

Daily News Updates

2nd Sept 2025

Topics Covered

- Tianjin Declaration
- Earthquake- Afghanistan
- Samagra Sikhya Fund
- AQLI report
- Cerebo
- Noise Pollution
- Gotipua- Odia Dance



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ସରିଲା ୨୫ତମ ଏସ୍‌ସିଓ ଶିଖର ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ

ପହଲଗାମ୍ ଆକ୍ରମଣକୁ ନିନ୍ଦା

ବେଜିଂ, ୧/୯: ଚୀନର ତିଆନଜିନ୍ ସହରରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ସାଂଘାୟ ସହଯୋଗ ସଂଗଠନ (ଏସ୍‌ସିଓ)ର ଦୁଇ ଦିନିଆ ଶିଖର ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଆଜି ଶେଷ ହୋଇଛି। ୨୫ତମ ଶିଖର ସମ୍ମିଳନୀର ମିଳିତ ଘୋଷଣାକାମାରେ ଗତ ଏପ୍ରିଲ ୨୨ର ପହଲଗାମ୍ ଆକ୍ରମଣକୁ

ଦସ୍ତଖତ କଲା ପାକିସ୍ତାନ
ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ବିରୋଧରେ
ଦୃଢ଼ ନିନ୍ଦା କରାଯାଇଛି
ଫୈତ ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ
ଗ୍ରହଣୀୟ ନୁହେଁ: ମୋଦୀ

ଘଟଣାକୁ ନିନ୍ଦା କରାଯାଇଛି। ପହଲଗାମ୍ ଆକ୍ରମଣକୁ ନିନ୍ଦା କରାଯାଇଛି। ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ବିରୋଧରେ ଦୃଢ଼ ନିନ୍ଦା କରାଯାଇଛି। ପାକିସ୍ତାନର ନାଁ ନିଆଯାଇ ନଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସେହି ଦେଶ ମିଳିତ ଘୋଷଣାକାମାରେ

ଦସ୍ତଖତ କରିଛି। ଏସ୍‌ସିଓ ଦେଶଗୁଡ଼ିକର ମିଳିତ ଶତ୍ରୁ ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଇଛି। ଏଥିରେ ରୁଷ୍, ଚୀନ ଓ ଇରାନ ସମେତ ଏସ୍‌ସିଓର ୧୦ ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ସଦସ୍ୟ ଦସ୍ତଖତ କରିଛନ୍ତି।

ଜୁନ୍ ୨୨ରେ ଏସ୍‌ସିଓର ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କର ବୈଠକ ଚୀନର କୁଙ୍ଗାତାଓ ସହରରେ ହୋଇଥିଲା। ଭାରତ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ରାଜନାଥ ସିଂହ ବୈଠକରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। କିନ୍ତୁ ପହଲଗାମ୍ ଆକ୍ରମଣ ଘଟଣାକୁ ନିନ୍ଦା କରାଯାଇ ନଥିବାରୁ ରାଜନାଥ ସେଥିରେ ଦସ୍ତଖତ କରିବାକୁ ମନା କରିଦେଇଥିଲେ। କିନ୍ତୁ ଏସ୍‌ସିଓର ଶିଖର ବୈଠକରେ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ବଦଳି ଯାଇଛି।

ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଗଲେ ମୋଦୀ, ପୁଟିନ



ବେଜିଂ, ୧/୯: ଚୀନର ତିଆନଜିନ୍‌ରେ ଆଜି ଏସ୍‌ସିଓ ଶିଖର ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଶେଷ ହେବାପରେ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ଏବଂ ରୁଷ୍ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଭୁଦିମିର ପୁଟିନ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵିପାକ୍ଷିକ ବୈଠକସ୍ଥଳକୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଯାତ୍ରା କରିଥିଲେ। ନିଜେ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମୋଦୀ ଏକ ପୋଷ୍ଟ କରି ଏସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି। ମୋଦୀ କହିଛନ୍ତି, ଏସ୍‌ସିଓ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ଶେଷ ହେବାପରେ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ପୁଟିନ ଓ ମୁଁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଦ୍ଵିପାକ୍ଷିକ ବୈଠକ ସ୍ଥଳକୁ ଯାଇଥିଲୁ। ତାଙ୍କ ସହ ଖୁବ୍ ଫଳପ୍ରସ୍ତ କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା।

SCO heads strongly condemn terrorist attack in Pahalgam

Declaration was signed and adopted by all members; they also oppose 'unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature'

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh
TIANJIN

The 10-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on Monday “strongly condemned” terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the Pahalgam attack and the attacks on Jaffar Express and Khuzdar in Pakistan.

The Tianjin Declaration, signed and adopted by all members, including India, Pakistan, and Russia, called for an end to “cross-border movement” of terrorists. The declaration reaffirmed the bloc’s “firm commitment to fight



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin on Monday. ANI

Oppose terrorism: PM at SCO summit **Modi touts peace as he meets Putin**

border movement” of terrorists. The declaration reaffirmed the bloc’s “firm commitment to fight against terrorism, separatism, and extremism”, and stressed the inadmissibility of attempts to use terrorist, separatist, and extremist groups for “mercenary purposes”.

The member states also opposed “unilateral coercive measures, including those of an economic nature”, that contravene the United Nations charter and principles of the World Trade Organization, in a possible reference to the U.S. tariffs.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who chaired the

Oppose terrorism: PM at SCO summit

TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked whether “open support” of terrorism by some countries was acceptable, as he spoke at the summit meet of the heads of state of the SCO on Monday. “We must jointly oppose terrorism in all its forms and colours,” he said. » **PAGE 11**

meeting of the heads of the member states, in his opening remarks, criticised the “bullying behaviour” in the world order and called upon leaders to

Modi touts peace as he meets Putin

TIANJIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and stressed the need for a ceasefire in Ukraine. “Had an excellent meeting with President Putin... Discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in all sectors,” he said. » **PAGE 11**

“adhere to fairness and justice” while opposing “cold war mentality”.

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SCO heads condemn Pahalgam terror attack

“The shadows of Cold War mentality, bullying, are not dissipating, and there are new challenges that are increasing, not diminishing,” said Mr. Xi, who has often used the term “cold war mentality” to refer to the uncertainties over the U.S. tariffs.

The declaration at the summit, which focused on strengthening the Global South amid global uncertainties in trade and a “fluid and chaotic global situation”, opened by stating that the world was undergoing “profound historical changes that affect all spheres of political, socio-economic, and social relations”. Mr. Xi, who chaired the ‘SCO plus’ meeting on Monday afternoon, proposed a Global Governance Initiative (GGI), calling on countries to work in concert for a more just and equitable global governance system, abiding by international rule of law, practising multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions.

China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi, following the summit on Monday night, said the GGI aims at supporting the UN’s central role in international affairs and encouraging countries to participate in the reform of global governance system by relying on multilateral mechanisms. He also said that Pakistan and Armenia had announced development of diplomatic relationship at the summit.

Announcing that the grouping has decided to merge the statuses given to non-member countries – dialogue partner and observer – to a single partner status, Mr. Wang said that Laos has been accepted as a partner country of the SCO, taking the total strength of the grouping to 27 with 10 members and 17 partners. Secretary-General of the SCO, Nurlan Yermekbayev, said that an agreement was made to establish an SCO development bank, a long-term ambition of Beijing.

