



## EXPLORING OPTIONS

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari feels that the OTT medium offers a lot of creative liberty to artistes

LEISURE P2



## BRICS SET TO EXPAND

BRICS leaders call for unity among countries at a summit in South Africa as they agree for expansion of the bloc

INTERNATIONAL P9



## AMANPREET SHOOTS GOLD

Amanpreet Singh bags gold in the men's 25m standard pistol event of the ongoing ISSF World Championship

SPORTS P12

# INDIA MOONWALKS

As it became the fourth country in the world after Soviet Union, the US and China to land on the moon, India also created history by becoming the first nation to successfully touch down on the South Pole of lunar surface

## Nandankanan may remain open for visitors till 8pm

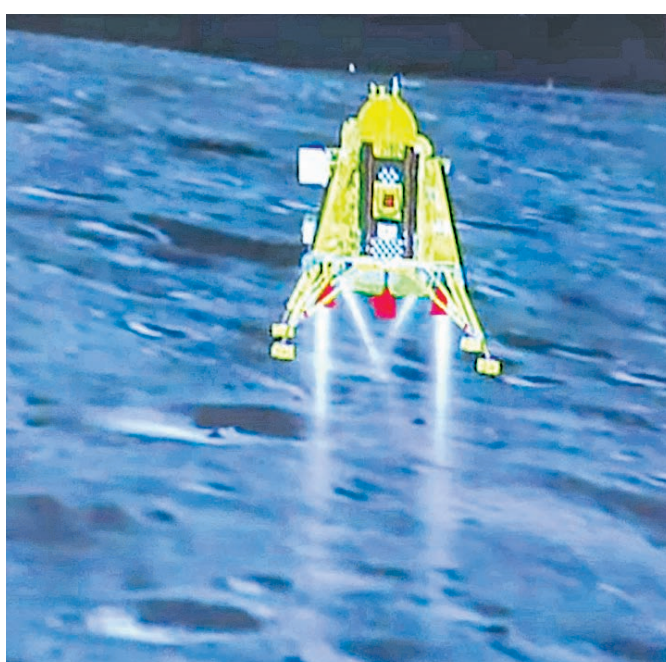
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Efforts are on to keep open the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) for visitors in the evenings. A master plan to keep the Nandankanan Zoo open for visitors for a specified period, either from 6.00pm to 7.00pm or 7.00pm to 8.00pm, has been submitted to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) even though wildlife experts are of the opinion that night visits may disturb nocturnal animals.

The master plan has been prepared as per the government of India instructions. Earlier, all zoo authorities used to submit a master plan for 10 years, but this time it has been submitted for 20 years, informed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Sushil Kumar Popli here Wednesday. Popli also said that in addition, a proposal has also been given for expansion of the area of Nandankanan by adding Krushnaprasad and Chudanga forest areas. If accepted, the total area of the zoo will be 1,043 hectares.

"A proposal for allowing night visits to the zoo has been mooted. As per the proposal, we will allow visitors during late evening hours for educational awareness. Films will also be shown and selected people will be allowed to walk around enclosures of nocturnal animals. All these proposals however, are subject to government approval," said Popli.

NZP authorities informed that at present there are 167 species and over 4,000 animals.



The team of ISRO scientists including chairman S Somanath (4th from right) flash the victory sign after the successful touchdown of Lander Vikram on the surface of the moon, Wednesday; (Right) A screenshot of Lander Vikram moments before its final touchdown on the surface of the moon

PTI PHOTOS

- **'DARK SIDE' OF MOON:** The portion of the moon's surface that we cannot see from earth. This side is only accessible from space.
- **WHY LUNAR SOUTH POLE WAS CHOSEN:** The lunar South Pole surface is larger than the North Pole. There could be a possibility of presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.
- **IS THERE WATER ON MOON'S SOUTH POLE:** Spacecraft have detected large amounts of ice in the South Pole in areas that remain constantly under shadow.
- **WHERE WILL PRAGYAN ROVER GET POWER FROM:** It will get a 50W power from the solar panels installed in it.
- **DURATION PRAGYAN WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH WORK:** Both the lander and the rover have only 14 days for research work. This is because the duration of one day on the moon is equal to 14 days on the earth.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 23:** India joined Wednesday an elite group of three other nations to have sent a spacecraft on the moon as Chandrayaan-3 landed a rover on the lunar surface to explore the uncharted territories near the South Pole. India also created history by becoming the first nation to achieve successful landing on the South Pole of the moon.

The erstwhile Soviet Union, the US and China have successfully carried out soft landings on the moon. They have even got back to earth samples of soil and rocks from the lunar surface.

India's third lunar mission - Chandrayaan-3 landed at a place where no spacecraft has travelled so far. No other country has been able to land on this side of the moon before; this will change all narratives and stories about the moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. President Droupadi Murmu also congratulated ISRO for the historical achievement. "It is a momentous occasion," Murmu said.

Chandrayaan-3 touched down on the lunar South Pole exactly at 6.04 pm Wednesday. In a big boost to India's space prowess, the LM comprising the lander

(Vikram) and the 26 kg rover (Pragyan), made the soft landing near the south polar region of the Moon, less than a week after a similar Russian lander crashed. The ₹600 crore Chandrayaan-

3 mission was launched July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) rocket, for a 41-day voyage to reach near the lunar south pole. The lander and the six-wheeled rover (with total mass of 1,752 kg) are designed to operate for one lunar daylight period (about 14 Earth days)

India's lunar missions began with the launch of Chandrayaan-1 October 22, 2008 that put a spacecraft in a 100km circular orbit around the moon. The spacecraft made 3,400 orbits around the Moon at a height of 100km from the lunar surface and prepared a chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon.

The orbiter mission, which had a life of two years, was, however, prematurely aborted after communication with the spacecraft was lost August 29, 2009.

A decade later, Chandrayaan-2, comprising an orbiter, lander and rover, was successfully launched July 22, 2019. The objectives of the country's second mission to the Moon were sci-

### MISSION POSSIBLE

- **JULY 14:** Chandrayaan-3 launched into orbit by LVM3 M4 rocket
- **JULY 14-31:** Four orbit-raising manoeuvres performed
- **AUGUST 5:** Chandrayaan-3 successfully enters into lunar orbit
- **AUGUST 6-16:** Four orbit-reduction manoeuvres performed to reach closer to the moon
- **AUGUST 17:** Lander and propulsion modules separate
- **AUGUST 18-20:** Lander in 25x134km orbit after successfully deboosting
- **AUGUST 23:** Lander Vikram and rover Pragyan successfully soft land on the South Pole of moon
- **AUGUST 1:** Chandrayaan-3 sent into translunar orbit

## Board exams twice a year

MoE's 2nd attempt to revamp the exam system, after the first one introduced in 2009 did not work

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 23:** Board examinations will be conducted twice a year and students will get an option to retain their best score, according to the New Curriculum Framework (NCF) prepared by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Aiming to make the exams 'easier', rather than 'high stakes', the various boards have also been asked to develop capacities to be able to conduct 'on-demand' examinations in due course of time.

The NCF document accessed by this agency also noted that there should be no hard separations between Arts and Sciences, Curricular and Extra-Curricular activities, and vocational and academic streams. It also said that Class XI and XII students will have to study two languages including one Indian.

"Board examinations should be offered at least twice a year to ensure that students have enough time and opportunity to perform well. Students can then appear for a board examination in subjects they have completed and feel ready for," the MoE document said. "This process could be made possible through the creation of a comprehensive test item bank which can be used to create tests using suitable soft-

ware. This will enable the move towards a system of on-demand examinations in the near future as described in NEP 2020," the NCF document stated.

This however, is not the first attempt at reforming board exams. The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) was introduced for Class X in 2009, but was revoked in 2017 and the board reverted to the old model of year-end exams.

The board exams for Classes X and XII were also split into two terms during the pandemic as a one-time measure, but the old format of year-end examinations was resumed for the crucial tests this year.

The NCF prepared by the national steering committee, headed by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan, also suggests that the current practice of streaming into Science, Arts or Humanities, and Commerce will be replaced by a design that enables students to choose subjects that they are strong in.

"There should be no hard separations between Arts and Sciences, between Curricular and Extra-Curricular activities, and between vocational and academic streams. This will eliminate harmful hierarchies among, and silos between, different areas of learning," the NCF document stated.

## Lecturer caught impersonating student

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Udala, August 23:** Udala police Wednesday arrested a lady lecturer for allegedly appearing in an examination on behalf of a girl student who was absent. The teacher was working in Luipa Degree College at Radho locality under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district. The accused teacher has been identified as Tulika Ash. She is a lecturer in the Odia department. Later, she was produced in the court Wednesday. A case has been registered and further investigations are on, police said. Sources said that the fourth



semester examination in Zoology was held, July 27. Tulika appeared for it for an absentee student. Interestingly, she also reportedly signed as an examination invigilator on the answer sheet.

After reports surfaced, college principal Gouranga Chandra Mohapatra issued a showcause

notice to the concerned lecturer, August 8. However, instead of replying to the showcause notice, Tulika allegedly rushed to the principal's chamber and abused the latter.

Later, Gouranga filed a written complaint at the Udala police station following which a case was registered and cops arrested the lady lecturer. Police also seized the answer sheet used by her for investigation.

Meanwhile, an audio message where Gouranga is heard asking Tulika to come to a 'deserted place' has gone viral. The principal however, has denied his involvement.

## Wagner chief Prigozhin feared dead

AGENCIES

**Moscow, August 23:** A business jet en route from here to St Petersburg crashed Wednesday, killing all 10 people on board, Russian emergency officials said. Mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was on the passenger list, officials said, but it wasn't immediately clear if he was on board. Unconfirmed media reports said the jet belonged to Prigozhin, founder of the Wagner private military company. However, it was not immediately clear if he had boarded the flight. Russia's state news agency 'Tass'

cited emergency officials as saying that the crash took place in the Tver region more than 100 kilometres north of the Russian capital. "The plane that crashed in the Tver Region listed

Yevgeny Prigozhin among its passengers, (Russia's aviation agency) Rosaviatsia said," TASS news agency reported, with 'RIA Novosti' and 'Interfax' issuing similar reports.

Prigozhin, whose private military force Wagner fought alongside Russia's regular army in Ukraine, mounted a short-lived armed mutiny against Russia's military leadership in late June.

## INDIAN GRAND MASTER HOLDS CARLSEN TO 2ND SUCCESSIVE DRAW, TAKES FINAL TO TIE-BREAKER

AGENCIES

**Baku, August 23:** In an anticlimax of sorts, the second game of the Chess World Cup final between Indian teen sensation R Praggnanandhaa and World Champion Magnus Carlsen failed to decide a winner, as it ended in a draw after 30 moves here Wednesday after 90 minutes. Carlsen was the favourite to win as he played with white pieces. However, Praggnanandhaa adopted superb defensive tactics to stall the current World No. 1. Now the championship will be de-



ecided via two tie-breaks Thursday. Five-time World Champion Carlsen played a solid game with white pieces against

## Praggnanandhaa on cusp of history

mate after over four hours of play and 70-plus moves, following which Carlsen said he was a bit under the weather.

The 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa has been enjoying an incredible run in the tournament, having already beaten World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura and World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana to set up a final date against the Norwegian Grandmaster.

Incidentally Praggnanandhaa is only the second and the youngest among Indians to play in the final of the Chess World Cup after Viswanathan Anand. The results

in the ongoing tournament also helped Praggnanandhaa qualify for Candidates 2024 tournament, which will be held in Canada. He, thus, became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

Praggnanandhaa exuded confidence after the second game. "I really did not feel any pressure and I was comfortable playing against Carlsen," the Indian GM said. "It was a well-fought game, but I never felt for a moment that I was not in control of the situation," Praggnanandhaa added.



# leisure



## AMANDA BYNES TO STAY AT MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

Actress Amanda Bynes will reportedly be staying at a mental health facility in California for the 'foreseeable future' because she's found a centre she likes and wants to continue working on her issues.

## JENNIFER ANISTON CALLS OUT CANCEL CULTURE

Actress Jennifer Aniston after being caught in the whole controversy regarding Jamie Foxx's allegedly anti-Semitic social media post has now come out to call out cancel culture as an obnoxious trend, wondering if there is any end to it all.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Do something really exciting today - perhaps you could put on your trekking boots and explore unknown territories. Ganesha advises you to keep busy but not to go overboard. In group activities today, everybody will focus their attention on you.

**TAURUS**  
This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. Your warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else. Hanging out together with them will give you immense pleasure and contentment. You are not likely to spare any thought for responsibilities and duties.

**GEMINI**  
You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, job and such things will be on your mind and will give rise to mental stress and worry. You need to take care of your health and hygiene, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well.

**LEO**  
You will give importance to your work and your style of functioning to get a promotion in the office. You will also increase the amount of work you put in. While the fruits of your labour may not be immediately available to you, in a very short time you can expect to make more gains than you expected to.

**VIRGO**  
You will be really very tough today, like a man of steel, but there is enough warmth in your heart. Forbearance, positivity and extremely artistic abilities will predominate. Ganesha advises you to pursue the arts in your studies. Your deep insight into life will help you in serving society in a better way.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says you will put everything aside to pay more attention to your outward appearance and your beauty as you will be more aware about it. People will get attracted to your beauty today. You will be able to share your own ideas and thoughts with people, at the same time you will learn about their views and from their experiences.

**SCORPIO**  
Keep your eyes and ears open and believe in only what you see. Remember, believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesha. At home front, sharing of work with your partner will keep the home atmosphere peaceful and harmonious. Both of you discover a joy in cleaning and cooking together.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business, says Ganesha. You will enjoy a smooth, peaceful and beautiful married life with your spouse, blesses Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are an excellent team player and your performance reaches a new high when you are a part of a group. Be an active member of your group, express your opinions, share your knowledge and see how your team becomes the winning team, says Ganesha. Wind up your day by hanging out with friends and family.

**PISCES**  
You will bump into an old friend or a distant relative today. This rendezvous may be with a person who you were close to long ago and it will warm your heart with nostalgia. You might contemplate taking a break from your daily grind to spend some time to rekindle your childhood memories or visit your hometown.

# Kriti: Showbiz isn't all flowery

**Mumbai:** Actress Kriti Kharbanda recently opened up about spotting a hidden camera in one of her hotel rooms. She said that "it's scary" and it is the kind of stuff one has to be careful about.

Sharing details, Kriti revealed that the entertainment industry is not all "flowery." The actress recalled how she spotted a hidden camera in her hotel room. She continued: "I remember I was shooting for one of my Kannada films. This boy, who used to work at the hotel, actu-

ally left a camera in my room. Me and my staff have a habit of making sure that there is actually nothing popping out of anywhere. He was actually not a pro at it, because it was kept so badly it was kept right behind the set-top box. It's scary that the kind of stuff you have to be careful about. It's not all flowery in our industry."

Kriti also spoke about non-consensual touch. The actress shared that it is "so upsetting" when someone tries to touch you without your consent. She shared one of her experiences when a fan pinched her while getting a photograph.

Kriti Kharbanda has worked in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada films. She is best known for her work in *Housefull 4* and *Pagalpanti*.



# TOP STARS CHEER ISRO

**Mumbai:** As Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the lunar soil on Wednesday evening, actors starting from Shah Rukh Khan to Hrithik Roshan, Akshay Kumar and many others joined the chorus of proud Indians celebrating and lauding ISRO and its team for the historic mission.

Joining the multitudes in expressing their pride about the huge achievement, several actors took to their handles to post congratulatory messages and also share their own reaction videos as they waited in anticipation for the landing.

**Hrithik Roshan:** My heart swells with pride a little more today, as I witness my people soar high and give their very best. Congratulations & all my respect to @isro & the geniuses behind #Chandrayaan3's lunar exploration mission.

**Abhishek Bachchan:** A massive congratulations to @isro for the triumphant touchdown of #Chandrayaan3. A moment to remember, an emotion beyond words!!

**SS Rajamouli:** Heart swelling with pride..



Tears rolling down the cheeks.. Pranav @ISRO at this incredible feat. Other celebs including Anil Kapoor, Kajol, Sanjay Dutt, Riteish Deshmukh, Sidharth Malhotra, Ananya Panday, R Madhavan, Kartik Aaryan, Javed Akhtar, Allu Arjun, Anil Kapoor and many others also took to Twitter to share their heartiest congratulations with the team of scientists for the historic achievement.

## 'OTT offers more artistic creativity'

**Mumbai:** Actress Aditi Rao Hydari, who is known for her work in *Delhi 6*, *Jubilee*, *Bhoomi*, *Taj: Divided By Blood*, and several others, feels that the medium of OTT reinforces the importance of content and gives a lot of creative liberty to artistes.

Aditi won hearts for her performance as Anarkali in the period drama *Taj: Divided By Blood*. The actress recently visited the Middle East and interacted with her fans in Qatar, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, at exclusive meet and greets.

