



## KANGANA'S REVELATION

Actor Kangana Ranaut claims that her so-called flop films had actually done well at the box office

LEISURE P2



## IMRAN CHALLENGES CONVICTION

Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan challenges his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case by a trial court

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA FACE PAKISTAN

India lock horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in their last round-robin league match of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey

SPORTS P12

# BJD opposes no-trust motion against BJP

We can't support motion brought by Cong: Pinaki

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 8: Opposing the no confidence motion brought by Congress party against the Narendra Modi government, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday said that it can't support a motion brought by the Congress as its foundation is "anti-Congressism."

Senior BJD MP Pinaki Misra, while speaking on the motion in Lok Sabha, said the BJD was born to oppose the corrupt rule of Congress party in Odisha. He said this is a "misplaced motion".

"They are very adept at cutting their nose to spite their face," he said targeting the Congress. "It defies logic and political sense to bring a no-confidence motion that is bound to fail," Misra said and added that every time the Prime Minister gets up on the floor of the House, "he pushes the Congress party through the shredder".

"The foundation of BJD is anti-Congressism. Any motion brought by the Congress party is out of question for the BJD to support. We oppose this motion because of the fact that it's been brought by the Congress," he said.

On the Centre-state relation, Misra stated, "the kind of fiscal architecture our Constitution

has provided, it is impossible to continuously bicker and fight with the Central government and survive as a model fiscal state as Odisha is today. Our party doesn't believe in needless quarrel with the Centre."

Highlighting the several of state's demands fulfilled by the Centre, Misra said he is unable to persuade himself on behalf of his party and leader to support the "no confidence motion."

He held the Manipur High Court order responsible for the current turmoil in the state and termed the HC's judgement, which asked the state government to consider inclusion of Meitei community in ST list, as one of the "most ill-advised order".

He said the Centre made an error by demanding the matter to be remanded back to HC. The Matter should have been rested with the Supreme Court, he said.

To resolve the Manipur issue, Misra said, there is a need of constructive suggestions from all parties rather than this no confidence motion. He also emphasised on the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill as a way forward for women empowerment. "This is the kind of empowerment we need at the ground level. We should treat them at par," the BJD MP said.



**GALLOPING UP:** Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and others during the inauguration of the redeveloped 'Shaheed Park' at ITO, in New Delhi, Tuesday

# Rahul Gandhi gets back Tughlaq Lane bungalow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been re-allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow a day after his Lok Sabha membership was restored following the Supreme Court staying his conviction in a defamation case, officials said Tuesday.

The House Committee of the Lok Sabha decided to allot the bungalow which Gandhi was asked to vacate after he was disqualified as member of the lower house on March 24 and given a two-year jail term for the 'Modi surname' remarks.

"Mera ghar pura Hindustan hai (Whole country is my home)," quipped Gandhi when asked about being allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow.

Sources said Gandhi has received the letter re-allotting the same house he occupied as Lok Sabha MP for the past almost two decades.

They said Gandhi would be shifting back to his residence soon. He is currently staying with his mother Sonia Gandhi, who is also the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP). The Lok Sabha Secretariat Monday restored Gandhi's membership of the lower house after the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in the defamation case.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why do we threaten the opposition with ED when we have MPs like Mr Narayan Ranee?

## PARLIAMENT CLEARS INTER-SERVICES ORGANISATION BILL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Parliament Tuesday passed a bill that seeks to provide the commander-in-chief and officer-in-command of inter-services organisations disciplinary and administrative powers over personnel from other forces serving in such establishments.

Speaking in the Upper House, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India is fully prepared to face any type of warfare and the country's defence spending can be increased to 5-6 per cent of GDP if needed.

In his reply to a discussion on The Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023, Singh said the legislation has been brought to keep in tune with the changing nature of modern warfare and ensure better coordination among the three services.

"It (warfare) is not conventional now, it has become technology and network-centric... It is therefore important considering the new challenges, which we and our forces are facing, there is a need for better coordination. This bill has been brought for that purpose only," the defence minister said.

Singh further said, "After the passage of this Bill, our inter-services organisations will be able to work in a better way."

# No Aadhaar, no problem

## AADHAAR NO MORE A MUST FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION IN ODISHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 8: Expressing concern over the difficulties faced by some students, the state government has made it clear that Aadhaar card is no more mandatory for admissions into schools in the state.

School and Mass Education Secretary Aswathy S wrote to all district education officers (DEOs) in this regard, Tuesday.

In her letter, the Secretary said academic season for this year has already started and admission is also continuing in some schools as per the need.

It was instructed earlier that the admission of students should be hassle free and smooth, she said.

"In this regard, it is brought to the notice that in some schools, headmasters are insisting the parents to submit Aadhaar cards for admission

of children in different classes. It is clarified that the children must be allowed to take admission in schools with or without an Aadhaar card," Aswathy told the DEOs.

Making it clear that Aadhaar is not a mandatory prerequisite for admission, she asked the DEOs to facilitate the students for obtaining Aadhaar cards by coordinating with various offices of the district after admission.

Further, the DEOs have been directed to communicate the decision of the department to the school headmaster or headmistress for smooth admission of students.

Welcoming the move of the state government, Lalit Ranjan Dash, parent of a Class I student, said, "I have not made Aadhaar card of my son due to Covid 19 and other issues. Now, my son can take admission smoothly."

## Youth shot dead in Cuttack

Cuttack: A youth was allegedly killed after two bike-borne miscreants opened fire at him in Subhadrapur area under Cuttack's Sadar police limits Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Chintamani Sahu. While the exact reason behind the firing is yet to be known, the police have reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. The deceased was a resident of Banki area in Cuttack district and had been staying in Subhadrapur area on rent for some years. As per reports, the deceased and the accused were acquaintances and had an altercation over some issue in the past.

## Two students go missing in Mahanadi

Barang: Two Plus II First Year students of Cuttack Stewart College went missing after they accidentally fell into the Mahanadi river near Naraj barrage Tuesday afternoon. They were identified as Adiya Abhishek Mallick of Mangalabag and Debapriya Choudhury of Deulasahi in Cuttack.

According to the police, the duo along with six of their friends had gone to river Mahanadi for a bath as there were no classes on account of a function. Before taking bath, they were taking selfies near Siddheswar hill when two of them slipped and fell into the swollen river.

# New Chief Justice of Orissa HC takes oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, August 8: Justice Subhasis Talapatra took oath as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court here Tuesday.

Governor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice at a ceremony on the Orissa High Court premises.

Justice Talapatra succeeded Justice S Muralidhar as the 33rd chief justice of the Orissa High Court. Justice S Muralidhar had demitted the office Monday. Justice Talapatra will have a brief tenure of less than two months before he retires October 3.

Earlier, the Supreme Court collegium had recommended Justice Talapatra's name for the post, saying he has acquired considerable experience of dispensing justice in two high courts.



Newly-appointed Orissa HC CJ, Justice Subhasis Talapatra takes oath, Tuesday

"While considering his name, the collegium has taken into consideration the fact that since its inception in 2013, the high court of Tripura till date has not got representation among the chief justices of the high courts," the resolution said.

Justice Talapatra has been functioning as a judge in the Orissa High Court since June 10.

# Pepperfry CEO no more

## AMBAREESH MURTY DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8: Pepperfry Co-founder and CEO Ambareesh Murty passed away in Leh due to cardiac arrest, company co-founder and COO Ashish Shah said Tuesday.

Murty, 51, was also an angel investor.

He recently announced completing 12 years at Pepperfry on his LinkedIn post.

He was an alumnus of IIT Calcutta, 1996 batch and completed his Bachelors in Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering in 1994.

"Extremely devastated to inform that my friend, mentor, brother, soulmate Ambareesh

Murty is no more. Lost him yesterday night to a cardiac arrest at Leh. Please pray for him and for strength to his family and near ones," Pepperfry Co-Founder and COO Ashish Shah said in a tweet.

Murty called himself a closet sociopath on his X (formerly Twitter) profile, and professed a love for history reading epic fantasies.

He had 27 years of general management experience in FMCG, financial services and internet industries.

Murty started his career with Cadbury in their sales and marketing division, moving onto short stints in ICICI Prudential, Britannia and Levi's.

# Its official: July 2023 Earth's hottest month by far

## 'THIS IS THE WARMEST RECORD FOR 120,000 YEARS'

AGENCIES

Brussels, August 8: Now that July's sizzling numbers are all in, the European climate monitoring organisation made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin.

July's global average temperature of 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit) was a third of a degree Celsius (six

tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) higher than the previous record set in 2019, Copernicus Climate Change Service, a division of the European Union's space programme, announced Tuesday.

Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree. So this margin is unusual.

"These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," said Copernicus deputy director, Samantha Burgess.

There have been deadly heat waves in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, Europe



and Asia. Scientific quick studies put the blame on human-caused climate change from the

burning of coal, oil and natural gas. Days in July have been hotter

than previously recorded from July 2 on. It's been so extra warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organisation made the unusual early announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended. Tuesday's calculations made it official.

The month was 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times. In 2015, the nations of the world agreed to try to prevent long-term warming — not individual months or even years, but decades — that is 1.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial times.



# leisure



## BTS HEARTTHROB SUGA STARTS MILITARY DUTIES

South Korean rapper Suga of *BTS* boy band had announced back on August 6 his military conscription in The Republic of Korea Armed Forces (ROKAF) or the South Korean military. Now the K-pop star has officially started his mandatory military duties.

## GAL GADOT CAPTIVATES INDIAN AUDIENCE SPEAKING TELUGU

Gal Gadot, best known for her role as *Wonder Woman* in the DCEU, is all set to release her upcoming action-spy-thriller film *Heart of Stone*. During promotional event Gadot spoke Telugu which really captivated the Indian audiences, particularly Telugu speakers.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Ganesh is very impressed with you today for the way you handle your relationships. You will indulge in some furtive activity today. Ganesh warns you to be cautious about getting caught up in a fix where you have to shell out money.

**TAURUS**  
You might wake up yawning and keep yawning throughout today as lethargy gets the better of you. You may end up spending your day with loved ones, relaxing, while your wallet stresses out. New projects will wait in the shadow of your procrastination, predicts Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will be bound by the bonds of love with your friends today. Deep introspection will provide the much-needed balm to your fragile state of mind. You need to keep your temper in check, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Sheer work pressure and burden of others' work. Yet you will excel. In business, rivals and competitors will fail in their tactics.

**LEO**  
Rise and shine! There is a very bright chance that today will be one of those super energetic and enthusiastic days. Ganesh predicts you will have a great time socialising with neighbours, friends and relatives. Also, you may end up spending a small fortune in trying to please your sweetheart. Since it is such a good day for social occasions, indulge in it. Also, delay the start of any new project or work today, advises Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Your new appellation today could well be heart-break kid. Your expenses will overshoot the savings that you have made. You can expect conjugal bliss to bloom. Ganesh advises you to strengthen your bonding with the best, or rather, your spouse to lead a happier life.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today will be a lucky day for you. You will make all efforts possible to please the person you love. You will pay special attention to your appearance and try to change your personality and attitude. There are chances of new romantic relationships developing for those looking for love.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesh foresees that you may not be at the best of your health as agitation and irritation create pressure on your physical being. Watch your temper and tongue, or a critical situation may take an ugly turn. Keep away from unnecessary discussion with peers or colleagues.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The day has to offer you a good mixture of work and fun, says Ganesh. Feeling protective about your loved ones, you are ready to fulfil all their needs and demands. An action-packed day at office with meetings lined-up for you. This forces you to unwind in a luxurious way as you plan a family outing or a quick visit to salon for relaxation.

**CAPRICORN**  
The backbreaking work that you've been doing can drain out all your energy today. But, you'll still be able to cross the finishing line and successfully complete your projects, marks Ganesh. The support and cooperation of your family and friends will be like an oxygen mask for you, as they will understand the hardships you've been facing.

**AQUARIUS**  
Legal matters have given you those wrinkles on the forehead, and you have kept your fingers crossed for a favourable decision. Today, the wait will finally be over as you will receive a positive result. You will want celebrate the moment and spend time family.

**PISCES**  
Do not cry over spilt milk, advises Ganesh. What is lost is lost and do not let the grief of your past failures and losses overcome your determination for future endeavors. It is a great day for you to play host and you should take advantage of this.

## Abhishek takes a dig at young actors

**Mumbai:** Abhishek Bachchan is one of the most brutally honest and hard-working actors out there. He's so grounded but never misses an opportunity to give it back to trolls who try to roast him on social media. In a recent interview, the *Guru* actor subtly trolled the young actors for focusing on six-packs, not their acting skills.

with a portal, the *Dasvi* actor who has over 11 million followers on Instagram was asked if he would ever make six-pack abs for a film and said, "Jay Dixit (Abhishek's character in *Dhoom*) was a cop who had to be fit, but he was not the kind who'd take out his shirt and flaunt six-pack abs. I get upset when I see this obsession with six-pack abs. Look at Aamir Khan - he was so fit in *Dhoom 3* and he looked fat in (a few portions of) *Dangal*." He added, "Young actors these days believe they can become actors just by getting six-pack abs. Bro, focus on your language... work on your acting skills. That is what makes actors, not (well-built) bodies."



## Offices to remain closed for Rajini's Jailer release

**A COMPANY SAID IN ITS NOTICE THAT IT DECLARED A HOLIDAY TO AVOID PILED UP LEAVE REQUESTS TO THE HR DEPARTMENT**

**Chennai:** Marking Rajinikanth's first film in two years, *Jailer* promises to be a full action-packed entertainer. As fans gear up to see Rajinikanth back on the screen, it is reported that offices in Chennai and Bangalore have announced leave for their employees on *Jailer's* release day. Not only that, some companies have also handed free tickets to their employees. Helmed by Nelson Dilipkumar, Rajinikanth-starrer *Jailer* is set

to hit theatres on August 10. The film is gearing up for a grand release in theatres worldwide Thursday. *Jailer's* release is just two days away and the excitement among fans is visible, with many taking to social media to run count-downs for *Jailer's* release.

A company said in its



notice that it declared a holiday August 10 'to avoid piled up leave requests to the HR department'. The notice further said, "We also take the privilege of going the extra mile to support antipiracy by providing free tickets to employees..."

The movie marks Rajinikanth's return to the big screen after a two-year break and sees him in the role of a retired police officer. *Jailer* marks his first collaboration with Nelson Dilipkumar.

The trailer gave a glimpse of Jackie Shroff as he threatens Rajinikanth over a phone call. *Jailer* also stars Priyanka Mohan, Shiva Rajkumar, Tamannaah Bhatia, Ramya Krishnan, Yogi Babu, Vasanth Ravi, Vinayakan. AGENCIES

## Kiara to step into PC's shoes!

**Mumbai:** Farhan Akhtar shared a teaser announcement for *Don 3* this morning, without revealing any details.

He expressed, "The time has now come to take the legacy of *Don* forward and joining us in this new interpretation will be an actor whose talent and versatility I have long admired."

"We hope that you will show him the love you have so graciously and generously shown to Mr Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan.," added Akhtar.

Reports suggest that Ranveer Singh is the new *Don* and a teaser featuring him will be launched in a day or two.

While the internet is divided on whether Ranveer is a good choice for *Don* or no, speculations regarding the female lead have also begun.

Big B starred *Don*

had Zeenat Aman opposite him as Roma while Priyanka Chopra played that character in two parts opposite SRK. Amidst the *Don 3* announcement, Kiara Advani was spotted at Excel Entertainment's office Tuesday. She was seen in an all-white outfit. She was also captured with producer Ritesh Sidhwani who came to drop her to her car later.

A source close to the development revealed that it is indeed Kiara who would replace the Citadel star in *Don 3*.

AGENCIES

## 'HATE IS ALSO LOVE'

**Mumbai:** Kangana Ranaut Tuesday took to Instagram Stories and shared screenshots of 'horrible and malicious' media reports about her that called her films 'flop'. She slammed the 'paid' attack, saying her so-called flop films had actually done well at the box office. Kangana said she was not angry with 'movie mafia', but questioned the need to constantly 'assassinate her character' via paid media.

