



PARIS 2024



*Heartiest Congratulations*

to

## Team Hockey India

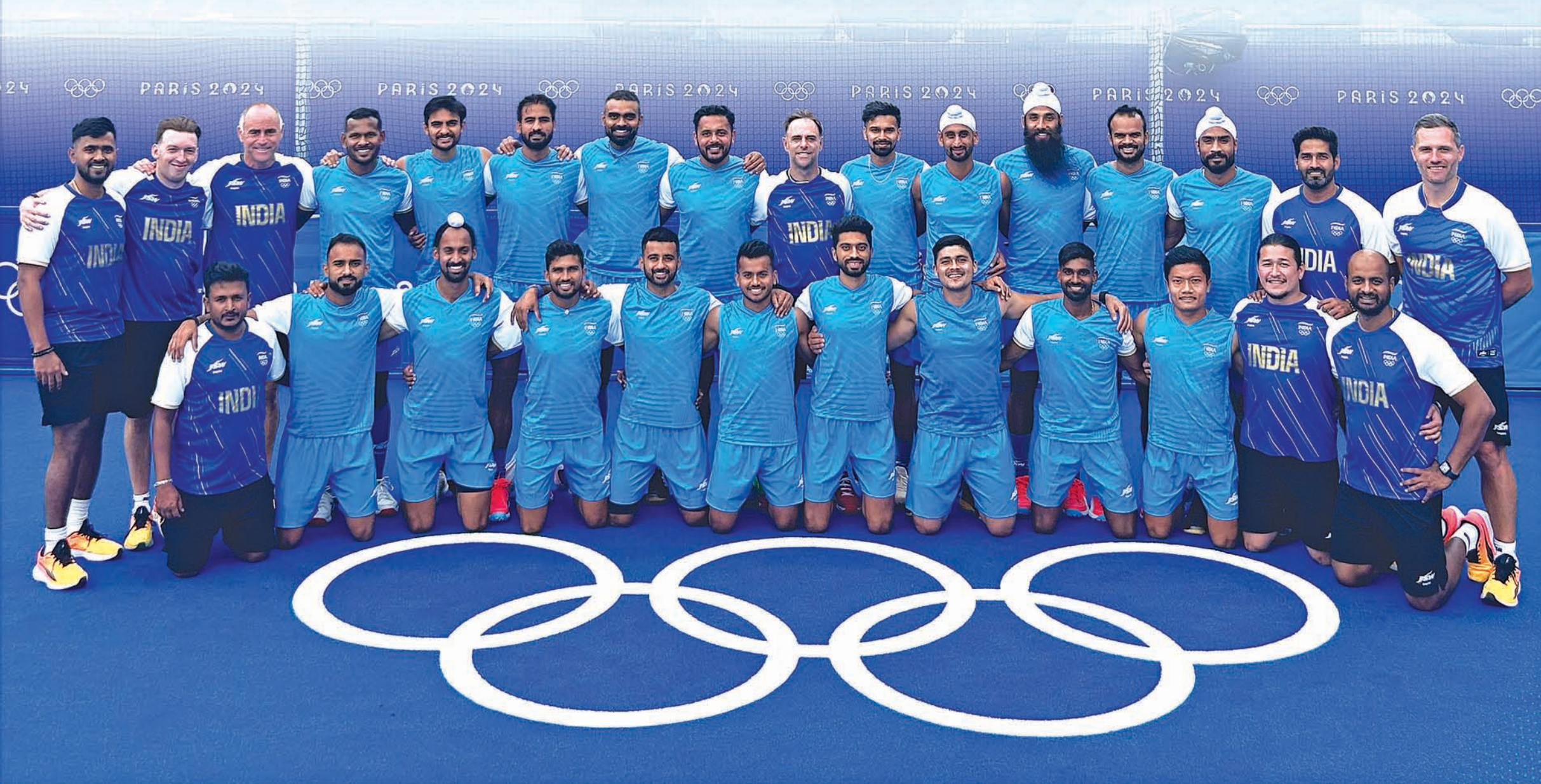
A Bronze Today

A Golden Legacy for Tomorrow

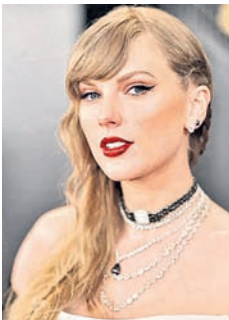


**Sri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

OIPR - 29001/13/0010/2425



# leisure



## SWIFT CANCELS VIENNA ERAS TOUR CONCERTS

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has cancelled three of her shows in Vienna in the light of two men being arrested in an ISIS-connected terrorist plot against her upcoming concerts, reports *Variety*.

## BLAKE: RYAN CALLS ME HIS 'KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR'

Actress Blake Lively has shared that her husband and Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds has kept a sweet name for her. "Ryan calls me his 'knight in shining armour,' which I think is so sweet, because we only hear about men being that," Lively told *The Sun* newspaper.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesh. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

#### TAURUS

It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesh. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

You will be afforded full co-operation by your relatives and friends. You will also be able to provide a solution to their problems by utilising your practical thinking. You will be influenced by your emotions while choosing between multiple alternatives.

#### CANCER

You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you by your near and dear ones.

#### LEO

You will attempt to reschedule your daily routine to be able to make the most of your day. While it is easy to make plans, implementing them and sticking to them depends on your own discipline and determination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet.

#### VIRGO

A heady mixture of work and partying is on the cards today. The parties may go on well into the night. You will make the right decisions today which will prove to be vital in putting you on the road to success. Ganesh says people will profit by engaging you in their work.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability. Ganesh says that today is not a good day to try out any new business ventures.

#### SCORPIO

Do not get carried away by sentiments and act like an emotional fool, tips Ganesh. Today, you will be in a dilemma as you have to choose between two best things. But, as they say, right choices are always tough to make. Be practical and take the right decision.

#### SAGITTARIUS

A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

#### CAPRICORN

It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesh. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them.

#### AQUARIUS

You will aim for the bull's eye today. Whatever you'll do today, will be done with your focus set firmly on your target, says Ganesh. You will not waste your resource on something unfruitful, and such an attitude will make your journey smoother and faster.

#### PISCES

You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results. Everything you touch will turn to gold today, says Ganesh. Make the most of it.

## Ananya loves doing cameos

**Mumbai:** Ananya Panday has been busy with movies, TV shows, and brand endorsements. Despite her hectic schedule, she has made special appearances in notable films, including the song *Heart Throb* in *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, and more recently in Vicky Kaushal's film *Bad Newz*. In a recent interview with a media portal, the actress was asked whether she enjoys doing cameos or if she does them to build connections with other actors and filmmakers. The *Gehraiyan* actress replied, "I love doing it." She added that there's something inside her that drives her to take on these roles.

She further recalled Salman Khan's appearance in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, she mentioned that she used to get excited when random actors made appearances in movies. She reminisced about how several stars appeared alongside Shah Rukh Khan in the

song *Deewangi Deewangi* from Farah Khan's *Om Shanti Om*.

Ananya said, "How Karan always brings back Rani Mukerji and Kajol in his movies." On the work front, Ananya is preparing for the release of her film *CTRL* on Netflix, and also has *Shankara* and *Call Me Bae* in her kitty. AGENCIES



## Samantha's life-altering moments

**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has often been open about the pivotal moments that shaped her life. One such revelation came during her appearance on *Koffee With Karan Season 7*. The actress shared a significant turning point when her father refused to pay off her loans, pushing her toward a career in the film industry. When host Karan Johar enquired whether acting was always her intended career path, Samantha candidly admitted that it wasn't. She explained that she found herself in a difficult situation at home with limited financial resources. Her father's decision not to support her further education led her to pursue a career in films. "When my father said, 'No, I can't pay your loans,' it was a life-altering moment," Samantha said.

