



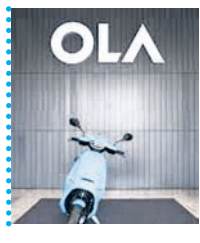
Janhvi's humility
Actor Janhvi Kapoor modestly responds to social media praise of her acting skills and speculations about her career

LEISURE | P2



Harris makes it official
The US Vice President Kamala Harris Saturday officially signs forms, declaring her candidacy for the post of President of the US

INTERNATIONAL | P9



Ola Electric IPO
SoftBank-backed Ola Electric's IPO will open for retail subscription August 2, the Indian electric scooter maker said Saturday

BUSINESS | P10



Eves eye glory
Defending champions India will look to translate their overwhelming dominance in the Women's Asia Cup to a record-extending eighth title

SPORTS | P12



FLIRTING WITH DANGER: Commuters perilously negotiating a stretch on Arangi-Bayapada ghat road under Nakamamudi panchayat of Korukonda block in Malkangiri district, Saturday. Seventeen villages were cut-off from the rest of the world after a bridge was washed away and a major landslide occurred at Tumbapadar. The rainwater flowing down the hill washed away a portion of the ghat road closing the route for traffic (Report P5)

Nitish absent, Mamata upset

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The meeting of NITI Aayog Governing Council held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre here Saturday witnessed high drama with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee walking out in a huff alleging her mic was switched off.

Banerjee claimed that she was unfairly stopped midway in her speech, despite being the sole representative of the Opposition.

Reacting to the development, the Congress said the treatment meted out to the West Bengal CM at the NITI Aayog meeting here was 'unacceptable' and alleged that the government think-tank has been 'blatantly partisan' in its functioning, muzzling all divergent and dissenting viewpoints.

The government, however, rejected her claim and said Banerjee's speaking time was over.

The Congress also targeted NITI Aayog, saying it had functioned as a 'drumbeater' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since it was set up 10 years ago.

The meeting, chaired by the PM, was boycotted by Congress CMs over alleged discrimination against non-NDA-ruled states in the Union Budget.

"As many as 10 states and

CM FOR INFRA BOOST

Bhubaneswar: Odisha government Saturday sought the Centre's support for establishment of large-scale port-based industrial zones in the state and financial assistance for creation of disaster-resilient infrastructure. During the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Odisha has emerged as a pioneer in disaster management and demonstrated remarkable resilience. "Financial support of the Central government is needed for creation of disaster-resilient infrastructure in power, telecom sectors and coastal embankments," Majhi, the first BJP Chief Minister of the state, said. He said the state will adopt the model of port-led development, positioning itself as the "gateway to the eastern and southeastern Asia and a port of call for neighbouring landlocked states". "The support is, therefore, required for establishment of large-scale industrial zones in areas surrounding the existing ports of Dhamra and Gopalpur while further developing greenfield ports at Astaranga, Palur, Bahuda and Subarnarekha," the Chief Minister said.



P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



With gold and silver rates dropping since the budget, should we focus on bronze?

Odisha approaches WB to resolve potato crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday discussed with his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee about issues related to potato supply from her state.

He sought Banerjee's intervention to resolve the crisis arising out of the 'stoppage' of potato supply from West Bengal.

Majhi met Banerjee in New Delhi as they were in the national capital to attend the Governing Council meeting of

the NITI Aayog. Taking to X, Majhi said, "Discussed the potato supply problem in Odisha with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. To resolve this temporary issue, Odisha's Food Supplies minister has verified stock. The state government is taking necessary steps to control potato prices and solve the supply problem as soon as possible." According to a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office here, Majhi requested Banerjee to streamline the potato supply

chain. He urged her to resolve the issue at the earliest since people in Odisha are facing problems with "restrictions on the potato supply outside Bengal leading to an artificial price rise here".

BJD president and Leader of Opposition in Assembly Naveen Patnaik Friday wrote to Banerjee, urging her to intervene and resolve the crisis due to the stoppage of potato supply to Odisha. "Now, the potato transportation process has become normal," Majhi said.

BSF battalions from Odisha moved to terror-hit Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The government has ordered the extraction of two BSF battalions, comprising more than 2,000 personnel, from Odisha to beef up security in the terror-hit Jammu region along the India-Pakistan border, official sources said, Saturday.

The decision to "immediately" move the two units from the anti-Naxal operations grid to Jammu was taken in the wake of the recent spate of terror attacks in the region, the sources told this agency. Officials in the security establishment said the two units were meant to be deployed as the "second line" of defence behind the first tier of its units deployed along the international border.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.4°C	29.8°C
Min Temp	26.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	95%	89%
Rainfall	0.3mm	5mm

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Touring Himalayan states? Carry your garbage bag



AGENCIES

Dehradun, July 27: In a bid to promote sustainable tourism, Himalayan states -Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh - have made it mandatory for tourists entering the states to carry garbage bags with them to clean up any waste they may generate during their visit.

The Uttarakhand government has issued instructions to strictly enforce the rule of mandatory installation of dustbins and garbage bags in vehicles entering the state "to maintain its natural cleanliness".

Before issuing trip cards to vehicles, it should be ensured that they have a dustbin or garbage bag installed, Chief Secretary Radha Raturi said Friday.

The State Transport Department recently wrote to the Transport Commissioners of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, informing them that it is mandatory for vehicles coming to the state dur-

ing the Chardham Yatra to have dustbins and garbage bags installed to prevent travellers from littering roads.

Vehicles entering the state should be checked and fined if they do not comply with this mandatory rule, the Chief Secretary said. Tour operators, travel agencies, drivers and the general public should be informed about this rule, the Chief Secretary added.

"Uttarakhand is a tourist state. Maintaining the natural cleanliness of the state and protecting its environment is the collective responsibility of its residents as well as lakhs of tourists and devotees who visit the state every year," Raturi said.

In a similar move, the Himachal Pradesh High Court recently asked the state government to follow suit. The suggestion was among the slew of directions passed by the bench of Justices Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Sushil Kukreja to improve waste management practices in the state.

In the July 19 order, the HC asked the government to look at the measures taken in other tourism-heavy states such as Goa and Sikkim to promote sustainable tourism. "In order to promote sustainability in all the tourist destinations and to ensure community participation towards achieving this goal, the State should take cue from the Government of Sikkim, in which it has been made mandatory for all tourist vehicles entering the State to carry a large garbage bag in their respective vehicles," the HC added.

2022 Tongan eruption 'cooled' Earth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The Tongan volcano eruption in 2022, thought to contribute to the extreme warming of the world experienced in 2023-24, instead 'induced a slight cooling effect', a new research has found.

The findings bring the focus back to greenhouse gases from human activities as the main cause of warming in the period, 'with a big assist from El Nino,' said author Andrew Dessler, an atmospheric scientist at the Texas A&M University, US.

In mid-January 2022, the eruption of the underwater volcano Hunga Tonga - Hunga Ha'apai in the



Pacific island of Tonga released unprecedented levels of aerosols and water vapour into the Earth's atmosphere, raising its moisture content. Because water vapour produces a greenhouse effect by trapping Earth's heat and raising temperatures, there was an "initial speculation that it might account for the extreme global warmth in 2023 and 2024," the researchers said. While studies have suggested that the Tongan volcanic eruption could partly explain the extreme warmth over the past two years, its contribution to global temperatures is yet to be as-

certained. For their analysis, published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, the researchers looked at satellite data of NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration related to aerosols and water vapour to estimate the energy balance of the Earth's climate.

They found that the eruption resulted in more energy leaving the climate system than entering it, inducing the slight cooling effect.

The cooling brought on by the eruption is similar to the effects produced by major volcanic events in the past, the authors said.

OrissaPOST PRESENTS

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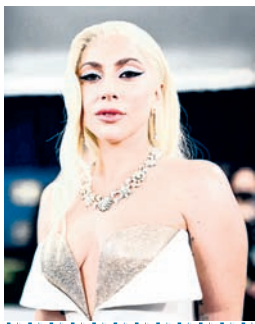


BRITNEY CLARIFIES CONFUSION OVER HALSEY'S LUCKY VIDEO

Pop icons Britney Spears and Halsey appear to have no problems between them despite recent events. After Halsey's *Lucky* video release, Spears posted a critical message on X, which she quickly deleted, later claiming it was fake news and not from her. Spears expressed love for Halsey, who responded with support, affirming her admiration for Spears.

LADY GAGA FEELS GRATEFUL TO PERFORM AT OLYMPICS

Lady Gaga has taken to social media to reflect on her performance at the Olympics opening ceremony. The singer felt grateful for the opportunity to perform at the Olympics opening ceremony. The singer performed a rendition of *Mon Truc En Plumes*, reports *People magazine*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Some decisions are hard to take, but a firm resolve will help you stay committed. Sentimentality may shake your purpose, but once decided, you must stick to it. Also, learn to take heartbreak in your stride, says Ganesh.

TAURUS

Definitely not a day when you plan to get your feet dirty (maybe a pedicure, though). You might delay the start of a new project. Perhaps, a romantic escape with your sweetheart or a day in the spa grooming yourself with a lavish makeover will validate your lethargy today. Either way, it will be heavy on your pocket.

GEMINI

You will try very hard to strike a balance between logic and emotions. Though you may succeed in doing so in front of the world, you may not be so discreet with your friends. You will have an excellent time with your sweetheart, but your physical appearance will be a cause of concern to you, says Ganesh.

CANCER

A string of domestic responsibilities awaits you; today, you are about to realise that it is a long, long string. Chances are that this sudden rise in work pressure may also lead to blood pressure problems. Ganesh advises you to stop presuming how people may react to everything; also, avoid being too proud to avoid excess heartache.

LEO

Nothing will overshadow your love for your kids today, and they will be the number one priority for you. It seems like a good day to take time out and monitor their progress in school; so, do not skip that PTA meeting. Remember, there are various ways to teach children, so consider taking them out on a small picnic or a field trip to help educate them better.

VIRGO

You will begin your journey on the long, hard road to success, predicts Ganesh. Hard work will be the key to any progress that you make. Avoid short cuts, and all the toil and trouble will pay off with rich returns as recognition and rewards will come your way.

LIBRA

Today promises a definite sense of pride and joy from children who bring home glory, says Ganesh. Fiscal gains are also on the cards, and you may consider it worthwhile to put your money into lucrative businesses. Money-lenders and stock brokers are likely to make handsome earnings on this charming and enchanting day.

SCORPIO

It is more than likely that you will be in high spirits today, says Ganesh. All your energy and exuberance may not yield expected results. That is no reason to lose heart though. Keep up the effort from your end and you will eventually taste success in the days to come.

SAGITTARIUS

You will find yourself rubbing shoulders with Lady Luck today. Sharpen your multi-tasking skills as you will keep busy and have only occasional moments of respite. Good will and green print, you might find them both with ease and in abundance, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

You have sacrificed a lot on enjoyment with friends and family, done some back-breaking work and kept your focus to reach where you are right now. Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for all the hard work you've put in. Now, it is time to watch the tree bear fruits. With some additional responsibilities, promotion in terms of salary or position is on the cards for you.

AQUARIUS

You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility.

PISCES

You could swing both ways today! Fortunately, this alludes to nothing more sinister than the mix of the introvert and the extrovert that you are. So, between a quiet evening out by yourself at a classical music concert, or performing on the dance floor at the local disc — take your pick, says Ganesh.

Janhvi reacts to her praise on social media

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor, who began her acting career in 2018, has delivered various roles in films like *Roohi*, *Bawaal* and *Mr & Mrs Mahi* in the span of 6 years in the industry. She recently discussed her growth as an actor and addressed some claims made on social media. During her interview with an entertainment portal, the actress was asked, "How do you think you have evolved as an actor?" She humbly responded, "I don't know. The audience should say, I don't know. I hope I have evolved. I think I have." She refused to praise herself directly, saying, "But how can I

sit and say about myself, 'I have become very confident; I am giving very good performances?' I can't say it myself." When told that people are saying good things about her, she playfully added, "I am paying them to say it." Addressing the social media speculation, Janhvi

shared, "Whenever I see someone praising me even by mistake on social media, they keep saying, 'This must be her PR.'" She concluded by saying, "I say 'no'... I don't have enough budget to get people to compliment me."



Ranbir opens up on criticism over Animal

Mumbai: Actor Ranbir Kapoor opened up in detail about the criticism that his blockbuster film *Animal* received and said that it helped take his career up several notches. In a new interview with Nikhil Kamath, Kapoor spoke about the aftermath of *Animal*'s release and how people from within the industry told him that they were disappointed he headlined the movie. When the host claimed that movies shouldn't be a place from where society derives their sense of morality, as they are only for entertainment, he added, "The intention was misunderstood, and social media exaggerated the issue, labelling the film as

misogynistic. This overshadowed the director's hard work, as seen with *Kabir Singh*. Despite public praise, some criticize my involvement. I apologise, though I disagree, choosing not to argue and promising to try harder next time." The actor said that though the film lodged itself as one of the highest grossing Hindi films of all time, when he was offered the film and the first time he heard the story, he got very scared. Ranbir said a part of the reason for him to do *Animal* was to break free from his 'good boy' image on screen. "My career stagnated, often called the 'next superstar.' Without continuous blockbusters, I couldn't claim that title. *Animal* came at the perfect time, helping me elevate my career and boosting my confidence, marking my transition from boy to man," the Barfi actor concluded when asked if he would do the film all over again.

Loyola hosts Synergy 2024



Bhubaneswar: Loyola School was abuzz with excitement and activities as it hosted a mega exhibition — Synergy 2024 — on the institution premises here, Saturday. The event, aimed at cultivating the spirit of inquiry and creativity among students, was inaugurated by City's Regional Science Centre Curator and Project Coordinator Kapil Jain. Students from Class I to XII enthusiastically participated

in the exhibition and showcased a wide range of projects on themes like 'science and its inventions', 'cultural heritage of India', 'lost treasures', 'impact of veto power', 'India's mythology and science fusion', 'space', 'robotics', 'fantasy meets science', and an 'escape room'. Loyola's Rector Father Augustine Ezhakunnel SJ and Principal Father A Amaladoss SJ encouraged the students, further uplifting their spirits.

The event celebrated the hard work and creativity of students, while also highlighting the strong collaboration between students, teachers, and parents. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed by the students were truly commendable. As the exhibition concluded, it left a lasting impression, inspiring both students and attendees to continue exploring the wonders of the world, Loyola sources said.

Pashmina on handling trolls

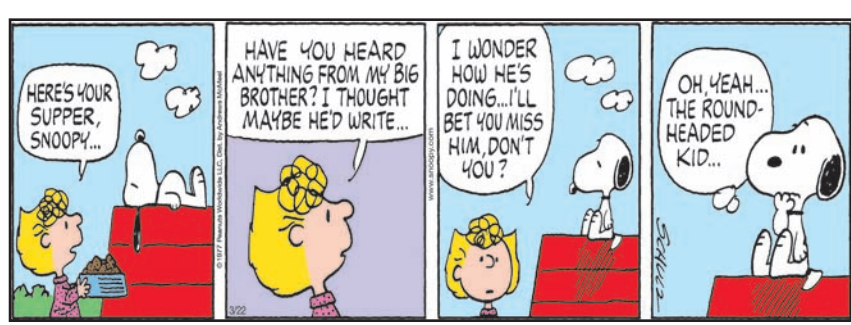
Mumbai: Actress Pashmina Roshan, who made her debut in the romantic drama *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, alongside Rohit Saraf, Jibraan Khan, and Naila Grrewal, recently shared about dealing with social media



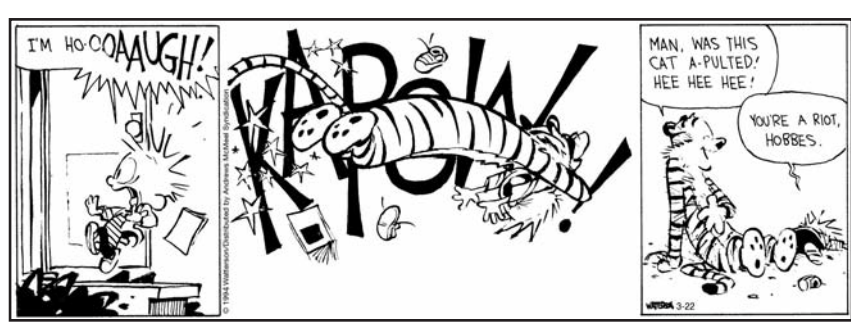
trolling and how it affected her. Speaking to a media agency, the actress said that she blocks the trolls from the last category and feels some sort of satisfaction. "I have cried over them. I got out of it quickly; it is just a thought that has always stayed with me. It is like whenever someone sees something good in a person or anything, it is a reflection of what you see in yourself," the actress said. The 28-year-old actress stated that trolls who spew hate are likely grappling with their own personal battles. "It has nothing to do with me. I have the power to protect my space and not let negativity seep in," she asserted. However, Pashmina is the most affected by the troll spilling out hateful comments for her family. She said that it takes a toll on her thoughts, and requires a lot of time to move away from them. Recently a lot of actresses including Sara Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor have also talked about the impact of trolls on them and how they have been dealing with them. Pashmina was born to music maestro Rajesh Roshan and is the cousin sister of superstar Hrithik Roshan.