She wrote, "I am not angry with movie mafia. I just wonder what kind of suffering God granted them, what it must be like to live with this kind of intense insecurity and anxiety."

Isn't it the living definition of hell? she asked. "I don't ever remember them unless the attacks are too unjust for me to take. What it must be like for them to passionately think about me all the time. If someone said hate is also love, it's not wrong..."

Kangana has time and again accused filmmaker Karan Johar of supporting nepotism in the film industry and also addressed him as 'movie mafia' in her social media posts and interviews. The actor often also takes to social

media to share her views on Hindi film industry, and weighs in on the 'insider vs outsider' debate.

AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

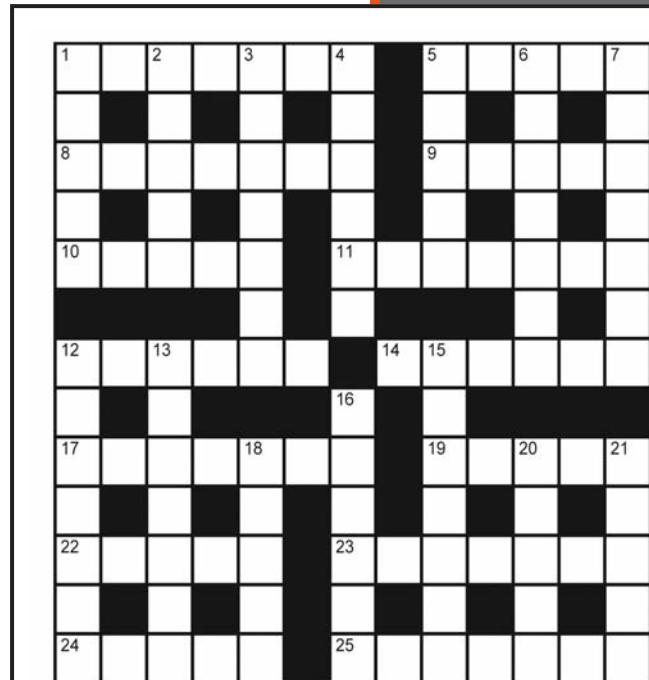


### BREVITY



### FUN post

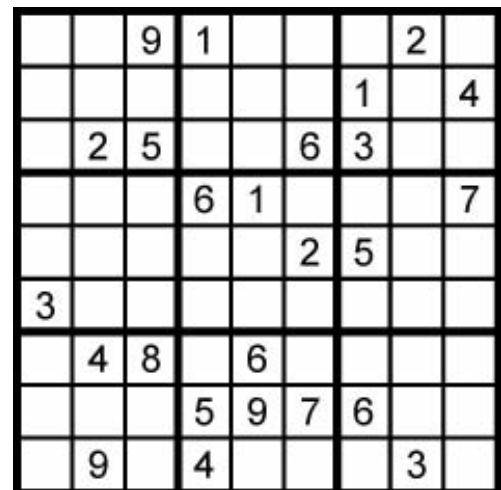
### CROSSWORD



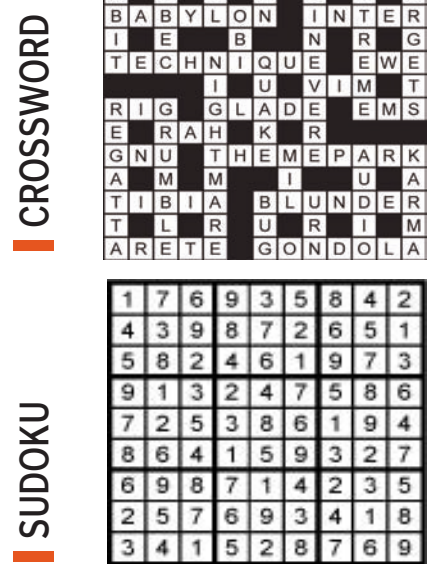
- Across**
- 1 Frankness
  - 5 East Indian pheasant
  - 8 Tranquillised
  - 9 Dangerous African snake
  - 10 Pancake topper
  - 11 Cola acuminata, e.g. (3,4)
  - 12 Type of periodical
  - 14 Moulded
  - 17 Backache
  - 19 Kenyan tribesman
  - 22 Kind of toast
  - 23 Sidestepped
  - 24 Pungent
  - 25 Boxed dessert starter (4,3)
  - 4 Business bane (3,3)
  - 5 Come out of denial
  - 6 Sweet treat
  - 7 Marine algae
  - 12 Catch-22
  - 13 Punter
  - 15 Resting place
  - 16 Patterned art work
  - 18 Medal, possibly
  - 20 Sin city
  - 21 Type of finger or card

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown



## GRACEFUL MOVES

Danseuse Shrusti Samikhya performs at 7th Nrutya Naivedya Odissi Utsav at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# Crypto fraud accused on 3-day remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch Tuesday brought the accused held in purportedly one of the largest pan-India crypto fraud case on a three-day remand for further interrogation to unearth the syndicate behind the multi-crore scam.

The court has granted three day-remand of the accused. Gurtej Singh Sidhu, the head of STA Crypto Token, and its state head Nirod Das, against the EOW's plea seeking permission to take the duo on remand for five days.

"This is so big a scam that we have so far managed to figure out only a miniscule part of the whole syndicate. During the remand period, we will try to find out the how the fraudsters chan-



nized or laundered their fraud amount worth over several crores," a senior EOW official revealed to **Orissa POST**.

The EOW is also trying to elicit information as to how they operated without any headquarters or formal office, and who used to fund the programmes and promotional events attended by celebrities.

"We came to know during investigation that six persons including Gurtej are behind the scam. The involvement of

During the remand period, the EOW will try to find out how the fraudsters channelised or laundered the money they earned through fraudulent practices

Gurtej's friend David Gez, a young Hungarian national, in the scam is yet to be established. David's name has primarily been used to lure gullible investors. We will soon succeed in arresting five others who have been running the scam along with Gurtej who has made plans to leave India with fraud money," added the senior EOW official.

Odisha police's counterparts in other states have also con-

tacted EOW seeking information regarding the scam and the accused.

The EOW arrested Gurtej from Sri-Ganganagar, Rajasthan August 4 and its Odisha unit head Nirod Das August 5. Gurtej is a native of Faridkot, Punjab while Nirod belongs to Bhadrak district.

Acting on an intelligence input that a crypto currency-based ponzi scheme is in operation in Bhadrak, Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Keonjhar districts, the EOW started its inquiry.

It is estimated that more than 10,000 people from Odisha have already been members of this scheme.

The sham firm is not registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to collect money from investors.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Revised schedule for three trains



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** For the convenience of passengers and to avoid operational constraints, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to change the timings of three trains at three different stations each in Dhenkanal-Angul and Jakhapura-Nayagarh railway sections.

According to ECoR sources, 12894 Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express will have revised timings at Angul, Talcher Road and Meramandali railway stations from August 16, 2023. This train from Bolangir will now arrive at Angul at 19:10 hrs and leave the station at 19:12 hrs. It will reach Talcher Road at 19:15 hrs and will depart the station at 19:17 hrs and. Further, the train will arrive at Meramandali at 19:37 hrs and will leave at 19:38 hrs towards Bhubaneswar instead of the existing timings.

Moreover, 18303 Sambalpur-Puri Inter City Express will also have revised timings at Angul, Talcher Road and Meramandali stations from August 16, 2023. This train

Timing for Bolangir-Bhubaneswar & Sambalpur-Puri Inter City at Angul, Talcher Road & Meramandali railway stations changed

Schedule for Barbil-Puri Express at Nayagarh, Porjanpur and Goaldih stations revised

from Sambalpur will now arrive at Angul at 08:35 hrs and depart at 08:37hrs. Further, the train will arrive at Talcher Road at 08:45 hrs and depart from the station at 08:46 hrs. It will arrive at Meramandali at 09:03 hrs and will leave the station at 09:04 hrs towards Puri instead of existing timings.

Similarly, 18415 Barbil-Puri Express will have revised timings at Nayagarh, Porjanpur and Goaldih railway stations from August 20, 2023. This train from Barbil will reach Nayagarh at 12:52 hrs and depart at 12:53 hrs. The train will arrive at Porjanpur at 13:03 hrs and will leave the station at 13:04 hrs. Further, it will reach Goaldih at 13:14 hrs and will leave the station at 13:15 hrs towards Puri instead of the earlier timings.

The timings for these trains at other scheduled stations will remain unchanged.

# Subhalaxmi died due to asphyxiation



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The autopsy report Tuesday confirmed that 18-year-old Subhalaxmi Sahoo died due to asphyxiation at Hotel Deepali International in Laxmisagar area here Saturday afternoon.

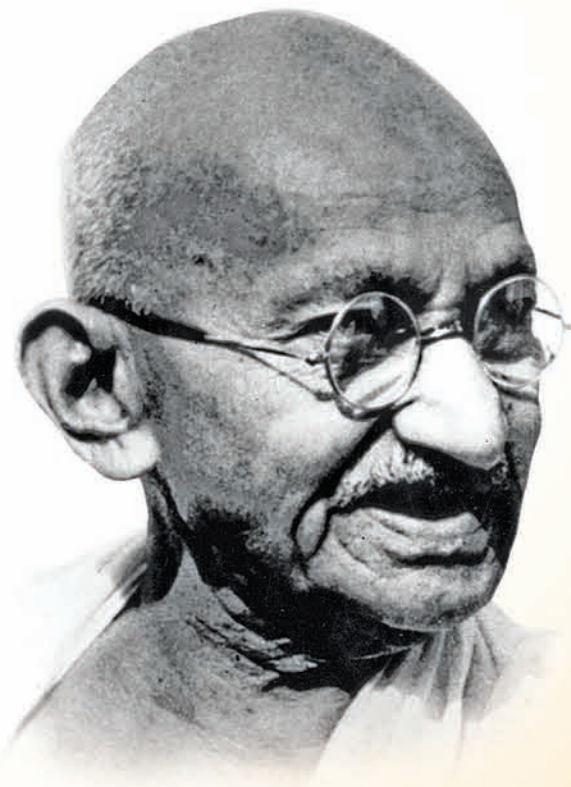
Police sources claimed that the deceased might have hanged herself to death. However, cops are yet to unearth the reason behind her taking such extreme step.

Meanwhile, police have recorded the statements of Subhalaxmi's purported boyfriend Sanjay, her parents and the manager of the hotel

where the body was found.

The cops reportedly recorded contradictory statements by the father and the alleged boyfriend of the deceased. Her father claimed that Subhalaxmi had left home August 2 while Sanjay told the police that she had reached Bhubaneswar August 30 and was staying along with another male friend of her. Police, however, are trying to unearth the truth.

Subhalaxmi, a student of Kamala Nehru Women's College, had reportedly checked into the hotel Friday. She was staying in a room on the second floor of the hotel. Saturday, the room boy of the hotel suspected something wrong when she didn't come to the downstairs for lunch till late afternoon. After he expressed his concern before the manager, the manager broke into the room and found Subhalaxmi hanging from a ceiling fan with her stole.



With the call of 'Quit India', Mahatma Gandhi inspired the nation in the year 1942

Today Nation is saying to every evil  
**QUIT INDIA-इंडिया छोड़ो!**

**CORRUPTION QUIT INDIA**  
भ्रष्टाचार इंडिया छोड़ो!

**NEPOTISM QUIT INDIA**  
परिवारवाद इंडिया छोड़ो!

**APPEASEMENT QUIT INDIA**  
तुष्टिकरण इंडिया छोड़ो!



This is India's Amrit Kaal, and we are marching towards the goal of development. The Amrit Kaal is also the Kartavya Kaal. There is new energy, new inspiration and we are moving ahead with a new resolve.

**Narendra Modi**





# 5T Secy reviews devpt projects in Cuttack dist



He also visited CHC Hospital and Dialysis Centre at Narsinghpur and interacted with the doctors, staff, patients and attendants for the Centre's further development.

During the day, he participated in the public grievance meetings at Athagarh, Narsinghpur, Choudwar and Nischintakoili. He interacted with the locals and heard their grievances. He emphasised on Chief Minister's priority in addressing people's grievances and subsequent redressal.

In Choudwar, he discussed the re-development of OTM area as an industrial hub and sought cooperation from the locals.

The Chief Secretary interacted with a number of junior and degree college students at the Upper Baliyatra Ground. Informing them he said that the Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 63 crore for inclusion of all colleges in the district under 5T transformation project. He motivated the students to work hard to realise their dreams and assured them all support from the state government.

and will be operationalised in phases from January 2024. He instructed the officials to ensure the completion of the projects within stipulated period.

The Chief Secretary visited the Dhableswar Temple of Athagarh, Bhattarika Temple of Baramba and Pragalapitha Temple of Narsinghpur and discussed with shrines' officials regarding the temples' development and facilities for pilgrims. He then directed the local administration to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) in consultation with temples' committee members and locals.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Cuttack, August 8:** As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Cuttack district to review the progress of various developmental works and redressal of public grievances Tuesday.

He reviewed the progress of ongoing mega piped water supply projects at a cost of Rs.1258 crore in Athagarh, Tigiria, Tangi Choudwar, Narsinghpur, Baramba, Mahanga and Nischintakoili blocks. The projects will cost around 1,258 crore



**BREAD AND BUTTER:** Members of Vocational Trainers' Association protest near PMG Square demanding regularisation of their jobs in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# 62 minors rescued by RPF of ECoR in July '23

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Railway Protection Force (RPF) of East Coast Railway (ECoR) has rescued 62 minor children from various station platforms and trains in its jurisdiction during last month under Operation "Nanhe Farishte Drive".

ECoR sources here on Tuesday said 50 boys and 12 girls are re-

united with their parents with the help of NGOs like Childline and District Child Welfare Committee.

The trained RPF personnel have rescued the children who had fled away from their homes to railway stations/moving towards other destinations by trains without informing their parents due to family issues or in search of a better life.

The RPF personnel counselled these children before reuniting them with their parents.

Railways have also joined in Bachpan Bachao Andolan Drive, to work towards eradicating human trafficking through railways. Apart from this, RPF has also launched Operation AAHT (Action Against Human Trafficking) and rescued human trafficking victims.

Amongst the 62 minors rescued in July 2023, Khurda Road Division has rescued 33 boys and 2 girls, Sambalpur division rescued 5 boys and 4 girls and Waltair Division rescued 12 boys and 6 girls.

All the minors have been handed over to their parents through the Childline and District Child Welfare Committee, the sources added.

# Skilled in Odisha now a global brand: Gharai

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** While interacting with ITI students participating in the 'Skilled in Odisha: Exhibition cum sale' event here Tuesday, state Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai said that skilled in Odisha has now become a global brand.

For the 76th Independence Day, to highlight the skill and



creativity of ITI students, the Skill Development and Technical Education department is organising this event in City from August 7 to August 11, putting on display a wide range of hand-crafted products focused on the waste to wealth theme.

Joining the exhibition on its second day, Gharai admired the students' efforts, expressing the government's determination to elevate these institutions to a distinguished level of 'Skilled in Odisha' brand. "This initiative aims to expand, providing students with recognition and abundant income generation prospects. The goal is to empower and uplift the skilled artisans of the state, showcasing their talents on a broader platform," the minister said.

"The exhibition features an array of exquisite items, including decorative pieces, wooden handcrafted products, personal accessories, bakery items, and various other creations by the talented ITI students," said one official involved in organising the event.

# Statewide deworming campaign August 10

A mop-up round (MUD) will be held August 17 for beneficiaries who are not able to get the dose August 10

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** To combat the threat of intestinal worms among women of reproductive age and children, the Health and Family Welfare department, along with UNICEF, is going up to conduct a state-wide deworming campaign August 10.

A mop-up round (MUD) will be held August 17 for beneficiaries who are not able to get the dose August 10.

"Our ultimate goal is to ensure that children remain free from intestinal worms and to safeguard women of reproductive age from developing anaemia," said Health director Bijay Kumar Panigrahi em-



phasising the need to raise awareness among parents and caregivers.

