



**I-DAY PREP:** SSB personnel conducting rehearsal ahead of the 77th Independence Day parade, at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday  
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## Death for mob lynching, minor rape

Govt tables 3 bills in LS, says will transform criminal justice system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 11:** In a bid to overhaul colonial-era criminal laws in the country, the government Friday introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha that calls for capital punishment in gruesome crimes like mob lynching and minor rape.

Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023 that will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively. He said the changes were done to provide speedy justice and create a legal system that keeps contemporary needs and aspirations of the people.

- New offences of 'endangering unity' to replace sedition
- Community service for first-time petty offences
- Criminal probe to be finished in 180 days
- Judgment in 30 days after trial

The Minister urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the three bills for examination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Shah said the new laws, once passed, will bring an overhaul of the criminal justice system and everyone will get justice in a maximum of three years.

The BNS Bill has provisions that seek to repeal sedition, and award maximum capital punishment for crimes such as mob lynching and rape of minors, the Home minister said. The bill also has provisions to provide community service as one of the punishments for first-time petty offences. It also lists new offences such as acts of secession, armed rebellion, subversive activities, separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity and integrity of India.

The offences against women and children, murder and offences against the State have been given precedence, Shah said, adding that various offences have been made gender-neutral.

Under the new laws, the

chargesheet will have to be filed within 90 days, and the court can give permission for another 90 days looking at the situation. Probe would have to be finished in 180 days and sent for trial. After trial, judgment will have to be given in 30 days.

Sexual exploitation of women on the pretext of marriage, job, promotions or by hiding identity will be considered a crime. For gang rape, there is provision for punishment of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment, while there is a provision for death sentence in case of rape with minor. For mob lynching, there are provisions for seven years imprisonment, life imprisonment and death sentence as punishment.

## Banking outlets in 4,373 GPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** For providing basic banking facilities in unbanked Gram Panchayats (GPs), the state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Friday approved a scheme to open Customer Service Point (CSP) Plus banking outlets with a support amount of ₹500 crore.

The Cabinet has approved the scheme to open CSP Plus banking outlets in coordination with six Public Sector Banks (PSBs)—SBI, Punjab National Bank (PNB), UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India in 4,373 unbanked GPs of the state with budgetary support of around ₹500 crore, said Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha.

Out of 6,798 GPs in the state, around 65 percent (4,373) do not have brick and mortar branches.

Since banking is an essential service for financial inclusion, every GP of the state needs to be provided with a brick and mortar branch for uninterrupted banking services, he said.

However, the progress in terms of setting up brick and mortar branches in unbanked GPs by banks is very slow and negligible. Therefore, the state government has come forward with an ambitious target of providing banking services to every GP through CSP Plus banking outlets, Arukha stated.

The minister further informed that the scheme will be implemented in a phased manner within FY 2023-24.

The government of Odisha will provide rent free banking space for 5 years. In addition to this, the government will also bear one-time expenses for fixed costs and recurring expenses for a period of three years, he said. **MORE P3**

## Odia CRPF jawan martyred in J'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** CRPF jawan Sushanta Kumar Khuntia from Anandapur of Keonjhar district was martyred in an encounter with CPI (Maoists) in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, Friday.

The encounter took place in a forest in Tonto area, about 160 km from Ranchi, around 11 am when a team of police and CRPF were carrying out a joint search operation against Maoists. Another jawan, identified as Munnalal Yadav, who also received bullet wounds in the encounter was stated to be stable.

During the ongoing operation, a huge cache of arms and ammunition have been seized. **P5**



Sushanta Kumar Khuntia

## Subway takes away free cheese slice

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 11:** Subway sandwiches in India will no longer come with the option of a free cheese slice following revisions to its menu that analysts regarded as being more about cost-cutting than just a matter of taste.

American chain Subway is one of largest restaurant franchisers in India, with around 800 outlets. They now charge ₹30 (\$0.40) extra for the cheese slice in most sandwiches, but are offering a free 'cheezy sauce'

## INFLATION BITES

instead. Rising prices for ingredients, including dairy products, have put global fast food chains in India under pressure to trim costs while keeping customers satisfied.

Domino's promotion price for its cheapest pizza is just 60 US cents in India, where its franchisee has publicly flagged concerns over a 40 percent surge in the price of cheese during the financial year that ended in March.

Many Subway and McDonald's outlets in India have also removed tomatoes from their menus in recent weeks citing quality issues after prices surged around 450 percent to record highs.

India has resorted to importing tomatoes from Nepal to ease the shortage. The cheese sauce now available for free at Subway India was 'developed for qualitative reasons alone', said Everstone Group's Culinary Brands, which manages the supply chain for all 800 outlets and is the master franchisee for around 200.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sir, it creates needless disturbances & doesn't allow us to function arbitrarily. I propose to suspend DEMOCRACY

# WHEN GREED BECOMES LIMITLESS, IT TURNS INTO A CURSE

A must-watch in today's times  
- The Times of India

Watch to believe that  
The Jengaburu Curse is upon us  
- ABP

A clean and crisp Cli-Fi thriller  
- Hindustan

The series proves that  
The Jengaburu Curse is upon us for real  
- Punjab Kesari

An incredibly researched and well executed tale of the fight between greed v/s survival  
- IndiaForums

The Jengaburu Curse -  
Gripping and captivating  
- Free Press Journal

Intriguing till the very end;  
a must-watch  
- News Bytes

A unique thriller  
- Kaveree Bamzai

Nila Madhab Panda's OTT debut is deep, dark, exploratory and explosive  
- Subhash K Jha

Shows tribes, forests, mines & human greed in one sweeping arc. Brilliant  
- Hrishi K

Sony LIV Originals

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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Interactive sessions with people who think like you are on the cards. At last you may have an intimate talk with your beloved and you will get a chance to confide your commitment to the relationship, says Ganesh. You may even express your long-term dreams.

**TAURUS**  
Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesh sees that you will have a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions. Your experience and expertise plus your great way of dealing with people will eventually enable you to make correct and profitable investments.

**GEMINI**  
Today will be a day filled with energy and enthusiasm. You will have an optimistic view of life and this will help you attain success. You will be able to exercise your free will and take up tasks to your liking. While the day will be busy, it will also be rewarding, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today is a day for taking things slowly, especially on the business front. This applies the most to the stockbrokers and also others who invest in stocks or shares on the side. Stars are not so bright today and haste will only worsen the matters.

**LEO**  
You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence today. You will be able to take firm decisions when it comes to work related issues. You will not face any difficulties in completing your tasks today, and will achieve success. You need to guard against getting into any confrontations with your father or other elders, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh says don't let setbacks cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in completing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved or a special friend. You will be engrossed in an animated conversation.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in court or through an out of court settlement. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations. Ganesh showers you with his blessings

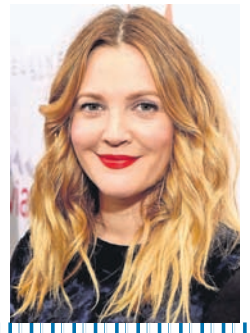
**SCORPIO**  
You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do it all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Take it as a piece of advice: tough times don't last; tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesh. Also, your kind hearted nature will come to the fore as you will lend a helping hand to those in need.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may receive some good news from the foreign shores today. The day will bring on a positive note and it will remain like that for the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Those who work hard to move towards their goals will do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesh's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.



### DREW KEEPS DAUGHTERS' IPADS LOCKED IN HER SAFE

Actress Drew Barrymore despite saying she loves keeping her daughters entertained, draws the line at her girls' iPads and keeps them locked away in a safe to stop them getting hooked on screens, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

### CARRYMINATI'S SINGLE JALWA IS INSPIRED BY CLEOPATRA

YouTube sensation CarryMinati, whose real name is Ajey Nagar, has announced his eighth rap single titled *Jalwa*, which pays a mystical tribute to the Queen of the Nile, Cleopatra.



## BHUMI'S NEXT HEADS TO TIFF

**Mumbai:** Bhumi Pednekar's upcoming film *Thank You For Coming*, has been selected for its world premiere at the soon-to-be-held edition of the Toronto International Film Festival.

Reacting to the news, the Bala actress said, "This is my first time at TIFF. I am ecstatic that I am going there with a film that is so close to my heart. What makes it more special is that we've been selected for a Gala Premier at the prestigious Roy Thompson hall. As an official selection and with the viewing we will have, I am extremely excited for the experience to come. I've never experienced watching a film of mine with such a large and diverse audience. To be walking that red carpet with my co actors, director Karan Boolani and our producers Anil Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor is going to be memorable."

She further mentioned, "As an Indian actor, I feel proud that I'll be representing my country at this prestigious event. *Thank You For Coming* celebrates the unbounded spirit of young girls who are looking for love and how they yearn for freedom to choose what they want from life. This is our chance to show the world how cinema in India is celebrating and portraying women of today."

IAN S

## IFFM 2023

# RANI, VIJAY BAG TOP HONOURS

KARTIK AARYAN WAS HONOURED WITH RISING GLOBAL SUPERSTAR OF INDIAN CINEMA



**Mumbai:** Rani Mukerji was named the Best Actress and Vijay Varma Best Actor at the 14th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). Rani won for *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway* and Vijay was selected for his performance in web series *Dahaad*. Mohit Agarwal took home the award for Best Performance in Film (Male) for *Agra*. While *Sita Ramam* was announced the Best Film, *Agra* the Best Indie Film, Kannada Filmmaker Prithvi Konanur was feted with Best Director.

*To Kill A Tiger* took home the Best Documentary. Rajshri Deshpande for *Trial By Fire* was named as Best Performance (Female) in a series. Period drama *Jubilee* starring Prosenjit Chatterjee, Aparshakti Khurana, Sidhant Gupta, Aditi Rao Hydari, Wamiqa Gabbi and Ram Kapoor was tagged as the Best Series. Best Short Film - People's Choice honour was won by *Connection Kya Hain* and Best Short Film - Australia was Home by Mark Russel Bernard.

Equality in Cinema Awards went to the movie *Darlings*, People's Choice Award was given to SRK-starrer *Pathaan*. Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Hindi film industry while Kartik Aaryan was honoured with Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema. Diversity in Cinema Award went to Mrunal Thakur and Bhumi Pednekar took home the Disruptor Award. Rainbow Stories Award went to Onir for *Pine Cone*.

IAN S

## Secret behind Rajinikanth's youthfulness at 73 revealed

**THE JAILER ACTOR GOES TO THE HIMALAYAS OFTEN AND COLLECTS CERTAIN ROOTS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM THE SAGES, DISCLOSES AN ACQUAINTANCE**

Himalayas often and meets sages. The sages give him certain roots of medicinal plants to remain composed and young. Once that root is eaten, it will give energy for the period of a week. It energises the body, he explained.

"That is why Rajinikanth is 73-year-old, and looks like a 23-year-old man. He is looking more active and vibrant films after films. The swag has never come down. The reason is the special medicinal plant root that gives him the energy," said Raj.

Rajinikanth is settled in Tamil Nadu but he is a Kannadiga. Rajinikanth has great respect towards Kannada language.

Earlier, Rajinikanth had explained in length the bond between him and Raj Bahadur at the pre-release function of the movie *Jailer* and remembered how he could enter the film industry because of him.

IAN S

**Bangalore:** The energy and vibrancy of Tamil superstar Rajinikanth at the age of 73 years is much talked about. His best friend from this city, Raj Bahadur has revealed the secret during the release of his recent mega hit *Jailer*.

Talking to the media, Raj Bahadur explained that Rajinikanth derives energy from meditation. He goes to the



**"I'm content with the way I'm valued"**

**Mumbai:** Kiara Advani was recently honoured as the IAA (International Advertising Association) Brand Endorser of the Year in the female category. The event took place August 9 in Mumbai. During the event, Kiara opened up about pay parity in the Hindi film industry.

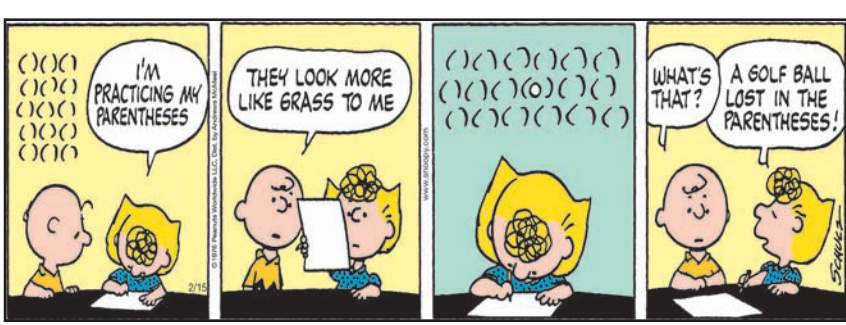
"This is a very large debate. It's world over and in every field," Kiara said. "If I strictly have to stick to the ad world, I feel it's changing there. I think it's important to value yourself. It's important to not be deluded, to know where you stand and what you bring to the table. I would not want to compare myself to what my male or female counterpart is receiving."

The *Good Newzz* actress added, "If I feel this is my worth, then I would like to associate myself with people who see the same. I am growing and I am content with the way I am valued. I would stick to that. It is important to see how you are growing and from where you've come. That's how I look at it."

AGENCIES



## PEANUTS



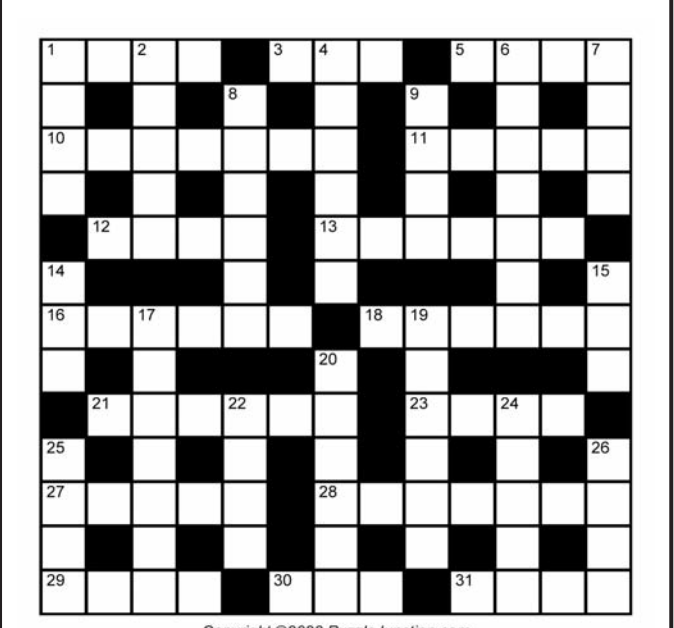
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



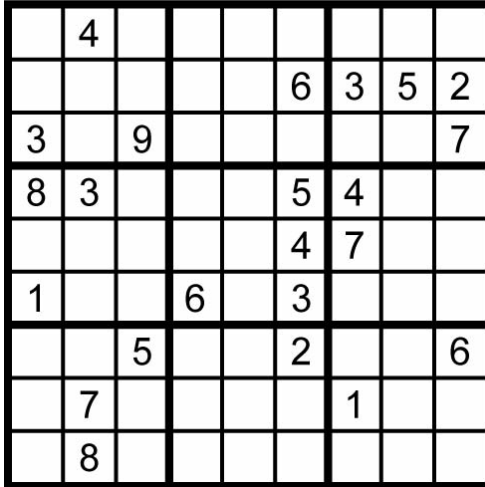
## FUN post CROSSWORD



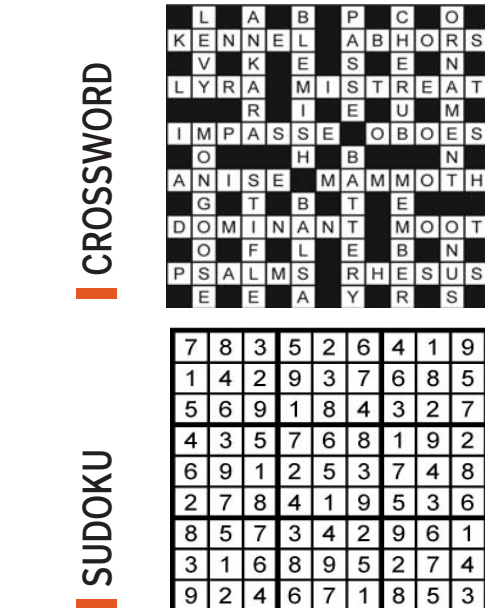
- Across**
- 1 Chinese boat
  - 3 Append
  - 5 Starch from palms
  - 10 Nourish
  - 11 River valleys
  - 12 Heating duct
  - 13 Scanty
  - 16 Royal mansion
  - 18 Corkscrew, for one
  - 21 Rouse
  - 23 Wander
  - 27 Bridge support
  - 28 Hors d'oeuvres fish
  - 29 Shanties
  - 30 Evil spell
  - 31 Bat hangout
- Down**
- 1 *Tarzan* character
  - 2 Boldness
  - 4 Aspirations
  - 6 Airplane control mechanism
  - 7 Expel
  - 8 Rural
  - 9 Notion toward
  - 14 Tending
  - 15 Attempt
  - 17 Legal proceeding
  - 19 Buccaneering or copyright infringement
  - 20 Incite intense anger
  - 22 Osculation
  - 24 Olfactory detection
  - 25 Engrave on stone
  - 26 Automobile need

## 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

## I-DAY AHEAD

People check tricolours at a shop in Choudhury Bazaar area of Cuttack, Friday, ahead of Independence Day celebrations



IGNORING SAFETY: A stretch at GGP Colony near Rasulgarh in Bhubaneswar was dug up for construction of drains. The site without any barricades poses threat to commuters including children

# NGT STAY ON TAMPARA LAKE BEAUTIFICATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Friday put a stay on all 'illegal' construction work in Tampara Lake under Chhatrapur tehsil of Ganjam district.

