

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Oh no! Arrested by the ED? He must be completely innocent

CM-KISAN: Fresh inclusion soon

Bhubaneswar: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo Wednesday informed the Assembly that the state government will soon start the process for inclusion of new farmers under the CM KISAN scheme. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, in his first Budget speech, had announced the rolling out of the CM-KISAN scheme replacing the KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme of the previous BJD government.

2 asphyxiated in Angul village

Boinda: In a tragic incident, two persons including a woman were asphyxiated while dismantling the centering panels of a newly built septic tank at Dhaurapali village under Kishorenagar police limits in Angul district, Wednesday. The deceased were identified as mason Aartatrana Mirdha, 40, of Baeja village and Reena Mahar, 32, of Rengalabeda village in Bamur panchayat in the district.

STUDY SUICIDE

Student suicides grow faster than population

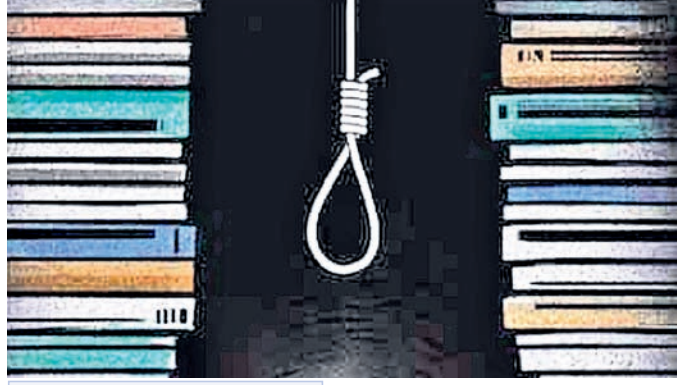
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Incidents of student suicides in India have grown at an alarming annual rate, surpassing the population growth rate and overall suicide trends, according to a new report.

Based on the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the 'Student suicides: An epidemic sweeping India' report was launched Wednesday at the Annual IC3 Conference and Expo 2024. The report pointed out that while the overall suicide numbers increased by 2 per cent annually, student suicides cases surged by 4 per cent, despite a likely under-reporting of student suicide cases.

Over the past two decades, student suicides have grown at an alarming annual rate of 4 per cent, double the national average. In 2022, male students constituted 53 per cent of the total student suicides. Between 2021 and 2022, male student suicides decreased by 6 per cent while female student suicides increased by 7 per cent, noted the report compiled by IC3 Institute.

The incidence of student suicides continues to surpass both population growth rates and overall suicide trends. Over the last decade, while the population of 0-24-year-olds reduced from 582 million to 581 million, the number of student suicides increased from 6,654 to 13,044, it added.



- While overall suicide numbers increased by 2% annually, student suicides surged by 4%, despite under-reporting
- Over the past two decades, student suicides have grown at an alarming annual rate of 4%, double the national average
- Between 2021 and 2022, male student suicides decreased by 6% while female student suicides increased by 7%
- Dramatic increase in student suicides with male suicides rising by 50% and female suicides by 61% over the past decade

The IC3 Institute is a volunteer-based organisation that provides support to high schools around the world through guidance and training resources for their administrators, teachers and counsellors to help establish and maintain robust career and college counselling departments.

Madhya Pradesh are identified as the states with the highest number of student suicides, together accounting for one-third of the national total.

Southern states and Union Territories collectively contribute 29 per cent of these cases, while Rajasthan, known for its high-stakes academic environment, ranks 10th, highlighting the intense pressure associated with coaching hubs like Kota.

The data compiled by the NCRB is based on police-recorded first information reports (FIRs). However, it is important to acknowledge that the actual number of student suicides is likely underreported. This under-reporting can be attributed to several factors, including the social stigma surrounding suicide and the criminalisation of attempted and assisted suicide under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code.

MAHANGA DOUBLE MURDER

9 get life, another acquitted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nischantakoili/Salipur, August 28: A local court in Salipur of Cuttack district handed down life imprisonment to nine persons after convicting them in the much hyped 2021-Mahanga double murder case, Wednesday.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Saroj Kumar Dash at Salipur in Cuttack acquitted another for want of sufficient evidence in the case.

The convicted persons awarded life imprisonment were identified as Panchanan Sethi, Kailash Chandra Khuntia, Lalit Mohan Baral, Khitish Acharya, Chaitanya Sethi, Umesh Chandra Khatua, Bhikari

Charan Sethi, Malay Kumar Barik and Pramod Biswal. The court acquitted Arabinda Khatua for want of sufficient evidence to prove his involvement in the murder.

The court passed the order after examining the statements 21 witnesses. Senior advocate Santosh Kumar Mund pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government while advocates BK Nayak and AK Nayak were counsels for the defendants.

The court passed the order after a gap of three years and seven months of the incident. A case relating to former state law minister Pratap Jena, who is an accused no-13 in the case, is pend-

ing in the Orissa High Court. Meanwhile, Pratap Biswal, who is stated to be the prime accused in the case, has died while another accused is still absconding.

The incident occurred when BJP leader Kulamani Baral of Nrutanga panchayat under Mahanga police limits and his associate

Dibyasingh Baral were returning home on a bike, January 2, 2021. The miscreants hiding near Jankothi brutally assaulted them with sharp-edged weapons. Kulamani died on the spot while Dibyasingh was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where doctors pronounced him dead.

Ex-minister Pratap Jena's involvement in the case is still sub-judice

Prez calls out 'collective amnesia'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Declaring that "enough is enough", President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday said it is time for India to wake up to the "perversion" of crimes against women

against women. History, she sees women as "less powerful, less capable, less intelligent". Referring to the August 9 rape and murder of a junior doctor in a Kolkata hospital, a "dismayed and horrified" President said what is even more depressing is that it is part of a series of crimes against women. Murmu said no

civilised society can allow daughters and sisters to be subjected to such atrocities. "The nation is bound to be outraged, and so am I," she wrote. In her view, it is the objectification of women by a few that is behind the crimes against women. History, she said, "often hurts" and societies scared to face history resort to "collective amnesia" to bury their heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich. "Now the time has come not only to face history squarely but also to search within our souls and probe the pathology of crimes against women," she said in her impassioned appeal.

Human case of bird flu suspected in Puri

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 28: State Health department is on its toes following detection of a suspected case of avian influenza (bird flu) infection in a man in Puri district.

Public Health Director Nilakantha Mishra clarified that after detection of bird flu symptoms in a person at Mangalpur Community Health Centre, his samples have been collected and sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and the Indian Institute of Virology, Pune, for testing.

DSPL-89



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ପୁଣି ଧର୍ମର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ନୂଆ ରେଳ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ

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leisure



RAPPER LIL BABY WAS ARRESTED IN LA

American rapper Lil Baby had a brush with the law as he was arrested after being accused of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit in Las Vegas. Court records state that the rapper, whose real name is Dominique Armani Jones, was carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, reports *People* magazine.

SELENA GOMEZ'S INSTAGRAM MASTERCLASS FOR STEVE MARTIN

Actress-singer Selena Gomez, who can be seen in the recently released fourth season of the streaming show *Only Murders in the Building*, has shared that she gave tips to actor-comedian Steve Martin on how to use Instagram, reports *Entertainment Tonight*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

TAURUS
Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day, Ganesh sees that you will have quite a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions.

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

CANCER
Today is a day for taking things slowly, especially on the business front. This applies the most to the stockbrokers and also others who invest in stocks or shares on the side. Stars are not so bright today and haste will only worsen the matters. People involved in speculation, chance games and shifty markets may feel frustrated.

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

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

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

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

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

CAPRICORN
It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesh.

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

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

Malavika for change in mindset

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Mumbai: Actress Malavika Mohanan recently in an interview commented on the challenges experienced by women in society and also highlighted the importance of addressing the mindset as a way to tackle the root causes of such incidents. Asked about the incidents of violence and harassment against women, the actress stated, "It broke my heart because I remember we were in the middle of promotions, and here I am talking about female empowerment and about having played a character who's standing up for herself, who's fighting for herself, and then this happened. I was so shaken because I'm just like, it's such a large conversation."

She also said, "How do we get to the root of this and just stop it? It makes you feel helpless. It makes you feel like, 'how, where?' It happens all the time. It's the mindset. It's a patriarchal mindset. Actually, it's not just a patriarchal mindset; it's not just blaming men, it's blaming the mindset. A lot of women are privy to that mindset as well. So attacking that, getting to the root of that, and just... I have a lot to say. I could go on."

On the work front, Malavika is recently seen in Tamil epic action-thriller *Thangalaan*.



LOTR actor calls PC a national treasure

Singapore: It was a gift to work with Priyanka Chopra, also known as PC among her admirers, India's beloved national treasure in *The Bluff*, said *The Lord of the Rings (LOTR)* actor Ismael Cruz Cordova about his collaboration with the superstar. Ismael is part of the ensemble cast for the action drama film that will feature Priyanka in the role of a female pirate.

"India's very own, beloved national treasure... What a gift, she's incredible. She's a superstar in every sense of the word. Gentle, charismatic and a great leader," Ismael told this agency in an interview.

"She does all of her stunts, not scared to get dirty. And it's beautiful to have... She's leading this cast and everybody looks up to the leader. She set a beautiful tone in that film that we all felt safe. I just felt so honoured to be with her. I love her work. So it's very special. I'm grateful," said the actor, known for his work on *Sesame Street*, *Ray Donovan* and films *Mary Queen of Scots* and *Miss Bala*. Ismael is looking forward to the second season of *The Rings of Power*.



'Film industry is a hopeless place'

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is busy promoting her upcoming film *Emergency*, talked about her career and films in the latest episode of *The Bombay Journey* with *Mashable India*. The Queen actress said that she considers that the industry is a 'hopeless place' which thrives on people who got it easy.

During the conversation, she said, "Only a few people have a problem with me otherwise if you see me, I won an election and the kind of love that I receive from the industry, proves my point. So the problem is me or with them?"

When the host asked about her stance on boycotting B-town, Kangana said, "Bollywood is, honestly I am saying, it is a very hopeless place. Nothing will happen with them. They are jealous of talent. If they see someone talented they go after them to destroy their career. Horrible PR is written on them and they are boycotted from the industry."

Kangana, who made her acting debut with *Gangster*, and went on

time someone calls her the *Afreen Afreen* girl, she said, "I've grown immensely from the young girl who once walked the sands of Jodhpur to the woman I am now. I've achieved so much, with a rich body of work and life experience behind me. So, when people only associate me with *Afreen Afreen*, I understand why, but it can be frustrating. I want to be recognized for who I am today—a confident 52-year-old woman, comfortable in her own skin."

Explaining how she gets triggered every time someone calls her the *Afreen Afreen* girl, she said, "I've grown immensely from the young girl who once walked the sands of Jodhpur to the woman I am now. I've achieved so much, with a rich body of work and life experience behind me. So, when people only associate me with *Afreen Afreen*, I understand why, but it can be frustrating. I want to be recognized for who I am today—a confident 52-year-old woman, comfortable in her own skin."



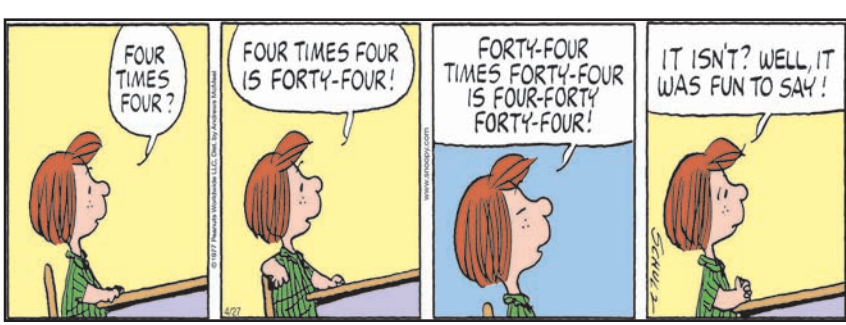
Lisa on impact of Afreen Afreen

Mumbai: Model-turned-actress Lisa Ray, who received much love for her appearance in the popular 1996 song *Afreen Afreen*, composed by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and penned by Javed Akhtar, said she gets a bit prickly as people still identify her with the song that dropped 28 years ago.