"The campaign will be implemented vigorously across anganwadis and schools and will reach about one crore beneficiaries across the state," he added.

Sourav Bhattacharjee, nutrition specialist at UNICEF stressed the importance of deworming as an intervention, saying, "Deworming will con-

tribute significantly to the government's AMLAN programme which aims to reduce anaemia among adolescent girls and women."

On the National Deworming Day, children aged between 1 and 19 will receive Albendazole, as tablet or suspension form, at their respective schools and anganwadi centres, facilitated by teachers and anganwadi workers. Children aged 1 to 5 years will

receive age-appropriate Albendazole suspension, while those aged 6 to 19 and women of reproductive age (20 to 24 years) will each receive an Albendazole tablet.

The August round of NDD will encompass 19 districts: Bolangir, Bhadrak, Boudh, Balasore, Cuttack, Deogarh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Kendrapada, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabrangpur, Nuapada, Puri, Nayagarh, and Rayagada.

Along with deworming, Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) will also be administered to children aged between 9 months to 5 years.

# KIIT Polytechnic bags top rank in state



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** KIIT Polytechnic has been ranked as the best polytechnic in Odisha among all the state and private-run polytechnics by National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET), a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI).

The ranking results were declared Tuesday by Rural Development, Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai. KIIT Polytechnic secured the highest score of 581 and topped the ranking, which was based on 7 parameters. KIIT Polytechnic has been ranked as the best polytechnic consecutively for the second time in a row.

KIIT Polytechnic was followed by DRIEMS Polytechnic, Cuttack,

Bhubaneswar Orissa School of Engineering, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj School of Engineering and Technology, Mayurbhanj, Govt Polytechnic Dhenkanal, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Institute of Engineering, Sundargarh, Govt Polytechnic Jajpur, Govt Polytechnic Koraput and Orissa School of Engineering, Keonjhar.

The rankings of the polytechnics in Odisha were carried out for the first time in 2022. The exercise came against the backdrop of the State Government's enhanced focus on improving the quality of technical institutes and identifying the best ones that adhere to quality teaching. The rankings were carried out by NABET-QCI and State Council for Vocational Education and Training.

# 4 arrested for duping cops of ₹9.8 lakh

**Cuttack:** Mangalabag police Tuesday arrested four persons for allegedly duping two cops of Rs 9.8 lakh. The accused have been identified as Etu alias Manoj Patnaik (38) of Biridi, Jagatsinghpur district, Saroj alias Sarojkanta Jena (45) of Ramchandrapur, Bari, Jajpur district, Rajesh Kumar Khuntia (30) of Kishorenagar, Cuttack district, and Susanta Kumar Sethi (37) of Kishorenagar, Cuttack district, police said. Rs 1.30 lakh in cash, a car and two gold necklaces have been seized from the possession of the accused persons, police added. The accused have cheated lakhs of rupees from several people in Dhenkanal, Nayapalli, Pahala and Sundargarh.



**THEATRE TIME:** Performers stage the play 'Kichi luha pijaye otha' at an event organised by Water Resources department at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# Air pollution could be driving rise in antibiotic resistance

**C**ontrolling air pollution could aid in reducing antibiotic resistance, which is when disease-causing microbes are able to resist the drugs designed to kill them, according to new research published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal.

The association between PM2.5 air pollution and increase in antibiotic resistance has strengthened over time, with enhances in PM2.5 levels leading to larger increases in antibiotic resistance in more recent years, the analysis found using data for 116 countries from 2000 to 2018.

Sources of PM2.5 include industrial processes, road transport, and domestic coal and wood

burning. Previous research indicates 90 per cent of the world's population, or 7.3 billion people, are directly exposed to unsafe average annual PM2.5 levels, with 80 per cent of them living in low- and middle-income countries.

PM2.5 air pollution was one of the leading factors driving antibiotic resistance, accounting for 11 per cent of changes in average antibiotic resistance levels globally, this study found.

Further, every 1 per cent rise in air pollution was linked with an increase in antibiotic resistance of between 0.5 and 1.9 per cent, depending on the pathogen, or the disease-causing microbe, the study covering nine bacterial pathogens and 43 types of



antibiotics found.

The highest levels of antibiotic resistance were found to be in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, while levels in Europe and North America were found to be low.

Misuse and overuse of antibiotics still remain the main drivers of antibiotic resistance. However, evidence suggests air pollution also contributes to the

spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and resistance genes, the study said.

PM2.5 air pollution-driven antibiotic resistance was also linked to an estimated 480,000 premature deaths in 2018, leading to additional economic costs of USD395 billion, the analysis said.

Owing to their huge populations, India and China are expected to face the greatest impact of PM2.5 changes on premature death toll from antibiotic resistance. By 2050, levels of antibiotic resistance worldwide could increase by 17 per cent under no changes to current air pollution policies, the authors' modelling suggested.

India is expected to experi-

ence a 2.5 per cent increase in antibiotic resistance resulting from a 10 per cent increase in yearly PM2.5 levels.

In other scenarios, such as increased health spending, controlling air pollution, improving drinking water and reducing antibiotic usage, the level of antibiotic resistance could be greatly reduced, the study said.

For example, limiting PM2.5 to 5 micrograms per cubic metres in the atmosphere (recommended by the World Health Organization) could decrease global antibiotic resistance by 17 per cent by 2050. It could further reduce premature deaths linked to antibiotic resistance by 23 per cent and save USD 640

billion annually, the study said.

"Antibiotic resistance and air pollution are each in their own right among the greatest threats to global health. Until now, we didn't have a clear picture of the possible links between the two, but this work suggests the benefits of controlling air pollution could be two-fold: not only will it reduce the harmful effects of poor air quality, it could also play a major role in combating the rise and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria," said lead author Hong Chen, Zhejiang University, China.

Future research should investigate underlying mechanisms of how air pollutants impact antibiotic resistance, the study said.

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# Workers suffer as 13 plants down shutters in Keonjhar

Many lose jobs and continue to languish in poverty due to shut downs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 8: The closure of over 13 plants out of the 40 operating in mining rich Keonjhar district in the last 12 years has pushed hundreds of labourers and other personnel to the brink of starvation and poverty, sources informed here Tuesday. The closure of the plants has deprived the employees of their livelihood. They are facing a harrowing time to even arrange food for their families.

To top up this worst-case scenario, sources informed that many other plants are on the brink of shutting down. It means that many more will soon be rendered jobless. The closure of the plants has severely impacted the financial scenario and economy of this district, the sources added. Sources said that 'Deepak Steel and Power Ltd' stopped production in September, 2022. The plant belonging to 'Grewal Associate Pvt Ltd' downed shutters in January 2015 and with it 68 persons lost their jobs.

The IDCOL-run 'Kalinga Iron Works' which was established by late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had its plant at Matkambada in Barbil. It was one of the most successful industrial units to have come up in the district. It had a staff of 1,446 people out of which 775 were regular employees while the remaining 691 were contractual workers. However, all of them



were rendered jobless after the plant stopped production in February, 2015.

The 'Odisha Sponge Iron Ltd' plant at Palashpanga which was known as the first sponge iron unit in Asia was shut down after the authorities announced lockout in October, 2012. A total of 964 employees among who were 464 regulars lost their jobs due to the shut down.

The plant was reopened in 2022, but under a different management. Very few former employees have rejoined due to the low salaries offered. The others continue to languish in acute poverty.

'Pro-Mineral Pvt Ltd' established its plant at Basantpur locality. The plant had 75 regular and 108 contractual employees and 183 labourers. However, all lost their jobs when the plant stopped production in 2016.

Similar is the case with plants belonging to 'Sumit Metallica

Pvt Ltd' and 'Sreeji Steel Ltd'. The 'Ganesh Sponge Iron Ltd' plant at Chipinda-Kutagaon is lying closed since September, 2012 while the plant belonging 'Sri Jagannath Metallica' has also downed its shutters for close to a decade.

Baburam Dehuri who was working in the 'Ganesh Sponge Iron' plant said it has been very hard to maintain his family after he lost his job. He said former employees should be taken back if the plant reopens. Mohan Sundar Mishra, an ex-employee of 'Odisha Sponge Iron Ltd' informed that the plant has reopened but they have not been taken back into service. He demanded that priority should be given to the former staff.

Local intellectual Pradip Mohanta said that the Odisha government and the district administration should take steps for rehabilitation of the workers who have lost their jobs.



FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION: Students pose with saplings ahead of plantation as part of a programme on wetland conservation at Bantala Girls' High School in Angul district, Tuesday. The programme was jointly organised by Delhi-based organisation 'Haya' and 'Sathi' of Angul

OP PHOTO

## BSF busts Maoist camp in Malkangiri

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 8: Border Security Force (BSF) personnel seized Monday huge stocks of arms and ammunition including a rocket launcher from a Maoist hideout in Malkangiri district. The BSF in a statement said Tuesday that personnel of its 142nd Battalion conducted a search operation in Bejaniwada Reserve Forest of the district on the basis of specific information about Maoists.

"During the search, the BSF personnel found a Maoist dump in the reserve forest near Amapadar-Elkanur village and Bodiluguda-Brundamandi axis under Kalimela police limits in the district," the statement said. "The seized arms and ammunition included one 303 rifle, 11 Barrel (SBML), one magazine of the 303 rifle, 15 improvised hand grenades, three country-made guns, two 51mm mortar bombs, a gas welding machine, 42 live cartridges, one country-made rocket launcher, two Bren 303 LMG spare barrels, 29 gelatin sticks, five packets of aluminium nitrate, 30 electric detonators and nine synthetic waist belts," the statement further said.

## Man gets 20 yrs RI for sodomising minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 8: Berhampur special fast track POCOS court Judge Ganeswar Pati convicted Soumyaranjan Padhi (33) and sentenced him to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for sodomising a minor boy. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹60,000 on Padhi. Failure to pay the fine will lead to an additional six months in prison for the accused, the judge said.

As per information available, the 12-year-old boy belonging to Polasara locality was playing in his school when the accused kidnapped him at around 5.00pm October 14, 2019. He then took



the boy on his motorcycle to a cashew orchard and raped the minor. Padhi then forced the boy to go with him to another desolate place and tried sodomising him again. However, when the boy screamed in pain and attracted the attention of the locals, Padhi fled the spot.

Returning home, the boy narrated the ordeal to his father. Subsequently a case (No 226/19) was registered at the Polasara

police station.

Police then arrested Padhi the next day and forwarded him to the court. The then IIC of Polasara PS, Jitendra Kumar Mallick submitted the chargesheet in court. Padhi however, got conditional bail February 4, 2021. However, when he failed to appear during a hearing, a non-bailable warrant was issued against him. He was again arrested August 11, 2022.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing seven eye-witnesses and going through the investigation report, special public prosecutor PP Mohan Singari, who appeared for the government in the case, said.

## Elephant menace on rise in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 8: In two separate incidents, elephants have destroyed the boundary walls of two individuals in this town while looking for food.

At Lathikata locality, a single female elephant brought down Monday the boundary wall of a person identified as Kailash

Singh. The locals then drove the animal away with the help of lighted torches. The tusker then took refuge in the nearby Ergada jungle. Villagers informed that the elephant belonged to a herd of 12 animals that had taken shelter in the forest. They stayed near Kucheita close to NH-143 all through the day. Before leaving the spot, the herd destroyed

standing crops like paddy and vegetables.

Near Lahunipara Guhaldih village, a male elephant went on the rampage Tuesday. It broke the asbestos roof of a person identified as Ramesh Mahanta. The animal also destroyed food items including paddy stored in the house. A Forest department official said that the elephant has been driven

out from its herd and hence it is in a foul mood.

Locals demanded that special protection measures must be put in place to curb the elephant menace which is increasing rapidly. They pointed out that the day is not far off when man-animal conflict will turn for the worse if the elephant menace is not tackled in a proper manner.

## Mining hub Joda slowly becoming tourist hotspot

NATURAL SCENIC SPOTS AND TEMPLES ATTRACTING A LARGE NUMBER OF VISITORS EVERY YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 8: Joda in Keonjhar district is known as the mining hub of Odisha. This is due to the presence of several iron and manganese ore mines in the block. However, this place is undergoing a transformation and is slowly turning into a tourist and pilgrim hotspot. This change has come about because of the presence of various temples, hilly streams and waterfalls in locality.

Multiple streams and rivers flowing through the forests and a cascading waterfall from the hilltop are major attractions for tourists. There has been a substantial increase in footfalls as far as tourists are concerned. Some of them are foreigners who come here to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Among the various places of importance, the 'Murga Mahadev Temple' and the adjoining waterfall in Joda block have got the 'tourist site' tag. Along with the devotees, a large number of 'not so pious' tourists also visit the spot.

However, locals complained that despite having major attractions, the place is not being developed properly. The residents have



been demanding for the development of the temple and the surrounding areas. However, nothing has been done till date by the local administration.

The Gurubeda picnic spot on the banks of the Baitarani river is surrounded by dense forests on both sides. It also is a prime tourist spot. The 'Jateshwar Mahadev Temple' near Barbil also has a waterfall nearby. The temple is surrounded by hilly streams among them being the one at Pacheri village. The slow-flowing Baitarani river, Kundul rivulet, the 'Swarneswar Mahadev Temple' and the bear cave at Thal Kobad are also prime tourist attractions. Visitors also enjoy the sunset amid the backdrop of hills in

Kiriburu and Meghahataburu localities.

Hotels in Barbil and in this town regularly announce lucrative packages to attract tourists. Several Bengali publications have written elaborately on these places. However, despite being highlighted, proper development is not being carried out, locals alleged.

The scenic spots see a large influx of tourists from West Bengal. Two of them, Bipra Majumdar and Subha Pratim Ghosh said they came to know about the spots in Joda from fairs. A woman Bengali tourist could not hide her joy and described the sites as the 'land of red soil, red sky and red flowers'. Tour operator Santosh Kumar Biswal said the Pacheri stream is the most

beautiful place in Joda block. He pointed out that approximately 3,000 tourists visit the spot annually. He however, alleged that accessibility is a problem due to lack of proper roads.

Chittaranjan Kar of Barbil, Somanath Mohanty of this town and Niranjan Bohidar, a member of the 'Joda Vikash Parishad' said the sites if developed properly will help in generating livelihood for the local youths and reduce unemployment. They said that funds from district mineral foundation (DMF) should be spent to develop these spots as it will result in economic and financial development of the areas.

## New look for 'Vedvyas' soon

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 8: The 'Vedvyas Pitha', a famous Shaivite destination in Odisha is all set for a complete facelift and transformation at a cost of ₹35 crore.

"The total DPR has been prepared and has got the approval from the state government. Soon Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will announce the beginning of the project," an official said, Tuesday.

5T Secretary VK Pandian visited 'Vedvyas' January 1 this year. At that time, he had said the area would be developed keeping in mind its importance. Following his declaration, the DPR was prepared which is now ready awaiting the final go ahead from the CM.

'Vedvyas' is an important religious tourism destination in Odisha and every year lakhs of people visit the place. A huge fair and exhibition is held annually beginning on the auspicious



day of 'Shivratri'. The fair, known as 'Vedvyas Mela', continues for 15 days.

The place is famous for the confluence of the three rivers, 'Sankha', 'Koel' and the 'Saraswati'. Incidentally 'Saraswati' is a small stream which originates from the small hillock on which the temple is situated. The mighty Brahmani river also begins its journey from here. The last rites of the deceased and the immersion of ashes are carried out at this place by thousands of families.

Sources informed that a hanging bridge will be constructed over the Brahmani river. The survey work for the bridge has been done. The bridge will originate from the 'Panposh' slum

and end just near the crematorium. Manoj Mahanand, executive engineer, PWD said, "The techno-feasibility report is ready following the survey. Soon the final report will be completed for approval."

The main temples, including 'Shri Chandrasekhar' and 'Balunkeswar', will get a total facelift. Both the Hanuman and the Kashi Vishwanath temples will be shifted elsewhere. The size of the prayer room will also be increased, officials said. They also informed that a high boundary wall will be constructed surrounding the temple. Similarly a new office for the trustee board, rest rooms for the devotees, lavatories and beautification of the river bank will be done.

