VOLUME 15, ISSUE 130 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | AUGUST 9, 2025

12 PAGE | ₹5.00











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SATURDAY | AUGUST 9, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

eisure



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, spark ing discussion among fans.



accuracy • reliability • trust

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 . İife, 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.

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

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

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.

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

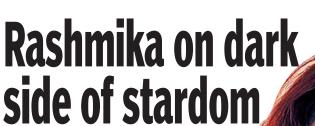
Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesha. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about.

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.



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 be-

tween 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 meaning ful performances

Shruti

talks about

her career

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 selfdoubt and uncertainty. In a candid

ow interview while proting her upcoming film Shruti revealed that actor tor 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 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 hitperhaps beyond the viral success of Kolaveri Di. Her next film, Coolie, starring Rajinikanth, releases August 14.

Mouni gets candid

Mumbai: Mouni Roy has opened up about the unexpected turn her career took after *Brahmastra*, revealing that the big opportuni-ties she anticipated never mate-In a candid interview with Th

Hollywood Reporter India, Mouni admitted that she was left out of several key casting conversations post the film, despite expecting her role in *Brahmastra* to open more doors. Though the reasons remain unclear, she noted that such exclusions are common in the industry, where actors are of ten the last consideration after decisions around scripts, production houses, and logistics are made. "If they can't visualise you in a role, you may not even get a call for a look test," she explained.

Despite the setbacks, Mouni has kept her career thriving through diverse work on OTT platforms like Sultan of Delhi, Showtime, and Salaakar. She has also hosted Temptation Island, judged reality shows, performed in dance numbers, and remained consistently busy. Choosing not to dwell on what didn't happen, Mouni believes in divine timing and feels grateful for all that she has

Having debuted in Bollywood with Gold (2018), Mouni has also starred in Romeo Akbar Walter,

Blackout, and The Bhootnii. She will next appear in David Dha wan's comedy Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Ho-

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—

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

in his life.

publicly, made many believe she wasn't a

suitable match. During a shoot in Goa,

Anwar advised Amitabh to end the re-

lationship, 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

prompting him to shift to another place.

PEANUTS

Coolie.

Dhanush and direc-





was a really supportive co-star, especially at that time in my life.



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



OOST **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
- 3 Garage 21 Greenish blue
- 22 Error contents
- 31 Snake Down

25 Little squirt

language

29 Court ploy

30 Iota preceder

27 African

28 Swap

- 1 Made fast, as a
- 2 High flier

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- relationship
 - container
 - 24 Border on 26 Vats

23 Orange

4 Streetcar

6 Devilfish

13 Wolf spider

15 Diminish

house

16 It's under a

18 Hot pepper

7 Put in stitches

5 Pasta

28 Road goo

2 5 3 4 8 5 2 3 5 6 3 9 2 8 4

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

1

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5 4

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

9

CROSSWORD

RIOTER BATSMEN ASSET NOYSCN

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

SUDOKU



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

imposition on non-Hindi speak-

ing states by the Centre, Tamil

Nadu Friday launched its own

education policy. Chief Minister MK Stalin said the state will

follow the bilingual policy of

Tamil and English as against

the three-language policy of the

NEP. With this, Tamil Nadu

becomes the first state to intro-

duce its own education policy

based on the set of recommen-

dations made by a 14-member

panel headed by retired Chief

Justice of Delhi High Court,

D Murugesan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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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 Jeypore 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

Chennai, August 8: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the state's new education policy Friday in response to the Centre's NEP that he considers to be against social justice and aimed at 'imposing'

Hindi upon the state. Tamil Nadu, he said, was firm in following the bilingual policy of Tamil and English and the new state education policy

has been framed to make the

own Education Policy ■ In the backdrop of the controversy over alleged Hindi

> students future-ready and well equipped, the Chief Minister said at an event.

The policy was deep-rooted in the progressive ideals and was aimed at creating students who think and ask questions rather than merely learn by memorising.

'We want to provide the necessary energy for future life. We want to create students who are technologically minded, creative, future-ready and well equipped," Stalin said while speaking at a state-level felicitation for school students and release of the State Education Policy, 2025.

Also, it has been proposed to give importance to physical activities, he added.

"Mother tongue Tamil is our identity, our pride. The English will be our firm stand. And I reaffirm this," Stalin said at the event organised by the school education department.

The Chief Minister gave away certificates of appreciation and laptops to the state government school students who secured admissions in institutes of higher education.

"It is a great joy to release the Tamil Nadu State School Education Policy, 2025. Tamil Nadu has a unique character in everything. There is progressive thinking. Based on that, we have created this education policy with the necessary vision for the future," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, state ministers, Chief Secretary N Muruganan dam, and senior officials were among those who participated.

There would be no public exam for Class XI, as per the Tamil Nadu SEP - School Education released by the Chief Minister at the Anna Centenary Library, here.

The policy is viewed as an alternative to the Centre's NEP

MODI DIALS PU

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 An nual 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.

Wild pigs turn up with 'neon blue' flesh



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.



Cong stages stir 7th edition of Mettle Meet kicks off today 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-vear-old college student. allegedly a victim of blackmail by her ex-boyfriend, set herself on fire and died in her house IMMOLATION DEATHS



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 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 Maihi.

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

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.

Bhubaneswar, August 8: The seventh edition of Odisha's biggest quizzing ex-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) -

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

> and XLRI, Jamshedpur will be making their debut in the seventh edition,

aiming to clinch the title on their very first attempt.

Mettle Meet, an ini-

tiative of Odisha's only homegrown 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

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- (BHUBANESWAR) DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (DPS), KALINGA
- · SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- KIIT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- ODM GLOBAL SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR) TIMES SCHOLARS GURUKUL
- (BHUBANESWAR) BUXI JAGABANDHU ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL
- (BJEM), (BHUBANESWAR)
- (KALINGA NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR)
- VIKASH RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
- (BHUBANESWAR) ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL (ROURKELA)
- MONTFORT SCHOOL (DHENKANAL)
- D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL (POKHARIPUT,
- BHUBANESWAR)
- D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL (CDA, CUTTACK) ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL
- (DHENKANAL)
- (UNIT-1, BHUBANESWAR)
- ROTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL (ANGUL)
- (NO.5, BHUBANESWAR) STEWART SCHOOL (CUTTACK)
- BHUBANESWAR MODEL PUBLIC SCHOOL
- DOON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- (BHUBANESWAR)
- KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA (NO.3, BHUBANESWAR)
- LOYOLA SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)
- SAINIK SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL
- (UNIT-8, BHUBANESWAR)
 ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL
- (NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK)
- BLESSED SACRAMENT HIGH SCHOOL (PURI) DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (ROURKELA)
- (CUTTACK)
- STEWART SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR) PRABHUJEE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL
- (BHUBANESWAR) JUPITER PUBLIC SCHOOL
- (BHUBANESWAR)
- VENKATESWAR ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)
- D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL BURLA
- (SAMBALPUR) DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL (DPS)
- KENDRIYA VIDYALA (NO.1, BALASORE)
- BJB HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (BHUBANESWAR)

SENIOR CATEGORY

- (BERHAMPUR)
 INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT

- INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR)
 SHRI JAGANNATH MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL (PURI)
 VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (VSSUT), (BURLA)
 ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ANI RESEARCH (OUTR)(BHUBANESWAR)
 SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL (CILITACK)
- (CUTTACK)
 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
- · COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, OUAT (BHUABANESWAR)
- · XAVIER INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

- XAVIER INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
 (BHUBANESWAR) (XIMB)
 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT)
 (BHUBANESWAR)
 UITKAL UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)
 UNITED SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
 (USBM) (BHUBANESWAR)
 FAKIR MOHAN MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
 (MAI ASOPE)
- (BALASORE)
- BJB AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE (BHUBANESWAR
- RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY (CUTTACK)
 NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLUO)