Hearing a petition filed by Cuttack-based Wildlife Society of Orissa, the tribunal asked the Ganjam Collector to ensure that no illegal construction is carried out and no part of the lake is encroached upon.

The tribunal has constituted a four-member high-level committee that would visit the lake site and conduct an enquiry to ascertain the veracity of the allegations made in the petition filed by the Wildlife Society of Orissa.

The green panel asked Ganjam Collector to ensure that no illegal construction is carried out and no part of Tampara Lake is encroached upon

State Wetland Authority or his nominee of a senior rank.

The tribunal has directed the committee to submit the enquiry report following the on-site visit within four weeks.

Tampara Lake situated in Rushikulya river basin (Southeast of Rushikulya river and east of National Highway-16) has been designated as a Ramsar Site October 12, 2021. The lake has already been placed in the Wetland Atlas prepared by MoEF&CC in 2010 prior to its inclusion as a Ramsar site which is protected under Wetland Conservation Rules, 2017.

lake is known as a prominent Olive Ridley nesting site.

"Permanent constructions including restaurants, hotels, Tampara resorts and cottages and so many other concrete structures are coming up within the water area and within 50 metres of Tampara Lake. Berhampur Development Authority (BeDA) has finalised additional infrastructure projects at a cost of ₹8 crore to transform the lake into a tourist destination and the above project is also found mention in 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme of the Union government," said Sankar Prasad Pani, advocate for Wildlife Society of Orissa.

The Wildlife Society of Orissa alleged in its petition that the water body has been filled with earth and murrum for construction purposes which was revealed in Google Earth image captured June 2.

It alleged that construction works are going on in several plots in the lake area which are earmarked as forest land.

## Odisha woman found dead in Lucknow car

AGENCIES

Lucknow/Bhubaneswar, August 11: The body of a 27-year-old woman from Odisha was found in the back seat of a car in Lucknow's Vrindavan Colony area, police said.

The police also recovered two phones and after unlocking one, they ascertained her identity as a resident of Bhubaneswar. Assistant Commissioner of Police, Cantonment, Abhinav Kumar said her family members informed the police that she was in Lucknow to find a job and they had lost communication with her.

Her parents arrived in Lucknow Friday hoping their presence would help in the investigation, he added.

As per reports, a sedan was found parked in the thickets near an overhead water tank in sector 19 of Vrindavan Colony under PGI police station area with its rear door open.

When children playing cricket in the vicinity reached the car to fetch their ball, they spotted the body, foam oozing from her mouth.

Later, a police team reached with forensic experts for investigation. Additional DCP, East Zone, Syed Abbas Ali, said there were no external injuries on the body and her clothes were undisturbed. He said the body has been sent to the morgue.

# State to skill 1L youth a year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Friday approved NUA (Nutana Unnata Abhilasha) Odisha scheme with an outlay of ₹385 crore to skill one lakh youth annually in the next three years.

Addressing media after the Cabinet meet, Chief Secretary PK Jena said 'NUA Odisha' will work towards addressing the scarcity of skilled human resources in emerging trades by offering high-quality training, fostering industry linkages, and enhancing employability skills.

"The scheme will be implemented across all the districts in the state for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling of youths through institutions of the Skill Development and Technical Education department," Jena said.

The Cabinet also approved the Odisha Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2023 for reinforcing and further accelerating the growth of PPPs. According to the policy, PPP projects requiring a minimum investment of ₹500 crore would be approved by a High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA). The Empowered Committee on Infrastructure (ECI) will have the authority to approve projects of a value ranging from ₹10 crore to ₹500 crore.



## ₹2,687.45cr for Millets Mission

The state Cabinet approved an additional budget of ₹2,687.45 crore for ensuring continuation of Odisha Millets Mission for another four years (2023-24 to 2026-27).

Launched in 2017, Odisha Millets Mission aims at reviving millets in farms and on plates.

Further, arrear tax revenue under the Odisha Entry Tax Act and the Odisha State Tax on Profession, Trade and Calling and Employment Act, 2000 shall not be written off, Jena said.

There are 59,243 arrear tax cases with revenue implication of ₹8,156.72 crore. Out of it, there are 27,546 arrear tax cases between ₹5,001 and ₹25,000 totalling to ₹32.74 crore. If considered to be written off, it will reduce 46 per cent of arrear cases.

The state also approved the tender for construction of a distribution system for 3,745 hectare of Kusumi Smart Irrigation Project over river Kusumi at Sunalati Krushnaprasad in Nayagarh district through underground pipeline irrigation system (pressure flow).

Tender amounting to ₹119.03 crore along with operation and maintenance cost for five years amounting to ₹6.54 crore has got the Cabinet approval. The work is planned to be completed in 18 months.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal to amend Odisha Government Rules of Business by allocating the following two

new subjects to Energy Department. Now Energy Transition and Green Hydrogen will be dealt with by the Energy Department.

Further, the state Cabinet also approved outright purchase of both towers (tower) A & B of 0-Hub by MSME Department from IDCO at a cost of ₹350 Crore.

The proposal of Revenue & DM Department to bring in amendment to the Odisha Government Land Settlement (OGLS) Rules, 1983 also got nod of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Revenue department to lease out 48 acre and 842 decimal government land in Jatni tehsil of Khurda district in favour of National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar on free of all charges basis for setting up a Cancer Hospital and Education Centre by Tata Memorial Centre (TMC).

The Cabinet also approved a tender of ₹639.16 crore for execution of four mega piped water supply projects in Puri.

By execution of the projects, around 4,60,612 people of 498 villages under 92 gram panchayats of seven blocks of the district will be benefit from the projects. The work is targeted for completion within 24 months.

## Minor girl's decomposed body found

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The decomposed body of a minor girl was found under mysterious circumstances at a secluded place in Nandan Vihar area under Infocity police limits here, Friday.

The incident came to the fore after some locals spotted the body lying between two buildings in the locality in the afternoon. On being informed, police

reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Capital Hospital here for postmortem.

"The body's identity is yet to be ascertained. We will wait for the autopsy report to establish the exact cause of death and commission of any crime against the minor. A case (68/23) of unnatural death has been registered in this regard," said Infocity IIC Pramod Kumar Pattnaik.

# Radio collar tagging of jumbos soon

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 11: World Elephant Day is being celebrated August 12 since 2012 to raise awareness about the critical issues faced by jumbos and to advocate for their protection and conservation. However, the situation in Odisha is critical when it comes to safety of elephants as their deaths due to poaching, mishaps and diseases are increasing by the day. Keeping this in view, the state Forest department is likely to tag radio collars on elephants from October this year.

As per reports presented in the Assembly, out of 935 pachyderms were killed during the period from 2011-12 to 2021-22, 141 jumbos died in accidents and 135 due to electrocution. Similarly, 307 elephants died due to several diseases. Poachers killed as many as 48 elephants while 119 died of natural causes. The reasons for the death of another 131 elephants are yet to be ascertained.

Besides, the state has seen 50 per cent increase in human casualties in encounters with wild elephants in the first three months of 2023-24. The period has witnessed 57 deaths as compared to 38 deaths in the correspond-

## History

World Elephant Day was created by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims and Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in 2011 while the day was first observed August 12, 2012. The initiative was greatly supported by film star and Star Trek legend William Shatner who narrated the documentary 'Return to the Forest', a fascinating 30-minute film about the reintroduction of captive Asian elephants to the wild.



ding period of last year.

Meanwhile, several animal rights activists termed the World Elephant Day celebration in Odisha as a mockery as, according to them, steps taken to prevent jumbo deaths and protect their habitats are not adequate.

Purabi Patra, an animal activist and founder of Animal Welfare Trust Ekamra, said "Celebrating World Elephant Day in Odisha is a mockery. In a state where a department is busy hiding jumbo deaths, their concern about protection of elephants is evident. For our Forest department, this day is just another day... Meeting with some babus with 'chai and

## Special event at NZP

Nandankanak Zoological Park will celebrate World Elephant Day Saturday by organizing a slew of programmes and competitions online and offline to engage visitors to understand the necessity of conserving elephants. Also, elephants of the zoo will get special treat of coconut, banana, sugarcane, maize, watermelon and apple.

samosa'. Unless the department starts working beyond corruption, elephant deaths will continue. We are yet reach the position where we can celebrate 'World Elephant Day'.

She said that a committee should be formed by the Forest and Environment minister to address the ongoing issues.

Sangita Iyer, a filmmaker on nature and wildlife and creative director of 'Voice for Asian Elephants', said, "The situation is very critical in Odisha as elephants are dying due to various reasons every second day. In last three years, 245 elephants have been killed in Odisha alone."

She said human-elephant con-



lict in Odisha is very intense. Meanwhile, the Forest department is planning to tag radio collars on elephants to keep track of the movement of herds.

Principal conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden SK Popli said, "Tagging radio collars on elephants has been a success in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and it has yielded desired results. In order to implement this, we have signed an MoU with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation and the Institute of Physics. Because of Covid, the process has been delayed. We will start the tagging of collars after the monsoon. Probably we will start it in October."

## 200 more electric buses in City within 2 months

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), responsible for bus services in the Capital city of Bhubaneswar, will expand its fleet by introducing 200 more electric buses within the next two months, its managing director Arun Bothra said.

CRUT is presently operating 50 electric buses in the City and aims at replacing its entire fleet of vehicles with e-buses, said Bothra while addressing International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Future Electric Transportation (SeFeT-2023) at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here, Thursday.

The shift to electric transportation was necessary in view of the threat posed by climate change, he said.

At present 50 electric autos were operating in Bhubaneswar and it was planned to add 200 more e-autos as part of the government's commitment to the cause of sustainability, he said.

एफएसएसआई  
fssai  
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण  
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

### ATTENTION

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# Vansadhara dispute: SC adjourns hearing till Nov



KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, August 11:** The Supreme Court Friday adjourned the hearing on a batch of petitions filed by Odisha against the order of Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal wherein the tribunal allowed Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi barrage. The apex court has kept the matter for final disposal in November.

A two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta observed during the hearing that the matter will take time and requires a detailed hearing. The bench asked the counsels to mention the matter November 6 for its listing November 7. It further said that the matter would be heard for two days – November 7 and 8, if required.

“When can we hear it? The matter will take time,” the bench asked during the hearing.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, appearing for Odisha, submitted that the matter requires some exami-

A TWO-JUDGE BENCH OF JUSTICES SURYA KANT AND DIPANKAR DATTA OBSERVED DURING THE HEARING THAT THE MATTER WILL TAKE TIME AND REQUIRES A DETAILED HEARING

THE BENCH ASKED THE COUNSELS TO MENTION THE MATTER NOVEMBER 6 FOR ITS LISTING NOVEMBER 7

IT FURTHER SAID THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE HEARD FOR TWO DAYS – NOVEMBER 7 AND 8

the states to prepare a common compilation, bookmarked with the entire relevant documentary. It asked the counsels of both states to submit brief skeleton notes of submissions, additional documents related to the water dispute and relevant case law if any.

In June 2021, the tribunal had permitted Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi barrage across Vansadhara river with ancillary structures. The tribunal had said that the barrage can have a right head sluice of 8,000 cusecs of design capacity for meeting the requirements of AP and have a Left Head Sluice (LHS) to cater to the requirements of Odisha below the Neradi barrage. The cost of LHS is to be borne by Odisha. The tribunal had ruled that when there is shortage of water in a particular year, the sharing of water should be proportionately reduced. When there is an increase in water availability, it is to be increased proportionately. The distress sharing formula for the river basin is to be applicable for total utilisation by each state.

Aggrieved by this, the state of Odisha filed a special leave petition in the apex court against the order of the tribunal.

Odisha also filed two petitions in the SC in 2018 and 2019 opposing the joint survey of the Neradi barrage as directed by the tribunal.

nation and will certainly take some time. He pleaded the apex court to keep the matter in November citing some personal engagements.

Meanwhile, on the argument of the Andhra Pradesh counsel over water flow of the river, the apex court observed that it will not say anything on the issue today. We will hear both sides and then take a decision on it, the bench said orally.

Earlier, the apex court had in September 2021 asked both



**EXTENDING HELP:** Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister Ashok Chandra Panda distributes aid to construction workers under the 'Nirman Shramik Kalyan Yojana' at a camp organised for beneficiaries in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## 'Sparks' brings together stakeholders in growth

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** To give a platform to business leaders and government secretaries of the state, from across sectors such as agriculture, IT, tourism and finance, to discuss factors driving Odisha's economic growth and to develop a roadmap for future, the state government in collaboration with CNBC-TV 18 organised a thought leadership forum Odisha Sparks Conclave here Friday.

Joining the meeting virtually, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appreciated CNBC's initiative for showcasing the state's growth through this conclave, saying,

“It will provide great insight and immense potential across all the sectors. Odisha, in recent years, has made a remarkable achievement in investment, tourism, Information Technology, sports, education, healthcare, agriculture and many more. From women empowerment to fulfilling dreams of the youths, we are leaving no stones unturned.”

He added, “We have also focused on social development and civic amenities in Gram Panchayats for enhancing economic condition and development of rural people.”

As a keynote speaker, Sports and Youth Services Minister

Tusharkanti Behera said that in the last two and half decades Odisha has witnessed tremendous growth due to strategic planning, effective governance and its resilient spirit. From infra development such as connecting remotest villages to advancement in healthcare, education, sports, technology and skill, all have enhanced the life of its citizens.

At the event, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said that Odisha is generally not shown positively by the national media, but CNBC TV is an exception. “Our government came into power post 1999 cyclone and it took us decade and

half to achieve all our all targets. We reduced poverty by 12 per cent, we overcome our fiscal deficit, we started getting money. From our own resources and we improved our infrastructure,” he said.

Odisha's story of transforming from a traditionally agrarian economy to dynamic investment destination is a remarkable. Odisha is currently sixth highest spending state in the country and with good investment in sectors like healthcare, skill development, and tourism and others is one of the most improved states in the country with predicted growth of 7.8 percent in 2022-23, he said.

## Collectors to submit forest diversion proposals

**Bhubaneswar:** As per instructions of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Forest, Environment and Climate Change (FE&CC) department additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu has directed all Collectors to formulate and submit Forest Diversion Proposals pertaining to their districts.

## State releases four landraces of finger millet

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** With the release of four landraces of finger millet (ragi) under the seed system by the state Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department Friday, Odisha became the first state in the country to release multiple landraces (farmer varieties) of finger millet.

The landraces/farmer varieties namely Kundra Bati, Laxmipur Kalia, Malyabanta Mami and Gupteswar Bharati will be notified varieties for Koraput and Malkangiri for seed production and will be sold for agriculture, official sources said.

Their production will be undertaken as per the process outlined in the SOP for Seed System for landraces. Odisha Agriculture Minister R P Swain said initially it will be released for Koraput and Malkangiri and later it will be extended to other



districts based on performance and acceptability of the community.

He said the Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) and IIMR shall jointly prepare a roadmap for national release of landraces. Roadmap will be submitted to Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Welfare of government of India.

“These four landraces will also be tested in the 10 agro climatic regions of Odisha. These

were identified, out of which 14 landraces have shown very good performance. Out of 14 traditional varieties which have performed well in participatory varietal trials of ragi in different districts further short listing was done and four varieties namely Bati, Mami, Kalia and Bharati performed well.

