



## Kirti's perspectives

Actor Kirti Kulhari says the distinction between OTT-film stars should be eliminated and everyone should be equally recognised

LEISURE | P2



## Russia-Ukraine blame game

Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of starting a fire at the dormant Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Inflation at 5-yr low

Retail inflation declines to a 5-year low of 3.54 per cent in July on account of subdued food prices and base effect

BUSINESS | P11



## Delay in homecoming

Neeraj Chopra will not return to India now as he has left for Germany to take medical advice for surgery

SPORTS | P12

## SHORT TAKES

### Couple killed in road accident

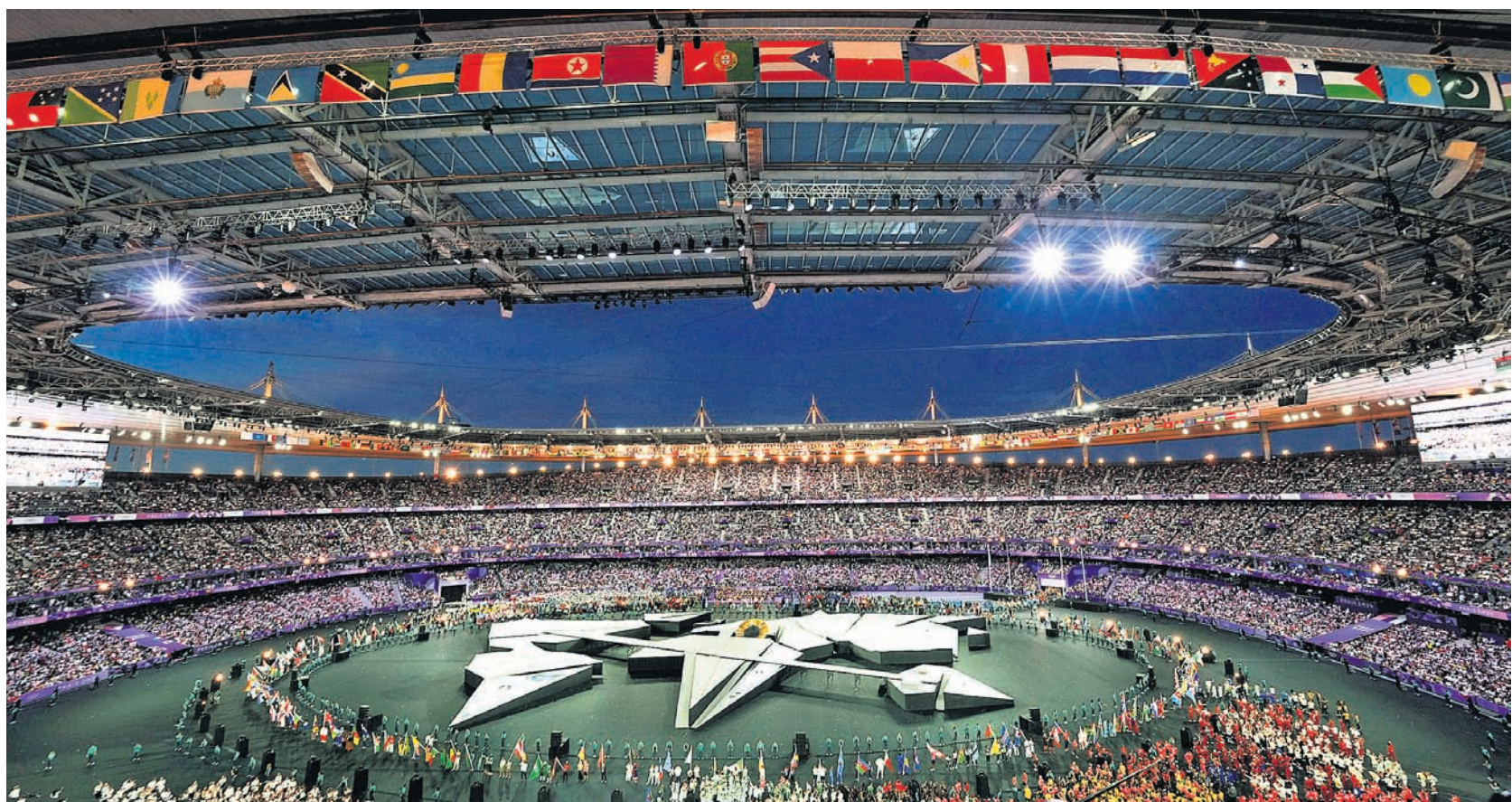
**Nabarangpur:** A couple was killed after the bike they were riding on was hit by a speeding truck near Rabanaguda chowk under Kundei police limits in this district Monday morning. Police said the mishap took place while the couple was returning from a temple on a motorcycle with their nine-year-old son. As they approached Rabanaguda square, a truck hit the bike and then ran over both the husband and wife who were lying on the road. Their son however, had a miraculous escape.

### Govt may review Broadcasting Bill

**New Delhi:** The government is likely to reconsider the contentious provisions of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill that had raised concerns among online content creators as it sought to club them with OTT or digital news broadcasters. The Bill was released for consultations in November last year and a fresh draft was circulated among select stakeholders for their views. An official said here Monday that the government may be open to reviewing certain clauses of the Bill as it had drawn sharp reactions from a section of the media.



**SEE YOU IN LOS ANGELES:** Shooter Manu Bhaker and hockey stalwart PR Sreejesh were the Indian flagbearers at the closing ceremony; (Right): Athletes and a jam-packed Stade de France were witness to the colourful closing ceremony of the Paris Games, late Sunday night



## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Arresting me will cause you a bigger loss. We both invest in the same offshore funds

# Doctors demand noose

MAMATA PROMISES CBI PROBE IF POLICE FAIL TO CRACK CASE IN 7 DAYS

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, August 12:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vowed to transfer the alleged rape and murder case of a woman physician inside a hospital here to the CBI if the police failed to solve it by Sunday, amid public outrage.

Banerjee's promise, however, did not placate the protesting students, who criticised the chief minister for setting a seven-day deadline to address the alleged rape and murder of a fellow doctor. They demanded a judicial inquiry, capital punishment for the culprits, adequate compensation for the victim's family and stronger security measures at hospitals. A civic volunteer has been arrested so far for his al-



leged involvement in the case. Banerjee visited the residence of the deceased doctor. She vowed to seek death penalty for those responsible and stated her determination to see that justice is served. "I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If they are unable to crack the case by Sunday, we will hand-

over to the CBI. I don't have an issue with the central agency taking over, but its success rate is low," Banerjee said. The CM pointed out several high-profile cases that the CBI has failed to solve. "I have told the police that if there is any doubt against anyone - the victim's friends and others - should be

questioned," Banerjee stated. City Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal assured the public that the investigation was proceeding with all due urgency. "We are certain that if there are other culprits, they will be arrested within the next four to five days," he said. Meanwhile facing backlash for the perceived failure to ensure the safety of the hospital's staff, the principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sandip Ghosh, resigned from his post and government service Monday. Meanwhile, the students of the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur wore black badges condemning the murder of the doctor. They demanded stern action against those involved and also asked for better security measures. **MORE P8**

# No landless person in state in 5 yrs: Pujari

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Odisha won't have anyone without land or housing after five years, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari said here Monday. Addressing media, Pujari said the state government will provide a 'complete housing package' to ensure that the poor and landless have a 'roof' within five years. "The state government will provide land to the landless. Even assistance will be provided under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for construction of houses. While electricity and water will be provided to the houses, LPG connections will be facilitated under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana," stated Pujari.

The minister said that it is sad to see that despite residing on government land for years in rural areas, poor and destitute were unable to get land pattas. "Landless people residing on government land in rural areas, with annual income up to ₹1 lakh, will get patta for four decimals of the land. In case of urban areas, process is already on to identify the landless people residing in slums. They will soon get possession certificates," the R&DM minister said. The R&DM department has been devising ways to ensure genuine beneficiaries get possession certificates from the civic bodies, Pujari pointed out. As per the norms, forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes will get pattas of 'forest land'.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	79648.92 ↓ 56.99
NIFTY	24347.00 ↓ 20.50
DOLLAR	84.00 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	91.79 ↑ ₹0.07
GOLD	₹70,551 ↑ ₹656
SILVER	₹ 81,476 ↑ ₹933

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.8°C	32.5°C
Min Temp	27.0°C	25.6°C
Humidity	89%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST: Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

## CM to ask for new highways

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi left Monday evening for a three-day visit to Delhi. He will return August 14 ahead of the Independence Day functions in the state.

Majhi is scheduled to attend a review meeting on national highway (NH) projects organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in the national capital Tuesday afternoon. Chief Ministers of several states are also scheduled to attend the crucial meeting. Officials informed that Union Minister of Road

Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will also be present at the meeting. During the meeting Majhi is expected to bring up the topic of construction of new highways in Odisha and also the expansion of the existing ones.

Other than this meeting, the Odisha CM is scheduled to meet a number of other Union Ministers and discuss with them issues related to the state. He will also meet some top central BJP leaders and hold discussions on ways to further strengthen the party in the state. Majhi will also attend a key government programme at the Bharat Mandapam in the national capital Tuesday.

# Hindenburg fires fresh salvo

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 12:** SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch has now publicly confirmed her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani. She also confirmed the fund was run by a childhood friend of her husband, who at the time was an Adani director," Hindenburg said in a post. "SEBI was tasked with investigating investment funds relating to the Adani matter, which would include funds Ms Buch WAS PERSONALLY INVESTED IN and funds by the same spon-

sor which were specifically highlighted in our original report. This is obviously a massive conflict of interest," Hindenburg said in another post. In another post, Hindenburg said, "Buch's statement also claims that the two consulting companies she set up, including the Indian entity 'became immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI in 2017, with her husband taking over starting in 2019. Per its latest shareholding list as of March 31, 2024, Agora Advisory Limited (India) is still 99 per cent owned by Madhabi Buch, not her husband. **MORE P9&11**

## SOA, KIIT, NIT in NIRF top 100 list

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released Monday the India Rankings 2024, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015. IIT, Madras retained the top spot for the sixth consecutive year, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore was ranked as the best university for the ninth year in a row, according to a release issued by the Ministry of Education.

Three educational institutions of the state found a place in the top 100 of overall rankings. Siksha 'O' Anusandhan got 24th rank, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) was 28th and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela was placed 34th. On the other hand Utkal University was 42nd in the top 50 Public University rankings. Pradhan said that rankings, ratings and accreditation are vital ingredients of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The minister congratulated all the HEIs who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, innovation, research, graduation outcomes and other parameters and bagged a place of pride in the India Rankings 2024. Eight IITs have figured in the top 10 besides All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and JNU.

# Bharatnatyam's popularity growing in China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, August 12:** Lei Muzi, a 13-year-old school student scripted history when she performed Bharatanatyam 'Arangetram' here in the Chinese capital, a landmark in the journey of the ancient Indian dance form which is gaining popularity in this country.

Lei made her solo dance debut here Sunday in front of celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer Leela Samson, Indian diplomats and a large audience of Chinese fans.

For ardent Chinese fans of Indian classical art and dance forms who devoted their lives

to learning and performing them for decades, her debut was a moment of history and a milestone as it was the first-ever 'Arangetram' - Bharatanatyam's graduation ceremony - in China.

For the performers of the ancient dance from South India, 'Arangetram', as it is called in Tamil, is their debut performance on stage in front of teachers and experts besides the audience. Only after 'Arangetram' are students allowed to perform on their own or train aspiring dancers.

"This is the first-ever 'Arangetram' by a student fully trained in China and who also performed in China," said TS

Vivekanand, the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy in charge of culture who attended

the event. "It was a properly done 'Arangetram' in a very traditional way," Vivekanand added.

Lei's trainer also praised profusely the effort her student. "Lei's 'Arangetram' is the first time that Chinese students trained by a Chinese teacher

have completed in China, which is a landmark in the history of Bharatanatyam inheritance," noted Chinese Bharatanatyam dancer Jin Shan Shan.

The event was attended by a large crowd of fans who cheered Lei over the two-hour-long performance during which she danced to several classical numbers.

Besides Leela Sampson, a team of musicians who were flown in from Chennai sang the classical numbers for Lei to perform. She is due to perform in Chennai later this month.

Lei was trained for over 10 years at the school run by Jin, who herself was the first accomplished Bharatanatyam

dancer to have held her 'Arangetram' in 1999 in New Delhi.

Lei, fondly called 'Dudu' said she fell in love with Bharatanatyam since she joined Jin's school in 2014. "I completely fell in love with it. I kept dancing till now. For me, Bharatanatyam is not only a beautiful art and dance form but also the embodiment of Indian culture," Lei said.

"This fascinates me greatly, as well as the gorgeous and graceful movements during a dance routine. For me, Bharatanatyam is already a daily activity to do, and I am truly interested in the culture of India," added Lei.



13-year-old dancer creates history by performing 'Arangetram' for the 1st time in China



## SWIFT TO HAVE 'PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL SECURITY' IN LONDON

Top pop star Taylor Swift's security presence has reportedly been stepped up to 'presidential levels' ahead of her London shows following a foiled terrorist plot to attack her concerts in Vienna, Austria.

## CYRUS DEDICATES DISNEY HONOUR TO ALTER EGO

Actress-singer Miley Cyrus, who became the youngest star at 31 to be named a *Disney Legend* Sunday, has dedicated her award at the D23 event in Anaheim, California, to her alter ego Hannah Montana from the hit Disney Channel series.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

#### TAURUS

You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesh. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

#### GEMINI

Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesh. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

#### CANCER

Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesh, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

#### LEO

You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Ganesh advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today. Towards evening you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

#### SCORPIO

For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

#### SAGITTARIUS

You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesh. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

#### CAPRICORN

If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesh. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong.

#### AQUARIUS

One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesh. Travelling is on the cards for you.

#### PISCES

To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesh says you feel nice as things around you change.

# Industry needs to evolve: Kirti

**Mumbai:** Actress Kirti Kulhari, who is all geared up for the upcoming detective drama *Shekhar Home* has shared thoughts on her evolving career, and said she gets offers that don't always interest her.

Kirti, who has been in the industry for the past 14 years, shared: "Although I've been working on feature films which aren't out yet and I am also exploring production, I think the industry needs to evolve. I get offers that don't always interest me."

"The sheer volume of work can sometimes impact quality, and the distinction between OTT and film stars should be eliminated. Everyone should be equally recognized. My role in this series is a refreshing

change, combining detective elements with humor, and it's something new compared to my previous work," she added. *Shekhar Home* is inspired by the written works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Kay Kay Menon stars as the eccentric detective Shekhar Home, with Kulhari's role enhancing the show's mix of suspense and humor. The series promises a gripping tale of friendship, love, betrayal, crime, and thrilling adventures.

It stars Ranvir Shorey as Jayvrat Sahni. *Shekhar Home* will premiere on JioCinema Premium from August 14.

IAN S

## Pooja's life mantra

**Mumbai:** Actress Pooja Hegde Monday revealed her 'mantra for life' and it is nothing but 'inner peace'.

Pooja, who has 27.2 million followers on Instagram, took to the Stories section and shared a cute picture of a mouse pad, which has a panda imprinted on it, and 'inner peace' written on it.

The diva captioned the post as: 'Mantra for life', followed by a yoga girl emoji.

In another Instagram post, Pooja shared a string of photos, from her latest photoshoot. The jaw-dropping pictures show Pooja wearing a crop white shirt with long sleeves, and a black now.

She has paired it with a body hugging black long skirt. Pooja has kept her makeup all glam- brown lips, thick brows, and contoured cheeks, and her hair is tied up in a braided pony tail. The look was rounded off with emerald green earrings.

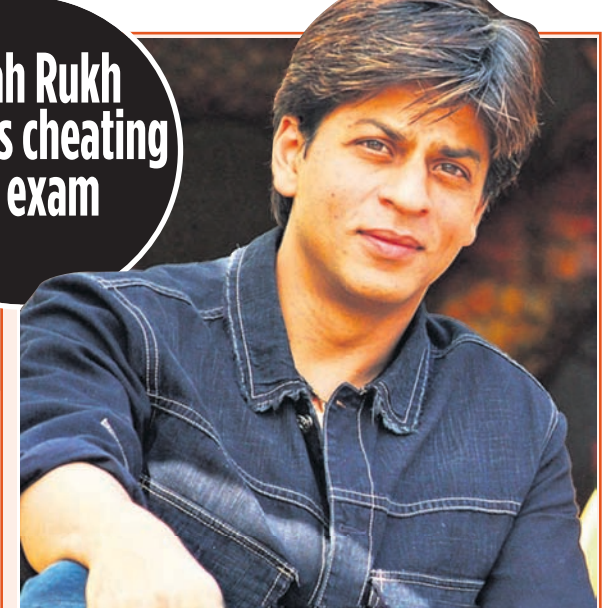
The post is captioned as: "When you have a zoom call at 8, but a party at 9".

Pooja, who was the second runner-up at the 2010 I Am She-Miss Universe India pageant, made her acting debut in 2012 with the Tamil film *Mugamoodi*. Her first Telugu release came in 2014 with *Oka Laila Kosam*, which featured Naga Chaitanya.

IAN S



## Shah Rukh admits cheating in exam



**Mumbai:** Shah Rukh Khan recently made history by becoming the first Indian personality to receive the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera, or Career Leopard, at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival. During a candid conversation at the festival, Khan delved into his early love for cinema.

In a heartfelt reflection, he shared a personal story about how his love for cinema was nurtured during his childhood. "Maa ke kadmo ke niche Jannat hoti hai! That's what my mother told me every time and said, press my feet. So at night, I would press her feet. When I did that to put her to sleep, the television movies used to go on. We used to get old movies for Rs 1 or 2 and new movies for Rs 10. So we just watched movie after movie, and I started liking films then."

Khan's passion for movies deepened when his mother offered him a deal: "There was an exam in Hindi, the local language. Normally kids are good at it, but I was in an Irish School—very Christian, very strict, very English-speaking. Hindi was not my strongest point. Then my mom said she would take me to a movie hall to watch a film if I got 10/10 in Hindi dictation. I have never said this, but I will admit it now—I think I copied one answer from a friend. But I did get 10/10. And then my mother took me to a theatre to watch a film for the first time."

AGENCIES

## Rani, KJo to address Australian Parliament

**Mumbai:** Actor Rani Mukerji and director Karan Johar are set to address the Australian Parliament House ahead of the upcoming 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, the organisers Monday said.

Mukerji, 46 and Johar, 52, who have collaborated on films such as his directorial debut *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...* and *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, will deliver a keynote speech August 13 ahead of the gala.

