



Fatima's stand

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, who recently starred in *Aap Jaisa Koi*, shares her perspective on age-gap relationships

LEISURE | P2



Gaza offensive

Netanyahu hopes war against Hamas will end soon as Israel aims to take on Hamas' two remaining strongholds

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FPIs pull nearly ₹18K-cr

Foreign portfolio investors pull out nearly ₹18,000 crore from Indian equities so far this month, amid US-India trade tension

BUSINESS | P11



Blue Tigresses roar

India qualifies for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup football for the first time in two decades after edging past Myanmar

SPORTS | P12

AIIMS (Bhub), DAV Unit-8 champions



MOMENT TO CHERISH: Winners of senior category of Mettle Meet 2025, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, receiving a cheque of ₹1 lakh from OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy; Champions of junior category, DAV Public School Unit-8, Bhubaneswar with the winning cheque pose for a photo, as the newspaper's Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Manish Agarwal of Ajanta Advertisers and quizmaster Ajay Poonia look on in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 10: DAV Public School of Unit-8, Bhubaneswar and AIIMS-Bhubaneswar retained their crowns in the junior and senior categories, respectively, at the seventh edition of **Orissa POST** Mettle Meet held at Hotel Swosti Premium Sunday. The annual inter-school and inter-college quiz competition once again showcased a fierce battle of wits and a thrilling grand finale.

In senior category, defending champions AIIMS-Bhubaneswar successfully held off a strong challenge from

debutants IIT-Kharagpur and IIM-Calcutta, who finished as first and second runners-up, respectively. AIIMS, who led the finals until the last round, clinched the title for a record third time, having earlier secured runner-up positions in 2017 and 2019. IIM-Calcutta edged out National Law University (NLU), Cuttack and NISER-Bhubaneswar in a tense tiebreaker to claim third place.

In junior category, DAV Public School, Unit-8 stormed to victory with a commanding lead over KIIT International School. Loyola settled for third place.

This year's Mettle Meet saw over 80 teams from schools and colleges across the state participate, with 16 teams (eight in each category) making it to the finals following a competitive preliminary round.

"Mettle Meet has grown bigger every year," said Adyasha Satpathy, Chief Executive of **Orissa POST**. "It began in 2016 with a humble 18 teams, aiming to revive the art of quizzing and give a

platform to young minds. Today, it is a premier quizzing event in the state."

Echoing the sentiment, Dharitri and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy said, "This event is not just about answering questions. It's about thinking out of the box and pushing intellectual boundaries. We're grateful to quizmaster Ajay Poonia and all participants, especially the teams

from outside Odisha, who acknowledged the growing influence of Mettle Meet."

Poonia, known for hosting national-level quizzes, praised the standard of the competition. "The winners—DAV Unit-8 and AIIMS Bhubaneswar—set a strong example with their preparation and presence of mind," he said.

The finals were livestreamed on the English daily's digital platforms, drawing a large virtual audience. Winners in both categories received ₹1,00,000 each, while first and second runners-up were awarded ₹50,000 and ₹25,000 respectively.

Reflecting on their win,

Pratyush Dhal of DAV Unit-8 said, "After our win last year, we started preparing for the next edition from next day. We took risk at the beginning. We strategised, calculated the competitors' scores, and maintained our lead smartly."

Bighnesh Das of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar said, "This is our third championship at Mettle Meet. It was tough match with IIT-Kharagpur behind us till last moment. After we took lead in fourth round, we tried to maintain the lead and succeed in that. Mettle Meet, a brilliant platform for quiz enthusiasts, encourages healthy intellectual competition."

3 drown in Chandrabhaga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, August 10: In a tragic incident, three youths drowned while taking bath in Chandrabhaga beach here, Sunday. Another person sustained injuries too, police said.

The deceased were identified as Rahul Kumar Senapati, 25, younger son of Khetrabasi Senapati of Jamatala village and Arupananda Jena, 25, son of Bimbadhar Jena from the same village under Konark police limits. The third was identified as Pintu Pattanayak of Pahal area in Cuttack district.

Shiv Kumar, 25, of Uttar Pradesh was injured and undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Police said Pintu drowned while bathing with his friends about 1 km from Chandrabhaga beach.

In a separate incident near Chandrabhaga Eco Retreat, three friends employed at a private four-wheeler servicing company were taking bath when two of them - Senapati



and Jena - were swept away by the current.

Fire Services personnel from Champahar fire station, led by their officer Bichitra Kumar Choudhury, rescued the victims. Shiv Kumar was admitted to Konark hospital for treatment while the other two were shifted to Gop community health centre, where doctors declared Rahul and Arupananda dead. Pintu's body was sent to Puri DHH for postmortem. The bodies of Senapati and Jena were seized by Chandrabhaga Marine police and taken to Charichhak CHC for autopsy.

The Marine police registered separate cases of unnatural death and launched investigations, said IIC Pratima Sahu.

CM launches 650-bed facility at Koraput hosp

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/ Koraput, August 10: In a major fillip to healthcare in southern Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday inaugurated a new building with 650 beds at Shaheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital in Koraput. Majhi also announced that his government will develop a six-lane highway, the Jeypore-Bermhapur-Bhubaneswar 'economic corridor'.

He said the new building at the hospital has been built at a cost of ₹280 crore.

"The state government has been making available all facilities at the medical college, so that people of Koraput and adjoining areas do not have to travel to distant cities for healthcare services," he said.



The Chief Minister said the medical college will benefit people of Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts, besides those from nearby areas of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. He also said all vacant posts at the medical college would be filled soon.

"A cancer treatment centre is also being built on two acre land adjacent to this hospital.

For this, our government is spending about ₹41.15 crore," he said. Majhi said there are currently 12 government medical colleges in the state, and four more will be set up in Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Nabarangpur.

A total of 3.46 crore people (80% of the state's population) are getting free healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat and

Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana schemes, he said.

"Till now, about 3.91 lakh people have been provided medical facilities worth ₹900 crore under these two schemes," he said. "Similarly, 8,644 people above 70 years of age have been provided healthcare benefits worth ₹35.60 crore under Ayushman Vaya Vandana Yojana," he added.

The CM said the people of Koraput will also reap the benefits of development, as a significant amount of work has been accomplished in just one year of the BJP government in the state.

Addressing the function, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling said another new chapter was added to the history of healthcare services in Koraput with the expansion of the hospital.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why appoint a party spokesperson as a judge? Aren't we doing our job efficiently?

VP polls: INDIA bloc plans joint candidate

New Delhi: INDIA bloc will put up a joint candidate for the vice-presidential polls and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is reaching out to Opposition parties to explore names and reach a consensus on it, sources said Sunday. They said that there is a strong feeling in the bloc that Opposition parties should not shy away from a contest to send a strong political message irrespective of the outcome. Though there has not been any structured discussion on picking a candidate, backchannel talks are on among INDIA bloc partners to deliberate on names of possible candidates.

GENCIES

Georgia, August 10: A meteorite that crashed into a Georgia home in June this year is older than the Earth itself and is believed to have been formed 4.56 billion years ago, according to scientists who are studying the space rock.

Onlookers in the Southeast of Georgia were taken aback when they saw a fireball streaking across the sky June 26, 2025, according to a report by 'Independent'.

Fragments of the meteorite hurtled into the roof of a homeowner in McDonough, Henry County, just south of Atlanta, leaving behind a hole the size of a golf ball in the ceiling and a dent in the floor, the report said.

Scott Harris, a researcher in the University of Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences' department of geology, has been studying the fragments and believes the meteorite formed 4.56 billion years ago. The Earth is thought to be 4.543 billion years old.

A press release issued by the university, quoting Harris, said, "This particular meteor that entered the atmosphere has a long history before it made it to the ground of McDonough, and in order to totally understand that, we actually have to examine what the rock is and determine what group of asteroids it belongs to."

Using optical and electron microscopy to analyze the fragments, Harris said he believes



Scott Harris, a researcher in the University of Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences' department of geology, has been studying the fragments and believes the meteorite formed 4.56 billion years ago. (Cade Massey/University of Georgia)

the meteorite to be a low metal ordinary Chondrite.

"It belongs to a group of asteroids in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter that we now think we can tie to a breakup of a much larger

asteroid about 470 million years ago," Harris said. "But in that breakup, some pieces get into Earth-crossing orbits, and if given long enough, their orbit around the sun and Earth's orbit around the sun end up being

at the same place, at the same moment in time."

The sound and vibration the meteor made was equivalent to a close-range gunshot. The homeowner told Harris he's still finding specks of space dust around his living room from the collision.

"I suspect that he heard three simultaneous things," Harris said. "One was the collision with his roof, one was a tiny cone of a sonic boom and a third was it impacting the floor all in the same moment. There was enough energy when it hit the floor that it pulverized part of the material down to literal dust fragments." The meteorite, which has been named McDonough, is the 27th to be recovered in Georgia's history.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: In a significant development, India and Pakistan are scheduled to conduct separate but close-proximity naval exercises in Arabian Sea August 11 and 12, even as the timing of the drills have raised a few eyebrows.

The exercises, positioned approximately 60 nautical miles from each other, underscore the heightened naval presence and strategic posturing between the two nations.

Both the naval forces have also issued separate notifications for firing exercises in Arabian Sea next week.

According to the notification issued, the Indian Navy will conduct its two-day maritime drills off the coast of Porbandar and Okha in Gujarat.

While such military drills are routine for both nations, the timing and proximity of these exercises have drawn attention amid the soaring tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad after Operation Sindoor—India's military strikes against Pakistan—in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent people April 22.

The operation, targeting terror infrastructure associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, involved co-ordinated actions by the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

8-yr-old girl raped, murdered in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh, August 10: An eight-year-old girl was allegedly raped and killed at a tea garden in this district of Assam, police said Sunday. The incident happened at a small tea garden in Kachari Pathar under Namrup police station Saturday when the girl was out to collect firewood, they said.

"The accused was fishing nearby when he saw the girl alone. He allegedly raped and killed her, most likely by smothering," an officer said.

The accused then concealed the body in a drain, covering it with hay and grass, he said.

"When the girl did not return home, her parents along with neighbours began searching for her. They also informed the police. The body was found around 8:40pm," he added.

Locals caught the accused when he tried to flee from the scene and handed him over to the police. The accused had killed his mother and served 14 years in jail for it before being released three years ago, police said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You probably have a big circle of friends, and though most of them may be casual friends, they may sometimes prove to be favourable. They may help you overcome some dejections. It will also help you figure out the importance of the role friends can play.

TAURUS
Ganesha sees you acting very possessive about people and things. You are, consequently, likely to feel suspicious, uncertain and insecure about everything, particularly people. It's even possible that you may even suspect the feelings and intentions of those who are close to you.

GEMINI
You are likely to make a list of your daily chores that take most of your time. Then you will find a way to outsource these activities or eliminate them from your routine altogether. You will also devote a lot of your time to meditation. Health of a family member may give you some anxious moments, feels Ganesha.

CANCER
Ganesha predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesha.

LEO
Sometimes, it takes courage to be honest and admit to your failures. Doing so only goes a long way in establishing your credentials as a real person, feels Ganesha. So understand that, while it is only human to make mistakes, it takes more than that to accept them. Also, today is a good day to reconnect with old contacts. Make the effort to do so.

VIRGO
A sudden bend in the journey of life is important to understand it better, says Ganesha. Excellence will drone on throughout the day today. Top on the list are money matters and your loved ones – not necessarily in that order! Much of your time may be spent in appeasing the Gods.

LIBRA
Good news! You will be a people's person today. Close friends, relatives and family – you seem to want to spend your time with all of them today, says Ganesha. Better news? Your romantic brilliance will be at its peak today as your fancy takes wings and creativity flows freely in manners that seem irresistible.

