



Kangana's aspiration

Actor-filmmaker turned Member of Parliament Kangana Ranaut says she aspires to bring together the three Khans in one film

LEISURE | P10



Among the best

AIIMS Bhubaneswar secures 15th position in the 2024 National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings, officials inform

DOWNTOWN | P4



Trade deficit widens

After remaining in the positive zone for three months, India's exports contract 1.2 per cent to \$33.98 billion in July, while the trade deficit widen to \$23.5 billion

BUSINESS | P11



Sreejesh honoured

Hockey India decides to retire the jersey number of goalkeeping stalwart PR Sreejesh at senior level

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

No medal for Vinesh as CAS junks appeal

Paris: Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification from Olympic Games final has been rejected by the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the Indian Olympic Association said Wednesday. Vinesh was disqualified for being 100gm overweight at the time of the weigh-in on the morning of the women's 50kg freestyle final last week. In a statement, IOA President PT Usha expressed "shock and disappointment at the decision of the Sole Arbitrator at the CAS".

NOTICE

There will be no edition of the paper August 16 (Friday) as the offices and press of Orissa POST will remain closed on Independence Day.

Wishing readers
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

—EDITOR



Given the serious charges we face, we must celebrate anything that shows us as patriots

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	79105.88	↑ 149.85
NIFTY	24143.75	↑ 4.47
DOLLAR	83.93	↑ ₹0.04
EURO	92.52	↑ ₹0.29
GOLD	₹70,163	↓ ₹536
SILVER	₹80,426	↓ ₹623

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°C	32.0°C
Min Temp	25.2°C	26.0°C
Humidity	98%	88%
Rainfall	11.8mm	Nil

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



CM Majhi joins 'Ghar Ghar Tiranga' campaign

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 14: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday participated in the 'Ghar Ghar Tiranga' campaign, emphasising that the Tricolour unites all citizens with a shared love

for the country Majhi, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, and other leaders, joined a padayatra from the Lingaraj shrine to Rameswar temple in Bhubaneswar on the occasion. Majhi highlighted the signifi-

cance of the Tricolour, noting that each colour represents unity and national pride. "Our national flag is a symbol of our determination, struggle, and sacrifice. It embodies national unity, tolerance, and friendship. Every citizen takes pride in our national flag," he said.

Boost to coffers of mining states

SC ALLOWS STATES TO COLLECT PAST DUES ON MINING FROM APRIL 2005

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: In a major victory for mineral-rich states, the Supreme Court Wednesday allowed them to seek dues from April 1, 2005 on royalty and tax on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land from the Centre in a staggered period of 12 years.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the argument for prospective effect of July 25 is rejected.

Pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, CJI Chandrachud said by an 8:1 majority, this court had July 25 answered the questions referred to it and held that legislative power to tax mineral rights vests with states.

He said after the pronouncement of the July 25 verdict, the assesses sought prospective effect of the decision and the matter was listed July 31 to decide the effect of verdict.



■ The July 25 verdict had overruled a 1989 judgement and subsequent decisions of the apex court, which held that only the Centre has power to impose royalty on minerals and mineral bearing land

■ During the hearing July 31, the Centre and mining companies had opposed the demand of states for refund of royalty collected since 1989

Authority Act (MADA July 25 verdict) be given prospective effect is rejected, the bench said and laid down conditionalities for payment of dues by the Centre and mining companies, including Public Sector Undertakings, to the states.

While the states may levy or renew demands of tax, if any pertaining to Entries 49 and 50 of List II of seventh schedule of the Constitution, in terms of law laid down in the decision of MADA (July 25 verdict). The demand of tax shall not operate on transactions made prior to April 1, 2005, the bench said.

Entry 49 of List II deals with taxes on lands and buildings while Entry 50 deals with taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitations imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development.

The bench also said, "The time for payment of demand of tax (by states) shall be staggered in instalments over a period of 12 years commencing from April 1, 2026."

Army captain, terrorist killed in Doda encounter

FOUR BLOOD-SOAKED RUCKSACKS, AMERICAN M-4 CARBINES FOUND; OPS UNDERWAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 14: An Army captain and a terrorist were killed in an ongoing operation in the higher reaches of Jammu region's Doda district Wednesday, officials said. A civilian was also injured in the encounter that broke out on the eve of Independence Day and is the latest in a series of incidents in the Jammu region that has witnessed a spike in violence of late.

This is the fourth encounter in recent days in the Udhampur-Doda-Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bullets rang out Wednesday morning in a thickly forested area during a cordon-and-search operation (CASO) launched by a joint team of security personnel to track down a group of foreign terrorists hiding in the Shivgarh-Assar belt, the officials said.

Captain Deepak Singh was critically injured during the operations and shifted to a military hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, they added. "One terrorist has been neutralised in the on-

going operation. One AK 47 has been recovered. Intermittent exchange of firing continues as the operations are ongoing," the Army said in a post on X.

Police also confirmed the killing of a terrorist. Four blood-soaked rucksacks were seized from the site of the encounter; leading officials to initially believe that a total of four terrorists were killed. M-4 carbines were also found, the officials said. However, the death of only one terrorist has been confirmed.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain reached the Assar area along with top officers to supervise the operation.

Ahead of his visit to Doda, the ADGP told reporters in Jammu around 2pm that the operation was still underway. "The operation is going on. Efforts are on," he said.

The Army expressed its deepest condolence on the officer's death and said the force stands with the bereaved family. All ranks of the White Knight Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of braveheart Captain Deepak Singh, it said.

In a first, tricolour to flutter in 13 villages of Naxal-hit Bastar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, August 14: Thirteen remote villages located in the Naxalite-hit Bastar region of Chhattisgarh will witness hoisting of the national flag for the first time on the Independence Day Thursday, police said.

Setting up new camps of security forces in these villages in the last seven months has been paving the way for development of the respective areas, they said.

Tricolour will be hoisted in Nerlghat (Dantewada district), Panidobir (Kanker), Gundam, Putkel and Chhutvahi (Bijapur), Kasturmeta, Maspur, Irakbhatti and Mohndi (Narayanpur), Tekalgudem, Puvarthi, Lakhapal and Pulanpad (Sukma) villages Thursday where such event



Security camps at these places were established after the Republic Day last year. The camps would act as a ray of hope for the young and old in building a peaceful and prosperous Bastar

was not held ever in the past, Inspector General of Police of Bastar Range Sundarraj P told PTI. Security camps at these places were established after

the Republic Day last year. All these newly-established camps have provided a new and vibrant identity to the region and its native population. The camps would act as a ray of hope for the young and old in building a peaceful and prosperous Bastar, he added.

The camps have been facilitating in taking the government welfare schemes to people, mainly tribals and also paved the way for the development of areas, he added. Bastar division, comprising seven districts, has been struggling with the menace of Left Wing Extremism since over the past three decades.

