



## SUNNY'S RAIN PAIN

Actor Sunny Leone recalls how she lost three very nice cars, two in one day, to the infamous Mumbai rains

LEISURE P2



## SUCCESSFUL MANEUVER

Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft moves closer to the Moon's surface after completing another orbit maneuver. Earlier Chandrayaan-3 had entered the lunar orbit August 5. The next operation will take place August 14 according to ISRO



## CANDID CONFESSION

Suryakumar Yadav admits that his 'ODI numbers are very poor and there is no shame in accepting that'

SPORTS P12

### SHORT TAKES

#### 21 poachers held in Mayurbhanj district

**Baripada:** Twenty one poachers have been arrested in Mayurbhanj district in the last two months, Odisha DGP SK Bansal said here during a review meeting Wednesday with senior police personnel and Forest department officials. The drive against the poachers has been launched to prevent illegal activities in the Similipal National Park (SNP). During the drive a total of 165 illegal firearms and ₹2.95 lakh in cash were seized, the DGP said. P5

#### India-Pakistan WC game rescheduled

**New Delhi:** The World Cup cricket match between arch rivals India and Pakistan will now be played October 14, one day before the original slot, the ICC confirmed Wednesday as it announced rescheduling nine games. As per the latest update, Pakistan and England will have three of their games rescheduled, while dates of India's two matches have been altered. The other India game which has been rescheduled is their last league match against the Netherlands which was originally scheduled for November 11 but now it will be played November 12. P12

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I want to file a complaint. Instead of a decent hate speech, the speaker gave an obscene flying kiss!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	65995.81 ↑ 149.31
NIFTY	19632.55 ↑ 61.70
DOLLAR	82.87 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	91.03 ↑ ₹0.25
GOLD	₹59,170 ↓ ₹78
SILVER	₹70,294 ↑ ₹78

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	34.8°C	34.8°C
TEMP. MIN	26.2°C	26.8°C
Humidity	75%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



**CELEBRATING A CAUSE:** Tribals perform a dance routine Wednesday on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples near Forest Park in Bhubaneswar

PHOTO BIKASH NAYAK

## Orissa HC stays ASO recruitment

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 9:** The Orissa High Court stayed Wednesday the selection process for recruitment of assistant section officers (ASOs) by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). The court's directive came while putting a stay order passed by a single bench. The next hearing of the matter has been scheduled for September 21. It should be mentioned here

that the Orissa High Court had July 25 ordered an interim stay on the publication of Odisha Civil Services (OCS)-2021 results. In this instance also the examinations had been conducted by the OPSC.

The high court had May 19 scrapped the merit list of the examination conducted for recruitment of 796 ASOs. The examination to recruit ASOs was conducted August 27 last year, while the results were announced November

7. However, after the results were announced, a number of petitioners had moved the Orissa High Court alleging irregularities in the written examination.

Earlier, a contempt case was filed as the Commission had not complied with the May 19 directive. The Court had directed OPSC to publish a fresh merit list. Initially a total of 1,104 persons had found a place in the merit list published by the OPSC.

## Death penalty for man in triple murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 9:** A man was sentenced to death while his son was handed life imprisonment after they were convicted of murdering three members of a family belonging to Lapada village in Bamra block of this district, October 21, 2020. Kuchinda Additional District Judge (ADJ) Rajkishore Lenka also imposed a penalty of ₹1,00,000 each on the convicted father-son duo identified as Naveen Dehury (55) and Hemananda Dehury (22), informed Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Rabindra Kumar Nayak.

The verdict was pronounced within 34 months of the gruesome murders. Advocate Ranjan Kumar Sharma pleaded the case from the side of the accused while advocate Rabindra Nayak represented the deceased's family.

As per the case diary, Naveen and his son Hemananda allegedly hacked to death with an axe Pirabati Behera (55), a widow, her daughter Sabitri Sahu (30) and son-in-law Giridhari Sahu (38). They carried out the gruesome act to forcibly grab the land which belonged to Pirabati.

Before his death, Giridhari had

been staying at his mother-in-law's residence for the last five years and earned a living by cultivating her farmland. As per information available, Naveen and Hemananda first killed Giridhari when he was working on the farmland on the fateful day.

The father-son duo then decided to eliminate both Pirabati and Sabitri as they felt it would be easier for them to take possession of the land without any survivors.

The two accused then attacked Pirabati when she was collecting water from a well. In an effort to save her mother, Sabitri rushed to the spot, but the duo hacked her to death too mercilessly.

After getting information about the gruesome incident, the then SDPO, Raj Kishore Mishra and IIC of Mahulapali PS, Jyotshnarani Behera reached the spot and arrested the duo. The murder weapon was also seized from their possession. Subsequently the chargesheet was filed and finally the two accused were convicted and handed their respective sentences by the court.

The judge while pronouncing the verdict said, "Death penalty is awarded in rare cases and this is one such case."

## No 'Bollywood' for Rahman

The legendary musician feels that only the Hindi film industry is not enough to portray the rich talent pool available in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 9:** Like there are multiple colours in a rainbow, India has different cultures, languages and film industries and it's time for the world to acknowledge it, according to the legendary AR Rahman, whose music covers genres and geographies.

Rahman, who has worked in the south, in the Hindi film industry as well as in Hollywood, Broadway and the London stage, burst into the music scene with Mani Ratnam's *Roja* in 1992. The double Oscar winner said the Academy Award

for 'Naatu Naatu', a Telugu song from *RRR*, gave a glimpse into the versatility of talent from India.

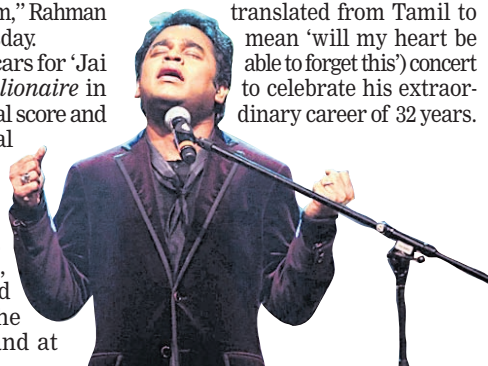
"The world believes that the only film industry that exists is in Hindi which we call 'Bollywood'. It's so nice to see 'Naatu Naatu', a Telugu song, winning Oscars. I never use the word 'Bollywood' since it's so convenient and derivative from Hollywood. I keep correcting everyone when they use the term," Rahman told this agency Wednesday.

Rahman won two Oscars for 'Jai Ho' from *Slumdog Millionaire* in 2009 - one for best original score and the other for best original song. He said that there are many film industries in India - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali and they are as good as the Hindi film industry and at

times 'better'.

"It's important for the world to see there are amazing talents in these industries. If they get money and exposure, they can come up with stunning stuff. That's how it should be as India is varied with multiple cultures like a rainbow," asserted the music legend.

Rahman is all set to hold the 'Marakuma Nenjam' (loosely translated from Tamil to mean 'will my heart be able to forget this') concert to celebrate his extraordinary career of 32 years.



## Rahul tears into govt

Congress leader terms violence in Manipur as murder of Bharat Mata and blames Centre for not sending in the Army to quell clashes

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 9:** The politics of the BJP has 'murdered Bharat Mata' in Manipur, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged Wednesday and called members of the ruling party 'traitors', as he launched a broadside against the Narendra Modi government over its handling of the violence in the north-eastern state.

Rahul was speaking on the second day of the debate on the no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha. In his first comments in the House after restoration of his membership, Rahul also slammed Modi for not visiting Manipur and alleged that the PM does not consider the state a part of India, evoking strong protest by the Treasury Benches.

The former Congress chief also alleged that the Prime Minister listens to only two people, Amit Shah and Gautam Adani, just as 'Ravana' paid heed to only two people's advice - 'Meghnad' and 'Kumbhakaran'. "Hanuman had not burnt down Lanka, Ravana's arrogance did it. Ravana was not killed by Ram but by his arrogance,"



### GANDHI'S 'FLYING KISS' SPARKS CONTROVERSY

**New Delhi:** Many women MPs of the BJP lodged Wednesday a complaint with the Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla and sought 'stringent action' against Rahul Gandhi for allegedly making an 'inappropriate gesture' towards Union Minister Smriti Irani in the House, a reference to the Congress leader blowing a flying kiss towards the Treasury Benches. The complaint was signed by more than 20 women parliamentarians, including Union Ministers Shobha Karandlaje and Darshana Jardosh. Speaking to reporters later, Irani alleged that never before such 'misogynistic' behaviour of someone has been so visible in the Parliament. Taking a swipe at the Gandhi family's value system, Irani said the question is should he be brought to task. P9

Rahul stated.

"I went to Manipur a few days ago. Our Prime Minister has not gone there till now. He does not consider Manipur part of India. I used the word Manipur, but the reality is that there is no Manipur left. You have divided Manipur into two parts," Rahul added.

Rahul pointed out that he visited Manipur and met women and children at the relief camps, but Modi had not done so.

"In Manipur, they (BJP) have murdered Hindustan. As I had said, India is a voice of the people. You killed that voice in Manipur. This means that you murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur," Gandhi asserted.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the other hand slammed the opposition for trying to 'politicise' the violence in Manipur. "Whatever happened is shameful, but to politicise it is more shameful," Shah said. More P9

DSPL-178

**National De-Worming Day**  
10<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Mop up round - 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

De-worming helps in improving nutrition and brings good health. I appeal to all to participate and co-operate in National De-worming Programme.

*[Signature]*  
Chief Minister, Odisha

Healthy Odisha  
Happy Odisha

- Consumption of deworming drugs removes worms from the body ensuring improved health and nutrition.
- Children and adolescents (1-19 years) along with women (20-24 years) will be administered deworming drug (*Albendazole*) in 19 districts under direct supervision.
- The drugs should be taken after food.
- Tablet should be chewed, not swallowed.
- Children in the age group of 1 to 5 will be administered *Albendazole* syrup.

OIPR-10003/13/0091/2324

Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

facebook.com/HFWOdisha  
@HFWOdisha  
http://www.health.odisha.gov.in

# leisure



## SCOTT BREAKS RECORDS AS UTOPIA TRENDS NO.1 ON BILLBOARD 200

American rapper Travis Scott's album *Utopia* has broken records and is now trending No.1 on Billboard 200, with the record selling over 496,000 equivalent album units by August 3 alone. The singer was also joined on stage by Kanye West in Italy, to the surprise and delight of over 60,000 fans.

## MEGAN TO MAKE HER TRANSITION TO POETRY

Actress Megan Fox is now making her transition from modeling to acting and now even poetry, as she has said that will be releasing her new poetry compilation titled *Pretty Boys Are Poisonous*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181\*

**ARIES**  
You will desire absolute freedom in whatever you do today. A lot of entertainment is on the cards for teenagers, like window shopping or going for a movie. Kids may demand a treat from you. Generally, family affairs dominate today.

**TAURUS**  
You will wake up feeling determined and decisive today, says Ganesh. Be careful as your rigid views may make you seem stubborn. You may not be willing to come half way during a conflict and will make a habit of articulating your viewpoint. Tension at the workplace will eat through most of your time today, feels Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will feel blue and out of sorts today. You will feel that you are all alone in the world, emotionally. Your repressed desires and your philosophical streak will come to the fore today and will influence your dark mood, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
With Ganesh's grace, whatever you think or persevere will be successful. Students will excel and finish pending work. You can display your imagination excellently. In short, a day of happiness and variety.

**LEO**  
Most of your time will be spent at the work place. You will excel in all your tasks today. Professional relationships will be marked by co-operation. You will have cordial relations with your colleagues. It is an auspicious and progressive day for business, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Avoid all kinds of prejudice and do not allow intolerance to enter your mind today, advises Ganesh. In all likelihood, you will look around yourself in search of love and affection. You will do well to keep negativity at bay as otherwise it may cow you down. Ganesh suggests that you marshal all your courage to live as per your convictions.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

**SCORPIO**  
Being a workaholic may divert your attention from your family and you may have to bear the consequences. It's time to sort differences with your spouse. But, all this while, you need to be calm and patient. Watch your words in case of any arguments, warns Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's time for invitations and grooving all night long. And even eat like a glutton. But, for a change you are not on a mood to party, though it is unlike you. You reject the idea of socialising and hitting the dance floor. And your friends do not like your changed avatar, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Though less, you will get money from your investments and other resources. Don't ignore pending projects; complete them at the earliest so that you will have clear picture about your requirements and responsibilities, advises Ganesh. Once you are done with them, you will enjoy happy times with your friends and family in the evening.

**AQUARIUS**  
Meeting people from the different walks of life, having a good conversation with them and widening the horizon of your knowledge - this will be the highlight of today for you. At work, you will have a busy day with plenty of meetings, discussions, planning and execution, feels Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Today you will get attention from the opposite sex and this will play an important role in your success in the near future. Due to the favourable alignment of the planets you will receive more than your expectations. Ganesh feels that even though you are a calculative and cautious person, you will tend to be aggressive, outgoing and willing to take risks today.

## Prajakta turns author

The 'Jugjugg Jeeyo' actor, also a YouTuber, was the only Indian creator to be hosted by Bill Gates at the Microsoft headquarters earlier this year

**Mumbai:** Content creator and actor Prajakta Koli will be marking her maiden innings as an author with her fiction novel *Too Good To Be True*.

Talking about the brand-new chapter of her life Prajakta shared: "I've forever been a fan of love stories and romance. Be it in films or in all my favourite books. They have always been more to me than just stories. They've helped me get over heartbreaks, believe in the wonder of life and even love myself a little more every day."

Prajakta added: "It is easily one of the most challenging yet most special pieces of content I have worked on thus far. I hope it brings as much joy to readers as it did to me." Koli was one of the six YouTubers invited for the World Economic Forum (WEF) gathering in Davos and was the only Indian creator to be hosted by Bill Gates at the Microsoft headquarters earlier this year. Apart from being a content creator, she is also an actor and has also made her film debut with Varun Dhawan-starrer *Jugjugg Jeeyo* and is also well known for being a part of the Netflix series *Mismatched*.



## Sunny shares ugly side of monsoons

**Mumbai:** *Jism 2* actress Sunny Leone is quite excited about the monsoons in India. However, as he lives close to ocean in Mumbai, she doesn't have too many pleasant memories when it comes to settling down in the city.

Sharing the ugly side of Mumbai rains, the actress said, "I have lost three very nice cars to the rains, two in one day. It was horrible, I was crying because in India when you buy imported cars you pay an amazing tax on it. One was an eight-seater Mercedes truck. I was not happy, but it's okay, things happen, we can replace materialistic things and nobody was hurt."

The 42-year-old went to add, "Now I drive an amazing India made truck that is built for the monsoons. I had bought the wrong car, and I love my India made cars now." Have the rains ever hampered Leone's professional commitments? She says a big no. "Unless I am physically detained in a hospital because I am sick, or there is something wrong with me or my children, I will always show up. Maybe in the monsoons it takes a little time but everybody is adjusting," said Sunny.

Sunny. AGENCIES

## FESTIVAL OF LIBRARIES IN DELHI

# 'Library symbolised the progress of civilisation'



**Bhubaneswar:** City-based Bakul Foundation's library movement and the initiatives by the Gajapati district administration for the cause were showcased at the first Festival of Libraries held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The two-day event kicked off August 5 as part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

The main objective of the festival was to highlight iconic libraries from across the world to initiate a conversation on the modernisation and digitisation of libraries, and to

promote action-oriented policy for the development of model libraries in India.

Inaugurating the event, President Droupadi Murmu said, "Libraries symbolised the progress of civilisation."

Of all the libraries that were showcased at the festival, the Bakul's libraries captured the attention of attendees.

