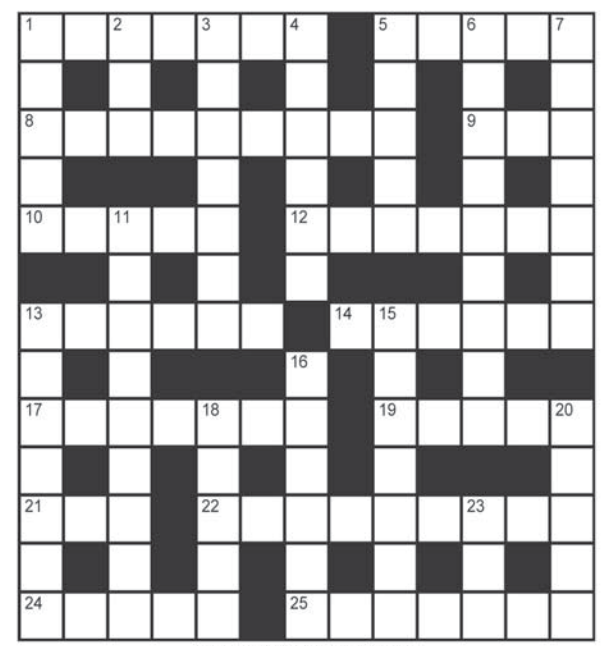
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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- 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
- Down**
1 Tropical fruit
2 ET's craft
3 Get rid of
4 Boosts
5 Having a bite
- 21 Varnish ingredient
22 Nut tree
24 Knight fights
25 James Joyce novel
- 6 Fortifications
7 Coffee substitute
11 Exactly alike
13 Blood-red
15 Vacation
16 Last imperial dynasty of China
18 Olympic contests
20 Tests
23 More, in Madrid

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Nadda urged to allow MBBS seats in two medical colleges



PNN & AGENCIES

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

the medical education sector of Odisha.

The respective deans and principals of these two institutions had already submitted their applications for LoP January 18, 2025, through the National Medical Commission (NMC) portal, the statement said.

The NMC teams had also conducted physical inspections of the Pavitra Mohan Pradhan Medical College in June 2025 and Government Medical College, Phulbani in May last.

The state government has provided the budgetary grants to enhance facilities and ensure quality medical education at both institutions, it said.

When the LoP is granted, two more government medical colleges will be added to the state's healthcare infrastructure, increasing the total number from 14 to 16 government medical colleges. Consequently, the total number of MBBS seats in government institutions will increase to 1800.

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 week-long 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 EKTA (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	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
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from August 7 to 13.

Cultural performances—including Odissi, Sambalpuri folk, contemporary dance, fashion shows, and laser displays—will take place every evening from August 7 to 9.

The exhibition will showcase Odisha's rich weaving legacy through 60 stalls, a food court, play zone, and live demonstrations.

Over 1,500 weavers from Odisha and eight other states are expected to participate. Seven knowledge sessions and the State Handloom Award 2023-24 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.

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 Jhading 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 activities during Odisha's challenging monsoon season.

The distribution event was attended by social activist Sangram Nayak, OPSPA Trust Managing Trustee Soumya Ranjan Biswal, along with Suman 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 Tuesday 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 discussing real-life challenges faced by women and explored ways to build stronger community ties. An open session, facilitated by SNEH Project Coordinator Dibakar Mahali, delved into methods of addressing harm and fostering reconciliation between conflicting parties.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Remesh P K Alias P K Ramesh, S/o. Kumaran residing At: F-118, Bhel Colony, Talcher Thermal NTPC/TPPS 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 govern-

ment to take swift action against the culprits.

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.

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 atrocities against women.

BJD 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 workplaces should be safe for

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 Pravatī 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		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	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
Max Temp	35.0°	33.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	27.1°	25.8°	
Humidity	88%	84%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-SaiAudio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Jr asst sanctions DMF funds; CM orders probe



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

and procedural violations. The office of the Chief Secretary has also issued a directive to the P&C department to initiate an investigation. As per reports, Jena was 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 reportedly received substantial remuneration 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. 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.

Missing trader found murdered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 5: A jackfruit 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.



The victim, identified as So-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

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

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



benefits June 11, 2025, Tripathy 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 possession. 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 disproportionate 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 in progress.

Man gets 20-year RI for raping minor daughter



POST NEWS NETWORK

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 younger children, leaving her teenage daughter behind. Taking advantage of his wife’s absence,

Das began molesting his daughter at night and later raped her multiple times. He threatened to kill her if she disclosed the abuse. When the victim’s mother 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 state in the case.