FUN post

PEANUTS



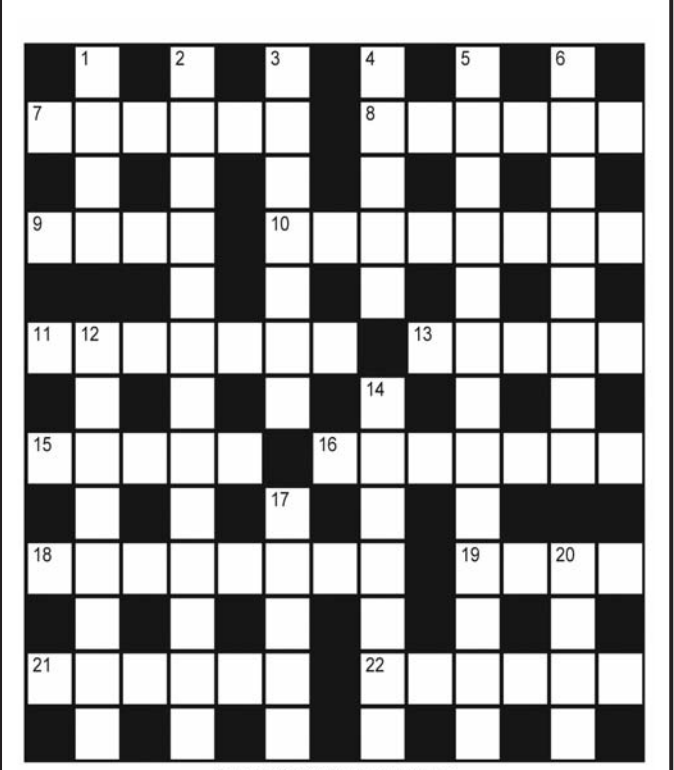
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



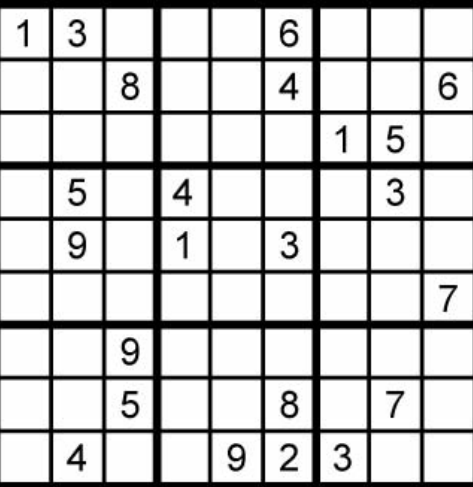
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Vicars and such
 - 8 Nitty-gritty
 - 9 Detailed account
 - 10 Sandwich filler (4,4)
 - 11 Maids' appliances
 - 13 Demon
 - 15 Shady spot
 - 16 Ambushed
 - 18 Sick headache
 - 19 Hot rum drink
 - 21 Promised land
 - 22 Decayed
- Down**
- 1 Seaweed
 - 2 Pirates' hope (8,5)
 - 3 Methods
 - 4 Polecat
 - 5 Signals above the road (7,6)
 - 6 Finnish capital
 - 12 Mist maker
 - 14 Dessert wine
 - 17 Upright, e.g.
 - 20 Ready for business

SUDOKU

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

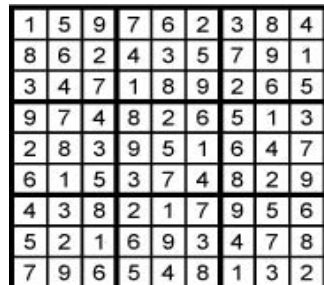


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

HOMAGE

People from various walks of life pay tribute to eminent singer Sikandar Alam on his birth anniversary near Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The event was organised by the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department



UTKAL UNIVERSITY AT MERCY OF GUEST FACULTIES

50% FACULTY POSTS AT THE STATE'S PREMIER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION LYING VACANT

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Believe it or not, Odisha's premier educational institution, Utkal University, is running at the mercy of guest faculties at present.

According to the data presented in the state Assembly Friday, the university has been carrying out its operation with less than half of its sanctioned faculty strength.

This unprecedented crunch of regular teaching staff at the university has not only strained the existing staff, but has also put the career of thousands of students to imminent jeopardy as syllabi in many departments are unlikely to be completed in time.

Nevertheless, the present state of affairs comes as a mockery of the A+ grade accorded to the university, established in 1943, by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Speaking to Orissa POST, a faculty from the History department of varsity, one of the worst-hit departments of the present crisis, said that it has been running with just three faculties for four years now.

"This is just half the number of the minimum seven faculties we require to carry on regular teachings. In the absence of so many faculties, we have been stretched to our limits with long



working hours. It's like fire fighting every day. We are forced to allot extra classes to guest faculties. Eventually, this creates hurdles in the completion of syllabus in stipulated time," she said requesting anonymity, for obvious reasons.

She said though the varsity had recently advertised for three faculty posts (for History department), no appointment has been made so far.

As per the disclosures made by the state Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj on the floor of the House during the ongoing Assembly session, public universities across Odisha are grappling with severe faculty crunch. "At least 50 per cent of academic and administrative posts in Utkal University are lying vacant," the minister said.

Replying to a question posed by Jatni MLA Bibhuti Bhusan Balabantaray, the minister said the Utkal University is running with just 114 faculties at present, against the sanctioned strength of 232. This would mean, the oldest university in the state is having less than 50 per cent of its actual faculty strength.



Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of the university, Sabita Acharya said as per the direction of the previous state government, some retired professors and guest lecturers were roped in to make up for the shortfall.

"However, it is not a permanent arrangement. Moreover, their hiring is far from what we actually require for full-fledged teaching," she said, adding that the shortage has put the present staff under serious strain for completion of syllabus in time.

"Until the Supreme Court lifts its stay on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020, Utkal University will continue to remain extra-dependent on the guest faculties," she added.

Sources, meanwhile, said that the present faculty crisis in the state's public universities has its genesis in a May 2022 Supreme Court stay on appointment of important academic and administrative posts by the Odisha government. The order was subsequent to a stalemate between the state government and the University Grants Council (UGC) after the former asked Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) for selecting teaching staff. UGC and a retired JNU professor, Ajit Kumar Mohanty, had filed a joint-petition in the top court against the move, resulting in

a freeze on recruitments.

A senior faculty from the English department of Utkal University, who wished not to be named, said many departments which are running with just two-three teaching staff are finding it tough to manage academic and administrative affairs by themselves. "In majority of the cases, the course syllabus remains pending even after the completion of semesters," he said.

He said it is unfair to expect guest faculties to perform the twin responsibility of teaching and administrative works as they have limited mandate. "On many occasions, guest faculties are refusing to turn up due to prolonged delay in renewal of their contract," he added.

It is worth mentioning here that the state has 11 public universities, with each struggling to cope with heavy staff crunch.

In his answer, the minister said that the department of Psychology tops the deficit list with 10 vacancies, followed by nine in the department of Business Administration, and eight in the department of Commerce. The rest 24 departments continue to be critically hit with vacancies as the former ones. With such, 33 vacancies are pending for the posts of Professors, 43 Associate Professors and 42 Assistant Professors.

Raja blames Centre for CMs boycotting NITI Aayog meet



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 27: CPI general secretary D Raja Saturday justified the decision of several chief ministers to boycott the Governing Council meetings of the NITI Aayog, claiming that certain actions of the Centre are behind their move.

Taxes and funds were not being shared properly by the Central government, Raja alleged.

"The CMs who are boycotting the NITI Aayog meeting have certain issues. There are very genuine issues. The Central government's actions were responsible for it," Raja told reporters here.

Chief ministers of the INDIA bloc -- Stalin (DMK), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (CPI-M), Punjab's Bhagwant Mann (Aam Aadmi Party), Congress's Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Revanth Reddy (Telangana), and Hemant Soren (Jharkhand) -- skipped

the NITI Aayog meeting.

Stating that the Constitution defines India (Bharat), as a union of states, Raja said: "It means the Union government should treat all the state governments equally and there should be proper share of taxes and funds, but the Union government is not doing that."

"Even though it is the mandate of the Constitution, the Union government is not doing that. There is some discriminatory approach from the union government and some states feel they are let down. Their voice is not respected and their demands are not considered," Raja said while supporting the CMs boycotting the NITI Aayog meeting.

He said the Union Government headed by Narendra Modi, and the BJP, do not understand federalism.

"Mr Modi talks about cooperative federalism. Where is the cooperation between the Central government and the state government? Where is federalism? Federalism is not just political, but fiscal federalism is also an integral part of our federal system of governance," he said.

"Mr Modi's government does not respect all these things," he alleged.

Raja pointed out that the old Planning Commission was dismantled and now NITI Aayog has been formed ever since Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister.

CM urges Centre to transfer 4,399 acres of salt pan land



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: The state government has sought the transfer of 4,399 acres of salt pan land, owned by the Central government, in Ganjam district.

A salt pan land is a naturally forming expanse covered with salt and other minerals.

During the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said as a potential green economy, the state requires support from

produce special metals and alloys for aerospace and defence.

"We need the support of the Central government in this regard," Majhi said, adding that railway density needs to be increased in the state.

The state's high forest cover at 33 per cent limits its ability to utilise land for development projects, affecting economic growth, he said.

He urged the Centre to consider incentivising Odisha to reduce its carbon footprint and rendering ecological services.

Odisha has a growing pool of talented tech professionals, a thriving startup ecosystem and an ambitious semiconductor policy.

"We seek the support of the Central government for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and state-of-the-art technology for design and manufacturing semiconductors," the chief minister said.

the Centre for pumped hydro storage plants, floating solar projects and intrastate green energy transmission corridor.

He also urged the Central government to open more numbers of brick and mortar bank branches and ATMs in unbanked/underbanked gram panchayats to ensure financial inclusion.

Noting that Odisha is rich in mineral resources and a leading producer of various minerals in the country, the chief minister said that the state needs to move up the value chain and



RISKY RIDE: Commuters struggling to negotiate on a muddy road in Jharpada area of Bhubaneswar after a brief spell of rain, Saturday

Should you stretch before exercise?

For many people of a certain age, high school gym class began with reaching for their toes. Then, over the years, we were told it was better to stretch after exercise.

It turns out, both those things can be true, but the differing advice has created some confusion.

Stretching can help make you more flexible, improve range of motion in your joints — and feel good. David Behm, who researches human kinetics at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Canada, offers this advice on when to stretch and how to do it safely:

Warm up first

It's almost always good to stretch, but it's better if you warm up first, said Behm, author of "The Science and Physiology of Flexibility and Stretching". He recommends a light aerobic activity such as jogging, walking or cycling for five or 10 minutes.

Follow that with some static stretching, the traditional way of reaching and holding a position (think back to that gym class). You can then do activity-specific dynamic stretching, in which you warm up the muscles with repetitive movements like leg lifts.

Behm says one minute is "the magic number" for how long to



do static stretching per muscle group without fatigue.

Expand your definition of 'stretching'

Should you always stretch before exercising? If it's traditional stretching, not necessarily.

The better question, Behm says, is, "Should people increase their range of motion? Should people have better flexibility? And that is yes, because it helps prevent injuries. It helps with health. But you don't have to stretch to achieve that."

Resistance training, for instance, can be an effective form of stretching, he said. Doing a chest press increases range of motion in your deltoids and pecs, whether with barbells, dumb-

bells or machines, so there is no need to stretch beforehand. Just make sure to start with a small amount of weight to warm up and then add more to train.

"You probably don't have to do extra stretching unless you're a gymnast, a figure skater, or even a golfer who needs a great range of motion through that swing," Behm said.

Nor do you need to stretch first if you're going for a leisurely run. Simply start with a slow jog to warm up and then increase the pace.

Don't do it if it hurts

After exercise, "light stretching is OK, as long as you don't reach a point where you're feeling pain", Behm said. Since your

muscles will be warm by that point, overdoing it makes you more likely to injure yourself.

Foam rollers can help with muscle recovery and have been shown to increase range of motion as well as stretching.

Do some static stretching before sports

If you're playing a sport, Behm said, static stretching beforehand helps reduce muscle and tendon injury.

"If you're going to do an explosive movement, change of direction, agility, sprint, any of these explosive activities that involve your muscles and tendons," he said, "you're going to be stronger if you do static stretching".

People can especially get in trouble when they get back to a sport they used to play, whether it's tennis, surfing or any sort of team activity.

Also, stretch both sides equally. Lacking flexibility on one side also can lead to injury.

Why all the confusion?

Different studies over the years have either encouraged or discouraged stretching before exercise. Behm says that partly because some studies didn't reflect real-life conditions, or were designed with elite athletes in mind, not regular people.

"If you're Usain Bolt, it makes a difference," said Behm

Cong questions logic behind reduction of taxes on gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The Congress Saturday questioned the economic logic of the overall taxes on gold being effectively halved in the budget.

The Opposition party's remarks came after Kotak Mahindra AMC Managing Director and CEO Nilesh Shah reportedly urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to keep a watchful eye on any surge in India's gold import bill in the wake of the customs duty cut and rising international prices.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Shah was a very respected name in the financial world and also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

"Unlike other members who speak on all issues but the economy, Mr Shah sticks to matters relating to the economy," he said.

Shah's latest comment on gold imports needs to be reflected upon seriously, Ramesh asserted.

"In FY 2023-24 India's gold imports totaled USD 45.4 billion, rising by almost 30 per cent from the previous year. It is hardly debatable that gold imports add very little to economic growth. Yet, the 2024/25 budget reduced import duty on gold from 10 per cent to 6 per cent," Ramesh said.

"Combined with the cut in the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess, the overall taxes on gold (including GST) have effectively halved, from 18.5 per cent to 9 per cent. What is the economic logic?" the Congress leader asked.



THREE HELD FOR CHAIN SNATCHING

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: In two separate cases, the twin city Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested three persons, including a resident of Uttar Pradesh, on charges of snatching chains here.

While Kharavel Nagar police arrested Ram Kumar, 38, of UP from Rasulgarh area here, Saheed Nagar police nabbed Akash Samal, 27, and Sital Behera, 23, from the City, DCP Prateek Singh told the media.

Two gold chains and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from the possession of Kumar, a member of notorious 'Banwariya' gang. Similarly, two gold chains were also recovered from the two others, added the DCP.

About the cases, the DCP said Kumar was arrested in connection with a case registered following the complaint of Chakradhara Behera May 9.