Renowned historian Dr Prabhat Mallick who resides here said, "This is perhaps the holiest place in Odisha after Puri. This place has both historical and religious importance, with a rich heritage of its own. So, this place certainly requires such a facelift."

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No.CAD-1598: Sealed tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno-commercial bid (ii) Price-bid for providing commercial diesel/petrol AC vehicles on monthly basis for official use at GEDCOL Corporate Office, Bhubaneswar from travel agency having PAN & GSTIN.

| Description of type of services and vehicles   | Cost of tender paper in Rs. | EMD in Rs.       | Date of sale of tender documents | Last date & time of submission of tender documents | Date & time of opening of tender |
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Branch Office : 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Ma Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgargh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751 010

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the respective dates mentioned against each account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned against each account along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

| Sl. No. | NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER   | DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED   | A) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE<br>B) OUTSTANDING AMOUNT<br>C) DATE OF SYMBOLIC POSSESSION   |
|---------|--|---|---|
| 1.      | Loan Account Nos : HE01URI00000016478 & HE01URI00000017847<br>Borrower : Tanushree Mohapatra<br>Co-Borrowers : Dhananjaya Mohapatra<br>M/s. Utkal Traders<br>Address : Nuagaon, Puriharpur, Sakhigopal Puri, Odisha Near Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Puri, Odisha - 752014 | All That Landed Property Of Hal Plot No.1271/8506, Hal Khatian No. 1795/652, Mouza - Siramchandrapur - 24, Tahasil Salyabadi, Tahasil No. 481, Thana No. 110, Measuring An Area Ac.0.180 Decimals, Kism-Garabari, Bounded As Follows - On the North - Seller Plot, On the South : Govt Road, On the East : Seller Plot, On the West : Promod Kumar Mohanty. | A) 10.05.2023<br>B) Rs. 26,04,633.00<br>(Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Four Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Three Only) as on 08.05.2023 with interest thereon<br>C) 07.08.2023<br>(Symbolic Possession) |

Date : 09.08.2023  
Place : Puri (Odisha)  
Authorised Officer  
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited



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THE MOTHER



## Kill Privacy

A long cherished dream of the BJP government at the Centre seems to have come true in passing in the Lok Sabha of The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill. This is an egregious attempt at surveillance of the citizens on a massive scale in the name of protecting them against misuse of their personal data. Right from the moment the Bill was introduced the government has been resorting to equivocation and prevarication. The Union Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it was an ordinary Bill. Later it was given out that it was a Money Bill which meant it was not required to be debated and scrutinised in the Rajya Sabha where the Bill could not have passed due to lack of numbers for the BJP, and therefore it would have made the exercise futile.

The Modi government has been trying to silence its critics in one way or the other by blocking access to information. The cornerstone of democracy is free flow of information and data so that the citizens can be informed of the functioning of a government and accordingly form their considered opinion on it. Under the present government, a major section of the media has either been won, bought or threatened into silence. A climate of fear has been created to intimidate both independent media and social activists with courage to expose the government for its various wrongdoings. Since that was not enough to stem the tide of free flow of information through various social media platforms, the government seems to have been hell-bent to take steps to throttle free speech by removing the source of information.

Its first version in this regard was introduced in the form of Data Privacy Law in Parliament in December 2019. But it was dropped in August 2022 following trenchant criticism by the Opposition, technology companies and advocacy groups.

The current Bill, like the 2019 draft, would grant sweeping powers to the government beyond reasonable exceptions to exempt itself from compliance with the Bill's data protection provisions for vague reasons. This new addition has more or less crippled the Right to Information (RTI) Act under the guise of "interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or maintenance of public order." Security and public order are terms the government has long been using to trample freedom of expression and rights to criticise the government.

At the same time, the Data Protection Bill does not provide for safeguards or independent oversight of these government powers. On the contrary, it proposes a Data Protection Board which is nothing but a government entity whose members would be appointed and removed by the government. Their terms and conditions of service would also be prescribed by the government, removing all traces of independence of the board members.

All corrupt and also inefficient bureaucrats and politicians across the country must be greatly celebrating the death of the RTI Act. The fear of exposure has been forever removed from the hearts of the corrupt officials of India by the Modi government.

The absence of checks would only strengthen the government's hand in mounting surveillance and possible mass violations of people's privacy. A glaring example of Modi government's track record is its refusal to respond to allegations over the use of the Israeli spyware Pegasus to target journalists and activists. The intent of the government is clear from the fact that it did not cooperate with the committee set up by the Supreme Court to investigate the use of Pegasus spyware on Indian citizens. And as for common citizens, the Aadhaar data has enough loopholes that the government is incapable to plug which have, time and again, been demonstrated as to how that valuable database is being breached with impunity while the system looks on stupidly.

The surveillance concerns are not unfounded since the country has already had bitter experience of the government's intensified crackdown on freedom of speech and its enforcement of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The rules give greater control to the government over online content, issue threats to weaken encryption and undermine rights to privacy and freedom of expression online. The authorities have been increasingly prosecuting and arresting human rights defenders, peaceful protesters and members of religious minorities in politically motivated cases under counterterrorism, sedition, and national security laws. There is also evidence that the phone numbers of several activists currently in jail on terrorism charges were on the spyware target list. That list also included some ministers of the current Modi government as also members of Opposition parties.

The Data Protection Bill, it is feared, will not safeguard the rights of users, as is being claimed. Unless there are provisions to make government agencies responsible for carrying out surveillance transparently accountable, there will be no respite in the strangulation process. A rights-affirming data protection law should ensure independent scrutiny of government surveillance to ensure any interference with the right to privacy is brought to book through legal mechanisms. This kind of transparency, accountability and good governance is definitely anathema to the present Narendra Modi government.

### WISDOM CORNER

- The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus. **BRUCE LEE**
- If you don't find a way to make money while you sleep, you will work until you die. **WARREN BUFFETT**
- You must have chaos within you to give birth to a dancing star. **FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Metempsychosis

Though this word is extremely rare, the situation it refers to is still very much with us, as it refers to one of the corrections that form part of the Gregorian calendar we all use. We need not worry that it will affect us anytime soon, however: the next metempsychosis will occur in 2100. The problem for calendar creators is that the number of days in a year doesn't exactly fit the length of the year — there's about a quarter of a day over. The older Julian calendar from Roman times had a simple way to deal with this: it just added an extra leap day every four years to make up the numbers and get the calendar back into sync with the year. Unfortunately, over the next 1500 years it slowly became clear this wasn't good enough. In fact, the number of days in the year is very slightly less than 365.25, so the calendar was slowly gaining on the seasons. In the sixteenth century, advisors to Pope Gregory XIII told him that it was necessary to leave out some days to get things back in step and to change the calendar to omit three leap years in every 400 years. To do this, they suggested that century years should only be leap years if they were divisible by 400. So 2000 was a leap year, but 2100 won't be. Astronomers created metempsychosis in the early eighteenth century for this second step, from Greek meta-, after, em-, in, and ptosis, a falling. It came into the language when the need to reform the British calendar was becoming very urgent (Catholic countries had implemented it in 1582; Britain only did so in 1752, though we weren't the last by any means). To be complete, there is proempsychosis for the opposite process, adding a day to the calendar, in this case to keep it in step with the moon. For reasons we have no intention of trying to explain, one of these will not be needed until 4200.



Dani Rodrik & Reka Juhász

**INDUSTRIAL POLICIES ARE COMPLEX, AND QUANTIFYING THEM FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANALYSIS CAN BE DIFFICULT**

### FOCUS INDUSTRIAL POLICY

# DISTORTING ECONOMY

As policymakers around the world embrace industrial policy in pursuit of a wide variety of objectives — supply-chain resilience, green technologies, geopolitical advantage, good jobs — the debate over its effectiveness is reaching fever pitch. Typically, this debate is portrayed as one where sound economics is squarely on the skeptics' side. "There is a strong case against industrial policy in economics," intoned one recent commentary, and embracing it "just wastes money and distorts the economy."

But this is an increasingly outmoded view. While it is generally true that mainstream economists have responded to industrial policy with knee-jerk hostility since at least the 1970s, things have been changing fast, owing to new academic research that is less driven by ideological hostility to government intervention and better grounded in rigorous empirical methods.

This recent crop of research provides more authoritative evidence on how industrial policy really works, improving the quality of debates that in the past shed more heat than light on the issue. And researchers' more nuanced and contextual understanding of such policies yields a generally more positive assessment.

Industrial policies are complex, and quantifying them for the purposes of analysis can be difficult. Consider, for example, China's recent push in the shipbuilding industry. Seeking to become the largest shipbuilding country within a decade, China deployed a multitude of policies, including production subsidies, investment subsidies, and entry subsidies. There were many changes along the way, as in 2009, when policymakers turned away from promoting entry and instead focused on industry consolidation.

In the past, economists too often focused on simple indicators such as import tariffs, capturing only limited dimensions of industrial policy and conflating its objectives with others (such as raising government revenue or playing special-interest politics). A number of recent research efforts



While it is generally true that mainstream economists have responded to industrial policy with knee-jerk hostility since at least the 1970s, things have been changing fast

have taken a more productive approach. For example, a comparative project at the OECD quantifies industrial policies through deep accounting of government activity, focusing on government expenditures allocated specifically for industrial-policy objectives. A team of economists apply natural language processing to publicly available policy inventories to generate a detailed classification of industrial policies.

The latter work is yielding important new insights. For starters, industrial policy has been ubiquitous, and its prevalence predates the recent rise in its use and prominence in public discussions. Moreover, it is no longer appropriate, if it ever was, to identify industrial policy with inward-looking, protectionist trade policies; contemporary industrial policies typically target export promotion. And the prevalence of industrial policies tends to increase with income: advanced economies use it more often and intensively than developing countries do.

Improved methods of causal inference are also leading economists to revise their views. Traditionally, economists assessed the effects of industrial policy by examining whether industries receiving more government help performed better — generally reaching a negative conclusion. It is now recognised that such correlational work is uninformative, because it cannot distinguish between cases where industrial policy is useful and not.

The more recent research

uses modern statistical techniques to avoid misleading inferences. Such techniques have been applied to a wide variety of cases, including historical episodes of promotion of infant industries (such as textiles, shipbuilding, and heavy industries); large-scale public research and development efforts (as in the "space race" between the United States and the Soviet Union); and selective place-based policies targeting specific firms or industries.

The results of this research are much more favourable to industrial policy, tending to find that such policies — or historical accidents that mimic their effects — have often led to large, seemingly beneficial long-term effects in the structure of economic activity. For example, the disruption to French imports during the Napoleonic blockade stimulated French industrialisation in mechanised cotton spinning long after the end of the Napoleonic wars. These results are consistent with what proponents of nurturing infant industries would argue.

Studies of recent public programmes to subsidise investment in lagging regions of Britain and Italy have similarly found strong positive effects on employment creation. While these studies cannot provide a definitive answer to whether industrial policy works in general, they are informative about the prevalence of the market failures targeted by the policy and about the policy's long-term effects. Newer studies also shed light on the long-standing controversy over the contribution

of industrial policy to East Asia's economic miracle. The early economic literature on East Asia's rise had argued that industrial policies were at best ineffective. Newer analyses paying closer attention to the structure of upstream and downstream linkages in these economies reach considerably more sanguine conclusions.

To cite one example, studies of South Korea's Heavy-Chemical Industry Drive (HCI), a landmark — and controversial — industrial policy pursued by President Park Chung-hee in the 1970s, found that the policy promoted the growth of targeted industries, both in the short and long run. HCI's effects on productivity and export performance were both positive.

Critics of East Asian policies thought governments could never pick the right sectors because they lacked information on where market failures were more prominent. Princeton economist Ernest Liu has recently provided a useful guide for policymakers confronting an economy where market imperfections occur across multiple, linked sectors. In such settings, subsidising upstream sectors generally minimises policy mistakes. Liu shows that the actual policies used in China and during South Korea's HCI were in line with this guidance.

Some commentators have recently criticised US President Joe Biden's industrial policy because it "lacks a rigorous economic foundation." The reality is that there is already plenty of good economic research on industrial policy. While more research is always beneficial, the new literature is already providing us with better assessments of industrial policies in all their diversity, evaluating the consequences of historical and contemporary examples, and illuminating how such policies work or fail depending on their instruments and objectives, and on prevailing economic structures.

**Rodrik is Professor of International Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School. Juhász is Assistant Professor, Economics, University of British Columbia.** #PROJECT SYNDICATE

### IN JEST THIS

# Winning a lottery may bring problems

It's a rare occasion when I buy a lottery ticket, but I'm always happy to hear about people whose lives have been changed overnight through the lottery.



Melvin Durai

**IF YOU'RE SUDDENLY WEALTHY BUT YOUR RELATIVES ARE POOR, THEY MAY SUDDENLY HAVE TROUBLE RELATING TO YOU**

I was particularly thrilled to hear about the 11 sanitation workers in Kerala who recently won the state's Rs 10 crore bumper prize lottery. After splitting the cost of the Rs 250 ticket, they are splitting the big prize, getting as much as Rs 63 lakh each. They've been collecting waste for years, but never before have they cleaned up like this.

The money will allow them to be debt-free. Most had taken out loans for various expenses, including education, medical treatment, and dowries. "I'm swimming in debt, so this money will be a big relief," Leela K., 50, a mother of four daughters, told the New York Times. "I will finally have peace of mind. But my tension will vanish only when the money comes into my account."

Hopefully the tension will vanish, but the money will not. Unfortunately, many lottery winners find it hard to hang onto their money. That's partly because when people win the lottery, they don't just have a lot more money in the bank, they also have a lot more friends and relatives.

Caller: "Hello Leela, this is your close relative George. How have you been?"

Lottery winner: "Is this my uncle George or my cousin George?"

Caller: "Neither. I am your mother's third cousin's daughter's husband's brother. I have a favour to ask you."

Winner: "A favour? Does it involve money?"

Caller: "No, it just involves a car. If I get a car, I can make enough money to repay you and support my family."

Winner: "Okay, I will put you on the list."

Caller: "What list is this?"

Winner: "List of relatives and

friends asking for something. You are No. 234."

It's not just friends and relatives who will be asking for money when you win the lottery; it's also charitable organisations who need your help. You may also attract investors who want you to invest in something that will double or triple your wealth, such as shares of a company that's making cellphones for dogs.

Many lottery winners have lost all their money within a few years — and not just because of handouts. It's also because they go on spending sprees, instead of investing their money wisely. When you win more money than you ever dreamed of, you think it's going to last forever. But a few expensive vacations and luxury cars can make a chunk of your money disappear.

Some lottery winners, unfortunately, have also been targeted by criminals. Others have ended up with poor relationships with family members. If you're sud-

denly wealthy but your relatives are poor; they may suddenly have trouble relating to you. "Who is that guy driving the Ferrari? We used to know him."

Winning the lottery may not bring lasting happiness to everyone. If you are destitute, it will certainly make a huge difference in your life. But if you're middle class, you may end up with problems you didn't expect, such as deciding how many relatives you can fit on your yacht without sinking it.

That's partly why I don't usually buy lottery tickets. But the main reason is that I realize that the chances of winning the lottery are extremely slim. For the recent Powerball Jackpot in America, for example, the odds of winning were one in 300 million. Let me put that in perspective. One in 300 million is basically equal to the odds of Deepika Padukone asking me to star in a movie with her.

It could happen, but only in my dreams.

