

DSPL-197



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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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କୋଟି

ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଖାତାକୁ  
ଫି ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରଦାନ

୯ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୨୫ | ଜୟପୁର, କୋରାପୁଟ



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

ARIES

Ganesha sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesha, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

TAURUS

Today, you will strike a great balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesha. You will save your money from being swindled by others. You may be lagging in the race to catch up with your goals, but will not be disappointed by what you achieve.

GEMINI

Today, you will have a tendency to remain possessive about your personal belongings, says Ganesha. You are likely to join personality development courses to achieve your ultimate goals. An unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard. But remember, there is hope when there is life.

CANCER

Today, you will use money to fulfil your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process. If there has been any limit to the amount of money flowing in, there is certainly no limit to the money leaving your coffers.

LEO

You may not have a halo around your head, but that most certainly does not deter you from playing the spiritual card today, says Ganesha. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible.

VIRGO

Something you achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. You may expect new funds for new projects, says Ganesha. Your business will flourish today.

LIBRA

A wistful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesha. This day, just like 'on the summer day that we flew kites', may be the standard when it comes to wanting to have a better future. Ganesha expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

SCORPIO

You take the path of spirituality for the peace of mind and to stay away from the daily humdrum of life. You will not only seek love, but also spread love around you. In a nutshell, a pleasant day in store for you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Dear friends and soul mates will bring you much relief and calm today, says Ganesha. Spend as much time as possible with them. Romantic escapades with your beloved will be heaven in itself. Blood relations will stand true and strong in matters of importance, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesha. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about.

AQUARIUS

You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch; even your health may trouble you. However, you will manage to smile and take things in the right spirit, approves Ganesha.

PISCES

An auspicious time for starting new projects, today will see you make substantial investments in your future. Your family is the foundation of your success, and keeping that in mind will provide you with some vital insights. Your smile wins many a heart today, says Ganesha.



BAUTISTA JOINS CAST OF *HIGHLANDER* REBOOT

Dune star Dave Bautista will portray the antagonist in the upcoming remake of Hollywood classic *Highlander*. Henry Cavill, the former Superman star, is headlining the project, which comes from Amazon MGM's United Artists banner, according to entertainment news outlet *The Hollywood Reporter*.

ZETA-JONES' *WEDNESDAY* LOOK RAISES EYEBROWS

Catherine Zeta-Jones is back as Morticia Addams in *Wednesday Season 2* and it is her latest appearance that is drawing the most attention. While her gothic style fits the character perfectly, some fans have pointed out noticeable changes in her appearance, sparking discussion among fans.



# Rashmika on dark side of stardom

**Mumbai:** Millions know Rashmika Mandanna as a bubbly, confident, and stylish star, but few get a glimpse of the grounded and emotional person behind that image.

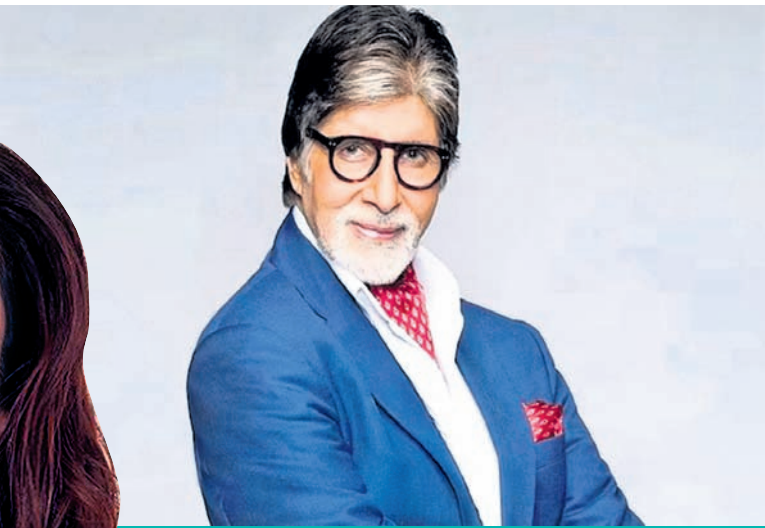
In a recent interview, Rashmika opened up about the pressures of stardom that compel her to maintain a curated version of herself. "I am working under this brand called Rashmika Mandanna," she shared. "With all the advice people give—what to say, how to behave—that becomes your online personality. It's part of me, but not entirely."

She revealed the stark contrast between her public and private self. "At home, I'm very old-school. I feed everyone, check if they've rested. I don't understand Gen Z terms," she laughed, adding, "I'm deeply emotional, but I can't show it outside—people think kindness is fake."

The actor also admitted that online chatter affects her, saying, "My problem is I care too much." However, she's learned to heal and grow through it.

This year, Rashmika showcased her versatility with roles in *Chhaava* opposite Vicky Kaushal, *Sikandar* with Salman Khan and *Kuberaa* alongside Dhanush and Nagarjuna. Her upcoming projects, *Thama* and *The Girlfriend*, continue her journey of balancing stardom with meaningful performances.

AGENCIES



## Big B's first love story

**Mumbai:** Before marrying Jaya Bachchan in 1973, Amitabh Bachchan had a lesser-known love story. While working in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and earning a modest salary of ₹250-300 a month, he fell in love with a woman named Maya, who worked at British Airways. According to celebrity biographer Hanif Zaveri, their relationship was serious and mutual.

When Bachchan moved to Mumbai to pursue a film career, he initially stayed at a friend's bungalow in Juhu. However, Maya's frequent visits and the presence of the homeowner made him fear that his mother, Teji Bachchan, might find out—prompting him to shift to another place.

At that time, he was filming *Saat Hindustani*, and Anwar Ali, brother of Mehmood, offered him a place to stay. Although Amitabh was deeply in love, Maya's assertive nature, described by Zaveri as "cunning," began to worry his close friends. Her behavior, including scolding him publicly, made many believe she wasn't a suitable match. During a shoot in Goa, Anwar advised Amitabh to end the relationship, suggesting Maya might not fit into the Bachchan family.

Eventually, Bachchan distanced himself, and the relationship ended. Not long after, he met Jaya on the sets of *Guddi* in 1971, beginning a new chapter in his life.

AGENCIES

## Shruti talks about her career low

**mo-Coolie,** Dhanush and director Aishwarya Rajinikanth were instrumental in helping her through that tough period. Reflecting on their 2012 film *3*, directed by Aishwarya and co-starring Dhanush, Shruti shared how their belief in her gave her strength. "There was a lot of faith from the team and a lot of support," she said. "Dhanush was a really supportive co-star, especially at that time in my life."

**Mumbai:** Shruti Haasan, known for her work across Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu cinema, recently opened up about a difficult phase in her career marked by self-doubt and uncertainty. In a candid interview while promoting her upcoming film *3*, Shruti revealed that actor Aishwarya Rajinikanth were instrumental in helping her through that tough period. Reflecting on their 2012 film *3*, directed by Aishwarya and co-starring Dhanush, Shruti shared how their belief in her gave her strength. "There was a lot of faith from the team and a lot of support," she said. "Dhanush was a really supportive co-star, especially at that time in my life."

I had a lot of doubts, and he, along with Aishwarya, was very encouraging." Shruti added that her role in *3* was pivotal to the story, and the pressure to perform pushed her to grow. "I always perform under pressure when I'm given responsibility," she said. "That's when the wall broke, and my personality changed."

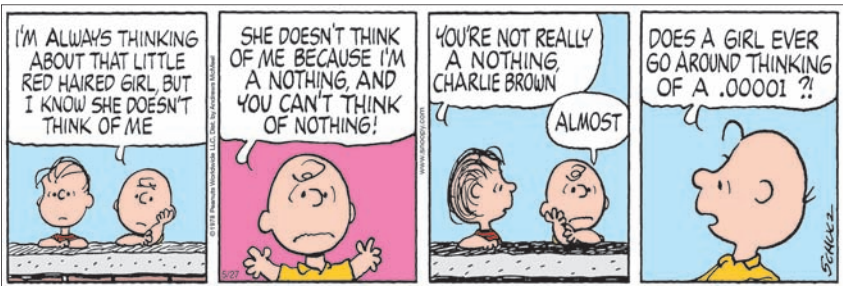
She also remarked that if *3* were released today, it would be an even bigger hit—perhaps beyond the viral success of *Kolaveri Di*. Her next film, *Coolie*, starring Rajinikanth, releases August 14.

AGENCIES



AGENCIES

## PEANUTS



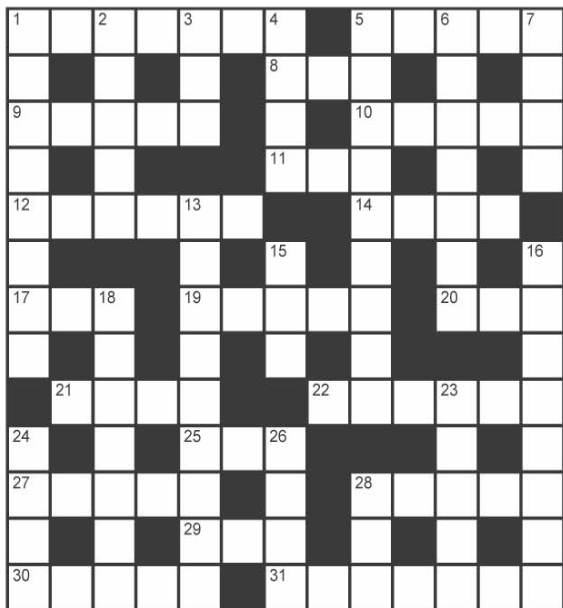
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



## CROSSWORD



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### Across

- 1 Emulator
- 5 Reprimand
- 8 Séance sound
- 9 Back tooth
- 10 Tweak
- 11 Coffee cup
- 12 Jot down
- 14 Dieter's target
- 17 Catchall abbr.
- 19 Iron man?
- 20 Mudbath locale
- 21 Greenish blue
- 22 Error

- 25 Little squirt
- 27 African language
- 28 Swap
- 29 Court ploy
- 30 Iota predecessor
- 31 Snake

- 4 Streetcar
- 5 Pasta
- 6 Devilfish
- 7 Put in stitches
- 13 Wolf spider
- 15 Diminish
- 16 It's under a house
- 18 Hot pepper
- 23 Orange container
- 24 Border on
- 26 Vats
- 28 Road goo

### Down

- 1 Made fast, as a relationship
- 2 High flier
- 3 Garage contents

## 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.

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

## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





### Curated stardom

Actor Rashmika Mandanna reveals stardom pressures compel her to portray a filtered version of herself publicly

LEISURE



### Israel to occupy Gaza

Israel plans to take over Gaza City, escalating its 22-month war with Hamas, drawing international condemnation

INTERNATIONAL | P8



### Gold's new peak

Gold prices climb by ₹800 to hit a fresh all-time high of ₹1,03,420 per 10 grams due to persistent buying by stockists

BUSINESS | P9



### Football crisis

Eleven ISL clubs urge AIFF to urgently inform the Supreme Court about Indian football's crisis amid ISL's uncertain future

SPORTS | [Back Page](#)



**TOUCH OF HUMANITY:** A humanoid robot interacts with a visitor on the first day of the 2025 World Robot Conference in Beijing, China, Friday

PTI PHOTO

## Over 2L Indians renounced citizenship in 2024: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** More than two lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2024, the government informed the Lok Sabha Friday. MoS for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said this in a written response to queries on the number of individuals who have renounced their Indian citizenship and taken citizenship of other countries during last five years. The minister was replying to queries by Congress MP K C Venugopal.

“As per the information available with the ministry, the number of Indians who gave up their Indian citizenship was 85,256 in 2020, 1,63,370 in 2021, 2,25,620 in 2022, 2,16,219 in 2023 and 2,06,378 in 2024,” Singh said. The reasons for renouncing Indian citizenship or taking foreign citizenship are personal and known only to the individual, the government said.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



**Opposition's claim that the party in power is killing democracy is bogus – we killed it long ago**

## Subhadra: Third instalment today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The third instalment of financial assistance under Odisha's flagship Subhadra Yojana will be disbursed August 9, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Rakhi Purnima.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will attend a special event on the occasion at Jey-pore in Koraput district.

“The prosperity of women is the cornerstone of our vision for a progressive Odisha. Through the Subhadra Yojana, we are not only providing financial support

but also fostering dignity and independence among women,” said Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Friday. “On the occasion of Rakhi Purnima, the third instalment of this scheme reaffirms our unwavering commitment to empowering every woman of our state,” she added.

## MODI DIALS PUTIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over phone and the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Putin briefed Modi on his country's ongoing conflict with Ukraine, with the prime minister reiterating India's consistent position for the peaceful resolution of the issue.

The conversation between the two leaders came amid US President Donald Trump ratcheting up pressure on India over its purchase of Russian oil.

Trump Wednesday signed an executive order, slapping an additional 25 per cent levy on India for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total duties to 50 per cent -- among the highest imposed by the US on any

country in the world. The additional 25 per cent duty will come into effect August 27.

In a post on X, Modi said, “Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later this year.”

It will be the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

Modi Thursday received a phone call from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose country has also been at the receiving end of Trump's tariffs, and the two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, technology, energy, defence, agriculture, health, and people-to-people ties.

