



Toxic trolling

Actor Pooja Hegde addresses the growing problem of paid negative PR and targeted trolling within the film industry

LEISURE | P2



Russia advances

Russian forces advance in eastern Ukraine, likely pressuring Kyiv ahead of upcoming talks between US and Russian presidents

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Tax collection falls

Net direct tax collection dips this fiscal, mainly on account of higher refunds, according to government data released Tuesday

BUSINESS | P11



Historic feat

Shubman Gill bags his fourth ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2025 following his success in Test series in England

SPORTS | P12

Farmer ends life in Subarnapur district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur/Binika, August 12: A 42-year-old farmer from Choukamal village under Lachhipur police limits in Subarnapur district died late Monday night after allegedly consuming pesticide, police said Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Surendra Biswal, cultivated paddy during the ongoing kharif season. According to police, it is unclear whether the act was triggered by mental distress or family disputes. Surendra was one of three sons of Chakaman Biswal, who owns about 4.5 acres of farmland. Due to their father's old age, the siblings managed the land together. Police said Surendra had a dispute with his elder brother, Jogindra, over division of ancestral property.

The three visited the police station Sunday, where IIC Bhojaraj Sahu mediated an amicable settlement. All three signed a written statement confirming the dispute had been resolved.

However, family members said Surendra consumed pesticide Monday after returning from the police station and died while undergoing treatment at VIMSAR, Burla. Further investigations were on.

Schoolgirl 'gangraped'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, August 12: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by five people, including her uncle, at a village in this district, police said Tuesday.

While the victim's uncle was arrested, others were detained and are being interrogated, an officer said.

The Class X student lodged a complaint with the Rajnagar Police Station Monday, alleging that a relative had visited her August 9, and taken her to a deserted place where she was gang-raped, he said. The minor also alleged that four others, who were near the place, raped her, he said. "It seemed that the relative of the girl was the main accused," police said.

The accused threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the incident to her family, the officer added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm not a cheat—the EC gave me six EPIC numbers, so I voted six times to strengthen democracy

SC relief for old vehicle owners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: In a significant development, the Supreme Court Tuesday ordered authorities not to take coercive action against owners of diesel vehicles of over 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years in Delhi-NCR. The top court was dealing with a plea seeking recall of its October 29, 2018 order upholding a National Green Tribunal's directive.

The apex court had directed transport departments of states in the NCR to ban diesel vehicles more than 10 years old and petrol vehicles more than 15 years old from plying in roads in terms of the NGT's order.

On Tuesday, a bench com-



GENTLE GIANT: An elephant inside its enclosure on World Elephant Day, at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Aadhaar no proof of citizenship: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday backed the Election Commission of India's (ECI) stance that Aadhaar cannot be treated as conclusive proof of citizenship, stressing that it must be independently verified.

A bench led by Justice Surya Kant made the observation during a hearing on petitions challenging the Special Summary Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. "The EC is correct in saying Aadhaar cannot be accepted as conclusive proof of citizenship. It has to be verified," Justice Kant told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners.

The apex court also said the first question to decide was whether the ECI had the power to carry out the verification exercise. "If they don't have the power, everything ends. But if they have the power, there can't be a problem," Justice Kant remarked.

Sibal argued that the poll



panel's process would lead to large-scale exclusion of voters, especially those unable to submit required forms. He claimed that even voters included in the 2003 electoral rolls were required to fill fresh forms, and failure to do so would lead to deletion of names, despite no change in residence. Sibal contended that despite residents holding Aadhaar, ration and EPIC cards, officials refused to accept the documents.

"Is it your argument that people who have no documents but are in Bihar and therefore he should be considered as a voter of the state. That can be allowed. He has to show or submit some documents (sic)," the bench said.

When Sibal said people were struggling to find birth certificates and other documents of their parents, Justice Kant said, "It is a very sweeping statement that in Bihar nobody has the documents. If this happens in Bihar, then what will happen in other parts of the country?"

Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court Tuesday said a person does not become a citizen of India merely by possessing documents like Aadhaar card, PAN card or a voter ID. The court said this while refusing bail to a man, allegedly from Bangladesh, for entering India illegally. The man is accused of staying in India for more than a decade with forged and fabricated documents.

A bench of Justice Amit Borkar said provisions of the Citizenship Act lay down who can be a citizen of India and how citizenship can be acquired and documents such as the Aadhaar card, PAN card and voter ID are only meant for identification or availing services.

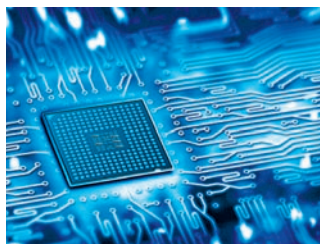
City to have ₹4,009cr chip plants

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 12: The Union Cabinet has approved four semiconductor projects, entailing a total investment of ₹4,594 crore, for Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, including a ₹4,009 crore chip plants in Bhubaneswar, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Tuesday.

The proposals have been approved under the India Semiconductor Mission, which has an outlay of ₹76,000 crore to provide financial support for setting up chip manufacturing facilities in the country.

"Cabinet has approved four semiconductor plants that will be set up in Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh," Vaishnaw said. The minister said that a silicon carbide semiconductor plant will be set up in Bhu-



baneswar with an investment of ₹2,066 crore by SiCsem Pvt Ltd.

"Silicon carbide is a very robust material and can sustain at high temperatures. Silicon carbide is used in our missiles, satellites, telecom towers, rockets, railway engines, etc," Vaishnaw said. The minister said that the plant will have a capacity to produce 9.6 crore chips per year.

The Cabinet also approved US chip major Intel-backed 3D Glass semiconductor manufacturing unit in Bhubaneswar with an investment of ₹1,943

crore. The plant will be set up by Heterogenous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd with an annual production capacity of 5 crore units. The minister said the project will be backed by US firm Lockheed Martin as well.

A chip packaging plant in Andhra Pradesh, to be set up by Advanced System in Package Technologies with an investment of ₹468 crore, was also approved by the Cabinet. The cabinet also cleared a semiconductor project of electronics component maker firm CDIL. The facility will be set up in Punjab with an investment of ₹117 crore, having an annual production capacity of 15.8 crore units.

The minister said that due to various steps taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, the electronics manufacturing sector has grown six times to ₹12 lakh crore in the last 11 years.

Ban on use of 'Harijan'

Bhubaneswar: The state government has asked all departments to stop using the word 'Harijan' in all forms of official records. Only the Constitutional term "Scheduled Caste"—in English, Odia, or other national languages—must be used when referring to communities notified under Article 341 of the Constitution, said a notification Tuesday.

T'gana: 3 Odia workers killed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, August 12: Three migrant workers from Bakadabeda under Jharigaon block in Nabarangpur district were killed Monday in a road mishap in Telangana. The deceased were identified as Jayaram Bhatra, 56,

Narayan Bhatra, 20, and Chetaman Bhatra, 21 of the village.

After lunch Monday, a group of workers including these three was returning to work when a vehicle hit them from behind, killing them on the spot. The workers left for Telangana 11 days ago.

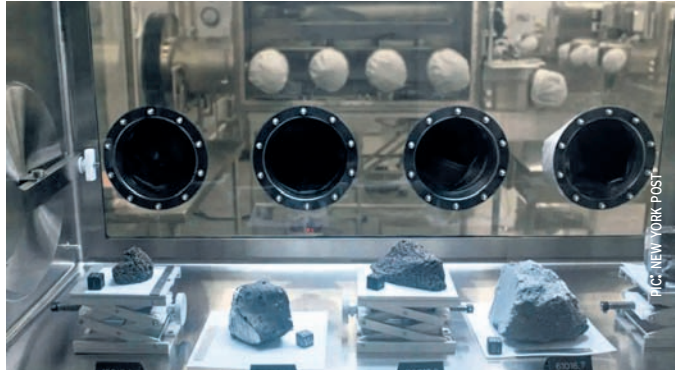
NASA intern stole \$21M of moon rocks for beloved

AGENCIES

Washington, August 12: He promised her the moon — and meant it.

More than 23 years ago, NASA intern Thad Roberts hatched a daring plan to steal 17 pounds of moon rocks and a meteorite from Houston's Johnson Space Center — priceless samples from every Apollo mission, locked in a 600-pound safe and valued at \$21 million, quoting FBI, New York Post said.

Only 24 years old with a triple major in physics, geology and geophysics at the University of Utah, with a wife he was supporting back in Utah, and



financially struggling, Roberts thought his plan was foolproof.

The first step was finding a buyer. With help from friend Gordon McWhorter, Roberts

connected online with a potential Belgian purchaser willing to pay \$1,000 to \$5,000 per gram.

The buyer, however, grew suspicious and alerted the FBI,

which instructed him to keep talking while it investigated.

Around this time, he met Tiffany Fowler, a 22-year-old NASA intern. Their friendship quickly became romantic, and after three weeks, they moved in together. They recruited another NASA intern, Shae Saur, and one night the trio used their NASA IDs to slip into the Johnson Space Center, making off with the entire safe. Back at the hotel, they cracked it open with a power saw.

On July 20, 2002 — the 33rd anniversary of the first moon landing — Roberts placed moon rocks beneath the bed covers, later claiming the couple had

"sex on the moon".

Later, when the two met with the supposed buyers, they were instead greeted by undercover FBI agents. The moon rocks were recovered from their hotel room. When asked why he stole the moon rocks, Robert told the agency "We weren't going to take this money we were getting from it to go buy a yacht or lots of cars or a big house. We were gonna live just the small kind of lifestyle we were, but fund science that might change the world."

In the end, Roberts, Fowler and Saur all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit theft and interstate transportation of stolen property.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You may be alone, but not necessarily lonely. You may want to listen to your inner voice, and express your true self creatively. Spend the evening with a loved one who can hear the music in your silence too, suggests Ganesha.

TAURUS
Fortune favours the brave and you will wake up feeling gutsy. Your performance will peak today and you will reap the benefits of real estate and construction business. Your peers and boss will extend all the support you need. All in all, a day to bask in the glory of advantages and awards.

GEMINI
You need to bear in mind that you need to concentrate on your own image and standing in society rather than worry about the actions of others. Those in the retail business will see an unprecedented spurt in their profits today, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will try to improve ties with beloved ones. Your devotion and dedication will reap benefits for the future. You will have physical and mental happiness. You will keep your future in mind. This will boost your self-confidence. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

LEO
You will be confused with issues relating to the workplace today. You need to accept your present circumstances for what they are, and work towards resolving your immediates concerns to find your way ahead in life. This period of doubt will pass very soon, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Your beloved will not only give you a surprise today but also demand one, says Ganesha. There may be some good news on the business front. Ganesha says own up to your old mistakes so that you don't repeat them, and chalk out the plans for the future. There is no need to shy from taking the advice of a loved one, as it will only benefit you, and later in the day, you may spend some good time together.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will get the answers to all your questions. You will tend to worry about small things and issues. You will be able to earn from different sources today. Ganesha assures that if you keep your mind balanced you will achieve amazing results in your work.

SCORPIO
You may bump into people with different tastes and temperaments, says Ganesha. Some may surprise you, while some may just shock you. Sometimes, it is difficult to understand when people react indifferently to your success. Handle it with smartness and diplomacy.

SAGITTARIUS
Today will be a day for introspection, says Ganesha, as you try and find the root causes of your problems. But the job is only half-done: the rest will depend on the initiatives you may take to implement possible solutions to your problems. Overall, a day spent pondering. But act fast, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Today, you'll like to hold a cup of hot coffee in one hand, relax and go down the memory lane to cherish some golden moments. You may want to give another chance to your romantic relationship as you develop likings for your ex-boyfriend/girlfriend. Ganesha finds you to be busy in a lot social gatherings today.

AQUARIUS
You speed up your pace and try to do everything in order to complete your targets, but you won't be able to complete the tasks on time. Don't lose hope as tomorrow will be a different day, says Ganesha. Give yourself some time to relax and unwind. You have worked very hard and Ganesha assures that your efforts will not go unnoticed.

PISCES
You need to concentrate more on your personal life, and seriously think about the changes you need to make. You are guided more by your heart in these matters. However, there is nothing to worry about, as this is a golden period for you. Today should be a progressive day that will bring a lot of positive changes in your life, says Ganesha.



NOAH CENTINEO TO LEAD RAMBO PREQUEL MOVIE

Noah Centineo, the star of *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* and series *The Recruit*, will portray Hollywood veteran Sylvester Stallone's classic action character of John Rambo in an upcoming prequel movie. According to entertainment news outlet *Deadline*, Jalmari Helander will helm the project.

MADONNA ASKS POPE LEO TO VISIT GAZA

Madonna has urged Pope Leo to visit Gaza in a humanitarian mission to help starving Palestinian children, saying "there is no more time." The American superstar, who was raised a Roman Catholic, pleaded with the new pontiff to visit the enclave in an Instagram post.



Fatima talks about breaking stereotype

Mumbai: Fatima Sana Shaikh has built a career on taking diverse, bold roles that challenge stereotypes. From *Dangal* to *Sam Bahadur* and most recently *Aap Jaisa Koi*, she has portrayed characters blending strength with vulnerability.

Speaking about her role as Madhu in *Aap Jaisa Koi*, Fatima shared that she wanted to break away from the narrow, often aggressive portrayals of "strong women" in cinema. "Knowing what we want and standing for equality doesn't mean we have to fight with men or smoke a cigarette," she said, stressing that women's strength lies in their thoughts and presence—something rarely explored on screen.

She also highlighted the lack of women in comedy films despite their strong comic timing, adding that she consciously chooses roles that break predictability, whether serious or light-hearted. For her, relevance in the industry is constantly evolving: "Today I'm exciting, tomorrow I may not be. That's the game."

Looking ahead, Fatima is set for an exciting slate of projects, including *Gustaakh Ishq* with Vijay Varma, an untitled film with Roy Kapur Films, and an untitled courtroom drama. With her constant reinvention and fearless approach, Fatima continues to expand the boundaries of women's representation in Indian cinema.



AGENCIES



AGENCIES

Pooja on targeted trolling

Mumbai: Pooja Hegde has once again spoken out about the issue of paid negative PR and targeted trolling in the film industry, revealing its emotional toll not just on her but also on her family. In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter India*, the actress, who had first addressed the matter last year, shared that her mother was deeply upset when the campaign began. "I used to take it as a compliment—if somebody needs to pull you down, you're above them," she remarked.

The *Coolie* star noted that, since she called out the propaganda, several other celebrities have opened up about facing similar attacks. While acknowledging the vicious nature of online trolling, she chooses to focus on the love she receives in person. "When people throw papers in the theatre or ask for selfies at the airport—those are real people," she said.

Pooja, set to appear in a special song for *Coolie*, believes in karma, stressing that energy—good or bad—comes back manifold. As for online hate, she dismisses most troll accounts as inactive bots. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, *Coolie* features a stellar ensemble and is expected to release in over 100 countries, making it one of 2025's biggest Indian film launches.

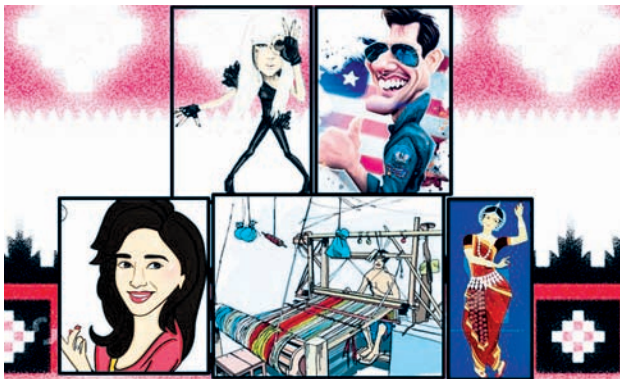
Odissi handloom gets a Madhuri spin and it's a win-win!

Dhak dhak karne laga... jiyara...in pride and palpable excitement when the 'dhak-dhak girl' flashed her 1000-watt smile and took charge as the brand ambassador of our state's rich and diverse handloom tapestry. Hard work recognises hard work and who better than superstar Madhuri Dixit to champion the legacy! Relentless in her pursuit for perfection, be it dancing or acting, she seems to be the perfect fit that showcases the talent of persevering hands behind the extraordinary weaves.