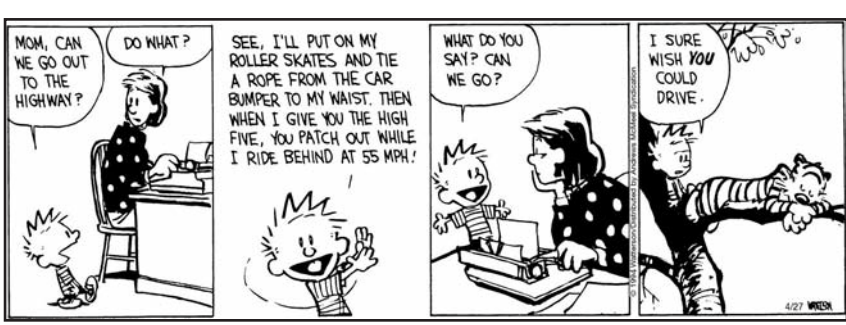
Talking with an entertainment portal, she shared, "I was walking on (during a recent fashion show) on *Afreen Afreen*. That is a song, I have a complicated relationship with because it, in a sense, elevated my career at that time but also it is a song, 25-26 years after we filmed the video, still in a sense haunts me."

Explaining how she gets triggered every time someone calls her the *Afreen Afreen* girl, she said, "I've grown immensely from the young girl who once walked the sands of Jodhpur to the woman I am now. I've achieved so much, with a rich body of work and life experience behind me. So, when people only associate me with *Afreen Afreen*, I understand why, but it can be frustrating. I want to be recognized for who I am today—a confident 52-year-old woman, comfortable in her own skin."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

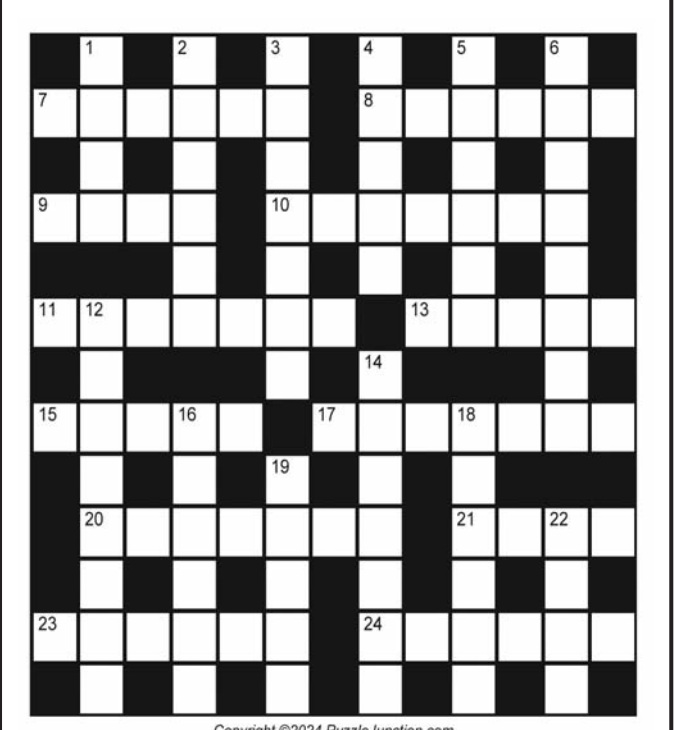


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Logic puzzle
 - 8 Rain cloud
 - 9 Milk type
 - 10 Hardy range
 - 11 Marsh
 - 13 Bite-the-bullet type
 - 15 Crisp
 - 17 Refuse
 - 20 Gourmet
 - 21 Pinnacle
 - 23 Rare cells
 - 24 Lacking grey cells
 - 21 Sociable
 - 12 Prosecutor's need
 - 14 King Arthur's domain
 - 16 Religious residence
 - 18 Comeliness
 - 19 Floppy slippers
 - 22 Clio or Calliope, e.g.
- Down
- 1 Gambler's hope
 - 2 Routine
 - 3 Increase
 - 4 Uneasy feeling
 - 5 Collide with

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

P	O	A	L	B	A
S	U	M	M	E	R
L	I	N	T	E	G
G	H	E	R	K	I
A	G	I	L	E	T
C	R	O	N	A	R
C	O	R	N	A	R
A	N	G	E	L	S
D	R	A	D	E	Y

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Black money: SIT likely to submit 9th interim report within a month

Oppn wants resolution for quota beyond 50%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Accusing the BJP of changing its attitude towards the tribals, Dalits and OBCs after coming to power in the state, Opposition Congress and BJD Wednesday called for a resolution in the Assembly to increase the reservation cap beyond the current 50 per cent.

The discussion focused on allegations that reservation for STs, SCs, and OBCs in technical and medical institutions are disproportionately low compared to their population.

Currently, Odisha reserves 22.50 per cent for STs, 16.25 per cent for SCs, and 11.25 per cent for OBCs in government jobs.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam initiated the debate, criticising the BJP for what he described as a shift in attitude towards these communities after coming to power in Odisha.

He argued that despite the 50 per cent reservation limit imposed by courts, the state government could still push for a constitutional amendment to raise the quota limit. Kadam cited Tamil

'No announcement on free electricity'

There has been no announcement on giving free electricity up to 300 units in the state, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo told the Assembly. The clarification of Singh Deo, who is also the Energy minister, came amid demand for free electricity up to 300 units. In some parts of Bargarh, deliberate misinformation is being spread and electricity consumer meters are being removed, he said. "It is not only illegal, but also highly unsafe for public at large. Only trained and qualified technicians are authorised to handle installation or removal of electricity meters. If any untoward incident takes place in such areas due to unauthorised removal of the meters, the distribution company will not be held responsible," he said. "The correct position is that availing up to 300 units of electricity by way of installing rooftop solar plant under PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojna is a part of a new Government of India scheme," he added.

Nadu and Maharashtra as examples where reservation rules have been adjusted to better reflect the demographic realities. Kadam said while the population of STs and SCs is above 38 per cent in Odisha, they get reservation of only 20 per cent.

He highlighted the discrepancy in reservation for OBCs, noting that while they make up more than 54 per cent of the population, they receive only 11.25 per cent reservation in government jobs and none in medical and engineering colleges.

Kadam expressed support for increasing the reservation cap and criticised the state's current leadership for neglecting

these issues.

Though normalcy returned to the House with smooth conduct of Question Hour and Zero Hour, the Opposition members walked out expressing their displeasure over the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Minister Nityananda Gond's reply to the debate.

The CLP leader said his party will support the state government if it brings a resolution to take quota beyond 50 per cent in Odisha. "Though the state has got a tribal as the CM, it appears that he has no such concern for people of his community. The BJP has changed its attitude towards the ST, SC

and OBCs after coming to power," the Congress leader alleged.

BJD leader and former minister Arun Kumar Sahoo echoed Kadam's sentiments, pledging support for a resolution to exceed the 50 per cent cap if proposed by the government.

"While the chief minister has been demanding quota for Gujar community in Jammu and Kashmir, he has no concern for the SC, ST and OBCs in Odisha," Sahoo alleged, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been claiming to be a member of the OBC, but his party has been neglecting the community here in the state. Sahoo along with Kadam demanded postponement of the MBBS admission which is scheduled to begin August 29.

BJD's Ramesh Chandra Behera and Dhruva Sahu also blamed the state's BJP government for neglecting the ST, SC and OBCs. Replying to the debate, Gond said the BJP is more concerned for the ST, SC and OBCs than the Opposition parties.

"What the BJD and Congress were doing when they were in power. They are shedding crocodile tears," the minister said.

SIT vice-chairman Justice (Retd) Arijit Pasayat asks anti-corruption probe agencies to coordinate with ED and I-T dept for better results

ment for better results.

"We have consistently argued that corruption should not be limited to the Prevention of Corruption Act alone. It must also be addressed under I-T laws and the Money Laundering Act, as black money represents undisclosed income," Justice Pasayat said, adding that the SIT has been advising anti-corruption agencies to coordinate closely with the ED and I-T authorities.

"If agencies suspect that information might be leaked before raids, they should promptly

share their findings with the ED and I-T authorities after raids. This will ensure a coordinated approach to combat corruption and detect black money," Pasayat explained.

The SIT vice-chairman stressed the urgency of information sharing to aid in prosecuting corrupt individuals.

"Everyone at today's meeting agreed on the need for proper coordination, which will send a strong message that corruption will not be tolerated," he added.

Justice Pasayat also expressed concern about GST evasion, which involves substantial amounts of money and contributes to the country's black money problem. He cited a recent instance in Bhubaneswar, where over 50 kg of gold and 200 kg silver were recovered.

Regarding online gambling, Justice Pasayat warned of its dangerous trend, particularly among youth.

SAMBALPUR TRIPLE MURDER

HC commutes death penalty of convict

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The Orissa High Court Wednesday commuted the death sentence, awarded by a trial court to a man for killing three members of a family in Sambalpur in 2020, to life imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, Nabin Dehury, along with his son Hemananda Dehury, axed to death Giridhari Sahu, Pirobati Behera and Sabitri Sahu at Lapada under Mahulpali police limits of Sambalpur at around 2:30 pm October 21, 2020 over property dispute.

Soon after, Nabin and his son were arrested and were charge-sheeted under Sections 302 and 34 of the IPC. While Nabin was accused of committing the murders, Hemananda was accused of aiding his father in the gruesome act.

The trial court awarded death to Nabin and life imprisonment to Hemananda. As per the provision under Section 366 of CrPC, the trial court referred the matter to the HC for confirmation of the death penalty.

Meanwhile, Nabin filed a jail criminal appeal and Hemananda filed a criminal appeal challenging their convictions. It was argued on behalf of Hemananda that he was not involved in the commission of the murder. Also, as per the testimony of the eyewitnesses, he merely restricted Sabitri while she was proceeding to rescue her mother - Pirobati. The HC, however, was of the opinion that the act of

Hemananda contributed to the culpable act of Nabin.

Consequently, the HC found both the father-son duo guilty for offence under Section 302 and 34 of IPC and upheld the life imprisonment imposed upon Hemananda.

After upholding the guilt of Nabin, the HC discussed the justifiability of the extreme sentence of death imposed upon him by the trial court. It lamented that the trial court did not consider mitigating circumstances while sentencing Nabin.

During the course of argument, the HC directed the Senior Superintendent of Circle Jail to collect all relevant information regarding the past life, psychological condition and post-conviction conduct of Nabin.

In response, the Senior Superintendent of Circle Jail submitted a report which suggested that Nabin had good relations with the co-villagers and his post-conviction conduct was also satisfactory.

It, however, came to light that due to the longstanding property dispute between the two families, Nabin used to remain 'upset' and was also taking medications for combating the trauma. "In view of the foregoing discussions and giving our anxious consideration to the facts and circumstances of the case and striking a balance between the aggravating and mitigating circumstances in the case, we are of the humble view that death penalty would be disproportionate and life imprisonment would be a more appropriate sentence," it held.

Minor victim of sexual assault should not be repeatedly called to testify: SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 28: The Supreme Court has stressed that a minor victim of sexual assault should not be repeatedly called to testify before the trial court.

A bench, headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, said that the child who has suffered a traumatic experience of sexual offence should not be called time and again to testify about the same incident.

The court was hearing a plea challenging the orders of the Orissa High Court and the Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Special Court under the POCSO Act, Nayagarh, which denied recalling a minor victim for re-examination as a witness.

It was alleged that the accused kidnapped the minor girl, married her at a temple, and forced her to make sexual relations. Later, the victim was rescued by her parents.

Police booked the accused in 2020 under relevant sections of IPC, POCSO Act, and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

In the course of trial, the special court rejected the application moved by the accused for recalling the victim for re-examination as witness. The trial court relied upon Section 33(5) of the POCSO Act mandating that a child will not be called in the court to testify.

Upholding the decision, the SC said, "POCSO Act is a special legislation, which was enacted to protect children from sexual offences and for safeguarding their interests and ensuring the well-being of the child at every stage of trial of offences under the Act. A bare perusal of Section 33(5) of the Act indicates that a duty is cast upon the special court to ensure that a child is not repeatedly called to give his/her testimony before the court."



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

10 GLORIOUS YEARS OF
PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA

530000000+

JAN DHAN BANK ACCOUNTS
HAVE BEEN OPENED WHERE

₹23,12,35,00,00,000
HAVE BEEN SAFELY DEPOSITED BY THE POOR



JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS HAVE ALSO:

- Increased savings
- Increased access to credit
- Bridged the gender gap in access to financial services
- Ensured positive social impact with drop in crime rate, reduced alcohol and tobacco consumption

Speed guns to curb jumbo deaths on tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, August 28: Even as trains running at a high speed in elephant corridors are proving to be a menace to the jumbo population, the state Forest department is taking a slew of measures, including use of speed guns, to curb elephant deaths on railway tracks in this district, according to a report.