IFFM, to be held in Melbourne from August 15 to 25, will showcase a diverse range of films that celebrate the rich tapestry of Indian cinema.

The keynote address will be attended by distinguished dignitaries, members of Australian Parliament and various ministers, underscoring the global impact and cultural significance

of Indian cinema.

Mukerji said she is 'proud' to represent the Indian film fraternity at the Australian Parliament House.

"This is a milestone moment for our fraternity and it would be an honour for me to speak about the growing cultural ties between Australia and India through cinema," the actor said in a statement.

Johar said he is honoured to be invited to speak at the 'historic event' to celebrate the incredible journey of Indian cinema.

"It's incredible to see how far the stories we as an industry create travels, and this moment is a testament to the growing influence of the cultural impact of Indian cinema. I'm grateful to the house, the members of the parliament for extending this invite and to have me represent the rich legacy of cinema and storytelling," he added.

AGENCIES

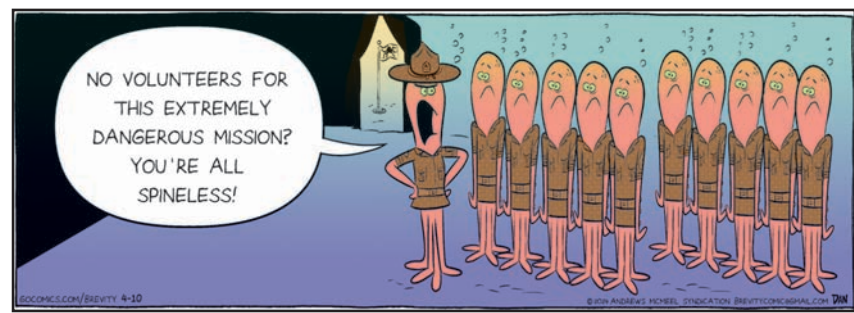
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

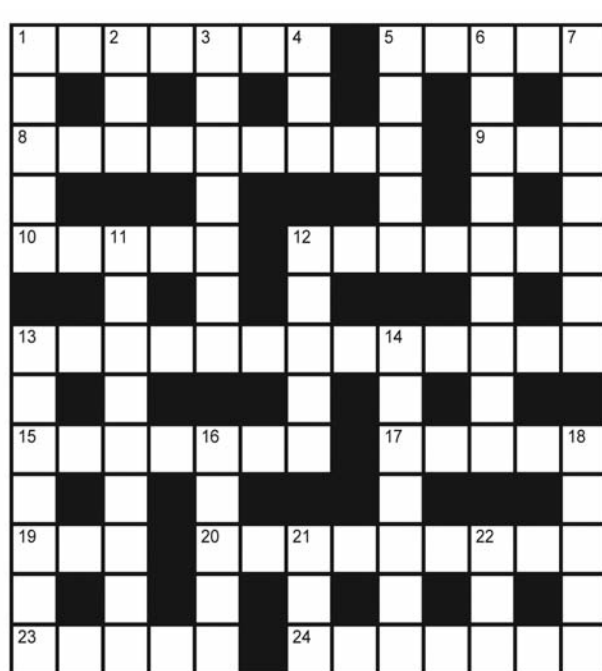


### BREVITY



### FUN post

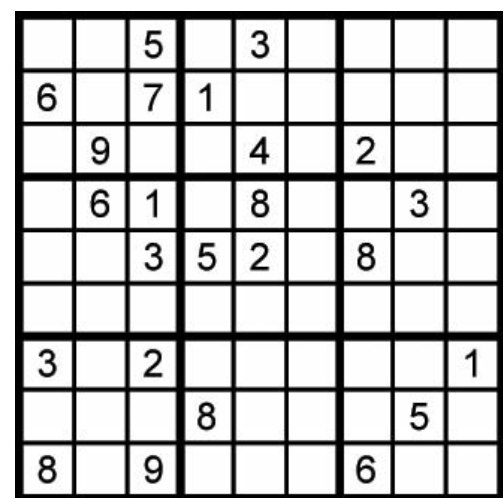
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Snare drum
  - 5 Coconut meat
  - 8 Fairy god-mother's tool (5,4)
  - 9 Wood sorrel
  - 10 Pageant crown
  - 12 Peculiar
  - 13 ATM, e.g. (4,9)
  - 15 Gin or vodka cocktail
  - 17 Perils
  - 19 Saddler's tool
  - 20 Newspaper feature
  - 23 Mine passage
  - 24 Garden sight
- Down
- 1 Beguile
  - 2 Stein
  - 3 Apple producer
  - 4 Swedish shag rug
  - 5 Fragrant wood
  - 6 Medical outlook
  - 7 Sporting designation
  - 11 Namoi River locale
  - 12 Kind of bar
  - 13 Percussion instruments
  - 14 Stud site
  - 16 Klutz
  - 18 Department store aim
  - 21 Believer's suffix
  - 22 Under the weather

### 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.

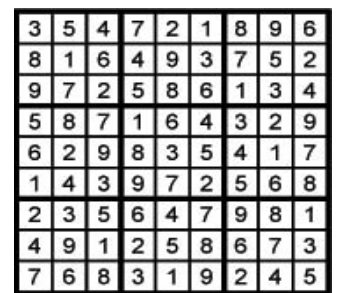


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## Naveen urges Centre to support Kalinga Prize

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik Monday urged Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh to ensure continued support for the UNESCO Kalinga Prize, a prestigious international science award.

Patnaik said he chose to write the letter to the Union minister after he learnt about the Central government's plans to discontinue the award which was instituted by his father, the late Biju Patnaik, over seven decades ago.

"I am pained to learn that the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, has decided to stop supporting this prize," he said.

He added that the prize is not just a symbol of 'Odia pride', but it had set a legacy for independent India in the comity of nations globally.

Patnaik said in the letter that UNESCO Kalinga Prize is India's



only international award for popularisation of science and serves as a symbol of Odia identity on the global stage.

The prize was instituted in 1952 by Biju Patnaik with a generous grant of 1,000 pounds from the Kalinga Foundation Trust, he said.

"So far, the prize has been awarded to 72 scientists including seven Nobel laureates such as Louis de Brogile, Julian Huxley, Bertrand Russel, Karl von Frisch, Arthur C Clarke, Fred Hoyle and Sergei Kapitz, among others," the former chief minister said.

After successful completion of 50 years of UNESCO Kalinga

Prize, it was decided in 2002 that the Department of Science and Technology under the Central government, the Odisha government and Kalinga Foundation Trust will act as the partners or donors for the prize and share the expenses of the prize, Patnaik said.

He urged the Union Minister to imagine the kind of effort Biju Babu would have put as a 36-year-old man travelling all the way to Paris and to negotiate with UNESCO to set up an international prize for popularisation of science.

"This foresight and courage of Biju Babu has been an inspiration for generations of Odias. Biju Babu's love for his land epitomised in naming the award after 'Kalinga' has always lifted the spirit of people of Odisha," he wrote.

Patnaik urged Singh to personally intervene to ensure the continuation of the UNESCO Kalinga Prize, preserving it as a legacy and symbol of pride for the people of Odisha.

## IIT-B develops tech to predict rain accurately

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The IIT-Bhubaneswar claimed to have developed a technology to accurately predict rainfall, particularly in cases of downpours, with an adequate lead time.

The technology was developed by integrating the output from the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model into a deep learning (DL) model, the institute said in a statement Monday.

The institute has carried out studies using retrospective cases over the complex terrain of Assam (highly vulnerable to severe flooding) during June 2023 and over the state of Odisha where heavy rainfall events are highly dynamic in nature due to the landfall of multiple intense rain-bearing monsoon low-pressure systems. Between June 13 and 17, 2023, Assam experienced severe flooding due to heavy rainfall. "The DL model was able to more accurately predict the spatial distribution and intensity of rainfall across at districts scale," it claimed.

The research employed the WRF model to generate initial weather forecasts in real-time, which were then refined using the DL model," it said.

## Heavy rain to lash state for 5 days

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday predicted heavy rainfall in several districts of the state during the next five days.

As per the evening bulletin of IMD's Bhubaneswar centre, heavy rainfall, ranging from 7 to 11 cm, and lightning are expected in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, and Bargarh districts Tuesday.

The weather office has issued a yellow warning (be updated) for these districts.

Similarly, heavy rainfall would

**From June 1 to August 12, the state recorded an average rainfall of 634.9 mm against the normal precipitation of 698.4 mm, the IMD said**

occur in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, and Sambalpur districts August 14, while a yellow warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, and Nabarangpur districts August 15, the IMD centre said.

Similar weather conditions

were predicted for several other districts for another two days (August 16 and 17).

Following the IMD forecast, the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) has issued an advisory asking the district Collectors to remain prepared to face any eventuality.

From June 1 to August 12, the state recorded an average rainfall of 634.9 mm against the normal precipitation of 698.4 mm.

During the period, Malkangiri, Boudh, Sonapur and Nuapada districts have been categorised as excess, 16 districts received normal downpours and the remaining 10 districts were in the deficient category.

## Protest over 'assault' of WB workers in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, August 12:** A demonstration was held outside the Utkal Bhawan in central Kolkata Monday against the alleged assault of migrant labourers from West Bengal in Odisha.

Armed with placards, around 200 members of Bangla Pokkho shouted slogans against the "assault" of migrant labourers in the neighbouring state on the pretext that they were Bangladeshis.

"We are a peace-loving community but attacks on migrant workers from West Bengal are taking place in Odisha. If the attacks don't stop in the next 24 hours, we will be forced to launch a bigger movement," said Bangla Pokkho's general secretary Garga Chatterjee.

A spokesperson of the outfit



said that a senior Odisha government official promised them that they would do whatever was needed to stop such attacks and take action against those involved.

"We are for peaceful co-existence. Our CM has also taken up the issue with the Odisha government. We hope it will work," Chatterjee said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spoke to Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday and urged him to look into such incidents.

## Bitti Mohanti dies

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Bitti Hotra Mohanti, who was convicted for raping a German woman, died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, hospital sources said Monday.

"Bitti Hotra was about 40 years old and son of former Director General of Police (Prisons) BB Mohanti. He was suffering from stomach cancer and died while undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Sunday," they said.

He was convicted by a court in Rajasthan in 2006 and sentenced to seven years of imprisonment for raping a German tourist. After getting parole to visit his ailing mother in 2006, he absconded.

However, in March 2013, he was arrested by Rajasthan police from Kerala. He was again arrested by Rajasthan police.

In 2023, the Supreme Court had granted conditional bail to Mohanti.

## BJD campaign against 'BJP's betrayal' from August 16

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** BJD president Naveen Patnaik Monday said his party will launch an awareness campaign from August 16 against the alleged betrayal by the state's BJP government regarding the old-age pension scheme.

In a post on X, Patnaik said, "The BJD will launch a statewide awareness campaign from August 16. The campaign will be launched in all the gram panchayats of the state. The BJD will fight for the rights of the elderly. All party workers and conscious citizens will be involved in the campaign and make peo-

ple aware about BJP's betrayal."

Patnaik criticised the saffron party for failing to deliver on its election promises of ₹3,000 to ₹3,500 in social security allowances for the elderly, differently-abled, widows, and the destitute. Instead, the Budget only provides enhanced allowances to those over 80 years old or with

80 per cent disability, he added.

He noted that despite the BJP government's significant debt of ₹45,000 crore, it has not fulfilled its promises, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. Patnaik emphasised that the BJD will continue its campaign to press the BJP to honour its commitments to the people of Odisha.

## Vig unearths stashed riches of ex-chief engg

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Ten flats in posh localities, over 2.5 kilogram gold, ₹2.70 crore in deposits and two luxury cars are among the assets Vigilance sleuths claimed to have found during searches at multiple locations related to former Roads and Building Chief Engineer Tara Prasad Mishra, Monday.

Acting on a tipoff that the retired government servant had amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, Vigilance teams comprising 12 DSPs, 12 inspectors, 16 ASIs, and staff launched simultaneous searches at nine locations in the City, Cuttack, and Jharsuguda, officials said.

During searches, the sleuths lay



their hands on documents of 10 flats in prime areas, seven plots, bank deposits exceeding ₹2.7 crore, gold weighing 1.5 kilogram, and ₹6 lakh in cash linked to Mishra, they added.

"The Vigilance sleuths found ownership documents of a flat at Arpan Apartment in Nayapalli area, two at

Cosmopolis, one at Falcon crest, one at Grand Awas, two at Assotech and three at Ashiana project in Jharsuguda," they said.

Additionally, sleuths discovered branded wristwatches, with one reportedly a Rolex worth ₹13 lakh, and two luxury cars (Mercedes Benz and KIA Seltos) in Mishra's possession. Mishra has spent ₹80 lakh on the medical education of his daughter, they said.

The probe also uncovered currencies from USA, Thailand, Vietnam, UAE, Canada, Mexico, Malaysia, and Singapore from Mishra's properties.

Further searches were in progress, and additional deposits and investments in shares and mutual funds were being evaluated, they said.

## RAKHI: STREET SALES HIT AS BUYERS GO ONLINE



**DRY DAYS:** A row of makeshift Rakhi stalls at Saheed Nagar in Bhubaneswar wears a deserted look, Monday  
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** With Rakhi Purnima barely a week away (August 19), markets are bustling with preparations for the annual celebration of enduring bond between siblings.

This year, the festival in which sisters of all ages tie a Rakhi - talisman, amulet, or a simple thread-around the wrists of their brothers, is witnessing a blend of traditional and modern elements, reflecting the evolving ways in which people celebrate.

A diverse variety of Rakhis is available in the market, catering to a wide range of preferences and budgets. From eco-friendly options to luxurious designs priced at over ₹500, the selection options are vast. Customizable Rakhis, featuring names or photos, have also gained popularity, driving home the personal touch many seek during this festival.

However, local vendors are observing a shift in consumer behavior. "People have become more reliant on online shopping which has significantly impacted footfalls at our stalls,"

said Toofan Rout, a vendor at Sai Season Centre in Rasulgarh, adding, "This year we haven't seen the usual rush at our stalls because many prefer the convenience of ordering Rakhis online, and having them delivered directly to their loved ones."

The tradition of sending Rakhis to brothers living far away has also evolved. In the past, sisters would send Rakhis through couriers, while brothers would respond with letters expressing their gratitude and blessings. At present, online shopping has streamlined this process, allowing sisters to order Rakhis and gifts with just a few clicks on smartphones.

Despite these changes, the emotional essence of Raksha Bandhan remains intact. The festival continues to symbolize love, respect, and commitment between siblings. "No matter how much time passes, the bond between siblings and the love and respect for each other remain the same," said Ritu Bhagat, an 18-year-old City resident.

Rakesh Kumar, a 25-year-old working professional, noted, "Even though the festival has become more about gifting which sometimes overshadows the promise of protection, Raksha Bandhan is still a celebration of the deep love and respect between siblings. This celebration bond isn't just limited to brothers and sisters; it also reflects universal values that bring the whole community together, and have lasted through the years."




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# ICAR-NRRI develop bacterium for climate change mitigation

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** In a pioneering step toward climate-smart agriculture, scientists from the ICAR-National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Cuttack recently developed a groundbreaking solution to one of the environment's pressing concerns—methane emissions from rice fields, officials informed Monday.

Pratap Bhattacharyya, Head, Crop Production Division and Principal Scientist at NRRI, led the research team that identified this bacterium. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Our work is to provide a solution to mitigate climate change in agriculture."

"Our research started in 2019 when this methanotroph bacterial strain (MT-22) was isolated from the soils of Sundarban mangroves ecosystem, however, after exhaustive laboratory and multi-location field trials, it showed promising results in rice fields," he said.

"This bacterial strain 'MT-22' was registered with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) August 9, 2021 under accession number MZ683316 (named Methylobacterium sp.). Further, for utilisation of this methanotroph, an environment-friendly and easy-to-use solid formulation product was developed which is currently pending for patent approval (Application No.



202211063833 filed November 9, 2022)," he said.

ICAR-NRRI director AK Nayak said, "The implications of such technologies extend beyond just environmental benefits and play a crucial role in the emerging market for carbon credits, where reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can translate into economic benefits for farmers."

"Such technologies are imperative for decarbonisation of agriculture and in achieving Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals of India," he commented.

According to officials, the innovative breakthrough involves the isolation and application of methane oxidizing bacteria,

The innovative breakthrough involves the isolation and application of methane oxidizing bacteria, known as methanotrophs (named MT-22)

known as methanotrophs (named MT-22), which have shown remarkable results in reducing methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas.

"Rice cultivation is known to contribute between four to six per cent of global anthropogenic methane emissions, releasing 23 to 34 teragrams (Tg) of methane annually. Specifically in India, irrigated rice fields are responsible for approximately 3.97 Tg of methane emissions each year," they said.

"The introduction of the methane-oxidising bacteria-based formulation product containing MT-22 by ICAR-NRRI offers a promising solution to this challenge by achieving methane emissions reductions of 10 to 12 per cent," officials said.

Moreover, as this technology is on the verge of being commercialised for large-scale use, it has received recognition from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) highlighting its viability and potential for widespread adoption.



**FOUNDATION DAY:** Governor Raghuraj Das with dignitaries including Minister of State for Industries, Skill Development, and Technical Education Sampad Chandra Swain and Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Gokulananda Mallik during 38th annual state-level convention of OASME at Sookhana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

# OASME holds 38th state-level convention

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** The Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) observed its 38th annual state-level convention and Foundation Day here Monday.

The event was inaugurated by Governor Raghuraj Das in presence of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Industries, Skill Development, and Technical Education Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Gokulananda Mallik and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Das praised OASME's significant contributions to MSME development, particularly in supporting young entrepreneurs and women in the sector.

He said, "We need policies that align with current requirements to create more employment opportunities with less investment."

Governor released a souvenir featuring articles on MSME promotion and felicitates successful entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs, and industrial promotional officers with the OASME Award-2024 for their contributions to the MSME sector. Also, a Directory on the

SC/ST women entrepreneur's database was unveiled on this occasion.

Swain said, "The government is fully committed to support the MSME sector, recognising its crucial role in driving the state's economic growth."

"We encourage OASME to lead the charge in raising awareness and motivating local entrepreneurs to step forward and establish their businesses. With substantial budgetary provisions for MSME development, Odisha is on the path to significant progress," he said.

In his address, Mallik said, "The Central government is plac-

ing a strong emphasis on the development of Odisha, whether it be in industry or tourism. The skill level of our workforce is exceptionally high, yet due to existing gaps, these sectors are not fully explored."