Taking note of Israel’s ongoing war on Gaza and the catastrophic humanitarian situation engulfing the Gaza Strip, all the member states expressed “deep concern” and strongly condemned “actions that have led to numerous casualties among the civilian population” in the enclave. A “comprehensive and just settlement” of the Palestinian issue is the only way to ensure peace in West Asia, the declaration said.

India also joined the fellow members of the grouping to strongly condemn the military strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran, a member state, in June that targeted Tehran’s nuclear facilities. The member states reaffirmed the importance of the UN Security Council resolution 2231 which included provisions for lifting sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme.

The declaration also took note of the political situation in Afghanistan, which holds an observer status in the grouping but did not attend the summit. The members reiterated that the formation of an “inclusive government with broad participation of representatives of all ethno-political groups” of the society is the only way to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

All the member states, except India, also reaffirmed their support for China’s Belt and Road Initiative. Mr. Xi, in his opening remarks, also pledged to provide ¥2 billion in grants to member countries within this year, and an additional ¥10 billion in loan to member banks of the SCO Interbank Consortium over the next three years. He also said that the group should set up an “SCO development bank” as soon as possible.

The declaration also welcomed a resolution by the UN General Assembly that called for “combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to escalating contemporary forms of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance”.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haider)

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh is in China at an invitation from the China Public Diplomacy Association.

Over 800 killed, 2,800 injured as earthquake strikes Afghanistan

Agence France-Presse
NURGAL

A strong earthquake and multiple aftershocks collapsed homes onto sleeping families in a remote, mountainous region in Afghanistan on Monday, killing more than 800 people and injuring at least 2,800.

A massive rescue operation is under way in the area, according to the Taliban authorities.

The 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck just before midnight, rattling buildings from Kabul to



Devastating disaster: Civil defence workers, local people, and soldiers helping the injured in earthquake-hit Afghanistan. AP

neighbouring Pakistan's capital, Islamabad.

The epicentre was about 27 km off Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, ac-

ording to the U.S. Geological Survey.

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India extends assistance to earthquake-hit Afghanistan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Monday started sending relief material for the earthquake-affected people of Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives and said India would provide "all possible humanitarian aid" to Afghanistan. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families in this difficult hour, and we wish a speedy recovery to the injured," Mr. Modi said in a message.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with the 'Foreign Minister' of Taliban administration, Amir Khan Muttaqi. "Conveyed that India has delivered 1,000 family tents today in Kabul. 15 tonnes of food material is also being immediately moved by Indian Mission from Kabul to Kunar. Further relief material will be sent from India starting tomorrow," he said.

ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନରେ କାହିଁକି ହୁଏ ଅଧିକ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ

କାବୁଲ, ୧/୯: ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଆସି ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନକୁ ଧ୍ବଂସକାରୀ କରୁଥିବାବେଳେ ଅନେକ ଜୀବନ ହାନି ହେଉଛି। ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନର ଅବସ୍ଥିତି ସବୁଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ପ୍ରବଣ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ରହିଛି। ଭାରତୀୟ ଏବଂ ଯୁରେସିଆନ୍ ପ୍ଲେଟ୍ ମିଶିଥିବା ଅନେକ ଫଲ୍ଟ ଲାଇନ ଉପରେ ଏହା ଥିବାରୁ ଟେକ୍ଟୋନିକ ପ୍ଲେଟ୍ରେ ହଠାତ୍ କୌଣସି ଗତିବିଧି ହେଲେ ଫଲ୍ଟ ଲାଇନ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଥାଏ।



ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନରେ ଅଗଭୀର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଅଧିକ ଘଟିଥାଏ। ଅନ୍ୟପକ୍ଷରେ ହିନ୍ଦୁକୁଶ ପର୍ବତମାଳା ଉଭୟ ଗଭୀର ଏବଂ ଅଗଭୀର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପର ଉତ୍ପତ୍ତି ସ୍ଥଳ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ଉତ୍ତର ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନର ପାମିର-ହିନ୍ଦୁକୁଶ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପର ଗଭୀରତା ୨୦୦ କିମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ରହିଥାଏ। ଅନ୍ୟପକ୍ଷରେ ସୁଲେଇମାନ ରେଞ୍ଜ (ପଶ୍ଚିମ ପାକିସ୍ତାନ ଏବଂ ଦକ୍ଷିଣପୂର୍ବ ଆଫଗାନିସ୍ତାନ)ରେ ଏବଂ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ପାମିର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଅଗଭୀର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଆସି ବ୍ୟାପକ କ୍ଷୟକ୍ଷତି କରିଥାଏ। ୨୦୨୨

ଏବଂ ୨୦୨୩ରେ ହେରାତ ଏବଂ ପାକ୍ତିକା ପ୍ରଦେଶରେ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଆସି ୨୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା। ଏହିପରି ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ସମୟରେ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଥିବା ତରଙ୍ଗ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପରେ ଅଧିକ ଗଭୀରତାକୁ ଯାଇପାରି ନଥାଏ ତେଣୁ ଅଧିକ ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ ହେବା ସହିତ କ୍ଷୟକ୍ଷତି ଘଟାଇଥାଏ। ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ପରେ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଘଟି

ପାହାଡ଼ିଆ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଘରଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ମାଟିରେ ମିଶାଇ ଦେଉଥିବାବେଳେ ନଦୀରେ ବନ୍ୟା ଆସିଥାଏ। ଅଗଭୀର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ସାଧାରଣତଃ ୦ରୁ ୭୦ କିମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଗଭୀରତାରେ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ମଧ୍ୟମ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ୭୦ରୁ ୩୦୦ କିମି ତଳେ ଏବଂ ଗଭୀର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ୩୦୦ରୁ ୭୦୦ କିମି ଭିତରେ ହୋଇଥାଏ।

ଅତୀତର କେତୋଟି ବଡ଼ ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ

- ୧୯୯୧: ହିନ୍ଦୁକୁଶରେ ୬.୯ ତୀବ୍ରତାର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଯୋଗୁ ୮୪୮ ଜଣଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା।
- ୧୯୯୮: ୧୯୯୮ ମସିହା ମେ ୭ ଫେବୃଆରି ମାସରେ ତାଖାରରେ ଦୁଇଟି ବଡ଼ଧରଣର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଆସି ୭୫୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା।
- ୨୦୦୨: ହିନ୍ଦୁକୁଶରେ ଦୁଇଟି ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଯୋଗୁ ୧୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା।
- ୨୦୧୫: ହିନ୍ଦୁକୁଶରେ ୬.୫ ତୀବ୍ରତାର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଯୋଗୁ ୩୯୯ ଜଣଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା।
- ୨୦୨୨: ଖୋସ୍ତରେ ୬ ତୀବ୍ରତାର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଯୋଗୁ ୧୦୦୦ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପ୍ରାଣହାନି ହୋଇଥିଲା।
- ୨୦୨୩: ହେରାତରେ ୬.୩ ତୀବ୍ରତାର ଭୃତ୍ତିକମ୍ପ ଆସି ୨୦୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା।

Uttarakhand issues rules for 10% job quota for Agniveers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand government on Monday issued rules for 10% horizontal reservation for Agniveers in direct recruitment in State services.