## Cop suspended for torturing minor wife

**Bhubaneswar:** A sub-inspector (SI) of Odisha Police has been suspended for allegedly forcefully marrying a minor and torturing her, an officer said Friday. The SI was identified as Amit Padhi, a resident of Baliapal area in Balasore district, and he was posted in Puri district. Padhi allegedly married a Class X student (15/16 years) of Jagatsinghpur district after developing a relationship with her on Facebook, the police said. “Amit Padhi forcefully married my minor daughter in July 2024. She was forced to tell others that her age was 22. After the marriage, Amit and his family members tortured her physically and mentally,” alleged the mother of the victim. Padhi lured the girl with the promise of providing her a job in the police department and married her without the knowledge of her family in a temple in Rayagada district, she alleged.

P3

## Wild pigs turn up with ‘neon blue’ flesh



**D**an Burton has trapped hundreds of wild pigs for clients of his wildlife control company in Salinas, but even he was startled when he cut one of them open and found blue meat inside.

“I’m not talking about a little blue,” said Burton, owner of Urban Trapping Wildlife Control. “I’m talking about neon blue, blueberry blue.”

Burton relayed the disturbing discovery to Monterey County officials and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Los Angeles Times reported.

The agency is now warning trappers and hunters to keep an eye out for possibly contaminated wildlife in the area, and not to consume the tainted meat, over concerns the blue meat is a sign that the animal may have consumed poison.

“It’s just wild,” Burton said.

The startling find of wild pigs with bright blue tissue in Monterey County suggests the animals have been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticide diphacinone, a popular poison used by farmers and agriculture companies to control the population of rats, mice,

squirrels and other small animals, according to a statement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. “Hunters should be aware that the meat of game animals, such as wild pig, deer, bear and geese, might be contaminated if that game animal has been exposed to rodenticides,” said Ryan Bourbor, pesticide investigations coordinator with the state agency.

Officials are urging hunters not to consume any meat from an animal with signs of the blue pigmentation in their meat or fat, and to report the find to officials. Predators and people who eat animals that were poisoned by diphacinone can suffer “secondary exposure” to the poison because the substance can remain for a time in the organs and tissue of the poisoned animal.

“Generally, more than one feeding is needed to receive a toxic dose,” according to a 2023 study, but people and animals that consume the substance can start feeling the effects of the poison, including signs of lethargy.

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Grand Finale

10TH August

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METTLE MEET 2025

A Quiz Extravaganza

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# Cong stages stir near DGP office

The party urged upon the top cop to register ‘Zero FIR’ as suggested by CM

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, August 8:** The state unit of Congress Friday staged a dharna near the office of the Director General of Police (DGP) demanding justice for the three women who died after being set on fire either by themselves or allegedly by miscreants in the past three weeks.

Led by Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das, hundreds of party activists marched from Mata Math in Bhubaneswar to the DGP’s office and sat on a dharna for four hours. Three women have died of burn injuries in the state since July 12, sparking outrage.

A 20-year-old female student of FM (Autonomous) College in Balasore immolated herself on the college campus July 12, and died two days later. She had accused a faculty member of sexual harassment.

A 15-year-old girl from Balanga area of Puri district also died of burn injuries August 2. Her mother claimed she was set on fire by three unidentified men, but police asserted no other person was involved in the incident. In Kendrapara, a 19-year-old college student, allegedly a victim of blackmail by her ex-boyfriend, set herself on fire and died in her house



August 6.

The Congress had served an ultimatum to the Odisha Police to arrest the three miscreants who allegedly set the Balanga girl afire within a week.

“As the police failed to arrest the three people in the Balanga minor girl burning case within one week, we are forced to sit on a dharna near the DGP office,” said Das. In a memorandum to DGP, the Congress claimed that the police did not register the FIR of the Kendrapara woman seven days before her death.

Similarly, the party said, the police could not take any action against anyone in the case of the Balanga girl.

Referring to the Kendrapara incident, the Congress said that though the victim, along with her parents, had gone to the police station six months ago and made a complaint against her ex-boyfriend who allegedly blackmailed her, the police did not register any case.

The Congress alleged in all three cases, the women died

due to negligence or inaction of the police.

“We urge upon the Odisha police to rise to the occasion and take action in order to prevent other such women from ending their lives,” Das said, adding that the DGP was also requested to register “Zero FIR” as suggested by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Zero FIR is a First Information Report that can be filed at any police station, regardless of where the crime occurred. The police will then transfer it to the appropriate police station.

The Congress also announced that the party would soon launch a weeklong agitation and hold demonstrations before all the police stations across the state, demanding justice for the victims.

In view of the Congress agitation, there was heavy police deployment in Cuttack to maintain law and order.

“The dharna and march were peaceful,” said Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The seventh edition of Odisha’s biggest quizzing extravaganza — **OrissaPOST Mettle Meet 2025** — is all set to kick off at a hotel here Saturday. The prestigious annual quiz competition will bring together over 80 top educational institutions, including renowned ones from West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

On Day 1 (Saturday), the preliminary rounds will take place, where top teams will fight for a place in the grand finale. The top eight teams in each category — junior and senior — will qualify for the finals scheduled for Sunday.

Renowned quizmaster Ajay Poonia will conduct the event for the fourth time, bringing his trademark wit and energy to the competition.

Winners in each category will receive ₹1 lakh cash prize. First runners-up will take home ₹50,000. Second runners-up will be awarded ₹25,000.

Defending champions AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (senior) and DAV, Unit-8 (junior) will be looking to retain their titles, while last year’s runners-up — KIIT International School and DAV Kalinga Nagar (junior), and SCBMCH and NIT Rourkela (senior) —

**This annual quiz competition will bring together over 80 top educational institutions, including renowned ones from West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh**

are gearing up for a strong comeback.

Adding to the excitement, for the first time ever, four top-tier national institutions — IIM, Calcutta; IIT, Kharagpur; NIT, Raipur, Jamshedpur — will be making their debut in the seventh edition, aiming to clinch the title on their very first attempt.

Mettle Meet, an initiative of Odisha’s only home-grown English daily Orissa POST, was launched in 2016 with the vision of reviving and promoting the art of quizzing in the state. Since its launch in 2011, the English daily has carved a niche as a leading source of intelligent and youth-focused content. With its pro-people editorial stance, the publication continues to play a vital role in shaping Odisha’s socio-economic and political discourse.



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS	
JUNIOR CATEGORY	SENIOR CATEGORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (DPS), KALINGA (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• KIIT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• ODM GLOBAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• TIMES SCHOLARS GURUKUL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• BUXI JAGABANDHU ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL (BJEM), (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL (KALINGA NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• VIKASH RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL (ROURKELA)</li><li>• MONTFORT SCHOOL (DHENKANAL)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL (POKHARIPUT, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL (CDA, CUTTACK)</li><li>• ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL (DHENKANAL)</li><li>• MOTHER'S PUBLIC SCHOOL (UNIT-1, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL (ROURKELA)</li><li>• ROTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL (ANGUL)</li><li>• KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA (NO.5, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• STEWART SCHOOL (CUTTACK)</li><li>• BHUBANESWAR MODEL PUBLIC SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• DOON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA (NO.3, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• LOYOLA SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• SAINIK SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL (UNIT-8, BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL (NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK)</li><li>• BLESSED SACRAMENT HIGH SCHOOL (PURI)</li><li>• DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (ROURKELA)</li><li>• RAVENSHAW HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (CUTTACK)</li><li>• ODM PUBLIC SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• STEWART SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• PRABHUJEE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• JUPITER PUBLIC SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• VENKATESWAR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• D. A. V PUBLIC SCHOOL BURLA (SAMBALPUR)</li><li>• DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (DPS) (DHENKANAL)</li><li>• KENDRIYA VIDYALA (NO.1, BALASORE)</li><li>• BJB HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• BALANGA HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (PURI)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IISER) (BERHAMPUR)</li><li>• INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• SHRI JAGANNATH MEDICAL COLLEGE &amp; HOSPITAL (PURI)</li><li>• VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (VSSUT), (BURLA)</li><li>• ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH (OUTRI)(BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL (CUTTACK)</li><li>• NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (NISER) (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, OUAU (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• XAVIER INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR) (XIMB)</li><li>• INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT) (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• UTKAL UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• UNITED SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (USBM) (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• FAKIR MOHAN MEDICAL COLLEGE &amp; HOSPITAL (BALASORE)</li><li>• BJB AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY (CUTTACK)</li><li>• NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLUO) (CUTTACK)</li><li>• SILICON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• ASTHA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• GITA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• KIIT UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• HI-Tech HOSPITAL &amp; MEDICAL COLLEGE (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• XLRI (JAMSHEDPUR)</li><li>• IIT (KHARAGPUR)</li><li>• NIT (RAIPUR)</li><li>• COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCE &amp; ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• AIIMS (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE &amp; SUM HOSPITAL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• BIJU PATNAIK INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (BIITM) (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• BIRLA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• KALINGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (KIMS) (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• MITS SCHOOL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• BALANGA COLLEGE (PURI)</li><li>• INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• MITS (RAYAGADA)</li><li>• VEER SURENDRA SAI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (VIMSAR) (BURLA)</li><li>• IIM (CALCUTTA)</li><li>• SRI SRI UNIVERSITY (CUTTACK)</li><li>• HI-TECH DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• NIT (ROURKELA)</li><li>• COLLEGE OF BASIC SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• NARAYANA E-TECHNO SCHOOL (PATIA)</li><li>• D. A. V. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR)</li><li>• INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IGIT) (SARANG)</li></ul>

# Real-time road safety dashboard soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The state government, in collaboration with IIT-Madras, is developing ‘Road Awareness and Traffic Harmony’, a pioneering real-time road safety dashboard, in a bid to build safer roads through data-driven strategies and community participation, official sources said Friday.

The initiative was the focal point of a high-level meeting, chaired by Commerce and Transport department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, here

Friday. The state government has undertaken several initiatives like monthly observance of Zero Accident Day, Come Home Safe campaign, deployment of Surakhya mascot for community engagement, and technical capacity-building programmes in partnership with premier institutions like IIT-Madras.

The new dashboard will unify these efforts under a single, data-powered platform to enhance the impact. Designed as a comprehensive digital solution, the dashboard will provide real-time data, analytics, and vi-

sual insights to enable proactive road safety interventions, officials said. The dashboard will serve as a central platform for both policymakers and citizens, bridging technology with public participation. A key feature of the dashboard is the citizen-centric module ‘Sahayaka’ which will allow individuals to report road accidents, reducing emergency response times.

Through the dashboard, citizens will also be able to nominate ‘Raahveers’ – local heroes and first responders who promote road safety at the grass-

roots level. The integration with platforms such as the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) and eDAR-CCTNS is nearing completion, they said.

IIT-Madras is also embedding its Sanjaya Road Safety Super App into the dashboard ecosystem, making it a one-stop solution for all road safety stakeholders in the state. “Road safety is a collective responsibility, and this dashboard is a major leap forward in using real-time data, citizen input, and institutional coordination to save lives,” Padhee said.

# DPS Kalinga holds Investiture Ceremony



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** DPS Kalinga recently organised Investiture Ceremonies August 6 and 7, in which senior and junior school cabinets 2025-26 were inducted into the students’ council.

Pro vice chairperson Mala Mishra and executive trustee Sunaina Patro congratulated all the appointees, and Principal Suvabrata Mukherjee administered the oath.

NDRF, Cuttack Battalion Commander Commandant Narendra Sharma joined Senior

Investiture Ceremony as the chief guest and shared his experience in disaster management and relief, and encouraged the students to follow the principles of Mahatma Gandhi of simplicity and service.

Manam Foundation, Bhubaneswar chief psychological counsellor Soumya Sucharita Mohapatra joined as chief guest during the Junior Investiture Ceremony and congratulated the young leaders. She stressed on the importance of leadership qualities in becoming a better student and a better citizen.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Father of minor Jayanta Pattnayak, resident of Khandiasahi, Semiliguda, Dist : Koraput, Odisha - 764036, hereby declare that I have renounced his former name Jayanta Pattnayak and he shall henceforth be known as Anshuman Pattnayak for all official and public record purposes. This has been affirmed before the Executive Magistrate, Semiliguda.

I, **Sudha Devi**, W/o- Dhiraj Kumar Daga, resident of Lalwani Mohalla, New Line, Gangashahar, Dist.- Bikaner, State-Rajasthan, PIN- 334401, declare by this affidavit. No.- 763 dtd.- 07.08.25 that now onwards, I shall be known as **Sudha Devi Daga** for all future purposes.

## Santanu Swain new Sikkim University VC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Noted educationist Santanu Kumar Swain has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Sikkim University, official sources said Friday.



“...the President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of Sikkim University, is pleased to appoint Prof Santanu Kumar Swain,

Banaras Hindu University as the Vice Chancellor of the University for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier,” read a letter issued by the Ministry of Education to the Sikkim University Registrar August 7.

Swain, who hails from Rushipada in Puri district, is a distinguished academician with over four decades of experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership. He most recently served as the Head and Dean of the Faculty of Education at Banaras Hindu University. Swain also served as the member of Academic Council of Central University of Odisha, Koraput.