- (CUTTACK)

 **SILICON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

 (BHUBANESWAR)

 **ASTHA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
 (BHUBANESWAR)

 **GITA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE (BHUBANESWAR)

 **KIIT UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR)

 **HITECH MOSPITAL & MEDICAL COLLEGE
- . HI-TECH HOSPITAL & MEDICAL COLLEGE
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- IIM (CALCUTTA)
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- (BHUBANESWAR NIT (ROURKELA)
- · COLLEGE OF BASIC SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

COLLEGE OF BASIC SCIENCE AND HUMANITI (BHUBANESWAR) RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY (BHUBANESWAR) NARAYANA E-TECHNO SCHOOL (PATIA) D.A.V. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (BHUBANESWAR) INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IGIT) (SARANG)

Investiture Ceremony as the

chief guest and shared his ex-

perience in disaster manage

ment and relief, and encour-

Real-time road safety dashboard soon

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 in-

stitutions 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 re-

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 emer-

gency response times. Through the dashboard, citizens will also be able to nominate 'Raahveers' - local heroes and first responders who pro-

mote 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 onestop 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



Bhubaneswar, August 8: DPS Kalinga recently organised Investiture Ceremonies August 6 and 7, in which senior and iunior school cabinets 2025-26 were inducted into the stu-

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 Na-

gendra Sharma joined Senior

aged the students to follow the principles of Mahatma Gandhi of simplicity and service. Manam Foundation, Bhu baneswar chief psychological counsellor Soumva Suchari ta Mohapatra joined as chief guest during the Junior Inves titure Ceremony and congrat ulated the young leaders. She

stressed on the importance of

leadership qualities in becom-

ing a better student and a better

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT I, Father of minor Javanta 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,

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.

Semiliguda.

Santanu Swain new

al-time data, analytics, and vi-

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



"...the President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of Sikkim University, is pleased to appoint Prof Santanu Ku-

mar 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 recruit-

ment 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

officer said The body has been sent for post-mortem, and an investi-

gation 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

at the medical facility," a police

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

vears 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.

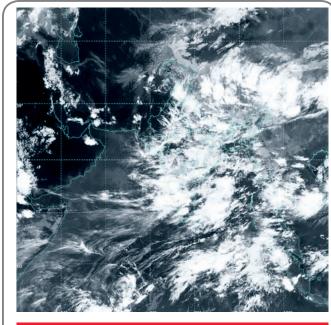
Highlighting the integrated nature of the campaign, UNICEF Odisha nutrition specialist

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 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





	WEATHER					
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST			
/lax Temp	30.2°	29.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of heavy rain or			
/lin Temp	25.4°	24.0°				
lumidity	92%	95%	thundershower			
tainfall	0.7mm	2.4mm				

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

Forest officials seize 4 elephant tusks, nab 5



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

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

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

SI suspended for torturing 'minor' wife, on the run

The SI then left his wife at

Jagatsinghpur SP Bhawani

her parental home in Jagats-

Sankar Udgata said that the SI

married a minor, and he was

booked under the Prohibition

of Child Marriage Act and

complaint from the victim,

a case has been registered at

Jagatsinghpur Town police sta-

tion. As the victim had earlier

informed him that she would

lodge a police complaint, Am-

it is absconding from Puri,"

about the incident, he suspend-

ed Amit from police service,'

Efforts are on to nab the SI.

non-bailable warrant against

The other accused family

members of Amit surrendered

before a local court as per an

order of the high court and got

priests stopped by locals

over 'forced conversion'

rescued a group of Christian nuns and priests, whose vehicles were

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

against anyone." The locals re-leased 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 Con-

ference of India has condemned the

incident, urging the Centre and state

governments to take strict action

against "fringe groups" involved in

Communist Party of India (Marx-ist), Odisha State Committee, has

strongly condemned the incident.

attacks against Christian minorities in several parts of the country. The

any written or oral complaint

Balasore: Odisha Police has

stopped on a road by locals in Balasore district on the suspicion

the accused," the SP said.

"We have also obtained a

"When we intimated Puri SP

"After receiving a written

inghpur, she added.

POCSO Act.

Udgata said.

Udgata said,

bail, he added.

Cops rescue nuns,

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 Baliapal 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

Ex-lover's family claims victim killed for honour

KENDRAPARA 'SELF-IMMOLATION'

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.

Police rejected reports that the victim's ex-boyfriend was arrested in Chennai

The woman, a third-year undergraduate student, died by suicide under mental stress after being blackmailed by her ex-boyfriend, the father alleged while talking to reporters.

However, in his written complaint, he did not mention anything about the ex-boyfriend or

"Yes, my son was in love with the woman who died. They were in a relationship which her father was opposed to. My son did not upload her photos on social media as claimed by her father. We doubt that the woman's death could be a case of honour killing by her family," the ex-boyfriend's mother told local television channels.

His sister challenged her family to provide evidence that her brother posted any video or photo of her on social media, as alleged.

The ex-boyfriend has been employed in Chennai.

The SP also rejected reports in a section of the media that the ex-boyfriend was arrested in the southern city.

"I do not confirm this news. I am personally supervising the case. The police have neither detained nor arrested anyone in this case," the SP said.

Drunken ambulance driver carrying pregnant woman dozes off mid-way jay Raita from Kanikipadar village, experienced labour Thurs-

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 Biday 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 Medi-

cal 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

BIGGEST SHOPPING FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL

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 prompt ly, 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 medical examination Friday and police have filed a case (173/25).

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

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

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

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

tim, Berhampur police registered a zero FIR and sent the same to Parksite police station in Mumbai for formal registration

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.

she became pregnant, the police said.

the local police.

After knowing the details from the vic-

of an FIR, the SP said. The victim was produced before the

Vedanta promotes menstrual hygiene in schools



Bhubaneswar: Vedanta producer of aluminium, or-ganised a week-long initiative focused on promoting menstrual hygiene and adolescent health in rural schools. The programme reached over 18 schools across Jamkhani, Kuraloi and Ghogharpalli, reaching out to more than

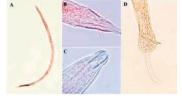
1,100 students from Class VI to X. Aimed at fostering open dialogue and awareness around personal health and wellbeing, the initiative included interactive learning sessions and distribution of gender-sensitisation materials such as heat bags and 'Menstrupedia' educational booklets. The session also 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."

Berhampur University researchers discover new round worm species

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

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 fluc-

tuations 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.



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THE MOTHER

Off The Leash

ome 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

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.

BABUDOM

BYTES

Dilip Cherian

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

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

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dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

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."

TRADE

TRUMPIAN IMPERIALISM

merica's 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.

Dani Rodrik

TRUMP'S

HELD UP A

MIRROR TO

RECOGNISE

THAT THEIR

SIGHT

OTHERS, AND

MOST SHOULD

REFLECTION IS

NOT A PRETTY

ACTIONS HAVE

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

dated – 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.

be challenged - not accommo-

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 cooperation - 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. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

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

▼he 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 vour hreath. 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 vet 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 signifi-

cantly. 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 recipro-

cal 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.

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Serious allegations

8. If Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of voter list fraud in the must work within four corners of law: SC,' Mahadevapura constituency of Bangalore — which falls under the Bangalore Central parliamentary seat — are accurate, it would represent a grave institu- that both the CBI and the ED are not the tional lapse by the Election Commission, striking at the foundation of democratic successful performer in investigating cases 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.