### Assault on privacy

Sir, The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 was passed in Lok Sabha on Monday by a voice vote. The Bill has retained the contents of the original version of the legislation proposed last November, including those that were red-flagged by privacy experts, such as exemptions for the Centre. In its new avatar, the proposed law has also accorded virtual censorship powers to the Centre. This is India's second attempt at framing privacy legislation, and comes after at least three previous iterations of a data protection law have been considered, and shelved, by the government. Next, the Bill will have to be passed by the Rajya Sabha before it becomes a law. The Bill is criticised for seeking to dilute the provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, which has empowered citizens to access information and hold governments accountable. The RTI Act includes a provision to protect privacy through Section 8(1)(j). A data protection law must safeguard and balance peoples' right to privacy and their right to information, which are fundamental rights flowing from the Constitution. This bill does not fulfill the purpose; hence it is anti-people.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

### Soul of India

Sir, Odisha is a land of monumental cultural heritage. It's splendor and beauty is unrivalled. The state has a huge tourism potential. Under 5T our ancient temples and monuments are getting a new look and are being remodeled. However, barring the Golden Triangle consisting of Konark, Puri and Bhubaneswar other tourist places in the state have not got enough attention. The Buddhist heritage is overlooked. The Jain temples also have not got due attention. More tourist guides should be appointed to inform the visitors about the splendour beauty and majestic design of our ancient temples and other places of heritage. Similarly, the photographers have the vital responsibility of enriching our cultural heritage through their cameras to attract more and more domestic and foreign tourists. Apart from this, road-shows in foreign countries should be conducted on a regular basis. Scenic, serene and sublime, Odisha is nature's best kept secret. It is the soul of India.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

# Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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# 94 TN fishermen arrested in past one year

# Right to choose gender vests with individuals: HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 8:** Despite high-level meetings and discussions, at least 94 fishermen from Tamil Nadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy in the past one year for crossing the International Marine Boundary Line (IMBL), while 14 mechanised boats were also seized.

The latest incident occurred Sunday when the island nation's navy arrested 10 fishermen from Akkaraipatti village in Nagapattinam who had gone to the waters on August 3. Their mechanised boat was also seized.

Speaking on the unabated arrests, R. Selvakumar, a fishermen's leader from Nagapattinam, said: "We have been knocking at the doors of the Chief Minister, other ministers, opposition and Union government to bring out a permanent solution to this issue. Nineteen of our men are in Sri Lankan Navy's custody in two separate incidents and we cannot leave this as a soft pedaling issue anymore. We want the government of India to act immediately and to bring about a permanent solution."

He said that fishermen from all the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu would conduct massive protest marches in



Nagapattinam soon. Thomas Antony, another fisherman from Ramanathapuram, said: "We have been hounded and harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy and its high time a strong warning is given from the government of India to the Sri Lankans. They have seized our boats and these costly boats are rusting in their custody. We are now totally lost as the loans taken for these boats remain unpaid and we are already in deep distress given the fear to venture into seas following in-

timidation by the Sri Lankans." He said that the fishermen across all the coastal towns of Tamil Nadu are in unison against the high handedness of the Sri Lankan Navy. Meanwhile, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written a letter to External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar urging him to immediately intervene in the release of the 10 fishermen from Nagapattinam. Sources in the fishermen groups of Tamil Nadu are gearing up for a massive agitation against this.

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Chief Minister MK Stalin has written a letter to External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar urging him to immediately intervene in the release of the 10 fishermen from Nagapattinam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, August 8:** The Kerala High Court pointed out that while 'gender' and 'sex' are often used interchangeably, they are actually two distinct concepts, and the right to choose the gender vests with individuals, not the courts.

"The terms gender and sex are often used interchangeably in casual conversation, but are actually two distinct concepts related to human identity and biology. Sex refers to the biological characteristics of a person, particularly in relation to their reproductive anatomy and chromosomal composition. Gender, on the other hand, is a social and cultural construct that encompasses the roles, behaviors, expectations, and identities associated with being male-female or non-binary," the court observed.

The court made this observation while hearing a petition moved by the parents of a seven-year-old child born with ambiguous genitalia, seeking to conduct genital reconstructive surgery to raise the child as a female. Although doctors advised genital reconstruction, they refused to actually go ahead



The court made this observation while hearing a petition moved by the parents of a 7-year-old child born with ambiguous genitalia, seeking to conduct genital reconstructive surgery to raise the child as a female

to be recognised. Conversely, intervention with an individual's right to choose sex or identity will definitely be an intrusion into that person's privacy and an affront to his/her dignity and freedom.

On a reading of the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, the Court noted, "It is beyond cavil that the right to choose gender is vested with the individual concerned and no one else, not even the court."

# TN records increase in elephant population

# Narco trafficking via SL boats in TN shows LTTE is back

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 8:** Tamil Nadu recorded an increase in the number of elephants in the wild as per the latest synchronised elephant population estimation report released by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin here Tuesday.

The state accounts for 2,961 elephants, up by 200 over the 2017 estimates of 2,761 pachyderms. The synchronised survey covered Kerala and Karnataka along with Tamil Nadu and was conducted from May 17 to 19 this year, the report released by the chief minister at the Secretariat here said.

"A series of measures taken by the state government has led to the increase in the number of elephants in the wild," an official press release said.

Among the 26 forest divisions, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve had the highest estimated density of elephants followed by MTR Masinagudi division and STR Hasanur division, the report said.

Among the five elephant reserves, the Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve had the highest estimated density followed by Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve,



Nilambur Silent Valley-Coimbatore Elephant Reserve and Periyar Elephant Reserve.

About 2,099 personnel, including 368 volunteers, covering 690 blocks across the three southern states were involved in the elephant census.

Forest Minister M Mathivendan, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Climate Change and Forests Supriya Sahu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden Srinivas R Reddy, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Conservator of Forests and Field Director D Venkatesh and senior officials were present at the event at which the report was released.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 8:** A few days ago the Nagapattinam Police in Tamil Nadu conducted raids and seized 300 kg of ganja which was to be ferried to Sri Lanka in a country boat.

The police arrested six people and the Tamil Nadu Coastal police conducted searches at several godowns and other fishing hamlets near the port town of Nagapattinam to unearth further stocks.

Tamil Nadu intelligence agency sources said that they had received tip-offs from central agencies that some Tamil nationalist groups were behind the smuggling of ganja to Sri Lanka. National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered many cases against Sri Lankan nationals who were former operatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) involved in smuggling of drugs, ferrying arms and indulging in hawala transactions to raise the funds for the revival of LTTE movement.

Tamil Nadu Police sources said that people who push ganja into Sri Lanka return with heroin. This is for raising funds for the revival of the now defunct LTTE. The Narcotics Control Bureau has also arrested Alla Pitchai, a close associate

of senior LTTE intelligence operative Satnukam alias Sabesan in Chennai.

He was one of the key operatives who provided logistics support to the drug cartels of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. LTTE operative Satnukam alias Sabesan has been in jail since October 2021 in a case related to smuggling of heroin worth Rs 3,000 crore while five AK 47 assault rifles and pellets have also been recovered from him.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also questioned Alla Pitchai in the Rs 3,000 crore heroin smuggling case in which Sabesan is under judicial custody. Interestingly, several Tamil nationalist groups and movements are functioning in Tamil Nadu with the sole objective to revive LTTE. Notorious Haji Ali network of Pakistan has also been pushing drugs into the Indian and Sri Lankan markets. It is also alleged that a former LTTE operative is behind this drug cartel.

A retired senior police officer said: "Some former operatives of LTTE are now in camps in Tamil Nadu and we have rounded up a few. However, the regular seizure of high-quality ganja is being seen as a move by these elements to push it into Sri Lanka and from there heroin is being



moved into India. These moves are to raise funds for the revival of LTTE."

In December 2022, NIA arrested nine Sri Lankan nationals from Tamil refugee camp at Tiruchi for their alleged in-

volvement in ferrying drugs and arms. NIA said that they were in the process of reviving the defunct LTTE using the funds garnered by smuggling.

The nine arrested include C. Gunashekharan alias Guna, who

is a resident of Colombo, is considered a key person in the revival of LTTE. NIA had said that Gunashekharan had aligned with Haji Salim, a Pakistani national who has been pushing drugs and arms into Sri Lanka from Pakistan.

On March 29, 2022, a Sri Lankan woman, Mary Fransicka, was arrested by NIA while she was boarding a flight to Mumbai to revive a defunct bank account in a nationalised bank. The woman had arrived from Canada and was part of an international Tamil network.

NIA had said that Mary Fransicka, T. Kenniston Fernando and K. Bhaskaran entered into a conspiracy with foreign entities to siphon off deposits in dormant bank accounts by using Indian identity documents obtained fraudulently and forging identity documents to revive, revamp and regroup LTTE in India and Sri Lanka. NIA had said that they were abetted by Johnson Samuvel, Dharmendran and Mohan in forging Indian identity documents. The revival of LTTE is a major agenda for certain Tamil groups and the drug cartels are being used as a major support base for raising funds for the revival of the movement.

# As Onam approaches, barren lands turn flower farms

# Man jailed for making 300 calls in 48 hrs to lady cop

In Pallichal panchayat alone, 26 acres of land have been converted into flower farms. Private individuals have also come forward to join the government initiative and cultivated flowers on their lands



an innovative project launched by Kattakada MLA IB Sathesh and it has now been implemented successfully. The sunshine-hued blossoms are now ready to be harvested and will be available till the end of the Onam season, the local people here said.

"I am so happy to see this. When we started to clear these five acres of land that was lying barren for several years and was just a shrub jungle, we were doubtful about the outcome. But now you can see the results," a woman farmer who was busy

plucking the blooms at a farm located in Pallichal Panchayat, said. She is happier about the involvement of women workers in the flower cultivation. The women workforce from Kudumbashree and MGNREGA are the ones who ploughed, planted, and watered the saplings to create this blooming marigold farm.

"This is the success of collective work. The panchayat, Agriculture office, MGNREGA, Kudumbashree, and the government worked together and

achieved this feat. It was also part of a project to convert barren lands to agriculture farms," Mallika, Pallichal Panchayat President said.

In Pallichal panchayat alone, 26 acres of land have been converted into flower farms. Private individuals have also come forward to join the government initiative and cultivated flowers on their lands. "We used to grow grass for cattle on the slopes of this hill. But when the authorities talked about this initiative, we also joined. We are sure that

this is going to be a big success as all our plants have flowered, making this tourist area more beautiful," Ramesh, a young farmer, who takes care of a 5-acre farm in Valiyavila Panchayat, said.

When the Panchayat authorities started the farming project, women workers from Kudumbashree and MNREGA got fully immersed in it, mindful of the time they spent at the farm. The results are breathtaking and people from all parts of Thiruvananthapuram are now coming to admire the sight. The panchayat will hold flower markets in the city for people to buy fresh flowers at a low cost. They are also supplying flowers to flower vendors in markets like Chala in Thiruvananthapuram.

"The agriculture department supported this initiative wholeheartedly and helped them secure quality saplings. Our team also helps them with technical support at the farm," C V Jayadas, agriculture officer, Vilappilsala said. Thiruvananthapuram has never thought of cultivating flowers, thinking that the soil and climate may not support the crop. However, this new experiment has become a success and may prompt many other panchayats to follow the model. "This may help us produce the flowers that we want here," MLA Sathesh said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, August 8:** A Kerala court has sentenced a man to jail for harassing a lady police officer by calling her 300 times in a 48-hour period.

The Additional Judicial Magistrate court in Ernakulam sentenced Jose to three years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 10,000 for the offence of sexual harassment, as well as a sentence to one year of simple imprisonment for causing nuisance with a Rs 5,000 as fine. The court ruled that both jail sentences will run concurrently.

Jose had made these calls from his personal mobile number to the official landline of a 'Vanitha' (all women) police station.

According to the lady police officer, Jose made these calls from July 10-11, 2019 and whoever picked up the phone had to hear his lewd remarks.

The officials at the station were forced to keep the phone receiver aside in an effort to put an end to the calls. The court was also told that Jose had a history of creating such "nuisance" in many police stations.

A complaint was registered on July 11, 2019, which led to Jose's arrest. "The act of the accused has not only caused discomfort, mental pain and dis-



Jose had made these calls from his personal mobile number to the official landline of a 'Vanitha' (all women) police station

According to the lady police officer, Jose made these calls from July 10-11, 2019 and whoever picked up the phone had to hear his lewd remarks

like to the prosecutrix and other staff members of the police station but also adversely affected their public duty to attend the phone calls which might be an emergency and may contain information and grievance from general public which require emergent action," the court said in its order.

However, since there was no physical contact between the accused and the lady police officer, the judge acquitted him of the offence under Section 354A (1)(i) (physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 8:** With vibrant hues of orange and yellow and the fragrance of freshness in air, the sprawling marigold farms here are a breathtaking visual treat for visitors in Kattakada.

It's hard to believe that these were once barren lands. Thanks to an ambitious project, the hamlets of Kattakada Assembly Constituency near the state capital here have gone from being a bare, desolate stretch to a vivid and inviting carpet of blooms.

As Onam is round the corner, the capital district may not have to depend on flowers from neighbouring Tamil Nadu or Karnataka anymore, as 60 acres of barren land in the constituency, located about 25 km away from here, has now been cultivated with marigold.

'Our Onam Our Flowers' was





Soldiers in historical uniforms arrive for a ceremony to commemorate the battle of Boyaca that sealed Colombia's independence from Spain in Puente de Boyaca, Colombia



Former cricketer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Sachin Tendulkar interacts with students during his visit to a school in Sabaragamuwa province, Sri Lanka



Members of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) team conduct scientific survey at the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Members of Uttarakhand Pradesh Mahila Congress raise slogans during a protest over rising prices of essential commodities in Dehradun



An Indian Youth Congress worker being detained during a protest over Manipur violence, inflation, unemployment and other issues at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan tries his hands at a traditional drum at a function organised by Ranchi University during the 'World Tribal Day' celebrations in Ranchi



In this photo released by Roscosmos State Space Corporation, the Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the Moon lander Luna 25 automatic station is transported to a launch pad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russian Far East Tuesday



# national

## of the day quote

In Assam, the Congress party is gearing up for the Lok Sabha elections. We are reinvigorating the organisation. All leaders and workers must reach out to people and expose the misgovernance and incompetence of the BJP

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Yes, we all know about the frequency of visits of Union ministers before any election. But it has been 97 days since the horrific ethnic violence broke out in Manipur. INDIA (opposition bloc) asks how many of Modi's ministers have been to Manipur

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

I extend warm congratulations to Sree Rahul Gandhi ji on being reinstated as the Member of Parliament

Y S SHARMILA | YSR TELANGANA PARTY (YSRTP) CHIEF

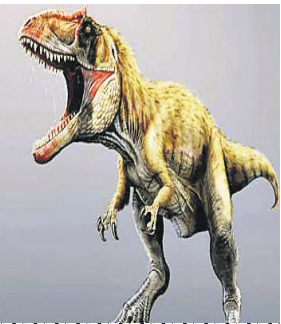


Ecotourism sites will be awarded to private companies on both cluster and individual basis, generating revenue for the state and creating employment for locals. The state government is committed to promote ecotourism as tourism is key for Himachal's economy

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL PRADESH CM

## DINOSAUR FOSSILS DISCOVERED IN RAJ

Scientists from IIT-Roorkee and Geological Survey of India (GSI) have discovered the oldest fossil remains of a long-necked, plant-eating dicraeosaurid dinosaur in Jaisalmer, suggesting that India was a major centre of dinosaur evolution. The new species, about 167-million-year-old, has been named *Tharosaurus indicus*, referring to the Thar desert of western India from where the fossils were found



## Kerala Assembly adopts resolution against UCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 8:** The Kerala assembly Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the BJP-led Central government to refrain from implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who moved the resolution in the House against the UCC termed it as a "unilateral and hasty" action on the part of the Centre.

Vijayan contended that the UCC as visualised by the Sangh Parivar was not according to the Constitution, rather it was based upon the Hindu legal text 'Manusmriti'.

"That has been made clear by Sangh Parivar long back. They are not trying to implement something that is there in the Constitution. There is no need to misunderstand it like that," he said. Vijayan contended that the ruling BJP government at the Centre only criminalised the divorce laws under the Muslim personal law, but has not done anything to ensure safety and security of women or take steps for the welfare of the marginalised.

The Mizoram assembly had in February this year unanimously adopted an official resolution opposing any move to implement the UCC in the country.