Speaking about the success, its founder said, "That's because Bakul Foundation does not have offices as it works from its libraries, where people from the community gather not just to read, but also to debate, discuss

and take up other volunteering initiatives like environmental campaigns, public art initiatives."

Gajapati Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan highlighted the challenges they faced where the mother tongue of 60 per cent of the students was not Odia but they studied in Odia medium schools. The administration in the district converted abandoned government buildings and Ashram Schools into attractive libraries and made learning available in translation in their mother tongues, added Pradhan.

## Parents' divorce led to Ira's depression

**Mumbai:** Ira Khan, daughter of Aamir Khan and Reena Dutta, has been quite vocal about issues related to mental health on different occasions. The star kid has often spoken about her own depression battle as well and how she has overcome it. For the unversed, Ira was diagnosed with clinical depression over five years ago.

Recently, Ira revealed that her parents' divorce was one of the triggers of her depression. According to Ira, the divorce was 'amicable', but it did leave a huge impact on her mental health.

In an interview, Ira said that though her parents' divorce is one of the triggers of her emotional turmoil, she doesn't 'blame' them for her mental health condition. She stated that she does feel that both Reena and Aamir Khan made her believe that getting divorced "was not a big deal". Ira Khan was very young when Aamir and Reena got divorced in 2002.

Ira said, "My therapist said that one of the trigger points was my parents, who handled their divorce as well as they could at that point. It was amicable. I am not blaming them, but what they didn't realise is that because they made it seem like divorce was not a big deal, there was a perception my mind created of the situation." However, Ira now aims to be happy in life with her partner, Nupur Shikhare. The couple engaged last year.

Ira Khan. AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

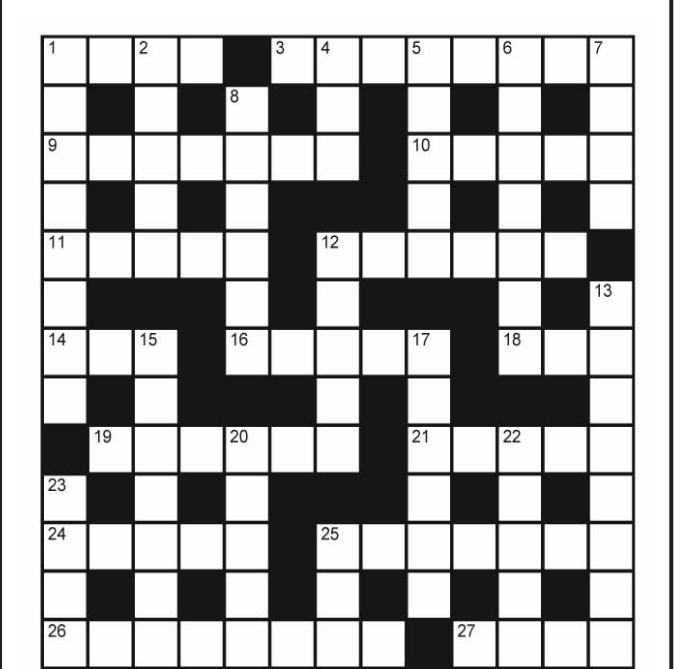


### BREVITY



### FUN post

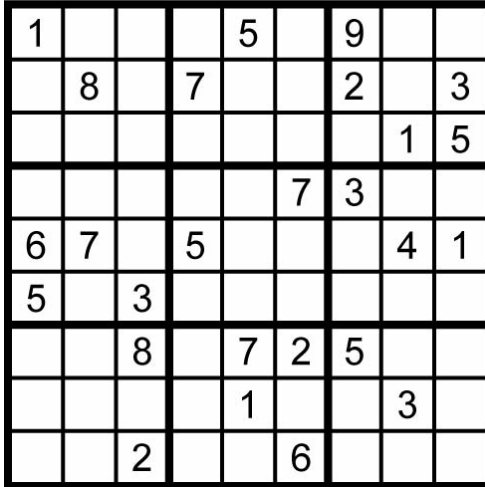
### CROSSWORD



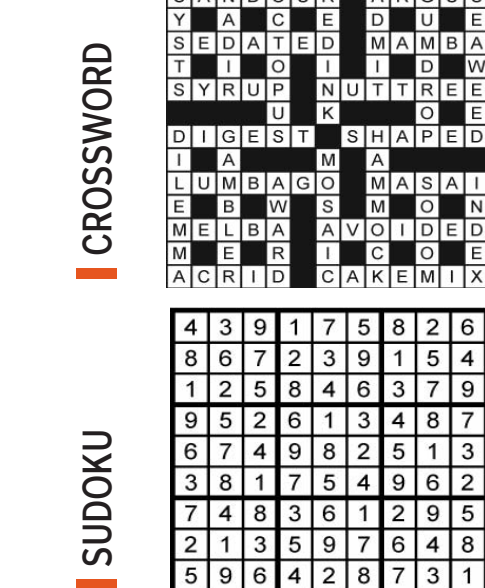
- Across**
- 1 Stalactite site
  - 3 Purse item
  - 9 Shellfish
  - 10 Football game
  - 11 Early warning system
  - 12 Plump
  - 14 Clumsy sort
  - 16 Eccentric
  - 18 Notable period
  - 19 Monkey business
  - 21 Beauty parlour
  - 24 Town square
- Down**
- 1 Neighbour of Chad
  - 2 Bona fide
  - 4 Variety of the east North Atlantic
  - 5 Herring of the east North Atlantic
  - 6 Artless innocent young girl
  - 7 Custodian's collection
  - 8 Groove
  - 12 Archaeological site
  - 13 Hawaii volcano (5,3)
  - 15 The sound of trumpets
  - 17 Cheerless
  - 20 Breathing fire
  - 22 Vernacular
  - 23 Colossal
  - 25 Casbah headgear

### 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

## INFRA BOOST

Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak inaugurates Manorama Mohapatra Memorial Hall at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Wednesday, as Mo College Chairperson Akash Dasnayak, Choudwar-Cuttack MLA Souvic Biswal and other dignitaries look on



5T Secretary VK Pandian pays obeisance to Goddess Charchika during his second day visit to Cuttack district, Wednesday

## 'Develop master plan for makeover of shrines'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited several shrines and had interaction with Mission Shakti groups in Cuttack district, Wednesday.

The 5T Secretary visited Maa Charchika Temple in Banki, Paramahansanath Shiva Temple at Paramahansa, Cuttack and Madhabananda Jew Temple at Niali where he interacted with servitors, trustee members and general public regarding development of temples along with bet-

ter facilities for the devotees. He took suggestions on various aspects of transformation of the temples and related pilgrim/tourist amenities. He directed the district administration to prepare a master plan for development of these temples.

Pandian reviewed the ongoing mega and other piped water supply projects at a cost of ₹621 crore in Banki, Dampada, Barang, Tangi-Choudwar, Salipur and Nischinta Koili blocks. He directed that these projects should be completed in time.

He interacted with Mission Shakti groups at Cuttack and assured them of support from the

government for their activities. He emphasised that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has high priority for women empowerment. He directed the Collector to ensure that loan melas are organised at panchayat levels.

He participated in public grievance redressal meetings at Banki, Salipur, Niali and Paramahansa. Later, Pandian visited Millet Shakti Café at Barabati Palace, Cuttack. He interacted with the Mission Shakti members managing the café. He appreciated their efforts in providing hygienic food at affordable rates to the customers.

## Pujari's plea to Centre over PM AWAS funds

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, August 9:** BJP MP from Bargarh Suresh Pujari Wednesday requested the Union Finance ministry to direct the banks to develop a system to ensure that the funds allotted for PM AWAS Yojana are not adjusted with the loan defaults of the beneficiaries and facilitate them for construction of their houses under the scheme.

The parliamentarian raised the matter under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha. He said it is learnt that in some cases, funds disbursed through direct benefit transfer under PM AWAS into the saving accounts of the beneficiaries are being automatically transferred to their NPA loan accounts as both are inter-linked.

"The local bank officials are expressing their inability to allow the withdrawal by the beneficiaries as there is no credit in favour of the beneficiaries in the savings account due to central reversal of funds into the loan account of the beneficiary concerned. In such cases, the beneficiaries are unable to start the construction of PM AWAS allotted to them and are not eligible to get further disbursement of the sanctioned fund for the next phase," the BJP MP said.

"I request the Finance Minister to instruct the banks to not adjust funds allotted for PM AWAS Yojana with the loan default of the beneficiaries," Pujari said.

**"I request the Finance Minister to instruct the banks to not adjust funds allotted for PM AWAS Yojana with the loan default of the beneficiaries"**  
SURESH PUJARI | BARGARH MP

# Red menace down by 90% in 10 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** Violent Maoist incidents have reduced by 90 per cent in Odisha in the last decade due to anti-Maoist operations, Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha recently.

The number of violent incidents decreased from a high of 218 in 2010 to 22 in 2022, he said in a written statement to the House.

Rai said as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, subjects of police and public order are with the state governments.

However, to address left-wing extremism (LWE) menace holistically, the government of India approved 'National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE' in 2015 envisaging a multi-pronged strategy involving security related measures, development interventions, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities and other measures.

The steadfast implementation of National Policy and Action Plan has resulted in consistent decline in LWE violence across the nation including Odisha. There has been a 76 per cent reduction in the number of LWE related violence and 90 per cent reduction in the number of LWE related deaths in LWE-affected states in 2022 as compared to 2010.

In Odisha, the number of vi-

- In Odisha, the number of violent incidents has also reduced by 90 per cent from a high of 218 in 2010 to just 22 in 2022 while deaths have also reduced by 86 per cent from 79 in 2010 to 11 in 2022
- The area of Swabhiman Aanchal which was once considered a 'Maoist stronghold' is now free from Maoists due to sustained efforts of security forces and development initiatives
- Out of 32 fortified police stations sanctioned for Odisha, 25 have been constructed since 2020-21 and ₹33.42 crore has been released to the state for this purpose

olent incidents has also reduced by 90 per cent from a high of 218 in 2010 to just 22 in 2022 while deaths have also reduced by 86 per cent from 79 in 2010 to 11 in 2022, the minister stated.

In Odisha, the declining trend has continued in 2023 with nine incidents and three deaths reported till July 15, 2023.

The area of Swabhiman Aanchal or the erstwhile cut-off area which was once considered a 'Maoist stronghold' is now free from Maoists due to sustained efforts of security forces and development initiatives, he pointed out.

On security front, the Centre

supports LWE-affected state governments by providing Central Armed Police Forces Battalions, helicopters, training, arms and equipment, funds for modernisation of state police forces, sharing of intelligence and construction of fortified police stations.

Out of 32 fortified police stations sanctioned for Odisha, 25 have been constructed since 2020-21 and ₹33.42 crore has been released to the state for this purpose, he added.

Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, expenses on operational requirements of security forces, rehabilitation of surrendered LWE cadres, community policing and ex-gratia is carried out.

Also, ₹918.39 crore has been provided to the state governments including ₹101.98 crore to Odisha under the scheme since 2020-21 to till date.

On the development front, the Centre provides assistance for capacity building of LWE-affected states through various schemes of the MHA and schemes/initiatives of other line ministries, Rai said.

Special emphasis is laid on expansion of road network, improving telecommunications, educational empowerment and financial inclusion in Maoist-affected areas including Andhra-Odisha border. MHA also works in close coordination with all the ministries to ensure optimum implementation of all schemes in these areas, he further said.

# Fresh lease of life for State Archives books, documents

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** The state government has stepped up measures to ensure preservation and digitisation of documents and books of Odisha State Archives here and Raghunandan Library in Puri, an official said, Wednesday.

Odia Language, Literature and Culture department has recently floated tenders for engagement of an agency that would undertake the work of treatment of archival records and rare books in Odisha State Archives and Raghunandan Library.

"Examination, fumigation, pagination, de-binding, chemical cleaning, stain/tape removal, de-acidification, tissue lamination and binding of archival records and rare books in Odisha State Archives and Raghunandan Library will be done by the agency for preservation purpose," said the official.



After preservation, the arrangement will be made according to the previous bibliographical descriptions of archival records and rare books, the official pointed out.

The state government has also planned to develop a plan that would outline strategies, methods and resources required to preserve records and books taking into account the factors like environmental conditions, handling procedures, storage requirements, and preservation treatment. An appropriate storage solution will be made to protect the records

from environmental factors like temperature, humidity, light and pests. A system to document and track the preservation activities will be established by maintaining detailed records, including photographs, treatment reports and any relevant information for future reference.

Moreover, records and books at Odisha State Archives here and Raghunandan Library would be digitised. "Software will be developed to provide user-friendly interface for searching and discovering the digitised materials," added the official.

Sources said Odisha State Archives holds a valuable collection of documents, especially from the colonial period. Secretariat Records of the Government of Odisha, Records of Government of Bengal for the pre-1912 period and a considerable volume of divisional and district records are significant holdings of the institution.

## AUGUST KRANTI DIWAS Guv recalls woman martyr Pari Bewa

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** Governor Ganeshi Lal Wednesday paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters who laid their lives for India's Independence and remembered Pari Bewa, a woman who fell to British bullets during a protest in the state in 1942.

While offering floral tribute at the Martyrs' Memorial here on the occasion of the August Kranti Diwas, Lal said that the Quit India movement launched on this day in 1942 forced the British rulers to leave India. "The country's first woman martyr was from Odisha," he said, referring to Bewa who died during a protest at Eram village in Bhadrak district. A field in Eram was frequently used by the people for agitation against foreign rulers. On September 28, 1942, the police fired on protesters there killing 29 people and injuring more than 50 others.

Bewa, who was one of the 29 people who lost their lives in the firing, is regarded as the only woman martyr of Odisha.

# Charity should begin at home: BMC on dengue

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** As there is no let-up in dengue cases in Capital City, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday appealed to all the citizens, commercial establishments, public offices and institutions to take preventive measures to contain spread of the vector-borne disease. It also said that from August 15 onwards households and commercial establishments will be penalised if mosquito breeding grounds are left unattended to.

In a letter, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said, "We all are aware that we are in the middle of the monsoon season and dengue incidents in the City are increasing. Stagnant water leads to breeding of dengue mosquitoes, and in the monsoon the cases increase. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation is leaving no stone unturned to mitigate dengue risks through surveillance of potential mosquito breeding spots, fogging, spraying larvae oil and creating awareness amongst the citizens in general to curb dengue mosquito breeding."

However, without active public participation and involvement, this cannot be achieved, Kulange said.

"As such there is no vaccine for dengue and hence prevention of mosquito breeding is most crucial to fight this menace. Therefore, I appeal to all the citizens to

inspect the indoor and outdoor surroundings of their houses, offices, institutions, business space/shops and nearby areas to identify possible breeding points such as flower pots, coconut shells, plastic sheets, pet bowl, discarded electronic items, paper cups, unused tyres, unused utensils, cola cans and empty those if found with water," the commissioner advised.

He said that BMC team shall commence random visits and inspections of domestic, commercial and institutional establishments from August 15, 2023 onwards and if potential dengue breeding source is found in any household, a fine of ₹1,000 shall be imposed. And, if any commercial premise/building/structure or office/institution is found to be neglecting mosquito breeding source, a fine of ₹5,000 shall be imposed on them.

PRESENTS

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# 4.5L tribal families got forest land rights: CM



Naveen launches MJJY scheme on 'International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples'

Aim of the scheme is to recognise the rights of tribals as managers of forest land

Patnaik said the aim of his government is to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries through this scheme. He said steps are being taken to ensure that not a single eligible person is deprived of the scheme.

Termining the scheme 'good', Patnaik said its aim is to recognise the contribution of tribals towards the sustainable development of forest resources. "It will also help in bringing stability to climate change and the economy and livelihood of tribals," he added.