She expressed that when she draped our fabric, she could feel the 'soul of the

weaver and rhythm of the looms'. Madhuri madam, "Whenever you pirouette or emote, you weave magic and bingo! It stirs our soul too and our hearts dance in rhythm". Few old lyrics of the diva's hit songs may now get tweaked to... 'Dulhan ki saali Oo, Ikhat dupatta wali Oo'; 'Paise de do, Pasapalli le lo'; 'Wah Wah Ramji, jodi kya banayee, bhaiya aur Bhabhi ko, gift karo Bomkai'; 'Nazrein mili dil dhadka, meri dhadkan ne kaha, love you Khandua'.

I can only imagine an assortment of Odissi handloom being sashayed by star judge Madhuri on the sets of *Dance Deewane* or may be the next season of *Jhalak Dikhlia Jaa*.



Three generations of participants, young to old, grooving in Sambalpuri costumes, now and then, would much *amp* the mass appeal as much as give a fillip to our handloom

heritage. One may not be surprised if the superstar comes to be the face of a niche handloom line named "*Rangabati lounge wear and night wear*" in the future. She may popu-

larise it to the extent that you may find *Lady Gaga* prancing the concert stage in *Kotpad* silk bodycon suit or *Tom Cruise* pulling off stunts in an *Ikhat* vest.

Should our state consider a men's wear ambassador for our handloom, I doubt if the good looking Dr. Nene would say Na..na and hence maybe approached. I personally would want for the state to rope in English boy band *Blue* to create an international brand song for the handloom that would go... 'One love for the handloom pride, one love for the textile tied and dyed, one love I do believe, it has long arrived and shall thrive.' DR RACHNA RATH

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

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Across

- 1 Tête-à-tête
- 3 Set apart
- 9 Ringtail
- 10 Influence
- 11 Choral work
- 12 Foes
- 13 Mountain pool
- 14 Feathery scarves
- 19 Deluxe
- 21 Title holder
- 23 Elevators

Down

- 24 Crew member
- 25 Shave wood
- 26 ___ of Capri
- 1 Old car deco
- 2 English race place
- 4 Vocalist
- 5 Simoleons
- 6 Hot spots
- 7 Baggage handler

8 Secret supply

- 13 Shakespeare comedy, ___
- 15 Scents
- 16 They can be
- 17 Boardwalk diversion
- 18 Periphery
- 20 Strong point
- 22 Appoints

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

OMBRIC set to transform state's blue economy: CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday launched the Odisha Marine Biotechnology Research and Innovation Corridor (OMBRIC), a platform for young entrepreneurs to establish marine biotechnology startups rooted in local resources while meeting global standards, and said it will transform the state's blue economy and significantly contribute to India's economic growth.

On the occasion, a pact was signed between the Science and Technology department and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Ministry of Earth Sciences, for R&D collaboration.

Six higher education institutions, including IIT-Bhubaneswar, also signed MoUs with the Odisha government to provide R&D support for the initiative that aims to contribute to the field of environmental protection, science-based tourism, investment and employment of people in coastal areas.

"This unique platform will become a beacon of hope for the scientific community and innovation, not only for Odisha, but for the entire nation and the world," the CM said, adding, "It will transform the state's blue economy and significantly contribute to the nation's economic growth."

Stating that Odisha is taking a 'bold and visionary step forward', Majhi said the initiative was launched at a time when the world is looking towards the oceans for solutions to some of the most pressing challenges, ranging from sustainable food systems to climate resilience.

The CM said the initiative is designed not just as a research programme, but as a platform where young entrepreneurs of Odisha can build marine biotech startups grounded in local resources and global standards.

He said OMBRIC connects the lab to land and research to real-world impact.

"From gene discovery to bio-active molecules, from bioremediation to nutraceuticals, this initiative covers the entire pipeline of marine biotechnology innovation, culminating in job creation, environmental sustainability, and economic growth," he said.

The Chief Minister asserted that Odisha is no longer just a coastal state; it now seeks to be a coastal innovator.

"We are investing in nature-based solutions and harnessing our biodiversity not by exploiting it, but by preserving, understanding, and responsibly utilising it," he said.

Taking note of the strength of academic and research institutes of Odisha, the Chief Minister said the state has initiated an alliance of knowledge, research, and innovation to identify threats to coasts with the help of biotechnology.

Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said that Odisha has huge potential in marine biotechnology and will make all efforts to explore this sector to promote growth.

OMBRIC is a blueprint for a prosperous future, he said.

Recognising the state's vast coastline, packed with unexplored rich marine bio-resources, Odisha Science and Technology department has conceptualised OMBRIC as a pioneering initiative aimed at transforming and positioning the state into a global leader in marine biotechnology and blue economy development in future, an official note said.

Based on their scientific expertise and regional relevance, the state government has roped in six premier institutes as hubs of OMBRIC.

These institutions will lead various components of the initiative with specific objectives aligned with their areas of expertise and the needs of the state, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja noted.

The six institutes are IIT-Bhubaneswar, NIT-Rourkela, IISER-Berhampur, ILS-Bhubaneswar, Berhampur University and Fakir Mohan University in Balasore.

Law & order situation under control: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 12: The overall law and order situation in Odisha is under control and the state government has a zero-tolerance policy in the field of women's safety, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Tuesday.

The CM, in a meeting with senior officers, reviewed the law and order situation in the state and instructed the police to take all necessary measures so that the general public feels safe.

"The meeting revealed that the law and order situation in the state is under control due to the effective action of the police department. A review of the data of 15 years has revealed that crime has reduced in most areas in the last one year," a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

Stating that the government

◀ **Keeping in view the reported crimes involving students, the CM asked the police to further strengthen the patrolling system and intensify the exercise regularly in school and college areas**

◀ **The CM decided to constitute a Special Police Recruitment Board to fill the vacant posts in the police department as soon as possible**

◀ **Majhi emphasised that there is a need to take special and strict steps to stop the smuggling of brown sugar into Odisha from neighbouring states**

has a zero-tolerance policy in the field of women's safety, the Chief Minister advised police officers to be in action mode at all times based on this policy. He also asked senior police officers to monitor women-related cases regularly.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Assembly Naveen Patnaik said, "The BJP administration in the state is failing to create confidence in the system where our daughters feel safe, valued and heard."

Patnaik's statement came in the wake of four women/girl deaths in a span of one month,

either due to self-immolation or allegedly being set on fire.

Keeping in view the reported crimes involving students, Majhi has asked the police to further strengthen the patrolling system and intensify the exercise regularly in school and college areas for the safety of children studying in various educational institutions.

The Chief Minister was informed in the meeting that the Odisha Police in the last one year has rescued as many as 8,035 women and 3,306 girls reported missing.

The Chief Minister also de-

cided to constitute a Special Police Recruitment Board to fill the vacant posts in the police department as soon as possible.

Majhi also expressed satisfaction with the work of the Odisha Police in combating illegal arms trafficking, sand smuggling and execution of non-bailable warrants.

The CM emphasised that there is a need to take special and strict steps to stop the smuggling of brown sugar into Odisha from neighbouring states.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister's Advisor Prakash Mishra, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Satyabrata Sahu, Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Saswata Mishra and other senior police officers.



Ananya Jugade performs Odissi dance during the annual day celebration of 'Nrutya Upasana Pitha' at Rabintra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Review pending grievances of women, SPs told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 12: The Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW) of Odisha Police Tuesday asked all superintendents of police (SPs) and Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) to review pending and fresh grievances lodged by women and girls to prevent them from taking extreme steps such as suicide.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), CAW&CW, S Shyni has written a letter to all SPs, DCPs and Superintendents of Railway Police in this regard.

Shyni in her letter said, "Since the Balasore Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College incident of self-immolation of a girl student, there has been a steady increase in the incidences of suicide by self-immolation and attempts." Studies and research have shown that reporting and portrayal of suicidal behaviour in the media have potentially negative influences and facilitate suicidal acts by people exposed to such stimuli, she said.

The IGP instructed the police officers to review pending grievances and fresh grievances of women and girls within the notice of the police and take proactive measures to prevent self-harm by women and girls.

She also advised them to undertake awareness campaigns and workshops to screen and map pre-existing vulnerabilities among the teenage group, which are a higher risk category, to be undertaken in schools, colleges and training institutes in coordination with departments concerned.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 12: BJD supremo and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Assembly Naveen Patnaik Tuesday accused the state's BJP government of failing to create confidence in the system that led to four separate self-immolation deaths in Odisha in the last one month.

Patnaik's reaction came a day after a 13-year-old school-girl died after allegedly immolating herself in Bargarh district.

"Deeply saddened, shocked and anguished to know that another girl from Gaeilat, Bargarh has died after setting herself on fire. My condolences for the young girl and prayers are with the family members in the hour of grief. May God give the family members strength to bear this irreparable loss," he said.

Patnaik, who served as CM for five terms, said, "It is deeply disturbing that there is a heartbreaking pattern in the way our girls are dousing themselves with inflammable to take their lives."

Four young girls have lost their lives in similar circumstances within a month. In each passing away of innocent lives lies a pain of a daughter of Odisha, which became so unbearable that she saw no other way out than to end her life, Patnaik said.

"These four deaths are not stray cases – there are many such girls who are dying in the

Low pressure over Bay of Bengal likely to bring heavy rains: IMD

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 12: A low-pressure area is likely to form over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, bringing heavy rainfall across Odisha over the next few days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

According to the IMD bulletin, heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is likely over several districts of Odisha from August 13 to 15 due to the formation of this system.

IMD sources said a trough is currently extending from south Bihar to north Odisha, up to 1.5km above mean sea level.

In addition, an upper air cyclonic circulation is positioned over the central Bay of Bengal between 3.1km and 5.8km above mean sea level.

Under its influence, the low-pressure area is expected to form August 13 and may become more marked in the following 48 hours.

The IMD has issued yellow and orange warnings for several districts until August 17, forecasting heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty surface winds reaching speeds of 30–40kmph.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea along and off the Odisha coast, as well as over the west-central and northwest Bay of Bengal, from August 13 to August 16.

The bulletin also warned of squally winds with speeds of 40–50kmph, gusting up to 60kmph, in these areas during this period. Sea conditions are expected to be rough to very rough.

74 new food safety officer posts

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 12: In a step towards safeguarding public health, the state government has decided to strengthen food safety activities in different urban areas by sanctioning 74 new food safety officer posts, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Minister Mukesh Mahaling said here Tuesday.

These officers are to be recruited through open advertisement and rigorous selection process under staff selection commission.

Presently, food safety officers

are mostly posted in districts and they also operate in major city areas. They are looking into the food safety in Ashram schools, hostels and other institutions apart from imparting training on hygiene to the food business operators (FBOs), and checking of food safety parameters in hotels/street food vending stalls.

H&FW Secretary Aswathy S has asked the officials to expedite the process for recruitment, training and posting of these new food safety officers for bringing all urban local bodies under the umbrella of food safety activities.



I-DAY PREP: Security men rehearse ahead of Independence Day parade at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PICT: MANORANJAN MISHRA

4 SELF-IMMOLATION DEATHS IN 1 MONTH

BJP govt failing to create trust in system: Naveen

Women safety: BJD slams govt

The BJD Tuesday came down heavily on the state government over the alleged gang-rape of a minor Dalit girl in Rajnagar area of Kendrapara district, accusing it of failing to ensure women safety in Odisha. Briefing media in the City, BJD MLA Dhruva Charan Sahoo and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said that the incident took place on the day of Rakhi Purnima when the victim went with her paternal uncle to buy an idol for Bhalukuni puja. Around five men allegedly took her to a secluded area, took turns to rape her, and video-recorded the shame. Mohanty said in the last one month, four girls have died in self-immolations. "And today, a woman from Bhuban with 50 per cent burn injuries was hospitalised. National media repeatedly highlight Odisha as unsafe for women, bringing shame to the state. The BJP government in Odisha has failed to ensure safety of women," he said.

most tragic way possible after being subjected to crime every day. Their desperation is not just personal tragedy. Each tragedy reflects the failure to hear their screams," Patnaik posted on X.

He added, "The BJP administration is failing to create confidence in the system where our daughters feel safe, valued and heard."

"How long will the BJP govt wait to stop this heartbreaking pattern? The traumatic silence and inaction from the BJP govt leave the daughters of #Odisha more vulnerable," he added.

Notably, a 20-year-old female student of FM (Autonomous) College in Balasore immolated herself July 12 after no action was allegedly taken over her sexual harassment complaint against her professor. She died two days later while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

On July 19, a 15-year-old girl suffered burn injuries in Bal-

anga of Puri district. She died while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Delhi August 2. However, a controversy erupted as her mother claimed in the FIR that she was set on fire by three persons but police later concluded that no one else was involved in the incident, and her father made a video stating she was suffering from mental stress and died by suicide.

On August 6, a female college student died after she allegedly immolated herself at her house in Kendrapara district following her former boyfriend's threat to upload her intimate photographs on social media. Her father claimed that police had refused to lodge an FIR over harassment around six months ago.

The latest incident took place in Bargarh district Monday when a 13-year-old girl immolated herself, and later succumbed to her injuries. Investigations were under way to ascertain the cause of the incident.

2 DROWN IN CUTTACK

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 12: Two youths drowned in Kathajodi river in Cuttack Tuesday, police said.

A group of young men, all aged 19 or 20, went to the river bank under Purighat police limits to get soil for making idols of Lord Ganesh, they said.

During that time, two of them were swept away by the strong

currents of the river.

On being informed, Fire Services personnel rushed to the spot and rescued both of them in an unconscious state.

The two were taken to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in the Silver City, where a doctor declared them dead, police said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem examinations, they said.

Soldier from Odisha dies in J&K's Doda

Bhaderwah/Jammu: An Army personnel from Odisha was killed when his service rifle accidentally went off inside a camp in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), officials said Tuesday. Sepoy Suresh Biswal was on guard duty when his colleagues heard gunfire from his post at Sarna camp in Bhaderwah Monday, the officials said. They said the soldier was found in a pool of blood and was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead. Superintendent of Police, Bhaderwah, Vinod Sharma said preliminary investigation suggested that the soldier, a resident of Odisha, lost his life due to accidental discharge while he was unloading the chamber of his service rifle.

Man sets himself on fire, rescued

Bhubaneswar: An attendant of a private college in Bhubaneswar allegedly set himself on fire on the institution's campus Tuesday, police said. The incident triggered a panic on the campus located in the Khandagiri area, they said. The man, identified as Rakesh Pani of Jaipur district, was immediately rushed to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar. He sustained around 15 per cent burn injuries, they added. Police said an investigation is underway to ascertain what forced him to take the step.

Guv calls for study on increasing Gram Panchayats in Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 12:

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Tuesday suggested the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) department to undertake a comprehensive study of Gram Panchayats and revenue villages to explore the possibility of increasing the number of Gram Panchayats in the state. Kambhampati made this suggestion during a review meeting on the overall activities of the PR&DW Department, held at the New Abhishek Hall in Raj Bhavan. The meeting was attended by Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Girish SN senior departmental officials, and Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Governor, Roopa Roshan Sahoo.

The number of Gram Panchayats in Odisha is lower when compared with the number of revenue villages in the state and emphasised the importance of bringing governance closer to the people. “The Panchayat system should be nearby the people. Decentralisation strengthens the delivery of programmes and enables better monitoring,” he said. He further pointed out that a smaller number of Gram Panchayats could sometimes result in the state missing out on certain funds under specific schemes.

During the review, Kambhampati sought updates on the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the state, including the progress of major projects under the

scheme. He interacted directly with executing agencies to understand their challenges, advising them to avoid delays and adhere to project timelines. “It is the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to ensure every household has access to safe tap drinking water,” he reiterated.

Highlighting the pivotal role of the PR&DW department in transforming rural lives, the Governor acknowledged its responsibility for implementing several flagship schemes of the Government of India — from providing pucca houses and employment opportunities to ensuring safe drinking water. “Effective implementation of these schemes will significantly uplift the quality of life in rural areas,” he said.

He also invited feedback from officials on any challenges or issues faced during implementation, assuring them of his full support in taking necessary steps with the Government of India to resolve them.

The Governor’s review also covered progress under Bikhshita Gaon Bikashita Odisha, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin, PM-JANMAN Scheme, Antyodaya Gruha Yojana, MGN-REGS, BASUDHA, Solar Projects, DDUGKY, Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin, as well as Rural Marketing and livelihood.