Security has been stepped up in the state, particularly in Maoist-affected areas, in view of the Independence Day celebration Thursday, police said.

Nomination for RS polls begins

Bhubaneswar: The state Assembly Wednesday issued a notification for election to one Rajya Sabha seat, marking the beginning of the nomination filing process. The seat fell vacant after Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta resigned from the seat and also quit the BJD July 31, two years before completion of her tenure. She was elected to the Upper House April 3, 2020.

DGP told to probe Black Rose sinking

Bhubaneswar: State Home department Wednesday wrote a letter to the Director General of Police directing him to probe the mysterious sinking of Mongolian vessel MV Black Rose near the Paradip Port as per the provision in law. This comes close on the heels of demand of CBI inquiry by an RTI activist during a grievance hearing of CM.

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DOCTORS' STIR HITS SERVICES AT AIIMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 14: Healthcare services were affected at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Wednesday as doctors of the premier medical institution remained off duty and staged protests over the alleged rape and murder of a woman post-graduate trainee at a medical college and hospital in Kolkata.

Tying white ribbons on their foreheads, holding banners and posters, the doctors staged demonstrations on the premises of the institute since morning.

MBBS students, resident doctors and interns, too, joined the protest. Prabhakar Tripathy, additional superintendent, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, said the cease-work began this morning.

"However, other faculty members of our institution - professors, additional professors and assistant professors - are making all efforts so that emergency, OPD and IPD services are not affected," he said.

Deepak Ghuge, a resident doctor, said, "We are staging protests against the heinous crime that happened in Kolkata. We are the saviours, yet we are not safe. How can we provide hassle-free services to mankind?" The agitators are also demanding a Central law for protection of doctors, with provision for strict punishment, he said.

KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER



The cease-work began this morning. However, other faculty members of our institution - professors, additional professors and assistant professors - are making all efforts so that emergency, OPD and IPD services are not affected

PRABHAKAR TRIPATHY | AIIMS-BHUBANESWAR
ADDL SUPERINTENDENT

We are staging protests against the heinous crime that happened in Kolkata. We are the saviours, yet we are not safe. How can we provide hassle-free services to mankind?

DEEPAK GHUGE |
RESIDENT DOCTOR

"We also seek adequate compensation for the family of the deceased," Ghuge said.

Besides, police action against agitating doctors should be stopped, he added.

The body of the postgraduate trainee doctor, who was allegedly raped and murdered inside a seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, was found Friday morning.

I-Day: Medals for 20 from Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 14: The Union government Wednesday announced service medals for 1,037 personnel of various central and state forces, including 20 from Odisha, on the eve of Independence Day.

According to a statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Odisha Police's Additional Director General of Police Suresh Dev Datta Singh and Deputy Superintendent of Police

Sachidananda Rath will receive the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM).

Company Commander Prakash Chandra Sahoo and Civil Defence Volunteer Simanchala Kundu will also receive the prestigious PSM.

Similarly, Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) will be given to Odisha Police's Deputy Commandant Kaushika Kumar Naik, DSP Sanat Kumar

Nathsharma, DSP Kavita Sahu, Constable Pramoda Kumar Mohanta, Sub-Inspector Pradyumna Kumar Nanda and ASI Babula Samal.

Constable Sanjukta Patanaik, Inspector Haribandhu Bhadra, and Havildars Tophan Behera, Prana Krishna Lenka and Suresh Chandra Rout of Odisha

Police will also receive the MSM. Similarly, Leading Firemen

Niranjan Jena and Sukanta Kumar Behera have also been selected for the MSM.

Under Home Guard and Civil Defence, Platoon Commander Sulochana Sahoo and Civil Defence Volunteer Jhagu Barua will get the MSM.

Moreover, under Correctional Service, Jailor Ratikanta Sukla will also receive the prestigious MSM.

These medals are announced twice a year, the other being on the occasion of Republic Day.

These medals are announced twice a year

RBT relocation likely by Sept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 14: To bolster big cat population in the state, Forest officials have begun the process of relocating five Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, with the transfer scheduled to be completed in September, official sources said, Wednesday.

"On our request, Maharashtra and MP have given their consent for relocation of their tigers to Odisha. They have also identified the tigers from core areas of their forests," PCCF (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda said.

He also said that Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) is all set to welcome two giraffes from Kolkata's Alipore Zoological Garden by the end of this month. NZP Wednesday got two marmosets from Hyderabad. Meanwhile, the male lion 'Krish', born at NZP in 2004, died Wednesday.

BJD threatens to boycott two-day orientation programme for MLAs

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 14: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday said it would not participate in the two-day orientation programme organised by the Odisha Legislative Assembly for the newly-elected MLAs here if the schedule fixed for the event is not rectified.

The orientation programme has been fixed August 17 and 18.

As per the schedule, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the function while Union Health Minister JP Nadda will address the valedictory session.

Both leaders are not members of the House, said BJD deputy chief whip in Assembly Pratap Keshari Deb here Wednesday.

Usually, either the Chief Minister, who is the Leader of the House, or the Speaker becomes the chief guest of the inaugural and valedictory sessions.

This time, a serious exception has been made, Deb said.

"It seems like a BJP programme. It is not proper that outsiders (non-members of the House) will address the

Assembly programme when the Chief Minister and

the Speaker are there," the BJD leader said. The dignity of the Speaker and CM should not be compromised, he said.

He appealed to the Speaker to refrain from such a move.

Otherwise, the BJD, which has 51 MLA in the 147-member House, will not attend this programme, he said. Notably, 82 of the 147 MLAs are first-timers.

SNIPPETS

AICC forms steering committee for state

Bhubaneswar: All India Congress Committee (AICC) Wednesday formed a 14-member steering committee for Odisha. With AICC in-charge for Odisha Ajoy Kumar as chairman, the committee will have former Union minister Srikanth Jena, CLP leader Rama Chandra Kadam, former OPCC chief Jaydev Jena, Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka, senior leader Ashok Das, former Union minister Bhakta Das, former MP Anant Sethi, former MLA Mohammed Moquim, former MLA Debasis Patnaik, senior leader Biswaranjan Mohanty, former Minister Balabhadra Majhi and senior leaders Sashmita Behra and Mohd. Shahnawaz Choudhury as its members.

7 cops suspended

Koraput: Seven Odisha Police personnel were suspended Wednesday for aiding ganja smugglers during an operation in Machkund. A security team intercepted a four-wheeler laden with ganja in the Machkund area a few days ago. It was discovered that the officials, in collusion with the smugglers, accepted bribes and allowed the smugglers to escape.