"Behera alleged that his wife's gold chain was snatched away by two bike-borne miscreants when she was out for a morning walk," the DCP said, adding, "We found Kumar's involvement and nabbed him." About the second case, the DCP said Samal and Behera were taken into custody on the basis of a case registered following the complaint of Purnima Mandal May 27.



Budding Teachers: Trainee teachers display various paintings and crafts during the celebration of Shiksha Saptah organised by the District Institute of Education and Training in Sundargarh, Saturday

20 YEARS RI FOR MINOR'S RAPE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, July 27: A court in Balasure district Saturday sentenced a 40-year-old man to 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for raping a 15-year-old girl last year.

The court of Special Judge, POCSO, Balasure, Ranjan Kumar Sutar also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict. He will have to serve an additional sentence of two years if he fails to pay the fine.

According to the prosecution, the convict had raped the girl when she went to relieve herself December 1, 2023 in Simulia area of the district.

The survivor's mother had lodged a police complaint, following which the man was arrested and a case registered under several sections of the POCSO Act.

The court pronounced the verdict after examining 14 witnesses and 23 exhibits, Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

Landslide cuts off 18 villages in Malkangiri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Malkangiri, July 27: People of 18 villages in Malkangiri district were cut off from the rest of the state due to a major landslide following heavy rains due to a well-marked low-pressure, officials said.

The landslide happened near Tumba Padar village at Bayapadar ghat road at Nakamamudi gram panchayat under Korukonda block of Malkangiri district Saturday noon.

Amid heavy rain, incidents of landslides have been reported from Malkangiri, and Koraput's Lamatapur and Nandapur areas, affecting vehicular movement.

The Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office has confirmed a landslide in Malkangiri.

It stated that the SRC Satyabrata Sahu held discussions with the Malkangiri Collector and road clearance work is on. Traffic movement will be restored shortly, it added.

Meanwhile, the IMD in a bulletin said that the state may continue to experience heavy rain till July 31 under the influence of a well-marked low-pressure area over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha.

The system is likely to move west northwestwards in the next

24 hours, the bulletin said.

The weather office said that heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) may occur at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Bolangir, Nuapada, Sonapur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Angul, Deogarh, Boudh and Kalahandi districts till Sunday morning.

The IMD has also warned of squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph over the Bay of Bengal Sunday. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea as it is likely to remain rough.

The IMD forecast heavy rain in Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Nuapada, and Nabarangpur July 28.

"There is a warning for heavy rain at one or two places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasure during the subsequent 24 hours (July 29). Heavy rain is also likely at one or two places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasure, Bhradrak and Jajpur districts July 31," the IMD said.

For August 1, the IMD said that heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasure, Bhradrak, Jajpur, Sundargarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Deogarh, Malkangiri, Koraput, and Rayagada.

Rampant loot of minor minerals in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 27: Illegal mining and smuggling of minor minerals have assumed alarming proportion in Mayurbhanj district.

According to sources, rampant blasting is going on for extraction of stones on the Similipal foothills and adjoining areas in complete violation of environmental norms. Similarly, huge amount of sand is illegally extracted from the quarries and smuggled outside.

The illegal mining and smuggling of minor minerals have resulted in loss of precious revenue to the state exchequer. Moreover, the state government is also losing revenue in crores as 157 quarries are lying closed or under suspension over various reasons.

The district administration is well aware but yet to take strong measures to check the illegal mining and transportation of minerals. Moreover, inadequate manpower is a deterrent for the administration to launch crackdowns.



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has intervened on illegal mining and smuggling of sand, stones and murrum but the administration is allegedly not doing enough to check such theft.

The state government has handed over the management of minor minerals from the Revenue department to the Minor Minerals department.

The district has 203 quarries under the jurisdiction of 26 tehsils. Meanwhile, a total of 161 quarries including 77 sand quarries, 86 stone quarries and one murrum quarry have been transferred to the jurisdiction of Minor Minerals department except 42 quarries, which have

cases pending at the NGT. A total of 133 quarries are lying closed in the district, which include 64 sand quarries and 69 stone quarries. As per official sources, 70 (40 sand quarries, 29 stone quarries and one murrum quarry) have been leased out in the district to various leaseholders.

However, 24 including two stone quarries and 22 sand quarries are yet to become operational as the leaseholders are yet to submit necessary documents and sign agreement with the concerned tehsils. The rest 46 including 17 sand quarries, 27 stone quarries and one murrum quarry are in operation and minerals are being transported

through e-pass. Similarly, two of the quarries scheduled for auction are Gopabandhu Nagar and the Budhabalanga sand quarries Betanoti-1. However, the NGT has issued a stay order on Betanoti quarry due to an error found in the district survey report.

On the other hand, smuggling of minerals has been on the rise with a sharp rise in demand. The illegal miners are not even sparing quarries which have been closed down and smuggling lakhs of cubic metre (CUM) of sand and stone outside the district to Balasure, Bhradrak and even neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal for a premium.

Similarly, illegal blasting of explosives in stone quarries has adversely affected the environment and triggered panic among the people in the surrounding areas. Tremors are felt and

houses develop cracks due to powerful blasting in the stone quarries while smoke and dust from the process are polluting the environment.

Environmental pollution and consumption of food covered with such dust has led to spread of respiratory and various other diseases. Moreover, the leaseholders and illegal miners are extracting stones beyond the permissible limits by greasing the palms of tehsil, revenue and police officials.

The risky pools get filled with rainwater during the rainy season and often become a death trap for the livestock as well as humans in the adjoining villages. Prices of minor minerals have also shot up.

When contacted, Udaya Bhanu Sahu, an officer in the Minor Minerals department blamed the absence of adequate personnel for the surge in illegal mining and smuggling. "While five officials have been engaged at the tehsil level to manage minor minerals, what can we do with the skeletal manpower at our disposal," he questioned.

SHORT TAKES

Man awarded 20-yr jail for raping teenage boy

Kendrapara: A 55-year-old man was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court in Kendrapara district for raping a teenage boy. The special POCSO court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the convict. In case of default, he would have to undergo an additional two years in jail. The incident happened in July 2021. In the police complaint, the survivor's mother alleged that he was taken to a cowshed, located in a secluded place, and raped by the convict.

While delivering the verdict Thursday, the court also directed the Odisha State Legal Services Authority to pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the 14-year-old boy, Special Public Prosecutor Manoj Kumar Sahu said. The court convicted the accused under IPC Section 377 (unnatural offences, including sexual relationships that are considered to be against nature), and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Ten witnesses, including the boy, had deposed before the court.

Woman mauled by 3 wild bears; critical

Keonjhar: A 39-year-old woman sustained critical injuries after being mauled by three wild bears while collecting tooth sticks and mushrooms at a rural forest near Kudabeda village under Patana forest range in Keonjhar district, Saturday morning. The critically injured woman was identified as Kansla Munda, wife of Sudarshan Munda in Kudabeda village under Saharpada block in Keonjhar district. According to reports, Kansla was collecting tooth sticks and mushrooms at Kudabeda rural forest when three wild bears attacked her and mauled her critically. Hearing her screams, villagers working at nearby farmlands rushed to the spot and drove the animals away. The villagers rescued the woman and rushed her to the Patana community health centre. She was later shifted to the district headquarters hospital after doctors administered her primary treatment. When contacted, Patana forest ranger Banabihari Sardar said that the victim is undergoing treatment at Keonjhar headquarters hospital and will be provided financial assistance as per government norms.

ED raids continue in Sundargarh villages

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 27: Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids continued for the second day, Saturday in three villages -- Bada Gogua, Jangla and Ruguda -- under Bonai block of Sundargarh district in connection with alleged money laundering through an online betting and gaming app.

One of the officials who did not disclose his name told me-

diapers that six persons involved in the entire activity of illegal betting have gathered huge properties to the tune of crores of rupees. "They are absconding and we are interrogating their family members. So far no cash has been recovered from the houses," he said.

The ED had received information about online betting done through one 'Fee Win Game' - an online platform. Bada Gogua

village especially came under ED scanner when a tip-off went to the agency from the banks. The banks suddenly found huge sums of money getting transacted from certain accounts belonging to a few youths. In fact, the lifestyle of the youths suddenly changed. Huge lavish houses with modern amenities, latest costly four-wheelers, designer clothes and other luxury items crept into their households. These further

raised the suspicion, bringing ED into the scene.

Some of the villagers said that their sudden affluence also influenced other youths of the other villages leading to involvement of a large number of youths.

The ED raids reveal the deep rooted rot of online betting game spread into the remote villages of Sundargarh. Officials, however feel that this may be just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

'Mission Palm' in Baripada to combat lightning strikes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 27: Aiming to create a protective shield against the frequent lightning strikes, Baripada Forest Division in Mayurbhanj district has recently launched 'Mission Palm'.

Amid a spurt in lightning strikes, a meeting was held here Wednesday under the chairmanship of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) A Uma Mahesh in order to prevent the resultant deaths. The meeting included discussions with various range officers and assistant conservators of forest (ACFs) on the outline of the mission.

Subsequently, a palm tree plantation programme was inaugurated at Manchabandha.

Increasingly frequent lightning strikes have caused significant loss of lives and property in the recent past. People nowadays live in fear of thunderstorms and lightning, particularly during the late summer and rainy seasons.

To mitigate this natural threat, the Forest department has started a widespread initiative to plant palm trees across the district.

Notably, due to their height, palm trees act as natural lightning conductors. Keeping this in mind, the state government has directed to plant palm trees in large numbers and has also imposed strict regulations against their felling.

Even in residential areas, palm trees can only be cut with prior

permission from the Forest department after stating the necessary reasons.

The plan includes planting a large number of palm trees on empty spaces, banks of rivers and ponds, dam embankments and around agricultural lands in the district.

DFO Mahesh stated that the department is initiating this effort with the involvement of Santosh Kumar Sahu, a teacher and researcher from Kaptipada block, who has conducted research on palm cultivation for ten years. Utilising his expertise and research, the Forest department is preparing for a mega plantation drive. Sahu has been appointed as a coordinator to help ensure the success of this project.

6 students fall ill after eating mid-day meal

Balasure: At least six students of a government-run primary school fell ill after having mid-day meal in Balasure district Saturday, officials said. The incident happened in Banisia UP School under the Kedarpur panchayat area of the district's Soro block, an official said. Mid-day meals were served to 35 students, but six students of classes IV and V complained of uneasiness and chest pain after eating rice with egg curry, the official said. The teachers and some school committee members immediately took them to the nearby Soro hospital in an ambulance and after treatment, they were sent back to their homes, a villager said.

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FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

WE ARE ALL BIOMASS



In today's capitalist societies, efforts to mobilise a large majority of people in the name of our shared ecological condition consistently fail

In a recent commentary, philosopher Michael Marder looks beyond the immediate horror of what is taking place in Gaza to consider the ontological implications of what we see in the long-distance drone shots of the ruins. Allow me to quote him at length:

"... Gaza is rapidly transformed into a dump, where high-rise buildings and human bodies, ecosystems... and orchards are mutilated beyond recognition and reduced to organic-inorganic rubble. A solidarity with dumped lives, places, and worlds requires something other than compassion. So what could that be?"

Marder's answer is to propose "another kind of solidarity based on the shared condition of biomass." To say, "I am biomass" is to "identify with a vanishing life," to see Gaza as "a condensed and particularly blunt version of a planetary tendency." The rendering of all life into mere biomass - chaotic heaps of organic and inorganic matter - can be found everywhere, but it has been "accelerated in Gaza at the cutting edge of the most recent technologies of devastation. Rather than compassion, then, what is required is the solidarity of the dumped, who dare assert, 'We are biomass.'"

This notion of biomass echoes an insight from philosopher Levi Bryant: "In an age where we are faced with the looming threat of monumental climate change, it is irresponsible to draw our distinctions in such a way as to exclude nonhuman actors." And yet, in today's capitalist societies, efforts to mobilise a large majority of people in the name of our shared eco-

logical condition consistently fail. We all know that we are part of nature and fully dependent on it for our survival, yet this recognition does not translate into action. The problem is that our choices and outlook are influenced by many other forces, such as biased media reporting, economic pressures on workers, material limitations, and so forth.

In her 2010 book, *Vibrant Matter*, philosopher Jane Bennett has us picture a polluted trash site, where not only humans but also rotting trash, worms, insects, abandoned machines, chemical poisons, and so on each play some active role. This scene of biomass exists on the same spectrum as the situation in Gaza, though the latter is an extreme case. Around the world, there are numerous large physical spaces, especially outside the developed West, where "digital waste" is dumped, and thou-

sands work separating glass, metals, plastic, mobile phones, and other man-made materials from the chaotic heaps. One such slum, Agbogboshie, near the center of Accra (the capital of Ghana), is known as "Sodom and Gomorrah."

Life in these environments is a horror show, and the communities that live in them are strictly hierarchically organised, with children forced to do the most dangerous work, under extremely hazardous conditions. Yet because this exploitation of biomass appears ecologically attractive (under the banner of "recycling"), it responds perfectly to the demands of modern technology: "In the technological age," writes philosopher Mark Wrathall, "what matters to us most is getting the 'greatest possible use' out of everything."

After all, the whole point of using resources sparingly, of

recycling, and so forth is to maximise the use of everything. The ultimate products of capitalism are piles of trash - useless computers, cars, TVs, VCRs, and the hundreds of planes that have found a final "resting place" in the Mojave Desert. The idea of total recycling (in which every remainder is used again) is the ultimate capitalist dream, even - or especially - when it is presented as a means of retaining Earth's natural balance. It is yet another testament to capitalism's capacity to appropriate ideologies that seem to oppose it.

However, what makes the exploitation of biomass different from the capitalist logic is that it accepts a chaotic wasteland as our basic predicament. Though this condition can be partly exploited, it can never be abolished. As Marder puts it, biomass is our new home; we are biomass. It is a fantasy to think that such environments can be left behind and replaced by life in some idyllic "natural," ecologically sustainable environment. That easy way out has been irretrievably lost to us. We should accept our only home and work within its confines, perhaps discovering a new harmony beneath what appears to be a chaotic heap.

This will require us to be open to the objective beauty of different levels of reality (humans, animals, ruins, decaying buildings), and to reject a hierarchic ordering of aesthetic experiences. Are we ready to do this? If not, we are truly lost.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.

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Slavoj Žižek

WE SHOULD ACCEPT OUR ONLY HOME AND WORK WITHIN ITS CONFINES, PERHAPS DISCOVERING A NEW HARMONY BENEATH WHAT APPEARS TO BE A CHAOTIC HEAP



Aakar Patel

If one thinks one's party stands for something and then it does something different, then one has reason to be upset

SPECTRUM LITERATURE

True crime & new journalism



Anwesh Satpathy

AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF 'IN COLD BLOOD', WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS WERE EXPOSED TO THE METHOD OF UTILISING LITERARY TECHNIQUES IN NON-FICTION NARRATIVES

In recent years, true crime has become one of the most popular genres in both the cinematic and literary mediums. This can be easily observed through a mere cursory glance at the quantity of true crime series and movies OTT platforms regularly produce. In this article, I seek to analyse the ways in which true crime as a genre was cemented through an analysis of the literary and narrative methodology of Truman Capote's true crime novel "In Cold Blood".

In late 50s and 60s, writers and critics started to look at cinema as an innovative, creative and visual technique worth learning from. Film directors were establishing themselves as "auteurs". Film critic (and later filmmaker) Jean Luc-Godard contrasted the director Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic oeuvre with literary and philosophical geniuses, particularly Dostoyevsky.

Truman Capote was among the young writers who was fascinated with and borrowed extensively from "the visual and structural side of the movie technique." The clearest manifestation of this influence was apparent in his magnum opus "In Cold Blood". The novel attempts to re-create the gruesome murder of the Clutter family.