During the meeting, senior officers of the department made detailed presentations on various programmes and schemes under the department.

Cops rescue couple with seven-yr-old daughter

Reports say the family is facing severe emotional and financial distress as their daughter battles a prolonged illness

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 12:

A couple from Boudh district threatened to self-immolate along with their seven-year-old daughter near Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi’s residence at Lower PMG Road Tuesday but were rescued by police before any harm could occur, officials said.

The family hails from Tutinga village in Boudh, and the man has been identified as Tirtha Mallick, father of the ailing child.

According to reports, the family is under severe emotional and financial distress due to their daughter’s prolonged illness. Struggling to afford treatment, they approached the Chief Minister’s residence and threatened self-immolation in front of the media to draw attention to their plight.

Police intervened promptly and rescued the couple and the child. No inflammable



Family sought urgent help near Chief Minister’s residence over daughter’s health crisis

Police intervened to prevent attempted self-immolation by the distressed family

materials were found in their possession.

“The trio was rescued and brought to the Chief Minister’s grievance cell, where their concerns were heard,” said Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena.

Mallick stated, “We came here to seek help from CM Majhi for our daughter. If the government does not assist us, we will leave the child here and walk away. Despite

BPNSI workshop begins at Jajpur Jindal Stainless Ltd

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 12: A knowledge sharing workshop, part of the professional pre-programme by Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI) under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, commenced at Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Jajpur. The workshop is designed for Graduate Engineer Trainees (GETs) and Post Graduate Engineer Trainees (PGETs) of JSL.

The event was inaugurated by Rakesh Pathak, AVP (HR), who praised BPNSI for its efforts in reskilling and upskilling professionals, particularly those working in India’s iron and steel industries. Prof Satyapriya Satapathy, senior assistant professor at BPNSI, addressed the partic-



ipants on the significance and schedule of the programme. Prof Ramakrushna Sabat, associate professor at IIT-Bhubaneswar, delivered a session on “Steel Quality Management and Alloying Techniques.”

Prof Amritendu Roy, also from IIT-Bhubaneswar, educated the trainees on “Steel Refining Process in Ladle Refining and Equipment Failures.” Additionally, Prof Satapathy shared valuable insights on Decarbonisation and Process Transition in Steel Industries during the workshop. Shyam Tripathy, AGM (HR) of JSL, was also present at the event.

Youth pillars of prosperous, developed nation: CM Majhi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar / Berhampur, August 12: The role of youth in nation-building is vital and unmatched, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, extending his heartfelt wishes on the occasion of International Youth Day, observed Tuesday.

Marking the occasion, a state-level independent campaign for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) was officially launched at the auditorium of Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College, Berhampur.

Health & Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, and Electronics & IT Minister Mukesh Mahaling graced the inauguration as the chief guest. Emphasising youth empowerment and health protection, the minister

stated that the campaign would run from August 12 to October 11, focusing on enhancing grassroots-level awareness around HIV prevention.

“This campaign will significantly support the Chief Minister’s vision of a Healthy Odisha, Prosperous Odisha by ensuring comprehensive health security for our youth,” said Dr. Mahaling. He called on the public to take a collective pledge to eradicate the disease, and not just isolate the patients. He urged everyone to treat people living with HIV with compassion and dignity, and support them with hope, trust, and encouragement. Appealing to the youth, Minister Mahaling encouraged them to actively participate and help spread the campaign’s message across communities.

Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar, the Regional Science Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 12:

The state government Tuesday chalked out a plan to keep a tab on the punctuality, efficiency and honesty of state government employees, an official release said.

The decision in this regard was taken at the all-secretaries meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

“The issues like action taken for not being present in the office on time, early retirement of government officials and employees who are not performing their work properly, institutional strengthening of action taken against corruption, giving priority to the answers received from the Chief Minister and others were discussed at the meeting,” the release said.

Min Naik reviews rural drinking water projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 12:

To speed up rural water supply and guarantee pure drinking water in every household, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Minister Rabinarayan Naik Tuesday reviewed ongoing projects at a meeting in the conference hall of the State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Institution. The minister conducted a detailed review of all ongoing drinking water projects across the state.

It was informed at the meeting that 18 of the state’s 207 rural drinking water projects have been completed, while work on the remaining projects is being expedited with regular monitoring. To ensure accountability, the minister directed officials to maintain constant supervision and ensure systematic execution.

Currently, more than 10,000 villages and 552 Gram Panchayats in the state have fully benefited from the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ (Water to Every Home) scheme. In Nuapada district, all villages have been covered under the

‘Har Ghar Jal’ scheme, marking a historic step towards ensuring drinking water facilities in rural life. The government has taken swift steps to complete these projects as soon as possible.

According to the plan, 54 more projects are targeted to be completed by December 2025. The minister has instructed to finish all works within the stipulated time frame after reviewing the status of these projects.

To ensure safe drinking water supply in the state, 5,27,570 hand pumps/sanitary wells, 21,401 production wells, and 15,155 overhead tanks have been disinfected. Out of the previously approved 29,512 hand pumps, about 20,891 have been nearly completed. Great emphasis is being given to the accountability of these works.

The minister warned that strict action will be taken if the ongoing projects are not completed within the scheduled time. During the review meeting, department secretary SN Girish informed the minister about various details of the drinking water projects.



CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before the Notary Public, Chandahandi I, Sundarsing Harijan, S/o Late Haladhar Harijan, resident of Chandgiri, P.O. - Ankabeda, P.S. - Chandahandi, Dist. - Nabarangpur, declare that my correct name is Sundarsing Harijan as per all records and R.O.R. (Khata No. 123). My Aadhaar Card (No. xxxx xxxx 9596) incorrectly shows my name as Chandramani Bagh. Both names refer to me, being one and the same person.

Anima Pandey, D/o - Lalindra Prasad Patel, W/o - Dushmanta Kumar Pandey, At - Debadih, P.O./P.S. - Jharsuguda, PIN - 768201, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. - 04 on dated 02.08.2025. That now onwards I shall be known as Anima Patel for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Chandikhole 11.08.2025, I, Shaikh Khurban, aged about (59), S/o - Shaikh Habib, At - Matakatpur, P.O. - Palai, P.S - Balichandrapur, Dist. - Jajpur, Odisha - 754205 declare that Shaikh Khurban and Shaikh Khorban same and one person and there is no difference in it. Date of Birth 15.03.1966

LOST

I Lingaraj Rout, S/o - Kela Rout, Vill - Danda, PS - Chandanpur, Puri. I lost my previous sale deed No. - 11481403092 bearing Mouza - Dasgoba, Khata No. - 215/372, Plot No. - 126, inspite of my best effort I failed to get the same and filed a FIR in Chandanpur PS. If anybody found the document please contact. Advocate Dipak Kumar Sahoo - 9937058785.

I, Dushasan Tarai, S/o - Late Bidyadhar Tarai, At - Madan Mohan Nagar, Tinigharia, P.O.- Nayabazar, P.S.- Madhupatna, Dist.- Cuttack- 753004 States that I am owner of property Khata No.- 941/30, Plot No.- 1602, area AC 0.040 dec., Kisam-Gharabari, Mouza- Bidyadharpur Tahasil- Cuttack Sadar, Dist.- Cuttack on

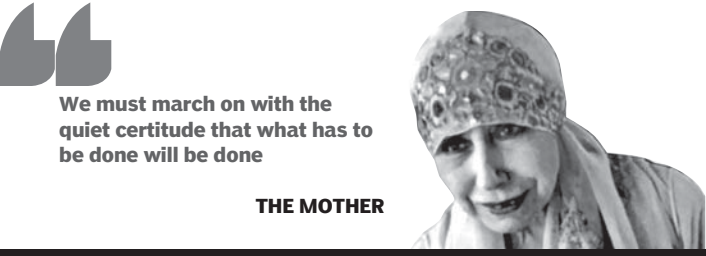
26.05.25, Original Regd Sale Deed No.- 2532, dt- 03.06.1988 executed by Trilochan Sahoo in favour of Sri Jogendra Behera and record of right having Mouza Bidyadharpur, Khata No.- 348, Plot No.- 1602, area- Ac0.040dec. recorded in the name of Jogendra Behera (which is the Link Deed of my property) has been missed when transit from Nuapada Chhak to my residence. The finder please contact soon above address.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	87.80 ▲ 0.02	SENSEX	80235.59 ▼ 368.49	GOLD	₹100,090 ▼ ₹232
EURO	101.94 ▼ 0.33	NIFTY	24487.40 ▼ 97.65	SILVER	₹113,371 ▲ ₹75

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.7°	36.2°	Light to moderate rain or thunder-shower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Odisha
Min Temp	25.0°	25.2°	
Humidity	76%	79%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



Tariff Tactic

The effects of US President Donald Trump’s imposition of a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods have started to be felt on the country’s economy. Bad news has come from Tiruppur, the country’s knitwear capital, Coimbatore and Karur in Tamil Nadu which collectively employ over 1.25 million workers and export ₹45,000 crore worth of garments annually. The helplessness and anxieties shown by the garments exporters, who are feeling the heat of the 50 per cent tariff, are a pointer to the shape of things to come. They have said orders are being paused, redirected, or lost entirely to competitors in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Cambodia, all of whom have lower US tariffs ranging between 19 per cent and 36 per cent. Information reaching the exporters indicate they need to brace for an unprecedented situation as buyers are asking them to absorb the tariff hike before thinking of sending their products to US markets. The revised duties, including baseline and remedy-linked tariffs, now push effective rates for some knitted garments to even 64 per cent. This means the same products exported by the Asian rivals will be available in US markets at rates 35 per cent less than Indian garments. It is feared that there will be a virtual de facto trade embargo.

It is an irony that only a few weeks ago Indian exporters of garments were so optimistic about better profits helped by the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and growing US interest in Indian goods. This led to many exporters in Tamil Nadu to invest in new machinery to meet the expected surge. That hope is now being replaced by abject despondency due to the retaliatory tariffs, especially with respect to China, which is now at 30 per cent and could see a further downward revision if Beijing manages to clinch a favourable deal with Washington. Indian exporters are crestfallen and clueless about how they can absorb the raised tariff with average margin of profits of 5 to 7 per cent. A nightmarish scenario is going to unfold. For, if exports contract 10-20 per cent due to loss of orders, it can threaten 100,000-200,000 textile and garment jobs collectively in the three hubs of Tiruppur, Karur and Coimbatore in the next few months.

The 50 per cent US tariff would hurt India’s export industries and economy in other sectors such as gems and small businesses as well. The high tariffs are causing great worry because they put India’s \$87 billion worth of exports to the US at risk and are a sign of worsening Indo-US relations. Leather, marine products, chemicals, and auto components face significant danger, with 55 per cent of India’s US-bound exports at risk.

This is happening despite the US and India sharing a robust trade relationship, with bilateral trade reaching \$190 billion in 2024. India’s top three exports to the US include pharmaceuticals (\$8.1 billion) telecom instruments (\$6.5 billion), precious stones (\$5.3 billion), while the US runs a \$45.7 billion trade deficit with India.

The tariffs threaten India’s \$434 billion export with \$87 billion directed to the US, equivalent to 2.5 per cent of India’s GDP. Industry estimates suggest a \$4-5 billion drop in engineering exports alone, while overall GDP growth could decline by 0.2–0.5 per cent, with forecasts revised from 6.5 per cent to as low as 6 per cent.

Indian foreign policy has hugely suffered in the past few years, with New Delhi left completely isolated and friendless. Relations with our neighbours have worsened and the Centre’s Russia leanings and ongoing trade have put India in a wrong spot vis-à-vis the US. India has lost the narrative war in Operation Sindoor. Trump now wants to arm twist India over the purchase of oil from Russia to extract further concessions from New Delhi, especially in the farm and dairy sectors. The Indian government can hardly afford to antagonise farmers by letting American farm-based goods into Indian markets. However, time is running out for India. It must get an economic deal from the US with reasonable compromises reflecting pragmatism without being browbeaten into abject surrender. Now is not the time for optics but it’s high time for mature diplomacy.

WISDOM CORNER

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it

ROBERT FROST

The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion

ALBERT CAMUS

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it

HENRY FORD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1521: Fall of the Aztec empire. On this day in 1521, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés captured Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City) after a 93-day siege, thereby ending the Aztec empire and winning Mexico for the crown of Spain.

1926: Cuban political leader Fidel Castro, who transformed his country into the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere, was born.

1960: Central African Republic Gains its Independence From France. The landlocked African Country came under French rule in the late 19th century. On this day, Barthélemy Boganda, a nationalist politician declared the creation of an independent Central African Republic and became the first Prime Minister of the country.

1961: The construction on the Berlin Wall, a wall that divided West Berlin from East Berlin started. It was built by the German Democratic Republic or East Germany.

1967: The crime drama Bonnie and Clyde, starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the outlaw couple, opened in New York City, and it pioneered a new era of filmmaking, tearing down barriers in the depiction of violence and sexuality.

1997: South Park makes its debut on Comedy Central. The popular American animated series is created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, and it follows the lives and adventures of 4 boys – Eric Cartman, Kenny McCormick, Kyle Broflovski, and Stan Marsh – in a fictional town called South Park, Colorado. While being popular, the show has attracted widespread criticism for profane language and for addressing controversial subjects.

LOL

THE SHOPLIFTER

A shoplifter was caught red-handed trying to steal a watch from an exclusive jewellery store. “Listen,” said the shoplifter, “ know you don’t want any trouble either. What do you say I just buy the watch and we forget about this?”

The manager agreed and wrote up the sales slip. The crook looked at the slip and said, “This is a little more than I intended to spend. Can you show me something less expensive?”

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

A NEW ECONOMICS OF WATER

Two-thirds of the global population faces water scarcity at least one month per year. And if current trends continue, high-income countries could see their GDP shrink by 8% by 2050, while lower-income countries face losses of 10-15%



OVER HALF THE WORLD'S FOOD PRODUCTION NOW COMES FROM AREAS EXPERIENCING DECLINING FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

As African leaders gather in Cape Town for the African Water Investment Summit, there can be no equivocation: the world faces an unprecedented water crisis that demands a paradigm shift in how we value and govern our most precious resource. The scale of the challenge is staggering. Over half the world’s food production now comes from areas experiencing declining freshwater supplies. Two-thirds of the global population faces water scarcity at least one month per year. More than 1,000 children under five die every day, on average, from water-related diseases. And if current trends continue, high-income countries could see their GDP shrink by 8% by 2050, while lower-income countries (many in Africa) face losses of 10-15%.

Yet this crisis also presents an extraordinary opportunity. As South Africa assumes the G20 presidency (for which I have been appointed special adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa), it can champion a new economics of water that treats the hydrological cycle as a global common good, rather than as the source of a commodity to be hoarded or traded.

The economic case for action is compelling. The International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa shows that every \$1 invested in climate-resilient water and sanitation delivers a return of \$7. With Africa requiring an additional \$30 billion annually to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water security and sustainable sanitation, the financing gap is significant; but it is surmountable with the right strategy. The Global Commission on the Economics of Water recently called for such a strategy. Treating water as a global common good and adopting mission-oriented approaches to transform the crisis into an opportunity requires that we recognise three critical facts. First, water connects us all – not just through visible rivers and lakes, but through atmospheric moisture flows that travel across continents. Second, the water crisis is inseparable from climate change and biodiversity loss, each of which accelerates

the others in a vicious cycle. And, third, water runs through every SDG, from food security and health to economic growth.

Yet too often, water investments follow the failed playbook of climate and development finance. There is a tendency to derisk private capital without ensuring public returns; to fund projects without strategic direction; and to treat water as a technical problem, rather than a systemic challenge. Such approaches risk creating water infrastructure that serves investors more than communities, exacerbates existing inequalities, and fails to address the interconnected nature of the water, climate, and biodiversity crises.

This interconnectedness demands a new economic framework that aims to shape markets proactively rather than simply fixing failures after the fact. We need to move from short-term cost-benefit thinking to long-term value creation, and that calls for mission-oriented investments that shape markets for the common good.

Missions require clear goals – like ensuring that no child dies from unsafe water by 2030. Once goals are established, all financing can be aligned with them through cross-sectoral approaches spanning agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. Rather than picking sectors or technologies, the point is to find willing partners across all industries to tackle shared challenges. Such mission-oriented investments

can also lead to economic diversification, creating new export opportunities and development pathways.