DADLS - 21

ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଦେଶର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଳିମିଶି ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ଵାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଏକ ନୂଆ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ ଦିଗରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ।

(ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା)

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We emerge as a strong nation after trial and tribulations. To weaken Pakistan's armed forces is tantamount to weakening the country itself
ASIM MUNIR | ARMY CHIEF GENERAL, PAKISTAN

TALIBAN RULE MARKS 3 YEAR
 Afghanistan's Taliban rulers celebrated three years in power Wednesday with a military parade paying homage to their homemade bombs used in war, fighter aircraft and goose-stepping security forces



of the day quote

The more time goes by of escalated tensions, the more time goes by of daily conflict, the more the odds and the chances go up for accidents, for mistakes, for inadvertent targets to be hit that could easily cause escalation

AMOS HOCHSTEIN | DIPLOMAT, US

South Korea and Britain are partners that share key values, such as free democracy and the market system, and have maintained solid economic cooperation

AHN DUK-GEUN | INDUSTRY MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

Do not think that I want to pick a fight with the US. On the contrary, I want the US on our side as much as I want China

LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | PRESIDENT, BRAZIL

SHORT TAKE

17 Indian fishermen repatriated to India
Colombo: Seventeen Indian fishermen, arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters, were repatriated to their homes in India Wednesday, the Indian mission said Wednesday. The development comes close on the heels of 21 Indian fishermen, who were arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy and were repatriated to Chennai from Colombo August 2.

Japan PM bows out

REUTERS

Tokyo, August 14: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday he would step down next month, succumbing to public disaffection over political scandals and rising living costs that marred his three-year term, and setting off a scramble to replace him.

"Politics cannot function without public trust," he told a press conference to reveal his decision not to seek re-election as the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"I made this heavy decision thinking of the public, with the strong will to push political reform forward."

The LDP will hold a contest in September to replace him as President of the party, and, by extension, as Prime Minister.

Kishida's ratings dipped after he took office in 2021 following revelations about the LDP's ties to the controversial Unification Church.

His popularity took another hit when a slush fund of unrecorded political donations made at LDP fundraising events came to light.

He also faced public discontent as wages failed to keep pace with rising living costs as Japan finally shook off years of deflationary pressure.

"An LDP incumbent Prime Minister cannot run in the presidential race unless he's assured of a victory," said Koichi Nakano, a professor of political science at Sophia University.

"It's like the grand champion yokozunas of sumo. You don't just win, but you need to win with grace."

His successor as LDP leader will face the task of restoring



I made this heavy decision thinking of the public, with the strong will to push political reform forward

FUMIO KISHIDA | PM, JAPAN

the public's confidence in the party and tackle the rising cost of living, escalating geopolitical tensions with China and the potential return of Donald Trump as US President next year.

Through his stint as Japan's eighth-longest serving post-war leader, Kishida broke from previous economic policy by eschewing corporate profit-driven trickle-down economics to set his sights on boosting household income, including wage hikes and promoting share ownership.

NEXT LEADER

Former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba has already thrown his hat in the ring as a prospective replacement for Kishida, saying he would like to "fulfil his duty" if he gained enough support, public broadcaster NHK said.

Other names floated as potential contenders include Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Digital Minister Taro Kono, and former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi.

Thai court ousts PM for ethics violation

Bangkok: Thailand's Constitutional Court Wednesday dismissed Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin for "grossly" violating ethics by appointing a minister who had served jail time, raising the spectre of political upheaval and a shakeup in the governing alliance. Real estate tycoon Srettha becomes the fourth Thai premier in 16 years to be removed in verdicts by the same court after its judges ruled 5-4 in favour of dismissing him for failing to perform his duty with integrity. Srettha's exit after less than a year in power means Parliament must convene to choose a new premier, with the prospect of more uncertainty in a country dogged for two decades by coups and court rulings that have brought down multiple governments and political parties. "The court has found 5-4 that the accused is terminated as Prime Minister due to his lack of honesty," the judges said, adding his behaviour "grossly breached ethical standards". Move Forward's surviving lawmakers regrouped Friday under a new party.

WHO declares mpox global emergency

More than 17,000 suspected mpox cases and 517 deaths have been reported on the African continent so far this year

REUTERS

London, August 14: The World Health Organization Wednesday declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years, following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo that has spread to neighbouring countries.

Mpox can spread through close contact. Usually mild, it is fatal in rare cases. It causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body. Determining a disease outbreak as a "public health emergency of international concern"



or PHEIC, the WHO's highest level of alert, can accelerate research, funding and international public health measures and co-operation to contain a disease.

The outbreak in Congo began with the spread of an endemic strain, known as clade I. But a new variant, clade II, appears to spread more easily through routine close contact, including sexual contact. It has spread from Congo to neighbouring countries, including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, triggering the action from the WHO.

"It's clear that a coordinated international response is essential to stop these outbreaks and save lives," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Earlier this week, Africa's top public health body declared an mpox emergency for the continent after warning that the viral infection was spreading at an alarming rate. More than 17,000 suspected mpox cases and 517 deaths have been reported on the African continent so far this year, a 160% increase in cases compared to the same period last year, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said. A total of 13 countries have reported cases. A different form of the mpox virus, clade IIb - spread globally in 2022, largely through sexual contact among men who have sex with men.

North Korea to open border for tourists

REUTERS

Seoul, August 14: North Korea will resume international tourism to its northeastern city of Samjiyon in December, and possibly the rest of the country, tour companies said Wednesday.

The move is a sign that the reclusive country is ready to reopen borders to bigger groups of foreign tourists after years of strict Covid border controls.

"We have received confirmation from our local partner that tourism to Samjiyon and likely the rest of the country will officially resume in December 2024," the Beijing-based Koryo Tours said on its website.




International flights in and out of North Korea resumed last year and a small group of Russian tourists flew to North Korea for a private tour in February. Top foreign officials, including Russian President Vladimir Putin in June, have

been visiting the country. But North Korea has not been fully open to international tourists since 2020. "Having waited for over four years to make this announcement, Koryo Tours is very excited for the opening of North Korean


tourism once again," the firm said, adding its local partner would confirm itineraries and dates in coming weeks.

North Korea has been building what it called a "socialist utopia" in Samjiyon, a city near the Chinese border, and "a model of highly-civilised mountain city" with new apartments, hotels, a ski resort and commercial, cultural and medical facilities.


Leader Kim Jong Un in July sacked or demoted some senior officials for their "irresponsible" handling of his flagship Samjiyon project. Another travel agency, KTG Tours, also announced that tourists would be able to go to Samjiyon from this winter.