SC, ST Development minister Jagannath Saraka said the aim of the scheme is to recognise the rights of tribals as managers of forest land. Steps have been taken to streamline the process and give rights to eligible persons within the specified time frame.

Development Commissioner Anu Garg said that granting rights over forest land is a major achievement of the state government. The new plan provides for the inclusion of tribals in all development plans along with the protection of their cultural diversity, he said.

towards recognition and promotion of regenerative economies in scheduled areas, land and resource rights of indigenous people.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the scheme will create a milestone in the development of tribals with the cooperation of all.

The aim of the scheme is to ensure forest land rights to all eligible individuals and communities. Along with this, all development programs will be linked to this scheme and steps will be taken to create stability in the livelihood of the tribals. Unsurveyed forest villages will be given the status of revenue villages.

Addressing officials and tribals present on the occasion,

SC, ST Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka, Women and Child Development Minister Basanti Hembram and BMC Mayor Sulochana Das participating in a programme in City, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** As many as 4.5 lakh tribal and forest dwelling families in the state have been given forest land rights, making Odisha the leading state in providing forest land rights, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, Wednesday.

Launching the state specific, 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana (MJJY)' on virtual mode on the occasion of 'International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples', Patnaik said more than 4,000 Gram Sabhas have been given community rights. Along with this, the process to give the status of revenue villages to the unsurveyed forest villages is also going on, he said.

MJJY is a special initiative



WINGED GUESTS: A flock of Asian openbill storks (Gendalia) feeding in a paddy field near Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## 'Climate action is an opportunity'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** Climate action is not a burden, but an opportunity, said William Hanlon Jr, Chief of Unicef, Odisha Field Office while addressing a three-day Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) on climate change which commenced here, Wednesday.

Elaborating, Hanlon Jr said climate action is a chance to redefine how we live and to carve a new path, one that leads to a sustainable and resilient future for all.

The event is organized by 'Youth4Water Plus' platform with support from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Y20, G20, Animal Climate Health Save Movement and UN agencies.



Hanlon emphasized the role of young people in climate action and said that Unicef is involved in advancing intergenerational climate action. The world body has an unwavering commitment to fostering the active engagement of young individuals as vital contributors to finding solutions for climate

change.

Joining virtually, climate activist Archana Soren said climate action is intrinsically linked to the participation and leadership of indigenous communities in decision-making processes locally, nationally, and globally. "I believe indigenous people should be leaders

in climate action," she said.

Anmol Sovit, Chairperson of Y20, conveyed his excitement regarding the collaboration with Youth4Water Plus.

OCOY has set a unique precedent as the first-ever vegan conference in the state. This approach not only aligns with the conference's central theme of environmental sustainability but it also underscores the pivotal role dietary choices play in mitigating climate change.

The event was attended by actress Anu Chowdhury, Naina Dash, OTDC chairperson, Lenin Mohanty, Rtn. Jayashree Mohanty, district governor, Rotary International and many climate experts. About 150 youths across Odisha participated in the conference.

### Chiropractic clinic in City

**Bhubaneswar:** Divine Physiotherapy and Chiropractic Wednesday inaugurated its clinic 'Divine Physiotherapy and Chiropractic 2.0' at Saheed Nagar here. Asimjit Swain of Divine Physiotherapy and Chiropractic said that this is the one and only chiropractic clinic in Odisha and that it would provide services such as chiropractic adjustment, physiotherapy treatment, sports rehabilitation, stroke paralysis, paediatric rehabilitation, cupping therapy, wet cupping and dry needling.

### CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Soro, I, Sri Kamalakanta Mohanty, aged 39, S/o. Surendra Kumar Mohanty, At: Manatri, P.O.: Janhia, P.S.: Soro, Dist.: Balasore declare that I have purchased the property bearing Khata No. 171/156, Plot No. 188/792 area A0.075dec. vide RSD No. 10141901058 Date: 07.05.2019 from Chandan Kumar Jena. That the link RSD bearing No. 10141900020 Dated 03.01.2019 executed by Ratnakar Jena in favour of Chandan Kumar Jena has been missed during time of purchase. The above link Deed No. 10141900020 Dated: 03.01.2019 has not been deposited in anywhere for availing financial benefit by me or by my vendor. If it is found false or any claim is received for the same property I will remain responsible for the consequences arised thereof. I, undertake to deposit the original deed if it is found in future and also I declare that the property is free from encumbrance. That I swear this declarations to be deposited before Punjab National Bank, Mangalpur, Soro relating mortgage of the property in my name.

## 'World facing danger of losing its languages'



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 9:** "The world is facing the danger of losing its languages several of which are already listed as endangered and loss of languages equates loss of culture," K Sreenivasarao, Secretary of the Sahitya Akademi, said while addressing the inaugural program of the two-day All India Tribal Writers' Meet which began at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here.

The two-day conference, which has attracted around 70 tribal writers from different parts of the country, has been organised by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN), the conservation arm of SOA to mark the International Day of World's Indigenous People celebrated August 9.

Affirming that the indigenous people groups were the repository of world's culture, Sreenivasarao said, "If we don't care now, we will lose the culture and the associated ancient knowledge system which these communities possessed."

The event, which was inaugurated by Padma Shri Haladhar Nag, celebrated writer and awardee was attended by eminent scholar Jagannath Das, eminent writer and Sahitya Akademi's Convenor of the Odia Advisory Board Gourahari Das, Santhali writer and Convenor of Sahitya Akademi's Santhali Advisory Board Chaitanya Prasad Majhi and eminent writer and Head of PPRACHIN, Gayatribala Panda. Eminent linguist Debi Prasanna Patnaik was also present on the occasion.

Pradipta Kumar Nanda, vice chancellor of SOA, presided over the program which was conducted by Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare).

## Walking 3,967 steps a day may cut death risk

By walking at least 3,967 steps a day may reduce the risk of dying from any cause, and 2,337 steps a day may reduce the risk of dying from diseases of the heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular disease), a new study has shown.

The new analysis of 2,26,889 people from 17 different studies worldwide has shown that the more you walk, the greater the health benefits.

According to the study published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, the risk of dying from any cause or from cardiovascular disease decreases significantly with every 500 to 1,000 extra steps you walk.

An increase of 1,000 steps a day was associated with a 15 per cent reduction in the risk of dying from any cause, and an increase of 500 steps a day was associated with a 7 per cent reduction in dying from cardiovascular disease.

Moreover, the researchers found that even if people walked as many as 20,000 steps a day, the health benefits continued to increase. They have not found an upper limit yet.

"We found that this applied to both men and women, irrespective of age, and irrespective of whether you live in a temperate, sub-tropical or sub-polar region of the world, or a re-



gion with a mixture of climates," said Maciej Banach, Professor of Cardiology at the Medical University of Lodz, Poland.

"In addition, our analysis indicates that as little as 4,000 steps a day are needed to significantly reduce deaths from any cause, and even fewer to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease,"

he added.

Studies have shown that insufficient physical activity affects over a quarter of the world's population.

More women than men (32 per cent versus 23 per cent), and people in higher-income countries compared to low-income countries (37 per cent versus 16 per cent) do not undertake a sufficient amount of physical activity, according to the study.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, insufficient physical activity is the fourth most frequent cause of death in the world, with 3.2 million deaths a year related to physical inactivity.

The studies analysed by the researchers followed up with participants for a median (average) of seven years.

The mean (average) age was 64, and 49 per cent of participants were female.

The size of the reduction in risk of death was smaller in people aged 60 years or older than in people younger than 60 years, the study found.

There was a 42 per cent reduction in risk in older adults who walked between 6,000 and 10,000 steps per day and a 49 per cent reduction in risk in younger adults who walked between 7,000 and 13,000 steps per day.

## WORLD LION DAY TODAY

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 9:** Lions are often referred to as the 'king of the jungle' across the world but these magnificent big cats are facing several threats, including habitat loss through deforestation, poaching, conflict with humans, climate change and depletion of their natural prey.

World Lion Day is observed August 10 every year to raise awareness about their conservation and protection. The day serves as a platform to educate people about the challenges faced by the big cats across the world and promote efforts to conserve them as well as celebrate these majestic cats and their significance in ecosystems and cultures around the world.



### A few subspecies of the big cat

- Asiatic lion
- Barbary lion
- Southwest African lion
- Panthera leo melanochaita
- Congo lion
- Cape lion
- Transvaal lion
- Panthera leo leo
- Panthera leo verneyi
- Panthera leo sinhaiyeus

### Role in food chain

Lions are the apex predator and on top of the food chain. They play the critical role of managing large herbivore populations of buffalos, deer, wild boar and even elephants and giraffes. In a balanced ecosystem, the number of herbivores needs to be kept in check. If there are too many herbivores, the vegetation is overgrazed and habitats inevitably degrade.

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SPECIAL DRIVE IN SIMILIPAL

21 poachers held with seizure of 165 firearms

THREE PLATOONS OF POLICE FORCE ARE DEPLOYED IN SIMILIPAL TO DISARM THE VILLAGERS



Baripada, August 9: To make Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district free from illegal activities and poaching, Odisha Police during a special drive arrested 21 poachers and seized 165 firearms from their possession.

Bansal said a pair of deer horns, pangolin scales, 72 pieces of baring balls (pellets used in firing SBML), 500 gm gun powder, four handmade bombs, and one arms-making unit among others were seized during the raid.

"In connection with the above seizures, 48 cognizable cases were registered and 21 people arrested in the district of Mayurbhanj. The district police is encouraged to continue the intelligence-based operations to make Similipal free from any illegal activities and poaching and to strengthen the efforts of the Forest department in combating illegal poaching."

The special joint drive by police and forest personnel was launched following the killing of two forest officials in Similipal Tiger Reserve during patrolling

in May and June 2023. The operation was launched under all 14 police station areas adjoining the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

He said the intelligence system was strengthened and reliable sources were cultivated aiming de-weaponisation of the area. Three platoons of police force are deployed in Similipal to disarm the villagers. The police team was tasked with conducting sustained operations.

The DGP said all resources are provided to the field functionaries to ensure that poaching and related crime is eliminated. The local police are also conducting awareness campaigns and sensitisation meetings with the local people and environmental activists to persuade poachers to give up illegal arms and not indulge in poaching.

In this context, the DGP said the state government has formed a joint task force by providing one company of force to combat and to cleanse Similipal of illegal poachers.

Youth awarded 3-yr RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 9: Berhampur sub-registrar court judge Sushant Kumar Mishra Wednesday convicted a youth in the rape case of a minor and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and slapped ₹20,000 penalty on him.

As per the case diary, the accused Ananda Sahu of Golanthara PS area kidnapped a 16-year-old girl making false promise to marry her August 7, 2012. Later, he raped the minor girl. When the family members of the girl lodged a complaint, police registered a case (No- 109/2012).

Police then arrested the accused August 8 and forwarded him to court. The then IIC and investigation officer Prafulla Kumar Mishra investigated the case and submitted the report in court. During the hearing of the case, accused Ananda Sahu was produced in the court.

The judge pronounced the judgement after hearing 25 eyewitnesses and the case diary. Additional Public Prosecutor Arati Pattnaik was pleading the case from government's side.

Robbery gang busted

Rourkela: Police have busted a dacoity gang here Wednesday while its members were planning to commit robbery in a house. Police arrested five persons in this connection. The five accused are Bunti Mohanty, Anil Behera, Mukesh Suna, Sachin Xaxko and Rahul Nayak.

Will rid Rourkela of drug peddlers by year end: SP

In the last couple of months, Rourkela police have arrested six persons for their alleged involvement in drug peddling

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 9: Rourkela will be free from drug peddlers by the end of this year, Rourkela SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra said emphatically Wednesday during a one-on-one discussion.

When questioned about the worrying rise in brown sugar peddling in the city, the SP said, "This is definitely present on the street. But, the department and my officers are certainly on it and we are keeping a close eye on the peddlers. Within the last two months, we have seized over 200 grams of the banned substance."

When he was probed further, he said, "I would like to say that Rourkela streets will be free of peddlers by December 31, this year. We have already arrested quite a few in the last two months and our drive against them is on. Soon a massive drive would be taken up to free Rourkela of the contraband peddlers. We will make the situation very tough for them."

Mostly the parks, which have been set up for recreation of the residents, have become a happy hunting ground for peddlers and consumers. Their activities start once the regular visitors leave the parks after completing their rounds of physical activities. And the suitable



Soon a massive drive would be taken up to free Rourkela from the contraband peddlers. We will make the situation very tough for them

MITRABHANU MOHAPATRA | SP, ROURKELA

time is after nine o'clock.

"I prefer to leave the park once I see their numbers increasing. I can recognise them from their movements and then I feel unsafe to remain there," said an elderly person to this reporter. Notably, media have been highlighting the misuse of the public parks in regular intervals.

In the last couple of months, Rourkela police have arrested six persons for their alleged involvement in drug peddling. The latest being June 26 and July 23. In the first case, the person was found in possession of more than 75 grams of brown sugar and in the second case, the arrested person, a known peddler, was involved in a sex scandal.

Rourkela has witnessed a record number of transfers

among officials of all ranks starting from the SDPO level. Speaking about this, the SP said, "This is a regular activity and anyone who has remained at a post for over two years will move out. And the Election Commission's directive is to do that so this is happening across the state. And this transfer process will be completed by March end."

Citing his own posting, he said, "Even I have joined here after my transfer from Keonjhar to Rourkela. So, there is nothing new in the transfer process." Answering another question, he said, "Intelligence gathering will not be hampered. That is a continuous process and will continue even if a new officer takes the post. They are trained for that."

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 20-SBP-TRD-OT-2023-24. WORK OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF REBUILDING OF 22 NOS. HUME PIPE BRIDGE IN LAKHOLITLAGARH SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

E-AUCTION OF WATER VENDING MACHINE STATION & LOCATION: 1) Brahmapur (Platform No. 2 & 3 at Khurda Road end), 2) Brahmapur - (Platform No. 4 at Khurda Road end), 3) Puri (Platform No. 3 & 4 at Puri end), 4) Palasa (Platform No. 2 & 3 at Brahmapur end), 5) Puri (Platform No. 5 & 6 at Puri end), 6) Puri (Platform No. 1 & 2 at Khurda Road end), 7) Cuttack (Platform No. 1 at Bhubaneswar end), 8) Khurda Road (Platform No. 3 at Brahmapur end), 9) Puri (Platform No. 3 & 4 at Khurda Road end), 10) Brahmapur (Platform No. 1 at Palasa end).

Leopard killed in road mishap in Ganjam dist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 9: A three-year-old female leopard died allegedly after being hit by a speeding vehicle in Ganjam district Tuesday night, forest officials said.

"We suspect that a speeding vehicle might have hit the leopard, injuring it seriously in the head while the animal was crossing the road. It succumbed to its injuries during the treatment," said Sudarshan Behera, divisional forest officer (DFO), Ghumusar North, Wednesday.

He said forest personnel who were on the night patrolling on Phulbani-Bhanjanagar road near Muzagarh

under Ghumusar North forest division in Ganjam district, about 100 km from here, saw the injured animal lying on the road and shifted it to a veterinary hospital immediately. During treatment, the animal died, he said.

"We have started a probe after a case was registered under the Wildlife Protection Act," he added.

The leopard's carcass has been disposed of following the special operating procedure (SOP) of the Central government.

A Forest official said that since no leopard has been sighted in the area for the last few years, it is suspected that the leopard might have come to the area from the forest in Kalahandi district.

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NHRC seeks report on amenities for Keonjhar mine-affected villages

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, August 9: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued fresh reminder to the Chief Secretary and the Keonjhar District Magistrate to submit report over the failure on part of the state government to ensure health care, education, safe drinking water, all weather roads in mine affected villages in Keonjhar.