Divided into four parts, the book includes multiple scenes with alternation of viewpoints in an unusually rapid pace. In the first section titled "The Last to

see them Alive," Capote alternates between the lives of the Clutter family and the lives of the murderers Dick Hickock and Perry Smith. The circumstances surrounding both are strikingly antagonistic. The Clutter family is wealthy, normal and religious. Hickock and Smith, on the other hand, inhabit a dysfunctional, spiritually and psychologically empty existence characterised by poverty and abnormality. Capote concludes the first section by cutting away from the killers as they arrive in Holcomb to the morning of the murders. Capote's borrowing from the cinematic technique of "flash forward" is quite obvious in this instance.

Early critics of the novel were not oblivious to its strikingly innovative structure and cinematic influence. They acknowledged it as an exemplary documentary account written in a "flexible" slick style often rivaling on "unmitigated Hollywood".

"In Cold Blood" is primarily a literary work as it creates the terrain for multiple interpretations while utilising symbolism that would be almost impossible to re-create through the cinematic medium. For instance, the book starts with the description of Holcomb as a flat empty land with "awesomely extensive views" of "grain elevators" rising like "Greek Temples". The first few pages make it pretty clear to the reader that Holcomb

is normal, almost universal. This is relevant as the normalcy of the Clutter family is disrupted by the dysfunctional killers in the abnormal darkness of the night.

Before the 60s, non-fiction was treated as a genre separate and distinct from the literary genre, which was usually limited to fiction and poetry. After the publication of "In Cold Blood", writers and journalists were exposed to the method of utilising literary techniques in non-fiction narratives. Literary innovation in the genre of non-fiction was by no means made in isolation. It was greatly influenced by the counterculture.

"New Journalism" was characterised by the journalist employing sentimental, literary and psychological techniques of the novel while narrating true events. Its disruptive quality lay in its refusal to have the pretence of being completely disinterested in the subject matter. While Capote rarely features as a subject "In Cold Blood", his emphasis on the socio-cultural circumstances of his subjects as well as their feelings of shame and regret implicitly signalled a breaking away from the conventional norms of non-fiction.

"In Cold Blood" was not the first true crime work, although it's often hailed as such. Nevertheless, Capote's work did lay the framework for the structure of true crime for years to come. Early true crime was characterised and advertised by mere

sensationalism. Capote's book, on the other hand, elevated true crime to serious literature. Instead of focusing on the legal machinery and the question of guilt, Capote focused primarily on the "why" question. This is now a central feature of most true crime cinematic and literary outputs. "Mindhunter", for instance, focuses on two detectives attempting to find out the psychological and sociological circumstances that lead criminals to commit the crimes that they do.

The popularity and endurance of true crime as a genre is due to multiple factors. It is only after the publication of Capote's magnum opus that true crime broke through as a mainstream genre. Capote's influence on true crime is both through his introduction of the literary medium to non-fiction as well as his emphasis and empathy for the socio-cultural and psychological reasons for the crime. Nevertheless, the sensationalist nature of the genre cannot be discounted as one of the reasons for its popularity. Given the sensitive nature of the genre, it is important that authors and filmmakers empathise and properly take victim's consent before getting the story out to a wider audience.

The writer is a columnist and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.

WISDOM CORNER

- Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness. ANNE FRANK
- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. THOMAS A. EDISON
- Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words. JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1821:** Peru declares independence. The Peruvian War of Independence against Spain began in 1811 and ended with a declaration of independence under the leadership of José de San Martín.
- 1868:** The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—which granted citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and slaves who had been emancipated after the Civil War—entered into force.
- 1914:** World War I begins. Using the assassination of the Austrian archduke Francis Ferdinand as a pretext to present Serbia with an unacceptable ultimatum, Austria-Hungary declared war on the Slavic country on this day in 1914, sparking World War I.
- 1976:** An earthquake in the industrial city of Tangshan, China, killed more than 240,000 people.

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Tiger conservation

Sir, "Call for action" is a succinct theme for the International Tiger Day, 2024. Fight against wildlife crime and strengthening protected areas are two critical areas that warrant immediate action. With 75 per cent of the tiger population, India is seen as the "safest" place for the big cat. But 628 big cats succumbed to poaching or natural causes over the last five years. Peer-competition, electrocution and accidents add to the animal's misery. Construction of over-bridges and underpasses on highways should be hastened. The big cats traverse through "tiger spots" on the highway because they need serious demarcation of territories, and crowded highways are impediments to tiger movement. The lacunae in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 led to the refined Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act, 2006 that has clear provisions on tiger conservation. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

New asset class

Sir, India's investment landscape currently presents a gap for high net worth individuals (HNIs) seeking investment options that balance higher returns with a degree of regulation. Mutual funds offer safety but limited risk-taking, while Portfolio Management Services (PMS) provide flexibility but lack regulatory oversight. SEBI's proposed new asset class aims to address this gap by offering a regulated investment avenue with the potential for higher returns. This category, while operating under the mutual fund framework, will provide fund managers with greater flexibility in constructing portfolios. This is expected to attract HNIs seeking more dynamic investment strategies. By formalising investment options for HNIs, SEBI intends to reduce the prevalence of unregulated investment schemes. This will enhance market integrity and protect investor interests. However, given the higher risk nature of this asset class, robust risk management practices, investor education, and stringent market surveillance are crucial for its success. Investor education will be key to ensuring that investors fully comprehend the associated risks and make informed investment decisions. Moreover, fund houses must implement rigorous risk management frameworks to safeguard investor capital. SEBI's role in market surveillance will be vital in preventing any irregularities and maintaining the integrity of the new asset class. Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

national

of the day quote

While the Opposition party members and workers of all hues suffered immensely before the Lok Sabha Polls due to the "terror" unleashed by the ruling party in West Bengal, what is of immediate and very deep concern, and that requires immediate attention is the continued post-poll violence and intimidation of the Opposition workers by the ruling party in West Bengal

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

Niti Aayog belongs to all. The opposition needs to look within. They have done injustice to the people of the states ruled by them

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE MINISTER

The Budget reflects Modi's vision. He doesn't think in token but in total (holistically). Modi Ji gave the vision of Amrit Kaal on taking the country forward in an inclusive manner

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Two inmates injured in attack in Tihar jail

New Delhi: Two inmates lodged in the Tihar jail here were injured in an attack inside their wards by another inmate with a sharp-edged weapon, officials said Saturday. The victims were taken to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, from where they were discharged after treatment, a Delhi Police officer said. The incident took place inside jail number 9 Friday.

Many dists in MP hit by flood

Bhopal: Incessant moderate to heavy rain caused a flood-like situation in parts of Madhya Pradesh, submerging roads and affecting train services. Due to the flood-like situation caused by rain that continued for the past 48 hours, the citizens in the rural areas had to leave their homes to save their lives. However, the rain brought relief to the Kharif crop farmers. According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional office in Bhopal, rain lashed eastern and western parts of the state in the last 24 hours.

2 students killed in road mishap

Ballia (UP): Two school students were killed and 13 injured when their pickup van ramed into a truck parked in the Phephana area of this Uttar Pradesh district on Saturday morning, an official said. The victims, aged between 12 and 17 years, were from a private school, Ballia District Magistrate (DM) Praveen Kumar told PTI.

Robot serves food in Bengal restaurant

Painted in white, the robot is about 5 feet tall and has a rectangular 'face' which doubles up as a sensor-driven digital screen to help the kitchen staff transport food ordered by customers sitting at a particular table

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 27: Standing next to a national highway that connects the southern part of West Bengal to its north, a restaurant resembling a typical village house serves multi-cuisine platter to its patrons. But, it does that in style.

NITI Aayog blatantly partisan: Cong

The Opposition's scathing criticism of the NITI Aayog came after Mamata Banerjee walked out of its 9th Governing Council meeting, claiming she was unfairly stopped midway through her speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The Congress Saturday said the treatment meted out to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a NITI Aayog meeting here was "unacceptable" and alleged that the government think-tank has been "blatantly partisan" in its functioning, muzzling all divergent and dissenting viewpoints.

The government rejected Banerjee's charge as "misleading", saying she had exhausted the time allotted for her speech. "The clock only showed that her speaking time was over. Even the bell was not rung to mark it," the PIB Factcheck said in a post on X.

The Congress also targeted NITI Aayog, saying it had functioned as a "drumbeater" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since it was set up 10 years ago. The meeting, chaired by PM Modi, was boycotted by Congress party Chief Ministers over alleged discrimination



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with the media after walking out of Niti Aayog meeting

against non-NDA-ruled states in the Union Budget.

Congress general secretary, in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh said, "Since it was established ten years ago, NITI Aayog has been an attached office of the PMO and has functioned as a drumbeater for the non-biological PM." It has not advanced the cause of cooperative federalism in any manner, he said.

"Its functioning has been blatantly partisan, and it is anything but professional and independent," Ramesh alleged. "It muzzles all divergent and dissenting viewpoints, which are the very essence of an open democracy. Its meetings are a farce to be reckoned with."

"Its treatment of the West Bengal CM today, although typical of the NITI Aayog, is unac-

ceptable", Ramesh said in a post on X. While the Congress expressed solidarity with Banerjee over the developments at the NITI Aayog meeting, on the same day, its West Bengal unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, alleging that West Bengal is in an "anarchic condition" and sought her intervention to "restore law and order" in the state.

In another post on X, Ramesh said, "The non-biological PM in his address to NITI Aayog has woken up to the realisation that India needs to make policies conducive to international investments, that is FDI."

"For ten long years, he has indeed encouraged FDI -- Fear, Deceit and Intimidation. And now he pontificates," Ramesh said. Before FDI, India needs to

catalyse and trigger a fresh spurt of DI - Domestic Investment - which marked the Manmohan Singh decade, he said.

"You boost DI, and FDI will follow. The fact is that DI in India has been extremely sluggish since 2014 due to a combination of erratic policymaking, evinced by the senseless demonetisation, the botched GST rollout, and the unplanned COVID-19 lockdown," Ramesh claimed.

The domestic investment is sluggish also due to "rampant cronyism" that has led to increasing oligopolisation and restricted the space for competition, the Congress leader said.

The council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all state chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union Ministers. Prime Minister Modi is the chairman of NITI Aayog.

Chief Ministers of the INDIA bloc, M K Stalin (DMK) of Tamil Nadu, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (CPI-M), Punjab's Bhagwant Mann (Aam Aadmi Party), Siddaramaiah (Congress) of Karnataka, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Congress) of Himachal Pradesh, A Revanth Reddy (Congress) of Telangana, and Jharkhand's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha), skipped the NITI Aayog meeting. Opposition parties have alleged that the states ruled by them have been ignored in the Union Budget presented recently in the Lok Sabha.

B'LORE PG MURDER CASE: ACCUSED HELD FROM MP

Karnataka Police Saturday said that they have arrested the killer in the murder case of a 24-year-old woman from Madhya Pradesh



Army foils Pak's BAT attack; 1 soldier killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, July 27: A soldier was killed and four others, including a captain, were injured as the Indian Army foiled an attack Saturday by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) in the Kamakari sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, military sources said.

They said a Pakistani intruder was also killed in the exchange of fire, while two more managed to return to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) amid the intense gunfight that lasted for hours.

The BAT generally comprises special forces personnel of the Pakistan Army and terrorists.

"Action by Border Action Team has been foiled by alert Indian Army troops Saturday morning in Kamakari sector," one of the sources said.

Security in the Union territory has been tightened following a recent uptick in terror attacks there. In the Jammu region alone, attacks in Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua and Doda districts have claimed 22 lives, including that of 11 security personnel and a village defence guard member, this year. As part of its attempt to beef up security in Jammu, the government is sending two BSF battalions, comprising more than 2,000 personnel, from Odisha, according to sources.

The decision to "immediately" move the two units from the



anti-Naxal operations grid was taken in the wake of the recent spate of terror attacks in the Jammu region, they told PTI. In the attack Saturday morning in Kupwara, a Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said, the intruders crossed the LoC taking advantage of the bad weather and poor visibility in the area and fired on a forward Army post from proximity.

According to the sources, the group of three intruders hurled a grenade and opened fire on a forward post near the Kunkadi post in the Trehgam sector of the north Kashmir district.

The troops retaliated, triggering a gunfight between the two sides, the sources said, adding that five soldiers were injured in the encounter and one of them later succumbed to injuries.

They said the injured Army personnel, including the captain, were evacuated to the Base Hospital in Srinagar.

In a statement, the defence spokesperson said the identification and affiliation of the slain Pakistani intruder was being ascertained.

SNIPPETS

PM holds meeting with BJP CMs, Dy-CMs



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday held deliberations with Chief Ministers and deputy Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states over a host of issues, with focus on ensuring that benefits of numerous welfare schemes fully cover the targeted beneficiaries. Modi, sources said, noted the efforts of the BJP-run governments to help different sections of society, especially the poor. The "mukhyamantri parishad" organised

by the BJP at regular intervals is aimed at reviewing key schemes in states, following the best governance practices and the delivery of central government welfare initiatives. Besides Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and J P Nadda, who is also the party president, chief ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Bhajanlal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha) were among the leaders who attended the first day of the two-day meeting here. Chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Manipur and Chhattisgarh were also part of the deliberations. The leaders at times also take stock of the political situation.



Ex-TN BJP MP Master Mathan dead

Chennai: BJP leader and former Nilgiris MP, M Master Mathan passed away Friday and the party hailed his contributions for the betterment of the society and upliftment of the marginalised people. He was 91 years old and passed away on the night of July 26 at his Coimbatore residence due to age-related

ailments, his family said. A noted leader of the backward Badaga community, who are natives of the Nilgiris district, Mathan is survived by wife, two sons and a daughter. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1998 from the Nilgiris constituency and reelected in 1999 from the same segment. A former Tamil Nadu BJP vice-president, he has served as a member of Parliamentary committees including one on agriculture. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was pained by the demise of Master Mathan.

J&K: 8 killed in road mishap

Srinagar: Eight persons were killed Saturday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, an official said. The accident took place near Arashan Daksum on Kishtwar-Sinthan road. The deceased included 5 children and two women. A policeman was also killed in the accident. The road connects Anantnag district of the Kashmir Valley with Kishtwar district of Jammu division. "The vehicle was coming from Madwa Kishtwar. The postmortem would be conducted at a hospital in Kokernag town," an official said.



A man holds a kite during the 34th state level kite festival in Bangalore, Karnataka

Gaganyaan astronaut to travel to ISS in joint mission with NASA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha.

In a written reply, Singh said NASA has identified a private entity Axiom Space and ISRO had signed a Space Flight Agreement



with the American firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS). During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the US were collaborating to

send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024. India's Astronaut Selection Board had selected four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Indian Air Force for the Gaganyaan mission. India's first human space flight planned to take place next year. The minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyatri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mockup sim-

ulators have been realised. Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid and cryogenic engine, towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed.

Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said. The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed.

3 dead after 4-storey building collapses in Navi Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 27: Three persons were killed and two others injured after a four-storey residential building collapsed in Navi Mumbai's CBD Belapur area early Saturday, officials said.

The two injured persons were pulled out alive from under the rubble after the incident that occurred at 4.50 am in Shahbaz village, they said, adding that the scale of the tragedy could have been bigger had 52 other residents of the building not been evacuated in time after cracks were noticed in it in the wee hours.