SCORPIO
Audacious. Adventurous. Aquarius. The three As will go hand-in-hand throughout the day, feels Ganesha. Entrepreneurs will joust with the idea of launching new products or will make daring business plans. At work, you will impress your colleagues and peers and win the trust of your boss with your convincing skills.

SAGITTARIUS
Unnecessary expenditure might clog your bill today, feels Ganesha. Organising and detailing will be a time-sink as you will spend hapless hours trying to discipline things. The vibrant evening will be a contrast to your hectic day as you kick back and relax while socialising.

CAPRICORN
You may not get as popular as Romeo did, but your exceedingly romantic nature will earn you quite a reputation, not to forget the hypnotic effect it will have on your sweetheart, says Ganesha. On the flip side, troubles will chase you everywhere; you are likely to face problems with your business rivals and health condition, but your mind will be on guard always, giving you an edge over your opponents.

AQUARIUS
Finally, you've decided to clean up the mess! And you will do a fine job, whether it's your workspace, your bills, your finances, or even your closet. And now that you're inspired, you might as well sort out your mental clutter too, chuckles Ganesha.

PISCES
Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to deal with the mind-numbing financial juggle required to take stock of your monetary matters with precision. You might be dealing with people who secretly have an axe to grind against you, cautions Ganesha.



MICHAEL MURRAY RECALLS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

Chad Michael Murray recently shared a near-death experience from his teenage years. At 15, he suffered a twisted intestine, leading to severe internal bleeding and a drastic weight loss. He credits a nurse's quick action with a life-saving blood transfusion, which ultimately changed his outlook and approach to healthy living

KOURTNEY KARDASHIAN SHUTS DOWN PREGNANCY RUMOURS

Kourtney Kardashian shut down pregnancy speculation after sharing Instagram photos of herself enjoying food and adventures. Having addressed similar rumours earlier this year, she reiterated her focus on living joyfully and authentically rather than meeting societal expectations about appearance or lifestyle choices



Outsider tag helped Rajkummar flourish

Mumbai: Rajkummar Rao's Bollywood journey is a testament to self-made success, where sheer talent and relentless hard work have made him one of the most dependable and admired actors today. Known for fearlessly embracing challenging roles, he has built a career defined by risk-taking and dedication, constantly surprising audiences with his range.

Rajkummar believes being an outsider actually helped him grow as an actor. Without a film family background, he felt free to choose diverse roles without pressure or expectations. "Not having a film background gave me the freedom to find my own voice. There were no expectations to follow a path. I am very proud of my journey and wouldn't trade it for anything. It also helped me stay grounded," he said.

His versatility is evident in the variety of roles he has taken on — from horror in *Stree* to intense drama in *Maalik* and romance in *Bhool Chuk Maaf*. Recently, his rugged transformation in *Maalik*, opposite Manushi Chhillar, earned praise for breaking away from his earlier characters. Looking ahead, Rajkummar will star in a two-hero comedy directed by Shoojit Sircar in late 2025 and portray cricket legend Sourav Ganguly in a biopic slated for December 2026, further proving his commitment to experimentation.



AGENCIES



Hina battles casting stigma

New Delhi: A year after Indian TV star Hina Khan announced her breast cancer diagnosis, she says she can sense that people from the industry are still hesitant to work with her.

The actor said work took a backseat after she fell ill, and she had to leave a lot of offers. She is now back on the small screen with *Pati Patni Aur Panga*. "This is my first project after the whole thing (breast cancer diagnosis) happened. I want to work. No one has directly said to me, 'You've still not recovered completely', but I can sense that maybe people are hesitant (to work with me) for all the right reasons.

"It's okay. I'll have to break that norm. Maybe the show will do it, I understand it. Had I been in their place, I would've thought about it a thousand times.

I'm open to auditions, where did I stop? No one has called me for the last one year, for all the reasons. I'm open to everything, please call me," Khan told this news agency.

The 37-year-old actor, known for shows such as *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*, *Kasautii Zindagii Kay* 2 and *Bigg Boss 11*, said she feels glad to have made a comeback to work with her ongoing reality show, which is currently on air on Colors Channel.

PTI



Manisha's regret

Mumbai: Manisha Koirala, who has collaborated with some of cinema's greatest directors including Subhash Ghai, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Mani Ratnam, and Rajkumar Hirani, still regrets never working with the legendary Yash Chopra. "As a kid,

when I watched *Chandni* or *Lamhe*, I dreamed of working with Yash ji. He portrayed women so beautifully and glamorously," she said on a podcast. Koirala revealed she had once been offered a Yash Chopra film but turned it down due to "insecurity," a decision she deeply regrets. The role eventually went to Karisma Kapoor in the 1997 blockbuster *Dil To Pagal Hai*, after being declined by several other stars including Juhi Chawla, Kajol, Raveena Tandon, and Urmila Matondkar.

At the time, Koirala chose to work in Mani Ratnam's *Dil Se*

instead. More recently, she earned acclaim for her portrayal of brothel madam Mallikajaan in Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* on Netflix. Since then, she hasn't signed any new projects but is reading two scripts she finds promising. However, she emphasised that she remains selective, turning down offers that don't meet her creative standards, and values the artistic freedom she enjoyed working with Bhansali.

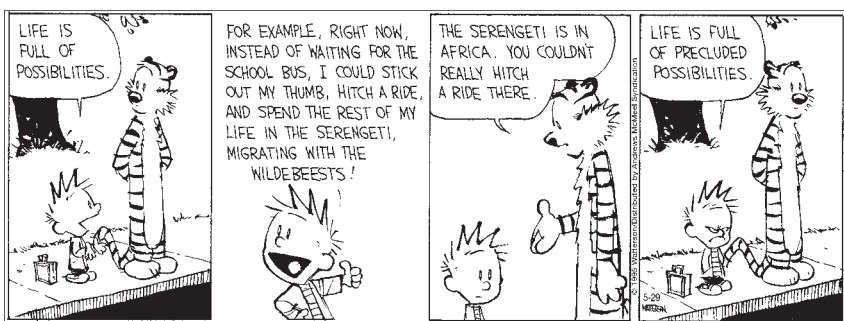
AGENCIES



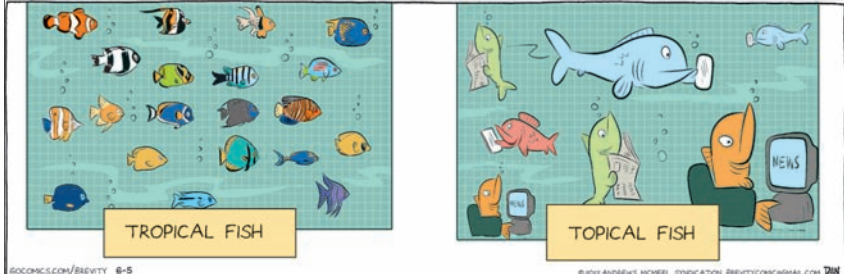
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

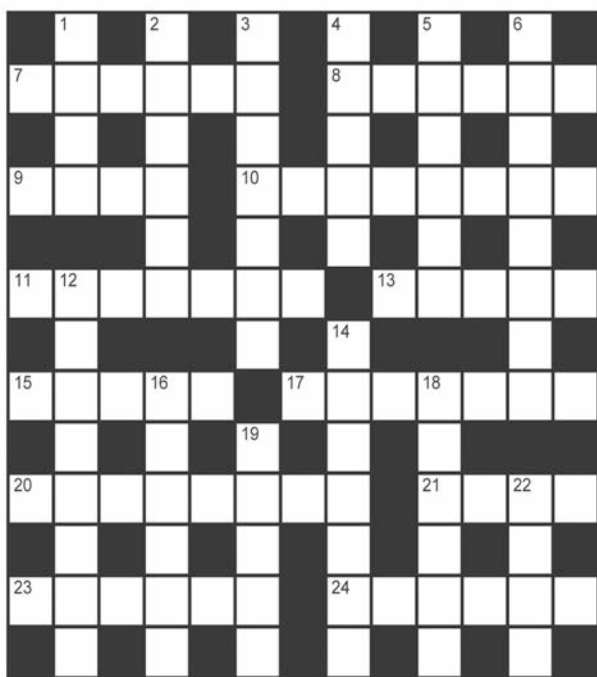


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



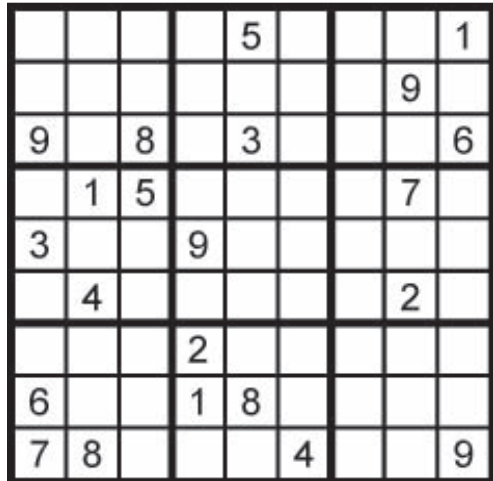
Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across | 21 Computer command | 4 Autocrats of old |
| 7 Flag | 23 High regard | 5 Blundered |
| 8 Former Japanese VIP | 24 Woodwind player | 6 Boxer |
| 9 Ocean predator | | 12 Put in order |
| 10 British kerosine | | 14 Largest city in Scotland |
| 11 Ennui | Down | 16 Bread units |
| 13 Own up to | 1 It grows on you | 18 Optometrist's concern |
| 15 Like a gymnast | 2 Wacky to the max | 19 Smiles broadly |
| 17 Raise | 3 Superman's bane | 22 Widespread |
| 20 Comes apart at the seams | | |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



KENDRAPARA ‘SELF-IMMOLATION’

POLICE ARREST EX-BOYFRIEND

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, August 10: The ex-boyfriend of the 19-year-old woman, who died allegedly by setting herself on fire in Kendrapara district, was arrested Sunday on charges of abetment of suicide and sexual harassment, police said.

The woman’s charred body was found on the staircase of her house August 6, following which her father alleged that her ex-boyfriend shared their intimate videos online, which forced her to take her life.

The woman broke up with the accused, Pramod Behera, following which he started threatening her to make their intimate videos public. As he sent the videos to different persons, including the woman’s father, she took her life, police said.

The woman’s family had also



The woman broke up with the accused, Pramod Behera, following which he started threatening her to make their intimate videos public

alleged that she sought the police’s help regarding the matter, but no action was taken.

Behera was booked under BNS sections 296 (obscene act), 75 (sexual harassment), 78 (stalking) and 108 (abetment of suicide), and sections 66-E and 67-A of the IT Act, Kendrapara SP Siddharth Kataria told re-

porters.

“There are at least 60 obscene videos in the mobile phone of the accused,” he said.

“The accused had sent one of the videos to the mobile phone of the deceased woman’s father July 17. He has also sent such videos to five-six other persons. He had sent a message to the de-

ceased at 7:34 am August 6, following which she died. He had also called the victim August 5,” the SP said.

He said the investigators were now waiting for the post-mortem examination reports.

Meanwhile, the accused’s father threatened that he would also die by setting himself on fire outside the police station if his son was not released.

“I am a poor man because of which justice is denied to me. My son is innocent,” he claimed. The accused’s mother and sister admitted that he had a relationship with the victim, but denied that he blackmailed her. They alleged that the woman’s father had set his daughter on fire in a case of ‘honour killing’.

Based on the allegation, police have interrogated the victim’s father and brother, besides speaking to her mother.