Acting on the petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the Apex Rights body issued such direction August 7 and sought a report latest by September 14. Tripathy submitted that Keonjhar district is one of the highest royalty paying districts of India so far as mining is concerned.

But the inhabitants of the district are crying for their basic human rights due to apathy, negligence and failure of the state government and district administration in providing essential amenities. The fundamentals required to develop the quality of life in the district requires proper bottom-up planning by involving Gram Sabhas especially in the mining affected areas on transparent utilisation of DMF and CSR funds.

Tripathy further stated that the government at Centre, state and the district admin-

istration must consider on top priority the climate and environment emergency, violation of human rights of the vulnerable people in the district.

Even if collection of royalty taxes in different forms indicated one of the highest revenue sources of the state and the Centre, yet the people, especially the tribals, Scheduled Caste and poor besides those living in rural areas live in miserable conditions.

The anaemic mothers and the underweight children with low life expectancy of the common man living in the district pose serious questions of human rights, he said. The rights activist alleged that the district administration of Keonjhar and the state government have failed to ensure the bare necessities of life and basic amenities to the residents of mine-affected villages in Keonjhar district despite direction of the commission in similar cases in the past.

It is averred that failure on part of the state to ensure health care, education, safe drinking water, and all weather roads amounts to serious violation of human rights, Tripathy said. The Commission had May 19 issued a reminder to the Chief Secretary as well as the District Magistrate of Keonjhar to submit the requisite report in the matter.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS. The following tenders have been uploaded on website: www.ireps.gov.in. Tender Notice No. SDMM/KUREP/2023-24. E-procurement Tender Notice/07, Date: 04.08.2023.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SAMBALPUR. 1st Corrigendum to Tender Online - SBPR - 02 of 2023-24. No. O-595: The following changes have been made in respect of the Bid Identification No. Tender Online SBPR-02 of 2023-24 due to unavoidable reasons.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-574 "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No. Online-AGL-05 of 2023-2024. 1. Name of the Work : Road Work. 2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 4.95 Lakhs to 15.17 Lakhs.

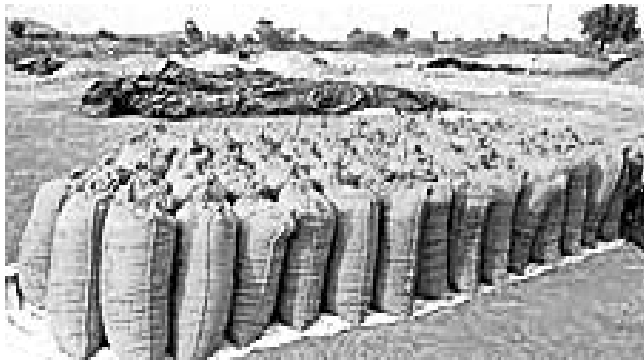
ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA PIN-751012, Tel.No.(0674) 2562020. e-Mail:theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com, GSTIN:21AAACO251K2ZMM. "e"-Procurement Notice No.28/OCC/2023-24 (online).

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT. e-mail:eerwsskpt@rediffmail.com, Ph.No.06852-250281 (off), Ph.No.06852-250680 (Res), Fax No.06852-251098. 2nd CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE No.07/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/13.07.2023.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION NO.-I, KEONJHAR No. O-607 email: eerw1\_kjr@yahoo.com. 1st Corrigendum to e-Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. Online NCB - 02/2023-24.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

# POVERTY & PROGRESS



Odisha has made several strides in the development landscape in recent years. The rapid fall in MPI in the state is certainly one of those, charting a progressive pathway towards the global goal of “no poverty”

There are 11 high-burden districts, including Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, and Keonjhar, where MPI ranges from 0.070 (Deogarh) to as high as 0.223 (Malkangiri), with high headcount ratios and severe poverty intensity demanding more strategic efforts to eradicate poverty holistically.

In the other group of 19, coastal districts like Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Cuttack, Nayagarh, and Ganjam were found to be less poor. The poorest district, Malkangiri, is seven times poorer than the least poor district, Puri. Interestingly, in Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, the percentage of poor is below 4%. A quick correlational analysis of district-wise MPI and available per capita GDP (2018-19) attempts to explain why income cannot be the sole constituent of poverty. Districts like Keonjhar, Koraput, and Dhenkanal with higher per capita GDP register high MPI. Then there are districts such as Puri, Nayagarh, Sonapur, Kendrapara, and Bolangir that demonstrate less poverty despite being medium in terms of per capita GDP. Such inter-district variation calls for an integrated action.

Odisha has made several strides in the development landscape in recent years. The rapid fall in MPI in the state is certainly one of those, charting a progressive pathway towards the global goal of “no poverty.” The call to action is precise and result-based initiatives to maintain the momentum. Odisha must march ahead to become a zero-poverty state. This is possible.

The writer is a Bhubaneswar-based Agricultural Economist. Views are personal

Poverty as a socio-economic phenomenon is complex and multidimensional, with several computational challenges. Globally, nonmonetary measures that define the quality of life are increasingly recognised as key constituents of poverty analysis. Over time, India has moved away from calorie and income-based poverty estimation to include additional dimensions that holistically explain the well-being of citizens. Simply put, a high-income household without access to sanitation, drinking water, adequate nutrition, will be considered poorer than a low-income family that owns all these facilities. NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank in India, brings out the country's progress review report on the national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) level in 2019-21. The report also highlights how MPI has changed since its baseline status in 2015-16.

The NITI Aayog's MPI—measuring attainments in 12 indicators under three equally weighted poverty dimensions—health, education, and standard of living—is estimated at the national, state, and district levels. Headcount ratio (percentage of poor), poverty intensity, and MPI are the three major measured indices in the overall framework of MPI and are computed using NFHS data. In Odisha, the report paints a clear picture of stupendous improvement in poverty elimination. The steep decline of 13.7% (higher than the national figure of 9.89%) in headcount ratio of poor people in just five years indicates that about 64 lakh people could be lifted out of poverty at the projected population of 4.70 crore in 2021.

The intensity of poverty, denoting the average deprivation severity of all multi-dimen-

sionally poor people, has also dropped, but by only 1.92 percentage points—less than the all-India reduction of 2.75%. This essentially points to the fact that even though the headcount of poor people diminished considerably the degree of poverty experienced by the poor did not shrink significantly. The difference in intensity between rural and urban Odisha is also negligible (1.43% more in rural areas). The MPI, reflecting both the incidence and intensity of poverty, has almost halved from 0.136 in 2015-16 to 0.070 in 2019-21. Notably, this substantial reduction is mostly driven by the fall in headcount ratio, as poverty intensity did not show much improvement. The stagnating intensity indicates that the number of indicators the poor are deprived of, does not fall over time. Amid the overall progression, this remains a concern, asking for appropriate redress. While a diminution of deprivation in all indicators of health and education is explicitly observed, the progress in indicators linked

to the standard of living is far more impressive. Access to cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, housing, assets, and bank accounts recorded a noticeable improvement. The progress in these indicators is assumed to positively interact with other indicators in health and education dimensions to amplify the progress in poverty alleviation. For instance, a household with better sanitation and drinking water facilities is likely to have a lower burden of malnutrition, school absenteeism, or poor maternal health, leading to an overall decline in MPI.

Targeted implementation of welfare schemes by the government in recent times has certainly catalysed such positive deviance and yielded the desired outcomes. However, MPI in the state varies across districts. Based on the estimated poverty index in 2019-21, the can be grouped into two leagues. One, with an MPI level greater than the state average, and the other can include districts with less than the state MPI level.



Mosharaf Hossain

THE CALL TO ACTION IS PRECISE AND RESULT-BASED INITIATIVES TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM



Sandrine Dixon-Declève & Simon Zadek

Given the unique challenges of halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and humanity's total dependence on thriving ecosystems, we need a new playbook for preserving nature

## Price of Nature

The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy.

SRI AUROBINDO



The global economy is addicted to the relentless – and unsustainable – extraction of natural resources. Yet despite our complete dependence on nature, its contribution – for example, the water used to make your clothes or the soil in which your food is grown – is implicit and largely invisible. Building an equitable, nature-positive future thus requires a new generation of principles-based and well-governed markets for ecosystem assets and services.

Nature and climate stability are two sides of the same coin, and their fates are intertwined. Conserving and restoring biodiversity is essential for limiting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, while uncontrolled global warming will destroy the planet's natural wealth. But efforts to decarbonise the global economy are not enough to prevent the exploitation of ecosystems. Today's climate playbook can be learned and leveraged, but not copied and pasted.

A new playbook is needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and the Taskforce on Nature Markets was established in March 2022 to help write it. The taskforce's findings and recommendations on how best to shape a new generation of markets that conserve, rather than destroy, nature, will be released at the regional summit for the Amazon rainforest alliance held in Belém, Brazil.

The need for such a taskforce reflects a historic pivot toward putting a price on nature. There is a big push, for example, to quantify nature-related risks and to require nature-related corporate disclosures. Regenerative agriculture is attracting growing interest, sharing the benefits of genetic resources has sparked vigorous debate, and biodiversity-credit markets are beginning to take shape.

Advocates of market-based solutions claim that these developments, coupled with policy signals, will eventually align the global economy with nature-positive outcomes. The planet's ecosystems will be saved, they argue, by rewarding businesses and governments that offer nature-related financial products and services and channel investment into restoring biodiversity.

Policymakers and corporate leaders have relied on the same approach to mitigate global warming, with mixed results. But climate change is more amenable to a market-based paradigm for two reasons: GHG emissions are easily quantifiable and verifiable, and green technology continues to attract huge amounts of investment. The natural world, on the other hand, has neither an equivalent to GHG emissions, which makes it difficult to price, nor an investable technological landscape, aside from an emerging cluster of nature-saving commodity-production technologies such as lab-grown meat and vertical farming.

Another fundamental difference concerns the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in preserving nature. Despite comprising less than 5% of the world's population, indigenous peoples protect 80% of the planet's biodiversity. Even well-intentioned market-based policies and instruments could undermine these stewards of nature, dimming the outlook for conservation efforts (and thus climate mitigation).

To be sure, market mechanisms can and must be harnessed to save nature. But, given these unique challenges, they will succeed only if their governance principles and operating methods are designed to promote equity and sustainable prosperity. The taskforce makes seven practical recommendations that could steer the global economy to a nature-positive pathway.

At the top of the list is a need for finance and economy ministers and central bankers to align economic and financial rules more closely with the goals of preserving biodiversity and supporting nature's stewards. When amending trade and investment agreements, international policy coordination through the G20 and other international fora must ensure that nature-rich low-income countries do not bear the brunt of transition costs. Central banks and supervisors must also ensure that financial markets are aligned with nature and climate commitments. Those governing global finance need to be more proactive – addressing the intermediate goals of financial stability and market integrity is not enough. Governance of soft commodities markets, especially for agricultural products, must be revamped, given their outside effects on biodiversity, the climate, and society. Such targeted actions should include measures to increase transparency, including full traceability, and to overcome the current regulatory disinterest in nature.

Anti-money-laundering rules need to focus more on environmental crimes such as illegal deforestation, mining, fishing, and wildlife trafficking. Legal investments in the agricultural sector, particularly in soft commodity producers, can unintentionally finance these crimes, which destroy nature and often fuel violence.

Given the unique challenges of halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and humanity's total dependence on thriving ecosystems, we need a new playbook for preserving nature. It can draw on current climate strategies while also pushing for more ambitious measures that are fit for purpose. This is especially important when designing nature markets to deliver equitable, nature-positive outcomes for people and the planet.

Sandrine Dixon-Declève is a member of the Taskforce on Nature Markets. Simon Zadek is Executive Director of NatureFinance.

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SPECTRUM MEDIATION

## Facilitating dispute resolution

The much-awaited Mediation Bill 2021 was finally approved by the Lok Sabha on Monday, and by the Rajya Sabha on 1 August, equalising mediation settlement agreements with that of a decree of a court. It is anticipated that mediation legislation will provide relief to industries, businesses, and families from the delays of courts in resolving disputes, or in the parlance of legal luminaries, litigations. India's mediation legislation provides a legal foundation for institutional mediation. It promotes and facilitates mediation, especially institutional mediation, for resolution of disputes, commercial or otherwise, enforces mediated settlement agreements, provides for a body for registration of mediators, encourages community mediation and makes online mediation acceptable and cost-effective. Pre-institutional mediation that is mediation before approaching a court is strongly advocated in the current legislation.

The Mediation Act aims to reduce the burden on courts by encouraging disputants to resolve their own disputes with the assistance of trained mediators and mediations facilitated by authorised mediation institutions. The Act walks the extra

mile by giving the mediation settlement agreement or mediation settlement deed the status of a court's decree. To elaborate, if two parties go to a mediation institution, have their dispute mediated, resolve their dispute, reach a consensus on the issue, and write down their own terms and conditions, the mediator will attest to them. It will become equivalent to a court order that is legally enforceable. The law encourages family, commercial, and property disputes to be resolved through mediation. This is in fact a boon for MSMEs and women suffering from domestic troubles due to confidentiality and cost effectiveness involved in mediation. Institutional mediation is a key take away from the Act.

When the first mediation centres were established in the district courts of Delhi, the practicing advocates in those courts viewed it as a threat. However, after much persuasion and mediation training, today's advocates across the country, despite feeling threatened by alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, participate in mediation proceedings and get trained under the guidelines of the Supreme Court's Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee. Advocates continue to be concerned about

their clients' reluctance to resolve their disputes through assisted mediation.

Although the mediation law encourages the assisted settlement of disputes between disputants, the institution of such assistance as recommended by the law is imperfect. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems that are being promoted in our country are hampered by duplicity of institutional mechanisms, bureaucratic procedures, and redundant approaches.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 already encourages institutional arbitration for outside court dispute resolution. The 2021 amendments to establish an Arbitration Council of India to regulate arbitration institutions and arbitration processes have not been implemented. In addition, the current legislation suggests the establishment of the Mediation Council of India for the purpose of regulating mediation processes and institutions. In addition, the current law requires that “for the purposes of record, any mediated settlement agreement reached between the parties, other than those reached in a court or tribunal-referred mediation or award of Lok Adalat or final award of Permanent Lok Adalat under Section 21 or Section 22E of the

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, shall be registered with an Authority constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, in such manner as may be specified.” This not only calls into doubt the secrecy of the mediation agreements, but also creates bureaucratic obstacles for registration of settlement deeds. The objective is to reduce the court's workload, time consumption, and expenses.

The proposed mediation institutions must first be registered with the Mediation Council of India, and then all mediation agreements will be submitted to the authorities that will be established pursuant to the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987. In addition, ADR mechanisms consist of arbitration, mediation, conciliation, and negotiation. One law and one regulatory body for entire ADR mechanism can replace the mediation council, the arbitration council, the mediation law, the arbitration law, and the conciliation law. Nonetheless, the mediation legislation is a boon for those interested in amicable dispute resolution, and more so for disputes of MSMEs and families.

The writer is a former senior advisor, UNDP. Views are personal.