OASME chairman Gauri Sankar Dash urged young entrepreneurs to step forward in the field of MSMEs, alongside agriculture.

The event concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between OASME and the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), followed by an annual general meeting and a cultural programme.

# 'Adopt improved varieties of crops'



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Farmers should adopt improved varieties of crop to tackle climate change, flood and drought situation, pest and disease occurrence for higher production and food security, said ICAR-CIFA director Pramoda Kumar Sahoo during a special programme organised by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khurda (KVK) recently.

Around 127 farmers and farmwomen from two blocks of Khurda district, scientists and others participated in the event.

The programme was held on the occasion of release of 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties of 61 crops, including 24 field crops and 27 horticultural crops by PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Principal Scientist GS Saha informed farmers about benefits of the new varieties of crops and urged them to gather information about them for different agro-ecological situation.

On this occasion, application of drone in aquaculture and awareness on use of renewable energy (Solar dryer) were demonstrated to the farmers.

# SOA ranked 14th in country; 24th in overall category

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here has been ranked 14th in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) placings for 2024 which were announced by the Ministry of Education Monday.

The 9th edition of the NIRF rankings was released by Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi in the presence of Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar.

With this, SOA has moved up one place this year from the 15th rank it occupied last year in the university category. It also moved up two places in the overall category to be placed 24th in the country in the latest ranking.

SOA's founder president Manojranjan Nayak expressed



his happiness over the ranks obtained by the university while congratulating the faculty, researchers and other employees.

Speaking on this occasion, SOA vice-chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda said, "We must work hard to ensure that the university is placed among the top ten universities of the country within the next five years," he said.

Notably, SOA has continuously

been in the list of top 25 institutions of higher learning in the country for nine years since the inception of the NIRF rankings by the Ministry of Education in 2016. Of these, SOA had been ranked within the top 20 universities in the country on seven occasions.

SOA had been reaccredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2022 with the highest Grade A++.

# 3rd edition of MUN 2024 at DPSK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga recently organised the third edition of the Model United Nations (MUN 2024) on its campus with more than 350 delegates attending the event.

The programme began with the welcome address by Principal Anuradha Rakshit.

In the event, delegates from the six-member executive board committee discussed various issues that witnessed heated arguments, innovative solutions, pragmatic public speaking and world class diplomacy.

The broad range of issues discussed were human rights vio-

lations in Israel and Palestine conflict, Kashmir issue, climatic change and role of nuclear power, electoral reforms 'One Nation One Election' along with the international press among others.

Organisations included United Nations Human Rights Council, Historical MUN Committee, Paris Peace Conference, Unga - Specpol and International Atomic Energy Agency.

A performance by the school Rock Band and a Medley Dance were also organised on the occasion. IGNOU regional director Suresh Tripathy graced the valedictory ceremony.

In the end, delegates were awarded with accolades, certificates and cash prizes.



# Samanta gets 59th Honorary Doctorate



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 12:** Techno India University (TIU), a prominent university in Kolkata, awarded the honorary PhD to KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta for his achievements in the field of education and social work, Monday. This marks his 59th honorary doctorate.

Samanta received the honour at a special function organised by the university. In his acceptance speech, Samanta expressed his gratitude to the university and the people of West Bengal for their love and affection.

Notably, Samanta, the eminent educationist and philanthropist has won several laurels by prestigious universities across various countries.

# Horses have ability to think strategically & plan ahead

**THE STUDY WILL HELP IMPROVE WELFARE FOR HORSES AS THEY HAVE COGNITIVE ABILITIES INCLUDING AWARENESS OF CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS**

Horses have the ability to think strategically and plan ahead and are far more intelligent than scientists previously thought, according to a Nottingham Trent University (NTU) study that analysed the animal's responses to a reward-based game.

Carrie Ijichi, a senior lecturer in equine science at NTU, said,

"Horses are not natural geniuses, they are thought of as mediocre, but the study shows they're not average and are, in fact, more cognitively advanced than we give them credit for."

To understand more, the researchers set 20 horses a task consisting of three stages.

In the first stage, the animals touched a piece of card with their nose in order to get a treat.

But things became more complicated when a light was introduced and horses were only allowed a snack if they touched the card while the light was switched off.

The team found that the horses kept blindly touching the card, regardless of whether the light was on or off, and were rewarded for correct responses.

In the final stage of the game,

a penalty was put in place where touching the card when the "stop" light was on resulted in a 10-second time-out.

But instead of indiscriminately touching the card, the team found that the horses



were engaging with the rules - only making a move at the right time in order to receive their treat.

The researchers said this suggests that rather than failing to grasp the rules of the game, the horses had understood it the whole time but had found a way to play in the second stage that did not require much attention.

Louise Evans, a PhD candidate based in NTU's

School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, said, "We were expecting horses' performance to improve when we introduced the time-out, but were surprised by how immediate and significant the improvement was."

"Animals usually need several repetitions of a task to gradually acquire new knowledge, whereas our horses immediately improved when we introduced a cost for errors," he said.

"This suggests that the horses knew all along what the rules of the game were."

The researchers said the findings, published in the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science, suggests horses have the ability to form an internal model of the world around them to make decisions and predictions, a technique known as

model-based learning.

"Previously, research has suggested that horses simply respond to stimuli in the moment, they don't proactively look ahead, think ahead and plan their actions - whereas the study shows that they do have an awareness of the consequences and outcomes of their actions," Evans said.

Evans hopes the groundbreaking study will help to improve welfare for horses. "Generally, when we start to think that animals may have better cognitive abilities than previously thought, their welfare does improve," he said.

"But also, what we've shown is that, in training, you really don't need to use aversive methods or anything too harsh to get really good performance out of horses," he added.

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# Pachyderms in peril: Calf carcass recovered on World Elephant Day

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCES INDICATE THAT SOMEONE TRIED TO BURN THE REMAINS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 12:** Forest officials found an elephant calf's decomposed carcass in Barbanka reserve forest under Deobandh section of Ghatagaon forest range in Keonjhar district as people and various organisations observed World Elephant Day, Monday.

Coming close on the heels of the recovery of a female elephant carcass in Hadagarh wildlife sanctuary in the northern district and coinciding with the international annual event dedicated to the preservation and protection of pachyderms, the discovery has evoked sharp reactions among the nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Sources said the calf belonged to a seven-member herd which is moving around the forests under Deobandh section. The carcass was found lying near Raghubada dam around 60 metre from Santrapur village under Ghatagaon range of Keonjhar forest division.

The calf, a female, is estimated to be aged within three to seven years. Circumstantial evidences suggested that she might have died less than a week ago. The matter came to the fore after locals who had gone to collect firewood from the jungle spotted the decomposed carcass through the stench and



37 PERISH IN 3 YEARS

Official sources said 12 elephants died under Keonjhar forest division in FY 2022-23, whereas in 2023-24 the figure rose to 18

In 2024-25, Keonjhar forest division has so far seen seven fatalities of the gentle giants

Altogether, at least 37 elephants in the forest division have perished in the last three years

informed Forest officials.

Preliminary investigation indicated that someone tried to burn the carcass. However, it can be confirmed only after the investigation is completed, Forest officials said.

Informed, Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs) Jitendra Behera, Ashok Das and Surendra Hembram rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. A team of veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass before burying it at the spot.

The Forest officials ruled out electrocution as the cause of the calf's death as there is no power source within 1km radius of the spot. The veterinary team has taken samples for examination. Divisional Forest Officer Dhanraj

HD said the officials of Centre for Wildlife Health have been contacted to ascertain the actual reason behind the animal's death.

Questions have been raised on the efficiency of the Forest department as the incident dawned upon the officials only after a week of the calf's death. The lackadaisical attitude has sparked anger and resentment among the animal lovers as they alleged that the elephant tracking report submitted by the field staff is a complete failure.

The report submitted by the field staff claimed the calf to be alive and present with the herd, though it had died a week back. It is clear from this incident that the field staff often submits wrong report about the presence of elephants without ac-

tually visiting the field and taking stock of the pachyderms, they further alleged.

Notably, five years back, the decomposed carcass of a tusker was recovered from Gayalmunda village in Barbanka reserve forest.

Official sources said that 12 elephants died under Keonjhar forest division in the year 2022-23, whereas in 2023-24 the fatalities rose to 18. In the current financial year (2024-25) death of seven elephants has been reported so far. Altogether, at least 37 elephants have perished in the forest division in the last three years.

On the other hand, there are 139 elephants moving in different forests under Keonjhar forest division. The animals are wandering aimlessly and often straying into human habitats due to destruction of the forest cover as well as loss of their natural habitats and the elephant corridors.

Though the Forest department has been implementing various plans for the protection of elephants, it has failed miserably in safeguarding the gentle giants.

A sharp rise in man-animal conflict is being witnessed almost all round the year. Despite huge amount of funds spent every year for the protection of wild animals, the unchecked death of the pachyderms has sparked serious concern among the environmentalists and animal lovers.

## Bhawanipatna civic body chairperson loses trust vote

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, August 12:** The chairperson of Bhawanipatna Municipality in Kalahandi district, Sanjukta Behera, Monday lost the no-confidence motion moved by the councillors. The infighting within BJD and dissatisfaction with her work led to all 20 votes in favour of the motion.

The vote on no-confidence was held Monday at 11am. According to Vice Chairman Vishnu Pradhan, all 20 councillors voted against Chairperson Sanjukta Behera. Among those who voted were 18 BJD councillors and one each from BJP and Congress.

The District Council's Additional Development Officer Dilip Kumar Maharana was in charge of the election as the presiding officer. Following the chairperson's loss in the no-confidence vote, the councillors celebrated their victory in front of the local municipality by bursting crackers.

Vice Chairman Vishnu Pradhan stated that this was the victory of unity among all councillors and a triumph of justice over injustice. Furthermore, the incident of BJD councillors ousting their own BJD chairperson has become a subject of discussion in the district.

Dissatisfied with Chairperson Behera's autocratic actions, the aforementioned councillors, along with the Vice Chairman, had brought a no-confidence motion and submitted a written complaint to the District Magistrate June 28.

## NGT slaps ₹6cr penalty on Serajuddin and Co



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 12:** The Kolkata bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slapped a penalty of over ₹6 crore over mining firm Serajuddin and Co towards environmental loss at its Balda iron ore mines in Joda mining division of Keonjhar district.

Sources said, the tribunal has directed the mining firm to deposit the penalty with Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Acting on the order, the member secretary of SPCB in a letter (707), dated May 9, 2024, has asked the mining firm to deposit the penalty amount.

Earlier, while hearing an environmental damage case (OA No. 173/201/EZ) between Ramachandra Mahant and others versus M/s Serajuddin & Company, a special bench of the tribunal had ordered a joint investigation of the mines owned by Serajuddin & Company, April 21, 2022.

Later, a joint inspection committee consisting of Keonjhar DFO, Champua Sub-Collector, scientists of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the regional officer of SPCB in Keonjhar visited the mines to

determine the penalty towards environmental loss, July 11, 2022.

The committee fixed the penalty amount at ₹6,00,18,750 towards damages for environmental loss after a ground study of the mines. Moreover, the committee urged the mining firm to implement the mine restoration plan. The District Collector of Keonjhar submitted the joint committee report with the registrar of NGT, Eastern Zone bench at Kolkata, August 1, 2022.

After studying all the reports, the tribunal directed for realisation of the penalty amount from the mining firm. Acting on the order, the member secretary of SPCB has asked the company to deposit the penalty.

However, it was learnt that the mining company, instead of depositing the penalty, went to the court to delay implementation of the order and avoid paying the amount. Sources alleged that the Justice Shah Commission, which was inquiring on illegal and irregular mining, found illegality in the work of this company and had imposed a fine.

Regional Officer, SPCB, Keonjhar, Prasant Kar said that the company moved the court against the NGT order and is yet to deposit the penalty towards the environment loss.

Subas Mohanty, senior manager of the company, said that the order was stayed by the court and the matter is sub-judice. Further steps will be taken after the court hears the matter and issues a fresh order, he added.

## Robbers break open ATM; loot ₹5.73 lakh



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Gopalpur, August 12:** Robbers broke open an ATM at Kanisi Hata under Golanthara police limits here in Ganjam district and decamped with cash worth ₹5,73,300 late Sunday night.

According to reports, the miscreants entered into the UCO Bank ATM near National Highway-16 at Kanisi Hata late Sunday night and cut the machine open on the left side using a gas cutter. After looting cash worth ₹5,73,300, they downed the shutter and fled the scene. Bank officials discovered the robbery after opening the ATM, Monday morning.

Shibaram Panda, Assistant Branch Manager of the bank, lodged a complaint in this regard at the Golanthara police station. Upon receiving the information, Golanthara PS IIC Vivekananda Swain, SI Bibhuti Sethi, and a scientific team reached the spot and began an investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the miscreants had arrived in a white car and tampered with the nearby CCTV camera. A case (325/24) has been registered at Golanthara police station. Police are now reviewing CCTV footages from the NH-16 and nearby areas. They suspect that the miscreants may be from another state. When questioned, IIC Swain mentioned that various aspects are being investigated.

## Croc drags woman into Brahmani

**PATTAMUNDAI:** In probably the first case of crocodile attack this season, a 50-year old woman was reportedly dragged into the Brahmani river by a crocodile while she was washing utensils at Alapua village of Alapua panchayat under this block in Kendrapara district, Monday evening. The missing woman has been identified as Manjulata Bhanja. After the news spread in the village, people raised an alarm and tried to search for her, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Villagers Narendra Dhal, Chandan Sahu, and Kishore Raut informed that the Fire department's rescue team was yet to arrive at the site of reporting. Although there have been multiple sightings of crocodiles in the river, the administration has not taken adequate steps to warn the public, leading to such unfortunate incidents, the villagers alleged. Notably, Amulya Das, a 45-year old man from Kulasahi village in Penthapal panchayat last year July 27 was attacked by a crocodile during his bath leading to his death. Following that incident, the administration had advised people not to go to the river during floods. As many as six people had been killed in crocodile attacks last year in the state, as per official sources.



## 2 detained over sorcery

**JAJPUR:** People of a village in Jajpur district detained two women suspecting that a male member of their family was engaged in sorcery, police said Monday. The accused man, with the help of the police, rescued his mother and wife. The incident occurred Sunday at Suninda Sabar Sahi under Jajpur Sadar police station. Several women of the village were behaving strangely for the past couple of days and others suspected that black magic by a fellow villager was responsible for that, a police officer said. The angry villagers went to his house Saturday night but he was not there. Hence, they took his wife and mother and confined them in a room. When he heard that the villagers had taken away his family members, he approached the local police to rescue his family members. When Jajpur Sadar police reached the village, irate villagers gheraoed their vehicle, the officer said. The villagers released the women after the police detained the accused man.

## 3 die of diarrhoea in 3 days



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nandahandi, August 12:** At least three persons have died within a span of just three days due to diarrhoea and vomiting at Dandasnaguda village in Jhadabandhaguda panchayat under this block in Nabarangpur district, Health officials said Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Janaki Amanatya, daughter of Dambaru Amanatya, Narasingh Naik, and an elderly woman visitor Tulsa Amanatya. Janaki was undergoing treatment at the hospital but fled to the village in the middle of her treatment

before recovery and succumbed at home, Friday.

Similarly, Narasingh Naik died Sunday and Tulsa Amanatya of Jagannathpur village died while visiting her relatives Monday morning.

On being informed, a medical team from the district Health department rushed to the village and conducted examinations of affected persons. They urged the villagers to eat hot and properly cooked food, and drink boiled water. The medical team also collected water samples from the village and rectal swab samples of the affected persons for medical examination.

However, locals tried to rebuff their move by terming their illness as an act of witchcraft and sorcery. They claimed that they will be cured of their ailment after a sorcerer performs some rituals on them.

"The exact reason behind the spread of the disease could be ascertained only after the reports are available to us," ADMO Dr Naba Kishore Behera said. The medical team will stay put in the village before all the people are completely cured of the disease, he added.

## Police foil armed bank loot bid; 7 held



PNN & AGENCIES

**Jaleswar, August 12:** The police have foiled an armed bank dacoit bid late Sunday under Jaleswar police limits and apprehended seven inter-state dacoits.

In a swift operation and timely intervention of the DIG -cum-in-charge of IG of Police (Eastern Range), Satyajit Nayak, the Jaleswar

police apprehended seven inter-state anti-socials including four from West Bengal and one from Delhi, while they were preparing plan for a bank dacoity at Jaleswar. The dacoit gang had congregated at Dashahara ground in Gobar ghat under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore district when the police swung into action and foiled their plan to loot a bank. The Jaleswar police seized two

pistols with 14 rounds of ammunition, one country-made gun with a live cartridge, iron rod, one gas cylinder, cutter and six mobile phones.

The police also seized one four-wheeler and three motorbikes, besides Rs 3,600 cash from the possession of arrested dacoits, Nayak said. The DIG said the Jaleswar police registered a case and further investigation is on. According to Nayak, he got information from reliable sources that some inter-state anti-socials had congregated at a place under Jaleswar police limits and hatched a plan for an armed bank dacoity.

The DIG said he directed the SP of Balasore and IIC of Jaleswar police to conduct raids. Acting upon the direction of the DIG, the Jaleswar police later conducted raids, arrested the dacoits and managed to foil the armed dacoit bid.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2024-T-218  
Name of Work: SOLARIZATION OF ROOF TOP ON GRID PLANTS UNDER NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ROH SHED & NEW SERVICE BUILDINGS AT SARLA.  
Approx. cost of work: ₹1,77,72,807/-  
EMD: ₹2,38,900/-, Completion period of work: Three months from the date of issue of LOA.  
Tender closing date & Time: 1530 hrs of 06.09.2024.  
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 such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.iemps.gov.in>  
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any Changes/Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G)/ Sambalpur  
PR-412/P/24-25

**Bank of India BOI** Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
With reference to our "Possession Notice" published in the "Orissa Post" on 11.08.2024, the Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor & Liabilities dues of Ranihat Branch mentioned in the notice to be read with following corrections.