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'Horrors seen during Partition now happening in B'desh, Pak'

The lack of strong willpower and lust for power, and to gain power even at the cost of the country resulted in Partition in 1947, says Adityanath



LUCKNOW, August 14: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday said the horrors seen during Partition are now happening in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"The date and faces might have changed but the nature of incidents is the same as 1947. It is still happening in Pakistan. It is happening in Bangladesh," he said at a function here on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. Adityanath said, "At that time, 10 lakh Hindus and Sikhs were slaughtered. Even today we see the same arson, loot and harassment with daughters and sisters. When will we learn from the mistakes of the past?" He said that "More than 1.5 crore Hindus are crying to save their honour in Bangladesh". But "The so-called seculars in India are not uttering a word because they fear that if they raise their voice for the weak, their votebank will slip away," the chief minister said. "They worry about their vote-

When the country was about to get independence, this sanatan country had to face the horror of Partition

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

bank but they will not utter a word for humanity because they took forward the politics of divide and rule, since Partition," Adityanath said. Targeting the Congress, he said if the then political leadership had shown courage, no power in the world could have affected this "unnatural" Partition. The lack of strong willpower and lust for power, and to gain power even at the cost of the country resulted in Partition in 1947, the chief minister said. "When the country was about to get independence, this sanatan country had to face the horror of Partition," Adityanath said and added that this happened "because of the Congress's lust for power". He said it gave independent India such a wound that it is

still hurting the country in the form of terrorism and separatism, and alleged that the politics of that time are still being practised. "Whenever these people got power, they did politics at the cost of the country. The people of the country had to pay the price of this then (in 1947). People paid the price for a very long time," Adityanath said. The chief minister said there are political parties that are trying to bring back the horrors of Partition, only this time through the issue of casteism, as he attacked them of pursuing the politics of divide and rule. Adityanath also participated in a 'Partition Horrors Memorial Silent Padyatra' from the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the Lok Bhavan in the Hazratganj area. In a post on X in Hindi, he reflected on the impact of Partition and said it was not merely the partition of a country but a division of humanity itself. This inhuman decision led to the loss of countless innocent lives, inflicting pain of displacement and immense suffering to people, Adityanath said. The chief minister said, "Our Mother India, who introduced the world to the soulful feeling of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), was pushed into the tragedy of Partition on this day in the year 1947 due to vested political interests. Humble tributes to all the innocent citizens who were martyred in the inhuman tragedy of sorrowful Partition due to communal frenzy"

GYANVAPI MOSQUE High Court defers hearing on plea for 'wazukhana' survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, August 14: The Allahabad High Court Wednesday deferred the hearing on a plea against a Varanasi court order refusing to direct the ASI to survey the Gyanvapi mosque's 'wazukhana', as the counsel for the Muslim side did not appear due to "illness".



The high court granted a month to the mosque management committee July 9 to file a counter affidavit on the revision plea and fixed August 14 for the hearing. An "illness slip" was sent Wednesday on behalf of counsel for the Muslim side and a request was made to adjourn the matter. Thereafter, the high court fixed August 22 as the next date of hearing in the case. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal passed the order on the revision petition filed by Rakhi Singh, one of the plaintiffs in the Shringar Gauri worshiping suit. As per counsel of Rakhi Singh, no counter affidavit has been filed by the Muslim side till date. The Varanasi district judge passed the order October 21, 2023 refusing to direct the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake a survey of the 'wazukhana' area (except for the structure which the Hindu side calls a 'shivling') inside the Gyanvapi mosque located adjacent to Kashi Vishwanath temple. Rakhi Singh has challenged the district judge's order.

Assam Independence Day blast victims still await justice



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhemaji (Assam), August 14: Shanti Gogoi has been waiting for 20 long years, seeking justice for the killing of her daughter-in-law and her unborn child in an ULFA-orchestrated bomb blast during the Independence Day celebration in Assam's Dhemaji town. Gogoi's daughter-in-law and 12 other people, including three children, were killed in the explosion that occurred minutes before the flag hoisting ceremony at the parade ground in the northern Assam town in 2004. The explosion was a defining moment in ULFA's history, as the outfit began losing support and sympathy for targeting innocent people since then. An apprehension that justice has eluded the victims has seeped in since the Gauhati High Court acquitted all the accused in the case, exactly a year ago. Gogoi, a retired school teacher, and others are now pinning their last hopes on the Supreme Court for justice. "The blast happened in front of hundreds of people after they gathered at the Dhemaji College field for the Independence Day celebration. But there is no witness to say who planted the ex-

plosives or who was behind it," questions Gogoi, whose daughter-in-law Namita died in the blast with the two-month foetus in her womb. She wondered whether the police expected the witnesses to testify without any apprehension in such cases. In August 2023, Gauhati High Court acquitted all six accused due to "lack of sufficient evidence", overturning a conviction by a lower court. The Dhemaji district and sessions court had in 2019 sentenced four of the accused to life imprisonment and two others to four years in jail in the case. For Gogoi, her neighbour Nityananda Saikia and families of other victims, the last hope is the Supreme Court, which is hearing a case filed by the Assam government challenging the High Court order. "The High Court order needs to be reviewed. We remain hopeful that the Supreme Court will give us justice," Saikia, who lost both his teenage sisters in the blast, told PTT. A class 12 student himself in 2004 who was present at the blast site, Saikia is now a lawyer, having taken up the profession to better understand how the culprits can be brought to book through the legal system.

Gallantry medal for 17 UP cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 14: Policemen involved in killing slain gangster Atiq Ahmad's son Asad are among the 17 officers who were awarded gallantry awards Wednesday, according to an official statement issued here. Another group of policemen engaged in the encounter of gangster Vikas Dubey's aide also won the Centre's gallantry medal, awarded annually ahead of the Independence Day. Those who received the award include two deputy superintendents of police, four inspectors, three sub-inspectors, four head constables, and four constables who were engaged in four separate incidents of encounters with criminals, the release said. Asad and his associate Ghulam, both carrying a bounty of ₹5 lakh on their arrests, were killed during a gunfight with the Special Task Force (STF) April 13, 2023 in Jhansi district, the statement said. The duo's encounter fetched the gallantry medal for DSPs Vimal Kumar Singh and Navendu Kumar, Inspectors Gyanendra Kumar Rai and Anil Kumar Singh, Head Constables Sushil Kumar and Sunil Kumar, the statement said. Sub-inspector Jitendra Pratap Singh and Constable Vipin Kumar were awarded for the encounter July 9, 2020 in Etawah district in which wanted criminal Praveen Dubey alias Baua was killed, the release said. Praveen Dubey was a member of slain gangster Vikas Dubey's gang and involved in the attack on a police party in the Bikru area of Kanpur July 3, 2020, in which eight police personnel were killed, it added.



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Greetings to all fellow citizens on 78th Independence Day


Jai Hind

Best wishes to all fellow citizens on Independence Day. At this historic moment, let's strengthen the resolve of building Viksit Bharat during the Amrit Kaal.