"The four-storey building with 13 residential units and three shops collapsed early this morning. A man and a woman who

were trapped under the rubble were rescued and admitted to a hospital," Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) Commissioner Kailas Shinde said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the personnel of the civic body's fire brigade launched a rescue operation. Around noon, the body of a man was recovered from under the debris, while the bodies of two others were recovered hours later, a civic official said.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Miraj Altaf Hussain (30), Miraj Saif Ansari (24) and Saffique Ahmed Rahmat Ali Ansari (28). Their bodies were sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, he said.

national

of the day quote

The Ahir regiment is not just the demand of south Haryana but the entire country



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

Today, Uttar Pradesh boasts of a robust law-and-order system which has positively shifted perceptions about the state both nationally and internationally



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

This Budget is hugely historic. It lays the foundation for Vikas Bharat to make India a fully developed country by 2047. It lays the foundation to make the country the third largest economy in the world in the next 3-4 years



KIREN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

X POST OF THE DAY

Is this #CooperativeFederalism? Is this the way to treat a Chief Minister? The Union BJP government must understand that opposition parties are an integral part of our democracy and should not be treated as enemies to be silenced. Cooperative Federalism requires dialogue and respect for all voices. #NITIAYog @MamataOfficial @PMOIndia #Budget2024



@mkstain

SHORT TAKES

4 cousins crushed to death in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Four cousins were crushed to death by a speeding jeep while they were standing at a roadside restaurant in the Rishabhdev area of Rajasthan's Udaipur district, police said Saturday. The incident occurred late Friday on the Udaipur-Ahmedabad highway, they said. While two of them died on the spot, the others succumbed to injuries at the MB Government Hospital in Udaipur. The deceased were identified as Jalam (25), Raju (22), Ashok (20) and Vinod (20).

4 arrested by CBI on bribery charges

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested four people, including an official and a principal scientist of the Jorhat-based CSIR-NEIST for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹8 lakh from a businessman to pass a equipment purchase contract, officials said Saturday. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) is a research and development organisation based in Assam's Jorhat.

NIA chargesheets Jharkhand man

Ranchi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday charge-sheeted another accused for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy hatched by naxals to attack security forces in Jharkhand. The case, taken over by the NIA in June 2022, is related to indiscriminate firing by active cadres and operatives of CPI (Maoist) on a joint team of police state and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) when they were on the way to Bahabar Jungle at Harkatta Toli and Banglapat in Jharkhand, officials said. The charge sheet was filed in a special NIA court here, the officials said.



It was the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation that could not defend in the Supreme Court the decision of the Devendra Fadnavis government to grant reservations to the Maratha community

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

NCCF TO SELL TOMATOES AT ₹60 A KG FROM JULY 29

To provide relief from soaring tomato prices, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) will begin selling the commodity at a subsidised rate of ₹60 per kg in the Delhi-NCR region from Monday



More BJP-ruled states announce reservation for Agniveers in jobs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jaipur, July 27: Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh have joined other BJP-ruled states that have announced reservation or preference to ex-Agniveers for jobs in uniformed services like police, amid criticism of the short service military recruitment scheme by opposition parties which are calling for its scrapping.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said his government will provide reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of jail and forest guards and state police.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office Saturday said Sharma made the announcement for Agniveers on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas July 26.

"The Rajasthan government has made a provision of reservation in state police, jail guard and forest guard recruitments for the Agniveers who protect the country's borders with a sense of dedication and patriotism," it said. However, the percentage of the reservation in these services for Agniveers was not disclosed.

Retired Agniveers will be given preference during recruitment for the state's police, emergency and fire services, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced. Khandu said this transformative initiative would enable the youngsters of Arunachal Pradesh to serve the country.

The Odisha government Friday, announced a 10 per cent quota and five years of age relaxation for Agniveers in the state's uniformed services.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Agniveers who return after serving the country will be given weightage in UP Police and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC). However, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said

States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh had Friday announced similar incentives

Saturday that the Agnipath scheme will be cancelled "as soon as we come to power".

While campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections, Yadav repeatedly promised to scrap the scheme if the INDIA bloc, of which the Samajwadi Party is a constituent, formed the government at the centre.

In a post on X, Yadav said, "As soon as we come to power, the short-term 'Agniveer' military recruitment that compromises the security of the country and plays with the future of the soldiers will be cancelled within 24 hours." "This is our demand on 'Agniveer' ... The old recruitment (model) should be reinstated," he said in Hindi.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Friday said Agniveers from the state would be given priority while recruiting police constables and forest and jail guards once they complete their service in the Indian Army. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said his government will give priority to Agniveers in the recruitment for armed police as well as the State Reserve Police Force (SRP).

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said his government will provide quota to Agniveers in police and armed forces recruitment. Last week, Haryana's BJP government had also announced a 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment of constables, forest guards and jail wardens, along with quotas in other posts, months ahead of the assembly polls.

4 dead as rains pound parts of north India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Four people were killed in rain-related incidents in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh Saturday as rains lashed parts of northwest and north India including Delhi where evening downpours brought relief from humid conditions but caused waterlogging and traffic snarls.

Alongside Pune, other parts of Maharashtra - Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Raigad - received heavy rains earlier this week. A building collapse in Navi Mumbai killed three persons and injured two others Saturday. According to the India Meteorological Department, heavy to very heavy rainfall was recorded at some places with extremely heavy falls at isolated places over Chhattisgarh; Tamil Nadu, West Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, South Interior and Coastal Karnataka, and Odisha.

Heavy rainfall was observed at isolated places over Haryana-Chandigarh, East Rajasthan, East Madhya Pradesh, Kerala & Mahe, Konkarn and Goa, Vidarbha and North Interior Karnataka. In Delhi, the PUSA



A landslide in Uttarakhand's New Tehri killed a mother-daughter duo while two people died as lightning struck them at their village in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district



In Maharashtra, the body of a 26-year-old man, who was swept away in floodwaters July 24 when torrential rains pounded Pune, was recovered Saturday, taking the toll since Wednesday to six

observatory recorded 26.5 mm rainfall as the city's maximum temperature settled at 36.3 degrees Celsius, 1.4 notch above the season's average.

The Delhi Police issued alerts about roads affected due to waterlogging and advised commuters to take alternative routes. The humidity level oscillated between 97 per cent and 72 per cent. Traffic was affected on the Anuvrat Marg in both carriageways due to waterlogging

near Qutub Minar Metro station.

Meanwhile, the emergency operations centre in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla said 56 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of monsoon June 27.

In New Tehri of neighbouring Uttarakhand, a 42-year-old woman and her teenage daughter were buried alive by a landslide in a village following incessant rainfall in the Budhakedar area.

2 dead as basement of coaching centre flooded in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Two civil services aspirants died and another was missing after the basement of a building housing a coaching centre was flooded following heavy rain in central Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar area Saturday evening, officials said.

According to the Delhi Fire Department (DFS), a call about waterlogging was received from the Rau's IAS Study Circle at about 7 pm. "We received a call at 7 pm regarding a basement of a coaching institute being flooded. The caller told us that there was a possibility that some people were trapped.

"We are investigating how the entire basement was flooded. It appeared that the basement got flooded very fast due to which some people were trapped inside," DCP (Central Delhi) M Harshvardhan told reporters. A fire department official said that a total of five tenders were rushed to the site. The basement was full of water when they arrived.

The bodies of two female students were retrieved from the site during the rescue operation by the NDRE, local police and fire department, the official said.



Troops during a rescue and relief operation at a flood-affected area after heavy rainfall in Sangli, Maharashtra PTI PHOTO

PM likely to visit Ukraine next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Ukrainian capital Kyiv next month to hold talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy against the backdrop of renewed global efforts to sketch out a path to end Russia's war on Ukraine, multiple diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The proposed visit is being planned around the Ukrainian National Day of August 24 and

the prime minister may also travel to Poland as part of a two-nation tour, they said.

If the visit takes place, then it would be the first trip by Modi to Ukraine and the first to Poland by an Indian prime minister in nearly 45 years.

The final rounds of discussions between Indian and Ukrainian officials on the trip came amid outrage in the Western world over Modi's recent visit to Moscow.

His proposed visit to Kyiv is

being seen in some quarters as New Delhi's balancing act on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

There is no finality yet on the visit as massive preparations would be required in terms of logistics for the travel to a "war-zone", the sources said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a phone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba July 19 and they discussed the visit of the prime minister, one of the sources said.

INFERNO AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF NAVAL REFITS

SAYAN CHATTERJEE

I hesitated to write this, not wanting to follow the prevailing news trends. Nevertheless, sharing my firsthand experience aboard INS Brahmaputra (F-31), the Raging Rhino is essential.

In August 2019, I had the unique privilege of participating in the prestigious defence correspondents' course organised by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. As part of this esteemed group within the Western Naval Command, the sword arm of the Indian Navy, we embarked on a day-long voyage to enhance our practical understanding of navigating the Arabian Sea's turbulent waters. To our delight, INS Brahmaputra (F-31) was the vessel chosen to host us, offering a rare firsthand experience of its capabilities.

INS Brahmaputra, a remarkable Guided Missile frigate constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata, is a crucial asset to India's naval fleet.

It specialises in anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface operations, standing out with its impressive length of approximately 126 meters and a displacement of around 3,850 tons.

Now, coming to the unfortunate incident.

As reported earlier, a fire had broken out onboard the INS Brahmaputra, a multi-role

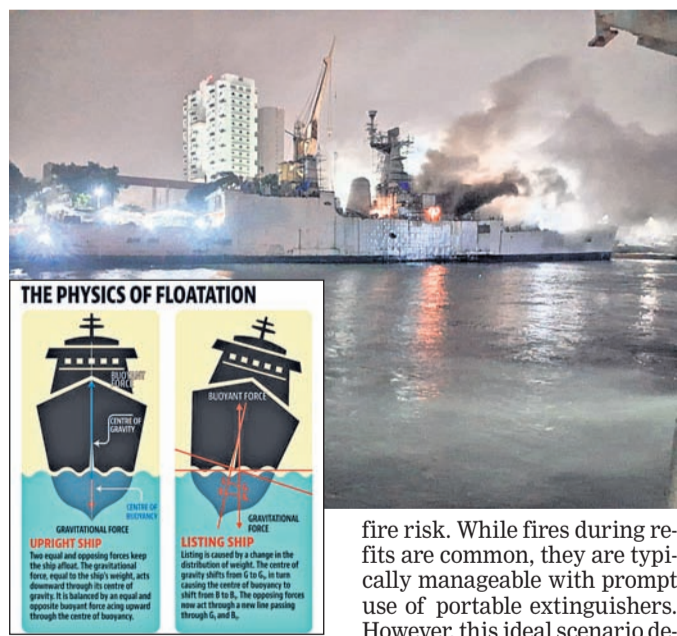
Frigate, on the evening of 21 Jul 24 while she was undergoing refit at ND (Mbi). However, the fire was swiftly controlled by the ship's crew with the assistance of firefighters from Naval Dockyard, Mumbai (ND (Mbi)) and other ships in the harbour by the morning of 22 Jul 24. Subsequently, the ship experienced severe listing to one side (port side) in the afternoon.

Despite all efforts, the ship could not be righted. It continued to list further at its berth and eventually rested on one side. Tragically, while most personnel were accounted for, one junior sailor was initially unaccounted for. After intensive diving operations, the missing sailor, Sitendra Singh, was found. The Indian Navy has ordered an inquiry to investigate the accident in detail, and I believe the naval professionalism will conclude this inquiry duly and with time.

Until now, it has been an unfortunate account for both the Indian Navy and Sailor Sitendra Singh's family members and for us, the nation at large.

However, it is quite unfortunate to observe how narratives are being established

to portray this incident. Some highlight it as another embarrassing chapter in the Indian Navy's history, citing past incidents where ships were lost during repairs and even a submarine was lost at port due to a failure in securing the hatch.



Such narratives suggest gross negligence or incompetence within the Navy, undoubtedly amusing both Pakistan and China.

We must understand the probabilities, so make or share any concrete narratives.

What might be the underlying causes?

VULNERABILITIES DURING REFIT
Ships under refit are particularly susceptible to incidents. Essential firefighting systems are often disabled, and activities like welding or cutting ("hot work") significantly increase

promising its stability. To counter this, any excess water must be pumped out and discarded overboard to preserve the ship's balance. Effective pumping systems are essential to remove excess water and prevent tipping.

THE DANGER OF PUMPING LIMITATIONS

The problem becomes more severe when the ship's pumping capacity is insufficient compared to the water volume. This mismatch can affect the ship's stability, whether due to design limitations or because systems are under refit. An imbalance in water distribution causes the ship to develop a dangerous list or heel. Normally, a ship's stability relies on the alignment of the centre of gravity (CoG) and the centre of buoyancy (CoB), with the CoG ideally positioned below the CoB to counteract tilting forces. When water accumulation shifts the CoG upwards and the CoB outwards, the righting arm increases, exacerbating the list. If the CoG surpasses the CoB, the ship can no longer maintain buoyancy, leading to capsizing.

BALANCE AND CATASTROPHE

If the ship's centre of gravity surpasses its centre of buoyancy, maintaining an upright position becomes impossible, leading to capsizing. This appears to be what happened with INS Brahmaputra.

FIRE AND WATER WORSENE

THE LIST

The fire on the upper decks added weight, and the water used to extinguish it exacerbated the list. This incident mirrors the 2016 capsizing of the INS Betwa, another Brahmaputra-class ship.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Warships often compromise some stability for enhanced manoeuvrability. The investigation will likely explore whether design factors played a role and recommend necessary improvements.

SALVAGE AND RECOVERY

There is hope for the INS Brahmaputra. Drawing parallels with INS Betwa, it could be salvaged and returned to service within months. Best wishes to the Indian Navy and the INS Brahmaputra crew, with prayers for Sailor Satyendra Singh's family. This analysis is based on my personal views. The BoI's findings on the definitive cause of the INS Brahmaputra incident are pending. Meanwhile, the CNS was briefed on the mitigating actions taken to limit the extent of the damage, plan to recover, and undertake repairs to restore the ship's functionality as soon as possible. The CNS directed that all actions by the Command and naval headquarters to make INS Brahmaputra seaworthy and combat-ready be initiated immediately.

international

of the day quote

If the Philippines introduces the US intermediate-range missile system, it will create tension and confrontation in the region and trigger an arms race, which is completely not in line with the interests and wishes of the Filipino people

WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER, CHINA

Tax policy is very difficult to coordinate globally, and we don't see a need or really think its desirable to try to negotiate a global agreement on that

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

Europe has given up defending its own interests. All Europe is doing today is following the US's pro-Democrat foreign policy unconditionally even at the cost of self-destruction

VIKTOR ORBAN | PM, HUNGARY

SHORT TAKES

Patil appointed to UK's Labour NEC

London: Dr Neeraj Patil, a leading NRI and former Mayor of the London Borough of Lambeth, has been appointed to the National Executive Committee, the highest decision-making body of Britain's ruling Labour Party. Patil's appointment to the National Executive Committee (NEC) has been confirmed by General Secretary of the Labour Party David Evans in a letter last week. The NEC, which governs the Labour Party, setting the overall strategic direction and policy development, consists of 39 members, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer, representatives from trade unions, MPs, and party members. Born in Kalburgi in Karnataka, Patil had his initial education in India. He then completed his post-graduation from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh with an FRCS & MRCS in Accident and Emergency (A&E).

Heatwave in Iran shuts govt offices

Tehran: A heatwave blanketing Iran has forced authorities to cut operating hours at various facilities Saturday and order all government and commercial institutions to shutter Sunday. The temperature ranged from 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit) to 42 C (about 107 F) in the capital, Tehran Saturday, according to weather reports. State-run IRNA news agency said banks, offices, and public institutions across the country would close Sunday to protect people's health and conserve energy.

DE-ESCALATION & RESTRAINT AND DIALOGUE & DIPLOMACY EAM invokes India's mantra to end wars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vientiane (Laos), July 27: India Saturday called for de-escalation and restraint in war-torn Gaza while maintaining the importance of dialogue and diplomacy to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted India's stand on the two major conflicts while addressing the 14th East Asia Summit's Foreign Ministers Meeting here in the capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic as part of the meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Jaishankar spoke about two of the world's current most raging conflicts: the one between Israel-Palestine leading to trouble for Gaza and the other between Ukraine and Russia after speak-

JAPAN'S SADO GOLD MINE GAINS UNESCO TAG

Tokyo pledges to exhibit dark WWII history of abusing Korean labourers signaling improved ties with Seoul

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 27: The UNESCO World Heritage committee Saturday decided to register Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site after the country agreed to include it in an exhibit of its dark history of abusing Korean labourers during World War II. The decision signals an improvement in ties between Tokyo and Seoul.