# Man dies after taking part in home guard test

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** A 42-year-old man died after taking part in a physical test for recruitment of home guards in Khurda district Friday, police said.

The deceased, Emadulla Haque from Keranga area, felt unwell soon after participating

in the 1,600-metre running test at the district headquarters in Khurda, they said.

“He was rushed to Khurda district headquarters hospital and later shifted to another hospital in Bhubaneswar, as his health condition deteriorated. The aspirant later died at the medical facility,” a police

officer said.

The body has been sent for post-mortem, and an investigation is underway, he added.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the incident and announced ₹4 lakh ex gratia from CMRF for the next kin of the deceased home guard aspirant.

# Vitamin A, deworming drive Aug 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** In order to improve child health, combat anaemia, and fight parasitic worm infections, the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with UNICEF, is set to launch the National Deworming Day (NDD) and Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) programmes across the state August 12.

The Directorate of Public Health will also implement the Lymphatic Filariasis – Mass Drug Administration (LF-MDA) programme in select districts during the same period, ensuring a comprehensive public health approach.

The NDD programme will administer Albendazole to over 1.26 crore children aged 1 to 19 years and more than 15 lakh women of reproductive age (20

to 24 years) across all districts. This includes 4,01,081 children aged 1 to 2 years in 12 LF-MDA districts, 23,39,102 children aged 1 to 5 years in NDD districts, and 99,06,433 children aged 6 to 19 years. The biannual VAS programme will cover an estimated 32 lakh children aged 9 to 60 months, boosting immunity and reducing child mortality and morbidity. Speaking on the occasion, Family Welfare Director Rajyashree Patnaik stated, “National Deworming Day plays a crucial role in safeguarding children’s health and reducing anaemia in young women. Deworming improves nutritional uptake and boosts school attendance, positively impacting education and productivity.”

Highlighting the integrated nature of the campaign, UNICEF Odisha nutrition specialist

Sourav Bhattacharjee noted, “The collaborative nature of this campaign ensures a comprehensive approach to child and maternal health. By integrating deworming with Vitamin A supplementation, the government is taking a significant step towards reducing undernutrition and improving cognitive development in children.”

A state-wide helpline number — 0674-2391944 — has been initiated to assist the public with queries related to the programme.

Meanwhile, LF-MDA will be implemented across 12 selected districts: Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, and Sundargarh. Children aged 1 to 2 years will also receive deworming medication as part of the NDD programme.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.70 ▲ 0.13	SENSEX	79857.79 ▼ 765.47	GOLD	₹101,869 ▲ ₹401
EURO	102.167 ▼ 0.01	NIFTY	24363.30 ▼ 232.85	SILVER	₹114,911 ▲ ₹625

### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.2°	29.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of heavy rain or thundershower
Min Temp	25.4°	24.0°	
Humidity	92%	95%	
Rainfall	0.7mm	2.4mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-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.



## Forest officials seize 4 elephant tusks, nab 5



PNN & AGENCIES

**Keonjhar, August 8:** The Keonjhar Forest Division has recovered four elephant tusks weighing over 5 kg and arrested five people for their alleged involvement in smuggling animal body parts, officials said Friday.

Based on inputs provided by the Similipal Wildlife Intelligence Network, a special team was formed Thursday, they said.

“Today, around 10am, the team raided the premises of a person at Balibeda village, where the five accused were found in possession of four elephant tusks. They were arrested,” a Forest department official said. When they were asked to produce legal documentation for the tusks, they failed to provide any, confirming the illegal nature of their activity, he said.

All the arrested accused hail from Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts. Apart from the tusks, four mobile phones and two motorcycles were also seized by the team, the official said.

A case has been registered under different sections of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2022.

The price of 1kg of ivory ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, another official said.

## KENDRAPARA ‘SELF-IMMOLATION’

# Ex-lover’s family claims victim killed for honour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, August 8:** A day after the body of a 19-year-old female college student of Kendrapara was consigned to flames, her ex-boyfriend’s family Friday alleged that she was killed for honour, not due to self-immolation.

Kendrapara Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kataria said the investigators are looking into the matter from all angles and they are waiting for the post-mortem examination report which could shed light on how she died.

The woman, who was reportedly a victim of blackmail by her ex-boyfriend, allegedly set herself on fire and died in her house in Kendrapara Wednesday.

“The post-mortem of the woman’s body was conducted at SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. The autopsy report is expected to reveal the truth behind the death, the SP, who himself has been investigating the matter, told reporters.

The SP said that forensic medicine and toxicology (FMT) experts visited the woman’s house under Pattamundai (Rural) police station area during the day and examined its various places, including the staircase from where her charred body was recovered.

The deceased’s father, in a written complaint to the police, had said he found his daughter’s charred body on the staircase after breaking the main gate.

# SI suspended for torturing ‘minor’ wife, on the run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** A sub-inspector (SI) of Odisha Police has been suspended for allegedly forcefully marrying a minor and torturing her, an officer said Friday.

The SI was identified as Amit Padhi, a resident of Balliapal area in Balasore district, and he was posted in Puri district.

Padhi allegedly married a Class X student, aged 15-16 years, of Jagatsinghpur district after developing a relationship with her on Facebook, the police said.

“Amit Padhi forcefully married my minor daughter in July 2024. She was forced to tell others that her age was 22. After the marriage, Amit and his family members tortured her physically and mentally,” alleged the mother of the victim.

Padhi lured the girl with the promise of providing her a job in the police department and married her without the knowledge of her family in a temple in Rayagada district, she alleged.

“After completion of one year of their marriage, the police officer and his family members started torturing my daughter. Though an FIR was lodged four months ago, the police did not take any action in the case,” the victim’s mother claimed.



The SI then left his wife at her parental home in Jagatsinghpur, she added.

Jagatsinghpur SP Bhawani Sankar Udgata said that the SI married a minor, and he was booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and POCSO Act.

“After receiving a written complaint from the victim, a case has been registered at Jagatsinghpur Town police station. As the victim had earlier informed him that she would lodge a police complaint, Amit is absconding from Puri,” Udgata said.

“When we intimidated Puri SP about the incident, he suspended Amit from police service,” Udgata said,

Efforts are on to nab the SI. “We have also obtained a non-bailable warrant against the accused,” the SP said.

The other accused family members of Amit surrendered before a local court as per an order of the high court and got bail, he added.

## Cops rescue nuns, priests stopped by locals over ‘forced conversion’

**Balasore:** Odisha Police has rescued a group of Christian nuns and priests, whose vehicles were stopped on a road by locals in Balasore district on the suspicion of conducting forced conversion, officials said Friday. The incident took place Wednesday evening when they were returning from Gangadhar village in Basta area, they said. “We rescued them from the group, which suspected them of carrying out forceful religious conversion. The nuns and priests were not harmed in any manner,” Basta Police Station Inspector-in-Charge Ranjit Sahu told PTI. Asked if any action was taken against the persons who stopped them midway, Sahu said, “They have not lodged any written or oral complaint against anyone.” The locals released them after being convinced that the nuns and priests had come to attend the death anniversary of a man in the village, the officer said. Meanwhile, the Catholic Bishops Conference of India has condemned the incident, urging the Centre and state governments to take strict action against “fringe groups” involved in attacks against Christian minorities in several parts of the country. The Communist Party of India (Marxist), Odisha State Committee, has strongly condemned the incident.

## Vedanta promotes menstrual hygiene in schools



1,100 students from Class VI to X. Aimed at fostering open dialogue and awareness around personal health and wellbeing, the initiative included interactive learning sessions and distribution of gender-sensitisation materials such as heat bags and ‘Menstrupedia’ educational booklets. The session also saw active engagement from Vedanta’s employee volunteers who were designed to educate students on puberty, physical changes, and the importance of early health awareness. Highlighting the impact of the programme, Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, “Promoting community health and hygiene is essential for building a healthier and more equitable society. Through continued and inclusive efforts, we aim to empower women and adolescents with the knowledge and resources to manage their health with dignity. This initiative reflects our deep-rooted commitment to uplifting communities through education and awareness.”

**Bhubaneswar:** Vedanta Aluminium, India’s largest producer of aluminium, organised a week-long initiative focused on promoting menstrual hygiene and adolescent health in rural schools. The programme reached over 18 schools across Jamkhani, Kuralai and Ghogharpalli, reaching out to more than

# Drunken ambulance driver carrying pregnant woman dozes off mid-way

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R Udayagiri/Paralakhemundi, August 8:** A pregnant woman endured severe distress after a drunken ambulance driver allegedly stopped the vehicle and fell asleep en route to a hospital, forcing her family to arrange alternative transport, officials said Friday.

The incident occurred in Gajapati district’s R Udayagiri block. Nandini Raita, wife of Bi-

jay Raita from Kanikipadar village, experienced labour Thursday night. Her family took her to Chandragiri hospital, but due to complications with the fetus, doctors referred her to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. While transporting Nandini in a 108 ambulance, the driver drove recklessly before stopping mid-journey and falling asleep inside the vehicle. Despite attempts to wake him, he remained unresponsive. The

family had to hire a private vehicle late at night to rush Nandini to Berhampur.

Gajapati Chief District Medical Officer Dr Mubarak Alli said the issue was discussed with the ambulance’s outsourcing agency, and action against the driver would be taken soon.

Nandini gave birth to a healthy baby girl at MKCG Friday, where both mother and child are reported to be in stable condition.

## Police nab Mumbai man for raping Ganjam minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, August 8:** Police have arrested a man in Mumbai for allegedly raping and impregnating a 15-year-old girl from Ganjam district, an officer said here.

Mumbai’s Parksite police station Thursday arrested the 23-year-old accused based on the zero FIR registered at Baidyanathpur police station in Berhampur town recently, said the officer.

Superintendent of Police, Berhampur, Saravana Vivek M, said police rushed to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here July 28 after getting a medico-legal complaint (MLC) from the gynaecology department, where the victim was admitted. During the treatment, it came to light that the minor girl was 19 weeks pregnant, and she wanted to abort her pregnancy.

During questioning, the victim said she had been living in Mumbai with her parents for the last 14 years. One day in March, the accused forcibly dragged her to his home and had physical relationship with her against her will, due to which she became pregnant, the police said.

When she came to know about her pregnancy, she told her mother about the incident. When her mother went to confront the accused about the incident, his family members threatened her with dire consequences if they revealed it to others, police said. Her mother took her back to Berhampur to abort the unwanted pregnancy without reporting anything to the local police.

**Mumbai’s Parksite police station arrested the 23-year-old accused based on the zero FIR registered at Baidyanathpur police station**

After knowing the details from the victim, Berhampur police registered a zero FIR and sent the same to Parksite police station in Mumbai for formal registration of an FIR, the SP said.

The victim was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Berhampur, for her rehabilitation and financial assistance. The committee facilitated the medical check-up and treatment of the victim. Accordingly, based upon the Zero FIR of Baidyanathpur police station, a case was registered at Parksite police station, Mumbai and based upon primary evidence, the police arrested the accused Thursday, the SP added.

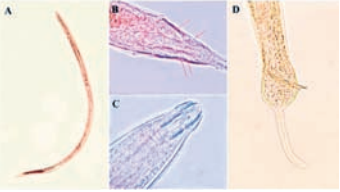
# Berhampur University researchers discover new round worm species

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, August 8:** Researchers at Berhampur University have claimed to have discovered a new species of free-living marine nematodes or round worms from Chilika Lake, Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon.

The species belongs to genus Admirandus and its discovery marks the first report of it from northern Indian Ocean. It was earlier reported from Africa, the researchers said

Suman Patra, a research scholar in Marine Science Department of the university under the guidance of Shesdev Patro, assistant professor in the same department, and Amita Kumari Choudhury, a re-



search scholar in Department of Zoology, School of Bioengineering and Biosciences, Lovely Professional University were involved in the research.

The new species was named ‘Admirandus odishaensis’ in honour of the state of Odisha, as it was found in the state. Previously, only four valid species were known in this genus. With this discovery, the count rises to five, expanding the

known diversity of this cosmopolitan group of free-living marine nematodes, said Patra.

Daniel Leduc, a renowned nematologist of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand, has supported the researchers in species identification. The details about the new species were published in the ‘Journal of Natural History’ Tuesday.

The researchers had collected at least six specimens of the new species from the outer channel of Chilika near Satapada in November 2023. After a lengthy study, they confirmed it was first discovered in the Chilika and the northern Indian Ocean.

Marine nematodes are extremely sensitive to environmental fluctuations and serve as important bio-indicators of ecosystem health, said Patro.

Despite their microscopic size, the nematodes play a vital role in benthic ecosystems. Their short life cycles and adaptability make them valuable for monitoring ecological conditions.

The researchers note the ecologically rich coast of Odisha remains largely unexplored when it comes to microscopic benthic fauna like nematodes. Their discovery highlights the urgent need for more dedicated research and long-term ecological monitoring in the region. The team hopes their work will inspire further studies and uncover even more hidden biodiversity in India’s coastal ecosystem.