These four varieties have undergone further purification and multi-location trials. After undertaking necessary trials, for the first time in the country, the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for reproduction, evaluation and release of those traditional landraces through seed system for landraces under Odisha Millet Mission.

This was done in consultation with ICAR, OUAT, technical experts, field NGOs and most importantly custodian tribal farmers.

## Opposition parties vow to 'expose' BJD-BJP 'ties'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** 17 parties under the opposition bloc INDIA Friday pledged to “expose the real BJD-BJP ties” in Odisha through a mass agitation across the state.

The opposition parties, including the Congress, CPI(M), AAP, RJD, TMC and JD(U) held a political convention here earlier in the day.

“Though both (BJD and BJP) are engaged in shadow-boxing in Odisha, they jointly work in Delhi and come to the rescue of each other.

How can the BJP become opposition party in Odisha while its top leaders rub shoulders with CM Naveen Patnaik in Delhi?” OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak asked.

Leaders of these parties came down heavily on the Centre for its move to remove the Chief Justice of India from the committee for selection of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners.

The Centre Thursday tabled a contentious bill in Rajya Sabha that seeks to replace the Chief Justice of India with a cabinet minister in the panel for selection of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners, in a move that will allow the government to have more control in the appointments of members of the poll panel.

The opposition parties also raised issues concerning the farmers, unemployment, law and order and price rise of essential commodities

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	65322.65 ↓ 365.53
NIFTY	19428.30 ↓ 114.80
DOLLAR	82.883 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	90.81 ↓ ₹0.1
GOLD	₹59,023 ↑ ₹170
SILVER	₹70,300 ↑ ₹319

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	36.0°C	35.5°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C	27.2°C
Humidity	80%	74%
Rainfall	0.0	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit I, Subhalaxmi Nayak (43 Yrs.), W/o - Late Rama Chandra Nayak, Vill.-Kshirasahi, P.O.- Atto, P.S.-Bhadrak (Rural), Dist.-Bhadrak, Odisha. That my name Subhalaxmi and Date of Birth is 16.3.1980 wrongly mentioned in my husband's service record ( Army No-15774546N) and discharge book. But my actual name is Subhalaxmi Nayak and my Date of Birth 11.9.1980 as per all documents. I declare that it will be treated from now for all purpose.

## IIT scientists find effect of power plants on cloud formation

An international team of researchers led by those from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras studied how atmospheric conversion of gaseous emissions from power plants into particulate matter (PM) results in particles that are rich in sulphate and consequently have high cloud forming potential compared to natural counterparts.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed *Climate and Atmospheric Science*, provides important scientific insights for framing the policies related to controlling the PM2.5.

The group of 27 researchers from 17 distinct institutions across eight countries delved into the impact of emissions from the Neyveli coal-fired power plant located about 200 km south of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on aerosol growth and cloud-forming properties.

“Our study provides a rare opportunity to examine the sen-

sitivity of cloud-forming aerosol particles to new particle formation and growth due to sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from a coal-fired power plant under relatively cleaner conditions,” said Sachin S Gunthe, Coordinator, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, in a statement.

“These findings have important implications for assessing the climate impacts of anthropogenic aerosols and highlight the need for comprehensive emission control measures,” he added.

The study was conducted amidst the Covid-19 lockdown in India when anthropogenic emissions, such as traffic and industries, significantly decreased.

The researchers successfully demonstrated that when local sources of anthropogenic emissions stop, the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants may amplify the mass of PM<sub>2.5</sub> through the formation of new particles,



which contradicts common assumptions.

The team found that the conversion of gaseous SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants into particulate matter contributes to an elevated mass load of aerosols rich in sulphates with high cloud-forming potential within the atmosphere.

Atmospheric aerosol particles are essential for cloud for-

mation, ensuring the availability of freshwater to sustain life on Earth.

They also interact with incoming solar radiation, significantly impacting the planet's radiative budget.

The study revealed a remarkable event where long-range transport of SO<sub>2</sub> gas emitted from the Neyveli power plant

resulted in new particle formation (NPF) in Chennai, generating particles generally known as “secondary aerosols”.

These sulphate-rich particles rapidly grew into the size relevant and required for the cloud formation exhibiting a high ability to uptake water.

The study emphasised that, therefore, under cleaner conditions with reduced human activities, the availability of low-volatility vapours of specific gases increases the chances of formation and growth of new aerosol particles, as opposed to the usual scenario where these low-volatile gases may condense on pre-existing aerosol particles resulting from human activities in an urban setup like Chennai.

“This study's outcomes imply that the existing strategies aimed at reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels from traffic and industries in India's polluted coastal clusters need thorough reevaluation,” Prof. Gunthe said.

## BMC: Keep cattle off City roads

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** In a bid to curb road mishaps and traffic snarls caused by stray cattle, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has warned individuals against leaving their cattle unattended on roads or in public spaces.

Chairing a meeting in this regard, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said it would not only address the rising incidents of road accidents and traffic congestions but also improve the City's cleanliness.

“Stringent action will be taken against those leaving their cattle unattended on roads or in public spaces. Besides, BMC will work in collaboration with various Gshalas to provide a safe and humane haven for these animals,” Kulange said.

A recent survey revealed that nearly 800 stray cattle owners fall under BMC's jurisdiction.

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# State sees 451 jumbo deaths in last 5 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhanjanagar, August 11:** The world is celebrating World Elephant Day today. The state government will also organise various programmes at different parts of the state to sensitise people on protection of elephants and the necessity for their conservation.

An awareness programme has been organised at Lalsingh nursery premises under North Ghumusar forest division while the South Ghumusar forest division will also organise similar programmes under its various ranges, sources said.

However, despite a host of measures being taken up for the

## WORLD ELEPHANT DAY



protection of elephants, the Forest department has failed to check the jumbo deaths. Pachyderm population in the state is diminishing fast with as many as 451 elephants have

died during the last five years in the state.

Reports said that 451 elephants have died in between April 1, 2018 and August 10, 2023 in the state. Among them, 21 elephants have died in Ganjam district while eight elephants died under North Ghumusar forest division alone in the district.

As many as 50 elephants have died of poisoning and poaching in the state during the last five years while 84 got electrocuted, 22 died in train mishaps, four in road accidents while 174 jumbos died normally. Causes of death of 105 elephants are yet to be ascertained but a majority of them are suspected to have died of poaching.

In 12 jumbo death cases, forest officials were found to have connived to destroy evidences to hush up the wildlife crimes. Elephant census is held every two year but it was halted due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

The last elephant census was conducted in 2017. Six years have passed but the jumbo census is yet to be conducted. It is learnt that the state government has started making preparations to conduct jumbo census in May 2024.

When contacted, environmentalist Ranjit Patnaik said that there should be proper coordination among all departments and awareness among people to check the jumbo deaths.

# Looters' gang busted; 5 held

13 STOLEN BIKES, 57 MOBILES SEIZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, August 11:** A special police team Thursday arrested five members of a looters' gang here in Ganjam district. Police also seized 13 stolen motorcycles and 57 mobile phones from their possession.

Among the arrested accused, two were ring leaders and two were minors. They were involved in two-wheeler and mobile theft mostly at MKCG Medical College and Hospital and Kamapalli vending zone area, informed Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M in a press conference organ-



ised at the police headquarters Friday.

The accused were identified as L Siba Reddy (26) of Gokarnapur village under Digapahandi police limits and Srikanta Padhi (30) of Kankaradha village under Patapur police limits, Upendra

Nayak of Aliabad in Ganjam district and the two minors are from Kandhamal and Hinjilikatu respectively.

They were targeting the relatives of patients lodged at MKCG hospital. After committing the crime they sell the stolen vehicles at cheaper prices to outsiders elsewhere or use these vehicles for ganja smuggling, said the police.

As per reports, the minors were sent to child correction home after being presented at Juvenile Justice Board whereas the other three were forwarded to court Friday against case (No-370/23).

## Aditya Birla Skills Centre trains 400 Sambalpur youths

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 11:** The Aditya Birla Skills Centre (ABSC) flagged off by Hindalco in 2020 at Hiraakud is making impressive strides. The institute in Sambalpur district has trained over 400 youngsters and has successfully placed nearly 60 per cent of them in various sectors.

Most of the students, who have passed through the portals or undergone the training programmes offered by ABSC, feel that this vocational training has impacted their lives in a transformative manner and enabled them to become self-reliant.

The state-of-the-art Skills Centre manned by trained manpower is mentored by Kailash Pandey, Hiraakud Cluster Head. In his view, "This is a much-needed activity across the region. It is very critical to leverage the potential of the youth and to see Odisha's forward march. The government is also pulling out all stops to ensure employment opportunities for the young."



The institute offers various multi-skill short-term vocational trainings for the young in the age group of 18 to 28 years. The minimum qualification for appearing in the entrance is Class X. Currently the courses offered include Office Assistant, Data Entry Operator (OAD), Accounts Assistant (AAT), and Retail Sales Associate (RSA). The duration of the training varies from 50 to 80 days.

Along with domain skills, ABSC students undergo Personality Development, English Language, Communication, Financial Literacy, Innovative thinking and Entrepreneurship training. This leads to creating well rounded individuals who demonstrate professionalism and good social skills.

# Fertiliser shortage riles farmers

While the price of a sack of urea is ₹270, traders and black marketeers are selling it at whopping ₹480 per sack

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, August 11:** Black marketing of fertilizers has hit the farmers here at a time when they are preparing fields for the ensuing kharif season, a report said Friday.

The district experienced medium floods following incessant rainfall that lashed the state at the onset of monsoon. Floods were witnessed in seven rivers and 27 nullahs which submerged farmlands spread in 118 revenue villages. Although the farmlands are yet to be cleared of flood-water, the farmers without losing heart have started preparing for kharif cultivation.

The farmers, after sowing seeds, were gearing up for transplantation when black marketing of fertilizers has come as a rude shock to them. The farmers have to cough out more money to buy fertilizers from the open market due to short supply of fertilizers to various primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in the district.



Farmers and farmer leaders apprehend that short supply and black marketing of fertilizers might seriously impact the farm works during this kharif season. While the price of a sack of urea is ₹270, traders and black marketeers are selling it at whopping ₹480 per sack.

"This year farmers have taken up cultivation on 1,17,554 hectare of farmland for the kharif season out of the total farmland of 1,42,165 hectare in the district," a farmer leader Gayadhar Dhal said

The farmers need a total of 9,500 metric tonne of urea fertilizer to continue with their

cultivation. There is need of 900 MT of urea for Kendrapara block, 585 MT for Derabish block, 318 MT for Marshaghai block and 1,270 MT for Mahakalapara block.

Similarly, urea requirement is 420 MT for Garadpur block, 545 MT for Pattamundai block, 311 MT for Aul block, 1,030 MT for Rajkanika block and 1,121 MT for Rajnagar block.

This apart, the farmers also need 14,400 metric tonne of other fertilizers for proper growth of their paddy crops. However, chemical fertilizer is yet to reach the 114 PACS or 311 registered fertiliser sales centres in the district.

"This will seriously impact the paddy cultivation during the kharif season," Dhal lamented.

Another farmer leader Ghanashyam Behera said the scarcity of fertilizers has resulted in skyrocketing prices. The state government and Centre always speak of giving utmost importance to agriculture and farmers' welfare. However, the reality is different with farm-

ers feeling the pinch of fertiliser shortage in the market and government stores.

The government has not only failed to provide fertiliser, seeds and pesticides to the farmers but the training programme announced for the farmers is also limited to pen and paper. Farmers have been feeling let down with fertilizer shortage hitting them right from the start of kharif season.

Mrutyunjaya Samal, a farmer of Bagada village, said he has undertaken cultivation of kharif crops on three acre land. He has borrowed for the purpose and purchased seeds with the loan money. However, he has failed to transplant the saplings due to lack of fertilisers.

When contacted, district agriculture officer Himanshu Mohan Mishra said that they have sent the indent for fertilizers and have received only 6 metric tonne for the district so far. He assured that farmers will soon get rid of fertilizer shortage by next week.

# Vasectomy conducted on unmarried youth



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 11:** In an unfortunate incident, vasectomy was conducted on an unmarried tribal youth from Ambaguda village under Mahupadar panchayat and Mathili block in Malkangiri district.

According to reports, the ASHA lured Ganga Durua (26), a divyang, by promising him allowance and brought him to Mathili Sub-divisional Hospital August 3, where vasectomy was carried out on him. Following the operation, Durua was given some medicines and Rs 2,000.

Shockingly, his marital status was mentioned as 'married' by the ASHA in the surgery-re-

lated document, sources said.

It has been alleged that the vasectomy was done by the concerned Health department staffers without his knowledge in order to increase the number of vasectomies in the area.

As the matter came to the fore, locals demanded stringent action against the accused officials. "The operation was carried out on the basis of an ASHA's report. His mother was present at the healthcare facility during the operation. I have ordered the concerned authorities to carry out an investigation into the incident. Strict action will be taken against anybody found guilty," said Prafulla Nanda, CDMO, Malkangiri.

## CRPF JAWAN'S DEATH

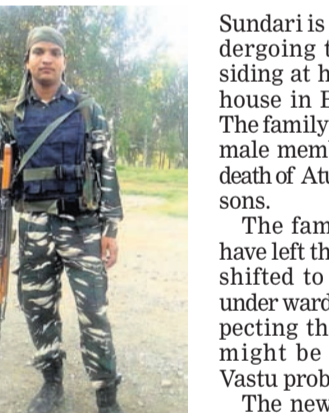
# Family abandons house suspecting vastu issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Anandapur, August 11:** A CRPF jawan martyred in an encounter with Maoists at West Singhbhum in Jharkhand was a native of Anandapur Municipality area in Keonjhar district.

The martyred jawan identified as Susant Kumar Khuntia is the son of late Atul Charan Khuntia under ward no-4 of the civic body. A pall of gloom descended in the area after report of his death spread.

Susant passed his HSC examination from Balabhadra Narayan High School here in 2005. He joined the CRPF in 2011 while doing his graduation at Anandapur College. Notably, he got married to Purnima, who is work-



ing as an ANM in Telkoi hospital, just two months before June 2, 2023.

The deceased's father Atul died in 2020 during Covid-19 pandemic while his middle brother Prasant died April 24, 2022. His elder brother Santosh died of cancer January 28, 2023. His mother

Sundari is ailing and undergoing treatment residing at her daughter's house in Bhubaneswar. The family has lost all its male members after the death of Atul and his three sons.

The family members have left their house and shifted to a new house under ward no-6 after suspecting that the deaths might be due to some Vastu problems.

The news of Susant's untimely death has left his wife, friends, family members and the residents visibly crest fallen. Atul had died during the Covid pandemic while his three sons including Susant have died within a year. Susant's bed-ridden mother plunged into mourning after losing another son.

# 157-yr-old colonial structure on Hukitola island to be developed

AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, August 11:** The 157-year-old colonial structure Hukitola, located near the Mahanadi Delta in the Bay of Bengal, will be developed to attract the tourists.

The Odisha Tourism department will spend ₹1.87 crore for the infrastructure development of Hukitola island. A floating jetty will be set up at Jamboo with an estimated fund of ₹9.24 lakh while ₹7.04 lakh will be spent for enhancing the floating jetty at Hukitola. An estimated ₹24 lakh will be spent on illumination at Jamboo and Hukitola island and ₹30 lakh will be utilised for the repair work of the solar system at Hukitola.



Investment will be made on display wall and augmentation of pindi at Hukitola pathway, vending kiosk and sitting equipment by the Odisha Tourism department. The 11,250 sq ft structure stands testimony to the technical brilliance of British engineers of that age. It is 150 feet long and 75 feet wide and has 11 large and nine small chambers. The height of the rooftop from land is 30 feet. British

India's former Cuttack Collector John Beams and chief engineer of irrigation J Huki Waker were the architects of the historical monument. The great famine of 1866 had led the British to build the warehouse. Rice from various parts of the country made its way to Hukitola island for storage and later for distribution among the starving masses. The uniqueness of the

Hukitola palace lies in its roof. Sloped in design, it helped rain water to flow down to four big water pots. The collected water was used for drinking purposes by the merchants throughout the year.

During the winter season, several tourists from the state generally visit Hukitola to spend their leisure time. The unforgettable boating experience, the calm environment with mangrove forest cover and the historical monument allure tourists to pay a visit to the spot.