Sources said Forest department personnel are using speed testing guns or speed guns to measure the speed of express, passenger as well as freight trains passing through elephant corridors in this district. These guns measure the speed express trains and goods trains and alert the Forest personnel to take preventive measures to save the mammals.

Speed guns are being used in elephant infested areas under Sadar forest range like Sadashivpur railway station, Hindol Road railway station, Meramundali railway station, its adjoining areas and the railway level crossings.

Forest personnel trained for the purpose stand by the rail-



Based on the outcome of the speed guns, Forest department issues a caution notice to the railway department every evening urging them to slow down the speed of the trains passing through elephant corridors

way tracks pointing the guns towards the moving trains, facing the same direction. This

helps in measuring the speed of the train and take preventive steps against any casualties.

Elephants, in herds, frequently cross the railway tracks under Sadar forest range during day and night. However, trains moving at great speed results in the death of the trunked animals on the railway tracks.

Reports said three elephants were run over by speeding trains during last five years. However, use of speed guns has resulted in change in the situation as the speed of the trains has been brought under control. Trains are

often seen stopping on the railway tracks and waiting till the herd crosses the track.

Forest department serves a caution notice to the railway department every evening urging them to slow down the speed of the trains moving on the railway tracks in elephant corridors. The speed of the trains is kept within 30-50 km per hour. In case of any aberration, the matter is taken up in coordination committee meeting with the railway department.

When contacted, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sumit Kumar Kar of Dhenkanal Wildlife Division said that the speed guns are being used during the movement of elephants by the rail tracks for the last few days. This helps the forest personnel to send a caution notice to the railway department urging them to slow down the speed of the trains, he said.

However, if the train moves more than the prescribed speed limit, then the matter is taken up with the railway authorities during the coordination committee meeting of the two departments, the DFO added.

Man gets life term for mom's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kodala, August 28: A local court here in Ganjam district Tuesday convicted a man of murdering his mother and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The convict, identified as Sanyasi Polai, is a native of Banapalli village under Kabisuryanagar police limits in the district. Additional district judge Biswaranjan Behera also slapped a penalty of ₹20,000 on him. In default, he has to undergo an additional six months imprisonment.

The judge passed the order after examining the statements of 14 witnesses and the police chargesheet in the case.

According to the case diary, Sanyasi had a fight with his mother Saraswati Polai over some issue at the midnight of January 19, 2021. Later, he flew into rage and hit his mother with a steel bar, leading to her death. Hearing her screams, her husband Pana Polai rushed to her room but found his wife dead and son absconding. He lodged a complaint with Kabisuryanagar police who registered a case and arrested the killer son.

George stages dharna on Bisra-Jareikela road



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 28: Former Biramitrapur MLA George Turkey Wednesday staged a dharna on Bisra-Jareikela road protesting the bad condition of the road and apathy of the administration in resolving the issue.

Bisra-Jareikela road is part of the NH 320 D and it connects Rourkela to Jharkhand via Bisra.

Turkey, who is now in BJD, along with his large number of supporters, began the road blockade at 8am which continued till 1:30pm. The demonstration was held at the crucial intersection of the road - Bandhamunda-Khukuda Gate.

Turkey sat on dharna and held his ground till the representatives of Rourkela sub-collector, the tehsildar, Bisra BDO and other officials came and interacted with him.

Turkey said he has four major demands which the administration has assured him to look into. "I want completion of the road work at the earliest and the same be made commutable for the users. Using the road is a nightmare here and the administration does not care a fig for the hardship of the com-

muters," said. His second demand is completion of the railway overbridge near Khukuda Gate. "This is a very important intersection and the Railways never bothered to complete it," he maintained.

Regarding land acquisition hurdles, Turkey said, "I urge the administration to listen to the land owners. There are only six land owners and of them two have already agreed. However, the administration is completely ignoring them. Speak to them and complete everything including their compensation."

His last demand was the construction of an underpass near Bartoli that would help ease the traffic congestion near Kukuda Gate.

"My future course of action will depend on the steps taken by the administration," said Turkey.

Notably, the 31.02-km stretch of the road is in really bad shape. Since a large number of people hailing from Jareikela, Bisra and Bandhamunda areas use this route to visit Rourkela, it needs immediate restoration. This is part of the NH 320D which is now almost defunct as this is supposed to pass right through the steel city.

Lightning claims 18-year-old girl

AGENCIES

Baripada/Bhubaneswar, August 28: An 18-year-old girl died Wednesday after lightning struck her in Mayurbhanj district, police said.

The incident took place at Gudipokhari village under Baripada Sadar police station in the afternoon when she was working in a paddy field.

The deceased was identified as Sumitra Murmu.

An unnatural death case was registered and her body was sent to PRM Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem, a police officer said.

Meanwhile, the Regional Centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Bhubaneswar said heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by lightning would continue in several districts in the next three days.

The weather office also issued an orange warning (be prepared) for Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Nabarangpur districts Thursday.

It issued a yellow alert (be updated) for Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kendrapara, Nuapada, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur as heavy rainfall and thunderstorms with lightning expected in these districts for the day.

From June 1 to August 28, the state reported an average rainfall of 787.6 mm as against its normal anticipation of 884.2 mm.

During the period, Malkangiri received excessive downpours, while 19 districts recorded normal rainfall and the remaining 10 were in the deficient category.



FARM WORK: A farmer applying pesticides to his cultivated crops on his farmland following pest attacks due to continuous rainfall near Sarla Square in Sambalpur, Wednesday

₹23 crore DMF boost to RGH in 5 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 28: Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) has received more than ₹23 crore from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for various developmental projects during the last five years, according to sources.

The district administration has utilised the fund under several heads like salaries of paramedical staffers and doctors, and purchase of equipment and machines.

Sources said ₹5.23 crore of DMF fund was provided for the benefit of hemoglobinopathy patients in 2018-19.

Similarly, ₹32.24 lakh was provided for installation of an ultrasound machine at RGH during the same period.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

In 2019-20, ₹6.20 lakh was spent on two battery operated vehicles while ₹2.37 lakh was drawn from DMF to meet the salary expenses of those working under Nirmala Yojana. In the same year, RGH got a pair of DG sets at a cost of ₹25.89 lakh and ₹27.74 lakh for installation of high mast lights at the health-care facility.

In 2020-21, RGH received ₹2.63

crore for operationalisation of dialysis and city scan units on PPP mode. At the same time, ₹45.50 lakh was provided from the mineral fund for laying oxygen pipeline.

Ophthalmology department received ₹3.94 crore while ₹63.60 lakh was allocated for medicine and orthopaedic implants during 2021-22. Likewise, ₹17.75 lakh was granted for procurement of

DG sets for OPD and IPD.

In 2022-23, ₹48 lakh was sanctioned for payment to a private hospital where critically-ill paediatric patients were being referred. Similarly, ₹1.20 crore DMF fund was spent on OT modernisation and purchase of machines.

In 2023-24, ₹4.64 crore was spent on city scan. Latest data shows, between August 23 and March 24, ₹2.87 lakh was paid towards salaries of doctors and ₹1.62 lakh towards remuneration of paramedical staffers.

Green hero Swarit plants 130 saplings on 13th birthday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 28: In a heartwarming celebration of nature and community, the "Green Memory" campaign, a unique initiative started by veteran Social Worker Digambar Upadhyay and promoted by NGO-SEWAK, reached a new milestone with the creation of a Memory Garden in Gambharidihi-Badbahalpada, under Tangarpali block.

The campaign that started last year has been rapidly gaining popularity, with the goal of commemorating significant days in a person's life by planting saplings and ensuring their lifelong care. On the occasion of his 13th birthday, Swarit Upadhyay, a meritorious student from Sundargarh and an India Book of Records achiever, took a significant step towards environmental conservation by planting 130 trees. His actions sent a powerful message of environmental awareness from Jhurimal village in Lephripara block, inspiring many to follow his footsteps.

Swarit, who has shown a deep interest in forests and the environment since childhood, has won nu-



merous state and national-level competitions. His father, veteran social worker Digambar Upadhyay, initiated the "Green Memory" or "Sabuja Smruti" campaign last year, beginning with Swarit's birthday. The campaign has since blossomed into a movement, encouraging people to plant trees on various memorable occasions.

Today, a new Memory Garden was inaugurated on three acres of land in Gambharidihi-Badbahalpada as part of this campaign. Ujalpur Forest Division Officer Debadutta Nanda, who in-

augurated the garden, emphasised the enduring friendship between humans and trees, urging everyone to actively participate in tree plantation activities.

Attending the event as the guest of honour, Forest Guard Dolagobinda Panigrahi encouraged people to plant trees during festivals, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and other significant moments in life. He highlighted the importance of treating plantation as a lifelong commitment.

On this special occasion, Swarit, with the support of his family and

members of the Gambharidihi-Badbahalpada Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS), planted 130 trees, including species like peepal, agasti, neem, simakayyan, aamda, mango, harida, elephant apple, black berries, bahada, arjuna, wood apple, wild mango and gulmohar. Swarit took a pledge to protect these trees for life, setting an inspiring example for the community.

Senior member Niranjan Majhi of Badbahalpada VSS announced that this Memory Garden, developed with the support of SEWAK, is open to all local residents who wish to commemorate their family's special days by planting saplings. The VSS will ensure the protection and care of these trees, making the garden a lasting legacy for future generations.

Since its inception, the "Green Memory" campaign has successfully planted 12,312 saplings, with plans to plant over 50,000 trees this year. According to Upadhyay, "This initiative continues to grow, fostering a deep connection between the community and the environment, and ensuring that each sapling planted stands as a living memory of life's most significant moments."

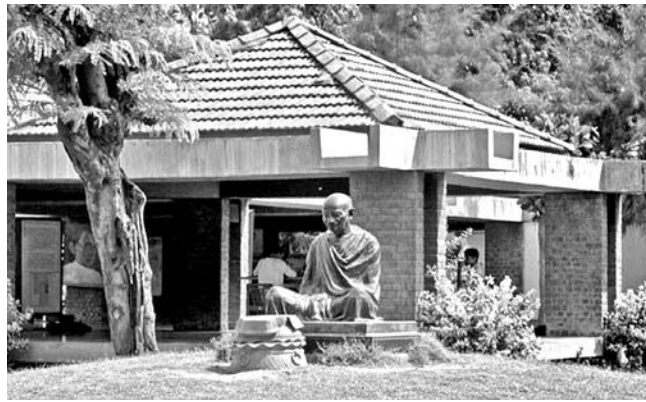
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar. e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. - CEM/MDC-01/2024-25. Table with 10 columns: S. No., Name of the work, No. of Works, Category of executors, Bid Identification No., Estimated Cost, Period of Completion, Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal, Last date / time for receipt of bid in the Portal, Date and place of opening of Bid, Name of the Officer inviting bid.

भारत सरकार कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव, हरियाणा - 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6 PUBLIC NOTICE [Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016] Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/759 Date: 13/08/2024 Reference: (1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (3) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of: Table with 4 columns: S. No., Work Item, CIN, Company Name.

FOCUS SOCIETY

GANDHI & PVT PROPERTY



Gandhi believed that a Sarvodaya-based interpretation of private property helps reduce socio-economic disparities and promotes equity

that compulsory and forceful acquisition of property might lead people to come together and revolt against the State.

Gandhi's view on property is relevant for India today as it is witnessing the ugly face of inequality. As per Oxfam India, the top 1% of the population owns nearly 40.6% of the total wealth in India. Such concentration of wealth may often lead to unpleasant display of wealth.

The rising concentration of wealth in the hands of a very small percentage of people, and the decreasing ability of the majority to generate income, provides sufficient grounds for the Supreme Court to consider Gandhi's view on private property.

It is heartening to note that Gandhi's philosophy was visible in a recent statement by CJI Chandrachud: "One must understand that Article 39(b) has been crafted in a certain way in the Constitution because the Constitution was intended to bring about a social transformation. We shouldn't therefore go so far as to say that the moment private property is private property, Article 39(b) will have no application."

Several well-known legal academicians have also underscored the importance of a proper understanding of the term property. For instance, Professor Christopher Serkin had said, "property is fundamental to how we order our lives and relate to one another. The study of property is no less than the study of society, the State, and the very underpinnings of law."