On the professional front, Samantha will soon be seen opposite Varun Dhawan in the action OTT series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*. AGENCIES

### Sobhita, Chay get engaged



**Hyderabad:** Actors Naga Chaitanya, popular as Chay among his fans, and Sobhita Dhulipala were engaged in a traditional ceremony in Hyderabad, Thursday. Chaitanya's father and Telugu superstar Nagarjuna shared the news on his official X page. Nagarjuna said he is overjoyed to welcome Sobhita to the family. "We are delighted to announce the engagement of our son, Naga Chaitanya, to Sobhita Dhulipala, which took place this morning at 9:42 a.m. We are overjoyed to welcome her into our family. Congratulations to the happy couple! Wishing them a lifetime of love and happiness. God bless 8.8.8. A beginning of infinite love," he wrote alongside a series of pictures of the engaged couple. The ceremony was held in the presence of close family and friends. Chaitanya, 37, and Sobhita, 32, were rumoured to have been dating since 2022 after they were spotted on a vacation in Europe. On the personal front, Chaitanya was previously married to actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the year 2017 and later divorced in 2021. PTI

## Special screening of Aabha

The Odia film showcases the inspirational journey of a differently abled girl

**Bhubaneswar:** A special screening of Odia film *Aabha* was held here at Sookhana Bhavan, Thursday. More than 60 differently abled people attended the event.

Produced under the banner of Omm Baba Productions, the movie tells the inspirational journey of a differently abled girl. The premier was attended by several dignitaries, including Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, producer Prabir Mahapatra, and lyricist and dialogue writer Mohit Chakraborty. Newcomer Sona Mallik is in the lead, while Anu Chaudhary plays a key role. The plot follows the lead character's



journey, shedding light on the societal challenges faced by people with disabilities. Elaborating more about the story, Anu said, "The movie carries a powerful message. It's not just about the struggles of a differently-abled girl but also about the biases and underestimations these individuals face. *Aabha* aims to enlighten minds and shift societal perceptions." *Aabha* will not only empower women but also provide a new cinematic experience to viewers, stated director Pallab Roy. The event also featured an audio launch and poster unveiling ceremonies. The makers promised to announce the release date soon. PNN

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

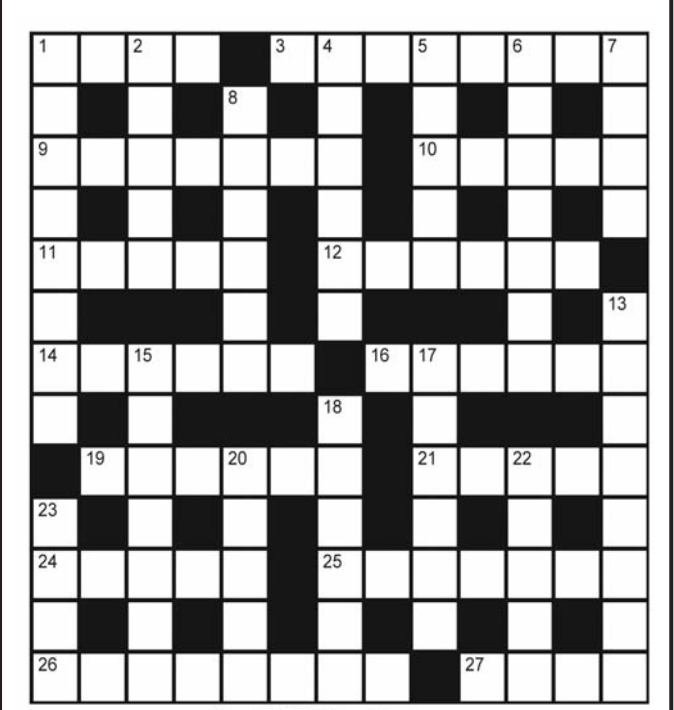


### BREVITY



### FUN post

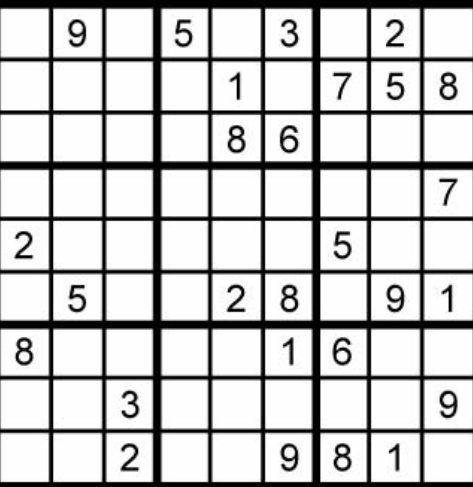
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Cupola
  - 3 Qualified
  - 9 Spilling the beans
  - 10 Vestibule
  - 11 Varnish ingredient
  - 12 Nurture
  - 14 Tired
  - 16 Kind of iron
  - 19 Generator
  - 21 Garden pests
  - 24 Cucumbers and yogurt side dish
  - 25 Type of long grained rice
  - 26 Heightened
  - 27 Paltry
- Down**
- 1 Depict
  - 2 Heads of hair
  - 4 Exit a computer (3,3)
  - 5 Fishing gear
  - 6 Stew seasoning (3,4)
  - 7 Viscount's superior
  - 8 Betrothed
  - 13 Sweet
  - 15 Like some prices (3-4)
  - 17 Counsel
  - 18 Stunt man
  - 20 Once more
  - 22 Hit the road
  - 23 Genuine

### 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**
- 1 D Y L L I C  
2 U A A O U U  
3 I M M O R A L V A L E S  
4 M D I E R T  
5 M A Y B E C O N Q U E R  
6 R O S I  
7 B R U I S E J O S H U A  
8 S C M  
9 L A U N D E R N E P A L  
10 A A A E I U I  
11 T A L O N P E B B L E S  
12 L D E U S Z  
13 D R Y L Y S U S P E C T
- SUDOKU**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

**CM for jobs to locals**  
 CM Mohan Charan Majhi asks MCL and other Central PSUs in the sector to prioritise engaging local people

**DOWNTOWN | P3**

**Yunus takes oath**  
 Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus takes oath as the chief adviser to Bangladesh's interim government amid significant political upheaval

**INTERNATIONAL | P7**

**Indices end lower**  
 Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty close nearly 1 per cent down after the RBI decides to keep the policy rate unchanged

**BUSINESS | P8**

**Vinesh retires**  
 Vinesh Phogat announces her retirement from wrestling saying that her courage is broken and she cannot continue

**SPORTS | P9**

**RBI keeps repo rate unchanged**

**Mumbai, August 8:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday expectedly kept the benchmark interest rate (repo rate) and stance unchanged for the ninth straight policy meeting, saying it cannot afford to look through persisting high food inflation and has to remain vigilant to prevent spillover.

Retaining its unambiguous focus on inflation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which consists of three RBI and three external members, kept the benchmark repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.

Four out of the six members of MPC voted in favour of the rate decision. The panel, whose four-year term ends in October, also decided to retain a policy stance at 'withdrawal of accommodation' to aid MPC's focus on bringing inflation towards its 4 per cent target. **P8**

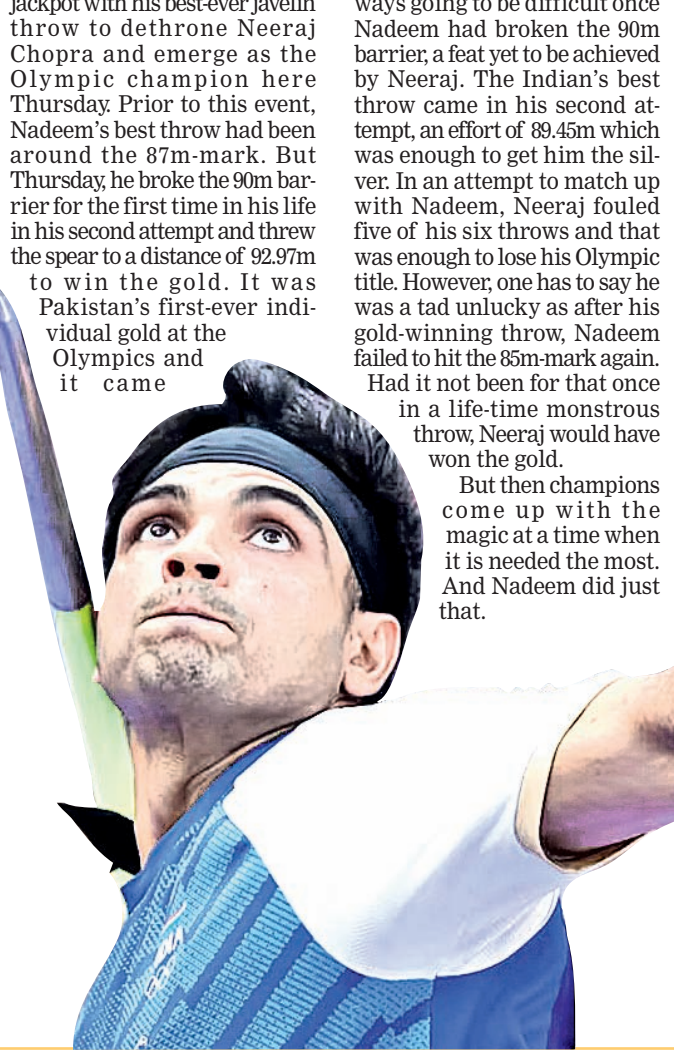
**Buddhadeb no more**

**Kolkata, August 8:** Former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who will be remembered both for his commitment to the communist ideology and a pragmatic approach to industrialising the state, passed away at the age of 80 at his residence here Thursday.