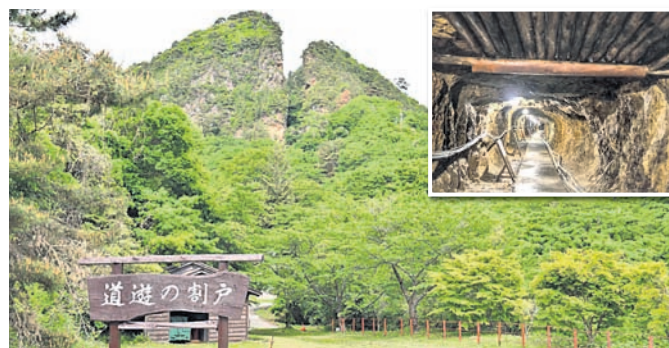
The mine on an island off the coast of Niigata in northern

Japan operated for nearly 400 years and was once the world's largest gold producer before closing in 1989. It was also linked to Japan's wartime abuse of Korean labourers.

Committee members, including South Korea, gave unanimous support to the listing at Saturday's annual meeting in New Delhi, India.

They said Japan provided additional information, made all necessary amendments to the plan and consulted with South Korea over the mine's wartime history. The Japanese delegate told the meeting that Japan has installed new exhibition material "to explain the severe conditions of (Korean labourers) work and remember their hardship".

Japan acknowledged that Koreans were put to more dan-



gerous tasks in the mine shaft, which caused some to die. Many of them were also given meagre food rations and nearly no days off.

A memorial service for all the workers at the Sado Island gold mines will be held annually at the site, Japanese officials said.

The South Korean delegation said the country expects Japan

to keep its pledge to be truthful to history and to show "both the bright and dark side" of the Sado mine in order to help improve relations over the long term.

Japan had to demonstrate a commitment to face its wartime atrocities in order to gain support from South Korea, which had opposed the UNESCO bid

RAM KATHA AT UN HQ

Indian spiritual leader Morari Bapu will recite Ram Katha for the first time at the UN headquarters in New York to spread the timeless relevance of the Ramcharitmanas, one of the most revered Hindu scriptures



Rare peace at SCS after China, Philippines deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manila (Philippines), July 27: Philippine government personnel transported food and other supplies Saturday to a fiercely disputed shoal occupied by a Filipino navy contingent but closely guarded by Beijing's forces in the South China Sea and no confrontations were reported, Philippine officials said.

It was the first Philippine government supply trip to the Second Thomas Shoal, which has been the scene of increasingly violent confrontations between Chinese and Philippine forces, since the Philippines and China reached a deal a week ago to prevent clashes, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement.

"The lawful and routine rotation and resupply mission within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone is a credit to the professionalism of the men and women of the Philippine navy and the Philippine coast guard and the close coordination among the National Security Council, Department of National Defense and the Department of Foreign Affairs," the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said, without providing other details.

A top Philippine security official told The Associated Press that the Chinese and Philippine coast guards communicated for coordination Saturday, and their ships did not issue two-way radio challenges like in the past to demand that each other's ships leave the shoal immediately.

Also, for the first time at the shoal, Chinese coast guard ships did not shadow or block the Philippine vessels as they had repeatedly done in the past, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authorization to discuss the delicate issue publicly.

China's coast guard said the Philippine ship delivered daily necessities "in accordance with a temporary arrangement reached between China and the Philippines."

"The China Coast Guard confirmed it, supervised and managed the entire process," spokesperson Gan Yu said in a statement posted online.

US PREZ POLLS

Harris enters race

Vice President Kamala Harris officially declares candidature for US presidential elections; yet to get nod from the Democratic party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 27: Vice President Kamala Harris Saturday officially signed her forms, declaring her candidacy for the post of President of the US and voiced confidence that she would win the high-stakes election November 5.

"Today, I signed the forms of officially declaring my candidacy for President of the United States. I will work hard to earn every vote," 59-year-old Harris, who is of Indian and African origin, said on X.

"In November, our people-powered campaign will win," the presumptive Democratic Party candidate said, referring to her electoral battle with former president and the Republican Party's nominee Donald Trump.

Harris launched her presidential campaign last Sunday, hours after President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race for a second term. She is, however, yet to be officially declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats.

Meanwhile, no other Democrats have announced their candidacy for the presidential race. Harris has secured endorsements from more than 40 state delegations, surpassing

the number of delegates she will need to win the nomination and if that support holds, Democrats will officially nominate her for president during a virtual roll call vote early next month.

Under new rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee Wednesday, the nominee will be selected as soon as August 1, and the candidate has until August 7 to select a running



If elected November 5 to succeed President Biden, Harris - the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother - would not only be the first woman, but the first Indian-American, the first Asian, the first Black woman and the first person of Jamaican descent to ascend to the office

- ▶ No other Democrats have announced their candidacy
- ▶ Harris has secured endorsements from over 40 state delegations
- ▶ The nominee, to be selected as soon as August 1, has until August 7 to select running mate

mate. The party will meet for its convention in Chicago starting August 19.

Harris, who was a senator from California before she was elected vice president, quickly hit the campaign trail with events in Wisconsin, Indiana and Texas. Her campaign said it raked in more than \$130 million since she officially joined the White House race.

The endorsement comes as 'Harris for President' kicks off a 'Weekend of Action' marking 100 days until Election Day (November 5).

With over 1,70,000 volunteers and 2,300 events across the battleground states, Team Harris is making its case to the voters who will decide this election about the fundamental choice they will face this November at the ballot box.

30 killed as Israel hits Gaza school

THE WAR IN GAZA HAS KILLED MORE THAN 39,200 PALESTINIANS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), July 27: Israeli airstrikes hit a school being used by displaced people in central Gaza Saturday, killing dozens, as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire.

At least 30 people sheltering at a girls' school in Deir Al-Balah were taken to Al Aqsa Hospital and pronounced dead after a strike that Israel's military said targeted a Hamas command and control centre used to store weapons and plan attacks. It said militants "used the compound as a hiding place to direct and plan numerous attacks against IDF troops" and "developed and stored large quantities of weapons inside".

Civil defence workers in Gaza said that thousands were sheltering in the school, which also contained a medical site.

Near the hospital, where the bodies were transported, Associated Press journalists saw an ambulance rushing through a dusty road as a few people ran in the opposite direction. An in-

Hezbollah strike kills 10

A rocket attack Saturday on a soccer field in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights killed at least 10 people and wounded several others, including children, Israel said, hours after an Israeli airstrike on south Lebanon killed three members of the militant Hezbollah group. The strike, the deadliest attack on an Israeli target since the fighting between the two foes erupted in October, raised fears of a broader conflagration in the region. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was returning home as quickly as possible from the United States, his office said.

jured man lay on a stretcher on the ground. A body covered with a blanket and a dead toddler lay inside the ambulance.

Inside the school, classrooms were in ruins. People were seen searching for victims under the rubble and some were gathering the remains of those who were killed.

Gaza's Health Ministry said at least 12 people had been killed in other strikes Saturday.



Embers spark a spot fire as the Park Fire burns below Highway 32 near Lomo in Butte County, California

PTI/PHOTO

Drug lord's arrest may set off violent power tussle

MEXICO DEPLOYS 200 MEMBERS OF ITS SPECIAL FORCES TO CULIACAN, SINALOA STATE'S CAPITAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, July 27: A new era is coming for Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel in the wake of the capture by US authorities of Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada, the last of the grand old Mexican drug traffickers.

Experts believe his arrest will usher in a new wave of violence in Mexico even as Zambada could potentially provide loads of information for US prosecutors.

Zambada, who had eluded authorities for decades and had never set foot in prison, was known for being an astute operator, skilled at corrupting officials and having an ability to negotiate with everyone, including rivals.

Removing him from the criminal landscape could set off an internal war for control of the cartel that has a global reach — as has occurred with the arrest



or killings of other kingpins — and open the door to the violent inclinations of a younger generation of Sinaloa traffickers, experts say.

There is "significant potential for high escalation of violence across Mexico", said Vanda Felbab-Brown, a senior fellow in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security Strategy and Technology at the Brookings Institution.

That "is bad for Mexico, it's bad for the United States, as well as the possibility that the even more vicious (Jalisco New Generation cartel) will rise to even greater importance". For that reason, Zambada's arrest could be considered a "great tactical success", but strategically problematic, Felbab-Brown said.

While details remain scarce, a United States official who spoke

on condition of anonymity said Zambada was tricked into flying to the US, where he was arrested along with Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of the infamous Sinaloa leader Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán. The elder Guzmán is serving a life sentence in the United States.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a vocal critic of the strategy of taking down drug kingpins, said Friday that Mexico had not participated or known about the US operation, but said he considered the arrests an "advance".

Later, Obrador, while talking about where the Sinaloa and Jalisco cartels are battling for control of smuggling routes along the Guatemala border Friday, downplayed the violence that had driven nearly 600 Mexicans to seek refuge in Guatemala this week.

business

of the day quote

We continue to see a lot of growth in many parts of the AMESA (Africa, Middle East & South Asia) region, in particular India is a big growth space for us and it's an investment area for sure

RAMON LAGUARTA | PEPSICO CHAIRMAN AND CEO

I'm glad that the nation as a whole has decided to progress from 3.5-trillion dollar economy, now the fifth largest in the world, to 5-trillion dollar

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

The sugar industry will be a major driver to make India a developed economy by 2047

AMITABH KANT | G20 SHERPA

SHORT TAKES

Over 5cr ITRs filed so far this fiscal

New Delhi: The income tax department Saturday said more than 5 crore I-T returns have been filed on the e-filing portal, an 8 per cent increase over last year. It further said that Infosys has been instructed to ensure uninterrupted services and the company has assured uninterrupted services during the e-filing peak period. "More than 5 crore ITRs for AY 2024-25 have already been received on the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department till 26th of July 2024. This is 8 per cent more than the ITRs filed in the preceding year," the Department posted on X. Over 28 lakh ITRs were filed July 26 itself. It said Infosys is the technology partner of ITD for operating the e-filing portal. In 2023-24 fiscal, over 8.61 crore ITRs were filed.

Separate plans for voice calls, data

New Delhi: The telecom regulator Trai Friday issued a consultation paper to review mobile recharge plans, including separate recharge vouchers for voice calls, data and sms. In the "Consultation Paper on Review of Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations (TCP), 2012", the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is also exploring if the maximum validity of Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) and Combo Vouchers (CVs) should be increased from 90-day limit at present. The regulator in the consultation paper said that despite the prevalence of bundled plans that include both data and voice and SMS services. Many consumers find themselves paying for data they do not use. "This consultation paper intends to explore the requirement of introducing product specific (Voice/SMS/Data and combinations thereof) tariff offerings in addition to present tariff offerings and make required changes in the current tariff regulatory framework," the paper said.

Manoj Mittal new CMD of SIDBI

New Delhi: Manoj Mittal has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), following his appointment by the Centre. Prior to this, he was the managing director of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI). Mittal has over 33 years of experience in the financial services sector, including his previous tenures as MD and CEO of IFCI and Deputy Managing Director at SIDBI, an official statement said.



The government is taking several initiatives to prioritise renewable energy. Nearly 151 GW of renewable projects are being implemented, and 76.42 GW will be operationalised in 3-4 years

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

G20 agrees to tackle taxation of super-rich

REUTERS
Rio de Janeiro, July 27: The first-ever joint declaration by G20 finance leaders vowing to cooperate on effectively taxing the world's largest fortunes Friday papered over deeper disagreement about the right forum to advance the agenda.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 major economies agreed to reference fair taxation of 'ultra-high-net-worth individuals' in both their joint communique and a separate declaration on international tax cooperation Friday. "We will seek to engage cooperatively to ensure that ultra-high-net-worth individuals are effectively taxed," said the final draft of the G20 ministerial declaration in Rio de Janeiro, seen by Reuters. However, fault lines have already emerged about whether to do that in talks at the United Nations or via the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a group of wealthier democracies founded by US and European allies. US Treasury Secretary Janet



Yellen told Reuters on the sidelines of the G20 meeting that she believes the OECD, which shepherded negotiations for a global two-part corporate tax deal for the past three years, is better placed to handle such talks. "We don't want to see this shifted to the UN," Yellen said, adding that the OECD "is a consensus-based organization. We've made a huge amount of progress, and the UN doesn't have the technical expertise to do this." Major developing nations have already bristled at that approach, according to an official familiar with the matter, who said Brazil should use its G20 presidency to advance discussion at

both the UN and OECD. Some of the most vocal advocates of a global minimum tax on billionaires, including Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, insisted that the UN was the proper forum for global tax cooperation. "We call on G20 leaders to align with the progress being made at the UN and establish a truly democratic process for setting global standards on taxing the ultra-rich," said Oxfam International's Tax Policy Lead Susana Ruiz. "Entrusting this task to the OECD—the club of mostly rich countries—would simply not be good enough," she added. Brazilian Finance Ministry official Guilherme Mello, said

that the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation represented a victory for the developing nations of the "Global South" who seek a venue where they are better represented, as most countries are not members of the OECD. Still, Mello recognised both the OECD and the UN as legitimate forums, and he said an ongoing discussion of how to effectively tax the super-rich is progress, whatever the forum. "The shape this will take depends on many dialogues that will be held," he added. Some observers remained skeptical about the chances for a global "billionaire tax" targeting the world's largest fortunes. European officials pointed out that not even the 27-nation European Union has power of taxation as a bloc. Although France lent early support to a global minimum wealth tax, Germans have offered stiff resistance. "It seems that it might be very difficult to bring this forward," said one European official at the G20 meetings.

Govt extends EV scheme by 2 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 27: The government Friday announced the extension of the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme by two months till the September end and increased the total outlay to Rs 778 crore from Rs 500 crore. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries in March this year and aims to boost the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) across the country. The EMPS scheme was originally set to run from April 1, 2024, to July 31, 2024, with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore. "The scheme has been extended by two more months i.e. up to September 30, 2024. Additionally, the scheme's outlay has been enhanced to Rs 778 crore," an official statement said. The scheme aims to advance the government's green initiatives and foster the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The eligible EV categories under the scheme include elec-



tric two-wheelers and three-wheelers including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 category. With greater emphasis on providing affordable and environment-friendly public transportation options for the masses, the scheme will be applicable mainly to those e-2W and e-3Ws registered for commercial purposes. Further, in addition to commercial use, privately or corporate-owned registered e-2W will also be eligible under the scheme. Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) - 2024 is expected to provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

AM/NS India receives coveted CSR award

BHUBANESWAR: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, two of the world's leading steel-makers, has been conferred with the prestigious ASSOCHAM Odisha CSR & Sustainability Excellence Awards 2024 in the category of Community Impact (Cross-Sector Collaboration) for its exemplary work making significant positive impacts on local communities through its CSR initiatives. AM/NS India won this prestigious award for its innovative and high impact projects for community development, infrastructure enhancement, and support for local economies across its operational areas in Odisha. Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Govt. of Odisha presented the award

to TS Shanbhogue, Head - Greenfield Project, EC & FC, Odisha, AM/NS India and Dr. Vikas Yadvendu, Head CSR, AM/NS India in a function organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in Bhubaneswar July 26. Dr. Vikas Yadvendu also participated in a panel discussion on "Driving Sustainable Growth: Innovative Strategies for CSR in Odisha," where he delivered a keynote address on innovative CSR strategies that can drive sustainable growth, foster meaningful, and long-lasting community impact in the region. He highlighted AM/NS India's commitment to advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring equitable access for the marginalized populations through its CSR initiatives.



