

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You will be the focus of everyone's attention today – for your visual appeal or for your abilities. Ganesha suggests that you should make the best of the opportunity and recharge yourself. You can accomplish quite a lot with the energy you gain.

TAURUS
This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesha urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities.

GEMINI
You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you will be trying new things in your style of work. You may come across as mad, but there will be a method in your madness. Your new strategy and innovative ideas will give a new lease of life to the projects you are working on. However, you need to take a break from work in the evening and go home to your loved ones to recharge your batteries, advises Ganesha.

LEO
You will spend an enjoyable day with your favourite relatives and friends. In the office also, you will be afforded rare co-operation from all your colleagues. Financial gains are indicated. It is a good time for lovers, who will experience an intimate bond with their partners, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Logic as well as emotions will hold sway in your relationships today. Emotionally you will feel a little confused and will swing between your feelings and what is actually expected of you. However, finally you will pay more heed to your inner voice rather than depending on the views of others.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that today will be a day where you will want to look good and feel good too. You will be able to attract people with your speech and your impressive personality today at social gatherings. Your social stature will also rise today. Romantic liaisons may take a serious turn today.

SCORPIO
Your stars indicate splurging of money today. And this time, you do it for your near and dear ones. After all, what is money without friends and family? You may even go out of your way to make them happy by entertaining them with outings and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS
You feel like going back to carefree, childhood days. You even practice that by taking an impromptu pleasure trip, in the outskirts of the city. And bumping into an old pal, reliving your past is like an icing on the cake. As Ganesha says, golden moments are best undescribed and you too, by the end of the day, are speechless for this wonderful day!

CAPRICORN
Normally, others, especially colleagues get jealous of one's success, but yours is a different case. They will not only motivate you, but also guide you while you take up new projects and assignments. Not everyone is blessed with such cooperative colleagues, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complains with you.

PISCES
You will come up trumps against your competition today. This will make you enthusiastic about your future prospects. You shy away from the spotlight usually, but today you will find yourself thrust into the role of a leader, as you take on new assignments. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesha.



DENZEL WASHINGTON'S SURPRISING REVELATION

Two time Oscar winner Denzel Washington made the surprising revelation that he doesn't like to watch movies and is tired of them. Washington said this on a video interview with *GQ. Highest 2 Lowest* director Spike Lee and co-star A\$AP Rocky were also on the show.

KRIS JENNER WON'T RETIRE UNTIL SHE'S 85

The Kardashians star Kris Jenner has vowed to keep working until she's in her 80s - insisting she won't retire until she's at least 85. The 69-year-old manages her children's careers and also appears in the family's reality TV show.



Sara's cultural pluralism

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan, who comes from a multi-cultural family, is often seen celebrating festivals from different traditions. She recently expressed her gratitude for being able to experience and embrace diverse cultures.

Talking about celebrating different festivals, Sara shared, "Honestly, for me, people have asked way too many times about being multicultural. But I simply believe I'm an Indian. Whatever my spiritual beliefs may be, at the core of it there's a very strong pulse of just being Indian. And to me, being Indian means celebrating all kinds of festivals. We celebrate Eid, we celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, we celebrate Christmas, and I feel that empathy isn't as prevalent as it should be, but festivals allow for it."

Sara highlighted how a sense of belonging matters more than anything, saying, "You celebrate Eid with a Muslim friend as fully and wholeheartedly as you would celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with someone who has a Ganpati idol

at home and has invited you to seek blessings and share in their joy. That invitation, that gratitude, that sense of belonging... it all matters deeply.

"My favourite thing about all these festivals is that they foster empathy. They allow us to celebrate for everyone, not just ourselves. And in today's world, I think that's more important than ever," shared Sara on the gratefulness of celebrating these festivals.



AGENCIES

CHINTA O CHETANA'S MONSOON CELEBRATION

Curtains down on 48th Barsha Festival



Bhubaneswar: The Barsha Festival 2025, organised by the cultural organisation Chinta O Chetana, concluded here at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday. The three-day event celebrated Odisha's rich heritage through music, dance, and honours to distinguished artistes.

The final evening began with an evocative Odissi recital by noted dancer Jyoti Rout, who performed *Assi Ghana Kala Hoi La Re*. This was followed by the ceremonial lamp-lighting by dignitaries, including *Kadambini* editor Itirani Samanta, who graced the event as chief guest. Other distin-

guished guests were musician Laxmikant Palit, senior advocate of the Supreme Court Surjyanarayan Das, *SHABARI* secretary Sanghamitra Parida, Chinta O Chetana president Sahadev Sahoo, general secretary Surendra Das, and renowned presenter Murtunjay Rath.

The Chinta O Chetana National Awards 2024 were presented to Indian classical vocalist Koushik Bhattacharjee (Mu-

sic – Vocal) and Odissi exponent Jyoti Rout (Dance), while the Barsha Awards 2024 were conferred upon Asif Khan (Tabla), Kamalaksha Mukherjee (Harmonium), Shuvam Ghosh (Bharatanatyam), and Vidushi Sangita Chaiti (Kathak and Bharatanatyam).

Thanking everyone on the occasion, Surendra Das said, "Our only mission is to preserve the identity, culture, and heritage of Odisha in the best possible way. We are striving to

scale up this festival with more workshops and cultural programmes in the coming years."

Chief guest Samanta praised the initiative, saying, "I am delighted to be part of this festival. Surendraji has single-handedly carried forward this cultural endeavour, which is playing a vital role in preserving the culture and heritage of Odisha."

The evening concluded with a vibrant cultural show featuring classical and folk performances.

OrissaPOST and *Dharitri* were the print media partners for the event.

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Surveen on art of detachment

Mumbai: Actress Surveen Chawla, who essays the antagonist in the recently released streaming series *Andhera*, is opening about her romance with the art of detachment.

The actress recently spoke with this agency during the promotional campaign of *Andhera*, and said that her sense of detachment is majorly about the outcome of her work, the success and the fame that follow.

When asked if detachment is her strength as an artiste, the actress told this agency, "Maybe currently yes because I know what happened when I was too attached. It's not that you are attached to a part, it's the attachment to the outcome of what you are doing".

She further mentioned, "So you can't keep thinking about, 'I have to succeed',

and get obsessive about it because that's when it moves further and further away. It's a little philosophical that way but I think that's how you grow in terms of your own understanding as an individual, as just a being and that has created some kind of inner shift in me and I just want to work very hard to keep it that way."

"So, going forward, I want to forget about the trappings, this was work. I did my best, I was rewarded, and I want to go on doing whatever comes next exactly like this and continue", she added.



of

IAN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

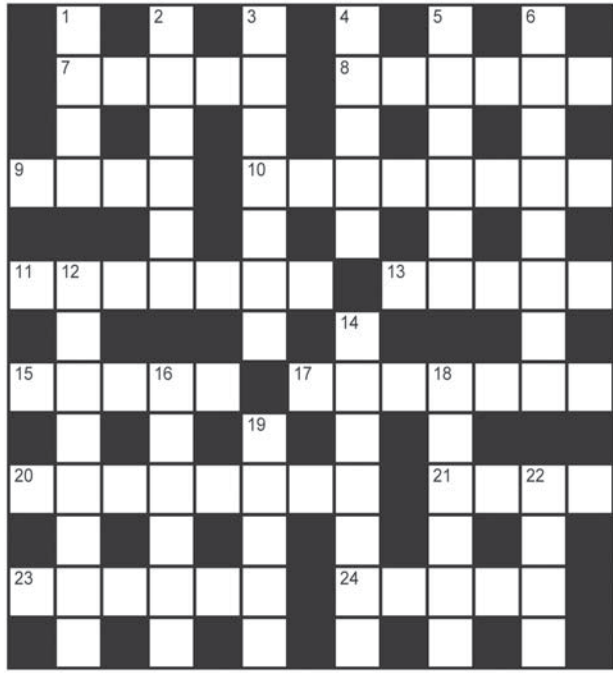


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Across | 20 Spectacular | 4 Within reach |
| 7 Wrath | 21 Extinct bird | 5 Vegetable and meat pie |
| 8 Shrewdness | 23 Foolish | 6 Summer weather condition (4,4) |
| 9 Mythical craft | 24 Vichyssoise ingredients | 12 Pasta type |
| 10 Renounce the throne | | 14 Finger joint |
| 11 Endanger | Down | 16 Bailiwick |
| 13 Tooth trouble | 1 Lion's den | 18 Confused |
| 15 Litmus reddeners | 2 Snub, in a way | 19 Knight's need |
| 17 Star in Scorpius | 3 Store produce section | 22 Short run |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

INCESSANT RAIN BATTERS LIFE



RAIN PAIN: People get off a rescue boat in a flood-hit area inundated with water of the swollen Subarnarekha river in Balasore, Wednesday

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Normal life in Odisha was thrown out of gear Wednesday, as the low pressure-induced incessant rainfall inundated several areas in the southern districts of Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur, while over 100 villages in the north continued to remain marooned due to flood, officials said.

The entire state, including the flood-hit Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur districts, received heavy rain, and its intensity increased after the low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coasts became well-marked in the morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in Koraput and Malkangiri districts till 8.30am Thursday.

The weather office also predicted heavy rainfall in 28 other districts.

Under the influence of the well-marked low pressure, the state is set to encounter another prolonged spell of rainfall for the next three days, officials said. According to Revenue and Disaster Management department sources, Jeypore received the highest 19cm of rainfall, followed by Kotpad (16cm), Borigumma (16cm), Nandahandi and Nandapur (13cm each), Lamatapur and Koraput (12cm each) and Similiguda (11cm).

A report from Koraput district said that some villages under Boipariguda block were inundated due to 306mm of rainfall. Boipariguda was followed by Boriguma which received 155.8mm rainfall. Six blocks of Koraput received over 100mm of rain, while the district as a whole registered an average rainfall of 115mm.

The downpour in Koraput has led to the snapping of road communication with neighbouring Telangana and Chhattisgarh as

rainwater flowed on National Highway-326 near Keraput Chhach under Boipariguda block.

A Revenue and Disaster Management department official at Koraput said that the disruption occurred after the Kururu river swelled and spilled over, submerging a stretch of the highway.

Traffic on the NH connecting Telangana came to a standstill, with hundreds of vehicles, including long-distance passenger buses and goods carriers, remaining stranded on both sides.

Eyewitnesses said water was flowing nearly four feet above the road, making it extremely unsafe for vehicles to cross.

“Buses and trucks have been waiting for hours. We cannot risk moving until the water recedes,” said a driver stuck on the highway.

Jeypore town also witnessed widespread waterlogging. Several low-lying areas were inundated as rainwater entered houses, forcing residents to spend hours draining water from their homes.

Malkangiri district also reported a similar situation as the people were unable to come out of their houses due to incessant rain since Tuesday afternoon.

Normal life was also affected in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal and other southern Odisha districts.

Keeping in view the incessant rain in the southern region, the Railways cancelled at least two trains and short-terminated several others. The up and down night express trains between Visakhapatnam and Kirandul were cancelled Wednesday.

Another report said that though the water level in major rivers, including Subarnarekha and Baitarani, flew below the danger level at all places in north Odisha, the miseries of the people have been compounded due to rain.

The affected people in Baliapal, Bhograi and Jaleswar in Balasore district, Dasrathpur in Jajpur district and Dhamnagar, Tihidi and Bhandaripokhari in Bhadrak district were unable to return to their villages as the floodwater still stands around four feet high on roads even as the water level in rivers receded, said a Revenue and Disaster Management department official.

The people were being provided with cooked food in relief centres and dry food at villages. Some people stay on the first floor of the pucca building in some villages of Balasore and Jajpur, they said. Water Resources department Engineer-in-Chief CS Padhi said no fresh flood threat has been reported from other rivers across the state.

It would take some time for water to drain out from low-lying areas where inundation has occurred.

In a 1st, Odisha to host nat'l meet of SC, ST panel chiefs

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27:

In a first, Odisha will host the two-day 'National Conference of Chairpersons of the Committees on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Parliament and State Legislatures' in Bhubaneswar starting August 29, official sources said Wednesday.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is scheduled to inaugurate the conference which will be organised outside Delhi for the first time, according to an official release.

chairpersons of committees on the welfare of SCs and STs was held way back in 1976 in New Delhi. Successive conferences were organised in 1979, 1983, 1987 and 2001, contributing to robust dialogue on the varied dimensions of welfare and constitutional safeguards for SCs and STs," the release said.

The Lok Sabha Speaker will also inaugurate an exhibition and release a souvenir on the occasion.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Ministers Jual Oram and Dharmendra Pradhan, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman

Harivansh Narayan Singh and Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SC and ST Chairperson Faggan Singh Kulaste will also address the conference.

Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy will deliver the welcome address at the conference. The two-day event themed on 'Role of Parliamentary and Legislature Committees on Welfare, Development and Empowerment of SCs and STs' will bring together over 120 delegates. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati will deliver the valedictory address August 30.

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Bribery: Tax asst commissioner arrested in City

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday arrested State Tax Assistant Commissioner (Bhubaneswar-IV Circle) Sarita Barik on the charge of accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a bakery owner to close pending show-cause notice for payment of tax and fine.

According to the Vigilance Directorate, Barik, a Class-I OFS officer, was caught while accepting the bribe inside her car at Madhusudan Nagar in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

The entire amount was recovered from her possession.

The complainant, who runs a bakery unit, had earlier received a show-cause notice from Barik demanding payment of Rs 2,27,147 towards reversal of the Input Tax Credit (ITC) for FY2020-21, along with a fine and penalty.

When he requested relief, Barik allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 25,000 to waive the penalty and fine. The bakery unit owner then approached Vigilance authorities, leading to the trap.