But due to lack of infrastructure development at the place, tourists also hesitate to visit Hukitola. It may be noted here that the colonial building Hukitola was tagged in the state tourism map in 2016.

**WATCH HIM LIVE**  
AT RABINDRA MANDAP ON 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2023 AT 7.00PM.

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**“The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives.”**  
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## Lost Opportunities

The Centre's longing for an extension to its trusted and tested babus was made obvious when it approached the Supreme Court seeking an unprecedented extension to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief SK Mishra. It became the precursor to the extension of tenures of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

For Gauba, this marks the third consecutive extension, making him the longest-serving Cabinet Secretary, while Bhalla's fourth extension also positions him as the second Union Home Secretary to complete five years in the role. These three extensions happened by relaxing rules and have raised concerns among other senior babus who may have missed out on career advancement. Sources have informed DKB that the babus most impacted are those from batches up to 1986.

Why did the Cabinet Secretary and Union Home Secretary get extensions for consecutive terms? There is a growing perception among senior bureaucrats that the extensions for the Cabinet Secretary and Home Secretary are linked to the 2024 general elections. The Modi sarkar is known to prefer continuity and retaining experienced individuals. But as elections approach and the focus shifts to electoral campaigns, administration matters take a backseat. And Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, Gauba and Bhalla – all batchmates – can make a formidable combination, prioritising seamless collaboration between the Cabinet Secretariat, Home Ministry and the Election Commission.

In the process, however, the ambitions of several senior babus have been thwarted. The disruption will have a ripple effect which may spread beyond those immediately affected by the unprecedented extensions. If it becomes the norm, some babus fear that there would be just one cabinet secretary across seven to eight batches and one home secretary across five batches. It is this fear that some are expressing privately, knowing that the government can amend any rule.

### Officers challenge frequent transfers

In a move aimed at challenging a deeply entrenched administrative practice, the Kerala IAS Officers' Association and two serving IAS officers – B Ashok and Priyanka G – have taken the Pinarayi Vijayan government to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) over what they deem to be arbitrary and disruptive transfers in the state.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

Their plea contends that the current transfer policy not only hampers effective governance but also compromises their ability to execute long-term development initiatives. They have argued that the constant upheaval caused by transfers adversely affects the continuity of government programmes, leading to inefficiencies and even stalling of crucial projects. Apparently, they blame the LDF government's administrative failures such as stray dog menace, poor solid waste management and even low-level corruption on the short tenures of officers.

According to sources, the application states that such orders are issued to accommodate babus who are favourably disposed towards the political executive, often displacing eligible and efficient officers who, according to the rules, are entitled to enjoy a minimum two-year tenure in their allotted posts. Apparently, only 12 of the 126 IAS officers in Kerala have completed more than two years in a post.

The IAS officers approached the CAT as a “last resort” a year after their complaint to the Chief Minister did not have any effect on the transfers. There are other issues too, such as the government allowing non-IAS officers to encroach on the IAS turf, but clearly, the transfers are the biggest bugbear.

CAT's eventual decision on the issue has the potential to set a precedent, not only influencing transfers in Kerala but in other states as well.

### 2024 in view, babus eyeing netagiri

As the 2024 general elections approach, the BJP is reportedly scouting for potential candidates from among individuals who can resonate with the public. Apparently, its discerning eye has fallen on an eclectic mix of talent from various walks of life, with a particular focus on over 50 bureaucrats. These include both current and former IAS and IPS officers, who are currently being vetted by party seniors.

Among the emerging names are Pratap Digavkar, a former IGP of Maharashtra Police, who recently aligned with the BJP, and is reportedly being considered from Dhule constituency in north Maharashtra, along with another prospect Sumit Wankhade, who is reportedly close to Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. Wankhade is likely to contest from the Wardha district, sources say.

The most interesting is the name of Parambir Singh, former Mumbai Police Commissioner, who had faced allegations in the past. But now, we are told, he has been exonerated and could find himself a plausible candidate for a seat in Haryana or Rajasthan.

These are early days, and some of the talk may be just gossip, but it is clear that the interplay between babus and netas is dynamic and ever-evolving. Watch this space for updates.

Share a babu experience! Follow [diliphecherian@twitter.com](mailto:diliphecherian@twitter.com). Let's multiply the effect

## WISDOM CORNER

**“Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.”**  
ROY T. BENNETT

**“Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.”**  
MAYA ANGELOU

**“We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.”**  
OSCAR WILDE

## WORDSWORTH

### Microgreens

“Always eat your greens,” was once the advice of every mother who was concerned about the health of her children. A new way of eating vegetables has become known in the USA in the past five years or so and the trend (you might say fashion) is now broadening its appeal to the UK and other countries with one writer claiming they are becoming the “highest-flying salad items since rocket”. (The joke doesn't work in US English, where the vegetable is usually called arugula.) People have long grown mustard and cress on wet flannel to harvest for salad. Like these sprouts, microgreens are young plants, no more than a week or so old, usually with only their first seed leaves developed. The leaves and stems are harvested and served in a mixed salad. Unlike alfalfa and bean sprouts the roots aren't eaten, not least because microgreens are usually grown in soil. A very wide variety is available, not just common salad plants such as arugula, lettuce and celery, but also red beet, cabbage, basil, endive, purslane, rapini (the edible leaves of an immature white turnip), dill, sorrel, and many others. Nor are microgreens always vegetables: some are flower plants such as chrysanthemums. Part of the appeal is that the salad is often as fresh as can be, with the plants being harvested moments before they're served. Supporters claim their flavour is often more intense than other salads or the mature plants and that they contain health-giving minerals. This puts them into the class of functional foods or nutraceuticals.

# CHINA'S DANGEROUS SECRETS

## FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



Brahma Chellaney

**CHINA HAS A LONG RECORD OF EXPANDING ITS STRATEGIC FOOTPRINT THROUGH STEALTHY MANOEUVRES THAT IT BRAZENLY DENIES**

It is well known that China has the world's largest navy and coast guard – the result of a tenfold increase in military spending since 1995 – which it uses to advance its pugnacious revisionism. But there are also numerous lesser-known – indeed, highly opaque – policies, projects, and activities that are supporting Chinese expansionism and placing the entire world at risk.

China has a long record of expanding its strategic footprint through stealthy manoeuvres that it brazenly denies. For example, in 2017, it established its first overseas military base in Djibouti – a tiny country on the Horn of Africa, which also happens to be deeply in debt to China – while insisting that it had no such plan. Today, China is building a naval base in Cambodia, which has leased to China one-fifth of its coastline and some islets. The almost-complete pier at the Chinese-financed Ream Naval Base appears conspicuously similar in size and design to a pier at China's Djibouti base. China admits to investing in the base, but claims that only Cambodia's navy will have access to it.

Realistically, however, it seems likely that China's navy will use the facility at least for military logistics. This would further strengthen China's position in the South China Sea, where it has already built seven artificial islands as forward military bases, giving it effective control of this critical corridor between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. China also takes a highly secretive approach to its massive dam projects on international rivers flowing to other countries from the Chinese-annexed Tibetan Plateau. While the world knows that the rubber-stamp National People's Congress approved the construction of the world's largest dam near China's heavily militarised frontier with India in 2021, there have been no public updates on the project since.

The dam is supposed to generate three times as much electricity as the Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest hydropower plant, and China has built a new railroad and highway to transport heavy equipment, materials, and workers to the remote project site. We will find out more only when construction is far enough along that the dam can no longer be hidden from commercially available satellite imagery. At that point, it will be a fait accompli.

China has used this strategy to build 11 giant dams on the Mekong, not only gaining geopolitical leverage over its neighbours, but also wreaking environmental havoc. China is now the world's most dammed country, with more large dams in operation than the rest of the world combined, and it is constructing or planning at least eight more dams on the Mekong alone.

Opacity has also been a defining feature of the lending binge that has made China the world's largest sovereign creditor to developing countries. Almost every Chinese loan issued in the last decade has included a sweeping confidentiality clause compelling the borrowing country not to disclose the loan's



**Ominously, Xi's appetite for risk appears to be growing. This partly reflects time pressure: Xi seems to believe that China has a narrow window of opportunity to achieve global preeminence before unfavourable demographic, economic, and geopolitical trends catch up with it**

terms. Many African, Asian, and Latin American countries have become ensnared in a debt trap, leaving them highly vulnerable to Chinese pressure to pursue policies that advance China's economic and geopolitical interests. According to one study, the loan contracts give China “broad latitude to cancel loans or accelerate repayment if it disagrees with a borrower's policies.”

But there can be no better illustration of the global costs of Chinese secrecy than the COVID-19 pandemic. Had China's government responded quickly to evidence that a deadly new coronavirus had emerged in Wuhan, warning the public and implementing control measures, the damage could have been contained. Instead, the Communist Party of China (CPC) rushed to suppress and discredit information about the outbreak, paving the way for a raging worldwide pandemic that killed almost seven million people and disrupted countless lives and livelihoods. To this day, Chinese obfuscation has prevented scientists from confirming the true origins of COVID-19, which, lest we forget, emerged in China's main hub

for research on super-viruses. China's willingness to violate international laws, rules, and norms compounds the opacity problem. The Chinese government has repeatedly reneged on its international commitments, including promises to safeguard the autonomy of Hong Kong and not to militarise features in the South China Sea. It was China's furtive violation of its commitment not to alter unilaterally the status quo of its disputed Himalayan border with India that triggered a three-year (and counting) military standoff between the two countries. There is no reason to expect China to abandon its rule-breaking, its debt-based coercion, or its other malign activities any time soon. Chinese President Xi Jinping – who has strengthened the CPC's control over information, cutting off outside analysts' access even to economic data – is now on track to hold power for life, and remains eager to reshape the international order to China's benefit.

Ominously, Xi's appetite for risk appears to be growing. This partly reflects time pressure: Xi seems to believe that China has a narrow window of opportunity to achieve global preeminence before unfavourable demographic, economic, and geopolitical trends catch up with it. But Xi has also been emboldened by the international community's utter failure to impose meaningful consequences on China for its bad behaviour.

Whereas Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, China prefers incrementalism, enabled by stealth and deception, to advance its revisionist agenda. This, together with tremendous economic clout, shields it from a decisive Western response. That is why, barring a major strategic blunder by Xi, China's salami-slicing expansionism is likely to persist.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM RESEARCH

# The gap must be bridged

There can be no denying that research in the country has been lacking with meagre funds at the disposal of higher educational institutions. There have been reports of research work being curtailed due to inadequate funds. In this backdrop, the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023, though much delayed, has been hailed as a landmark decision that aims to bridge the gap. However, the big question remains unanswered as to how much funds would be made available in the coming years.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**UNLESS THERE IS INCREASE IN INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH, FUNDS WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING TO ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been pushing higher education institutions to increase their intake capacity by 25%, while the Ministry of Finance has sought to ban the creation of new teaching posts since end-2020. At the Central level, student financial aid was cut to ₹2,078 crore in FY23 from ₹2,482 crore in FY22; allocations for research and innovation were down by 8%, reaching ₹218 crore. The institutions of learning are beset with multiple crises – a financial crunch at university level, a deficit in research opportunities for faculty, poor infrastruc-

ture and learning outcomes for students.

Coming to the question of research, there is lack of a truly functional research ecosystem. India's investment in research and innovation as a percentage of GDP steadily dropped from 0.84% in 2008 to about 0.69% in 2018 and may be less than 0.7% presently, the lowest in the world. India lags in patent applications compared to China, the US and many other countries. Moreover, papers by Indian scientists in peer reviewed journals are far less than Western countries though the number of scientists in the country is quite high. The obstacles faced are not just limited to research funding but also inconsistent funding flow, complex application process, bias towards established researchers and research institutions. The bias is manifest from the fact that around 60-65% of research funding goes to IITs and IISERs and just 11 percent to state-run universities, which are around 400 or so in number. The need for giving more funds to the state universities, most of which are severely starved of funds, is an immediate necessity and how much the NRF is expected to

give seems to be the vital question of the day.

A section of scientists has rightly raised the question of private funding that has found mention in the NRF. In fact, as per government announcement, over 70% of the funding envisioned under NRF is expected to come from the private sector. Meanwhile, the Breakthrough Science Society in a public statement alleged that basic research may not be supported under the present policy. It rightly pointed out that private funding in this regard may be a ‘wild dream’ as the corporate sector is reluctant to invest in its own businesses. It is a well-known fact that the private sector has been shy in investing in research and only those that will bring it profits may attract consideration.

One may mention the US has an inheritance tax, which is the tax an individual has to pay to the government if the wealth is passed on to the next generation. Because of concepts like inheritance tax, people donate their wealth. These are the kind of policies that support philanthropy. But the scenario in India is different and it may not be easy for the state universities,

barring a few, to get funds through donations or from the private sector.

The lack of academia-industry connect is a major hindrance that aggravates the already challenging lack of translational research. As a result, most of the research currently being carried out in Indian institutions can be classified as ‘solutions looking for a problem’, rather than ‘a solution to a problem’. Unless there is increase in industry participation in research, funds would not be forthcoming to academic institutions.

It is surprising to note that of the total universities in the country – both public and private – only 3 to 4% have Ph.D programmes. It goes without saying that the NRF should be the harbinger of research by generating funds and making these available to at least 100 or 150 state universities that have the potential and expertise to gear up research and innovation. India with many higher educational institutes and a large pool of scientists would be at risk of lagging behind most countries if research activities are not taken up seriously and in diverse fields. The gap must be bridged. INFRA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rihalgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### BJP's whataboutery

Sir, The right-wing politicians and their supporters who are a lot rattled over the Manipur mayhem, seem to have mastered the art of “whataboutery,” as they often indulge in this diversionary tactic by asking back “what about Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan?” when a barrage of questions are raised on the northeastern state's ethnic violence. They don't have proper and convincing answers to probing questions on the Manipur brutality, and which is why they pander into such manoeuvres. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when he broke his long silence on the Manipur issue, had reference to crimes against women in two Opposition-ruled states. The whataboutery is politically flawed and ethically hollow, and only designed to cover fire to the utter failure of the ruling dispensation and the Manipur government to control and maintain law and order in the state. Manipur doesn't need whataboutery, but compassion, mollification, and accountability.  
**Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI**

### Circular economy

Sir, One of the most urgent environmental issues of our time is plastic trash, which calls for ground-breaking innovations to solve. The plastics sector in developed countries is undergoing a transformation thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and digitisation, which are providing solid solutions that may efficiently reduce plastic waste and optimise its use through higher recycling. Waste collection in urban areas by state and central regimes, particularly in Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad, can be significantly improved by utilising intelligent algorithms and integrating advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and geolocation, which bring us closer to a more sustainable future. It is necessary to adopt more AI-enabled smart bins across the nation in order to sort materials at their source, maximise recycling potential, and improve plastic waste management. More industries ought to employ algorithms that develop cutting-edge goods and package designs, use less plastic and other resources while maintaining performance standards. Potential effects of AI and digitisation on the management of plastic trash could hasten the transition to a circular economy.  
**Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR (KARNATAKA)**





## Haryana govt rejects 'ethnic cleansing' charge

### HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE TO HEAR NUH DEMOLITIONS CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 11: The Haryana government Friday rejected in the high court the suggestion that a demolition drive in violence-hit Nuh did not follow procedure and was an exercise in "ethnic cleansing", as the bench hearing the case referred it to the chief justice's court.

Monday, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had halted the demolition of "illegally-constructed" buildings in Muslim-dominated Nuh, questioning if a particular community was being targeted after communal violence broke out there.

As the case came up for hearing before the division bench of Justices Arun Palli and Jagmohan Bansal Friday, Haryana's Additional Advocate General Deepak Sabharwal told the court that due procedure established under the law was followed.

"We have apprised the court that it is not at all a case of ethnic cleansing and the government never works like this. For the state, all are equal. Entire procedure followed before the demolition was carried out," he told reporters later.

The government will file a



written reply before the court on the next date of hearing. Sabharwal said the court adjourned the case, saying the matter has to be heard by the first division bench of the chief justice as per the high court rules. According to him, the demolition drive can go on as there was no stay on it.

Justices G S Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeevan had on Monday halted the demolition drive after taking suo motu cognizance of some news reports.

"Apparently, without any demolition orders and notices, the law and order problem is being used as a ruse to bring down buildings without following the procedure established by law," the court had then said.

"The issue also arises whether the buildings belonging to a particular community are being brought down under the guise of law and order problem and an exercise of ethnic cleansing is being conducted by the State," it added.

The court had also directed the Haryana government to furnish an affidavit on the number of buildings demolished in two weeks in Nuh and Gurugram, and whether any notice was issued before the demolition.