Bhattacharjee, a stalwart of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), was known for his efforts to bring industrialisation to the state, an endeavour that, despite his best intentions, eventually led to the downfall of the Left Front government after 34 years of continuous rule. Bhattacharjee is survived by wife Mira and daughter Suchetana. Despite his failing health in recent years, Bhattacharjee remained a revered figure in Bengal's political landscape.

# Silver for Neeraj, bronze in hockey

## MEN IN BLUE REPEAT TOKYO ACT



**Paris, August 8:** Arshad Nadeem from Pakistan hit the jackpot with his best-ever javelin throw to dethrone Neeraj Chopra and emerge as the Olympic champion here Thursday. Prior to this event, Nadeem's best throw had been around the 87m-mark. But Thursday, he broke the 90m barrier for the first time in his life in his second attempt and threw the spear to a distance of 92.97m to win the gold. It was Pakistan's first-ever individual gold at the Olympics and it came through a man who had blossomed with friend Neeraj's help.

Neeraj on his part tried his best to match up. But it was always going to be difficult once Nadeem had broken the 90m barrier, a feat yet to be achieved by Neeraj. The Indian's best throw came in his second attempt, an effort of 89.45m which was enough to get him the silver. In an attempt to match up with Nadeem, Neeraj fouled five of his six throws and that was enough to lose his Olympic title. However, one has to say he was a tad unlucky as after his gold-winning throw, Nadeem failed to hit the 85m-mark again. Had it not been for that once in a life-time monstrous throw, Neeraj would have won the gold.

But then champions come up with the magic at a time when it is needed the most. And Nadeem did just that.

**Paris, August 8:** The story of revival that began in Tokyo came full circle in Paris as the Indian hockey team claimed a second successive Olympic bronze medal for the first time in over half a century, steered by the inspiring leadership of Harmanpreet Singh and fuelled by the passion of retiring custodian PR Sreejesh.

India defeated Spain 2-1 in an exciting third-place match with Harmanpreet striking twice with penalty corners (30th and 33rd minutes) after Spain took the early lead thanks to skipper Marc Miralles' penalty stroke in the 18th minute.

Through the game and much like several other games in the past, Sreejesh stood like a rock in



**ON CLOUD NINE:** Indian players celebrate after winning the men's bronze medal field hockey match against Spain at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, Thursday

and in the process ensured that the long-serving Sreejesh, whose career spanned a remarkable 18 years, walked into the sunset a content man.

"Everyone is asking me, 'why now?'. One piece of advice I got in my career is that when you retire people should not say 'why not?', they should ask you, 'why?'. This is the right time to take that course," the 36-year-old Kerala-man told reporters, the

smile never leaving his face.

The last time India won back-to-back Olympic medals was in 1968 (bronze) and 1972 editions (bronze).

Meanwhile, Hockey India announced a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh each for the players and Rs 7.5 lakh each for the support staff of the team that won a second consecutive bronze medal at the Olympic Games.

**MORE BACK PAGE**

# Waqf heat singses House

**New Delhi, August 8:** The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in Lok Sabha Thursday and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) after a heated debate, with the government asserting the proposed law did not intend to interfere with the functioning of mosques, and the Opposition dubbing it an attack on the Constitution as well as a ploy to target Muslims before elections.

Speaker Om Birla said he will talk with leaders of all parties for constituting the JPC.

Soon after Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju sought leave to introduce the Bill, Opposition INDIA MPs strongly protested it, calling it an 'attack' on the Constitution and aimed at targeting Muslims.

Congress MP KC Venugopal, who had submitted notice to oppose its introduction, accused the government of violating the right to freedom of religion and claimed the legislation was being brought with an eye on the upcoming Assembly polls in states like Maharashtra.

"This is a draconian law and a direct attack on freedom of religion....Next you will go for Christians, then Jains," he said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Bill was being introduced to appease the BJP's hardcore supporters. "What is the point of including non-Muslims in Waqf boards when this is not done in other religious bodies?" he asked. NCP Sharadchandra Pawar MP Supriya Sule said her party opposed the Bill as it was against a particular minority community. "Look at what is happening in Bangladesh, there is so much pain. It is the moral duty of a country to protect minorities," she said.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul

# No new liquor shops

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The state government has decided not to open any new liquor shop in the current financial year, Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Thursday.

"To further streamline the existing Excise policy, we have decided that no new liquor shop will be opened in the state this financial year," Harichandan told mediapersons here.

Stating that the sale of illicit liquor poses a major challenge for the government, Harichandan said some changes have been made to the Excise policy, which will remain in force for another eight months.

"To completely curb the sale of illicit liquor, the state government will come up with a new Excise policy," he added.

After mineral resources, the state government generates major revenue from the sale of liquor. The Excise revenue has increased from ₹1,780.29 crore

# City gets India's first grain ATM

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Capital city of Bhubaneswar became the first place in the country to provide beneficiaries round-the-clock access to public distribution system with the launch of Annapurthi Grain ATM in Mancheswar area here, Thursday.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra inaugurated the grain ATM in presence of Nozomi Hashimoto, Deputy Country Director, World Food Programme (WFP) in India.

"This is a significant initiative in partnership with WFP towards achieving nutritional security in the state, which is focused on food security," Patra said.

"Similar ATMs will be set up across the state to provide food-grains to beneficiaries with 24/7 access under the National Food Security Act," Patra added.

WFP and Odisha have been partners for six decades, he said, adding that the state has been a pioneer in ensuring food security and fostering innovations that allow citizens, especially marginalised sections, to access their entitlements.

According to the FS&CW minister, it is the first stand-alone solution, providing service 24 hours a day, much like a banking ATM. "With universal access, anyone with a ration card valid in India, regardless of the state and Union Territory, can access their entitlement," he said.

The facility can dispense grain up to 50-kilogram in five minutes, with an error rate of 0.01 per cent. Once biometric authentication is completed, it provides consistent access to the full food ration. The modular design allows easy assembly based on available space, he said.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Never mention how much we spent on sports persons. The public might ask how much we're spending on ourselves

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	78886.22	↓ 581.79
NIFTY	24117.00	↓ 180.50
DOLLAR	83.97	↑ ₹0.02
EURO	91.59	↓ ₹0.10
GOLD	₹69,518	↑ ₹553
SILVER	₹80,278	↑ ₹1,378

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.2°C	32.6°C
Min Temp	24.8°C	24.2°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	Nil	6.8mm

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

# \$1.4mn watch captures Albania's history

**Tirana, August 8:** Albanian jeweller Pirro Ruco laboured day and night for five years to capture the essence of his country in a spectacular luxury watch.

Now the timepiece, worth roughly \$1.4 million, is set to face off against the best watches from across the world at the watchmaking Grand Prix in Geneva in November.

Set under a sapphire dome, the hours are marked by 12 golden folk dancers – each in a different regional dress – set on Murano glass, while the minute and the hour hands are adorned with eagle talons in homage to Albania's national symbol.

Ruco's rollercoaster rise mirrors that of Albania, from poverty and isolation as the most closed communist regime in Europe to rollicking capitalism.

of Hoxha's wife. The turn of fortune saw thousands more produced and worn by communist cadres across Albania.

"All the congressional delegates had to wear it. I made a name for myself with it," he said. It also saved him from the textile mills where he had been sent because his family had been deemed 'rebellious'.

**'Priceless'**

All this, however, was nearly derailed by an anonymous letter sent to authorities accusing Pirro of working with foreign agents.