I hope we will soon have a clear judgement on the interpretation of the term "private property" using Gandhian philosophy that serves the greater interest of the people while respecting the constitutional spirit of Article 39(b).

The writer is a professor at XIMB. Views are personal.

Indian courts have been deliberating on the definition and scope of private property for more than forty years. One of the cases pending for decades before the Supreme Court (SC) pertains to private property. The issue is to determine whether "private property" qualifies as "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution. The case before the Constitution Bench involves petitions from the Property Owners Association (POA) and other relevant stakeholders. The POA argues that private properties cannot be acquired by the State under constitutional provisions outlined in Articles 39(b) and 39(c).

Let us revisit Article 39(b) and 39(c) to understand the spirit behind the long-pending case. Article 39(b) states that it is the responsibility of the State to ensure that the ownership and control of material resources are so distributed as best to serve the common good. The main objective of the Article is to avoid the concentration of wealth and resources in the hands of a few individuals or entities, and to promote unbiased distribution of property for the benefit of people. Similarly, Article 39(c) requires the State to take steps to prevent the concentration of wealth and resources in the hands of a small group.

Over the years, the courts have witnessed diverse interpretations of private property. Justice Krishna Iyer argued that both public and private resources fall under "material resources of the community" as per Article 39(b). He stressed that excluding private resources from this definition would undermine the Directive Principles of State Policy.

CJI Chandrachud emphasised that the Constitution aims for social transformation and that Article 39(b) should apply to privately held property as well.

He also stressed the need to recognise the societal aspect while defining private property.

The POA's president alleged that the real intention behind incorporating societal aspects for interpreting private property is to enable the government to acquire private property at undervalued prices and then transfer the same to large developers and corporate houses.

The advocate representing the petitioners argued that, "If private property was to be considered a 'material resource,' the word 'private' had to be added and the word 'community' removed from Article 39(b)."

The Solicitor General argued that the definition of private property and whether it comes under the purview of material resources should be left to the wisdom of the legislature.

The legal community remains divided on defining private property, reflecting the complexity of balancing individual rights with the interests of the community. To address the ambiguity and lessen the problem of goal incongruity, one may fall back on Gandhi's perspective on property. Gandhi shifted the focus of the narrative from property's ownership to prop-

erty's use. Gandhi's views presented property not merely as a personal asset but as a tool for the benefit of the community.

Gandhi's views on property are embedded in his principles of Sarvodaya. Sarvodaya means progress for all through non-violence and peaceful cooperation. Gandhi believed that when property is used in ways that do not promote collective welfare, it can lead to distrust and conflict.

In the spirit of Sarvodaya, Gandhi wished that property should be held "in trust" for society. Gandhi was of the view that individuals should be allowed to own property but should be encouraged and motivated to manage it in such a way that it serves society as a whole. Gandhi believed that a Sarvodaya-based interpretation of private property helps reduce socio-economic disparities and promotes equity.

Though Gandhi stressed the relevance of the societal use of private property, he was against the acquisition of property by the State. Gandhi encouraged people to take voluntary responsibility of managing resources with the spirit of maximum good for the maximum number. He was of the view



DV Ramana

THOUGH GANDHI STRESSED THE RELEVANCE OF THE SOCIETAL USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, HE WAS AGAINST THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY THE STATE



Edoardo Campanella

Artistic beauty, like natural resources, should be a blessing. But without proper management and an ambitious strategy, looks can kill

The Beauty Curse

Countries with great wealth or natural abundance often fall victim to their own blessings. Economists have long known that resource-rich countries can get stuck in cycles of slow economic growth, intense environmental degradation, and weak democratic institutions. But places endowed with a unique artistic and architectural heritage also can suffer from this "resource curse." Breathtaking monuments from a storied past can generate economic rents and sectoral distortions not unlike those created by large reserves of fossil fuels and precious minerals.

Venice is a case in point. Plagued with fast-paced, cheap tourism, it increasingly suffers from a "beauty curse." The city's recent decision to charge an entry fee (\$5.45) for day trippers merely confirms the larger problem: Venice is on its way to becoming an open-air museum — a cultural mausoleum.

Natural resources and architectural beauty are not as dissimilar as they may seem. Both are scarce and geographically concentrated. In the case of Venice, the city is an extraordinary architectural masterpiece; even its smallest buildings may contain works by some of the world's greatest artists — from Giorgione and Titian to Tintoretto and Veronese. That is why UNESCO's World Heritage designation for Venice comprises the city in its entirety, rather than select buildings or neighbourhoods.

But such immense architectural and cultural wealth can create an economic trap. When just a few lucrative extractive industries attract most of the human and financial capital in an economy, they can crowd out investment in other sectors, ultimately preventing sectoral diversification and impairing overall competitiveness. This dynamic is known as "Dutch Disease," because it is precisely what happened in the Netherlands following its discovery of a large natural-gas field in the late 1950s.

In Venice, the high demand for tourist-related services that guarantee large markups has crowded out the supply of services for residents. As a result, the historic city is becoming increasingly uninhabitable. Its population has fallen from 150,000 in the 1960s to around 50,000 today, and neighbourhoods with fewer tourist attractions already look like ghost towns. Buildings are abandoned, streets are empty, and grocery shops are almost nonexistent. The only sparks of real life are the few traditional bars ("bacari") that remain operational. University students animate an otherwise sleepy nightlife, and the few cultural events target tourists, whose number keeps rising.

Two decades ago, Venice had a little more than two million overnight visitors per year; by 2022, that figure had reached 3.2 million, and the number of day trippers was around 30 million. Unsurprisingly, the few Venetians left are directly or indirectly employed in the tourism sector, resulting in economic desertification of the rest of the city. With traditional industries like chemicals and steel disappearing, Italy's development ministry has declared the situation in Venice and its environs an industrial crisis.

To be sure, the beauty curse is not exclusive to Venice. There are many small villages and towns around the world whose economies have been completely captured by tourism. In large and well-developed cities such as Barcelona or Rome, mass tourism is increasingly a threat to the quality of life of their inhabitants. Nonetheless, the scale of the problem in Venice is astonishing. This is not some small medieval village whose only future lies in capitalising on its past. Venice is a large European city that could aspire to be something different. Once the seat of a prosperous empire, it was a bridge between the West and the East for centuries. Even if daily life in a city on the water is not easy, Venice has always managed it.

The entry fee, which was introduced as a pilot programme between April and mid-July, is expected to be reintroduced in 2025 on a permanent basis and possibly doubled. But it is unlikely to dissuade fast-paced tourism. Though it will help to absorb some of the costs that tourism generates (such as for waste collection and disposal), it will not reverse the city's decline. After all, most of its other civic initiatives are focused on the threat of sea-level rise. As necessary as these efforts are, they will only preserve the existing architectural beauty, rather than doing anything to revitalise the city. The palaces will still become museums, because nobody wants to live in them.

The situation demands a comprehensive, long-term strategy to repopulate the Laguna Veneta. By attracting talent from around the world, Venice could transform itself into a flourishing, dynamic global cultural and commercial center once again. It could rediscover the ingenuity, inventiveness, and industriousness that made it so great in the past. The goal should be not merely to preserve and exploit its artistic and cultural heritage, but to expand it. That means going beyond the extractive approach that is slowly bleeding the city dry.

Artistic beauty, like natural resources, should be a blessing. But without proper management and an ambitious strategy, looks can kill.

The writer is a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School.

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SPECTRUM NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

Beacon of unity, harmony, & change



Bhagirathi Jena

THE VALUES INHERENT IN SPORTS—FAIR PLAY, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, TEAMWORK, AND PERSEVERANCE—ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY

As India celebrates National Sports Day on 29 August in honor of the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, it's an ideal time to reflect on the profound significance of sports in our society. Sports are not just physical activities; they have the power to shape lives and influence societies in meaningful ways.

Anthony Starr once remarked: "Sport is imposing order on what was chaos." This statement perfectly captures the essence of sports as an organised pursuit that fosters discipline, perseverance, and resilience. But beyond personal benefits, sports also have the ability to create social order by bridging divides, fostering mutual respect, and cultivating a sense of belonging.

The theme for this year's National Sports Day, "Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies," highlights the crucial role sports play in breaking down social barriers and building strong, cohesive communities. In a world often divided by differences, sports provide a common ground where people from diverse backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and work towards common goals. As Anton Chekov wisely noted, "Sports are positively essen-

tial. It is healthy to engage in sports; they are beautiful and liberal, liberal in the sense that nothing serves quite as well to integrate social classes as street or public games." Chekov's insight emphasises how sports, whether played in streets or grand arenas, have the unique ability to transcend social and economic divides, creating unity and a shared purpose.

On a global scale, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has long championed the use of sports as a vehicle for social change. The IOC has empowered marginalised groups, promoted gender equality, and supported climate action. In their purest form, sports serve as a tool for fostering understanding and solidarity across borders.

History provides numerous examples of the unifying power of sports. One of the most compelling is Nelson Mandela's use of rugby to heal the deep racial divisions in post-apartheid South Africa. His vision materialised when the South African rugby team, once a symbol of white supremacy, became a symbol of national unity, culminating in their victory in the 1995 Rugby World Cup. This moment demonstrated how sports can transcend political and social barriers, fos-

tering a sense of national identity and shared purpose.

Similarly, "ping-pong diplomacy" during the Cold War between China and the United States is another testament to the power of sports. A series of highly publicised table tennis matches between the two countries eased diplomatic tensions and led to US President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China. This episode underscores how sports can bring about paradigm shifts in even the most challenging geopolitical contexts.

In India, the story of Palwankar Baloo, a Dalit cricketer who defied societal norms to achieve greatness, exemplifies the transformative power of sports. Baloo's remarkable achievements, particularly during the England tour in 1911, earned him widespread recognition and respect. Despite the entrenched caste system, Baloo rose to prominence through sheer talent and determination. His success on the cricket field became a symbol of resilience and excellence. He was honoured by the depressed classes, and a young Dr. BR Ambedkar, who would later become the architect of India's Constitution, delivered the welcome address at this event. This moment marked Ambedkar's first public ap-

pearance and highlighted the intersection of sports, social justice, and national progress.

In today's world, where over 190 million people, mostly youth, are affected by substance abuse, the need for positive outlets for young people's energy and creativity is more urgent than ever. Engaging in sports can provide young people with a sense of purpose, helping them steer away from the dangers of substance abuse.

As we celebrate National Sports Day, it is important to recognise that sports are more than just games; they are a powerful means to promote peace, equality, and sustainability. The values inherent in sports—fair play, respect for others, teamwork, and perseverance—are essential for building a just and equitable society. Mandela aptly said, "Sport has the power to change the world." As we honour our sports legends and embrace the values they represent, let us commit to harnessing the power of sports to build a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable world for all.

The writer is a Senior Parliamentary Interpreter at the Parliament of India and a former national rugby player.

WISDOM CORNER

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity... and some scarce see nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself. WILLIAM BLAKE

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all. EMILY DICKINSON

Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value. DESMOND TUTU

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1756: The Seven Years' War—a conflict that arose from the Austrian Habsburgs' attempt to win back Silesia, which had been taken from them by Frederick II of Prussia during the War of the Austrian Succession—began.
- 1842: China signed the Treaty of Nanjing, providing for the cession of Hong Kong to Great Britain, the opening of five treaty ports, the rights of British nationals accused of criminal acts in China to be tried in British courts, and a limitation on duties on imports and exports.
- 1893: American businessman and inventor Whitcomb L. Judson was granted a U.S. patent for a "clasp locker," which evolved into the modern zipper.
- 1949: The Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb (known in the West as Joe-1); it was a direct copy of the Fat Man bomb used by the U.S. military on Nagasaki during World War II.

Undermining democracy

Sir, The recent re-election of Mamata Mohanta to the Rajya Sabha, after she switched from the BJD to the BJP, highlights an alarming trend in Indian politics—the erosion of ideological commitment. While the absence of opposing candidates in the by-election and the BJP's use of a "dummy candidate" might seem like strategic political maneuvers, they represent a deeper problem that threatens our democratic foundations. It is increasingly evident that the BJP is prioritising a numbers game over ideological consistency, aiming to increase its strength in the Rajya Sabha by poaching members from other parties. This is not an isolated incident but part of a broader strategy that undermines healthy democratic practices. Rather than focusing on policies or principles, political parties seem to be more interested in gaining power at any cost. This trend is troubling and sets a dangerous precedent for the future of our parliamentary democracy. Our political system should be grounded in robust debates, differing ideologies, and fair competition, not opportunistic alliances. I urge political leaders and citizens to resist this shift towards a politics of convenience and reaffirm our commitment to genuine democratic values.