Consider Bolivia’s approach to lithium extraction. Rather than simply exporting raw materials, the country is developing strategies to avoid the traditional “resource curse” by building domestic battery-production capabilities and participating directly in the energy transition. In doing so, it is converting its resource wealth into innovation capacity, strengthening value chains, and creating new export markets for higher-value activities.

As matters stand, more than \$700 billion per year is channeled into water and agriculture subsidies that often incentivise overuse and pollution. By redirecting these resources toward water-efficient agriculture and ecosystem restoration, with clear conditions attached, we could transform the economics of water overnight. To that end, public development banks can provide patient capital for water infrastructure, while requiring private partners to reinvest profits in watershed protection.

Africa is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation. Its vast supply of groundwater remains largely untapped, with 255 million urban inhabitants living above known supplies. Combined with affordable solar power, these supplies present an opportunity to revolutionise agriculture. By focusing on efficiency and reuse, as well as on capacity building, data-sharing,

and monitoring and evaluation, this relatively stable groundwater resource, accessed by solar-powered pumps, can be a decentralised alternative minimising the emissions, waste, and other environmental costs implied by larger infrastructure projects that disrupt natural waterflows. Through Just Water Partnerships – collaborative frameworks that pool such solar-groundwater projects for increased bankability while ensuring community ownership – international finance can be channelled toward water infrastructure that serves both national development goals and the global common good.

South Africa’s G20 presidency – the first ever for an African country – offers a historic platform to advance this agenda globally. Just as Brazil has used its G20 leadership and role as host of the upcoming COP30 to drive climate action, South Africa can make water security central to the global economic agenda. With the 2026 UN Water Conference on the horizon, and with the international community recognizing that climate change cannot be tackled without also addressing the water crisis, the time is right for bold leadership. The African Water Investment Summit is not just another gathering, but should be a watershed. This is the moment when we should shift from treating water as a local resource to governing it as a global common good, moving from crisis management to proactive market shaping and from viewing mission-oriented investment as a cost to recognizing it as the foundation of sustainable growth.

Water security underpins Africa’s aspirations for health, climate resilience, prosperity, and peace. With young Africans set to constitute 42% of global youth by 2030, investing in water is tantamount to investing in the world’s future. The question isn’t whether we can afford to act, but whether we can afford not to.

The writer is Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London.

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In JEST This

Put things in perspective

My home, like a lot of homes, is not pest-free. We often get ants, spiders and house centipedes, as well as the occasional salesman. House centipedes look scary, even to me. My kids hate them and scream, “Daddy!” when they spot one in their bedrooms. I don’t mind this at all. I know that the “Best Dad” coffee mug that I received on Father’s Day was largely because I take care of the house centipedes. A fly swatter works well on them — and it’s also quite effective on salesmen.

When my kids complain about something, I tell them to put things in perspective. “It could be a lot worse,” I say. I tell them about the roach-infested apartment I shared with a friend during my college days. Turning on a light in the kitchen after midnight meant encountering several roaches. Screaming “Daddy!” didn’t help at all. All it did was bring out the roaches’ fathers.

Perhaps I should also tell them about the massive rat

found recently in a home in North Yorkshire, England. This rat was so huge that when the landlord heard about it, he immediately showed up to demand extra rent.

Actually, a pest control worker exterminated the rat and carried it out in a bag. David Taylor and Stephen Martin, Eston Ward councillors, shared a picture of the bagged rat on Facebook. “This massive rat over 22 inches long from nose to tail was found inside a local home ...” they wrote. “It’s almost the size of a small cat.”

I don’t know about you, but if I spotted a 22-inch (56-cm) rat in my home, I’d be the one being carried out in a bag. Yes, I’d suffer a heart attack. My heart can handle a lot of things — lizards, snakes, McDonald’s fries — but not 22-inch rats.

I can’t even picture a 22-inch rat. Do they have a rat that size in my local zoo? (Perhaps they do, but they make it swim and call it a “beaver.”)

Councillors Taylor and Mar-

tin are concerned that the rat population is growing, noting that rats are being spotted in alleyways, around bins, inside homes, and even crossing streets. I once spotted a large rat crossing a street in Chicago. Accustomed to city life, it even looked both ways before crossing. And then it scurried into a restaurant, but not before tossing away its cigarette. It knows the rules.

Taylor and Martin want the local council to take the problem seriously. Among their demands: “a full vermin survey and treatment plan across the borough,” “proper funding to tackle infestations,” and “joint action with businesses, landlords, and social housing providers — so tackling vermin is built into tenancies and responsibilities.”

A full vermin survey? I don’t know about you, but I’m not volunteering to survey the vermin. What if they’re 22-inches long? I’d need to get paid a lot of money and take a double dose of heart meds.

Me: “Excuse me, Mr. Rat. I’m here to conduct a survey. May I ask you a few questions?”

Rat: “Make it quick please. ‘Britain’s Got Talent’ is about to begin.”

Me: “How long are you?” Rat: “I’ve never measured myself, but as you can see, this couch is a tad short for me.”

Me: “Are you always lounging around like this? What about the homeowner?”

Rat: “Oh, her. Don’t worry about her. She’s an elderly lady who thinks I’m a small cat.”

Me: “You don’t look anything like a cat.” Rat: “I know, but she hasn’t had her vision tested recently. She’s keeping me for protection.”

Me: “Protection from what?” Rat: “Rats, of course. There are so many of us. I can’t climb into a bin without having a family reunion. That’s why I like being here. I enjoy my privacy. Speaking of which, do you think you can find the door by yourself?”

Letters

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

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

Incendiary rhetoric

Sir, This refers to “Pak’s nuclear threat stock-in-trade: India,” Orissa Post, August 12. Pakistani army chief Field Marshal Asif Munir’s irresponsible and provocative comments on US soil — claiming Pakistan would not hesitate to launch a nuclear attack on India and even destroy half the world — are deeply admonishing. Ironically, such incendiary rhetoric was delivered not in Islamabad, but in Washington’s own backyard. Munir’s choice of venue is no coincidence; it reflects his confidence in the tacit silence of the US administration. That the American government has neither condemned nor even mildly objected to such a dangerous statement lays bare Washington’s selective morality. The US, which never misses an opportunity to lecture the world on values, peace, and fairness, appears unmoved when its strategic partner fans nuclear threats. This silence exposes a deep hypocrisy — one where geopolitical convenience outweighs the principles America claims to champion. While the world should unite in condemning such reckless nuclear sabre-rattling, Washington’s muted stance only emboldens further instability. Munir’s statement is not merely a diplomatic provocation; it is a stark reminder of the double standards that shape global politics, where morality bends before the weight of strategic alliances and vested interests..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Timely ruling

Sir, This refers to “Put stray dogs in shelters,” Orissa Post, August 12. I think, this ruling of the Supreme Court should be made applicable for all states and be given a pan-India effect particularly when stray dog menace in every part of the country has assumed alarming proportions. In no developed country, stray dogs are allowed to roam freely on public thoroughfare. They find proper shelters and receive food regularly. Unfortunately in India, stray dogs get indulgence by dog lovers in oblivion of safety of pedestrians. Stray dogs often block roads and local residents get scared to confront them let alone strangers.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

‘Bedroom Jihadis’ become nuisance for security in JK

After years of fighting armed terrorists, security agencies have been facing this hidden enemy in which these new-age jihadis use computers and smartphones to wage war from just about anywhere, spreading rumours and influencing youths



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 12: Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with a new and insidious threat in the form of “bedroom jihadis” -- people who manipulate social media from the safety of their homes to spread misinformation and incite communal discord, officials said.

This kind of enemy, far removed from the traditional armed terrorists, is at the heart of a sophisticated cross-border effort to destabilise the region, the officials said.

An in-depth investigation has uncovered a network of social media handles, believed to be controlled by terror groups and their sympathisers in Pakistan, that have been actively intruding into local digital spaces, disseminating inflammatory content and propaganda with the clear objective of creating sectarian clashes and unrest in the Kashmir valley.

“After years of fighting armed terrorists, security agencies have been facing this hidden enemy in which these new-age jihadis use computers and smartphones to wage war from just about anywhere, spreading rumours and influencing youths,” an official in the know of the developments said.

The trend emerged in 2017 but ended after an effective crackdown with curbs on the

Internet post abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

After the successful completion of Assembly elections last year, the “bedroom jihadis” have surfaced again, possibly with an aim to destabilise the elected government and create a sense of unrest, the officials said.

Security agencies have also uncovered a sophisticated and concerted effort by terror groups and their sympathisers operating from across the border to use social media platforms to incite sectarian clashes and destabilise the region.

The investigation, which has been underway for several weeks, involved scrutinising thousands of social media posts, comments and private messages and its analysis provided compelling evidence of a direct link between these malicious online activities and handlers located in Pakistan.

During Muharram days observed by the Shia community recently, there was tension between the two sects of the Muslim community over a post but effective handling by Srinagar police doused the fire before it could spread, the officials said.

Former Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Kuldeep Khoda says the successful identification and disruption of this cross-border social media plot highlight the evolving nature of threats

to security in Jammu and Kashmir.

“While traditional terror activities remain a concern, the digital battlefield is increasingly becoming a front where external forces seek to destabilise the region by exploiting local tensions, which should be nipped in the bud,” he feels.

In the recent past, the virtual nature of this conflict was seen in a case where the personal details of Kashmiri Pandit migrants appointed under the Prime Minister’s rehabilitation scheme were leaked on various social media platforms.

The malicious act, intended to create fear within the minority community, was swiftly countered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and their investigation led to the arrest of a local youth who had been directed from across the border to carry out the act.

Officials coined the term “bedroom jihadis” to describe these people who operate in a virtual battleground where a “bloody war is fought, but with words”.

However, this has a significant impact on young minds and the ease with which a rumour can spread poses a significant challenge, the officials said and explained, “Anyone, while sitting on his bed or sofa, can plant fake news in one of the thousand chat groups and the entire Union Territory can plunge into communal divide.”

Take national flag to greater heights: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 12: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday said citizens should try to take the national flag to greater heights and do their bit for upholding its dignity.

“It is not necessary that we need a large number of people to do something. All of us can do our bit to uphold the respect and dignity of the national flag,” Abdullah said addressing a Tiranga rally here.

The chief minister said hoisting of the national flag should not be limited to official functions only. “We should try to take the national flag to greater heights and follow the footsteps of those who have made supreme sacrifices for upholding the respect of this flag,” he said.

Abdullah said people should not feel disheartened for being alone when they want to do the right thing.



Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and others takes part in a Tiranga Rally ahead of Independence day celebrations, on the banks of the Dal Lake, in Srinagar, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

ANDHRA LIQUOR SCAM

Jagan chaired liquor policy meeting

The SIT’s 124-page supplementary chargesheet follows an earlier 305-page document submitted last month, which linked Jagan Mohan Reddy to monthly kickbacks averaging Rs 50 to Rs 60 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, August 12: A chargesheet filed by the Andhra Pradesh police in connection with the alleged Rs 3,500-crore liquor scam in a court alleges former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy chaired a meeting held in July 2019 related to the new liquor policy under which the outlets would be run by the APSBCL, a government entity.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged liquor scam filed a 124-page supplementary chargesheet Monday.

The previous chargesheet filed last month mentioned former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as one of the recipients of kickbacks averaging Rs 50-Rs 60 crore per month. The 305-page chargesheet, however, stopped short of naming Jagan as accused.

The supplementary chargesheet alleged that the kickbacks were systematically laundered through low-profile individuals, such as office boys or employees.

“During the discussions held in the meeting 29.07.2019 chaired by Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, matters relating to number of shops, hiring



of shop premises, shop infrastructure, manpower transportation chargers, etc., have been finalised,” the police said quoting a letter written by then Managing Director, APSBCL (Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Ltd).

Then police also alleged that Jagan also played a key role in the appointment of D Vasudeva Reddy an IRTS officer and accused No. 2 in the case, as Managing Director of APSBCL despite him being recommended for other posts by then Chief Secretary and other officials.

According to the chargesheet, former bureaucrat Rajat Bhar-

gava tried several times to alert the Chief Minister’s Office about the irregularities in the APSBCL. However, his warnings fell on deaf ears. Bhargava served as Special Chief Secretary for Excise when the alleged scam took place.

When contacted, former minister and senior YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu told PTI that all the allegations made in the chargesheets are baseless and “created” ones.

“During the course of investigation, it was revealed that the accused have systematically laundered the kickback amount with the help of low-profile in-

dividuals who were working as office boys or employees in the companies owned by the accused,” officials said quoting the chargesheet.

“Such employees and individuals acted as couriers and mules for depositing illicit cash into a network of bank accounts linked to the syndicate,” they added.

This pattern of cash layering and circulation demonstrates a deliberate attempt to conceal the origin of crime proceeds, constituting a classic case of structured money laundering and concealment under the garb of petty deposits, they further said.

A portion of the liquor kickbacks was transferred to the employees and associates of the accused as salary, they further said adding it was also observed that several of such low-profile individuals were made to send the cash deposited into their account to other accused.

Several illegalities in modifying the Excise Policy in the year 2019 have been found during the course of investigation.

The hiring of the consultancy firm KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. was intended to lend credibility to a flawed excise policy, the police said.

Andhra CRDA proposes projects for Amaravati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, August 12: The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has proposed works worth Rs 81,317 crore for the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, with tenders already issued for projects valued at Rs 50,552 crore.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the progress of Amaravati’s construction at the Secretariat, in a meeting attended by Municipal Minister P. Narayana, senior officials, and contractors.

“CRDA has proposed works worth a total of Rs 81,317 crore for the construction of the capital city. Currently, it called tenders for projects worth Rs 50,552 crore,” said an official press release.

Officials informed the CM that construction work has

commenced on 74 projects, covering housing, public buildings, roads, ducts, flood control measures, and other infrastructure. The TDP supremo instructed officials to complete Amaravati construction work six months ahead of the schedule.

He reviewed the progress of infrastructure development in areas under the LPS (land pooling scheme) and the construction of residences for ministers, MLAs, officials, employees, and judges.

On returnable plots to farmers, Naidu called for measures which would neither inconvenience the peasants nor impact Amaravati’s master plan.

Further, the CM instructed officials to expedite approvals to agencies intending to build their offices in the greenfield capital city, especially for institutions like BITS – Pilani, XLRI and others.

YSRCP demands cancellation of Pulivendula local body bypoll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pulivendula (Andhra Pradesh), August 12: YSRCP leader and Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy Tuesday demanded the cancellation of the Pulivendula ZPTC by-election, accusing Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of causing widespread electoral malpractices, booth capturing and voter intimidation affecting fairness.

The Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) bypoll in Pulivendula began on a stormy note in Kadapa district as police have taken Avinash Reddy into custody Tuesday morning.

“Avinash Reddy demanded that the ongoing ZPTC by-election

in Pulivendula be cancelled and re-conducted under the supervision of central police forces,” said a YSRCP press release quoting the MP.

Police placed a YSRCP leader and a TDP leader under house arrest. Avinash Reddy accused TDP and BJP MLAs of allegedly rigging of votes by bringing in party workers from other constituencies.

The Opposition party demanded re-polling in Pulivendula and Vontimitta under the watch of neutral central forces, ensuring transparency and protection of the people’s mandate in both constituencies.

Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections are being held in Ramakuppam

(Chittoor district), Karempudi (Palnadu district) and Vidavaluru (Nellore district) while ZPTC elections are underway in Pulivendula and Vontimitta (YSR Kadapa district).

The MP condemned the police action -- taking him into custody-- as atrocious. He alleged that it was done without notice or reason and claimed that hundreds of TDP supporters entered Pulivendula without facing any police action.

“Avinash Reddy’s arrest in Pulivendula early this morning is an atrocious act by the police. This arrest was made without any prior notice or valid reason,” said YSRCP in a press release.

Heavy rains lash Jammu region, schools shut

Authorities in Rajouri, Reasi and Poonch districts have ordered the closure of all schools in view of the adverse weather conditions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 12: Heavy rain lashed various districts of the Jammu region, triggering flash floods that damaged four structures and led to the closure of some inter-district roads, officials said Tuesday.

Authorities in Rajouri, Reasi and Poonch districts have ordered the closure of all schools in view of the adverse weather conditions.