Following the arrest, Vigilance teams conducted simultaneous searches at three locations linked to Barik. At her rented residence in Bhubaneswar, they recovered cash amounting to Rs 1.45 lakh, gold weighing 222 grams, jewelry bills, documents related to property purchases in Bhubaneswar, and bank deposits worth around Rs 60 lakh.

Vigilance sleuths confirmed that a case has been registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The investigation is underway.

Ganesh Puja celebrated with grandeur

Despite intermittent rain, large crowds of devotees thronged pandals as the festive spirit remained high across the City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The Capital came alive with devotion and festivity as citizens celebrated Ganesh Puja Wednesday. Despite intermittent showers disrupting outdoor events, the festive spirit remained undeterred across the City.

From early morning, temples and community pandals in Saheed Nagar, Nayapalli, Unit-VIII, and Old Town drew large crowds of devotees offering prayers to Lord Ga-



BRIGHT STAR YOUTH ASSOCIATION BADAGADA



Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with staff during Ganesh Puja celebrations on the newspapers' office premises in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

PICT: BIKASH NAYAK

nesh, revered as the remover of obstacles and harbinger of new beginnings. Schools and colleges marked the occasion with special pujas, cultural performances, and distribution of



WINNERS ASSOCIATION SAHEED NAGAR

laddus and boondi prasad. However, rain from mid-morning disrupted outdoor programmes and led to waterlogging in parts of Acharya Vihar, Baramunda, and Laxmisagar. Some cultural events were shifted indoors, while pandal visits slowed due



UNIT-VIII ALL NEWSPAPER SUPPLIERS SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Amid the celebrations, Chief Minister Mihan Charan Majhi extended warm wishes to the people of Odisha. In a message earlier in the day, he said, "Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. May Lord Ganesh's boundless grace bring happiness and prosperity to everyone's lives."

This year also witnessed a shift towards eco-friendly celebrations, with many pandals installing clay idols and adopting plastic-free decorations. Several youth clubs in Bhubaneswar used the occasion to promote awareness on environmental responsibility.

The Ganesh Visarjan (immersion) is scheduled for September 1, with authorities urging citizens to remain cautious amid forecasts of continued rainfall.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has launched a special initiative for waste management during Ganesh Puja. Dedicated vehicles have been deployed in all three administrative zones to collect devotional flowers from pandals.

As per records, there are 179 pandals in the South Zone, 122 in the South-East Zone, and 70 in the North Zone. Zonal Commissioners have already held meetings with pandal committees. Each zone has one vehicle that will visit pandals twice a day, with local sanitation inspectors coordinating the collection. The puja waste will be transported to the Pokhariput Micro Composting Centre (MCC) for processing.

Veterinary docs continue protest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: All veterinary doctors in the state, from August 25, have been wearing black badges as a mark of protest after repeatedly drawing the government's attention over the years to the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the veterinary healthcare system.

Currently, against a required strength of 5,000 doctors, only 1,000 veterinary doctors are providing animal healthcare in the state. As a result, each veterinary doctor is bearing a workload four times heavier than what is reasonable. Furthermore, due to the lack of promotional opportunities, many doctors are compelled to work for 2 to 3 years on the same pay scale, alleged members of Odisha Veterinary Services Association.

To address the issue, the association demanded a restructured system and inclusion under the Central pay scales such as DACP (Dynamic Assured

Career Progression) and NPA (Non-Practicing Allowance).

"Due to the lack of government vehicles, block veterinary officers and additional veterinary officers are forced to travel long distances daily using their personal vehicles and at their own expense. When faced with adverse weather or medical emergencies, if any veterinary doctor fails to meet the targeted deadline, strict disciplinary actions are taken against them. Because of this fear, many officers are now prioritising government schemes distribution over treating animals, resulting in poor delivery of veterinary services," the association alleged.

In addition, the association has raised several other demands, including regularisation of pending leave approvals, prevention of sexual harassment cell, appropriate security and insurance for doctors engaged in treatment of wild animals, clear duty schedules and work responsibilities.

BJD seeks probe into Cuttack stn roof collapse

Party alleges that the prolonged delay and sluggish pace of modernisation and repair works have been causing serious inconvenience to passengers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday described the roof collapse on Platform-1 of Cuttack Railway Station as "unfortunate" and blamed the railway department and contractor for negligence. The party demanded a thorough probe into the incident and strict action against those responsible.

The party alleged that the prolonged and sluggish pace of modernisation and repair work at the busy station has been causing severe inconvenience



to passengers. It said today's incident exposed serious lapses in supervision of the ongoing construction.

Soon after the mishap,

Choudwar-Cuttack BJD MLA Souvic Biswal, Cuttack Mayor Subash Singh, and district BJD president Prafulla Singh visited the site, inspected the damage,

and oversaw rescue operations. Biswal demanded immediate completion of the long-pending construction works, while Mayor Singh blamed the contractor's reckless attitude for the accident.

He noted that one person had been injured and hospitalised, and urged the railway department to prevent such incidents in future. Singh said it was only by the grace of Lord Jagannath that a major tragedy was averted, as the Vande Bharat Express had crossed the platform just minutes before the collapse.

Experts, activists to discuss Mahanadi dispute today

Water row drags on for years despite state and Centre's interventions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A critical round table discussion, jointly organised by Nadi Ghati Morcha, Rastriya Jal Biradari, and Mahanadi Bachao Andolan, on the ongoing Mahanadi River crisis and the water-sharing dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh will be held Thursday at Mayaram Surjan Lokayan Hall, Raipur.

Mahanadi, stretching over 900km and serving as a lifeline for both the states, faces shrinking water availability due to climate change, unregulated industrial use, and unsustainable riverbed activities. Experts warn that these factors are severely impacting the river's ecosystem, livelihoods, and regional climate balance.

The dispute over water sharing between both the states has persisted for years, despite efforts by both the state governments and the Central government. The Mahanadi Water



Dispute Tribunal has recently initiated dialogue with the two states, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti has encouraged bilateral talks to resolve the issue.

Renowned water conservationist Rajendra Singh, popularly known as 'Jal Purush', will preside over the discussion, which will bring together river experts, representatives of river movements, and communities dependent on the river from both states.

Organisers said the outcomes of the meeting will be presented to the Chief Ministers of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and to the Tribunal to aid in formulating equitable water-sharing policies and restoring the health of the river.

"This is not just a legal or political issue. The survival of millions, the river's ecosystem, and the region's environmental balance depend on collective action," the organisers stated.

DAV Unit-VIII marks 54th Foundation Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: DAV Public School, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar, celebrated its 54th Foundation Day Wednesday with grandeur and enthusiasm. The occasion was marked by a colourful cultural extravaganza featuring spirited performances and loud applause from an appreciative audience.

The highlight of the celebration was the Foundation Day Address by Padma Shri awardee Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, who delivered an inspiring talk. Stressing the need for a holistic approach to education, he said, "Education is not limited to knowledge, package or success; it is the integration of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being. Lead a content life with a healthy body, stable mind, and peaceful soul."

Regional Director of DAV Institutions, Odisha, Keshab Chandra Satpathy, extended warm wishes on the occasion

and prayed for the institution's continued success and growth. Upholding its commitment to social responsibility, the school organised a blood donation camp in collaboration with Capital Hospital on the eve of Foundation Day. The camp saw overwhelming participation, with 202 units of blood collected, reflecting the school's strong spirit of community service.

As part of its focus on health and wellness, the school organised a wellness talk in collaboration with Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar. Conducted by Sibani Shankar Tripathy, the session on ergonomics highlighted postural defects and offered practical corrections to improve daily physical well-being. Adding an environmental touch to the celebrations, a plantation drive was carried out under the leadership of Chairman Santosh Upadhyay and Principal Ipsita Das, aimed at enhancing green cover and fostering environmental awareness among students and staff.

K'taka delegation hails Odisha's skill framework

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A delegation from the Karnataka government commended the Odisha government for its efforts in creating a strong skill development ecosystem aimed at enhancing youth employability in the state.

According to an official statement, Odisha Skill Development Technical Education (SDTE) Minister Sampad Chandra Swain held an insightful interaction with a high-level delegation from Karnataka at Kharaivel Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The 22-member delegation was led by Karnataka Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar and Medical Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship Livelihood Minister Sharan Prakash R Patil.

Speaking on the occasion, Swain said, "The decision to visit Odisha reflects the success

of the state's consistent efforts in building a strong and vibrant skilling ecosystem. Our government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, has laid renewed emphasis on skilling."

"The results of these focused initiatives will be visible in the days to come. Our vision is to build a Skilled-in-Odisha workforce that is globally competitive. In this journey, we have placed strong emphasis on innovation, industry collaboration, and global exposure for our youth," Swain further added.

The delegation expressed appreciation for Odisha's forward-looking approach in creating a robust and sustainable skilling ecosystem, one that not only equips youth with future-ready skills but also strengthens the education industry connect, enhances employability, and ensures inclusive growth.



ECoR unloads 100 MT freight in record days

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has set a new benchmark in freight transportation by crossing the milestone of 100 million tonne of unloading within just 148 days of the current financial year.

As of August 26, ECoR has unloaded 100.55 million tonne, registering an impressive 8 per cent growth compared to the same period last year, an increase of 7.43 million tonne.

Among the divisions, Khurda Road Division accounted for the highest share with 58.1 million tonne, followed by Waltair Division with 25.46 million tonne, and Sambalpur Division with 17 million tonne.

ECoR continues to play a pivotal role in meeting the logistics requirements of vital industries and major ports under its jurisdiction, including Paradeep, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Gopalpur, and Dhamra.

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.2°	32.2°	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershower
Min Temp	24.5°	23.2°	
Humidity	89%	90%	
Rainfall	4.6mm	1.8mm	

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Ring road works stalled amid funds crunch, approval delays

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 27: The pace of development in Subarnapur district has failed to gain momentum, with several projects remaining incomplete even after decades. The situation has triggered public debate about the district's growth trajectory.

One of the most awaited projects was the construction of a ring road around Subarnapur town, envisaged to protect residents from the recurring floods of the Mahanadi and Tel rivers. The foundation stone for the project was laid in 2011 by then chief minister Naveen Patnaik. However, 14 years on, the project is still far from completion.

Owing to constant tussles between the Works and Water Resources departments, the long-cherished project has now plunged into uncertainty. The contract for constructing the crucial portal frame bridge was awarded to ARSS Infrastructure Projects Ltd, but the firm abandoned the work midway. Although the bridge was scheduled for completion in 2022, only 10 per cent of the work has been done. For the past two-and-a-half years, construction has remained stalled, leaving people to wonder when the project will finally be completed and when they can avail themselves of its benefits.

Initially, the Water Resources Department had built earthen embankments to protect the growing town from floods and ease traffic congestion. But since the missing link — the



portal bridge — could not be designed, the work was transferred to the Works Department. The department subsequently built a 1,500-metre embankment road from the Mahanadi bridge and a 2,400-metre stretch from the Tel bridge up to Badabazar, along with retaining walls and two large culverts.

However, the vital 1,150-metre portal frame bridge from Kumbharpada to Dasamatihat could not be built. Six-and-a-half years ago, a tender worth ₹56.09 crore was floated, with funding from the Water Resources Department.

The plan included 45 piers and two abutments, but delays in providing drawings and designs for pier points by senior officials stalled progress. The contractor showed negligence, completed only a few piers, and eventually abandoned the project, citing losses.

Subsequently, the Works Department in Subarnapur prepared a fresh cost estimate of ₹81.15 crore for the remaining work. The Superintending Engineer of Works Department in Subarnapur forwarded the proposal for the tender to the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief in Bhubaneswar. Although the Water Resources Department had sanctioned ₹56 crore earlier, the project now requires additional funds owing to delays. It remains uncertain whether the department will release the extra amount.

Recently, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Works Department wrote to his counterpart in the Water Resources Department, seeking administrative approval and the required funds so that tenders could be invited. But no response has been received yet, leaving the portal frame bridge project mired in uncertainty.

Trap cameras help nab two poachers in Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, August 27: Two suspected poachers have been arrested after being caught on trap cameras inside Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in Balasore district, forest officials said Wednesday.

According to officials, the accused men were identified as Dam Samad, 23, and Sudarshan Biswal, 58, of Pindabasa village under Oupada police limits in Balasore district. A loaded country-made gun, ammunition, bow and arrows, axe, knife, snare, deer antlers and other weapons were seized from their possession. Both the accused were booked under relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and produced in a court. A case-08K/2025-26 has been registered, and further investigation is underway, forest officials said.

The cameras recorded them entering the sanctuary with the intention of poaching wild



animals in the wee hours of August 9. The images were captured by two tracking cameras installed at Kankadabila area in the Chemchata forest beat under Jharanaghati forest section.

Following routine checks, forest personnel of Kuldiha and Soro forest ranges launched a search operation and apprehended the suspects from their homes around 6:15am August 26.

Decomposed body of West Bengal labourer found



POST NEWS NETWORK

Purushottampur, August 27: Police in Purushottampur of Ganjam district, recovered the decomposed body of a young man Wednesday from a roadside hut near Pandia Chhak. The victim has been identified as Lokman Sheikh, 45, a labourer from Debadaspur village under Samarganj police limits of Murshidabad district in West Bengal.

After recovering the body, Purushottampur SDPO Sujit Nayak and IIC Rajesh Nayak visited the site to investigate the circumstances. Officials said initial observations indicated it was a premeditated murder.

According to the investigation, Sheikh had been working as a labourer with several West Bengal workers on a bridge repair project over the

Rushikulya river near Pandia Chhak, being carried out by the Hercules Structure System company. A dispute broke out among the workers Sunday night. Sheikh was allegedly attacked and killed by several of his co-workers using blunt weapons and his body was dumped in a roadside hut.

The decomposed body was discovered later due to the foul smell, prompting police to register a case (675/25) and sent the remains to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Brahmapur for post-mortem. Authorities are questioning the other labourers and company staff involved in the project. Meanwhile, some workers and employees of the contractor company have reportedly withheld information about the incident from police.