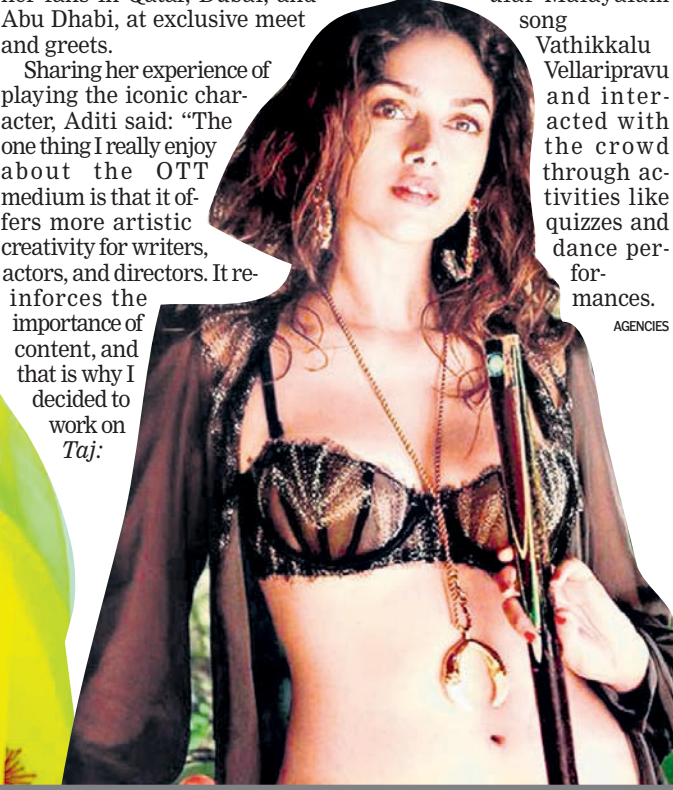
Sharing her experience of playing the iconic character, Aditi said: "The one thing I really enjoy about the OTT medium is that it offers more artistic creativity for writers, actors, and directors. It reinforces the importance of content, and that is why I decided to work on *Taj: Divided By Blood*."

## Divided By Blood

The star, who has been compared to the legendary actor Madhubala for her role as Anarkali, also mentioned that she knew "those are big shoes to fill" while signing up for it.

Riding the wave of her success in *Taj*, the actress delighted consumers at ZEE5 Global's first Qatar fan meet and greet at LuLu Hypermarket in Barwa City. In her maiden visit to Qatar, the actress enthralled the audience by singing the popular Malayalam song

Vathikkalu Vellaripravu and interacted with the crowd through activities like quizzes and dance performances.



# Chinta O Chetana's 3-day monsoon fest from Aug 25

The organisation also organises National Baisakhi Festival and Basant Festival every year to celebrate the unity and diversity of India



A file photo of a dance programme held under Barsha Utsav

**Bhubaneswar:** Chinta O Chetana, a premier socio-cultural organisation of the state, is set to conduct the 46th edition of Barsha Utsav or festival of monsoon from August 25 here at Rabindra Mandap. The three-day event not only promotes Odisha's culture, but aims for the betterment of socially, economically and educationally downtrodden community, said Surendra Das, the Secretary General of the organisation.

It also organises seminars, workshops, and conferences on different subjects and all most all the states participate in this prestigious event with their cultural troupes, he added. Artistes, writers, educationist, social activists, scientists, media

persons, defence personnel and sports stars are expected to participate this year. The festival, to be inaugurated by Governor Ganeshi Lal, will also showcase the cultural rainbow of 16 states and a few other nations, it was learnt.

The organisation also celebrates National Baisakhi Festival (Summer Festival) and Basant Festival (Spring Festival) every year.

Worth mentioning that Chinta O Chetana was founded by former Odisha Chief Minister Harekrushna Mahtab in 1980 while former CM Nandini Satapathy remained its National Chairperson till her last after taking the charge from another former CM Biju Patnaik.

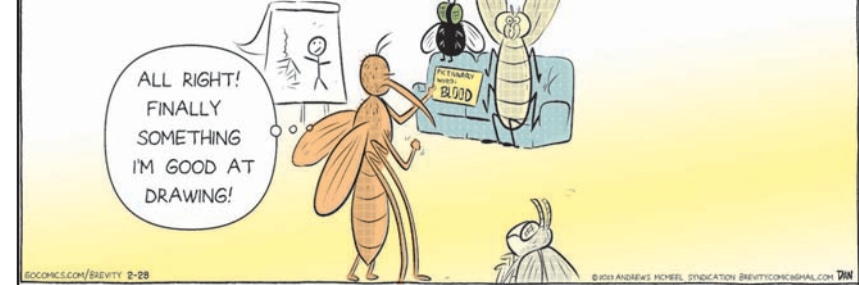
## PEANUTS



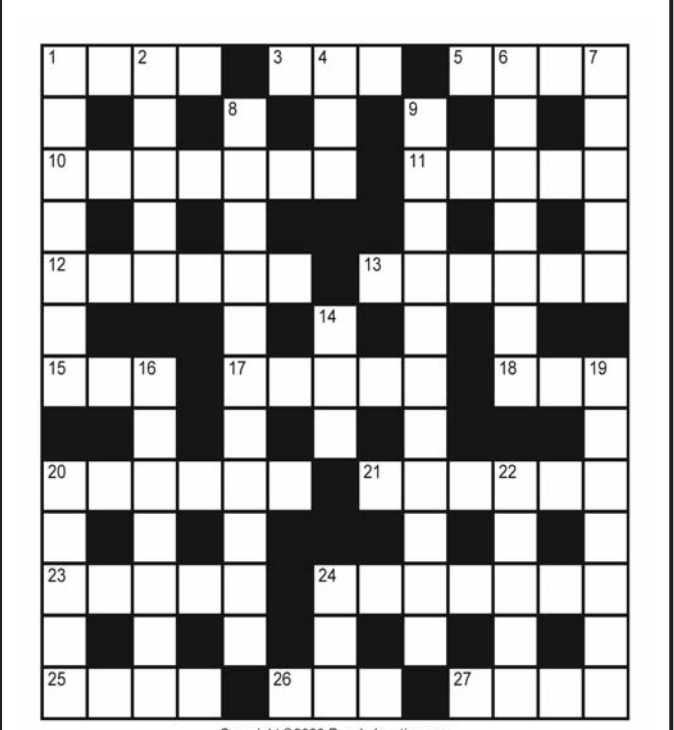
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



## FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Burst of wind
  - 3 Embrace
  - 5 Asian nurse
  - 10 Short missions
  - 11 Sovereign
  - 12 Diminutive
  - 13 Salad green
  - 15 Fishing aid
  - 17 Comparable
  - 18 Eastern newt
  - 20 Hovel
  - 21 Artist's workshop
  - 23 La Scala offering
  - 24 Sahara sight
  - 25 Shade provider
  - 26 Bluebird
  - 27 Midleg
  - 4 Raises
  - 6 Listlessness
  - 7 Multitude
  - 8 Prestigious
  - 9 UN workers
  - 14 Overhead light?
  - 16 Circus feature
  - 19 Defeat handily
  - 20 Young hog
  - 22 ParLOUR piece
  - 24 Chinese tea
- Down**
- 1 Sprite
  - 2 Herring

## SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

**SAFETY FIRST**

Fire Services personnel train employees of a private healthcare facility on fire fighting techniques, in Cuttack, Wednesday



## OSCW SEEKS REPORT ON HOME GUARD 'TORTURE'

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** The Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) Wednesday took suo motu cognisance and sought a report from the Crime Branch in connection with the alleged torture of a woman home guard by the wife of a senior IPS officer.

The commission's chairperson Minati Behera said the panel has asked the Crime Branch ADG to submit a report within 15 days.

"We have taken suo motu cognisance of the case and want the report within a fortnight," she told reporters.

Stating that the women's commission will hold discussions with the victim after she recovers, Behera said necessary step will be taken according to the law.

The OSCW's action came a day after the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) sought a report from the police on the alleged torture of the woman home guard, who lost both her legs during a bid to die by suicide out of frustration.

A rights activist has also moved the NHRC seeking justice for the victim.

Home Guard DG Sudhanshu



THE COMMISSION'S CHAIRPERSON MINATI BEHERA SAID THE PANEL HAS ASKED THE CRIME BRANCH ADG TO SUBMIT A REPORT WITHIN 15 DAYS

THE OSCW'S ACTION CAME A DAY AFTER THE OHRC SOUGHT A REPORT FROM THE POLICE ON THE ALLEGED TORTURE OF THE WOMAN HOME GUARD, WHO LOST BOTH HER LEGS DURING A BID TO DIE BY SUICIDE OUT OF FRUSTRATION

The home guard claimed she was forced to wash the IPS officer's wife's clothes and after denying to carry out the work, she was beaten up August 4 and threatened to be dismissed from service.

The 47-year-old woman, who has lost her husband about two decades ago, said she wanted to end her life by jumping in front of a moving train. Though she survived, she lost both her legs in the incident.

Meanwhile, a BJP delegation led by its state vice-president Lekhasri Samantsinghar met Governor Ganeshi Lal at Raj Bhawan and sought his intervention into the matter, while alleging that the state government was attempting to hush-up the case by transferring the officer from Angul to Cuttack.

Demanding stern action against the IPS officer concerned and criminal case against his wife, the BJP leader said, "We have also demanded jobs for both the daughters of the victim. The government is trying to suppress the matter by transferring the DIG. Stern action should be taken against the officer and his wife and justice should be delivered to the victim."

Sarangi, who received a petition from the victim woman, has also sought a report from the Angul SP over the matter.

The woman has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack while the Odisha Police has transferred North Central range DIG Brijesh Rai to the state police headquarters after a hue and cry across the state.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim, she was subjected to both mental and physical torture by the IPS officer's wife.

## Odisha leading in rice procurement

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, August 23:** Odisha is now among the seven leading states in terms of estimated procurement of rice during the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2023-24, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The ministry further said that 521.27 LMT of rice has been estimated for procurement during the KMS 2023-24 as against the previous year estimates of 518 LMT wherein 496 LMT was actually procured during last KMS 2022-23 (Kharif crop).

During KMS 2023-24 (Kharif crop), the leading states in terms of estimated procurement of



521.27 LMT of rice has been estimated for procurement during the KMS 2023-24 as against the previous year's estimates of 518 LMT

procurement of 7.37 LMT during KMS 2022-23 (Kharif and Rabi), the ministry said.

Earlier, the Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD), chaired a meeting of state food secretaries and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to discuss the procurement arrangements for Kharif crop ensuing KMS 2023-24. During the meeting, issues relating to gunny bags requirement, route optimisation for transportation of foodgrains from designated depots to Fair Price Shops, improving infrastructure in procurement centres and monitoring of wheat stock limit portal were also discussed, the ministry said.

rice are Punjab (122 LMT), Chhattisgarh (61 LMT) and Telangana (50 LMT) followed by Odisha (44.28 LMT), Uttar Pradesh (44 LMT), Haryana (40 LMT), Madhya Pradesh (34 LMT), Bihar (30 LMT), Andhra Pradesh

(25 LMT), West Bengal (24 LMT) and Tamil Nadu (15 LMT).

About 33.09 LMT of coarse grains/millets (Shri Anna) has been estimated for procurement by the states during the KMS 2023-24 as against actual pro-

## Man found hanging in temple complex

NIMAPARA: A 48-year-old man was found hanging from a grille on the premises of a shrine at Amareswar under Charichhak police limits here Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Shyamsundar Manik, a resident of Badheipatna under Niali police limits. "The priest of Amareswar temple was about to offer prayers to the subsidiary deities around 4am when he spotted Manik hanging from the grille near Goddess Parvati on the shrine complex," an official said.

## Parents' body opposes teacher appointment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) has strongly opposed state government's decision to appoint 20,000 junior teachers and demanded regular posting of primary school teachers, along with best facilities in schools, to ensure quality education in schools.

OPF Chairman Basudev Bhatt said the association is opposed to the terms and conditions of appointment of the junior teachers,

as mentioned in the government notification. "We demand regular appointment of the teachers," he said.

Bhatt said there has been no appointment of primary teachers in schools since 2016. Now with the new order, they will be engaged for a paltry salary of, say around Rs 8000 to 9000. "How will they perform their best with such salary? They will be sitting on Dharama at the PMG square in Bhubaneswar for their rights after a year," he added.

Instead, he said, the state government should try to emulate models in countries like Norway, Denmark and Sweden to improve the basic education from Class I to VIII. "The teachers should be empowered with high salary and other facilities to ensure quality education for our future generation," he said. The School and Mass Education department has issued guidelines for engagement of 20,000 junior teachers (Schematic) through online computer-based test (CBT).

## Puja, revelry ahead of Moon landing

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Festive mood was witnessed across Odisha Wednesday in the run-up to Chandrayaan-3's historic landing on the south pole of lunar surface.

From individuals, organizations to religious bodies and households, all were busy making preparations for the spectacle of a lifetime to unfold before their eyes in the evening.

A group of priests at the Lord Jagannath Temple assembled in front of the 12th century shrine's Lion's Gate and lit 'diyas' seeking divine blessings for the success of the lunar mission.

"As Lord Jagannath is worshiped as the master of the universe, His blessings are most essential for India's lunar mission. According to Vedas, all the planets revolve around the Sun as per the directions of Maha Vishnu, the Lord Jagannath," said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in the Jagannath culture.

Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, an expert in Vedic mathematics, said many 'puranas' have mentioned about the 'Chandra' (moon). Our ancient saints were familiar with the 'Chandra'. Therefore, space scientists should also take reference from the puranas while going for lunar mission, he said and wished all success for the mission.

The excitement was palpable in Bhubaneswar as a large number of people gathered near the



CTTC, BHUBANESWAR

Biswakarma temple near Kalinga Stadium here. They performed a yajna for the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Students of KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Science) performed a yajna at the Jagannath Temple on its campus. Many school across the state also observed the day like a festival.

Scores of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir schools in the state involved divine blessings by performing pujas.

Reports of pujas being conducted by clubs, societies and cultural organizations were also pouring in from different parts of the state.

"We are really excited about the mission. We pray to the almighty to bless India's mission for successful landing on the south pole of moon," said Ritarani Swain, the headmistress of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir at Kaima village in Jajpur district.

Women in Koida area of Sundargarh district also offered prayers to Lord Shiva and put up 'Subha Kalasha' at Nilakanteswar



SRIMANDIR, PURI

temple for the successful landing of lander module Vikram on the moon's surface.

Students of Sudarshan Sand Art Institute in Puri created a sand art depicting the moon mission Chandrayaan-3 on Puri sea beach.

Residents of Mukundapur under Bari block in Kendrapara district organised a grand puja and a vegetarian feast on the occasion as one of the son of the soil, Subhashis Nayak, was one of the technicians involved in making of the Chandrayaan-3.

Special arrangements were also made at the Central Tool Room & Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, where some vital parts of the Chandrayaan-3 were manufactured.



SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BHUBANESWAR



BUKHARI BABA DARGAH, CUTTACK

## 'No activity' during childhood may damage heart in later life

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VIARIATION
SENSEX	65433.30 ↑ 213.27
NIFTY	19444.00 ↑ 47.50
DOLLAR	82.54 ↓ ₹0.14
EURO	89.48 ↓ ₹0.92
GOLD	₹58,770 ↑ ₹196
SILVER	₹73,602 ↑ ₹1620

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 34.2°C	34.2°C
	MIN 25.7°C	26.0°C
Humidity	98%	87%
Rainfall	11.1	Nil
	Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

**N**o activity for hours during childhood could be setting the stage for heart attacks and strokes later in life, a new study said Wednesday.

According to the study presented at the European Society of Cardiology, sedentary time accumulated from childhood to young adulthood was associated with heart damage - even in those with normal weight and blood pressure.

"All those hours of screen time in young people add up to a heavier heart, which we know from studies in adults raises the likelihood of heart attack and stroke," said study author Andrew Agbaje of the University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland.

"Children and teenagers need to move more to protect their long-term health," he added.

To investigate, researchers let children wear a smartwatch with an activity tracker for seven days at 11 years of age. This was repeated at 15 years of age and again at 24 years of age.

The weight of the heart's left ven-

tricle was assessed by echocardiography, a type of ultrasound scan, at 17 and 24 years of age and reported in grams relative to height (g/m2.7).

The researchers analysed the association between sedentary time between 11 and 24 years of age and heart measurements between 17 and 24 years of age after adjusting for factors that could influence the relationship, including age, sex, blood pressure, body fat, smoking, physical activity and socioeconomic status.

The study included 766 children, of which 55 per cent were girls and 45 per cent were boys.

At 11 years of age, children were sedentary for an average of 362 minutes a day, rising to 474 minutes a day in adolescence (15 years of age), and 531 minutes a day in young adulthood (24 years of age), meaning sedentary time raised by an average of 169 minutes (2.8 hours) a day between childhood and young adulthood, the study showed.

ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦିତ ନୃତ୍ୟଶିଳ୍ପୀ, ସଂଗୀତଜ୍ଞ, କଣ୍ଠଶିଳ୍ପୀ, ବାଦ୍ୟଶିଳ୍ପୀ ଓ ଚିତ୍ରଶିଳ୍ପୀଙ୍କର ଅପୂର୍ବ ସମାରୋହ ସହ ରୋମାଞ୍ଚକର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ

ମୋ ସହିତ ଭିଜିବାକୁ ଭିଜିବାରୁ ଛମ ଛମ ଟପ ଟପ ଟୋପାରେ ମୋ ସହିତ ହଜିଯିବାକୁ ଘୋର ଘର୍ଷଣ ଘଟୁଥିବାରୁ ଝଙ୍କାରରେ ମୁଁ ଭବୁରାଣୀ ବର୍ଷା ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ସାବର ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରୁଛି ।

ରବୀନ୍ଦ୍ର ମଣ୍ଡପକୁ ୨୫ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ରୁ ୨୭ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ସଂଧ୍ୟା ୬ଟା ରେ

Media Partner: Dharitri & OrissaPost



# Mo Bus service soon for Keonjhar district

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** If things go as per plan, the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) will very soon launch Mo Bus service in Keonjhar district. This was revealed during the 44th Board Meeting of CRUT convened recently under the chairmanship of Anu Garg, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary and also the CRUT chairperson.



## SPREADING WINGS

**CRUT** will set up key infrastructure development projects like a modern bus depot at Naraj in Cuttack, a dedicated EV depot at Gadakana and a state-of-the-art bus depot at Pokhariput in Bhubaneswar

**CRUT** plans to establish an EV charging station at OD Terminal Ghatikia in Bhubaneswar and OD Terminals at strategic locations like Chhatrapur, Gopalpur and Haladipadar in Ganjam, and Modipada and Ainthapalli in Sambalpur

natives, said the transport body. CRUT has also outlined a comprehensive infrastructure development plan. Key infrastructure development projects include the construction of a modern bus depot at Naraj in Cuttack, a dedicated EV depot at Gadakana and a state-of-the-art bus depot at Pokhariput in Bhubaneswar.

Furthermore, CRUT also plans to establish an EV charging station at OD Terminal Ghatikia in Bhubaneswar and OD Terminals at strategic locations like Chhatrapur, Gopalpur and Haladipadar in Ganjam, and Modipada and Ainthapalli in Sambalpur.

Addressing the need for revitalised facilities, CRUT has allocated resources for repair, renovation and improvement of the existing bus terminal at Master Canteen in Capital City.

These infrastructure facilities are expected to significantly elevate the travel experience for citizens.

Moreover, in a bid to ensure that a professionally trained crew is there to serve the people of the state, CRUT would soon have modern video conferencing facilities at its Patia and Bhagampani depots to facilitate virtual training and capacity building for its entire crew.

In an effort to elevate the commuting experience and prioritising sustainable mobility, CRUT Board has announced several transformative decisions aimed at fostering a more efficient and environmentally conscious urban transport system.

One of the most significant decisions taken in the meeting was to immediately launch Mo Bus service in Keonjhar district. This will bring convenience and affordable public transit system for the residents of the mineral-bearing district.

In alignment with recently announced PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme, CRUT envisions plying of e-Buses in key locations across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Keonjhar and Sambalpur. This strategic move not only emphasises CRUT's commitment towards environmental responsibility but also places Odisha at the forefront of embracing innovative and eco-friendly transportation alter-



**AGAINST INACTION:** Members of Milita Odisha Nisha Nibaran Abhijan holding a demonstration at Master Canteen in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, seeking action on students' complaint against college teachers reporting to work under influence of alcohol

## WODC holds 62nd council meeting

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) held its 62nd council meeting in the conference hall of the council at Rajiv Bhawan here Wednesday.

The Principal Advisor to Chief Minister and Chairman, WODC Asit Tripathy welcomed all the members including the MLAs, advisor, expert members and both the RDCs from Northern and Southern divisions.



**WODC chairman Asit Tripathy called upon the members from civil society and the field level officials for timely completion of ongoing projects**

Out of the additional grant of ₹125 crore given by CM for completion of incomplete Kalyan Mandaps, community centres and mandaps, expenditure to the tune of ₹62.07 crore for completion of 741 Mukhya Mantri Sabhagar was approved in the meeting.

WODC CEO Ajit Kumar Mishra presented the agenda for discussion in the meeting. Approval of ₹118.82 crore was accorded for 1,415 people-oriented development projects undertaken within the period from April 1 to August 21 as recommended by the MPs, MLAs, PRI members and Collectors of 11 districts. Tripathy called upon the joint endeavor of people's representatives, members from civil society and the field level officials for timely completion of ongoing projects with focus on eco tourism and people-friendly infrastructure.

Responding to proposals raised by expert members, Tripathy mentioned about the council's stand for construction of multi-purpose halls in all the government aided colleges of western Odisha and construction of a western Odisha museum for preservation and display of folk art, musical instruments and cultural artifacts.

## CM unveils 21 bus stands

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday inaugurated 21 bus stands in 13 districts apart from laying foundation stones for 124 bus stands in 26 districts under 'Ama Bus Stand' scheme.

Describing it as a new milestone in the transport sector, the Chief Minister said that 2 crore people of the state will be benefitted once all these bus stands are completed.

Patnaik said all these bus stands are very modern and smart. They have facilities for passengers, drivers and all those engaged in bus transport sector. Along with this, the Chief Minister launched 'Mo Paribahan Seba' and mobile app.



He said that there will be no need to go to government offices for various transport services. To make the drivers more efficient, the Chief Minister launched 'Su-Bahaka Yojana' under which 50,000 drivers will be trained. The CM inaugurated a driving train-

ing centre at Palur in Ganjam.

The Chief Minister said that a good transport system paves the way for a better economy. Various institutional services and facilities like schools, colleges, hospitals and others can be easily accessed with good roads. The Chief Minister advised the Transport department to continue efforts to provide better quality transport services to the people.

Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said that under the guidance of the CM, the trend of good governance has continued in an uninterrupted manner in the state for last 23 years. She said that efforts are being made to develop road transport as well as railway and air transport for the development of communication facilities.

## '3D endospine surgery now available in Odisha'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Two most common and painful ailments of the spinal cord and vertebrae-slipped disc and sciatica could now be successfully operated on with very less pain and cuts, noted endoscopic surgeon and orthopaedician from Bhubaneswar PC Dey said Wednesday at a press conference.

With the advent of MRI, the cause of back pain is diagnosed very early and almost 100 per cent accurately. A training programme in this regard is being held from August 23 to 26," he said.

Dey said that the advanced 3D endospine surgery is now available in Odisha. He said that with the advent of advanced medical science like 3D endoscopic surgeries, the treatment and surgeries of such diseases could be done with minimally invasive techniques. He said such technology has been introduced for the first time in Odisha.

These two diseases are often

the main causes of the commonly seen problem of back pain among the population. In most of these cases the nerves are compressed, leading to pain that grows radially. Sometimes it even leads to numbness and tingling of the foot and other health hazards.

Dey explained that under this technique, a small incision of around 16mm-18mm is made on the patients under this surgery.

"Endoscopic equipment like a 4 mm 3D camera, light and a decompressor are used to see deeper structures which are almost 60 to 80 times magnified," Dey said.

"The pain-causing nerve points inside the body like disc material, pathological bony projections and thickened ligaments could be removed quite accurately with this technique. This aids in decompression of the parts of the affected nerves. Such surgeries are often the least painful compared to conventional surgeries, including large cuts, surgeries, and long hospitalizations," he added.

## OUAT to felicitate best performing FPO today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) is going to celebrate its 62nd Foundation Day Thursday when the varsity will felicitate the best performing farmer producer organisation (FPO). Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister and Pro-Chancellor of the university Ranendra Pratap Swain will be the chief guest on the occasion.

A press meet was held by OUAT Wednesday where Vice-Chancellor PK Roul informed about the plans for the founda-



tion day ceremony.

He said that a FPOs' conclave will be organised on the occasion. There will be felicitation and awards for the best FPO, All India Coordinated Research Project, Krushi Vigyan Kendra and seed production unit for their performance. Besides, there will be awards for best teacher, research scientist, extension scientist, women scientist, technical employee, ministerial em-

ployee, best graduate (girl) and best graduate (Boy) on the occasion.

OUAT web portal 3.0 (www.ouat.ac.in), farmer-friendly apps, OUAT song, OUAT Vision for Next Decade, Directory of Academia-Industry Connect, OUAT newsletter and 'Chasira Sansara' will be unveiled on the occasion.

A one-year certificate course supported by OMBADC will also be launched on the occasion. The second floor of the College of Agriculture will be inaugurated on the occasion of 62nd Foundation Day of the University

## 5T Secy reviews devpt projects in Khurda dist

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** 5T Secretary VK Pandian continued his visit to Khurda Wednesday and reviewed the progress of various developmental works in the district.

Pandian reviewed the progress of ongoing mega piped water supply projects at an estimated cost of ₹503 crore in Jatni, Khurda, Begunia, Baliana and Balipatana blocks. These projects will provide water supply to the households across all the blocks. The projects will be operationalized in phases from March 2024 onwards. He directed the officials concerned to ensure timely completion and quality of services.

He also reviewed the progress of Instream Storage Structures at river Kushabhada in Baliana block and across river Kuakahi in Pandara Village near Bhubaneswar. The projects will cost around 209 crore.

These projects will help to promote Pisciculture activities and also supply water to BMC area, Baliana and Balipatna block. The projects will be completed by June 2024.

# ChatGPT can aid healthcare pros in decision making

**A**mid the growing debate over AI and its side effects, researchers now report that in healthcare settings, ChatGPT is nearly 72 per cent accurate across all medical specialties and phases of clinical care, and 77 per cent accurate in making final diagnoses.

The study led by investigators from Mass General Brigham highlighted potential for generative AI to increase access and efficiency in healthcare.

The large-language model (LLM) artificial intelligence chatbot performed equally well in both primary care and emergency settings across all medical specialties, said the study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research.

"No real benchmarks exist, but we estimate this perform-

ance to be at the level of someone who has just graduated from medical school, such as an intern or resident. This tells us that LLMs in general have the potential to be an augmenting tool for the practice of medicine and support clinical decision making with impressive accuracy," said Marc Succi, associate chair of innovation and commercialisation and strategic innovation leader at Mass General Brigham.

Changes in artificial intelligence technology are occurring at a fast pace and transforming many industries, including health care. But the capacity of LLMs to assist in the full scope of clinical care has not yet been studied.

Succi and his team tested the hypothesis that ChatGPT would be able to work through an en-



■ The study led by investigators from Mass General Brigham highlighted potential for generative AI to increase access and efficiency in healthcare

■ The large-language model (LLM) artificial intelligence chatbot performed equally well in both primary care and emergency settings across all medical specialties, said the

■ LLMs in general have the potential to be an augmenting tool for the practice of medicine and support clinical decision making with impressive accuracy

tire clinical encounter with a patient and recommend a diagnostic workup, decide the clinical management course, and ultimately make the final diagnosis.

The team compared ChatGPT's accuracy on differential diagnosis, diagnostic testing, final

diagnosis, and management in a structured blinded process, awarding points for correct answers and using linear regressions to assess the relationship between ChatGPT's performance and the vignette's demographic information.

ChatGPT was lowest-per-

forming in making differential diagnoses, where it was only 60 per cent accurate. It was only 68 percent accurate in clinical management decisions, such as figuring out what medications to treat the patient with after arriving at the correct diagnosis.

ChatGPT's answers did not

show gender bias and that its overall performance was steady across both primary and emergency care.

"ChatGPT struggled with differential diagnosis, which is the meat and potatoes of medicine when a physician has to figure out what to do," said Succi. "That is important because it tells us where physicians are truly experts and adding the most value - in the early stages of patient care with little presenting information, when a list of possible diagnoses is needed."

The authors note that before tools like ChatGPT can be considered for integration into clinical care, more benchmark research and regulatory guidance is needed.

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# Sambalpur-Talcher rly line doubling work complete

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 23:** The construction works on the super critical doubling of Sambalpur-Talcher line has been completed Wednesday. AM Chowdhary, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), South Eastern Circle inspected the doubling and electrification work between Sambalpur City - Sambalpur section (6.10km) in Sambalpur Division.

Chowdhary inspected safety-related aspects like overhead equipments, signal and telecommunication equipment, railway track and also conducted a speed trial between Sambalpur City and Sambalpur stations.

After doubling and electrification of this section, it will further facilitate the smooth running of trains. Sambalpur Divisional Railway Manager Vineet Singh, Chief



CRS inspects doubling work between Sambalpur City to Sambalpur (6.10 Km)

Construction work of 168.212 km long super critical doubling project between Sambalpur- Talcher completed

Administrative Officer (Con), East Coast Railway, P Sreenivas and other senior officials from ECoR Headquarters and Sambalpur division were also present during the inspection. This has been possible due to consistent review of project works by Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw. General Manager Manoj Sharma advised concerned officials to focus on the speedy completion of various project works along with super critical doubling projects like Talcher and Sambalpur line doubling.

Vaishnaw is giving priority to the development of railway infrastructure in the region and also monitoring the developmental works regularly. Talcher and Sambalpur doubling will boost the economy of the region and will provide hassle-free train operations along the vital rail line connecting western districts with coastal Odisha. Doubling work in Sambalpur-Talcher Super Critical (168.21 km) project was included in 2011-12 and the final nod was given in 2018. This is a super critical and important coal route between Talcher and Brajarajnagar.



**JOB ISSUES:** Officials of soil conservation and horticulture departments coming out of the district Collectorate in Keonjhar after submitting a memorandum under six point charter of demands addressed to the Chief Minister, Wednesday. The members of both the associations warned of non-cooperation in government programmes from August 31 if their demands including promotion are not met

# Malaria menace grips Rayagada

As many as 4,844 persons, including 533 children below five years of age, have been afflicted with malaria and undergone treatment in between January and July in the district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, August 23:** Malaria has assumed alarming proportions in Rayagada district as over 40 children from various blocks in the district have been identified as malaria positive in the last six days. The affected children have been undergoing treatment at the Rayagada headquarters hospital.

The district is seeing no let-up in the spread of the disease. Reports said that as many as 4,844 persons in the district have been afflicted with malaria and undergone treatment in between January and July. Among them, 533 are children below five years of age.

According to details available from the district headquarters hospital, this year malaria tests were conducted on 3,23,318 persons in between January and July. Things have come to such a pass that malaria patients from different blocks in the district are getting admitted to the district headquarters hospital every day. Furthermore, patients and their attendants are facing a lot of problems in getting proper treatment as there is no special malaria ward in the district headquarters hospital.

Malaria affected people are mainly being admitted to the medicine ward of the hospital. However, they face many hurdles in getting proper treatment as there are only



27 beds in the medicine ward while the number of admitted patients is over 100.

As a result, patients can be seen lying on the floor of the medicine ward undergoing treatment. Similarly, the paediatrics ward has only 35 beds but the patients outnumber the beds available.

Shockingly, many children with guardians by their side can be seen undergoing treatment for the disease lying near the toilets of the hospital. This has sparked

sharp resentment and anger among the patients and their attendants but they choose to stay mum owing to absence of any alternative.

The local intelligentsia has alleged that if the condition of the district headquarters hospital is so poor then the quality of health-care in the primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) can very well be construed.

On the other hand, the district health department has

claimed to have distributed medicated mosquito nets to people and undertaken awareness programmes to sensitise the residents. The department distributed mosquito nets in every block in 2020 and has plans to distribute similar mosquito nets in 2024, officials said.

However, people in rural areas do not use these mosquito nets during sleep. They use them instead to cover crops on their farmlands. Some others also wash these nets and put it in other use. The district health department said that they have been sensitising people to make proper use of nets. The district administration is also putting efforts to sensitise people in this regard.

When contacted, the chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Lal Mohan Routray said that more malaria patients are being identified due to change in season. Currently, we do not have any plan to establish a special malaria ward due to shortage of beds in the hospital, he said.

The new building of the hospital is under construction and shifting of some wards to the new building will ease the shortage in beds. Moreover, the health department is also conducting 'Daman' camps on malaria eradication, spraying DDT in rural areas and conducting awareness programmes to check the spread of the disease, he added.

## Elderly man drowns

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 23:** An elderly man drowned while taking bath in a canal at MV-29 village under Kamweda panchayat and Korukunda block in Malkangiri district Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Amal Gharami (70) of MV-29 village in the district.

The villagers said that Gharami had gone to the canal as usual for taking bath when his foot slipped. He fell into the water and drowned. Later some passers-by saw the body of Amal floating in the canal and alerted villagers who then recovered his body.

## Brother-in-law held for killing pregnant minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jagannathprasad, August 23:** Buguda police here Wednesday recovered the decomposed body of a minor pregnant girl from an abandoned dry well near Dhubatala mango orchard at Barakolia village under Jhadabhumi panchayat and Jagannathprasad police limits in Ganjam district.

The deceased was identified as Barsa Samal, younger daughter of Gopal Samal of Mangarajpur village.

Sources said, Santosh Khandei of Barakolia village had married the elder daughter of Gopal Samal. However, Santosh was spending

most of his time at his in-laws' house leaving behind his wife at his house. In the mean time, Santosh got attracted towards his minor sister-in-law Barsa and established physical relation with her resulting in pregnancy. When the family members came to know about this, they confronted Santosh.