- Narendra Modi

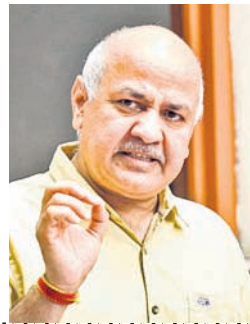
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national



The tussle between the LG and the Delhi government is because of the murder of democracy
MANISH SISODIA | FORMER DEPUTY CM OF DELHI

APEX COURT REJECTS PLEA AGAINST NMC'S DECISION

The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging a decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to not conduct NEET-Super Speciality examination this year, saying the postponement was "fairly equitable" and not "arbitrary"



Rahul Navin appointed as new director of ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin was Wednesday appointed as the full-time director of the federal anti-money laundering agency.

An order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) said the appointment of Navin, a 1983-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre, has been made "for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until further orders, whichever is earlier".

The ED director is an Additional Secretary (AS) rank post in the Union government and Navin was empanelled as an AS in December last year. Navin, 57, joined the ED in November, 2019 as a Special Director (OSD) to spearhead the agency's work with regard to India's mutual evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global body that leads action against money laundering. Navin had rushed to West Bengal after an ED team was attacked in Sandeshkhali and had asked his investigators to "work without fear" and prepare a watertight case.

BENGAL DOCTOR'S RAPE, MURDER

Protest enters third day

A 25-member special team of the CBI led by an additional director began its investigation into the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at a state-run hospital in West Bengal as the agency took custody of the key accused, officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/New Delhi, August 14: The protest over the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata entered its third day Wednesday disrupting healthcare services in several states across the country, even as a political slugfest erupted with the Congress and BJP alleging the West Bengal government has failed to protect women in the state.

Resident doctors at government hospitals in some states, including West Bengal and Delhi, continued their strike as various doctors' bodies differed over calling off the strike. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) Tuesday night called off its strike after meeting Union Health Minister J P Nadda. However, the medics at the central government-run AIIMS-Delhi, the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), and other Resident Doctors' Associations said that their stir would continue



until a central law to curb attacks on medical personnel is implemented and a concrete solution found. In West Bengal, long queues were seen at outpatient department (OPD) ticket counters in government hospitals, where senior doctors joined their junior colleagues in the protest. Some private hospitals also kept their OPDs "closed" to express solidarity with the agitating junior doctors at state-run medical facilities. "We have no new demands. It appears that attempts are being made to protect certain people... We see no reason to stop our protest," an agitating doctor told PTI. The West Bengal Joint Platform

of Doctors called for a cease-work at OPDs across all government and private hospitals in the state. Junior and senior doctors, interns, and house staff wore black armbands and chanted slogans, demanding justice for the victim. In the national capital, several hospitals, including the AIIMS and Safdarjung, continued their strike Wednesday. The Resident Doctors' Associations of AIIMS, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Indira Gandhi Hospital continued the strike for a third day on the trot, shutting down OPDs, operation theatres, and wards.

In a statement, the FAIMA, after a meeting with Resident Doctor Associations from across states and institutes of national importance, said it will stand with its peers nationwide in denouncing the murder and continue its strike.

However, the FORDA called off its strike saying that the decision was taken in the interest of the welfare of patients.

Three more Indian wetlands get Ramsar site tag, taking total to 85

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Three more Indian sites have been added to the list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of such highly-recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 85, Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav said Wednesday.

The Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and the Kazhuvelli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, and the Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh are the three wetlands which have

got the Ramsar site tag, he said. The 85 Indian wetlands on the Ramsar list span over 1.35 million hectares. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites (18) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10). Due to a significant policy push from the government, the number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 to 85 in the last 10 years, of which 41 have been added in the last three years alone. In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is a joyous occasion for India that its Ramsar sites number rises, indicating the priority being accorded to

sustainable development as well as living in harmony with nature.

Earlier, Yadav said, "As the nation gears up to celebrate its Independence Day, thrilled to share that we have added three Ramsar sites to our network. This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 13,58,068 ha in India." "The achievement reflects the emphasis PM Shri Narendra Modi has laid on establishing harmony with nature, calling our wetlands Amrit Dharohars, and working relentlessly for their conservation," he said.

SNIPPETS

India gears up for 78th I- Day

New Delhi: Ahead of Independence Day, security has been tightened across India with over 10,000 cops, facial recognition cameras and snipers deployed in Delhi and security camps set up in 13 villages in Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Bastar region where the Tricolour will be hoisted for the first time Thursday. Police personnel checked vehicles and conducted flag marches at various places in Punjab Wednesday while central forces maintained a tight vigil in Tripura. In Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag at the Red Fort for the 11th consecutive year, more than 10,000 police personnel and 3,000 traffic police personnel have been deployed.

Govind Mohan next Home Secretary

New Delhi: Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan was Wednesday appointed the next Union Home Secretary, succeeding Ajay Kumar Bhalla, according to an official order. Mohan, presently serving as Secretary, Ministry of Culture, will join as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Govind Mohan, IAS (Sikkim: 1989), Secretary, Ministry of Culture as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect."

SUV mows down man sleeping on beach

Mumbai: A tragic hit-and-run incident claimed the life of an auto-rickshaw driver and injured his friend after an SUV ran over them while they were sleeping on Versova beach in Mumbai, officials said Wednesday. The incident occurred early Monday morning and the driver of the SUV, Nikhil Jawle, 34, and his passenger, Shubham Dongre, 33, initially fled the scene but were apprehended within three hours at Igatpuri in Nashik district, they said. Their vehicle, registered in Nagpur, was traced following a tip-off from a local resident. Authorities have collected blood samples from both suspects to determine if they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

PM likely to travel to NY next month

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit New York next month to attend the UN's Summit of the Future, which is likely to be attended by a host of world leaders, people familiar with the matter said Wednesday. The Summit is scheduled to be held September 22 and 23. In New York, the Prime Minister is also set to address an Indian community event besides holding talks with a number of world leaders on the sidelines of the Summit, the people said.

इफको नैनो यूरिया प्लस एवं इफको नैनो डीएपी का वादा, उपज अधिक और लाभ ज्यादा

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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leisure



KYLIE'S TEA-TIME IS ABOUT SANDWICHES, MACAROONS

Reality TV star Kylie Jenner spends her tea-time gorging on some lip-smacking sandwiches and macaroons. Calling herself a 'picky eater,' she said: "This has chicken in it. I am a picky eater, so a little disclaimer."

NICK SPILLS BEANS ON DAUGHTER'S CAREER

American popstar Nick Jonas has talked about his daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. She would, following in the footsteps of his father and mother, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, in choosing careers, Nick said, reports *Entertainment Tonight*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

There is all likelihood today of things not shaping up as you desired. It may seem you made all the wrong investments, as the benefits may be very less. However, Ganesha indicates that life is full of unexpected happenings. There is a chance that you may meet an old friend which will make you very happy.