Odisha’s 1st desalination plant unveiled in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 10: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Sunday inaugurated Odisha’s first seawater desalination plant in Ganjam district.

The plant, at Matikhal near Chhatarpur, will convert seawater into freshwater using reverse osmosis (RO). It has been developed by the Odisha Sands Complex (OSCOM), a unit of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL).

Around 4 lakh litres of water will be supplied from the plant every day, benefitting around 7,000 people. PM Narendra Modi had launched the plant in March last year from Bhubaneswar.Pradhan said that with the operationalisation of the plant, the water problems of two seashore villages will be solved.

“The villagers were facing drinking water problems due to the salinity in the groundwater,” he said.

NURSING STUDENT’S DEATH

BJD’s 12-hr Raighar bandh today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Sunday announced a 12-hour bandh August 11 (Monday) in Raighar block to protest the death of a female nursing student from Dumurimunda village in Nabarangpur district.

The bandh will be observed from 6am to 6pm, during which all private and government institutions—including schools, colleges, markets, shops—and vehicular movement will remain suspended. However, emergency services will continue to operate uninterrupted.

The party alleged a sharp rise in violence against women in the state, creating a climate of fear that is making women hesitant to step out of their homes.

The BJD demanded the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, accusing the government of failing to protect women.

The party has also demanded

₹1 crore compensation for the victim’s family. “Until women, students, and minors in Odisha are safe, the BJD will continue to intensify its statewide agitation to demand justice,” the statement said.

The victim was reportedly harassed for months by a youth identified as Satyajit Sarkar, who wanted to be in a relationship with her. The situation worsened when Satyajit allegedly assaulted her in a local market July 13 and later leaked obscene videos and photos of her on social media. The humiliation reportedly drove her to consume pesticide on July 17.

She was initially treated at a local hospital before being shifted to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar as her condition worsened. Sadly, she died August 9 while undergoing treatment.

The police have arrested Satyajit and another youth in connection with the case, and investigations are ongoing.

Odisha to develop four new digital hubs: CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday unveiled plans to transform Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, and Berhampur into digital hubs, aiming to position the state as a leading innovation destination. The initiative is part of Vision Odisha 2036 and Developed India 2047.

Speaking at the inaugural two-day National Entrepreneurship Summit – TiECon Bhubaneswar 2025, Majhi urged entrepreneurs to partner in Odisha’s growth journey, citing the state’s strengths in Global Capability Centres (GCCs), chip design, blockchain, and AI research.

“Once you come here, it will feel like your second home. Together, we can make Odisha the industrial capital of eastern India,” he said.

Organised by TiECon Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the state government, the event brought together over 500 delegates from India,

Singapore, UAE, and Sri Lanka.

Highlighting Odisha’s pioneering AI initiatives, Electronics & IT, Health & Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said, “We are the first state with our own AI Policy and have allocated Rs 25 crore for the Odisha AI Mission in the 2025–26 budget.”

He also highlighted the Odisha Semiconductor Policy and the MoUs signed to establish a Fintech Centre in Bhubaneswar.

TiE Bhubaneswar president AK Mohanty said, “This summit has showcased Odisha’s potential and laid the groundwork for global partnerships.”

The grand closing ceremony was graced by E&IT Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, TiE Global chairman Murali Bukapatnam, TiE Bhubaneswar president AK Mohanty, Jajpur MP Rabindra Narayan Behera, along with top industry leaders, global entrepreneurs, and government officials.

Two, including para-athlete Jogendra, die in dog attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gudvela, August 10: In a tragic incident at Chhendjad village under Gudvela block in Bolangir district, para-athlete Jogendra Chhatria (33) died late Saturday night at Burla Medical College, succumbing to injuries sustained in a stray dog attack. Jogendra, who was unmarried, had represented Odisha and India in volleyball. His family said he aspired to excel in the sport and bring glory to the nation.

Another villager, Hrushikesh Rana (47), also died Sunday after being bitten by the same dog, while four others remain in critical condition and are receiving medical treatment.

According to reports, a stray dog attacked several residents of Chhendjad village July 23 including Keshab Nag, Meghnad Chhatria, Phul Chhatria, R. Rana, player Jogendra, and Hrushikesh—one after another. All were admitted to a nearby health centre.

As the condition of Jogendra and Hrushikesh worsened, they were first shifted to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir, and later referred to Burla Hospital. Jogendra was declared dead by doctors Saturday night.

Hrushikesh was advised to be taken home without further treatment. While being brought back, he died around 9:30am Sunday. His last rites were performed in the village, while Jogendra’s cremation took place in Burla after post-mortem.

News of the two deaths has cast a pall of gloom over the village, with fear spreading among residents. Villagers have demanded proper attention to ensure the recovery of the remaining injured.



Let us raise the Tricolour with pride,
unite under its glory, and
keep our spirit of patriotism high!

Har Ghar
Tiranga
2nd-15th August 2025

Come forward and participate in 'Tiranga Utsav'
in your neighbourhood



Tiranga
Concerts



Tiranga
Yatras



Tiranga
Rallies



Tiranga
Film Festivals



Tiranga Quizz &
Essay Competitions



Tiranga Rangoli
Making

Hoist the National Flag at your home
and upload your selfie with Tiranga on harghartiranga.com

To register for the biggest nationwide jan bhagidari andolan
and sign up as a Tiranga Volunteer scan here





Peace in the storm, calm in the effort, joy in the surrender, a luminous faith, and you will become aware of the Lord's constant presence

THE MOTHER

Perpetual War

Almost two years into the war in Gaza, the Israeli security cabinet has approved yet another military escalation -- a proposed takeover of Gaza City. This move, spearheaded by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, aims to achieve five objectives: disarming Hamas, securing the return of all hostages, demilitarizing Gaza, ensuring Israeli security control in the region, and establishing a civil administration that is independent of both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

However, the move seems to reflect more of Netanyahu's domestic political strategy than a coherent military plan. The decision was made despite strong opposition and serious warnings from Israeli military leaders, who cautioned that it could exacerbate the humanitarian crisis and keep Israel in perpetual war.

Nevertheless, Netanyahu has advanced his plan, which offers him an unspoken advantage: it buys him time to secure his political position. For his current Far-Right coalition partners, this means extending the conflict. Time and again, his allies, Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, have obstructed ceasefire negotiations, threatening to destabilise his government if the war were to conclude. Yet, Netanyahu's strategy to encircle Gaza City does not fully meet the demands of his coalition partners. In fact, Ben Gvir and Smotrich are advocating for a complete occupation of the region, not just Gaza City, as a preliminary step toward rebuilding Jewish settlements in Gaza and ultimately annexing the area.

The military concerns reflect a widespread sentiment among the Israeli public. Numerous opinion polls indicate that a majority of Israelis favour a ceasefire that would secure the return of the remaining hostages, numbering about 50, and bring an end to the conflict. Analysts and political opponents argue that Netanyahu's current decision-making is out of touch with both military counsel and public opinion. It is, instead, driven by the urgent need for his political survival.

Netanyahu's plan for a takeover of Gaza also places him and Israel in a position of unprecedented international isolation. Although US President Donald Trump's administration has provided him with considerable leeway in the Gaza conflict, the escalating famine and humanitarian crisis have eroded global support for Israel's actions. The repercussions of the latest cabinet decision were swift and clear: Germany—Israel's second most crucial strategic ally after the United States—announced it would suspend some military exports to Israel, potentially prompting other European Union nations to further diminish their relations with the country.

Despite receiving support from the United States, Israel is grappling with a significant crisis in international credibility, which may take a long time to overcome. A recent Pew poll indicates that global perceptions of Israel are now more negative than positive. In early 2025, a majority of respondents from countries like the Netherlands (78 per cent), Japan (79 per cent), Spain (75 per cent), Australia (74 per cent), Turkey (93 per cent), and Sweden (75 per cent) expressed an unfavourable opinion of Israel.

The Israeli military intervention since the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack has so far claimed the lives of over 60,000 Palestinians. As images of starving children in Gaza have flooded the news in recent weeks, many of Israel's allies in the Western world are reaching a breaking point with its policies. In a significant shift in the global sentiment, France has announced plans to recognise Palestinian statehood, prompting the United Kingdom and Canada to pledge similar actions. Germany has also initiated steps toward recognition, while Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has suggested that his country's acknowledgment of Palestine is imminent. Additionally, Spain and Sweden have called for the suspension of the European Union's trade agreement with Israel, and the Netherlands has officially designated Israel as a "security threat," citing efforts to sway public opinion in the country.

A takeover of Gaza escalates the fight with Hamas without any way of ending it. While twenty months of attacks have severely weakened Hamas, the group's capacity to mount a limited insurgency remains. And, insurgencies are hard to defeat, as the US learned it the hard way in Vietnam and Iraq. Perpetual wars leave everyone worse off.

WISDOM CORNER

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do

BOB DYLAN

Usually, people have a tendency to be caught in the worries concerning the future or in the regret concerning the past. There is some kind of energy that is pushing them to run, and they are not able to establish themselves in the present moment

THICH NHAT HANH

We're all going to die, all of us; what a circus! That alone should make us love each other, but it doesn't. We are terrorized and flattened by trivialities. We are eaten up by nothing

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1948: The first Olympic Games after the 1938 Berlin Olympics open in London. The next two games after Berlin, scheduled to be held in Tokyo and Helsinki were cancelled due to the Second World War. The first Olympics to be broadcast on television, the London Olympics was popularly known at the time as the Austerity Games. This was because of the cutbacks the host nation had to do due to the post-war economy.

1956: Jackson Pollock killed in automobile accident. American painter Jackson Pollock, a leading exponent of Abstract Expressionism who received great fame and serious recognition for his radical poured, or "drip," technique, died this day in 1956 in an automobile accident.

1960: Chad gains its independence from the French. The Central African country came under French rule in 1900 after the Battle of Kousséri. Francois Tombalbay became independent Chad's first president.

1962: The Soviet Space Agency launches Vostok 3. The spacecraft was piloted by Andriyan Nikolayev, the first cosmonaut to have orbited the Earth 64 times in 4 days.

LOL

TIME FOR WEDDING

A police officer stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say,"



"And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!"

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding... He'll be in a good mood when he gets back." "Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."



Lekha Rattanani

MANY PEOPLE DON'T ASSOCIATE CITIES WITH TREES, AND DON'T FIGURE THAT URBAN AREAS ARE DEPENDENT ON HEALTHY FORESTS

"Dol ka baadh," Jaipur's naturally grown forest reserve of some 105 acres that has taken root and thrived over the last three decades or thereabouts is the focus of a new battle that is receiving national attention. The fate of the pink city's last green lung now lies between the rising crescendo of a movement trying to protect it and bulldozers determined to flatten it for structures that will include a mall, a fintech park and residential buildings.

The structures are part of a large-scale commercial project that is essential for economic growth and job creation, argues the State represented by the Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO). Opponents say these structures can be put up elsewhere and should not remove or in any manner disturb the forest that is home to 2,400 trees, over 80 bird species (some of them endangered, many migratory), and native wildlife including nilgai, porcupine, mongoose, snakes, peacocks and a wide variety of unusual butterflies.

The movement to preserve what is a rare gem of nature in the heart of an urban centre has echoes in other movements that have risen from the grassroots to resist top down, environment-unfriendly development agenda in other parts of the country. In that sense, the movement in Jaipur has echoes of prolonged efforts to save the Aarey forest in Mumbai which has had to make space for a metro rail car shed, or protests against the planned cycle walk through Jahanpanah forest in South Delhi or the case of the Khalanga Reserve Forest in Dehradun,



Urban forests provide a range of valuable ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, improved air and water quality, and reduced noise pollution

which is threatened by a water reservoir project that would require cutting approximately 2,000 Sal trees.