According to the Horizontal Reservation Rules, 2025, issued by the Personnel and Vigilance Department, retired Agniveers can now be employed in Group C services, including various uniformed posts such as police constable, fire official, deputy jailer, forest guard, forest inspector, excise constable, enforcement constable, and Secretariat guard.

The horizontal reservation will be applicable across all categories: general, SC/ST, and OBC

This reservation is applicable across all categories, including general, SC/ST, and OBC.

According to the notified rules, Agniveers will be exempted from the physical efficiency test in direct recruitment and given relaxation in the maximum age limit.

The proposal to provide quota for Agniveers in State government jobs was approved by the Cabinet last month.



Indian Navy ships conclude Saudi visit with joint exercise

Indian Navy warships *INS Tamal* and *INS Surat* (in picture) concluded their port call at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on August 30, with a passage exercise alongside the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) corvette *HMS Jazan*, before proceeding on deployment. The ships engaged extensively with the RSNF and Saudi Border Guard through sports fixtures and interactions with personnel. On August 28, the vessels hosted India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, onboard. The visit underscored India's commitment to strengthening defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia while offering both navies opportunities to share best practices and explore future engagements.

Centre launches 'Adi Vaani' to translate Adivasi languages

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Monday launched the beta version of its *Adi Vaani* Adivasi language translation application and website at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, with Minister of State Durgadas Uikey saying that it will "help bridge communication gaps for tribal communities in remote areas and empower tribal youth digitally". The government, in a statement, called it a "landmark initiative towards inclusive tribal empowerment and linguistic preservation". The app, which has been in development for over a year now, has capabilities to translate Adivasi languages to and from Hindi and English. In its first phase, the supported languages include Gondi, Bhili, Mundari, Santali, Kui, and Garo.

SC issues notice over 'denial' of Samagra Shiksha funds to T.N.

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court decided to step in after Tamil Nadu complained on Monday about having to bear over ₹3,000 crore in reimbursements to private schools for admissions to economically disadvantaged students under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, after the Centre refused to part with its share under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath issued formal notice to the Centre on an appeal by the State against a Madras High Court decision of June 10, which delinked the reimbursements under the RTE Act from the Centre's financial obligations to Tamil Nadu under the scheme. The 2009 Act requires private school managements to admit children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to the extent of

Appearing for Tamil Nadu, senior advocate P. Wilson submitted that the Centre and State had concurrent responsibility to fund the education of poor and disadvantaged children under Section 7 of the RTE Act, 2009.

"The Madras High Court erred in ruling that only the State is primarily responsible for these expenditures. The Madras High Court had directed the State to bear the entire financial responsibility for the 2025-2026 academic year. It should have also directed the Central government to contribute," Mr. Wilson argued.

Arbitrary move

He said that the Centre's insistence on linking fund disbursement under Samagra Shiksha scheme to comply with NEP guidelines was arbitrary. The Bench ordered the Centre to respond to the State's petition in four weeks.

bursements under the RTE Act from the Centre's financial obligations to Tamil Nadu under the scheme. The 2009 Act requires private school managements to admit children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to the extent of 25% of their strength in entry-level classes free of charge. The State is obliged to reimburse the schools.

Doubts raised

The Centre had argued in the High Court that "there are issues regarding disbursement of funds" under the Samagra Shiksha scheme as Tamil Nadu had refused to implement the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The State had raised doubts about the three-language policy of NEP 2020 with a premium on Hindi, viewing it as a challenge to regional linguistic diversity.

Arbitrary move

He said that the Centre's insistence on linking fund disbursement under Samagra Shiksha scheme to comply with NEP guidelines was arbitrary. The Bench ordered the Centre to respond to the State's petition in four weeks.

"It is common knowledge that the Central government has been propagating its political agendas through the Samagra Shiksha scheme. A disagreement in political ideology cannot become an obstacle for a State government from implementing the provisions of the Samagra Shiksha scheme and the RTE Act. Unless both the Central and the State governments work in unison, the provisions of the RTE Act and Samagra Shiksha Scheme cannot be implemented in their full spirit," the Tamil Nadu petition said.

New Bairabi-Sairang rail line set to improve connectivity in Mizoram

Anil Kumar Sastry

AIZAWL

Mizoram will soon be connected to the national railway network when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang broad-gauge line, constructed at an estimated ₹5,021 crore, in the second week of September.

The new line terminating at Sairang will connect Aizawl, the State capital about 20 km away, with the rest of the country. The line links Silchar in Assam via Bhodahpur Junction, integrating the network with Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Railways has big plans to connect the other northeastern States of Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim with the



The line ending at Sairang, about 20 km from Aizawl, connects the State capital with other northeastern States. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

national network by 2030, a senior Northeast Frontier Railway official said.

The official told visiting presspersons on Sunday that the project fulfilled the cherished dream of Mizoram residents for railway connectivity to the State capital.

While access by road took long hours of travel,

flying was expensive. Travel by train would provide an affordable options to all categories of people, besides boosting economic activities in the region with a special focus on tourism, the official said.

The new line has 48 tunnels with a total length of 12.85 km, the longest being about 1.37 km; 55 major

bridges with the longest being about 1.3 km and the tallest, Krung Bridge at Sairang, being 114 m from the base; 87 minor bridges; five road overbridges; and six road underbridges.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for the project on November 29, 2014. He virtually flagged off the first passenger train between Bairabi and Silchar on May 27, 2016.

The official said almost all essential items to Mizoram were brought from Silchar in Assam, a journey of about 10 hours by road. With the new line, the travel time gets reduced to about three hours.

(The reporter is on a field visit organised by the Indian Railways to get a first-hand experience of the Bairabi-Sairang-Line.)

Manufacturing PMI rises to 17-year high in August

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Activity in the manufacturing sector in August 2025 expanded at the fastest rate in more than 17 years, propelled by a demand-driven rise in new orders and production, according

to a private sector survey.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 59.3 in August from 59.1 in July, indicating the "fastest improvement in operating conditions for 17-and-a-half years", the report said. The graphs included

in the report show that India's manufacturing PMI was last higher in mid-2008.

"Companies upped the pace at which additional materials were bought, and more jobs were created, partly reflecting positive expectations regarding

the outlook," the report said. The survey report went on to explain that the uptick in the headline PMI figure reflected an acceleration in the growth of production volumes, which grew the quickest in close to five years.

"The increase of U.S. ta

riff on Indian goods to 50% might have contributed to the slight easing in new export orders growth, as American buyers refrain from placing orders in the midst of tariff uncertainty," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Maruti starts shipping e Vitaras to 12 European countries

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said it has commenced exports of Suzuki's first bat-

tery electric vehicle (BEV), the e Vitara, to Europe. More than 2,900 units were on Monday shipped from Pipavav Port in Gujarat to 12 European coun-

tries – the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, France, Denmark, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Hungary, Iceland, Austria, and Belgium.

NMDC's iron ore production climbed 10% in August, sales 8%

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

NMDC's iron-ore production in August rose almost 10% to 3.37 million tonne

(MT) compared with the 3.07 MT a year earlier.

Sales of the key raw material for steel at 3.39 MT (3.14 MT) were almost 8% higher, as per exchange fil-

ings. NMDC reported a 27.85% rise in the output for the five months, ended August, to 18.45 MT (14.43 MT). Sales climbed 12.90% to 18.37 MT (16.27 MT).