He was questioned by intelligence agents and his workshop was raided. Down but not out, he was able to bounce back after crafting a ring bearing the image of the late husband of a member of the communist politburo and in July 1990 won a prize for a piece featuring Albania's 15th-century national hero Skanderbeg.

But the very next day history



**PRIMORDIAL PASSION**  
 Along the way the jeweller overcame jealousy, the secret police and being sent into internal exile to rise to the pinnacle of his profession.

**The facility can dispense grain up to 50-kilogram in five minutes, with an error rate of 0.01 per cent**

Padhee reviews prep for I-Day celebrations



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 8: In view of the 77th Independence Day celebration across the state, Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Usha Padhee held a review meeting via video conference to assess the preparedness of urban local bodies (ULBs) here, Thursday.

The meeting was attended by director of municipal administration (DMA) Debasis Singh and additional secretary Rabintra Kumar Sahu, alongside commissioners and executive officers from all ULBs, including five Municipal Corporations.

During the review, Padhee emphasised the importance of celebrating the Independence Day with the spirit of patriotism and unity and urged all ULBs to actively participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

The initiative is a significant part of the nationwide celebrations which aims to foster a sense of belonging and national pride among its citizens.

Padhee urged officials and commissioners to maintain proper coordination and planning to make the occasion a grand success.

Bharat Masala's 'Sampark Rath Yatra' flagged off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 8: To mark the silver jubilee celebrations of the Bharat Prativa Samman, Jay Bharat Foundation launched the 'Sampark Rath Yatra' of its brand Bharat Masala from Muktakasha Rangamancha in Puri recently.



The Rath will cover the four directions of the state carrying invitations to the well-wishers of the company, the organisers informed.

At an event, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Minister Gokulananda Mallik flagged off the Sampark Raths in presence of guests including Pipili MLA

Ashrit Pattanayak. Speaking on the occasion, Mallik lauded the initiative of the foundation and highlighted the company's tradition of sending invitation letters via the Sampark Rath to invite prominent individuals for the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Company's managing director Susanta Kumar Panda shared insights into the 25-year journey of Bharat Masala.

The founder and chairman of Jay Bharat Spices Private Limited Surendra Nath Panda, recounted the company's humble beginnings and informed that it has now expanded globally, directly or indirectly supporting over 10,000 families.

The event was managed by general manager (Operations) Arun Kumar Nayak, with support from production head Nabakrishna Pradhan.



GROWING CROPS: Farmers sow paddy saplings following rain on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

NAT'L DEWORMING DAY AUGUST 10

Over one crore women & children to get vaccination

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 8: Health and Family Welfare (HFW) department Thursday said more than one crore women of reproductive age (WRA) and children across the state will be vaccinated on national deworming day (NDD) August 10.

The mop-up round will take place August 17 for those beneficiaries who missed the dose on coming Saturday, the officials informed.

Addressing the media here, Family Welfare director Sanjukta Sahoo said, "During NDD, the children aged between six and 19 years and women of reproductive age (20-24 years) will be provided with Albendazole tablet while children aged one to five years will be administered age-appropriate Albendazole suspension at respective schools and Anganwadi centres facilitated by teachers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers".

"Lymphatic Filariasis-Mass Drug Administration (LFMDA) will be implemented in identified Implementation Unit (IU) / blocks of 11 districts including Angul, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh in which, children aged 1-2 years will be provided with Albendazole suspension under NDD. In rest of the blocks of these 11 districts where LFMDA is not implemented, children



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

The children will be given Albendazole (in tablet or suspension form) and women of reproductive age will be distributed Albendazole tablets. For those who would miss the dose August 10, a deworming mop-up round will be held August 17

and women will be covered under NDD," she said.

According HFW department, NDD round will be held in 19 districts including Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nabrangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada and Puri.

Also, Lymphatic Filariasis-Mass Drug Administration (LFMDA) will be implemented in some IU/blocks of 11 districts including Angul, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh. "Along with the deworming

campaign, vitamin A supplementation programme will also be implemented. The children aged nine to 60 months will receive age-appropriate vitamin A solutions at routine immunisation sites and at special village health sanitation centres and Nutrition Day," officials said.

"National Deworming Day is a vital initiative in safeguarding the health of our children and communities. The campaign aims to improve the overall health, nutritional status, access to education, and quality of life of children and women of reproductive age," Unicef's Nutrition Specialist Sourav Bhattacharjee said.

Japan to set up university for visually-impaired

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 8: Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi met with a team of Japanese delegation here, Thursday.

Sethi welcomed the delegation's proposal for setting up of a vocational training institute and university for visually-impaired in the state. Tsukuba University Principal Ryuchi Aoki who led the delegation said, "Tsukuba University is offering various vocational educations to differently-abled students. About 40 per cent of students, after passing out of university, are employed in many fields including, IT, engineering and medical."



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

There are about 67 special schools in Japan, where students are given vocational education, Ryuchi informed.

The five-member delegation included Debendra Mohanta, Kei Yamaguchi, Tomohiro Maeda, and Naoshi Terasaki.

The programme was attended by senior officials of the department, including additional secretary Santosh Kumar Pradhan and director Niyati Patnaik.

SAI launches innovative programme for students



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 8: An innovative programme exclusively designed for Class VIII to XI students of SAI International School and SAI International Residential School concluded Thursday.

The SAI Gifted Programme, an innovative initiative, was aimed at equipping students with critical 21st century skills, particularly in confidence-building, leadership, design thinking and product designing, school authorities said.

It featured instructional teams from renowned universities in the USA including faculty from Alma College, Detroit's University and Andrews University, USA. The Programme was conducted in collaboration with Michigan Collage Association, they said.

The 3-day programme kicked off with an exciting design thinking workshop led by Professor Stephen Schock and Gretchen Schock from Detroit's University, USA.

They introduced the five phases of design thinking: empathise, define, ideate, prototype, and test.

The faculty introduced the five phases of design thinking: empathise, define, ideate, prototype, and test

During the programme, students progressed from understanding their partner's needs, brainstorming solutions, and prototyping, to receiving feedback, learning orthographic and redesigning objects based on personal needs.

SAI International Education Group chairperson Silpi Sahoo said, "The SAI Gifted Programme is a specialised initiative designed to nurture our students. It provides advanced educational opportunities, including workshops, seminars, and mentorship from global experts."

"We aim to cultivate intellectual curiosity, innovative thinking, and leadership skills, ensuring that our students receive the support they need to excel," she added.

Odisha accords Habitat Rights to three PVTGs under FRA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 8: Odisha has become a leading state in the entire nation to accord habitat rights to three Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

With the recognition of the habitat rights of Juangs, in tribal-dominated Keonjhar district August 7 by the district-level committee (DLC), the state has become a frontrunner with three habitat rights recognised for the PVTGs, the maximum in the country.

Earlier August 6, the habitat rights of Juang PVTG community of Jajpur district was approved by the respective DLCs.

Paudi Bhuyan of Deogarh district was the first PVTG community in the state to receive the habitat rights title March 7, 2024.

While habitat rights of Paudi Bhuyan has been recognised

over 32 villages under Barkote block, habitat rights of Juangs in Jajpur has been recognised covering 13 villages under Sukinda block, and habitat rights for Juangs in Keonjhar has been recognised covering 134 villages across four blocks.

PVTGs have been the stewards of their ancestral lands for generations, practicing sustainable living and preserving their rich cultural heritage. This approval not only affirms their rights but also reinforces the importance of respecting and upholding the traditions and lifestyles of indigenous populations.

Recognition of habitat rights under FRA is a significant step in recognising and safeguarding the rights of indigenous communities.

The Juangs of Keonjhar will become the sixth such title awarded under the category along with the Juangs of Jajpur and Paudi Bhuynas of Deogarh



in Odisha, Bhabia PVTG in Madhya Pradesh and Kamar PVTG and Baiga PVTG in Chhattisgarh, having legal title and rights over their forest habitats.

ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Nityananda Gond, while expressing his happiness over the development, said, "Our pro-people government is always there to see overall development of the tribal communities and especially the PVTGs, and with this Habitat

Rights recognition, this will be more defined and concrete."

Habitat for the PVTGs refers to an area where these communities have both spiritual and material connections.

The spiritual connection implies an area that is important to fulfil the socio-cultural needs of the community. This area includes burial grounds, birth-places, temples, deities, ancestral lands, or areas used for any other socio-cultural purposes, such as festivals and processions.