Branch Name	Published Data	Corrected Data
Ranihat Branch	Borrower: M/s. Guru Maharaj Filling Station, Prop.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, Address-1: At: Kotsahi, Tangi, Dist.: Cuttack-754022, Odisha, Address-2: At/PO.: Professor Pada, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha / Guarantor: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanayak, W/o.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, At/PO.: Professor Pada, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha / ₹ 1,56,91,599.87	1) Borrower: M/s. Guru Maharaj Filling Station, Prop.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, Address-1: At: Kotsahi, Tangi, Dist.: Cuttack-754022, Odisha, Address-2: At: Professor Pada, Near Chandralok Apartment, Canal Road, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha / Guarantor: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, At: Professor Pada, Near Chandralok Apartment, Canal Road, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha, 2) Borrower: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanayak / Co-Borrower: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, Both are At: Professor Pada, Near Chandralok Apartment, Canal Road, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha / Liabilities dues: ₹ 1,76,24,024.89

All other facts remain unchanged.  
Date : 13.08.2024 Authorised Officer

E-mail : eemissundargarh@yahoo.co.in  
**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
e Procurement Notice  
Bid Reference No. SE MID SNG 04/2024-25  
No.A-214: Bid documents consisting name of Works, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

1 Name of the works	Civil construction work
2 No. of Works	02 (Two) Nos
3 Estimated cost	Varies from Rs. 33.44 lakh to Rs. 49.75 lakh (Approximately)
4 Period of completion	04 (Four) Calendar months
5 Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal	From dt. 14.08.2024 at 10.00 AM to dt.23.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM
6 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	Dt. 23.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM
7 Date of opening of Bid	Dt. 27.08.2024 at 11.00 AM onwards
8 Name and address of the OIT	Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Sundargarh

\*Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
Sd./Superintending Engineer  
M.I.Division, Sundargarh  
OIPR-32124/11/0005/2425

**AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE**  
Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.  
Date and Venue: Wednesday, 14th August 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards. at The Sarovar Court, Ispat Market, Ambagan Circle, Bank street, Sector 19, Rourkela - 769 005, Odisha.  
For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.  
Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. No walk-ins will be allowed.  
Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website ([www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.htm](http://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.htm)). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.  
Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

**Suryo Foods & Industries Limited**  
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264  
Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On June 30, 2024  
Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs. in Thousands)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended June 30, 2024 Un-Audited	Quarter Ended March 31, 2024 Audited	Quarter Ended June 30, 2023 Un-Audited	Year Ended March 31, 2024 Audited
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items	(158)	1,538	9,371	14,114
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(158)	1,538	9,371	14,114
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(158)	(1,262)	9,371	11,314
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	(158)	(1,262)	9,371	11,314
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)	0.04	2.86	2.37	2.86

Notes :  
a) The above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 have been reviewed and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on August 12, 2024. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.  
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2024, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on the website of the Company - [www.suryofoods.com](http://www.suryofoods.com)

Date: 12th August 2024  
Place: Bhubaneswar

By Order of the Board  
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited  
Sd./ Amarendra Dash  
(Chairman Cum Managing Director)  
DIN- 00583036

FOCUS DIPLOMACY

# STAND UP FOR YUNUS



India must keep faith in the leadership of Yunus and offer him support wherever needed

Yunus has been vocally speaking against attacks on Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Ahmadiyyas and others, saying the students have the responsibility to protect everyone. Similarly, when Yunus speaks on wealth inequality, the issues he raises are precisely the kind of issues that have plagued India and bring questions that have brought discomfort to the BJP in the context of growing income and wealth inequality in India.

In his book 'A World of Three Zeros', Yunus, who is the founder of Grameen Bank, writes: If human beings truly fit the mould of the 'Capitalist Man', the borrowers from trust-based banks would simply default ... Grameen Bank would quickly cease to exist. Its long-term success demonstrates the fact that the 'Real Man' is a very different—and much better—creature than the 'Capitalist Man'. Nonetheless, many economists, business leaders, and government experts continue to think and act as if the 'Capitalist Man' is real, and as if selfishness is the only motivation behind human behaviour ... they perpetuate economic, social, and political systems that encourage selfishness and make it more difficult for people to practice the selfless, trusting behaviours millions of them instinctively prefer.

This is space from which spring the ideas of meaningful growth and sustainability. In that, we can all learn from Yunus, and work with new models rooted in the needs and aspirations of 'real man' while we collectively reject the concocted ideas of the so-called 'capitalist man'.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.  
©THE BILLION PRESS

India, like many other global powers, has sent out its best wishes to the octogenarian Prof. Muhammad Yunus as the head of the interim government in Bangladesh following disturbances that marked the end of the 15-year reign of the elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Indian statement is a message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the social platform 'X', brief and formal yet significant. This is just the beginning of the process of building relations with the new regime amid a charged political scenario and a new set of challenges in India-Bangladesh relations. For one, Hasina is sheltering in India, with the highest level of support and protection from the government. Yet, she is clearly hated in Bangladesh, which wants to hold her to account whereas the Indian government must continue to cover for her as a long-standing friend of India.

So, the relationship with the new dispensation in Bangladesh starts with a bone of contention. This is made even more difficult by the early statement of Yunus that he was hurt that India did not come out in support of the student protests against Hasina by calling it an internal matter of Bangladesh. Yunus went on to say: "If there is a fire in the brother's house, how can I say it is an internal affair..." This was probably a frank and a political outburst, unrestrained by diplomatic boundaries and came before he took over as head of the interim government. Now that he holds power, Yunus will appreciate that commenting on internal affairs of another nation is a diplomatic minefield. The attacks on religious minorities in Bangladesh and the insecurities they have brought complicate matters even more.

But all that is in the past and the fact that Yunus has settled

in to lead the neighbouring nation on popular demand should be a cause for celebration not only in Bangladesh but across the region. It is a tribute to the maturity of the military, the broad Bangladeshi establishment and the student protesters that they have chosen a tall leader to head the interim government. India, too, needs to put all the initial chaos and worry behind and embrace every opportunity to stand up for Yunus, who is a Nobel laureate noted for his work with the poor and for his passion for justice, equity, and empowerment of women.

Yunus also stands out for having highlighted the failures of a warped notion of capitalism that has harmed the West and brought disaster to all manner of its copycat models in the East. He is among the few who have spoken in a clear voice against greed, exploitation and selfishness of the order that not only fails to answer the needs of our times, and also harms both the poor but equally the rich.

Further, Yunus has been quick to stand up against violence faced by minorities in Bangladesh during and after the uprising, going as far as to ask: "Are they (minorities) not

the people of this country? You (students) have been able to save this country; can't you save some families? You must say, No one can harm them. They are my brothers; we fought together, and we will stay together."

There can be no doubt that Yunus stands with secular credentials, and these will work to bring calm and reassure minorities who have been under attack over the last 10 days or so. In fact, there is an urgent need in India to curb some politically-inspired, right-wing tilted social media content painting initial violence in Bangladesh as a growing or deteriorating Hindu-Muslim divide. India must keep faith in the leadership of Yunus and offer him support wherever needed.

Yet, this will be a delicate task that may test India much more than Bangladesh. This is because the secular credo of Yunus and a pro-poor agenda that has defined his work and his life pose a unique political challenge to the agenda of right-wing politics that holds centre stage in India. The Indian statement offering wishes to Yunus on taking office spoke of "safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities."



Jagdish Rattanan

## THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW DISPENSATION IN BANGLADESH STARTS WITH A BONE OF CONTENTION

Both the contenders are seemingly trying to take advantage of the trend of voters these days being more swayed by emotions than reason. US research suggests that dissatisfaction with politicians is more likely to send white voters to the polls and minority voters to other forms of activism.

In the past, Democrats have tried to answer the hate-campaign of Trump with facts. Issues such as the climate crisis call for a rational debate. But the voters appear to be less interested in them. On the other hand, emotions are having instant appeal to the voters. New research findings bring home the fact that more than anger emotions such as hope, love and joy are striking a chord in the hearts of the electorate.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva beat Jair Bolsonaro's dark vision of Brazil in 2022, while during the recent Lok Sabha polls in India Rahul Gandhi campaigned through the country with a message of love and solidarity with the people irrespective of their religious or caste identities. The appeal seems to have worked well countering the divisive campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, in the process, lost his parliamentary majority.

But, relying on people's emotions for electoral success may turn out to be a risky strategy. Urging voters to get happy when they are faced with the stark reality of the livelihood crisis the way Harris and her team are doing may prove counterproductive. It appears Harris herself is alive to the dangers of such campaign pitch. She is tempering the buoyant mood by acknowledging that grocery prices are too high. Trump may benefit if recession hits, which is likely, that will compound the problems of the Democrats and their campaign team.

The Democrats are hoping for the best – but Trump is an aggressive campaigner with his own bag of tricks. The fight looks like it could have a nail-biting finish.

## SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Is the polycrisis so bad?

The humming world economy and recent stock-market euphoria would seem to be at odds with our crisis-torn, fragmenting world. Seemingly irresolvable conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine have produced deep rifts both internationally and within rich, industrialised countries. Unable to agree on what is in their own national interests, democracies are struggling to formulate coherent foreign policies. In short, political crises are everywhere, except in the economic data.

What does this mismatch tell us? Are the underlying sources of economic growth making us more secure despite everything, or should we be more worried about what is yet to come? The case for pessimism does seem strong. After the negative supply shock generated by COVID-19, and then by Russia's war in Ukraine, people lost hope that economics alone could solve their problems. As wars proliferate and tensions rise, the risk of new negative supply shocks has grown. No longer is anybody harbouring illusions that the economy is immune to politics.

While Switzerland once served as an effective mediator in international conflicts, its recent efforts have been for naught. The Bürgenstock peace conference in June sought to produce a blueprint to bring peace to

Ukraine, but neither Russia nor China showed up, and emerging-market powers such as India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Indonesia declined to sign the final communiqué.

Meanwhile, global economic governance is also deteriorating. The World Trade Organization is moribund, and the Bretton Woods institutions, currently celebrating their 80th birthday, are showing their age. Even China's alternative version of globalisation, the Belt and Road Initiative, is faltering under the burden of debt.

These and other developments explain the popularity of the term "polycrisis." Coined in the 1990s by the French philosopher Edgar Morin, it was taken up by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in the 2010s and then made into a viral meme by the historian Adam Tooze during the pandemic.

Morin was reflecting on Francis Fukuyama's contention that historical development tended toward liberal democracy and market capitalism. Reflecting on the years just after the Cold War, Morin worried that every domain of human existence was haunted by crisis – from the economy, society, and the traditional household to values, youth, science, and law. The world had generated dangerous feedback loops that threatened to overwhelm regulation,

compounding the mortal perils of ecological devastation and nuclear conflict.

"Crisis" is derived from the Greek for choice (krinō): it was used classically to describe a turning point, often in a disease, when the patient turned to death or, alternatively, to recovery. And "poly" comes from polis, which broadly means "a state or society especially when characterized by a sense of community." The plural is polloi, and we perhaps should speak of "polloicrises." Our polloi, our communities, are disintegrating.

Reflecting on the trajectory of the term crisis, the great historian of concepts Reinhart Koselleck observed: "Such a tendency toward imprecision and vagueness, however, may itself be viewed as the symptom of a historical crisis that cannot as yet be fully gauged."

But crisis and polycrisis are not new, of course. Both concepts are embedded in human history, and thus also in the human psyche. The profound shock generated by episodes of famine, disease, and war – the premodern horsemen of the apocalypse – tends to leave the impression that all challenges are linked. As Claudius says in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "When sorrows come, they come not single spies but in battalions."

The end of the Roman empire – with its over-expansion, fail-

ure to provision large cities, escalating inequality, famines, and external attacks – was surely beset by a polycrisis. Similarly, in the 1340s, after defaults by states (the English monarchy, above all) and the bankruptcies of the major financial houses in Florence, there was more war, which helped spread the Black Death across Europe. Thus, the late-medieval version of globalisation was savagely interrupted.

The oddity of the current moment is that in the face of so much doom and gloom, solutions seem to be both closer at hand and more far-ranging than at any point in the past. The pace of technical innovation – often in response to crises – is accelerating, and there is warranted optimism about the capacity of artificial intelligence to deliver major improvements in medicine and education, as well as generating alternatives to carbon energy or the widespread use of pesticides.

The world might be more secure than we think. Though we are facing polynegative supply shocks, these will generate new innovations that could lead to greater, not less, prosperity and security.

The writer is Professor of History and International Affairs at Princeton University.  
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## WISDOM CORNER

A mountain is composed of tiny grains of earth. The ocean is made up of tiny drops of water. Even so, life is but an endless series of little details, actions, speeches, and thoughts. And the consequences whether good or bad of even the least of them are far-reaching

SWAMI SIVANANDA

We come into relationships often very much identified with our needs. I need this, I need security, I need refuge, I need friendship. And all of relationships are symbiotic in that sense. We come together because we fulfill each others' needs at some level or other

RAM DASS

Fear keeps us focused on the past or worried about the future. If we can acknowledge our fear, we can realize that right now we are okay. Right now, today, we are still alive, and our bodies are working marvelously. Our eyes can still see the beautiful sky. Our ears can still hear the voices of our loved ones

RHICH NHAT HANH

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1521:** Fall of the Aztec empire. On this day in 1521, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés captured Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City) after a 93-day siege, thereby ending the Aztec empire and winning Mexico for the crown of Spain.

■ **1898:** The U.S. Army took control of the Philippine port of Manila during the Spanish-American War.

■ **1926:** Cuban political leader Fidel Castro, who transformed his country into the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere, was born.

■ **1960:** Central African Republic Gains its Independence From France. The landlocked African Country came under French rule in the late 19th century. On this day, Barthélemy Boganda, a nationalist politician declared the creation of an independent Central African Republic and became the first Prime Minister of the country.

■ **1961:** Construction of Berlin Wall starts. The construction on the Berlin Wall, a wall that divided West Berlin from East Berlin started. It was built by the German Democratic Republic or East Germany.

■ **1967:** The crime drama Bonnie and Clyde, starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the outlaw couple, opened in New York City, and it pioneered a new era of filmmaking, tearing down barriers in the depiction of violence and sexuality.

## LOL

### The dentist

A couple of old guys were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning. His friend remarked that he had gone to the same dentist a few years before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?"



"Well, I was on the course yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball must have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach. That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Workplace safety must

Sir, This refers to "WB: Police wait for final autopsy report," (Orissa Post, August 12). The gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor on the premises of a reputed government medical college of West Bengal has sent shock waves across the nation. The incident has once again raised several questions regarding the safety of women in their workplaces. Even though the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act has been in existence since 2013, there is not much relief. Data released by the National Crime Records Bureau is staggering. According to it, the victim count for workplace sexual harassment against women was 422 in 2022. This is a cause of concern because it is well established that women actually under-report crimes against them due to fear of repercussions, inadequate awareness and societal biases. Atrocities against women in places of work result in the violation of basic fundamental rights of women especially the right to equality under Article 14 and Article 15 and her right to life and to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. Therefore, it is obligatory for the institutions to follow every norm and guideline mandated by the government for securing a healthy environment for women at work. A breach of these norms must be dealt with iron hand.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

### Elephant protection

Sir, Elephants are placed in schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. There are 33 elephant reserves in 14 major elephant states. But as many as 500 elephants died of unnatural causes over the last five years in India. Electrocutation has always been the leading cause of elephant deaths besides poisoning. The perennial "train-elephant collision" has been studied for a very long time. Proper track signals, loco pilot sensitisation, periodic review and maintenance of elephant corridors and a unique elephant detection system are steps towards safeguarding elephants. Overpasses and underpasses, solar powered fences and elephant proof trenches are vital. Jumbos held captive in zoos and other places require particular attention. More and more elephant corridors and enhanced budgetary provisions are important.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Kerala mountain villages battle jumbo fear

As many as 17 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks in Kerala last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 12:** Amidst the heartbreaking and disturbing stories of the Wayanad landslide tragedy, an incident in which a herd of jumbos came to the rescue of a woman and her family touched the hearts of animal lovers recently.

Sujatha and her family reportedly encountered a wild tusker and two female elephants when they climbed a hilltop to rescue themselves from the gushing flood waters and huge boulders.

The animals are said to have come very close to the family but stood beside them silently after the frightened woman requested the animals in tears not to harm them anymore, as they just survived a deadly landslide and were waiting to be rescued.

Sujatha later told the media that tears had rolled down the tusker's eyes, giving the impression that it had understood their plight.



WORLD ELEPHANT DAY

**There can't be a no-conflict situation; only tough action by authorities would reduce the number of such encounters**

PS EASA | WILDLIFE EXPERT

But it was in the same Wayanad that a hapless man was mercilessly trampled to death by a wild elephant in the courtyard of a house months ago.

As World Elephant Day is observed Monday with various programmes and festivities across the country, the hamlets in the mountains of Kerala remain under constant fear of wild elephants straying into human habitats.

In recent months, nail-biting incidents of human encounters with wild tuskers, the resulting casualties and the widespread destruction of agricultural crops have been reported not only in the forest-fringe hamlets of Wayanad but also in the hill station Munnar in Idukki district and in the remote villages of Palakkad district of the state.

According to the Forest Department's figures, as many as 17 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks in Kerala during 2023-2024.

Early this year, Ajeesh, a 42-year-old man, was trampled to death by a radio-collared elephant in the Mananthavady area of Wayanad.

In CCTV visuals that surfaced later, a huge jumbo, named Belur Magna by forest officials, destroyed a compound wall to chase the hapless man and finally trampled him to death in the courtyard of a house.

Despite an extensive search to capture the rogue elephant, the animal continued to remain elusive, forcing the authorities to cancel the mission later.

The frequent straying of Arikomban, a rice-loving elephant that used to attack shops in the tourist hill station of Munnar, also triggered a huge debate in the state in recent times.

The translocation of the jumbo -- first to the Periyar Tiger Reserve and then to Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Reserve -- invited protests from elephant lovers.

Another wild elephant, PT 7 (Palakkad 7), which used to wreak havoc in a few villages in Palakkad district, also gave tough times to the local people and forest officials.

The rogue elephant, which was renamed Dhoni later, was tranquillised and captured with the aid of kumkis (trained captive elephants) by forest personnel in an hours-long mission.

# TERRORISED VALLEY FORCES ON STRICT VIGIL

Security forces widen search in J-K's Anantnag to flush out terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 12:** The anti-terror operation in the forest area of Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day Monday as security forces widened the search area to flush out terrorists, officials said.

Three persons, including two soldiers, were killed in the exchange of fire with terrorists Saturday following which a massive manhunt has been launched in the Ahlan Gagaramandu forest area of Anantnag district to eliminate the ultras.

The operation to hunt down the ultras continued for the third day despite the challenging topography.

The firefight started Saturday evening during a cordon and search operation that was initiated by the security forces based on intelligence reports indicating the presence of terrorists in the remote Ahlan Gagaramandu forest.

According to officials, a group of terrorists -- believed to be



**J&K DGP, RR Swain, said that the number of village defence committees and their membership would be increased soon and modern weapons would be provided to them**

three to four in number -- opened fire at the joint search parties comprising Army personnel, including para commandos, and local police.