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

Paradip Port adjudged ‘Major Port of the Year’

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 said. 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

trade. G Edison, Traffic Manager, 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 economy.” 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 and liquid bulk.

Drones monitor fault detection under TPSODL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 official said. 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

imagery of critical installations and map the distribution network from the bird’s eye view, thereby aiding precise documentation and efficient planning,” he said. 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

methods are often time-consuming 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 Rayagada and Jeypore 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.

Two arrested for murder over sorcery

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, August 5: A day after a 60-year-old 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, identified 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, he said. 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 Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the following Borrower(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 that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under 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.**

NAYAPALLI BRANCH / Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Guarantor/Mortgagor	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
Borrowers: 1) M/s. Subhalaxmi Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Ajay Kumar Majhi, At: Kheranga Village, Near Marketing Gate, Chandabali, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756131, 2) Mr. Ajay Kumar Majhi, At: Plot No.: 1021/ Odisha Khordha, Odisha-751006	Guarantor / Mortgagor: Mrs. Jayantilata Majhi, W/o: Mr. Ajay Kumar Majhi, Vill/PO: Kheranga, PS: Chandabali, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN - 756131, Odisha	₹2,04,29,936/- as on 01.05.2025 + interest thereon & other expenses etc.	02.05.2025 / 01.08.2025	All that part & parcel of 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, Plot No.: 220/1539, Area: 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, Total Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, Registered Sale Deed No.: 10231403529, Dated: 30.07.2014

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 05.08.2025

**Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India**

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/E-Tender/50, 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 GURUDJHATIA OF KHURDA RAIL DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 47.83 lakh, EMD: ₹ 35,700/-, Completion Period: 10 months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 13.08.2025

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or 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-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irops.gov.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.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-432/Q25-26 Khurda Road

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 UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (SSE)/SIG/ RAIKAKHOL (RAIR) IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR ONE YEAR.

Tender Value : ₹ 52,35,958.89. Bid Security: ₹ 1,04,700.00.

(2) E-Tender Notice No. : ST-SBP- TENDER-2025-23, Dated : 18.07.2025

Name of the work: SHIFTING OF EXISTING COACH INDICATION BOARD SYSTEMS AND AUTO ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM AT AMRIT BHARAT STATIONS AT SAMBALPUR (SBP), BARGARH ROAD (BRGA), BALANGIR (BLGR), TITILGARRH (TIG), KESINGA (KSNG), KANTABANJI (KBJ), SAMBALPUR CITY (SBPY) & MAHASAMUND (MSMD) STATIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Tender Value : ₹ 1,31,57,772.86. Bid Security: ₹ 2,15,800.00.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 11.08.2025 (for both tenders).


No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irops.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, PR-433/Q25-26 (Tele), Sambalpur

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



SRI AUROBINDO

Far-Right In Japan

Now, 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.

LAO TZU

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

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, Lincolnshire.
- 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.

FOCUS

TRADE

A FAUSTIAN BARGAIN



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

US President Donald 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 American 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

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.

But as with the US-Indonesia 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 Amherst. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

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

I 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, sucker!"

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

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."

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarih 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.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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



LARGEST LITTER
IN 20 YEARS

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-



the-clock," he said. Prior to this litter, the zoo housed six white tigers and seven Royal Bengal tigers. A similar birth was recorded in 2023 when tigress Siddhi, also from Gorewada, gave birth to five cubs -- the first successful

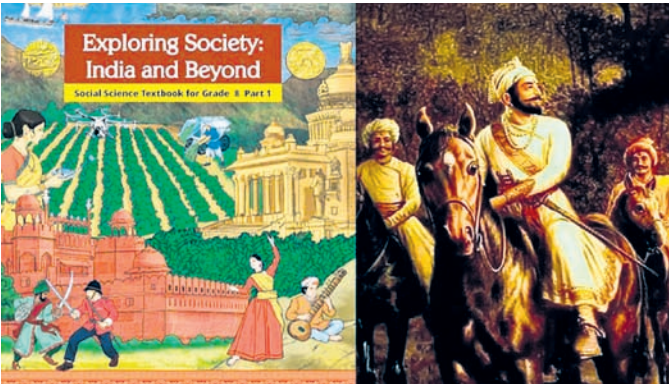
Royal Bengal tiger birth at the zoo in nearly 18 years. However, only two cubs survived. In 2005, a six-cub litter was also born, but only two

Prior to this litter, the zoo housed six white tigers and seven Royal Bengal tigers

survived. Veterinary officer Abhijit Bhawal said the zoo had been trying to breed Aditi since 2023. Initial mating attempts with tigers Karan and Hari were unsuccessful. It was only after pairing her with white tiger Vijay -- the father of previous cubs Avni and Vyom -- that the pregnancy occurred. The confirmation came May 26 from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). "The cubs 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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 history. 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 added. Singh said that there is no 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 Jaisalmer," he added. "This is not just about correcting a factual error, it concerns the dignity of our history, our self-respect, and the integrity of the national curriculum. Prompt and decisive action is expected in this matter," Singh said.