P Madhava Rao

THE MEDIATION LEGISLATION IS A BOON FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN AMICABLE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AND MORE SO FOR DISPUTES OF MSMEs AND FAMILIES

WISDOM CORNER

- Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game. BABE RUTH
- Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans. JOHN LENNON
- The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. DOLLY PARTON

WORDSWORTH

Meteoric rise

The idiom sounds like a contradiction. However, when we look into the history of meteoric, it isn't as silly as it sounds. To start with, the phrase meteoric rise is a lot older than you might think. It starts to appear in print in the 1860s, though there are hints that it may be older. Since then, the phrase has itself rapidly risen in popularity and has become a cliché best avoided. Older forms are meteoric career, known from the early part of the century, and meteoric talent, which is recorded from 1833. These and your form are all based on a figurative sense of meteoric that came into existence about 1820. One reason why the expression now seems wrong is that we've lost a key part of the image in the minds of these early users. For them, something meteoric began unexpectedly and spectacularly but soon sputtered and died. People had in mind the sudden appearance and transient brilliance of a meteor streaking across the night sky. By implication, a meteoric rise was swiftly followed by a meteoric fall that led to extinction of talent or reputation. Both rise and fall here are themselves figurative, with no implication of physical direction, though part of the idea behind it may have been that a meteor appearing low in the sky seems to rise as it travels towards the zenith.

Unflinching commitment

Sir, It is really heartening and inspiring to see that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, despite his frail health, attended the Parliament arriving in a wheelchair to participate in a crucial Rajya Sabha session a few days ago. He was seen sitting for a long time at the back of Rajya Sabha aisle during the debate on the Delhi Services Bill 2023. Opposition might have failed in thwarting the Bill, but Singh won everyone's heart with his extended presence. This shows the nonagenarian parliamentarian's unflinching commitment and allegiance to democracy even at the age of 90. Political leaders are judged not by their charisma, but by their commitment to democratic ethos and values. Manmohan Singh is a perfect example of this trait.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Mayhem continues

Sir, Unfortunately, the violence in Manipur has taken a turn for the worse. Intense gunfights broke out in two villages following the killing of five people and torching 15 abandoned homes. An additional ten companies of Central forces arrived in the state on Saturday night. Meanwhile, the Kuki People's Alliance pulled out of the Manipur government in protest against the state's deteriorating law and order situation. Surprisingly, the presence of Central forces has not deterred the arsonists and militants, who continue to have a field day.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Incredible discovery

Sir, In a momentous and rare event, a melanistic tiger was recently captured on a camera trap in Similipal Tiger Reserve. This sighting is a testament to the reserve's conservation success, as the population of tigers in the area has doubled over the past four years. Melanistic tigers, with their dark coats and distinctive stripes, are a magnificent and uncommon sight due to a genetic mutation that results in darker markings. The male tiger, estimated to be around 5 years old, appeared to be healthy and strong as it was seen confidently traversing through the forest. This incredible discovery not only underscores the importance of preserving natural habitats but also serves as a reminder of the astonishing diversity and splendour found in the animal kingdom.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

## 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

Orissa POST  
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# CHORUS GROWS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY BILL IN UP

Over 45,000 private schools across Uttar Pradesh remained closed Tuesday following a call by their association to protest against the arrest of a principal and a teacher in connection with the suicide of a student in Azamgarh district

**Lucknow, August 9:** The Association of Private Schools in Uttar Pradesh has urged the state government to bring the 'School Safety Bill' or issue a government order that prohibits arrest of any school member without proper investigation in a case.

Over 45,000 private schools across Uttar Pradesh remained closed Tuesday following a call by their association to protest against the arrest of a principal and a teacher in connection with the suicide of a student in Azamgarh district.



matter August 5, following a complaint by the girl's family members. In wake of the arrests, the association felt there was a need for some "safeguard measures so that heads of institutions and teachers were not harassed by police in case of any eventuality".

Association, Uttar Pradesh, also urged the state government to form a committee to probe such incidents. The Association of Private Schools will also give a representation to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in this connection. Atul Kumar, president of Association of Private Schools, said: "We deeply condole the death of the girl student in Azamgarh. But we strongly condemn the arrest of the principal and the teacher under Section 305 without any investigation into the case. The arrest has shaken the teachers, principals and school management."

Kumar said the student's suicide was extremely unfortunate, but blaming the principal and teacher of the school without any investigation was "injustice to the entire school fraternity".

# Govt launches skill initiative for NE region

**New Delhi, August 9:** Centre has launched a 'special' skill development initiative for the north-east to create a robust skill-centric and industry-ready ecosystem in the region.

# Manipur's Nagas hold massive rally

The huge rally was held in Manipur's four Naga-dominated districts -- Tamenglong, Chandel, Ukhrul, and Senapati, which are along the Nagaland and Myanmar borders

The protesters also demanded that separate administration for any other community must not infringe upon Naga-inhabited areas

Rallies were brought out in the district headquarters of Tamenglong, Senapati, Ukhrul and Chandel amid tight security

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex civic body of Naga tribes in Manipur, called for the rallies in the Naga-inhabited areas



**Imphal, August 9:** A massive rally was organised by the Naga tribals in Manipur Wednesday demanding resolution of the decades-old Naga political issue based on the Framework Agreement, signed between the Central government and the NSCN-IM August 3, 2015.

Organised by the United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of the Nagas in Manipur, the huge rally was held in Manipur's four Naga-dominated districts -- Tamenglong, Chandel, Ukhrul, and Senapati, which are along the Nagaland and Myanmar borders.

In 2001, Manipur witnessed violent agitation against the NSCN-IM demand and even the state Assembly was partially burnt. Many people lost their lives when the ceasefire between the Centre and NSCN-IM was extended without territorial limits.

spheres upon the suppressed tribal communities, it is prudent on the part of the Central leadership to act conscientiously thereby expedite the processes of resolving the legitimate demands of both the tribal communities in the form of separate administration for the Kukis and in conformity with the Framework Agreement for the Nagas so as to ensure lasting peace in the beleaguered, torn-apart state of Manipur," the KIM statement had said.

# Fabricated attempts to malign image of Assam Rifles: Army



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Imphal, August 9:** The Army Wednesday said that some hostile elements have made desperate, repeated and failed attempts to question the role, intent and integrity of the central security forces, especially the Assam Rifles, working relentlessly in Manipur since the ethnic violence erupted May 3.

unified headquarters of strict enforcement of buffer zone guidelines towards preventing violence between two communities in Bishnupur district.

# AKHILESH'S TWEET TAKES A DIG AT ASSEMBLY RULES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, August 9:** Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav Wednesday took a dig at the new rule book introduced for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

# Varanasi court bans media from covering Gyanvapi survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, August 9:** A Varanasi court Wednesday barred media from covering the ongoing ASI survey of the Gyanvapi complex from the spot and also directed members of the survey team to not give comments to any media outlet.

# After Patna HC nod, Mayawati for caste census in UP too

IN A SERIES OF TWEETS, MAYAWATI SAID THAT THE DEMAND FOR A CASTE CENSUS IN UTTAR PRADESH WAS GAINING GROUND BUT THE RULING BJP WAS NOT PREPARED FOR IT

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, August 9:** After Patna High Court upheld the caste survey in Bihar as "perfectly valid" and "initiated with due competence", BSP chief Mayawati Wednesday said all eyes are now on when Uttar Pradesh will begin the process.

the issue in a series of posts on X, formerly known as Twitter. "After Patna High Court completely legalised the caste census being conducted by the Bihar government to make a proper assessment of the economic, educational and social condition of the OBC (Other Backward Classes) society and prepare a development plan accordingly, everyone's eyes are now fixed on when this important process will start in Uttar Pradesh."



ducting it in Uttar Pradesh is also gaining momentum. But the present BJP government does not seem ready for it. This is very worrying."

# Efforts made to clean Yagamso

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Itanagar, August 9:** Members of several organisations in Arunachal Pradesh's capital complex region Wednesday made an effort to clean a stretch of the Yagamso river on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

purity of the division-4 stretch of the Yagamso river. The waste materials collected from the river during the clean-up exercise comprise discarded clothing, blankets and household plastics, Taba said, adding that sewage water is directly flowing into it.

He urged people to ensure the cleanliness of the river and asked them to reduce waste generation in households, workplaces and recreational areas to reduce water pollution.

# NO BRIDGE, NO VOTE

## Arunachal villagers threaten to boycott polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Itanagar, August 9:** People of three villages in West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh have threatened to boycott the Lok Sabha and assembly elections due next year, if the government fails to construct a permanent bridge over a river, a key demand of them since 2014.

There is a makeshift bridge -- a 20-metre odd log with a rickety wooden railing on one side for a user to hold -- made by locals, but this is of no use during the monsoon as it goes below the rising water level of the Hijum river, a tributary of the Pisam. "When the river is in spate, parents don't send their wards to schools. They fear that the children might slip off the log bridge," said Pokpe Rime who lives in Rime Moko village.



carry patients on our back and cross the log bridge over the river to the Nikte primary health centre or the Aalo General Hospital," Pokpe said. The road connectivity issue is also af-

fecting the area economically and socially, people of the villages feel.

to fulfil our demands, we will resort to democratic agitation and if necessary, we will go to the extent of boycotting the upcoming Parliamentary and assembly elections," Rime Moko 'gaon burah' (village head) Gambin Rime said.



Tribal people perform a cultural dance on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Nadia district of West Bengal, Wednesday



Relatives carry an ailing woman to a hospital after roads got damaged due to incessant monsoon rains in Kullu of Himachal Pradesh



A vendor sells Indian national flags ahead of the Independence day celebrations in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh



Elderly people play a kabaddi match organised under 'Fit Rajasthan Hit Rajasthan' initiative in Jodhpur, Rajasthan



A shopkeeper reacts near the debris of shops demolished by the administration in a drive against illegal construction in Haryana's Nuh



Workers shift chairs at Parliament House complex during the ongoing Monsoon session in New Delhi





We had told the British to quit India. Today, we want the BJP-led government at the Centre to quit Delhi. On Quit India day, we pledge to make the BJP quit India

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

POLICE DETAIN TUSHAR GANDHI

Exactly 81 years after Mahatma Gandhi was targeted by the British Police on the Quit India Day, (August 9, 1942), his great-grandson Tushar A. Gandhi suffered a similar fate Wednesday



of the day quote

Arunachal Rang Mahotsav is more than just a programme; it's a celebration of Arunachal Pradesh's rich cultural tapestry.

We have seen what Punjab has to endure during floods because of non-existent administration

Unfortunately, in the last 30-35 years, attempts were made to distort his contribution. The BJP did not leave any stone unturned on it

OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER

SHORT TAKES

ED raids premises of MLA Gopal Kanda

Gurugram: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday conducted searches at the premises of Haryana MLA Gopal Kanda and others as part of a money laundering investigation, official sources said.

U'khand: 5 killed in separate mishaps

Kotdwar (UKD): Five people were killed and as many injured in two separate road accidents in the past 24 hours in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, officials said.

Shimla: 4 crushed by apple-laden trucks

Shimla: Four people including a couple were killed by apple-laden trucks in two separate road accidents in Shimla, police said Wednesday.

Former dacoit joins Cong in MP

Bhopal: Ahead of the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, former dacoit Malkhan Singh joined the Congress in the presence of State Congress President Kamal Nath.

Row over Rahul's 'flying kiss' in Parl



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: Union Minister Smriti Irani Wednesday expressed outrage over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi blowing a flying kiss in the Lok Sabha, calling him misogynist and saying the House had never witnessed such an "indecent act".

The minister for women and child development spoke after Gandhi, who alleged that the government's politics had "murdered Bharat Mata" in Manipur and termed members of the ruling BJP "traitors".

ing kiss to Parliament which seats female Members of Parliament... Such indecent act has not been witnessed by the House ever before.

Gandhi, while leaving the House after participating in the debate, was booed at by the treasury benches. He then turned around and blew a flying kiss.

Talking to reporters later, Irani said, "Never before has the misogynistic behaviour of a man been so visible in Parliament as what was being done by Rahul Gandhi today."

"When the House of the people, where laws are made to protect the dignity of women during the course of a session, stands witness to a man's misogyny, my question is should he not be brought to task," the Union minister said.

Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as 'Keralam'

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, August 9: The Kerala assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to 'Keralam'.

The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who urged the central government to change the state's name to 'Keralam' in all languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Subsequently, it was declared as unanimously adopted by the assembly by Speaker A N Shamseer based on a show of hands. Presenting the resolution, the CM said that the state was called 'Keralam' in Malayalam, but in other languages it was still Kerala.

He said that the need to form a united Kerala for the Malayalam speaking communities had strongly emerged since the time of the national freedom struggle.

"But the name of our state is written as Kerala in the First Schedule of the Constitution." "This Assembly unanimously requests the Union Government to take immediate steps to amend it as 'Keralam' under Article 3 of the Constitution and it be renamed as 'Keralam' in all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution," he said.

MANIPUR CRISIS Shah appeals for peace

Intervening in the debate on the no-confidence motion after Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders slammed the government's handling of the situation, Shah urged them not to politicise the issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: Appealing with "folded hands" for an end to the three-month-long cycle of violence in Manipur, Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday urged warring Kuki and Meitei communities to hold talks, as Lok Sabha adopted a resolution calling for the restoration of peace in the northeastern state.

Intervening in the debate on the no-confidence motion after Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders slammed the government's handling of the Manipur situation, Shah urged them not to politicise the issue of ethnic violence in the state.

The minister said 152 people were killed, 14,898 people arrested and 1,106 FIRs registered since violence erupted May 3.

Lok Sabha also adopted a resolution read out by Speaker Om Birla appealing for peace in Manipur that was enthusiastically supported by the NDA members in the presence of the opposition.

In his nearly two-hour intervention, Shah ruled out a change of guard in Manipur asserting that the chief minister was co-operating with the Centre in the efforts to restore peace.

Shah also referred to the video of the May 4 incident, in which two women were stripped and paraded naked by mob, that appeared on July 19, saying the government was not aware of it.

Had the video been made available to the state Director General of Police instead of being circulated on social media, it would have helped nab the culprits in time, he said.

Shah also questioned the intention of leaking the video on social media ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament. "The video is from the 4th of



Congress slams Home Minister

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh Wednesday said it was "shameful" that Home Minister Amit Shah questioned the "timing" of the release of a video of two women being paraded naked in Manipur.

May incident. Such actions cannot be supported anywhere in the world. Media friends pointed out to me and asked if the video should be handed over to the police.

"Why did it emerge a day before the parliamentary session? Nine people were identified, arrested, and are facing trial since the video came to light," he said

Shah spoke on the origin of hostilities and urged the two warring communities to come to the dialogue table.

"I urge both communities (Kukis and Meiteis) to sit with the Centre and talk to resolve the issue. We do not wish to change the demography. I am

talking to them personally. Please do not politicise this," Shah said. The Home Minister said problems started in Manipur with the influx of Kuki refugees from neighbouring Myanmar after the military rulers there started a crackdown against militants in 2021.

The Kuki refugees started settling down in the jungles in the Manipur valley, raising fears of a demographic change in the region, Shah said. The unrest in the Manipur valley began when rumours began to circulate that the refugee settlements had been declared as villages, Shah said.