Student dies during Ganesh Puja celebrations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, August 27: A festive Ganesh Puja celebration at a school in Nilagiri of Balasore district turned tragic Wednesday when a 15-year old boy collapsed and died suddenly in front of classmates.

The victim was identified as Priyanshu Pritam, son of Malati and Lakshminarayan Dasbabu of Siadimal village in Siadimal panchayat of Nilagiri block. The deceased was a student of Class-IX of nearby Jadida Radhamadhabjew High School. Witnesses said Priyanshu, after joining the morning rituals at school, was singing and playing with friends near the idol when he suddenly complained of chest pain and fell to the ground. Teachers rushed him to the nearest hospital where Teachers rushed to his aid, but he was already unresponsive. Teachers and parents rushed him to the Nilagiri hospital where doctors conducted a check-up and pronounced him brought dead.

Priyanshu was the elder of two sons of Dasbabu and his wife. News of his sudden death has left his family, teachers, and fellow students in shock. The whole village was enveloped in grief following after reports surfaced about his death.

Leopard skin seized in Nuapada, one held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khariar, August 27: The Forest Department seized a leopard skin near Chatiaguda under Sinapali forest range in Nuapada district Wednesday. One person was arrested in the raid and later produced in court.

Although the accused is a resident of the Sinapali area, his name has not been released by the department, citing possible interference with the investigation.

The raid was carried out under the supervision of Assistant Conservator of Forests Mohammad Mustafa Saliha, with Sinapali forest staff taking part. Khariar divisional forest officer Aji Khan said further investigation is underway.

Ex-finance minister urges CM to reopen steel plant in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, August 27: Former Finance Minister Prafulla Chandra Ghadei has urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take immediate steps to reopen the Mideast Integrated Steels Limited (MISL) plant at the Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur district.

In a letter to the Chief Minister Tuesday, Ghadei noted that MISL was the first steel project set up at Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex by the MESCO Steel Group in 1993.

He said over 200 families from Khurunti, Siaria, and Nanagobindapur villages in Sukinda and Danagadi blocks of Jajpur district lost 650 acres of land for the steel plant. In addition, the state government also allotted 150 hectares of iron ore mines in the Barbil sector of neighboring Keonjhar district for the plant's captive consumption.



“Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) had provided a soft loan in the form of a steel bond to set up the plant. The Centre also provided a dedicated railway line to augment MISL's production and productivity,” Ghadei wrote. However, he expressed concern over the plant's closure.

“It is a matter of great concern that despite all cooperation, MESCO Steel authorities closed the plant and stopped production since February 12, 2020, resulting in more than 2,000 workers losing their livelihoods, both directly and

indirectly,” he said.

Ghadei added, “When your government is taking proactive steps, like the previous government to invite investors and establish new projects for employment and revenue generation, the case of this closed industry and the untold sufferings of retrenched workers' families should not be overlooked.”

He requested the Chief Minister to intervene and take steps for the immediate reopening of the plant in the larger interest of the displaced families, who have been rendered jobless and landless.

Bhitarkanika officials rescue 8.2-foot crocodile

Kendrapara: Forest personnel of Bhitarkanika National Park rescued an 8.2-foot-long estuarine crocodile from a village pond in Gupti, under Rajnagar block. The crocodile was captured with the help of a fishing net from the pond belonging to Rabindra Mohanty of Gupti village. Forest officials said the saltwater crocodile might have strayed from nearby water bodies. The reptile was later released into Gupti's Habali creek.

Koraput MLA meets Vaishnaw over daytime train to BBSR

NARENDRA RAUT, OP

Koraput, August 27: Residents of Koraput district have long demanded a direct daytime train service to Bhubaneswar, citing difficulties faced by students, government employees, and patients who frequently travel to the state capital. Most trains on the route currently run late at night or during odd hours, causing inconvenience and safety concerns, particularly for women and elderly passengers.

Responding to the long-standing demand, Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha addressed the matter Tuesday afternoon at his residence in Koraput. Around 4pm, he informed that he had personally met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and formally submitted the request on behalf of residents.

“The residents of Koraput have been consistently de-

manding a daytime train. As their representative, I placed this matter before the Railway Ministry, and the minister has assured me that a daytime service between Koraput and Bhubaneswar will be introduced soon,” Machha said.

The announcement has sparked optimism among locals, many of whom believe that such a service will not only ease travel but also promote trade, education, and tourism in the tribal-dominated district. Social activists, business owners, and frequent commuters have welcomed the assurance, calling it a “much-needed step” toward improving connectivity between the remote district and the state capital. Although the exact schedule and launch date are yet to be finalized, residents remain hopeful that the long-awaited service will soon become a reality, significantly strengthening Koraput's link with the rest of Odisha.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 27: With the arrival of the night, western Odisha is abuzz with the grand festival of Nuakhai. Preparations are in full swing, and both

villages and towns have taken on a festive look. Nuakhai markets are bustling with activity as people flock to shop.

In Sambalpur city, special Nuakhai markets have been set up Wednesday from 7am

to 10pm in several areas, including Golbazar, Bhalupali Square, Dhanupali Square, Gobindtola Badabazar, Mudipada Hatli, Lakshmi Talkies Square to Asha Pali School Road, the government bus stand, Kacheri Square, Remed, Maneswar, Dhanakaunda, the old bus stand near Mudipada Square, VSS Marg, Charbati Square, Budharaja, Bhima Bhoi Nagar, Kamalibazar, Farm Road, the daily municipal market, Ainthapali to Kainsir, Khetrarajpur, and Ainthapali. As per tradition, people throng Nuakhai markets to buy new utensils, clothes, and household items.

The festive spirit is equally visible in villages, where roads and squares have been decorated with flowers and colourful paper ornaments. Residents have adorned their homes to make them more attractive. With the arrival of family members, both towns and villages are lively with celebration.

Various organisations in the city have decorated venues to mark the festival. The stages and auditoriums, decked up for cultural programmes, await guests, artists, and performers. Many people from the region who live outside have returned home with their families, drawn by the nostalgia and warmth of their roots.

Changing farm practices leave Saria paddy in short supply



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 27: Farming traditions are shifting, and as a result, the short-duration saria paddy, essential for the Nuakhai harvest festival, is becoming hard to find, a report said.

Nuakhai begins with an offering of new rice known as 'Nabanna' to Goddess Samalei, the presiding deity of Sambalpur after which families eat the season's first crop. Traditionally, farmers planted saria paddy, which matures in 60 days, to ensure fresh harvests were ready in time. In earlier days, sowing

intensified in the area.

Experts note that the dense forests under Bonai forest division provide an ideal habitat for tigers. Last year, a similar big cat was photographed in the camera trap installed in the Toda reserve forest under the same forest division. Locals and wildlife activists have urged the forest department to create a safe sanctuary for the newly spotted tiger.

Local intelligentsia and environmental protection groups argue that Bonai is the only viable option in the state for a tiger reserve because of its dense forest cover and favorable environment. The Bonai Intellectual Forum has demanded to establish a tiger sanctuary combining the three forest ranges of Gurundia, Jarda and Sole under the forest division.

would begin on Akshaya Tritiya, allowing the crop to be harvested by the auspicious fortnight of Bhadrab Shukla Paksha.

Now, the ritual of sowing on Akshaya Tritiya has become largely symbolic. Farmers typically wait for the monsoon rains to prepare their fields, delaying cultivation. As a result, saria rice is rarely available for Nuakhai, except from a few growers who cultivate it mainly for festival sales.

In towns, saria rice reaches the markets, but in villages, families struggle to procure it, often traveling far to bring some home. Alongside rice, families gather saru leaves, pumpkin greens, rakhi, and other ritual items, including kurei leaves, khali, and grains for offerings. During the festival, new rice, saru, and pumpkin greens are offered to deities before being eaten.

While vegetables from current harvests are usually available, saria rice has become scarce. With access to irrigation and a focus on higher yields, farmers increasingly prefer long-duration paddy varieties. Consequently, only select regions still grow saria paddy—either to preserve tradition or meet festival demand.

INDIA'S DEFLATION DILEMMA



India must coordinate tax policy, monetary easing, and private sector revival to stimulate demand, enable investment, and protect rural livelihoods

of protections could expose Indian farmers to predatory pricing and wipe out incomes for millions. Agriculture here is not an industry in the Western sense, but a livelihood issue for more than 700 million people. The political economy of food is therefore deeply sensitive and highly combustible.

The strain is not limited to the fields. India's export growth is also being tested by escalating US tariffs—some as high as 50%—on goods like textiles, electronics, and other manufactured items. Analysts estimate that this could shave between 0.3 and 0.8 percentage points from GDP growth, with Morgan Stanley warning of the higher end and Moody's and Kotak offering slightly milder forecasts.

To counter these pressures, the government has proposed a GST overhaul, collapsing four tax slabs into two—5% and 18%—eliminating the 12 and 28% brackets. This reform is expected to boost GDP by 0.6 to 0.8 percentage points through stronger domestic consumption while streamlining tax compliance for exporters.

However, consumption alone cannot sustain growth. With inflation so low, real interest

rates have risen, tightening monetary conditions and discouraging business borrowing and investment. The RBI's 2% inflation floor exists precisely to prevent such stagnation. Persistently low inflation erodes spending and investment incentives, fosters expectations of further price drops, and narrows the central bank's ability to respond in downturns.

Monetary policy must work alongside fiscal measures. Cutting policy rates would lower capital costs, unlock stalled projects in autos, electronics, and manufacturing, and ease corporate debt burdens. This would transform GST-driven consumption gains into durable, investment-led growth rather than temporary stimulus.

When the Monetary Policy Committee met in early August, it projected FY26 inflation at 3.1% and held the repo rate at 5.5%. While balanced at the time, July's 1.55% print shows inflation significantly undershot projections. The central bank's caution may now be entrenching real interest rates too high for an economy struggling with weak investment and fragile rural demand.

Public capital expenditure has

been deployed aggressively—the government used 20% of its Rs 11.4 lakh crore capex budget in just two months, well above last year's 13%. This infrastructure spending creates jobs and builds capacity, but public capex cannot substitute for private investment indefinitely. India's investment-to-GDP ratio stood at just 30.5% in Q3 FY25, a three-year low and well below the 40-plus percent needed for rapid growth. Private equity and venture capital investments declined 10% year-on-year to \$16.8 billion, underscoring private sector caution amid global uncertainty.

The solution requires a balanced strategy. GST reforms can spark consumption, monetary easing can revive confidence and lower borrowing costs, giving private investment reason to return. Public capex can lay foundations but cannot remain the sole engine. India must coordinate tax policy, monetary easing, and private sector revival to stimulate demand, enable investment, and protect rural livelihoods.

India's July inflation number should not create complacency among policymakers. Low prices are not always beneficial—sometimes they signal danger. Without careful coordination of fiscal and monetary policy alongside private sector revival, the economy risks slipping into weak demand, fragile investment, and rural distress. The challenge is real, but so is the opportunity: to transform deflationary danger into a pivot toward more resilient, investment-led growth.

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Dillip Kumar Muduli & Sahasranshu Dash

INDIA'S JULY INFLATION NUMBER SHOULD NOT CREATE COMPLACENCY AMONG POLICYMAKERS. LOW PRICES ARE NOT ALWAYS BENEFICIAL—SOMETIMES THEY SIGNAL DANGER



Ajay Shah

America's tariff attack has created an opportunity for India to clarify its strategic priorities. The country's optimal response to US protectionism is not to retaliate or retreat, but to seek and cultivate other partners that remain committed to rules-based international trade



Sweeping Tariffs

US President Donald Trump's decision to impose new tariffs on a wide range of imports from India, ostensibly a penalty for buying Russian oil, represents another shock to the international trading system – and a sharp reversal of good relations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These tariffs could disrupt the Indian economy, which has benefited immensely from global integration. But the greater risk lies in their potential to influence the country's long-term strategic direction.

To be sure, several factors will mitigate the immediate impact of Trump's tariffs. Despite being India's largest trading partner, the United States is a distant country, and high transport costs have led India to diversify its trade relationships. Moreover, international markets are not static, and Trump's global tariff war will redirect trade flows and reconfigure supply chains all over the world. Indian exporters – like their counterparts in other countries – will invariably find new markets, though the transition costs implied by this shift are likely to be high.

Consider also that the new US tariffs apply to roughly \$65 billion in annual merchandise exports from India. With the country's total merchandise exports reaching around \$441 billion in the last fiscal year, the affected goods constitute less than 15 per cent of these trade flows. While not insignificant, this figure is unlikely to cripple India's export economy.

A narrow focus on merchandise also overlooks the most dynamic component of India's trade portfolio: services. With annual services exports now exceeding \$380 billion and growing robustly, this sector is the true engine of India's global economic ascent. Crucially, these exports – which include IT services, financial services, business-process outsourcing, and research and development – are not subject to tariffs.

As an added benefit, the policy uncertainty created by Trump's tariff war could accelerate multinational firms' diversification of operations away from America. India is well-positioned to capitalise on this shift, and I know from my own experience that Indian exporters of both goods and services have already begun to intensify their efforts to develop business links in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) markets other than the US.

But beyond trade economics, Trump's tariffs raise a larger question: What is India's place in the world? Two competing visions have long animated domestic debate on this issue. One vision presents the country as outward-looking and confident, pursuing growth by embracing globalisation and leveraging Western technology, finance, and markets. To realise its potential, India must embrace deeper integration into the world economy.

This vision reflects the closer ties that India has forged with the West in recent decades – and which underpinned its economic success between 1991 and 2011. The Indian diaspora has grown in size and prominence throughout the Western world, while India itself has come to rely on Western technology and business networks. For all the talk of enhancing economic links with Russia or China, good luck finding an elite family in India whose kids are studying in either country.