In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured, officials said, adding the injured soldiers were promptly

taken to a nearby hospital where two succumbed shortly after arrival. The slain army personnel have been identified as Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma.

This encounter is a grim reminder of a similar operation in the general area of Kokernag last September, during which four security personnel, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish and Deputy SP Humayun Bhat were killed in the week-long engagement with terrorists. Two terrorists, including a senior commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were also neutralised during that operation.

Security forces have ramped up their efforts in the woods of Kokernag after an encounter in Doda district July 15 that resulted in the deaths of four soldiers, including a captain.

It is believed that the terrorists involved in the recent Anantnag incident may have crossed over from Kishtwar district after escaping the confrontation in Doda.

# Last Jewish woman in Kochi passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, August 12:** The last woman from the Jewish community in Kochi has died due to age-related ailments at her residence in Mattancherry near here.

Queenie Hallegua (89) died Sunday and her funeral was held at the Jewish cemetery here following the rituals of the community, family sources said. She is survived by son and daughter, both of whom are settled in the US.

Her nephew, Keith Hallegua (65) is the lone Jewish community member in Kochi now, MC Praveen, the trustee of the Paradesi Synagogue here, said.

"She had been unwell for some time. Her children came down to be with her as her health deteriorated. Now there will be a seven-day mourning. After that, in 11 months, they will build a tomb in memory of her," he said.

According to Jewish culture, there is a requirement of ten male members for such ceremonies, and the funeral was held following the tradition.

Two Jews, who were in Fort Kochi as tourists, also took part in the funeral, he said.

Queenie is the daughter of S Koder, who introduced electricity distribution in Kochi city. He was also the first to introduce the boat service in Kochi and is also credited with setting up the first department store in Kerala.

The Paradesi Synagogue, located in Mattancherry Jew Town near here, is a historic site that attracts tourists.

It was built in 1568 AD by Samuel Castiel, David Bellia, and Joseph Levi for the flourishing Paradesi Jewish community in Cochín. It is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations.

# WAYANAD AFTERMATH

## Mullaperiyar dam safety: Kerala govt assures public



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Vloggers who spread unnecessary fear will be regulated. There is no cause for concern at present**

ROSHY AUGUSTINE | STATE IRRIGATION MINISTER

**Idukki, August 12:** The Kerala government Monday reassured the public that it stands in solidarity with them regarding the safety concerns surrounding the Mullaperiyar dam, which has come under scrutiny following the devastating landslides in Wayanad recently.

At a review meeting held at the collectorate, State Irrigation Minister Roshy Augustine acknowledged the growing apprehensions among the public and pledged to take up the matter with the central government as part of measures to alleviate their concerns.

The meeting was convened amid the state's efforts to address the aftermath of recent landslides, which have raised questions about the safety and stability of over 125-year-old dam. Meanwhile, the Mullaperiyar Samarasamithi has announced plans for agitation.

"The government stands with the people regarding the safety concerns of the Mullaperiyar Dam," Augustine said.

He said that Kerala's demand for a new dam in Mullaperiyar is a unified one, transcending party politics.

"We once considered 90-100 mm of rainfall as significant, but now it's 200 mm, 300 mm. We all witnessed the devastating 2018 floods. Given the changing climatic patterns, it's crucial to foresee such situations and ensure people's safety. To address legal issues and bring the strengthened demand for a new dam

to the attention of the central government, our MPs are highly vigilant," the minister said.

He said a case is currently pending between Tamil Nadu and Kerala regarding this issue.

"We are hopeful of a positive judgment from the Supreme Court soon," Augustine said. The minister said the state government will also explore the possibility of resolving the issue through discussions outside the court.

## A special camp to retrieve official documents of the landslide survivors who lost everything was held Monday

## Bank writes off loans of landslide-hit persons

The Kerala Bank, a consolidation of district cooperative banks in the state, announced Monday that it would waive loans of those impacted by the devastating landslides of July 30 in Wayanad. In the aftermath of the disaster in the hilly district, the bank management has decided to write off the loans of deceased borrowers who had availed loans from its Chooralmala branch, as well as those who lost their houses and properties pledged as securities, according to an official statement. The Kerala Bank has already contributed Rs 50 lakh into the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. Besides this, the bank employees have voluntarily decided to contribute their five days' salary into the CMDRF, the statement added.

# 10K women set world record for largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, August 12:** Youth of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district Saturday created a world record for the largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance performed by 10,000 young women at the 'Kashur Riwaaj' cultural festival.

A Defence spokesperson said that the largest-ever Kashmiri Folk Dance was performed by 10,000 young women at Kashur Riwaaj Cultural Fest on the occasion of 78th Independence Day.

The mega event was organised by the Dagger Division of Chinar Corps in collaboration with Baramulla District Administration and Indrani Balan Foundation (IBF), as a run-up celebration for the 78th Independence Day.

The festival took place at Prof Showkat Ali Indoor Stadium to showcase the vibrant traditions of Kashmir through traditional dances, music, calligraphy and cultural activities.

"The highlight was the collective performance of the 'Rouf' dance by the young women, setting a new world record," he added.



"We have been rehearsing for almost a month. Now we feel all the effort was worth it. This is a great achievement and we are proud to be part of the world record," said one of the young participants.

The District Administration, led by Minga Sherpa, DC, ensured the smooth execution of the event. Senior officials from the J&K Cultural Department, Police and NGOs were also present at the historic event and encouraged the participants.

The Chief Guest was Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Corps Commander of Chinar Corps, while Major General Rajesh Sethi, GOC Dagger Division and Baramulla Brigade Commander, Brigadier Rajat Bhatt, were also pres-

ent on the occasion. The IBF, led by Punit and Janhavi Balan, have supported the initiative, continuing their involvement in various development and cultural activities in Baramulla.

"This is a shining example of constructive engagement and cooperation between Civil-Military-Industry and the Youth", said an official from the IBF.

The record-breaking event was adjudicated by the Universal Records Forum. Universal Records Forum (URF) is an ISO 9001:2015 certified organisation, compliant with Guinness records standards, which underscores its commitment to maintaining quality management standards.

The certification ensures that URF adheres to rigorous processes and standards in its operations, including record verification and adjudication.

A local professor commented, "Kashmiri culture is a melting pot of diversity, but today's youth show declining interest because it is not fashionable. The initiative of the army and district authorities has revived interest in our age-old traditions."

**Central Bank of India**  
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**CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**  
(A Government of India undertaking)  
BHUBANESWAR BRANCH, 108, SURYA NAGAR, UNIT-7,  
BHUBANESWAR-751003, Mobile: 7381010234  
E-mail: bmbhub1234@centralbank.co.in

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property/properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive /symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on the date and time specified here in below, for the recovery of due to the Central Bank of India, Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the respective property is furnishing below:-

Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and Branch	Details of Property	Date of Demand Notice & Outstanding Dues		Reserve Price EMD Amount	
		Date of Possession Notice	Bid Increase Amount	EMD Amount	Bid Increase Amount
<b>Branch - Bhubaneswar, Plot No. 108, Unit-7, Surya Nagar, Mob. No.: 7381010234, E-mail: bmbhub1234@centralbank.co.in</b>					
<b>Borrower: M/s Pristine Kalinga, Partnership Firm, Partners: 1) Mr. Chinmaya Biswal, 2) Mrs. Suman Panigrahi, 3) Mrs. Mina Pradhan, Plot No.: 948, Khata No.: 208, Gothapatna, Malipada, Khandagiri, Chandaka, Khorda-751003, Odisha / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Chinmaya Biswal, 2) Mrs. Suman Panigrahi, Both are at Plot No.: 948, Khata No.: 208, Gothapatna, Malipada, Khandagiri, Chandaka, Khorda-751003, Odisha, 3) Mrs. Mina Pradhan, Kunja Patna Sahi, Gosagareswar Chhak, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, PIN-751002.</b>	All that the part and parcel of Ac.2.825 dec., Plot No.: 603, Khata No.: 212, Mouza: Mundala, Tehasil: Jatni, PS: Jatni, District: Khorda, State: Odisha. Name of the Owner: Mrs. Mina Pradhan. Bounded by- North: Govt. Land, East: Rev. Plot No. 604, 605, 607 & Govt. Land, West: Road, South: Road.	19.07.2023 & 12.59.08.692/- + Interest & other expenses (Recovery thereafter, if any)	26.09.2023	₹ 5,71,74,255/- (Rupees Five crore seventy one lakh seventy four thousand two hundred and fifty five only)	₹ 57,17,426/- (Rupees Fifty seven lakh seventeen thousand four hundred and twenty six only)

**1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 30.08.2024 between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM with Auto Extension of 10 minutes.**  
**2. Last Date & Time for Submission of EMD (online) is on or before : 28.08.2024 upto 4:00 PM.**  
**3. Date and Time of Property Inspection: 16.08.2024 to 27.08.2024 on any working day during office hours in consultation with respective Branch Head.**  
**4. For Participating in the E-auction sale, the intending bidders should register their details with the service provider https://uat.ebkay.in/psb-alliance-web/bidder-registration well in advance and shall get user ID & password. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in https://ebkay.in and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.centralbankofindia.co.in . The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, please go through USER MANUAL in URL: https://ebkay.in . For any support please call on Mob.- 8291220220 & mail id-support.ebkay@psballiance.com .**  
**5. For any property related query, bidders may contact: M Phani Machi Raju, Chief Manager, Branch-Bhubaneswar, Mob. No.: 7381010234, E-mail: bmbhub1234@centralbank.co.in at any working day during office hours.**  
**6. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duties/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, TDS, rates, fees etc. owing to anybody.**  
**7. Other terms and conditions are available in the auction site.**

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

Date: 12.08.2024  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
(M Phani Machi Raju), Authorised Officer, Chief Manager, Central Bank of India

**Central Bank of India**  
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**CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**  
(A Government of India undertaking)  
REGIONAL OFFICE, Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, E-mail: recoverybhbu@centralbank.co.in

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(For Immovable Property)

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BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Name & Address of the Guarantor(s) / Mortgagors	Description of Properties	Demand Notice Amount / Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date		Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount	
			Amount / Date	Date	EMD Amount	Bid Increase Amount
<b>CUTTACK PURI ROAD BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Maa Laxmibastalaya, Prop.: Mrs. Kuni Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Trinath Paramanik, At: Jahangirpatna, PO: Banamalipur, PS: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752103.</b>	<b>Mortgagor: Mrs. Kuni Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Trinath Paramanik, At: Jahangirpatna, PO: Banamalipur, PS: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752103.</b>	All that part and parcel of Vacant Land in the name of Mrs. Kuni Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Trinath Paramanik, situated at Mouza: Bhaloi, PS/ Tahasil: Balianta, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 220/59, Plot No.: 35, Area: Ac.0.090dec., Bounded by- East: Not Mentioned, West: Not Mentioned, South: Laxman Das, North: Canal.	09.05.2023 / 03.11.2023	09.05.2023 / 03.11.2023	₹ 15,49,154.00 + Interest & expenses thereon / ₹ 1,76,400/-	₹ 17,64,000/- / ₹ 10,000/-
<b>CUTTACK PURI ROAD BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Kuni Sahoo &amp; 2) Mr. Trinath Paramanik, Both are At: Jahangirpatna, PO: Banamalipur, PS: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752103.</b>	<b>Mortgagor: Mrs. Kuni Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Trinath Paramanik, At: Jahangirpatna, PO: Banamalipur, PS: Balipatna, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752103.</b>	All that part and parcel of Vacant Land in the name of Mrs. Kuni Sahoo, W/o- Mr. Trinath Paramanik, Mouza: Jagannathpur Patana, PS/ Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 91/34, Plot No.: 78/216, Area: Ac.0.030 dec., Bounded by- East: Revenue Plot No. 79, West: Revenue Plot No. 79, South: Revenue Plot No. 55, North: Revenue Plot No. 78.	09.05.2023 / 03.11.2023	09.05.2023 / 03.11.2023	₹ 10,29,024.00 + Interest & expenses thereon / ₹ 2,23,450/-	₹ 22,34,500/- / ₹ 20,000/-
<b>JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Shree Ganesh Industry, Prop.: Nibedita Sahoo, At: Umapara, Unit-2, Niladri Vihar, PO: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755019.</b>	<b>M o r t g a g o r s / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Rajendra Sahoo, 2) Mr. Braja Kishore Sahoo, Both are At: Barajapur, PO/PS: Dharamsala, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755088.</b>	All that part and parcel of Vacant Land in the name of Mr. Rajendra Sahoo & Mr. Braja Kishore Sahoo, Mouza: Barajapur, Dist.: Jajpur, Khata No.: 88, Plot No.: 680/807, Area: Ac.0.10dec., Bounded by- East: Gayadhar Sahoo, West: Uttara Sahi, South: Sudarsan Saran, North: Cattle Passage.	10.05.2021 / 24.11.2021	10.05.2021 / 24.11.2021	₹ 34,85,538.00 + Interest & expenses thereon / ₹ 1,76,500/-	₹ 17,65,000/- / ₹ 20,000/-

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**5. For any property related query, bidders may contact: For SI. No. 1 & 2: Mrs. ANCHAL CHOURASIA, Branch Head, Cuttack Puri Road Branch, Mob.: 7381003432, e-mail id: bmbhub3432@centralbank.co.in and for SI. No.: Mr. Rajendra Rout, Branch Head, Jajpur Road Branch, Mob.: 7381001446, email id: bmbhub1446@centralbank.co.in at any working day during office hours.**  
**6. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duties/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, TDS, rates, fees etc. owing to anybody.**  
**7. Other terms and conditions are available in the auction site.**

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

Date: 12.08.2024  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

# national

## of the day quote

The news of continuous attacks on minorities in neighbouring Bangladesh is disturbing. Discrimination, violence and attacks on the basis of religion, caste, language or identity are unacceptable in any civilised society

It is crucial to revise district boundaries based on administrative convenience rather than ethnic lines. While it is clearly mentioned that creation of districts is for administrative conveniences, it served as political conveniences as regards to some districts

I found two to three points common in successful people, which I adopted in my life. One common characteristic was commitment and dedication with which they worked. Commitment and dedication, along with hard work, and the fourth is goal...Set a goal

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Bangladeshi killed in BSF firing

**Kolkata:** A Bangladeshi smuggler was killed at the Indo-Bangla border in West Bengal's Malda district after Border Security Force jawans opened fire following an attack on them by a group of smugglers, a BSF statement said Monday. The incident occurred on the intervening night of August 11-12 along the Indo-Bangla border in Malda district near the Chandni Chak border outpost. After the firing, the miscreants used the darkness and wild bushes for cover and fled back toward the Indian border.

### 5 killed as truck hits devotees

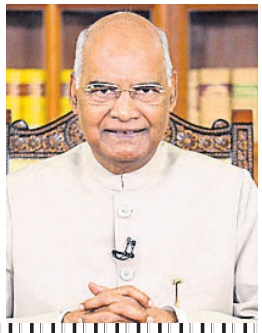
**Kokrajhar:** Five persons were killed and three others critically injured when a speeding truck hit devotees and then a car in Assam's Kokrajhar district Monday morning, police said. The speeding truck hit the devotees near Mahamaya Temple on National Highway 27 in Kachugaon under Gossaigaon police station in which five persons were killed on the spot and one injured.

### Six killed in road mishap

**Siliguri:** Six people were killed and two injured when a speeding vehicle hit them on the Asian Highway 2 at Bagdogra in Darjeeling district of West Bengal Monday, police said. The condition of one of the two injured in the accident is "critical", a senior police officer said. "All these people were pilgrims who were going to Jangli Baba mandir (Shiv mandir) to perform puja. They were hit by the speeding vehicle coming from the other end," he told PTI.

### 5 men drown while bathing

**Jaipur:** Five men drowned while bathing in Kanota Dam here, police said Monday. Six men went to the dam for a picnic Sunday. While bathing they slipped into deep water and got swept away by the strong current, Police Sub-Inspector Dharmendra Kumar said. While one of them came out safely, the others drowned, he said. The bodies were handed over to the family members after post-mortem Monday, they said.



Will the doctor ask any patient belonging to one religion not to go morning walk and evening walk part of the activity. Remember a healthy body and healthy mind will always give you energy to face any challenge" regardless of religion or other identity

RAM NATH KOVIND | FORMER PRESIDENT

## DEFAMATION CASE: HEARING NOT HELD AGAINST RAHUL

Hearing in a defamation case involving senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi could not be held in the MP-MLA court in Sultanpur Monday as the special judge was on leave. Gandhi's advocate Kashi Prasad Shukla said as Special Judge Shubham Verma was on leave, no hearing could take place. August 23 has been fixed as the next date of hearing, he added



## 'FAKE' IAS CASE

HC grants interim protection from arrest to Khedkar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** The Delhi High Court Monday granted interim protection from arrest till August 21 to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits. Justice Subramonium Prasad issued notice to the Delhi Police as well as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on the anticipatory bail plea by Khedkar, and asked them to file their responses. "In the facts of the present case, the court is of the opinion that the petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing," Justice Prasad said, adding that Khedkar shall cooperate with the investigation. The court listed the case for further hearing August 21. Khedkar allegedly misrepresented information in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022 to get reservation benefits.