Q1 FY26 current account deficit narrows to \$2.4 billion

India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to \$2.4 billion (0.2% of GDP) in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY26) from \$8.6 billion (0.9% of GDP) in the year-ago period and against a surplus of \$13.5 billion (1.3% of GDP) in Q4 FY25, according to data released by RBI on Monday. Merchandise trade deficit at \$68.5 billion in Q1 FY26 was higher than \$63.8 billion in Q1 FY25. Net services receipts increased to \$ 47.9 billion in Q1 FY26 from \$ 39.7 billion a year ago.

୫୦୩୦ କୋଟିର ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ

ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ/ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୧/୯(ଇମିସ): ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଅଗଷ୍ଟରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ୫୦୩୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ ହୋଇଛି। ଏହା ୨୦୨୪ ଅଗଷ୍ଟରେ ହୋଇଥିବା ୪୮୭୮ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସଂଗ୍ରହ ତୁଳନାରେ ୩ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଅଧିକ। ରାଜ୍ୟର ସଂଗ୍ରହ ମାସିକ ହାରାହାରି ସ୍ତରରେ ରହିଛି। କିନ୍ତୁ ବଡ଼ ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ତୁଳନାରେ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ହାର କମ୍ ରହିଛି। ମହାରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରରେ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ ୧୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ, କର୍ଣ୍ଣାଟକରେ ୧୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ, ତାମିଲନାଡୁରେ ୯ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଏବଂ ଉତ୍ତରପ୍ରଦେଶରେ ୧୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ବଢ଼ିଛି। ଛୋଟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସିକିମ୍ରେ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ ୩୯ ପ୍ରତିଶତ, ମେଘାଳୟରେ ୩୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଓ ନାଗାଲ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡରେ ୩୩ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ବଢ଼ିଛି।

ସର୍ବଭାରତୀୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ଅଗଷ୍ଟରେ ୧.୮ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ ହୋଇଛି। ଏହା ଗତ ଜୁଲାଇ ମାସର ୧.୯୬ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ତୁଳନାରେ ୬.୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ କମ୍। ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଏପ୍ରିଲରେ ରେକର୍ଡ ୨.୩୭ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା।

ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ମାସର ରାଜସ୍ୱ ସଂଗ୍ରହ

କେଉଁ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କେତେ

ରାଜ୍ୟ	ସଂଗ୍ରହ (କୋଟିରେ)
ମହାରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର	୨୮,୯୦୦
କର୍ଣ୍ଣାଟକ	୧୪,୨୦୪
ତାମିଲନାଡୁ	୧୧,୦୫୭
ଗୁଜରାଟ	୧୦,୯୯୨
ହରିୟାଣା	୯୬୮୧
ଓଡ଼ିଶା	୫୦୩୦



ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଇଞ୍ଚାଇ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆର ଟ୍ୟାକ୍ସ ପାର୍ଟନର ସୌରଭ ଅଗ୍ରୱାଲ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ

ରସ୍ତା ନିର୍ମାଣରେ ହ୍ରାସ ଘଟିଛି। ଆମେରିକା ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଡୋନାଲ୍ଡ୍ ଟ୍ରମ୍ପ ଲଗାଇଥିବା ଶୁଳ୍କର ପ୍ରଭାବ ଏଥିରୁ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ହେଉଛି। ଚଳିତ ସପ୍ତାହରେ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ପରିଷଦର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବୈଠକ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି। ସେହି ଦୁଇଦିନିଆ ବୈଠକରେ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ପ୍ଲାନକୁ ଦୁଇଥାକିଆ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋଚନା ହେବ। ଯଦି ବୈଠକରେ କୌଣସି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ହେବନି ତେବେ ଗ୍ରାହକମାନେ ଆଗକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରି ରହିବେ। ସେଭଳି କିଛି ଘଟିଲେ ଆଗାମୀ ମାସଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କମ୍ ହେବାର ଆଶଙ୍କା ରହିଛି ବୋଲି ସେ କହିଛନ୍ତି।

କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ଜିଏସ୍ଟି କମ୍ କରି ଆମେରିକା ଶୁଳ୍କ ପ୍ରଭାବର ମୁକାବିଲା କରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଛନ୍ତି। ଯଦି ଜିଏସ୍ଟି କମିବ ତେବେ ଆଗାମୀ ଉତ୍ସବ ଋତୁରେ ଉପଯୋଗିତା ବେଶ୍ ବଢ଼ିବ। ତାହାର ପ୍ରଭାବରେ ରେକର୍ଡ୍ ଜିଏସ୍ଟି ସଂଗ୍ରହ ହୋଇପାରିବ। କିନ୍ତୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏହି ପଦକ୍ଷେପରେ ସମ୍ବୃଦ୍ଧିର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି। କାରଣ ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ବିପୁଳ ରାଜସ୍ୱ ହରାଇବା ଆଶଙ୍କା ରହିଛି ବୋଲି ଶ୍ରୀ ମିଶ୍ର କହିଛନ୍ତି।

GST revenue rises 6.5% to ₹1.86 lakh cr. in August

GST collection in August rose 6.5% to over ₹1.86 lakh crore with increased domestic sales, and the upcoming festive season is likely to swell the kitty going forward. The August Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up is, however, lower than ₹1.96 lakh crore collected in July. In August 2024, the collection was ₹1.75 lakh crore. The gross domestic revenue grew 9.6% to ₹1.37 lakh crore, while tax from imports dipped 1.2% to ₹49,354 crore in August. PTI



Geographers uncover why some rivers stay single while others split

Single-thread and multi-thread rivers feature different flood and erosion risks and ecosystem services. These attributes are becoming more relevant as people cope with more powerful water weather events. As a result, the mechanism that dictates threading has been becoming a research focus

G.B.S.N.P. Varma

Some rivers split up as they flow while some others don't. This riverine phenomenon has intrigued researchers for decades. What determines whether a river flows as a single thread or develops into a multi-threaded system? The question may sound simple but it has become a fundamental issue in river geomorphology, straddling concepts across geology, geography, ecology, and engineering.

Now, geographers at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) have reported in a paper published in *Science* that they have solved the mystery.

By analysing the dynamics of 84 rivers over 36 years using satellite imagery and a novel image processing technique called particle image velocimetry, they say they have discovered the physical mechanism that causes there to be two types of rivers.

"We found that single-thread rivers are characterised by equilibrium between bank erosion and bar accretion – essentially, material lost from one bank is balanced by the material deposited on the other, maintaining a stable width," the study's senior author and associate professor of geography at UCSB Vamsi Ganti said.

In contrast, he continued, multi-threaded rivers consistently exhibit higher rates of erosion relative to the deposition on the opposite banks, leading to the channel widening and eventually splitting. This imbalance, per the work. is



The Karnali River (known as Ghaghara in India) bifurcates in Nepal. SHERPARINJI (CC BY-SA)

satellites. They studied 36 years of global Landsat images, covering the period from 1985 to 2021. From a worldwide survey of nearly 400 river sections, they chose 84 that were wide enough and moved at a speed suitable for their analysis. These



There is growing recognition that many rivers have historically transitioned from multi-channel to

and decades, because the flow laterally erodes riverbanks faster than it deposits along them."