The opposing view portrays international engagement not as an opportunity for India, but as a source of vulnerability. This defensive posture is shaped by skepticism toward the West – a holdover from the colonial period – and a belief in self-reliance to the point of autarky, often at the expense of efficiency and growth.

Trump's new tariffs have provided ammunition to the proponents of this more insular vision by bolstering the narrative that the global system is unreliable, and that engagement with the West is ultimately harmful to India's interests and security. To the extent that these arguments find purchase among India's leaders, the country risks embracing protectionism and nativism. Such a shift would be detrimental to India's long-term prosperity, Asian security, and what remains of the liberal world order.

Fortunately, there are signs that the outward-looking view remains dominant. The free-trade agreement that India just signed with the United Kingdom commits it to reducing protectionist barriers. It also illustrates India's willingness to pursue deeper economic links with OECD countries when they are based on mutual interest and respect. One can only hope that ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement with the European Union will follow a similar trajectory, further anchoring India to the principles of economic openness.

America's tariff attack has created an opportunity for India to clarify its strategic priorities. The country's optimal response to US protectionism is not to retaliate or retreat, but to seek and cultivate other partners that remain committed to rules-based international trade. By deepening trade and investment ties with the UK, the EU, Japan, and Australia, India can recalibrate its economic relationships and reaffirm its commitment to the globalised economy that has served it so well.

The writer is Co-Founder of XKDR Forum, a non-profit research organization in Mumbai. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

As different streams having different sources all mingle their waters in the sea, so different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to God.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait, be quiet still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked, it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.

FRANZ KAFKA

On the mountains of truth you can never climb in vain: either you will reach a point higher up today, or you will be training your powers so that you will be able to climb higher tomorrow.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Structural roots of student violence

Students are among the most idealistic members of society. Their youthful pursuit of ideals, fuelled by passion, innocence and creativity, represents limitless potential that society can harness for its progressive transformation. Throughout history, students have not only participated in but also shaped progressive movements. What defines them is their selfless sacrifice for the greater good of society. The question then arises: why do students resort to violence, bring guns into classrooms, and adopt violent methods to express themselves? It is time to think beyond an essentialist culture of causality that merely blames and criminalises students.

In a rare incident of gun violence in India, a ninth-grade boy shot his Physics teacher. In stark contrast, gun violence in schools is a daily tragedy in the United States, where an estimated 12 children are killed and 32 students are shot and injured every day. A study titled "Gun Violence in the United States – 2022: Examining the Burden Among Children and Teens" by the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at the Johns Hopkins University reveals that firearms are now the leading cause of death among children and teenagers between the ages of 1 and 17. The same study found that, on average,

seven young people die each day in the US due to gun violence. According to the Washington Post school shooting database, more than 390,000 students have been exposed to gun violence in schools between the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 and 2024.

Student violence is not confined to the US, but the country experiences the highest levels, largely because students face intense forms of capitalist alienation both in American schools and in society at large. Unfortunately, the epidemic of gun violence among students in the US—and the broader crisis of student violence, including suicide amongst students, across the world—is unlikely to decline. On the contrary, it is likely to intensify as the marketisation, commercialisation, and privatisation of education for profit deepen under capitalism. This process fosters widespread alienation, affecting students in particular and society at large. Student violence is not a starting point; it is a response to a violent capitalist system.

The commercialisation of education has transformed teaching and learning into a marketplace of essentialist interactions aimed primarily at securing grades, degrees, qualifications, certificates, and limited employability skills. This

functionalist approach has eroded the critical culture of learning—one that once encouraged self-discovery, exploration of the world, and the development of a global consciousness that promotes mutual understanding of human desires, needs, and uniqueness. The objectified digitalisation of education in the post-pandemic era has further diminished organic interactions between students and teachers. Learning is increasingly reduced to a means of securing employment, while its broader purpose—to cultivate critical, scientific, humanitarian, and secular consciousness capable of challenging and transforming society—has been undermined.

The commercialisation and commodification of education—often justified in the name of modularisation for essentialist skills, employability, and efficiency of delivery within fixed timescales to maximise profit—has undermined the emancipatory foundations of education. The marketisation of education has also fuelled the empire of student loans, turning access to education into a source of lifelong debt trap that stripes away the dignity of students and their creative abilities.

The capitalist framework of education, along with its alienating conditions, is deeply embedded in different forms of vi-

olence. Capitalism, feudalism, and patriarchal structures of control continuously produce and reproduce the conditions that sustain such violence. Student violence emerges as an outcome of these systemic injustices, a manifestation of a criminalising environment that forces students to adopt violent means to express themselves.

The criminalisation of students and the deployment of armed policing cannot resolve issues of student violence, as these are not merely law-and-order problems. Nor can they be adequately addressed by reducing them to mental health issues. The roots of student violence run far deeper than surface-level explanations suggest. Casual analyses that link student violence solely to mental health or criminality represent a grave injustice, perpetuated by narrow and essentialist legal frameworks.

The struggle against the alienating conditions of capitalist education is inherently a struggle against capitalism and its structures shaped by profit, patriarchy, and power. Peaceful and fair societies produce peaceful campuses that enable students to think and express freely to achieve their creative abilities without any forms of barriers.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Call for self-reliance

Sir, This refers to "Additional 25% tariff from today," Orissa POST, August 27. The inevitability of punitive 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the United States will undoubtedly inflict sharp pain on India's export sector, with far-reaching ramifications across industries. Rising costs and reduced competitiveness are harsh realities exporters must grapple with. Yet, when the question of economic sovereignty arises, such challenges must be viewed not merely as setbacks but as opportunities to strengthen resilience and pursue new pathways of growth. Reports suggesting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi declined to respond to four phone calls from President Donald Trump, if true, reflect a resolute stance. By refusing to sacrifice the interests of India's farmers, livestock and dairy sectors, and small-scale industries under coercive trade agreements, Modi underscored the primacy of protecting domestic welfare. Instead of capitulating, India must explore alternative markets, diversify its trade base, and foster greater self-reliance. Such a course will not only shield the most vulnerable sections of society but also enhance India's long-term economic autonomy. In adversity lies the chance to consolidate strength, and India's refusal to yield sets the stage for a more self-sustained, confident future.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Protect federalism

Sir, This refers to "BJP-ruled states in SC defend powers of Gov, Prez for Bills," Orissa POST, August 27. In my opinion the offices of Governors and President should not be allowed to function arbitrarily. The Bills passed by an elected government shall be deemed to be in the interest of the people of the state and under no circumstances the same should be stalled either by the Governor or the President beyond the reasonable period of time without showing sufficient reason. In order to protect the federal structure of the country, the apex court can certainly intervene as otherwise the unilateral decision of the constitutional heads may affect the welfare of any state, which is not legally permissible. In a democratic country everybody should be loyal to the Constitution.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Onam relief: Rice for quarter million students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 27: Bringing festive cheer ahead of Onam, the Kerala government has announced that nearly 24.7 lakh schoolchildren will receive four kg of rice each under the state's mid-day meal scheme.

General Education Minister V Sivankutty launched the state-level distribution on Tuesday at Cotton Hill School in Thiruvananthapuram.

"Onam is a festival that fills our hearts with joy and prosperity. This is not a charity, but the right of every child," the minister said, highlighting that food is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution and recognised by the United Nations.

The scheme covers all students from pre-primary to Class 8 who are enrolled in the mid-day meal programme.



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A total of 9,910 metric tonnes of rice will be distributed across 12,024 schools, with support from the Food Department and the Civil Supplies Corporation

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V SIVANKUTTY | GENERAL EDUCATION MINISTER, KERALA

A total of 9,910 metric tonnes of rice will be distributed across 12,024 schools, with support from the Food Department and the Civil Supplies Corporation.

Sivankutty noted that the mid-day meal scheme, which gained statutory protection under the 2013 National Food

Security Act, has been crucial in ensuring that children receive nutritious food alongside education.

"No child can learn on an empty stomach. Education is about overall growth, both

physical and mental. It is our collective responsibility to ensure children receive proper nutrition along with quality learning," he said.

The minister added that the initiative symbolises care and social responsibility. "Every child deserves recognition and consideration from society. Through this pro-

Top Kerala Police official dies on day of official farewell

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 27: Kerala's Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mahipal Yadav passed away Wednesday while undergoing treatment for a brain tumour at a private hospital in Jaipur.

His demise came just days before his scheduled retirement August 30, and on the very day when an official farewell was to be held at the Kerala Police Headquarters.

A 1997-batch IPS officer, Yadav had served in various key positions during his career, including Inspector General of Ernakulam Range, Managing Director of Kerala State Beverages Corporation, and Excise Commissioner.



Known for his integrity, professionalism, and commitment to public service, he was widely respected across the police force and the civil administration. In a condolence message, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described Yadav's passing as "deeply saddening".

Remembering him as an officer who upheld sincerity and dedication throughout his illustrious career, he said that Mahipal Yadav was committed to the people and unwavering in implementing the policies and programmes of the state government.

"Through his integrity and leadership, he remained an exemplary figure and a model for others to emulate. His demise is an irreparable loss," said Vijayan. The Chief Minister conveyed heartfelt sympathies to his family and close relatives, expressing solidarity with them in their grief. Colleagues recall Yadav as a firm yet compassionate leader who combined administrative efficiency with a strong sense of responsibility toward society.

Migrants anchor Kerala's fisheries

According to a study by CMFRI, migrant labourers form backbone of Kerala's marine fisheries with nearly 58% share in the sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, August 27: Migrant labourers constitute the majority of Kerala's marine fisheries workforce, accounting for nearly 58 per cent of the sector, according to a new study by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

The research, covering harvest, post-harvest, and market segments, highlights the critical role of migrant workers in sustaining the state's fishing economy.

The findings, part of a national project on the changing dynamics of labour migration in Indian marine fisheries, were presented at a consultative workshop held at CMFRI Wednesday.

The study revealed that Munambam harbour in Ernakulam district has Kerala's highest concentration of migrant labourers in the mechanised fishing sector, with 78 per cent of the workforce hailing from outside the state.



The study revealed that Munambam harbour in Ernakulam district has Kerala's highest concentration of migrant labourers in the mechanised fishing sector, with 78% of the workforce hailing from outside the state. Most of them come from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Odisha

Most of them come from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Odisha. Migrants also constitute 50 per cent of workers in post-harvest units and 40 per cent in fish markets.

A key concern flagged by the study is the waning interest of younger generations, both locals and migrants, in pursuing livelihoods in the marine sector, raising questions about

the long-term sustainability of the labour force.

The research also highlighted sharp contrasts in expenditure and lifestyle.

While native workers spend 20-30 per cent of their income on savings, education, and housing, migrants remit up to 75 per cent of their earnings back home.

Many live on boats or in

makeshift shelters with minimal spending on housing or amenities in Kerala.

Migrant incomes were found to be consistently lower, averaging Rs 25,000 per month in harvest centres compared to natives' Rs 30,000, and as little as Rs 11,000 in post-harvest jobs.

Despite their dominance, migrant workers remain highly vulnerable, facing exploitation, health risks, and a lack of social security.

Native labourers, meanwhile, struggle with inadequate income, indebtedness, off-season unemployment, and limited credit access.

Migrants additionally deal with identity crises, isolation, and occasional conflicts with local workers.

The study "Labour Mobility Grid" identified poverty and unemployment in source states as key push factors, while higher wages and demand in Kerala serve as strong pull factors.

Fisheries Deputy Director Dr Maja Jose assured that the government would consider measures to address the concerns of migrant workers.

CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George called for urgent policy interventions in housing, health coverage, education support, and livelihood diversification to ensure labour welfare in the fisheries sector.

SC stray dog ruling: Rajasthan acts first



According to the order, sterilisation, rabies vaccination, and deworming centres will be established in every city

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 27: Following the Supreme Court's directive on stray dogs, the Rajasthan government has taken the "lead" in managing the animals more systematically.

The Department of Autonomous Governance has issued strict instructions to all municipal corporations, councils, and municipalities, making compliance with the Stray Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules 2023 mandatory.

Under this, feeding points for dogs will now be marked in every ward and locality, with urban bodies directed to coordinate with resident welfare associations and animal welfare organisations.

Even in cases of rabies, arrangements for food and water will be ensured at these feeding spots. Ravi Jain, Secretary, Local Self Government Department, said, "Rajasthan is the first state in the country to issue such comprehensive orders balancing public safety and animal welfare after the Supreme Court's decision."

All municipal bodies will have to send their compliance reports to the state government within 30 days.

According to the order, ster-

ilisation, rabies vaccination, and deworming centres will be established in every city.

Stray dogs will be treated, sterilised, tagged, and then released in the same locality.

To ensure transparency, CCTV cameras will be installed in operating theatres and ABC centres.

Only trained teams will be authorised to catch dogs, either with nets or by hand, and no dog below six months of age will be sterilised.

The government has also directed the formation of monitoring committees in every city comprising NGO members and animal welfare workers, who will regularly review the process.

Keeping records of sterilisation, vaccination, deaths, and feeding will be mandatory.

According to the Animal Welfare Board of India, Rs 200 has been fixed for catching each dog and Rs 1,450 for sterilisation, food, and post-operation care.

Last week, the Supreme Court stressed that "a blanket direction to pick up all the strays and place them in dog shelters/pounds without evaluating the existing infrastructure may lead to a catch-22 situation because such directions may be impossible to comply with".

It said that sterilised, dewormed, and vaccinated dogs should be released back to their original localities, in line with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.

Rajasthan is the first state in the country to issue such comprehensive orders balancing public safety and animal welfare after the Supreme Court's decision

RAVI JAIN | SECRETARY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, RAJASTHAN

SPORTS PUSH

Cricket stadiums in all Rajasthan districts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 27: Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) will construct cricket stadiums at all 33 district cricket centres of the state to strengthen grassroots cricket and provide world-class facilities to young players.