## KOLKATA DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER

# Nationwide stir at govt hospitals; OPDs, surgeries hit

The move comes in response to a call from the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association which said the 'strike won't stop unless justice is served and our demands are met'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Kolkata, August 12:** Resident doctors of government hospitals across the country went on an indefinite strike Monday to protest the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, paralysing elective services including OPDs and non-emergency surgeries. The move comes in response to a call from the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) which said the "strike won't stop unless justice is served and our demands are met". According to the FORDA, during the indefinite strike, outpatient departments (OPDs), operation theatres, and ward duties will be shut, but emergency services will continue to operate as usual. In the national capital, junior doctors from multiple hospitals, including centrally-run facilities AIIMS, RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, began strike in the morning, causing hardships to patients who visited out-patient departments of the



medical facilities only to be returned without any consultation. In West Bengal, junior doctors, interns, and postgraduate trainees at government medical establishments across the state vowed to continue their agitation, now in its fourth day, until the culprits are brought to justice. A two-member team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) this afternoon arrived in Kolkata and is scheduled to meet city police commissioner Vineet Goyal and the family members of the victim. The body of the postgraduate trainee, who was allegedly raped and murdered inside a seminar hall of the RG Kar Hospital, was found Friday morning. A civic volunteer was arrested Saturday in connection with the case. Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee pledged to transfer the case to the CBI if the state police fail to solve it by Sunday. Joining the nationwide strike, the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of AIIMS Delhi suspended all elective and non-essential services, including OPDs and patient wards. However, emergency care will continue to ensure critically ill patients do not suffer and receive treatment. Dr Raghunandan Dixit, General Secretary of AIIMS RDA said. While several government hospitals in Delhi had announced strike Sunday itself, AIIMS Delhi announced it around 11.30 am Monday. Raising concerns about the integrity of the ongoing probe,

resident doctors have called for transparent investigation into the case, requesting an immediate transfer to the CBI. "Our hearts are heavy with profound grief and shock over this heinous act. Even as time has passed, the wheels of justice have moved slowly. The investigation into this horrific crime has yet to bring forth answers, and the lack of resolution only deepens our despair and frustration," the AIIMS Delhi RDA said in a statement. In the national capital, other major hospitals which participated in the strike included the Maulana Azad Medical College, RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Institute of Human Behaviour, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College, and National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases Hospital. In several hospitals, doctors were seen holding posters that say 'we want a safe environment to work' and raised slogans of 'we want justice'. GTB Hospital RDA president Rajat Sharma said, "This is a matter of national concern and until we see concrete results, we will not back down. We will stand with our fellow students and offer our full support." The Kolkata incident was

heinous and unimaginable, Sharma said. Referring to a recent killing of a person at GTB Hospital, he also pointed to security concerns at the hospital. RDA members have also met with Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, where they called for a CBI inquiry into the incident. In Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow, resident doctors from several government hospitals held protests against the incident and demanded a time-bound probe into the matter. In Chandigarh, junior doctors of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) held a protest here against the incident. In Jammu, hundreds of resident doctors suspended their regular work and took out a peaceful rally to lodge their protest against the Kolkata incident. Doctors wearing black armbands raised slogans calling for justice to the victim. They took out a rally from the Super Specialty Hospital holding placards, some of which read "we stand in solidarity with the victim", "no mercy for rapists" and "raise your voice before you become the next victim". In Maharashtra, resident doctors announced an indefinite strike from Tuesday to show solidarity with their colleagues who are protesting against the nation against the incident.

## TOP COURT CORNER

### Excise policy cases: SC seek responses from CBI, ED on K Kavitha's bail pleas

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the CBI and ED on BRS leader K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. A bench of justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan agreed to hear Kavitha's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court's July 1 verdict denying her bail in these cases. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Kavitha, told the bench that she has been in custody for around five months and the charge sheet and prosecution complaint have been filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) respectively.

### UGC-NET cancellation: SC refuses to entertain plea against govt decision

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a fresh plea filed by some examinees challenging the government's decision to cancel the UGC-NET examination following alleged question paper leak, saying that entertaining it at this stage will create "chaos". A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the government is conducting the exam afresh August 21 and the students, who are around nine lakh, must have some kind of "certainty now". The bench said the exam was held June 18 and was cancelled a day after that.

### Defamation case: SC defers by six weeks hearing on Kejriwal's plea

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday deferred by six weeks hearing on a plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a Delhi High Court order upholding the summons issued to him in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in 2018. A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Kumar and R Mahadevan posted the matter for hearing after six weeks after senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, sought some more time to work out a settlement. "We express regret but some more time may be given (for settlement). Currently, too many things are going on in this man's life," Singhvi submitted. Advocate Raghav Awasthi, appearing for the complainant, submitted that time may be given (to Kejriwal) but it should not be unlimited and some negotiations have to take place.



School students take part in a 'tiranga yatra' during Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, in Bikaner, Monday, PTI PHOTO

## Major infiltration bid by Bangladeshis in Tripura

**Agartala, August 12:** A "major" infiltration bid by a group of Bangladeshi nationals was thwarted after BSF troops fired one round of non-lethal ammunition in the forward area of Khowai district in Tripura Monday, a spokesperson said. He said a group of 12-15 Bangladeshi nationals was trying to take advantage of inclement weather and poor visibility in the area during the day and tried to cross over from the area of the district's Paharmura border post. "On being challenged by BSF (Border Security Force) troops, they tried to negotiate the border fencing forcefully. To prevent the infiltration attempt, one round of pump action gun was fired following which the group of Bangladeshis fled towards Bangladeshi territory,"

the spokesperson for the force's Tripura frontier said. "The alertness of BSF troops managed to prevent a major incident of infiltration," the spokesperson added. Keeping in mind the ongoing unrest and law and order situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has intensified surveillance and domination along the border, he further said. The BSF guards 856 kilometres out of the overall 4,096-kilometre

India-Bangladesh international border in Tripura and the force is on a "high alert" all along this eastern frontier since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Dhaka. More than 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government last week, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July.

# IIT Madras tops rankings for 6th straight year

**NIRF 2024** IISC BEST UNIVERSITY FOR 9TH TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras remained on the top spot in the National Institute Ranking Framework, 2024 for the sixth consecutive year, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru was ranked as the best university for the ninth year in a row, according to the Ministry of Education. The ninth edition of the rankings was announced by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan Monday. IISc Bengaluru has bagged the second spot in the "overall" category followed by IIT Bombay while IIT Delhi, which was at the third spot last year in the category, has slipped to the fourth position. Eight IITs have figured in the top ten besides All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Among universities, IISc Bengaluru is followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia. Nine IITs are in the top ten list for engineering colleges with IIT Madras being at the top for the ninth consecutive year in the category. IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay have also retained their second and third spot respectively in the category. National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli is the only non-IIT in the top ten list. Among management colleges, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has retained its top spot, followed by IIM Bangalore and IIM Kozhikode. Two IITs - Bombay and Delhi - have also figured in the top ten list for management courses. In pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard



rose to the top spot from its second position last year while the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad slipped to the second rank. BITS Pilani has retained its third position in the category. Delhi University's Hindu College and Miranda House have switched positions in the col-

leges category with the former bagging the top spot. St Stephen's College is in the third position among colleges. Similarly for law, the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru followed by the National Law University, Delhi and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad have retained first, second and third spots respectively.

### Open Universities, State Public Universities and Skill Universities have been included as new verticals in this year's rankings

For Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee has been announced as the best, followed by IIT Kharagpur and NIT Calicut. Among medical colleges, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has bagged the top position followed by PGIME, Chandigarh and CMC Vellore at second and third spot. Among the dental colleges, Saveetha Institute of Medical And Technical Sciences, Chennai and Manipal College of Dental Sciences retained the top two positions while the third rank has been bagged by Maulana Azad

Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi. For research, IISc Bengaluru has been acknowledged as the best followed by IIT Madras and IIT Delhi at second and third spot. For education in Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is at the first spot while ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Haryana has bagged the second rank, followed by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. For 2024, the ranking exercise maintains the practice of providing a comprehensive "overall" rank, alongside distinct rankings in categories -- Universities, Research Institutions, Degree Colleges and Innovation as well as discipline-specific rankings in Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Law, Medical, Dental, Architecture and Planning, and Agriculture and Allied Sectors.



# national

## of the day quote

One thing that needs to be specifically highlighted is that history also teaches that any power that uses the political situation of another country to fulfil its own political designs, weakens the country both internally and externally

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

With Karnataka's significant elephant population comes the inevitable challenge of human-elephant conflict. In the last 10 years, the state reported over 2,500 incidents of human-elephant conflicts, resulting in over 350 human fatalities and substantial crop losses

SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

I have suggested that he convene a meeting of all political parties to find a solution to the (quota) issue. He should invite leaders he feels appropriate, and we, as an opposition, will also attend and cooperate

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) PRESIDENT

## POST OF THE DAY

Safety of women at workplace is big concern. Instead of focusing on what girl should/shouldn't wear in school/colleges, why don't you give attention to their safety? Who is responsible here? I hope @WBPolice Will take this matter seriously. @AABISHI\_RAHMAN\_

## SHORT TAKES

### 3 die after car falls into canal

**Jaipur:** A 48-year-old man, his son and grandson died after their car fell into the Indira Gandhi canal Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district Monday morning, police said. Margoob Alam, along with his youngest son Mohammad Sanib Ali (16) and grandson Mohammad Hasnain (3) were inside the car when it went out of control and fell into the canal near Rathi Kheda Talwara lake, they said.

### Woman killed in IED blast

**Sukma:** A 27-year-old woman was killed after a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) allegedly planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said Monday. The blast occurred Sunday afternoon when the victim, a resident of Dabbamarka village under Kistaram police station limits, took cattle to a nearby forest for grazing, an official said. The police were alerted about the incident Monday, and a team was sent to the spot, he said.

### 2 cousins drown while taking dip

**Jaipur:** Two cousins drowned while taking a dip in Galta Kund here Monday, police said. Galta Kund, located about 10 km away from Jaipur city, holds religious significance and devotees come here to take a holy dip in its water. Assistant Commissioner of Police (North) Harishankar Sharma said Soni Koli (20) and Rahul Koli (23), residents of Sawai Madhopur, jumped into the Galta Kund to take a bath and drowned after getting stuck in deep water.



For long, we have implemented band-aid solutions to Bengaluru's traffic problem and poor urban infra, instead of approaching it from the perspective of a well-structured town planning body. Such solutions only fix the symptom and is not the remedy for the problem itself

D K SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CM, KARNATAKA

## AMIT SHAH TO LAUNCH 'TIRANGA YATRA'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the 'Tiranga Yatra' as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign in Gandhinagar Tuesday and hoist the national flag at his residence Independence Day, sources said. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (HGT) campaign is being held from August 9 to 15 as part of the Independence Day celebrations



## HINDENBURG ALLEGATIONS

# Cong warns of stir if JPC probe not initiated

BJP dismisses the demand as a 'sham' aimed at undermining the Indian economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** The Opposition Monday stepped up its attack on the government over Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch with the Congress warning of a nationwide stir if a JPC probe is not initiated, even as the BJP dismissed the demand as a "sham" aimed at undermining the Indian economy. The Indian stock market held up despite Rahul Gandhi lending his voice to the "trash" Hindenburg report, the ruling party said and alleged billionaire investor George Soros was behind the moves to destabilise the economy and the Modi government.

After launching a broadside against the chief of market regulator SEBI, alleging that she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the "Adani money siphoning scandal", US short-seller Hindenburg Research said Buch has now publicly confirmed her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure. Hours after Buch and her husband issued a statement calling Hindenburg's latest tirade as an attack on the credibility of SEBI and attempted "character assassination", Hindenburg in a series of posts on X said their response includes several important admissions and raised numerous new critical questions. As the row deepened, the Congress pressed its demand for the SEBI chief's resignation and urged the Supreme Court to transfer the Adani probe to the CBI or a Special Investigation



Team given the "likelihood of SEBI's compromise".

The Opposition party also reiterated that the path forward is to immediately convene a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the full extent of what it described as the "Modani mega scam" involving the "self-anointed non-biological PM and a perfectly biological businessman". Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam

Ramesh claimed that no institution is sacrosanct in 'Amrit Kaal'. Did the SEBI chairperson re-cuse herself from the Adani investigations, he asked. At a minimum, the SEBI chairperson must resign to restore SEBI's integrity, Ramesh stressed. AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal accused the prime minister of supporting the Adani Group and its chairman Gautam Adani on the matter.

The BJP rejected the Congress' demand for a JPC probe, saying it is a sham and made with an eye on weakening the Indian economy and destroying investment in the country. BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad reiterated the party's line that the short-selling firm's allegations and the Opposition's criticism of the market regulator are part of a wider conspiracy.

# RAIN PAIN HITS PARTS OF INDIA

Eight killed in rain-related incidents in Rajasthan; Bangalore goes under water after downpour



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, August 12:** Eight people were killed in Rajasthan, roads were blocked and normal life was brought to a halt in different parts of the country Monday as rain wreaked havoc. Heavy rainfall has created a flood-like situation in Karauli and Hindaun of Rajasthan, where 22 people died during the past two days in rain-related incidents while overflowing dams and rivers continued to paralyse daily life.

Disaster relief forces have rescued about 100 people in Karauli and Hindaun. Schools remained shut in Jaipur, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Dausa and Karauli districts following predictions of heavy rainfall. "A flood-like situation has risen in Karauli and Hindaun town and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have evacuated about 100 people," disaster management department joint secretary Bhagwat Singh said. The bodies of five people who were swept away in Jaipur's Kanota dam Sunday evening were pulled out. However, two more people drowned while taking a bath in the Galta Kund.

A 30-year-old man in Dausa was also killed Monday after being washed away in the Moroli

dam, officials said. In Bangalore, peak-hour traffic jams and inundated roads in several areas, especially in the northern and eastern parts, particularly inconvenienced office goers and schoolchildren.

Areas such as Outer Ring Road between Nagawara Junction and Hebbal, and Veerasandra on the Electronics City Road, parts of Hosur Road and Bannerghatta Road, were severely affected, official sources said. Heavy waterlogging was witnessed in Marathalli, Karthik Nagar and Kalyan Nagar, Puttenahalli, Varthur Kodi, Panathur Main Road, among others. Some houses and residential layouts in low-lying areas were affected by waterlogging and water gushing into the premises, officials said. Several underpasses were also inundated. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also in-charge of Bangalore development, visited some of the rain-affected areas to assess the situation.

Delhi's Safdarjung observatory, the city's primary weather station, recorded 12.9 mm rainfall. The Lodi Road observatory recorded 13.6 mm rainfall, Palam 10.5 mm and Najafgarh 30 mm between 11.30 am and 5.30 pm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

## Govt to prepare fresh draft of broadcasting bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** The government Monday said it will hold further consultations for preparing a fresh draft of the broadcasting bill, amid concerns in some quarters over restrictions on social and digital media space in the proposed law.

The draft Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, circulated by the government among a few stakeholders, drew criticism from media bodies such as DigiPub and the Editors Guild of India which claimed that digital media organisations and civil society associations were not consulted on the move.

"Ministry is holding a series of consultations with the stakeholders on the draft bill. Further additional time is being provided to solicit comments/suggestions till 15th October 2024," the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said in a post on X.

"A fresh draft will be published after detailed consultations," the ministry said. The ministry said it was working on a draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill.

"The draft Bill was placed in public domain 10.11.2023 along with the explanatory notes for comments of the stakeholders and the general public," the ministry said. It said in response, multiple recommendations, comments and suggestions were received including from various Associations.



Indian Army soldiers patrol near the Line of Control (LOC) ahead of Independence Day, in Rajouri district, Monday

# Seven dead in Bihar temple stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jehanabad (Bihar), August 12:** At least seven people, including six women, were killed and 16 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in this district of Bihar, an official said Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Pyare Paswan (30), Nisha Devi (30), Punam Devi (30), Nisha Kumari (21), and Sushila Devi (64). The identity of one woman remains unknown, the official added. District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey confirmed the fatalities and injuries. She stated that the stampede took place at the temple around 11.30pm Sunday.



She noted that security personnel at the temple quickly brought the situation under control. "Seven people, mostly kanwariyas, were killed and 16 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath temple in

Barabar Pahadi area of Jehanabad. The deceased included six women," Pandey informed. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the incident and instructed that an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each be pro-

vided to the families of the deceased. The CM also directed the district administration to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured.

The injured were taken to medical facilities in Mukundapur and nearby areas, with 10 discharged after first aid and six still hospitalised. Senior officials from the district administration and police are stationed at the temple due to the high volume of pilgrims.

The DM indicated that a dispute among kanwariyas might have led to the stampede. The exact cause is still under investigation, and an inquiry has been ordered, officials said.

# Sex ratio to improve to 952 women per 1K men by 2036

BY 2036, THE POPULATION OF INDIA IS EXPECTED TO REACH 152.2 CRORE, WITH A SLIGHTLY IMPROVED FEMALE PERCENTAGE OF 48.8 PER CENT COMPARED TO 48.5 PER CENT IN 2011

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** Sex ratio in India is expected to improve to 952 women per 1000 men by 2036 from 943 in 2011, according to a report 'Women and Men in India 2023' released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Monday.

The report highlights that India's population in 2036 is expected to be more feminine compared to the 2011 population, as reflected in the sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality. By 2036, the population of India is expected to reach 152.2 crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8 per cent compared to 48.5 per cent in 2011, the report stated.

The proportion of individuals under 15 years is projected to decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility, it stated. Conversely, the proportion of the population aged 60 years and above is anticipated to substantially increase during this period. It is evident that from 2016 to



2020, Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively. The ASFR for the age 35-39 for the above period has increased from 32.7 to 35.6 which shows that after settling in the life, women are thinking of expansion of family. Adolescent Fertility Rate was 33.9 for the illiterate population whereas 11.0 for the literate in 2020. This rate is considerably lower for even those who are literate but without any formal education

(20.0) compared to illiterate women reemphasizing the importance of imparting education to women. Age-Specific Fertility Rate is defined as the number of live births in a specific age group of women per thousand female populations of that age group. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is one of the SDG indicators and to bring it down to 70 by 2030 is explicitly laid down in SDG framework, it stated. Owing to ceaseless efforts by the Government, India has successfully achieved the major milestone of bringing down its

MMR (97/lakh live births in 2018-20), well in time and it should be possible to achieve the SDG target as well.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) refers to the number of women who die as a result of complications of pregnancy or childbearing in a given year per 100,000 live births in that year.

Infant Mortality Rate has been decreasing over the years for both males and females. Female IMR had always been higher than that of male but in 2020, both were equal at the level of 28 infants per 1000 live births.

The Under 5 Mortality Rate data shows that it has decreased from 43 in 2015 to 32 in 2020. So is the case for both boys and girls and the gap between boys and girls has also reduced.

As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey, Labour Force Participation Rate of the persons aged 15 years and above has been increasing from 2017-18 onwards for both male and female population.

It is seen that male LFPR has gone from 75.8 to 78.5 during 2017-18 to 2022-23 and female LFPR has gone from 23.3 to 37 during the same period.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force in the population.

Up to the 15th National Election (1999), less than 60 per cent of women electors participated, with men's turnout being 8 percentage points higher.

However, the 2014 elections marked a significant change, with women's participation increasing to 65.6 per cent, and further rising to 67.2 per cent in the 2019 elections.

For the first time, the voter turnout percentage was marginally higher for women, highlighting the impact of increasing literacy and political awareness among women.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recognized a total of 1,17,254 start-ups since its inception in January 2016 up to December 2023.

Among these, 55,816 start-ups are led by women, constituting 47.6 per cent of the total recognized start-ups. This significant representation underscores the growing influence and contribution of women entrepreneurs in India's start-up ecosystem.