 ${\it N\,Sadhasiva\,Reddy},\,{\rm BANGALORE}$

Mockery of investigation

Sir, This refers to "Rahul claims proof of poll fraud," Orissa POST, August Sir, This refers to "ED can't act like crook, Orissa POST, August 8. There is no denying 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



TWO STATES





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

UP govt clears

proposals for 3 private varsities

Lucknow, August 8: The Ut-

tar 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

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

According to the decisions.

the Cabinet granted an intent

letter to Lala Fateh Chand Char-

itable Trust, Muzaffarnagar, for

the establishment of Vedanta

University in Muzaffarnagar

under the Uttar Pradesh Private

The proposed university

will be set up on 23.3349 acres

of land in village Hussainpur

Bopada, tehsil Khatauli, with-

in the Muzaffarnagar Devel-

opment Authority limits. The

high-level committee, headed

by the chief secretary, had rec-

letter of intent in its meeting

In a similar move, the Cab-

inet also cleared the estab-

lishment of KD University in

Mathura under the same pri-

vate 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

The Cabinet further ap-

proved the setting up of Bodhi-

sattva University in Barabanki.

The sponsoring body, Bodhisat-

tva Charitable Trust, Lucknow,

has earmarked 25.31 acres of

land in Gadia village, pargana

Deva, tehsil Nawabganj of Bara-

universities across the state.

held December 19, 2024.

press conference here.

Universities Act, 2019.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

so that a proper care of the el ephant 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

'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 ele phant 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

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, in digenous '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 Liveli hoods Mission (NRLM), a pov erty 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 'Atmanirbhai Bharat' and 'Make in India' NRLM has trained women at SHGs to produce 'rakhis' Efforts are also underway to market these products, offer ing buyers an alternative to imported, especially Chinese, 'rakhis' that often dominate

festival stalls in India. Prime Minister Modi had re cently 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 ac cess to markets. We urge every one 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.'

100 YEARS OF KAKORI TRAIN ACTION

Tracing links between GPO, Kabutarkhana row **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



Lucknow, August 8: Located nearly 2.5 kilometres away from each other in Lucknow, the General Post Office (GPO) in Hazratgani 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, admit ted 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 staved 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



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-

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

mumbai Municipal Corpora-

tion (BMC) officials August 3

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 agi-

tators, 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

Maha woman gives new direction to life with Paithani weaving art

FROM PENURY TO PROSPERITY

banki district.

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. 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.

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,"

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

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)



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) रूपये से पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा और उसकी पहचान गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

कंट्रोल रूम संपर्क नंबर : 0755-2993368 ई-मेल आईडी : zdbzu-ncb@nic.in स्वापक नियंत्रण ब्यूरो, भोपाल आंचलिक ईकाई, भोपाल (म.प्र.)

CBC 19126/11/0065/2526



नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो, भोपाल जोनल यूनिट एनसीबी भोपाल के केस नंबर 01/2020 में वांछित आरोपी गौरांग पात्रा, पुत्र - ईश्वर पात्रा गाँव - रुंडीमाहुल, तहसील - कंटामल, जिला - बौध, ओडिशा

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national



When Rahul Gandhi wins elections, everything is okay. When the BJP wins, he says there is some 'gondogol' (wrongdoing)

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

KAMAL HAASAN MEETS PM NARENDRA MODI

Superstar Kamal Haasan shared a series of pictures on social media as he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and said he has placed some requests before him. Haasan, who is also a Rajya Sabha member, uploaded a post on his X handle Thursday, comprising pictures featuring the actor alongside Modi





Bank stated Maharashtra accounted for 49 per cent of over-

all projects in the country. We felt good about the report and we used to quote it in every speech. But today when I look back, what I see is 40 per cent of the total projects in the state have still not been completed DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

Man's fanaticism creates anger and hatred which leads to MOHAN BHAGWAT I



Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi Ji announced a new component under the existing central government scheme of special development package for Tripura MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT TAKES

Five killed as tree falls on bus

Barabanki (UP): Five passengers, including four women, were killed Friday after a tree fell on a running bus on Haidergarh-Harakh road in Barabanki district, police said. The Uttar Pradesh roadways bus left for Haidergarh from the Barabanki bus stop with about 60 passengers at 10.30 am. As the bus reached near Harakh village, a cluster fig tree (gular) suddenly fell on it due to heavy rain, causing considerable damage to the vehicle, police said.

Two CRPF jawans injured in IED blast

Ranchi: At least two jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force were injured in an IED blast at Chaibasa in district, police said Friday. The incident took place in Mankey area near Jaraikela, within the dense Saranda forest, during a search operation conducted by CRPF personnel, around noon, an officer said. The injured personnel, both belonging to CRPF's CoBRA battalion, were airlifted to Ranchi for better treatment.

Man gets 20 years in jail for rape case

Thane: A man was sentenced to 20 years in jail for raping and impregnating a minor girl in Thane's Kalyan area. District Judge SM Chandgade, in his order of Thursday, convicted Rahul Raju Jadhav (33) under provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Indian Penal Code and also fined him ₹1000. In September 2019, the family of the girl noticed something amiss in her general behaviour and took her to a doctor, who said she was seven months pregnant.

4 charred to death

Morbi (Guj): Four persons, among them two children. were charred to death in a collision involving two heavy vehicles and a car on a highway in Guiarat's Morbi district, police said Friday. The accident occurred on a national highway near Haripar village around 11 pm Thursday, an official said. Superintendent of Police Rahul Tripathi said a container entered the road from the wrong side and overturned, causing a collision between a truck and a car, which caught fire.

SC deletes observations SC junks AI safety audit plea after deadly crash

Hours later, Allahabad High Court Bar Association welcomed the apex court's move to delete the remarks and Allahabad High Court Bar Association president

Anil Tiwari said, "The Supreme Court realised that it had made a wrong order, withdrawing which is a very good step"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Following Chief Justice of India B R Gavai's intervention, the Supreme Court Friday deleted its observations criticising an Allahabad High Court judge for allowing criminal proceedings in a civil dispute case and said its intention was not to embarrass or cast aspersions on him.

On August 4, a bench of Justice J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan observed it was expected of the high court's Justice Prashant Kumar to know the well-settled position of law that in cases of civil disputes a complainant couldn't be permitted to resort to criminal proceedings as the same would amount to abuse of process of the law.

"We request the Chief Justice of the High Court of Allahabad to assign this matter to any other Judge of the High Court as he may deem fit. The Chief Justice of High Court shall immediately withdraw the present criminal determination from the con-

cerned Judge. The Chief Justice shall make the concerned judge sit in a Division Bench with a seasoned senior judge of the High Court (sic)," the top court said.

Clarifying its position Friday, the apex court said it did not intend to cause embarrassment or cast aspersions on the judge.

"We would not even think of doing so. However, when matters cross the threshold and the dignity of the institution is imperiled, it becomes the constitutional responsibility of this court to intervene, even when acting under its appellate jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution," it said.

Hours later, Allahabad High Court Bar Association welcomed the apex court's move to delete the remarks and Allahabad High Court Bar Association president Anil Tiwari said. "The Supreme Court realised that it had made a wrong order, withdrawing which is a very good step."

The top court's Friday order said the observations were meant to ensure the dignity of the judiciary was maintained.

"It is not just a matter of error or mistake committed by the Judge concerned in appreciating the legal points or facts. We were concerned about the appropriate direction to be issued in the interest of justice and with a view to protecting the honour and dignity of the institution.'

The bench noted litigants from all over the country moved different courts to seek justice.

"For 90 per cent of the litigants in this country, the high court is the final court of justice. Only the remaining 10 per cent can afford to approach the Supreme Court, Litigants who come to court expect the justice delivery system to function in accordance with law, not to obtain absurd or irrational orders," the court said.