## Sexagenarian held for impregnating minor niece

**Langaleswar:** A 60-year-old man was arrested in Bhanupur village, Balasore district, for allegedly raping and impregnating his 13-year-old niece, police said Friday. The accused, Adaita Mandal, was detained by the girl’s family Thursday night after the crime was uncovered. A large crowd of villagers gathered at the scene upon hearing the news. Singla police responded promptly, arresting Mandal and taking him into custody. According to authorities, the minor was repeatedly coerced into physical relationship by Mandal while working in a vegetable garden. He allegedly threatened to kill her parents if she spoke about the abuse. After the girl displayed signs of pregnancy, a medical examination confirmed she was pregnant. The victim underwent a medical examination Friday and police have filed a case (173/25).

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# Off The Leash

Some stories never make it to file notings or press briefings. They move in murmurs, exchanged in lift lobbies and murmured across dinner tables. One such story is circulating quietly now, involving a pair of student activists, a Delhi Police unit better known for its counterterrorism work, and a brutal episode of alleged custodial torture.

According to Lakshita and Gurkirat, the beatings they endured, allegedly with leather whips, no less, weren't the result of political provocation or subversive action. The reason, they say, was far more banal and yet more chilling. A personal dispute involving a well-placed official's family.

The dots aren't hard to connect for those in the know. The bureaucratic grapevine points toward a senior officer from the 1995 batch, currently helming a national mission in the water sector, and reportedly well-networked in the right circles. Her name isn't in the FIR, of course. It wouldn't be. That's not how these things work.

But the very idea that a private grievance could, allegedly, set off a chain of events leading to days of illegal detention and physical abuse by a specialised police unit that has set alarm bells ringing. Or at least ought to.

No outrage, no press statements. Just a ripple of unease in the system. Just whispers. And in Delhi, whispers often say more than official press releases ever will. The kind that remind everyone of what power looks like when it's exercised off the record, and off the leash.

## The chair is filled, but is it occupied?

In Lutyens' Delhi, nothing says continuity like an ad hoc appointment. And the recent move to place senior IPS officer SBK Singh at the helm of Delhi Police on additional charge, no less, is a case study in how to make a statement while dodging one.

To be sure, there's a quiet satisfaction in the ranks. After years of watching outsiders parachuted into the top job, officers from the AGMUT cadre are finally seeing one of their own in the chair. That Singh, a 1988-batch officer, is known to the system and carries institutional memory, makes the move feel like a return to form.

But then there's the fine print. Six months. Additional charge. Retirement is around the corner. Déjà vu, anyone? Those with long memories recall a similar baton pass with SN Shrivastava, another interim commissioner whose elevation came just before superannuation. That pattern isn't lost on the force.

So, what's the subtext here? A stopgap? A placeholder till something (or someone) else aligns? No one's saying it aloud, but the appointment seems designed to avoid rocking any boats while still keeping up appearances.

Insiders might be relieved, but they're not blind. An ad-hoc title rarely comes with full authority. And when the top cop has a ticking clock overhead, it's hard to chart a long-term course. For now, Delhi Police has a familiar face in charge. Whether it also has stable leadership remains to be seen.

## Glass ceilings meet forest canopies

It's not every day that a general body meeting of a civil service association generates actual buzz. But the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Association has done just that, and without so much as a chainsaw. For the first time, its national executive is entirely led by women. And no, this isn't a diversity sidebar, it's the main story.

Jyotsna Sitling, a pioneer in her own right, now serves as Patron. At the helm is Anita Karan as President, with Monalisa Dash as Secretary-General, and a powerhouse lineup including Surbhi Rai, Suvvena Thakur, and Chestha Singh. It's not just a team; it's a statement that says competence, commitment, and calm authority come in all genders.

Not to romanticise it, though, these women officers didn't get here on slogans or tokenism. They've trudged through real jungles, not just bureaucratic ones. They've worked on the frontlines of conservation, battled forest fires (literal and institutional), and shaped environmental policy where it matters.

In a service long dominated by khaki-clad machismo and safari-hatted stereotypes, this quiet shift is no less than radical. It's also timely. As climate crises accelerate and biodiversity collapses, the forest service needs less swagger and more stewardship. This team seems poised to deliver exactly that.

So the Indian Forest Service just made history. But more importantly, it might be rewriting the future, one green leaf and one bold decision at a time.

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## WISDOM CORNER

- Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold

LEO TOLSTOY
- Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves

CARL JUNG
- Be grateful for what you have and stop complaining - it bores everybody else, does you no good, and doesn't solve any problems

ZIG ZIGLAR

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1173:

In Pisa, Italy, construction began on a bell tower that became internationally famous as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.
- 1854:

Henry David Thoreau's Walden, considered his masterwork and a Transcendentalist milestone, was published.
- 1942:

Quit India Movement begins. The civil disobedience movement against the British colonists was spearheaded by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi had called for peaceful protests in a speech a day earlier at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay (now Mumbai). In the speech, he made a call of "do or die" and asked his followers to adopt nonviolence when interacting with the British. The movement began with the British imprisoning the Congress Party leadership, including Gandhi.
- 1945:

An atomic bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. Three days after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, the city of Nagasaki was destroyed by a 21 kiloton atomic bomb nicknamed Fat Boy. About 40 to 80 thousand people were estimated killed during this American-led attack towards the end of the Second World War. A few days later on 15 August, Japan surrendered to the Allies, effectively bringing the War to a close by September, 1945.
- 1969:

American actress Sharon Tate and four others were murdered by followers of Charles Manson, leader of a communal religious cult known as the "Family."

FOCUS

TRADE

# TRUMP

# IMPERIALISM

Smaller countries and middle powers have mostly played the quiet game, pursuing independent bargains with Trump and hoping to limit the damage to their own economies. The exception is Brazil, whose president, Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, has emerged as the rare exemplary leader who refuses to grovel at Trump's feet

Dani Rodrik

TRUMP'S ACTIONS HAVE HELD UP A MIRROR TO OTHERS, AND MOST SHOULD RECOGNISE THAT THEIR REFLECTION IS NOT A PRETTY SIGHT

America's critics have always depicted it as a selfish country that throws its weight around with little regard for others' well-being. But President Donald Trump's trade policies have been so misguided, erratic, and self-defeating as to make even the most cartoonish of such descriptions seem flattering. Still, in a twisted way, his trade follies have laid bare other countries' failures as well, by forcing them to consider what their responses say about their own intentions and capabilities.

It is said that one's true character is revealed in the face of adversity, and the same goes for countries and their political systems. Trump's frontal assault on the world economy was a shock to everyone, but it also gave Europe, China, and various middle powers an opportunity to make a statement about who they are and what they stand for. It was an invitation to articulate a vision of a new world order that could overcome the imbalances, inequities, and unsustainability of the old one, and that would not depend on the leadership – for better or worse – of a single powerful country. But few rose to the challenge.

In this respect, the European Union has perhaps been the greatest disappointment. In terms of purchasing power, it is almost as large as the United States – accounting for 14.1 per cent of the world economy, compared to 14.8 per cent for the US and 19.7 per cent for China. Moreover, despite the recent rise of the far right, most European countries have avoided backsliding into authoritarianism. As a collection of democratic nation-states whose geopolitical ambitions do not threaten others, Europe has both the power and the moral authority to provide global leadership. Instead, it dithered and then submitted to Trump's demands.

Europe's ambitions were always narrowly parochial;



Smaller countries and middle powers have mostly played the quiet game, pursuing independent bargains with Trump and hoping to limit the damage to their own economies. The exception is Brazil, whose president, Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, has emerged as the rare exemplary leader who refuses to grovel at Trump's feet

but in folding to Trump, it is not even clear that it served its own immediate interests. The July handshake deal between Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen leaves 50 per cent tariffs on European exports of steel and aluminum, places 15 per cent tariffs on most other exports, and commits Europe to ridiculously high levels of energy imports from the US. Rarely has the EU's structural weakness as a confederation of countries without a collective sense of identity been on starker display.

China has played a tougher game, retaliating forcefully with its own tariffs and restricting exports of critical minerals to the US. Trump's vindictive, self-defeating foreign policies have helped China extend its influence and enhance its credibility as a reliable partner for the developing world. But the Chinese leadership has also failed to articulate a practical model for a post-neoliberal global economic order. Notably, China has shown little interest in addressing the two global imbalances that it has caused with its own large external surplus and excess of domestic savings over investment.

Meanwhile, smaller countries and middle powers have mostly played the quiet game, pursuing independent bargains with Trump and hoping to limit the damage to their own economies. The exception is Brazil, whose president, Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, has emerged as the rare exemplary leader who refuses to grovel at Trump's feet. Despite facing punitive 50 per cent tariffs and pointed personal attacks, he has proudly defended his country's sovereignty, democracy, and independent judiciary. As the New York Times puts it, "There is perhaps no world leader defying President Trump as strongly as Mr. Lula."

Such leadership has been sorely lacking around the world. In India, the political commentator Pratap Bhanu Mehta points out that many business and political elites are searching for ways to accommodate Trump. But in doing so, Mehta argues, they are misreading him and the world he is creating. At any other time in recent history, the Trump administration's behaviour would immediately be called out for what it is: imperialism – plain and simple. Imperialism must always

be challenged – not accommodated – and that requires both power and purpose. Of course, America has held the reins of the world economy for a very long time. The dollar is firmly entrenched, and the US market remains singularly important. But these advantages are not as strong as they used to be. It would defy political logic and the laws of economic gravity if a country controlling only 15 per cent of the world economy (in terms of purchasing power parity) could dictate the rules of the game to everyone else. Though the rest of the world remains divided, surely everyone has a common interest in repelling Trumpian imperialism – and thus in uniting to resist his demands.

Finding common purpose is perhaps the bigger challenge. If Trump "wins," it will be because other large economies were unable (or unwilling) to articulate an alternative framework for the global economy. Pining after traditional multilateralism and global co-operation – as many targets of Trump's ire have done – is of little use and merely signals weakness.

The world needs new ideas and principles for avoiding both the instabilities and inequities of hyper-globalisation and the destructive effects of beggar-thy-neighbour policies. It is not realistic to expect a new Bretton Woods agreement. Nevertheless, middle powers and large economies can still model such principles by putting them to work in their own policies.

Trump's actions have held up a mirror to others, and most should recognise that their reflection is not a pretty sight. Fortunately, their apparent helplessness has been self-imposed. It is not too late to choose self-confidence over humiliation.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School.

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SPECTRUM

COMMERCE

# FTA is the new buzz word



Chander Gupta

THE INDIA-UK FTA WILL COME INTO FORCE ONLY AFTER RATIFICATION BY THE PARLIAMENTS OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES, A PROCESS THAT COULD TAKE UP TO A YEAR

The India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), known colloquially as India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), was signed on 24 July, 2025, in the presence of the Prime Ministers of India and the UK. The agreement was signed by the ministers concerned from both sides. But hold your breath. The CETA (or FTA) will come into force only after ratification by the parliaments of both the countries, a process that could take up to a year from the signing date of 24 July.

Ratification will provide not only another occasion to celebrate and hail the FTA as historic but also for photo-ops. Should not the ratification have preceded the signing of FTA? A layperson wonders. What if the ratification falters due to the vagaries of parliamentary politics? Though the implementation of CETA is yet to be kicked off, a great deal of

euphoria has already been felt. One key feature of the India-UK FTA, that the media highlighted conspicuously, is that India would be lowering tariff on scotch whiskey imported from the UK significantly. Media reports suggest that tariff on scotch whiskey would be lowered from 150 per cent to 75 per cent at once and be further decreased to 40 per cent eventually.

Understandably, the UK side would have pressed for reduced tariffs on scotch whiskey expecting surge in exports to India. In the bargain India would have extracted reciprocal concessions in tariffs on exports of Indian goods to the UK. However, granular details escape the general public.

Those who drink know that liquor bottles sold in India display a statutory warning: "Consumption of alcohol is injurious to health." Is lowering of tariff on import of scotch whiskey from the UK, which will consequently boost sale

and consumption of scotch whiskey in India, not in contradiction with the health warning displayed on liquor bottles? It is bewildering that a section is going gaga over the prospects of cheaper scotch.

What percentage of Indian population can afford scotch whiskey, even with lowered tariffs? My speculation is that not even 5 per cent. Therefore, the benefit of lowered tariff will remain restricted to the elite section only. Even that might not happen. The states might seize the opportunity to increase VAT to the extent of reduction in import tariff so that price effectually is still the same. What will be the Centre's loss will be the States' gain. The point to ponder is whether gloating over proposed reduction in tariff on scotch whiskey imported from the UK is proper.

Another trade agreement that India is negotiating with the United States is a topic of animated discussions these

days. The proposed trade agreement with the US is being referred to as Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). The technical difference between FTA and BTA is not clear to a layperson. Media reports suggest that tough negotiations are underway with both countries trying to extract maximum concessions.

It is heard that an FTA is also being negotiated between India and the EU. FTA is the new buzz word. What has happened to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework? Will India have to sign a trade agreement individually with every country? How was trade taking place earlier? Is the WTO withering away? The moot question is whether the WTO framework has been better, or will the new trend of bilateral trade agreements prove more beneficial for the nation and its people?