Urban forests provide a range of valuable ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, improved air and water quality, and reduced noise pollution. In Mumbai, for example, anyone who visited Aarey before many trees were cut down noticed a clear drop in temperature all year round; the cooler and cleaner air drew thousands to the area just to breathe better and get away from the rush of the 'Urbs Prima in Indis'.

Far away from Jaipur, the city of Kochi is experiencing flooding and extreme heat risks. The increasing heat stress comes from the city's dwindling tree cover caused by unplanned urban expansion. Kochi's susceptibility to these hazards is also on account of its dense population, coastal geography and limited adaptive capacity. Estimates from satellite data reflect that approximately 31% of the city's population is exposed to temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius and about

26% lives within flood plains. Local authorities and leaders are seeking a larger role for forests in the city's new disaster management and climate change adaptation plan. The Kochi Municipal Corporation is now working with local community-based organisations like Kudumbashree, a Kerala State's women-led poverty eradication mission, and other groups like Cities4Forests to promote planting trees and reactivating forestry. Kochi, Mumbai and Bangalore are 3 Indian metros that have joined Cities4Forests, a global alliance that helps cities around the world better conserve, manage and restore nature.

Nagrika, an organisation looking at urban governance and development, has explored the issue of urban tree cover loss and highlighted the importance of urban forestry for low-carbon cities. The challenges and benefits of urban forestry are a complex system but there is no getting away from the well accepted and evidence-based view that loss of tree cover can exacerbate urban heat islands, as seen in

the case of Kochi.

Many people don't associate cities with trees, and don't figure that urban areas are dependent on healthy forests. Trees within cities reduce heat, recharge the soil and water and provide spaces for recreation. Nearby trees in watersheds around cities filter drinking water and help prevent flooding and landslides.

The grassroots movements taking shape, like the one in Jaipur, tell us the issues of the environment are issues for ordinary people. Ordinary citizens, particularly the youth, are increasingly tending to stand up for the rights of nature, for their own rights to breathe clean air and live with nature around them, even in urban landscapes. They are also sensitive to the long-term impacts of climate change and are willing to put in the effort to stand up and resist development that hurts the environment.

This is an important socio-political change that must not be missed. It in fact builds on the ethos of India and its traditions, which show reverence and respect for nature, with every mountain and river often recognised as a place for prayer or a space for quiet contemplation. Reverence for nature comes to this land from the Isha Upanishad: Isha vasyam idam sarvam yat kincha jagatyam jagat, Tena tyaktena bhunjitha ma gridhah kasyasvid dhanam, which loosely translated means "All that is on Earth is enveloped by the Lord. Enjoy by re-nunciation..."

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.

©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM

TARIFFS



Shivaji Sarkar

THE SENSEX HAS BEEN IN A BEAR HUG FOR THE LAST SIX CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

Amid US President Donald Trump's 50% tariff assault, most Indians ignored the severe slide in the stock market since 7 April, repeated with Operation Sindoor on 7 May, and peaking on 8 August for unimpressive earnings, stretched valuations and large foreign capital (FPI) outflows in between April and early August.

The Sensex has been in a bear hug for the last six consecutive weeks. The market is shaken by Trump's statement on putting off talks until the tariff dispute is resolved. On 8 August, Sensex crashed 847 points, or 1.05%, to hit an intraday low of 79,775.84. The Nifty also dropped by 1.05% to hit the day's low of 24,337.50. Broader markets underperformed. The BSE Midcap index lost 1.56%, while the Smallcap index lost 1.03%. The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped to ₹440 lakh crore from ₹445 lakh crore in the previous session. Thus, the massive across-segments sell-off made investors poorer by about ₹5 lakh crore in a single session, as per market estimates.

Foreign investors had put in ₹14,590 crore in the country's equity market in June, marking the third straight

month of investment, supported by improving global liquidity conditions, easing geopolitical tensions, and a rate cut by the RBI. However, FPIs turned net sellers in July and pulled out ₹1,421 crore, in the first week of July itself, data with the depositaries showed. FPIs made a total outflow of ₹17,741 crore in the whole of July, marking a shift after three consecutive months of inflows, according to data released by NSDL.

Since the US tariff announcement on 2 April, the total market value of all NSE-listed companies has fallen by \$280 billion. "In the current scenario of US tariff uncertainty, Indian markets will struggle a bit more," says Mahesh Patil, chief investment officer at Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company. Data from NSDL suggests sold equities worth ₹1.12 lakh crore in February, and outflows continued at ₹30,015 crore in March. The trend has persisted since last year. With the tariff war, this situation has aggravated further.

Although the situation is often linked to actions taken by Trump, other factors too are involved. India, facing significant domestic consequences in its political sphere, has

declined two major requests from the US: allowing free entry of farm goods and dairy products into the country. The government has maintained its position against permitting genetically modified food products. Domestic protests regarding US farm imports have contributed to this refusal. India has not opened its agricultural markets to US grains, fruit, dairy, or fish.

Agriculture sustains about 54% of India's population and at least 46% of labour. But farming household earnings are poor at ₹13,661 per month, on average. Agricultural farm income is just ₹4,476. The rest is income from other work. It would be imprudent to throw small farmers against highly mechanised farms of America. With crucial Bihar elections approaching, India's large farm-dependent population faces rising input costs and inflation that outpaces crop earnings, despite higher minimum support prices. This has significant political and economic implications. High agricultural employment highlights industry struggles to create sufficient jobs or provide adequate wages and conditions.

Increased financial market

volatility and potential disruptions in manufacturing and supply chains could further impact the economy. The economic turbulence is tied to a complex US-China-India-Russia dynamic. Possible turning points include a Trump-Vladimir Putin meeting, bilateral India-China or India-Russia summits, or a QUAD gathering hosted by India.

Meanwhile, doubts linger over whether the WTO can be revived or if it is sliding into irrelevance like the League of Nations before WW-II. India's moral stance in resisting Trump's tariff terms is clear, but the negotiation endgame remains uncertain. The answers are as complex. Even the smallest solution could change the tack. It is a critical phase. India is morally correct in stalling the Trump tariff negotiations. But that cannot be the end.

While India is projected to be a leading global growth engine in 2025, it faces headwinds from a slowing global economy and potential trade disruptions. The country's ability to manage these challenges and maintain its growth trajectory will be crucial for its long-term economic health.

INFA

Chance for peace

Sir, This refers to "Zelenskyy rejects land concessions," **Orissa POST**, August 10. Close on the heels of the announcement that US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet in Alaska on 15 August, a ray of hope has emerged for ending the over three-year-long Russia-Ukraine war. However, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has upped the ante over negotiations, signalling a tough stance in the lead-up to the talks. The conflict, now well into its fourth year, has taken a staggering toll. The world simply cannot endure wars of such magnitude. In today's interconnected global order, the destruction unleashed by armed conflicts ripples far beyond the immediate battleground—triggering food shortages, energy crises, and geopolitical instability. The Alaska summit could be the critical turning point, provided all parties prioritise peace over political posturing. This is the moment for courage, statesmanship, and compromise—to end the bloodshed and prove that dialogue remains the most powerful weapon in the modern world..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Strategic challenges

Sir, India's strategic doctrine of multi-alignment and autonomy reflects a deliberate effort to navigate a multi-polar world without being tethered to any single bloc. Rooted in its post-Independence legacy of non-alignment, this evolved framework allows India to engage with major powers—including the US, Russia, China, and the Global South—on an issue-based, interest-driven basis. This approach positions India as a bridge-builder in global affairs, offering a third path between alignment and isolationism. However, maintaining this autonomy is increasingly challenging amid intensifying great power rivalries. The US-China strategic competition places India in a delicate position: while it deepens defence and technological ties with Washington, it remains wary of being drawn into containment strategies against Beijing. Simultaneously, India's continued engagement with Russia—especially in energy and arms—has attracted scrutiny from the West. Border tensions with China and persistent friction with Pakistan further complicate India's regional calculus, testing its ability to remain non-aligned while safeguarding national security. India's reliance on Russian oil, Middle Eastern energy, and Western technology creates leverage points that external powers can exploit.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH



Dharitri and **Orissa POST** Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, along with Manish Agarwal of Ajanta Advertisers, hands over a cheque of ₹50,000 and a trophy to IIT, Kharagpur, first runner-up in the senior category, as quizmaster Ajay Poonia looks on



Quizzers of IIM, Calcutta, second runner-up in the senior category, receiving a cheque of ₹25,000 and a trophy



BRUSH WITH BRILLIANCE



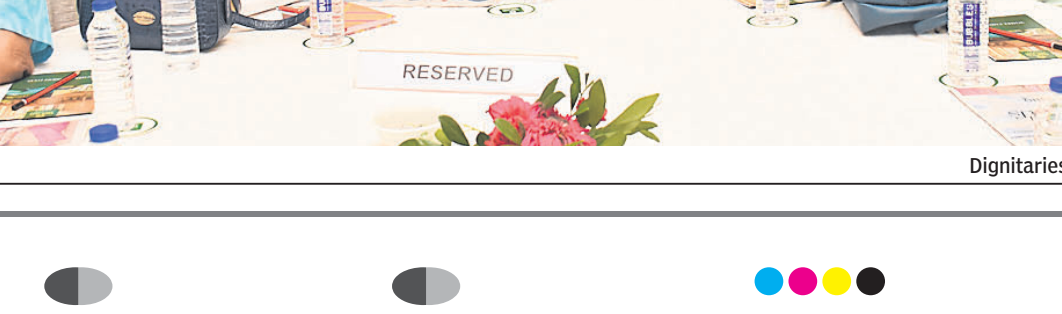
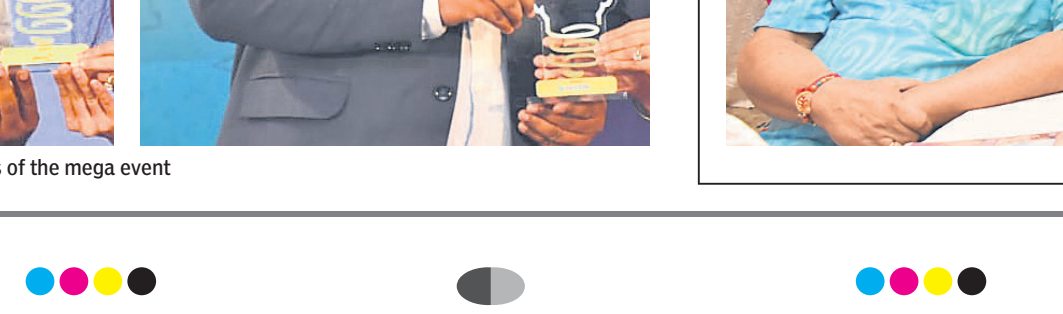
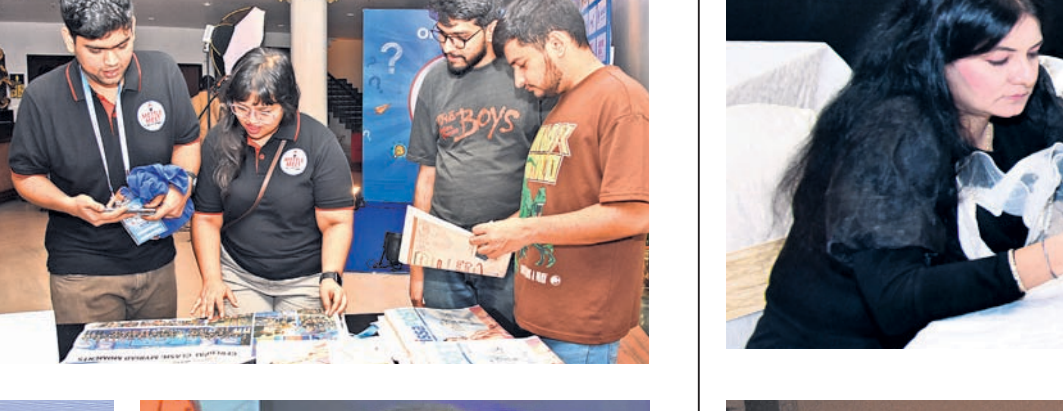
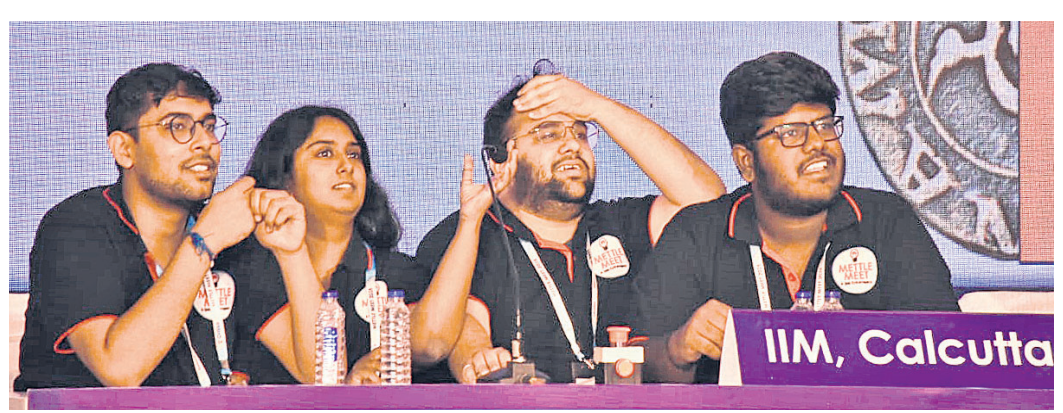
Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy addressing Mettle Meet 2025 Grand Finale