"If any such demolition is to be carried out today, it should be stopped if the procedure is not followed as per law," the court had said.

Several houses and other buildings were bulldozed in Nuh, days after a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession was targeted there July 31.

Five people, including two home guards, were killed in the Nuh violence, which later spread to adjoining Gurugram where an imam was murdered in an attack on a mosque.

The Nuh administration maintained that the bulldozed buildings were illegal and notices had been sent to them.

At the same time, officials also claimed that some of the demolished buildings belonged to "rioters". They said stones were hurled from some of them.

While talking about the communal violence, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij had justified the use of bulldozers. "Bulldozer are part of the treatment," he had told reporters.

## Exodus of informal workers creates crisis in Gurugram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, August 11: The recent communal flare-up in Gurugram and neighbouring Nuh district in Haryana has led to the mass exodus of informal workers from the city.

These workers include parking attendants, cab drivers, office peons and security staff.

The exodus has hit Gurugram's service sector hard. With a majority of maids, house helpers, cooks, car cleaners, vegetable-fruit vendors and even cab drivers leaving in panic after alleged threats from Hindu outfits, the after effects are visible.

The threat calls from some groups have added to the fear. The exodus is hitting the city residents hard as the maids and other house helps have left the city for their native places.

Gurugram residents have been left high and dry. And, the prices of services have skyrocketed by almost double in a majority of condominiums.

"Administration is saying the situation is normal and no exodus is taking place but when we went out, the number of cabs and autos are less on the roads. Those available are charging double for the



rides. The maids have left their jobs due to fear," Anuj Madaan of Golf Course Road said.

Meanwhile, the maids have even increased their service amount from Rs 3,000 to 7,000 for two hours of household work in old Gurugram.

Apart from this, the 24-hour maid services have doubled the prices and are charging a minimum of Rs 30,000 now.

"Salesmen, peons and parking attendants, security staff are

not reporting after the violence in Gurugram. The situation is grim now. We are paying double to another agency for manpower service," said a general manager of a city-based mall, who requested not to be named, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

The construction sector has faced a huge construction workers crunch after the clashes.

"The projects have taken a hit as many workers have fled the city and others are scared to step out to work. This problem will surely delay the completion of projects. The workers are scared now, they will take time to return to the workplace," Ramesh Chabra, a city-based realtor said.

**OFFICE OF THE SORO BLOCKS OFFICE, SORO, BALASORE**  
 Letter No. 1745 Date: 10.08.2023

**"e" Procurement Notice**  
 BID Identification No. SORO\_01\_2023-24

No. i-302: Bid document consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Government website i.e. [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

- Name of the Work : Construction of Civil Work as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of Works : 02 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
- Period of Completion : 90 Days
- Date & Time of availability : 14.08.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to 28.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : 28.08.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 29.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Block Development Officer, Soro

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
 Sd./- Block Development Officer, Soro  
 OIPR-19090/11/0002/2324

## Judge, who refused to stay Rahul's conviction, transferred

INDO-ASIN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, August 11: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the transfer of four Gujarat High Court judges, including the judge who had recently delivered the verdict refusing to grant a stay on the conviction for defamation to

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Justice Hemant Prachhak, who upheld the lower court's two-year imprisonment verdict against Rahul Gandhi in the 'Modi surname' defamation case, is to be transferred to Patna High Court in Bihar.

Justice Samir Dave has been recommended for the Rajasthan

High Court, Justice A.Y. Kogje for the Allahabad High Court in Uttar Pradesh; and Justice Geeta Gopi for the Madras High Court in Tamil Nadu.

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and consisting of Justices S.K. Kaul, Sanjeev Khanna, B.R. Gavai and Surya

Kant, is responsible for these judicial transfer decisions.

Additionally, the Supreme Court Collegium has also recommended the transfer of Justice C. Manavendranath Roy from the Andhra Pradesh High Court, and Justice Avneesh Jhingam from the Punjab & Haryana High Court

to Gujarat.

These transfers are seen as a part of the regular process of ensuring a judicious balance and broadening the experience of the judiciary across the country. The recommendations are now pending approval and are expected to be executed in the coming weeks.

## Nuh violence: Farmer unions, khaps demand fair probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, August 11: The farmer unions and khap panchayats in Haryana have demanded a fair probe into the violence that rocked Nuh and Gurugram districts July 31, and have asked people to avoid misleading videos.

They also urged people to avoid misleading communal-based videos, and should intimate the police about such videos and not to take law into their own hands. Various farmer unions, khap panchayats, and religious leaders have appealed for peace. They have also urged the police to arrest Mohit Yadav aka Monu Manesar, a cow vigilante, who is the prime suspect in the killing of Nasir and Junaid earlier this year. A Mahapanchayat was called in Hisar to condemn the Nuh riots Wednesday. The gathering was attended by 2,000 people, including Khap panchayats, farmers unions and religious



leaders of different communities. "We demand a fair investigation into the matter and we also urge people of Nuh not to act over misleading communal videos and if they receive such videos from any channel they should first report to the law agencies to avoid any incident," Suresh Koth, President Bhartiya Kisan Union told IANS.

He further said after the completion of the investigation Haryana Khap, farmer unions and religious leaders will visit Nuh and will talk to people. Violence erupted when a procession organised by the Vishva

Hindu Parishad was stopped by groups of people. The clashes resulted in the loss of six lives, including two home guards and a cleric. In Nuh 59 FIRs have been registered and 218 individuals have been apprehended.

Manesar reportedly posted a video on social media claiming his participation in the Nuh religious procession and encouraged his followers to gather in Nuh.

However, he did not attend the procession after the Vishva Hindu Parishad asked him not to, fearing that his presence could escalate tensions.

As the situation is getting normal, schools and banks have been opened in Nuh after 11 days. However, Internet services still remain suspended in the district. Authorities have also encouraged Muslim clerics to conduct Friday prayers at home.

Bus services of Haryana State Transport are being fully restored from August 11. Curfew was relaxed Friday for five hours.

## DEFAMATION CASE

### Guj HC denies interim relief to Kejriwal, Sanjay Singh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, August 11: The Gujarat High Court Friday declined to grant any interim relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

Both had sought an interim stay on proceedings in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Gujarat University until the disposal of their revision plea challenging the summons issued to them.

Justice Samir J. Dave passed the order after hearing arguments from Senior Advocate Mihir Joshi, counsel for Arvind Kejriwal, and Public Prosecutor Mitesh Amin. The defamation case emanates from derogatory statements allegedly made by Kejriwal and Singh concerning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's academic degree. A metropolitan court in Ahmedabad had summoned both the politicians August 11 in the case.

August 5, the City Civil & Sessions Court Ahmedabad had rejected their plea to stay the proceedings in the trial pending the disposal of their revision plea.

In response, both AAP leaders approached the Gujarat High Court, praying for an expeditious hearing of their revision plea.

## An app for tracking lions in Gujarat



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, August 11: In a move to celebrate World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel introduced a mobile application named 'Sinh Suchna', Thursday.

The official launch event in Gandhinagar marked a step towards modern wildlife conservation, allowing both the state's forest department and the general public to monitor lion movements effectively.

The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers people to report lion sightings directly to the forest department, paving

the way for real-time tracking and rapid conflict resolution. During the launch event, CM Patel emphasised the importance of this app in enhancing public participation in wildlife conservation.

Alongside the app, a new lion safari park near Naliya-Mandvi village in Una taluka of Gir-Somnath district is in the planning stages.

This initiative is expected to relieve the pressure on the Gir National Park in Sasan-Gir due to the growing tourist influx, thereby benefiting both the region's ecology and its majestic inhabitants.

The event also witnessed the release of a 'Lion Anthem', and two books celebrating the state's natural heritage, titled "The King of the Jungle - The Asiatic Lions of Gir" and "Hu Gujarat no Sinh".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his support on World Lion Day, writing about the importance of lion conservation and India's pride in being home to the Asiatic Lions.

He acknowledged the consistent rise in India's lion population and praised the efforts of those working towards protecting the habitat of lions.

The lion population in Gujarat has reached 674, spreading across 30,000 sq km, attracting approximately 800,000 tourists to Gir last year alone. CM Patel also underlined the Central government's commitment to lion preservation through 'Project Lion', backed by a budget of Rs 2,900 crore.

This project will include the establishment of a breeding center, an isolation facility, and enhanced medical treatment for lions, with advanced technological solutions like CCTV cameras, radio collars, and drones to assist in monitoring and conservation efforts.

## OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PIPILI, PURI-752104

Phone: 06758-240746, e-mail : ori-pipili@nic.in  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.: 04/Pipili/ Dt. 09.08.2023**

The Block Development Officer, Pipili, Puri invites sealed tenders on behalf of Government of Odisha from Registered and Eligible Contractors of the State PWD (R & B) Water resource/Rural Works/M.I./CPWD, PWD F-2 for the following work, eventually to be drawn up in the forms in conformity with the detail Tender call notice. The Bidders may submit Bid for the following work.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work	Name of the G.P.	Tender Amount (in Rs.)	EMD Cost (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Time Period of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Empowerment Centre for Rural Women and Youth for creating Smart Gram Panchayat	Nuasasan	6925850/-	69259/-	10000/-	06 Calendar Months	'B' & 'A'

### Sale/Receipt/Opening of the Tender Papers:-

- The Tender papers can be obtained from the Block Development Officer, Pipili on payment towards the cost of Tender papers as mentioned above (Non-refundable) in shape of Bank Draft from any Nationalized Bank in and around Pipili on any working day from 14/08/2023 to dt. 28/08/2023 for the above mentioned work. The tender document will be sold during the above mentioned period between 10 AM to 5.30 PM on working days only. The bidders have to submit the sealed papers mentioning the name of the work over the envelope in complete shape through Registered Post/ Speed Post/ Drop Box at Block Campus, Pipili, only by directly sending to the B.D.O., Pipili in his/her Official Postal address. Tender Papers received through Courier Services will not be entertained. The date for receipt of tender papers is from 14/08/2023 to 28/08/2023 during office hour. The undersigned will not be responsible for postal delay if any or non-receipt of the papers in time. The tender papers shall be opened on 29/08/2023 at 11 AM in the Block Campus, Pipili in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives having written authorization for the purpose and the Tender committee framed by the undersigned.
- The EMD is to be deposited in shape of Post Office short term deposit/term deposit/NSC/KVP/Deposit Receipt from any Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Block Development Officer, Pipili. The Tender Papers without required amount of EMD will not be consider and transfer or adjustment of EMD is in admissible.
- The additional performance security for the unbalanced bid shall be asked to deposit in the shape of Postal Pass Book (TD) /N.S.C./Deposit Receipt of Nationalized / Scheduled Bank duly pledged in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pipili at the time of execution of agreement
- Document to be attached:-  
 The Following documents should be furnished with the tender papers failing which tender will be liable to rejection, a) Attested copy of Contractor Registration Certificate, b) Attested copy of PAN Card, GST Certificate, c) Attested copy of labour license, d) Attested copy of valid Caste Certificate issued by competent authorities in case of SC/ST, Contractors desirous for availing preference.
- Submission of more than one tender paper by a bidder for the work will be liable for rejection of all such tender papers.
- The undersigned reserves the right either to reject any or all tenders or cancel the entire process without assigning the reason thereof.

**Block Development Officer, Pipili**





Beas river overflows following heavy rainfall in Kullu



President Droupadi Murmu during an interaction with the probationers of Indian Postal Service (2021 and 2022 batches) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



College students during 'Azadi Ki Goonj' programme ahead of Independence Day, in Patna



Congress workers raise slogans outside Governor's residence to protest against the suspension of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in Kolkata



The level of water in swollen rivers and lakes continues to grow after days of torrential rain in southeastern Norway



Actor Nora Fatehi arrives at the Enforcement Directorate office in connection with a money laundering case in New Delhi



Team of surgeons and medics who removed a 15 kg ovarian tumour from a woman weighing 50 kg in Indore





# national

## of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's criticism of the Congress during his reply to the no-confidence motion shows the grand old party is growing stronger

The BJP is rattled by the coming together of the AAP and the Congress as part of the INDIA alliance and its strategists are trying to find out ways to break this alliance

Those born with a silver spoon in their mouths will never understand the problems of farmers, Dalits, backward classes and the poor



All of us have joined hands for the betterment of the country. They (the BJP) are not aware that many parties, which I shall not name right now, are with them out of fear. They will come over to this side when the elections are announced

## NAWAB MALIK GRANTED INTERIM BAIL

The Supreme Court Friday granted interim bail for two months to former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik on medical grounds in a money laundering case. Malik had moved the top court against the Bombay High Court's July 13 order denying him bail on medical grounds in the case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate



# Manipur crisis: Rahul attacks PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Stepping up the attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Manipur violence, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday alleged that he wants the "state to burn and has allowed it" by not using any tools available with the government to douse the fire there.

Addressing a press conference at AICC headquarters here, the former Congress chief also said it does not behove the Indian Prime Minister to laugh and crack jokes in Parliament when Manipur has been "on fire" for the past four months.

"Women and children are dying over there, women are being molested and raped and the Prime Minister of India is sitting in the middle of Parliament and laughing. This is not about Rahul Gandhi, it is not about the Congress, it is not about opposition, it is about India, it is about our country. A state has been decimated, it does not exist anymore and it has happened



Criticising Modi for his speech, Rahul said in his more than two-hour-long address, the Prime Minister spoke on Manipur for "just two minutes"

Rahul's sharp attack against Modi came a day after the Prime Minister slammed the Opposition in his over two-hour reply to the motion of no-confidence against his government in Lok Sabha

because of the politics of the BJP -- divide and rule and burn," Gandhi alleged.

"That is why in my speech (in Lok Sabha) I said Bharat Mata has been murdered in Manipur. For the first time, the words Bharat Mata have been expunged from Parliament. It is an insult to those words. What is it that I have said is wrong? I have said Bharat Mata, which is the idea of India, where everybody lives peacefully, harmoniously and with affection, has been killed in Manipur; it is a fact," he asserted.

Criticising Modi for his speech, Rahul said in his more than two-hour-long address, the Prime Minister spoke on Manipur for "just two minutes". He said he watched the Prime Minister "laughing, joking, and raising slogans in Parliament...He (PM) seems to have forgotten that the state of Manipur is on fire for four months."

"It does not behove the Prime Minister that when there is violence in the country, he indulges in "making fun for two hours", he said. Hitting back, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Pralhad Joshi rebutted Gandhi's charge that the words 'Bharat Mata' in his speech were expunged from Lok Sabha proceedings, claiming he lacks understanding and seems to have "lost his mental balance".

"The term 'Bharat Mata' has not been expunged. What was unparliamentary has been expunged. It appears from whatever statements he (Rahul Gandhi) has made today that he has lost his mental balance," Joshi said.

Another union minister Anurag Thakur said Rahul Gandhi's "launch" has once again failed and "fopped". Accusing the Congress leader of using foul language, Thakur said no son of 'Bharat Mata' can think or talk about her "murder". "His language clearly shows how they want to defame the country," he said. Gandhi's sharp attack against Modi came a day after the Prime Minister slammed the opposition in his over two-hour reply to the motion of no-confidence against his government in Lok Sabha.

# Monsoon session ends



In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said a total of 50 hours and 21 minutes during the 17 sittings of the House were lost due to avoidable disruptions, adversely impinging on the overall productivity of this session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The ethnic violence in Manipur dominated the Monsoon session which ended Friday with Parliament witnessing repeated disruptions and protests by the opposition in both Houses and a fiery debate in the Lok Sabha where a no-confidence motion against the BJP government was defeated.

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha did not see a debate on the Manipur violence, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah spoke on it during their addresses on the no-confidence motion. Lok Sabha also passed a unanimous resolution appealing for peace in the northeastern state.

The Houses were adjourned sine die Friday, bringing down the curtain on a tumultuous session that also saw the suspension of four members - two each of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - with leader of Congress in the Lower House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury being among them.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the productivity of Lok Sabha was approximately 45 per cent and

that of Rajya Sabha about 63 per cent during the session that started on July 20 and had a total of 17 sittings.

The motion of no-confidence in the Council of Ministers moved by Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi was discussed for around 20 hours and saw participation of 60 members, including ministers. Prime Minister Modi replied to the debate on the motion before it was negated by a voice vote.

"During this session, we held 17 sittings which lasted for 44 hours and 13 minutes," Speaker Om Birla said in Lok Sabha, adding that 20 government bills were introduced and 22 draft legislations were passed by the Lower House.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said a total of 50 hours and 21 minutes during the 17 sittings of the House were lost due to avoidable disruptions, adversely impinging on the overall productivity of this session.