Santosh confessed his mistakes and agreeing to keep both Barsa and her sister as wives he took her along to his village Barakolia August 17. Two days later, when Gopal called Santosh to know the whereabouts of Barsa, Santosh said that they were at one of his friend's house and will return to village after two days.

When Santosh eventually stopped taking calls from Gopal, he lodged a kidnapping case against Santosh at Buguda police station August 20. Acting on the complaint, Buguda police took Santosh into custody Monday night and started an interrogation.

Initially, Santosh denied any wrong doing on his part. However, he later confessed to have murdered Barsa. He had kept her body hidden inside an abandoned well near Dhubatala mango orchard on the outskirts of his village.

A police team reached the spot and recovered the decomposed body from well with the help of fire brigade personnel.

## Girl dead, elder sister critical in lightning strike

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Gopabandhu Nagar, August 23:** A 16-year-old girl was killed and her 27-year-old elder sister sustained critical injuries after lightning struck them during a thunderstorm at Pashuda village under this block and Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Wednesday.

The deceased girl was identified as Punta Hembram and

her critically injured sister as Sinag Hembram, daughter of Ganeswar Hembram.

The siblings were returning home from their farmlands in the afternoon when lightning struck them during a thunderstorm. Villagers rescued the two and rushed them to Badasahi hospital where doctors pronounced the minor 'brought dead' and shifted her critically injured

sister to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.

## Classical musical programme Sept 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela:** The sixth national level classical music extravaganza is going to be organised by Jaidev Kala Bikash Kendra here, September 9. Notably, the musical show runs for 12 hours at a stretch starting at 6pm in the evening and continuing till the next day morning at 6 o'clock. "The objective is to revive the ancient tradition of holding the programme all through the night, as this was happening under the erstwhile royal patronage," said the general secretary of the organisation Pradeep Kumar Panda. "We get a dedicated audience of over two hundred who sit all through the night. And we don't require a crowd who does not understand but comes as part of the crowd. What is encouraging for us is half of the crowd belongs to the younger generation," he added. The programme held in a very small auditorium with a capacity of over 200, will showcase 15 artistes from different corners of the country including Odisha this year.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), MAYURBHANJ, DIVISION, BARIPADA, MAYURBHANJ, PIN - 757003**  
**Email\_id: eeagri.mayurbhanj@gmail.com**  
**EOI No. 01 of 2023-24**  
**No. L-75: EOI is invited from reputed manufacturers/agencies/suppliers to quote rate of components of solar roof top system in different agriculture office buildings. The bidders can submit their bids upto 31.08.2023 (01.00 P.M.). The details will be available in the district website: www.mayurbhanj.nic.in. If any corrigendum/addendum arises it will be uploaded in the district website.**  
**Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Mayurbhanj, Baripada**  
**OIPR-01474/11/0003/2324**

**e-Procurement Notice for Road Works**  
**Identification No. 03/SERW/JLS/2023-24**  
**No. O-732**

1. Procurement Officer	: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jaleswar
2. Name of the Work	: Roads
3. Total No. of Works	: 23 Nos.
4. Estimated Cost	: Approx. Estimated Cost Rs.0.84 lakh to Rs.19.58 lakh
5. Class of Contractor	: 'D' & 'C' Class
6. Time of Completion	: One, Two & Three Calendar Months (As per annexure)
7. Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	: From 29.08.2023 at 11.00 P.M. to 05.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 04.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
9. Date & Time of Opening of tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Jaleswar	: Date & Time Opening of Technical Bid - 07.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. Date & Time Opening of Financial Bid - Will be intimated latter

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
**Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Jaleswar**  
**OIPR-25051/11/0006/2324**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**(1) e-Tender Notice No: e-Tender-Elect-6-37-23**  
**DESCRIPTION OF WORKS: UPGRADE/REPAIR/MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SPART AND SPARME AT DIFFERENT UNITS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**  
**Approx Cost of the work (₹): 1,99,70,869.80, Cost of EMD (₹): 2,49,900/-**  
**(2) e-Tender Notice No: e-Tender-Elect-6-38-23**  
**DESCRIPTION OF WORKS: ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF PATHWAYS, LIGHTING FACILITY AND WELDING POINTS AT ADB YARD, EXCHANGE YARD AND CC YARD OF C & W DEPOT/PARADEEP.**  
**Approx Cost of the work (₹): 1,91,56,003.06, Cost of EMD (₹): 2,45,800/-**  
**Completion period: 6 months (for both the tenders).**  
**Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 08.09.2023 (for both the tenders).**  
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available at website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.  
 Note: The prospective bidders are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.  
**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-486/O/23-24 Khurda Road**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION OF CATERING UNIT**

<b>1. G-129-CATG-GMU-BAM-1 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) at Brahmapur Station on Platform No. 2 & 3 Between Pillar No. 23 & 24 at towards Howrah end.
<b>2. G-129-CATG-GMU-BAM-2 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) at Brahmapur Station on Platform No. 1 Between Pillar No. 28 & 29 Bhubaneswar end.
<b>3. G-129-CATG-GMU-BAM-3 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) at Brahmapur Station on Platform No. 1 Between Pillar No. 16 & 17 Near Food Plaza.
<b>4. G-129-CATG-BBS-GMU-4 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) on Platform No. 4 & 5 at Bhubaneswar Station on between Pillar No. 20-21.
<b>5. G-129-CATG-GMU-CTC-5 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) on Platform No. 1 middle at Cuttack Railway Station.
<b>6. G-129-CATG-GMU-CTC-6 :</b>	Catering Stall Through General Minor Unit (GMU) at Cuttack Station on Platform No. 1 under Foot Over Bridge.

**Advertised Value (₹) :** (1) 34,06,000/-, (2) 38,01,200/-, (3) 38,01,200/-, (4) 56,19,978/-, (5) 24,18,000/-, (6) 26,57,200/-  
**EMD (Bid Security) (₹) :** (1) 1,70,300/-, (2) 1,90,600/-, (3) 1,90,600/-, (4) 2,81,000/-, (5) 1,20,900/-, (6) 1,32,900/-  
**Tender Document Cost (₹) :** 2,950/- (for Sl. No. 1-3, 5 & 6), 5,900/- (for Sl. No. 4).  
**Completion Period : 05 (Years)** (for all the tenders).  
**Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 08.09.2023 (for all the tenders).**  
 Complete information of the above e-Auction Notice is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
**Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / PR-484/O/23-24 Khurda Road**

## Direct flight soon from Rourkela to Kolkata

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, August 23:** There is good news for Steel City flyers as they will soon get direct flight connectivity to the City of Joy from September 1. After state capital Bhubaneswar, this is the second connectivity from Rourkela Airport and first to a city outside Odisha.

There will be direct flights between Rourkela and Kolkata on four days - Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday - every week as disclosed by a top official of Alliance Air who did not want to be named.

It will fly from Kolkata to Rourkela at 11.40 hours and land here at 13.10 hours. After halting here for twenty minutes, it will then fly to Bhubaneswar and will make a comeback flight at 14.30 hours. On the other hand, the plane will leave Rourkela at 15.30 hours after flying from Bhubaneswar and then after



twenty minutes' stoppage, it will fly back to Kolkata and reach there at 17.45 hours. With this arrangement for four days, Rourkela passengers will fly to Bhubaneswar two hours before at 14.30 hours. And on the rest of the days - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - the flight will follow the existing schedule to Bhubaneswar and will leave from Rourkela at 16.00 hours. Reacting to this Bibhuti Biswal, a regular flyer said, "This is good news for us because we will start the day fresh at Kolkata because when we travel by train we are groggy. Now at least we will get a night's sleep there and then

start the day." Sunil Kayal, president of Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) said, "at least a concerted effort by all has paid the dividend and we now have a direct flight to Kolkata as this will do world of good for business."

Professor Rajib Panda, a faculty of marketing at NIT Rourkela said, "this is good for all. It will help us in furthering our placement activity because corporate will come here and go back in a day which is a big advantage for them." And former All India General Secretary of Steel Executive Federation of India (SEFI) and also the secretary of NITRA, the alumni association of NIT Rourkela Bimal Bisi, who was relentlessly pressing for the Kolkata connectivity said, "I am thankful to Alliance Air and all those who actually kept on putting pressure for this connectivity. There will be a good time for Rourkela ahead."

**Bank of India**  
**Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002**

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BHUBANESWAR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
<b>Borrower: M/s. Maa Tarini Fly Ash Bricks, Prop.: Mrs. Sujata Swain, At: Plot No.: 1187, Khata No.: 210/27, Mouza: Bajabati, PO: Thanual, Haridaspur, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755024 / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Swain, S/o.: Golakha Bihari Swain, At: Nuagaon, PO.: Jaraka, Haridaspur, P.S.: Dharmasala, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755024</b>	<b>₹ 2,56,53,192.75</b> + interest & expenses thereon	<b>14.06.2023 / 22.08.2023</b>	<b>1) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 1187, 1182, 1181, 1176, 1177 under Khata No.: 210/27, admeasuring Area: Ac.1.130 Dec. (Total 05 Plots), situated at Mouza: Bajabati, Tahasil: Dharmasala, Dist.: Jajpur, standing in the name of Mrs. Sujata Swain, W/o.: Mr. Sunil Kumar Swain, 2) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 5/324, Khata No.: 129/25, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, situated at Mouza: Jhadasohala, Tahasil: Dharmasala, Dist.: Jajpur, standing in the name of Mrs. Sujata Swain, W/o.: Mr. Sunil Kumar Swain, Total 02 Khatas, 06 Plots, Total Area: Ac.1.300 Dec. i.e. 56,628 Sqft., Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1158, 1178, 1179, 1180, South: Plot No.: 1183, 1184, 1186, 1187, East: 20ft wide BT Road, West: Plot No.: 1160 &amp; 1175</b>

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 24.08.2023** **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, Bank of India**





Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

SRI AUROBINDO



## A Virtuous Cycle

At least half of the global population lacks access to essential health services, and health-care expenses push almost 100 million people into extreme poverty each year. How scarce resources are distributed should matter, and there are good reasons to believe that finance could play a crucial role in addressing this challenge. More than 60 countries have launched national financial-inclusion strategies, and academic research is keen on understanding their impact.

Until recently, there was no evidence that finance could make a significant difference for health. Randomised controlled trials that offered households financial products such as savings accounts, credit, and health insurance found no effects. But, crucially, these studies did not examine important long-term and large-scale aspects of banking, nor did they account for the financial products and services offered to businesses and health-care providers.

In a recent study, I used a natural experiment that introduced variation in bank presence in India to assess the effects of improving financial inclusion nationwide, over ten years, and on different actors in the market. In contrast to previous research, I found substantial improvements in households' health.

In 2005, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a policy to incentivise banks to open new branches in underserved districts nationwide. After five years, the number of bank branches in these districts had increased by 19 per cent. More importantly, two nationally representative household-level surveys have shown improved health in these districts compared to similar districts where the policy did not apply.

The Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted six years after the RBI policy went into effect, demonstrates that households in districts with an increased bank presence were 36 per cent less likely to experience non-chronic illnesses such as fever or diarrhoea. Likewise, the Demographics and Health Survey, conducted ten years after the policy was implemented, shows higher vaccination rates and lower risks associated with pregnancy in these districts. Decreased morbidity rates also improved health-related economic outcomes: the IHDS shows that households missed less school and work owing to illness and incurred significantly lower medical expenses.

Three mechanisms likely played a role in improving health outcomes. For starters, banks provided credit to local businesses, allowing households to earn more and invest more in health. Second, the data suggest that households directly gained access to financial services. They established savings accounts and, importantly, could also buy health insurance. In India – as in over half of developing countries – local banks sell health-insurance policies to their customers, serving as middlemen for insurance companies in major cities. This differs sharply from most developed countries, where health insurance is purchased only directly from insurance companies or obtained from government programmes.

Lastly, health-care providers gained access to credit. Eight years after the RBI policy was implemented, the number of hospitals operating in the incentivised districts had grown by 140 per cent, and providers were more likely to report institutional loans as their primary source of finance. Local households also reported fewer problems with health-care supply. Policymakers took to heart the importance of expanding credit to health-care providers: in May 2021, during the COVID-19 crisis, the RBI provided \$6.78 billion in easily accessible credit for the sector.

The substantial effects of finance on health in this natural experiment are more evident than they were in prior randomised controlled trials. Exploring finance using a natural experiment has two important added merits. First, it allows one to capture general equilibrium effects: evidence suggests that both demand and supply of the health-care market are stimulated, potentially creating a virtuous cycle. Second, one can explore effects on a larger scale over a longer period time. Increased bank presence could also help achieve other United Nations Sustainable Development Goals worldwide. Given the relationship between improved access to bank branches and fewer school absences owing to illness, education is one policy area that could be amenable to financial-inclusion efforts. Allowing households to invest more in education and providing credit for creating new schools and training programmes could generate better education outcomes.

The success of the RBI policy bodes well for policymakers in developing countries seeking to improve health outcomes. It also warrants further study of how similar interventions could affect demand and supply in other markets. Policy incentives to increase the number of bank branches in underserved areas could ultimately have multiple positive community outcomes, beyond improved health indicators.

The writer is an assistant professor at the London School of Economics.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

Don't think about what can happen in a month. Don't think about what can happen in a year. Just focus on the 24 hours in front of you and do what you can to get closer to where you want to be.

ERIC THOMAS

When you focus on problems, you get more problems. When you focus on possibilities, you have more opportunities.

ZIG ZIGLAR

The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus.

BRUCE LEE

### WORDSWORTH

#### Mortarboard

The academic cap often called a mortarboard is quite ancient, but that word for it only dates from the middle of the nineteenth century (a less slangy way to identify it is to call it a square). The literal mortar board is the wooden plate, usually with a handle underneath, on which bricklayers carry small amounts of mortar. A similar tool is used by plasterers, but they usually call it a hawk. What seems to have happened is that the similarity in shape between the brickie's board and the academic cap led some wag, probably at Oxford University, to apply the name of the one to the other. Our first recorded use is in a book of 1853-6, *The Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green*, an Oxford Freshman by a clergyman named Edward Bradley, who wrote under the pen name of Cuthbert Bede (the names of the two patron saints of Durham, where he went to school). Verdant Green is a sort of undergraduate Pickwick and the book recounts his adventures. After a slow start, the book became a huge success, selling more than 200,000 copies in the next 20 years. Whether Mr Bradley invented the slang term we may never know, but his book certainly popularised it.

## FOCUS DATA PROTECTION

# DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM



Several recent pieces of legislation create databases that fit an authoritarian frame containing intimate details of Indians and their family units



Satya Narayan Misra

THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO REFORM SURVEILLANCE LAWS, WHICH ARE HEAVILY LOADED AGAINST THE PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALS

In the Puttaswamy case (2017) a nine-judge bench unanimously affirmed that the right to privacy is an inalienable part of the right to life and personal liberty (Article 21). The court had nailed the chilling argument: "You may say that you want to be forgotten but the state does not want to forget you." Accordingly, it had asked the government to put in place a carefully structured regime for the protection of personal data. Justice Srikrishna submitted his recommendation for Data Protection Framework for India in 2018, largely based on the EU model. After several years of debates and deferrals, the government put in place the Digital Person Protection Act on 11 August. Responding to the Bill, Justice Srikrishna observed that "the bill is fundamentally flawed as it would permit and may encourage the executive to act capriciously & infringe on the fundamental right of privacy of personal data." Discerning analysts believe that the act will facilitate data collection and processing by the government and private entities rather than data protection and turn India into an Orwellian state.

The Act recognises that it has to balance the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes. The grounds for processing personal data rest on two pillars – the data principal's consent and legitimate use. The consent has to be free, specific, informed, unconditional, and unambiguous. The new law covers all personal data and does not contain any heightened protection for any special category of data. This is unlike the EU's GDPR which provides for stronger legal protection for more sensitive information like race, ethnic background, religious beliefs, political opinion,

sexual orientation, and genetics. The data principal is the individual, data subject, while a data fiduciary is the entity that determines the means of processing personal data. The data controller does not distinguish between private and public, natural and legal persons. Specific fiduciaries like the government and its agencies are exempt from the core obligations of the act. They include activities that are in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, security of the state, public order, and incitement to violence. Justice Srikrishna is critical of these sweeping government exemptions, which are likely to be used by parties in power to settle scores with political adversaries and those who display institutional independence.

Data localisation obligation, a sore issue for MNCs, mooted in 2018, has been given a go-by. The Act does not restrict the transfer of personal data out of India. The blanket exemption given to the government and its agencies under Section 17 of the Act without the consent of the data principal goes against the SC judgement in *Maneka Gandhi vs UOI* in 1978 which held that procedure established by law should be reasonable, fair and

just. In another landmark decision in *Anuradha Bhasin vs UOI* (2020), when internet was disconnected in Kashmir, the SC averred that the restriction must meet the proportionality test. The court struck down prohibiting internet access as invalid.