The bench further explained it was deleting the observations after a request was made by Chief Justice Gavai to reconsider the matter.

The order, however, said courts cannot be "separate islands". disassociated from the

While acknowledging the high court chief justice was the master of the roster, the top court left it to him to take call in the matter of the judge.

'We fully acknowledge that the Chief Justice of a High Court is the master of the roster. But, as observed above, our directions are absolutely not in terfering with the administrative power of the Chief Justice of the High Court. When matters raise institutional concerns affecting the rule of law, this Court may be compelled to step in and take corrective steps," the order added.

But the apex court hoped it does not come across such a "perverse and unjust" order from any high court. The order underlined the

responsibilities of judges who were expected to work "efficiently, discharge their duties diligently and always try and endeavour to fulfil their constitutional oath" A group of judges of the Al-

lahabad High Court wrote to Chief Justice Arun Bhansali urging him to convene a full court meeting in response to the Supreme Court's unprecedented order.

On August 4, the same top court bench stripped criminal matters of the roster of the Allahabad High Court judge till he demitted office after observing he "erroneously" upheld summons of criminal nature in a civil dispute.

In its order, the top court chastised Justice Kumar's judicial reasoning and directed the high court administration to remove him from the crim-



New Delhi, August 8: The Supreme Court Friday refused to hear a plea to appoint a retired top court judge for examining Air India's safety practices among other aspects and asked the petitioner why target the airline that witnessed an "unfortunate tragedy"

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi told the petitioner in-person Narendera Kumar Goswami to withdraw his PIL and asked him to move the appropriate forum in case of grievances. "Don't give the impression that you are playing with other airlines. Why target Air India only which recently witnessed an unfortunate tragedy? If you want some regulatory mechanism in place, then why did you not make other airlines as party in your petition? Why only Air India?" the bench asked Goswami, a lawyer.

The petitioner claimed to be a victim of "some unfortunate incident" with the airline. Justice Kant then told him, "We also travel every week and know what is the status. There was a tragedy, a very unfortunate one. This is not a time to run down an airline.

Goswami in his PIL, which he filed in July, sought direc tions for constituting an independent committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to examine Air India's safety practices, maintenance procedures, and operational protocols, with a report to be submitted within three months

He also sought a direction for a comprehensive safety audit of Air India's entire fleet by an international aviation safety agency accredited by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), addressing deficiencies identified in the 2024 ICAO audit report, to be completed within six months. Directorate

Additionally, General of Civil Aviation was sought to be directed to implement and enforce a trans parent, publicly accessible re porting system for all aviation safety incidents, including a centralized database, ensuring compliance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937, and international best practices. The PIL further sought a direction to Air India to provide compensation to the families of AI-171 crash victims in accordance with the Montreal Convention, 1999, and to offer ex-gratia payments or compensation to passengers of AI-143 for distress and inconvenience caused by the safety incident, as per applicable laws and industry standards.

The London-bound Air India flight, Boeing Dreamliner 787-8, with 242 passengers and crew on board, crashed moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on the afternoon of June 12.

SC pulls up HC over Banke Bihari **Temple remarks**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: The Supreme Court Friday expressed displeasure over the orders passed by Allahabad High Court in a PIL over historic Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan and questioned the use of "intemperate language" against the Uttar Pradesh government.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi perused the orders of July 21 and August 6 by a single-judge bench of the high court on a PIL which challenged the ordinance Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025 and stayed the observations made in them.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government pointed out to the bench that the high court conducted "parallel proceedings" on the issue and made certain "unwarranted observations" in the order. "What kind of intemperate language is being used by the high court? Like the state committed a sin by passing an ordinance. What is all this? Was the high court not informed that the Supreme Court was seized of the matter?" the bench said. Justice Kant further said the petitions challenging constitutional validity of a statute were always listed before the division bench but a single-judge passed the order in the present case.

CLOUDBURST 650 rescued in Uttarkashi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, August 8: Sniffer dogs nosed their way through high piles of rubble, drones circled overhead and rescue personnel searched for the missing through the sludge in disaster-hit Dharali Friday, four days after raging waters buried half the village and left scores missing.

Since Tuesday, 650 people have been rescued, 400 Thursday and 250 Friday, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said, adding the rest will also be evacuated soon.

Communication lines were restored Friday in the disaster-hit areas of Uttarkashi after remaining disrupted for three days with authorities hoping it will help in pacing up rescue operations

"Internet connectivity has been restored. Airtel has begun to function in the affected area. It will speed up rescue operations," Dhami told reporters after returning from However, roads are still

blocked or broken between Dharali, Harsil and Uttarkashi and power supply has been badly hit, he said.

He said a generator set has been brought to Uttarkashi to

be flown to the affected area. "The situation is of course difficult but we are trying to bring things back on track at the earliest," the Chief Minister, who camped here for the



Pandey said. Officials have said four people were killed in the flash floods. Two bodies were recovered Wednesday.

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) said 16 people, including nine Army personnel and seven civilians, are missing.

According to residents of nearby villages, like Mukhba, who witnessed the disaster, the number of missing is likely to be higher as locals

and labourers from Bihar and Nepal were working at under-construction hotels and there were guests in about two dozen big hotels in Dharali when the disaster struck. Dharali is the main stop-

over on the way to Gangotri. from where the Ganga originates, abounding in hotels. homestays, restaurants and guest houses.

The USDMA said more than 800 rescue personnel drawn from the Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and police are engaged in the rescue operations on the ground.

Sniffer dogs and radars are being used to search for survivors and detect bodies buried under the huge mounds of

The ITBP airlifted people stranded in Harsil, with some of the injured being carried into helicopters on stretchers.

To speed up rescue operations, the Army built a bridge over the Bhagirathi river in the district. Advanced equipment required to dredge through the debris in Dharali to search for the missing is being flown to the spot in he-

Two Chinook helicopters, two Mi-17s of the Indian Air Force and eight choppers of the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority have been deployed.

Rummaging through the debris is an uphill task as the rubble heaps are 50-60 feet high at several places

With roads breached at various points, the thrust is on air support both for the evacuation of the stranded people and transporting food supplies and other essentials to the affected

areas, an NDRF official said. Dhami reached Dharali and interacted with locals and NDRF personnel in the village.

Earlier in the day, he met ITBP DG, NDRF DG, Uttarakhand Police DGP and other officials to take stock of relief and rescue operations.

Necessary guidelines have been given to the officials on the restoration of roads, communication, electricity and food supply, Dhami said in a

NUNS IN ODISHA 'Centre, state govt

ATTACK ON PRIESTS,

should take action'

Thrissur (Kerala), August 8:

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Centre and state governments should take strict action against the 'fringe groups' who are involved in attacks against Christian minorities in several parts of the country, Thrissur Archbishop, and president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) Mar Andrews Thazhath said Friday.

Condemning the attack on Christian nuns and priests at Jaleswar in Balasore district of Odisha Wednesday night by a few right-wing activists alleging forced conversion, he told reporters here that there is an 'atmosphere of fear among those belonging to the Church due to the recurrent attacks.

Thazhath said he had talked to Balasore Bishop Varghese Thottankara, who said the vehicles of two nuns, two priests and a catechist were obstructed by a fringe group while they were returning from a prayer service at Jaleswar church.

They had gone there for prayer service and discussions on the jubilee celebration of the 50-vear-old diocese, he said While the catechist was man handled, there was a vicious verbal attack on the nuns and priests, he said.

No research behind overage vehicle ban: CAQM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has admitted it has not conducted any research or study on pollution caused by diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years that form the basis of the overage vehicle ban in Delhi-NCR.

The CAQM shared this in a reply to an RTI application filed by environmentalist Amit Gupta. The CAQM has not undertaken any pollution research or study regarding the impact of such vehicles, the reply stated.