At the conclusion of the session, he asked members "to make an assessment of the ground we have covered in our journey towards meaningful governance and legislative action". "Once again, we yielded to the allure of narrow interests and allowed disorder to be the 'new normal' in the proceedings of the House. It appears that my appeals have not resonated well with our members. The frequent unwholesome spectacle of disruptions only indicates that my message has not found the attentive audience it deserves," Dhankhar said.

He said the House was able to pass a few bills during the session that witnessed some lively and animated debates and the Question Hour could be taken up on a few occasions.

## SHORT TAKES

### 28 students hospitalised

New Delhi: Twenty-eight students of a municipal school in west Delhi's Naraina area were hospitalised Friday with two of them requiring oxygen support after allegedly inhaling noxious fumes following a suspected "gas leak" incident nearby, officials said. Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi said the students, including two girls who were put on oxygen support in Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, are doing fine. The Aam Aadmi Party's MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak, who met the ailing students at the hospital, said it is being claimed that the gas leaked from a train that was passing the railway tracks nearby.

### EC publishes report on delimitation

New Delhi: The Election Commission Friday published its final report on the delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Assam, keeping their total numbers unchanged at 126 and 14, respectively. In its final order, the poll panel has revised the nomenclature of one parliamentary and 19 assembly constituencies. According to a statement by the poll body, 19 assembly and two Lok Sabha constituencies have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs). One Lok Sabha and nine assembly constituencies have been reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs). It said more than 1,200 representations were considered before finalising the report. Forty-five per cent of the suggestions and objections received by the panel were addressed in the final order.

### TV channel editor arrested

Gurugram: A Sudarshan News editor has been arrested by police here over his alleged inflammatory posts on social media related to the communal violence in Nuh and adjoining districts in Haryana, an official said. The TV channel termed the arrest of Mukesh Kumar, its resident editor, an attack on media freedom and had initially alleged he was "abducted" by some goons. Police said he was arrested by the Cyber Crime, East Police Station.

### 12 cops injured

Mumbai: Twelve policemen were injured in stone pelting, following a scuffle between two groups on a highway in Maharashtra's Dhule district, police said Friday. The incident took place on Mumbai-Agra Highway (NH-3) at Sangvi village in Shirpur taluka around 9.30 pm on Thursday, an official said.

## 10 killed, 13 injured in road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 11: At least 10 persons, including three children, were killed, and 13 others injured after a mini-truck, in which they were travelling, ramed into a stationary truck in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat Friday, police said.

The incident took place near Bagodara village on Rajkot-Ahmedabad Highway around 11 am, District Superintendent of Police Amit Vasava said. The victims were returning to Ahmedabad from Chotila in neighbouring Surendranagar district, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced ₹2 lakh compensation to the kin of each deceased. Inspector General of Ahmedabad Range Prem Vir Singh rushed to the spot after being informed about the accident.

"The mini-truck, which was not meant to transport people, was carrying 23 persons when it ramed into a truck that was parked on the roadside after its tyre got punctured. Ten persons died on the spot, while 13 others were injured," Singh told reporters.

The deceased as well as the injured persons belonged to a village in Kapadvanj taluka of Kheda district and were returning home after attending a religious event in Chotila town in Surendranagar, he said. "Pained by the road mishap on the Bavla-Bagodara highway in Ahmedabad district. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected," PMO India said on X, formerly known as Twitter. "An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000," it said. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident on the micro blogging site.



Two men cover themselves with a plastic sheet while riding a scooter during heavy rainfall in Amritsar

# HATE SPEECH UNACCEPTABLE: SC

THE TOP COURT WAS HEARING A PLEA OVER ALLEGED "BLATANT HATE SPEECHES" CALLING FOR KILLING MEMBERS OF A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY AND THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AT RALLIES IN DIFFERENT STATES, INCLUDING HARYANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Observing that there has to be harmony and comity between communities, the Supreme Court Friday mooted a committee constituted by the Director General of Police (DGP) of Haryana to go into the cases registered in the wake of the recent communal riots in the state that claimed six lives.

The top court was hearing a plea over alleged "blatant hate speeches" calling for killing members of a particular community and their social and economic boycott at rallies in different states, including Haryana.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti asked Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, to seek instructions and inform it about the proposed committee by August 18. "There has to be some harmony and comity between the communities and all the communities are responsible. I do not know if this has been exaggerated but the problem of hate speech is not good and nobody can accept it.

"We can ask the DGP to constitute a committee of three or four officers nominated by him who will receive and peruse all materials from station house officers and take a call if the ma-



terial is authentic and issue appropriate directions to the concerned police officer. At SHO level and police level, the police needs to be sensitised," the bench said. The top court also directed journalist Shaheen Abdullah, who is the petitioner in the case, to collate all material, including videos, and submit to the nodal officers appointed in each state in pursuance of its October 21, 2022 judgement. During the hearing, Nataraj submitted the Union of India is

also against hate speeches which must be checked totally. He acknowledged the mechanism to tackle hate speeches is not working in some places.

At the outset, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Abdullah, submitted that people needed to be protected against hate speeches and "this kind of vitriol cannot go on". When the bench asked Sibal about the idea mooted by it for setting up a committee, the senior lawyer said, "My problem is when someone threatens shopkeepers to throw out Muslims in the next two days, this committee is not going to help."

Sibal said police keep on saying that FIR has been registered but the offenders are never arrested or prosecuted. "The problem is not the registration of FIRs, but what progress is made? They do not arrest anybody nor do they prosecute anybody. Nothing happens after the FIRs are lodged," Sibal said. The matter will now be heard on August 18.

## India advises citizens to leave Niger

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: India Friday advised its nationals residing in violence-hit Niger to leave that country as soon as possible in view of escalating violence there.

At present, around 250 Indians are living in Niger that has witnessed widespread protests and violence following last month's coup, according to officials. In an advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs said those who may be planning to travel to Niger should reconsider their plans until the situation normalises.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at his weekly media briefing that India is closely monitoring the ongoing developments in Niger. "In light of the prevailing situation, Indian nationals whose presence is not essential are advised to leave the country as soon as possible," he said.

# Docs can no longer receive gifts from pharma companies

THE 'REGULATIONS RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS', ISSUED ON AUGUST 2, ALSO BAR DOCTORS FROM ENDORSING ANY DRUG BRANDS, MEDICINE AND EQUIPMENT OR ADVERTISE THEM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Doctors and their families must not receive any gifts, travel facilities, hospitality, cash or access to recreation from pharma companies or their representatives, commercial healthcare establishments and medical device firms under any pretext, the NMC has said in its new regulations.

The 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners', issued on August 2, also bar doctors from endorsing any drug brands, medicine and equipment or advertise them.

According to the regulations, any request for medical records to a registered medical practitioner (RMP) responsible for patient records in a hospital either by the patients or authorised attendant has to be duly acknowledged and documents have to be supplied within five working days instead of the existing provision of 72 days.

In case of medical emergencies, efforts should be made to make the medical records available at the earliest. Efforts shall be made to computerise patient's medical records for quick retrieval and security.

Within three years from the date of publication of these reg-



ulations, the registered medical practitioner shall ensure fully digitized records, abiding by the provisions of the IT Act, data protection and privacy laws, or any other applicable laws, rules,

and regulations notified from time to time for protecting the privacy of the patient, the regulations stated.

Every self-employed registered medical practitioner shall maintain medical records of patients (inpatients) for 3 years from the date of the last contact with the patient for treatment, in a standard proforma laid down by the NMC.

As per the regulations issued by NMC in a gazette notification, a registered medical practitioner should attend continuing professional development programs regularly each year, totalling at least 30 credit hours every five years.

Only recognised medical colleges and health institutions or medical societies accredited or authorised by EMRB/state medical councils can offer trainees and credit hours for this purpose. Credit hours awarded shall be updated online against the unique registration number of registered medical practitioner on the EMRB-NMC website.

According to the regulations, "RMPs and their families must not receive any gifts, travel facilities, hospitality, cash or monetary grants, consultancy fee or honorariums, or access to entertainment or recreation from pharmaceutical compa-

nies or their representatives, commercial healthcare establishments, medical device companies, or corporate hospitals under any pretext."

However, this does not include salaries and benefits that registered medical practitioners may receive as employees of these organisations, the regulations stated.

Also, registered medical practitioners should not be involved in any third-party educational activity like CPD, seminar, workshop, symposia, conference, etc., which involves direct or indirect sponsorships from pharmaceutical companies or the allied health sector.



# international

## of the day quote

Despite the growing calls for elections in the public domain, we are concerned about the lack of progress in key electoral and constitutional benchmarks. As it stands, the conditions for South Sudan to hold elections are not in place yet

**GUANG CONG** | DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Germans want to embed Tusk in Poland to sell off common property, his background shows it directly

**JAROSLAW KACZYŃSKI** | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF POLAND

New Zealand and the European Union have signed a ground-breaking Free Trade Agreement that will provide significant new trade access to the country's fourth-largest trading partner

**CHRIS HIPKINS** | NEW ZEALAND PM

## SHORT TAKES

### Severe flood kills 29 in China

**Beijing:** At least 29 people have been killed in disasters triggered by the recent torrential rain in China's Hebei province, while 16 people still remained unaccounted for, local authorities said Friday. Torrential downpours and severe flooding have wreaked havoc across 110 counties, cities and districts in the province, reports Xinhua news agency. Infrastructure including transportation, power, communication and water facilities in the disaster-stricken areas suffered damage.

### S'pore to hold Prez poll September 1

**Singapore:** Singapore said Friday that it will hold the presidential election on September 1 if more than one person qualifies to run for the highest office. If there is only one candidate on nomination day August 22, he or she automatically becomes the president. Four people, including Singapore-born Indian-origin former senior minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, have already thrown their hats in the ring for the presidential race. Interested candidates must apply for a certificate of eligibility and meet other requirements before nomination day August 22.

### Another setback for Imran Khan

**Lahore:** A Pakistani court Friday cancelled the pre-arrest bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in seven terrorism cases, including an attack on a senior military officer's house here, following his failure to appear before the court since he is in jail after he was sentenced in a corruption case. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Khan has been lodged in Attock Jail since August 5 after he was sentenced to three years in a corruption case by a trial court in the Toshakhana corruption case.

### Docs in England walk off job again

**London:** Tens of thousands of doctors in England walked off the job on Friday for another four-day stretch, with growing concerns that their bitter pay dispute with the British government will drag on into the winter. The fifth round of strikes by doctors at the early stages of their careers is set to last until 7 am Tuesday morning. Some of the junior doctors on strike started their first jobs in the state-funded National Health Service only days ago.



Imran Khan also received military support during his tenure. His government was a blend of various components, despite his accusations against others for the same. Every government requires backing from key sectors, including the military

**SHEHBAZ SHARIF** | PAKISTAN'S OUTGOING PM

### TOMATOES FROM NEPAL

The Nepal government Friday said it wants to export tomatoes in bulk and on a long-term basis to India but for that, it needs to have easy access to the market and other necessary facilities



# Wildfire ravages Maui

The wildfires ripping through Maui have killed at least 55 people, razed the historic town of Lahaina and caused extensive damage that is likely to take years and cost billions of dollars to repair

AGENCIES

**Kahului, Hawaii, August 11:** Search teams Maui Friday will comb through the charred ruins of Lahaina looking for more victims of a wildfire that ripped through the Kingdom of Hawaii's onetime capital, with officials expecting the death toll of 55 to rise.

The inferno, which erupted Tuesday, reduced the picturesque resort town to piles of smoldering debris as it torched 1,000 buildings and left thousands homeless in what was the worst natural disaster in the US state's history.

Cadaver dogs from California and Washington state will assist in the grim task of recovering human remains from the ruins on Friday as firefighters work to extinguish hot spots and smaller fires. The fire was 80 percent contained as of Thursday evening, officials said.

"Understand this: Lahaina Town is hallowed, sacred ground right now," Maui Police Chief John Pelletier said, referring to humans remains that have yet to be recovered. "We have to get them out."

In addition to searching for those still missing, officials were drafting a plan to put the newly homeless up in hotels and tourist rental properties. The island currently has four shelters in operation for the displaced.

Authorities also were dealing with a widespread power and water issues across the community. As of Friday morning, some 11,000 homes and businesses remained without power,



Wildfire wreckage in Lahaina, Hawaii

### Historic Banyan tree struggles for survival

A 150-year-old Banyan tree imported from India and one of the largest in the US is today struggling for its survival as deadly wildfires swept through the Hawaiian island of Maui, scorching buildings and killing more than 50 people. The 46-trunk Banyan tree, called paniana in Hawaiian, was a mere 8-foot sapling when it was planted in Maui's Lahaina town in 1873, according to the online portal lahainatown.com.



according to Poweroutage.us.

Witnesses to the conflagration that hit Lahaina spoke of their terror as the blaze consumed a town in what seemed to be minutes to many of them. Some escaped the racing flames by jumping into the Pacific Ocean.

Thousands of tourists and locals were evacuated from the western side of Maui, which has a year-round population of about 166,000, with some taking shelter on the island or on the neighboring island of Oahu. Tourists camped out in the Kahului Airport, waiting for flights back home.

Many more people suffered

burns, smoke inhalation and other injuries.

Governor Josh Green said the scope of the disaster would surpass that of 1960, one year after Hawaii became a U.S. state, when a tsunami killed 61 people on the Big Island of Hawaii. Lahaina's 200-year-old Waiola Church was among the structures destroyed by the fire, local media reported. The landmark was the focal point of Christianity on Maui and the burial site of early members of the Kingdom of Hawaii's royal family, according to the church's website.

The fate of some of Lahaina's

### Pope sends condolences

Pope Francis sent a telegram of condolences to the people of Hawaii, offering prayers for the victims, the injured and displaced from the wildfires. The note said Francis was saddened to learn of the destruction and "expressed solidarity with all those suffering from this tragedy, especially those whose loved ones have died or are missing." He also offered prayers for emergency responders who are providing aid to the victims.



## NIGER COUP ECOWAS to deploy standby force



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Niamey (Niger), August 11:** Tensions are escalating between Niger's new military regime and the West African regional bloc that has ordered the deployment of troops to restore Niger's flailing democracy.

The ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) bloc said Thursday it had directed a "standby force" to restore constitutional order in Niger after its Sunday deadline to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum expired.

Hours earlier, two Western officials told The Associated Press that Niger's junta had told a top US diplomat they would kill Bazoum if neighbouring countries attempted any military intervention to restore his rule.

It's unclear when or where the force will deploy and which countries from the 15-member bloc would contribute to it.

Conflict experts say it would likely comprise some 5,000 troops led by Nigeria and could be ready within weeks.

After the ECOWAS meeting, neighbouring Ivory Coast's president, Alassane Ouattara, said his

country would take part in the military operation, along with Nigeria and Benin.

"Ivory Coast will provide a battalion and has made all the financial arrangements... We are determined to install Bazoum in his position. Our objective is peace and stability in the sub-region," Ouattara said on state television. Niger, an impoverished country of some 25 million people, was seen as one of the last hopes for Western nations to partner with in beating back a jihadi insurgency linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group that's ravaged the region.

France and the United States have more than 2,500 military personnel in Niger and together with other European partners have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into propping up its military.

## Judge warns of limits to what Trump can say about poll case

AGENCIES

**Washington, August 11:** The federal judge overseeing the election conspiracy case against Donald Trump agreed with the defence on a looser version of a protective order for evidence in the case, but largely sided with the prosecution on what sensitive materials should be protected as she vowed to keep politics out of her rulings.



US District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington repeatedly said that Trump was subject to the court's rules as a defendant before trial even though he is also running for president at the same time. She warned that she would not let political considerations affect her rulings. "Your client's defense is supposed to happen in this

courtroom, not on the internet," Chutkan said. Chutkan rejected prosecutors' broader protective order proposal that sought to prevent the public airing of all evidence they hand over to Trump's defence as they prepare for trial. She instead seemed poised to impose a more limited protective order that would bar the public release only of materials deemed "sensitive", such as grand jury materials.

She did, however, block other defense requests to broaden the scope of who can see discovery and what should be considered sensitive. The government considers the vast majority of evidence in the case to be sensitive. The judge sided with the prosecution on what materials are considered sensitive and therefore protected under the order. When prosecutors proposed the protective order, it became an early flashpoint in the case. The prosecutors called the judge's attention to a post on Trump's social media platform in which he said he would be "coming after" those who "go after" him.