However, according to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Kerala is the first state to adopt a resolution against UCC after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July advocated for a general civil code while addressing BJP workers in Bhopal in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

After the resolution was moved by the Chief Minister, several amendments and modifications were suggested by the Congress-led opposition UDF that welcomed the Left government's move.

Some of the modifications sought by the UDF were removal of the references to B R Ambedkar from the resolution and also the suggestion that UCC can be implemented after discussions with all stakeholders. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan said, "The UCC cannot be implemented even after holding discussions. There is no need to include that condition."



Christians participate in a protest rally against Manipur violence in Kolkata, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

## SPARKS FLY DURING NO-TRUST DEBATE



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 8:** Sparks flew on the first day of the debate on the no-trust motion moved by the Congress with the Opposition asserting that it was forced to do so to break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) on Manipur and the treasury benches hitting back saying it was a no-trust vote against a "poor person's son" who has worked for the welfare of the people.

The Opposition leaders at various points during the debate also invoked BJP veteran Atal Bihari Vajpayee to target the Prime Minister and remind Modi of 'rajdharna'

ing, the entire India is burning, if Manipur is divided, the country is divided. It was our demand that as the leader of the country, Prime Minister Modi should come to the House and speak about Manipur. However, he kept a 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) that he will neither speak in the Lok Sabha nor in the Rajya Sabha," the Congress MP from Assam said.

Intervening in the debate, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said the Congress and other opposition parties have brought the no-confidence motion in a "wrong time and in a wrong manner."

On Wednesday, top ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia are likely to intervene in the debate, parliamentary sources said.

Starting the debate from the government's side, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the Prime Minister has remarked that this

The Opposition leaders at various points during the debate also invoked BJP veteran Atal Bihari Vajpayee to target the Prime Minister and remind Modi of 'rajdharna'

talked about "one India" had created "two Manipurs - one living in hills and the other in the valley".

"If Manipur is burning, the entire India is burning, if Manipur is divided, the country is divided. It was our demand that as the leader of the country, Prime Minister Modi should come to the House and speak about Manipur. However, he kept a 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) that he will neither speak in the Lok Sabha nor in the Rajya Sabha," the Congress MP from Assam said.

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Starting the debate from the government's side, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the Prime Minister has remarked that this

is not a no-confidence motion against the government but was brought by the opposition to test the confidence of its own alliance members in each other.

Dubey took a swipe at the opposition parties, saying they were fighting among themselves and calling themselves INDIA.

## Oppn moves privilege notice against Goyal



**New Delhi:** Several leaders of the INDIA alliance have given a privilege notice against leader of the house in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal over his certain remarks against some opposition leaders. Among the parties whose leaders gave the notice are the Congress, TMC, AAP, RJD, DMK, RJD, JDU, NCP and the Left parties. Sources said leaders of the INDIA alliance members gave the notice to the Rajya Sabha chairman complaining against Goyal's certain remarks made while he was speaking on the issue of media portal 'NewsClick' receiving funding from China-linked firms allegedly to spread Chinese propaganda. Goyal questioned the relationship between the opposition parties and the news portal 'NewsClick', which has been accused in a New York Times report of receiving funding from China-linked firms.

## Haryana Congress delegation stopped from entering Nuh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gurugram, August 8:** A 10-member delegation of Haryana Congress Tuesday was stopped from entering violence-hit villages of Nuh district, police said.

Citing curfew imposed in the area and security concerns for the delegation, a senior police officer said the delegation was stopped at Rojka Meo village and were stopped from entering villages affected by the communal clashes in the district. The delegation returned after that, police said.

Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda said they wanted to listen to the problems of affected people in Nuh city and send out a message of peace.

"If the huge force deployed today to stop us had been deployed that day also, there would have been no clash between the two communities. The government is entirely responsible for this whole episode. Obviously, the government was negligent and their intentions were not right," Hooda said. "The purpose of the delegation was to meet traders and other affected people of Nuh city, and give out a message of peace after listening to their issues. We also wanted to visit the Shiva temple at Nalhar," he added.



## Manipur Police lodges FIR against Assam Rifles



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, August 8:** Manipur Police has registered an FIR accusing the Assam Rifles of blocking their vehicle after an altercation between the two groups last week, while the state unit of the BJP requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to replace Assam Rifles "by any other paramilitary force permanently" from the state.

Security sources, however, described the FIR as a "travesty of justice" and said the Assam Rifles was undertaking a task given by the command headquarters of ensuring sanctity of the buffer zones between Kuki and Meitei areas.

The FIR, a copy of which is with the PTI, was filed August 5 when police alleged that the Assam Rifles blocked police vehicles on the Kwakta Gothol road in Bishnupur district.

The FIR claimed Assam Rifles stopped its personnel from proceeding when "the state police was on its way to Pholjang Road along Kwakta as follow up action to conduct search operations in an arms act case in search of Kuki militants."

The police claimed that its personnel were stopped by 9

Assam Rifles which parked their "Casper" vehicle blocking the road. Defence sources reacted stating "Assam Rifles was undertaking a task given by the command headquarters of ensuring sanctity of the buffer zones between Kuki and Meitei areas."

In the evening, the Manipur unit of BJP requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to replace Assam Rifles "by any other paramilitary force permanently" from the state in the interest of the public and also sought his intervention to bring an amicable solution to the ongoing ethnic unrest at the earliest. In a memorandum to Modi, the party's Manipur unit said, "The role of Assam Rifles in regard to the ethnic unrest and in maintaining peace and tranquility in the state has been under considerable criticism and public outrage." Meanwhile, security has been tightened across the state ahead of United Naga Council's proposed rallies in Naga-inhabited areas of the northeastern state August 9 to press for successfully concluding the peace talks with the Centre based on the Framework Agreement.

## 78 species of birds are found only in India: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, August 8:** A study by ZSI has revealed that there are as many as 78 bird species which are found only in India.

There is a rich diversity of 10,906 bird species in the world, and of them, India is home to 1,353. Zoological Survey of India scientist Amitava Majumder said.

These 1,353 bird species account for 12.4 per cent of the global avian diversity, he said. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorisation, 25 of the 78 bird species, which are found only in India, are classified as 'threatened', the scientist said.

"Seventy-eight bird species are found only in the country's geographical region. On the oc-



There is a rich diversity of 10,906 bird species in the world, and of them, India is home to 1,353

casation of the 75th Independence year, we have focussed on 75 such species in the book, '75 Endemic Birds of India', Majumder told PTI.

These selected winged species exhibit "remarkable distribution patterns" across various regions of the country, he said. Twenty-eight bird species are

restricted to the Western Ghats, 25 to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, four to the Eastern Himalayas and one each to the Southern Deccan plateau and Central Indian Forest, the scientist said.

Of the 25 'threatened' species, three are listed as 'critically endangered', five as 'endangered', and 17 as 'vulnerable'. Eleven species are categorised as 'near threatened'.

Majumder said three bird species - the Manipur Bush Quail (*Perdica manipurensis*), listed as 'endangered' by IUCN, the Himalayan Quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*), quailed as 'critically endangered', and the Jerdon's Courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*), classified as 'critically endangered', have not been included in the ZSI publication.

According to records, the Manipur Bush Quail was last sighted in 1907, while the Himalayan Quail and the Jerdon's Courser were last seen in 1876 and 2009 respectively, he said.

Some researchers believe that the Mottled Wood Owl and the West Himalayan Bush Warbler are only available in India's geographical region but new records and distribution patterns indicate their existence in the nearby countries, Majumder said.

Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyroceros griseus*), Malabar Parakeet from the Western Ghats and Nicobar Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis klossi*), Andaman Barn Owl (*Tyto deroepstorffi*) from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands among others have been featured in the ZSI publication.

## Moradabad riots report tabled in UP Assembly

**Lucknow:** A judicial commission report on the 1980 Moradabad riots which was presented after 40 years in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Tuesday has given a clean chit to the BJP and RSS. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna tabled the 496-page report in the state assembly in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and gave reasons for the delay. In May, the state cabinet had decided to table the Justice M P Saxena Commission's report in the assembly. The report has held a Muslim League leader and his supporters responsible for the 1980 riots in which 83 people were killed and several others injured. Saxena, a retired judge of the Allahabad High Court, had submitted his report in November 1983. The report has justified police action saying that they fired in self-defence. It names a Muslim League leader and some of his supporters as responsible for the riots.



# international

## of the day quote

The most important thing for us now is that there should be no war in the region, including the Taiwan Strait

TARO ASO | MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We regularly raise human rights concerns with countries with which we engage, have done that -- so in the past with India and we'll do so in the future

MATTHEW MILLER | US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

South Africa is ready to host the much-anticipated 15th BRICS summit

NALEDI PANDOR | MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

## SHORT TAKES

### Niger junta rebuffs diplomatic mission

Niamey: Niger's junta Tuesday rejected the latest diplomatic mission from West African countries aimed at restoring constitutional order after a July 26 coup, resisting pressure from the United States and the United Nations to come to the negotiating table. Heads of state from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are preparing for a summit on Thursday to discuss their standoff with the junta, which defied an August 6 deadline to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.

### Poland to hold election Oct 15

Warsaw (Poland): Poland's President announced Tuesday that the country would hold its parliamentary election on October 15, marking the official start of an electoral campaign that has informally been underway for months and is being shaped by Russia's war against Ukraine. President Andrzej Duda said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the elections for the 460-seat lower house of parliament, the Sejm, and for the 100-seat Senate will both take place on that Sunday. Lawmakers will be elected for a four-year term.

### Portugal battling series of wildfires

Lisbon: More than 1,000 firefighters are battling a series of wildfires in Portugal. Three major fires raged in Portugal Tuesday, with the biggest in the southwest near the town of Odemira, where Monday about 1,400 people were evacuated from villages and a camp site as a precaution. They were returning home Tuesday.

# S Korea evacuates tens of thousands of scouts ahead of typhoon

The 37,000 scouts, who hailed from 156 countries and were mostly teenagers, folded up their tents before boarding over 1,000 vehicles for the evacuation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 8: Carrying huge backpacks and water bottles, tens of thousands of scouts began arriving at university dormitories, government and corporate training centres, and hotels around Seoul and other inland cities Tuesday as the South Korean government evacuated the World Scout Jamboree ahead of a tropical storm.

The South Korean government had scrambled to keep the 12-day gathering of Scouts going

# Shehbaz may step down today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

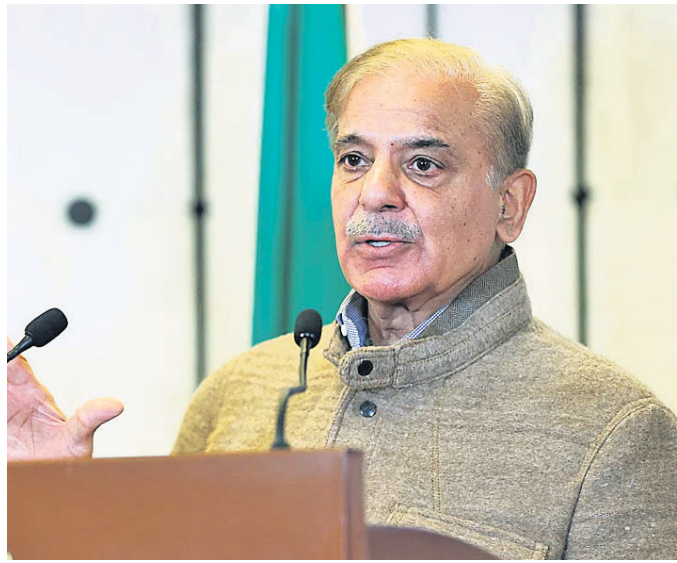
Islamabad, August 8: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said he would write to President Arif Alvi Wednesday to dissolve Pakistan's National Assembly prematurely, a move aimed at getting extra time for holding the general elections scheduled for later this year.

"After completing our (government's) term tomorrow, I will write and send (the advice) to the President to dissolve the assembly and then an interim government will take over," Sharif said while addressing an event in Islamabad. The five-year tenure of the lower house of the Parliament is ending on August 12.

In case President Alvi, a former leader of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, dithers, the assembly would be dissolved within 48 hours of advice given by the premier. The government has announced that assemblies will be dissolved three days ahead of its mandated period, following which elections are to be held within 90 days.

In an indication that Sharif would relinquish premiership, he made a farewell visit to the General Headquarters of the Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi. Prime Minister Sharif paid his farewell visit to the General Headquarters (GHQ) Tuesday, marking an important moment in his tenure as the head of the government, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The prime minister was warmly welcomed by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir as the visit was replete with moving ceremonies and tributes to the nation's fallen heroes. Meanwhile, Leader of the



After completing our (government's) term tomorrow, I will write and send (the advice) to the President to dissolve the assembly and then an interim government will take over

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

Opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz said that he had not yet met or consulted the premier regarding the names for the caretaker prime minister, Dawn newspaper reported.

"I hope to have a meeting tomorrow in which these things will be discussed," he said, adding that the consultation would happen at "the right time". However, Riaz said he had completed the consultation process with his allies, adding that the three names for the interim prime minister were "almost 90 per cent finalised".

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government would have liked

to remain in power for a couple of more days and dissolved the Parliament on August 11 but it has a hunch that President Alvi might refuse to issue a notification immediately for the dissolution, political observers opine.

That is why the advice for dissolution is being given three days before the end of the assembly so that even if the president refuses to oblige the prime minister, the assembly would be dissolved before the end of its term, giving the Election Commission of Pakistan 90 days for elections.

In case the assembly completes its constitutional term, the ECP is bound to hold an election within 60 days. But even 90 days may not be enough for election as the new census has been endorsed by the Council of Common Interests, a constitutional body tasked to address issues involving the federating units, and after its approval, it is incumbent on the ECP to hold elections according to it.



Crooked immigration lawyers must be rooted out and brought to justice. While the majority of lawyers act with integrity - we know that some are lying to help illegal migrants game the system. It is not right or fair on those who play by the rules

SUELLA BRAVERMAN | UK HOME SECRETARY

# Pak extends visa of Indian woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, August 8: Pakistan has extended by one year the visa of a 34-year-old Indian mother of two children who travelled to a remote village in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to marry her Facebook friend after converting to Islam, her Pakistani husband said Tuesday.

Anju - who now goes by the name of Fatima after converting to Islam - on July 25 married her 29-year-old friend Nasrullah, whose home is in the Upper Dir district in the province. They became friends on Facebook in 2019.

On Tuesday, Nasrullah said that Anju's visa, which was earlier extended for 2 months, has now been extended for a year after their marriage. Her original one-month visa was set to expire on August 20. "The visa of my wife Anju has been extended for a year after the provision of related documents to the Interior Ministry," said Nasrullah. "All Pakistani institutions are cooperating with us," he added. Last month, a real estate company gifted the couple a plot of land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and presented them with a cheque.

Anju, who was born in Kailor village in Uttar Pradesh and lived in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, travelled to Pakistan legally from India via the Wagah-Attari border. She was granted a 30-day visa, valid for Upper Dir only.

Anju is married to Arvind, who is in Rajasthan. They have a 15-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. Her story is similar to Seema Ghulam Haider, a 30-year-old Pakistani mother of four who sneaked into India to live with Sachin Meena, a 22-year-old Hindu man she got in touch with while playing PUBG in 2019.

# SPAIN DEPLOYS DRONES

Drones are being deployed in parts of Spain to protect the country's beaches from the impact of climate change. As a major global tourist destination, Spain's beaches represent some of its most important assets, reports Xinhua news agency



# Imran Khan files plea, seeks release from jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 8: Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan Tuesday challenged his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case by a trial court, saying the verdict by a "biased" judge was a "slap in the face due process and fair trial" and "a gross travesty of justice".

Khan, 70, was arrested Saturday shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced him to three years in jail. Khan is currently lodged in the Attock Jail.

Khan has appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers - Khawaja Haris and Gohar Ali Khan - at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). He said that the trial judge made the conclusions on the basis of a "predisposed mind" instead of merit of the case because the petitioner's lawyer was not given the right of presenting arguments.