## MITRA SHAKTI

### India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** A joint exercise between the militaries of India and Sri Lanka got underway in the island nation Monday to facilitate interoperability and sharing of best practices, the defence ministry said. The 10th edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' at the Army Training School, Maduru Oya, will be conducted from August 12-25. It will enhance the joint military capability to undertake counter-insurgency operations in a sub-conventional scenario under the UN mandate, the ministry said.

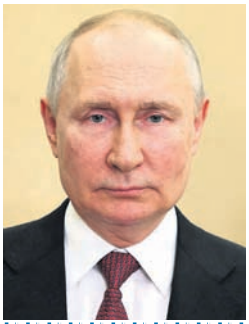
Joint exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Sri Lanka. Its last edition was conducted in Pune in November 2023.

"The aim of the joint exercise is to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-insurgency operations in a sub-conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban environment," the statement said.

"Tactical drills to be rehearsed during the exercise include response to a terrorist action, establishment of a joint command post, establishment of an intelligence and surveillance centre, securing of a helipad/landing site, small team insertion and extraction, special heliborne operations, cordon and search operations, besides employment of drones and counter-drone systems, among others," it said.



# international



The losses of the Ukrainian armed forces are increasing dramatically for them, including among the most combat-ready units, units that the enemy is transferring to our border  
VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

## MUSK TO INTERVIEW TRUMP

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk is due to interview Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on the X social media network Tuesday



## of the day quote

I extend my congratulations to the students and the people of the entire country. I also congratulate those who supported this movement  
SYED REFAAT AHMED | NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE, BANGLADESH

The country (Pakistan) has introduced the youth loan and agricultural schemes, which are now yielding significant results  
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

The world must recommit to this robust protective framework for armed conflict, one that follows the premise of protecting life instead of justifying death  
MIRJANA SPOLJARIĆ | PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

## SHORT TAKES

### No relief for Bushra Bibi

Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan Monday rejected the bail application of Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases related to the violence May 9 last year. Anti-terrorism court Judge Malik Ejaz Asif after hearing the plea of Bushra Bibi said that a thorough investigation was required in her case and subsequently dismissed the bail application. The judge also ordered that the investigation in her case should be completed in seven days.

### AUKUS partners strengthen ties

Canberra: Australia said Monday that it has signed a "significant AUKUS milestone", an agreement that will enable the United Kingdom and the United States to "transfer submarine-specific material and equipment" for its future nuclear-powered submarines. It was in September 2021 that the leaders of the three countries had announced the creation of Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) enhanced security partnership to counter China's increasing presence and provocative action in the region.

### SK, US to start military drills

Seoul: South Korea and the United States will begin their annual joint military exercises next week with a focus on improving their combined capabilities to deter and defend against growing North Korean nuclear threats, the allies said Monday. The drills could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which portrays them as invasion rehearsals and have used the allies' military cooperation as a pretext to advance the development of nuclear weapons and missile systems.

### India's new envoy to US

Washington: India's Ambassador-designate to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra arrived here Monday in the American capital. Kwatra, 61, till recently was India's Foreign Secretary. He succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who retired from the foreign service early this year and served as India's top diplomat in the US from 2020 to 2024. He was also India's Ambassador to France and Nepal, after which he was appointed as the foreign secretary.

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

# NUCLEAR PLANT ON FIRE

The UN's nuclear watchdog says it saw 'strong dark smoke' coming from the facility

REUTERS

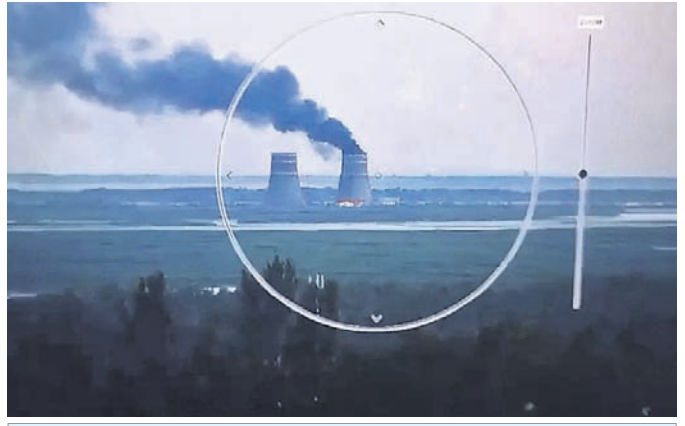
Kyiv, August 12: Russia and Ukraine accused each other of starting a fire at the dormant Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine Sunday, but both sides reported no sign of elevated radiation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nuclear watchdog said its staff had seen thick, dark smoke coming from the northern part of the vast six-reactor plant in southern Ukraine, currently in "cold shutdown", after multiple blasts.

"These reckless attacks endanger nuclear safety at the plant and increase the risk of a nuclear accident. They must stop now," IAEA chief Rafael Grossi warned in a separate statement, without attributing blame.

The fire comes less than a week after Ukraine's forces launched their largest incursion into Russian territory since the war started in 2022.

Interfax news agency quoted Alexei Likhachev, head of the Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom, as saying the fire had burned for about three hours and caused "very serious damage" to the cooling towers. He said, without providing



Currently, the radiation indicators are normal. But as long as Russian terrorists retain control over the nuclear plant, the situation is not and cannot be normal  
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Ukraine's nuclear power company Energoatom said in a statement that one of the cooling towers and other equipment were damaged.

Grossi said the IAEA had requested "immediate access" to the tower to assess the damage. Grossi said the IAEA had requested "immediate access" to the tower to assess the damage. There was no immediate response from Moscow or Kyiv to Grossi's statement. Russia captured the plant from Ukraine shortly after launching a full-scale invasion of its smaller neighbour in 2022, which it calls a "special military operation".

Russia captured the plant from Ukraine shortly after launching a full-scale invasion of its smaller neighbour in 2022, which it calls a "special military operation"

### SMOKE APPEARS TO BILLOW FROM COOLING TOWER

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of lighting the fire, which

## Nepal vows to protect use of territory against neighbours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, August 12: The Nepali territory will not be allowed to be used for any activities against its neighbours, the Nepali Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak said Monday, assuring India that no such activity against the neighbouring country would be entertained by the Himalayan nation.

The minister gave this assurance during his meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who paid a courtesy call on him to discuss matters of bilateral interest and concerns, a Home Ministry statement said.

"Acknowledging India as Nepal's important partner in security, infrastructure, energy, and water resources sectors, the Home Minister Lekhak expressed gratitude to India for its contributions to the enhancement of competency of Nepal's security forces and the infrastructure development," the statement said.

On the occasion, the home minister pledged that no activities against the neighbouring countries would be entertained in the Nepali territory.

"Nepal's territory will not be allowed to be used for any activities against its neighbours," the statement quoted the minister



as telling the foreign secretary. Underscoring the need for scaling up cooperation and collaboration between the two countries to combat cross-border crime including drug smuggling, Lekhak assured full security to Indians in Nepal. Responding to this, the foreign secretary mentioned "the support and cooperation from India for effective management of borders, combating trans-border crimes, and ensuring the security of the citizens of both countries", the statement said.

"The Government of India is committed to lending its support regarding strengthening Nepal's security and immigration administration," it said.

Misri Monday met his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal and other senior political leaders of the Himalayan nation and discussed the steady growth of bilateral ties and ways to take it forward.

## Sikh activists in US, Canada face threats

REUTERS

Washington, August 12: As a physician specializing in addiction, Jasmeet Bains, the first Sikh American elected to the California assembly, was used to risky situations.

Even so, Bains said she was shocked when four men came to her office in August last year, shortly after California adopted her resolution declaring the killing of thousands of Sikhs in India in 1984 a genocide. The men, who appeared to be of

Indian origin, warned they would "do whatever it takes to go after you," Bains said.

The threat was just the beginning. Since last summer, Bains said, she has received more than 100 threatening text messages. She spotted someone taking photos of her Bakersfield home from a parked truck, and the lock on her mailbox was broken repeatedly.

In late September, after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his administration had credible evidence that the Indian government was in-



involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia, Bains said the Sergeant-at-Arms conducted a security assessment at her home and urged her to take precau-

tions. The FBI contacted her about the threats in her office in October, Bains said.

Reuters spoke to 19 Sikh community leaders, including three elected US officials, who said that they or their organizations have been targeted with threats and harassment in the United States and Canada over the last year, even as law enforcement agencies pursue criminal investigations into the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada and the foiled assassination attempt of another separatist leader in the US.

## Indian vegetarian food trends in Karachi

POPULARITY OF ALOO BIRYANI, VADA PAV AND MASALA DOSA GROWING RAPIDLY IN PAKISTAN'S FOOD CAPITAL  
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, August 12: This city is known as Pakistan's food capital, with the latest trend being an acquired taste for authentic and refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as 'soyabean aloo biryani', 'aloo tikkis', 'vada pav', 'masala dosa' and 'dhokla'.

For millions of people in the capital of Sindh province, Karachi's beauty is the food options ranging from the most expensive European and Italian cuisine to affordable Chinese food or a simple bun kabab. The variety available caters to the

taste and pockets of everyone. Mahesh Kumar, who owns the small 'Maharaj Karamchand Vegetarian Foods Inn' on the bustling MA Jinnah Road here, said his business is booming as people have developed a taste for vegetarian dishes known here 'pure vegetarian Indian dishes'.

"Our 'Soyabean Aloo Biryani', 'Aloo Tikkis', 'Paneer Karahi', and 'Mixed Vegetables' are famous and we witness a lot of rush during lunchtime with a lot of takeaways and deliveries as well," Kumar said.

Kumar said they do not publicise their restaurant because there are still some conservatives who consider it taboo for Muslims to eat food prepared by Hindus. "We have enough clientele who are happy with our food and service but don't like to promote it," he added.

It is not just this Hindu-run vegetarian restaurant which is



doing a great job but, in other parts of this city, entrepreneur Hindu, Christian and Muslim women have set up food stalls specialising in refined Indian vegetarian dishes such as 'pav bhaji', 'vada pav', 'masala dosa' and 'dhokla'.

Kavita, who started a food stall in the Cantonment area on a

side street eight months ago, sells Indian vegetarian dishes and can barely keep up with the rush at her stall. "What is surprising for us is that apart from walk-in customers, we have developed a clientele of regular customers who love our food," she said.

Not only Kavita but her sister-

in-law, Chandrika Dixit, brother Jeetendra and her mother Nomita manage three stalls next to each other while a fourth stall which sells 'dhoklas', 'aam panna' and 'dal samosas' is run by a Christian lady Mary Richards.

On the other side of the cosmopolitan city, two sisters - Mahreen and Lubna - are also doing well with their food stall on a famous food street in the popular Hussainabad area.

"We are unique in the sense that we sell Indian vegetarian food surrounded by restaurants and stalls selling traditional Pakistani meat dishes," chuckles Lubna.

Far from the crowded Hussainabad area, a Muslim Gujarati-speaking family that migrated from Junagadh in India has been selling different varieties of masala dosas in Bahadurabad for over five decades. "Come sunset and business begins," said Zafar.

## Businesses in B'desh hit by cash supply drought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 12: Businesses in Bangladesh are facing a liquidity crunch as the central bank has capped the withdrawal of cash from banks at Tk 2 lakh amidst uncertainty in the country following the fall of the Sheikh Hasin-led government, a media report said Monday.

The Bangladesh Bank set a cash withdrawal limit of Tk 2 lakh (Rs 1.42 lakh approximately) per account Saturday, increasing it from the Tk 1 lakh announced earlier.

The central bank decided this due to security concerns as police are yet to return to work fully, following the clashes between police and students during the widespread protests against Hasina's Awami League-led government over a controversial quota system in jobs.

Interim Finance and Planning Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed Sunday also said that the limit on cash withdrawals was required given the current situation. Businesses, especially those mainly dealing with cash transactions, said they would be in a tough situation if the cash crisis lingers and restrictions remain next week, The Daily Star newspaper reported. Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank has said that the top priority of Bangladesh's interim government is to bring the economy back on track and restore the people's trust in the banks.

Talking to reporters Saturday for the first time after assuming office, Ahmed said the government's priority is to restore the trust of common people in the banks while resuming the operations of the central bank.



**We envision an India that is completely Atmanirbhar in its defence requirement. In line with this vision, we are enhancing our capabilities to meet and exceed the stringent conditions for such critical applications. Contributing to the strengthening of our country's defence standing is a matter of passion and pride for us**

ABHYUDAY JINDAL | JSL MD

## NEW BIZ PREMIUM OF LIFE INSURERS GROWS 14%

Life insurers recorded a 14 per cent rise in underwriting new business with a premium collection of ₹31,823 crore in July. The country's biggest insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) saw a 19.78 per cent jump in its new business premium to ₹18,431 crore from ₹15,387 crore in July 2023.



## of the day quote

India has a huge demand for digital entertainment content, including gaming. We have seen a very fast pace of growth on a year-on-year basis but I think there's a lack of top-quality talent supply into the ecosystem, which has many factors behind that sort of situation

SEAN HYUNIL SOHN | KRAFTON INDIA CEO

Post the recent equity raise, we are in the process of expanding our 4G coverage and capacity as well as the launch of 5G services

AKSHAYA MOONDRRA | VODAFONE IDEA CEO

Despite facing challenges in distillery operations due to regulatory issues, the sugar segment has continued to perform well in a seasonally soft quarter, benefitting from higher volumes and realisations

VIVEK SARAOGI | BALRAMPUR CHINI MILLS CMD

## SHORT TAKES

### Nalco Q1 profit rises 76%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Nalco Monday reported a 76.3 per cent rise in consolidated profit at ₹588.42 crore in the quarter ended June 2024. The company had posted a consolidated profit of ₹333.76 crore in the year-ago period, National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) said in an exchange filing. However, the consolidated income of the company during April-June period declined to ₹2,916.62 crore from ₹3,226.88 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said. The board has recommended final dividend of ₹2 per share for 2023-24, subject to the approval of shareholders in the ensuing annual general meeting. Nalco, a 'Navratna' company, is one of the country's largest bauxite, alumina, aluminium and power complex. The government owns 51.28 per cent of Nalco's equity capital.

### RBI sets up expert panel

**Mumbai:** The RBI Monday announced setting up a committee under deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra on benchmarking the statistics regularly disseminated by it against global standards. The 10-member 'Expert Committee on Benchmarking of its Statistics' has been asked to submit report by the end of November 2024. The panel, chaired by Patra, will also study the quality of other regular data, where such benchmarks do not exist (like sectors of national priority) and provide guidance on the scope for any further data refinement.

### Bajaj Finance gets GST notice

**New Delhi:** Bajaj Finance Monday said it has received a show cause notice for a GST demand of ₹342 crore. In a filing to the BSE, Bajaj Finance said in the show cause notice (SCN) from the Director General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Kochi Zonal Unit, the authorities have alleged that the fixed amount of upfront interest collected from customers in B2B business should be considered as fee/service charge and accordingly is liable to GST. "The amount of GST demanded vide above referred SCN is ₹342 crore (excluding interest and penalty) for the period from July 2017 to March 2024," it said. The DGGI has also proposed an equal amount of penalty and interest till the date of payment of the said tax. The company is in the process of filing a reply against the SCN to substantiate its stand.

## HINDENBURG-SEBI-ADANI ROW

# Indices close marginally lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 12:** Stock markets closed marginally lower in highly volatile trade Monday as gains in private banks helped benchmark Sensex recoup some of the early losses inflicted by allegations against Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband by the US short-seller Hindenburg Research.

The 30-share Sensex closed lower by 56.99 points or 0.07 per cent at 79,648.92 with 18 of its constituents ending with losses and 12 with gains.

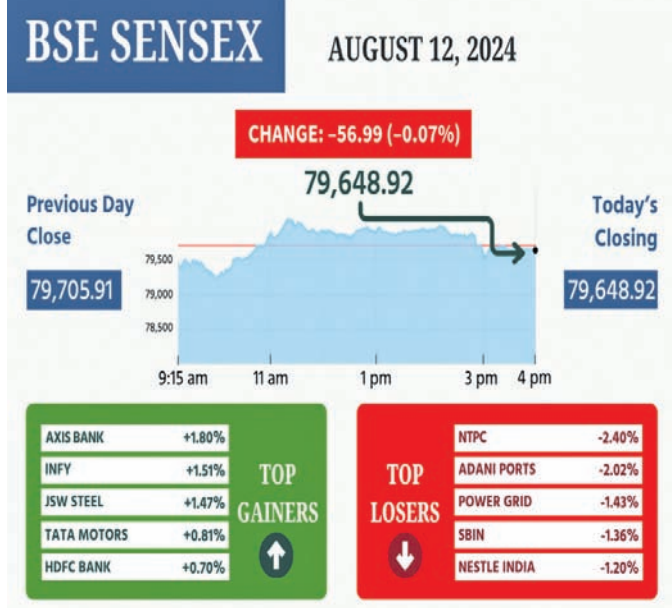
The index had declined by 479.78 points or 0.60 per cent to a low of 79,226.13 in morning trade due to losses in Adani group shares and blue-chips like Reliance Industries. The benchmark later staged a sharp recovery climbing around 880 points from the day's lows to hit a high of 80,106.18. But at the fag-end, the BSE benchmark slipped into the negative territory and closed lower.

The NSE Nifty dipped 20.50 points or 0.08 per cent to 24,347. Intra-day, it hit a low of 24,212.10 and a high of 24,472.80.

"The Indian market concluded relatively flat, with its initial path being eclipsed by the continuation of the Adani-Hindenburg-SEBI saga. However, the market tried to brush away these noises, taking positive cues from global markets," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

From 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports, NTPC, Power Grid, State Bank of India, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services were the biggest laggards.

Axis Bank, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were



among the gainers from the blue-chip pack.

Hindenburg Research Saturday alleged that SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani - the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani - to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices.

Buch and her husband issued a statement calling Hindenburg's latest tirade an attack on the credibility of SEBI and attempted 'character assassination'.

Adani Group Sunday termed Hindenburg Research's latest allegations as malicious and manipulative of select public information, saying it has no commercial relationship with the SEBI chairperson or her husband.

All the 10 Adani group stocks

declined sharply during the early trade, with Adani Energy Solutions tumbling 17 per cent and Adani Total Gas dropping 13.39 per cent. At close, eight of the group firms ended lower, while two of them bounced back. "The Hindenburg allegations

### Adani stocks shrug off initial losses

**Mumbai:** Adani group stocks Monday shrugged off initial losses resulting from Hindenburg Research allegations against market regulator, as a rise in broader market helped two of the group companies end in green. Hindenburg Saturday evening alleged that a conflict of interest is preventing Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch from doing a thorough probe into allegations against Adani group. Buch as well as Adani group issued strong denials Sunday. Shares of Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship, slid as much as 5.5 per cent in early Mumbai trading and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd plunged 17 per cent as all of the conglomerate's 10 stocks traded lower. But the stocks pared bulk of the losses during the day. At the close of trade, Adani Green Energy Ltd as well as Ambuja Cement Ltd ended in green. Taken together, the Adani stocks lost ₹22,064 crore in market capitalisation.