The writer is a retired banker.

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

## Serious allegations

Sir, This refers to "Rahul claims proof of poll fraud," **Orissa POST**, August 8. If Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of voter list fraud in the Mahadevapura constituency of Bangalore — which falls under the Bangalore Central parliamentary seat — are accurate, it would represent a grave institutional lapse by the Election Commission, striking at the foundation of democratic integrity. Gandhi claims to have compiled substantial data highlighting these alleged irregularities and has presented them before the nation, raising serious concerns over the sanctity of the electoral process. However, such serious charges require more than public statements; they demand a formal approach to the Election Commission or the judiciary, supported by documented evidence. Without a written, evidence-backed complaint, the Election Commission, which asserts that the rolls have been verified and are genuine, is unlikely to initiate any investigation. A transparent institutional probe is the only credible path to establishing the truth and ensuring public trust in the electoral system. If Gandhi refrains from formally submitting his claims, his allegations risk being dismissed as mere political rhetoric, lacking verifiable proof. In matters as vital as voter list integrity, both raising concerns and activating due legal processes are essential to safeguarding democracy and ensuring electoral fairness.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Mockery of investigation

Sir, This refers to "ED can't act like crook, must work within four corners of law: SC," **Orissa POST**, August 8. There is no denying that both the CBI and the ED are not the successful performer in investigating cases of serious in nature and a plethora of instances can be cited where conviction of accused could not be ensured even after lapse of considerable period of time, resulting in prolongation of detention as undertrials. If a proper inquiry is made it may reveal the fact that prolongation of detention of accused was the ultimate motive of the probe agencies with an intent to satisfy the vested interests. Scoffing at ED by the apex court will not serve the desired purpose. A punitive action has to be taken against the ED for making a mockery of investigation.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA





# Vantara offers to set up facility for elephant Madhuri in Kolhapur village

VANTARA AND THE MUTH WILL SUBMIT A JOINT APPLICATION IN THE COURT TO ENSURE THAT MADHURI CAN COME BACK HOME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, August 8:** The Jamnagar-based Vantara India Thursday said it was ready to set up a facility at Nandani village in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district to provide proper care for Madhuri, an elephant belonging to a local 'Muth' or monastery whose relocation led to protests.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Jinsen Bhattarak Pattacharya, chief of the Nandani Jain Muth, Vantara

CEO Vivaan Karani said that neither Vantara nor Anant Ambani (who conceptualised the Jamnagar-based sanctuary) wanted to hurt the sentiments of the people of Kolhapur over the issue.

"We can set up a home for Madhuri, and the animal can come back here and live with her own people here. Neither Vantara nor Anant Ambani, who has been doing a good work in the rehabilitation of animals, had any intention to hurt the sentiments of people



here. Whatever facility Madhuri would need, Vantara, the Muth and the Government of Maharashtra can create here, so that a proper care of the elephant can be taken," he said.

Vantara and the Muth will submit a joint application in

the court to ensure that Madhuri can come back home, he said.

Pattacharya said Vantara has agreed to create a facility for Madhuri.

"We had a satisfactory and fruitful discussion over the issue, and Vantara has agreed to set up a facility for Madhuri so that proper care can be taken," he said.

He is grateful that Anant Ambani sent the CEO of Vantara to Nandani to discuss the issue and find a solution, he added.

Maharashtra Chief Minis-

ter Devendra Fadnavis had Wednesday said Vantara will join the state government's petition in the Supreme Court to seek the return of elephant Madhuri to the monastery in Kolhapur.

The 36-year-old female elephant who was with the Shri Jinsen Bhattarak Pattacharya Mahaswami Jain Muth at Nandani for over three decades was relocated to Vantara's Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust last month following a court ruling.

# SHG women send swadeshi 'rakhis' to soldiers in Jaunpur



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaunpur, August 8:** Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to embrace swadeshi, women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural Jaunpur Friday have stepped forward to craft colourful, indigenous 'rakhis' for this year's festival of Raksha Bandhan. These handmade creations will not only grace the wrists of brothers across the country but will also be sent to soldiers serving at the nation's borders.

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), a poverty alleviation programme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development under the larger Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY), has been at the forefront of this effort.

Designed to empower rural women socially and economically, NRLM works through SHGs and their federations, enabling poor households to access self-employment and skilled wage opportunities.

In support of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India', NRLM has trained women at SHGs to produce 'rakhis'. Efforts are also underway to market these products, offering buyers an alternative to imported, especially Chinese, 'rakhis' that often dominate festival stalls in India.

Prime Minister Modi had recently renewed his call to adopt swadeshi products. Purchasing India-made 'rakhis', officials say, not only boosts the 'Make in India' movement but also supports the livelihoods of rural women.

UP Deputy Commissioner of Self Employment, Jitendra Pratap Singh, said that many women had already received 'rakhi'-making training.

"NRLM will ensure that interested women also have access to markets. We urge everyone to buy indigenous rakhis," he stated.

He added that Friday, 1,000 'rakhis' crafted by district SHGs will be dispatched to the country's soldiers.

For many women, the initiative has been life changing. Saroj Singh, a member of an SHG, shared, "Our group has 120 women working for self-employment. This Raksha Bandhan, we are making 'rakhis' to sell in the market, and the income will be shared among us. Alongside this, we have also sent 1,500 'rakhis' to our 'fauji' brothers on the border."

# UP govt clears proposals for 3 private varsities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 8:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Thursday approved a series of proposals spanning higher education, international scholarships and urban governance reforms, paving the way for new private universities, a Chevening-style UK collaboration, and long-term municipal advertisement regulation.

The decisions of the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, were announced by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna along with his cabinet colleagues Rakesh Sachan and Yogendra Upadhyay during a press conference here.

According to the decisions, the Cabinet granted an intent letter to Lala Fateh Chand Charitable Trust, Muzaffarnagar, for the establishment of Vedanta University in Muzaffarnagar under the Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Act, 2019.

The proposed university will be set up on 23.3349 acres of land in village Hussainpur Bopada, tehsil Khatauli, within the Muzaffarnagar Development Authority limits. The high-level committee, headed by the chief secretary, had recommended the issuance of the letter of intent in its meeting held December 19, 2024.

In a similar move, the Cabinet also cleared the establishment of KD University in Mathura under the same private universities framework. The approval was based on provisions under the Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Act, 2019, which regulates and facilitates the establishment and incorporation of private universities across the state.

The Cabinet further approved the setting up of Bodhisattva University in Barabanki. The sponsoring body, Bodhisattva Charitable Trust, Lucknow, has earmarked 25.31 acres of land in Gadia village, pargana Deva, tehsil Nawabganj of Barabanki district.

## 100 YEARS OF KAKORI TRAIN ACTION

# Tracing links between GPO, Chhedilal Dharamshala

While the Chhedilal Dharamshala at Aminabad provided shelter to the freedom fighters who had assembled in Lucknow ahead of the Kakori Train Action that took place August 9, 1925, the GPO, formerly known as the Ring Theatre, was the venue of their trial following their arrest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 8:** Located nearly 2.5 kilometres away from each other in Lucknow, the General Post Office (GPO) in Hazratganj area and the Chhedilal Dharamshala in the congested Aminabad area have one thing in common -- their association with the 100-year-old Kakori Train Action, which rattled the British as it signified the growing local resentment against their autocratic rule.

While the Chhedilal Dharamshala at Aminabad provided shelter to the freedom fighters who had assembled in Lucknow ahead of the Kakori Train Action that took place August 9, 1925, the GPO, formerly known as the Ring Theatre, was the venue of their trial following their arrest.

The revolutionary event was usually described as the 'Kakori train robbery' or the 'Kakori train conspiracy'. In 2021, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed it as Kakori Train Action and used the new name in official communications.

After their GPO trial, famous freedom fighters Ram Prasad 'Bismil', Ashfaqulla Khan, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Nath Lahiri were hanged to death in 1927 by the British for their involvement in the incident.

The conclusion of events to commemorate a century of the Kakori Train Action Friday, the daring train heist of the government treasury to provide funds for arms and action to overthrow the British rule, PTI visited both these spots to discover that most were unaware of their historic significance.

"I visit here almost every day for my daily jog but didn't quite know that this place had such a connection with the freedom struggle," admitted Mohit Kumar, a youth in his final year of graduation.

Rohit Khatri, the grandson of Ramkrishna Khatri, who was part of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, admitted the need to make the youth more aware of the history and significance of the monuments and buildings associated with the freedom movement.

"Yes, the young people should know of the great struggle and the heroic sacrifices that got us our Independence. The Chhedilal Dharamshala, located near the historic Jhandewalan Park in the Aminabad area of Lucknow, is the place where the revolutionaries had stayed ahead of the daring train heist of the British treasury. I feel that a small portion of the Dharamshala should be taken, and a museum should be set up. This will help in disseminating information that some of the Kakori revolutionaries had stayed here. We must ensure that the young are acquainted with the past," Rohit Khatri told PTI.

He said the Kakori Train Action was an important milestone in the Freedom Movement, as it changed the mindset of the youth. "The event gave a new direction and momentum to the Freedom Movement. After the Kakori Train Action, the participation of the youth in the Freedom Movement saw a significant increase, which posed a direct challenge to the British government," he said.

"My father (Udai Khatri) used to tell me the heroic deeds of the Kakori bravehearts. I grew up relishing those stories, and the government must ensure that our youth remain connected with their past," he recalled.

Underscoring the secrecy with which the Kakori Train Action was planned, he said most revolutionaries had checked in at the Dharamshala with pseudo names.

# Govt moves to end Kabutarkhana row



As the ban on feeding pigeons at public and heritage spots snowballed into a major controversy, Fadnavis sought to take a more cautious and measured approach to avoid the matter ruffling more feathers ahead of the Mumbai civic body polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 8:** Though Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis now says the "abrupt" closure of pigeon feeding sites in Mumbai was not advisable and the BMC should ensure controlled feeding of the birds, his own government ordered shutting down of such spots a month ago.

The state government ordered a crackdown on 'kabutarkhanas' weeks before the Bombay High Court, in a ruling July 30, said feeding a congregation of pigeons was an act causing a public nuisance and posed a health hazard to people, and directed the Mumbai civic body to file FIRs against persons engaging in such an activity.

As the ban on feeding pigeons at public and heritage spots snowballed into a major controversy, Fadnavis sought to take a more cautious and measured approach to avoid the matter ruffling more feathers ahead of the Mumbai civic body polls.

After the HC order, Brihan-

mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials August 3 covered the Dadar Kabutarkhana, a grade II heritage structure and the most popular pigeon feeding site in Mumbai, with a tarpaulin sheet to stop people from accessing the spot.

The civic body has said it took action against 142 persons for feeding pigeons at 'kabutarkhanas' across the city and recovered a fine of Rs 68,700 from them between July 13 and August 3. Fadnavis said the "abrupt" closure of kabutarkhanas (pigeon feeding spots) was not advisable, and asked the BMC to ensure a "controlled feeding" of the birds.

Protesters forcibly removed the tarpaulin put up by the city civic body to cover the Dadar Kabutarkhana Wednesday.

The protesters, mostly members of the Jain community, clashed with police, who tried to stop them from removing the large plastic cover put on bamboo scaffolding at the site.

After cops dispersed the agitators, Mumbai suburban district guardian minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha visited the spot and condemned the protest, saying police will take appropriate action in the matter.

The kabutarkhana issue was raised by Shiv Sena leader Manisha Kayande in the Maharashtra legislative council July 3 during the monsoon session.

The nominated MLC had said 'kabutarkhanas' pose a danger to people living around them as their waste and feathers lead to respiratory diseases.

## FROM PENURY TO PROSPERITY

# Maha woman gives new direction to life with Paithani weaving art

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, August 8:** For Kavita Dhavale, it was once tough to cough up even Rs 50 to buy something, but the art of weaving Paithani sarees not only transformed her life but also enabled her to fund the education of his son who is now a Merchant Navy officer.

In a recent edition of his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned about the traditional art of weaving Paithani sarees and lauded Dhavale's contribution in the field. Paithani is a famous variety of saree, named after Paithan region in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, where they are woven by hand.

With the the traditional weaving art giving wings to Dhavale's ambition to be employed, she not only helped her son pursue professional courses, but is also in a position now to support her daughter's education. But life was quite difficult for her two decades back. Dhavale (43), hailing from Paithan, was struggling to sustain her family when she got to know about the Paithani weaving art 22 years ago.

"I came across the art of Paithani



weaving in 2003 for the first time. I did not earn a single rupee when I went to learn this art. I got a monthly stipend of Rs 500 for a year," Dhavale told PTI on the occasion of the National Handloom Day Thursday.

"I took up the course of Paithani weaving with full enthusiasm and thoroughly learned the art in the next six months. Prior to this, I hardly had money to buy anything for myself or my family," she informed. Dhavale said she was in such dire financial situation that she had to think twice before spending Rs 50 as she had no earning.

"But the times changed. (After getting into Paithani saree weaving), I decided to get my own looms. The government supported me and I got two looms in 2006. I started working on them. I also hire other women now if I have more orders," she said.

Dhavale said she now has a yearly turnover of about Rs 20 lakh, which strengthened her financial condition.