This was announced by RCA Adhoc Committee Convener, DD Kumawat. He said the state government has entrusted the newly formed RCA Adhoc Committee with the responsibility of reviving cricket in Rajasthan, creating infrastructure, and giving young players opportunities to perform in high-level competitions.

"Our committee is making continuous efforts to fulfil this responsibility. District-level stadiums will not only help players train in professional conditions but also enable

RCA to organise state-level tournaments across districts," Kumawat added.

The RCA Adhoc Committee has prepared a blueprint for district-level stadiums and constituted a 7-member Ground and Stadium Development Committee under the chairmanship of Ashish Tiwari.

The committee will identify suitable land, oversee allocation, lease agreements, and ensure timely construction with support from District Cricket Associations and CSR funds. Ground and Stadium Development Committee Members include Ashish Tiwari as chairman, with other members. The RCA Adhoc Committee stated that the Cricket Ground and Stadium Development Committee, headed by Ashish Tiwari, will identify land for stadiums at all 33 district centres of the state.

RPSC bars 415 for life from recruitment exams

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 27: The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) has taken tough action against candidates caught indulging in fraudulent means to secure government jobs.

To protect the interests of genuine aspirants, the Commission has so far debarred 524 candidates from appearing in its recruitment examinations, out of which 415 have been banned for life and 109 for a period ranging from one to five years.

The major reasons behind the action include fake documents and degrees, especially fake B.Ed. certificates (157 cases), use of unfair means in examinations (148 cases), impersonation or dummy candidates (68 cases), cheating with the help of Bluetooth or mobile devices (38 cases), and

FAKE DEGREES, UNFAIR MEANS



misuse of question papers or OMR sheets (62 cases).

Apart from these, 51 candidates have been debarred for other reasons, such as disruption during exams and furnishing wrong information in forms.

The Commission has also barred candidates from out-

side Rajasthan, including 10 from states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.

Meanwhile, RPSC has intensified its monitoring of applicants using multiple SSO IDs to apply for exams. Such candidates, found trying to appear in different sessions

of the same examination, have also been disqualified.

To prevent duplication and ensure proper identity verification, RPSC launched an e-KYC system from July 7, 2025, making Aadhaar or Jan Aadhaar mandatory for One Time Registration (OTR). So far, 48,667 candidates have completed e-KYC out of 10.33 lakh who had registered with SSO IDs.

RPSC Secretary Ramniwas Mehta also revealed that the Commission has received complaints regarding the misuse of the divorced women's quota through fake divorce certificates. Some candidates allegedly obtained divorce decrees by collusion to claim reservation benefits.

The Commission has sought investigations into such cases, and action will be taken on the basis of reports submitted by the concerned agencies.

Kerala gears up for longest tunnel road inauguration

Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi tunnel road is being hailed as a landmark project that will redefine Kerala's connectivity and regional growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug 27: Kerala is set to mark a major milestone in its infrastructure development with the launch of the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi tunnel road project August 31.

Once completed, the tunnel will reduce the distance between Anakkampoyil (Kozhikode district) and Meppadi (Wayanad district) from around 50 km to just 22 km, ending the



long-standing hardships of commuters traveling through the ghat road.

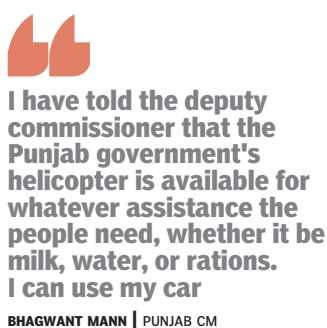
More importantly, the tunnel will provide a seamless route linking Kerala with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, significantly easing inter-state travel.

It is expected to emerge as a historic achievement, paving the way for the comprehensive development of the high-range regions. Announcing this, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday said the

much-awaited project, cleared after securing mandatory environmental approvals, promises to transform connectivity in the Malabar region (north Kerala including Wayanad).

"The tunnel road, implemented under the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) initiative, will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 2,134.5 crore. Spanning 8.73 km, the project includes a twin tunnel of 8.1 km, the longest of its kind in the state," said Vijayan.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.I, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: sernb1.ganjam@yahoo.com
No. B-426 **"e" Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. SE R&B Divn. No. I Bam 04/2025-26
Lr. No. 10237
Name of Work : E.I. Work
No. of Works : 20 (Twenty) Nos.
Estimated Cost : Approximately Rs.29 82 lakh
Period of Completion : 3 (Months) to 1 (One) year
Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 hours of 02.09.2025 to 16.00 hours of 09.09.2025
Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 16.00 hours of 09.09.2025
Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No. I, Berhampur
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
OIPR-34109/11/0035/2526
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Ganjam (R&B) Division No. I
Berhampur

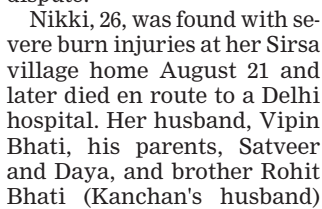


As many as thirty Naxalites, 20 of them carrying a collective bounty of ₹79 lakh, surrendered in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh Wednesday, police said. The cadres include nine women, an officer said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In 2020, after an alleged assault, a case was registered against Rohit and his family. A village panchayat reportedly suggested returning ₹35 lakh, which Meenakshi's family claimed to have spent on the wedding, to facilitate her remarriage or accepting her back



According to an officer, who is part of the probe, the inflammable solution found in Nikki's room has been sent for forensic analysis. Police are also collating and examining multiple short video clips, which are surfacing in the public domain in connection with the August 21 incident.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

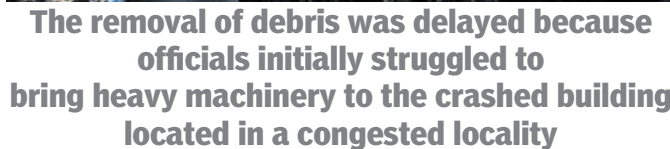


PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amid a shortage of available pilots compared to the rising demand spurred by aviation sector growth, the proposal has been made by IATA. In a working paper titled Proposal to Raise the Multi-Pilot Commercial Air Transport Pilots

Commercial Air Transport Pilot Age Limit to 67 years", IATA said the growth of the aviation industry worldwide is causing the demand for pilots to outstrip supply. "Raising CAT (Commercial Air Transport) pilot age limits to allow more pilots to continue to work is aligned with 15 of the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the initiative of the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) Programme to ensure a sufficient supply, whether recruiting older candidates or retaining existing pilots, of qualified aviation professionals for the future," it said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



District Collector Indu Rani

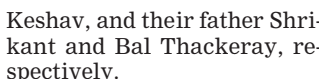
Luckily, the chawl or tenement on which the building collapsed was vacant, said Vivekanand Kadam, District Disaster Management Officer of Palghar. As a precautionary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray and his mother Rashmi accompanied Uddhav during the visit, which comes nearly two months after the long estranged cousins shared a stage in Mumbai after several years.

Uddhav and Raj Thackeray are paternal as well as maternal cousins --- their mothers were sisters.

One of the striking photographs was Raj and Uddhav Thackeray posing behind a portrait of their grandfather



The photo sought to send a message that the Thackerays

were together despite the two cousins charting their own political course since two decades now. This was at least the third publicly known interaction

and retire May 27, 2033.

Born April 13, 1964, Justice Aradhe was appointed as an additional judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court December 29, 2009, and as a permanent judge February 15, 2011.

He was transferred to the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and took oath September 20, 2016.

He was appointed as the acting chief justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir May 11, 2018.

Justice Aradhe was transferred to the Karnataka High Court, where he took oath as a judge November 17, 2018.

He assumed charge as the acting chief justice of the Karnataka High Court July 3, 2022, and functioned as such up to October 14, 2022.

He was appointed as the chief justice of the Telangana

High Court July 19, 2023, and took the oath of office July 23, 2023. Justice Aradhe was transferred as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and assumed charge January 21 this year.

He was enrolled as an advocate July 12, 1988, and dealt with civil and constitutional, arbitration and company matters in the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

He was designated as a senior advocate in April 2007. Born May 28, 1968, in Ahmedabad, Justice Pancholi was elevated as an additional judge of the Gujarat High Court October 1, 2014, and was confirmed as a permanent judge June 10, 2016. He was transferred to the Patna High Court and took oath as a judge July 24, 2023. Justice Pancholi became the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court July 21 this year.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, August 27: Maratha quota movement leader Manoj Jangne left for Mumbai Wednesday to launch a fresh hunger strike, but agreed to meet a government delegation near Pune on his way to the state capital.

While the 43-year-old activist has announced that he would sit on an indefinite fast at Azad Maidan in Mumbai from August 29, police granted him permission to stage his agitation there only for a day, with the number of protesters not exceeding 5,000. Speaking to reporters at his village Antarwali Sarathi in Jalna district, over 400 km from the state capital, Jarange assured that his supporters would protest peacefully and not disrupt the Ganesh festival.

Jarange has been demanding that all Marathas be recognised as Kunbis – an agrarian caste included in the OBC category – which will make them eligible for reservation in government jobs and education.

together

Together
ical survival

Both the parties have dropped enough hints of forging an alliance for the local body polls, but they have not yet announced a formal tie up.

After quitting the undivided Shiv Sena in 2005, Raj Thackeray formed the MNS in 2006, but the party has been largely a marginal player in Maharashtra politics.

On the other hand, Uddhav Thackeray has been heading the Shiv Sena, which suffered a split in June 2022, since 2013 after becoming its president. Uddhav Thackeray reached the pinnacle of his political career in November 2019 when he came chief minister with support from the Congress and undivided NCP.



Being aatmnirbhar (self-reliant) does not mean stopping imports. The world moves because it is interdependent. So export-import will continue. However, there should be no pressure in it

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS STRANDED IN CHAMBA

Thousands of devotees undertaking the Manimahesh Yatra, which was suspended Monday in the wake of heavy rains, are stranded in many places in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba, local MLAs said



NATURE'S FURY



People stand near a partially damaged bridge as the Jhelum river flows in spate due to heavy rainfall in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir



People stranded in a waterlogged area in Anantnag



An army helicopter on a building's rooftop during a rescue operation as the Ravi river flows in spate near Madhopur Headworks, at Madhopur in Pathankot, Punjab



Relief and rescue operation underway in Jammu and Pathankot regions



Restoration work underway after the Aru-Pahalgam bridge was damaged following heavy rainfall



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during his visit to the 4th Tawi Bridge as it gets damaged after relentless rainfall, at Bagwati Nagar, Jammu

SHORT TAKES

Lawyers strike to continue

New Delhi: The lawyers' strike in Delhi district courts will continue Thursday and Friday to protest against a notification issued by Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena, allowing police to virtually present evidence in courts from police stations, a communication said. The advocates have been abstaining from work completely for five days since August 22. A communication from the New Delhi Bar Association (NDBA) said, "It has been unanimously decided to continue to completely abstain from work August 28 and 29 in all the district courts of Delhi against the arbitrary notification dated August 13 issued by the LG of Delhi."

Finnish president speaks to PM Modi

New Delhi: Finland's President Alexander Stubb Tuesday reiterated his country's support for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement in a phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A PMO statement said the two leaders also reviewed progress in the India-Finland bilateral relationship and reaffirmed their commitment to enhance partnership in emerging fields, including quantum technologies, 6G, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and sustainability.

Saurabh slams ED

New Delhi: AAP Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj Wednesday accused ED officers of "trying" to tamper with his statement and alleged that Lt Governor VK Saxena had "hatched a conspiracy" to frame him.

'India, US keep channels open amid tariff issue'

According to the sources, there is no need for panic for exporters as the impact of these high tariffs are unlikely to be as severe as feared given the diversified nature of Indian exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Communication channels between India and the US are open to resolve the ongoing tariff issues, and the glitch in trade ties is only temporary, given the long-term relationship between the two nations, government sources said Wednesday.

The US's 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports to America came into effect from August 27, barring a few sectors.

According to the sources, there is no need for panic for exporters as the impact of these high tariffs are unlikely to be as severe as feared given the diversified nature of Indian exports.

They added that India's exports to the US during the first four months of this fiscal year has risen 21.64 per cent to USD 33.53 billion. Going by the trend, the exports may touch the last year's figure (\$ 86.5 billion), one of the sources said.

"Communication channels are open between India and the US to resolve the ongoing tariff issues... it is a temporary phase in a long-term relationship," they said. Meanwhile, in an interview with Fox Business, US Treasury Secretary Scott



Bessent has described the India-US relationship as "very complicated" but hoped that "at the end of the day, we will come together".

"This is a very complicated relationship. President (Donald) Trump or Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi have very good relationships at that level. And it's not just over the Russian oil," Bessent said.

His comments came hours after the additional 25 per cent penalty imposed by Trump on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect from August 27, bringing the total amount of levies on New Delhi to 50 per cent.

Sources added that there are positive signals coming from both sides and "we need to build upon that".

They also said the government is working on measures to insulate domestic exporters from the impact of the US tariffs. The commerce ministry is holding a series of stakeholder consultations this week from sectors such as chemicals, gems and jewellery to discuss ways

to push India's exports in new markets.

Work is also progressing fast on the formulation of the Export Promotion Mission, announced in the Budget for 2025-26. "In the next 2-3 days, the ministry will meet stakeholders on the diversification of exports," an official said.

The steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering the US, which came into effect from August 27, will impact India's exports worth more than \$48 billion to America.

The sectors, which would bear the brunt of high import duties imposed by the Trump administration include textiles/clothing, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather and footwear, animal products, chemicals, and electrical and mechanical machinery.

Sectors such as pharma, energy products and electronic goods are out of the ambit of these sweeping duties.

The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's USD 437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25.

Why Vaishno Devi shrine board didn't stop pilgrims despite bad weather: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 27: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday questioned the decision of the Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, under the control of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, to allow the pilgrimage to continue despite warnings of heavy downpour.