This area also includes places

of customary land use for livelihood generation such as forest produce collection, fishing sources, cultivation areas, and seasonal migratory lands.

Habitat Rights under FRA can be defined as a bundle of rights consisting of these connections with the landscape: livelihood, social, and cultural practices embedded in the territory that forms their habitat.

Odisha houses 13 PVTGs – the highest among all the States and Union Territories of India.

The PVTGs inhabit 1,683 villages/settlements distributed in 285 gram panchayats (GPs) under 42 blocks and 14 districts of Odisha.

There are as many as 1,79,742 households with a total population of 7,73,092. All the 13 PVTGs have different socio-cultural and socio-political significance and different habitat aspects.

SC & ST Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Bhubaneswar, has undertaken

the research study on the determination and mapping of Habitat Rights of PVTGs under FRA across Odisha wherein Habitat Rights mapping for all 13 PVTGs have been done.

Under the guidance of SCSTRTI and with the support of partner NGO Vasundhara, the process of Habitat Rights determination and claim-making was done by the traditional institutions of each of the PVTGs.

Out of the 13 PVTGs, the Habitat Rights claims for 9 PVTGs across 14 micro-projects have been submitted at Subdivision Level Committees (SDLC) and are at various stages of approval at SDLC and DLC, official sources said.

ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Commissioner-cum-Secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said, "The Habitat Rights for PVTG communities is a remarkable achievement."

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Students participate in a district-level Scouts and Guides Camporee organised at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, Thursday

# downtown

## Prioritise jobs to locals, CM tells MCL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi asked Coal India subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) and other central PSUs in the sector to give priority to engage local people as the state accounts for 20 per cent of the domestic dry fuel production.

Majhi also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the opening of Talcher Medical College in collaboration with MCL at the earliest.

The chief minister held a meeting with Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena here Wednesday. Coal India Chairman PM Prasad and top officials of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and MCL were also present there.

Stating that 20 per cent of



**Majhi also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the opening of Talcher Medical College in collaboration with MCL at the earliest**

the total coal production in the country is from Odisha, Meena said the Centre is committed to the development of the state and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given instructions in this direction.

The Coal secretary also highlighted various projects in Odisha and said importance

was being given to minimise pollution with the use of modern technology in new projects.

During the meeting, emphasis was given on backfilling and recovery of used ore, a statement issued by the CMO said.

The chief minister also raised the issue related to the development of local areas through

the corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund.

The MCL has committed to provide funds for the development of sports infrastructure, tourism and other sectors in the state, the statement said.

Earlier in the day, Meena chaired a periodic review meeting of MCL in Sambalpur.

MCL also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the 'SAKSHAM' project with the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Under the CSR initiative, MCL is going to provide Rs 7.5 crore for 500 e-rickshaws to be distributed among needy physically-challenged people of Odisha, empowering their lives and enabling them to earn livelihood with dignity.

## Special team to hunt down 2 more in double murder case

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Commissionerate Police has formed a special team to hunt down two more persons allegedly involved in Wednesday's sensational double murder case, at Kuha village under Airfield police station limits, which has sent shockwaves across the Capital City.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said Thursday that the duo went underground soon after the crime and is presently absconding.

He said the Airfield Police had nabbed two of the four accused - Ganesh Mallick and his brother Pradeep Mallick - in the aftermath of the gruesome crime. The police had also recovered the



Rashmiranjan Sethi Sambit Rout

suffered while being taken to the Capital Hospital, said Singh.

Eyewitnesses reportedly told the police that Rashmiranjan and Ganesh would frequently fight over sharing parking space in the apartment.

Matters turned violent Wednesday night after Ganesh and Rashmiranjan got into a scuffle over the same issue. The situation escalated when Sambit joined his friend Rashmiranjan. Meanwhile, some of Ganesh's friends came to the former's aid and attacked Sambit and Rashmiranjan with a knife, stabbing them viciously.

A forensic team went to the crime scene Thursday to collect evidence in order to bolster the investigation, Singh added.

## Majhi, Patnaik condole death of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik Thursday condoled the death of former CM of West Bengal Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

Majhi said that Buddhadeb's legacy will be remembered, Patnaik noted that he (Buddhadeb) would be remembered for his contribution to nation-building.

Bhattacharjee died Thursday at his Kolkata residence following old age-related ailments.

Taking to X, Majhi said:

"Saddened to hear about the demise of former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. His legacy in Indian politics will be remembered. My heartfelt condolence to his family and loved ones during this difficult times."

Similarly, Patnaik in the X post said: "Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of former West Bengal Chief Minister #BuddhadebBhattacharjee. He will be remembered for his probity in public life, welfare initiatives and his contribution to nation-building. My condolences to the bereaved family members and admirers. Om Shanti."

## Naveen to embark on statewide tour from Nov

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** After meeting his political career's first defeat earlier this year, BJD president and former CM Naveen Patnaik decided to undertake a statewide tour from November to meet people and party workers.

The decision was taken at BJD's first state coordination committee meeting chaired by senior leader Debi Prasad Mishra Thursday, a party statement said.

Earlier, Patnaik had formed a 15-member committee to coordinate with the districts and oversee all the activities of the party in the absence of the state office bearers. The BJD president had earlier dissolved the state office bearers' panel.

During the coordination committee's first meeting, Patnaik felt he should personally undertake a tour across the state and meet people and party workers to boost their morale after defeat to the BJP in the assembly elections earlier this year.

Patnaik asked leaders to remain active in public service and engaged in social media to inform people about the party's plans and programmes.

The state coordination committee led by Debi Prasad Mishra met Patnaik at Naveen Niwas and discussed the party programmes.

Patnaik said, "The people of Odisha have continuously blessed the Biju Janata Dal for 24 years, so we are all indebted to them."

## 6 held in ₹71.95L fraud

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Odisha Police Crime Branch Thursday arrested six cybercriminals from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu who had allegedly swindled Rs 71.95 lakh from a City resident.

The accused were identified as Arun Shaju, Seenu R and Vasu J -- natives of Tamil Nadu; and Jaimin Kukdeja Megharajbhai,



Brijesh Dayabhai Sathiya and Udaya Rameshbhai -- from Gujarat.

A probe was launched following a complaint by the victim, February 28

this year, who alleged that the fraudsters compelled him to join two whatsapp groups, GSQT and IBGINON, for share market trading. After joining the group January 23, 2024, a Crime Branch official said, the unsuspecting victim received lucrative profits on initial investments, which prompted him to make a cumulative investment of Rs 71.95 lakh in 10 different bank accounts till February 22. However, the profits did not show up in his bank account afterwards. When he queried with the scammers over the issue, they allegedly demanded more investment threatening that he will lose all his money if he failed to do so.

It was only then the victim realised he had been duped and approached the Crime Branch with a complaint.

The Crime Branch has booked the scammers under relevant Sections of IPC and Sections 66 (C) and 66 (D) of IT Act.




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Wildlife activists decry proposed translocation of blackbucks to Puri



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 8: Wildlife activists have opposed the proposed translocation of blackbucks from Ganjam district to Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary and other locations in Puri. Amulya Upadhyaya, president of the Blackbuck Conservation Society, expressed concerns about the survival of blackbucks if moved from their natural habitat in Ganjam to Puri district. "The risk to their survival in a new landscape is significant," Upadhyaya said.

He noted that Ganjam's residents have a strong sentimental attachment to blackbucks and have protected them despite crop damage. Despite natural calamities, blackbuck population in Ganjam has tripled over the past 12 years. A census by the state Forest department in January recorded 7,743 blackbucks in the district, up from 2,194 in 2011. The population was estimated at 6,885 in 2020 and 7,352 in 2021, official sources said. Rather than relocating the blackbucks, Upadhyaya and other activists urged the government to improve their habitats and enhance tourist facilities. Krishna Gouda, another activist, highlighted that visitors from distant places come to see the blackbucks in their natural habitat. The activists plan to meet the state's Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia and senior officers to request a reconsideration of the translocation decision.