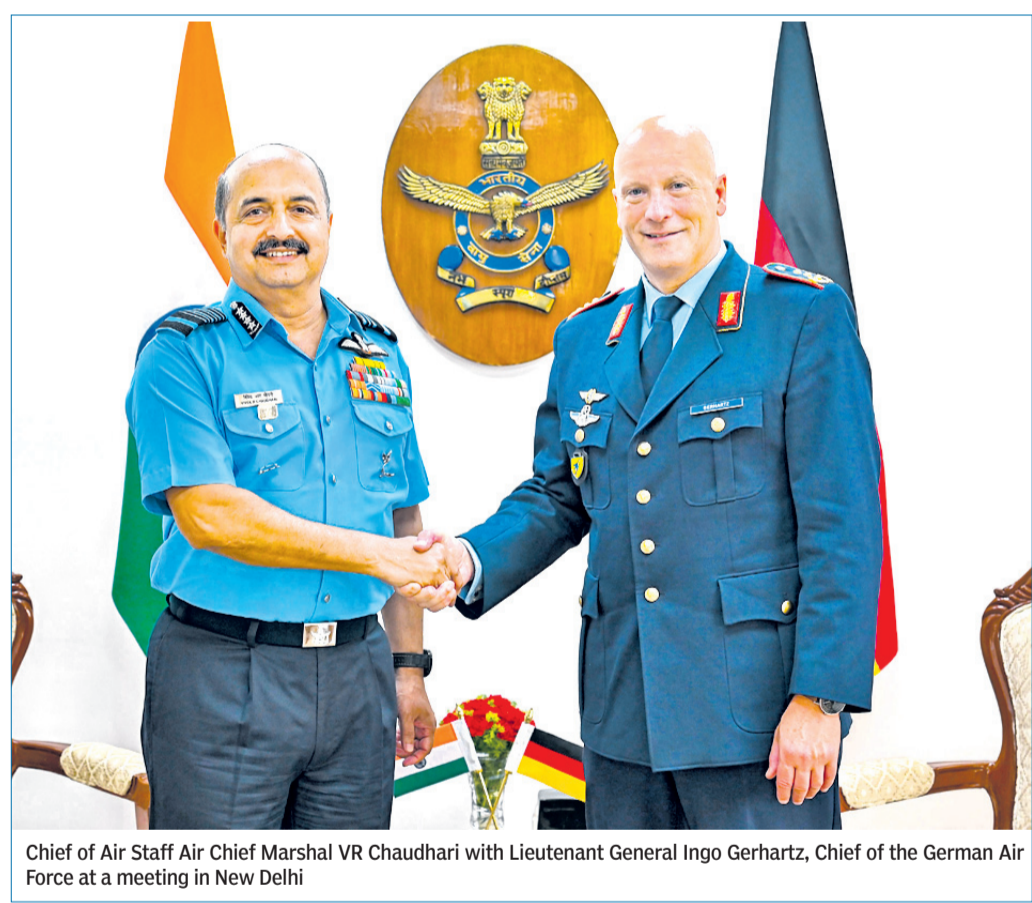
He said the Manipur High Court order to fast-track the process for the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes added fuel to the fire.

Shah said the violence that broke out May 3 has been continuing to date and the Centre has established a peace committee as part of efforts to restore normalcy in the state.

"Over 36,000 security personnel have been stationed between Kukis and Meiteis as a buffer zone. The anger has not subsided yet, but violence has reduced.

JAIRAM RAMESH HINTS AT QUITTING AS PARL PANEL CHIEF

New Delhi: The Congress Wednesday accused the Modi government of "bulldozing" three crucial bills in Parliament and of turning the parliamentary institutional mechanism "worthless".



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari with Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz, Chief of the German Air Force at a meeting in New Delhi

Parliament passes Digital Personal Data Protection Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: Parliament Wednesday approved the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill that introduces several compliance requirements for the collection and processing of personal data and provisions for up to ₹250 crore penalty for any data breach.

The government expects to implement Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 within 10 months. The Lok Sabha approved the Bill August 7, and with the Rajya Sabha giving its consent Wednesday, the parliamentary approval process is complete.

The Bill will now go to the President for assent, after which it will become law. Moving the bill for consideration and passage in the Upper House of Parliament, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "It would have been good, had the opposition discussed the bill today (in the House). But no opposition leader or member is

concerned over the rights of the citizens". The Bill provides for how companies should process users' data. It allows companies to transfer users' data abroad and gives the government power to seek information from firms and issue directions to block content on the advice of a data protection board appointed by the Union government.

"We have started work on implementation. This kind of legislation will require a 6-10 month kind of frame. We will take every step with proper checks and balances. It is a guesstimate. We might do it faster than that," Vaishnaw told reporters.

The government has been in the process of introducing a standalone data protection legislation since 2018.

The Bill applies to the processing of digital personal data in India, where the personal data is either collected in digital form or in a non-digitised format and subsequently digitised.

CAG flags discrepancies in Ayushman Bharat database

THE CAG REPORT POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL BENEFICIARIES WERE REGISTERED AGAINST THE SAME MOBILE NUMBER UNDER THE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME. IT STATED THAT 7.49 LAKH PEOPLE ARE REGISTERED AGAINST THE MOBILE NUMBER 9999999999 AS BENEFICIARIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The Comptroller and Auditor General has highlighted discrepancies including invalid names, unrealistic dates of birth, duplicate health IDs and unrealistic family sizes in the database of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Ineligible households were found registered as PMJAY beneficiaries and had availed the benefits ranging between ₹0.12 lakh to ₹22.44 crore under the scheme, said the audit report tabled in Parliament Tuesday.

"According to National Health Authority (NHA) records, 7.87

crore beneficiary households were registered, constituting 73 per cent of the targeted households of 10.74 crore (November 2022)." "In the absence of adequate validation controls, errors were noticed in beneficiary database i.e. Invalid names, unrealistic date of birth, duplicate PMJAY IDs, unrealistic size of family members in a household etc," the report said.

Health Ministry sources Wednesday said there is no role of mobile number in the verification process.

The sources said the mobile number has no role in deciding beneficiary eligibility and that it was an erroneous presumption that a beneficiary can avail treat-



ment using mobile number. The CAG report pointed out that several beneficiaries were registered against the same mobile number under the health insurance scheme. It stated that 7.49 lakh people are registered against the mobile number 9999999999 as beneficiaries. The sources said

performance audit has been done during initial and incipient stages of the scheme. "The deployed Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Mitra during the initial stages would enter random numbers as provided against the beneficiary population to save on time and address large

queues in the hospitals."

"The registration process used to take place at site of health service provider. There was a field in the database where mobile numbers had to be added and therefore, some random numbers as highlighted in the CAG report and in the media were entered," the source said.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY identifies the beneficiary through Aadhaar identification wherein the beneficiary undergoes the process of mandatory Aadhaar based e-KYC. The details fetched from the Aadhaar database is matched with the source database and accordingly, the request for Ayushman card is approved or rejected based on the beneficiary

details. However, there is no role of mobile number in the verification process, the source said. In view of the above, treatment to the beneficiaries can't be withheld just on the ground that the beneficiary doesn't carry a valid mobile number; or the mobile number given by them has changed. Accordingly, beneficiaries mobile number has very limited role in the AB PM-JAY treatment workflow. With regard to the use of same mobile number by multiple beneficiaries, it may be noted that initially the mobile number was not a mandatory field during beneficiary verification and therefore, mobile number was not validated in the process.

# international



What we are seeing is more than just El Nino on top of climate change  
CARLO BUONTEMPO | DIRECTOR, COPERNICUS CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICE

## NAGASAKI BOMBING ANNIV

Nagasaki marked the 78th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city Wednesday with the mayor urging world powers to abolish nuclear weapons, saying nuclear deterrence also increases risks of nuclear war



## of the day quote

The forest unites us. It is time to look at the heart of our continent and consolidate, once and for all, our Amazon identity



LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

It is hugely underestimated how serious the situation is that the EU and allies have brought themselves into with the continued appeasement of autocrats in the region like Vucic and (Bosnian Serb leader Milorad) Dodik



THIS REUTEN | EU LAWMAKER, THE NETHERLANDS

In all of our conversations with allies and partners around the world, we continue to discuss the war in Ukraine. It is always one of the top topics that comes up in all of our conversations, and I have no doubt that'll be true at the G20



MATTHEW MILLER | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON, US

# No relief for Imran

PAK COURT REFUSES INSTANT RELIEF TO IMRAN KHAN; REJECTS HIS REQUEST TO SUSPEND SENTENCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 9: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's bid to get his conviction suspended in a corruption case did not succeed Wednesday as the Islamabad High Court adjourned the hearing but assured him that his case would be decided in four to five days.

Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in prison by an Islamabad trial court Saturday in the Toshakhana corruption case in which he is accused of profiting from selling expensive state gifts when he was in power. He was subsequently arrested by Punjab police from his residence in Lahore.

Khan, who is currently lodged in the Attock Jail, appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday.

During the proceedings presided over by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Khan's lawyer Khawaja Harris argued that the trial court announced its verdict without allowing him to plead the case and asked the court to suspend the sentence and take up the appeal against conviction for hearing from tomorrow.

"The decision of the trial court in the Toshakhana case is against



the law," he stated in the plea seeking for the verdict to be annulled. Chief Justice Farooq after hearing arguments refused to grant relief in the form of a suspension and declared that the petition would be fixed for a regular hearing within the next four to five days. He also issued notices to concerned parties.

The jailed chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is fighting a legal battle through his lawyers. Hearing a different petition about shifting Khan to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, the IHC asked the authorities to apprise it who ordered to keep Khan at Attock jail instead of Adiala as directed by the sessions court.

Farooq asked the federal and Punjab governments to file replies by August 11 on the PTI chief's plea requesting a transfer from Attock district prison to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Farooq said that the court would issue an order regarding the meetings with the former prime minister by his legal team and others. Later the court adjourned the hearing till August 11.

Khan is accused of misusing his 2018 to 2022 premiership to

## The Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified Khan for five years following his conviction in the Toshakhana case

buy and sell gifts in state possession that were received during visits abroad and worth more than Rs 140 million (\$635,000). Khan faces more than 140 cases across the country and charges like terrorism, violence, blasphemy, corruption and murder.

## 'Take me out of here'

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has told his lawyers to take him out from the Attock jail as he does not want to remain in a cell that is infested with flies during the day and insects at night. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman has asked his legal team that he does not wish to remain in prison, Geo News quoted sources in the Attock jail privy to the meeting between Khan and his lawyer as saying, "Take me out of here; I don't want to remain in jail," the officials quoted Khan, as saying. Khan's counsel Naeem Haider Panjotra was granted access by the jail authorities Monday to meet him, who after seeing the PTI chairman said that the former premier was being kept in distressing conditions provided "C-Class jail facilities".

and had become "the main instrument of the anti-Russian policy of the United States of America".

Shoigu said the number of NATO military units from outside the region stationed in eastern Europe had increased by two-and-a-half times since February last year and that they were now 30,000-strong in total.

"These threats to Russia's military security require a timely and adequate response. We will discuss the necessary measures to neutralise them at the meeting and make appropriate decisions," he said.

# Russia to build up forces in West to check NATO threat

REUTERS

Moscow, August 9: Russia will build up forces at its western borders following Finland's accession to the US-led NATO alliance, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told the governing board of the ministry Wednesday.

In opening remarks to the Collegium of the Defence Ministry, Shoigu said NATO-member Poland had already announced plans to strengthen its military, and that he expected significant NATO forces and weaponry to be deployed in Finland, whose inclusion has almost doubled the length of Russia's land border with NATO.

"The collective West is waging a proxy war against Russia," he said, according to his ministry, pointing to its "unprecedented support" for Ukraine in supplying tens of billions of dollars' worth of weaponry to help Kyiv repel Russian forces.

Shoigu called the entry of Finland into NATO and the future entry of Sweden a serious destabilising factor. The two Nordic states abandoned generations of neutrality that had held throughout the Cold War to seek NATO membership following Russia's invasion of Ukraine early last year.

He said Poland had announced its intention to build the most powerful army on the continent,



On Finnish territory, it is likely that additional military contingents and strike weapons of NATO will be deployed, capable of hitting critical targets in the northwest of Russia at a considerable depth

SERGEI SHOIGU | DEFENCE MINISTER, RUSSIA

and had become "the main instrument of the anti-Russian policy of the United States of America".

Shoigu said the number of NATO military units from outside the region stationed in eastern Europe had increased by two-and-a-half times since February last year and that they were now 30,000-strong in total.

"These threats to Russia's military security require a timely and adequate response. We will discuss the necessary measures to neutralise them at the meeting and make appropriate decisions," he said.

## SHORT TAKES

### Tanks to Ukraine

Brussels: Dozens of second-hand Leopard 1 tanks that once belonged to Belgium have been bought by another European country for Ukrainian forces fighting Russia's invasion, the arms trader who did the deal said Tuesday. The German-made Leopards were at the centre of a public spat earlier this year after Belgian Defence Minister Ludvine Dedonder said the government had explored buying back tanks to send to Ukraine but had been quoted unreasonable prices.

### Trouble in Uganda

Kampala: The World Bank said it will not consider new loans to Uganda after the East African country earlier this year enacted an anti-gay bill that rights groups and others have condemned. The World Bank had deployed a team to Uganda after the law was enacted in May and determined that additional measures were necessary to ensure projects align with the bank's environmental and social standards. "No new public financing to Uganda will be presented to our Board of Executive Directors until the efficacy of the additional measures has been tested," the World Bank Group said in a statement.

### Harry loses title

London: The royal family has removed Prince Harry's official title from their website - three years after he and Meghan Markle stepped down from their royal duties. According to a report by Express, until last week, the Duke of Sussex was still being referred to by his HRH title in a bio on the website. On Tuesday, the media outlet reported that the bio had been updated, with Harry's former title removed. The news outlet reported that the Royal Family's website was not completely updated since the death of Queen Elizabeth II September 8, 2022.

### Floods claim 33

Beijing: The death toll in recent flooding in China's capital rose to 33, including five rescuers, and another 18 people remain missing, officials said Wednesday, as much of the country's north remains threatened by unusually heavy rainfall. Days of heavy rain hit areas in the city's mountainous western outskirts especially hard, causing the collapse of 59,000 homes, damage to almost 150,000 others and flooding of more than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of cropland, as per city government.

## INTERNAL RESISTANCE

# Niger ex-rebel starts anti-coup movement

REUTERS

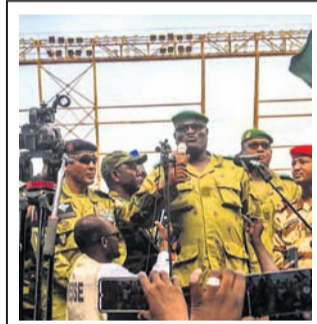
Niamey, August 9: A former rebel leader and politician in Niger has launched a movement opposing the junta that took power in a July 26 coup, a first sign of internal resistance to army rule in the strategically important Sahel country.

Rhissa Ag Boula said in a statement seen Wednesday that his new Council of Resistance for the Republic (CRR) aimed to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, who has been in detention at his residence since the takeover.

"Niger is the victim of a tragedy orchestrated by people charged with protecting it," the statement said.

The launch comes as diplomatic efforts to reverse the coup appeared stalled after the junta rejected the latest diplomatic mission and the army governments of neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso, which back the armed takeover, appealed to the United Nations to prevent any military intervention.

Niger's coup leaders denied entry to African and UN envoys Tuesday, resisting pressure to negotiate ahead of a summit Thursday at which heads of state from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will discuss possible use of force. The CRR supports ECOWAS and any other international ac-



NEW MOVEMENT AIMS TO REINSTATE OUSTED PRESIDENT BAZOUM  
LAUNCH COMES JUST BEFORE REGIONAL SUMMIT ON NIGER  
JUNTA HAS REBUFFED DIPLOMATIC ENVOYS

tors seeking to restore constitutional order in Niger, according to Ag Boula's statement, which added that it would make itself available to the bloc for any useful purpose.

A CRR member said several Nigerien political figures had joined the group but could not make their allegiance public for safety reasons.

Ag Boula played a leading role in uprisings by Tuaregs, a nomadic ethnic group present in Niger's desert north, in the 1990s and 2000s. Like many former rebels, he was integrated into government under Bazoum and his predecessor Mahamadou Issoufou.

## 2ND LARGE-SCALE INCURSION THIS WEEK

# Chinese jets invade Taiwan airspace

A TOTAL OF 25 CHINESE AIRCRAFTS ENGAGING IN OPERATIONS OUT AT SEA, INCLUDING J-10 AND J-16 FIGHTERS, AS WELL AS H-6 BOMBERS WERE DETECTED

REUTERS

Taipei, August 9: Ten Chinese air force aircraft entered Taiwan's air defence zone Wednesday accompanying five Chinese warships engaged in "combat readiness" patrols, the island's defence ministry said, the second such incursion this week.