TAURUS

Your relationship with your parents is likely to turn sour today, says Ganesha. You need to ensure that differences and misunderstandings do not creep in between you all. If, at all, that does occur, the best way to sort out issues is talk directly to them. There are chances that you will be too free and forceful in expressing your feelings and emotions.

GEMINI

You need to beach your emotions and concentrate only on your work. Your day will be spent in meeting the demands of your family members. You will attend important meetings, be they personal or professional, in the afternoon, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha is foreseeing the conversion of your romance into marriage. But you will not have mind in the career or business and you lack enthusiasm in the same. So Ganesha advises you not to take up any new work, but finish off pending work.

LEO

You will need to curb down on your aggressive nature today. You will face a lot of situations today where you may lose your temper owing to minor issues and will later feel depressed. Calm and peace is required to progress in life, along with courage.

VIRGO

Today is a day to do some hard training and hard thinking, Ganesha says you will have to exercise both your muscles and your brain. Hard work will eventually lead to rich rewards. A romantic meeting with your beloved in the evening will put you in high spirits.

LIBRA

Ganesha says higher officials at work will shower you with appreciation and praise for your efforts. You may even be able to get a promotion or a pay rise today. There may be intensive arguments with your enemies. New relationships will get a chance to blossom today. Your competitors will be defeated today as it is a success-filled day for you

SCORPIO

Not so good, not so bad, is what you would feel after the day gets over. And average day at business with no major loss, foresees Ganesha. A feeling of insecurity may upset you, making you restless. Try to divert your mind by reading a self-help book. Await for a new dawn in your life.

SAGITTARIUS

If you see people fainting when you pass by, blame it on that thousand watts, sparkling smile of yours. At work, your colleagues will benefit from your expertise and skills. In the evening, your heart may be thumping faster as your plan a special date with your sweetheart!

CAPRICORN

You will fully utilise your talents and earn a reputation of perfectionist in your area of work. If you are stuck in a legal battle or dispute, it will come an end on a positive note. You will understand the importance of constructive criticism and learn to improve upon your behaviour, foresees Ganesha. Your opponents will get the hint that you are better than them.

AQUARIUS

It is the day of the creative people like musicians, artists, and orators. You will look beyond the criticism coming your way and develop an understanding to aim for a better future. With unmatched enthusiasm and charm you will outshine others at work.

PISCES

You might leave for an unplanned work related or social journey today. Small things will give you happiness today. In short, your day after noon time will be easy going and lucky. Ganesha assures you of success at work.

Sobhita beats SRK on IMDb

Mumbai: Actress Sobhita Dhulipala took the #2 spot on IMDb Popular Indian Celebrities list this week, beating Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol.

After her engagement, Sobhita secured second place on the IMDb list this week. Sharvari continues holding the top spot, maintaining momentum after winning the IMDb Breakout STARmeter award after the release of *Munjya*. Sharvari and Sobhita are followed by Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, and Janhvi Kapoor at the third, fourth, and fifth positions, respectively. Lakshya, Deepika

Padukone, Vijay Sethupathi, Mrunal Thakur and Aishwarya Rai take up the rest of the spots in top 10 this week. The Popular Indian Celebrities feature on the app highlights the top trending Indian celebrities each week.

It's based on the monthly visits to IMDb worldwide. On the work front, Sobhita was last seen in Dev Patel's *Monkey Man*, and will soon be seen in *Sitara*. AGENCIES



Art talk, exhibition by Odisha artist couple in Kuala Lumpur

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to make a new cultural bridge between Malaysia and Southeast Asia, artist couple Birendra Pani and Rajashree Biswal from Odisha recently organised an art talk and an exhibition at Kuala Lumpur.

The art talk titled *Manoeuvring Tradition: Contemporary Visual Expressions from South Asia* was delivered at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centres, Kuala Lumpur, by Biswal, the artistic and curatorial director of New Bridge India. The talk was a collaborative endeavour by Sutra Foundation, Malaysia, NSCBICC, and New Bridge India.

Biswal touched upon the dynamics of continuity and change in traditional art forms



in Odisha. Moreover, she investigated the contemporary creative expressions of Odishan and Indian artists and those from South Asian nations who

have engaged with 'tradition' through assimilation, re-contextualisation, interrogation, or criticism through their art. The art exhibition *Neo-Urban*

Avatar: Mythopoesis of the Contemporary Times, curated by Pani, an internationally recognised artist, was based on Indian mythology but re-contextualised in contemporary times to create a new sensibility among the viewers in Malaysia.

The expo, which concluded on August 12, was held at Sutra Gallery in Kuala Lumpur.

Pani engaged his viewers to expand their understanding of traditional concepts and archetypes to re-contextualise their meanings for contemporary times.

His art works were influenced by the Hindu mythological narrative of Dasavatara, but he re-contextualised it to create a reflective space at the face of the imminent 'neo-urban' deluge, shared Pani. PNM

Oye Oye fame Sonam to revive acting career

Mumbai: Sonam Khan, more popular as *Oye Oye* girl of *Tridev* (1989), took a stroll down the memory lane, and shared a picture of her herself from the shoot of the song *Dil Le Gayi Teri Bindiya* from the 1992 thriller *Vishwatma*, expressing her wish to pursue the acting career again.

Sonam, dropped a picture of herself in a white glittery outfit. In the caption she wrote: "This was the last song I shot for in my short career of just three years... #Vishwatma I was already married by this time. Just 18 here. A her Hindi film debut opposite Rish Kapoor in Yash Chopra's *Vijay*

Vishwatma was directed by Rajiv Rai and produced by Gulshan Rai. It starred Sunny Deol,



A file photo of Sonam who made her Hindi film debut opposite Rish Kapoor in Yash Chopra's *Vijay*

Mumbai: Actor-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut Wednesday said she aspires to bring together the three Khans Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir in one film that she would love to direct and produce.

Ranaut was speaking at the trailer launch event of her directorial *Emergency*, in which she stars in the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi. The film will hit the screens September 6.

The actor said she re-

grets not being able to direct her late *Knock Out* co-star Irrfan Khan, whom she described as 'one of my favourite Khans'.

"I would love to produce and direct a film on all three Khans. I would also love to show their talented side where they can both act and look good. They can also do something which has a significant on society."

"They are talented and add a lot of revenue to the industry. We should be eternally grateful to them. They engage with a mass of people who need that kind of engagement."

Ranaut told reporters here. Shah Rukh and Salman have worked together in films such as *Karan Arjun* and *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, whereas Salman and Aamir have co-starred in *Andaz Apna Apna*. The Khan trio is yet to team up for a big screen project. AGENCIES

Kangana wants to direct three Khans



Naseeruddin Shah, Chunky Pandey, Divya Bharti, and Jyostna Singh.

Known for her work in Hindi and Telugu industry, made her debut in 1987 with the Telugu film *Samrat*. The actress shot to fame with the popular song *Oye Oye... Tirchi Topi Wale* from the film *Tridev*.