## Bharti to acquire 24.5% stake in British Telecom worth \$4bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's conglomerate will buy a 24.5 per cent stake in Britain's largest broadband and mobile company, BT Group, worth about USD 4 billion.

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, will buy 9.99 per cent stake in BT Group from Patrick Drahi's Altice immediately and purchase the remainder after it had secured the necessary regulatory approvals, the firm said in a statement.

It, however, did not disclose financial details but market watchers say that at BT's valuation of roughly USD 15 billion dollars, the deal could be in the ballpark of USD 4 billion range.

Bharti, India's second largest telecom operator with about 400 million subscribers, has had a relationship with BT previously as well. BT owned a 21 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel from 1997 to 2001.

The company is neither keen on making an offer to acquire the whole of BT, nor is it seeking a board position.



Altice, an investment conglomerate controlled by billionaire Drahi, is exiting BT as it struggles with high debt. It first took a stake in BT in 2021, acquiring a 12 per cent holding which it later increased to 24.5 per cent. BT's shares have fallen by about a third since Altice first became an investor.

"Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, a leading Indian business group with world-class companies in telecoms, digital infrastructure and space communications, has reached an agreement to acquire an interest in 24.5 per cent of the issued share capital of BT Group plc from Altice UK," Bharti said in a statement.

## IIP growth slows to 4.2% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** India's industrial production slowed to a five-month low of 4.2 per cent in June 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing sector, though power and mining sectors continue to perform well, as per official data released Monday.

The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 6.2 per cent in May, 5 per cent in April, 5.5 per cent in March, 5.6 per cent in February and 4.2 per cent in January 2024.

During the April-June period this fiscal, the IIP growth was 5.2 per cent against 4.7 per cent in the same period of the preceding financial year.

India's Index of Industrial Production grew by 4 per cent in June 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

As per the data, the mining output growth accelerated to 10.3 per cent in June against a 7.6 per cent expansion in the year-ago month.

The manufacturing sector's



growth decelerated to 2.6 per cent in June compared to 3.5 per cent a year ago.

The power generation increased by 8.6 per cent in June against a growth of 4.2 per cent in the same month of the last year.

As per use-base classification, the capital goods segment growth fell to 2.4 per cent in June 2024 from 2.9 per cent in the year-ago period.

In June this year, consumer durables output expanded 8.6 per cent compared to a 6.8 per cent contraction in June 2023.

Consumer non-durable goods production contracted 1.4 per

## Retail inflation slips to 5-yr low of 3.54% in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** Retail inflation declined to a five-year low of 3.54 per cent in July mainly on account of subdued prices of food items, and base effect, according to official data released Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.08 per cent in June 2024 and 7.44 per cent in July 2023.

Retail inflation slipped below the median target of 4 per cent of the Reserve Bank for the first time since September 2019 when it was at 3.99 per cent. The government has tasked the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Inflation has remained below 6 per cent since September 2023.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the annual inflation in 'milk and milk products' was 2.99 per cent, 'oils and fats' (-) 1.17, fruits 3.84 per cent, and spices (-) 1.43 per cent.

The rate of price rise was 6.83 per cent in the vegetable basket and 8.14 per cent in 'cereals and products', NSO said.

The CPI inflation in the food basket was 5.42 per cent in July, down from 9.36 per cent in June, and 11.51 a year ago. Inflation in the 'fuel and light' segment was in negative at 5.48 per cent.

The NSO data further showed that inflation was more than the national average in rural India at 4.1 per cent while in urban areas it was 2.98 per cent.

Among states, the highest inflation was in Bihar at 5.87 per cent and the lowest in Jharkhand at 1.72 per cent.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the CPI inflation expectedly witnessed a base-led soft-



ening to a 59-month low in July, printing slightly lower than ICRA's estimate for the month.

The food and beverages segment accounted for as much as 146 bps of the 154 bps dip in the headline inflation print between these months, as anticipated, she said.

"The IMD's expectations of above normal rainfall during August-September 2024, amidst the likely development of La Nina conditions at end-August 2024, augurs well for the kharif crops, although ICRA remains watchful of the episodes of heavy rainfall and flooding across some states that could harm the standing crops and impact perishable prices during this period," Nayar added.

The Reserve Bank expects a degree of relief in food inflation from the pick-up in the south-west monsoon and healthy progress in sowing and buffer stocks of cereals continue to be above the norms.

Global food prices also showed signs of easing in July, after registering increases since March 2024. Assuming a normal monsoon, and taking into account the 4.9 per cent inflation print in the first quarter, the RBI expects the CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent, with Q2 at 4.4 per cent; Q3 at 4.7 per cent; and Q4 at 4.3 per cent.

The headline CPI inflation edged up to 5.08 per cent in June 2024 due to higher-than-expected food inflation.

## Net direct tax collection grows 22% to ₹6.93L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 12:** Net direct tax collection grew 22.48 per cent to about ₹6.93 lakh crore as of August 11 this fiscal, government data showed Monday.

The mop-up includes personal income tax collection of ₹4.47 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of ₹2.22 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) mopped up ₹21,599 crore, while other taxes (which include equalisation levy and gift tax) earned ₹1,617 crore.

Refunds worth ₹1.20 lakh crore were issued between April 1 and August 11, a growth of 33.49 per cent.

On a gross basis, direct tax collection grew 24 per cent to ₹8.13 lakh crore. The collection includes PIT (personal income tax) of ₹4.82 lakh crore and corporate tax of ₹3.08 lakh crore. The government has budgeted to collect ₹22.07 lakh crore in the current fiscal from direct taxes.

## Billions in dollar & euro notes reach Russia despite sanctions

REUTERS

**London, August 12:** Around \$2.3 billion in dollar and euro bills have been shipped to Russia since the United States and EU banned the export of their banknotes there in March 2022 following the invasion of Ukraine, according to customs data seen by Reuters.

The previously unreported figures show Russia has managed to circumvent sanctions blocking cash imports, and suggest that dollars and euros remain useful tools for trade and travel even as Moscow strives to reduce its exposure to hard currencies.

The customs data, obtained from a commercial supplier that records and compiles the information, shows cash was transported to Russia from countries including the UAE and Turkey, which have not imposed restrictions on trade with Russia. The country

of origin for more than half the total was not stated in the records.

The U.S. government in December threatened penalties for financial institutions that help Russia circumvent sanctions and has imposed sanctions on companies from third countries throughout 2023 and 2024.

China's yuan has overtaken the greenback to become the most traded foreign currency in Moscow, although significant payment problems persist.

Dmitry Polevoy, head of investment at Astra Asset Management in Russia, said many Russians still wanted foreign currency in cash for trips abroad, as well as small imports and domestic savings.

"For individuals, the dollar is still a reliable currency," he told Reuters.

Russia's central bank and the United States' sanctions authority



the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), did not respond to requests for comment.

Russia started labelling the dollar and euro as "toxic" in 2022 as sweeping sanctions cut its access to the global financial system, hampering payments and trade. Around \$300 billion of the Bank of Russia's foreign reserves in Europe have been frozen.

A European Commission

spokesperson said it could not comment on individual cases of sanctions application. The spokesperson said the European Union engages with third countries when it suspects that sanctions are being circumvented.

The customs records cover March 2022 to December 2023 and Reuters could not access more recent data.

The documents showed a surge

in cash imports just prior to the invasion. Between November 2021 and February 2022, \$18.9 billion in dollar and euro banknotes entered Russia, compared with just \$17 million in the previous four months.

Russia's central bank quickly curtailed individuals' foreign currency cash withdrawals following the invasion of Ukraine, in a bid to support the weakening rouble.

According to the data, just \$98 million in dollar and euro banknotes left Russia between February 2022 and end-2023.

Foreign currency inflows, by contrast, were far higher. The largest single declarant of foreign currency was a little-known company, Aero-Trade, that offers duty-free shopping services in airports and aboard flights. It declared around \$1.5 billion in bills during that period.

Aero-Trade registered 73 shipments of 20 million dollars or euros each, all of which were cleared at Moscow's Domodedovo airport, an international hub near the company's headquarters. The shipments were described in customs declarations as exchange or revenue from onboard trade. In most cases, Aero-Trade was only listed as declarant, the entity that prepares and submits customs documentation. Reuters could not identify Aero-Trade's clients and was unable to determine the source or destination of the cash.

Aero-Trade owner Artem Martynyuk told Reuters he doubted the authenticity of the customs records. He declined to comment further. The company said in a statement that "Aero-Trade is not engaged in the supply of hard currency to Russia".

# 'AU REVOIR' PARIS, SEE YOU IN LA

After 16 days of world-class competition across 32 sports and 329 events, the 33rd Summer Olympics comes to a close Sunday

AGENCIES

Paris, August 12: Movie star Tom Cruise rapped from the roof of France's national stadium and received the Olympic flag, bringing a heavy dose of Hollywood to the closing ceremony of the Paris Games as the French capital handed over to the next host Los Angeles.

Grammy-winning R&B artist HER teased the Mission Impossible soundtrack as Cruise made his leap, drawing gasps from spectators as he dropped 50 metres to the floor of the Stade de France, in the finale to a ceremony that blended the traditional, the obscure and the razzle dazzle of Tinseltown.

While Paris used iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles to win the hearts of Olympians and spectators alike, LA was swift to turn to its star draw: A-list celebrities.

Paris was bringing down the curtain on an Olympic Games that brought scintillating sport to the heart of the capital, breathing new life into an Olympic brand hurt by the difficulties of Rio de Janeiro's 2016 Games and the soulless spirit of Tokyo's Covid-hit event.

Even Parisians were carried away by the Olympic fervour.

**'CULTURE OF PEACE'**  
The two weeks of sporting drama saw China and the United States duke it out for top spot in the medal table right down to the last event.

Echoing the heartache delivered to France by the United States in the men's basketball final, the American women's basketball side handed France a gut-wrenching one-point defeat to earn a 40th gold medal and

**These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish. The Games showed us what greatness we humans are capable of. You embraced each other, you respect each other even if your countries were divided by war and conflict. Thanking you for making believe in a better world for everyone**

THOMAS BACH | IOC PRESIDENT

top spot on the medal table.

As the world emerged from the Covid pandemic in 2022, Paris had promised an Olympic "light at the end of the tunnel" and to provide the stage for a carefree Games.

But Russia's war in Ukraine on Europe's eastern flank, conflict in the Middle East, and France's heightened state of security alert loomed large as the Games got under way.

International Committee President Thomas Bach saluted the athletes as he declared the Games closed.

"During all this time, you lived peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village. You embraced each other," Bach said.



## CLOSING CEREMONY



Athletes of team India during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics at Stade de France



Actor Tom Cruise seen holding the Olympic flag at the Stade de France



IOC President Thomas Bach hands the Olympic flag to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass



The Golden Voyager stands atop a pile of masked dancers in a performance during the closing ceremony

## MEDALS RACE: US AGAIN PIP CHINA

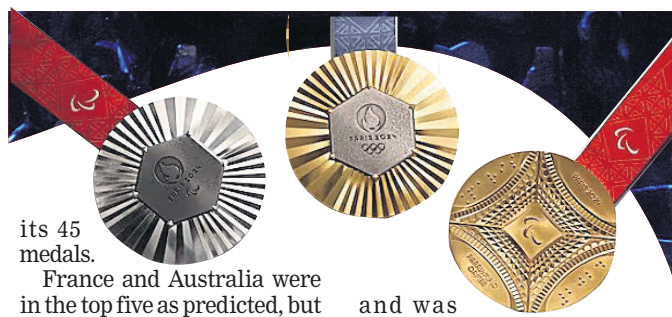
The contest for most gold medals at the Paris Olympics ended in a 40-40 tie between China and the United States.

But the US topped the medals table with a whopping 126 overall, compared to 91 for China. At the Tokyo Games, the US also edged China in the medal count, finishing with 113 overall and 39 golds, compared to 89 medals with 38 gold for China.

According to Nielsen's Gracenote virtual medal-table forecast, which collected results data from big competitions since the Tokyo Games, the top five for overall medals in Paris was going to be as follows: The US (112 overall medals); China (86); Britain (63); France (60) and Australia (54).

The US did top the medals table. However, the US and China both topped their gold and overall medal counts.

Japan proved the virtual predictors wrong by sneaking into third place with 20 golds among



its 45 medals.

France and Australia were in the top five as predicted, but the other way around.

Britain got more medals than in Tokyo — 65 to 64 — but had less golds and was seventh overall behind the Netherlands.

### DRAGON'S DOMINANCE

China delivered their best performance at a Summer Olympics since the 2008 Games on home soil, winning the joint most gold medals with the United States and only missing out on topping the standings on silver medal count.

The 40 gold was an all time high for Games outside China

and was achieved despite immense pressure and tightened scrutiny resulting from a doping row involving some of its swimmers.

Chinese athletes strengthened their dominance in diving and table tennis with clean sweeps of all the titles on offer, adding two golds on the badminton court, five on the weightlifting platform and five at the shooting range.

Breakthroughs were made with first gold medals in artistic swimming, rhythmic gymnastics, women's boxing and in singles tennis.

## Paris passes the baton to Los Angeles after delivering its share of memorable moments

their reign in decades.

A storm around gender eligibility hit the women's boxing competition, revealing the toxic relations between the IOC and a widely discredited International Boxing Association.

Meanwhile, a \$1.5 billion clean-up of the Seine rewarded Paris with the optics of triathlon and marathon swimmers competing in the river through central Paris, without a wave of illness ensuing.

### HIGH BAR FOR LA GAMES

Cruise's exit on a motorbike saw the closing ceremony transition to a prerecorded video of the 62-year-old skydiving down

to the Hollywood sign, where a wide shot showed the Olympic rings incorporated into the LA landmark.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass

has acknowledged Paris has set a high standard. But the City of Angels has billed itself as a beacon of diversity and will have Hollywood to fall back on.



Teams cheer during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics at the Stade de France

PTI/PHOTOS

## SHORT TAKES

### Vinesh ruling today

Paris: India's sports fraternity waited with bated breath as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), having heard arguments of all parties, got ready to deliver its verdict on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification at the Paris Olympics, Tuesday. Vinesh, who stormed into the final of the women's 50kg freestyle event with three convincing wins, including against wrestling royalty Yui Susaki of Japan last Tuesday, was debarred from the gold medal bout against eventual winner Sarah Hildebrandt of the United States as she was found 100gm above the prescribed limit in the customary morning weigh-in.

### Akula ruled out of UTT

Chennai: Indian table tennis star Sreeja Akula has been ruled out of the upcoming season of the Ultimate Table Tennis due to a stress fracture. Sreeja, who along with world No 25 Manika Batra created history by becoming the first Indian players to enter the round of 16 in individual events at the Paris Olympics, is currently the highest ranked player in the country at the 22nd position.

## Neeraj homecoming delayed

THE JAVELIN STAR IS IN GERMANY TO CONSULT DOCTOR REGARDING SURGERY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 12: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has left for Germany after winning a silver medal in the Paris Games to take medical advice regarding a possible surgery and to decide whether to feature in the upcoming Diamond League meetings, according to sources.

A family source told PTI that he has left for Germany and is unlikely to return to India for at least one month. In Paris, Indian Olympic Association sources also confirmed that Chopra has left for Germany.

"Chopra has left for Germany and he will not return to India for another month and a half," a family source told PTI.

"I am not aware of the much of the details, but for sure he will consult a doctor there (Germany)," he added.

After winning at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland in June,



Chopra had said that he would consult doctors after the Paris Olympics to deal with his injury.

He had won the World Championships in 2023 while carrying the groin injury. Before the Paris Olympics this year, he took a break of more than one month due to adductor muscle niggle.

The 26-year-old Chopra had

earlier also consulted a doctor in Germany regarding his injury. He also had a short training stint in Saarbrücken in Germany last month before the Olympics.

During the Paris Olympics, Chopra had expressed his desire to play in the Diamond League Final to be held in Brussels, Belgium, September 14. For that to happen, he will have to play at least one DL Meeting — either in Lausanne August 22 or in Zurich September 5.

"His team (of coach and physio) will decide whether he will play in the DL Meetings (and the DL Final), according to his condition," the family source said.

Chopra has played in just one Diamond League Meeting — May 10 in Doha where he had finished second to reigning DL trophy winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic. Chopra, who had won the DL Trophy in 2022, is currently at joint fourth position with seven points in the DL Final points standings.

## Before the Paris Olympics, Neeraj took a break of more than one month due to adductor muscle niggle

The top six finishers in the DL Meetings series will compete in the DL Final. If he misses both Lausanne and Zurich, Chopra might miss the top-six spot.

After winning a silver in the Olympics with a season's best throw of 89.45m, Chopra had hinted that he would have to undergo surgery on his groin injury, which has been troubling him for the last couple of years.

Chopra had revealed that when he was throwing, 60-70 per cent focus was on his injury. He said his doctor had told him to undergo surgery before the World Championships last year but he did not do so in view of the Paris Olympics.

## GRAND CHESS TOUR

### Decent draw for Praggnanandhaa despite five blacks in rapid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

St Louis (USA), August 12: R Praggnanandhaa has been handed a decent draw at the St Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament with the Indian Grandmaster set to begin his campaign with black pieces against Levon Aronian of United States here.

With white games against the French duo of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, Grand chess tour leader Fabiano Caruana of United States and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, the Indian has a good opportunity to improve from his current third rank on the tour.

After doing well in the early part of the year, Praggnanandhaa was not at his best in the Biel Masters and dropped some important rating points to go out of top ten world rankings. Known as someone who recovers quickly, the Indian who turned 19 last week, he will hope to make amends and



do well in the last two events here.

With \$1,75,000 at stake as the total prize pool Caruana starts as the big favourite for the title given his current form. The American had won the four-player tiebreaker in the Superbet Classic at Bucharest, Romania and then followed up with a five-rounds-to-spare victory at the Superunited rapid and blitz in Zagreb, Croatia.

American Hikaru Nakamura is one player who can spoil anyone's party. Not part of the nine-conferred invited players' pool for the tour, Nakamura plays here as one of the three wild-card participants along with compatriot Lenier Dominguez and Aronian.