Army Chief General Manoj Pande at the 201st Sovereign's Parade of Commissioning Course at the prestigious Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, UK

## Chinese Navy warship docks at Colombo Port

**Colombo:** A Chinese Navy warship capable of surveillance has docked at the Colombo port, nearly a year after another spy vessel berthed at a strategic port in the country and raised concerns in India. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy warship HAI YANG 24 HAO arrived at the port of Colombo Thursday, the Sri Lankan Navy said. The vessel is to leave Saturday. "The 129 metre-long ship which arrived in Colombo is manned by a crew of 138 and it is commanded by Commander Jin Xin. The ship is scheduled to depart the country tomorrow," the Navy statement said. According to media reports Friday, Sri Lanka delayed its arrival upon concerns raised by India. "The Chinese authorities sought permission for it earlier, but Sri Lanka delayed permission because of resistance from India," the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. Despite a briefing by Sri Lanka to Indian officials, the latter remained concerned about the research ship's visit to the island nation. In August last year, a similar visit by the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship, "Yuan Wang 5", which arrived in the southern Sri Lankan port of Hambantota elicited strong reactions from India.

## MOON MINING

# Why nations are eyeing a 'lunar gold rush'

NASA HAS SPOKEN ABOUT A 'LUNAR GOLD RUSH' AND EXPLORED THE POTENTIAL OF MOON MINING

REUTERS

**Moscow, August 11:** Russia launched its first Moon-landing spacecraft in 47 years Friday amid a race by major powers including the United States, China and India to discover more about the elements held on the earth's only natural satellite.

Russia said that it would launch further lunar missions and then explore the possibility of a joint Russian-China crewed mission and even a lunar base. NASA has spoken about a "lunar gold rush" and explored the potential of Moon mining.

Why are major powers so interested in what is up there? **The Moon**  
The Moon, which is 384,400 km (2,38,855 miles) from our

planet, moderates the earth's wobble on its axis which ensures a more stable climate. It also causes tides in the world's oceans.

Current thinking is that it was formed when a massive thing collided with earth about 4.5 billion years ago. The debris from the collision came together to form the Moon.

Temperatures vary: in full Sun, they rise to 127 degrees Celsius while in darkness they plummet to about minus 173 degrees Celsius. The Moon's exosphere does not give protection against radiation from the Sun.

**Water**  
The first definitive discovery of water on the Moon was made in 2008 by Chandrayaan-1, which detected hydroxyl molecules



In this image made from video released by Roscosmos State Space Corporation, the Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the Moon lander Luna-25 automatic station takes off from a launch pad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russia's Far East, Friday

spread across the lunar surface and concentrated at the poles, according to NASA. Water is crucial for human life and also can be a source of hydrogen and oxygen - and these can be used for rocket fuel.

**Helium-3**  
Helium-3 is an isotope of helium that is rare on earth, but NASA says there are estimates of a million tonnes of it on the Moon. This isotope could provide nuclear energy in a fusion

reactor but since it is not radioactive it would not produce dangerous waste, according to the European Space Agency.

**Rare Earth metals**  
Rare earth metals - used in smartphones, computers and advanced technologies - are present on the Moon, including scandium, yttrium and the 15 lanthanides, according to research by Boeing.

How would Moon mining work? It is not entirely clear. Some sort of infrastructure would have to be established on the Moon. The conditions of the Moon mean robots would have to do most of the hard work, though water on the Moon would allow for long-term human presence.

**What is the law?**  
The law is unclear and full of gaps. The United Nations 1966 Outer Space Treaty says that no nation can claim sovereignty over the Moon - or other celestial bodies - and that the exploration

of space should be carried out for the benefit of all countries.

But lawyers say it is unclear whether or not a private entity could claim sovereignty over a part of the Moon. "Space mining is subject to relatively little existing policy or governance, despite these potentially high stakes," The RAND Corporation said in a blog last year.

The 1979 The Moon Agreement states that no part of the Moon "shall become property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization or non-governmental entity or of any natural person." It has not been ratified by any major space power.

The United States in 2020 announced the Artemis Accords, named after NASA's Artemis Moon program, to seek to build on existing international space law by establishing "safety zones" on the Moon. Russia and China have not joined the accords.



## of the day quote

India has signed 13 Free Trade Agreements and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements with its trading partners. The government is closely monitoring these FTAs and based on stakeholder consultations, the experience and assessments thereof, the government is in the process of reviewing its existing FTAs with ASEAN and Korea

ANUPRIYA PATEL | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The government is expected to disburse about ₹13,000 crore under the production linked incentive schemes

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH | SECRETARY, DPIIT

In this environment of poly-crisis and uncertainty, India has emerged as a beacon of growth and will remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world this year

SANJIV PURI | CHAIRMAN, ITC

## RESULTS CORNER

### Raymond shines

**New Delhi:** Diversified group Raymond Ltd Friday reported a multi-fold growth in consolidated net profit at ₹1,066.74 crore in the June quarter, helped by gains from sales of its consumer business to Godrej Consumer Product Ltd (GCPL). The leading textile and apparel maker had posted a net profit of ₹81.93 crore during the April-June period of the previous fiscal, Raymond said in a regulatory filing.

### HAL profit up 31%

**Bangalore:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited posted a 31% rise in first-quarter profit Friday as fulfillment of orders helped boost aerospace and defense equipment maker's revenue. The state-owned company reported a net profit of ₹8.14 billion (\$98.28 million) for the quarter through June 30, up from ₹6.20 billion, a year earlier. Revenue from operations rose 8.1% to ₹39.15 billion in the quarter, outpacing a 7.8% rise in total expenses.

### ABB net doubles

**New Delhi:** ABB India's net profit more than doubled to ₹296 crore in the June quarter mainly due to higher revenues, the company said Friday. The company reported a net profit of ₹147 crore in the quarter, a statement showed. Total revenues of the company rose to ₹2,509 crore in the quarter under review from ₹2,053 crore in the year-ago period.

### Apollo profit sinks

**Bangalore:** Apollo Hospitals Enterprise reported a bigger-than-expected 47.5% fall in first-quarter profit Friday, dragged by operating costs related to its digital healthcare platform. Consolidated net profit fell to ₹1.67 billion in the quarter ended June 30. Analysts, on average, had expected a profit of ₹2.25 billion, according to Refinitiv IBES data. The company's year-ago profit of ₹3.17 billion was boosted by a deferred tax gain of ₹1.55 billion.

### JSPL profit drops

**New Delhi:** Private steel player Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) Friday posted a 13 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹1,692 crore for the June quarter due to higher expenses. It had clocked a net profit of ₹1,990 crore in the April-June period a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income was at ₹12,643 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to ₹13,069 crore in the year-ago period.

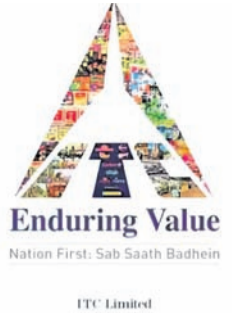


The international community must collaborate and find stronger ways to coordinate debt restructuring, for low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries facing debt distress

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

## ITC BETS BIG ON FMCG

Diversified conglomerate ITC Limited Friday said the FMCG business has immense potential for growth with its brands commanding an annual consumer spend of ₹29,000 crore



# NO RESPITE Govt hits foreign e-gaming players

OVERSEAS PLAYERS TOO WILL HAVE TO PAY 28% GST ON BETS PLACED ON DOMESTIC E-GAMING PLATFORMS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 11:** Domestic online gaming companies will be required to deduct 28 per cent GST on bets placed from overseas locations, including by foreign players, as such bets will also be treated as actionable claims.

The amendment to this effect has been approved by Parliament in the Integrated GST (IGST) Act Friday.

The GST Council had last week cleared changes in Central GST (CGST) and IGST laws to levy 28 per cent tax on full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos, and horse race clubs.

The amendment in IGST Act gives powers to the Government to notify such goods, so that in case of import of such goods IGST can be levied and collected as regular inter-State supply under provisions of IGST Act.

Tax experts said this amendment is aimed at plugging the loophole with regard to the collection of IGST from bets coming from overseas locations.

Currently, in case of import of intangible goods such as actionable claims involved in or by way of online money gaming, which do not physically cross customs frontier, IGST cannot be collected through Customs.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the Government has amended the tax law to provide that international players paying money for betting, gambling, horse rac-

“Offshore online gaming companies will not enjoy any tax arbitrage, and would be treated at par with their domestic counterparts”

RAJAT MOHAN | PARTNER, AMRG & ASSOCIATES

ing, lottery or online money gaming from outside India would be treated at par with domestic players for payment of taxes.

“Thereby online gaming companies would need to pay tax full tax on ‘buy-ins’, irrespective of the payor and his source of payment. This IGST Act amendment results in a new provision of law, that will arrest any future litigation on technical grounds,” Mohan added.

### REGISTRATION COMPULSORY

The government has mandated offshore online gaming companies operating in the country to register the business locally or appoint a representative to pay tax on funds collected from customers.

Last week, India decided to levy a 28% tax on total funds collected by online gaming companies from gamers, and not on every bet.

Overseas online gaming com-

panies operating in India will be blocked if they fail to register or appoint a representative or a proxy to pay tax in the country, according to amendments moved in Parliament Friday.

The move to tax online gaming companies has shocked the nascent \$1.5 billion industry, which is backed by global investors. Over 100 gaming companies and top investors such as Tiger Global and Peak XV have written to the government, asking it to reconsider the decision.

India's finance minister and state ministers considered the negative impact of online money gaming “on the society and the youth in particular; in form of Internet Gaming Disorder due to addiction to online gaming,” the source said.

With the amendment to GST law, horse racing, casinos, online money gaming will be treated as actionable claim similar to lottery, betting, and gambling.

## Tax mop-up grows 17% to ₹5.84L-cr so far this fiscal, 32% of full year BE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 11:** Net direct tax collections swelled 17.33 per cent to ₹5.84 lakh crore so far this fiscal, reaching 32 per cent of the full-year budget estimates (BE).

The Income Tax department in a statement said the collections from direct taxes, which include personal income tax and corporate tax, up to August 10, 2023, continue to register “steady growth”.

On a gross basis, direct tax collection grew 15.73 per cent to ₹6.53 lakh crore till August 10 in the current fiscal. ₹69,000 crore worth of refunds have been issued so far, 3.73 per cent higher than last year.



Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at ₹5.84 lakh crore, which is 17.33 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year, it said.

The net collection is 32.03 per cent of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal of ₹18.23 lakh crore.

The 2023-24 budget has pegged direct tax collection at a little over ₹18.23 lakh crore, a 9.75 per cent higher than ₹16.61 lakh crore mopped up last fiscal.

## 3-MONTH LOW IIP growth dips to 3.7% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 11:** India's industrial production growth declined to a three-month low of 3.7 per cent in June mainly due to poor showing by the manufacturing sector, according to the official data released Friday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 12.6 per cent in June 2022 on account of a lower base effect.

The previous low of IIP was at 1.9 per cent in March 2023. Thereafter, it rose to 4.5 per cent in April and further to 5.3 per cent in May.

During the first quarter (April-June) of 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 4.5 per cent, down from 12.9 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.

“The growth rates over corresponding period of previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of COVID 19 pandemic since March 2020,” an official statement said.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 3.1 per cent in June 2023 against a 12.9 per cent a year ago.

Power generation rose 4.2 per cent in June 2023 compared to 16.4 per cent a year ago. Mining output rose by 7.6 per cent during the month under review against 7.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment grew 2.2 per cent in June this year compared to 28.6 per cent



The sequential slowdown was led by the manufacturing sector, while the mining and electricity sectors witnessed an improvement in their growth performance amid deficient rainfall in the month

ADITI NAYAR | ECONOMIST, ICRA

a year ago.

Consumer durables output during the month declined by 6.9 per cent against a 25.2 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

Consumer non-durable goods output increased by 1.2 per cent compared to a growth of 2.9 per cent a year earlier. Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 11.3 per cent over a 9.4 per cent expansion in the same period a year ago.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 5.2 per cent growth in the month against 13.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

The intermediate goods output in June rose 4.5 per cent compared to a 10.5 per cent growth during the corresponding month last year.

## Financials, consumer stocks drag D-St to 3rd weekly loss

REUTERS

**Bangalore, August 11:** Indian shares slid Friday, extending losses for the third week in a row, dragged by financials and consumer stocks.

On Friday, the Nifty 50 index settled 0.59% lower at 19,428.30, while the S&P BSE Sensex ended down 0.56% at 65,322.65.



The Nifty 50 fell 0.45% this week, clocking 1.04% losses in the last two sessions after the Reserve Bank of India's rate decision Thursday.

Eleven of the 13 major sectoral indexes logged losses with the high-weightage financials losing 0.87%.

Financials led the losses in the previous session too after the RBI asked banks to set aside

a larger part of incremental deposits under the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to mop up excess liquidity.

“August and September tend to be seasonally tight months on the liquidity front, led by festive season outgo and advance tax collections,” Nomura analysts wrote in a note.

Consumer stocks lost 0.73%, extending their decline from the previous session after the RBI flagged near-term inflation concerns and raised the retail inflation forecast for fiscal 2024.

Analysts expect the rates to remain higher for longer and anticipate a rate cut only in 2024. However, they advised investors to utilise the buy-the-dips strategy.

The pharma index shed 1.45%, dragged by the post-earnings slide in Biocon and Alkem Laboratories.

Meanwhile, HCLTech rose 3.28% and was the top Nifty 50 gainer after announcing a global strategic partnership with Verizon for managed network services.

## BoM holds strategic meets in state

Bhubaneswar:

Bank of Maharashtra, a premier public sector bank in the country, conducted strategic meets with various key departments and stakeholders of Odisha, to leverage its services through its wide network of branches in the state Friday. Executive Director AB Vijayakumar, Bank of Maharashtra led the strategic meets with top government officials of the state spearheading various key departments. Alok Kumar Mishra, Zonal Manager of Bank of Maharashtra, Bhubaneswar Zone along with bank's team were also part of the meet. Vijayakumar shared the performance of the bank in the recently declared Q1-results. “Bank of Maharashtra has crossed the milestone ₹4.20 trillion business figures in Q1 FY-24, which indeed is truly noteworthy in bank's journey. This historic milestone has been supported thoroughly by bank's expansion of footprints across the country and transformation, driven through digitization measures. The Bank has been continuously emerging as the top performing Bank in terms of business growth in FY-21, FY-22 and FY-23 among the PSBs and the Bank has maintained the momentum in Q1-FY-24 as well with stellar growth of 25% in total business.” Vijayakumar, on the opportunities in Odisha stated, “Odisha being one of the major contributors of the Indian GDP remains in the forefront in our business expansion plan and we shall constantly leverage our business opportunities here while catering best services to the people of the state. Bank of Maharashtra has a total presence of 48 branches in Odisha with a business of more than ₹2000 crore and bank is planning to open around 4 branches by September 2023 and 16 branches more in financial year 2023-24 to strengthen the branch network across the state.” 70 sanction letters of SHG, Mudra, PM SVANidhi, Stand Up India were distributed amongst the borrowers.

## BIZ BUZZ

### SBI unveils Odisha's 1st 'Amrit Vatika'

**Bhubaneswar:** As a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) and under the mega program 'Meri Maati Mera Desh', State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle started with plantation of 'Amrit Vatika' at Municipal High School, Baramunda in Bhubaneswar. Chief General Manager SBI Bhubaneswar Circle Chandershekar Sharma inaugurated the 'Amrit Vatika' by planting a sapling. This event is first of its kind in Odisha by SBI. DGM & CDO Manoj Kumar Singh, AGM (M&C) Amaresh Das, President of Ajira Srujani Sujata Nanda and school authorities were present in the occasion. Students also took active part in the plantation activity. SBI has already initiated mega plantation of 50,000 trees in schools and institutions around Odisha.

### BCCL's consumer conference marks success

**Bhubaneswar:** Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) proudly announces the resounding success of its recent "Consumer Conference: New Horizon of BCCL," held Friday, at Hotel Mayfair in Bhubaneswar. The event garnered participation from esteemed industrial organisations predominantly from the steel, cement, and sponge iron sectors in Odisha, as well as from various corners of India. The conference witnessed fruitful discussions, engaging sessions, and insightful brainstorming sessions. The conference provided a dynamic platform for participants to delve into the pivotal role of domestic coal consumption, particularly BCCL's indigenous coking coal product, in bolstering India's industrial landscape. The event was a grand success under the guidance of Satyabrata Panda, independent director & graced by eminent personalities, including Debashish Nanda, Director (Business Development) of Coal India, Uday A Kaul, Director (Tech)/ OP, BCCL, Rakesh Kumar Sahay, Director (Finance), BCCL, Hitesh Verma, General Manager (Marketing & Sales), and Bikram Ghosh, General Manager (Finance).