Ola Electric to launch IPO next week, valuation \$4.4bn

REUTERS
New Delhi, July 27: SoftBank-backed Ola Electric's IPO will open for retail subscription August 2, the Indian electric scooter maker said Saturday, a stock offering that according to two sources will value the company between \$4.2 billion to \$4.4 billion. The issue, which will open for institutional investors a day earlier Thursday, will close for retail subscriptions August 6, the final IPO prospectus filing showed. Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal will offload 37.9 million shares in the IPO, around 20% lower than estimated in the draft IPO prospectus. Ola's expected valuation is about 18.5% to 22% lower than in its last funding round in September, which was led by Singapore's investment firm Temasek and valued the country's largest e-scooter maker at



\$5.4 billion. "Some marquee investors are being offered the IPO at the lower end of the \$4.2 billion-\$4.4 billion valuation," said one of the sources with direct knowledge of IPO planning. Ola is planning the IPO at a lower valuation to ensure higher participation from investors bidding for the IPO shares, the two sources said.

Ola Electric's IPO, a first for an Indian EV maker, is also one of India's biggest in a year where the country's equities markets have scaled multiple record highs and also overtaken Hong Kong to become the world's fourth-largest bourse. Ola Electric's fresh share issue size of 55 billion rupees (\$657 million) for the IPO was left unchanged.

Union Bank of India's Mega MSME Campaign

RAYAGADA: Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Rayagada conducted a Mega MSME Campaign July 26 at Hotel Lotus Paradise, Rayagada. The camp was attended by many MSME entrepreneurs of Rayagada. The campaign was inaugurated by Jeetendra Sharma, Asst General Manager, Central Office, Union Bank of India in the presence of Kundan Sinha, Regional Head, Union Bank of India, Rayagada



Regional Office. Sharma briefed about the various loan schemes of the Bank available for MSME

entrepreneurs and appealed the entrepreneurs to be associated with Union Bank of India and assured to deliver them best of the services in the industry. Anil Behera, Head, MSME Loan Point, assured customers of quick approvals of their applications. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Prabhath Sinha, Deputy Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Regional Office Rayagada.

India wants to be China's gateway to West

REUTERS
Mumbai, July 27: India is warming up to its northern neighbour. The country's annual economic report recommends curtailing investment from China rather than integrating into the country's supply chains. That lays out a way for companies from Shein to BYD to keep selling in Western markets despite rising suspicion towards the People's Republic. Much depends on how the Sino-American trade war plays out. In the survey, for the year ended March released Monday, India's Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran laid out the two options for the country to benefit from companies shifting supply chains out of China. He argues that it is more effective to encourage manufacturers from the People's Republic to set up factories in India and export to Western markets than to import China-made parts for assembly and re-export. Betting on investments rather

than low-value imports would help cut New Delhi's \$85 billion, opens new tab annual trade deficit with its neighbour. It would also shield India against any future moves by Beijing to restrict exports of critical material. Ideas floated in the survey do not necessarily translate into policy action. But the push for Chinese direct investment found an advocate in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday, the first member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet to back the idea. That statement is significant, coming four years after India stepped up scrutiny of investment from its neighbours following a skirmish with Chinese troops. Signs of a thaw are visible elsewhere, too. Fast-fashion giant Shein, which is gearing up for an initial public offering in London, is with \$242 billion Reliance Industries to source merchandise from the world's fifth-largest economy. China's SAIC Motor formed a



with JSW Group in March to build and sell electric cars in India. Those are still exceptions, though. As of March 2023, 54 foreign direct investment proposals from entities based in China and Hong Kong were awaiting official approval. It's a reminder that parts of the Indian establishment are uncomfortable with opening the floodgates to Chinese capital. Beijing's level of comfort with companies investing in India, especially in strategic industries with potential for technol-

ogy transfer, is unclear too. More importantly, the U.S.-China trade war is still in flux, and the upcoming presidential election in November adds to the uncertainty. At the very least, India's economic ambitions might offer a handy blueprint for the road ahead. India is likely to ease restrictions on Chinese investment in sectors like solar panels and battery manufacturing where New Delhi lacks manufacturing expertise, Reuters reported July 24, citing two unnamed government sources.

The country's Ministry of Finance in its annual economic survey released July 22 recommended a focus on attracting foreign direct investment from China to benefit from the trend of manufacturers diversifying away from the People's Republic. Raising FDI will be a more promising strategy for boosting Indian exports to the U.S. than integrating into China's supply chain, said the survey prepared by Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman backed the survey's suggestion to allow more Chinese investment in the country at a press conference July 23. She said that the adviser's office works at an "arm's distance" but "that doesn't mean I am disowning the suggestion." In April 2020, New Delhi introduced a policy of additional scrutiny of investments from countries with which it shares a land border, after a clash between Indian and Chinese troops deployed along their border.

Q1 RESULTS CORNER

ICICI Bank profit up 10%

Mumbai: ICICI Bank Saturday reported 9.96 per cent increase in June quarter consolidated net profit at ₹11,695.84 crore. The company had logged a profit of ₹10,636.12 crore in the same period of 2023-24. On a standalone basis, the country's second-largest private sector lender reported 14.62 per cent rise in profit at ₹11,059 crore as against ₹9,648.2 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to ₹45,998 crore in April-June FY25 from ₹38,763 crore a year ago, as per an exchange filing by the lender. Expenses jumped to ₹29,973 crore from ₹24,624 crore. Overall provisions came in at ₹1,332.18 crore as against ₹1,292.44 crore for the year-ago period, and ₹718.49 crore in the March quarter.

NTPC profit grows 12%

New Delhi: State-owned NTPC Saturday posted 12 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹5,506.07 crore for the June quarter, mainly on the back of higher income. In the year-ago period, its net profit stood at ₹4,907.13 crore, the company said in an exchange filing. Total income rose to ₹48,981.68 crore from ₹43,390.02 crore in the same period a year ago. Expenses stood at ₹41,844.18 crore against ₹36,963.61 crore a year ago. NTPC's consolidated power generation rose to 114 billion units (BUs) in Q1 FY25 from 104 billion units in Q1 FY24.

PNB records highest ever quarterly profit

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly standalone profit at ₹3,252 crore in April-June FY25 helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The state-owned bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,255 crore in June quarter FY24. This is the highest ever quarterly profit recorded by the bank on account of improvement in various parameters, including net interest income, recovery and CASA, Managing Director Atul Kumar Goel said. Total income in the quarter rose to ₹32,166 crore from ₹28,579 crore in the same period a year ago. The lender's interest income also increased to ₹28,556 crore from ₹25,145 crore in the same quarter a year ago, as per a regulatory filing. Net Interest Income (NII) increased to ₹10,476 crore in Q1 FY25 from ₹9,504 crore earlier, showing an improvement of 10.23 per cent.

REC net grows 16.57%

New Delhi: State-owned REC Saturday posted a 16.57 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹3,460.19 crore for the June quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. In the year-ago period, its net profit stood at ₹2,968.05 crore, the company said in an exchange filing. Total income rose to ₹13,092.44 crore from ₹11,108.16 crore in the same period a year ago. Expenses stood at ₹8,743.22 crore against ₹7,386.99 crore a year ago. The board of directors also approved an interim dividend of ₹3.50 per equity share of ₹10 each for the financial year 2024-25.

BHAKER SAVES THE DAY

Shooter enters her first Olympic final as she redeems herself three years after Tokyo disappointment, salvages India's underwhelming day

Chateauroux (France), July 27: Sport can be brutal at times and Manu Bhaker has experienced that on the biggest stage. Three years after the Tokyo heartbreak, she produced a supremely confident performance to redeem herself and enter the women's 10m air pistol final at the Paris Olympics here Saturday.

Barring Bhaker's brilliant show, it was a forgettable opening day for the Indian shooters who could not reach the final of men's 10m air pistol and 10m air rifle mixed team events.

The 22-year-old from Jhajjar shot 580 to finish third in the qualifications in which Hungarian ace Veronika Major claimed the top spot with a score of 582. The other Indian in the field, Rhythm Sangwan,

ended 15th with an underwhelming 573.

Bhaker, who was in control for the major part of the one hour 15 minute session, will have to maintain the same composure in the all-important final at the National Shooting

Centre here Sunday.

India has not won an Olympic medal in shooting since 2012 and Bhaker is well placed to end that lean run.

A pistol malfunction in the qualifications at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 had reduced Bhaker to tears but on Saturday, she put up an effort that is expected of an athlete who has won many medals on the international stage.

Standing at a distance, Bhaker's personal coach Jaspal Rana could not stop his tears before saying that the job was only half done.

"What happened today doesn't matter anymore. Tomorrow is when it counts. We start afresh," he told PTI before pointing out the heat factor in the range with the air conditioning not being the most effective.

"She needed to take time and drink a lot of water as it was hot," he added.

While it was a moment to remember for Bhaker and Rana, 2016 Olympic champion Anna Korakaki, lined up next to the Indian shooter, struggled with fever before retiring midway

into the session.

Bhaker shot as many as 27 inner 10s, the most in the field of 44. She took her time early on in the session and seven 10s and three 9s in the opening series indicated that the Indian was at the top of her game.

Bhaker got a 97 each in the first and second se-

cellent qualification, but she still remained in the mix and eventually made the final.



ries and remained in fourth as Sangwan slipped to 26th after a poor outing.

The Haryana shooter got an 8 in the fifth series, her first bad shot in an otherwise ex-



SARABJOT SUFFERS HEARTBREAK

Earlier in the day, Sarabjot Singh felt the pressure on his Games debut to narrowly miss out on a final berth in the men's 10m air pistol. Both he and Arjuna Cheema showed promise before finishing ninth and 18th with scores of 577 and 544 respectively. Germany's Robin Walter, who also shot 577, grabbed the last qualifying spot after managing to shoot one inner 10 (X) more than Sarabjot's 16, leaving the Indian heartbroken. Coach Samresh Jung tried to console him but Sarabjot knew he had missed an opportunity of a lifetime. As many as 17 out of the 21 Indian shooters here are competing in the Olympics for the first time and are bound to feel pressure despite the best possible preparation. "There are only two types of people who don't feel pressure. One are the dead and others are fools. He is neither dead nor a fool," said Jung who expects Sarabjot to bounce back in the mixed team event. The coach also added that a shaky start cost Sarabjot. He bounced back with a perfect 100 in the fourth series, propelling the 22-year-old into the top-three before his performance dipped again.

Diving gold for China

One down, seven to go: China wins first diving gold as it pursues unprecedented sweep of all eight

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint-Denis, July 27: One down. Seven to go. China won its first gold medal in diving on Saturday on the first full day of competition in the Paris Olympics, a perfect start for the team of Chang Yani and Chen Yiwen.

China has ruled diving for decades, and three years ago in Tokyo, it won seven of eight gold medals. But, it's never pulled off the elusive gold sweep. That's the goal this time.

The Chinese were first Saturday in the women's synchronized 3-meter springboard with 337.68 points on five dives.

They were followed by Sarah Bacon and Kassidy Cook of the United States with 314.64 points and the British team of Yasmin Harper and Scarlett Mew Jensen with bronze and 302.28 points.

The same Chinese duo also won gold in the last three world



championships and were heavy favourites going in. The crowd, heavy with Chinese fans and flags, chanted "jiayou" — roughly translated "let's go" — each time the Chinese walked out to dive.

This event was added in 2000, and Chinese women have won gold six times in seven Games. The only loss was to Russia in 2000. China won three years ago in Tokyo with Shi Tingmao and Wang Han. Starting with the

1984 Los Angeles Olympics where China claimed its first diving gold, it had won 47 of 64 gold medals in diving. Add to that 23 silver and 10 bronze.

If you start counting from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China won 27 of 32 gold at the Olympics.

These are the numbers before Paris. Now, add another gold to the total and watch the numbers climb as the Olympics roll on in Paris.

Desai advances in men's singles TT

Paris: Appearing in his maiden Olympics, seasoned Indian paddler Harmeeet Desai progressed to the second round of the men's singles table tennis competition with a convincing 4-0 victory over Jordan's Zaid Abo Yaman at Paris Games here Saturday.

Harmeeet won 11-7 11-9 11-5 11-5 to get his campaign underway on a positive note.

Desai had no trouble in getting

the better of his opponent, ranked 538 in the world, in the one-sided preliminary round match that lasted exactly 30 minutes.

The 31-year-old from Surat, who was part of the side that clinched the team gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2022, quickly settled into a nice rhythm and, on most occasions, came out on top in the long rallies against his Jordanian opponents.

Panwar finishes 4th, in repechage round



Chateauroux: India's lone rower in Paris Olympics, Balraj Panwar moved to the repechages after finishing fourth in heat 1 of the men's singles scull competition here Saturday.

The 25-year-old Panwar came up with a time of 7:07.11 to finish behind New Zealand's Thomas Mackintosh (6:55.92), Stefanos Ntouskos (7:01.79) and Abdelkhalik Elbanna (7:05.06).

The top three in each heat qualifies for the quarterfinals.

In repechages, Panwar will have a second chance to advance to the semifinals or finals.

Panwar had finished 4th at the 2022 Asian Games in China, and claimed a bronze medal at the Asian and Oceanian Olympic Qualification Regatta in Korea.

Contenders Satwik-Chirag, Sen make confident start

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, July 27: Medal contenders Satwikairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signalled their intention with an easy straight-game victory in their opening group stage men's doubles match after singles ace Lakshya Sen got his maiden Olympic campaign underway on a winning note here Saturday.

The third-seeded duo of Satwik-Chirag, the reigning Asian Games champions, notched up a 21-17 21-14 win

against the French pair of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar in a Group C match while Sen beat Tokyo edition semifinalist Kevin Cordon of Guatemala 21-8 22-20 in a Group C contest of the men's singles.

Satwik and Chirag will face Mark Lamsfuss and Marvin Seidel of Germany in their second match Monday.

The French pair gave a tough fight to the Indians in the first game but Satwik and Chirag imposed themselves on their opponents in the second game, winning most of the rallies in the



match that lasted 45 minutes.

The 22-year-old Sen won 21-8 22-20 against reigning Pan American champion Cordon in his Olympics debut match that lasted 42 minutes.

Sen, a gold medalist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and bronze winner at 2021 World Championships, will face Julien Carraggi of Belgium in his second group match Monday.

Sen pocketed the first game in just 14 minutes. He straightaway took a 5-0 lead and was 11-2 ahead at the first change of ends. There was no let-up from the Indian

as he wrapped up the first match without much resistance from his opponent.

Cordon fought back in the second game and was 6-2 ahead after a fine net play. The Indian closed the gap at 6-8 after a nice smash. But Sen was more error-prone in the second game than in the first, and trailed 7-12 at the change of ends.

The Guatemalan kept himself ahead, winning more rallies than Sen. He was just one point away from taking the match to the deciding game as he was 20-16 ahead.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

GEORGIAN SHOOTER 1ST 10-TIME FEMALE OLYMPIAN

Georgian shooter Nino Salukvadze has become the first woman to compete at 10 Olympic Games in a career which began representing the Soviet Union. Salukvadze has competed at every Summer Olympics since 1988 — when she won gold as a 19-year-old Soviet prodigy. She set her latest record when she stepped into the shooting range for qualification in the women's 10-meter air pistol Saturday. Salukvadze placed 38th and didn't advance to Sunday's eight-shooter final, but she gets another shot at a medal Friday in qualification for the 25-meter pistol event. In a career spanning five decades, Salukvadze has competed on three different Olympic teams — first with the Soviet Union in 1988, then the Unified Team which was organized for ex-Soviet athletes in Barcelona in 1992 after the Soviet Union collapsed. For the last eight Summer Olympics, she's represented her home country of Georgia following its independence.



SPAIN'S RUDY FIRST HOOPSTER TO PLAY IN SIX OLYMPICS

Spain's Rudy Fernandez has become the first male basketball player to compete in six Olympics. The 39-year-old achieved the milestone Saturday when he checked in at the 5:18 mark of the first quarter during Spain's matchup with Australia to open the Paris Olympic tournament. Diana Taurasi will join Fernandez as the first female basketball player to compete in six Olympics when the US women open play against Japan Monday. Spain's Juan Carlos Navarro, Puerto Rico's Teofilo Cruz, Australia's Andrew Gaze, Brazil's Oscar Schmidt and Argentina's Luis Scola have all played in five Olympics.