On the work front, Sonam last appeared in 1994 action thriller *Insaniyat* directed by Ramanjit Juneja, which featured an ensemble cast of Amitabh Bachchan, Sunny Deol, Chunky Pandey, Jaya Prada, Raveena Tandon, Anupam Kher, Prem Chopra, and Shafi Inamdar. IANS

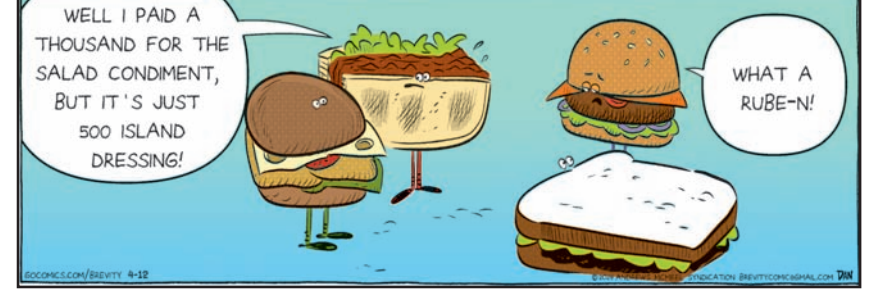
PEANUTS



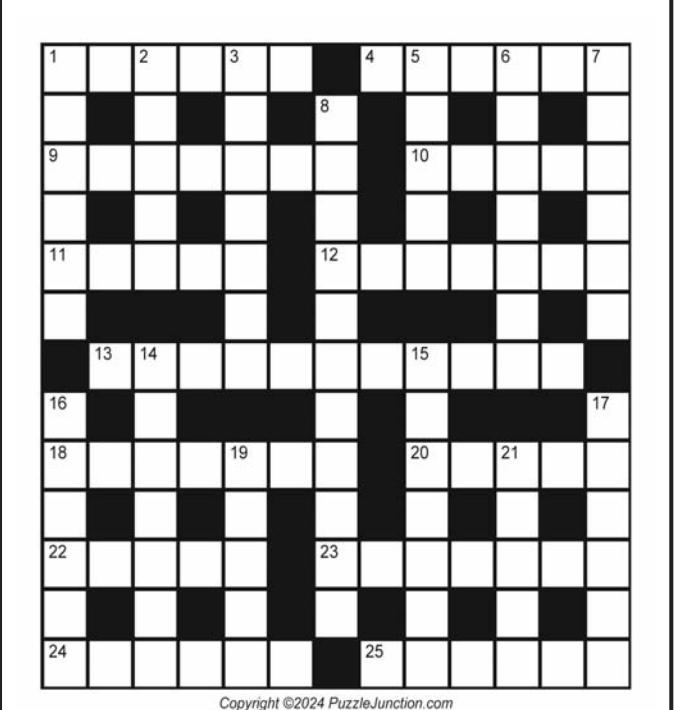
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



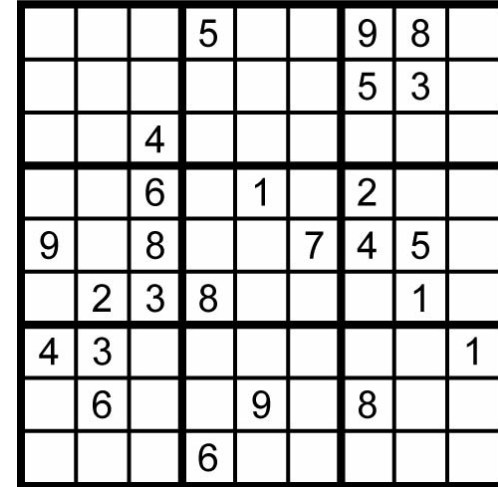
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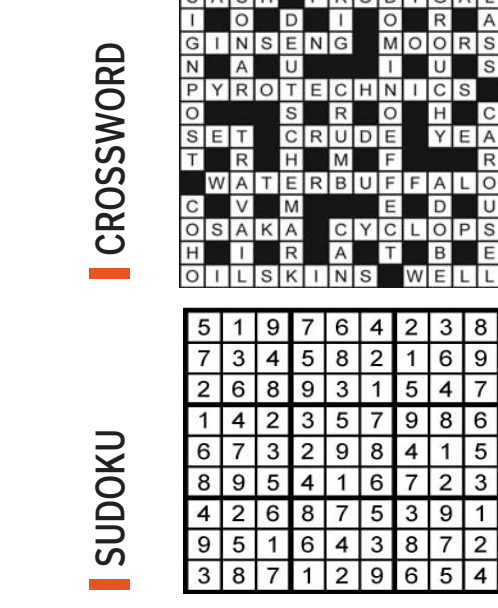
- Across
- 1 Loathsome
 - 4 Type of printing
 - 9 Petrol saver
 - 10 Dog tag datum
 - 11 Rich dessert
 - 12 Hurricane survivor
 - 13 After home, maybe
 - 18 Radiator adjunct (3,4)
 - 20 Off-the-wall
 - 22 It's a plus
 - 23 Address
 - 24 Go back
 - 25 Concrete pavement
 - 6 Puerto Rico city (3,4)
 - 7 Deep dish
 - 8 Restaurant booking
 - 14 Way of thinking (4-3)
 - 15 Like some lakes (3-4)
 - 16 Fling
 - 17 Young swan
 - 19 Door sign
 - 21 Strong string
- Down
- 1 Goes around and around
 - 2 Bring upon oneself
 - 3 Muddy
 - 5 Plant life

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

business



While the last industrial revolution in the 1990s in India was driven by the information and technology sector, the next in the 21st century will be steered by bio-economy

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

DOMESTIC PV WHOLESALERS DIP

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India declined 2.5 per cent year-on-year to 3,41,510 units in July, impacted by high base effect as well as companies reducing vehicle dispatches to dealers amid moderation in demand



TRADE DEFICIT BALLOONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: After remaining in the positive zone for three months, India's exports contracted 1.2 per cent to \$33.98 billion in July, while the trade deficit widened to \$23.5 billion.

According to government data, imports rose by about 7.45 per cent to \$57.48 billion in July due to a jump in the inbound shipments of crude oil, silver and electronic goods.

Crude oil imports rose 17.44 per cent to \$13.87 billion, while silver imports jumped 439 per cent to \$165.74 million during the month under review.

The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, was \$21 billion in June and \$19.3 billion in July 2023.

Briefing media on data, Commerce Secretary Sunil



Barthwal said that going by the current trend, the country's total exports of goods and services will cross last year's figure of \$778 billion.

He said that one of the reasons for the dip in merchandise exports is the fall in the shipments of petroleum products, which has declined by 22.15 per cent to \$5.22 billion.