With her proficiency in weaving the Paithani designs, she is now selling sarees costing several lakhs.

"I am selling expensive sarees now. I weaved a saree on an order for Rs 6 lakh and sold it. I keep getting big orders and it's a routine process now," she said.

Dhavale appealed to all women to aspire for self-employment.

"I took a small step and have reached so far. I appeal to other women who want to contribute for their family, they should take the initiative to learn something (to sustain their family) wholeheartedly. This will definitely bring a change in their life," she said.

"A (government-run) Marathi Paithani saree centre in Paithan gave wings to my dreams and the government also supported me in getting the looms," she added.

नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो,  
भोपाल जोनल यूनिट  
एनसीबी भोपाल के केस नंबर 01/2020 में  
वांछित आरोपी  
रामकुमार बारीक, पुत्र - श्यामकुमार बारिक  
गाँव - रुंडीमाहुल, तहसील - कंटामल,  
जिला - बौध, ओडिशा  
नकद पुरस्कार : 10,000/- (दश हजार रुपये)

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उपर्युक्त फरार अभियुक्त की गिरफ्तारी के लिए कोई भी जानकारी एनसीबी कंट्रोल रूम नंबर/ईमेल आईडी पर दी जा सकती है। मुखबिर को 10,000 (दस हजार) रुपये से पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा और उसकी पहचान गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

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कंट्रोल रूम संपर्क नंबर : 0755-2993368  
ई-मेल आईडी : [zdbzu-ncb@nic.in](mailto:zdbzu-ncb@nic.in)  
स्वापक नियंत्रण ब्यूरो, भोपाल आंचलिक ईकाई,  
भोपाल (म.प्र.)  
CBC 19126/11/0065/2526

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भोपाल (म.प्र.)  
CBC 19126/11/0067/2526













**RANCHI:** The Jharkhand Police Friday said it has registered an FIR against BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey, Manoj Tiwari and others for "forcibly" entering the sanctum sanctorum of the Baba Bidyanath Temple in Deoghar August 2 and hurting religious sentiments. The FIR was lodged under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita as per a complaint by temple priest Kartik Nath Thakur for "forcibly" entering the inner shrine August 2 between 8.45 pm and 9 pm" despite a restriction on VIP or VVIP entry during the holy month of "Shravan" in view of a large number of devotees. "An FIR has been lodged at Baba Bidyanath Mandir Police Station against Nishikant Dubey, Manoj Tiwari, Kankshikanath Dubey, Sheshadri Dubey and others for entering the inner shrine of the temple, hurting religious tradition and sentiments and causing obstacles in government work by entering into a scuffle with police persons deployed for security reasons," an officer told PTI.

## ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପୌରପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଚୌଦ୍ୱାର

# OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHOWDWAR

Govt. of Odisha (H&R.D Deptt) Cuttack (Odisha), Pin-754071

Phone No.-0671-2394272 (O) e-mail:choudwarmunicipality@gmail.com

No.Dev/1513
Date:-07.08.2025

### QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-832:Sealed quotations are invited from the intending Authorized Firms/Suppliers & Agencies having up to date GST Registration copy, PAN card copy and valid registration copy for supplying fitting and fixing of FRP Letter of ଗର୍ବ ଚୌଦ୍ୱାର ଗର୍ବ inside Biju Pattnaik Park, Ward No.10 of Choudwar Municipality as per the description as follows.

Sl. No.	Description
1	Work for applying FRP lining letter with Colour pigments of ଗର୍ବ ଚୌଦ୍ୱାର ଗର୍ବ and letter size should be 30 inches.

The prescribed quotation schedule can be obtained from the office of the Choudwar Municipality, Choudwar during office hours on all working days from dt.08.08.2025 to dt.21.08.2025 within 1.00 PM on payment of Rs 6000/- (Rupees Six Thousand) only in the shape of Cash/Bank Cheque/ Demand Draft in favour of the Executive Officer, Choudwar Municipality towards the paper cost which is non-refundable. The quotation paper will be received upto 1.00 PM by this office within dt.21.08.2025 through Regd Post/Speed Post or in person and the same will be opened on the same date at 3.00 P.M. in the office of Choudwar Municipality in the presence of the quotationer or their authorised representative who wishes to remain present. The quotation delay in postal delivery after due date and time will not be taken into consideration. The authority reserves right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason therefor.

OIPR-13138/11/0045/2526

**Sd/- Executive Officer**  
**Choudwar Municipality**



of the day

quote

The Israeli government's decision to further escalate its offensive in Gaza is wrong, and we urge it to reconsider immediately. This action will do nothing to bring an end to this conflict or to help secure the release of the hostages

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

What I can say in terms of India is that the President has been very clear in terms of the concerns he has regarding the trade imbalance, regarding the concerns he has when it comes to the purchase of Russian oil. You have seen him take action directly on that

TOMMY PIGOTT | STATE DEPARTMENT PRINCIPAL DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON, US

There are certain signals, and we also have an intuition, that perhaps a freeze in the conflict - I don't want to say the end, but a freeze in the conflict - is closer than it is further away. There are hopes for this

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

SHORT TAKES

17 killed, 33 missing in China landslides

**Beijing:** At least 17 people have died and 33 others are missing in torrents and landslides in China in the last 48 hours, official media here reported Friday. President Xi Jinping has urged all-out search and rescue efforts, and flood prevention and disaster relief work after mountain torrents hit northwest Gansu province on Thursday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported Friday. At least 10 people were killed and 33 others listed missing in mountain torrents in Gansu province, it said. In another incident, seven people died and seven others injured following a rain-triggered landslide in Guangzhou, the capital of China's southern Guangdong province, on Wednesday, local officials said Friday. The landslide occurred in Dayuan Village in Guangzhou's Baiyun District, trapping 14 people and damaging multiple houses, according to the district's emergency management bureau.

2 Indian nationals arrested by US

**New York:** Two Indian nationals were arrested by US authorities for illegally entering the country last week, border officials said. Houlton Sector Border Patrol agents arrested the two Indian nationals who had illegally crossed the international boundary on foot near the northeastern state of Maine August 1, a statement by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said. "These apprehensions are unique in that Border Patrol agents in Maine have only encountered 15 Indian nationals in the previous three fiscal years," the CBP said. The two persons will be prosecuted and will also be placed into removal proceedings.

Man charged in Indian student's murder

**Ottawa:** The man who fired the stray bullet that killed 21-year-old Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa in Canada has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder, an official said. Hamilton Police, who arrested 32-year-old Jerdaine Foster at Niagara Falls in Ontario Tuesday, also charged him with three counts of attempted murder, CBC News quoted Acting Det-Sgt Daryl Reid as saying in a news conference.

Israel approves plan to take control of Gaza City

REUTERS

**Jerusalem/Cairo, August 8:** Israel's political-security cabinet approved a plan to take control of Gaza City early Friday, hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel intended to take military control of the entire strip despite intensifying criticism at home and abroad over the devastating almost two-year-old war. "The IDF will prepare to take control of Gaza City while providing humanitarian aid to the civilian population outside the combat zones," Netanyahu's office said in a statement, referring to the Israeli Defence Forces.

Gaza City, in the north of the strip, is the largest city in the enclave. Axios reporter Barak Ravid, citing an Israeli official, said on X the plan involved evacuating Palestinian civilians from Gaza City and launching a ground offensive there.

Netanyahu Thursday told Fox News Channel's Bill Hemmer in an interview "we intend to" when asked if Israel would take over the entire coastal territory. "We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter. We don't want to govern it. We don't want to be there as a governing body."

He said Israel wanted to hand over the territory to Arab forces that would govern it. He did not elaborate on the governance arrangements or which Arab countries could be involved.

Netanyahu made the comments to Fox News ahead of a meeting with a small group of senior ministers to discuss plans for the military to take control of more territory in Gaza.

Israeli officials described a previous meeting this week with the head of the military as tense, saying military chief



Netanyahu says he wants military control, but not to act as governing body	Military chief has pushed back against expanding Gaza campaign	Opinion polls show most Israelis want deal to release hostages
Israel's military assault has devastated Gaza	Israel comes under fresh criticism from abroad	Opposition leader calls Gaza City plan a disaster
Hostage families condemn decision		About 20 living hostages still held in Gaza, Israeli officials believe

Eyal Zamir had pushed back on expanding Israel's campaign.

In its Friday statement, Netanyahu's office said the vast majority of the political-security cabinet members believed that "the alternative plan presented in the cabinet would not achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages."

Two government sources said any resolution by the security cabinet would need to be approved by the full cabinet, which may not meet until Sunday.

Among the scenarios being considered ahead of the security meeting was a phased takeover of areas in Gaza not yet under military control, one of the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Evacuation warnings could be issued to Palestinians in specific areas of Gaza, potentially giving them several weeks before the military moves in, the person added.



What we do see... is that the reason that Russia has again shown some willingness to talk, is that the increased arms deliveries (to Ukraine) are definitely piling up the pressure on Russia to find a way out of the war

ELINA VALTONEN | FOREIGN MINISTER, FINLAND

United Airlines outage grounds US flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Houston, August 8:** A sweeping technology outage forced United Airlines to ground flights across the US, causing widespread delays and cancellations that affected thousands of passengers — including many from the Indian diaspora flying home for weddings, family visits, or returning to work after summer.

The glitch, traced to the airline's aging Unimatic system used for flight dispatch and load planning, brought operations at major hubs to a halt for several hours Wednesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) confirmed that United requested a nationwide ground stop, which has since been lifted, but delays were still rippling across the network Thursday.



United called it a "control-lable delay", pledging to cover hotels and related costs where needed, and emphasized that the outage was not cybersecurity-related.

"Safety is our top priority, and we'll work with our customers to get them to their destinations," the airline said in a statement.

FlightAware, a website tracking flight disruptions, reported that about 35 per cent of all the airline's flights were delayed and 7 per cent were cancelled Wednesday.

United's travel alert warned of disruptions through the weekend at key US and international airports including Newark, Houston, Chicago, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Orlando, New York, Honolulu, Guam, London, Frankfurt and Munich.

AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA TO SIGN PEACE DEAL

Azerbaijan and Armenia will sign an initial US-brokered peace agreement during a meeting with US President Donald Trump Friday, a deal aimed at boosting economic ties between the two countries after decades of conflict, the White House said



China welcomes PM Modi's planned visit to attend SCO Summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, August 8:** China Friday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to the Tianjin Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held later this month, expressing hope that the event would be a "gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results".

Prime Minister Modi is expected to travel to China later this month after a gap of over seven years to attend the annual summit of the SCO, people familiar with the matter in Delhi said this week.

"China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said while responding to a question on reports about Modi's visit to China to attend the Tianjin summit to be held from August 31 to September 1.

"We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productivity," Guo said.

Guo said that leaders of over 20 countries, including all member states of the SCO and heads of 10 international organisations, will attend relevant events.

"The SCO Tianjin Summit will be the largest summit in scale since the establishment of the SCO," the spokesperson added.

Modi is expected to embark



on a visit to Japan around August 29, and after concluding the trip, he will travel to the Chinese city of Tianjin for the SCO summit.

There is no official confirmation yet on Modi's two-nation visit to Japan and China.

Modi last visited China in June 2018 to attend the SCO summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India in October 2019 for the second "informal summit". However, the relationship came under stress due to the eastern Ladakh border face-off.

The military standoff in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and the clashes at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties. The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised October 21 last year.

In the last few months, both sides revived the Special Representative dialogue on the boundary question and other dialogue mechanisms.

Japanese warships visit New Zealand's capital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wellington, August 8:** Japanese warships docked in New Zealand's capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in the South Pacific Ocean.

Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbour accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury. The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan's military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand, Australia and other countries.

The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions.

"Our defence force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries," Japan's



envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. "Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific."

The ambassador's remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia's government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm. While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defence

industry agreement between the countries.

New Zealand too has sought to shore up its strategic and military relations in Asia as part of a foreign policy reset in recent years that the government says has turned more attention on Pacific cooperation and security. Officials in Wellington announced in July that work had started on a defence logistics agreement with Japan, intended to make it easier for the countries' militaries to work together.

Simulated Chinese blockade of Taiwan reveals Singapore as lifeline

REUTERS

**Hong Kong/Taipei, August 8:** The exercise presented a fraught scenario: China's military had blockaded Taiwan by air and sea, and Southeast Asian countries were grappling with how to evacuate as many as 1 million of their nationals trapped on the besieged island.

Over two days in April at a Singapore hotel, some 40 participants and observers in the war game, including serving and retired Asia-Pacific officials and military officers, as well as security scholars, simulated their responses to the unfolding crisis, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Hours ticked by as some players weighed unified action through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, while others reached out to the mock US, Chinese and Japanese delegates to negotiate special air and sea corridors to extract foreign nationals. Eventually, the people said, a stark conclusion emerged: The Southeast Asian states needed a Singaporean airlift to have a chance of evacuating their people.

"Nothing was moving until the Singaporeans stepped in at the 11th hour," said one participant in the event at the Jen Singapore Tanglin hotel. "They had found a way of getting their own people out, and offered to get others out, too."