Jumbo carcass found in Hadagarh sanctuary; poaching suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, August 8: Mystery shrouds the death of a female elephant whose carcass was recovered near Pitanau inside Hadagarh elephant sanctuary under this block in Keonjhar district, Forest officials said Thursday. After reports surfaced, Forest officials recovered the carcass and launched an investigation into its death. The matter came to the fore after Forest officials noticed the



carcass lying near Pitanau inside the elephant sanctuary, Wednesday. However, they failed to ascertain the actual reason behind its death. They suspect that the animal aged about 50-60 might have died due to old-age related ailments while locals claim it might have died from poisoning or severe injury caused by poachers. A post-mortem of the animal was conducted by the Block Veterinary Officer (BVO).

Sources said that a man was arrested a few days back on charge of electrocuting a tusker in a village under Soso police limits. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abhaya Dalei of Anandapur forest division said that the carcass of the adult female elephant was recovered Wednesday. The actual reason behind the animal's death could be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available to them, the DFO added.

2 bodies found in separate incidents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 8: A youth's body was found Thursday morning behind a bush in Bondamunda area. Locals spotted the body and informed the police. A police team led by SDPO, Zone II Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra reached the spot along with a scientific team and took possession of the body. Police registered an unnatural death case; but said that murder angle cannot be ruled out. The deceased, identified as Ramiya Munda, 35, a resident of Tilak Nagar at Bondamunda, was a painter by profession. He was found lying face down not very far from his locality and had froth spread over his face. Mohapatra informed that the post-mortem was underway. Sources said he was staying alone after the death of his wife a couple of years back and had no other issue or enmity with anybody. There was no mark on his body indicating any foul play. In a separate incident, the body of a minor girl was found hanging in a forest Thursday morning and was recovered by Lahuniapara police. Sources said, she had gone to his paternal aunt's house in Bhaliadihi village but did not return home Wednesday. Police launched an investigation to unravel the mystery behind her death. The post-mortem was going on when the report was being filed. Speaking about the case, Lahuniapara PS IC Suraj Jhankar said, "We are waiting for the post-mortem report and only after that the possible reason of death can be ascertained." However, locals said there were some injury marks on her body. Suspecting foul play, the deceased's family members alleged that the girl was murdered.

Workshop held on Spectrophotometry, Geochronology



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 8: A workshop on the subject 'Acquaintance of Spectrophotometry and Geochronology' was held at Dharanidhar University here. The event was organised in collaboration with Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC), represented by two of its scientists, Rajveer Singh and Ramcharan Meena. Aimed at facilitating advance research in the fields of Geology, Physics and Chemistry, the workshop focused on use of spectrophotometry, which could be of benefit not only to academic disciplines but to the mineral-rich region of Keonjhar. Jadumani Mahala, ADM, Keonjhar was the chief guest on the occasion. He spoke on the importance of promoting cutting-edge research in a newly established university like Dharanidhar University. Professor Pratap Kumar Mohanty, OSD-cum-Vice Chancellor of the university, shed light on the widespread applications of spectrophotometry and the need for academics to familiarise with such technologies. Prabhu Prasad Das, Associate professor, Geology and Chairman PG Council, and Yashabanta Narayan Singhbabu, assistant professor, Chemistry presented papers on costal aquifers and material characters respectively. Sridhar Sanyasi, Director R&D Cell chaired the first session, while the second session was chaired by Pratap Kumar Mohanty, OSD-cum-VC. 24 students fall ill after having MDM Balasore: At least 24 students of a government educational institution in Balasore district fell ill after having mid-day meal (MDM) in the school Thursday, officials said. The incident took place at Udaynarayan Nodal School in Sirapur. They were promptly transported to Soro Hospital for treatment after reporting symptoms like nausea and chest pain. This incident follows a similar event July 27, when six students from Banisia UP School in Soro block also fell ill after their mid-day meal and required hospitalisation.

BINKA DOUBLE MURDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 8: The death of two cousins at Chulimal village under Bhandar panchayat and Binka police limits Tuesday evening after firing from the police service pistol took place due to over consumption of liquor and sudden outburst of anger while partying, police said Thursday. In this incident, Sonepur MLA Niranjan Pujari's Personal Security Officer (PSO) Manoj Jhankar, 30, and his uncle's son, Seshadev Jhankar, 24, were killed. The incident occurred in a fit of rage due to excessive liquor consumption by the two deceased. This was stated here by IG Himanshu Lal (Northern Range) at a press meet held at the district police headquarters here in the



Manoj first shot dead Sheshadev with his service pistol and later fatally shot himself out of remorse

presence of SP Yashpratap Shrimal, Thursday while ruling out any past enmity in the

Excessive boozing led to fratricide, suicide

case. Two other persons Debashis Bishi and Okil Bishi were also partying with them. While Debashis managed to return home, Okil lost his sense and was found lying at 40m distance from the crime scene. Manoj first shot dead Sheshadev with his service pistol and later fatally shot himself out of remorse. The incident occurred when the two were dead drunk. Sheshadev took the service pistol of Manoj and made five rounds of blank firing. This angered Manoj as he feared departmental action due to misuse of his service pistol. Enraged, he fired at Sheshadev from point blank range. Later, he lost his mental balance and took his own life out of remorse. The two cousins succumbed on the spot.

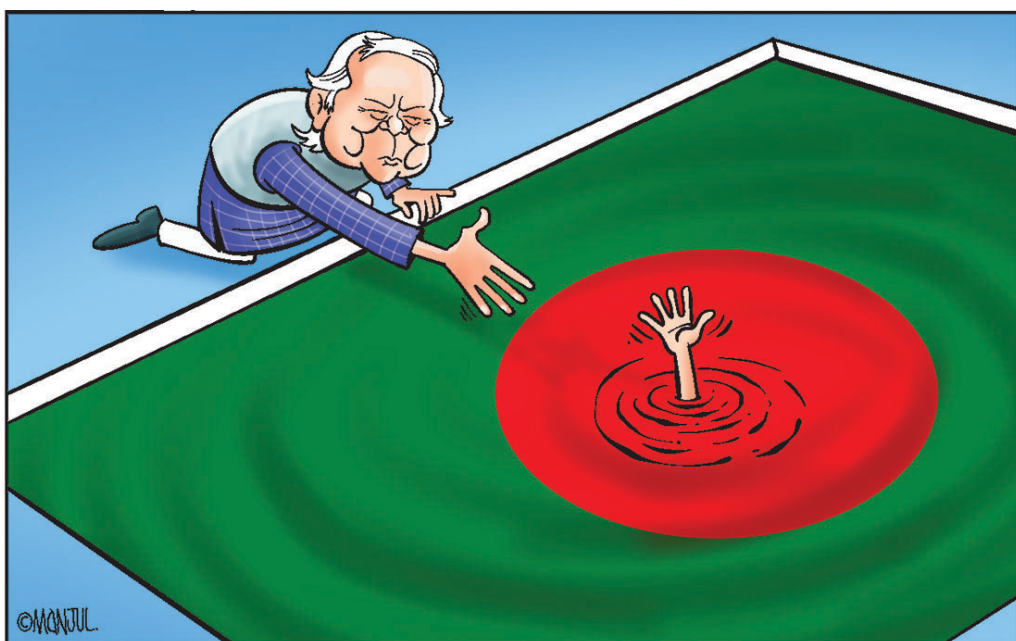
Man surrenders at police station after killing wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, August 8: A 52-year-old man allegedly killed his wife over a family dispute in Jajpur district and later surrendered himself at a police station, an official said Thursday. The accused has been identified as Abhimanyu Sahoo of Narayanpur village while the deceased is Sabita Sahoo (47). As per reports, Abhimanyu, an electrician by profession, was married to Sabita for around 25 years and they had a turbulent relationship for the last several years as they had no issue. The childless couple used to fight with each other over not being blessed with a child while blaming each other for the cause. Sabita picked up an argument with Abhimanyu over a minor domestic issue when the latter returned home from work Wednesday afternoon. Soon the