Fall in prices, low demand and increasing domestic consumption have led to a dip in the exports of petroleum products in July.

The other export sectors, which have recorded negative

growth during the month, include rice, cashew, oil seeds, marine products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, and cotton yarn/fabrics.

Gold imports dipped by 10.65 per cent to \$3.13 billion in July. However, electronic goods, pharma and engineering exports rose 37.31 per cent, 8.36 per cent and 3.66 per cent, respectively, in July.

India's merchandise exports increased 2.56 per cent to \$35.2 billion in June, even as the trade deficit widened to \$20.98 billion.

Trade this fiscal Exports during April-July this fiscal surged 4.15 per cent to \$144.12 billion, and imports grew 7.57 per cent to \$229.7 billion.

The merchandise trade deficit during the first four months of this fiscal has widened to \$85.58 billion compared to \$75.15 billion during April-July 2023.

FOOD PRICES EASE

Wholesale inflation falls to 3-month low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 14: Wholesale inflation fell to a 3-month low of 2.04 per cent in July on decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released Wednesday showed.

The decline in wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation in July came after it rose for four months in a row till June, when it was 3.36 per cent. It was (-) 1.23 per cent in July last year.

In April wholesale inflation stood at 1.19 per cent.

As per the data, food inflation in July was 3.45 per cent, down from 10.87 per cent in June, mainly due to month-on-month decline in prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses and onion.

Vegetables recorded a deflation of 8.93 per cent in July, against a 38.76 per cent inflation in the previous month.

BIZ BUZZ

AM/NS launches diversity initiative at Paradeep Plant



PARADEEP: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), a leading steel manufacturer, continues to champion diversity and inclusion (D&I) with the launch of a new initiative at its Paradeep pellet plant.

Beginning August 14, 2024, the plant has introduced A and B shifts, running from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm for its women employees. This program marks a significant step forward in the company's commitment to fostering a diverse workforce. The initiative was officially launched by Suresha G, Executive Director, Odisha Operations, AM/NS India who welcomed the 18 female employees to be deployed in shift operations. The launch event was attended by key leaders, including USR Raju, Plant Head, Paradeep Pellet Plant, AM/NS India, Debabrata Dash, Head, HR (East), AM/NS India, and Sunila Das, Head, HR & IR, Odisha Asset, AM/NS India along with department heads and employees from across the plant.



BHUBANESWAR: Canara Bank is observing "Canara Bank Dr Ambedkar Vidya Jyothi Scholarship Scheme" as a pan-India mega CSR activity on the occasion of 78th Independence Day celebration covering all 177 regional offices, 26 circle offices and 7,457 branches. As a part of this, Canara Bank

Bhubaneswar Circle also celebrated the same and distributed the scholarship to SC/ST meritorious 1,608 girl students covering 268 branches under CSR initiatives. The scheme is implemented by all rural, semi-urban and urban branches from class V to X from SC/ST communities studying in government/government aided schools in the command area for scholarship. The scholarship assistance is ₹3,000 per student for class 5 to 7 and ₹5,000 per student for class 8 to 10. The CSR inauguration ceremony at Bhubaneswar was graced by the esteemed presence of Bimal Prasad Sharma, Director Canara Bank, Dibakar Prasad Harichandan, Director Canara Bank, Laxman Kumar Mallick, Director of SC development, Jagdish Chander, General Manager, Canara Bank, Odisha State Head and Mahamaya Prasad Roy, AGM & Regional Head Bhubaneswar and other executives from circle office and regional office.

Sensex snaps losing streak

MUMBAI: Snapping its two-day losing streak, benchmark BSE Sensex closed higher by 150 points Wednesday following a rally in IT stocks amid a surge in the US markets on renewed hopes of a rate cut by the Fed in September. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 149.85 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 79,105.88 with half of its constituents ending higher. During the day, it gained 272.91 points or 0.34 per cent to hit a high of 79,228.94. The NSE Nifty closed marginally up by 4.75 points or 0.02 per cent at 24,143.75. As many 26 Nifty shares closed lower while 24 advanced.

Happy Independence Day

A Prestigious Industrial Organization

DADLS-22

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ

ସ୍ଥାନ : ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ମାର୍ଗ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
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ଜନସାଧାରଣ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ଦିବସ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ ।

ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ
ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

ସମସ୍ତ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ଏବଂ ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗର ସାମାଜିକ ଗଣମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସିଧା ପ୍ରସାରଣ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ ।

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Har Ghar Tiranga

एनएमडीसी
NMDC
Responsible Mining
Scientific | Sustainable | Spreading Smiles

Our Mines
Nation's Pride

Greetings on India's 78th Independence Day!

As India celebrates its 78th year of Independence, NMDC stands proudly at the forefront of the nation's industrial growth. As the largest iron ore producer in the country, NMDC is committed to realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' through responsible mining practices and building a strong, self-reliant India by actively engaging in meaningful CSR initiatives.

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VIKSIT ODISHA: DEVELOPMENT REDEFINED

- Honouring the religious sentiment of Odia people, four gates of the SriMandir, Puri opened for pilgrims and devotees.
- 500 Crore Corpus fund earmarked for maintenance & safety of Sri Jagannath Temple.
- Provision of ₹ 200 Crore to espouse the cause of '**Odia Asmita**'.
- People's Budget, 2024-25 makes a perceptible provision of ₹10 thousand Crore for improvement in women's living standard.
- The Budget 2024-25 allocates ₹17,942 Crore for women, a rise of 188 percent compared to the previous one.
- Chapter heralded for creation of avenues in next five years for massive employment of the youth of the State.
- Upto 10% reservation for employment of Agniveer in all Uniformed Services of the State.
- Allocation of ₹5 thousand Crore in '**Samrudh Krushak Yojana**' and purchase of paddy from farmers at ₹ 3100 per quintal.
- The State turning out to be a Hub in the production of Millet.
- '**One Nation-One Ration**' Card for the non-resident workers.
- Commitment for multi-pronged welfare of labourers.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** ensures availability of pure drinking water at households and public places.
- Improvement of Hats in tribal dominated Gram Panchayats and collection & sale of forest & horticultural produce.
- Holistic development of Scheduled Tribe through implementation of PESA.
- Qualitative & extensive health coverage under **Pradhan Mantree Ayushman-Bharat Jana Arogya Yojana** and **Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana** and free of cost access to diagnostics & treatment.
- Establishment of **Handicraft Design Bank** to skill the traditional artisans.
- Odisha's sponsorship of Indian Hockey Team continues until 2036.
- '**PM-Shree**' and '**Godabarish Model Primary School**' Schemes introduced to attain excellence in school infrastructure and academics.
- '**Madho Singh Hata Kharcca Yojana**' brought into operation to reduce drop-out rate among the Scheduled Tribe students.

Information & Public Relations Department
Government of Odisha

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