Winners from audience



Dharitri and OrissaPOST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy felicitates sponsors of the mega event



Quizmaster Ajay Poonia



Host Mansi Mishra



Dignitaries and parents at the Grand Finale



Dignitaries and parents at the Grand Finale

of the day

quote

In 2016, we were promised that terrorism would end after demilitarisation. Do not go by their promises... they do not know how to run the government. They only know the jugglery of words

PAWAN KHERA | CONG LEADER

Sanatan Dharma has followed the path of love, truth, and non-violence, and based on these principles, the Constitution has given equal rights to every citizen. Christianity, Islam and many other faiths came here

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | SENIOR CONG LEADER

Sharad Pawar said some people met him before the polls. The same set of people also met Uddhav Thackeray during the Lok Sabha (polls). We told them we believe in democracy and will win the Lok Sabha polls for sure, looking at the atmosphere in the country

SANJAY RAUT | SENA (UBT) MP

X

POST OF THE DAY

Last 10 years:- India's M2 money supply CAGR= 14.2%
US M2 money supply CAGR= 4.5%
India's stock market returns= 10.2%
US's stock market returns (S&P 500)= 10.2%
In simple terms: what does this mean?
- Our liquidity has gone up dramatically after every crisis
- We are deeply levered. Despite taking massive debt- growth is not accelerating.
- Therefore: foreign investors are not betting big on the Indian market (FII outflow and poor returns are a proof)
In the long-term everything goes up, including all of us.
But, doing blind investing on stories is not a sound investing strategy. Study data independently. And make your decisions

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

IED found in J'khand forest
Chaibasa: An IED was found in a forest in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Sunday, police said. The IED, weighing 5 kg, is suspected to have been planted by Maoists to target security forces, they said. The IED was found in the Saranda forest in the Jaraiakela police station area, they added.

Woman duped of ₹3.09 crore
Mangaluru: A retired woman here lost Rs 3.09 crore to cybercriminals in a 'digital arrest' scam, police said Sunday. The victim, identified as Leni Prabhu, filed a complaint with the Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station after receiving a missed call January 15 from an unknown number. When she returned the call, a woman posing as a General Post Office official told her that a parcel sent in her name to China had been intercepted, containing 150 grams of MDMA.

2 killed in road mishap
Ranchi: Two persons were killed and several injured after being hit by a four-wheeler in Ranchi Sunday evening, police said. The accident happened near the state BJP office on Harmu Road in the Argora police station area, they said. "At least two people were killed on the spot. Several others have been injured," a police officer said.

VP polls: INDIA bloc plans joint candidate
New Delhi, August 10: The INDIA bloc will put up a joint candidate for the vice presidential polls and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is reaching out to Opposition parties to explore names and reach a consensus on it, sources said Sunday.
They said that there was a strong feeling in the bloc that Opposition parties should not shy away from a contest to send a strong political message irrespective of the outcome.
Though there has not been any structured discussion on picking a candidate, backchannel talks are on among INDIA bloc partners to deliberate on names of possible candidates with Kharge reaching out to Opposition parties for building a consensus.
There is consensus among parties that the INDIA bloc will put up a joint candidate for the vice presidential polls, Congress sources said.
However, a section in the Opposition camp believes that the INDIA bloc must decide their candidate after the BJP announces its pick.
This comes at a time of heightened unity among INDIA bloc constituents who have vowed to fight against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and alleged poll rigging.
In a show of unity, top INDIA bloc leaders held a dinner meeting at the residence of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday and vowed to fight the electoral rolls' revision in Bihar as well as what they described as the "vote chori model" of the BJP-Election Commission.
This was the first physical meeting of top leaders of the opposition bloc since they last met in June 2024, soon after the Lok Sabha elections at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence.
Several leaders from 25 parties were present at the meeting, which included Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, SP's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, Shiv Sena(UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, DMK's Tiruchi Siva and T R Baalu, CPI(M)'s M A Baby, CPT's D Raja, CPI(ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya and MNM chief Kamal Haasan.
During the meeting, Gandhi gave a presentation on the "vote chori model" being allegedly perpetrated by the BJP through the Election Commission.
Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal termed the meeting as one of the "most successful". Asked whether the vice presidential election was also discussed, he had said, "There wasn't much discussion on the vice presidential election... There are other occasions for it".
Kharge will also host a dinner for INDIA bloc MPs Monday. In a sudden move, Jagdeep Dhankhar quit as vice president on the evening of August 4 citing medical reasons, though there have been consistent murmurs about other reasons behind his resignation.
The effective strength of both the Houses together is 781 and the winning candidate will require to win 391 votes in the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



election for the vice president, considering all eligible voters exercise their franchise. All members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including the nominated ones, vote in the vice presidential poll. The NDA seems to have the numbers on its side with a strength of around 422 members.
The Election Commission last Thursday issued a notification for the September 9 vice presidential poll, kickstarting the exercise to elect Dhankhar's successor.
Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody, the returning officer for the election, received three nomination papers, which were rejected for not being in order.
According to the notification, August 21 is the last date for filing nominations and the documents will be scrutinised August 22. The last date for the withdrawal of nominations is August 25.
According to constitutional provisions, in case of a mid-term poll, the incumbent gets a full five-year term. A person cannot be elected as the vice president unless he is a citizen of India, has completed 35 years of age and is qualified for election as a member of Rajya Sabha.
A person is also not eligible if he holds any office of profit under the government of India or a state government or any subordinate local authority.

Several leaders from 25 parties were present at the meeting, which included Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, SP's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, Shiv Sena(UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, DMK's Tiruchi Siva and T R Baalu, CPI(M)'s M A Baby, CPT's D Raja, CPI(ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya and MNM chief Kamal Haasan.
During the meeting, Gandhi gave a presentation on the "vote chori model" being allegedly perpetrated by the BJP through the Election Commission.
Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal termed the meeting as one of the "most successful". Asked whether the vice presidential election was also discussed, he had said, "There wasn't much discussion on the vice presidential election... There are other occasions for it".
Kharge will also host a dinner for INDIA bloc MPs Monday. In a sudden move, Jagdeep Dhankhar quit as vice president on the evening of August 4 citing medical reasons, though there have been consistent murmurs about other reasons behind his resignation.
The effective strength of both the Houses together is 781 and the winning candidate will require to win 391 votes in the

Patanjali Yogpeeth dispatches relief to disaster hit Dharali

AGENCIES

Haridwar, August 10: Patanjali Yogpeeth has come forward to help the disaster hit Dharali region of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand. Under the leadership of Patanjali Yogpeeth head, Swami Ramdev and general secretary, Acharya Balkrishan, Patanjali Foods MD, Rambharat dispatched three trucks full of relief materials for Dharali and appealed to the people of the country to come forward to help the people of Dharali in this hour of need.
Speaking on the occasion Swami Ramdev said that nothing can be done for the lost lives in the disaster that hit Dharali but for the 500 families which were worst hit by the calamity, they were sending relief materials including tirpal, utensils, toothpaste, brushes, soaps etc.
He also said that the relief material will also be sent for the disaster victims as per the weather requirements.
Taking a dig at the multinational companies, Swami Ramdev said that these companies earn from our people but in the hour of need they have never come forward to help our people.
He further said that America is threatening the world by tariff and to counter it we should support the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat slogan of PM Modi.
"We should prefer country made things over the foreign materials so that our country becomes self dependent in all respects," Swami Ramdev maintained.
On this occasion Acharya Balkrishan said on the day of Raksha Bandhan we should pledge to safeguard our sisters and other weaker sections of the society.

He also said that the relief material will also be sent for the disaster victims as per the weather requirements.
Taking a dig at the multinational companies, Swami Ramdev said that these companies earn from our people but in the hour of need they have never come forward to help our people.
He further said that America is threatening the world by tariff and to counter it we should support the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat slogan of PM Modi.
"We should prefer country made things over the foreign materials so that our country becomes self dependent in all respects," Swami Ramdev maintained.
On this occasion Acharya Balkrishan said on the day of Raksha Bandhan we should pledge to safeguard our sisters and other weaker sections of the society.

He also said that the relief material will also be sent for the disaster victims as per the weather requirements.
Taking a dig at the multinational companies, Swami Ramdev said that these companies earn from our people but in the hour of need they have never come forward to help our people.
He further said that America is threatening the world by tariff and to counter it we should support the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat slogan of PM Modi.
"We should prefer country made things over the foreign materials so that our country becomes self dependent in all respects," Swami Ramdev maintained.
On this occasion Acharya Balkrishan said on the day of Raksha Bandhan we should pledge to safeguard our sisters and other weaker sections of the society.



A train passes by men playing chess near railway tracks, in Kolkata, West Bengal



‘Downing of Pak special mission aircraft during Op Sindoor significant’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Air Chief Marshal A P Singh's assertion that Indian Air Force downed a large Pakistani aircraft from a distance of around 300 km, reflected its unprecedented air superiority that dealt a "huge" psychological blow to the adversary.
This is what military officials said while breaking down nuances of the Air Chief Marshal's address in Bengaluru Saturday where he said India shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large special mission aircraft during Operation Sindoor.
The IAF chief described the downing of either an ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) or AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft as the "largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill" that we can talk about.
"It is significant as there is no publicly available information of a surface-to-air missile bringing down such an asset at a distance of 300 kms or beyond," said a senior military official on condition of anonymity.
The strike dealt a massive psychological, strategic and tactical blow that will be difficult for Pakistan to overcome, explained another official.
If it was an AEW&C aircraft, then the blow was much more

significant as every air force globally has a limited number of such aircraft. An AEW&C aircraft provides airspace surveillance and early detection of airborne threats and plays a very important role in an air combat scenario. Pakistan is reported to have six to eight AEW&C aircraft.
"The kill showed we can reach every corner of Pakistan," he added while elaborating how induction of Russian S-400 air defence missile systems helped India enhance its air dominance.
This was not the case during the 2019 Balakot strikes as Pakistani jets came very close to the frontier and mounted a spirited offensive when they came for retaliation.
People had questioned India's air dominance capabilities, said a third officer.
Pakistan had briefly captured Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman after he downed an enemy jet during aerial combat over six years back.
Now, it is a different scenario. The S-400 missile systems backed by superior air dominance jets have brought in a different dimension to India's air power capabilities.
Russia has delivered three squadrons of the air defence missile system under a USD 5.43 billion deal inked in 2018.