argument between the couple turned into a violent quarrel. In a fit of rage, Abhimanyu stabbed his wife with a sharp weapon leaving her profusely bleeding. After committing the crime Abhimanyu fled the village and finally surrendered before the local police Wednesday night. Abhimanyu's mother, who was out of home when the incident happened, found her daughter-in-law lying in a pool of blood on the floor of the house when she returned. She then raised an alarm following which neighbours rushed Sabita to Mangalpur Community Health Centre (CHC), where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Jajpur SDPO Satyabrata Lenka said that Abhimanyu has been arrested, while arrangements are being made for Sabita's post-mortem examination.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR ZONE Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Tel: 0674 - 2362251/2362246, Email: zo.bhubaneswar@bankofindia.co.in REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES Detailed notification inviting offers for premises for our Asset Recovery Branch, Cuttack is available in our website www.bankofindia.co.in. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained upto 1.00 P.M. of 20.08.2024 from our office at above address. Alternatively, the format can be downloaded from our website. Last date for submission of offer is upto 3.00 P.M. on 20.08.2024 at Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar. Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Petition-1: 02nd 400kV D/C Kahalgau - Biharsharif Transmission line, Petition-2: Transmission System associated with Farakka-III, Petition-3: Hathidah River Crossing Section of 220 kV Biharsharif - Begusarai Transmission Line, Petition-4: LILo of Purnea - Dalkota 132 kV S/C line and extension at Purnea (PG) Sub-station, Petition-5: LILo of both the circuit of Patratu - Hatia - Chandil 220 kV D/C line at Ranchi Sub-station associated with 220 kV Interconnection with Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) System at Ranchi Sub-Station, Petition-6: Asset under Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme - II (ERSS-II), Petition-7: Strengthening of Farakka - Malda Transmission Link and Additional 315 MVA Transformer at Malda, Petition-8: LILo of one circuit of 132kV D/C Siliguri - Rangit Transmission line at Gangtok, Petition-09: LILo of Bongaigaon - Malda at Siliguri and Sub-station at Siliguri (New) and Petition-10: LILo of Siliguri-Gangtok section of 132 kV Rangit-Siliguri transmission line at Meli under "Integration of Sikkim Transmission System" in Eastern Region.

Table with columns: Petition no, Asset detail, DFCO/ECOD/Notional, Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24. Includes sub-tables for 2019-24 Block and 2024-29 Block.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No.Sr.DMM/KUR/EP/2024-25/08, Date: 02.08.2024 The following tender have been uploaded on website www.irpss.gov.in (1) TENDER NO. 81245900, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: LASER HEIGHT & STAGGER GAUGE FOR BG LINE, QUANTITY:15NOS. (2) TENDER NO. 81245903, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: LASER SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) SYSTEM, QUANTITY:INSETS. (3) TENDER NO. 81245911, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: ELECTRIC POINT OPERATING MACHINE, QUANTITY: 85NOS. Closing Date & Time: 30.08.2024 at 1500 hrs. (for all tenders) Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/ PR-400/PI/24-25 Khurda Road

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 7 Notice No.82/2024, Date 01.08.2024 www.aiimsexams.ac.in Online Application is invited for the Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 7 for the recruitment of Nursing Officer posts at Level 07 in the Pay Matrix pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9300-34800 with Grade Pay of Rs.4600/-, Group-B for AIIMS New Delhi and other AIIMS as per available vacancies in the respective institutes. The On-line applications can be done through AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in from 01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Eligibility Criteria for appearing in NORCET Essential Qualification I a. B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council recognized Institute or University OR B.Sc. (Post Certificate)/ Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council recognized Institute/ University, b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State/ Indian Nursing Council. OR II a. Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery from an Indian Nursing Council/ State Nursing Council recognized Institute/ Board or Council b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife in State/Indian Nursing Council. c. Two Year's Experience in a minimum 50 bedded Hospital after acquiring the educational qualification mentioned above as applicable for all Participating AIIMS Remarks- The required two years of experience as in above is as an essential criterion and to be valid, the experience shall must be acquired after obtaining Essential Qualification i.e. after completing residency period of the course, declaration of result & registration with State/ Indian Nursing Council. Age Limit: For all AIIMS: Between 18-30 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of respective Institutes/ Hospitals.) All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form. APPLICATION FEES: A) General/ OBC Candidates - Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only) B) SC/ ST Candidates/ EWS - Rs.2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only) C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted The candidates can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/ CREDIT CARD / NET BANKING. Transaction/ Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the Bank by the candidate. Application fee once remitted shall not be refunded under any circumstances. Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected. Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after declaration of results in due course of time after verification SC/ST certificate to be uploaded at a later stage. Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 15th September, 2024 (Sunday) Online (CBT) for Stage II: NORCET Mains, Date: 4th October, 2024 (Friday) Please visit AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in to apply online & for latest information CBC 17112/11/0028/2425

# national



Considering the seriousness of the disaster, it is hoped that assistance will be available from the Central government to help the families of the disaster victims and for the rehabilitation and township projects

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

## PIL IN SC OVER ALARMING RISE IN DIABETES IN INDIA

The Supreme Court has agreed to examine a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed over the alarming rise in the spread of diabetes and associated diseases in the country. The plea sought direction to the government to frame regulation for Front of Package Labelling (FOPL) on packaged foods having excessive sugar, salt and oil content and less on nutrients



## of the day quote

This is the need of the country, religion as well as the waqf and waqt (time)

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | FORMER MINISTER FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS

If they were not ready (for assembly elections), I do not think the prime minister (Narendra Modi) or home minister (Amit Shah) and all the other ministers would have announced that elections will take place

FAROQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has included the clause to construct escape passage in the contract agreement of construction of 2-lane bi-directional Silkyara bend - Barkot tunnel on NH-134 as mandated by the Cabinet Committee

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

## X POST OF THE DAY

Gems of Ashwini Vaishnav Train coaches land in farmers field to plough for farming Vishwaguru dreams coming true

@Amock2022

## SHORT TAKES

### Under-construction bridge collapses

**Katihar:** Section of an under-construction bridge over the Ganga collapsed in Bihar's Katihar district Thursday, officials said. The small bridge was being built by the Rural Works Department to connect the Bakiya Sukhaye panchayat area to the district headquarters town, they said. No casualty was reported as a result of the incident, they added.

### Puja Khedkar moves Delhi HC

**New Delhi:** Former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of cheating and wrongly securing OBC and disability quota benefits, Thursday approached the Delhi High Court seeking anticipatory bail in the criminal case against her. Her plea for pre-arrest bail is scheduled for hearing before Justice Subramonium Prasad Friday.

### Kejriwal's judicial custody extended

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Thursday extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal till August 20 in a corruption case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the alleged excise scam. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja extended Kejriwal's custody after he was produced before the court through video conference.

### 150 vehicles gutted

**New Delhi:** At least 150 vehicles were gutted in a fire at the police's Wazirabad impound yard Thursday, the second such incident within a week at the facility in northeast Delhi. No one was injured in the incident, a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official said. He said around 5.15 am, the DFS received a call about a fire in a bush near the yard. Half an hour later, it was reported that a blaze had engulfed the impounded vehicles, the official said.

# TRAI cracks down on persistent spam calls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** In a major crackdown against pesky calls by spammers, TRAI Thursday said telcos will disconnect the telecom resources of entities that are found misusing bulk connections for making spam calls, and such entities would face blacklisting by all operators for up to two years. Sending out a strong message to erring entities and declaring

its all-out offensive against spam calls, TRAI emphasised the urgent need to take firm action on spammers using 'PRI/SIP connections' for voice calls/Robo calls/Pre-recorded calls "without further delay".

The action comes just a day after TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti made it clear that the regulator will review and strengthen regulations to curb spam calls.

The Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI) held a meeting, with regulatory heads of all the Telecom Service Providers Thursday.

The meeting, Chaired by TRAI Chief, was attended by the Chief Regulatory Officers of Airtel, BSNL, Quadrant Teleshopping Limited (QTL), Reliance Jio, Tata Teleservices Limited, Vodafone Idea Limited and V-CON Mobile & Infra Private Limited. Representatives of MTNL and Reliance

Communications Limited didn't turn up for the meeting.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided "If any entity misuses its SIP/ PRI (Session Initiation Protocol/Primary Rate Interface) lines for making spam calls, all the telecom resources of the entity shall be disconnected by its Telecom Service Provider (TSP) and the entity shall be blacklisted by it."

"This information shall be shared by the TSP with all other

TSPs who will, in turn, disconnect all the telecom resources given by them to that entity and blacklist it for a period of up to two years.

No new telecom resources shall be allocated to it by any TSP during the period of blacklisting," TRAI said in a release.

With effect from September 1, 2024, no message, containing URLs/APKs that are not whitelisted, shall be allowed to be delivered.