Significant rainfall was recorded between 8.30 am Mon-

day and 6.30 am Tuesday, meteorological department officials said. Reasi recorded the highest rainfall at 284 mm, followed by 204 mm in Katra, 166 mm in Udhampur, 199 mm in Kathua, 102 mm in Samba and 96 mm in Jammu. The rain triggered flash floods, landslides and mudslides in various places. No casualties have been reported, the officials said.

Portions of two houses on the banks of the Tawi river in the Beli Charana area were washed away by the flash floods, pro-

moting police to warn people living along the river bank to not go near it.

Several temporary structures for housing animals were vacated in the Nikki Tawi area. Part of a school in the Surankote area of Poonch district was severely damaged after the flash floods struck during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, according to the officials.

The flash floods swept away a 200-ft-long shed adjacent to the school and a sports room, destroying all records and

sports items. There were no casualties in the incident, the officials said.

In Rajouri’s Jaglanoo village, a cowshed collapsed, causing loss of livestock. The rain also caused multiple road blockages across the district, disrupting vehicular movement in several areas, they said.

The Kotranka-Khawas road has been closed at Kanja, while the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road remains cut-off following a landslide between DKG and Bufliyaz.

The Ghambir Mughlan-Thanamandi road is also blocked at several points, including Bhattian Morh and adjoining stretches, due to debris.

The Jammu-Srinagar highway also experienced traffic jams at Jagti as the road was inundated. The authorities also shut down the Udhampur-Samba road following landslides at several places, the officials said.

Five to six buffaloes, two cows were washed away in the flash floods in Kathua, they said.

ODISHA POLICE RECRUITMENT BOARD, BHUBANESWAR

Corrigendum Advertisement for CPSE- 2024
(<https://odishapolice.gov.in>)

No. 06/OPRB

Date - 06.08.2025

Ref : Detail Advertisement No.02-CPSE-2024/OPRB dt.17.01.2025 & Corrigendum Advertisement No. 05/OPRB, dt.31.07.2025.

No.D-170 : Pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble High Court Orissa in WP(C) No.3015 of 2025 filed by Amit Kumar Biswal & Others Vrs. State of Odisha & Others dtd.24.07.2025 & as per orders of Government of Odisha vide letter No.31444/D&A dtd.24.07.2025, fresh applications are being invited from intending candidates with three years age relaxation in all categories for CPSE-2024 for recruitment of S.I. of Police and its equivalent rank from 06.08.2025 to 15.08.2025.

N.B: - For details visit Odisha Police website. (www.odishapolice.gov.in)

Sd./- (Susanta Kumar Nath, IPS)
Chairman
Odisha Police Recruitment Board,
Bhubaneswar

OIPR-12029/11/0098/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Email Address : cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. - CEM/MDC-14/2025-26

1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: CEM / MDC - 14/2025-26
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs.39,85,354.00
6. Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) calendar months
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt. 16.08.2025 (10.00 A.M.) to dt. 30.08.2025 (5.30 P.M.)
8. Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt. 30.08.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.)
9. Date and Place of opening of Technical Bid	: Dt.01.09.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)
10. Date and Place of opening of Financial Bid	: To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid
11. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/o the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Sd./- Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O - Engineer-In-Chief,
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32520/11/0056/2526

of the day **quote**

US President said ours (India's) is a dead economy. No, it is the only economy moving ahead fast in the world. Nobody can compete with it



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA CM

The BJP's biggest job is to conspire and plot when they lack answers to basic questions. When they realised the people of Bihar are against them, they conspired to manipulate votes on a large scale through SIR



The government should not allow any community to take any such step which may create communal tension and also spoil the mutual brotherhood and harmony



SHORT TAKES

Man kills wife in Rajasthan

Jaipur: A man was arrested for allegedly killing his wife in Rajasthan's Kishangarh after he reported to police that she was attacked by robbers, officials said Monday. Another accused was also arrested and a minor was detained in connection with the incident, police said. According to a police officer, the accused husband had an extra marital affair due to which he hatched the plan to kill his wife. Police said Rohit Saini (35) reached government hospital in Kishangarh in Ajmer district with his injured wife Sanju (33) Sunday, claiming some unidentified persons slit her throat.

Modi speaks to Uzbek Prez

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday held a phone conversation with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, focusing on bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, connectivity, health and technology. "We reviewed the progress achieved in key areas of our bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed our shared resolve to further advance the India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership," Modi said on 'X'.

Woman 'raped' in front of her sister; 2 detained

Medininagar (Jharkhand): A 22-year-old woman was allegedly raped by two persons in front of her younger sister in Jharkhand's Palamu district, and both the accused were arrested, police said Tuesday. The woman lodged a complaint with the police Monday, alleging that she and her sister were waiting at the Daltonganj station for a train to go to Punjab in search of a livelihood, and the two men, posing as policemen, took them to a deserted place and raped her, Palamu Superintendent of Police Reesma Ramesan said.

12 tourists hurt in road accident

Ramban/Jammu: At least 12 tourists from Uttar Pradesh were injured when their vehicle overturned on the roadside in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said. The tourists were heading for Kashmir in a tempo traveller after visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine at Katra in Reasi district. The accident occurred at Dalwas along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the officials said. They said all the injured persons were evacuated to a hospital by rescuers, and their condition is said to be stable.



The low budgetary allocation for defence by the Modi Government can't continue any longer. We need to be better prepared

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

RISE IN HIV CASES: ARUNACHAL LAUNCHES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Arunachal Pradesh government Tuesday launched an awareness campaign with the state witnessing a surge in HIV AIDS cases since 2022, an official said



UTTARKASHI FLASH FLOODS

GPR scanning helps identify 20 spots in Dharali: Rescuers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, August 12: Rescuers Tuesday said they have identified 20 spots at a depth of 2.5-3 metres using Ground Penetrating Radars in the lower areas of the flood-ravaged Dharali where there is the possibility of people being trapped, officials said as search and rescue operations entered the seventh day.

Heavy equipment is being used with great caution as the soil is marshy and sinking, while machines are strictly not being used at places where there could be life, they said.

A team of experts from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is lending a helping hand in the search operation to trace the 66 people, including 24 Nepali labourers, reported missing since the tragedy. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is moderate to high flash flood risk in a few watersheds and neighbourhoods of 11 of Uttarakhand's 13 districts, including Uttarkashi, over the next 24 hours.

The devastating flash flood August 5 virtually left almost half of Dharali village buried under mud and badly damaged an army camp in nearby Harsil.

"Through GPR scanning in the lower areas, 20 such spots have been found at a depth of two and a half to three metres, where buildings or other similar structures have been detected."

"Light debris and then solid ground have been found below three metres which suggest there might be people trapped at that level," said an official of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), who is on ground zero.

Ground Penetrating Radars (GPRs) use radio waves to detect objects and structures up to a depth of 50 metres below the surface.

SIR appears to be trust deficit issue: Top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday called the Bihar special intensive revision (SIR) row "largely a trust deficit issue" as the Election Commission of India (ECI) claimed roughly 6.5 crore people of the total 7.9 crore voting population didn't have to file any documents for them or their parents featured in the 2003 electoral roll.

The top court is hearing a batch of pleas against the Election Commission electoral roll revision exercise in Bihar. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi during the hearing remarked it "largely appears to be a case of trust deficit, nothing else" as it questioned the petitioners challenging the EC's June 24 decision of conducting the SIR on the ground that it would disenfranchise one crore voters.

"If out of 7.9 crore voters, 7.24 crore voters responded to the SIR, it demolishes theory of one crore voters missing or disenfranchised," the bench told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for petitioner and RJD leader Manoj Jha.

The top court also agreed with the EC decision to not accept Aadhaar and voter cards as conclusive proof of citizenship in the ongoing exercise and said it has to be supported by other documents.

Sibal contended that despite residents holding Aadhaar, ration and EPIC cards, officials refused to accept the documents. "Is it your argument that people who have no documents but are in Bihar and therefore he should be considered as a voter of the state. That can be allowed. He has to show or submit some documents (sic)," the bench said. When



Sibal said people were struggling to find birth certificates and other documents of their parents, Justice Kant said, "It is a very sweeping statement that in Bihar nobody has the documents. If this happens in Bihar, then what will happen in other parts of the country?"

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi and advocate Prashant Bhushan, who were representing different political parties, also questioned the timeline for the completion of the exercise and the data of 65 lakh voters who were declared as dead or migrated or registered in other constituencies.

Political activist Yogendra Yadav, who addressed the court in person, questioned the data given by the poll panel and said instead of 7.9 crore voters there was total adult population of 8.18 crore and the design of SIR exercise was to delete the voters.

"They (EC) were not able to find any individual whose name was added and the booth level officers visited house to house for deletion of names," Yadav said, calling it a case of

"total disenfranchisement". Sibal during the hearing said while in one constituency, contrary to the poll panel's claims, 12 people declared dead were found alive, in another instance alive persons were declared dead.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, said the exercise of such a nature was "bound to have some defects here and there at the draft stage" and to claim dead persons were declared alive and alive as dead could always be corrected as it was only a draft roll. The bench in the beginning of the hearing told the ECI to "be ready" with facts and figures for it would be question over the number of voters before the exercise commenced; number of dead before and now aside from other relevant details.

The hearing would resume Wednesday. On July 29, terming the election commission a constitutional authority deemed to act in accordance with law, the top court said it will step in immediately if there is "mass exclusion" in the SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar.

THE TOP COURT ALSO AGREED WITH THE EC DECISION TO NOT ACCEPT AADHAAR AND VOTER CARDS AS CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE ONGOING EXERCISE AND SAID IT HAS TO BE SUPPORTED BY OTHER DOCUMENTS

Kashmiri Pandit woman murder case reopened after 35 years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 12: The probe into the murder of a Kashmiri Pandit woman 35 years ago during the outbreak of militancy has been reopened with the State Investigation Agency (SIA) carrying out raids Tuesday at eight locations in central Kashmir linked to former members of the banned terrorist outfit JKLF.

Sarla Bhat, a nurse, went missing from her hostel at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences at Soura in April 1990 and was found dead

in downtown Srinagar.

Officials said SIA, which recently took over the investigation of the case, conducted the raids at the residences of several persons who were formerly associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in connection with the murder.

Former JKLF leader Peer Noorul Haq Shah alias Air Marshal was among those whose houses were searched by the sleuths of the SIA.

"The strategic searches which were conducted at eight locations throughout District Srinagar have resulted in the recovery of some incriminating evidence which will help in unearthing the whole terrorist conspiracy with an ultimate aim to deliver justice to the victim and her family," the officials said.



Students rehearse 'Yoga' ahead of Independence Day celebrations, at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

Repeal of Sec 377, Triple Talaq to be part of CBSE syllabus

The decision, approved by the CBSE Curriculum Committee and ratified by the governing body in June — will see senior secondary students study new laws that have replaced colonial-era statutes, along with landmark judgments and doctrines that have reshaped India's legal framework

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Enactment of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, repealing of outdated laws like triple talaq and sedition, and striking down of Section 377 will be part of the CBSE's Legal Studies curriculum from the 2026-27 academic session, according to officials.

The decision, approved by the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Curriculum Committee and ratified by the Governing Body in June — will see senior secondary students study new laws that have replaced

colonial-era statutes, along with landmark judgments and doctrines that have reshaped India's legal framework.

"The legal studies textbooks for classes 11-12 were introduced over five years ago to build foundational legal literacy among senior secondary students. Since then, India's legal framework has undergone major reforms, including the repeal of key colonial-era areas and enactment of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) in 2023-24, replacing IPC, CrPC and Indian Evidence Act, re-



spectively," the minutes of the meeting read.

According to CBSE officials, an expert committee will be formed and a content development agency may be engaged to ensure updated textbooks are ready for the next academic session.

"The textbooks will be designed according to modern, engaging pedagogy aligned

with the new National Education Policy (NEP)," a senior board official said.

First offered by the CBSE in class 11 in 2013 and class 12 in 2014, Legal Studies has evolved from a niche elective to a significant offering for students eyeing careers in law, public policy, or governance.

In April 2024, the Director-

SC: Release prisoners who have completed sentence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed concern over prisoners languishing in jails despite having completed their sentence and directed all states and union territories to immediately release such convicts if not wanted in other cases.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and K V Viswanathan passed the direction while ordering the release of Sukhdev Yadav alias Pehalwan in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case.

It noted Yadav completed his sentence of 20 years in March this year without remission.

"We hold that in all cases where an accused/convict has completed his period of jail term, he shall be entitled to be released forthwith and not continued in imprisonment if not wanted in any other case," the bench said.

The top court invoked Article 21 of the Constitution of India which states no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

"Copy of this order should be circulated by Registry to Home Secretaries of all states

and UTs to ascertain whether any accused or convict has remained in jail beyond the period of sentence," the bench said.

The order went on to issue directions for release of such convicts if not wanted in other cases. "A similar copy shall be send to member secretary National

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and K V Viswanathan passed the direction while ordering the release of Sukhdev Yadav alias Pehalwan in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case

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Legal Service Authorities for onward transmission to all member Secretaries of state and UTs Legal Service Authorities for communication of District Legal Service Authorities in the states for the implementation of judgement," it added.

The apex court said Yadav should have been released after he completed his sentence.

"There can't any further incarceration of appellant herein from March 9, 2025, onwards.... In fact March 10, 2025, the appellant ought to have been released, as he completed his sentence," the bench said.

The top court had previously granted three months furlough to Yadav, noting his 20 years of uninterrupted incarceration without remission.

Furlough is a temporary release from prison, not a suspension or remission of the entire sentence, and is typically granted to long-term inmates who have served a portion of their sentence.

DGCA issues show-cause notice to IndiGo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, August 12: Aviation regulator DGCA has issued a show cause notice to IndiGo for alleged lapses in simulator training conducted for nearly 1,700 pilots, according to sources.

The sources Tuesday said the show cause notice was issued after scrutiny of records and replies received from the airline last month.

IndiGo said it is in the process of reviewing the show cause notice.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) found that Category C or critical airfield training for around 1,700 pilots, including pilots in command and first officers, was conducted with non-qualified simulators, the sources said.

According to the sources, the regulator found that the simulators on which the nearly 1,700 pilots did their training were not qualified for operations at certain airports like Calicut, Leh, and Kathmandu.

Certain airports, like Calicut, which has a table top runway, have additional requirements for flight operations.

"We confirm receipt of a show-cause notice issued by the DGCA pertaining to simulator training of some of our pilots. We are in process of reviewing the same and will respond to the regulator within the stipulated timeline," an IndiGo spokesperson said in a statement.



of the day

quote

If Madhya Pradesh doesn't withdraw its policy (land pooling) in time, the Congress party will adopt every possible measure to oppose it



KAMAL NATH | EX MP CM

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) works for the promotion of all Indian languages, including four classical languages like Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia




KIREN RIJJU | MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Congress state chief Pratibha Singh, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Sukhu and the Congress are trying to spread anarchy in the country by making baseless allegations on an impartial institution like the Election Commission



RAJIV BINDAL | HP UNIT BJP PRESIDENT

POST OF THE DAY



'Over 6.69 lakh bogus votes': Congress' Feroze Khan claims electoral fraud in Hyderabad seat Khan claimed that over 30% of the voters in the Hyderabad PC were duplicate or bogus voters

@CoreenaSuares2

SHORT TAKES

BJP leader, cousin stabbed to death

Thane: A leader of the BJP's youth wing and his cousin were attacked and killed by unidentified assailants in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said Tuesday. Prafulla Tangadi (42), vice-president of the BJP Yuva Morcha's Thane Rural district unit, and his cousin Tejas (22) were murdered at his office in Khardi village on the Kharbav-Chinchoti Road late Monday night. Four to five unidentified assailants armed with sharp weapons barged into Tangadi's office where he was sitting with a few other people and launched a frenzied attack, said senior inspector Harshvardhan Barve of Bhiwandi Taluka police station.

Ex-MLA Kadu gets 3-month jail

Mumbai: Seven years after he assaulted a public servant, former Maharashtra MLA Bachchu Kadu was Tuesday convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment by a court here, noting that being a legislator "didn't give him a license" to attack. Additional Sessions Judge Satyanarayan Navander imposed a Rs 10,000 penalty on Kadu. His sentencing has been suspended till he files an appeal in a higher court, and he was granted bail.