EC sends notice to Bihar Dy CM for ‘possessing’ 2 voter cards: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 10: The Election Commission Sunday issued a notice to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha for allegedly possessing two voter cards and being registered as an elector at two places, officials said.
Earlier in the day, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the deputy CM has two voter ID cards and asked what action was taken against Sinha.
"A notice has been served to Sinha for allegedly possessing two voter cards. He has been asked to respond to why he has two voter IDs," an official said here.
Yadav, talking to reporters here in the morning, claimed, "Vijay Kumar Sinha is a voter from two different assembly constituencies in two districts. His name is there in the Lakhisarai Assembly constituency in Lakhisarai and also in the Bankipur Assembly seat in Patna district."

J&K separatist leaders join national mainstream

THIS SHIFT BEGAN EARLIER THIS YEAR, WITH MORE THAN 15 PEOPLE SUBMITTING SWORN AFFIDAVITS AND PLACING PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS TO DECLARE THEIR COMMITMENT TO INDIA AND ITS CONSTITUTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 10: Several former separatist leaders in Jammu and Kashmir are now publicly renouncing their past affiliations and pledging allegiance to India, a trend that marks a significant reversal in their stand from the early 1990s, when they often disassociated from the government under duress from terrorists.
This shift began earlier this year, with more than 15 people submitting sworn affidavits and placing public advertisements in newspapers to declare their commitment to India and its Constitution.
"We do get many applications from erstwhile separatists, and everyone is evaluated based on their involvement in anti-national activities," a senior official said on the condition of anonymity.
He added that if the separatist is involved in a "heinous crime, we allow the law to take its own course."
Among the key leaders who have pledged to the Constitu-



nior official said on the condition of anonymity.
He added that if the separatist is involved in a "heinous crime, we allow the law to take its own course."
Among the key leaders who have pledged to the Constitu-

tion include DPM's Mohammad Shafi Reshi, a former close aide of late Syed Ali Geelani and Shahid Saleem, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement.
Neelofer Akbar Bhat, the spouse of Jammu and Kashmir

Salvation Movement patron Zaffar Akbar Bhat, has made a public disassociation of her family with separatist conglomerate the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC).
Similarly, Fareeda Behenji, chairperson of the Jammu Kashmir Mass Movement, has also formally separated herself and her organisation from separatist groups, stating in an affidavit that they have no links to the APHC or any similar platforms.
Former Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police, Kuldeep Khoda, believes these developments are the result of a concerted effort to corner separatists.
"These separatists have finally understood the futility of being a caged parrot of Pakistan's ISI," Khoda said. "Better sense

has prevailed upon them, and they don't want to be part of the violence and false propaganda being peddled from across the border," he added.
The government, in line with its policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism and secessionist activities, have proscribed a number of organisations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) that included the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam group), Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir (JeI) and Muslim Conference headed by Abdul Gani Bhat.
Recently, Awami Action Committee (AAC), headed by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq and Jammu and Kashmir Itihaadul Muslimeen (JKIM), were prohibited under the UAPA.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
E-AUCTION OF PARKING STANDS	
Auction Catalogue No. SDCM-KUR-PKNG	
Station & Location :	
(1) KHURDA ROAD – 2 Wheeler (Opposite Kalyan Mandap), (2) JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD – 2 Wheeler (Near Platform-1), (3) KALUPARAGHAT – 2 Wheeler (Near OH water tank at Platform-1 side).	
Auction start Date & Time : 19.08.2025 at 1100 hrs. (for sl. no. 1 to 3).	
Auction end Date : 19.08.2025 (for sl. no. 1 to 3) and End time : 1130 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), 1140 hrs. (for sl. no. 2) & 1150 hrs. (for sl. no. 3).	
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-Auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-Auction.	
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, PR-453/Q/25-26 Khurda Road	

business

of the day quote

Cinema exhibitor PVR INOX is looking to build on the momentum of a strong first quarter, tapping new good movie releases and consumer fatigue with OTT as it seeks to return to profitability

AJAY BULI | MANAGING DIRECTOR

While the dollar's strength last week capped upside in gold, domestic prices are cushioned by rupee weakness, which is likely to keep the downside limited. In the near term, volatility is expected to persist, with a broader trading range of \$3,360-3,425 on Comex and ₹98,500-1,03,000 per 10 grams on the MCX

JATEEN TRIVEDI | VP RESEARCH ANALYST, LKP SECURITIES

India is an "interesting" market for Malaysia Airlines Berhad and the carrier is looking for its acceptance as one of the core service providers that connects the country to the rest of the world

IZHAM BIN ISMAIL | GROUP MD, MALAYSIA AVIATION GROUP BERHAD

SHORT TAKES

TVS Supply Chain Sol clocks profit

New Delhi: Global supply chain solutions provider TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd has reported a consolidated profit after tax for the April-June 2025 quarter at ₹71.16 crore, the company said Sunday. The city-based firm had registered a profit after tax of ₹7.47 crore during the corresponding quarter of the last financial year. Revenue from operations during the quarter under review marginally went up to ₹2,592.31 crore from ₹2,539.39 crore registered in the year ago period. In a statement Sunday, the company said the share of profit from TVS ILP (Industrial and Logistics Park) business, in which TVS Supply Chain Solutions holds 25.2 per cent stake, was ₹177.23 crore during the April-June 2025 quarter. "This was subsequent to the transfer of 11 million sq ft of warehouse space as part of the Infrastructure Investment Trust listing," the statement said. This move is aimed at meeting growing customer demand. The unified operations enhance service delivery, reduce duplication and support margin expansion.

ICICI Bank reports lowest attrition rate

New Delhi: ICICI Bank has reported the lowest employee attrition rate among large private sector lenders in the last three financial years, reflecting higher stickiness due to competitive remuneration and a better working environment. During the last three financial years, the industry has also witnessed a sustained decline on a year-on-year basis. The employee attrition rate at the country's second-largest private sector bank declined to 18 per cent in FY25 from 24.5 per cent in FY24, according to the bank's latest Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) report. During 2022-23, the bank reported an attrition rate of 30.9 per cent, lower than its competitors. Its larger peer, HDFC Bank, has recorded an employee attrition rate of 22.6 per cent in FY25, compared to 26.9 per cent in FY24. The attrition was 34.2 per cent during 2022-23. Similarly, the attrition was 25.5 per cent for Axis Bank, down from 28.8 per cent in FY24, and Kotak Mahindra Bank's manpower exit rate fell to 33.3 per cent from 39.6 per cent in the previous year, according to their annual and BRSR reports. For IndusInd Bank, the attrition rate was 29 per cent in FY25, lower than 37 per cent witnessed during 2023-24 and 51 per cent in FY23. Over the past three years, from FY23 to FY25, private sector banks have seen a southward movement in their employee attrition rates.



Whatever goals we set for ourselves, we have gone ahead and achieved them... profitability has to remain intact, and thereafter, once the market conditions are right, we will definitely go for an IPO

NALIN NEGI | BHARATPE CEO

Govt to review petrol pump licensing norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The government is considering further easing the norms for setting up petrol pumps in the world's fastest-growing fuel market, in light of the evolving energy security paradigm and commitment to decarbonisation, according to an official order.

The government relaxed the norms earlier in 2019 for setting up petrol pumps, to help non-oil companies to enter the fuel retailing business.

At that time, companies with a net worth of ₹250 crore were permitted to sell petrol and diesel, provided they committed to setting up infrastructure for at least one new-generation alternative fuel, such as CNG, LNG, biofuels, or EV charging, within three years of beginning their operations.

For companies wanting to sell petrol and diesel to retail and bulk consumers, the network criteria was set at ₹500 crore.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has now constituted an expert committee to review the 2019 guidelines for granting authorisation to market transportation fuels.

The expert committee will "assess the effectiveness of the framework envisaged in Resolution dated November 8, 2019, in ensuring energy security and market efficiency; align the



policy framework with national commitment towards decarbonisation, electrical mobility and promotion of alternative fuel; and address issues in implementation of existing guidelines," the order said.

The committee is headed by Sukhmal Jain, former director (marketing) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). Other members of the four-member committee are Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) Director General P Manoj Kumar, FPII member PS Ravi and Arun Kumar, Director (Marketing) in the ministry.

August 6 notice of the ministry sought stakeholder/general public comments/suggestions on the matter within 14 days. Prior to the 2019 change, to obtain a fuel retailing license in India, a company had to invest or commit to invest ₹2,000 crore in hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG)

terminals.

This norm was relaxed in 2019. That year, the government allowed any entity with a net worth of ₹250 crore to get a licence to retail petrol and diesel to either bulk or retail consumers. For those seeking authorisation for both retail and bulk, the minimum network was set at ₹500 crore at the time of application.

For retail authorisation, the entities are required to set up at least 100 retail outlets. Also, retailers are required to establish 5 per cent of the total outlets in rural areas within five years.

Global energy giants have been eyeing the Indian fuel market for a long time.

French energy giant TotalEnergies, in partnership with Adani Group, had in November 2018 applied for a licence to retail petrol and diesel through 1,500 outlets. BP too has formed a partnership with Reliance Industries to set up petrol pumps.

SEBI due diligence framework for AIFs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Security Exchange Board of India has proposed a separate category of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) schemes, consisting of accredited investors, which will enjoy a lighter-touch regulatory framework compared to regular AIFs.

In a consultation paper issued Friday, SEBI suggested that such accredited investors (AI-only schemes) could be allowed certain flexibilities, given that accredited investors are deemed to have the knowledge, financial capacity and risk appetite to make informed investment decisions without the same level of regulatory safeguards required for retail participants.

The proposal includes exemptions from requirements such as maintaining pari-passu (side by side) rights among investors, NISM certification for key investment team members, and the current limit of 1,000 investors per scheme, the

regulator said.

These schemes could also extend their tenure by up to five years, subject to investor approval, and in the case of trust-structured AIFs, managers could take over certain responsibilities currently mandated for trustees, it added.

The regulator also said the move is in line with its long-term vision of gradually shifting from the present 'minimum commitment threshold' metric to 'accreditation status' as the primary criterion for determining investor sophistication in AIFs. However, both metrics would co-exist for now to avoid disruption in the industry, it added.

The regulator noted that while the number of accredited investors remains modest, recent relaxations and proposed process improvements, including leveraging KYC registration agencies and streamlining accreditation norms are expected to boost participation.

The board has invited public comments on the proposals till August 29.

Public charging infra development vital for EV adoption: Maruti Suzuki

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The development of public charging infrastructure will play a vital role in faster adoption of electric vehicles as driving range anxiety has emerged as a deterrent to customers to accept an EV as a primary car in a household, according to a senior Maruti Suzuki India executive.

The sales of electric passenger vehicles in the domestic market have almost doubled, but the overall base still remains small.

"Total contribution of EVs is 4.5 per cent (overall PV sales), it has grown from 2.4 per cent to 4.5 per cent. Absolutely, if you see numberwise, growth is 100 per cent. But is it sustainable?" Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing

& Sales) Partho Banerjee said in an interaction.