The find went against the conventional wisdom that erosion and deposition are in equilibrium.



All of India breathes bad air, AQLI 2025 report says

Priyali Prakash

While north Indian cities such as Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Kanpur are notorious for their air pollution, almost everyone living in India breathes air dirtier than what the World Health Organisation (WHO) has deemed safe.

According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) 2025 annual update, all of India lives in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level (PM2.5) exceeds the WHO annual average limit of 5 µg/m³.

The country's northern plains, however, remain the greater offenders, exposing an estimated 544.4 million people to bad air.

The AQLI report is based on global pollution data from 2023. Atmospheric pollution levels rose planetwide in 2023 following two relatively quiescent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report was put together by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. The air quality in India is also bad by its own standards, which are more lenient than those of the WHO. According to the report, 46% of India's people live in areas where the national annual PM2.5 standard of 40 µg/m³ has been breached.

The report also said Delhi will experience the greatest benefit among India's cities by lowering particulate pollution to the WHO's recommendation, adding 8.2 years to life expectancy. Because the whole country currently breathes subpar air, even those in the

Air quality in India is bad by its own standards, which are more lenient. According to the report, 46% of Indians live in areas where the PM2.5 standard of 40 µg/m³ has been breached

cleanest areas could live 9.4 months more if their air is cleaned up, the report found.

The problem transcends borders, of course. Emissions from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan have together blanketed a big swath of South Asia with polluted air.

Bangladesh in particular has consistently been the most polluted country in the region for years. In 2023, the country's air had 12x greater PM2.5 concentration than the WHO guidelines – and improving it could add 5.5 years on average to resident Bangladeshis' lives. The report estimated the potential gain to be highest in Gazipur, where residents could live 7.1 years longer.

China noted a consistent decrease in pollution over the last decade. China, however, has been somewhat of a notable exception: while the concentration of harmful particles in its air grew by 2.8% in 2023, the air quality has been improving for a decade.

This is not accidental. Even with the 2.8% increase in 2023, the particulate concentration was still 40.8% lower than what it was in 2014. Among other policies, the country has restricted the number of cars on the roads in large cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou; cut its iron- and steel-making capacity; banned new coal plants in specific regions; and replaced coal-based home heating solutions with gas or electric heaters, the AQLI report noted. Then again, a lot remains to be done. Even if China's air is cleaner than India's, the people of China are also exposed to more PM2.5 levels than the WHO's threshold.

Worldwide, the global PM2.5 concentration in 2023 was 1.5% higher than in 2022 and almost 5x times over the WHO limit. Indeed, the report identified particulate pollution as the "greatest external threat to human life expectancy" in 2023.

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ISRO seeks proposals from scientific community to study Chandrayaan-3 data

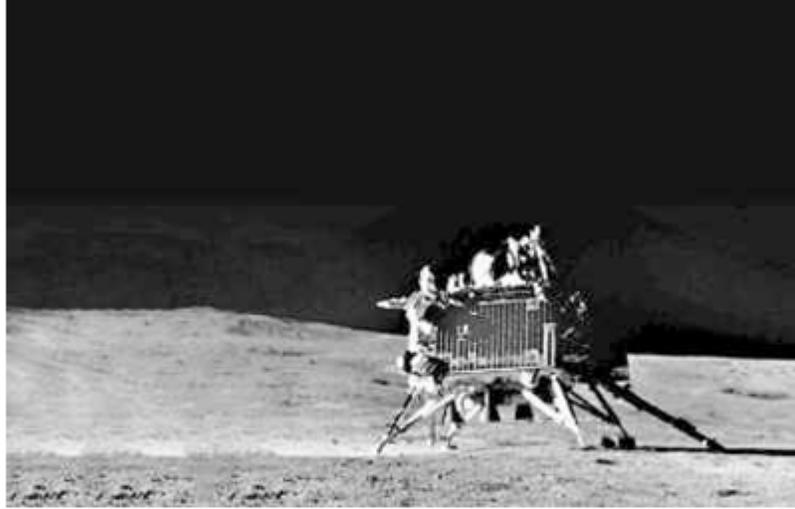
The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday issued an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for scientific analysis and utilisation of data from all experiments of Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved historic soft-landing in the southern high latitudes of the moon on August 23, 2023, making India the first nation to touch down on the polar region of the moon.

“To enhance the science outcome of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, ISRO seeks proposals from the



Lunar lessons: The opportunity will allow researchers to analyse data from the Chandrayaan-3 lander and rover. ISRO/ANI

national scientific community (outside ISRO/Department of Space) through this AO, towards scientific analysis and utilisation of data from all experiments of Chan-

drayaan-3 lander and rover,” the ISRO said.

The AO is open to all faculty and researchers from recognised academia, research institutions, universities, colleges and govern-

ment organisations of India.

“Only those having a minimum remaining service of four years before superannuation are eligible to lead the project as Principal Investigator (PI). There could be multiple Co-PIs in the proposal, however, PI will be the focal point for all communications related to the proposal. The proposals must be forwarded through the head of the institutions, with appropriate assurance for providing,” the ISRO said.

The deadline for submission of proposals is October 21, 2025. The space agency said that the project shall be completed within three years.

SC refuses to entertain plea against roll-out of 20% ethanol-blended petrol nationwide

Aaratrika Bhaumik

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the nationwide roll-out of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20) which alleged that millions of motorists were being compelled to use fuel unsuited to their vehicles without the option of getting ethanol-free petrol.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran refused to entertain the petition after the Union government defended the ethanol-blending programme as a measure to bolster the income of sugar cane farmers and conserve foreign exchange.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for petitioner Akshay Malhotra, cited NITI Aayog's 2021 report "Roadmap for ethanol blending in India 2020-25", which noted that blending ethanol up to 20% could cut fuel efficiency by 6-7% in four-wheelers



The petition says the policy violates fundamental rights of vehicle owners whose automobiles are incompatible with E20. FILE PHOTO

and 3-4% in two-wheelers. He clarified that the petitioner was not opposing ethanol blending as a policy, but only sought the continued availability of ethanol-free petrol for vehicles manufactured before April 2023, which are not compatible with E20 fuel.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, representing the Centre, questioned the bona fides of the plea, alleging that the petitioner was merely a "name-lender" and that the challenge reflected the interests of a

larger lobby intent on obstructing India's clean fuel transition.

"The policy benefits our sugar cane farmers and saves precious foreign exchange. Will people outside the country dictate what kind of fuel India should use?" the Attorney-General remarked during the hearing. "Dismissed," the Bench said, after a brief exchange, declining to interfere with the government's policy.

E20 fuel has been gradually introduced since

2023, replacing earlier blends such as E5 and E10, which were regarded as more compatible with older vehicles. These alternatives have now been phased out from almost all of the country's 90,000 fuel stations. The ethanol-blending programme is central to India's strategy to lower carbon emissions and reduce dependence on crude oil imports.

Last month, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas endorsed the use of E20, claiming it offers "better acceleration and improved ride quality" in addition to supporting the livelihoods of farmers.

Officials further clarified that the validity of vehicle insurance policies remains unaffected by the use of E20.