Vishesh Shukla, DHENKANAL

Fight over land

Sir, Excessive modernisation has taken a toll on the living space of wildlife, and now comes a research study that says humans and animals may fight for more than half of the earth's land by 2070. The research finding is not without reason because, in the search for new pastures, the burgeoning human population can further intrude into wildlife habitats transforming desolated forests into a beehive of activity. This means that there will be a great overlap of landscapes between human and wildlife populations. Human-animal conflict, loss of biodiversity and transmission of diseases are all set to witness a new high over the next four to five decades. Among these, disease spread from animals to human beings could pave the way for rekindling of the zoonotic diseases that have cost humans a fortune besides their obvious, crippling, health effects.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

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

national



Kudos to the women who have stood their ground and emerged victorious. The #HemaCommittee was much needed to break the abuse. But will it?
KHUSHBU SUNDAR | BJP LEADER

DELHI COURT RESERVES ORDER ON RASHID'S BAIL PLEA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday fiercely opposed in a Delhi court the bail application of Lok Sabha MP from Jammu and Kashmir Engineer Rashid, claiming that he may influence witnesses and tamper with evidence to "obstruct justice" in a 2017 terror funding case if he is granted the relief. The special NIA court, which reserved the order on the bail plea of Sheikh Abdul Rashidis likely to pronounce the order September 4



of the day quote

There were total of 9,35,682 people who had submitted the biometrics for Aadhaar cards between February to August, 2019, at Aadhaar centres, which also doubled up as NRC centres. It was due to a confusion that the biometrics of these people were locked



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

Modern Kerala was formed as a result of the organised struggles led by Ayyankali and others. May the memory of Ayyankali give us strength to transform Kerala into an equal society, overcoming social inequalities. Wishing everyone a happy Ayyankali Jayanthi



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

A limit of 25 years of service has been fixed for full pension in the UPS. The biggest loss will be for paramilitary forces' personnel. Those personnel who retire before 25 years of service (VRS) will have to bear heavy losses



DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS MP

SHORT TAKES

40 people hurt in wall collapse

Patna: At least 40 people were injured after the wall of a house collapsed on them in Bihar's Patna district Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred at 2 pm in Shripalpur area on the outskirts of Patna when a religious function was going on there, a senior officer said. The house belongs to Neeraj Kumar of Shripalpur area. Around 100 people, mostly women, had gathered there to attend the religious function, Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Rajeev Mishra told PTI.

Gujarat rains: 13 fishermen rescued

Ahmedabad: Amid heavy rains in Gujarat, the Indian Coast Guard has rescued 13 fishermen on board a boat adrift in the Arabian Sea off the coast in the state's Devbhumi Dwarka district, the maritime security agency said Wednesday. Acting on an SOS message from the owner of the fishing boat 'Padmawati' Tuesday, the ICG deployed its advanced light helicopter (ALH) and a ship for their rescue, it said in a statement. The vessel was around 15 km from Dwaraka and had suffered a machinery breakdown due to rough weather and inclement sea conditions off the coast, it said.

3 killed as SUV falls into gorge

Shimla: Three devotees, including two women, from Punjab died while 10 others were injured when an SUV they were travelling in plunged into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district Wednesday, police said. The devotees were on their way to Manimahesh in Chamba when they met with the accident around 9 am Wednesday near Bhamroun on Bhamroun-Bharmani Mata Temple road.

Four killed in road mishap

Jaipur: Four people were killed when their car was hit by a cement-laden trailer in Rajasthan's Sikar district Wednesday morning, police said. According to the police, the incident took place in Ringas on the Jaipur-Bikaner highway when the trailer went out of control and hit the car before overturning. The victims got trapped inside the car and had to be pulled out with the help of a few local people, the police said.

India orders more 73,000 SIG716 rifles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: India has ordered an additional 73,000 SIG716 rifles from US firearms maker Sig Sauer, the company has said, asserting that it is proud to be a partner in the "modernisation effort" of the Indian Army.
The move comes amid a lingering border row between India and China in eastern Ladakh. The Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) had given the nod for the procurement for the additional 73,000 Sig716 rifles last December.



In a statement issued in the US, Sig Sauer said it is "honoured to announce a second procurement contract" with the government of India, Ministry of Defence to supply an additional 73,000 SIG716 rifles.
When completed, 1,45,400 SIG716 rifles will be in service with the Indian Army, it said.
India first awarded Sig Sauer a contract for the SIG716 in 2019 for 72,400 rifles.
"The successful fielding and overwhelming soldier acceptance led to this follow-on award for an additional 73,000 rifles," the statement said.
The SIG716 is an "enhanced AR platform chambered in 7.62 NATO featuring a 16-inch barrel, M-LOK handguard, and a 6-position telescoping stock", the company said.

'NIGHT PATROL, ACCESS CONTROL'

This comes a day after the ten-member National Task Force (NTF), appointed by the Supreme Court, met for the first time to formulate a protocol for the safety and security of healthcare professionals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Security audit of district hospitals, night patrolling, regulated access at large health facilities were among the measures the Centre asked states to implement to prevent violence against medics.
The Centre's directions Wednesday came after the Supreme Court, while hearing the rape-murder case of a junior doctor in Kolkata, ordered the Union health secretary to ensure states have basic measures in place to assuage doctors' concern over safety at workplaces till the court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) formulates a protocol.
The NTF, under the chairmanship of the cabinet secretary, held its first meeting Tuesday in a virtual meeting Wednesday, co-chaired by secretaries of the Union home and health ministries and attended by chief secretaries and director generals of police (DGPs), the central government officials said. State laws are already in place in 26 states and Union Territories (UTs) for safeguarding healthcare professionals.
Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan urged others to also enact such a law, according to a statement.
In a letter August 23 to chief secretaries and DGPs, Chandra said taking suo-motu cognisance

Centre's directives for safety of doctors



IMA suspends ex-RG Kar principal

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) Wednesday suspended the membership of former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Dr Sandip Ghosh, amid a CBI probe into the alleged rape and murder of a junior doctor at the Kolkata-based institute earlier this month. The decision to suspend the IMA membership of Ghosh, who is the vice president of the association's Kolkata branch, was taken by its disciplinary committee. In an order, the IMA said the committee constituted by IMA national president Dr RV Asokan Wednesday suo-motu considered the rape and murder case of the postgraduate resident doctor and the subsequent developments at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

of the Kolkata incident, the Supreme Court delivered orders August 20 and 22.
In its August 22 order, the court inter-alia directed that the health secretary to engage with chief secretaries and DGPs to ensure that states and UTs put into place "certain basic minimum requirements pending the receipt of the report of the NTF to assuage the concerns of the doctors over their safety at their workplaces", he had said.
The incident at the West Bengal government-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital earlier this month triggered nationwide protests by residents doctors to press for a central law for the security of health professionals at their workplaces and justice for their peer.
Interacting with the state of-

officials virtually, Mohan asked them to ensure CCTV cameras are installed at blind spots, integration of the 112 helpline number for healthcare workers and regulated access of large hospitals.
Chandra encouraged the states to come up with innovative ideas and laid stress on some of the immediate measures that could be considered to increase security and provide a safer working environment for healthcare workers, the statement said.
Security and safety committees should be institutionalised, and senior and junior residents and students be involved for continuous monitoring of activities and status of emergency response preparedness, Chandra said, according to the statement.
He stressed on routine security patrolling in all hospitals and

Mamata calls for death penalty for rapists

Kolkata: Asserting that her government has zero tolerance to incidents of rape, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday said an amendment to existing laws will be passed in the state Assembly next week to ensure capital punishment to convicted rapists. Banerjee said that she would sit for dharna outside Raj Bhavan here if the governor delays in giving assent to the amended bill or forwards it to the President for ratification. The chief minister also said that the TMC will launch a movement from Saturday at the state's grassroots to create pressure on the Centre to pass legislation for capital punishment of convicted rapists.



CBI starts polygraph test on Kolkata Police ASI

New Delhi: The CBI Wednesday began the process of conducting a polygraph test on Kolkata Police ASI Anup Dutta to decipher his alleged links with Sanjay Roy, arrested in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had taken permission from a Kolkata court to conduct the polygraph test on Assistant Sub-Inspector Dutta, who was earlier questioned by the agency in the case. Dutta will be the eighth person to undergo a polygraph test in this case. According to the officials, Dutta, posted in the Kolkata Police Welfare Committee, had allegedly extended a number of favours to Roy, a traffic police volunteer.

medical colleges at night.
There should be a control room on campuses of health establishments, especially in large district hospitals and medical colleges. Staff at these centres should regularly monitor CCTV cameras and secure data storage, the state officials were told.
Distress calls should be attended by control rooms and security and fire drills conducted regularly, Chandra said. He also stressed on training of contractual security personnel to upgrade their capacity.
There is also a need for patient facilitators, trolley men and multi-tasking staff in large hospitals to ferry patients on wheelchairs and stretchers to reduce the number of patient attendants and lessen the load and stress on security personnel, the health secretary said.
Chandra called for capacity building and training of doctors and other healthcare workers in bereavement protocols, especially in the emergency and casualty wards.
The Union government officials were apprised by chief secretaries and DGPs about the steps taken by states and UTs strengthen security arrangements and provide a safer working environment for healthcare workers across public and private hospitals, medical colleges and other healthcare institutions, the statement said.
The state officials said Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions to protect healthcare professionals have been displayed at hospitals and medical colleges and police verification of contractual or outsourced employees has been initiated.



A horse cart wades through a flooded road after heavy rainfall, in Mathura, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

IAF launches comic book on heroic tales to inspire youth

THE STORIES WITH COMPELLING VISUALS AIM TO FOSTER AMONG THE CHILDREN A BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THE VALUES OF COURAGE, MOTIVATION, AND PERSEVERANCE, AND TO LET THEM LEARN TO WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The Indian Air Force Wednesday launched a comic book telling the story of legendary IAF Marshal Arjan Singh and the epic Battle of Boyra fought during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, aiming to educate the youth about the glorious history of the force and motivate them to join it.
The 32-page 'Heroes of the Indian Air Force - Vol. I' was released by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at an event held at the Vayu Bhawan here.
Arjan Singh, who fought in the Burma campaign during the World War II and the 1965 Indo-Pak war, was the IAF officer to be conferred the rank of the

Marshal of the Indian Air Force and he had also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) before Independence.
The project conceived last year was led by DISHA (Directorate of Induction and Selection in a Holistic Approach) Cell of the IAF under Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari's vision.
The medium of comic books was chosen to reach young minds especially those in schools and motivate them to take up career in the Indian Air Force, according to a video played at the launch event.
The first volume has two stories - 'Find Your Calling' which tells the tale of a boy named Arjan Singh who went on to become the first Marshal of the Indian Air Force; and 'Battle of



Boyra' that narrates the story of the epic battle in the IAF's war history fought during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
The stories with compelling visuals aim to foster among the children better appreciation for values of courage, motivation and perseverance, and to let them learn to walk in his footsteps, said a senior official.
The second story has "adrenaline-pumping action sequences" seen through the pilot's eyes.

"This air combat engagement was a significant engagement of the fighting prowess and valour of young pilots of No. 22 Squadron, the Swifts, which earned the moniker Sabre Slayers," he said.
The comic book's purpose is to educate young readers and depict heroics embodied in an air combat, the IAF official said.
"For youngsters, it is a direct call to action," he said.
A pdf version of the book will be launched online and it will be available for "free sharing" on social media, the official added.
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Air Force History Cell and the Air Force Museum played a key role in providing and vetting historical facts while the IAF's Directorate of Ceremonials ensured the uniform was correctly depicted as per the period described in the stories.
This project aims to educate the youth about the glorious history of the IAF and motivate them to join the force, he said.

of the day quote

I have welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment on internal reservation. I am for internal reservation



SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

We have formed an alliance for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir



SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

The state government will give special grants to the drug-free villages across Punjab



BHAGWANT MANN | CM, PUNJAB

X POST OF THE DAY



Imagine if two women from Vasant Vihar in Delhi were found hanging from a tree. The shock, outrage, anger and incessant media coverage would have been palpable. Imagine if the police then pressured the family to quickly cremate the bodies. Actors, athletes, working women would all be on the streets protesting. The shock would have been immense because it happened to privileged women. Now compare this to the silence on Farrukhabad. Your privilege decides whether your family gets justice or not.