Asked if there was any other

of the ban, the commission said the restrictions on "end-of-life" (EoL) vehicles stem from the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order in Vardhman Kaushik vs Union of India & Ors and the Supreme Court's order in M C Mehta vs Union of India & Ors. Last month, the CAQM

research that formed the basis

put on hold until October 31 the enforcement of its earlier directive that fuel stations in Delhi should not supply petrol or diesel to overage ve-

The decision came after the Delhi government cited "operational and infrastructural

challenges" in implementing the measure from July 1. EoL vehicles include diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years, irrespective of the state they

are registered in. "The fight against pollution cannot be won in a day, it needs proper planning and action. Vehicle pollution is a big reason so is dust but a knee-jerk reaction

₭ Last month, the CAQM put on hold until October 31 the enforcement of its earlier directive that fuel stations in Delhi should not supply petrol or diesel to overage vehicles ← The decision came after

the Delhi government cited "operational and infrastructural challenges" in implementing the measure from July 1

won't help. Maximum cities in NCR do not have proper public transport and even in Delhi it's not up to the mark. First, we need to improve public transport and need strong action on dust, construction and industry

According to official data, Delhi has 62 lakh such vehicles. including 41 lakh two-wheelers. Across the NCR, the number is around 44 lakh, mostly concentrated in Gurugram, Farid abad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Sonipat. The July order said the fuel

pollution as well," Gupta said.

ban in Delhi would be launched simultaneously in these five high-vehicle-density districts from November 1, after installation of Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The mechanism will be extended to the rest of the NCR districts from April 1 next year.

national



Let them (BJP leaders) say whatever they want. We are asking a court, a judge, a commission with autonomous power. We have requested them (Election Commission) to take action because it is the Election Commission's responsibility to prepare the electoral roll, hold elections and immediately set right things

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

DELHI GST AMENDMENT BILL CLEARED IN STATE ASSEMBLY

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her predecessor Atishi sparred over The Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the state Assembly, which was later passed in the House



which I lost for the due to the election fraud

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

My party's position is clear - the way the BJP wants in Bengal, compressing what is

typically a 1-2-year-long exercise into just 1–2 months, will inevitably result in poor people being the first to be left out. In Bihar, 65 lakh names were removed

ABHISHEK BANERJEE TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECY





Gandhi) always try to belittle our constitutional institutions by raising questions and seeking proof





#PIBExplainer 67 and Rising: India's Financial **Inclusion Gains** Momentum Financial Inclusion Index risen to 67 in 2025, up by

24.3% since 2021 RS 55.98 crore beneficiaries under the revolutionary Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

RS 6.65 Lakhs accounts opened in 1-month campaign for Saturation of Financial Inclusion Schemes

SHORT TAKES

Yamuna water level falls below warning mark

New Delhi: The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi late Friday evening dropped below the warning mark, settling at 204.49 metres at the Old Railway Bridge, official said. They said the discharge from the Hathni Kund Barrage stood at 21,034 cusecs, while the Wazirabad Barrage released 41,830 cusecs. The Okhla Barrage recorded a discharge of 45,393 cusecs, according to official data. However, the water level in the Yamuna reached 205.10 metres at 8 am Friday, just a few notches below the danger mark of 205.33 metres at the Old Railway Bridge.

Gas leak at Amroha chemical factory

Amroha (UP): A gas leak was reported from a chemical factory in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha. The situation was brought under control following swift action by the administration, officials said. The incident occurred at the Best Crop Chemical Factory in the Gajraula area where gas reportedly escaped from a storage unit and drifted into surrounding neighbourhoods, locals and officials said.

2 murder convicts die

New Delhi: Two murder convicts in Delhi's Tihar Jail died allegedly after slipping and drowning while cleaning a drain inside the prison complex, official sources said inmates were involved, but to clean the area. We are probing whether they went on their own and accidentally slipped, possibly while trying to save one another," the source added.

MoD denies reports of pausing defence purchases with US

Last week, US President Donald Trump had announced 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India that came into effect from August 7

New Delhi, August 8: Amid media reports claiming India may have paused talks related to new defence purchases with the US, defence ministry sources Friday rejected the suggestion as "false and fabricated".

It is clarified that the various cases of procurement are "being progressed as per the extant procedures", they said.

A report in an international media outlet which claimed that India might have put on hold its plans for new defence-related purchases, came amid growing tensions between New Delhi and Washington over tariff imposition by the US. Last week, US President Donald Trump had announced 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India that came into effect from

The US president Wednesday also 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 after 21 days August 27. Indian defence ministry sources have rejected the claims made in the report.

The news reports claiming that India may have paused talks related to new defence purchases with the US, are "false and fabricated", they said. It is clarified that the "various cases of procurement are being progressed as per the extant procedures," the sources said.

RUSSIAN RELATIONS India's deepening security relationship with the US, which is fuelled by their shared strategic rivalry with China, was herald-

New Delhi, August 8: The

BJP-led Delhi government's

first bill regulating fee hikes

by recognised private unaided

schools was passed by the As-

The Delhi School Education

Transparency in Fixation and

Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025,

was passed after a four-hour

debate in the House. It was the

first legislation passed by the

Delhi Assembly with the BJP in

power after winning the Assem-

bly polls in February this year.

debate in the House, Chief Min-

ister Rekha Gupta said that it ends the wait for justice by the

parents of school children in

Delhi and provides them relief

from worries of fee hikes by

The Bill was passed by a di-

vision of vote on all 21 sections.

Forty-one BJP MLAs voted in

favour of the Bill, while 17

Opposition AAP members vot-

ed against it. The BJP has a

strength of 48 members in the

70-member Assembly and the

AAP 22. Seven BJP and five

AAP MLAs were not present in

the House at the time of voting.

posed by the AAP MLAs, in-

cluding Leader of Opposition

Atishi, were rejected in the

voting. Delhi Assembly Speak-

er Vijender Gupta said the Bill

will be sent to Delhi Lt Gover-

Minister Ashish Sood Monday

during the Monsoon session of

the Delhi Assembly, seeks to

regulate fee hikes by private

unaided schools in the nation-

lengthy debate that continued

for nearly four hours and which

witnessed noisy scenes. AAP

MLA Amantullah Khan was

marshalled out by the Speaker

after he interrupted BJP legis-

lator Arvinder Singh Lovely

during the debate.

The Bill was passed after a

al capital.

The Bill, tabled by Education

nor V K Saxena for approval.

All eight amendments pro-

private schools.

Supporting the Bill during a

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sembly Friday



SECOND-LARGEST ARMS IMPORTER AND RUSSIA HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ITS TOP SUPPLIER

INDIA HAS IN RECENT YEARS **HOWEVER, SHIFTED TO** IMPORTING FROM WESTERN POWERS LIKE FRANCE, ISRAEL AND THE US, ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE THINK-TANK

THE SHIFT IN SUPPLIERS **WAS DRIVEN PARTLY BY** CONSTRAINTS ON RUSSIA'S ABILITY TO EXPORT ARMS, WHICH IT IS UTILISING HEAVILY IN ITS INVASION OF UKRAINE SOME RUSSIAN WEAPONS HAVE ALSO PERFORMED POORLY IN THE BATTLEFIELD, ACCORDING TO WESTERN ANALYSTS

ed by many US analysts as one of the key areas of foreign-policy progress in the first Trump administration.

Delhi is the world's second-largest arms importer and Russia has traditionally been its top supplier. India has in recent years however, shifted to importing from Western powers like France, Israel and the

US, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute think-tank

The shift in suppliers was driven partly by constraints on Russia's ability to export arms, which it is utilising heavily in its invasion of Ukraine. Some Russian weapons have also performed poorly in the battlefield, according to Western analysts.