# DOMINO EFFECT India rice export ban puts mkt on edge for copycat curbs

TIGHTER GLOBAL RICE SUPPLIES WILL FURTHER HEIGHTEN FOOD INFLATION WORRIES

REUTERS

**Mumbai, August 11:** India's rice export ban has the world market bracing for similar actions by rival suppliers to avoid potential domestic shortages as sellers try to fill the 10 million metric tonne (MMT) gap left by New Delhi, stoking concerns over already high global food inflation.

India's latest restrictions are almost identical to those it imposed in 2007 and 2008, analysts say, which triggered a domino effect as many other countries were forced to curb exports to safeguard local consumers.

This time around the impact on supplies and prices could be even more sweeping, as India now accounts for more than 40% of global rice trade compared with around a 22% share 15 years

ago, ratcheting up pressure on rice exporting nations such as Thailand and Vietnam to follow suit.

“India is now much more important for rice trade than it was in 2007 and 2008. The Indian ban back then forced other exporters to implement similar restrictions in a domino effect. Even this time, they have few options but to react to market forces,” a New-Delhi based grains dealer with a global trade house said on condition of anonymity.

The impact on prices of the world's most consumed staple has been swift, hitting 15-year highs, after India surprised buyers last month by imposing a ban on widely consumed non-basmati white rice sales to dampen price rises. New Delhi had already restricted lower quality broken rice supplies in 2022.



Limited supplies risk a further spike in the price of rice, and global food inflation, hitting impoverished consumers in Asia and Africa, analysts and traders said. Food importers are already grappling with tight supplies caused by erratic weather and disruptions in Black Sea shipments.

“Thailand, Vietnam, and other exporting countries are poised

We will have to see for how long India's restrictions remain in place. The longer the ban is in place the harder it will be for other exporters to compensate for the shortfall

PETER CLUBS | ANALYST AT INTERNATIONAL GRAINS COUNCIL, LONDON

to step up their game, all in a bid to bridge the gap stemming from India's shortfall,” said Nitin Gupta, senior vice president of Olam Agri India, one of the world's top rice exporters.

“However, there exists a constraint in their surplus capacity for exports. This constraint could set the stage for a surge in prices at other origins, reminiscent of the notable price rally we witnessed in 2007/08.”

In 2008, rice prices reached a record high above \$1,000 per ton

after India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Egypt, Brazil and other small producers restricted exports.

### LIMITED SURPLUS

This time, rice exporters will be unable to increase exports by more than 3 million metric tonne a year as they try to fulfil local demand amid limited surplus, three dealers with global trade houses told Reuters.

Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan, the world's second, third and fourth biggest exporters, respectively, have said they are keen to boost sales since demand for their crops has been rising after India's ban.

Both Thailand and Vietnam

emphasised that they will ensure their domestic consumers are not hurt by rising exports.

Global prices have risen by around 20% since India's ban. A further 15% gain could trigger restrictions by Thailand and Vietnam, according to traders at international trading companies.

This week, rice prices in Thailand and Vietnam soared to 15-year highs as buyers rushed to cover shipments to compensate for the decline in India's exports.

Rice is a staple for more than 3 billion people, and nearly 90% of the water-intensive crop is produced in Asia, where the emergence of dry El Nino weather threatens crops in key producing countries.



MALAYSIA THRASH DEFENDING CHAMPIONS SOUTH KOREA, TO FACE HOSTS IN ACT FINAL

# INDIA MAUL JAPAN



ONE STEP CLOSER TO TITLE: Indian players celebrate after a goal against Japan; a couple of Malaysian players (R) react after a goal against South Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 11:** A dominant India mauled reigning Asian champions Japan 5-0 to enter their fourth final of the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here Friday.

While three-time champions India adopted a high-press hockey from the onset, Japan played deep into their defence to thwart the home team's attacks.

It was complete domination from the Indians as they found the back of the net five times through Akashdeep Singh (19th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (23rd), Mandeep Singh (30th), Sumit (39th) and Karthi Selvam (51st).

India will take Malaysia in the final Saturday, whom the hosts had blanked 5-0 in the round-robin stage while Japan will lock horns against title holders South Korea in the third-fourth place playoff match.

The Indians Friday proved that the 1-1 draw against Japan in the round-robin league stage was just an aberration as they completely dominated the game from start to finish.

The opening quarter saw attacking intents from both the sides. While the hosts won a penalty corner just a couple of minutes into the game, Harmanpreet's drag-flick was

denied by Japanese goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa.

India had three more attempts in the first quarter, but failed to find the net. The Japanese too came close to scoring on an occasion in the eighth minute, but to no avail. The Indians set the pace of the game and enjoyed bulk of the possession, while Japan played catch-up hockey.

After a barren first quarter, India finally took the lead in the 19th minute through Akashdeep, who slapped the ball in from a rebound after Hardik Singh's initial shot was saved by Japan's second goalkeeper Takumi Kitagawa.

India kept up the tempo and earned their second penalty corner four minutes later and skipper Harmanpreet sounded the board with a fierce low flick to the left of the Japanese goalie to double India's lead.

It was relentless attacking from the Indians as the play was mostly inside the Japanese half. Just at the stroke of halftime, India tripled their lead through Mandeep. It was Manpreet Singh who was instrumental in getting the third goal as he intercepted the ball in the mid-field and then beat three Japanese defenders to set it up for Mandeep, who just had to direct the ball in.

The trend continued after the change of ends as India pressed hard on the Japanese goal. Sumit probably scored the goal of the tournament with a back stick

## MATCH SCHEDULE

South Korea vs Japan  
Time: 6 pm  
INDIA vs MALAYSIA (FINAL)  
Time: 8:30 pm  
Telecast: Star Sports channels

flick into the net from a tight angle after being brilliantly set up by Manpreet's hardwork from the right flank.

Young Selvam then made it 5-0 in India's favour a minute later after being fed by an unselfish Sukhjeet Singh, who received a perfect ariel ball from Harmanpreet. Japan tried hard in the dying minutes to get a consolation goal but the Indian defence stood tall to deny their opponents and register a convincing win.

## MALAYSIA EASE THROUGH

Malaysia blew away defending champions South Korea 6-2 with a superlative performance to enter their maiden ACT final. The goals were scored by Faizal Saari, Shello Silverius, Abu Kamal Azrai and Najmi Jazlan. For Korea, Woo Cheon Ji and skipper Jonghyun Jang found the back of the net.

The first quarter began on a positive note for both sides, as it took just three minutes for Korea to surge ahead, with Ji scoring a field goal. However, it did not take long for Malaysia to level proceedings as in the very next minute, Azrai fired in a field

goal in a solo effort to bring the deadlock back on.

After an attack each, it was Malaysia who took the lead this time, as in the ninth, Jazlan scored for the side through a penalty corner rebound. While Malaysia's Amirul Azahar was green carded in the subsequent minute, in the 14th, it was a PC for Korea, with Jang coming up with a fierce drag-flick to equalise.

As the second quarter began, just after four minutes, Malaysia earned a PC, and it was Saari who got it converted. Also, in the 21st, Jazlan netted the fourth for the Malaysians through another PC.

After the change of ends, it was an intense battle between the two sides, but both the sides failed to score. As the fourth quarter began to unfold, just a couple of minutes into it, Silverius converted Ashran Hamsani's into the fifth goal for the Malaysians, while the very next minute, he tapped in the sixth after Seunghoon deflected Najib Hassan's pass to the scorer.

## PAKISTAN ROUT CHINA

A dominant Pakistan walloped China 6-1 to earn a consolation victory in the fifth place playoff encounter in the ACT earlier in the day. Muhammad Khan and Muhammad Ammad struck a brace each for Pakistan, while Abdul Shahid and Abdul Rana scored one apiece. Benhai Chen was the lone goal-scorer for China.

# Series at stake for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lauderhill (USA), August 11:** India will hope that batsmen will helm their march towards a series-levelling victory over the West Indies with another impact effort in the fourth T20I here Saturday.

India might have stayed afloat with a win in the third T20I but Windies still lead the series 2-1, a quick reminder to the fact that the visitors still have concerns surrounding the batting unit.

It was a comforting sight indeed to see Suryakumar Yadav flicking on his beast mode and Tilak Varma chipping in with crucial runs. But India's opening combination continued to falter.

India had handed T20I debut to Yashasvi Jaiswal, resting Ishan Kishan. But for the third successive match, the pair at the totem pole position failed to impress, making just six runs. Jaiswal got out to pacer Obed McCoy in the first over itself.

In the previous two matches, Kishan and Shubman Gill had managed to score just five and 16 for the first wicket to place some amount of pressure on the middle-order. Whether India will bring back Kishan for this match remains to be seen, but the management will hope for a more potent outing from the openers in a must-win match.

That India do not have a handy bat lower down the order, makes it mandatory for batsmen at the top to deliver. India have deployed Axar Patel at No. 7 to maintain the balance and they might continue to adopt the five-bowler policy.

Having said that, the way Tilak carried the burden on his young shoulders has been remarkable. The sequence of 39 (22 balls), 51 (41 balls) and 49 not out (37 balls)



**MATCH SCHEDULE**  
India vs West Indies  
4th T20 International  
Time: 8 pm  
Telecast: DD Sports  
Stream: Jio Cinema & Fan Code

India's confidence. He had missed the second T20I with a sore thumb. The left-arm wrist spinner bagged three wickets, conceding 28 runs from four overs.

West Indies batsman Nicholas Pooran has been a thorn in India's flesh the whole series, but Kuldeep snaffled him before the left-hander blossomed.

Overall, three spinners – Kuldeep, Axar, Yuzvendra Chahal – gave a good account of themselves in the last match, and India will need an encore from them at the Central Broward Stadium.

In the initial part, the pitch here assists the batsmen but it often slips into sluggishness as the match progresses, evidenced by the 11 wins out of 13 matches registered by the team batting first.

As for the West Indies, they will not want to miss a chance to score their first series win over India after 2016 and will look for a far more cohesive display.

might be a presage that the Hyderabad left-hander is ready for bigger stages in his career. He is currently the leading run-scorer in the series with 139 runs while averaging 69.50.

Suryakumar hinted at a possible broadening of role for Tilak, his teammate at Mumbai Indians. "We've batted (together) for a long time now. We both understand each other. It was his day to bat with maturity. He is batting with a lot of confidence and he helped me bat well too," Suryakumar had said.

Kuldeep Yadav returned to the side for the third T20I and his performance will certainly add to

# Praggnanandhaa stuns 2nd seed Nakamura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Baku, August 11:** Young GM R Praggnanandhaa Friday won both rapid games to eliminate second-seeded Hikaru Nakamura to enter the last 16 of the FIDE World Cup chess tournament here.

After the two classical games ended in draws, the 18-year old Indian stunned the American GM in the tie-break games.

Praggu, as he is known among fans, was joined in the last 16 by fellow teenager D Gukesh, who ousted Andrey Esipenko. Praggnanandhaa will meet Hungarian GM Ferenc Berkes in the round of 16.

However, another Indian – Nihal Sarin – bowed out of the tie-break games to Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth round. Indian players Vidit

Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi had already secured last 16 berths.

In the women's section, D Harika advanced at the expense of Eline Roebers, winning the rapid tie-break. However, the country's No.1 women's player Koneru Humpy was ousted by Bella Khotenashvili (Georgia) as she lost both the tie-break games after the two-match classical series had ended 1-1.

# 13 CLUBS, 156 MATCHES

## AIFF decides on I-League format for coming season



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 11:** The All-India Football Federation's (AIFF) League Committee Friday decided on the I-League 2023-24 format with 13 clubs participating in a home-and-away double round-robin format. The participation of the clubs, however, is subject to the fulfillment of the AIFF's Club Licensing process.

A total of 156 matches will be played throughout the season, with each team playing 24 matches. The club finishing at the top of the table at the end of the league will be declared I-League 2023-24 champions and will be eligible for promotion to the Indian Super League 2024-25 provided they fulfill the Club Licensing criteria.

"More and more clubs are coming up to participate in not just the I-League, but the third division as well. We are all committed to arriving at the best decisions to make the league structure competitive. That would encourage clubs to aspire to rise from the district level to the national level, and help in the overall improvement of Indian football," AIFF Secretary General Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran said.

FC have already been promoted to the ISL. The two relegated sides from the 2022-23 I-League season – Mumbai Kenkre FC and Sudeva Delhi FC – have been replaced by Delhi FC and Shillong Lajong FC, the top two sides from the 2022-23 Second Division League. Inter Kashi and Namdhari FC have been admitted into the I-League as corporate entries, the AIFF release said.

The committee reiterated that clubs could register five foreigners in their squads, with a maximum of three allowed on the pitch at a time for the I-League 2023-24. There will no longer be any AFC player quota requirements.

"Earlier, we did not have a properly tiered league structure, but that has changed. Now, the ISL, the I-League, Second Division and Third Division are all connected with each other to create a strong league structure," said committee chairperson Lalnghinglova Hmar.

For the newly formed 3rd Division League, nine state FAs fulfilled the criteria for nominating teams – Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

# 'Poligras turf experience will help India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 11:** India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak feels playing in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey is not only helping in preparing for the Hangzhou Asian Games but it will also benefit teams at Paris Olympics as it will use the same Poligras turf.

Asked about the new turf being laid at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here, on which the ACT is being played, he said that the Indian team will have to get used to playing on the surface fast, as the "same turf would also be used" in Paris next summer.

"It's a really good turf, thanks to the Tamil Nadu government for giving us the benefit of the turf beforehand that will be used during the Olympics. Since it's a new one, it feels kind of heavy. But, we will be getting used to it and gradually become more comfortable. It's all about how fast we get used to it," Pathak told PTI. Poligras Paris GT zero is de-



scribed as a carbon zero hockey turf, made from 80 percent biobased material - sugarcane. Its water absorbent properties means lesser water than before needs to be used in its upkeep.

When asked about playing in ACT before the Asian Games, he said, "Whatever tournament I have played till date, all have been special for me. Every tournament's preparation is different, be it the Pro-League, or the ACT. Even preparations for the Asian

Games would be different. "So, this competition is highly important to us, and we would be able to build confidence from here. The teams that would be participating in Hangzhou are the ones featuring in the ACT. There would be a couple of extra teams, probably Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. So, overall, it would only benefit us from this tournament as to how can we prepare against them once we head to China."

# FIH 'abandons' trial of new penalty corner rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 11:** The International Hockey Federation (FIH) Friday said it has decided to "abandon" the trial of the new penalty corner rule as it doesn't want to tinker much with the existing set piece regulation, a glamour aspect of the sport.

"FIH has decided to put on hold and abandon the new penalty corner rule trial. The format that was being considered during the trial will not be taken into consideration anymore," FIH president Tayyab Ikram said on the sidelines of the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy here. According to the proposed

rule, all attackers except the pusher at the backline must start at least five metres outside the striking circle called the 'D' which is 12 metres from the goal post.

The ball must travel outside the dotted line, which is five metres beyond the 'D' before it can be played back into the striking circle for a shot on goal.

The new rule was being tried out for the safety of PC defenders, which would have given them more time to react to situations while rushing out to defend drag-flicks that are generally struck at a pace of around 150kmph. But the FIH played cautiously as it knew that the new rule could have spelt the doom for the art of drag-flick.

# OFC keep quarters hopes alive



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kokrajhar, August 11:** Aphaoba Singh converted a penalty to help a young Odisha FC (OFC)

defeat I-League franchise Rajasthan United FC (RUF) 2-1 for their first win of the Durand Cup, here Friday.

It's now a three-way battle for

the top spot in group F with Odisha, RUF and Indian Army having three points each in the race to the quarterfinals.

After a barren first-half, Chandra Mohan Murmu's 48th minute strike gave the Super Cup winners the lead. Adwin Turkey's corner was headed back into the danger area by Rahul Mukhi and it was finished expertly past the goalkeeper by Murmu.

But their joy was short-lived as RUF took three minutes to restore parity through Richardson Denzell. The Ghanaian struck a powerful shot from 30 yards out to bring up the equaliser.

Odisha were awarded a penalty as second half substitute Matthew Ofori Dunga fouled Rahul Mukhi inside the box. Aphaoba converted the penalty to give the young Odisha side the lead.