Reflecting its discreet and



decades-old security presence inside Taiwan, where its forces train, Singapore was able to leverage access to airfields and aircraft, the person said. But the exercise ended before

any detailed discussion of how Singapore had reached a deal with China to secure an evacuation route through the blockade, or how precisely it would work, three of the people told

- Scenario simulated responses to a Chinese military blockade of Taiwan
- Challenge was evacuation of Southeast Asian nationals from Taiwan, sources say
- Singapore's military presence in Taiwan emerged as key element
- Exercise offers glimpse of contingency planning over Taiwan amid China drills

Reuters. The previously unreported exercise comes amid an escalating battle between the US and China for dominance in the Asia-Pacific region. It offers a rare window into contin-

gency planning over Taiwan, which some Asian and Western military attaches and security analysts say is becoming increasingly necessary because an assault on the island by Beijing could draw in the US and imperil other countries.

While the scenario didn't reflect official policies, participants playing the roles of foreign and defence ministers worked from the known positions of at least nine governments depicted in the simulation, said the four people, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. Besides Singapore, China, Taiwan and the US, the rest included Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, they said.



of the day

quote

Currently the global economy appears to be in a flux. Of course we need full support from the industry

JAYANT CHAUDHARY | MINISTER FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The growing adoption of the China+1 strategy gives India a prime opportunity to compete effectively with China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, and rare earth minerals

RAHUL JAIN | INDIA-HEAD, BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

A board that never disagrees is not aligned - it's asleep. Divergent views, when rooted in purpose and mutual respect, strengthen the board. They test assumptions, lead to deeper discussions, and enable constructive decision-making

TUHN KANTA PANDEY | CHIEF, SEBI

Q1 RESULTS

SBI posts 10% growth

**Mumbai:** State Bank of India Friday reported a 9.71 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹21,201 crore in the June 2025 quarter, helped by a handsome performance on the treasury and forex income. On a standalone basis, the country's largest lender's net profit grew to ₹19,160 crore from ₹17,035 crore in the year-ago period. Despite an 11.6 per cent jump in overall advances, the core net interest income declined by 0.13 per cent to ₹41,072 crore, as net interest margins contracted by 0.33 per cent to 3.02 per cent, following the RBI's deep rate cuts and the time taken for deposit rate repricing impacted the spreads.

Tata Motors net dips

**New Delhi:** Tata Motors Friday reported a 62.2 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹4,003 crore in the June quarter, impacted by volume decline across segments, drop in JLR profits and high base effect due to gain from sale of discontinued operations. The auto major had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹10,587 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal, Tata Motors Ltd (TML) said. During the quarter, its total revenue from operations stood at ₹1,04,407 crore against ₹1,07,102 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

EV frenzy: July sales zoom 93%



Tata Motors led the space with sales of 6,047 units, an increase of 19% YoY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Electric passenger vehicle retail sales jumped 93 per cent year-on-year in July, led by Tata Motors, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said Friday.

Total electric passenger vehicle registrations rose to 15,528 units last month as compared with 8,037 units in the year-ago period, it said.

Tata Motors led the space with sales of 6,047 units, an increase of 19 per cent year-on-year, as compared to 5,100 units in July last year. Electric two-wheeler space witnessed a drop of 4 per cent year-on-year to 1,02,973 units in July as compared to 1,07,655 units in the same month last year. TVS Motor Company led the segment with registrations of 22,256 units, an increase

Textiles, jewellery at centre of the storm

Indian textiles, jewellery at risk of 50% Trump tariffs; pharma, phones exempt



REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 8:** US President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff on goods imported from India this week, citing New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil. The new import tax, effective 21 days after August 7, will raise duties on some Indian goods to as high as 50% - among the highest levied on any US trading partner.

While some sectors like smartphones, pharmaceuticals and energy are currently exempt from any reciprocal tariffs, other items like gems and jewellery, textiles and some auto components, which make up a large part of Indian exports to the US, will take a hit.

Below are some of the largest exports to the US from India.

SMARTPHONES

Apple Inc suppliers Foxconn Hon Hai, Tata Electronics, Pegatron Corp and Wistron Infocomm are the largest exporters from India to the US, shipping smartphones and other products worth nearly \$7 billion in 2024. In the first six months of 2025, the companies have already exported goods worth \$11 billion, commercially available customs data showed.

Cabinet okays ₹30K-cr subsidy to compensate oil firms for LPG losses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Cabinet Friday approved ₹30,000 crore LPG subsidy to state-run oil companies - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) - to compensate for losses incurred from selling LPG at below cost over the past 15 months.

The compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs) will be paid in 12 tranches, as per an official statement.

The international prices of LPG were at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the in-

crease in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, leading to significant losses for the three OMCs.

Despite the losses, public sector oil marketing companies have ensured continuous supplies of domestic LPG in the country at affordable prices.

This compensation will allow OMCs to continue meeting their critical requirements such as crude and LPG procurement, servicing of debt, and sustaining their capital expenditure, thereby ensuring uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households across the country, it added. The distribution of the compensation within the OMCs will be done by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The United States is the largest market for India's gems and jewellery sector, accounting for goods worth \$10 billion last year, making up nearly 30% of its total global sales.

Diamond and gem manufacturers Shree Ramkrishna Exports, Gia India and Kiran Gems are the largest export-

ers to the US. India's Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council has warned that the tariffs could bring the industry to a standstill, especially with competing manufacturing hubs such as Turkey, Vietnam and Thailand being taxed at lower rates.

**TEXTILES** India's textile industry is already receiving panic-stricken calls from customers after Trump announced the additional 25% tariff.

Apparel and textile companies like Shahi Exports, Wel-spun, Indo Count Industries, Trident and Gokaldas Exports are top exporters that are likely to take a hit with tariffs rising to 50%.

In 2024, the companies exported goods worth over \$2 billion and in the first half of 2025 shipped products of about \$1 billion to US clients including Walmart, Target, Costco and Gap.

**AUTO COMPONENTS** India's auto components sector has grown rapidly over the last few years and is one of the few industries that records a trade surplus. The US is its largest export market, making up close to a third of global trade.

In 2024, India exported components worth \$6.6 billion to the US. Of this, over \$3.5 billion comprised parts for cars and small trucks that are currently exempt from the 50% tariff and will pay just 25%. The main ex-

D-St sees longest weekly losing run in five years

REUTERS

**Mumbai, August 8:** India's equity benchmarks fell Friday, posting their sixth straight weekly loss as US tariffs, trade uncertainty and muted earnings dampened sentiment.

The Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex dropped 0.95% each to 24,363.3 points and 79,857.79, respectively. For the week, they shed 0.8% and 0.9%, respectively. This would be their longest losing streak since April 2020.

Losses were broad-based, with 13 of 16 major sectors ending the week in the red. Small-cap and mid-cap indexes declined 1.4% and 1.1%.

IT and pharma indexes lost 0.7% and 2.8%, while financials and energy fell 1.2% and 1.4%, respectively.

Investor sentiment remained fragile amid ongoing uncertainty over a potential US-India trade deal and underwhelming earnings.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump ruled out, opens new tab further talks until the tariff dispute is resolved. This followed a move to double tariffs to 50%, citing India's oil imports from Russia.

GDP could dip to 6%: Moody's

**Moody's Ratings Friday said India's GDP growth is likely to slow down by about 30 basis points to 6 per cent in the current fiscal if the US implements 50 per cent tariffs from August 27. However, resilient domestic demand and the strength of the services sector will mitigate the strain on India, Moody's said, adding that India's response to high US tariffs will ultimately determine the effect on its growth, inflation and external position. "Should India continue to procure Russian oil at the expense of the headline 50 per cent tariff rate on goods it ships to the US, which is currently its largest export destination, we project that real GDP growth may slow by around 0.3 percentage points compared with our current forecast of 6.3 per cent growth for fiscal 2025-26 (ending March 2026)," Moody's said. The 50 per cent tariff on India compares with the 15-20 per cent duty for other Asia-Pacific countries. India and the US have been negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) since March, with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade in goods and services to \$500 billion by 2030 from the current \$191 billion. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed. Moody's said India retains sufficient foreign-reserve currency buffers to weather external volatility. "The magnitude of the drag on growth from tariff obstacles will influence the government's decision to pursue a fiscal policy response, although we anticipate the government will adhere to its focus on gradual fiscal and debt consolidation," said the US-based rating agency.**

**TRUMP TARIFFS TIRADE**

GOLD SCALES FRESH ALL-TIME HIGH

The yellow metal climbs ₹800 to touch new record of ₹1,03,420/10 g

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

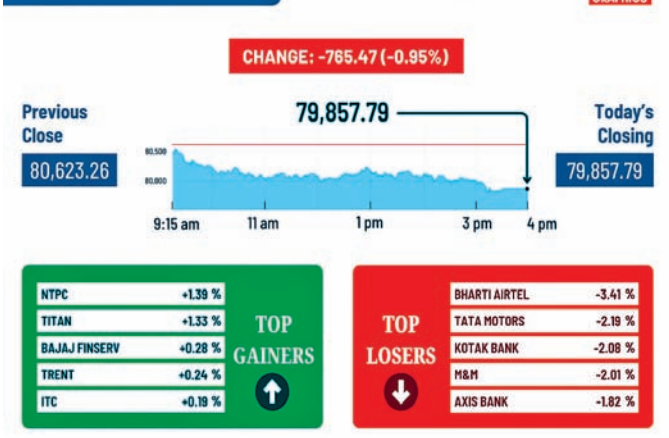
**New Delhi, August 8:** Gold prices climbed by ₹800 to hit a fresh all-time high of ₹1,03,420 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday due to persistent buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity added ₹3,600 in the preceding session to hit a new closing peak of ₹1,02,620 per 10 grams.

In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also jumped by ₹800 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,03,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Fri-

day, surpassing its earlier lifetime high of ₹1,02,200 per 10

BSE SENSEX



**S**ensex tanks 765.47 points or 0.95% to settle at 79,857.79

**N**ifty drops 232.85 points or 0.95% to 24,363.30

**E**xtending losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, Sensex dropped 742.12 points or 0.92%, and the Nifty declined 202.05 points or 0.82%

Among individual stocks, Adani Enterprises fell 7.4% this week, extending losses after posting disappointing quarterly results July 31.

Textile exporters including KPR Mill, Gokaldas Exports, Vardhman Textiles, and Tri-

OPENAI RELEASES GPT-5

OpenAI has released the fifth generation of the artificial intelligence technology that powers ChatGPT, a product update that's being closely watched as a measure of whether generative AI is advancing rapidly or hitting a plateau. GPT-5 arrives more than two years after the March 2023 release of GPT-4, book-ending a period of intense commercial investment, hype and worry over AI's capabilities



en calls from customers after Trump announced the additional 25% tariff.

Apparel and textile companies like Shahi Exports, Wel-spun, Indo Count Industries, Trident and Gokaldas Exports are top exporters that are likely to take a hit with tariffs rising to 50%.

In 2024, the companies exported goods worth over \$2 billion and in the first half of 2025 shipped products of about \$1 billion to US clients including Walmart, Target, Costco and Gap.

AUTO COMPONENTS

India's auto components sector has grown rapidly over the last few years and is one of the few industries that records a trade surplus. The US is its largest export market, making up close to a third of global trade.

In 2024, India exported components worth \$6.6 billion to the US. Of this, over \$3.5 billion comprised parts for cars and small trucks that are currently exempt from the 50% tariff and will pay just 25%. The main ex-

porters include Sona Comstar and Samvardhan Motherson.

However, exports of components for commercial vehicles like large trucks and agriculture equipment, worth about

\$3 billion, will attract a 50% tariff. Bharat Forge, whose customers include companies like Caterpillar and Volvo, and John Deere are among the largest exporters of such parts.

**ENERGY AND RENEWABLES** Manufacturers of solar equipment like cells and modules, wind turbines and other energy products have significant exports to the US but with little to worry about so far as they are exempt from tariffs.

Companies including billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, Mundra Solar, a unit of conglomerate Adani Group, Waaree Energies, LM Wind Power, Schneider Electric and GE Power are among the largest exporters of energy and renewable equipment.

RUPTEE VS DOLLAR



In the last five sessions, the yellow metal prices have risen by ₹5,800 per 10 grams

In the last five sessions, the yellow metal prices have risen by ₹5,800 per 10 grams. Silver prices also rallied ₹1,000 to ₹1,15,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday. It had settled at ₹1,14,000 per kg on Thursday, as per the association. The white metal has added ₹5,500 per kilogram in the last five sessions.

PSU banks mint record profit in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Led by State Bank of India (SBI), public sector banks cumulatively logged a record profit of ₹44,218 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal, with a growth of 11 per cent year-on-year.

All 12 public sector banks together made a profit of ₹39,974 crore in June quarter of FY25. The increase in profit in absolute terms was ₹4,244 crore.

Market leader SBI alone contributed 43 per cent to the total earnings of ₹44,218 crore, as per the published numbers on stock exchanges.

SBI logged a net profit of ₹19,160 crore in Q1 FY26, 12 per cent higher than the same period of previous fiscal.