Maruti Suzuki is set to introduce its first electric model - e-VITARA this fiscal.

Banerjee stated that the segment is not witnessing adequate growth as customers do not perceive EVs as the primary car in a household.

"He (customer) has got many inhibitions that EV cannot be my first car. A person who just wants to have one car doesn't want EV to be the first car," he added.

According to FADA sales data, electric passenger vehicle retail sales jumped 93 per cent year-on-year in July. Total electric passenger vehicle registrations rose to 15,528 units last month as compared with 8,037 units in the year-ago period.

Banerjee said that while au-



tomakers have taken care of the anxiety in terms of offering 500 km driving range in cars, concerns still remain about public charging infrastructure. He noted that Maruti Suzuki is working to establish charging infrastructure in 100 cities but

PNB TO SELL NPAs TO ARCS

In a bid to shore up recovery, the country's second-largest public sector lender Punjab National Bank (PNB) has identified about 100 non-performing asset (NPA) accounts for sale to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) during the current financial year. More than 100 accounts we have identified, the book size will be somewhere around ₹4,000-5,000 crore. That is the outstanding book (for sale to ARCs), CEO Ashok Chandra said.



FPIs pull nearly ₹18,000cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out nearly ₹18,000 crore from Indian equities so far this month, weighed down by escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings, and a weakening Indian rupee.

With this, the total outflow by FPIs in equities has reached ₹1.13 lakh crore so far in 2025, according to data from the depositories.

Going forward, FPI sentiment is expected to remain "fragile and in risk-off mode," with tariffs and trade negotiations emerging as key factors to watch out for in the coming week, according to Vaqarjaved Khan, CFA, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One.

The data showed that FPIs withdrew a net sum of ₹17,924 crore from equities in this month (till August 8). Foreign investors had pulled out ₹17,741 crore on a net basis in July. Before that, FPIs invested ₹38,673 crore in the preceding three months from March to June.

The latest outflows were primarily due to escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings and a weakening Indian rupee, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

From August 1, US imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods and increased these tariffs by an additional 25 per cent during the current week.



The latest outflows are primarily due to escalating US-India trade tensions, disappointing first-quarter corporate earnings and a weakening Indian rupee. With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reaches to ₹1.13 trillion in 2025

This spooked the markets and FPIs, leading to a massive sell-off in Indian equities, Angel One's Khan said.

Along with tariffs, rising US Treasury yields also led to foreign money moving towards treasuries, he added.

Conversely, FPIs invested ₹3,432 crore in the debt general limit and put in ₹58 crore in the debt voluntary retention route during the period under review.

RBI eases claim settlement process of deceased customers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 10: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to standardise forms to process claims on deceased customers' bank accounts and lockers within a 15-day timeframe and provide compensation to nominees for any settlement delays.

The bank proposes to come out with standard procedures for the settlement of claims in respect of bank accounts, and articles kept in safe custody or safe deposit lockers of deceased bank customers. The aim is to make the settlement more convenient and simpler.

Towards this, the central bank has issued 'Draft Circular - Reserve Bank of India (Settlement of Claims in respect of Deceased Customers of Banks) Directions, 2025' and invited comments and feedback on it by August 27.

"A bank shall use the standardised forms for receiving the claims and other documents...", said the draft.

It also has provisions for compensation for delay in the settlement of claims.

In case a nominee has been provided in deposit accounts or lockers, he or she would have to submit a claim form, death

certificate (deceased customer), and an officially valid document of the nominee/survivor towards verifying identity and address, the draft said.

According to the draft, a bank should adopt a simplified procedure for settlement of claims in deposit accounts, where a deceased depositor had not made any nomination, keeping in view the imperative need to avoid inconvenience and undue hardship to the claimant/ legal heir.

For the settlement of such claims, a bank, based on its risk management systems, should fix a threshold limit, subject to a minimum of ₹15 lakh.

In cases of claim amount up to the threshold limit, additional documents like a bond of indemnity/ surety signed by the claimants and a letter of disclaimer/ no objection from non-claimant legal heirs, if applicable, will be required.

For a claim amount above the threshold limit, a succession certificate, or a legal heir certificate issued by a competent authority, or a declaration regarding the legal heirs of the deceased depositor would also be needed.

The draft also lists documents required for settlement

of claims in a safe deposit locker and articles in safe custody kept by the deceased customer in cases without a nominee/survivor.

It further said that a bank should settle a claim in respect of deposit accounts of a deceased customer within a period not exceeding 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of all the requisite documents associated with the claim, it said.

"In case of safe deposit locker/ articles in safe custody, the bank shall, within 15 days of receipt of all the requisite documents, process the claim and issue communication to the claimant for fixing the date for taking inventory of the locker/ articles in safe custody," said the draft.

According to the draft, the standardised forms and other documents required for settlement of claims with respect to the deposit accounts/ safe deposit locker/ articles in safe custody kept by a deceased customer should be made available in all the branches as well as on the bank's website.

Banks should also display on their website the list of documents to be submitted by a claimant and the procedure to be followed for the settlement of claims in various scenarios.

CII bats for land reforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sunday pitched for comprehensive land reforms such as the formation of a GST-like Council to enable coordinated and consensus-based reforms and uniform stamp duty rates of three to five per cent across the country for India to become a global manufacturing hub.

While protectionism and trade wars pose a challenge, India's stable policy framework, strong industrial capabilities, large domestic market and a young workforce, coupled with its reputation as a trusted and capable partner among many nations, set it up as an attractive investment destination, it stated.

CII has proposed establishing Integrated Land Authorities in each state, and also advocated full digitisation of the conversion process, besides suggesting rationalisation of stamp duty rates to a uniform range of three to five per cent across states.

It also recommended that states should move to a conclusive titling system that ensures clear ownership.

"The global landscape is undergoing seminal transformations, and trade and investment patterns are being reshaped by factors beyond cost. India has long harboured the goal of becoming a leading global hub for manufacturing. To successfully capitalise on these emerging opportunities and march towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, India must adopt a comprehensive and forward-looking competitiveness agenda, including factor market reforms such as land reforms," said CII.

Mcap of 6 firms erodes by ₹1.36L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms eroded by ₹1,36,151.24 crore last week, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit, following a bearish trend in equities.

Extending losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, the BSE benchmark dropped 742.12 points or 0.92 per cent, and the NSE Nifty declined 202.05 points or 0.82 per cent. From the top 10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion in their valuations while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

The valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled ₹34,710.8 crore to ₹18,51,174.59 crore. HDFC Bank's market capitalisation (mcap) tanked ₹29,722.04 crore to ₹15,14,303.58 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank fell by ₹24,719.45 crore to ₹10,25,495.69 crore, and that of Infosys dropped by ₹19,504.31 crore to ₹5,91,423.02 crore. The valuation of Bharti Airtel declined by ₹15,053.55 crore to ₹10,59,850.32 crore, and that of Hindustan Unilever by ₹12,441.09 crore to ₹5,87,021.88 crore.

the requirement.

"It is discretion of the customer based on his need, what he wants that's going to happen. But yes, one technology should not be given more weightage than the other technologies. It should be the customer selecting, actually," he said.

Currently, the total tax incidence on battery electric vehicle in the country is 5 per cent, which is inclusive of GST, while a hybrid model attracts a tax of about 43 per cent.

Maruti's two models, Grand Vitara and Invicto, are fitted with strong hybrid technology.

On reasons for dip in sales of entry level cars, Banerjee said that cost escalation due to various new regulations has led to drop in demand.

"The cost has gone up, and the affordability is a problem.

We are trying our level best by offering the best products. Very soon, we are going to introduce a financial package of owning Alto for just ₹2,999," he said.

"But the fundamental question is this; we cannot put money in the wallet of the customer. We can just help him out," Banerjee said.

He noted that many people in both urban and rural areas are unable to buy the entry level cars with cost going up. Any measures that help reduce acquisition cost for probable buyers would enable the growth of the segment, he added.

Banerjee noted that the impact of the recent repo rate reduction is yet to benefit the end buyers. He noted that probably it will take couple of years for the entry level segment to again get on the growth trajectory.

Athletes live up to expectations

Kujur, Annu, Sreeshankar shine in India's maiden WA Continental Tour event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Star sprinter Animesh Kujur, veteran javelin thrower Annu Rani and long jump ace Murali Sreeshankar lived up to expectations by winning their respective events at India's maiden World Athletics Continental Tour competition here Sunday.

The bronze level event went off smoothly but the quality of competitions did not rise to any great heights.

There was drama in store as far as Kujur is concerned. The 22-year-old pulled up after a few paces in his men's 100m heat race in the morning. He then came out to run his 200m heat half an hour later and qualified for the final with a time of 20.99 seconds.

In the evening, he ran 20.77 seconds in the 200m final to win the gold. Ko Seunghwan of Korea (20.95 seconds) and another Indian Ragul Kumar (21.17 seconds) were second and third respectively.

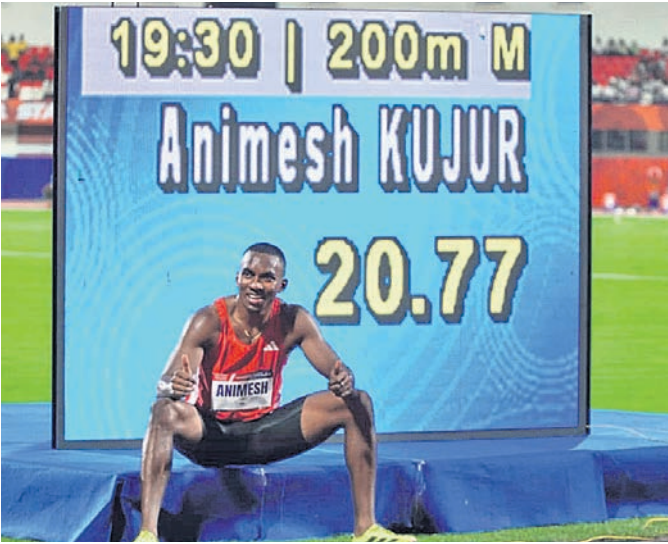
Kujur, representing Odisha, holds national records in both 100m (10.18 seconds) and 200m (20.32 seconds).

Sreeshankar, representing JSW, was up against rising teenager Shahnavaz Khan, who won gold in Uttarakhand National Games in February. The 17-year-old Khan was leading with his fourth round jump of 8.04m, while Sreeshankar was second with 7.95m.

But the 26-year-old Sreeshankar produced 8.13m in his final attempt to take the gold in dramatic fashion for his fourth title in a row since coming back from a long injury lay-off.

He is, however, yet to breach the Tokyo World Championships direct entry mark of 8.27m.

Khan became the latest en-



trant to the 8m club in the Indian men's long jump. His earlier best was 7.90m.

In women's javelin, Asian Games champion Annu Rani bagged the gold with a fourth round throw of 62.01m, thereby strengthening her chances of making it to the Tokyo World Championships in September.

The men's javelin event disappointed the crowd at the Kalinga Stadium as the Indian participants barely crossed the 80m mark.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, who finished third in the NC Classic hosted by Neeraj Chopra July 5 in Bangalore, took the men's javelin gold with his first round throw

86.50m, thereby breaching the World Championships direct entry mark of 85.50m.

India's 20-year-old Shivam Lohakare, the latest entrant in the 80m club at the Indian Open Athletics Meet in Pune last month with 80.95m, took the silver with 80.73m.