The death toll in the Vaishno Devi landslide has gone up to 34, officials said Wednesday, a day after the disaster struck the route on the hilltop shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

Speaking to reporters, Abdullah criticised the apathetic approach of the authorities. "We will have to talk about it later. When we knew about the weather, should we not have taken certain steps to save those lives?" he asked. "The weather warning had come to us a few days ago."

The landslide, triggered by incessant heavy rain, occurred Tuesday around 3 pm on the old 12-km trek from the base camp of Katra to the hilltop shrine, catching many pilgrims by surprise.

Authorities had suspended the pilgrimage on the new Himkot trek route Tuesday morning, but it continued on the old route until 1:30 pm.

"Why were these people on the track? Why were they not stopped? Why were they not moved to a safe place?" Abdullah asked. "This has to be discussed later. We feel sorrow over the loss of 29 to 30 precious lives." The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was set up in

The death toll in the Vaishno Devi landslide has gone up to 34, officials said Wednesday, a day after the disaster struck the route on the hilltop shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district

1986 under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Act, 1988, for management and governance.

When Jammu and Kashmir was a state, the governor was the ex officio chairman of the board. After the 2019 reorganisation of the state, the L-G is the chairman.

Last year, 98.4 lakh pilgrims visited the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine from the rest of the country and the world.

Meanwhile, the water levels in the swollen rivers across Jammu showed signs of receding. However, the flood alert mark was breached by the Jhelum in Anantnag and Srinagar, and water entered several residential areas. This prompted authorities to assure residents that they are monitoring the situation and people should not panic.

Massive damage has been reported to public infrastructure, including several key bridges, private houses and commercial establishments, due to overflowing of water bodies and flash floods across the Union Territory, officials said.

Cabinet approves four railway projects worth ₹12,328 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved four railway projects with a cost of Rs 12,328 crore, a government press note said Wednesday.

The projects comprise the construction of a new rail line connecting Deshalpar-Hajipir-Luna, and Vayor and Lakhpat, a third and fourth line between Secunderabad (Sanathnagar)-Wadi, a third line from Bhagalpur to Jamalpur, and doubling of the Furkating-New Tinsukia line. The projects will provide connectivity, reduce logistics costs, and decrease the railways' dependence on oil imports, a press note said. The construction of the new lines will contribute to lower CO2 emissions and will generate direct employment for about 251 lakh human-days, it said. A line will provide connectivity to far-fetched areas of the Kutch



region, adding 145 km and 164 km of tracks to the existing railway network in Gujarat, it said.

The estimated cost of the lines there is Rs 2,526 crore, with a three-year construction deadline.

"Besides promoting tourism in the state of Gujarat, the new rail line will help in the transportation of salt, cement, coal, clinker & bentonite. The strategic importance of the project is that it will provide connectivity to Rann of Kutch," the government said.

of the day


quote

Beijing hope that the US will act on President Trump's commitment to welcoming Chinese students... (and) stop groundlessly harassing, interrogating or repatriating them, and earnestly protect their legitimate and lawful rights and interests




GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

I beg for a permanent ceasefire to be reached, the safe entry of humanitarian aid to be facilitated, and humanitarian law to be fully respected



POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

Army Chief Asim Munir is power-hungry, which is why he has imposed the worst kind of dictatorship in Pakistan. Munir neither understands morality nor Islam



IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Passenger bus crash in Afghanistan kills 25

Islamabad: A passenger bus overturned in Afghanistan's capital early Wednesday, killing at least 25 people, a Taliban official said. It happened early in the morning in the Arghandi area of Kabul. The bus was coming from southern Afghanistan with passengers from Helmand and Kandahar. Reckless driving caused the accident, which also injured 27 people, Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Mateen Qani said. The accident comes less than a week after a crash that killed about 80 people in the western province of Herat.

New Indian Consulate chancery inaugurated


Houston/ Seattle: The new chancery of the Consulate General of India in Seattle has been inaugurated by the Ambassador of India to the US, Vinay Kwatra. The chancery is located at 1015 2nd Avenue in the historic Federal Reserve Building, spread across the first and 11th floors. While the first floor houses the Consular Section for public services, the 11th floor accommodates the Administrative and Commercial wings, the consulate said in a press release Tuesday. The building, which functioned as the Seattle branch of the Federal Bank of San Francisco between 1951 and 2008, has been listed on the US National Register of Historic Places since 2013.

Taiwan rattled by 6 magnitude quake

Taipei: A magnitude 6 earthquake struck in the sea off the northeast coast of Taiwan Wednesday, the island's weather administration said, with no reports of damage. The quake briefly shook buildings in the capital, Taipei. The quake, some 20 km (12.4 miles) offshore from Yilan county, had a depth of 112 km (70 miles), the weather administration said. Taiwan's fire department said it had received no reports of damage.

Russia, China conduct joint patrol in Pacific

Moscow: The Russian and Chinese navies have carried out their first-ever joint patrol in the Pacific region, according to a media report Wednesday. "The joint patrol was launched in early August, after the Russian-Chinese drills Maritime Interaction 2025 had concluded in the Sea of Japan," the state-run TASS news agency reported.



Many efforts are going on to make people forget 1971...those who helped the enemies at that time are now speaking loudly

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR | BNP LEADER, BANGLADESH

PAK PROVINCE FACES FLOOD EMERGENCY

Thousands of people were evacuated to safer areas across Pakistan's Punjab province, which is facing an unprecedented flood emergency owing to a combination of heavy rains and waters released by India from two dams, officials said Wednesday. Over 250,000 people from areas along the rivers such as the Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej that are facing "exceptionally high floods" have been evacuated so far



Shooting at Catholic school left 3 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minneapolis, August 27: A gunman opened fire with a rifle through the windows of a Catholic church and struck a group of children celebrating Mass during the first week of school, killing two and wounding 17 in an act of violence the police chief called "absolutely incomprehensible."

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said the shooter — armed with a rifle, shotgun and pistol — approached the side of the church and shot through the windows toward the children sitting in the pews during Mass at the Annunciation Catholic School.

O'Hara said the shooting suspect is dead and in his early 20s and does not have an extensive known criminal history. Officials are looking into his motive.

"This was a deliberate act of violence against innocent children and other people worshipping. The sheer cruelty and cowardice of firing into a church full of children is absolutely incomprehensible," said the police chief, who noted that a wooden plank was placed to barricade some of the side doors.

The children who died were 8 and 10, he said.

Children's Minnesota, a pediatric trauma hospital, said in a statement five children were admitted for care. Hennepin Healthcare, which has Minnesota's largest emergency department, said it also was caring for patients from the shooting.



INDIA-US TARIFF ISSUE

'At the end of the day, we will come together'

US treasury secretary comments came hours after the additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by Trump on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect, bringing the total amount of levies imposed on New Delhi to 50 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, August 27: Describing the India-US relationship as "very complicated", US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent Wednesday hoped that "at the end of the day, we will come together."

"This is a very complicated relationship. President (Donald) Trump or Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi have very good relationships at that level. And it's not just over the Russian oil," Bessent said in an interview with Fox Business.

Stressing that India is the world's largest democracy and the US is the world's largest economy, he said, "I think at the end of the day, we will come together."

His comments came hours after the additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by Trump on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect, bringing the total amount of levies imposed on New Delhi to 50 per cent.

Prime Minister Modi asserted Monday, he can't compromise on the interests of farmers, cattle-rearers, small-scale industries, cautioning "pressure on us may increase, but we will bear it."

Bessent said that he had thought the trade deal with India would be among the first ones that Washington would sign, but that has not happened.

"The Indians came in very early after Liberation Day to start negotiating on tariffs, and we still don't have a deal," he said, referring to April 2, 2025, when Trump had announced



Our European allies need to step up. I don't see them threatening the tariffs on the Indians. As a matter of fact, they're the ones buying the refined products that's made from the Russian oil

SCOTT BESSENT | US TREASURY SECRETARY

Washington would impose sweeping tariffs on nations around the world.

Bessent added that he had thought that "we would have a deal" with India in May and June. "I thought India could be one of the earlier deals. And they kind of tapped us along in terms of the negotiations. And then there is also the aspect of the Russian crude purchases, which they've been profiteering on. So there are many levels going on here."

He said, "I think at the end of the day, we will come together."

"I think a lot of it by the Indians has been performative but I've said this all along during the tariff negotiations, the US is the deficit country," he said.

He said when there is a

IRAN SANCTIONS

IAEA chief gets police protection over threats

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, August 27: The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is receiving special police protection from Austria following a threat, the Vienna-based organisation acknowledged Wednesday, as its inspectors reportedly returned to Iran to monitor a fuel transfer at the country's sole nuclear power plant.

The protection for Director-General Rafael Grossi comes as tensions over Iran's nuclear programme are rising again. France, Germany and the United Kingdom appear poised to declare "snapback" — the reimplementation of United Nations sanctions on the Islamic Republic over it not allowing IAEA inspections, and other concerns.

Iran has until August 31 to satisfy those concerns. Questions remain following the 12-day

Iran-Israel war in June over the status of Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which could be enough for several atomic bombs if Tehran chooses to build them. Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only. Elite police unit guards Grossi

Grossi, who plans to run for United Nations secretary-general, is being protected by an Austrian police Cobra unit.

The elite unit under the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior mainly handles counterterrorism operations, hostage rescues and responses to mass shootings. It also engages in personal protection and protection of Austrian foreign representations abroad. In Austria, Cobra operatives are known for protecting the president and chancellor as well as the US and Israeli ambassadors.

Indians lead surge in sex crime convictions among foreigners in UK

Indian nationals logged a 72-case increase between 2021 and 2024, reflecting a 257 per cent hike amid an overall 62 per cent increase in foreign nationals being convicted of sexual offences during that period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 27: Indians have emerged as the nationality with the largest percentage increase in convictions for sexual offences in the UK amid a wider surge in foreigners being sentenced for such crimes over

the past four years in the country, according to an analysis of British government data.

Indian nationals logged a 72-case increase between 2021 and 2024, reflecting a 257 per cent hike amid an overall 62 per cent increase in foreign nationals being convicted of sexual offences during that period.

The figures are based on UK Ministry of Justice data drawn from the Police National Computer and then analysed by the anti-immigration think tank Centre for Migration Control (CMC).

"The number of foreign nationals convicted of sexual offences increased by 62 per cent between 2021 and 2024 — jumping from 687 to 1,114. The British convictions rate for these crimes increased by 39.31 per



cent over the same time period," the CMC states in its analysis this week.

According to the think tank's tally, Indians have remained at the top end of this chart since 2021, when 28 such

offences were logged, followed by 53 in 2022, 67 in 2023 and 100 last year.

Nigerians with a 166 per cent increase in cases, Iraqis at 160 per cent, Sudanese at 117 per cent and Afghans at 115 per cent

Israeli tanks close in on Gaza City, Trump to chair meeting



REUTERS

Cairo, August 27: Israeli tanks pushed into a new area on the edge of Gaza City overnight, destroying houses and prompting residents to flee, witnesses said, ahead of an expected meeting on the war to be chaired by US President Donald Trump Wednesday.

Tanks late Tuesday entered into the Ebad-Alrahman neighbourhood on the northern edge of Gaza City and shelled houses, wounding several people and forcing many others, who had been taken by surprise, to move deeper into Gaza's largest city, residents said.

"All of a sudden, we heard that the tanks pushed into Ebad-Alrahman, the sounds of explosions became louder, and louder, and we saw people escaping towards our area," said Saad Abed, 60, a former construction worker.

"If no truce is reached, we will see the tanks outside our homes," he told Reuters via a chat app from his house in Jala Street in Gaza City, around one kilometre (0.6 mile) from the Ebad-Alrahman neighbourhood. Israel has said it is prepar-

ing to launch a new offensive in Gaza City, which it describes as Hamas' last bastion. Around half of the enclave's two million people are currently living there and Israel has said they will be told to evacuate.

Thousands have already left, but church leaders in the city said Wednesday they were

staying put, as leaving Gaza City and "trying to flee to the south would be nothing less than a death sentence".

In a statement Wednesday, the Israeli military's Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee said "evacuating Gaza City is inevitable" and Israel had begun facilitating the entry

of tents into the enclave.

"Before transitioning to the next phase in the war, I wish to confirm that there are vast empty areas in the southern Strip, just as is the case in the central camps and in Al-Mawasi. These areas are free of tents," he said, addressing residents' concerns over lack of space in central and southern areas.

Palestinian and United Nations officials said the Gaza Strip was in need of around 1.5 million new tents.

ISRAELI TANKS ENTER EBAD-ALRAHMAN IN GAZA CITY, SHELL HOUSES, RESIDENTS FLEE


CHURCH LEADERS IN GAZA CITY REFUSE TO EVACUATE AMID CONFLICT

TRUMP TO CHAIR MEETING ON GAZA, AIMS FOR RESOLUTION BY YEAR-END

of the day

QUOTE

We are also moving the needle from the smartphone era to the AI phone era. This requires a new platform. AI is becoming the new user interface for consumers



MOHAN RAO GOLI | MD, SRI-B

While global trade tensions pose challenges, Indian exporters are actively expanding into ASEAN, EU, and African markets, reducing dependence on traditional partners and sustaining long-term competitiveness



HEMANT JAIN | PRESIDENT, PHDCCI

Privatising IDBI Bank is nothing short of privatising people's savings. Nation-building requires strong public banks, not profiteering institutions



ARUNISH CHAWLA | SECRETARY, DIPAM

SHORT TAKES

PNB opens first startup branch

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Wednesday inaugurated its first startup-centric branch in New Delhi. Aligned with the Startup India initiative, this branch aims to promote entrepreneurship and supports innovation through services, including all facets of banking solutions, PNB said in a statement. The branch inauguration was done in presence of Arvind Kumar, Director General, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), and PNB MD & CEO Ashok Chandra. Further, an MoU was signed between PNB and STPI to extend financial support to eligible startups, it said. The MoU was signed by PNB General Manager Sudhir Dalal and STPI Director Subodh Sachan. Under this collaboration, STPI will play a pivotal role by sharing a curated list of incubated, onboarded, or graduated startups with the bank, acting as a bridge between the startups and financial institutions to facilitate access to PNB's startup-focused schemes and financial products, it said.