BJP MLA and member of the erstwhile Mewar royal family Vishvaraj Singh Mewar and his wife along with Rajsamand MP 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 Alwar, 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 Thanjavur 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Kejriwal 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.

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 Movement. "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 room".

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," he said.



Pilot said Rajasthan government 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 defeat is not important, the process of elections is," Pilot said. The protest took place at the city's Shaheed Smarak on MI Road and witnessed the participation 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 privatisation of education and absence of opportunities. He urged students to bring about a "revolution of awareness" and demanded accountability 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 manjha

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, Dhu-randhar, 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 as well.

"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 manjha.

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 seven-year-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 Haryana.

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 manjha.

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
Dated: 04.08.2025

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> or 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 favour 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 tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

Last date submission of Bids	11.08.2025 till 05.00 P.M.
The date of opening of Tenders	12.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Redhakhol Forest Division

OIPR-08146/11/0027/2526

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO. III, BHUBANESWAR**
bbsrrandb03@yahoo.com

60Estg. No. 5640
Government of Odisha "e" - Procurement Notice No. (18) of 2025-26
No. B-378 Bid Identification No.: C.C. (R&B) 03
Date: 04.08.2025

1	Name of the Work	Road Works
2	Total No. of Works	6 Nos. Works
3	Estimated Cost	i) Rs.48,32,200.00, ii) Rs.48,39,350.00, iii) Rs.48,47,000.00, iv) Rs.44,52,800.00, v) Rs.48,07,900.00, vi) Rs.48,20,900.00
4	Class of Contractor	"B" Class Contractor
5	Period of Completion	1 (One) Calendar Month
6	Type of Tender	Single Cover System (Online)
7	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 07.08.2025 at 11.30 A.M. to 16.08.2025 at 5.30 P.M.
8	Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	16.08.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.
9	Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Narendra Kumar Ghadai, Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No. III, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>
N.B.: Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
BBSR (R&B) Division No. III, BBSR

OIPR-34185/11/0008/2526



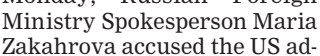
The Bihar Cabinet Tuesday gave its nod for the implementation of domicile policy in the recruitment of teachers, reserving around 85 per cent of posts for “native residents” of the state. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had Monday announced that the policy will be implemented for the recruitment of school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



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



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



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.

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

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.



Malik, 79, who had been hospitalised for some time, passed away in a Delhi hospital Tuesday, which marks the sixth anniversary of Article 370 revocation

Command #VijayVarsh #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

The news, published few months before the Indo-Pak

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.

New Delhi's response came hours after US President Donald Trump asserted that Wash-

ington will substantially raise tariffs on goods from India over its energy ties with Russia. Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the double

"Have been seeing disturbing visuals from Uttarakashi (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.

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.

As Opposition MPs continue to press the issue of electoral rolls revision in Bihar.

ington will substantially raise tariffs on goods from India over its energy ties with Russia. Firmly rejecting the criticism, India pointed out the double

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

international

of the day quote

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 ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Democrats are focused on transparency and are pushing back against the corruption of Donald Trump

ROBERT GARCIA | UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

American air defence systems and munitions, in particular, are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself

RUBEN BREKELMANS | DUTCH DEFENCE MINISTER

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 (Gardaí) 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 Indian citizens to take safety precautions.

Shipwreck off Yemen kills 56 migrants: UN

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.



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 impossible

YORAM COHEN | FORMER HEAD OF SHIN BET

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.



Israel considers full Gaza takeover

REUTERS

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 Eyal 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-

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 preparations, 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.

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 weapons.

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

disarmament.

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 after-

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 counterattack 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 interview with CNBC responded to a question on China and its leader, Xi Jinping, and said, "We have a very good relationship".

Trump added that he might have a meeting with the Chinese President "before the end of the year, most likely, if we make a deal."



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

AP PHOTO



business

of the day quote

With ETS India's support, we aim to establish clear benchmarks that will help our industry meet global service expectations

K SYAMA RAJU | FHRAI PRESIDENT

Definitely want to look into expanding into the tier two cities... We will continue to expand coverage through partners

ADRIAN HIA | MD, KASPERSKY (ASIA PACIFIC)

Dovish remarks from Federal Reserve officials, along with last week's disappointing job market report, led traders to become more optimistic about potential rate cuts at the Fed's upcoming meeting in September, boosting gold traders sentiment

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 Paints India.