@ROHINI_SGH

SHORT TAKES

Woman mauled to death by stray dogs

Bengaluru: A 76-year-old retired teacher died after she was attacked by a pack of stray dogs while she was on her morning walk near her house here Wednesday, police said. According to the police, Rajdulari Sinha was suddenly attacked by at least 10-12 dogs in the playground at Air Force East 7th Residential Camp in Jahallali around 6.30 am. A case of unnatural death report has been filed in Gangamma Gudi police station, a senior police officer said.

Abhishek Singhvi elected to RS

Hyderabad: Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi has been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana in a bypoll. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Senior Vice President G Niranjan received the certificate of election on behalf of Singhvi from the returning officer here. An independent candidate had filed nomination for the bypoll, but it was rejected during scrutiny. Singhvi was the sole candidate in the fray and he was announced as elected Tuesday, the last date for withdrawal of candidatures.

Terrorist hideout busted in J&K

Poonch/Jammu: Ahead of the Assembly polls, security forces Wednesday unearthed a terrorist hideout in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered six hand grenades, officials said. The hideout was busted by a joint search party of police and Rashtriya Rifles in Dachin top area of Sindhra in Lower Krishna Ghati sector, they said. The officials said the search operation was launched in the area around 3 pm on specific information and was continuing when last reports were received.



If he (Kejriwal) had to indulge in corruption, why would he provide 200 units of free electricity, why would he build mohalla clinics, why would he provide free education and free bus travel

MANISH SISODIA | SENIOR AAP LEADER

PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN BECOMES 1ST GOAN TO GET INDIAN CITIZENSHIP

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Wednesday handed over the Indian citizenship certificate to a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian Joseph Francis Pereira under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, making him the first such person from the coastal state



Oppn parties file police complaint against Sarma

THE COMPLAINT ALLEGES THAT THE CM AND OTHER BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP) LEADERS WERE PART OF A CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY TO 'CREATE A RIOT-LIKE SITUATION IN THE STATE'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 28: Opposition parties of Assam Wednesday filed a police complaint against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, accusing him of 'promoting enmity' based on religion and race. They accused Sarma of attempting to incite communal tension by targeting a specific community, potentially leading to riot-like situations in the state. The complaint was filed by Lurinjyoti Gogoi, general secretary of the United Opposition Forum Assam (UOFA), at Dispur police station. Gogoi was accompanied by leaders of other parties of the Forum. The UOFA is an alliance of 18 parties in Assam, aligned with the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). "We are lodging this FIR against Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, who happens to be the Chief Minister of the state, for trying to promote enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion and race," the complaint, which was shared with the media, read.

The complaint was received by an official at the police station, but no case has been registered yet, police said. Referring to the alleged gangrape of a 14-year-old girl in Dhing, which evoked widespread condemnations and protests, the UOFA claimed that Sarma is 'trying to whip up communal frenzy by targeting a particular community'. It has already resulted in "attack on some people belonging to religious minority in Sivasagar by BJP workers and leaders", the Opposition parties claimed, adding that it had been done as "part of conspiracy to create a riot like situation in the state and the accused named Himanta Biswa Sarma and other BJP leaders are part of the criminal conspiracy to create such unrest".



The UOFA is an alliance of 18 parties in Assam, aligned with the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)

"We therefore request you to kindly register a case against the accused person and his co-conspirators under Section 61, 196 and 35(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and investigate," the complaint, signed by Bhupen Borah, state Congress chief and president of UOFA, and Gogoi, added. Guwahati. 'Miya' is a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in the state. Citing similar recent instances, the UOFA highlighted that the Chief Minister had allegedly targeted a journalist with "obvious communal innuendos" and accused a specific community of land encroachment by forcing original dwellers to leave by deliberately eating beef. "The belligerent nature of the accused can be gauged from the fact that in a party meeting held in the recent past, he claimed himself to be a mad dog. If such a person is not arrested and restrained immediately, he can create a riot like situation in the state for getting political mileage out of it," the FIR maintained.

"We therefore request you to kindly register a case against the accused person and his co-conspirators under Section 61, 196 and 35(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and investigate," the complaint, signed by Bhupen Borah, state Congress chief and president of UOFA, and Gogoi, added.

BOOST TO MANUFACTURING Govt to set up 12 new industrial cities

The projects will feature multi-modal connectivity infrastructure, ensuring seamless movement of people, goods, and services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Aug 28: The government Wednesday approved 12 new industrial cities in 10 states on the lines of Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh and Dholera in Gujarat to boost domestic manufacturing with an estimated investment of ₹28,602 crore.

These industrial areas will be in Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in UP, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Koppurthy in AP, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan, and one in Haryana. A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

"The Cabinet has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of ₹28,602 crore", Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said after the meeting. NICDP is expected to generate significant employment opportunities, with an estimated one million direct and up to three million indirect jobs being created through these planned areas. These projects will create an investment potential of about ₹1.52 lakh crore.

The decision followed the announcement by the government in the Budget for the development of 'plug and play' industrial parks in or near 100 cities in



partnership with states and the private sector to boost manufacturing. Eight such cities are already under different stages of implementation. Trunk infrastructure has been created in four cities -- Dholera (Gujarat), Auric (Maharashtra), Vikram Udyogpuri (Madhya Pradesh) and Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and allotment of land plots is underway for the industry.

Similarly, in the other four -- Tumakuru in Karnataka, Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Nangal Chaudhary in Haryana, and Dadri, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, the government's special purpose vehicle (SPV) is in the process of constructing the basic infrastructure like road connectivity, water and power supply.

With eight already under the development stage and the announcement of 12 new in the Budget, the total count of these cities in the country will reach 20. Briefing reporters on the decision, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the projects are expected to complete in the next three years by 2027. "For these areas, land has been acquired to create world class infrastructure. They will be developed as greenfield smart cities of global standards," Goyal told reporters here.

3 Army personnel killed as vehicle falls into gorge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, August 28: Three Army personnel died and several others were injured when their truck skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district, police said Wednesday. The accident happened around 6 am Tuesday on the Trans Arunachal Highway near Tapi village, they said. The deceased were identified as Havildar Nakhat Singh, Naik Mukesh Kumar and Grenadier Ashish Kumar, according to Army sources.

The Army truck that met with the accident was part of a convoy transporting personnel. The convoy was heading to Basar in Leparada district from Daporijo, the district headquarters town of Upper Subansiri, when the accident happened, a police officer said. Locals immediately rushed to the spot and helped in rescuing the injured persons and retrieving the bodies of the deceased.



In a post on X, the Army's Eastern Command said, "Lt Gen RC Tiwari, #ArmyCdrEC & All Ranks express deepest condolences on the sad demise of Bravehearts Hav Nakhat Singh, Nk Mukesh Kumar and Gdr Ashish who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in #ArunachalPradesh. Indian Army stands firmly with the bereaved families."

Chief Minister Pema Khandu mourned the death of the three personnel. "I am deeply pained by loss of lives of three @adgpi personnel - Havildar Nakhat Singh, Naik Mukesh Kumar and Grenadier Ashish Kumar - in a tragic accident near Tapi in Upper Subansiri district. Their service to the nation and supreme sacrifice will be remembered with the highest regards," he posted in X.

UP govt drafts new social media policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 28: The Uttar Pradesh government has drafted a new digital media policy that allows it to pay up to ₹8 lakh per month to an influencer to promote its schemes. It also warns of legal action if any "objectionable content" is put online. The move triggered sharp reaction from the Opposition, which has accused the state's BJP government of trying to stifle freedom of expression. The state government will pay up to ₹8 lakh per month to influencers and holders of these accounts on different social media platforms such as Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube depending on their followers and subscribers.

The government will also take legal action against the social media operators, influencers, firm or agency concerned in case "objectionable content" is uploaded, it stated. "In case of uploading objectionable content on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and YouTube, there is a provision for legal action against the concerned agency/firm as per rules. Under no circumstances should the content be indecent, obscene and anti-national," stated the press note signed by Principal Secretary Sanjay Prasad.

The policy will also help create jobs, the statement noted.

Outbreak of Chandipura virus in India largest in 20 years: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The WHO has recently said the current outbreak of the Chandipura virus in India is the largest in 20 years. According to the global health body, between early June and August 15, the Ministry of Health reported 245 cases of AES (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome), including 82 deaths (case fatality rate or CFR 33 per cent). A total of 43 districts in India are currently reporting AES cases.

Of these, 64 are confirmed cases of the Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection. "CHPV is endemic in India, with previous outbreaks occurring



regularly. However, the current outbreak is the largest in the past 20 years," the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in its Disease Outbreak news August 23. CHPV is a member of the Rhabdoviridae family and is known to cause sporadic cases and outbreaks of AES in western, central and southern parts of India, especially during the monsoon season. Cases are sporadically present

across various districts as in previous outbreaks. Notably, there is a rise in CHPV outbreaks every four to five years in Gujarat. It is transmitted by vectors such as sandflies, mosquitoes and ticks. The CFR from the CHPV infection is high (56-75 per cent) and there is no specific treatment or vaccine available.

"Survival can be increased with early access to care and intensive supportive care of patients," the WHO said. Surveillance efforts should be enhanced in high-risk areas, focusing on people at risks, such as children below 15 years of age presenting with acute onset of fever and central nervous system symptoms, it said.

India sees 2nd highest drop in particulate pollution: Report

THE RESEARCHERS ATTRIBUTE THE DECLINE IN PARTICULATE LEVELS IN INDIA AND OTHER SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES PRIMARILY TO FAVOURABLE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND A REDUCED NUMBER OF THERMAL INVERSIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: India logged a 19.3 per cent decline in particulate pollution in 2022, the second highest in the world after Bangladesh, adding an average of one year to the life expectancy of citizens, a new report showed Wednesday.

The annual report, "Air Quality Life Index" 2024, by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) also said that Indians are likely to lose 3.6 years of life expectancy if the country fails to meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) annual PM2.5 concentration standard of 5 micrograms per cubic metre. The researchers attributed the decline in particulate levels in India and other South Asian countries primarily to favourable meteorological conditions and a reduced number of thermal in-

versions -- when a layer of warm air traps cooler air near the ground, causing pollution to build up. PM2.5 concentrations in India in 2022 were around 9 micrograms per cubic metre (19.3 per cent) lower compared to 2021. The most significant declines were observed in Purulia and Bankura districts of West Bengal, followed by Dhanbad, Purbi, Paschim Singhbhum, Paschim Medinipur and Bokaro districts in Jharkhand. In each of these districts, PM2.5 concentrations dropped by over 20 micrograms per cubic metre.

Despite the decline in pollution, 42.6 per cent of the Indian people live in areas which exceed the country's national air quality standard of 40 micrograms per cubic metre. People in Delhi -- India's capital and most populous city -- would gain 7.8 years of life ex-



pectancy if all of India were to reduce particulate pollution to meet the WHO guideline. In North 24 Parganas -- the country's second most populous district -- people would gain 3.6 years of life expectancy, the report said. It said that the northern plains, the most polluted region in India, saw a 17.2 per cent reduction in

particulate levels in 2022 compared to 2021. However, despite this improvement, the average resident in this region is still likely to lose about 5.4 years of life ex-

pectancy if the current pollution levels persist. On the other hand, if the decline in particulate levels continues at the same rate in the coming years, life expectancy in the northern plains could increase by 1.2 years. Beyond the northern plains, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have the highest burden of pollution in the country. On average, 292.3 million people living in these states are now losing 2.9 years of life expectancy.

The report clearly shows that even a modest reduction in air pollution levels could lead to increased life expectancy. Air pollution, even at low levels, significantly shortens lives and poses serious public health risks.

"Our current national air quality standards fall short of protecting public health and must be revised in line with World Health Organisation guidelines. We have the tools and technologies to solve the air pollution crisis, what we need now is the political will to implement them," said Avinash Chanchal, Campaign Manager, Greenpeace India.

Launched in 2019, the NCAP is India's first national effort to set clean air targets, aiming for a 20-30 per cent reduction in particulate pollution by 2024, using 2017 as the base year. The revised target is a 40 per cent reduction by 2026, with 2019-20 as the base year. The programme covers 131 non-attainment cities, which consistently failed to meet the prescribed national ambient air quality standards between 2011 and 2015.