The Modi government believes that there is scaremongering in the country. Instead, we should trust it with our privacy as the data act is a new contract to participate in a digital society. Several recent pieces of legislation create databases that fit an authoritarian frame containing intimate details of Indians and their family units. This includes the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act 2022. It creates databases unnecessary while also infringing on fundamental rights. The registration of the Births & Deaths (Amendment) Act 2023 builds a national database seeded with Aadhaar, which means data sharing literally from cradle to pyre. Further, the Act envisages that personal data can be processed for the exercise of any function of the State. This can be done without the consent of the individual as long as it is to provide a service or benefit to the individual. This runs

contrary to the concept of "informed consent."

The inspiration seems to have been drawn from the National Intelligence Law of China where it can demand any such information as it may call for. Companies will fear a government that can pick winners and losers in India's digital market. This follows a path of centralised state command where the government can select firms as national champions. In September 2018, the SC upheld but limited the Aadhaar programme. Justice DY Chandrachud in his dissenting judgement alluded to Nobel-winning author Solzhenitsyn's experience in Stalinist Russia: "The invisible threads of a society networked on biometric data had grave portents for the future. Unless the law mandates an effective data protection framework, the quest for liberty and dignity would be as ephemeral as the wind."

It may be recalled that in the 2010s, personal data belonging to millions was collected without their consent by British consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, predominantly to be used for political advertising.

India requires a wider constitutional reboot on attempts to consolidate digital authoritarianism. There is also a need to reform surveillance laws, which are heavily loaded against the privacy of individuals. Without reform of surveillance governance, the present DPPA would pose bigger privacy issues in future. With general elections months away, the BJP is likely to up its antennae to collect sensitive personal data like political opinions, religious beliefs. The SC must nail the attempt of the government to ride triumphantly on digital authoritarianism.

The writer teaches constitutional law. Views are personal.

### SPECTRUM DEEP TECH

# Propelling startups from ideas to impact

India's deep tech startup ecosystem has finally garnered the attention and policy thrust it deserved for years. The draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) has a towering vision to position India as a global deep tech innovation hub. When their global peers in the US, China and Israel are leaping, the deep tech startups nurtured in India can't be lagging. And the policy takes note of the catching up that our home-grown startups need to do.

This policy open for public consultation, fosters research, development, and innovation while strengthening intellectual property rights to catalyze growth. Collaboration, not isolation, is the heart of innovation, and the draft policy advocates the creation of shared infrastructure. Startups in deep tech can flourish because the policy embraces modern regulatory standards and enables access to funding. As a nation, we are seeking to become a technology powerhouse, and the policy reflects this ambition. A pragmatic approach to galvanising growth is evident in the emphasis on public-private partnerships, seed funding, and infrastructure development.

For years, deep-tech startups have faced a profound challenge in raising funds from venture capitalists and deep-pocket investors. Only 11% of the tech-

nology-related funds reach deep-tech startups. This trend does not bode well for the 3000+ deep-tech startups, a third of which have moved up the innovation curve, filing patents. More so, at a time when the US, the EU and China are ramping up capital for their deep tech entities, the counterparts in India can't lose edge and cool their heels.

The NDTSP recognises the critical role of funding and articulates strategies to enhance access to capital for deep tech startups through venture capital funds, angel investors, government funds, and corporate partnerships. Building on this vision to ease fund worries, the government can now think of setting up a common grant framework across ministries for the deep tech entities. The grants can be earmarked both at the Proof of Concept and prototype stages. This is important because fundraising remains the biggest hurdle for any fledgling startup. Deep tech startups often have difficulty finding product-market fit since they are more technology-driven than market-driven. Any RoI-obsessed venture capitalist is hesitant to fund a deep tech startup due to uncertain and long break-even cycles. The match equity model paradigm has clicked in Israel and other countries where larger grants could be coupled with matching equity capital from financial investors. This will en-

courage fiscal prudence as well as commercial focus.

One more positive takeaway of the NDTSP is the focus on public procurement to amplify the visibility and viability of deep tech startups. When government departments and agencies buy products or solutions from such entities, it creates a virtuous cycle, stimulating market adoption and expediting the pace of innovation. The bedrock of any technological renaissance is talent acquisition. In this policy, initiatives are proposed to attract skilled professionals and promote capacity-building programmes. The policy strengthens the deep tech ecosystem with the human resources it needs to succeed by nurturing a pool of competent individuals.

To spur innovation, the policy calls for improved intellectual property regulations. The policy aligns with global best practices by simplifying patent procedures and providing legal support. Indian startups will be better positioned to compete internationally if they are supported in filing international patent applications. Today, the Patent Cooperation filing treaty is an expensive and time devouring process and Indian deep tech founders need the Indian government's support in filing patents in international markets.

For all its packages of goodies, the NDTSP is stalked by the cat-

egorisation conundrum. Concerns linger over classification of technologies as "deep tech." A misstep here could blur the lines between technological breakthroughs and incremental advancements, so definitions must be clear. Identifying only those technologies with transformative potential as deep tech will safeguard the sector's integrity and encourage focused innovation.

There is more to the draft NDTSP than a set of provisions; it is a strategic blueprint for India's technological resurgence. With its emphasis on innovation, intellectual property protection, financial accessibility, and attracting top-tier talent, the policy weaves a narrative of possibility that enables deep tech startups to transcend boundaries and reshape industries. It is, however, crucial that we remain vigilant throughout this journey to ensure our vision is realised. The deep tech dream of India has the potential to rewrite the story of technological progress with its collaborative efforts, steadfast implementation, and adaptability to emerging challenges. The time has just turned ripe for India's deep tech startups to take on their global peers and unwrap the possibilities ahead.

The writer is Founder & CEO, CSM Tech. Views are personal.



Priyadarshi Nanu Pany

THE TIME HAS JUST TURNED RIPE FOR INDIA'S DEEP TECH STARTUPS TO TAKE ON THEIR GLOBAL PEERS AND UNWRAP THE POSSIBILITIES AHEAD

### Exploration & progress

Sir, Hats off to ISRO scientists for their remarkable accomplishment in achieving a successful soft-landing of Chandrayaan-3 Lander Module on the Moon. Their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts to advance human exploration have once again showcased India's prominence on the global space map. This achievement not only marks a significant milestone in our scientific journey but also offers hope to the world. Their meticulous planning, innovative thinking, and determination have yielded outstanding results in this historic feat. India's distinction as the fourth country to achieve a soft Moon landing and the first to reach the uncharted south pole underscores the brilliance of our scientific community. The way the scientists worked together during the mission really connects with our country. Their hard work doesn't just make us proud, but also motivates many people who want to learn more about the world. Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insight, this achievement breaks through geographical barriers and embraces the entirety of humanity. It forges deeper global connections among those who share a joint vision of exploration and progress. Using this success as a stepping stone, let's aim higher and achieve even more as we continue exploring space. Our scientists' hard work shows what people can do when they're driven by a common love for learning and new ideas.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Fatigued pilots

Sir, It is sad that recently two Indian pilots lost their lives due to fatigue, and their deaths have raised serious concerns about the stress levels among commercial pilots. The issue of lassitude among pilots has become a dark cloud amid the country's growing air traffic and expanding aircraft fleet. A recent survey conducted among 500-odd pilots by Safety Matters Foundation, an NGO formed under the India Trust Act, showed that a majority of them fell asleep without planning or consent of the other crew. While regulations on flight duty time limitations and specific rest periods are in place, a more scientific approach as well as a better fatigue reporting system will help in tackling the silent danger of "fatigue." Also future high-quality intervention studies will play a crucial role in determining effective strategies for boosting pilot well-being, ultimately leading to improved flight safety and performance.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## 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)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# national

## of the day quote

Meeting the power demand of domestic and agriculture consumers is a priority for the Rajasthan government which is making all efforts to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply

How many women were given tickets in the list announced by KCR? It is just seven. Why 33 per cent was not given. It is a shame. The Chief Minister should come to Delhi and apologise ... At Jantar Mantar as he failed to give 33 per cent seats to women

The BSP had to bear more loss than gain by getting into alliances in UP as its votes clearly get transferred to the alliance partner but the other parties do not have the right intention or the capability to transfer their votes to our candidate

## SHORT TAKES

### SC stays trial court's order to Azam Khan

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday stayed an order of a trial court directing Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan to give a voice sample in a case of allegedly delivering a hate speech and using derogatory language against BSP chief Mayawati in 2007. The voice sample has been sought to match it with Khan's speech, which was made during a public meeting in Rampur's Tanda area in 2007 and recorded on a CD. A bench of justices A S Bopanna and P K Mishra issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government and the complainant in the case on the plea filed by Khan.

### Fresh spell of rain in Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi recorded a fresh spell of rain Wednesday which brought the maximum temperature down to 29.4 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, recorded 6.4 mm of rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. The weather stations at Palam, Lodi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Pusa and Mayur Vihar also recorded light rain.

### 18 workers hospitalised

Bharuch (Gujarat): A hazardous incident unfolded in Gujarat's Bharuch district as a toxic gas leak occurred within a factory premises Wednesday, resulting in the hospitalisation of at least 18 workers. The incident raised concerns about industrial safety and the well-being of labourers. Quick action and evacuation procedures were able to ensure the safety on-site during the incident.

### Constable dies as weapon 'misfires'

Hyderabad: A 31-year-old policeman died here in the early hours of Wednesday after his service weapon allegedly misfired, police said. The deceased, a head constable of the Telangana State Special Police (TSSP) 12 Battalion, was on guard duty at the platoon headquarters at Hussaini Alam here, they said. He belonged to Suryapet district.

### 51 tortoises rescued

English Bazar (WB): Fifty-one tortoises were rescued from a train in West Bengal's Malda district Wednesday, officials said. The tortoises were rescued by the Crime Prevention and Detection Squad in coordination with RPF from a coach of Farakka Express at Malda Town station, they said.



Hail Chandrayaan-3! Hail its stupendous success!! Hail @isro!! Hail our nation's magnificent achievement in sending an exploration mission successfully to the Moon!!

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

### ANTILIA BOMB SCARE CASE: SC GRANTS BAIL TO EX-COP

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to former Mumbai Police officer Pradeep Sharma, who was arrested in connection with the Antilia bomb scare case and the killing of businessman Mansukh Hiran



## Article 370 has 'self-limiting character': SC

CJI Chandrachud said that Article 370, which continued to exist in the Indian Constitution, itself points to its self-limiting character



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: The Supreme Court Wednesday said there is "intrinsic evidence" that Article 370 has a "self-limiting character" and it seems to have worked itself out after the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly ended in 1957.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was hearing a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Really speaking, though the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir framed its relationship with Union of India, unless that relationship was embodied in the Indian Constitution, how will it bind the dominion of India or Parliament for successive years after 1957," the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, said.

The bench posed questions to senior advocate Gopal

Sankaranarayanan, appearing for one of the petitioners Soayib Qureshi, who has challenged the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision.

CJI Chandrachud said in his view, Article 370 has two terminal points—first in clause 2 where it has been said that all decisions taken prior to the existence of the constituent assembly shall be placed for its approval and second, in proviso to clause 3, where it was said that the President can issue a notification declaring that Article 370 shall cease to exist or shall be operative with exceptions and modifications only on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir.

CJI Chandrachud asked Sankaranarayanan that if this reasoning is to be accepted, then it means that once Article 370 worked itself out, the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir will fill the void and that it will be the supreme document. Sankaranarayanan said it is their argument that Article 370 has worked itself out once the constituent assembly ceased to exist and, therefore, it should not have been touched.

The bench, however, clarified it is not saying that all constitution amendment orders issued for the application of the provisions of the Indian Constitution with respect to Jammu and Kashmir are unconstitutional.

Sankaranarayanan contended the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir has almost all the provisions which Indian Constitution has with nominal changes.



ASHA workers raise slogans during a protest against the Haryana government demanding a hike in their wages and regularisation of their jobs in Gurugram PTI PHOTO

## 26 workers killed as rly bridge collapses

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl/Kolkata, August 23: At least 26 workers were killed and two others injured after an under-construction railway bridge collapsed near the mountainous Sairang area of Mizoram Wednesday, officials of Mizoram Relief and Disaster Management Department said.

Police officials, however, said that 23 workers were killed and 18 bodies recovered till 5 p.m. late Wednesday afternoon.

Rescue operations involving National and State Disaster Response Force and Young Mizo Association volunteers, were underway to recover the bodies from under the collapsed steel structure that had toppled off



towering columns into the forested valley below. A Mizoram government statement said that the Quick Response Team (QRT) along with National Disaster Response Force have rescued one injured worker from the top of one of the bridge pillars. Two QRT personnel -- Lalhriatuala and Lalfakzuala -- brought down the injured worker rappelling

down over the 100 metre high pillar. Post mortem is being conducted by a team from the Zoram Medical College and Civil Hospital in Aizawl.

The bodies would be embalmed and would be handed over to the Railway Department for transportation to respective native villages, the statement said.

The Railway engineers said that the accident was due to the collapse of a gantry, which was being placed over the 104-metre piers of the under-construction bridge. Officials said that most of the victims are believed to be from West Bengal's Malda district. A high-level committee has been constituted by the Railway Ministry to probe the incident, railway

officials said.

The railway bridge was under construction over the Kurung river connecting Bairabi (near southern Assam) to Sairang, 10 km away from the Mizoram capital Aizawl.

The accident site is about 21 km from Aizawl. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), which is implementing the 51.38-km railway project, has sent several medical and engineering teams to provide medical assistance as well as the recovery process.

NFR General Manager (Construction) Sunil Kumar Jha, along with senior officials, have also rushed to Mizoram from the NFR headquarters in Maligaon (Guwahati).

## 12 killed as rain batters HP

The meteorological office Wednesday issued a 'red alert' predicting "heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated spells of extremely heavy rains" in six of the state's 12 districts including Shimla for the next 24 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 23: Heavy overnight rains in Himachal Pradesh claimed 12 lives and blocked over 400 more roads besides damaging several houses, officials said Wednesday.

A total of 709 roads in the state are now shut following three major spells of heavy rains this Monsoon that have left a trail of death and destruction.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appealed to the people to remain vigilant in view of the heavy rain forecast.

All schools and colleges have been closed for two days beginning Wednesday in Shimla, Mandi and Solan districts.

Out of the 12 deaths, seven occurred due to landslides in Mandi and Shimla. Besides, three people died of electrocution, and one death each was reported due to drowning and falling from



height in different parts of the state, according to the state emergency operation centre.

Five persons have died in landslides triggered by cloud bursts in two villages of Seraj area of Mandi district, Deputy Commissioner Arindam Chaudhary told PTI.

Two persons, Parma Nand (62) and his grandson Gopi (14), were killed in a landslide at Dagol village of Seraj in Mandi district while the other three were killed in a landslide in Sarachi village. Some more people are feared trapped in the debris. A few houses and a school were also damaged in the area.

Shimla town was badly hit, with landslides and uprooted trees blocking the main cart

road, the lifeline of the town as well as the Shimla-Mehli bypass at several points. Many houses have also developed cracks and people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

A migrant identified as Jhalo and his wife Rajkumari were found dead in their makeshift house in Baldeyan area of Shimla district, Superintendent of Police, Shimla, Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI. The police officer also appealed to residents to avoid unnecessary travel.

As many as 120 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state this month while a total of 238 people have died and 40 are still missing since the onset of monsoon in Himachal Pradesh June 24.

### LCA Tejas successfully test-fires ASTRA beyond visual range missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Indigenously-developed light combat aircraft Tejas on Wednesday successfully test-fired an ASTRA beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. The missile release was successfully carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 feet, officials said.

"Tejas, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) LSP-7 successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous beyond visual range air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa on August 23," the defence ministry said. It said all the objectives of the test were met and it was a perfect text book launch.

The test launch was monitored by the test director and scientists of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) along with officials from Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DG-AQA).

## T'gana HC suspends judge who ordered FIR against CEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 23: The Telangana High Court has placed under suspension a special sessions judge in connection with a "direction" given by him to police for registering an FIR against Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and several others, saying the judge acted in "undue haste".

Official sources in Hyderabad and people aware of the development in Delhi said the suspension was initiated on the administrative side against K Jaya Kumar, the judge of special sessions court for trial of MPs/MLAs, after a complaint was lodged with the high court by a senior official of the Election Commission.

Based on a private complaint filed under Section 200 of the CrPC by Raghavendra Raju, the judicial officer "acted in undue haste" without conducting any preliminary enquiry and without recording the statement of the complainant, the high court said.

Thus, there was a serious lapse in the procedure followed by the officer while discharging his duties, the sources said citing the order issued by the high court on the administrative side. The FIR was registered August



11 against Telangana Excise Minister V Srinivas Goud, CEC Kumar and a host of other officials after being referred by the sessions court for allegedly "tampering" Goud's 2018 state assembly election affidavit.

The matter was referred to police by the sessions court on a private complaint which alleged that Goud, MLA from Mahabubnagar, had "tampered" with the election affidavit by suppressing facts.

While Goud was named as the first accused, CEC Kumar and several other officials were made co-accused, who the complainant alleged had colluded with the minister and closed the election affidavit without taking any further action.

The judicial officer was placed under suspension by the high court in exercise of the Telangana Civil Services Rules, 1991 "in larger public interest", the sources said citing the order.