Commercial vehicle to grow 3-5 per cent

New Delhi: Commercial vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers are expected to witness a volume growth of 3-5 per cent year-on-year in the current fiscal, rating agency Icra said Wednesday. Domestic commercial vehicle wholesale volumes reported a moderate 6.1 per cent year-on-year increase in July 2025, even as volumes declined sequentially by 2.7 per cent. Within this, medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M&HCV) trucks and light commercial vehicle (LCV) trucks are expected to see modest growth in the range of 0-3 per cent and 3-5 per cent, respectively, during the year, it added. The buses segment, on the other hand, is likely to witness a comparatively higher growth of 8-10 per cent in FY2026, Icra stated. While an uptick in construction and mining activities and a steady economic environment are expected to support demand for the LCV and M&HCV truck segments, replacement demand is likely to drive growth in the buses category, it added. The segment could also benefit from higher institutional demand from state transport undertakings and private operators, aiding overall volume momentum in the second half of the fiscal, Icra said.



UNITED STATES

The US's new tariff regime marks one of the most severe trade shocks India has faced in recent years. With over two-thirds of India's \$86.5 billion exports to the US now subject to prohibitive 25-50 per cent duties, critical labour-intensive sectors

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | GTRI FOUNDER

JIO, AIRTEL ANNOUNCE RELIEF MEASURES FOR RAIN-HIT CUSTOMERS

Telecom operators, including Reliance Jio and Airtel, Wednesday announced relief measures for customers affected by heavy rains and severe weather in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh, offering a three-day validity extension for prepaid mobile users with plans expiring this week and a grace period on postpaid bill payments. To ensure uninterrupted digital access during this period, Jio is implementing the customer-centric measures, it said



Silver hits fresh peak of ₹1.20 lakh/kg; gold climbs ₹500

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Silver prices surged by Rs 2,000 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,20,000 per kilogram in the national capital Wednesday, as traders flocked to safe-haven assets after the steep US tariff on Indian products came into effect. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal had rallied Rs 3,000 to Rs 1,18,000 per kg Tuesday. In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent purity climbed by Rs 500 to Rs 1,01,270 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Wednesday. The precious metal had settled at Rs 1,00,770 per 10



grams in the previous market close. Additionally, the yellow metal of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 400 to Rs 1,00,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all

dictability following President Donald Trump's dismissal of Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook," Renisha Chainani, Head - Research at Augmont, said. The action has increased doubts about the Fed's independence and capacity to set monetary policy without interference from politics, Chainani added. Globally, spot gold is trading 0.55 per cent lower at \$3,375.08 per ounce in New York. According to the commodities market experts, the yellow metal had rallied on Monday after Trump's announcement that Fed Governor Lisa Cook be removed from her post immediately over allegations of mortgage fraud. The dollar tumbled after Trump's move, also benefiting bullion prices in the overseas markets. Later, the greenback recouped its losses and weighed on the precious metal as Cook argued that Trump had no authority for the firing, they added. Earlier this year, President Trump had also threatened to fire Fed Chair Jerome Powell, whom he has repeatedly criticised for not cutting interest rates. Spot silver also slipped 1 per cent to trade at \$38.23 per ounce.

GST Council may end compensation cess

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 27: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, scheduled to meet September 3, will likely discuss ending the compensation cess by October 31, ahead of schedule. The GST compensation cess was set to end March 31, 2026. Discussions, however, have started to conclude the cess collection earlier, as the loans taken during the Covid-19 pandemic to compensate states for revenue shortfalls are approaching full repayment, according to multiple media reports. The repayment is expected to be completed around October 18, but the government may extend the levy until the end of October for smooth operations. Reports citing government sources indicated that the cess collection may result in a surplus of about Rs 2,000-3,000 crore to be shared equally between the Centre and the states. The law mandated the cess for compensation for only five years, as states worried they would lose tax revenue when GST was introduced in 2017. So the compensation cess was levied to make up for the shortfall of state revenue. The Centre borrowed Rs 2.69 lakh crore on behalf of the states



and provided it to them as loans to assist with financial management. However, the levy had been extended from June 2022 until March 2026 to service loans taken during the pandemic when revenues fell significantly. As per the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, the cess collection will have to end once the repayment of loans is finished. The Finance Ministry has sent its proposal to the GST Council for two GST rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent across all goods, which will replace the existing four slab structure. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that citizens will receive a double bonus this Diwali through a planned GST reform aimed at reducing prices of goods and services for the poor and middle class.

50% tariffs to severely impact labour intensive export sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The USA's steep 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods entering America will severely impact exports and job creation in labour-intensive export sectors such as shrimp, apparel, leather and gems and jewellery. Exporters said that the imposition of a 25 per cent penalty on India over and above the 25 per cent tariffs move will disrupt the flow of Indian goods to its largest export market. The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's \$437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25. The US is the largest trading partner of India from 2021-22. In 2024-25, the bilateral trade in goods stood at \$131.8 billion (\$86.5 billion exports and \$45.3 billion imports). "The 50 per cent tariff is like an economic sanction. It would lead to closure of units and job cuts," an exporter from the leather sector said. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC (Apparel Export Promotion Council), said the textiles sector, with exports of \$10.3 billion, is one of the worst-impacted sectors. "The industry was reconciled to the 25 per cent reciprocal tar-



iff announced by the USA, as it was prepared to absorb a part of the tariff increase. But, the additional burden of another 25 per cent...has effectively driven the Indian apparel industry out of the US market as the gap of 30-31 per cent tariff disadvantage vis-a-vis major competing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Indonesia is impossible to bridge," he said. Sharing similar views, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEP) Chairman Kirit Bhansali has said that there is a significant dependency on the US market. "For cut and polished diamonds, half of India's exports are US-bound. With this tariff hike, the entire industry may come to a standstill, placing immense pressure on every part of the value chain, from karigars (artisans) to large manufacturer," he has said adding competing manufacturing hubs such as Turkiye, Vietnam and Thailand continue to enjoy significantly, making Indian products relatively less competitive in the US market due to India's 50 per cent tariff. Another official from the diamond sector said that diamond cutting and polishing, which sustains lakhs of jobs across Gujarat's hinterland, especially Surat, Navsari, Bhavnagar and Jasdand. A Kolkata-based seafood exporter said that now India's shrimp will become "super" expensive in the US market, impacting the competitiveness of exporters.

Google Translate adds new features

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 27: Tech giant Google announced that it has added two new features to Google Translate that allow for real-time conversation translation and tailored language practice. "Using the advanced reasoning and multimodal capabilities of Gemini models, we're bringing two new features to Translate to help with live conversations and language learning," Google announced. The updated Google Translate App supports live, two-way conversations in over 70 languages, including Arabic, French, Hindi, Korean, Spanish, and Tamil, with audio and on-screen translations, a release said. To try it out, open the Translate App for Android or iOS, tap on "Live translate," select the languages you want to translate and begin speaking. The translation will be read aloud with an onscreen transcript of your conversation in both languages on your device. These new live translate capabilities are available starting today for users in the US, India and Mexico, and they use advanced speech recognition for clarity in noisy environments. "Google Translate's live capabilities use our advanced voice and speech recognition models, which are trained to help isolate sounds, even in busy airports or at a noisy cafe in a new country," the company said. Further, a Beta language practice feature will be rolled out this week with customised listening and speaking exercises for English speakers learning Spanish and French, as well as for Spanish, French and Portuguese speakers learning English. "To start, just tap 'Practice' in the App, set your skill level and goals, and Translate will generate customised scenarios for you to dive into. Learners can either listen to conversations or tap the words they hear to build comprehension, or they can practice speaking with helpful hints," the release said. The tech giant said that interactive practices are generated on the fly and intelligently adapt to the learner's skill level.

BAN BREAKS BIZ

Dream 11 loses 95% revenue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Dream Sports, the parent company of Dream 11, has said the new online gaming law resulted in loss of 95 per cent in group's revenue, but ruled out employee layoffs asserting it will concentrate efforts now on scaling portfolio companies including FanCode, DreamSetGo, Dream Game Studios and Dream Money. Dream Sports, in a statement said Dream11 has always followed and will continue to follow the law in letter and spirit. "While this change in law has resulted in a loss of approximately 95 per cent of our group's revenue, we remain committed to building a great Indian sports company, driven by AI and the creator economy," it said. Rebuilding business from the ground up will require the collective strength of people, it said assuring that as talent-first organisation, employees would not be laid off. "In parallel, we will sharpen our focus on scaling our other Dream Sports portfolio companies, namely FanCode, DreamSetGo, Dream Game Studios, and Dream Money, as part of our mission to 'Make Sports Better'," the statement said. The company further said it is deeply grateful for the continued support of users, partners, media and the wider ecosystem, and remains committed to navigating through these "tough times". Dream11 is also no longer the title sponsor of the Indian cricket team and the Board has initiated the process to



Dream11 is also no longer the title sponsor of the Indian cricket team and the Board has initiated the process to find a replacement.

The jolt to real money online gaming space came after Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 was passed by Parliament, banning on all forms of online money games, while promoting e-sports and online social games. Now an Act, after the President's nod, it aims to crack-down on rising instances of addiction, money laundering and financial fraud through such applications. Following the passage of the Bill in Parliament, online gaming platforms, including Dream11, My11Circle, WinZO, Zupee, and Nazara Technolo-

gies-backed PokerBaazi, have halted their real-money online gaming offerings. Last week, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said that online money gaming has become a serious social and public health issue, with proven significant negative impact on society. "Our endeavour is to promote e-sports and social gaming, online social gaming, and we would like India to become a game-making hub. For that, a lot of efforts are already being made," Vaishnaw said. The minister said so far as digital technologies go, online gaming has emerged as a "major sector" with three main segments. "Two segments, e-sports and online social gaming, are good for the society. We are promoting two out of three segments... These two will get legal recognition and they will be promoted. And this bill will create an authority which basically creates programs and schemes which promote e-sports and online social gaming," the minister had said.

MINERAL PUSH HIT

Poor response halts rare earth auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The government has cancelled the auction of five critical mineral blocks, including a rare earth element (REE) block in Karnataka, in the fifth round of auction due to poor response. There were no bids for three blocks -- two glauconite mines in Gujarat and Chhattisgarh and one Nickel and PGE (Platinum Group Element) block in Karnataka, which led to cancellation of their auction, the mines ministry said in a notice. Besides, sale of two other blocks -- a tungsten mine in Maharashtra and an REE block in Karnataka -- was annulled for lack of minimum three technically qualified bidders, it said. The fifth tranche of auction of critical and strategic mineral blocks was launched in January. Of 15 blocks put on auction, 10 have been auctioned. These 10 blocks comprise critical and strategic minerals including graphite, phosphorite, phosphate, REE, vanadium and potash and halite spread across Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Coal India, Oil India, NLC India, and Vedanta Group's Hindustan Zinc were some of the companies that secured key mineral blocks in the fifth round of auction. A total of 34 blocks have been auctioned in five rounds out of the 55 put for sale. The auctions are part of the government's efforts to make India self-reliant on critical mineral resources. Critical minerals like copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and REEs are essential raw materials to fuel the growth of clean energy technologies.

Cement prices surge, gypsum costs escalate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Cement prices have seen a sharp escalation in the current fiscal, following upward pressure from input fuel costs, particularly petroleum coke (petcoke), industry sources said. The all-India average cement price reached Rs 360 per 50-kg bag in May 2025, about 8 per cent higher year-on-year after a steep decline the previous year. While regional differences persist. May is the latest all-India data available. Sources said demand remains robust, growing 9 per cent in May to 39.6 tonnes, underpinned by housing and government-led infrastructure. Analysts forecast

6-7 per cent growth in FY2026 volumes to 480-485 tonnes. The strongest upward pressure is coming from fuel costs, particularly petroleum coke (petcoke), which constitutes over 50 per cent of the cement industry's fuel mix. In the spot market, international petcoke prices surged 17 per cent. Gypsum is another crucial component in the production of cement and is vital in controlling the various quality and performance parameters like workability and setting time. Its prices have gone up due to high import dependence, international sanctions and restrictions, and the depleting purity of Rajasthan reserves and scarcity of J&K mineral gypsum.

Vedanta organises Filaria awareness drive

Jharsuguda: Vedanta Aluminium collaborated with Jharsuguda district administration to organise a 10-day Filaria Awareness health camp. The initiative aimed to boost awareness on the prevention and treatment of filaria, a severe vector-borne tropical disease that spreads rapidly during the monsoon season. The campaign was inaugurated at the Reserve Police Ground, Jharsuguda, in the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including Brajabandhu Bhoi (Additional District Magistrate - General), LK Karmi (Additional District Medical & Public Health Officer In-Charge), and Radha Raman Bhirtia (Additional District Public Health Officer). Sunil Gupta, COO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, we believe in harmonizing industrial growth with community welfare. In partnership with the district administration, the Filaria Awareness campaign demonstrates how collective action can drive transformative impact in public health." Radha Raman Bhirtia, Additional District Public Health Officer, Jharsuguda, added, "Collaborations between industry and public health are essential for driving meaningful change. Vedanta's support in the filaria awareness campaign, especially through the Awareness Ratha, helped us connect with people at the grassroots, raise awareness, and encourage participation. This collaboration has made a meaningful impact on public health and strengthened community trust."