The report clearly shows that even a modest reduction in air pollution levels could lead to increased life expectancy

international

of the day quote

This is not the first time that we have heard such statements (regarding Zelensky's plan to end war) from representatives of the Kyiv regime.

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

We still need help, and we will continue to ask for it. Not because we are bold, but because it is vital for our survival.

OLENA ZELENSKA | FIRST LADY, UKRAINE

There are those who work systematically and with every means to reject migrants. And this, when done with conscience and responsibility, is a grave sin.

POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SHORT TAKES

B'desh lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami

Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus Wednesday lifted a ban on the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party that was imposed by the former Prime Minister who was ousted in nationwide protests against her rule.

Pak EC summons party leaders

Islamabad: Pakistan's election commission has summoned the leaders of several political parties to appear before it September 4 over their failure to allocate at least five per cent of the party tickets to women candidates in the February 8 general elections, a media report said Wednesday.

Israel mounts West Bank ops

Ten Palestinians killed in a major operation in the occupied West Bank, involving helicopters and drones

REUTERS

Jenin, August 28: At least ten Palestinians were killed Wednesday, Palestinian authorities said, as Israeli forces raided the flashpoint cities of Jenin and Tulkarm as well as other areas in the occupied West Bank in a major operation involving helicopters and drones.

The assault, one of the largest seen in the West Bank for months, followed a series of smaller raids in the area over recent weeks as Israeli forces sought to crush groups of fighters from Palestinian militant groups.

With Israeli forces battling Hamas fighters in Gaza and facing a major escalation of tensions with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement in southern Lebanon, Wednesday's operation underscored the multiple security threats Israel has been battling since the start of the Gaza war last year.

The armed wings of the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah factions said in separate statements their gunmen were detonating bombs against Israeli military vehicles in the three West Bank areas.



Israeli military says raids thwarted 'immediate threat' to civilians

Palestinian militant groups say fighters battling Israeli troops

A short distance outside the city, blood soaked the ground next to a damaged car and an impact crater from a drone strike the Israeli military said had killed three militant fighters.

The Palestinian health ministry said troops had surrounded Jenin's main hospital, blocking off access with earth mounds, a measure the military said was intended to stop fighters seeking refuge. Earlier, the military released the names of

five Palestinians identified as militant fighters who were killed in Tulkarm Monday. Two were claimed by Hamas and three by Islamic Jihad.

As well as the major raids in Jenin and Tulkarm, two of the most volatile cities in the northern West Bank, the military said forces also raided the town of Far'a near Tubas in the Jordan Valley, killing at least four people in a drone strike.

Israeli tank in Khan Younis kills 34



Cairo: Israeli forces sent tanks deeper into Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip and launched strikes across the enclave as they battled Hamas-led militants, killing at least 34 Palestinians Wednesday, according to medics. Residents of Khan Younis said Israeli tanks made a surprise advance into the centre of the city, and the military ordered evacuations in the east, forcing many families to run for safety, while others were trapped at home. Palestinian health officials said the Israeli strikes in Khan Younis killed at least 11 people. In the central city of Deir Al-Balah, where at least a million people were sheltering, an Israeli airstrike killed eight Palestinians near a school housing displaced families, medics said.

Iran gets first woman as govt spokesperson

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tehran, August 28: In another first, a woman will be the public face of the new Iranian government with Fatemeh Mohajerani being appointed the government spokesperson of Masoud Pezeshkian regime.

The appointment was made by President Pezeshkian in a cabinet meeting Wednesday, Iranian media reported. Mohajerani, 54, is a Doctor of Business Administration from Edinburgh and has earlier served as the head of the Technical and Vocational Training University of Shariati (for women) in the 11th government.

Mohajerani was named the head of the Center for Brilliant Talents by then-Education Minister Seyyed Mohammad Bat'hai in 2017 and has held other positions in the Education Ministry too.

This is the latest appointment of a woman to a senior position. President Pezeshkian had, last week, appointed Shina Ansari as Iran's Deputy President and Head of the Department of Environment. Ansari, whose LinkedIn pro-



file describes her as an experienced environmental specialist with a demonstrated history of working in environmental services and skilled in waste, RCRA, sustainable development, and environmental compliance, replaces Ali Salajegheh as head of the Department of Environment.

A PhD in Environmental Management from the Science & Research University, she was presently the Advisor at the Air Quality Control Centre at Tehran Municipality and previously had been Head of Environment and Sustainable Development at the Municipality and General Director of the Bureau of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Monitoring in the Department of Environment.

CHINA'S LARGEST CORRUPTION CASE

Former CCP official gets death penalty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 28: A former Chinese Communist Party (CCP) official, accused of embezzling a staggering \$421 million, the largest-ever corruption case in China's history, was sentenced to death by a court in Inner Mongolia.

The Higher People's Court of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Tuesday turned down the appeal by Li Jianping, who was sentenced to death in September 2022 for corruption, bribery, embezzlement and engaging in organised crime.

He was found guilty by an intermediate court for pocketing a staggering 3 billion yuan (\$421 million) in illegal gains, the largest sum involved in a single corruption case in China's history, Chinese news portal Caixin Global reported.

The ruling would be submitted to the Supreme People's Court for final examination and approval, said the court.

The court ruling found him guilty of multiple crimes, noting his extreme malice, severe social impact and the gravity of his offences, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Li, 64, once headed a special economic zone in Hohhot and the city's water management authority. He is the third official to be sentenced to death after being found guilty of graft since 2007 when China tightened the death penalty after Lai Xiaomin, former chairman of



state-owned China Huarong Asset Management Co Ltd, and Zhang Zhongsheng, a former vice mayor of Luliang in Shanxi province.

Li was a mid-level local official in the Chinese bureaucratic system, with his corrupt behaviour and prosecution flying largely under the public's radar.

His downfall in late 2018 attracted little attention at first, but as more details emerged, his case shocked the nation due to the huge amounts involved, the report said.

Li has been accused of using his position as the Communist Party chief and director of Hohhot Water Authority from 2001 and as secretary of the party working committee of the Hohhot Economic and Technological Development Zone a decade later to collect 578 million yuan (about \$83 million) in exchange for favours relating to construction projects and business contracts.

He also maintained close contact with a leader of a criminal syndicate and condoned the organisation's illegal activities, Xinhua reported.

TV journalist's body recovered in Dhaka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 28: The body of a 32-year-old woman TV journalist in Bangladesh was recovered from a lake here in the capital Wednesday, according to media reports.

The deceased was identified as Sarah Rahanuma, a newsroom editor at Gazi TV, a Bengali-language satellite and cable television channel owned by Gazi Group.

Her body was found floating in Hatirjheel Lake in Dhaka, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in charge of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost, confirmed the recovery of her body.

Pedestrians pulled the body from the lake and took it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where the doctor declared her dead around 2:00 am.

A man named Sagar, who brought Sarah to the hospital, said "I saw the woman floating in Hatirjheel Lake. Later, she was brought to DMCH, where doctors declared her dead."

Before her death, Sarah posted a status on her Facebook Tuesday night tagging one Fahim Faysal. "It was nice having a friend like you. God bless you always. Hope, you'll fulfil all your dreams soon. I know we had a lot of planning together. Sorry, can't fulfil our plans. May God bless you in every aspect of your life," she wrote.

In an earlier post, she wrote "It is better to die than to live a life akin to death."

Inspector Bachchu Mia said the body was kept in the DMCH morgue. Police have stated that an investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of her death.



A defaced mural of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina on a metro pier seen in the backdrop of the iconic 'Anti Terrorism Raju Memorial Sculpture', in Dhaka

SNIPPETS

Starmer, Scholz seek reset in British-EU ties



Berlin: Britain and Germany's leaders agreed in talks in Berlin Wednesday to work on an "ambitious" treaty covering issues from defence to trade that would be part of a reset of British relations with the European Union. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's two-day trip to the EU's top powers, Germany and France, aims to help Britain move beyond the previous Conservative government's fractious relations with European allies. Starmer, who took office last month, has put improved ties at the heart of his efforts to boost Britain's economic growth. He billed the new cooperation treaty as a "once-in-a-generation chance to deliver for working people in Britain and in Germany" as it would deepen collaboration in science, technology, business and culture while increasing trade.

Typhoon Shanshan: Japan issues emergency warning



Tokyo: Southwestern Japan braced Wednesday for what officials say could be one of the strongest storms to ever hit the region, as some residents in the path of Typhoon Shanshan were ordered to evacuate and major firms like Toyota, closed factories. Airlines and rail operators cancelled some services for the coming days as the typhoon, categorised as "very strong", barreled towards the main southwestern island of Kyushu with gusts of up to 70 metres per second. The meteorological agency issued an emergency warning saying the typhoon could bring flooding, landslides and wind strong enough to knock down some houses.

US surgeon general calls parent stress a public health challenge

THE ADVISORY ISSUED BY SURGEON GENERAL VIVEK MURTHY HIGHLIGHTS A LONG LIST OF ISSUES THAT STRESS OUT PARENTS AND CALLS FOR POLICY CHANGES AND BETTER COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THEM

REUTERS

Washington, August 28: The US surgeon general Wednesday issued a public health advisory about the impact of modern stresses on parents' mental health, calling on government, businesses and community organizations to increase resources to provide them more support.

The advisory issued by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who has used the format previously to address the risks from gun violence and of social media on youth, highlighted a long list of issues that stress out parents and called for policy changes and better community support for them, other caregivers and families as a whole.

Among the policy recommendations, Murthy pressed for federal, state, tribal and local governments to expand funding that supports parents, establish a national paid family and medical leave program, see to it that workers have paid sick time, and provide caregivers with access to affordable mental health care options.

Murthy told Reuters in an interview that parents' mental health had an impact on their offspring.

"Behind this youth mental health crisis is real crisis with



Behind this youth mental health crisis is real crisis with parents, where many of them are struggling with profound stress and with their own mental health challenges

VIVEK MURTHY | SURGEON GENERAL, US

parents, where many of them are struggling with profound stress and with their own mental health challenges," Murthy told Reuters in an interview. "If you really want to help kids, one of the things you've got to do is

actually help parents." The advisory called for employers to put in place training programs for managers about stress management and work-life balance and encouraged healthcare professionals and so-

cial service groups to screen parents for mental health conditions.

Murthy said there were at least 63 million parents and caregivers, and 48% describe themselves as completely overwhelmed. Parents, particularly single ones, are also experiencing a disproportionate level of loneliness, he said.

President Joe Biden's legislation ensuring paid family and medical leave for Americans was thwarted by Republicans and some Democrats in Congress. Murthy, whose time in office is expected to conclude at the end of Biden's term in January, said he did not see the issue as political.

"As a country, we need to invest more in caring for parents and supporting their well-being," he said. "My hope is that the well-being of parents would not be a political or partisan issue."

'Africa's mpox response is less than 10% funded'

REUTERS

Dakar, August 28: Africa has secured less than 10% of the estimated \$245 million it needs to fight a surging mpox outbreak on the continent, a senior official from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Wednesday.

The continent is under pressure to curb an outbreak of the potentially deadly infection that the World Health Organization declared to be a global health emergency in mid-August, after a new strain began proliferating from Democratic Republic of Congo to neighbouring countries.

Africa CDC has pulled together a budget to determine the amount of money available for the mpox response and the resources it needs to mobilise. "We've come to the first esti-

mate of \$245 million," Africa CDC Chief of Staff Ngashi Ngongo said at a WHO meeting in the Republic of Congo's capital Brazzaville.

Democratic Republic of Congo's government has committed \$10 million to support the fight against the outbreak while the African Union has approved \$10.4 million, Ngongo said.

Therefore, about \$20 million is currently available for the response, he said, adding that these figures would be updated. "The current gap where we stand today is about \$224 million that we are looking for," he said.

Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, said during the meeting that the organisation was moving towards securing almost 1 million doses of mpox vaccine.

Test cricket a priority for Jay

New ICC chief wants to promote the longest format as it helps a player to develop the basics

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 28: Newly-elected ICC chairman Jay Shah said Wednesday he will look to ensure that Test cricket forms the 'bedrock' of the game in his tenure during which he will also try to 'dismantle barriers that have hindered cricket's progress'. The 35-year-old will relinquish his current position of BCCI secretary to succeed December 1 incumbent Greg Barclay as the youngest ICC chairman for a term of two years.