Monsoon fury: 332 roads closed in HP

Shimla: Heavy to very heavy rain lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh, triggering landslides and uprooting of trees which led to the closure of 332 roads, including two national highways, for vehicular traffic, officials said Tuesday. In state capital Shimla, three to four vehicles were damaged by uprooted trees. Around half-a-dozen trees fell in the Tutikandi area, while an uprooted tree damaged the roof of a building in Vikas Nagar, officials said.



If SIR (special intensive revision) of electoral rolls is conducted, it should be held across the country and the first step should be the resignation of the prime minister and his cabinet and the Lok Sabha has to be dissolved

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC MP

Parl nod to 6 Bills as govt pushes legislative agenda



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Shrugging off Opposition protests, the government Tuesday continued to push ahead with its legislative agenda, ensuring the passage of six Bills in Parliament, before it took a five-day break for the Independence Day celebrations.

In another significant development, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced in the House a three-member panel to probe allegations against High Court Judge Yashwant Varma, embroiled in the cash-at-home row, after admitting a multi-party notice for his removal, setting in motion the process of impeachment.

The Lok Sabha passed two bills -- 'The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill' and 'The Indian Ports Bill' -- after brief debates amid opposition protests on the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. The Lok

Sabha witnessed some heated moments as Opposition members tore papers and hurled the bits towards the chair, drawing strong disapproval from the presiding officer.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a walkout by the Opposition, and the government passed four bills -- two each of the sports and finance ministries -- after brief debates.

The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, were passed by the Rajya Sabha by voice vote, after the Opposition members walked out of the House, protesting against the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The Rajya Sabha also returned the two money bills -- The Income Tax Bill and The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill -- to the Lok Sabha after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman responded to a brief debate on both the legislations. The two bills were passed by

the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Sitharaman also introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha to amend the insolvency and bankruptcy code and urged the Chair to refer it to a select committee of the House for threadbare scrutiny.

Both Houses of Parliament will meet again August 18 after a five-day Independence Day break. In the Lok Sabha, the opposition protests took an ugly turn as some members tore some papers and hurled the pieces at the Chair.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju condemned the behaviour, saying the Opposition has insulted the Chair and lowered the dignity of the House.

Rijju said the BJP was in the Opposition for several years, but it never resorted to such tactics.

Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, called out Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, for instigating Congress members to enter the Well of the House and hurling papers at the Chair. He said it has lowered the dignity of the House. Earlier in the day, Speaker Om Birla announced a three-member panel to probe allegations against Allahabad High Court Judge Yashwant Varma. The House was in order at that time.

The inquiry committee comprises Supreme Court judge Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Karnataka High Court advocate B V Acharya, a 91-year-old veteran.

SINGAPORE PM SET TO VISIT INDIA NEXT MONTH

India and Singapore are looking at finalising nearly 10 memorandums of understanding in areas such as advanced technology, connectivity, skill-ing and digitisation during a meeting of their top ministers Wednesday, people familiar with the matter said



Indian Army jawans during an exercise near the Line of Control (LoC), ahead of Independence Day, in Jammu and Kashmir

PTI PHOTO

India, China likely to resume flight services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: India and China are in an "advanced stage" of negotiations to resume direct flight services between the two countries soon, people familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The development comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the Chinese city of Tianjin later this month to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO).

The move to resume the flight services between the two Asian giants also came amid some strain in India's ties with the US over President Donald Trump slapping a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

New Delhi and Beijing are



moving forward in a "positive" trajectory to restart trade through four border transit points, the people cited above said.

The direct flight services between India and China were suspended in 2020 following the Covid-19 pandemic. The air connectivity remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row. The people cited above said the Indian and Chinese negotiators are looking at firming up a new air services agreement to resume the flight services.

But if that is not materialised, then the two sides are set to resume the services using the existing air services framework.

It is learnt that Air India has been sounded out about the possible resumption of flight services between India and China.

In the last few months, India and China have initiated a number of measures to repair the bilateral ties that had severely nosedived following the deadly clashes between the two militaries in June 2020.

Last month, India announced the resumption of issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals.

Rahul doubles down on his 'vote chori' charges



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday accused the Election Commission of not performing its duty of enforcing the 'one man, one vote' principle and said "abhi picture baki hai", alluding to the claims of irregularities in the voters' list.

At a meeting of Congress general secretaries, in-charges and heads of frontal organisations at the AICC's 24, Akbar Road office, party sources quoted Gandhi as saying that the Congress lost at least 48 Lok Sabha seats due to "Mahadevpura-like vote chori".

The sources said the party may bring to the fore a series of revelations about "vote chori" in other seats in the near future.

Speaking with reporters in the Parliament House complex, Gandhi asserted that his party is engaged in protecting the Constitution and would continue to do so.

"There is not just one seat (where there is 'vote chori') but there are a number of seats. This is being done at a national level and systematically. The EC knows it and we know it too," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha told reporters.

"Evidence was not there earlier but now there is evidence. We protect the Constitution. 'One man, one vote' is the foundation of the Constitution," Gandhi said. It is the duty of the EC to enforce 'one man, one vote' but it has not done its duty, Gandhi alleged.

Asked about Minta Devi, a 124-year-old voter allegedly listed in the Election Commission's voter list from Bihar, Gandhi said, "There are unlimited cases like that. 'Abhi picture baki hai'." On Monday, Opposition MPs, including

Congress to hold 'Loktantra bachao mashaal marches'

New Delhi: The Congress Tuesday claimed that "vote chori" was a "do-or-die" issue for it, and announced a roadmap to take its allegations to the people through various activities, including taking out 'Loktantra bachao mashaal marches' August 14 evening. The Opposition party also claimed that as more "evidence" of "vote chori" was coming to the fore, it seemed that it was not mere theft but "dacoity".

Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Sharad Pawar, took out a protest march from the Parliament House to the Election Commission office against the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and alleged "vote chori", but they were stopped midway by the police and briefly detained amid high drama.

The MPs were later released. Later, in a post on his WhatsApp channel, Gandhi said, "The Election Commission arrested 300 opposition MPs. This is the state of democracy today! The government and the commission should listen, we are not just public representatives -- we are the voice of the people of India, which cannot be suppressed."

Gandhi also shared short clips of INDIA bloc leaders while they were detained at the Parliament Street police station.

"The theft of votes that is happening is very dangerous for our democracy. We have a clear demand from the EC that it should stop indulging in theft and prepare a fair and clean voter list, so that democracy is saved," Kharge could be heard saying in a clip.

CLIMATE CHANGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Bird populations in the tropics have dropped by roughly 25 to 38 per cent since 1980 due to intensifying heat extremes linked to climate change, with some species declining by more than 50 per cent, according to a new study.

The research, published Monday in the journal 'Nature', involved scientists from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the University of Queensland and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC).

"It's a staggering decrease. Birds are particularly sensitive to dehydration and heat stress. Extreme heat drives excess mortality, reduced fertility, changing breeding behaviours

and reduced offspring survival," said lead author Maximilian Kotz, a guest researcher at PIK and researcher at BSC.

The study found that tropical birds today face extreme heat on an average of 30 days a year, compared to just three days four decades ago. Overall, they are now exposed to 10 times more extreme heat events than in 1980.

By combining observed data with models, the researchers were able to identify the effects of climate change on bird populations worldwide, with a focus on heat and precipitation. "Compared to a counterfactual without human-driven climate change, the historical intensification of heat extremes has caused a 25-38 per cent reduction in the level of



abundance of tropical birds, which has accumulated from 1950 to 2020," the study said.

The steepest population declines were recorded in the tropics, but nearly every region saw reductions in abundance, with extreme

heat identified as the greatest factor. Until now, separating the impacts of climate change from losses caused by direct human activities such as deforestation has been challenging.

The research team's meth-

T'gana nods to denotify 1500 ha forest for tiger reserve village relocation

New Delhi: The environment ministry's advisory committee has recommended 'in-principle' approval to a Telangana government proposal for de-notification of 1,501.88 hectares of reserve forest land to relocate five villages from the core area of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Nagarkurnool district. The state government has said the relocation is voluntary and aims to consolidate wildlife habitat, reduce human-wildlife conflict and improve ecosystem protection. A total of 1,54,977 trees of 27 species will be felled for the exercise, according to the proposal. According to the agenda note considered by the committee in its meeting July 30, the proposal sought diversion of forest land in compartments 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472 and 473 of the Bacharam Reserved Forest of Achampet Division for relocation of Kollampenta, Thatigundal Penta, Sarlapally, Kudichinthala Bailu and Vatvarlapally villages from the core area of the reserve.

ods allowed them to do so, revealing that in lower-latitude tropical regions, intensifying heat extremes are already contributing more to bird population declines than deforestation and habitat de-

struction, PIK said in a statement. This may help explain large declines in bird numbers recently reported from undisturbed tropical rainforests in the Amazon and Panama without a clear cause, it added.

of the day

Quote

If war is waged, then from the land of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai we will send a message to the Modi government that we do not retreat, we do not bow down, and if you dare think about launching an attack on the Indus River, then the people of every province of Pakistan will be ready to confront you

BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI | FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Hey @Apple App Store, why do you refuse to put either X or Grok in your 'Must Have' section when X is the #1 news app in the world and Grok is #5 among all apps? Are you playing politics? What gives? Inquiring minds want to know

ELON MUSK | SPACEX, TESLA AND X OWNER

It's truly fundamental from the perspective of Polish security that Putin not receive gifts before these talks, and such a gift for Putin would undoubtedly be conflict between Ukrainians and Poles

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

SHORT TAKES

Plane crashes into parked aircraft

Kalispell (US): A small plane landing Monday at a Montana airport crashed into parked aircraft, triggering a large fire but causing no serious injuries, authorities said. The single-engine plane carrying four people was attempting to land at about 2 pm at the Kalispell City Airport, according to Kalispell Police Chief Jordan Venezio and the Federal Aviation Administration. A preliminary investigation showed the pilot lost control, crashing onto the runway before the plane struck several parked aircraft, igniting fires on multiple planes, Kalispell police said. The fire spread to a grassy area before it was extinguished, Venezio said.

SK court orders arrest of Yoon's wife

Seoul: A South Korean court Tuesday ordered the arrest of the wife of jailed former President Yoon Suk Yeol as investigators seek to charge her over various suspected crimes, including bribery, stock manipulation and meddling in the selection of a candidate. In granting a special prosecutor's request for an arrest warrant near midnight, the Seoul Central District Court said Kim Keon Hee poses a risk of destroying evidence. The investigation into Kim is one of three special prosecutor probes launched under Seoul's new liberal government targeting the presidency of Yoon, a conservative who was removed from office in April and rearrested last month over his brief imposition of martial law in December.

Explosion at US Steel plant leaves 2 dead

Clairton (Pennsylvania): An explosion at a US Steel plant near Pittsburgh left two dead and sent at least 10 to hospitals Monday and heavily damaged the sprawling facility, officials said. One worker was pulled from the wreckage hours after the explosion sent black smoke spiraling into the midday sky in the Mon Valley, a region of the state synonymous with steel for more than a century. Allegheny County Emergency Services said a fire at the plant started around 10.51 am. Authorities later said a second person had died. The explosion, followed by several smaller blasts, could be felt in the nearby community and prompted county officials to warn residents to stay away from the scene so emergency workers could respond.

Russia makes sudden advance in Ukraine

REUTERS

Moscow/Brussels, August 12: Small bands of Russian soldiers thrust deeper into eastern Ukraine Tuesday ahead of a summit this week between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, which European Union states fear could end in peace terms imposed on an unlawfully shrunken Ukraine.

In one of the most extensive incursions so far this year, Russian troops advanced near the coal-mining town of Dobropilia, part of Putin's campaign to take full control of Ukraine's Donetsk region. Ukraine's military dispatched reserve troops, saying they were in difficult combat against small groups of advancing Russian soldiers.

Trump has said any peace deal would involve "some swapping of territories to the betterment of both" Russia and Ukraine, which has up to now depended on the US as its main arms supplier.

Virtually all the territory in question is Ukrainian, alarming President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and his European allies.

Zelenskiy and most of his European counterparts have said a lasting peace cannot be secured without Ukraine's voice in the negotiations, and must comply with international law and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

They plan to call Trump Wednesday to sway him ahead of his summit in Alaska Friday with Putin, and they have praised the US president's peace efforts, if not every idea he has floated for getting there.

"An imitated rather than genuine peace will not hold for long and will only encourage Russia to seize even more territory," Zelenskiy said in a statement Tuesday after a phone call with Turkish Presi-



- EU leaders urge truce, right to Ukrainian self-determination
- Trump's land swap proposal alarms Ukraine and EU
- Hungary's Orban criticises EU colleagues' stance on Russia
- Russia makes big push in eastern Ukraine, open source data shows
- Ukraine retakes some villages in Sumy region

dent Tayyip Erdogan, who has hosted previous talks between Ukrainian and Russian leaders.

RUSSIA ADVANCES IN EASTERN UKRAINE

Ukraine faces a shortage of soldiers after Russia invaded more than three years ago, easing the path for the latest Russian advances.

"This breakthrough is like a gift to Putin and Trump during the negotiations," said Sergei Markov, a former Kremlin adviser, suggesting it could increase pressure on Ukraine to yield territory under any deal.

EUROPEANS LINK UKRAINE TO THEIR OWN SECURITY

European leaders have said Ukraine must be capable of defending itself if peace and security is to be guaranteed on the continent, and that they are ready to contribute further.

In disregard of China's repeated protests and strong opposition, Czech President Petr Pavel went to India to meet with the Dalai Lama

MAO NING | SPOKESPERSON, CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

S Korea's Lee, Trump plan August 25 summit on defence, trade

REUTERS

Seoul, August 12: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump will hold their first summit meeting August 25 in Washington to discuss strengthening the countries' alliance and economic security partnership, Lee's office said Tuesday.

Lee, who was elected president in a snap election in June, has made it a top priority to help his export-dependent country navigate the dramatic changes in the global trading environment triggered by Trump's tariff policies.

"The two leaders will discuss ways to develop the US-South Korea alliance into a comprehensive strategic alliance of the future in response to the changing international security and economic environment," presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jung told a briefing.

Based on the tariff deal reached last month, the two leaders will advance partnership in the manufacturing sector, including in semiconductors, batteries and shipbuilding, as well as critical minerals and technology, Kang said.

A White House official also confirmed the meeting. Trump announced July 30 that the countries had reached a trade deal that would subject South Korean goods to 15% import duties, lowering the tariff he had initially set against one of America's top trading partners.

In return, Trump has said that South Korea will announce investment plans at the upcoming summit and that Seoul had committed to making \$350 billion of investments to be "selected" by him.

South Korean officials have offered differing details, however, and topics left unresolved by the deal - which has yet to be committed to writing - provide scope for more disputes between the allies.

TURKEY WILDFIRES LARGELY CONTAINED

Firefighters contained several wildfires raging across Turkey Tuesday, including a large blaze in the northwestern province of Canakkale that forced hundreds to flee from their homes. Both Canakkale airport and the Dardanelles Strait, which connects the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara, were temporarily shut due to the wildfires Monday



Israel bombards Gaza

Hamas leader due in Cairo in bid to salvage ceasefire talks

REUTERS

Cairo, August 12: Israeli planes and tanks kept bombarding eastern areas of Gaza City overnight, killing at least 11 people, witnesses and medics said Tuesday, with Hamas leader Khalil Al-Hayya due in Cairo for talks to revive a US-backed ceasefire plan.

The latest round of indirect talks in Qatar ended in deadlock in late July with Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas trading blame over the lack of progress on a US proposal for a 60-day truce and hostage release deal.

Israel has since said it will launch a new offensive and seize control of Gaza City, which it captured shortly after the war's outbreak in October 2023 before pulling out.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to expand military control over Gaza, expected to be launched in October, has increased a global outcry over the widespread devastation, displacement and hunger afflicting Gaza's 2.2 million people. It has also stirred criticism in Israel, with the military chief of staff warning it could endanger surviving hostages and prove a death trap for Israeli soldiers. It has also raised fears of further displacement and hardship among the estimated one million Palestinians in the Gaza City region.