'Consumer choice'

The petition contended that the policy violated the fundamental rights of vehicle owners whose automobiles are incompatible with E20, as it left them with no

option to purchase ethanol-free petrol. It further argued that the absence of public awareness and proper labelling of fuel pumps breached the right to informed consumer choice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

"It is also relevant to mention that as the vehicles are not compatible with ethanol-blended petrol, which will result in damage to the said vehicles, the claim raised in this regard will not be covered by the manufacturers or the insurance companies, as the consumers have violated the terms specified by the manufacturers/insurance companies," the petition said.

It sought directions to the authorities to mandate ethanol labelling at all petrol pumps and dispensing units, and to conduct a "nationwide impact study on mechanical degradation and efficiency loss due to ethanol blended fuel to the extent of 20% usage in non-compliant vehicles."

What is CEREBO, the brain tool developed indigenously?

How are traumatic brain injuries caused? Why would the tool be particularly useful in rural areas?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

CEREBO is a novel hand-held, portable non-invasive brain injury diagnostic tool, developed through a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Medical Device & Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS), AIIMS Bhopal, NIMHANS Bengaluru, and Bioscan Research. The device is to be used for Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) and can detect intracranial bleeding and edema within a minute. It is safe for infants and pregnant women, and can be used by paramedic staff as well as unskilled personnel.

Why is this device important?

Offered as an option in settings where advanced diagnostic tools like CT or MRI scans are inaccessible or delayed, CEREBO provides colour-coded,

radiation-free, and cost-effective results. The device is designed for deployment in ambulances, trauma centres, rural clinics, and disaster response units and is aimed at enhancing early TBI detection and patient outcomes. According to the ICMR, CEREBO has undergone clinical validation, regulatory approvals, and feasibility studies, paving the way for global adoption in emergency and military healthcare systems.

ICMR added that multi-centre clinical performance evaluation and utility trials were conducted at leading trauma care and neurosurgical centres to generate prospective evidence on diagnostic accuracy, time-to-decision benefits, and integration feasibility within emergency care pathways. Post-market surveillance supported by ICMR-MDMS further confirmed its role in user adoption as a tool for effectively triaging patients for further neurological assessments. Health technology assessments also

recommended the adoption of the device in tertiary care to accelerate CT scans, optimise triage, and reduce imaging costs.

What is TBI?

TBIs are a significant public health challenge, particularly in emergency settings, rural areas, and underserved populations. Traditional diagnostic methods, such as the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), are prone to errors and subjective interpretations, while imaging techniques require specialised infrastructure, trained personnel, and are cost-intensive. It is to address this issue that CEREBO has been developed using advanced near-infrared spectroscopy technology powered by machine learning.

TBI is a condition caused by a sudden trauma or injury to the head, which disrupts normal brain function. This injury can range from mild (concussion) to severe, often resulting in long-term physical, cognitive, emotional, and

behavioural impairments. The severity of TBI depends on factors such as the force of impact, the location of the injury, and the individual's overall health. According to an article titled, 'Epidemiology of traumatic brain injuries: Indian scenario', TBIs are a leading cause of morbidity, mortality, disability and socio-economic losses in India and other developing countries. It is estimated that nearly 1.5 to 2 million persons are injured and one million succumb to death every year in India. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause (60%) of TBIs followed by falls (20%-25%) and violence (10%).

It is possible for a TBI to go undiagnosed initially, especially if symptoms are mild or if there are no visible signs of injury. A TBI can cause permanent brain damage in some cases, particularly if the injury is severe or if there are complications such as bleeding or swelling in the brain. Patients with mild TBIs (concussions) may only require monitoring and observation to ensure symptoms do not worsen. "Close monitoring of neurological status, vital signs, and cognitive function is important, especially in the first 24 to 48 hours after injury," it adds. Long-term consequences of TBI include cognitive impairments (such as memory problems), emotional and behavioural changes (such as depression, anxiety), physical disabilities, and increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases later in life, say experts.

The rise and risks of health insurance in India

A minimal definition of universal health care (UHC) is that quality health care should be guaranteed to “all members of the community irrespective of their ability to pay” – as the Bhore Committee report put it as early as 1946. Nearly eight decades later, India is nowhere near this basic goal of human development, even as many other countries, rich and poor, have achieved it in substantial measure.

An illusion is being created today that UHC can be achieved by expanding health insurance. In the last 10 years, State-sponsored health insurance schemes have grown by leaps and bounds. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), launched in 2018 under Ayushman Bharat, is one landmark in this regard. Alongside PMJAY, every major State has its own State Health Insurance Programme (SHIP). Most SHIPs are modelled on PMJAY, with a maximum cover of ₹5 lakh a household a year. All these insurance schemes are restricted to in-patient care, with patients making a choice from a list of empanelled hospitals, public and private (roughly half-half). In 2023-24, PMJAY covered 58.8 crore individuals with an annual budget of about ₹12,000 crore (assuming that States contributed 40% of the total, as prescribed). Taken together, SHIPs covered a similar number and had a combined budget of at least ₹16,000 crore. The grand total of ₹28,000 crore or so is still a relatively small portion of public expenditure on health, but it is growing fast. In Gujarat, Kerala



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private providers are allowed at all, they must be tightly regulated. India’s health-care system, however, is dominated by poorly-regulated profit seekers. Health insurance reinforces this bias rather than correcting it.

Second, health insurance also tilts the health-care system towards hospitalisation, when investments in primary and outpatient care may be more urgent. Strengthening primary care would not only ensure accessible treatment but also reduce unnecessary hospital visits and their financial burden. The ongoing induction of all elderly citizens (aged 70 years and above) in PMJAY, along with the rapid ageing of the population, involves a risk that expensive tertiary care will absorb a growing share of public health expenditure, even as many basic health services continue to fall short.

Third, there appear to be serious utilisation problems. Official figures suggest that the combined coverage of PMJAY and SHIPs is as high as 80% of the population. However, many people do not seem to know about the scheme or how to use it even if they are nominally enrolled. As a recent analysis of the 2022-23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey shows, only 35% of insured hospital patients in that year were able to use their insurance. Other studies also report serious utilisation hurdles, especially among disadvantaged groups. Perhaps this is one reason why there is no strong evidence linking PMJAY or SHIPs with a substantial reduction in out-of-pocket health expenditure.

annual budget. Many reports have emerged of private hospitals suspending services to patients under PMJAY or even withdrawing from the scheme, as bills remain unpaid for months. According to a recent statement of the Health Ministry, in the Lok Sabha, 609 hospitals have opted out of PMJAY since its inception.

Last but not the least, health insurance schemes are prone to corruption and abuse. The NHA recently recommended action against 3,200 hospitals for fraudulent activities under PMJAY. There are also regular media reports of irregularities from across the country. These include eligible patients being denied treatment, private providers charging insured patients, and unnecessary procedures being performed to milk the scheme. These irregularities defeat the purpose of health insurance by exposing patients to serious financial and health risks.

Tight monitoring and a battery of audits are supposed to prevent irregularities, but there is little evidence that these safeguards are effective. We were unable to find any trace of audit reports on the scheme portals. This is one symptom, among others, of a pervasive lack of transparency in health insurance.

The system is profit driven

In short, India’s health insurance schemes are a very poor way of arranging health care, especially for people who find it difficult to navigate the system. They cannot make up for India’s persistent failure to expand and improve public

relatively small portion of public expenditure on health, but it is growing fast. In Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra, States for which relevant data are available, we found that the SHIP budget had grown at 8% to 25% a year in real terms between 2018-19 and 2023-24.