In percentage terms, Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank reported the highest net profit growth of 76 per cent to ₹1,111 crore, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with 48 per cent rise to ₹269 crore.

During the quarter, all 12 public sector banks (PSBs) except Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported a decline in profit.



FOOTBALL  
CRISIS

# ISL clubs seek SC's help

11 ISL clubs urge AIFF to urgently bring ‘current situation’ of Indian football to top court’s attention



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Eleven Indian Super League clubs Friday urged the AIFF to urgently bring the current situation of Indian football arising out of the uncertainty over ISL's future to the attention of the Supreme Court before which a case relating to the constitution of the national federation is pending.

The ISL clubs, in a letter, said that they will have no option but to seek judicial recourse independently if the All India Football Federation does not act on their request. Out of the 13 ISL clubs, Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal did not sign the letter.

The development came a day after the AIFF proposed

the Super Cup in September to ensure sufficient competitive matches for the clubs after ISL organisers FSDL put a "pause" on the league due to uncertainty over the renewal of Master Rights Agreement (MRA) it signed with the national federation in 2010.

Following a directive from the Supreme Court, the AIFF has been asked not to negotiate new terms of the MRA (with FSDL) until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.

"We respectfully urge the AIFF, in its capacity as the statutory regulator of football in India and the principal party to the proceedings, to urgently bring the current situation to the attention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India," the 11

ISL clubs said in a joint letter addressed to AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey.

"This may be done by mentioning the matter for urgent listing and judgment and apprising the Hon'ble Court of the current situation to ensure that the ISL and associated competitions may proceed. We believe such a step is both legally permissible and in the interest of safeguarding Indian football, the AIFF's own regulatory mandate, and the welfare of all stakeholders involved."

The clubs said they were "somewhat surprised that the statute has not already been brought to the Court's attention, given its gravity and implications for the sport."

"... during the last hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme

Court ... the Hon'ble Judges orally observed that no major decisions should be taken until final orders are passed, which has resulted in a de facto holding pattern for the Indian Super League and associated football activities.

"This legal uncertainty and administrative vacuum are now threatening to cause irreversible damage to the Indian football ecosystem. Clubs are unable to plan or invest, commercial contracts are on hold, and the livelihoods of thousands of players, staff, support personnel, and stakeholders are at immediate risk. Moreover, this situation could seriously derail the momentum of football development in the country..."

The clubs made it clear that

they will approach the Supreme Court on their own if the AIFF does not act on their request.

"We would be happy to support the AIFF legally and work jointly towards this, in a manner that protects the interests of Indian football and all its constituents. It is in the best interest of all concerned that the AIFF, as the main party and regulator, takes immediate initiative in this regard. Based on legal advice, the ISL clubs are preparing to independently approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for relief. However, given that the clubs are not formal parties to the current proceedings, this may not be the most efficient or effective route to resolve the situation. Should the AIFF choose not to act, we reiterate that the ISL clubs will have no option but to seek judicial recourse independently, to protect the integrity of the League and the interests of the sport," the letter said.

ISL, the country's top-tier league, normally runs from September to April, and the current MRA between Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which organises the event, and the AIFF is scheduled to expire on December 8, 2025, by which the ISL would have entered its third month.

On July 11, ISL organisers FSDL announced that it has put the 2025-26 season "on hold" due to the uncertainty surrounding the renewal of the MRA signed with the AIFF in 2010.

Two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC Wednesday announced a temporary suspension of operations for their first-team players and staff, citing the ongoing uncertainty over the league's future. Earlier, Bengaluru FC and Odisha FC have suspended salaries of first team players and staff.

Officials of all the 13 ISL clubs, as well as FSDL representatives, had attended Thursday's meeting with the AIFF in New Delhi either in person or in virtual mode.

## CANADIAN OPEN

# Shelton claims maiden ATP Masters 1000 title



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Toronto, August 8:** Ben Shelton won the biggest title of his career to-date after claiming the Canadian Open men's singles crown after a pulsating final 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3) victory against Karen Khachanov.

Shelton becomes the youngest American ATP Masters 1000 champion since 21-year-old Andy Roddick won the 2004 Miami title. He also surged to fourth in the ATP Live Race to Turin, boosting his chances of qualifying for the ATP Finals in November.

After edging two matches in the earlier rounds in third-set

tiebreaks, Shelton had to do it again in final. He dropped the opening set in a breaker but fought back to take the second. In the shootout at 6-6, he raced out to a quick 3-0 lead which he never surrendered, finishing off the win on his second match point. The final lasted two hours and 48 minutes.

Shelton is the fourth first-time Masters 1000 champion in 2025, joining Jack Draper (Indian Wells), Jakub Mensik (Miami), and Casper Ruud (Madrid). It is the third title of Shelton's career, adding to triumphs in Tokyo in 2023 and Houston in 2024. He has won at least one title for three straight years.

## Mboko stuns Osaka to bag first WTA 1000 title

**Montreal:** An 18-year-old Canadian wild card Victoria Mboko stunned four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 to win her first WTA 1000 title on home soil at the Canadian Open. After dropping the first set in the championship match, Mboko once again showed her resilience and fighting spirit, breaking in the opening game of the second set which seemed to throw Osaka off her game even though she managed to break back twice during the frame. Mboko carried her momentum into the final set, cruising to victory against a discouraged opponent to achieve a destiny that seemed written in the stars from the moment she stepped foot in Montreal. The victory moves Mboko to a career-high No 25 on the WTA rankings, guaranteeing that she will be seeded for the first at a Grand Slam in New York later this month. Since 1970, Mboko is the second Canadian semifinalist, finalist, and champion, at the Canadian Open after Bianca Andreescu in 2019. Coming into the tournament, Mboko was ranked 85th in the world. Her victory makes her the second-lowest ranked player to win a Tier I WTA 1000 title since the format's introduction in 1990. She is the second player since 2009 to claim her maiden title at a WTA 1000 event. Mboko is the second wildcard to win the National Bank Open after Monica Seles in 1995.



## SHORT TAKES

### Arjun held, Vidit suffers shock defeat

**Chennai:** Top seeded Indian Arjun Erigaisi was held to a draw by Dutch GM Jorden van Foreest, while Vidit Gujrathi suffered a shock defeat to American Ray Robson in the second round of Chennai Grand Masters Chess tournament here Friday. Germany's Vincent Keymer emerged as the sole leader in the Masters section at the end of day two, with a commanding win over India's V Pranav. Meanwhile, American GM Robson delivered the biggest upset of the day, defeating Gujrathi in a sharp tactical battle. Anish Giri and Nihal Sarin shared the spoils in a well-balanced clash, and the showdown between Karthikeyan Murali and Awonder Liang also ended in a draw. In the Challengers section, Indian GM Iniyen Pa impressed with a clinical win over GM Harika Dronavalli, while GM Abhimanyu Puranik bounced back with a victory over Leon Luke Mendonca.

### Pak player suspended amid rape investigation

**Manchester:** Pakistan batsman Haider Ali is under criminal investigation in England, his country's cricket board said while Greater Manchester Police said an arrest has been made following a rape allegation. The Pakistan Cricket Board said an investigation "involving cricketer Haider Ali" stemmed from "an incident that reportedly occurred during the Pakistan Shaheens' recent tour of England." The PCB did not specify the nature of the investigation into the 24-year-old Ali. Greater Manchester Police told The Associated Press that Monday they received a report of a rape and that "we have arrested a 24-year-old man." "It's alleged that the incident occurred on Wednesday 23 July 2025 at a premises in Manchester," the police statement added. "The man has since been bailed pending further enquiries." The PCB suspended Ali "effective immediately, pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation." "The PCB fully respects the legal procedures and processes of the United Kingdom and acknowledges the importance of allowing the investigation to run its due course," it said.

# Sub-jr Men's Hockey Nationals: Punjab crowned champions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 8:** Hockey Punjab was crowned as the champions of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2025 as they won the final of Division 'A' defeating Hockey Jharkhand 4-3 Friday.

The match between Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Punjab was a closely contested final, with both teams fighting till the final whistle. Hockey Jharkhand started the second quarter strongly, scoring two back-to-back goals through Ashish Tani Purti (21') and Anish Dungdung (24').



However, Hockey Punjab quickly equalised with Akshit Salaria (29') and Varinder Singh (30') scoring in quick succession. Jharkhand's Sukhu Guria (42') attempted to swing the game in his team's favour, but a brace by Punjab's Mandeep Singh (45', 53') sealed the deal

for Hockey Punjab, crowning them champions of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2025.

In the bronze medal match, Uttar Pradesh Hockey outclassed Hockey Madhya Pradesh to claim the third spot in the tournament.

## IPL BUZZ

# Ashwin, CSK in talks amid move rumours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 8:** Senior Indian off-spinner R Ashwin is in discussions with the Chennai Super Kings about his future in the IPL franchise amid speculation that he might seek his release from the team.

With over two months still left before the deadline for retentions, Ashwin, it is reliably learnt, has had conversations with the CSK brass about his role going forward.

"It is early stages to decide on any player's future. The cut off date for retention is yet to be announced. So we have time," an IPL source told PTI.

"It's a pre-auction plan to hold discussions with players and Ashwin, being a senior, is part of it. It is a mutual discussion to understand his role in the team ahead of next IPL season," he added.

The 38-year-old Ashwin, who retired from international cricket last year, was bought for Rs 9.75 crore in the mega auction before the 2025 season.

It was a homecoming of sorts for the Chennai-based player, who earlier turned up for CSK



from 2009 to 2015.

He later went on to play for the now-defunct Rising Pune Super Giant and the then Kings XI Punjab (currently Punjab Kings) in 2018.

He played nine games in the season gone by, picking up just seven wickets in a largely disappointing season for the team as it finished bottom of the heap with four wins and 10 losses.

There are speculations that CSK might rope in wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who wants to leave his current team -- Rajasthan Royals.

"We have certain players in our mind to add to our line up next season. But so far, we have not had discussions with anyone, as I said there is a lot of time for player retention etc," the source said.

REUTERS

**Washington, August 8:** Nine players from treble-winning Paris St Germain have been nominated for the men's Ballon d'Or this year along with the club's coach Luis Enrique as France Football announced the list of nominees Thursday.

Ousmane Dembele, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Desire Doue, Achraf Hakimi, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Nuno Mendes, Joao Neves, Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha are all on the list of 30 players nominated for the big prize.

Dembele scored 35 goals and claimed 16 assists in all competitions as PSG won the Ligue 1 title, French Cup and Champions League and were Club World Cup runners-up to Chelsea.

Other nominees include Barcelona's Raphinha (34 goals, 25 assists), Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (34 goals, 23 assists), who was named Premier League Player of the Season, and Manchester City striker Erling Haaland (34 goals, five assists).

Scott McTominay, Serie A's Most Valuable Player after guiding Napoli to the title, was also nominated as the first

## TREBLE-WINNING CAMPAIGN

# Nine PSG players on Ballon d'Or shortlist



Scotsman in 38 years to make the shortlist.

Barca's Lamine Yamal (18 goals, 25 assists) made the cut while the 18-year-old winger was also nominated for the Kopa Trophy for best Under-21 player, an award he won last year.

Five England players were nominated for the women's Ballon d'Or after their Euros triumph, including goalkeeper Hannah Hampton, Lucy Bronze, Alessia Russo, Chloe Kelly and Leah Williamson.

Marta, who came out of retirement to lead Brazil to the women's Copa America

title at the age of 39, was also nominated.

Along with Luis Enrique, Enzo Maresca, who guided Chelsea to the Club World Cup title, and Liverpool's Arne Slot, who won the Premier League crown in his first season at the club, were nominated for the men's Coach of the Year award.

The women's coach nominees are led by Sonia Bompastor, who won a domestic treble at Chelsea, Renee Slegers, who took Arsenal to their second Champions League crown, and Sarina Wiegman after she helped England retain their Euros title.

## NOMINATIONS

**Men:** Jude Bellingham, Ousmane Dembele, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Desire Doue, Denzel Dumfries, Serhou Guirassy, Viktor Gyokeres, Erling Haaland, Achraf Hakimi, Harry Kane, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Robert Lewandowski, Alexis Mac Allister, Lautaro Martinez, Kylian Mbappe, Scott McTominay, Nuno Mendes, Joao Neves, Michael Olise, Cole Palmer, Pedri, Raphinha, Declan Rice, Fabian Ruiz, Mohamed Salah, Virgil van Dijk, Vinicius Jr, Vitinha, Florian Wirtz, Lamine Yamal

**Women:** Sandy Baltimore, Barbara Banda, Aitana Bonmati, Lucy Bronze, Klara Buehl, Mariona Caldentey, Sofia Cantore, Steph Catley, Temwa Chawinga, Melchie Dumornay, Emily Fox, Cristiana Girelli, Esther Gonzalez, Caroline Graham Hansen, Hannah Hampton, Pernille Harder, Patri Guijarro, Amanda Gutierrez, Lindsey Heaps, Chloe Kelly, Frida Leonhardsen-Maamun, Marta, Clara Mateo, Ewa Pajor, Claudia Pina, Alexia Putellas, Alessia Russo, Johanna Rytting Kaneryd, Caroline Weir, Leah Williamson