"While the T20 is a naturally exciting format, it is equally important that Test cricket remains a priority for everyone as it forms the bedrock of our game," Shah said in a statement issued by the BCCI. "We must see to it that cricketers are driven to the longer format and our efforts will be channelised towards this goal," the new ICC chief added.

Shah said he would also like to work towards setting up a separate programme for talent search. He emphasised on lifting the standard of the game across the globe.

"I want to assure you that I will do everything possible to elevate the standard of our game across the globe. As I step into this pivotal role, I am resolutely committed to meeting your high expectations and dedicating myself to the beautiful game of cricket," Shah stated.

Shah became the fifth Indian after the late Jagmohan Dalmiya,



Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar to be elected for the high-profile job.

"With cricket poised to make its historic debut at the Olympics in 2028, we stand at the precipice of a transformative era. This juncture is not merely a milestone; it's a clarion call for all of us involved in this magnificent

sport. It is my privilege to lead the ICC during such an exciting period in our shared journey," Shah said.

Meanwhile once it became clear Tuesday that Shah will be next ICC chief, congratulatory messages started pouring in.

Legendary cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar said that Shah's ef-

orts as BCCI secretary in giving equal priority to men's and women's cricket have made the Indian board a 'pioneer' for other governing bodies of the game to follow.

"Being enthusiastic and having the drive to do something good for cricket are essential qualities for a cricket adminis-

“We must see to it that cricketers are driven to the longer format and our efforts will be channelised towards this goal”
JAY SHAH

trator @JayShah displayed these traits wonderfully during his stint as @BCCI secretary," Tendulkar wrote on 'X'. "His endeavours towards prioritising both women's cricket and men's cricket have made the BCCI a pioneer that other boards can follow," Tendulkar added.

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly, who was the BCCI president during Shah's first term wrote, "Congratulations to Jay Shah @JayShah on his new role as ICC chair... Wish him a great journey ahead..." (sic)

India's batting mainstay Virat Kohli also congratulated Shah for his new role. "Many congratulations @JayShah on being elected as the ICC chairman. Wishing you great success ahead," he wrote. India's Test and ODI skipper Rohit Sharma wrote, "Heartiest Congratulations @JayShah."

Jasprit Bumrah also extended his wishes, "Congratulations @Jay Shah bhai! Your passion for the game will ensure it's taken to the next level. Wishing you lots of luck!"

Para athletes can win 10 medals, says coach



World record holder Sumit Antil in javelin throw is a prime medal contender at the Paralympics

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 28: India can clinch 10 medals including five golds in athletics at the Paralympics head coach Satyanarayana has said. He added that the aim will be to better their performances from the last edition. Satyanarayana said the Indian athletes have trained intensely for the Paris Para Games.

"In Tokyo, many of our athletes secured silver and bronze medals. Our focus this time is to convert those into gold. I am very sure that the sports persons can achieve their goals," Satyanarayana said in a release.

"The training has been intense, and our athletes have shown incredible dedication. Most of them have already reached Paris to acclimatise to the conditions and continue their rigorous training," Satyanarayana added.

Among the Indian athletes who are expected to excel are Sumit Antil (men's javelin F64), Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump T42), Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20), Sachin Khilari (men's shotput F46), Ekta Bhyana (women's club throw F52) and Simran Sharma (women's 200m T12). Antil is the world record-holder in the para-javelin event.

With 19 medals, India finished at the 24th spot in the tally with five gold, eight silver and six bronze medals in the

'Best wishes' from Neeraj

New Delhi: Paris Olympics silver medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra extended his best wishes for the Indian contingent for the Paralympics, which gets underway Wednesday. "My best wishes to all the incredible Indian athletes competing in the Paralympic Games which begin in Paris today (Wednesday). Keep inspiring us!" Chopra posted on 'X'. India's campaign will begin Thursday with para archery, where Tokyo bronze medallist Harvinder Singh will feature in men's recurve ranking round and Sarita will play in the women's compound open category. India have won 31 medals from the previous 11 editions of the Paralympic Games.

Tokyo Paralympics. In athletics, India won eight medals including one gold, five silver and two bronze.

"This time I am sure that the medal tally in athletics will increase. In the last few years, our para-athletes have performed exceedingly well in the Asian Games and the World Championships. If they show the same level of performance in Paris, I am sure we will win 10 or more medals in athletics," Satyanarayana stated.

SHORT TAKES

Zaheer chosen as LSG mentor

Kolkata: Former India speedster Zaheer Khan assumed Wednesday the role of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) team mentor and termed it the start of something 'very, very special' for the franchise that failed to win the IPL despite reaching the playoffs twice in three seasons. LSG finished seventh in the last edition of the IPL. "LSG are a relatively young franchise in IPL, but it has not been looked upon like that, the building blocks are pretty much in place," Zaheer said at the media interaction at the RPSG Group headquarters here. "I am hoping that we will be able to regain lost glory in the IPL this time," he added.

Dhull recovering after heart surgery

New Delhi: Yash Dhull, who captained India to the 2022 U-19 World Cup triumph, has returned to competitive cricket after undergoing a minor heart surgery. Rajesh Nagar, Dhull's coach for more than a decade said Wednesday that the top-order batter went under the knife in the first half of July after a small hole was detected in Dhull's heart during a camp at the NCA. "Even though he is not 100 per cent, Dhull is recovering," Nagar informed.

Shuttlers bow out

Seoul: Shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha, Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap bowed out in the opening round of the Korea Open to draw curtains on India's campaign in the super 500 badminton tournament here Wednesday. Ashmita lost to World No 17 Pornpawee Chochuwong 8-21, 13-21, while Aakarshi went down 15-21, 15-21 to Denmark's Line Christophersen. Malvika, however, produced a gallant fight before going down narrowly 21-18, 15-21, 17-21 to Danish player Hojmark Kjaersfeldt.

Footballer dies

Sao Paulo: Uruguayan soccer player Juan Izquierdo died Tuesday at a hospital five days after collapsing during a game here. He was 27. Hospital Albert Einstein here said in a statement that the Nacional defender died following 'cardiorespiratory arrest associated with his cardiac arrhythmia'.

Judoka Tanushree dreams big

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Like any other young kid she has dreams and aspirations of making it to the big stage. And to turn those dreams into reality, judoka Tanushree Das is determined to overcome all obstacles.

Recently Tanushree, a Class IX student of Ghatikia Government High School in the Odisha capital hogged the limelight by winning bronze in the 32kg sub-junior category at the IVth East Zone Khelo India Women's Judo League. The event, held August 16 to 19 at the SAI Nehru Stadium in Shillong, Meghalaya, saw some of the region's best talents compete fiercely.

Despite coming from a humble background, Tanushree's achievement is nothing short of



extra-ordinary. The bronze she won has acted as a catalyst for her to do better in future.

"I went there determined to win gold. Although I couldn't

achieve that, I've learned from my mistakes. This bronze medal is no less than gold to me. My parents and everyone around me are happy with this achievement, and I want to work harder in future to make them happier," Tanushree stated.

Tanushree's judo journey began as a means of self-defence but quickly evolved into a deep passion. Supported by 'Unmukt Foundation', which helps underprivileged children like her, she rapidly progressed in the sport, showcasing not only her skills but also her perseverance and resilience. Tanushree's dedication is evident - she even cut her long hair to meet the weight category requirements (shades of Vinesh Phogat).

Her mother, Kajal Rekha, reflected on Tanushree's journey

with pride. "Winning and losing aren't always in our control, but it is always our endeavour to support her. My daughter has worked hard and we are extremely proud of her achievements," Kajal Rekha said.

Tanushree's father, Ramakant is also overjoyed at his daughter's achievement. "I learned she had won bronze when she received her medal. We are incredibly proud of her achievement. Being a girl should never limit her from excelling in sports. I'm proud of her determination," Ramakant stated.

Shweta Agarwal, the founder of the 'Unmukt Foundation', expressed confidence in Tanushree's potential. "What she has achieved is nothing short of remarkable," stated Agarwal.

Cuttack, Sundargarh, Kenojhar enter semis



The victorious Keonjhar women's football team

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Cuttack won Wednesday their respective quarterfinal matches and qualified for the semifinals of the Senior Women's Inter-District football tournament for the PC Behera trophy being played at Bargarh. While two of the quarterfinals were one-sided encounters, the match between Kendrapara and Sundargarh was a hard-fought match.

In the end, it was the better ball possession of Sundargarh which helped them to win the game by a margin of 2-0 against Kendrapara. Both the goals came in the second half with Rupashree Munda (48th) and Pratima Oram (58th) scoring for the winners. However, Kendrapara had their chances and had they utilised those, the result of the game could have been different.

In another quarterfinal, Keonjhar trounced Bhubaneswar

14-0. The star performer of the game was Sabita Mohanty who scored five goals including a hat-trick. She opened Keonjhar's account in the second minute of the game and followed it up with strikes in the fourth, 20th, 22nd and 70th minutes. The other goals were scored by Pinky Purty (seventh, 27th), Anisha Kumbhar (55th, 83rd), Kuni Munda (24th), Kusum Munda (44th), Ambaruta Nayak (59th), Anjali Bhuyan (85th) and Muskan Thakur (86th).

In the third quarterfinal played on the day, Cuttack blanked Jharsuguda 5-0. The footballers of Cuttack dominated proceedings right from the start and rarely allowed the opposition to have a look at their goal. Sumita Swain opened the account for Cuttack in the sixth minute. It was followed by three goals including a hat-trick by Barsha Mahakud (39th, 41st, 84th). In between Barsha's goals, Sheela Singh added to Cuttack's tally with a strike in the 76th minute.

Osaka back with a bang at US Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 28: A year ago, still on maternity leave and still unsure when she would play elite tennis again, Naomi Osaka visited the US Open to appear with Michael Phelps for a discussion about mental health.

Osaka however, was not at all nervous when she took the court Tuesday at the Flushing Meadows overpowering No 10 seed Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2. It was Osaka's first victory against a top 10 opponent in more than four years.

Osaka claimed titles in New York in 2018 and 2020, along with a pair of trophies at the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021, and her match-up against 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko marked the first time two past major champs faced off in the opening round at the US Open since Serena Williams defeated Maria Sharapova five years ago. Another such contest came Tuesday night, when 2020



Naomi Osaka celebrates after her win over Jelena Ostapenko

PHOTO X

Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin beat 2021 US Open winner Emma Raducanu 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

"Having a win here means a lot, and I think for me, I've been struggling with confidence throughout the year," said Osaka. "This time now forces me to look in the mirror and say, 'Hey, you've done re-

ally well here. There's no reason why you can't do well again'."

Other women moving into the second round included No 1 Iga Swiatek, who got past Kamilla Rakhimova 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) by taking the last five points after needing to erase a trio of set points because she trailed 3-6 in the tie-breaker

Pathak replaces just-retired Sreejesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: As expected, Krishan Bahadur Pathak, was Wednesday named the main goalkeeper after the retirement of PR Sreejesh in the Harmanpreet Singh-led 18-member Indian team for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy. The tournament will see defending champions India vie for top honours alongside Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and hosts China at Hulunbuir September 8-17.

Sreejesh announced his retirement after India won a sec-

INDIA'S MATCHES	
Vs China	Sept 8
Vs Japan	Sept 9
Vs Japan	Sept 11
Vs Korea	Sept 12
Vs Pak	Sept 14

ond successive Olympic bronze medal in Paris earlier this month. Hence Pathak will now be the man in charge under the bar, while Suraj Karkera will be the reserve custodian.

Experienced midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad has been made the vice-captain in place of Hardik Singh who has been rested along

with Mandeep Singh, Lalit Upadhyay, Shamsher Singh and Gurjant Singh.

The squad: (Goalkeepers): Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera; **(Defenders):** Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh (captain), Jugraj Singh, Sanjay Sumit; **(Midfielders):** Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Manpreet Singh, Md Raheel Mauseen; **(Forwards):** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Uttam Singh and Gurjot Singh.

NITR celebrates National Sports Day

Rourkela, August 28: To celebrate National Sports Day 2024 and to promote the 'Fit India' campaign the student activity centre at NIT Rourkela (NITR) organised a table tennis tournament for female students. The event was held August 26 at the Dilip Tirkey Stadium-NITR. Muskan Agarwal emerged champion while Manaswita Ghose was the runner up. The event was inaugurated by Prof Niranjan Panda, Dean of Student Affairs, NITR, in presence of Prof Rajeev Kumar Panda. Officials said NITR will continue its celebration of National Sports Day with a swimming competition August 31, open to inmates of NIT Rourkela.