ELEVEN KILLED AS ISRAELI PLANES, TANKS POUND GAZA CITY, MEDICS SAY
HAMAS CHIEF AL-HAYYA ARRIVES IN EGYPTIAN CAPITAL AS MEDIATORS SEEK TO REVIVE US-BACKED TRUCE PROPOSAL
FIVE MORE GAZANS DIED OF STARVATION, MALNUTRITION, RAISING TOTAL TO 227, GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS

Foreign ministers of 24 countries including Britain, Canada, Australia, France and Japan, said Tuesday the humanitarian crisis in Gaza had reached "unimaginable levels" and urged Israel to allow unrestricted aid into the enclave.

Israel denies responsibility for hunger in Gaza, accusing Hamas of stealing aid.

It says it has taken steps to increase deliveries, including pausing fighting for parts of the day in some areas and announcing protected routes for aid convoys.

A Palestinian official with knowledge of the mediated ceasefire talks said Hamas was prepared to return to the negotiating table, and the leaders who were visiting Cairo Tuesday would reaffirm that stance.

"Hamas believes negotiation is the only way to end the war and is open to discuss any ideas that would secure an end to the war," the official, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters. Egypt's state-affiliated Al Qahera News television said the Hamas delegates have arrived in Egypt "for consultations on ceasefire talks".

However, the gaps between the sides appear to remain wide on key issues, including the extent of any Israeli military withdrawal and demands for Hamas to disarm.

US, China extend tariff truce by 90 days

REUTERS

Washington/Beijing, August 12: The United States and China have extended a tariff truce for another 90 days, staving off triple-digit duties on each other's goods as US retailers get ready to ramp up inventories ahead of the critical end-of-year holiday season.

US President Donald Trump announced on his Truth Social platform Monday that he had signed an executive order suspending the imposition of higher tariffs until 12:01 am November 10, with all other elements of the truce to remain in place. China's Commerce Ministry issued a parallel pause on extra tariffs early Tuesday, also postponing for 90 days the addition of US firms it had targeted in April to trade and investment



restriction lists.

Step chart showing the rising tariff rates imposed by the US and China against each other since February 1.

"The United States continues to have discussions with the PRC to address the lack of trade reciprocity in our economic relationship and our resulting national and economic security concerns," Trump's executive order stated, using the acronym for the People's Republic of China.

Thai soldier hurt in mine blast near Cambodia

REUTERS

Bangkok, August 12: A Thai soldier was injured by a landmine near the Cambodian border Tuesday, the Thai army said, days after the Southeast Asian neighbours agreed to a ceasefire following last month's deadly five-day conflict.

The soldier's left ankle was severely injured when he stepped on the mine while patrolling along a routine border route about 1 km (half a mile) from Ta Moan Thom temple in Thailand's Surin province, the army said in a statement.

The soldier is being treated in hospital, it said.

The incident is clear evidence that Cambodia has violated the ceasefire as well as international agreements like the Ottawa Convention against landmines, Thai army spokesman Major-General Winthai Suvarree said in the statement.



FOURTH TIME IN A MONTH THAT THAI SOLDIERS ARE INJURED BY MINES
THAI ARMY ACCUSES CAMBODIA OF VIOLATING CEASEFIRE TERMS
ARMY SAYS THAILAND MIGHT NEED TO EXERCISE RIGHT TO SELF DEFENCE

Cambodia continues to covertly plant landmines, while the Thai army has consistently adhered to peaceful approaches and has not been the initiating party, the statement said.

"Should circumstances become compelling, it may be necessary to exercise the right of self-defence under international law principles to resolve situations that cause Thailand to continuously lose personnel due to violations of ceasefire

agreements and sovereignty encroachments by Cambodian military forces," the army said.

Cambodia rejected the Thai charges. "Cambodia, as a proud and responsible State Party to the Ottawa Convention, maintains an absolute and uncompromising position: we have never used, produced, or deployed new landmines under any circumstances, and we strictly and fully honour our obligations under international

Myanmar security forces involved in systematic torture: UN

REUTERS

Geneva, August 12: United Nations investigators said Tuesday they have found evidence of systematic torture by Myanmar security forces and identified some of the most senior perpetrators.

The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), formed in 2018 to analyse evidence of serious violations of international law, said victims were subject to beatings, electric shocks, gang rape, strangulation and other forms of torture like the removal of fingernails with pliers.

"We have uncovered significant evidence, including eyewitness testimony, showing systematic torture in Myanmar detention facilities," Nicholas

Koumjian, head of the IIMM, said in a statement accompanying the 16-page report.

The torture sometimes resulted in death, the report said. Children, who are often unlawfully detained as proxies for their missing parents, were among those tortured, it said.

A spokesperson for Myanmar's military-backed government did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The military-backed government has not responded to over two dozen requests by the UN team for information about the alleged crimes and requests to access the country, the UN report said.

The military has said it has a duty to ensure peace and security. It has denied atrocities have taken place and has



REPORT SAYS HIGH-LEVEL COMMANDERS AMONG PERPETRATORS
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DETAINED SINCE 2021 COUP - REPORT
VICTIMS WERE SUBJECT TO STRANGULATION AND ELECTRIC SHOCKS - REPORT
UN SAYS BUDGET CUTS THREATEN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

blamed "terrorists" for causing unrest.

The findings in the report covering a one-year period through to June 30 were based on information from more than 1,300 sources, including hundreds of eyewitness testimonies

as well as forensic evidence, documents and photographs.

Perpetrators identified so far include high-level commanders, the report said, although names were withheld due to ongoing investigations and

concerns about alerting the individuals.

Investigators focused on torture partly because many victims were able to identify perpetrators individually which Koumjian, a former prosecutor, said could help with future convictions.

"People often know the names or who torture their friends," Koumjian told reporters in Geneva.

Myanmar has been in chaos since a 2021 military coup against an elected civilian government plunged the country into civil war. Tens of thou-

sands of people have been detained since then, the United Nations says.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing ended a four-year state of emergency last month and announced the formation of a new government, with himself as acting president, ahead of a planned election.

The IIMM is investigating abuses in Myanmar since 2011, including crimes committed against the mainly Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017 when hundreds of thousands were forced to flee a military crackdown, and those affecting all groups since the coup.

The IIMM is supporting jurisdictions investigating the alleged crimes, such as Britain and the International Criminal Court.

of the day

quote

India has always been a priority market for Casio, and we continue to see immense potential for growth here. By manufacturing locally, we are better equipped to design and deliver products that truly resonate with the Indian mindset and lifestyle

TAKUTO KIMURA | MANAGING DIRECTOR, CASIO

We build a lot of modules. Those modules are typically built in Taiwan, or China, or Korea, but we are now actively working in India to localise this.

NAKUL DUGGAL | GM AUTOMOTIVE AND EMBEDDED IOT, QUALCOMM TECHNOLOGIES

There is a need for a "leap of faith", which will ensure funding to MFIs and start a virtuous cycle that will help economic activity as well

ALOK MISRA | CEO, SELF-REGULATORY ORGANISATION'S (SRO)

Q1 RESULTS

FSN posts profit

New Delhi: FSN E-Commerce, the parent company of fashion and beauty retailer Nykaa, Tuesday reported a 79 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to 24.47 crore for the three months ended June 2025. The company had a net profit of 13.64 crore in the same quarter of the preceding financial year (FY24).

Hindalco net grows

New Delhi: Hindalco Industries has reported a 30 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to 4,004 crore in the June quarter of FY26. The Company had logged a net profit (profit after tax) of 3,074 crore in the April-June period of the preceding financial year, according to a company statement issued Tuesday.

Muthoot profit plunges

New Delhi: Muthoot Microfin Ltd has reported a 95 per cent decline in net profit to 6 crore for the first quarter ended June 2025. In contrast, the non-banking financial company-micro finance institution (NBFC-MFI) had earned a profit of 113 crore a year ago. Its total income also declined to 559 crore during the quarter from 664 crore in the year-ago period.

MRF profit dips

New Delhi: Tyre maker MRF Ltd Tuesday reported 12 per cent year-on-year dip in consolidated net profit at 500 crore for June quarter FY26. The company posted a net profit of 571 crore for the April-June quarter of last fiscal.

Airtel Payments Bank profit up

New Delhi: Airtel Payments Bank Tuesday reported a 44.4 per cent rise in net profit for June quarter at 10.4 crore backed by growth across key performance metrics, as the bank crossed 3,000 crore in 'annualised revenue'.

Suzlon Energy PAT rises

New Delhi: Suzlon Energy Tuesday posted a 7.3 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to 324.32 crore for the June quarter, driven mainly by higher revenues. The company had posted a net profit of 302.29 crore in the corresponding quarter last year, a company statement stated. Total income of the company rose to 3,165.19 crore from 2,044.35 crore in the same period a year ago.



Gold prices dipped after US President Donald Trump clarified on social media that there would be no tariffs on gold imports. Although an official confirmation from the White House is still pending, the announcement eased some trade-related concerns

CHINTAN MEHTA | CEO, ABANS FINANCIAL SERVICES

OLA ELECTRIC TO BRING NEW SOFTWARE FOR 2W

Ola Electric Tuesday released a teaser announcing the latest MoveOS 6 software for its electric two-wheelers. The company recently announced its annual 'Sankalp 2025' event and is expected to share more details on MoveOS 6 on the day of the event. In the video teaser, the EV maker hinted at artificial intelligence features in the new software



Retail inflation hits 8-year low



REUTERS

New Delhi, August 12: India's retail inflation in July eased below two per cent for the first time in eight years, on the back of falling prices of food items including vegetables and pulses, hurting some farmers, but will have limited impact on the central bank's policy decision.

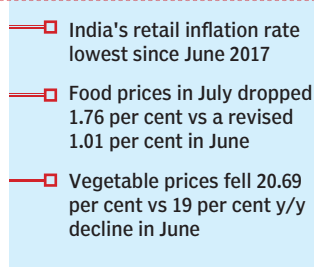
Annual retail inflation slowed to 1.55 per cent in July as compared to 2.10 per cent in June.

The figure was the lowest since June 2017, according to a government statement, and below the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band of two to six per cent. RBI mandated to not let inflation fall below or above the range for more than three quarters.

"These inflation numbers are on expected lines," said Madan Sabnavis, an economist at Bank of Baroda, adding that the impact on the RBI's policy decision will be muted.

The central bank lowered its inflation forecast for the current financial year to 3.1 per cent from 3.7 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India held key interest rates steady earlier this month, saying the growth prospects of the domestic economy remained bright. However, this announcement was made before the additional tariff declaration against India. The Indian government has estimated about 55 per cent of the country's merchandise exports to the United States will be subject to the tariffs. Some economists expect the



low inflation and growth impact from tariffs to leave room for another rate cut.

"The RBI's already-lowered 12-month forecast may be undershot, raising the likelihood of further rate cuts, particularly as US tariffs could shave 30-40 bps off GDP growth," said Sujan Hajra, chief economist at Anand Rathii Group in Mumbai.

Food prices have been the main driver for the drastic fall in inflation for the last eight months. Prices in July fell 1.76 per cent compared to a revised fall of 1.01 per cent in June.

Vegetable prices fell 20.69 per cent compared with a 19 per cent year-on-year fall in June, while prices of pulses dropped 13.76 per cent compared to a 12 per cent decline in the previous month. Farm cost inflation has risen while food prices are entering deflationary territory, Citibank's chief India economist Samiran Chakraborty said, citing this as a key reason that Citi's rural consumption index has peaked.

On a month-on-month basis, vegetable prices rose although the cost of pulses continued to decline.

Pixxel to build India's first EO-PPP satellite network

By generating high-resolution, indigenous satellite data, the initiative will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: A consortium led by Bengaluru-based PixxelSpace has won the bid to build and operate India's first fully-indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation, the Indian

National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) said Tuesday.

The PixxelSpace-led consortium, comprising Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India and Dhruva Space, will launch a constellation of 12 EO satellites equipped with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral and microwave SAR sensors over the next five years. The consortium will invest more than 1,200 crore over the next five years.

The Pixxel-led team edged out consortia led by Astra Microwave Products Limited and GalaxEye Space to win the bid to build the constellation under the Earth Observation satellite



Public-Private Partnership (EO-PPP) model.

The constellation will feature a mix of sub-metre very-high-resolution, wide-swath multispectral, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and hyperspectral satellites, enabling applications such as precision agriculture, water-quality monitoring, land-use mapping, environmental compliance, disaster

assessment and infrastructure development.

"This initiative signals the coming of age of India's private space industry in the space sector. It demonstrates the capability and confidence of Indian companies to lead large-scale, technologically-advanced and commercially-viable space missions that serve both national and global markets," Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACE, said.

By generating high-resolution, indigenous satellite data, the initiative will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign sources; ensure data sovereignty and position the country among the global leaders in space-based data solutions.



despite their lower environmental impacts," said Nivit K Yadav, programme director, industrial pollution unit, CSE.

This flies in the face of the National Steel Policy, which aims for 40 per cent of India's steel production to come from scrap by 2030. The 18 per cent GST on ferrous scrap makes it economically unviable for

small dealers to operate formally. A reduced rate would align the fiscal policy with the country's circular economy objectives, said Subhrajit Goswami, programme manager at CSE.

Similarly, plastic waste, electronic waste and various industrial by-products are subjected to an 18 per cent GST, creating a significant cost burden that



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The finance ministry Tuesday notified a corrigendum to the Income Tax Bill with regard to interest to be charged on short payment of advance tax by a taxpayer.

The corrigendum, which provides for 3 per cent interest on short payment of advance tax, aligns the clause with the existing provisions in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Taxpayers having a tax liability of 10,000 or more have to pay advance tax in 4 instalments -- June 15, September 15, December 15 and March 15.

Nangia Andersen LLP, Partner, Sandeep Jhunjunhwal said that as per the corrigendum to Clause 425 of the Income-tax (No 2) Bill, 2025, the interest provision for shortfall in advance tax payment has now been aligned with that under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

"If there is a shortfall in remittance of advance tax even for a day beyond the statutory quarterly due date, interest is charged for a minimum of 3 months," Junjunhwal said.

As per clause 425 of the Income-tax (No. 2) Bill, 2025,

passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday, if the advance tax shortfall is made good by the next day of the quarterly due date, interest would be charged for one month at 1 per cent.

The provision was not in alignment with the current tax laws, Jhunjunhwal said, adding that "this ambiguity has now been restored and aligned with the existing provisions itself".

The Income Tax Bill, once enacted, will replace the archaic 6-decade-old income tax law. The legislation will make tax law simple by reducing the number of chapters and wordage.

Under the PPP framework, the government will provide strategic, technical and policy support, while the PixxelSpace India-led consortium will own and operate the EO system, including satellite manufacturing, launches from Indian soil, ground infrastructure and commercialisation of data services.

"Being the winning proposal to build India's national EO constellation is a major milestone for Pixxel and our consortium members in India's space story. We are grateful to IN-SPACE and the Government of India for trusting our consortium with this historic mission," Awais Ahmed, CEO of Pixxel, said.

Net direct tax mop-up falls nearly 4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Net direct tax collection dipped 3.95 per cent to ₹6.64 lakh crore so far this fiscal, mainly on account of higher refunds, according to government data released Tuesday.

Direct tax includes taxes on income paid by companies, individuals, professionals, and other entities.

As per the data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), refunds issued so far this fiscal jumped 10 per cent to 1.35 lakh crore between April 1 and August 11.

Net corporate tax collection rose 3 per cent to about 2.29 lakh crore, while non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms) mop up



dipped 7.45 per cent to 4.12 lakh crore.

Securities Transaction Tax (STT) mop-up was 22,362 crore between April 1 and August 11.

Total net collections stood at about 6.64 lakh crore, a 3.95 per cent fall over 6.91 lakh crore collected in the same period last fiscal (2024-25).

Gross collections (before refunds) stood at ₹7.99 lakh crore

between April 1-August 11, a 1.87 per cent dip over ₹8.14 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Price Waterhouse & Co LLP Partner Hitesh Sawhney said the decline in the net collections is mainly due to the higher volume of refunds issued, especially for the corporate tax.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the direct tax collections seem to have been

dampened by high refunds of corporation tax collections and a later deadline for personal income tax return filings.

"The available data on tax collections suggests that the GoI's personal income tax and corporation tax collections are required to record a high double-digit growth in the remaining part of FY2026, to meet their respective FY2026 targets. While this may seem challenging, the growth rates in net PIT and CT collections are likely to improve as the year progresses and the base normalises," Nayar said.