Khan's plea stated that the judgment passed by the trial court judge was "tainted with bias, is a nullity in the eye of the law and is liable to be set aside". It said the order was issued without providing the petitioner with a chance to fight his case and alleged that Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar had refused to hear the arguments of Haris, Imran's counsel in the Toshakhana case, on the pre-



text that he was late - which the plea claimed was because he was filing other applications with the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court.

Thus, the petition said, the verdict of the trial court was a "slap in the face due process and fair trial" and "a gross travesty of justice". "The impugned judgment was announced despite the fact that before commencement counsel for the appellant was very much in court fully prepared to address arguments after explaining the reasons for the delay in arriving in court, but the trial judge, who throughout the proceedings had been exhibiting his extreme bias towards the appellant and his counsel, and constantly using disparaging remarks against them, even in their absence, was bent on carrying out a well-orchestrated plan," it read.

Khan's plea stated that the judgment passed by the trial court judge was "tainted with bias, is a nullity in the eye of the law and is liable to be set aside"

# 7 killed in Russian strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, August 8: Ukrainian officials Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers as the death toll from two Russian missile strikes that slammed into residential buildings in the downtown area of a Ukrainian city climbed to seven.

The dead in the Monday evening strikes in the city of Pokrovsk

were five civilians, one rescuer and one soldier, Donetsk Gov Pavlo Kyrylenko said. Dozens more were wounded, most of them police officers, emergency workers and soldiers who had rushed to the scene to assist residents.

The Russian missiles slammed into the centre of Pokrovsk, which is in the eastern Donetsk region that is partially occupied by Russia. Emergency crews were still removing rubble at the scene on Tuesday. The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit

within 40 minutes of each other, according to Kyrylenko.

Russia has since the start of the war aimed artillery and missiles at the exact same spot it struck around 30 minutes earlier, often hitting emergency workers who had deployed at the scene. It's a tactic, called a "double tap" in military jargon, that the Russians also used in Syria's civil war.

"All of (the police) were there because they were needed, putting their efforts into rescuing people after the first strike," Ivan Vyhivskyi, chief of Ukraine's National Police, said Tuesday

"They knew that under the rubble were the injured - they needed to react, to dig, to retrieve, to save. And the enemy deliberately struck the second time."

Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed it hit a Ukrainian army command post in Pokrovsk. Neither side's claims could be independently verified. Among those injured was Volodymyr Nikulin, a policeman originally from the now Russian-occupied port city of Mariupol.



A man walks on the flooded banks of the Bagmati river following heavy rains in Kathmandu, Nepal AP/PTI PHOTO

# Thai king's second son returns after 27 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, August 8: The estranged son of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn visited a daycare centre for underprivileged children in Bangkok Tuesday following a surprise return to the country after 27 years of living abroad. Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse's return was first revealed in a video posted online Sunday showing him in the arrival area of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport being greeted by well-wishers. His return came at a sensitive time for the Thai royal family, with the eldest daughter of the king being in a coma since December. The 42-year-old, who works at



a law firm in New York, is the second son of King Vajiralongkorn with his second wife Sujarinee Vivacharawongse, a former actress. The then-crown prince divorced Sujarinee who was accused of adultery in public in 1996.

Sujarinee and her children later moved abroad. The youngest daughter was taken back by the royal family and was given the title Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, but the four sons remain estranged and do not have any formal royal titles. The Palace has not commented on his visit.

Vacharaesorn went to the Foundation for Slum Child Care and donated money to support their work, according to the foundation's Facebook post, saying he "greeted the children thoughtfully and took great interest in the foundation's work of helping underprivileged children and families".

Photos posted showed Vacharaesorn embracing children and talking closely with them.

A day after his arrival, Vacharaesorn was seen in videos visiting several religious sites in Bangkok, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha which is in the Grand Palace's ground.



## of the day quote

It is heartening to see the confidence shown by the customers in Hero MotoCorp's foray into this (premium) segment. What is even more heartening is that the majority of our bookings are coming from the top end model, clearly indicating that customers are willing to pay a higher price for the right brand and right model

**NIRANJAN GUPTA** | HERO MOTOCORP CEO

We must pay attention to the conditions and adjust stepping on the gas pedal, as well as on the brakes on investments accordingly

**YOSHIMITSU GOTO** | SOFTBANK CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

We continue to see consistently strong performance across all our businesses with a healthy mix of orders from both the government and private sector, especially in infrastructure and railways. As delivery periods and supply chain issues start improving, volumes are beginning to normalize

**SUNIL MATHUR** | MD AND CEO, SIEMENS

## Q1 results corner

### Coal India net profit falls 10%

**New Delhi:** Coal India Tuesday posted a 10.1 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit to ₹7,941.40 crore for the quarter ended June 30, dragged by higher expenses. The coal major had clocked a net profit of ₹8,834.22 crore in the April-June period of the preceding 2022-23 fiscal, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income was at ₹37,521.03 crore, up 4 per cent from ₹36,086.68 crore in the year-ago quarter. Expenses surged to ₹26,785.68 crore from ₹23,985.31 crore, a rise of 11.67 per cent. Coal India, under the Ministry of Coal, is a leading producer and supplier of coal in India.

### Adani Ports profit nearly doubles

**Bangalore:** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, India's largest private port operator, reported an 82.6% surge in first-quarter profit Tuesday, helped by a jump in cargo volumes and as higher tariffs boost margins. The company said its consolidated net profit rose to 21.15 billion rupees (\$255.4 million) in the April-June quarter, from 11.58 billion rupees a year ago. Its revenue from operations increased 23.5% to 62.48 billion rupees, boosted by a 12% growth in cargo volumes. The company -- which operates the largest container handling port in India, Mundra in Gujarat -- kept its full-year revenue outlook of 240-250 billion rupees, implying year-over-growth of 15%-20%.

### Hindalco profit dips over 40%

**New Delhi:** Hindalco Industries Ltd Tuesday posted over 40 per cent fall in its net profit to ₹2,454 crore for the quarter ended June 30, dragged by lower income. It had clocked a net profit of ₹4,119 crore in the April-June period of the preceding 2022-23 fiscal, according to an exchange filing. The company's total income also declined to ₹53,382 crore from ₹58,229 crore in the year-ago period. Expenses were at ₹50,055 crore as against ₹52,185 crore a year ago. In a separate statement, Satish Pai, Managing Director of Hindalco Industries, said, "FY24 has started on a promising note. Our focus on expanding our value-added portfolio and operational efficiencies has enabled us to deliver sustained performance in the face of continued macroeconomic pressures."



**We have moved from low growth and high inflation environment. The world is now moving towards a less growth and a less inflation environment**

**N CHANDRASEKARAN** | TATA MOTORS CHAIRMAN

**HYUNDAI TO LAUNCH MORE EVs IN INDIA**

South Korea's Hyundai Motor Group said Tuesday it plans to launch more electric vehicles (EVs) under the Hyundai and Kia brands in India, in a sign that it is betting big on the world's third-largest auto market. Hyundai, already India's second-biggest carmaker by sales, will introduce five EV models by 2032 to add to the two it already sells -- the Kona and Ioniq 5 SUVs.



# RBI may maintain status quo on key rates

**EXPERTS ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE CENTRAL BANK MAY CONTINUE WITH THE PAUSE ON THE REPO RATE AS CONCERNS ON THE INFLATION FRONT PERSIST**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 8:** Amid expectations of another status quo on the key interest rates, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed high-powered rate-setting panel MPC Tuesday began its three-day meeting to firm up the next bi-monthly policy.

The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would be announced Thursday, August 10, by Governor Das.

Experts are of the view that the central bank may continue with the pause on the repo rate as concerns on the inflation front and keeping the borrowing cost stable to maintain the economic growth momentum persist.

The borrowing cost, which started rising in May last year, has stabilised with the RBI keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February when it was raised from 6.25 per cent. Later, in the two bi-monthly policy reviews in April and June, the benchmark rate was retained.

BofA Securities in a report



said it expects the RBI MPC to deliver a hawkish hold August 10 while retaining the stance as withdrawal of accommodation. "We don't see the recent tomato price spike to push the MPC to hike rates right away, we have seen such episodes in the past," it said.

Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO of Housing.Com, said market analysts expect the central bank to opt for maintaining the current status quo on both interest rates and policy stance.

The RBI is closely monitoring inflation figures, particularly in light of the recent significant surge in prices of essential food items, including vegetables, he said.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on

either side. The central bank factors in the CPI to arrive at its bi-monthly monetary policy decision.

According to Deepak Agrawal, CIO-Fixed Income, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company, the second quarter inflation is likely to be a little over 6 per cent as against the RBI forecast of 5.2 per cent. This is due to a sharp spike in vegetable prices, particularly tomatoes.

However, he does not expect any spill-overs from food inflation to core inflation, as the rise in prices are expected to be temporary.

"This should be source of comfort for the RBI and we expect RBI to keep rates unchanged and continue with "withdrawal of accommodation" monetary policy stance," he said. India's

retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to a three-month high of 4.81 per cent in June, mainly on account of hardening prices of food. The inflation, however, remains within the RBI's comfort level of below 6 per cent. The inflation data for July will be released on August 14.

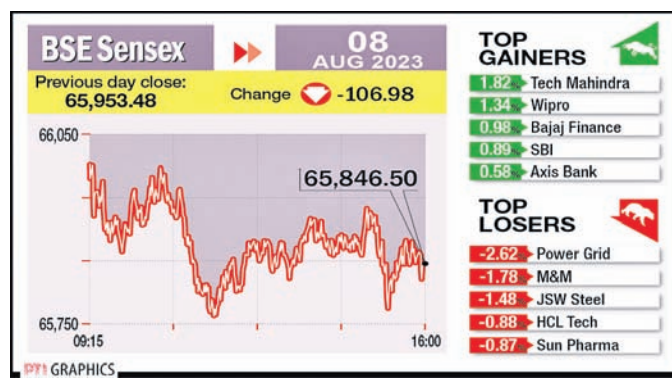
"Status quo is given in the MPC meeting this week, but the odds of interest rate hike or cut is equally poised going ahead. Global economic and inflationary environment are still not up to the mark because of renewed strengthening of crude oil prices and surge in global food prices on extreme weather conditions," Umesh Kumar Mehta, CIO of Samco Mutual Fund, said.

Kaushik Mehta, Founder & CEO of Ruloans Distribution Pvt Ltd said that the RBI's steadfast strategy of maintaining stable interest rates is likely to be the driving force for growth in retail loans, encompassing both personal and home loans.

By ensuring consistent and predictable borrowing costs, this approach fosters a favourable environment for businesses and individuals to invest or fulfil personal aspirations such as homeownership.

The last MPC meeting was held on June 6-8. The MPC consists of three external members and three officials of the RBI. The external members of the panel are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma. Besides Governor Das, the other RBI officials in MPC are Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director) and Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor).

# Markets fall in run up to RBI policy review



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 8:** Benchmark equity indices fell Tuesday as investors turned cautious ahead of the key events -- RBI's monetary policy and the US inflation data -- due to be announced later this week.

Continuous foreign fund outflows and weak trend in Asian and European markets also played spoilsport for the domestic markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 106.98 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 65,846.50. During the day, it declined 200.85 points or 0.30 per cent to 65,752.63.

The NSE Nifty slipped 26.45 points or 0.13 per cent to end at 19,570.85. From the Sensex pack, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Sun Pharma, Nestle, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and ITC were the major laggards.

Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Titan and ICICI Bank were among the major gainers.

"Caution prevailed in the mar-

ket ahead of the RBI's monetary policy announcement, while weak European and Asian cues saw the local benchmarks linger in negative territory for the majority of the trading session. Listless trading could be seen till the MPC meeting outcome and global cues will continue to dictate trends in the local market," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.25 per cent and midcap index gained 0.15 per cent.

Among the indices, metal declined by 0.94 per cent, telecommunication fell by 0.92 per cent, utilities declined 0.60 per cent, commodities dipped 0.54 per cent, power (0.39 per cent) and energy (0.32 per cent). Financial Services, healthcare, industrials, bankex, capital goods and consumer durables were the gainers. Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 1.38 per cent to USD 84.16 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,892.77 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

# Suzuki to get bigger stake in Maruti after plant sale

REUTERS

**New Delhi/Bangalore, August 8:** Maruti Suzuki, India's top automaker by sales, said Tuesday it would pay Suzuki Motor in preference shares to take over a local manufacturing plant in a deal that will also boost the Japanese automaker's stake in the company.

The share allotment will boost Suzuki's stake in the Indian automaker by about 1.8%, Maruti's chief financial officer Ajay Seth said. Suzuki currently has a 56.48% stake in Maruti.

The final deal value, which will be based on the plant's book value as of August 29, along with the number of shares to be issued and the price will be decided later, Maruti said, without specifying a date.

The plant, located in the western Indian state of Gujarat, currently has a book value after depreciation of around 128 billion Indian rupees (\$1.55 billion).

Suzuki owns the plant, in which it has invested about 180 billion rupees since 2014, but manufactures cars for Maruti. The plant has an annual capacity of 750,000 units.

The deal, which Maruti announced last week, will give the company a better grip on pro-



duction, including of electric vehicles (EVs), and will help it adjust production to changes in demand, Chairman RC Bhargava had said.

Maruti plans to roll out six EVs by 2030, each of which will be produced at the Gujarat plant.

"With Maruti engineers taking over production at the plant, we will get a better understanding of EV manufacturing which will be important for the future," Bhargava said.

He added the deal will require the approval of minority shareholders. The share issue will dilute Maruti's outstanding shares by a little over 4%, the company said.

Maruti's shares were up 0.54% on the day. They have fallen 2.5% since Maruti announced the deal along with its quarterly results July 31.

# Credit card default rises to ₹4,072cr

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**New Delhi, August 8:** Credit card default rose to ₹4,072 crore or 1.94 per cent at the end of March 2023, Parliament was informed Tuesday.

"As per the inputs received from RBI, in respect of defaults in credit cards, the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) in credit cards was ₹3,122 crore in March-2022 and ₹4,072 crore in March-2023, while credit card outstanding in March-2022 and March-2023 was ₹1.64 lakh crore and ₹2.10 lakh crore, respectively," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

GNPAs in credit cards have declined from 3.56 per cent in March 2021 to 1.91 per cent in March 2022, and stand at 1.94 per cent in March 2023 against the schedule commercial banks' GNPA of 3.87 per cent in March 2023, he said.

Replying to another question, Karad said, the total number of frauds as reported by the cooperative banks during FY23 was 964 with amount involved to the tune of ₹791.40 crore.

During FY22, the total number of fraud was 729 and the amount involved was ₹536.59 crore as against 438 frauds involving ₹1,985.79 crore in FY21, he said.

# BofA sees Nifty at 20,500 by Dec

*This comes a week after Morgan Stanley upgraded the Indian equities market to the number one slot among emerging markets in Asia*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 8:** The Bank of America has upgraded the outlook for the Indian market and said it sees Nifty hitting 20,500 points by December, citing stronger domestic inflows and no risks of recession in the US.

This comes a week after Morgan Stanley upgraded the Indian equities market to the number one slot among emerging markets (EMs) in Asia, excluding Japan, and going past Korea and the UAE.

Bank of America (BofA) analysts see the domestic market riding on large and mid-cap stocks from the financial, industrial, auto, staples, and pharma stocks, where it is overweight and cautious/underweight on IT, utilities, materials and discretionary.

"We see Nifty at 20,500 points by December, as we don't see a recession in the US, ensuring fund flows and strong domestic inflows on any correction," BofA said.

Nifty valuations could overshoot its long-term average of 19,000 points, it said.

Explaining the rationale behind the re-rating, BofA said



historically Nifty's returns have mostly been positive at least three months prior to the end of US recession as well as during the phase of Fed's penultimate rate hike to six months after the start of rate cuts.

Another reason is domestic inflows, which could continue to be robust, while a third of Nifty market cap is still below long-term average valuations, a few of which offer buying opportunity, it said.