The faultlines can deepen

There is no doubt that the PMJAY and SHIPs provide some relief to poor patients when public facilities are overcrowded or substandard, by giving them wider options at reduced cost. However, these schemes are no substitute for a sound UHC framework. And they have major defects, some of which could worsen the fault lines of India's health-care system.

First, health insurance promotes for-profit medicine. About two-thirds of the PMJAY budget is spent on private, mainly profit-oriented hospitals (corresponding figures for SHIPs are not available). A recent study of PMJAY in six major States found that the scheme made little difference to hospitalisation rates, but increased the utilisation of private hospitals. As is well understood in economics, the profit motive in health care is highly problematic. If profit-seeking

Health insurance schemes are not a sound route to universal health care

PMJAY or SHIPs with a substantial reduction in out-of-pocket health expenditure.

Hospitals and discrimination

Fourth, targeted health insurance schemes create issues of discrimination between insured and uninsured patients. Private hospitals prefer an uninsured patient since commercial charges for health care are usually higher, often much higher than the insurance reimbursement rates. One plausible reason why insurance utilisation is so low is that private hospitals discourage it in one way or another. Public hospitals, for their part, prefer insured patients since they get some money for their treatment. This creates its own problems, such as discriminatory treatment and pressure to enrol for insurance on the spot.

Fifth, health-care providers have their own complaints about health insurance, including low reimbursement rates and long delays. The first complaint may or may not be fair (one would expect to hear it), but the second is hard to dismiss. Indeed, the National Health Authority (NHA) itself revealed a few months ago that pending dues under PMJAY alone added up to ₹12,161 crore, more than the scheme's entire

system. They cannot make up for India's persistent failure to expand and improve public health facilities. No country has achieved UHC on this sort of foundation.

This is not to deny that social health insurance is a part of the UHC framework in some countries. Canada and Thailand are two examples. But PMJAY and SHIPs lack important features of social health insurance, such as universal coverage, and more importantly, a strong focus on non-profit health-care providers.

India's profit-driven health-care system reflects decades of severe under-investment in public health facilities – few countries beat India in this regard. According to the World Bank's latest World Development Indicators, public expenditure on health was still as low as 1.3% of GDP in India in 2022, compared with a world average of 6.1%. UHC cannot be achieved without a serious effort to address this deficit and transform health-care standards in the public sector. Some Indian States are moving in that direction, with encouraging results, but immense gaps remain. Health insurance is little more than a pain killer for a system that needs proper healing.

Noise pollution is rising but policy is falling silent



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Urban India must adopt a rights-based approach to fight growing noise pollution

enforcement has remained largely symbolic. According to the World Health Organization, safe limits in silent zones are 50 dB(A) by day and 40 dB(A) by night. Yet, in cities such as Delhi and Bengaluru, readings near sensitive institutions often reach 65 dB(A)-70 dB(A).

Infrastructure expansion and logistics-driven traffic have exacerbated the crisis. Late-night drilling and crane operations continue despite regulatory restrictions. In 2024, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed that environmental disruptions – including excessive noise – can infringe upon the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21. In *Noise Pollution (V)*, *In Re*, the Court recognised that unchecked urban noise poses a serious threat to mental well-being and civic freedom (The case dates back to 2005, and was referenced and interpreted again by the Court in 2024, in the context of renewed concerns over urban noise and its impact on fundamental rights).

The ecological cost is no less troubling. A 2025 study by the University of Auckland found that urban noise and artificial light disrupted the sleep and song patterns of common mynas after just one night. The birds sang less and with reduced complexity, impairing their social signalling. This is not merely an avian concern, it signals a breakdown in ecological communication systems. When biodiversity loses its voice, it reflects a deeper erosion of urban environmental ethics.

Civic fatigue and the politics of silence

Urban noise is not just a technical issue, it is deeply political. The absence of sustained public outrage stems from a normalisation of sonic aggression. Honking, drilling and loudspeakers have become ambient irritants, tolerated rather than challenged. This civic fatigue is compounded by the invisibility of noise as a pollutant. Unlike smog or garbage, sound leaves no residue, no visible stain – only a frayed mind and a disturbed sleep cycle. The result is a quiet erosion of public health, especially among children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing

conditions.

India's legal framework, while robust on paper, suffers from fragmented execution. The Noise Pollution Rules, 2000 are rarely updated to reflect urban realities. There is little coordination between municipal bodies, traffic police and pollution control boards. A national acoustic policy akin to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards is urgently needed. Such a framework must define permissible decibel levels across zones, mandate regular audits, and empower local grievance redress mechanisms. Without inter-agency synergy, enforcement will remain sporadic and symbolic.

Adopt a culture of 'sonic empathy'

Ultimately, the fight against urban noise is not just regulatory, it is cultural. Cities must cultivate a shared ethic of sonic empathy. Public campaigns should move beyond slogans to immersive education, in schools, driver training programmes and community spaces. Just as seatbelt usage became a norm through sustained messaging, honking reduction and noise sensitivity can be socially internalised. Silence is not the absence of sound, but the presence of care.

Where, then, must reform begin? First, decentralise NANMN – grant local bodies access to real-time noise data and the responsibility to act.

Second, link monitoring to enforcement – without penalties, zoning compliance or construction curbs, data remains performativity.

Third, institutionalise awareness – initiatives such as "No Honking Day" must evolve into sustained behavioural campaigns.

Fourth, embed acoustic resilience in urban planning – cities must be designed not just for speed and expansion, but for sonic civility.

Silence must not be imposed and must be enabled through design, governance and democratic will. Unless India adopts a rights-based lens to urban noise, its smart cities may remain unliveable at the level of sound.



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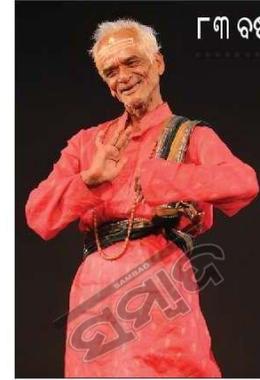
ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନ ୧୨ଟା ୫୭ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରୁ ପାକତ୍ୟାଗ ସହ ଅନ୍ନ ଭୋଜନ ଓ ଦେବନୀତି ନିଷେଧ

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ଆଦି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଏକ ସମୟରେ ଦୃଶ୍ୟମାନ ହେବ। ଏହିଦିନ ରାତି ୯ଟା ୫୭ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣସ୍ପର୍ଶ କରିବ। ରାତ୍ରି ୧୧ଟା ୧ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଗ୍ରାସ ଗ୍ରହଣ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବ। ରାତି ୧୧ଟା ୪୨ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଓ ରାତି ୧୨ଟା ୨୩ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଗ୍ରାସ ଗ୍ରହଣ ଶେଷ ହେବ। ରାତି ୧୨ଟା ୨୭ ମିନିଟ୍‌ରେ ଗ୍ରହଣ ସର୍ବମୋକ୍ଷ ହେବ। ଏଣୁ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଗ୍ରହଣ ସ୍ପର୍ଶର ୯ ଘଣ୍ଟା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ୭ ଚାରିଖ ରବିବାର ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନ ୧୨ଟା ୫୭ ମିନିଟ୍‌ଠାରୁ ପାକତ୍ୟାଗ ସହ ଅନ୍ନ ଭୋଜନ ଓ ଦେବନୀତି ନିଷେଧ ବୋଲି ଅପଲି ଖଡ଼ାଚର ପଞ୍ଜିକାର ଗଣନାକାର ୭