## Major mishap averted at Delhi airport



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: A mishap was averted at the airport in the national capital Wednesday morning involving two Vistara

planes as the air traffic controller inadvertently gave clearance for crossing and take off of two different aircraft on the same runway at the same time before cancelling the take off,

Two Vistara aircraft were given permission for take off and landing at the same time on Delhi Airport but the mishap was averted by the ATC

according to officials. Aviation regulator DGCA will probe the incident and the air traffic controller concerned has been derostered, one of the officials told PTI.

A plane that had landed at the Delhi airport from Ahmedabad and another plane that was to take off to Bagdogra were involved in the incident.

A senior official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Vistara

aircraft VT1926 operating the flight from Ahmedabad to Delhi was involved in the runway incursion.

The aircraft landed on runway 29L and was instructed by the air traffic controller to cross runway 29R. At the same time, the controller also permitted take off of another Vistara plane VTI725 operating the flight from runway 29R, the official said.

"Momentarily tower controller forgot this crossing and issued take off clearance to another Vistara flight VTI725 (Delhi-Bagdogra) from runway 29R."

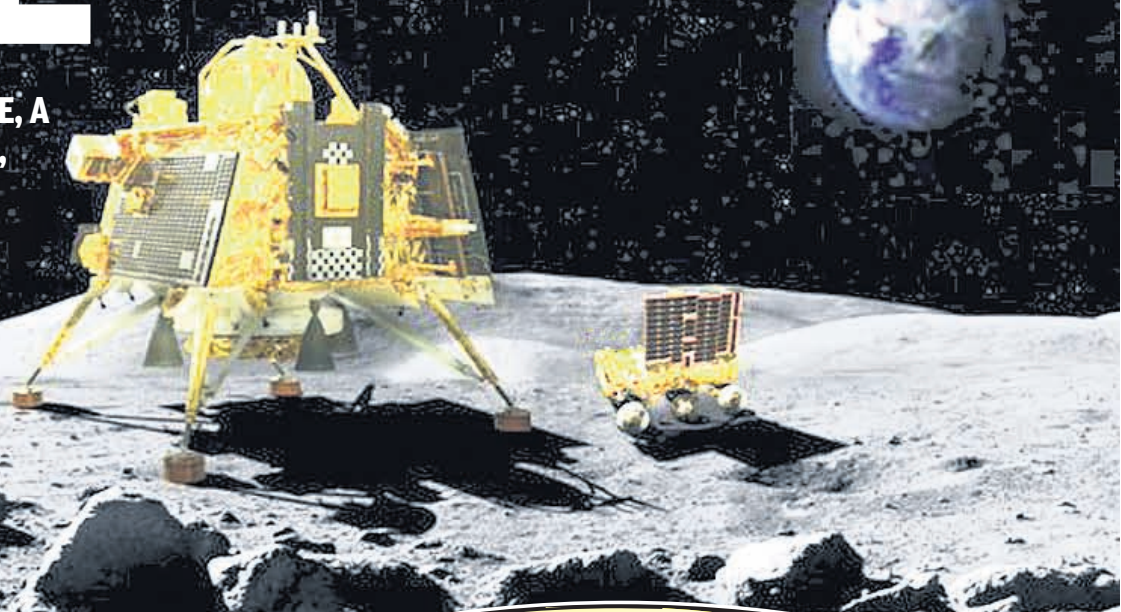
"On realisation of the error based on input from VTI926, the tower controller instructed VTI725 to cancel take off," the official said.

Vistara did not comment on the incident.



# MILESTONE

INDIA HAS BECOME THE FIRST NATION TO LAND A CRAFT NEAR THE MOON'S SOUTH POLE, A HISTORIC TRIUMPH FOR THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION AND ITS AMBITIOUS, CUT-PRICE SPACE PROGRAMME. THE SUCCESS OF CHANDRAYAAN-3 HAS SPARKED JOY AND SPARKLES ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY UNITING EVERY INDIAN



## What next?

ISRO'S NEXT LIKELY MOON MISSION IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS JAPANESE COUNTERPART, A VENTURE THAT'S GATHERING STEAM

THE ISRO AND THE US NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) ARE WORKING ON A JOINT EARTH-OBSERVATION SATELLITE NAMED NISAR. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2024

A MISSION TO STUDY THE SUN, AND LAUNCHING A CLIMATE OBSERVATION SATELLITE, A TEST VEHICLE AS PART OF GAGANYAAN HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAMME AND AN INDO-US SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR -- ISRO HAS A PACKED SCHEDULE AHEAD

THE NEXT FEW YEARS MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE INDIAN SPACE PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD INCLUDE GREATER POTENTIAL OF COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN SPACE AGENCIES AS WELL AS THE DOMESTIC PRIVATE SECTOR

Three Lunar missions in 15 years! It seems the Moon truly beckons ISRO. And why not? Scientists found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions for the first time using data from the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft in 2009.

Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to the Moon, was launched October 22, 2008 from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh. The spacecraft, carrying 11 scientific instruments built in India, the USA, the UK, Germany, Sweden and Bulgaria, orbited around the Moon at a height of 100 km from the lunar surface for chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon. After the successful completion of all the major mission objectives, the orbit was raised to 200 km in May 2009. The satellite made more than 3,400 orbits around the Moon. The orbiter mission, which had a mission life of two years, was, however, prematurely aborted after communication with the spacecraft was lost August 29, 2009. "Chandrayaan-1 achieved 95 per cent of its objectives,"

THE ISRO AUGUST 14 ANNOUNCED INDIA'S MISSION TO STUDY THE SUN. IT IS NAMED ADITYA-L1. ISRO HAS ALSO SLATED A FLIGHT TO VENUS -- VENUS MISSION -- IN 2024. WHETHER IT IS GOING TO BE A 'NIGHT FLIGHT TO VENUS' WILL BE KNOWN LATER



I congratulate ISRO, everybody involved in the Chandrayaan-3 mission and wish them greater accomplishments ahead

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the successful landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 space probe on the Moon near the South Pole. This is a long stride in the exploration of outer space and, of course, evidence of the impressive progress made by India in science and engineering

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

Congratulations ISRO on your successful Chandrayaan-3 lunar South Pole landing! And congratulations to India on being the 4th country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon. We're glad to be your partner on this mission!

BILL NELSON | NASA ADMINISTRATOR

Incredible! Congratulations to ISRO, Chandrayaan-3, and to all the people of India Josef Aschbacher

JOSEF ASCHBACHER | ESA DIRECTOR GENERAL

History made! Congratulations to ISRO

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

I congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and ISRO team of India on successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in the surface of the Moon today and unleashing of a historic achievement in science and space technology

PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL | PRIME MINISTER, NEPAL

# India's giant leap

## NATION CELEBRATES

An entire nation held its collective breath as Chandrayaan-3 inched closer to the lunar surface, finally erupting with joy as India scripted history by becoming the fourth country to successfully touch down on the Moon.

People gathered in educational institutions, offices, city squares and religious places to watch the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) live telecast of Chandrayaan-3's final descent to the uncharted surface of the lunar south pole.

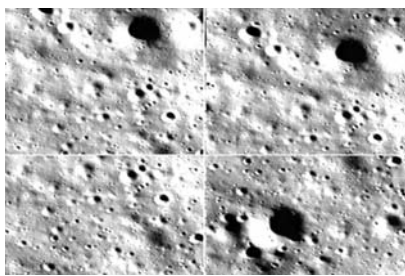
Students across the country were glued to screens and large television sets set up at their schools and college campuses watching the Chandrayaan-3 live-streaming.

The space agency had urged all schools and educational institutions to actively publicise the event among their students and faculty, and organise its live streaming. The Union education ministry too asked universities and higher education institutions, including IITs and IIMs, to organise live-telecast of the mission.



### Mission Chandrayaan-3

Mission operator	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Mission type	Lunar Landing
Launch date	July 14
Landing date	August 23
Launch time	2:35 PM
Landing time	6:04 pm
Launch vehicle	LVM-3
Mission cost	At an estimated ₹615 crore, Chandrayaan-3 is one of India's most cost-effective space missions. It is cheaper than its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2, and costs far less than big-budget films like Adipurush, Interstellar.



Surface of the Moon as captured by Lander Horizontal Velocity Camera during the successful descent of Chandrayaan-3

from an instrument which flew aboard India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, created the first map of water trapped in the uppermost layer of the Moon's soil. It would prove useful to future lunar explorers, ISRO officials said.

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, builds on the initial discovery in 2009 of water and a related ion - hydroxyl, which consists of one atom each of hydrogen and oxygen - in lunar soil. Scientists from Brown University in the US used a new calibration of data taken from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper, which flew aboard the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft in 2008, to quantify how much water is present on a global scale.

Using data collected by India's Chandrayaan-1 mission, NASA has detected magmatic water locked under the surface of the Moon.

and orbital manoeuvres, the mission life of the orbiter increased to seven years, according to ISRO. In fact, ISRO Monday said that two-way communication between the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter and the Chandrayaan-3 lunar module has been established. Moreover, the discovery of water on the Moon in 2009 was a hugely significant event, following which scientists, using data

said the then ISRO Chairman G Madhavan Nair. And a decade later, Chandrayaan-2, comprising an orbiter, lander and rover, was successfully launched July 22, 2019.

The objectives of the country's second mission to the Moon were scientific studies by payloads onboard the orbiter, and technology demonstration of soft landing and roving on the lunar surface. Most of the components of technology demonstration, including the launch, orbital critical manoeuvres, lander separation, de-boost and rough braking phase were successfully accomplished. However, the lander with a rover in its belly crashed on the lunar surface in the final lap, failing in its objective to touch down gently. "We narrowly missed it (soft landing on the Moon in Chandrayaan-2 mission) in the last two km (above the lunar surface)," Nair had told PTI Monday. However, all the eight scientific instruments of the orbiter, which had separated from the lander and rover, are performing as per design and providing valuable scientific data. Due to the precise launch

## RACE TO REACH SOUTH POLE

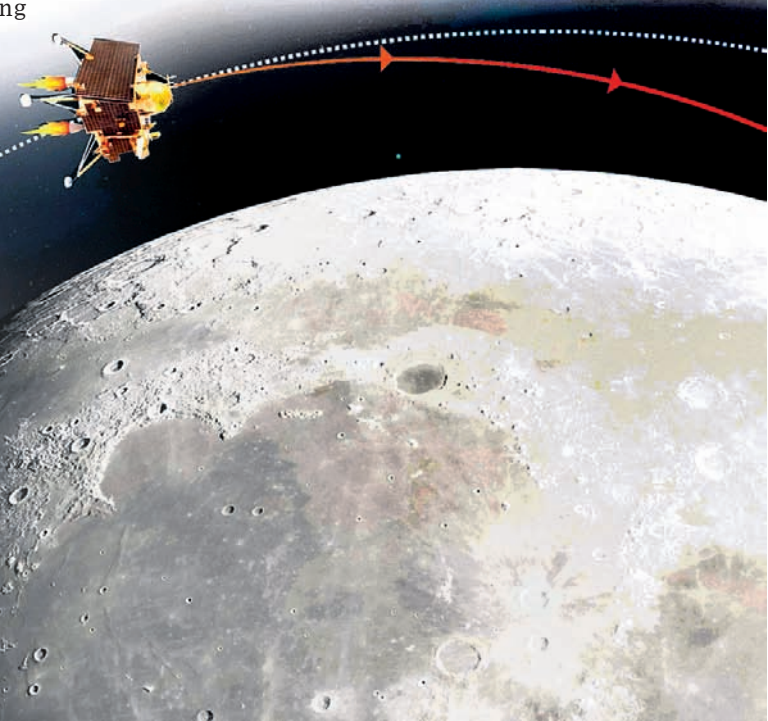
As early as the 1960s, before the first Apollo landing, scientists had speculated that water could exist on the Moon. Samples the Apollo crews returned for analysis in the late 1960s and early 1970s appeared to be dry. The lunar south pole, with its deep craters engulfed in unending darkness, has enticed various nations to try and plant their flags there. According to NASA, the region is full of "mystery, science and intrigue".

### WHAT MAKES THE SOUTH POLE ESPECIALLY TRICKY?

Attempted landings on the moon have failed before. Russia's Luna-25 craft had been scheduled to land on the south pole this week but spun out of control on approach and crashed Sunday. The south pole - far from the equatorial region targeted by previous missions, including the crewed Apollo landings - is full of craters and deep trenches. The Moon's South Pole, according to NASA, is full of "mystery, science and intrigue", a media report said.

### WHY IS WATER ON THE MOON IMPORTANT?

Scientists are interested in pockets of ancient water ice because they could provide a record of lunar volcanoes, material that comets and asteroids delivered to Earth, and the origin of oceans. If water ice exists in sufficient quantities, it could be a source of drinking water for Moon exploration and could help cool equipment. It could also be broken down to produce hydrogen for fuel and oxygen to breathe, supporting missions to Mars or lunar mining. The 1967 United Nations Outer Space Treaty prohibits any nation from claiming ownership of the Moon. There is no provision that would stop commercial operations. A US-led effort to establish a set of principles for Moon exploration and the use of its resources, the Artemis Accords, has 27 signatories. China and Russia have not signed.





# international



He (US President Joe Biden) told me, when he asked me to come here to serve, he said, this is the most important country (India) in the world to me, I think something that no American president has ever uttered in the history of our two countries

## TRUMP SKIPS 1ST DEBATE

Donald Trump will not be on the stage when his Republican rivals for the 2024 US presidential nomination debate for the first time Wednesday, but the front-runner hopes to distract from the event with a pre-recorded interview aired online



## of the day quote

Our actions in Ukraine have only one reason - to put an end to the war that was unleashed by the West and their satellites in Ukraine against the people living in Donbass

Pakistan will not surrender in front of radicalism, extremism and intolerance ... this is our home and we will run the country on our terms

In order to keep the peace, we need to strengthen ourselves. As such, we need to continue to reform the national defence, push for self-reliance, strengthen our defence capabilities and resilience

## SHORT TAKES

### Lanka's dilemma

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka is currently processing a request by China to allow a research ship to dock in the country, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Wednesday, a year after a visit by a Chinese spy vessel to the island nation raised security concerns in India.

### Pak arrests 60

**Lahore:** Pakistani authorities have arrested 60 more people in connection with the unprecedented mob attack on 21 churches in Punjab province, taking the total number of suspects under detention to more than 200, a top police official said Wednesday.

## 18 MONTHS OF INVASION

**Washington, August 23:** Russia's invasion of Ukraine has left tens of thousands of dead, displaced millions and sown economic turmoil across the world in the 18 months since its launch February 24, 2022.

Here are some details of the impact: **DEATH** The war has caused death on a level not seen in Europe since World War Two.

More than 9,000 civilians had been recorded as killed and more than 16,000 injured by the end of July, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which said it believed the actual figures were considerably higher.

The war has left nearly 500,000 troops either dead or injured, according to the New York Times. The paper cited officials from the United States, which supports Ukraine, as saying as many as 120,000 Russian troops have been killed and 170,000 to 180,000 injured, with Ukraine's military toll at 70,000 killed and 100,000 to 120,000 wounded.

Russian officials say US estimates of Russian losses are far too high - and propaganda. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said September 21 that

## SHIFTING GLOBAL ORDER

# BRICS for expansion

The expansion of BRICS is the major focus area at the annual summit of the grouping as around 23 countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran have applied for membership

AGENCIES

**Johannesburg, August 23:** Leaders of the BRICS bloc of leading developing nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - have agreed mechanisms for considering new members, South Africa's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Agreement on expansion paves the way for dozens of interested candidate nations to make their case for joining the grouping, which has pledged to become a champion of the developing "Global South".

Enlarging BRICS has topped the agenda at a summit taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa's commercial capital. While all BRICS members had publicly expressed support for growing the bloc, there had been divisions among the leaders over how much and how quickly.

"We have agreed on the matter of expansion," Naledi Pandor said on Ubuntu Radio, a station run by South Africa's foreign ministry. "We have a document that we've adopted which sets out guidelines and principles, processes for considering countries that wish to become members of BRICS... That's very positive."

Pandor said the bloc's leaders would make a more detailed announcement on expansion before the summit concludes Thursday.

The BRICS bloc brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world,



representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

Russia, isolated by the United States and Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, is also pushing to quickly grow BRICS and forge it into a counterweight to the West. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is wanted under an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes, sees BRICS membership as a way of showing the West he still has friends.

India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS and welcomes moving forward on it with consensus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said even as he presented five suggestions to further broaden cooperation among the members of the

grouping in a range of areas, including space exploration.

Modi said the technology will play an important role in making the grouping a "future-ready" organisation, and offered India's readiness to share expertise in the digital domain.

### DETHRONING DOLLAR-DOMINANCE

More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, say South African officials, 22 of whom have formally asked to be admitted.

Beyond the enlargement question, boosting the use of member states' local currencies in trade and financial transactions to lessen dependency of the US dollar is also on the summit agenda. South African organisers had said there would be no

We, the BRICS countries, should always bear in mind our founding purpose of strengthening ourselves through unity

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS membership. And welcomes moving forward with consensus on it

NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

The main thing is that we are all unanimous in the striving for the emergence of a multipolar world order, a truly fair one and based on international law

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

discussions of a common BRICS currency, an idea floated by Brazil as an alternative to dollar-dependence.