Spin maestro Ashwin announces shock retirement from IPL

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AMID SPECULATIONS EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT WERE RIFE OVER ASHWIN'S FUTURE AT CSK AFTER AN UNDERWHELMING IPL 2025 SEASON, WHERE HE PLAYED ONLY NINE MATCHES -- HIS SECOND LOWEST IN A SEASON SINCE HE FEATURED IN JUST TWO GAMES IN HIS DEBUT IN 2009

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 27: Veteran India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin Wednesday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League, bringing the curtains down on a 16-year-long association with the tournament months after saying goodbye to international cricket.

Ashwin made the announcement through a social media post.

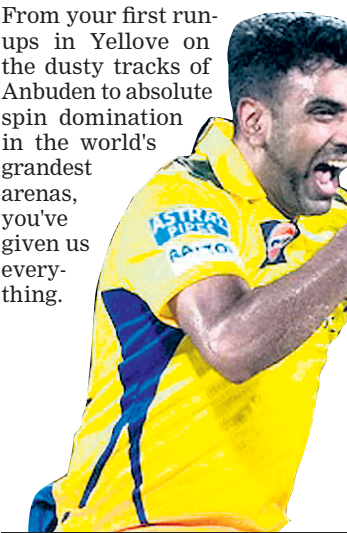
"They say every ending will have a new start, my time as an IPL cricketer comes to a close today, but my time as an explorer of the game around various leagues begins today," Ashwin posted on X.

"Would like to thank all the franchisees for all the wonderful memories and relationships over the years and most importantly the IPL and the BCCI for what they have given me until now. Look forward to enjoying and making the most of what's ahead of me," he added.

In the IPL, he was one of the brightest minds to play the game, making his debut for Chennai Super Kings in 2009. His last appearance too came in the yellow jersey in IPL 2025, after rejoining CSK for Rs 9.75 crore following a decade-long gap.

CSK paid an emotional tribute in a social media post.

"Chepauk's own. The carrom-ball thiruppura-sundaran!



"You've pillared our legacy and made Fortress Chepauk roar like no other! You truly have the streets, Ashwin!" the franchise posted.

Ashwin had retired from international cricket in December last year during the tour of Australia after a decorated career that saw him become India's second-highest wicket-taker (537) in Tests behind Anil Kumble (619).

Overall, he featured in 221

IPL matches, taking 187 wickets at an average of 30.22 with best figures of 4/34. With the bat, he scored 833 runs with a highest of 50 and an average of 13.02.

Highs and lows

Ashwin was an integral member of CSK's successive title-winning campaigns in 2010 and 2011 and also turned out for the now defunct Rising Pune Supergiant, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals during his long career in the league.

Some of Ashwin's finest IPL moments came in his early years with CSK, especially bowling in the Powerplay against marauding batters like Chris

Gayle and keeping them quiet.

It was in his first three seasons under MS Dhoni that Ashwin's carrom ball flourished, eventually propelling him into the Indian team.

In the later years, Ashwin switched franchises as there were captaincy ambitions and he even briefly captained Punjab Kings.

But as the league evolved, his attacking mindset and constant experimentation sometimes came at a cost with his stock falling in the later years.

With IPL batters adopting an attacking philosophy, franchisees increasingly favoured wicket-to-wicket left-arm orthodox spinners who could also chip

in with the bat. It was an area where Ashwin's returns dipped with the bat.

Despite that, his comeback to CSK in 2024-25 after a decade following an intense bidding war was one of the big stories of the mega auction, driven largely by CSK patriarch N Srinivasan's wish to bring one of the franchise's protégés back.

Ashwin's IPL career also had its share of controversy.

The 2019 'Mankad' dismissal of Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler while playing for Kings XI Punjab sparked a widespread debate on "spirit of cricket." The two later buried the hatchet when Ashwin joined Buttler at Rajasthan Royals in 2022.

SHORT TAKES

Dhruv, Tanisha advance

Paris: Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto entered the pre-quarterfinals of the World Championships with a straight-game win over Ireland's Joshua Magee and Moya Ryan, here Wednesday. Seeded 16th, Dhruv and Tanisha dominated the proceedings to outwit the Irish duo 21-11, 21-16 in just 35 minutes. The Indians will next face fifth seeds Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet of Hong Kong for a place in the quarterfinals. Dhruv and Tanisha took control from the outset, racing to a 6-2 lead before extending it to 11-6 at the break. They never allowed their opponents a way back and comfortably sealed the opening game.

Prag draws, Gukesh out

St Louis: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa kept himself in hunt for an overall top four finish in the Grand Chess Tour after he drew with Wesley So of the United States in the eighth and penultimate round of the Sinquefeld Cup here.

The reigning world champion D Gukesh was also held to a draw by USA's Levon Aronian but the Indian went out of contention in the ten-players round robin tournament. Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave ensured a draw with white pieces against USA's Fabiano Caruana, who made it to the grand finale with his first-place ranking, irrespective of the result in the final round.

Swiatek, Sinner cruise

New York: Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner showed their championship pedigree at the US Open Tuesday with commanding displays at the Arthur Ashe Stadium, walloping their first-round opponents on the third day of first-round action at the newly expanded major. Wimbledon champion Swiatek arrived in pristine form after capturing the Cincinnati title and made quick work of Emiliana Arango 6-1 6-2 in just an hour, never facing a break point. The 2022 winner acknowledged the unique challenge of New York's atmosphere afterwards.

Top-ranked defending men's champion Sinner followed suit with an equally dominant performance, swatting aside Czech Vit Koprivra 6-1 6-1 6-2.

Shuttlers move ahead

Paris: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu once again relied on a late surge to overcome Malaysia's world No 40 Letshanana Karupathevan and reach the women's singles pre-quarterfinals of the BWF World Championships here Wednesday. The former world champion, who had survived a scare in the opening round too, rallied from 12-18 down in the first game to register a 21-19 21-15 victory in 42 minutes. She will face Chinese second seed Wang Zhi Yi. Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then produced a solid show to overcome Chinese Taipei's Yang Po Han and Liu Kuang Heng 22-20 21-13 and advance to the pre-quarterfinals. Earlier, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto entered the pre-quarterfinals with a 21-11 21-16 win over Ireland's Joshua Magee and Moya Ryan. It was a case of déjà vu for Sindhu, who had looked sluggish against Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova in her opener Tuesday.

Cabinet approves India's 2030 CWG bid, says Ahmedabad ideal host with world-class stadiums

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The union cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Wednesday approved India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, naming Ahmedabad as the "ideal" venue because of its "world class stadiums, cutting-edge training facilities, and a passionate sporting culture".

The decision comes days after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) gave its nod to the proposal after a submission of the 'Expression of Interest' in March.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for submission of bid for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030," stated a release from the Press Information Bureau.

"It also gave its approval to sign the Host Collaboration Agreement (HCA) along with the required Guarantees from concerned Ministries, Departments and Authorities and sanction of required grant-in-aid to Gujarat Government, in case the bid gets accepted," the release added.

August 31 is the last date to submit the bid for the event and the IOA is expected to complete the formalities in the next 48 hours. India last hosted the CWG in 2010. The General Assembly of Commonwealth Sport will decide the host country in the last week of November in Glasgow. India's chances of bagging the



INDIA LAST HOSTED THE CWG IN 2010

event have brightened as Canada has pulled out of the race citing budgetary constraints.

The PIB statement after the cabinet meeting stated that Ahmedabad would be the ideal host city for the Games.

"Ahmedabad is an ideal host city offering world class stadiums, cutting-edge training facilities, and a passionate sporting culture. Narendra Modi Stadium, the largest stadium in the world, has already demonstrated its capability by successfully hosting the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Final," it said.

India is also aiming to conduct the 2036 Olympic Games and for that too, Ahmedabad is a front-runner as the host city. The city's sporting infrastructure is being upgraded with that ambition and it is hosting the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships right now.

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is one of the prime venues that is currently under construction and apart from the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, it is designed to house an aquatics centre and a football

an elaborate programme featuring all the disciplines that have been dropped by Glasgow.

"The plan is to have all our medal-earning sports like shooting, archery, wrestling etc. Our traditional sports like kabaddi, and kho kho should also be there," IOA joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey had said after an IOA SGM in Delhi earlier this month.

India had spent close to Rs 70,000 crore to host the 2010 edition of the Games, far exceeding the initial estimate of Rs 1600 crore.

Will foster national pride

Athletes from 72 countries participate in the Commonwealth Games and the government feels that that the event would end up "benefiting local businesses and generating revenue".

"Beyond sports, hosting the CWG in India would leave a lasting impact boosting tourism, creating jobs and inspiring millions of young athletes.

"Apart from that, a large number of professionals will be getting opportunities in Sports science, Event Operations and Management, Logistics and transport coordinators, Broadcast and media, IT and communications, Public relations and communications and in other fields as well," it said.

The government feels that having such a "globally prestigious event" will foster a strong sense of national pride and unity.

"It will provide a shared national experience and boost the morale of our Nation. It will inspire a new generation of athletes to enter into Sports as a career option and encourage greater participation in sports at all levels," the release stated.

Elaborate roster planned for 2030

The 2026 CWG, which will be held in Glasgow, has been massively scaled down to prevent the budget from overshooting. The city, which intends to conduct the entire event within an eight-mile (approx 12km) radius, has kept the budget at a modest 114 million pounds (over Rs 1300 crore).

As a result, some major disciplines like wrestling, shooting, badminton and hockey have been left out of the 10-sport roster. However, the IOA has made it clear that the 2030 Games, if they are held in India, will have

Weightlifters dominate Commonwealth C'ships

Odisha's Bidusmita Bhoi clinches gold by lifting a total of 204 kg in the Junior Women's 63kg category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 27: Indian weightlifters Ajith Narayana and Nirupama Devi Seram delivered superlative performances to clinch the gold and silver medals in the men's 71kg and women's 63kg category respectively at the Commonwealth Championships here Wednesday.

Narayana, the 26-year-old lifter, recorded a total lift of 317kg (145kg snatch + 172kg clean & jerk) to secure the top position on the podium, setting new Commonwealth records in the process.

Narayana's victory came after a thrilling contest with Nigeria's Joseph Edidiong Umoafia, who claimed the silver medal with a total of 316kg (146kg snatch + 170kg clean & jerk), while Nauru's Ezekiel Moses won bronze, managing a total of 290kg (135kg snatch + 155kg clean & jerk).

Hemanta, Bidusmita shine in junior with gold

India continued its golden



run in the junior categories, claiming both gold medals in the 71kg men and 63kg women divisions as Hemanta Doimari (men) and Bidusmita Bhoi (women) topped their respective weight classes at the championships. In the junior men's 71kg competition, 18-year-old Hemanta showcased remarkable composure to claim gold with a total of 264kg (118kg snatch + 146kg clean & jerk).

In women's junior 63kg, 20-year-old Bhoi overcame a slow start to secure the top prize with 204kg (89kg snatch + 115kg clean & jerk).

Anish wins 25m rapid fire pistol silver at Asian Championships

Shymkent: India's Anish Bhanwala once again showed why he is the best rapid fire pistol shooter in the country, clinching the silver medal in the ongoing Asian Shooting Championships here Wednesday. The 22-year-old Olympian finished with a total of 35, just one shy of gold winner Su Lianbofan of China. The bronze went to Korea's Lee Jaekyoon. The Indian had a one-point lead after the first four series but fell behind after that. Another Indian in the competition, Adarsh Singh, finished fifth. Bhanwala, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, was placed sixth with a score of 290 after the precision round of 30 shots Tuesday, but in the rapid fire round Wednesday, the Haryana marksman shot a superb 293 to jump to fourth place, aggregating 583 points. China are leading the tally in the senior section with 27 medals, including 15 gold, while India are second with 23 medals, including nine gold.



Young Tigresses closer to SAFF U17 crown

Indian eves now sit atop the group with 12 points from four matches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thimphu, August 27: A ruthless India demolished Bhutan 5-0 in their fourth match of the SAFF U17 Women's Championship at the Changlimithang Stadium here Wednesday.

The Young Tigresses led 3-0 at half time.

This was the second meeting between the two sides in the space of four days, the first ending in a commanding 8-0 victory for India.

Indian forward Anush-



ka Kumari (4' 16') picked up where she left off, netting twice more on Wednesday and assisting the fifth, taking her

personal tally to seven goals in the tournament so far.

The other goals were scored by Shveta Rani (24'), Julian

the Chaubey-led AIFF to secure a "definitive order" from the Supreme Court approving the revised constitution, align it with the mandatory statutes of FIFA and AFC, and ratify it at the next General Body meeting before the October 30 deadline.

"Failure to meet this schedule will leave us with no alternative but to refer the matter to the relevant FIFA decision-making body for consideration and decision... including the possibility of suspension," the letter mentions without any ambiguity.

The missive is jointly signed by FIFA Chief Member Associations Officer Elkhann Mammadov and AFC Deputy General Secretary (Member Associations) Vahid Kardany.

Not the first time

This is not the first time Indian football has faced such embarrassment. In August 2022, FIFA had suspended India for



and players remain uncertain regarding the domestic competition calendar."

Lambasting the lack of financial stability and its "profoundly negative impact on India's football ecosystem", the two bodies said they are worried about the impact on footballers employed by clubs participating in the Indian Super League.

A suspension would mean national teams and clubs being barred from all international competitions, besides throwing into uncertainty, India's ambitious bid for the 2036 Olympic Games

Nongmaithem (77') and Nira Chanu Longjam (90+5').

With this emphatic result, India made it four wins from as many matches, scoring 22 goals without conceding any, and tightening their grip at the summit of the table.

India now sit atop the group with 12 points from four matches, ahead of the second placed Bangladesh with nine points followed by Nepal on three. Bhutan are yet to score a point.

India wasted no time in stamping their dominance. Bhutan entered the match desperate to plug defensive holes after conceding 13 goals in three matches but India's relentless pressure meant their backline remained porous.