On the downside, it said the market may drag in the near term, given the risks from the recent rise in crude and the inflation spike led by erratic rainfall and commodities rally on potential China stimulus.

But the impact of these factors

maybe transient, or not significant, BofA said, advising buying on any potential dips.

Also, any contraction in Nifty valuations can see significant active inflows for domestic institutional investors, thereby limiting the downside, it said.

However, the report sees major market risk coming in from the forthcoming general elections and less from the US.

After recent cuts, the street has tempered down earnings expectations to 17 per cent for 2024-25 and 2025-26, slightly lower than the previous 18-19 per cent.

The report notes that Nifty has rallied 15 per cent between March and July this year.

The August 3 report by Morgan Stanley saw India jumping five places in its list.

"India now becomes our core overweight market within our Asia basket, except Japan, as valuation premiums to the EM and China have moderated significantly from last October's high and started to spike again," Morgan Stanley said in the report, which also downgraded China. The report mentioned that Nifty has rallied 15 per cent from March 2023 lows up until the very end of July.

# Cryptoverse: All eyes on ChatGPT-maker's Worldcoin

**THE NEW PROJECT FROM CHATGPT FOUNDER SAM ALTMAN AIMS TO CREATE A BLOCKCHAIN-BASED 'IDENTITY AND FINANCIAL NETWORK'**

REUTERS

**San Francisco, August 8:** Worldcoin has no problem attracting eyeballs. More than 2.2 million people have signed up, getting their irises scanned in exchange for a digital ID and, in some countries, free crypto.

The new project from ChatGPT founder Sam Altman aims to

create a blockchain-based "identity and financial network". Its native coin WLD has kept a steady price between \$2 and \$2.50 since its launch July 24, thus far spared the "pump-and-dump" trajectory of many new crypto tokens.

The investor jury is out on Worldcoin's prospects, according to Gordon Grant, co-head of trading at Genesis Trading, which isn't offering the token to clients yet.

"There are folks that have really taken a view about this project, both with the positive and negative side," he said.

Worldcoin's white paper on its website says that, over the next 15 years, a total of 10 billion of the tokens will be released into the market. The circulating supply was 120 million tokens



Monday, data from market tracker CoinGecko shows, around 1.2% of the total planned future supply.

Some tech players are enthusiastic about Worldcoin's plan to

provide a digital ID system based on what it calls "proof of personhood" with the project backed by investors including Andreessen Horowitz.

PitchBook analyst Robert Le

said there were several startups trying to build blockchain-based digital identity systems, but none on Worldcoin's scale.

Worldcoin's bet is that this will become more important as artificial intelligence bots increase the need for people to be able to verify their human status online.

As with much of crypto, caveat emptor.

James Butterfill, head of research at CoinShares, said he expects buyers at the moment to be retail investors, as uncertainty over whether Worldcoin is a security may make institutional players more cautious.

More than 50 altcoins - a term referring to cryptocurrencies that are smaller than bitcoin and ether - have been labelled as securities by the U.S. Securities

and Exchange Commission, according to CCData.

Data watchdogs in Germany have been investigating Worldcoin since November last year and the company was ordered to stop its eyeball-scanning operations in Kenya last week, over concerns about potential risks to public safety.

"It's never bullish for a token to be investigated by regulators," said Riyad Carey, a research analyst at blockchain analytics firm Kaiko.

Worldcoin says that it is "completely private", that its ID system is "designed to enable anonymous actions", no personal data is disclosed by default and that biometric images are not shared with Worldcoin unless a user chooses. It says it's working closely with regulators.



# Surya, Tilak keep series alive Battle for extra pacer's slot



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**Providence (Guyana), August 8:** Suryakumar Yadav was back to his disdainful best as India stayed alive in the series with a seven-wicket win over the West Indies in the third T20I here Tuesday. West Indies lead the five-match series 2-1 with the next game to played in Lauderdale, Florida, Saturday.

West Indies skipper Rovman Powell's whirlwind 40 not out (19b, 1x4, 3x6) pushed the hosts to 159/5 after Kuldeep Yadav (3/28) stemmed the flow of runs in the middle overs. Debutant Yashvini Jaiswal (1) and Shubman Gill (6) got out cheaply in run chase before Suryakumar came up with a special knock (83, 44b, 10x4, 4x6) to help India gun down the target in 17.5 overs. Tilak Varma (49 n.o., 37b, 4x4,

1x6) was happy to play second fiddle to his senior Mumbai Indians teammate in their 87-run stand. Tilak missed his second straight fifty in his debut series as skipper Hardik Pandya (20 n.o.) hit the winning six. Suryakumar, who had a quiet tour up till now, flicked his first ball for a boundary. It is almost impossible to stop Suryakumar when he is finding the gaps at will and that is what the West Indies bowlers had to endure Tuesday. After Suryakumar's dismissal in the 13th over, skipper Hardik and Tilak did the needful. The southpaw, who began his innings with back-to-back fours, once again showed he is here to stay. Earlier, Kuldeep got rid of the dangerous Nicholas Pooran (20) and a well-set Brandon King (42, 42b, 5x4, 1x6) in the 15th over to wrest momentum from the West Indies. In an unusual occurrence,

the start of the game was slightly delayed as the 30-yard circle was not marked. After opting to bat, the West Indies enjoyed their best start of the series with King and Kyle Mayers (25) sharing a 55-run stand. The surface was on the slower side, as expected, prompting Hardik to introduce spin as early as in the third over via Axar Patel (1/24). Leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, who usually doesn't bowl in the first six overs, was given that task Tuesday. But Mayers put Chahal under pressure straight away. The third spinner, Kuldeep, came on to bowl after the powerplay and was whipped by Mayers for four on his very first ball. Three balls later, a courageous King stepped out to dispatch Kuldeep's googly for a straight six.



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Following the dismissal of Mayers and Johnson Charles, Pooran joined King and tried to stamp his authority over the Indian bowlers. He came down the track to smash Kuldeep over long on, before collecting a boundary on the next ball. Kuldeep, however, had the last laugh as the spinner beat a charging Pooran to have him stumped. Four balls later, Kuldeep took a sharp return catch to send back King, leaving West Indies at 106 for four in 14.5 overs. Skipper Powell then came up with three sixes in the last two overs to prop up the total. The hosts collected 53 runs off the last 30 balls.

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**New Delhi, August 8:** The national selection committee will have its task cut out as it would have to choose between Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat for the extra fast bowler's slot in the 15-member India squad for the World Cup, starting October 5. As per ICC rule, every team have to submit their initial squad of 15 by September 5 but the final submission can be done by September 27, and a country is allowed to make as many changes as possible between the initial and final submission. Interestingly, the Australia series ends September 27, the day of the final submission. Therefore, one shouldn't be surprised if India carry around 16 to 18 members for both the Asia Cup and Australia home series before zeroing in on the final squad. So Unadkat and Shardul will certainly get their share of chances during the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and the three-match home series against Australia (both in September), serving as a pre-cursor to the World Cup. India's World Cup campaign against Australia starts in Chennai October 8, which is exactly two months from this date, and the squad composition looks far from settled at the moment. While the availability of injured batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer would certainly make India one of the serious title contenders, it is the bowling combination on low and slow decks which will decide the team's run during the marquee event. There are two bones of contention - the extra seamer's slot and the third spinner's spot in the fifteen. But, in the case of speed merchants, it wouldn't be as straightforward as one en-



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visages. Jasprit Bumrah is coming back from a lower-back stress fracture but even at 80 per cent fitness, Bumrah will be playing the World Cup and so will Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj. With Hardik Pandya also filling up the fourth fast bowler's slot and is expected to bowl at least six to eight overs per game if not 10, the reserve pacer's slot becomes important. In terms of performance and quality, Shardul is way ahead and has again proved his mettle in the Caribbean with eight wickets in three ODIs but Unadkat's advantage is being a left-arm seamer in this set-up. With Arshdeep Singh, a left-armer with better skill-sets, shunted to the Asian Games T20 squad, Unadkat is very much in the scheme of things as he adds variation despite his lack of pace. Also since the team management has carried Unadkat for so long, it is imperative that he is considered for the big occasion. Another option is Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar, who has impressed one and all with his work ethic but even he has been picked for the Asian Games in Hangzhou, which ends October 7, provided India qualify for the



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gold medal match. The third spinner's slot could be a more straightforward choice with Axar Patel miles ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal at the moment, although his skill-set is quite similar to Ravindra Jadeja, who is expected to start in all of India's games. But Axar's better batting abilities and the team management's distinct lack of interest to try Chahal during the West Indies ODIs is an indicator. The Indian team management is desperate to get a fully fit Rahul during the upcoming Asia Cup in Sri Lanka but the senior Karnataka man, just like his pace bowling colleague Bumrah, will need to do 50-over match simulation ahead of the continental showpiece. It is expected that India's Asia Cup squad will be selected end of this week or by the middle of next week (latest by August 16-17). **Likely core group:** Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan (wk), Axar Patel, Sanju Samson, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadkat, Mukesh Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal.

## India ends WUG campaign with record 26 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chengdu, August 8:** India ended their World University Games (WUG) campaign Tuesday with their best-ever performance, winning a record haul of 26 medals, including 11 gold, here. India finished at seventh spot with 11 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze, the best ever standing in the medal tally. This edition's haul is even more than the combined total of all the past WUG medals won by the country. India had won just 21 medals (6 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze) before the 2023 World University Games. This time, India had sent 256 athletes in the WUG. The biggest let down, however, is the performance of the track and field athletes, who won just four bronze medals from 82 participants, the largest in the Indian contingent. The 21-member shooting team performed the best with 8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze while archers won 3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze. One bronze came from judo. Hosts China topped the standings with a whopping 178 medals (103 gold, 40 silver, 35 bronze), followed by Japan (21 gold, 29 silver, 43 bronze) and Korea (17 gold, 18 silver, 23 bronze).

## INDIA MEN'S TEAM CLUBBED WITH PAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The Indian men's hockey team has been clubbed alongside arch-rivals Pakistan and will play the big-ticket match September 30 in the Asian Games, while the women's side has South Korea and Malaysia among others in its pool. Placed in Group A, besides Pakistan, the Indian men have Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore and Uzbekistan against whom they will begin their campaign September 24. While the women's side, who are also in Pool A, will be up against Hong Kong and Singapore besides South Korea and Malaysia. The Indian women will start their campaign against Singapore September 27. The Group B in

men's section comprises South Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand and Indonesia, while the women's teams in Group B will comprise of Japan, China, Thailand, Kazakhstan and Indonesia. After playing Uzbekistan, the Indian men's side will lock horns with Singapore September 26 and Japan September 28 before rounding off their group campaign with games against Pakistan and Bangladesh September 30 and October 2 respectively. All hockey matches will be played at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, China. The men's final will be played October 6, while the women's title clash will be held the very next day.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 8:** Their semi-final berth already sealed, three-time champions India would look to guard against complacency when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan in a high-voltage last round-robin league match of the Asian Champions Trophy here Wednesday. There has been complete contrast in the overall performance of both the sides in the tournament so far. While the hosts are unbeaten in the four games they played so far, Pakistan have managed only a win along with a couple of draws and a loss and their semifinal hopes depend on the result of this vital clash. A win for Pakistan will guarantee them a spot in the last four stage, but a defeat would leave their fate on the result of the match between China and Japan. If Pakistan lose Wednesday they will hope for China to upset Japan. In case Japan wins, the victory of margin should be lesser. Besides Pakistan would also hope for Malaysia to beat South Korea by a big margin, which would benefit the Men in Green. With three wins and a draw, India are atop the table with 10 points, followed by Malaysia (9 points), South Korea (5), Pakistan (5), Japan (2) and China (1). Even though both India and Pakistan have won the title three



times each, going by current ranking and world stature, India will definitely start as favourites Wednesday. While India are ranked fourth in the world, Pakistan are way below in the 16th position. But ranking hardly matters when it comes to a high-profile India-Pakistan contest and the result could eventually be decided on which team handles pressure the best. While Harmanpreet Singh and his men have been playing attacking hockey and have im-

proved the strike rate of short corners, India will have to strengthen their defense ahead of the business end of the tournament. A day's rest after back-to-back matches will definitely help both India and Pakistan. Pakistan will be going into the match against India on the back of a narrow 2-1 win over China which helped them to stay in contention for a semifinal place. For India, it would be a battle for the top spot against Malaysia. However, there is a strong chance

that India might face off against Pakistan in the semifinal, as the table toppers take on the fourth-placed side in the last four. The team who finish second will play third spot side Friday.

**MATCH SCHEDULE**  
Japan vs China (4 pm)  
Malaysia vs S Korea (6:15 pm)  
India vs Pakistan (8:30 pm)  
**TELECAST**  
Star Sports channels

## 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

## Tiwary's retirement U-turn



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, August 8:** Less than a week after he announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, former India batter Manoj Tiwary Tuesday said he has decided to reverse his decision and wants to give "one more try" to win the elusive Ranji Trophy title with Bengal. Two-time champions Bengal have reached the Ranji final twice in the last three seasons, but they are yet to replicate the success of 1989-90.

The Tiwary-led Bengal were overwhelming favourites to win the title at home last season, but Saurashtra defeated them by nine wickets in a repeat of the outcome of the 2019-20 season's final. "It was a proud moment for me to captain Bengal to the final last season. I want to give it one more try before leaving," Tiwary told a media conference at the Eden Gardens. "I'm coming out of retirement for one last year. Bengal cricket has given me everything. I want to give it a last try, be it as a player or captain. Next year, there will not be any more U-turn. I want to give one more year to Bengal cricket," the 37-year-old said. Tiwary said his sudden decision to say "goodbye to cricket" by posting a farewell post on Instagram Thursday had taken everyone by surprise, including his wife.

## Neeraj to lead India in Athletics Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will once again headline India's campaign in the World Athletics Championships beginning on August 19 in Budapest, Hungary, as the country will field a 28-member team in the showpiece. Surprisingly, the Sports Ministry announced the team instead of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). Asian record holder shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor has pulled out of the August 19-27 showpiece as he is recovering from the groin injury sustained during the Asian Championships in July. National record holder high jumper Tejaswin Shankar; 800m runner K M Chanda and 20km race walker Priyanka Goswami



(also national record holder) have also decided to skip the World Championships as they wanted to focus on the Asian Games (September 23 to October 8) in Hangzhou, China. Reigning Diamond League champion Chopra is seeking to clinch a gold medal in Budapest after winning a silver in the last edition in Eugene, USA, in 2022.

### THE TEAM

- WOMEN:** Jyothi Yarraji (100m Hurdles), Parul Chaudhary (3000m Steeplechase), Shaali Singh (Long Jump), Annu Rani (Javelin Throw), Bhawana Jat (20km Race Walk); **MEN:** Krishan Kumar (800m), Ajay Kumar Saroj (1500m), Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan (400m Hurdles), Avinash Mukund Sable (3000m Steeplechase), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (High Jump), Jeswin Aldrin (Long Jump), M Sreesankar (Long Jump), Praveen Chithravel (Triple Jump), Abdulla Aboobacker (Triple Jump), Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump), Neeraj Chopra (Javelin Throw), DP Manu (Javelin Throw), Kishore Kumar Jena (Javelin Throw), Akashdeep Singh (20km Race Walk), Vikash Singh (20km Race Walk), Paramjeet Singh (20km Race Walk), Ram Baboo (35km Race Walk), Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, Muhammed Anas, Rajesh Ramesh, Anil Rajalingam, Mijo Chacko Kurian (Men's 4x400m Relay).

## Sindhu gains 2 spots, Srikanth slips to 20th

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu gained two places to reach the 15th spot but Kidambi Srikanth lost a place to slip to 20th position in the latest BWF World ranking released Tuesday. HS Prannoy, who finished runner-up at Australian Open, and Lakshya Sen were static at World No.9 and 11 respectively. Priyanshu Rajawat climbed three spots to reach 28th, while Mithun Manjunath and Kiran George jumped seven and six places to be at the 43rd and 49th. The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remain the best placed Indians at World No.2. The women's doubles pair of Tresa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand slumped to 19th spot after losing two spots.