ସରିଲା 'ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ନୃତ୍ୟ ମହୋତ୍ସବ'

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୧/୯ (ଇମିସ): ବୟସ ତାଙ୍କ ଟୀକା କିନ୍ତୁ ନୃତ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଯେମିତି ଭିରଞ୍ଚିବନ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ବୟସର ଅପରାଧକୁ ତାଙ୍କର ଆଖିର ଭାଷା, ପାଦର ଛଦ୍ମ ଦର୍ଶକଙ୍କୁ ଅପଲକ ନୟନରେ ଅନାଇ ରହିବାକୁ ବାଧ୍ୟ କରୁଥିଲା। ଗୁରୁ ଭଗୀରଥୀ ମହାପାତ୍ରଙ୍କ ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ନୃତ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ବିମୋହିତ କରିଥିଲା। ଅବସର ଥିଲା 'ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ନୃତ୍ୟ ମହୋତ୍ସବ'ର ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନା ସଂଧ୍ୟା। ଗୁରୁ କେଳୁଚରଣ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ଗବେଷଣା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଏହି ମହୋତ୍ସବରେ ଗୁରୁଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଶ୍ରୀ ମହାପାତ୍ରଙ୍କ ସହ ବଶଭୂଜା ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରିଷଦ, ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀପ୍ରିୟା ଗୋଟିପୁଅ



୮୩ ବର୍ଷୀୟ ଗୁରୁ ଭଗୀରଥୀଙ୍କ ନୃତ୍ୟ କଳା ବିମୋହିତ

ନୃତ୍ୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର, ସ୍ୱାତୀଶ୍ରୀ ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରିଷଦ, ନକ୍ଷତ୍ର ଗୁରୁକୁଳ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ, ଅଭିନୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଗୋଟିପୁଅ, କସଡ଼ା ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ଆଦି ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ନୃତ୍ୟଶିଳ୍ପୀ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରିବେଷଣା କରିଥିଲେ। ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନା ସମାରୋହରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟବଂଶୀ ମୂରକ କହିଥିଲେ, ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ହେଉଛି ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଅସ୍ମିତାର ପରିଚୟ, ଆମ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରାର ପରିଚାୟକ। ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନରେ ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ନୃତ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଗୁରୁକୁଳଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯିବା

ସହିତ ନୃତ୍ୟର ମୌଳିକତାକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରି ଗୁରୁକୁଳଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସମାଜ ଓ ସୁଗୋପଯୋଗୀ କରାଯିବ। ଗୁରୁ-ଶିଷ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରାକୁ ଗତିଶୀଳ କରିବା ସହିତ ନୂଆପିଢ଼ିଙ୍କୁ ନୃତ୍ୟ ଶିଖିବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହିତ କରାଯିବ।

ଏଥିସହ 'ଗୋଟିପୁଅର ମୌଳିକତା ଓ ବେଶଯୋଷାକ' ଶୀର୍ଷକକୁ ନେଇ ଶେଷ ସଂଧ୍ୟାରେ ଏକ ଆଲୋଚନାଚକ୍ରର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଗୋଟିପୁଅ ଗୁରୁ ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପାଲ, ଗୁରୁ ଧନେଶ୍ୱର ସ୍ୱାଇଁ, ଚିତ୍ତରଞ୍ଜନ ମଲିଆ, ଗୁରୁ ସତ୍ୟପ୍ରିୟ ପଲାଇ, ମୁହମ୍ମଦ୍ ସାମନ୍ତରାୟ ଓ ଗୁରୁ ନୀଳାଚଳ ମହାପାତ୍ର ପ୍ରମୁଖଙ୍କୁ ସମ୍ବିଧିତ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଆଜିର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ପଦ୍ମଶ୍ରୀ କୁମ୍ଭକର୍ମ ମହନ୍ତି, ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ବିଭାଗର ସଚିବ ବିଜୟ କେତନ ଉପାଧ୍ୟାୟ ଓ ଉତ୍କଳ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର କୁଳପତି ପ୍ରଫେସର ପ୍ରମନ୍ତ କୁମାର ସ୍ୱାଇଁ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଥିଲେ। ଗୁରୁ କେଳୁଚରଣ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶୀ ଗବେଷଣା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ଅଧିକାରୀ ଶୁଚିସ୍ମିତା ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ।



16ରେ ୩୦ ହେବ ଛିଡ ବାଦ ହାର 16ରେ ୦ରୁ ଧାର ଡିଶା ଇଲ ଥବା ପାଗ ରାଘ

ଭାରତ-ଆମେରିକା ମିଳିତ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ

ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ, ୧/୯ : ଭାରତ ଏବଂ ଆମେରିକାର ସାମରିକ ବଳ ଆଜିଠାରୁ ଆଲାସ୍କାରେ ମିଳିତ ସମରାଭ୍ୟାସରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଶୁଳ୍କ ନେଇ ଆମେରିକା ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ତୋନାଲ୍ଡ ଟ୍ରମ୍ପଙ୍କ ନୂଆ ନୀତି ପାଇଁ ଭାରତ-ଆମେରିକା ସମ୍ପର୍କ ଖରାପ ହୋଇଥିବାବେଳେ ଏହି ସମୟରେ ଭାରତ-ଆମେରିକା ୧୪ ଦିନିଆ 'ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ-୨୦୨୫' ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୧ରୁ ୧୪ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଏହି ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ଚାଲିବ। ଭାରତୀୟ ପ୍ରତିରକ୍ଷା ମନ୍ତ୍ରାଳୟ କହିଛି ଯେ ମାଡ୍ରାସ ରେଜିମେଣ୍ଟର ଏକ ବାଟାଲିୟନର କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ଗଠିତ ଏହି ଭାରତୀୟ ବଳ ଆମେରିକାର ୧୧ତମ ଏୟାରବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଡିଭିଜନର ଆର୍କଟିକ ଡ୍ରଗ୍ସ୍ ଟ୍ରିଗେଡ୍ କମ୍ପାଉଣ୍ଡ ଟିମ୍ପର ଝମ ପଦାତିକ ରେଜିମେଣ୍ଟ 'ବବକ୍ୟାସ୍'ର ପ୍ରଥମ ବାଟାଲିୟନର ସୈନିକମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ତାଲିମ ନେବେ। ଦୁଇ ସପ୍ତାହ ଧରି, ସୈନ୍ୟମାନେ ହେଲିବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅପରେସନ୍, ନିରୀକ୍ଷଣ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏବଂ ମାନବହୀନ

ବାୟୁ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀର ନିୟୁକ୍ତି, ପଥର କ୍ରାଫ୍ଟ, ପର୍ବତ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ, ଦୂରଗଣାଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତର, ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟତା ଏବଂ ତୋପ, ବିମାନ ଏବଂ ଇଲେକ୍ଟ୍ରୋନିକ୍ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀର ସମନ୍ୱିତ ବ୍ୟବହାର ସମେତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କୌଶଳଗତ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ କରିବେ।