Taiwan, which China claims as its territory, has repeatedly complained of Chinese military activity near it over the past three years, as Beijing steps up pressure to try to force the island to accept its sovereignty.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting at around 9 am, it detected a total of 25 Chinese aircraft engaging in operations out at sea, including J-10 and J-16 fighters, as well as H-6 bombers.

Of those aircraft, the ministry said 10 had either crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which previously served as an unofficial barrier between the two sides, or entered the southwestern part of Taiwan's air defence identification zone, or ADIZ.

Those aircraft were acting in coordination with five Chinese warships engaging in "combat readiness" patrols, it said.

Taiwan's military dispatched ships and aircraft to keep watch, the ministry said.

The ADIZ is a broad area



Taiwan monitors and patrols to give its forces more time to respond to threats, and Chinese aircraft have not entered territorial Taiwanese air space.

On Sunday, Taiwan reported a similar level of activity by Chinese warplanes and warships near the island.

China staged war games around Taiwan in April after President Tsai Ing-wen returned home from a visit to the United States where she met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Last August, it also held war games around Taiwan to protest against a trip to Taipei by then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan Vice President William Lai leaves for the United States this week on his way to Paraguay what is officially only a transit but which has angered China. It was China's "priority" to stop Lai from visiting the United States, Beijing's ambassador to the US said last month.

Taiwan's democratically

elected government rejects China's sovereignty claim and says only the island's people can decide their future.

PROBLEM WITH PHILIPPINE  
Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr Wednesday denied making an agreement with China to remove a grounded warship that serves as a military outpost in South China Sea, and said if there ever were such a deal, it should be considered rescinded.

The Philippines maintains a handful of troops aboard the World War Two-era Sierra Madre at the Second Thomas Shoal, known by Manila as Ayungin shoal, which is located inside its 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

China Monday accused the Philippines of reneging on a promise made "explicitly" to remove the ship, which was grounded in 1999 to bolster its territorial claims in one of the world's most congested areas.

# El Nino could imperil Great Barrier Reef

Globally, the average ocean temperature has been topping seasonal heat records on a regular basis since April

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sydney, August 9: Australia's Great Barrier Reef could deteriorate if warming ocean temperatures spark another mass coral bleaching event later this year, the country's top marine science body said Wednesday.

Sections of the reef had been showing promising signs of recovery until a bleaching event in 2022 turned swathes of the vibrant coral a sickly, pale white.

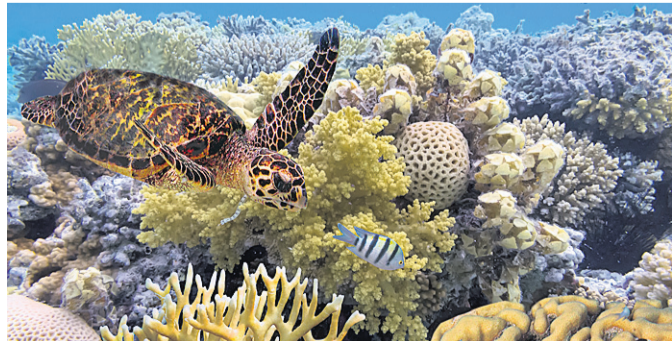
The Australian Institute of Marine Science said that, although the reef's condition had stabilised during a "relatively mild" summer in 2023, it remained in a precarious position. Institute research director

David Wachenfeld said the reef was at "increased risk with climate change driving more frequent and severe bleaching events".

Australia's weather bureau has said it is "likely" an El Nino weather pattern will develop over the country in the coming weeks, bringing warmer ocean temperatures to the Pacific - and the renewed risk of coral bleaching.

Globally, the average ocean temperature has been topping seasonal heat records on a regular basis since April.

Wachenfeld said the reef was "only one large-scale disturbance away from a rapid reversal of recent recovery". Australia was given a brief



reprieve earlier this year when a team of United Nations experts left the fading wonder off a list of heritage sites considered "in danger".

The reef is one of Australia's premier tourist draw cards and

putting it on the in-danger list could substantially tarnish its allure for international visitors.

World heritage body UNESCO considered listing the reef after a damning report in 2021 but

held off following intense lobbying from Australia's previous conservative government.

Instead, UNESCO has set up a monitoring mission within Australia to assess the impact of pollution, fishing, climate change and coral bleaching.

It first raised the alarm about the reef's deterioration in 2010. Marine heatwaves have caused mass coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2022.

Researcher Mike Emslie said even the most minor bleaching event was enough to "put the brakes" on the reef's recovery.

"This means the reef is still at risk of decline from more frequent disturbances," he said.

# 41 feared dead in shipwreck

REUTERS

Rome, August 9: Forty-one migrants are thought to have died in a shipwreck last week in the central Mediterranean, Italian authorities and United Nations agencies said Wednesday, citing survivors who have been taken to the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Local public prosecutor Salvatore Vella and three UN agencies confirmed media reports that four people who survived the shipwreck had told rescuers they were on a boat carrying 45 people, including three children.

The survivors - a 13-year-old boy, a woman and two men - arrived in Lampedusa Wednesday, almost six days after the sinking of their boat, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Unicef and UNHCR, said in a joint statement.



The boat had set off August 3 from Tunisia's Sfax, a hot spot in the migration crisis, but capsized and sank during the night after being hit by a big wave, the survivors were quoted by multiple sources, including Ansa news agency, as saying.

The Italian Red Cross and the Sea-Watch charity rescue said the four had survived by hanging on to life jackets or other inflatable rubber devices and then finding another empty boat at sea, on which they spent several days adrift.

The central Mediterranean is one of the world's most dangerous migration routes. More than 22,000 people have died or gone missing in its waters since 2014, according to the IOM.

On Sunday, the Italian coast guard reported two other shipwrecks, with 57 survivors, two dead and more than 30 missing, and media reports said they also involved at least one vessel that had departed from Sfax August 3.

Italy, a major route into Europe for hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers and other migrants, has seen some 93,750 arrivals by sea so far this year, interior ministry data shows, up from about 44,950 in the same period last year.

## of the day quote

Content moderation is a critical challenge for YouTube and also for society as whole as tech evolves



**ISHAN JOHN CHATTERJEE**  
DIRECTOR, YOUTUBE

With two-wheelers accounting for over 75 per cent of the volume and over 70 per cent of this stemming from the entry-level category, it's imperative to address the over 20 per cent decline we've observed since pre-Covid times



**MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA**  
PRESIDENT, FADA

We remain committed and are well on our way to integrate 10,000 EVs into our delivery fleet in India by 2025



**ABHINAV SINGH**  
VP (CUSTOMER FULFILMENT), AMAZON INDIA

## RESULTS CORNER

### Berger Paints profit up 40%

**New Delhi:** Berger Paints India Wednesday reported a 40 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹354.91 crore for the June quarter. The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹253.71 crore for the same period in the last fiscal, said its board has approved the issue of one bonus equity share of face value of Re 1 each against 5 equity shares of the face value of Re 1 each, subject to shareholders' approval. Consolidated revenue from operations during the first quarter of the current fiscal was ₹3,029.51 crore as against ₹2,759.7 crore in the year-ago period, Berger Paints India said.

### Kalyan Jewellers PAT jumps 33%

**Mumbai:** Kalyan Jewellers India Wednesday reported 33 per cent growth in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at ₹144 crore for June quarter 2023-24. PAT stood at ₹108 crore in the year-ago period, Kalyan Jewellers said in a regulatory filing. Revenue was up 31 per cent during the quarter under review at ₹4,376 crore as against ₹3,333 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. India operations recorded a PAT of ₹129 crore for the quarter compared to ₹95 crore a year ago.

### BSE profit surges

**New Delhi:** Leading stock exchange BSE Wednesday reported a 71 per cent jump in net profit at ₹75.1 crore for the June quarter. The exchange had posted a net profit of ₹44 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal, BSE said in a statement. Its total revenues rose 37 per cent to ₹271.2 crore in the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal from ₹197.7 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

## 28% GST on online gaming, others gets Cabinet nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved changes to GST laws to levy a 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos and horse race clubs, sources said. The amendments to the Central GST (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST) acts, which were approved by the GST Council last week, are likely to be introduced in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament, which will end August 11. The GST Council in its 51st meeting on August 2 recom-

mended amendments to the Schedule III of the CGST Act, 2017, to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing and online gaming. The Council also recommended inserting a provision in the IGST Act, 2017, to impose GST liability on online money gaming provided by offshore entities. Such entities would be required to get GST registration in India. The amendments will also provide for blocking access to online gaming platforms located overseas in case of failure to comply with registration and tax payment provisions.



**The Government has not taken any decision on strategic disinvestment of MMTC**  
**ANUPRIYA PATEL** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

## POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY FALTERS

*Anxiety is rising that China is entering an era of much slower economic growth akin to the period of Japan's 'lost decades'*

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, August 9:** China slipped into deflation for the first time in more than two years in July, official data showed Wednesday, as slowing domestic spending weighs on the post-Covid economic recovery.

The reading comes a day after news that the country suffered its biggest fall in exports since the early days of the pandemic, while imports tanked again as domestic and global demand fall away. The Consumer Price Index, the main gauge of inflation, fell 0.3 in July, the National Bureau

of Statistics said, having flattened in June.

While it was marginally better than the 0.4 percent decline forecast in a survey by Bloomberg, it marked the first drop since the beginning of 2021 and will add to pressure on authorities to provide much-needed support to the economy.

Deflation refers to falling prices of goods and services and is caused by a number of factors, including waning consumption. And while cheaper goods may appear beneficial for purchasing power, falling prices pose a threat to the broader economy as consumers tend to postpone purchases in the hopes of further reductions.

A lack of demand then forces companies to reduce production, freeze hiring or lay off workers, and agree to new discounts to sell off their stocks -



**China CPI fell in annual terms for the first time in 2 years**

**First G20 economy to report deflation since Japan in 2021**

dampening profitability even as costs remain the same.

China experienced a short period of deflation at the end of 2020 and early 2021, due largely to a collapse in the price of pork, the most widely consumed meat in the country.

Prior to that, the last deflationary period was in 2009.

Many analysts fear a longer

## MSI CROSSES SALES MILESTONE

**Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Wednesday said its pre-owned car business has crossed 50 lakh-unit sales milestone since inception. The company had introduced its pre-owned car brand, Maruti Suzuki True Value in 2001**



# CHINA SLIPS INTO DEFLATION

**Ongoing turmoil in real estate, a sector that has long accounted for a quarter of China's economy, is the main source for this deflationary shock. Deflation is also being driven by flagging exports -- historically a key source of growth for China**

**ANDREW BATSON** | ECONOMIST, GAVEKAL DRAGONOMICS

stretch of deflation this time around, as China's main growth engines stall and youth unemployment is at a record high of more than 20 percent.

'Cause for concern'

Tuesday's worst-than-expected drop in exports had a direct impact on tens of thousands of export-oriented companies in China, which are now operat-

ing at a much slower pace.

"The latest Chinese inflationary data did little to inspire confidence that an economic turnaround is forthcoming," Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade, said in a note. "The inflation data... was further evidence that China remains a cause for concern from a global growth perspective," he added. Meanwhile, the producer price index fell 4.4 percent in July -- slightly better than June's 5.4 percent fall but marking the 10th consecutive month of contraction.

The index measures the cost of goods leaving factories and gives an overview of the health of the economy. Declining producer prices mean reduced margins for companies.

The grim data suggests that China may struggle to achieve a five percent growth target set for the year.

## Sebi halves IPO listing time to 3 days to benefit investors, issuers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** Capital markets regulator Sebi Wednesday halved the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days at present.

The new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1 and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers as well as investors.

Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and the investors will have the opportunity for having early credit and liquidity for their investment.

"It has been decided to reduce the time taken for listing of specified securities after the closure of public issue to three working days (T+3 days) as against the present requirement of 6 working days (T+6 days). 'T' being issue closing date," Sebi said.

The regulator said that the compensation to investors for the delay in unblocking of ASBA application money shall be computed from T+3 day.

Sebi said that Registrar to an Issue would undertake third-party verification of the applications by matching the PAN available in the demat account with the PAN available in the bank account of the applicant.

In instances of mismatch, such applications would continue to be considered invalid applications for finalising the basis of allotment.

The move came after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard in June.

## PRICES SURGE

# Govt to sell wheat, rice under OMSS

**CENTRE TO OFFLOAD ADDITIONAL 50 LAKH TONNE WHEAT, 25 LAKH TONNE RICE UNDER OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME TO CHECK PRICES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** The government Wednesday announced the sale of additional 50 lakh tonne of wheat and 25 lakh tonne of rice from the Central pool in the open market to boost domestic availability and contain rising prices of these two key staples.

The government also reduced the reserve price of rice by ₹2 per kg to ₹29 per kg amid few takers for the commodity under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

On likely cut in wheat import duty, the government said it will take action based on the requirement in the future as things are dynamic and evolving.

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) is selling wheat and rice from the Central pool to bulk buyers like flour millers and small traders under the OMSS since June 28 through an e-auction.

Briefing media, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said, "Prices of two commodities have been in the news for the past couple of months because of the rising trend that we are noticing".

The offtake of wheat under the OMSS has been good so far. However, the weighted average price of wheat has been going up in the past two-three auctions. In rice, there has not been much off-take, he said.

Chopra said the government felt that tweaking the reserve price of rice may bring better results.

"The government has decided to offload 50 lakh tonne of wheat and 25 lakh tonne of rice in the open market through the OMSS," he said.

This is over and above 15 lakh tonne of wheat and 5 lakh tonne of rice sales announced under the



**The government is hoping that these measures would not only improve the availability in the market but also help cool down the prices and control food inflation**

**SANJEEV CHOPRA** | FOOD SECRETARY

**FCI has adequate foodgrains stocks. It has additional 87 lakh tonne of wheat and 217 lakh tonne of rice available over and above the buffer norms**

OMSS June 28.

That apart, the secretary said the government has reduced the reserve price of rice by ₹2 per kg to ₹29 per kg from ₹31 per kg.

The reserve price of wheat, however, has been kept unchanged as there is a good response from the traders under the OMSS.

About 7.8 lakh tonne of wheat was auctioned under the OMSS so far, while rice sale was negligible, he said.

On the likely reduction of wheat import duty, the secretary said, "Right now, we have taken these steps. These are dynamic and evolving. Based on requirements in the future, we will take action".

He also said that the Centre is aggressively following up with states to ensure stock limits in wheat are not violated.

Sharing about the sale of foodgrains under the OMSS, FCI Chairman and Managing Director Ashok K Meena said the OMSS operation was started

early this year June 28, in view of the increasing trend of wheat and rice prices.

Till now, seven e-auctions were conducted, including today's. Initially, wheat offered for sale used to be 4 lakh tonne and now, it has been reduced to 1 lakh tonne in today's e-auction. About 8 lakh tonne of wheat has been sold till date, he said.

The FCI CMD also said that initially, the weighted average selling price of wheat June 28 was ₹2,136.36 per quintal, which has now gone up to ₹2,254.71 per quintal in today's e-auction.

"This shows there is an increase in the market demand for wheat," he noted.

About six e-auctions for rice have been conducted since July 5 but the offtake has not been up to the mark most likely because of the high reserve price, which is at ₹31.73 per kg, he added.

"In today's e-auction, about 1,500 tonnes of rice has been sold under the OMSS," he said.