In the current fiscal (2025-26), the government has projected direct tax collection at ₹25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent year-on-year. The government aims to collect ₹78,000 crore from STT in FY26.

SENSEX DROPS 368 POINTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 12: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower in a highly volatile trade on Tuesday dragged down by blue-chip bank stocks and caution ahead of domestic and US inflation data.

30-share BSE Sensex dropped 368.49 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 80,235.59. Also, 50-share NSE Nifty went lower by 97.65 points or 0.40 per cent to 24,487.40. Investors are also awaiting cues from US-Russia talks August 15.

"The national market reacted with volatility to the ongoing developments in global trade tariffs, reflecting caution following the extension of the US-China tariff truce and ahead of key inflation data due later today. The US inflation figures with any signs of tariff-related impact could influence the Fed's policy stance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards.

However, Maruti, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra and NTPC were among the major gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.25 per cent and small-cap index edged marginally up by 0.04 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, bankex dropped 0.83 per cent, capital goods (0.76 per cent), realty (0.75 per cent), telecommunication (0.46 per cent) and FMCG (0.44 per cent).

Oil & gas, healthcare, metal, utilities, IT and BSE Focused IT were the gainers.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi settled lower while Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended in positive territory.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended lower Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.18 per cent to \$66.75 a barrel.

High GST on scrap, e-waste hurting India's circular economy

India's waste management sector is dominated by informal operators, who handle up to 90 per cent of certain waste streams like e-waste and metal scrap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The steep GST of 18 per cent levied on several crucial waste categories has become an obstacle in the sustainable management of solid waste in India and is also leading to revenue losses of around 65,000 crore, according to a new study published Tuesday.

The study by think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) finds that small dealers who collect scrap can-

not afford an 18 per cent GST, so they keep their transactions cash-based and untaxed.

This not only deprives the government of revenue but also distorts the market, as compliant businesses struggle to compete with tax-evading informal operators.

In fact, the informal sector dominance results in an estimated 65,000 crore in annual GST losses due to unrecorded transactions. Without interventions, this loss is projected to escalate to 86,700 crore by 2035.

"While India is rooting for recycling of waste and promotion of a circular economy, the existing GST regime could be dumping all that effort into the proverbial 'waste bin'. For one, the regime does not differentiate between virgin and recycled materials, taxing them equally, which places recycled products at a severe cost disadvantage

NATIONAL SPORTS BILL

Parl passes; Prez nod awaited



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: The National Sports Governance Bill was Tuesday passed by the Parliament with Rajya Sabha giving its nod a mere 24 hours after Lok Sabha, marking a historic first for India’s sports administration that is now set to be regulated by a national board and have its own dispute resolution mechanism.

The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, which reinforces NADA’s autonomy as required by the World Anti-Doping Agency, was also passed by the Parliament. The two bills now await presidential assent to be notified as acts.

Soon after Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya moved the bills for consideration and passage in the Upper House at 3pm, there were vociferous opposition protests over revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The opposition eventually staged a walkout led by Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who demanded a discussion on the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. “In 20 countries, there is sports law. I request the Rajya Sabha to make India the 21st

country with a sports law,” Mandaviya said in his address which was followed by a discussion that lasted over two hours.

During the discussion, BJD MP Subhashish Khuntia raised

concerns about the centralisation of sports governance due to the bill. He also felt that the bill did not have clarity on district and block level development of athletes.

“The bill should empower, not control,” he said. Mandaviya responded by saying that the government is only seeking to be a facilitator. “In this bill, we are bringing transparency, not control, not interference. Government doesn’t want to control. We are being the supporters and providers of a structure,” he asserted. Former All India Football Federation President and NCP leader Praful Patel and Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha, who is a nominated member, were among the prominent voices who lauded the bill. “This bill will usher in transparency, accountability, and gender parity. It will empower athletes and build confidence among sponsors and federations. It is about justice and fair-play,” said Usha. Mandaviya has described it as “the single biggest reform in sports since independence.”

DIFFERENCES WITH SPORTS CODE

Age Cap: While the Sports Code capped the age of administrators at 70, the new bill allows an office-bearer to complete his/her tenure if they were less than 70 at the time of filing nominations. A further relaxation of another five years has been made for contesting elections if the international statutes and byelaws allow for it in the concerned sports body.

Tenure: The Sports Code allowed three terms with a cooling off period after two terms for the President and two terms for Treasurer and Secretary. The sports bill allows office-bearers (President, Secretary General and Treasurer) to serve three consecutive terms of a maximum of 12 years and remain eligible for election to the Executive Committee after a cooling off period.

Executive Committee: The sports code had no provision for mandatory women’s representation in the committee whose strength was capped at 15. The new bill mandates that at least four members of the EC must be women along with two sportspersons of outstanding merit.

Regulatory Body: The sports code had no provisions for a regulatory body to oversee NSFs, leaving the power to recognise or derecognise in the hands of the sports ministry. But the sports governance bill outlines the creation of a National Sports Board which will fulfil this role.

The National Sports Tribunal, which will adjudicate sporting disputes, the National Sports Election Panel to oversee polls in NSFs and the Ethics Commission were not a part of the Sports Code. All these bodies will have a significant role to play once the bill becomes an act.

RTI: All recognised sports organisations, which are dependent on government funding and support, will be covered under the Right to Information Act, 2005 “with respect to the exercise of its functions, duties and powers.” This ensures that the BCCI, which is not relying on ministry funding, will readily come under the bill’s ambit. It will have to register itself as an NSF with the NSB as cricket is set to debut as an Olympic sport in the 2028 Games in the T20 format.

Govt’s discretionary powers: Any sports organisation wanting to use the word “India” or “Indian” or “National” or any national insignia or symbols will have to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the central government. The central government, if it considers “necessary” and expedient in the public interest, will have also have the power to “relax” any of the provisions mentioned in the bill. In addition, the government can also give such directions to the National Sports Board or any other person or entity for the “efficient administration” of the provisions of this bill.

HISTORIC 4TH ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD

I will cherish double century in Birmingham: Shubman Gill



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 12: The epic double hundred in a winning cause at Edgbaston will forever be etched in the memory of Indian skipper Shubman Gill, who was Tuesday named ICC’s ‘Player Of The Month’ for scoring 754 runs in the recently-concluded five-Test series against England.

Gill, who was inspirational both as a batter and skipper, led from the front with four hundreds as a young Indian team without Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma drew 2-2 against England.

The Indian skipper, who won the award ahead of his England counterpart Ben Stokes and South Africa all-rounder Wiaan Mulder, said he was hoping to continue his good form in the season ahead.

“It feels great to be named the ICC Player of the Month for July. This time it holds a lot more significance since it has come for my performances during my first Test series as captain. The double ton in Birmingham is obviously something I will

cherish forever and will be one of the highlights of my tour to England,” Gill was quoted as saying in an ICC media release. “The Test series against England was a learning experience for me as captain and we had some outstanding performances from both sides, which I am sure players from both sides will remember for a long time.” The 25-year-old skipper is hopeful that he can continue his good form in the upcoming series.

“I would like to thank the jury for selecting me for this award and my teammates who have been with me during the course of this exciting series. I look forward to continuing my form in the season ahead and bring more laurels for the country.”

Gill became the first male player to win the ‘Player of the Month’ award four times after a stupendous run in England saw him score 567 runs (out of 754 runs) at an average of 94.50 in the three Tests played in July.

His previous ICC Player of the Month awards were in Jan-

uary 2023, September 2023 and February 2025.

The highlight for Gill during this period was his aggregate of 430 runs in the second Test in Birmingham, the second highest ever in a Test match.

His scores of 269 and 161 in that Test helped India level the series 1-1. He also chipped in with a useful 103 in the second innings of the fourth Test in Manchester that helped draw the match and keep the series alive.

Apart from Gill, England batter Sophia Dunkley was adjudged women’s ‘Players of the Month’.

England batter Dunkley edged her team-mate Sophie Ecclestone and Ireland captain Gaby Lewis for the honour, showing a fine run during this period in ODIs as well as T20Is.

She played in all seven matches at home against India across the two formats, aggregating 270 runs in three ODIs and four T20Is.

Dunkley was England’s leading scorer in the T20I series and smashed a superb 92-ball 83 in the first ODI in Southampton.

Shivam Arora in semis; Kothari goes down

AGENCIES

Chengdu (China), August 12: Shivam Arora, India’s leading exponent of heyball, powered into the semifinals of the World Games here Tuesday.

Heyball combines elements of both snooker and pool, and the unique cue sport follows the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) rules. Arora edged out Hong Kong China’s Yip Kin Ling in a thriller (5-4) to set up a semifinal meeting with Zhang Taiyi, who defeated fellow Chinese cueist Liu Xin 5-3 in another quarterfinal.

In a match of fluctuating fortunes, Arora, ranked No. 5 in the world, held his nerve in the decider to keep his medal hopes alive. The Indian ace, a silver medallist at the inaugural Commonwealth Billiards Championships last month, reduced his rival to a mere spectator in the final rack.

In the morning session, national champion Sourav Kothari bowed out in the quarterfinals of the snooker event. The 40-year-old failed to take the chances that came his way and went down 0-2 to China’s Xiao Guodong.

ST LOUIS RAPID & BLITZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

St. Louis (US), August 12: Reigning world champion D Gukesh bounced back from an opening round loss to American Levon Aronian with wins over Grigoriy Oparin and Liem Le Quang, finishing the first day in joint third place at the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

Gukesh was outplayed by Aronian in a complex opening-round battle but rebounded strongly, producing a resounding victory against Oparin before crushing Liem to end the day with four points out of a possible six Monday.

With each rapid win worth two points, Aronian took the early lead by winning all three games on the opening day. Fresh from his triumph in the recently concluded Freestyle Chess tournament in Las Vegas, the American GM beat key rivals Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France to maintain a perfect score.

Aronian sits on six points, followed closely by compatriot



Fabiano Caruana on five after two wins and a draw. Gukesh shares the third place with another American, Wesley So, while Vachier-Lagrave and Leinier Dominguez Perez are tied for fifth with three points each.

Liem and Oparin are next on two points, Nodirbek has one, and Sam Shankland is last after losing all his games.

For Gukesh, the first round was a heartbreak as he went

down in extreme complexities arising from a Caro Kann defense game.

However, he recovered quickly, defeating Oparin in style. The finale was picturesque out of a Sicilian Rossolimo as the Indian sacrificed his queen to checkmate the Russian turned American.

In the final game of the day, Gukesh, playing black against Liem, entered massive compli-

RESULTS

Round 1: Levon Aronian (Usa) beat D Gukesh (Ind); Grigoriy Oparin (Usa) beat Liem Le Quang (Vie); Wesley So (Usa) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa); Leinier Dominguez Perez (Usa) beat Sam Shankland (Usa).

Round 2: Gukesh beat Oparin; Leim beat Shankland; Vachier-Lagrave lost to Aronian; Abdusattorov lost to Caruana; Dominguez drew with Wesley.

Round 3: Oparin lost to Vachier-Lagrave; Liem lost to Gukesh; Wesley beat Shankland; Aronian beat Abdusattorov; Caruana beat Dominguez.

Standings

1. Aronian (6); 2. Caruana (5); 3-4 Gukesh, Wesley (4 each); 5-6: Vachier-Lagrave, Dominguez (3 each); 7=8. Oparin, Liem (2 each); 9. Abdusattorov (1); 10. Shankland (10).

cations again. But, unlike Aronian, Liem faltered under pressure and was left facing a lost position once the dust settled.

Late goals send Indian Navy FT into quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, August 12: Late strikes by Pintu Mahata and Sreyas VG ensured Indian Navy FT bounce back from a one-goal deficit to overcome local side TRAU FC 2-1 and book their spot in the quarterfinals of the 134th Durand Cup here Tuesday.

TRAU took the lead in the 29th minute through Moirangthem Nelson Singh but the equaliser in the 87th minute by Pintu and the winning goal by Sreyas in the third minute of injury time ensured the Navy men finish on top of Group F with seven points ahead of Real Kashmir FC who finished their campaign with six points.

It was end to end action in the first quarter of the match with Indian Navy showing urgency and attacking with purpose.

The attacking trio of Vijay Marandi, Roshan Panna and Sreyas VG combined well with midfielders Pintu and J. Vijay to trouble the TRAU defence but the home side showed promise on the counter attacks, using the

space left by the Navy men who committed numbers in attack.

TRAU took the lead against the run of play. Jenish Singh found Yumnam Monis Singh with a long ball above the head of right back Deny Singh.

The winger entered the box and squared a cross onto the path of Nelson Singh who expertly finished past Bhaskar Roy with a left-footed shot.

The Navy side increased the pressure on the home side with constant attacks but the TRAU defence were resilient and thwarted the efforts.

The final output of the Navy men were also not up to the mark as they hurried their moves and showed lack of composure in front of goal and the ones on target were saved by TRAU custodian Sapam Nongpoknganba Singh. Vijay came the closest to score with a thunderous low shot from outside the box which was palmed away by the goalkeeper.

Bhaskar Roy made a reflex save in the start of the second half, punching Afridi Buyamayum’s header to safety.

SA end Australia’s winning streak in T20s

AGENCIES

Darwin (Australia), August 12: After not matching the Australian firepower in the first game, South Africa roared back to level the series 1-1 in style, with an emphatic 57-run win at the Marrara Cricket Ground here on Tuesday. The defeat is Australia’s second-highest margin loss in T20Is and also the hosts’ first defeat in the format in 10 games.

South Africa’s total of 218/7 was largely enabled by the power hitting on display by Dewald Brevis (125*) as the young batter smashed his first T20I century, the second fastest and youngest to do so in Proteas history. He also surpassed Paf Du Plessis for the highest score in this format by a South African. Skipper Aiden Markram (18) and Ryan Rickelton (14) looked set on the crease before the latter, while attempting to

pull Ben Dwarshuis holed out to Tim David. Markram soon followed as Glenn Maxwell baited the skipper into coming down the pitch and was caught by Mitchell Owen.

The Australian allrounder claimed his second of the day thanks to solid keeping behind the stumps by Alex Carey, to send Lhuan-dre Pretorius (10) packing. Brevis and Tristian Stubbs (31) put on a 126-run stand for the fourth wicket, with the former taking on the brunt of scoring runs. He reached his fifty in 25 balls before accelerating to a century in just 41.

In the end, it was Adam Zampa who provided the breakthrough in the form of Stubbs. Rassie van der Dussen (5), Corbin Bosch (0), and Kagiso Rabada (5) failed to add significant runs to the scoreboard, but Brevis’ 12 boundaries and eight maximums saw the Proteas end at 218/7.

Women’s football team can qualify for WC: Dalima Chhibber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Chuffed about Indian women football team’s qualification for the AFC Asian Cup, defender Dalima Chhibber Tuesday said the side will enter the continental tournament with an aim to secure a historic berth in the FIFA World Cup.

Dalima expressed confidence that the Indian team, comprising fine players like Pyari Xaxa and Sangita Basfore, can punch above its weight to script history.

“It means everything to us and we have qualified because of our abilities,” Dalima said during the launch of the Subroto Cup school football tournament. She attended the occasion as Guest of Honour.

“We are heading towards a golden future. Recently, our U20 team also qualified for the

Asian Cup. It is a sport that every country plays, we are taking steps in the right direction and it is a matter of time that we achieve success and qualify for the FIFA World Cup,” Dalima added.

Dalima, who plays as a defender, last appeared for India in 2024, shared her thoughts on India’s historic qualification for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026.

The Indian team jumped seven places to 63rd in the latest FIFA rankings, following the landmark win over Thailand last week that fetched the country the historic berth.

The Indian women’s team had competed in the AFC Women’s Asian Cup in 2022, but their campaign was cut short due to a COVID outbreak within the squad, forcing them to withdraw from the tournament. India got the better of high-



Dalima expressed confidence that the Indian team, comprising fine players like Pyari Xaxa and Sangita Basfore, can punch above its weight to script history

er-ranked Thailand 2-1 in the final game of the qualifiers to book a place in the continental tournament for the first time through the qualifications route.

Midfielder Basfore scored twice to lead India to a memorable win in the virtual knock-out game.