At least 15 potential new member countries - including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Argentina - are under consideration to join the bloc's New Development Bank (NDB), its chief financial officer said Wednesday.

The NDB, which has long tapped China's capital market for funding, is registering an Indian rupee bond programme worth \$2.5 billion over five years, after it issued its first South African rand bond last week.

# Scorched Europe fights deadly fires



Summer wildfires are common in Europe but this year they have been made worse by unusually hot, dry and windy weather which scientists link to climate change

REUTERS

**Athens, August 23:** More searing temperatures fuelled wildfires and prompted health warnings across Europe Wednesday, as a blaze in Turkey forced the closure of the Dardanelles shipping lane and winds fanned the flames in Greece where 20 people have already been killed.

France, which widened its heat-wave red alert in the south of the country, said it would scale back production at a nuclear power plant as high temperatures curbed cooling water supply.

In Greece, firefighters were battling a blaze for a second day close to Athens and the authorities warned that heat and winds risked fuelling more wildfires, a day after 18 bodies, probably migrants, were found in a charred northern forest.

A wildfire erupted Tuesday has smothered the capital in

Blaze near Athens forces more evacuations

France widens red alert, N-power output curbed

Italy issues alert on 'emergency conditions'

smoke and ash, spreading to the town of Menidi, where about 150 people were evacuated by bus from three nursing homes.

Firefighters supported by aircraft, some sent by other European states, were struggling to contain the fire which incinerated homes and cars in the village of Fyli. Residents had fled on foot, covering their faces to avoid the smoke, while volunteers loaded sheep in the area into cars to save them.

Greek Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said 355 wildfires had broken out since Friday, with 209 new blazes in the last 48 hours alone.

The French national weather service, Météo-France, reported the country's highest average temperature for the late summer period after August 15 since records began in 1947. It said some areas of southern France would experience temperatures of 42 degree Celsius.

## Germany makes gender change easier



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Berlin, August 23:** Germany's Cabinet Wednesday approved a plan to make it easier for transgender, intersex and non-binary people to change their name and gender in official documents, legislation that the justice minister said aims to make life easier for "a small group for which it has great significance".

The legislation still needs approval by parliament. It is one of several reform plans that

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition of three socially liberal parties has embarked on, and has been criticised by the conservative opposition.

Under the planned "self-determination law," which has been in the works for over a year, adults would be able to change their first name and legal gender at registry offices without further formalities. They would have to notify the registry office three months before making the change.

The existing "transsexual law", which dates back four decades, currently requires individuals who want to change gender on official documents to first obtain assessments from two experts "sufficiently familiar with the particular problems of transsexualism" and then a court decision.



PROTEST TO PROTECT: Activists chant slogans while scuffling during a protest in central Seoul, South Korea, against Japan's plan to release treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean. A woman holds up a placard reading "The ocean is not a trash bin for nuclear waste!"

## TOSHAKHANA CASE

# Shortcomings in Khan judgement: Pak chief justice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, August 23:** Pakistan's Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial Wednesday said there were "shortcomings" in the Toshakhana corruption case judgment convicting former premier Imran Khan and the Supreme Court would give its verdict after seeing the outcome of the hearing in the high court.

The Islamabad High Court is set to hear Thursday a petition challenging the conviction of 70-year-old Khan, who was sentenced to three years in jail August 5 by a session court.

The chief justice's observation came as a three-member special bench of the apex court headed by him and comprising Justices Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Jamal Khan Mandokhail heard the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's pleas filed against the trial court's proceedings of the Toshakhana corruption case.

The bench observed that the verdict was given in haste and without giving the right of defence to the accused. "Prima facie, there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict," the chief justice said.

However, the top court refused to give any order and said it would wait for the hearing of the case by the IHC and after that would hear the case.

"We will not interfere in the Toshakhana case today ... we will look at the IHC hearing tomorrow and then resume the proceedings," the court observed.

The proceedings in the apex court and the observation by the judges showed that Khan may get a big relief if his sentence was suspended by the IHC Thursday.

On August 5, a trial court in Islamabad found Khan guilty of "corrupt practices" in a case pertaining to concealing details of state gifts and sentenced him to three years in prison.

The verdict also means that he stood disqualified from contesting general elections for five years.

# Blood, billions: Cost of Russia's war in Ukraine

5,937 Russian soldiers had been killed since the start of the war. No further updates have been given and losses are a state secret.

Ukraine has not said how many of its soldiers have been killed and says its military losses are a state secret as they affect battlefield tactics.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 after a pro-Russian president was toppled in Ukraine's Maidan Revolution and Russia annexed Crimea, with Russian-backed forces fighting Ukraine's armed forces.

About 14,000 people were killed there between 2014 and the end of 2021, according to the OHCHR, including 3,106 civilians.

**DISPLACEMENT** Since the 2022 invasion, millions of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes, the United Nations refugee agency has said. Ukraine has a population of more than 41 million.

An estimated 17.6 million people in Ukraine require urgent humanitarian support, including more than 5 million people internally displaced by the war, the UNHCR said.

There are over 5.9 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe, according to the agency's data.

**UKRAINE** Russia has taken 11% of



Ukraine's territory since the start of the war, an area equivalent to Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut combined, according to the Belfer Center at the Harvard Kennedy School.

When added to Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, Russia now controls about 17.5% of Ukraine, an area of about 41,000 square miles (106,000 square km).

After pushing back Russian forces in 2022, it has failed to make major inroads against well-dug in Russian troops since launching a new counteroffensive in early June.

Ukraine has lost a swathe of its coastline, its economy has been crippled and some cities have been turned into wastelands by the fighting.

Ukraine's economy contracted by 30% in 2022 and is forecast to grow by 1% to 3% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

**RUSSIA** Russia's expenditure on the war is a state secret, but it coincides with a major shock to the Russian economy from the toughest ever Western sanctions imposed after the invasion.

The economy defied early expectations for a double-digit con-

traction in 2022, but a return to prosperity remains a long way off as the government directs more spending towards the military. Russia's economy will grow 1.5% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund, after a contraction of 2.1% in 2022.

Russia has doubled its 2023 defence spending target to more than \$100 billion - a third of all public expenditure - a government document reviewed by Reuters showed, as the costs of the war in Ukraine spiral and place growing strain on Moscow's finances.

As Russia's military spending soars and sanctions squeeze its energy revenues, Moscow faces a battle to keep its budget deficit in check.

Russia has lost a major chunk of the European gas market but has been able to keep selling its oil to global markets, although the United States, Europe and other powers have limited or ended their purchases.

It has been excluded from Western financial markets, most of its oligarchs are sanctioned, and it is experiencing problems sourcing some items such as microchips.

Russia has defaulted on its foreign bonds for the first time since the calamitous months fol-

lowing the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

### PRICES

The invasion and Western sanctions on Russia led to steep rises in the prices of fertiliser, wheat, metals and energy, fuelling an inflationary wave and a global food crisis.

Russia is the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and the world's biggest exporter of natural gas, wheat, nitrogen fertiliser and palladium.

Shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, international oil prices spiked to their highest levels since the records of 2008.

### WESTERN WEAPONS

Since the invasion, the United States has committed more than \$43 billion in security assistance to Ukraine, including stinger anti-aircraft systems, Javelin anti-armour systems, 155mm Howitzers and equipment to protect against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack.

The biggest overall supporters of Ukraine in nominal terms are the United States, the European Union, Britain, Germany and Japan, according to The Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

Russia says the West's weapons supplies are escalating the war:





School students wish for the successful landing of 'Chandrayaan-3' on the Moon, in Jalandhar



Students celebrate after the successful landing of 'Chandrayaan-3' on the Moon's surface, at Science City in Kolkata



People perform 'havan' in New Delhi as part of a special prayer for the safe landing of the spacecraft REUTERS



A tourist celebrates the successful soft landing of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 on the surface of the Moon as the live telecast is screened at Lal Chowk, in Srinagar



Students celebrate after the successful landing of 'Chandrayaan-3' on the Moon's surface, at Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, in Kolkata



The Indian cricket team watches the live telecast of ISRO's Chandrayaan's successful soft landing on the surface of the moon, in Dublin



People celebrate ISRO's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3's successful soft landing on the Moon's surface, at B M Birla Planetarium, at Kotturpuram, in Chennai



A woman prays before the successful soft landing of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 on the surface of the Moon, at CSIR headquarters, in New Delhi PTI PHOTOS





**CIL is committed to meeting the country's growing demand for coal and is ready to address any sudden surge in demand**

### INDIGO TO LEASE TEN JETS

Singapore-headquartered BOC Aviation Limited and India's largest airline IndiGo have entered into a finance lease transaction involving 10 Airbus A320NEO aircraft to further expand its fleet, officials said Wednesday. All 10 aircraft powered by CFM LEAP-1A engines are scheduled for delivery in 2023, said BOC Aviation



### of the day quote

The government is likely to announce fiscal incentives for the ailing textile and apparel industry by the end of this year, partly to stave off the impact of a fall in overseas orders



T RAJKUMAR | CHAIRMAN, CITI

The market for voluntary carbon offsets which valued at around \$2 billion in 2021 witnessed a downturn, and now valuing at \$500 million. However, various ratings and research firms are bullish on the improvement in the carbon market



MANISH DABKARA | CMD, EKI ENERGY SERVICES

India's great potential, coupled with the skilled workforce and market demand, aligns perfectly with our group's growth strategy



PETR NOVOTNY | PRESIDENT (COMPONENTS AND BUS MOBILITY), SKODA GROUP

### SHORT TAKES

#### Adani's EBITDA grows 42% in Q1

**New Delhi:** Billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate clocked a 42 per cent year-on-year growth in pre-tax profit, as businesses ranging from airports to power and sea ports registered impressive growth, the group said Wednesday. All-time high EBITDA of ₹23,532 crore in April-June was almost equal to the full-year FY19 (April 2018 to March 2019 fiscal year) EBITDA of ₹24,780 crore, Adani group said in a statement. The conglomerate that spans 10 listed companies ranging from flagship incubator Adani Enterprises Ltd to ports business (Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd), renewable unit (Adani Green Energy Ltd), power utility (Adani Power Ltd), electricity transmission firm (Adani Energy Solutions), and city gas business (Adani Total Gas Ltd), had a net debt of ₹18,689.7 crore after accounting for a cash balance of ₹42,115 crore.

#### CCI closes case against Tata arm

**New Delhi:** Competition Commission Wednesday closed a case against Tata Motors on alleged abuse of dominant position with respect to agreements with its authorised dealers. For the case, the market for the manufacture and sale of commercial vehicles in India was considered as the relevant one. The complaint was filed against Tata Motors, Tata Capital Financial Services and Tata Motors Finance. In May 2021, the regulator ordered the Director General (DG) to carry out a detailed probe into the allegations. DG, the investigation arm of the regulator, had submitted its report in September 2022. In its 32-page order, the CCI said it is unable to agree with the finding of the DG that Tata Motors coerced its dealers to offtake vehicles as per the company's demands.

#### GAIL to invest ₹30K-cr in 3 yrs

**New Delhi:** India's top gas firm GAIL (India) Ltd plans to invest ₹30,000 crore in the next three years as it expands petrochemical capacity and scouts for LNG supplies globally, its chairman Sandeep Kumar Gupta said Wednesday. The nation's top gas marketing and transportation firm is looking at liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a transport fuel, joining Essar-promoted GreenLine which operates the nation's largest LNG-powered fleet of heavy commercial vehicles.

### FIRST TIME IN 7 YEARS

# India may ban sugar exports

AFTER IMPOSING EXPORT CURBS ON RICE AND ONION, INDIA CONSIDERS RESTRICTING SUGAR FLOW TO OVERSEAS MARKET, TRIGGERING FEARS OF FURTHER INFLATION GLOBALLY

REUTERS

**Mumbai, August 23:** India is expected to ban mills from exporting sugar in the next season beginning October, halting shipments for the first time in seven years, as a lack of rain has cut cane yields, three government sources said.

India's absence from the world market would be likely to increase benchmark prices in New York and London that are already trading around multi-year highs, triggering fears of further inflation on global food markets.

"Our primary focus is to fulfil local sugar requirements and produce ethanol from surplus sugarcane," said a government source who asked not to be named in line with official rules. "For the upcoming season, we will not have enough sugar to allocate for export quotas."

India allowed mills to export only 6.1 million tonne of sugar during the current season to September 30, after letting them sell a record 11.1 million tonne last season.

In 2016, India imposed a 20% tax on sugar exports to curb overseas sales.

Monsoon rains in the top cane growing districts of the western state of Maharashtra and the southern state of Karnataka - which together account for more than half of India's total sugar output - have been as much as 50% below average so far this year, weather department data showed.

Patchy rains would cut sugar output in the 2023/24 season and even reduce planting for the 2024/25 season, an industry official, who declined to be named, said.

Local sugar prices jumped



India's sugar production could fall 3.3% to 31.7 million tonne in the 2023/24 season

this week to their highest level in nearly two years, prompting the government to allow mills to sell an extra 200,000 tonne in August.

"Food inflation is a concern. The recent increase in sugar prices eliminates any possibility of exports," said another government source.

Retail inflation in India jumped to a 15-month high of 7.44% in July and food inflation to 11.5% - its highest in over three years.

India's sugar production could fall 3.3% to 31.7 million tonne in the 2023/24 season.

"We've allowed mills to export large volumes of sugar during the past two years," said the third government source. "But we also have to ensure sufficient supplies and stable prices."

India surprised buyers last month by imposing a ban on non-basmati white rice exports. New Delhi also imposed a 40% duty last week on exports of onions as it tries to calm food prices ahead of state elections later this year.

A Mumbai-based dealer with a global trade house said lower output in Thailand was also expected to reduce shipments and major producer Brazil would alone not be able to fill the gap.

### India aims over 64% renewables by 2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** It is not true that India is not reducing coal-based power generation capacity in the energy mix, a senior government official said, adding that the country is targeting over 64 per cent of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.

India has set the target of having 500GW of renewable energy by 2030. Coal-based power generation, however, ensures stable operation of the electricity transmission grid.

"It is not true that we are not reducing coal. We are in the business of energy transition. But keeping in mind energy security and supply to each and every consumer, we have to provide electricity to all types of consumers including commercial, domestic and industrial," Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, Ghanshyam Prasad said at the BCC&I Environment and Energy Conclave here.

India's power infrastructure is mostly dominated by coal (based generation) as it constitutes more than 50 per cent in terms of capacity. In terms of output, the share of fossil fuel-based energy is 70 to 74 per cent, he said.

## Top 11 states' social welfare spends to hit 10-year-high in FY24: Crisil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 23:** Top Indian states' spending on social welfare is set to touch a 10-year high of ₹4 lakh crore, or 1.7 per cent of their combined GDP, in the on-going fiscal, a domestic rating agency said in a report Wednesday.

After analysing budgets of top 11 states, which account for over three-fourths of the aggregate Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Crisil Ratings said the growth in social welfare schemes is expected to clock a 16 per cent jump in compounded annual growth rate between 2017-18 and 2023-24.

The revenue receipts grew by 11 per cent during the same period, Crisil said.

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala were the 11 states accounted for in the Crisil report.

"While allocation towards social welfare schemes is seen essential considering India's demography, a steady increase in the same without commensurate increase in revenues may have an impact the credit profiles



The higher growth on social welfare schemes is due to states prioritising financial assistance to certain target demographics in the form of direct transfers, pensions and cash incentives, and, in some instances, to honour election commitments

ANU SETHI | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CRISIL

of the states in the longer run," the agency warned.

The agency said these spends were 1.2-1.3 per cent of GSDP on an average before FY18, which has now gone up to 1.7 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year slammed freebies, terming it as the "revdi culture", and underlined the need to end the same.

Crisil said "social welfare" spending does not include expenditure on education, agri-

culture, public health and other key sectors, which are budgeted separately.

Among the non-committed expenditure items, social welfare schemes have the highest share at 13 per cent of the overall amount, the agency said, adding that such spending is higher than education (10-11 per cent), power (6-7 per cent), agriculture (6-7 per cent) and public health (4-5 per cent).

It said the share of social welfare schemes in the non-committed expenditure stood at 10 per cent in FY18.

The growth in expenditure on social welfare schemes at 16 per cent per annum is higher than the 12-13 per cent growth in expenditure on healthcare between FY18 and FY24, which witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic, the agency said.

Revenue receipts have grown at a moderate 10-11 per cent per annum between FY18 and FY24, resulting in continuing revenue deficits for the states, the agency said.

Crisil Director Aditya Jhaveri advocated for higher capex allocation towards education and health, saying it has a relatively higher impact on uplifting revenue and productivity for states in the near- to medium-term.

## Sensex, Nifty continue to rise for 3rd day

In the three days of gains, Sensex has rebounded 484.64 points while Nifty advanced by 133.85 points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 23:** Benchmark Sensex rose by 213 points while Nifty settled above the 19,400 level in a volatile trade Wednesday following buying in banking counters and early gains in European stocks.