The broader US-India defence partnership, which includes intelligence sharing and joint military exercises, continues without hiccups, one of the Indian officials said.

India also remains open to scaling back on oil imports from Russia and is open to making deals elsewhere, including the US, if it can get similar prices, according to two other Indian sources.

Trump's threats and rising anti-US nationalism in India have "made it politically difficult for Modi to make the shift from Russia to the US." one of the people said. Nonetheless, discounts on the landing cost of Russian oil have shrunk to the lowest since 2022.

India's petroleum ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

EC asks Tejashwi Yadav to surrender 'fake' EPIC card

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 8: The Election Commission Friday told RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav that it was a crime to forge and use a bogus government document and set a deadline for him to submit his "apparently fake" Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) by August 16.

A fresh letter was issued to the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Patna (Sadar) cum Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Digha assembly constituency in this regard.

The Official had last week written to the former Deputy CM, urging him to 'hand over for investigation' the voter card which he claimed to possess despite it having been 'not issued officially'

In the latest letter, the ERO said that a perusal of the voters list for the past several years has led to the conclusion that the EC had never issued the voter card with the EPIC number quoted by Yaday.

"It appears that the aforementioned EPIC card is fake. Forging and using a bogus government document in the eyes of the law is a crime. You are once again requested to surrender your apparently fake EPIC card by 16/08/2025 till 5 pm,' the letter read.

Yadav had in a press conference on August 2 and said that a search conducted with his EPIC number was yielding the result 'no records found' in the draft electoral rolls prepared as part of Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

When the claim was rejected by the District Administration in Patna, Yadav alleged that his EPIC number had been 'changed'. Later, Yaday admitted that he did have the voter ID card with the EPIC number quoted by the officials, but sought to blame them for issuance of two EPIC cards in his favour.

Rahul re-cycling old allegations on issue dismissed by SC: EC



New Delhi, August 8: The Election Commission Friday accused Rahul Gandhi of re-cycling old allegations of poll irregularities which were settled by the Supreme Court, and asked the Congress leader to give a written declaration on his claims on wrongful entries in voters' list or tender an apology.

Sources in the poll authority dubbed Gandhi's allegations on vote theft in at least three states as a "tired script" and likened it to "new wine in an old bottle".

The sources said the issue, first raised by then Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath in 2018, was settled by the apex court. The Election Commission also dismissed Gandhi's claims on non-functioning websites.

"No issues with Election Commission of India's website. Functioning seamlessly since its launch," the poll authority

said in a statement. The Commission said the primary site/link for E-Roll download for all states has been working without any issues since it was launched, and continues to be operational currently as well. The Congress leader hit back, asserting that he has already taken oath in Parliament to uphold the Constitution, indicating that there was no need for him to give a

signed declaration to the poll

to provide a clear and updated

The sources said in 2018, Con gress leaders tried to mislead the Supreme Court by produc ing documents from a private website to demonstrate that there were mistakes in elec toral rolls, contending that the same face was shown for as many as 36 voters. The defects flagged by the Congress leaders were already rectified and the copy of the same was supplied to the party, the sources said adding that this ground was made to seek the searchable PDF format for electoral rolls.

The top court refused to accept the prayer of Kamal Nath. The sources said the Congress leaders were aware that the same trick cannot be repeat ed in the court, so they tried to mislead people by claiming irregularities in elector al rolls, contending that the same names were occurring at different places. The sources said the name of Aditya Sri vastava, which was alleged to be in the electoral rolls of three different states, was rec tified months ago.

They said instead of availing the legal process, Gandhi tried to sensationalise the issue by making baseless claims before

the media.

Delhi Assembly passes

fee regulation Bill SC stays MP HC order in Saif family property dispute

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday granted an interim stay on a Madhya Pradesh High Court order remanding a decades-old property dispute involving the roy al estate of Bhopal's last Nawab, Hamidullah Khan, to the trial court for fresh adjudica tion. A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Atul Chandurkar issued notice on a plea of Omar Farug Ali and Raashid Ali, descendants of the elder brother of Nawab Hamidullah Khan, against the high court's order of June 30. The petitioners have challenged the high court's decision to set aside a February 14, 2000, trial court judgment that upheld the exclusive rights of Nawab's daughter Sajida Sultan, her son Mansoor Ali Khan (former India cricket captain), and their legal heirs, actor Saif Ali Khan, Soha Ali Khan, Saba Sultan, and veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, over the estate.

SNIPPETS

Huma Qureshi's cousin killed over parking dispute; 2 held

NEW DELHI: Actor Huma Qureshi's cousin was stabbed to death following a dispute over parking in southeast Delhi's Bhogal area. Two youths have been apprehended in connection with his death, an official said Friday. Asif Qureshi (42), a resident of Church Lane in Bhogal, sustained a grievous injury to his chest after being attacked with a pointed object during a heated altercation late Thursday night, he said. The incident was captured on CCTV, a clip of which surfaced on social media platforms. The CCTV clip shows pushing and shoving as Asif is being dragged and attacked by two men, amid loud cries of help from people nearby. According to police, the incident took place around 10.30 pm when Asif confronted a man for parking a scooter in front of his house.

Sitharaman withdraws Income Tax Bill in LS

authority on his claims.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday withdrew the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, and the government will come out with an updated version of the legislation after incorporating changes suggested by the Select Committee.

A new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha August 11. The updated version of the I-T Bill, according to sources, will incorporate most of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

'To avoid confusion by multiple versions of the Bill and

version with all changes incorporated, the new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced for the consideration of the House Monday," sources said. The Select Committee, chaired by Baijayant Panda, had suggested a host of changes in the Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha February 13. Soon after its introduction in the Lower House, the Bill, which will replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961, was referred to the Select Committee for scrutiny.

The 31-member Select Committee had made some suggestions on the Bill. They also fa-

voured continuing tax exemp tion on anonymous donations made to religious-cum-charitable trusts in the new law. besides suggesting that taxpayers be allowed to claim TDS refund even after the ITR filing due date without paying any penal charges.

The government in the new Bill has exempted non-profit organisations (NPOs) from taxing anonymous donations received by purely religious trusts. However, such dona tions received by a religious trust that may also have other charitable functions, like running hospitals and educational institutions, will be taxed as per law, as per the Bill.

Delhi restaurant denies entry to couple for Indian attire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Amid backlash over a couple allegedly being denied entry to a restaurant over Indian attire. Delhi Tourism minister Kapil Mishra said the owner has issued a video apologising over the incident and has announced special discounts for women wearing traditional outfits on Rakshabandhan. The alleged incident took

place at a restaurant on the Pitampura metro premises August 3. The matter came to light when a video of a man in a T-shirt and a woman in a 'kurta-salwar' shows them complaining about being denied entry to the restaurant for wearing Indian clothing. The couple also alleged misbehaviour by the restaurant staff.

Talking to reporters, Mishra said it appears that the restaurant may have had an unofficial policy disallowing entry to people in Indian attire, while allowing those in Western clothing.



WHEN A VIDEO OF A MAN IN A T-SHIRT AND A WOMAN IN A 'KURTA-SALWAR' SHOWS THEM COMPLAINING ABOUT BEING DENIED ENTRY TO THE RESTAURANT FOR WEARING INDIAN CLOTHING

THE COUPLE ALSO ALLEGED MISBEHAVIOUR BY THE **RESTAURANT STAFF**

"The Chief Minister saw the video this morning and instructed us to immediately look into the matter. We spoke to the concerned officials. Our district magistrate, along with

officials, also spoke directly to

the restaurant owner. The own-

er has now agreed that no such

policy will be enforced in the restaurant regarding clothing,' He has also released a public

video apologising for the incident, the minister said, adding that a notice has been posted outside the restaurant clearly stating that guests wearing Indian attire are welcome. "On the occasion of Raksha

Bandhan, the restaurant is also offering special discounts to women wearing Indian clothing as a form of an apology," Mishra added. He further said that the

government believes that anywhere in Delhi, or across the country, any form of restriction or discrimination based on Indian clothing is unacceptable, especially in public places like restaurants or premises near metro stations.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta directed officials to initiate an investigation and take necessary action after the video of the couple surfaced online.