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 quarter of the last year. Welcure posts profit
New Delhi: Welcure Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Tuesday reported a net profit of Rs 23.29 crore for the April-June quarter of FY2025-26, driven by strong order flow.



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 AND INDUSTRY

TRADE ALERT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 year to 18 months. "We'll be putting (an) initial-

ly small tariff on pharmaceuticals, but in one year, one-and-a-half 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

IEX logs record trade volume



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 (RECs) 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 volume in July this year. The

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, comprising 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 sessions held July 9, 2025 and July 30, 2025, at a clearing price of Rs 360/REC.

REC traded volume in July this year decreased by 48 per cent on a YoY basis.

Services sector growth hits 11-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 survey said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) Business Activity Index was at 60.5 in July, little-changed from 60.4 in June, and the rate of expansion was the best seen since August 2024.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"At 60.5, the services PMI indicated a strong growth momentum, led by a pick-up in new export orders," said Pranju Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Sustained increases in new business intakes were the main



aspect behind output growth, the survey said, adding that Indian service providers also welcomed a stronger improvement in international demand for their services. "They reportedly secured new work from Asia, Canada, Europe, the UAE and the US," it said.

Going ahead, service providers were on average optimistic about their expectations for output in the year ahead. Among the factors supporting business confidence were efficiency gains, marketing, tech innovation and a growing on-line presence, they said.

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

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



further action.

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 unreasonable".

The Ministry of External Affairs 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 cooperation.

₹ hits all-time low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 (RBI).

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 trading 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 dollar.

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 selling it for big profits.



Last week, the Trump administration 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 continue 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 Analyst, 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 Policy Committee (MPC) is

scheduled to announce the policy rate Wednesday. Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, 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 prices 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 currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 98.68.

ANT FINANCIAL EXITS PAYTM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial 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 Communications fell 1.45 per cent to Rs 1,062.60 apiece on the NSE, while the scrip of the company 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 Healthcare by (0.48 per cent).

BIZ BUZZ

Hero MotoCorp launches Xoom 125



Bhubaneswar: Hero MotoCorp has launched the all-new Hero Xoom 125 in Bhubaneswar, redefining the 125cc scooter segment 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 Bluetooth-enabled digital speedometer with turn-by-turn navigation, illuminated start button, and a front glove box with 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



Bhubaneswar: As the much-awaited RakshaBandhan festival draws near, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint 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.

The Trade Connect ePlatform 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 collaboration with CBIC, has established Dak Ghar Nirayat Kendras (DNKs) to assist exporters with documentation, packaging, and regulatory compliance.

An English Summer to remember

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 the future.

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 captain.

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



took his game to the next level and what followed was a double hundred and a hundred in the emphatic win at Edgbaston.

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.

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.

With the peerless Jasprit Bumrah not around for two Tests due to workload management, 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.

Ravindra Jadeja excels

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

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

Erigaisi to face daunting challenge from Gujrathi, Giri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Grandmasters chess tournament, starting here from Wednesday.

The event, which carries a winner's purse of Rs 1 crore, will be competed for the first time over nine rounds in classical round robin format across Masters and Challengers segments.

This year's Masters field includes a powerful mix of global and Indian talent.

Alongside Erigaisi and Liang, the opening round will see top-seeded Dutch GM Anish face American GM Ray Robson, while Gujrathi, Vincent Keymer, Nihal Sarin, and others are all set for high-stakes match-ups. World No. 5 Erigaisi will open his campaign against American prodigy Awonder Liang.

While the highly-anticipated clash between two Indian grandmasters Erigaisi and Gujrathi is set for Round 8 on August 14. The tournament, which was played over seven rounds in the previous two editions, will see participation from 19 Grandmasters and will offer

crucial FIDE Circuit points.

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 highest 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 Karthikeyan Murali

Challengers: Leon Luke Mendonca vs Harshavardhan GB, Abhimanyu Puranik vs Adhiban Baskaran, Vaishali Rameshbabu vs Iniyan P, Dronavalli Harika vs Diptayan Ghosh, Pranesh M vs Aryan Chopra.

SHORT TAKES

Odisha win pool match at Junior Women National C'ship

Kakinada: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Haryana, Hockey harkhand 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 Kojiam 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 president-chairperson. "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.

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 final here.

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 for the 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

Aman's mind.

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 taken 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."