# July inflow in MF SIPs at fresh high

*Interestingly, the inflows through SIPs have been above ₹13,000 crore since October 2022*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** Investors are betting big on systematic investment plans or SIP to generate long-term wealth with the monthly flow in the mutual fund industry through the route reaching an all-time high of ₹15,245 crore in July.

The record high SIP numbers came despite the equity mutual funds registering a 12 per cent month-on-month decline in inflow to ₹7,626 crore in July, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed Wednesday.

The monthly SIP contribution in July was way higher than ₹14,734 crore inflow seen in June and ₹14,749 crore in May, which was the previous high.

With this, the total inflow has reached nearly ₹58,500 crore in the first four months (April-July) of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over ₹1.56 lakh crore in the preceding fi-



nancial year (2022-23).

SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutual funds wherein an individual can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals, say once a month, instead of making a lump sum investment. The SIP installment amount can be as small as ₹500 per month.

Mutual fund industry mainly depends on SIPs for inflows with equity funds continuing to witness the 29th consecutive month of net inflows. However, the inflow dropped to ₹7,626 crore in July from ₹8,637 crore in the preceding month.

Overall, the 43-player mutual fund industry registered net inflows of ₹82,046 crore in the month under review on contributions from debt-oriented schemes. This was followed by a withdrawal of ₹2,022 crore in the preceding month.

# Coal imports fall 1.82% to 68.30MT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** India's total coal imports fell 1.82 per cent to 68.30 million tonne in April-June period of ongoing financial year, according to a report.

The import was at 69.57 MT in the same period a year ago, mjunction said in its latest report.

The import included non-coking coal, coking coal, anthracite coal, pulverised coal injection (PCI) coal, met coke and pet coke, it said.

During the period, non-coking coal import stood at 42.99 MT against 47.44 MT in the same period last year, while coking coal import was 15.89 MT against 14.61 MT imported a year ago. In June 2023, the import stood



at around 21.03 MT, down 25.21 per cent as against 28.11 MT imported in the same month last year.

India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the

world. However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.

For coking coal - a key raw material used in steel making - the country remains heavily dependent on imports.

Vinaya Varma, MD & CEO, mjunction, said, "In line with expectation, there was a dip in demand for imports at the onset of monsoon, despite weakness in seaborne prices. Demand is likely to rebound once the rainy season is over and there is a pickup in industrial activity ahead of the festive season. A B2B e-commerce platform, mjunction is a 5050 joint venture promoted by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Tata Steel.

## GOVT STOPS SUBSIDIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** Seven electric two-wheeler (E2W) companies have suffered a cumulative loss of over ₹9,000 crore on account of unpaid dues and loss of market after their subsidies were stopped last year, the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) said Wednesday.

These companies have also been directed by the govt to refund the subsidies availed by them. The audit by SMEV's chartered accountants indicates the total, cumulative damages to affected companies could account for over ₹9,000 crore on a conservative basis, it noted.

This cursory audit estimates cumulative losses on account of

# 7 E2W firms suffered over ₹9K-cr loss

unpaid dues, interest, debt, loss of market share, reputational loss, cost of capital and potential recapitalisation, to around ₹9,075 crore ever since the Ministry of Heavy Industries held up their subsidies since 2022, SMEV said. The fact is some may never recover, and some may just wind up, it added.

Highlighting the need for a speedy resolution, SMEV Chief Evangelist Sanjay Kaul pointed out it is ironic that while the industry engages with prospective investors about deploying \$1 billion in the Indian EV sector, the losses already correspond to almost the same amount of money. In a letter to Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, he stated that the OEMs (Original



Equipment Manufacturers) are reaching a breaking point owing to daily mounting losses.

The letter proposes that if the intention of the ministry was to punish these OEMs, this delay is practically finishing them as this punishment has continued for over 22 months,

which itself is a crime.

"It appears that the OEMs have a serious predicament because apart from the monies held up for 18-22 months as unpaid subsidies, and the subsequent claim of MHI to claw back older subsidies, their new models have not been allowed to be

uploaded on the NAB portal - in effect blocking them from doing any business at competitive prices," Kaul said.

The government is seeking a refund of subsidies from Hero Electric, Okinawa Autotech, Ampere EV, Revolt Motors, Benling India, Amo Mobility, and Lohia Auto. An investigation by the heavy industries ministry has revealed that these companies have availed fiscal incentives under the scheme by violating the norms.

As per the rules of the scheme, incentives were allowed to produce electric vehicles by using 'Made in India' components, but in the investigation, it was found that these seven firms allegedly used imported components.

# INDIA KNOCK PAK OUT OF ACT 'My ODI numbers are poor'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 9:** Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored twice as a dominant India beat arch-rivals Pakistan comprehensively by a 4-0 margin in their final round-robin league match to enter the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament on an unbeaten note here Wednesday.

Harmanpreet (15th, 23rd minutes) converted two penalty corners, while Jugraj Singh (36th) netted from another set piece. India's final goal came from the sticks of Akashdeep Singh from a field play in the 55th minute.

The result meant India topped the standings with 13 points from four wins and one draw. It was heartbreak for Pakistan as they crashed out of the tournament on goal difference despite finishing on equal five points with Korea and Japan. Pakistan needed at least a draw or a one-goal defeat to make it to the semifinals. India will play Japan in the semifinal Friday, while Malaysia will lock horns against Korea.

Before the start of the contest, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin greeted the players from both the nations, while Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin too graced the occasion with his presence.

It was an attacking start to the opening quarter from both the teams. Pakistan showed the early sparks by getting into the Indian circle on quite a few occasions. But the Indian defence held its composure to not allow any inroads to its neighbours.

Pakistan had the first shy at the goal in the form of penalty corner which was brilliantly saved by Indian goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak. Following a brief game of possession, Karthi Selvam came up with a solo attack inside the Pakistan box, only to be denied by rival goalie Akmal Hussain in the 13th minute.

Just at the stroke of first quarter, India earned their penalty



Harmanpreet Singh (C) reacts after scoring against Pakistan, Wednesday

corner and Harmanpreet made no mistake by flicking it with a powerful low flick to the left of Pakistan goalkeeper Akmal to put India into lead.

Although the second quarter began with an attack from Pakistan's Abdul Hannan, India quickly gained control with three quick attacks from Amit Rohidas, Mandeep Singh and Sukhjeet Singh.

In the 21st, Pakistan came close to levelling the scores with Abdul Rehman penetrating into the box, but veteran Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh came out rushing to deny the visitors.

India won their second PC in the 23rd minute and Harmanpreet scored with a fierce drag-flick in between Pakistan

goalkeeper Akmal's legs to double the lead. The Indians came up with a series of attacks with Shamsheer Singh also making his presence felt in one of the four scoring opportunities that followed.

India continued to put pressure on the Pakistani defence with constant attacks and in the process earned back-to-back PCs in the 30th minute but Harmanpreet failed on both occasions. India led Pakistan 2-0 at halftime.

India continued with the same intensity after the change of ends and six minutes into the third quarter, secured another PC. This time, Jugraj found the back of the net to triple the lead. After a series of attacks again,

India found the net in the 41st again, as Harmanpreet flashed off it while it took a deflection off a Pakistani stick. But the goal was overturned following a video referral for dangerous ball.

Pakistan earned a rare PC, their second, in the 43rd minute but wasted the opportunity. India earned five PCs in the match and converted three out of them. Five minutes from the final hooter, Akashdeep scored India's fourth goal, courtesy some superb one-on-one play between Mandeep and Nilakanta to set it up for the striker.

The Pakistanis struggled to attack and keep the ball in possession as the Indians continued to attack until the final minute.

**Providence (Guyana), August 9:** With the ODI World Cup on the horizon, the Indian team management has asked swashbuckler Suryakumar Yadav to play at least 45-50 balls in the last 15-18 overs, in the format in which his numbers are ordinary and he has "no shame in accepting that".

After guiding India to a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies with his brutal knock of 83 off 44 balls in the third T20I, which kept the five-match series alive, the batter was candid in his assessment of his poor record in the 50-over game.

"My ODI numbers are very poor and there is no shame in accepting that. Being honest is very important because everyone knows that, because we all talk about honesty. So it is very important to stay honest about your performance. But what is more important is how to improve that," Suryakumar said at the post-match press conference.

Captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid have advised him to play this format more. "Rohit and Rahul sir have told me that this is the format that I don't play much so you have to play it more and think about it. "If you are batting in the last 10-15 overs, think what you can do for the team. All we want from you is to play 45-50 ball if you are getting to bat in the 15-18 overs, play your own game. It's in my hand now how to change the responsibility into an opportunity," he said.

In the ODI series against the Windies, he could not make his presence felt, managing scores of 19, 24 and 35 in the three matches. So far, he has played 26 ODIs and scored 511 runs at an average of 24.33, a far cry from his T20I average of 45.6. In 2023, Suryakumar played 10 ODIs and scored an average of just 14 runs.

"We have played a lot of T20Is, so it has become a habit. We play T20 regularly, and all we need to do is express ourselves. But we do not play a lot of one-dayers, and ODI is the most challenging format. This is because you



have to bat as per the situation. For example, if wickets fall early then you need to spend time in the middle (play like Test cricket), then in the middle play run a ball and then towards the end approach it like a T20 game.

"Now what the team management has told me about that format, I am just trying to apply that in ODIs. Take some time, do as per the team's requirement and play my game towards the end. I will just look to live up to the expectations of the team management and repay their faith. But the T20 format you are talking about, we play it regularly, we know the situation, we just have to go out and express ourselves."

Before the ODI World Cup, Suryakumar said the team has good number of matches lined up to help them prepare in the best possible way for the showpiece, which India is hosting.

**Ashwin backs Tilak for WC**  
Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the national selectors and team management to show faith in talented Tilak Varma and include him in the World Cup squad

as he could possibly be the answer to India's middle-order woes with multiple batters still recovering from injuries.

Ashwin's comments were also backed by former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad, who wouldn't mind seeing Varma in the final 15, provided Shreyas Iyer fails to make the cut.

"This is neck-and-neck with respect to the World Cup. So, will they think about Tilak Varma as an option if we don't have enough backups? Because Sanju Samson has performed really well in ODIs. But the exciting part about Tilak is that he is a left-hander and Team India is lacking left-handers. Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) is the only left-handed batter in the top 7," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

"And look at the spinners from all the top teams. Australia have Ashton Agar. England have Moeen Ali and a leggie in Adil Rashid. So, most teams don't have a finger spinner to challenge the left-handed batters. That is why the emergence of Tilak is crucial."

## ICC MEN'S WORLD CUP 2023 SCHEDULE (REVISED)

DATES	MATCHES	VENUES
Oct 5	ENG vs NZ	Ahmedabad
Oct 6	PAK vs NED	Hyderabad
Oct 7	BAN vs AFG	Dharamsala
Oct 7	SA vs SL	Delhi
Oct 8	IND vs AUS	Chennai
Oct 9	NZ vs NED	Hyderabad
Oct 10	ENG vs BAN	Dharamsala
Oct 10	PAK vs SL	Hyderabad
Oct 11	IND vs AFG	Delhi
Oct 12	AUS vs SA	Lucknow
Oct 13	NZ vs BAN	Chennai
Oct 14	IND vs PAK	Ahmedabad
Oct 15	ENG vs AFG	Delhi
Oct 16	AUS vs SL	Lucknow
Oct 17	SA vs NED	Dharamsala
Oct 18	NZ vs AFG	Chennai
Oct 19	IND vs BAN	Pune
Oct 20	AUS vs PAK	Bangalore
Oct 21	NED vs SL	Lucknow
Oct 21	ENG vs SA	Mumbai
Oct 22	IND vs NZ	Dharamsala
Oct 23	PAK vs AFG	Chennai
Oct 24	SA vs BAN	Mumbai
Oct 25	AUS vs NED	Delhi
Oct 26	ENG vs SL	Bangalore
Oct 27	PAK vs SA	Chennai
Oct 28	AUS vs NZ	Dharamsala
Oct 28	NED vs BAN	Kolkata
Oct 29	IND vs ENG	Lucknow
Oct 30	AFG vs SL	Pune
Oct 31	PAK vs BAN	Kolkata
Nov 1	NZ vs SA	Pune
Nov 2	IND vs SL	Mumbai
Nov 3	NED vs AFG	Lucknow
Nov 4	NZ vs PAK	Bangalore
Nov 4	ENG vs AUS	Ahmedabad
Nov 5	IND vs SA	Kolkata
Nov 6	BAN vs SL	Delhi
Nov 7	AUS vs AFG	Mumbai
Nov 8	ENG vs NED	Pune
Nov 9	NZ vs SL	Bangalore
Nov 10	SA vs AFG	Ahmedabad
Nov 11	AUS vs BAN	Pune
Nov 11	ENG vs PAK	Kolkata
Nov 12	IND vs NED	Bangalore
Nov 15	Semifinal 1	Mumbai
Nov 16	SEMIFINAL 2	Kolkata
Nov 19	FINAL	Ahmedabad

### TICKETS SALE...

The tickets will go on sale from August 25 with fans having the option to book their seats for all non-India warm up and non-India event matches. For India matches, tickets will be available from August 30 to September 3 and for the semifinals and the final, the fans can book tickets September 15.

## Nine WC matches rescheduled, India to play Pak Oct 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 9:** The marquee World Cup match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan will now be played October 14, one day before the original slot, the ICC confirmed Wednesday as the world governing body announced rescheduling nine games of the tournament.

As per the latest update, Pakistan and England will have three of their games rescheduled (either date or time), while dates of India's two games have been altered.

The other India game that has been rescheduled is their last league match against the Netherlands which was originally scheduled for November 11 but now it will be held November 12 in Bangalore.

That India versus Pakistan match will be advanced by a day was reported by PTI recently after security agencies expressed inability to provide adequate security October 15, which is the first day of Hindu festival, Navratri.

As a result, England's fixture against Afghanistan in New Delhi will be moved from Saturday, October 14 and will now be played 24 hours later Sunday, October 15. With Pakistan needing adequate gap before India game, their match against Sri Lanka scheduled to be held in Hyderabad October 11 will instead now be played October 10.

On the same day, England were earlier scheduled to play Bangladesh at Dharamsala in a day-night game but will now play a day match starting 10.30 am.

Similarly, the high profile non-India game between England and Pakistan, earlier scheduled November 12 will now be held November 11.

Falling November 12, Kali Puja is the second biggest Hindu festival for Bengalis after Durga Puja, and the Kolkata Police had expressed apprehension about providing adequate deployment for the game.

New Zealand's game against Bangladesh, originally scheduled as a day match for October 14 in Chennai, has been moved back and will now be held Friday, October 13, which will be a day-night contest. Australia will meet South Africa a day earlier in Lucknow October 12. All the venues for the changed matches remain same.

"We are delighted to announce that fans can now register to receive information and updates on official tickets for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. The schedule, after some amendments, has now been finalized and fans can now look forward to buying tickets and watching some high-quality cricket. The BCCI will leave no stone unturned to ensure that you have an enjoyable experience at all the hosting venues," BCCI CEO Hemang Amin said on ticket sale.

DSPL-179

Govt. of Odisha

### Mass Drug Administration for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis

10<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (11 Districts)

“Mass Drug Administration will eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis. I appeal to all eligible persons to take the drug.”

*[Signature]*  
Chief Minister, Odisha

Healthy Odisha  
Happy Odisha

- Consumption of antifilarial and deworming drugs ensures good health for the individual and is a step towards eliminating Filariasis from the community.
- Angul, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Sonapur & Sundargarh districts will be covered under MDA.
- Along with anti-filarial drugs, deworming drugs will also be administered in these districts under direct supervision.
- Pregnant women, children below 2 years of age, mothers who have delivered baby within 1 week & seriously ill persons will not be administered these drugs.

**Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha**

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