Nishikant Dubey, Manoj Tiwari booked

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 Baidyanath 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 Baidyanath Mandir Police Station against Nishikant Dubey, Manoj Tiwari, Kanshikanat 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.



QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-832:Sealed quotations are invited from the intending Authorized Firms Suppliers & Agencies having upto date GST Registration copy, PAN card copy and valid registration copy for supplying fitting and fixing of FRP Letter of 69 ଚୌଦ୍ୱାର ମୋ ଗର୍ବ inside Biju Pattnaik Park, Ward No.10 of Choudwar Municipality as per the description as follows.

Description

No

Work for applying FRP lining letter with Colour pigments of เก ଚୌଦ୍ୱାର ମୋ 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 rom 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 .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 thereof. Sd./- Executive Officer

OIPR-13138/11/0045/2526 **Choudwar Municipality**

Friday. The incident occurred around 8.30 am in Jail Number 8 when Amit and Vinay Kumar were cleaning a 'barsati nala' (a type of stormwater drain), the source said. "We initially received information that two there is no record or order that they were officially assigned

international



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

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



decision to further escalate its offensive in Gaza 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 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 PRINCI-PAL DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON, US





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, staterun 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 occurrea 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 firstdegree 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

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

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, has pushed back but not to act as governing body

Military chief against expanding **Gaza campaign**

Opinion polls show most Israelis want deal to release hostages

Israel's military assault has devastated Gaza Hostage comes under families resh criticism condemn from abroad decision

In its Friday statement, Ne-

tanvahu's office said the vast

majority of the political-secu-

rity cabinet members believed

that "the alternative plan pre-

sented in the cabinet would not

achieve the defeat of Hamas nor

Two government sources said

any resolution by the security

cabinet would need to be ap-

proved by the full cabinet, which

considered ahead of the se-

curity meeting was a phased

takeover of areas in Gaza not

yet under military control, one

of the sources said, speaking on

be issued to Palestinians in spe-

cific areas of Gaza, potentially

giving them several weeks be-

fore the military moves in, the

Evacuation warnings could

condition of anonymity.

person added.

Among the scenarios being

may not meet until Sunday.

the return of the hostages."

Opposition leader calls **Gaza City plan** a disaster

About 20 living hostages still held in Gaza. Israeli officials believe

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

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was among foreign leaders urging Israel to reconsider its decision to advance into Gaza City.

Regional power Saudi Arabia, which has said it could not normalise ties with Israel without the establishment of a Palestinian state, condemned any move to occupy Gaza.

Asked in an interview with Reuters about criticism of Israel's decision to escalate the war. US Ambassador Huckabee questioned why some nations were "once again" placing "all the pressure on Israel" instead

Huckabee said Trump was frustrated that Hamas is unwilling to reach "any kind of reasonable settlement", adding the president insists that the militant group cannot remain in power and must disarm.

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 cancel lations 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 air line'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 "controllable delay", pledging to cover hotels and related costs where needed, and emphasized that the outage was not cybersecu rity-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 track-

ing 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.

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

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

"China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianiin 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 productiveness," 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 confir mation yet on Modi's two-na tion 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 com pletion 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 sides revived the Special Representative dialogue on the boundary question and other dialogue mechanisms.

Japanese warships visit New Zealand's capital FIRST TIME IN 90 YEARS

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 on going 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 Wel lington 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

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.

A visitor holding a parasol prays for the victims of the World War Two atomic bombing in front of the Peace Statue

at Peace Park, a day ahead of the 80th anniversary of the bombing in the city, in Nagasaki, western Japan REUTERS

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 military blockade of Taiwan **Challenge** was evacuation of Southeast **Asian nationals from** Taiwan, sources say

Scenario simulated

responses to a Chinese

🕻 Singapore's military presence in Taiwan emerged as key element

Exercise offers glimpse of contingency planning over

Taiwan amid China drills

imperil other countries. While the scenario didn't reflect official policies, participants playing the roles of foreign and defence minis ters worked from the known positions of at least nine gov ernments depicted in the simulation, said the four people who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity

gency planning over Taiwan

which some Asian and Western

military attaches and security

analysts say is becoming in

creasingly necessary because

an assault on the island by Bei

jing could draw in the US and

to discuss a sensitive matter Besides Singapore, China Taiwan and the US, the rest included Indonesia. Vietnam and the Philippines, they said



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-

business

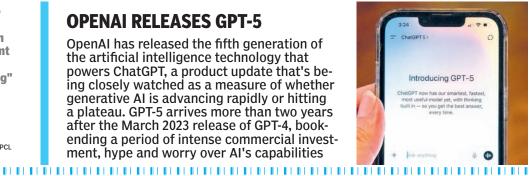


guidance or direction from the government to either stop or (continue) importing" Russian oil. We are free to do imports based on purely commercial merits

There is no

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, bookending a period of intense commercial investment, hype and worry over AI's capabilities





Currently the omy appears



JAYANT CHAUDHARY | MINISTER FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHII

The growing adoption of the China+1 strategy gives India a prime oppor tunity to compete effectively with



Asian Nations in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, and rare earth minerals RAHUL JAIN | INDIA-HEAD,

BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP



views, when rooted in purpose and mutual respect, strengthen the board. They test assumptions, lead

to deeper discussions, and enable constructive decision-making TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | CHIEF, SEBI

01 **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 yearago 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 IIR 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.

Textiles, jewellery at centre of the storm

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



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.

Smartphones are currently exempt from tariffs, in a win for Apple that is gearing up to launch iPhone 17 next month and has gradually increased manufacturing in India as

it diversifies from China. Most iPhones sold in the US are now made PHARMACEUTICALS

Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Zydus Life-**TIRADE** sciences, Hetero Labs, Lupin, Aurobindo Pharma and Sun Pharmaceutical are top exporters of drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredi-

TRUMP

TARIFFS

ents to the US. In 2024, they shipped goods worth \$3.6 billion and from January to June 2025 they have already exported drugs worth \$3.7 billion to the US. The sector is currently exempt from tariffs as generic medicines are crucial for affordable healthcare. **GEMS & JEWELLERY**

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 exportGDP could dip to 6%: Moody's oody's Ratings Friday said

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 do mestic demand and the strength of the services sector will mitigate the strain on India. Moody's said, adding that ultimately determine the effect on its growth, inflation and external position 'Should India continue to procure Rus sian 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 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 a bilateral trade agreement 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 'The magnitude of the drag on growth 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.

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

TEXTILES

India's textile industry is already receiving panic-strick-



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

Apparel and textile companies like Shahi Exports, Welspun, Indo Count Industries, Trident and Goka-

ldas Exports are top exporters that are likely to take a hit with tariffs rising to 50%.

In 2024, the comexported panies 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 com-

ponents 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 exporters include Sona Comstar and Samvardhan Motherson. However, exports of compo-

nents for commercial vehicles like large trucks and agriculture equipment, worth about \$3 billion, will

attract a 50% On August 6, the tariff. Bharat **US announced** Forge, customers an additional include com-25% tariff on all panies Caterpillar **Indian imports,** and Volvo, and in addition to John Deere are among the largan existing 25% est exporters of duty, taking the such parts. **ENERGY AND** total duty to 50% effective August 27

RENEWABLES Manufac-

turers 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.