Rising for a third straight day, the BSE Sensex climbed 213.27 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 65,433.30. During the day, it jumped 284.68 points or 0.43 per cent to 65,504.71.

The NSE Nifty gained 47.55 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 19,444 as 29 of its components ended in the green while 22 declined.

From the Sensex pack, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Larsen

& Toubro, Maruti, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Power Grid and HDFC Bank were the major gainers. Jio Financial Services, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards.

"On the domestic front, sentiments remained positive, backed by strong demand in the banking sector, though IT and pharma limited the gains," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

#### Aerospace, defence stocks shine

Shares of companies related to aerospace and defence sectors were in the limelight ahead



of the successful touchdown of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface.

Shares of Bharat Forge climbed 2.82 per cent, Astra Microwave Products gained 1.72 per cent and Larsen & Toubro (1.42 per cent).

Centum Electronics, which delivered more than 200 mission critical modules to the Chandrayaan-3 mission, zoomed

14.91 per cent. Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd jumped 5.47 per cent, MTAR Technologies rallied 4.84 per cent and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd climbed 3.57 per cent on the BSE.

Many of these firms also hit their 52-week high levels during the rupee.

The rupee strengthened for the second consecutive session and appreciated by 27 paise, registering the highest single-day gain in nearly two months, to close at 82.72 against the US dollar Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in equities as they purchased shares worth ₹617 crore, according to exchange data.

## QIA to acquire 1% stake in RRVL

RRVL, is aggressively expanding its business by acquiring the franchise rights of leading international brands



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) will acquire around 1 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries, by investing ₹8,278 crore (\$1 billion).

A QIA's wholly-owned subsidiary will make the investment in India's largest retailer at a valuation of ₹8.278 lakh crore (\$100 billion).

Updating about the development, Reliance Industries in a regulatory filing said: "QIA's investment will translate into a minority equity stake of 0.99 per cent in RRVL on a fully-diluted basis."

RRVL is the holding company for all retail businesses of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

Through its subsidiaries and associates, RRVL operates India's largest, fastest-growing, and most profitable retail business

with an integrated omnichannel network of over 18,500 stores and digital commerce platforms.

Commenting over the development, RRVL Director Isha Mukesh Ambani said investment by QIA is a strong endorsement of a positive outlook towards Indian economy and Reliance's retail business model, strategy and execution capabilities.

"We are delighted to welcome QIA as an investor in RRVL. We look forward to benefitting from QIA's global experience and strong track record of value creation as we further develop Reliance Retail Ventures Limited into a world-class institution, driving transformation of the Indian retail sector."

QIA CEO Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud said: "QIA is com-

mitted to supporting innovative companies with high-growth potential in India's fast-growing retail market. We are looking forward to Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, with its strong vision and impressive growth trajectory, joining our growing and diverse portfolio of investments in India."

Earlier in 2020, RRVL had raised ₹47,265 crore (around \$6.4 billion) from global private equity funds for a 10.09 per cent stake, valuing the company at more than ₹4.2 lakh crore. This was the largest fundraising exercise in the sector at that time.

In its latest annual report, RIL had said Reliance Retail had achieved a significant milestone of crossing a billion transactions and its registered user base has grown to 249 million.

## From Jio Financial to Zerodha, Indian asset managers go 'passive'

Passive funds now account for a bigger part of the industry pie -- jumping to 16.7% from 6.4% in four years, although that's well below the 47% in US

REUTERS

**Mumbai, August 23:** India's asset managers are launching even more passive funds as an overcrowded market for active funds and their struggle to beat benchmark returns force a shift in the \$558 billion industry.

Moreover, passive funds, which replicate an index, are also cheaper for investors than active funds, whose composition is decided by a fund manager.

Fund houses have launched 23 passive funds so far this year, half the 45 launched in 2022 and well above 10 in 2019, data from Value Research shows.

And while the 40 new active funds so far this year equals

2022's total, it is less than the 60 launches in 2019.

One reason for the shift is the returns.

"The lower ability of active funds to consistently beat an applicable index, especially in the large-cap category, is one of the reasons for the shift in passive funds," said Anil Ghelani, head of passive investments and products at DSP Asset Managers.

Between 2010 to May 2023, India's benchmark Sensex equity index, surged nearly 400%, driving retail investor interest. But an active large-cap fund beat those returns by merely 0.3%, on average, on a three-year rolling return basis, noted Ghelani.

The shift has resulted in pas-



sive funds' assets under management (AUM) surging seven-fold to 7.81 trillion rupees between July 2019 and July 2023.

More tellingly, passive funds now account for a bigger part of the industry pie -- jumping to 16.7% from 6.4% in four years,

although that's well below the 47% in the United States.

To be sure, besides being larger, the active funds industry is still drawing investors, particularly those investing via systematic investment plans.

But the entry of new, high-

Majority of funds allowed as per rules on active side are already available with the larger fund houses. The product gap in the passive space is much larger and hence we are seeing increased launches

CHINTAN HARIA | HEAD OF INVESTMENT STRATEGY, ICICI PRUDENTIAL

profile domestic players could accelerate the shift. Mukesh Ambani's Jio Financial Services recently tied up with index funds powerhouse BlackRock Inc.

Zerodha, India's largest stockbroker, aims to offer only index-linked funds when it launches its

fund house in the next 6-8 weeks.

The plan is to expand retail participation with products that are "simple, transparent and affordable," said Vishal Jain, CEO of Zerodha Fund House. "We think index-based products exhibit these qualities in the most straightforward manner."

Investor fees for passive funds ranged from 0.08% to 0.11% in fiscal 2022 and between 1.88% and 2% for equity active funds, according to a paper published by the market regulator in May.

The regulator is also encouraging the shift. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has said it is working on liberal "light touch" regulations for passive funds.



# Aldrin qualifies for finals

**INDIAN LONG JUMPER REACHES MAIDEN FINALS AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, WHILE SREESHANKAR SUFFERS SHOCK EXIT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Budapest, August 23:** National record holder long jumper Jeswin Aldrin qualified for his maiden World Athletics Championships finals but fellow competitor Murali Sreeshankar made a shock exit at the qualification round after his worst performance of the season here Wednesday.

Javelin thrower Annu Rani, also a national record holder but struggling for form for some time, produced her second worst performance of the season with a 57.05m effort to crash out in the qualification round after finishing 11th in Group A and 19th overall.

The 21-year-old Aldrin, who entered the showpiece as season leader with his 8.42m national record effort in March, cleared 8.0m in his first attempt and fouled his next two jumps. But that was sufficient for him to make it to the 12-man final to be held Thursday.

Those who cleared automatic qualification distance of 8.15m or top 12 from the two qualification groups made it to the finals. Aldrin, who finished sixth in Group B qualification round, was the 12th best performer overall and made it to the finals as the last qualifier.

Wednesday, he became the second Indian male long jumper to qualify for the finals in the showpiece after Sreeshankar, who had finished seventh in the 2022 World Championships in USA.

The 24-year-old Sreeshankar had a disappointing series of 7.74m, 7.66m and 6.70m as he finished 12th in Group A qualification round and 22nd overall. His exit in the qualification round was another shocker for



the Indian camp reeling under 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable's failure to make it to the finals. He was expected to at least reach the finals.

Sreeshankar has been more consistent than Aldrin this

season, having crossed the 8m mark on many occasions. He achieved his personal best of 8.41m in Bhubaneswar in June and was entering the World Championships on the back of his silver-winning jump of

8.37m in the Asian Championships in July.

But Wednesday, form deserted Sreeshankar — the Paris Diamond League third place finisher — when it mattered the most. This was his third appearance in the

showpiece.

For Aldrin, this was his second appearance in the World Championships. He had crashed out at the qualification round in the 2022 edition in USA.

In a rare feat, two Indians — Aldrin and Sreeshankar — had entered the World Championships as first and second ranked long jumpers in the season leaders' list.

Aldrin has been struggling to touch the 8m mark after his big jump early in the season. He had also faced fitness issues, which led to him missing the Asian Championships in July. His most recent outing was at the CITIUS Meeting in Bern, Switzerland which he won with 8.22m.

The competition witnessed some dramatic moments with Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece and defending champion Wang Jianan of China finding themselves in danger of missing out on the finals before making the grade with their third and final jumps of 8.25m and 8.34m respectively.

Young Jamaican national champion Wayne Pinnock, 22, stunned the Budapest crowd with a 8.54m new world leading jump in his first attempt in Group A qualification round. He did not take any further jumps.

Asian champion Lin Yu-Tang of Chinese Taipei also missed the final round with a best jump of 7.45m while reigning Commonwealth Games gold medallist LaQuan Nairn of Bahamas recorded a 'No-Mark' after three foul jumps.

Indian athletes have disappointed so far in the World Championships here. On the opening day Saturday, national record holder 3000m steeplechaser Sable failed to qualify for the final round after finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat race.

National record holder 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji failed to qualify for the semifinals Tuesday as she finished seventh in her heat. She clocked 13.05 seconds — well below her national record of 12.78s.

# India secure gold, bronze at Worlds



AMANPREET SINGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Baku, August 23:** Amanpreet Singh won the men's 25m standard pistol to give India their fifth gold medal in the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Championship here Wednesday, even as the women's standard pistol trio picked up a bronze in the team competition.

The country has so far won five gold and four bronze medals, moving back up to second position on the medal tally behind China, who leads with 24 podium finishes, 13 of them being gold.

Amanpreet shot 577 in the men's standard pistol, a clear three points ahead of silver-winning Korean Lee Gunhyeok, who shot 574. Kevin Chapon of France won bronze with the same score as Lee's but with lesser inner 10s than the Korean.

The Indian team comprising Harsh Gupta (fourth with 573) and Akshay Jain (545) and Amanpreet, however, narrowly missed a team medal, finishing fourth behind China, Germany and Korea, with a combined total of 1695.

In the women's 25m standard pistol, while none among Tiyan

(11th with 538), Yashita Shokeen (12th with 536) and Kritika Sharma (14th with 527) could win individually, they did bag the team bronze with a combined score of 1601. China won gold and the host nation got silver.

Meanwhile, Rajeshwari Kumari shot the second-best score of 73 on day one of the women's trap qualifiers and was placed fourth.

London Olympic champion Jessica Rossi of Italy was leading the 75-strong field with a perfect score of 75. Rajeshwari and the others come back on Thursday to shoot two more rounds of qualification, before the top six make the finals, which follow on the same day. Rajeshwari missed just two targets in the Olympic event, with rounds of 24, 25 and 24 respectively.

Compatriots Manisha Keer and Preeti Rajak shot scores of 68 and 67 to end the day in 24th and 41st spots respectively. The trio was also in bronze medal contention in the team event with a combined effort of 208 thus far. Italy and Australia were ahead of them in the team competition.

# It's a golden generation of Indian chess: Anand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 23:** With India producing chess Grandmasters aplenty besides setting a name for itself on the world stage, legendary Indian GM Viswanathan Anand firmly believes that the current lot happens to be a golden generation in Indian chess.

His comments came at a time when the Indian players have hogged the limelight in the Chess World Cup in Baku (Azerbaijan), where young GM R Praggnanandhaa is competing in the final against reigning World No.1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway. The final, Wednesday, entered into the tie-breaker, which will be played Thursday, after the players settled for draws in the two rounds in the final.

Speaking to a weekly news magazine, Anand was quoted as saying that he was amazed by the fact that most of the current lot possesses a 2,700-plus Elo rating, especially below 20 years of age, terming it "special".

"I'm throwing in the title early, but they are a golden generation. They are all in the 2,700-plus group (Elo rating). And they're all under 20. That just does not happen; it's really something special."

"And what this means, and the reason I call them the golden

generation, is they're going to spend the next ten years at the top. With varying career trajectories, of course, but they're going to spend the next 10 years being rivals and colleagues and friends and everything."

He was also delighted by the prospect of seeing many Indians competing at an event, compared to his time. "It's a very different vibe because I (have been) used to being the only Indian in a tournament for very long. So, it's incomparable to my experience," Anand added.

Although he noted that the game of chess has changed in recent times, he was willing to offer advice to the upcoming new generation. "I would share my experiences, especially psychologically speaking and emotionally. But, chess itself has changed so much."

"When I was growing up, what we tried to pass on to people was, how do you find better moves? But now, when the computer is giving you the best moves right away or the quickest answer, the thinking almost has to change..."

"So, how does my experience compare with them? I have to be careful. I can share what I think and leave it in the air, but I can't be too prescriptive," Anand signed off.

# Indian pairs through to third round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Copenhagen, August 23:** Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with a comfortable straight-game win over Australian duo of Kenneth Zhe Hooi Choo and Ming Chuen Lim in the World Championships here Wednesday.

Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also produced a solid performance to enter round 3 with a straight-game win over Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun of Chinese Taipei.

World No.2 pair of Satwik and Chirag, who had won a maiden bronze in the last edition, produced a clinical display to see off their Australian rivals 21-16, 21-9.

The reigning Commonwealth Games champions, who have won four titles this season, will face Indonesia's 10th seeds Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin next.

Earlier, World No.19 Gayatri and Treesa, who reached the semifinals of the All England Championships in the last two editions, beat Chang and Yang, ranked 37th, 21-18, 21-10 in 38 minutes.

The Indian pair, who had re-



ceived a bye in the first round, will face an uphill task against top seed Chinese duo of Chen

Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan in their next round. Satwik and Chirag hardly

broke any sweat as they zoomed to 11-7 at the break. The duo maintained the lead after resumption before Chirag eventually sent one down the middle to grab four game points and Satwik sealed the game with a return on the backline.

In the second game, the duo entered the interval with a six-point cushion following a fast net exchange and a smash from Satwik. Choo and Lim tried to put pressure on the Indians but they lacked the wherewithal to trouble Satwik and Chirag, who soon grabbed 11 match points with a precise return from the Mumbaikar. The Australians then went long to a return of serve to end the contest.

Treesa and Gayatri managed an 11-9 lead at the break. Gayatri stepped up after the resumption, showing great anticipation at the front court before a service error from Chang and Yang gave the Indian pair four game points.

After the change of sides, Gayatri and Treesa continued the momentum, having a three-point cushion at the interval. Gayatri and Treesa stepped up the pace after resumption to move to 19-10. The Indians had 10 match points and they sealed the deal after their rivals went wide again.

# 3rd India-Ireland T20I washed out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dublin, August 23:** The third and final T20I between India and Ireland here Wednesday was washed out without a ball being bowled. India had already sealed the series 2-0 with a win in the second T20I Sunday. The series opener, which India won by two runs via DLS method, was also marred by rain.

The toss for the final game was delayed due to rain and following multiple inspections, the umpires called off the match three hours after the scheduled start time.

The series marked impressive comebacks of pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasadh Krishna from back surgeries and a tougher test awaits them in the ODI Asia Cup beginning August 31.

Bumrah led a team full of youngsters in the absence of senior players with focus being on the ODI format ahead of the World Cup at home in October-November.

For the young blood, the series was seen as a warm-up to next month's Asian Games in China where a second string Indian team will take part with the senior side busy with the World Cup preparations. Rituraj Gaikwad will lead the team in China.

# Alcaraz-Djoko symbolises transition in tennis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, August 23:** Based on the reactions on social media, it seems everyone in the world of tennis was riveted by Novak Djokovic's victory over Carlos Alcaraz in the final of the last tournament for both ahead of the US Open.

It was a titanic, 3½-hour-plus showdown between the two titans of the men's game at the moment — the third time they've played each other in Djokovic's past three events, each on a different surface — and set the stage for what will be an expected meeting to determine the champion at Flushing Meadows, where play begins Monday and finishes September 10.

Last weekend's contest at the hard-court Cincinnati Masters, in which Djokovic, who is 36, saved a championship point in the second set and Alcaraz, who is 20, saved four in the third before succumbing 5-7, 7-6(9-7), 7-6(7-4), also served to symbolise the state of change the sport currently finds itself in, a year removed from Serena Williams' farewell match in New York and Roger Federer's retirement announcement soon thereafter.

Alcaraz is 'The Next Big Thing', the winner of the 2022 US Open who grabbed his second Grand Slam title last month at Wimbledon by beating — yes, that's right — Djokovic. And Djokovic, the owner of 23 major trophies, is the only member of



The Big Three competing nowadays, what with Federer (who has 20) done and Rafael Nadal (22) out since January with a hip problem but eyeing a return for one last hurrah in 2024.

"For so many years, the game has been dominated by legends of the sport, but Father Time is undefeated. Everyone has to kind of go on to their next stage and they have to put the rackets

down. We're seeing that unfortunately with Serena, with Roger, with Rafa. There is going to be a bit of a transition period," said Chris Eubanks, a 27-year-old from Atlanta who reached the Wimbledon men's quarterfinals.

No.1-ranked Iga Swiatek, who is 22, No.2 Aryna Sabalenka, 25, and No.4 Elena Rybakina, 24, appear poised to stay near the top of the women's game — Swiatek already has won four Slam titles, including the 2022 US Open; the others have one apiece — and No.6 Coco Gauff, just 19, might be ready to etch her name on one of the four most prestigious trophies.

Still, none has established herself as a definitive heir to Williams. The sport's leaders hope someone will step forward.