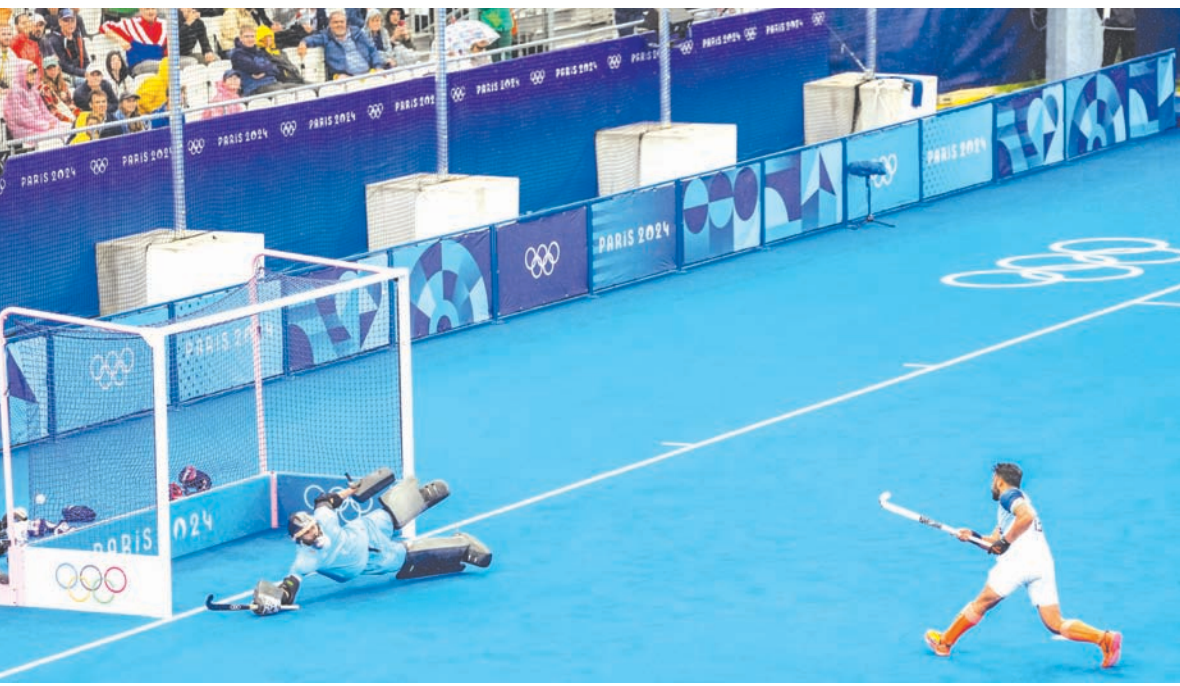


PICS OF PARIS OLYMPICS

- 1 Teddy Riner and Marie-Jose Perec light the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France, Friday AP/PTI photos
- 2 This photo released by the Olympic Broadcasting Services shows Canadian Singer Celine Dion performing at the Eiffel Tower during the opening ceremony
- 3 The Eiffel Tower and the Olympics rings are lit up during the opening ceremony
- 4 India's Nita Ambani, third left, applauds as she inaugurates the India House at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday

Harmanpreet turns saviour

Last-minute goal from spot helps India earn full points against Black Sticks



Harmanpreet Singh scores a goal from a penalty stroke against New Zealand during the Pool B hockey match between India and New Zealand, at the Summer Olympics 2024, in Paris, Saturday

Paris, July 27: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh saved his best for the last as he scored the winner from the spot a minute from full time to hand India a 3-2 win against New Zealand in their opening Pool B match of the Paris Olympics here Saturday. Sam Lane (8th minute) and Simon Child (53rd) were the goal scorers for New Zealand, while Mandeep Singh (24th), Vivek Sagar Prasad (34th) and skipper Harmanpreet Singh (59th) struck for India. India started on the offensive with skipper Harmanpreet and Abhishek pressing hard on the New Zealand defence. New Zealand were initially content

to sit back and defend. But it was New Zealand who stunned India by scoring the first goal of the match through Lane from their first penalty corner. Stunned by the early goal, India pressed hard and controlled the proceedings for most part of the match. The Indians utilised both flanks to build their attacks with the Black Sticks contend on sitting back and defending while looking for counters. Contrary to the scoreline, India's chief coach Craig Fulton might be a little worried about the team's penalty corner conversion rate. India earned five penalty corners but converted just one, while New Zealand had nine set pieces utilising two of them.

India, though, drew level in the 24th minute through a penalty corner when Mandeep scored from a rebound after Harmanpreet's flick was saved by New Zealand goalkeeper Dominic Dixon. Couple of minutes after the change of ends, Dixon saved Mandeep's reverse shot from top of the circle after being fed by a precision assist from Harmanpreet. Vivek scored from a goalmouth melee four minutes into the second half to hand India the lead. But within two minutes, New Zealand pressed hard on the Indian defence and secured four back-to-back penalty corners which yielded no result. Trailing, the Black Sticks kept up their attacking intent and secured two more penalty corner in quick succession, the second of which found back of the net after Child converted from a rebound to level the scores. But that was not the end of the match as the Indians put on relentless pressure in search of a valuable win and in the process Sukhjeet Singh earned a penalty corner with his smart play, which resulted into another set-piece move. The second penalty corner turned on to a penalty stroke for India after the dragflick from Harmanpreet hit Child on the body and the Indian skipper made no mistake in ensuring the vital win for his team. India will next play the formidable Argentina in their next Pool B match Monday.



SHORT TAKES

Afghan, Kiwis to play first-ever Test match

Kabul: Afghanistan will play its first-ever Test match against New Zealand September 9 to 13 in Greater Noida, the country's cricket board announced Saturday. New Zealand Test squad will then again be back in India within a month to play a three-Test series against Rohit Sharma's men, starting October in Bangalore. The Greater Noida venue has been allocated for Afghanistan's home games, following a mutual agreement between Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "The ACB confirms it will host the New Zealand National Cricket Team for a one-off Test Match from September 9-13 in Greater Noida, India. This historic event will mark Afghanistan's first Test match against the Blackcaps and the first-ever bilateral cricket series hosted by ACB involving New Zealand," the ACB said in a statement.

Verstappen fastest in Belgian GP practice

Spa-Francorchamps: Max Verstappen clocked the fastest time in a final practice session at the Belgian Grand Prix that was largely washed out by heavy rain Saturday. Lance Stroll caused a red flag after he spun his Aston Martin off and smacked into the barriers, bending his front left wheel. Before that accident, Verstappen put in the fastest time, with water spray lingering in the air behind his path. Oscar Piastri, in his McLaren, had the second-best lap. Stroll's crash came with more than half the hour-long session remaining. But, with puddles forming on the track, the cars stayed in the garages. Drivers and engineers watched the drops fall before the cars ventured out with around two minutes remaining. No driver got in more than seven laps. More rain is forecast for qualifying later, although it appears Sunday's race will be held under dry conditions.

Surya-Gambhir regime starts with triumph

India beat Sri Lanka by 43 runs in first T20I

India beat Sri Lanka by 43 runs in first T20I. Pallekele (Sri Lanka), July 27: New captain Suryakumar Yadav led from the front with a breathtaking half-century as India comfortably out-batted Sri Lanka by 43 runs in the opening T20 Internationals, to start the Gautam Gambhir era with a victory. It was Indian skipper's 26-ball-58 and a 74-run opening blitzkrieg in just six overs between openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill got India to 213 for 7 and despite a fine batting effort till 15th over, Indian bowlers did well enough to bowl out the home team for 170 in 19.2 overs. The Indian bowlers did remarkably well towards the back-end utilising the slowness of the track to provide the team 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The spinners - Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi and rookie Riyan Parag snared six of the 10 wickets. From 149 for 2, Sri Lanka lost eight wickets for 21 runs as the final quarter of the match was dominated by the Indian bowlers after a listless first 15. Kusal Mendis (45 off 27 balls) and Pathum Nissanka (79 off 47 balls) were not as brutal as their Indian counterparts but close enough to increase the creases on new coach Gautam Gambhir's forehead as they didn't spare any bad balls getting at least one if not two boundaries per over. The 84-run opening stand was finally broken by Arshdeep Singh when Mendis couldn't pick the slower one. However Nissanka didn't lose tempo as Hardik Pandya (0/41 in 4 overs) clearly not in his element, consistently missed his length making it difficult for the new skipper to look for options.



Pandya, who was recently bypassed for national captaincy, is always more comfortable with a good sixth bowling option, which wasn't there. Axar Patel (2/38 in 4 overs) was very flat at the onset but

got the breakthroughs when it mattered most bringing all his experience into effect. Ravi Bishnoi (1/37 in 4 overs) is slowly becoming very predictable with hardly any leg-breaks to surprise the batters. The right handers knew that the deliveries will come into them and they got inside the line to out-manoeuvre the wrist spinner. The absence of Jasprit Bumrah was evident and it was only the scoreboard pressure that helped the 'Men in Blue' prevail in the end once Axar's arm ball got rid of Nissanka. He also got Kusal Perera (20) in the same over as the match decisively tilted in India's favour. Once Bishnoi ended the spell with rival skipper Charith Asalanka, India completely gained control. Skipper Surya took a calculative punt of giving inexperienced Riyan Parag (3/5 in 1.2 overs) the 17th over and he re-

moved Kamindu Mendis to justify his skipper's faith. The ever-improving Arshdeep (2/24 in 3 overs) also got his share of scalps as Riyan then finished the proceedings without much ado. Earlier Surya was swift and brutal in equal measure on his first day in office as the Indian top-order plundered Sri Lankan bowling to post a commanding total after being put into bat. In his first match as permanent skipper of India's T20 team, Surya made a firm statement with a sparkling knock, maintaining his aggressive approach that made him world's premier batter. Brief scores: India: 213/7 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 58, Rishabh Pant 49, Yashasvi Jaiswal 40, Shubman Gill 34; Matheesha Pathirana 4/40) beat Sri Lanka: 170 all out in 19.2 overs (Pathum Nissanka 79, Kusal Mendis 45; Riyan Parag 3/5, Axar Patel 2/38, Arshdeep Singh 2/24)

Dominant India face Sri Lanka

EYES EYE EIGHTH ASIA CUP TITLE

Dambulla (Sri Lanka), July 27: Defending champions India will look to translate their overwhelming dominance in the Women's Asia Cup to a record-extending eighth title while facing a feisty Sri Lanka in the final here Sunday. India have lorded over their opponents in this continental showpiece - hammering Pakistan by seven wickets and followed it up with facile wins over UAE (78 runs), Nepal (82 runs), and Bangladesh (10 wickets). India's top-order batters and bowlers fired in tandem, not giv-

ing their rivals even an iota of chance to mount a fight. Openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have scored well in excess of 100 runs and at a healthy strike-rate of over 140, giving India solidity and quick starts alike at the top. But the management could be even more pleased with the way bowlers responded to the challenge, particularly Deepti Sharma and Renuka Singh. Deepti is the leading wicket-taker of this event with nine wickets and Renuka is third on the chart with seven scalps. But their economy rate across four matches has been brilliant -

4.37 and 4.31 respectively. It ensured that the opposition batters have no breathing space at the top or in the middle-overs, phases when Renuka and Deepti often operate. It has also aided other bowlers, as batters often look for relief shots against them, and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav offers a prime example. She has taken six wickets at an economy of 5.5, while feeding on the success of her senior colleagues' success. While there is no palpable worry in the Indian camp, they may just be a tad concerned about the lack of batting time for skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues.

MADRID UNVEIL ENDRICK

Madrid, July 27: President Florentino Perez welcomed Endrick to Real Madrid Saturday as the youngster was unveiled to the Santiago Bernabeu. The Brazilian forward signed the contract that will link him to Los Blancos for the next six seasons. Having signed the document, Endrick was presented with a replica of Santiago Bernabeu stadium, a watch and a jersey printed with his name and number, 16. "Today, we're welcoming one of those players who was born to wear the Real Madrid jersey. We waited for him to turn 18, just last Sunday, and now we welcome to the Santiago Bernabeu a young lad whose football has already ex-

cited every lover of the game around the world. Welcome to the club," Endrick, said Perez at the ceremony. The 18-year-old has agreed to join Madrid in 2022 when he was just 16 years old. The deal included that he would stay with Palmeiras until 2024 upon which he would join the club. The Brazilian choked back tears as he uttered his first emotional words as a Madridista. "I don't have the words to explain what I'm feeling because I have always wanted to be here. I so wanted to play for Madrid, it was a dream that today has come true. I'd like to thank everyone, and now, let's sing together 3, 2, 1, Hala Madrid!" said Endrick to the passionate Madrid crowd.

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF METTLE MEET 2024

OrissaPOST

It's time for METTLE MEET - an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the Preliminaries will take place August 3 and the Grand Finale August 4. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha - both schools and colleges will be competing for the Grand Prize of ₹1,00,000 in the Junior and Senior segments.

A QUIZ Extravaganza

- #### RULES & REGULATIONS
- Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com
 - Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
 - Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
 - Orissa POST's decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
 - Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
 - There can be only one winner from one family.
 - Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)
 - No employee of Orissa POST or their family members can be part of the competition

TODAY'S QUESTION

It was invented and patented in US in 1951 in circular form but took 20 years to become commercially successful especially in supermarkets, albeit in wide and narrow vertical form. What is this that gets its name from the pattern they project?

Crossword

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

SARTHAK SUSHOBHIT

PARSURAM SWAIN

Others who answered correctly are
Sibananda Dash, Mitali Jena, Parameswar Dalai, Shoumik Jena, Mayank Mandal, Ahaana Paikray, Jaba Dasgupta, Purbasha Falguni, Arghyashree Jena, Asit Kumar Satpathy, Omim Swarup Das, Abinash Prusty, Alok Sahoo, Debadatta Tripathy, KV Ramana, Debasish Mohanty, Santanu Kumar Nanda, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Prithviraj Padhy, R Sekhar Rao, Ayushi Pradhan, Shitita Prajna Behera, Sasmita Hembram, Harish Chandra Tudu, Sunil Kumar Nayak

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Olympics India schedule - Day 2

- Badminton:** Women's Singles (Group stage) PV Sindhu vs FN Abdul Razzaq (Maldives) -- 12.50 pm Men's Singles (Group stage) Prannoy HS vs Fabian Roth (Germany) -- 8.00 pm
- Shooting:** Women's 10m Air Rifle Qualification Elavenil Valarivan -- 12.45 pm
- Men's 10m Air Rifle Qualification Sandeep Singh and Arjun Babuta -- 2.45 pm
- Women's 10m Air Pistol Final Manu Bhaker -- 3.30 pm
- Rowing:** Men's Single Sculls (Repechage 2) Balraj Panwar -- 1.18 pm
- Table tennis:** Women's Singles (Round 2) Sreeja Akula vs Christina Kallberg (Sweden) -- 12.15 pm onwards
- Women's Singles (Round 2) Manika Batra vs Anna Hursay (Great Britain) -- 12.15 pm onwards
- Men's Singles (Round 2) Sharath Kamal vs Deni Kozul (Slovenia) -- 3.00 pm onwards
- Swimming:** Men's 100m Backstroke (Heat 2) Srihari Nataraj -- 3.16 pm
- Women's 200m Freestyle (Heat 1) Dhinidhi Desinghu -- 3.30 pm
- Archery:** Women's Team (Quarter-finals) India (Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Deepika Kumari) vs France/Netherlands -- 5.45 pm
- Women's Team (Semi-finals) 7.17 pm onwards
- Women's Team (medal rounds) 8.18 pm onwards