₹ logs worst losing streak in 6 months on US tariff woes

Mumbai, August 8: The Indian rupee ended lower for a fifth straight week, its biggest consecutive weekly drop in six months, as trade tensions between India and the Unit ed States escalated following President Donald Trump's call for new tariffs on Indian goods.

The rupee closed marginally higher at 87.6550 against the US dollar, from 87.7025 Thursday. The currency opened at

87.5600 and reached an intraday high of 87.5350, supported by unwinding of long dollar positions in the NDF market. Dollar bids, primarily from

oil importers, pushed the USD/ INR higher after initial lows, traders said. For the week, the rupee eased 0.1%. following a 1.2% drop last week, and has depreciated nearly 3% over the past five weeks. Rising pressure on the rupee was driven by India's position among the hard est-hit countries in Trump's trade offensive, including a new 25% tariff on Indian goods.



Fears of a record low in the currency prompted the Reserve Bank of India to intervene al most daily, preventing a deeper slide, traders said.

The RBI resumed intervention in the NDF market to manage rupee volatility, four bankers told Reuters.

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

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.

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 Associ

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-

The yellow metal climbs ₹800 to touch new record of ₹1,03,420/10 g **GOLD & SILVER** 10g = ₹1,03,420* 1kg = ₹1,15,000*

GOLD SCALES FRESH ALL-TIME HIGH

₹1,03,420* ₹1,02,620 ₹1,12,500 ₹99,020 GOLD GOLD GOLD SILVER SILVER SILVER Aug 8 Aug 8

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

grams recorded after Thursday's session.

In the last five sessions, the vellow 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 Fri day. 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.

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

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

This momentum signals that India's EV transition is steadily moving beyond early adopters into mainstream consumer CS VIGNESHWAR | PRESIDENT, FADA

of 13 per cent as against 19,655

Electric three-wheeler vertical witnessed a growth of 9 per

with registrations of 9.766 units. a growth of 40 per cent year-onyear as against July 2024.

Electric commercial vehicle

Vigneshwar stated. Consistent policy support, accessible financing, and rapid expansion of charging infrastructure will be pivotal in sustaining this growth through the festive

D-St sees longest weekly losing run in five years

Markets tank on tariff jitters, foreign fund exodus; Sensex dives below 80k

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 uncertrade deal and underwhelming earnings.

tainty over a potential US-India 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 tar-

iffs to 50%, citing India's oil

imports from Russia.

BSE SENSEX AUGUST 08, 2025 CHANGE: -765.47 (-0.95%) 79,857.79 Previous 80,623.26 BHARTI AIRTEL TITAN TOP TOP KOTAK BANK **BAJAJ FINSERV** +0.28 % -2.08 % GAINERS LOSERS +0.24 % \bigcirc +0.19 %

Sensex tanks 765.47 points or 0.95% to settle at 79,857.79 ifty drops 232.85 points or 0.95% to 24,363.30

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

KPR Mill, Gokaldas Exports, Vardhman Textiles, and Trident fell 4.2%-12.1% after the US hiked duties on Indian im-

In contrast, Hero MotoCorp surged 6.7% for the week, topping the Nifty 50 after a surprise earnings beat, aided by stronger exports.

Prolonged tariff tensions and relentless foreign selling-totaling \$3.47 billion since early July-have injected a fresh wave of volatility and caution into Indian markets MANISH GOEL | FOUNDER AND MD, EQUENTIS WEALTH ADVISORY SERVICES

> "Markets are also adjusting to the RBI's message that the economy should not expect too much incremental support from monetary policy measures for now," said Sandeep Bagla, CEO of TRUST Mutual The RBI held rates steady

> Wednesday but flagged tariff-related risks to the economy.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,997.19 crore Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DII), however, bought stocks worth ₹10,864.04 crore in the previous trade.

On Thursday, the Sensex edged higher by 79.27 points or 0.10 per cent to settle at 80,623.26. The Nifty went up by 21.95 points or 0.09 per cent to 24,596.15.

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 abso lute 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

public sector banks (PSBs) except Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported a decline in

high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the in-

and fleet markets

units in July 2024.

cent year-on-year to 69,146 units as compared with 63,675 units in the same period last year. Mahindra Group led the space

retail sales saw a jump of 52 per cent year-on-year to 1,244 units in July, with Tata Motors leading the segment with registration of 333 units. "This momentum signals that India's EV transition is steadily moving beyond early adopters into mainstream consumer and fleet markets," FADA President CS

season and beyond, he added.

ding losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, Sensex droppe 742.12 points or 0.92%, and the Nifty declined 202.05 points or 0.82%

Textile exporters including

cent rise to ₹269 crore. During the quarter, all 12

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, finish

ing off the win on his second

match point. The final lasted

Shelton is the fourth first

time Masters 1000 champion

in 2025, joining Jack Draper

(Indian Wells), Jakub Mensik

(Miami), and Casper Ruud (Ma-

drid). It is the third title of Shel-

ton's career, adding to triumphs

in Tokyo in 2023 and Houston

in 2024. He has won at least one

title for three straight years.

two hours and 48 minutes.

ATP Masters 1000 title

FOOTBALL CRISIS ISL CLUBS SEEK SC'S help Shelton claims maiden

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

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 matter 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 stake holders 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.

Mboko stuns Osaka to bag first WTA 1000 title Montreal: An 18-year-old Canadian wild card Victoria Mboko stunned

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Toronto, August 8: Ben Shel-

ton won the biggest title of his

career to-date after claiming

the Canadian Open men's sin-

gles crown after a pulsating

final 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3) victory

Shelton becomes the young-

est 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

After edging two matches in

the earlier rounds in third-set

in November.

against Karen Khachanov.

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 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 Iniyan 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-yearold 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 Puniab 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').

IPL BUZZ

Ashwin, CSK in talks

amid move rumours



However, Hockey Punjab for Hockey Punjab, crowning 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

them champions of the 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2025.

In the bronze medal match, Uttar Pradesh Hockey outclassed Hockey Madhva Pradesh to claim the third spot

in the tournament.

On the final day of the event, the first match between Uttar Pradesh Hockey and Hockey Madhya Pradesh saw Hockey Madhya Pradesh start strong, taking a two-goal lead in the first half. However, they were outwitted by Uttar Pradesh Hockey in the final two quarters, as Ali Shahrukh (42', 47', 51') scored a hat-trick, supported by Mohd Atif Raynee (40') and Prahalad Rajbhar (55'), who each scored a goal, leading their team to a 5-3 victory. The goals for Hockey Madhya Pradesh were scored by Aashir Aadil Khan (13'), Karan Gautam (20'), and

Meezan Ur Rehman (58').

TREBLE-WINNING CAMPAIGN

Nine PSG players on Ballon d'Or shortlist

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 Rovals.

"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.

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



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.

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 Diik. Vinicius Jr. Vitinha, Florian Wirtz, Lamine

Barbra Banda, Aitana Bonmati, Lucy Bronze, Klara Buehl. Mariona Caldentev, Sofia Cantore, Steph Catley, Temwa Chawinga, Melchie Dumornay, Emily Fox, Cristiana Girelli, Esther Gonzalez, Caroline Graham Hansen, Hannah Hampton, Pernille Harder, Patri Guijarro, Amanda Gutjerres. Lindsev Heaps, Chloe Kelly, Frida Leonhardsen-Maanum. Marta, Clara Mateo, Ewa Paior, Claudia Pina, Alexia Putellas, Alessia Russo, Johanna Rytting Kaneryd, Caroline Weir, Leah Williamson

Women: Sandy Baltimore.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159