Shailli Singh won the women's long jump event with a below-par effort of 6.28m

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team disappointed with a second place finish to Sri Lanka (3:08.22) with a time of 3 minute 08.37 seconds. The Indian quartet comprised T Santhosh Kumar, Vishal TK, Amoj Jacob and Dharamveer Choudhary. Malaysia's Muhammad

Azeem Bin emerged as the fastest man of the meet as he won the 100m dash in 10.35 seconds.

Abinaya Rajarajan, representing NCoE Trivandrum, won the women's 100m final with a time of 11.57 seconds.

The one-day competition, carrying a prize purse of \$25,000, saw over 150 athletes from 17 countries competing in 19 events. Out of the total athletes, more than 90 are from India while the rest are from abroad.

Among the foreign countries, Nepal has sent the largest number of athletes at 13, followed by Sri Lanka (10) and Malaysia (9). South Africa and Great Britain have sent four athletes each.

Since it's an invitational competition, the Indian participants represented their respective departments, employers, private entities or even their states like NCOE Bangalore, NCOE Traivandrum, Army, Air Foce, Reliance, JSW, etc in individual events.

The competition was organised by the Odisha government along with the AFI which is looking after the technical aspect.



Odisha's Pragyan wins 100m hurdles

Bhubaneswar: Odisha athlete Pragyan Prasanti Sahu delighted the big crowd at Kalinga Stadium as she cruised to victory in the Women's 100m Hurdles at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze meet here on Sunday evening. The 25-year-old from Balasore, who has mostly lived in the shadows of Jyothi Yarraji, cleared the hurdles smoothly to touch the finishing line in 13.74 seconds. Nandini Konghan of Tamil Nadu was a close second in 13.80 seconds, and Kerala's Anjali C was third in 14 seconds.



WOMEN LEAD CHARGE

Pugilists shine at U19 Asian Boxing C'ships with 14 medal haul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, August 10: Young women pugilists Nisha and Muskan showcased their skills by winning gold medals, while Rahul Kundu in men's section topped the podium as India finished with a haul of 14 medals in the Asian U19 Boxing Championships, here Sunday.

Besides the three gold medals, India also won seven silver and four bronze.



Of the 10 female boxers in the fray in the U19 category, nine will return with medals - including two gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze - underlining the prowess of the Indians who competed against pugilists from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and China among others.

Nisha raised her level in the 54kg category to dominate the third and final round against Sirui Yang of China to record a 4:1 win, while Muskan (57kg) coming out with an aggressive intent and staved off the challenge from Kazakhstan's Ayazhan Ermek for a 3:2 split verdict.

Aarti Kumari (75kg) lost to Tongtong Gu of China in the final, while Kritika Wasan's (80kg) effort was not enough to avoid a 2:3 loss against Kuralay Yeginbaikzy of Kazakhstan.

Parchi Tokas (80+kg) went down by an identical margin against Sobirakhon Shakho-bidinova of Uzbekistan.

Vini went down fighting against Sevara Mamatova of Uzbekistan in the 60kg final, while Arinda Akimotov of Japan got the better or Nisha 4:1 in the 65kg summit clash. Yashika (51kg), Akanksha Phalasalwal (70kg) bagged a bronze each.

ASIAN SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Ramesh wins bronze medal, scripts history



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 10: Ramesh Budhial became the first-ever Indian to win a medal in the Asian Surfing Championships while clinching the bronze in the Open Men's category here Sunday.

Budhial, also the first-ever from the country to reach the medal round, accumulated 12.60 points to bag bronze.

The gold went to Kanoa Heejae of Korea, who led the field with 15.17 points while Indonesia's Pajar Ariyana grabbed silver with 14.57 points.

In the Open Women's category, Japan's Anri Matsuno (14.90 points) won the gold, warding off stiff competition from compatriot Sumomo Sato (13.70).

Isabel Higgs of Thailand settled for bronze with 11.76 points.

Korea's Kanoa Heejae, who won the men's gold earlier, made the day sweeter, winning the Under-18 boys' gold as well, scoring 14.33 points.

Chinese duo of Shidong Wu (13.10) Shulou Jiang (8) won the silver and bronze medals respectively.

T20 WC NEXT PRIORITY

With the Bangladesh series scheduled in August being called off, India's next ODI assignment will be an away series from October 19-25 against Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: It's that time of the year when speculation is rife about the impending ODI future of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but if one goes by the decision makers in the Indian cricket board, there is no tearing hurry to take an immediate call on the two maestros.

With the Bangladesh series scheduled in August being

called off, India's next ODI assignment will be an away series from October 19-25 against Australia.

Indian cricket runs on narratives and currently it is about whether Kohli and Rohit, with a cumulative 83 ODI hundreds and 25,000-plus runs, can last till the October 2027 ODI World Cup when they would be 39 and 40-year old respectively.

"Obviously, if they (Rohit and Kohli) have something in mind, they would tell the BCCI brass like they did before the England Test tour. But from an Indian team's perspective, the next big assignment is the T20 World Cup in February and preparations before that. The immediate focus will be on sending the best team for the Asia Cup T20 tournament, hoping all players are fit and

Blue Tigresses end two-decade drought

India qualify for AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup for first time in two decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yangon (Myanmar), August 10: India qualified for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup football for the first time in two decades after edging past Myanmar 1-0 in their final Group D qualifying match here Sunday.

Pooja scored the decisive goal in the 27th minute at the Thuwunna Stadium as India finished on top of the group with seven points to make it to the 2026 edition of the main tournament in Thailand.

India dominated the first half while Myanmar controlled the proceedings in the second.

Neha and Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam combined in the third minute to threaten the Myanmar goal but it did not lead to a goal. The hosts launched a few counter-attacks, and forward Su Su Khin came close to scoring in the ninth minute.

Pooja gave India the lead be-



The All India Football Federation announced a reward of \$25,000 for the U20 Women's National Team following their outstanding performance

fore the half-hour mark. She herself initiated the counter attack before crossing it in from the right. The ball evaded one and all, but Neha, at the opposite flank, managed to get onto the end of it and sent it looping back in.

Pooja, who had made her way to the goalmouth by then,

barely had enough time to react, and plonked it over the line with her torso.

That calmed the nerves in the Indian camp, and the Young Tigresses kept the ball and took their slender lead into the break.

The second half was a completely different affair. Buoyed

lime half-century in the chase during the final.

However, both have not played competitive cricket since the conclusion of the Indian Premier League.

Kohli, who is now a resident of London, had recently posted an Instagram story after an indoor nets session, which is an indicator that he has started training.

Rohit, who was also in the UK on a break post IPL, is recently back in Mumbai and would certainly be expected to start training in a few days.

While there are some media reports about BCCI offering the duo a farewell game at Sydney October 25, the BCCI source in the know of things said that as of now, no such discussions have taken place.

As far as playing the Vijay

RESULTS

MEN
100m: Muhammad Azeem Bin (Malaysia) 10.35 seconds, Chamod M Yodhasing (Sri Lanka) 10.43 seconds, Danish Iftikhar (Malaysia) 10.50 seconds.
200m: Animesh Kujur (Odisha—IND) 20.77 seconds, KO Seunghwan (Korea) 20.95 seconds, Raguk Kumar G (Tamil Nadu—IND) 21.17 seconds.
400m: Vishal TK (NCOE Trivandrum-IND) 45.72 seconds, Amoj Jacob (NCOE Trivandrum-IND) 45.86 seconds, Santhosh Kumar T (Tamil Nadu-IND) 46.89 seconds.
800m: Mohammad Afsal (Air Force—IND) 1:46.60 seconds, Prakash Gadade (Maharashtra—IND) 1:47.14, Krishan Kumar (Haryana—IND) 1:48.00.
5000m: Waberi Igueh Houssein (Djibouti) 14:05.36, Abhishek Pal (Railway—IND) 14:10.60, Sawan Barwal (Army—IND) 14:13.41.
Triple jump: Abdulla Aboobacker (Air Force—IND) 16.53m, Karthik Unnikrishnan (Air Force—IND) 16.42m, Gailey V (Tamil Nadu—IND) 16.26m.
Long jump: Murali Sreeshankar (JSW—IND) 8.13m, Shahnavaz Khan (Uttar Pradesh—IND) 8.04m, Lokesh Sathyanathan (Karnataka—IND) 7.85m.
Javelin throw: Rumesh Tharanga P (Sri Lanka) 86.50m, Shivam Lohakare (Maharashtra—IND) 80.73m, Sumedha J Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka) 80.65m.
4x400m relay: Sri Lanka 3:0.22 seconds, India A (Santhosh Kumar T, Vishal TK, Amoj Jacob D Choudhary), 3:08.37 seconds, Iraq 3:08.74 seconds.
WOMEN
100m: Abinaya Rajarajan (NCOE Trivandrum—IND) 11.57 seconds, Sneha SS (Karnataka—IND) 11.70 seconds, Nithya Gandhe (Telangana—IND) 11.70 seconds
200m: Angel Silvia M (NCOE Bangalore—IND) 23.95 seconds, Nithya Gandhe (Telangana—IND) 24.11 seconds, Unnathi Aiyyappa (Karnataka—IND) 24.56 seconds.
400m: Vijayakumari GK (Karnataka—IND), 53.40 seconds, Devyaniba Zala (Gujarat-IND) 53.87 seconds, Louise Evans (Great Britain) 54.28 seconds.
800m: Amandeep Kaur (Punjab—IND) 2:04.31 seconds, Huidrom B (IOCL—IND) 2:06.96 seconds, Thota Sankeertana (Chhattisgarh—IND) 2:07.17 seconds.
1500m: Pooja (Haryana—IND) 4:15.13 seconds, Lili Das (Uttar Pradesh—IND) 4:17.66, Amandeep Kaur (Punjab—IND) 4:27.14.
100m hurdles: Pragyan Prashanti Sahu (Odisha—IND) 13.74 seconds, Nandhini K (Tamil Nadu—IND) 13.80 seconds, Anjali C (Kerala—IND) 14.00 seconds.
Javelin throw: Annu Rani (Uttar Pradesh—IND), 62.01m, Hatarabag Lekamalage (Sri Lanka) 56.27m, Deepika (Haryana—IND) 54.20m
Long jump: Shailli Singh (Uttar Pradesh—IND) 6.28m, Bhavani Yadav (Railway—IND) 6.13m, Sandra Babu (JSW—IND) 6.10m.

by the home support, Myanmar came all guns blazing, and India goalkeeper Monalisha Devi had to make a smart 48th-minute save to keep Su Su Khin out.

India dug deep, as they absorbed wave after wave of Myanmar attacks.

Monalisha, who had not conceded a single goal in the previous two matches, was called into action with 10 minutes left on the clock, when Myanmar substitute Moe Pwint Phyu struck a headed cross sent by Ei Thet Phyo on to the upright.

The ball kept rolling tantalisingly on the line, before the India goalkeeper leapt across and swiped it away to safety.

Phyu hit the woodwork once again, this time in the 90th minute, when her shot took a deflection off Shubhangi, only to bounce out of play.

Seconds later, India broke on the counter as Sibani sent a cross to Sulanjana Raul, who also hit the woodwork, her header crashing into the cross-bar.

Despite all the pressure from the hosts, India clung on to their lead, and secured qualification for the first time since 2006.

Hazare Trophy is concerned, the source said that the national One-Day Championship starts on December 24, 2025 and even before that, there is another three-match ODI series at home against South Africa starting November 30.

"Even if they play Vijay Hazare, before that there would already be six ODIs that will be played. In between the Australia ODIs and the South Africa ODIs, there is an India A series against South Africa A where three List A games (50 overs) will be held at Rajkot on November 13, 16 and 19 respectively. Now, will the duo want to play those three A games, or possibly two, before the South Africa series is the question. Even more important is whether Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues would want that," he said.