# Uproar over Phogat issue in RS

Trouble started in the morning session when Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise the Phogat disqualification issue but Chairman Dhankhar did not allow it. This followed an angry exchange between the Chair and TMC leader Derek O'Brien

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The uneasy relations between Rajya Sabha Chairman and Opposition parties once again surfaced Thursday, as Jagdeep Dhankhar left the House after heated clashes with TMC leader and some other Opposition MPs who were not permitted to raise the issue of disqualification of Vinesh Phogat from the Paris Olympics.

"It is an important issue. It is not an issue of a particular individual," Kharge said soon after the listed papers were tabled in the House. He wanted to know "who is behind" the disqualification. However, Dhankhar did not allow Kharge to raise the issue and went ahead with the scheduled Zero Hour listings. In the meantime, Derek O'Brien stood up to raise his point, but could not be heard because of uproar in the House.

To this Dhankhar cautioned the TMC member, saying "You are shouting at the Chair. Your conduct is ugliest in the House. I condemn your actions. Next time I will show you the door". As uproar continued, Opposition



parties staged a walkout.

"They (Opposition) think they are all wise. They think they are the only ones whose hearts are bleeding. The entire nation is in pain because of our girl. Entire nation is feeling the pain from the President to the Prime Minister to myself and many more. Everyone is sharing that situation, but to... politicise it is the greatest disrespect to that girl. That girl has a long way to go," Dhankhar said.

Leader of the House and BJP president J P Nadda also condemned the behaviour of Opposition members towards the Chair and also accused the Congress party of politicising the Phogat disqualification issue.

"Opposition does not have a solid issue to discuss," he said. Nadda emphasised the whole country is behind Phogat and even the Prime Minister has described the wrestler as 'champion of champions'.

After Nadda spoke, Dhankhar expressed his anguish on the

conduct of Opposition members and left the House saying he was not in a position to remain in the House for the time being.

Before leaving the Rajya Sabha, Dhankhar said the behaviour of the Opposition members has crossed all limits by creating anarchy in the House and disrespecting the prestige of the Chair. "They are not challenging me. They are challenging the post of the Chairman. And they are challenging the Chair, as they think that the person who is sitting on this Chair is not capable," he said.

Dhankhar rued that he did not get the desired support from the House despite making all efforts. "I am not running away from the oath. But what I have seen today, the way a member has behaved, the way the Opposition bench has conducted, I am not finding myself in a position to sit here for some time," Dhankhar said, adding he was leaving the House "with a heavy heart".

After Dhankhar left the House, Deputy Chairman Harivansh chaired the Zero Hour proceedings.

# Parties urge immediate Assembly polls in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 8:** With the Supreme Court deadline for holding Assembly polls looming large, the Election Commission (EC) held a series of meetings in Jammu and Kashmir Thursday with political parties and district heads of the civil administration and police in order to get a feedback for holding the election.

The EC team, led by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and including election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu, met representatives of registered political parties, including the National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party (JKPP), at the International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

Immediate Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir was the dominant demand of all the political leaders who met the visiting EC team.

Assembly polls have not been held in Jammu and Kashmir since 2014. The polls were due to be held in early 2019 following the dissolution of the legislative body of the erstwhile state in 2018. However, after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories in August 2019, the Assembly polls could not be held due to various reasons, including a delimitation exercise that was completed in 2022.

Talking to reporters after party-wise meetings with the EC delegation, the leaders said they were unanimous in their de-



mand for immediate Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

They also demanded that a level-playing field should be ensured in the polls for the restoration of democracy in the Union Territory. The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to conclude the election process by September 30. The poll schedule is yet to be announced by the EC, with just a little over seven weeks left for the deadline.

The BJP also batted for immediate Assembly polls. Its Jammu and Kashmir unit spokesperson RS Pathania said, "We told the EC that we want the election to be conducted as soon as possible." The party wants the polls to be held within the apex court's deadline, he added.

NC's Kashmir provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, who led a five-member party delegation to meet the EC officials, said, "Our only demand is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir now want to have their own government. We told the EC that you came here many times and we met you but now, there should be some definite decision on it."

Wani said the party also demanded a level-playing field in terms of providing a secure environment for the polls.

# Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak to address discrepancies in aviation law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The government Thursday said the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024, which seeks to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, would address the current discrepancies in the aviation law and help the industry grow.

Speaking during a discussion on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu underscored the need for the new legislation, noting that the Aircraft Act, 1934 has become outdated due to its numerous amendments over the years.

The Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha July 31, is intended to "regulate various aspects of the aviation industry, including the design, manufacture, maintenance, operation, and sale of aircraft".

Naidu explained that the 1934 Act had undergone 21 amendments, resulting in ambiguities and contradictions, particularly regarding the powers and functions of internal organizations like the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

He pointed out that these issues have created confusion within the aviation sector, making it difficult for the relevant authorities to operate effectively.

"Because of this, the whole structuring of the Act itself has led to a lot of ambiguity and contradictions in terms of powers and functions of certain internal organizations," he said.

The minister stressed that there was a "dire need to structure the whole Act," which is why the government introduced the new legislation. Naidu emphasised his openness to suggestions from other members of Parliament.

He also touched upon the importance of aligning India's aviation laws with global standards, stating that the new Bill would address the current discrepancies and help the industry grow.

Congress MP Adoor Prakash raised concerns about the Bill. "The sector is facing many challenges, including near collisions, flight delays, and cancellations, which are a matter of concern," Prakash said.

He criticised the government's lack of focus on climate change, highlighting that aviation contributes three per cent of global emissions.



Namo Ghat gets submerged following rains in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

# Experts warn against social media liver detox myths

**HOMEMADE RECIPES CLAIMED ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO BE LIVER DETOXIFIERS HAVE NO SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY, SAID DR RAJEEV JAYADEVAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE KERALA STATE IMA RESEARCH CELL**

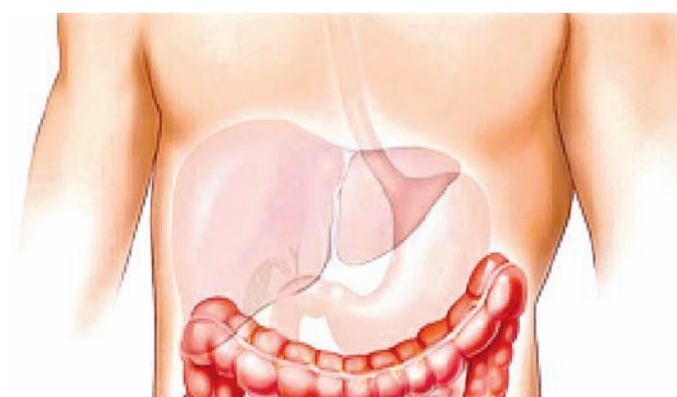
AGENCIES

**Kochi, August 8:** People should not rely on social media recipes for liver detoxifiers and should take early preventive lifestyle measures rather than relying on shortcuts, experts said.

Participating at the 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indian National Association for the Study of the Liver (INASL-2024) on the theme, 'Liver Facts

and Myths - Transforming Liver Health,' in Kochi on Wednesday, liver disease experts presented multiple sessions outlining ways to improve liver health.

Giving up alcohol, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling sugar intake, exercising regularly, and adopting a balanced diet were some of the measures that have to be followed, experts said. "Homemade recipes claimed on social media



to be liver detoxifiers have no scientific validity. Many people use the term detox in modern times because it is associated with the ancient belief of cleansing the

mind of toxic thoughts, but it is not possible to cleanse the liver through such shortcuts.

"The liver is perfectly capable of cleansing itself. It is more

important to avoid intake of substances that damage the liver, such as alcohol," Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, chairman of Kerala State IMA Research Cell, was

quoted in a release issued by the organisers.

As the largest organ in the body, the liver functions like a chemistry lab, efficiently sorting beneficial and harmful substances that enter the stomach

However, early-stage liver disease often shows no symptoms

Among the rise of lifestyle-related diseases, fatty liver diseases, including Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH), are becoming alarmingly prevalent in India

As the largest organ in the body, the liver functions like a chemistry lab, efficiently sorting beneficial and harmful substances that enter the stomach, the release said. It added that the early-stage liver disease often shows no symptoms. Health experts at the convention highlighted the increasing prevalence of fatty liver disease due to alcohol consumption and unhealthy lifestyles, and advised people to take early preventive lifestyle measures rather than relying on shortcuts. Dr Mathew Philip, president of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) inaugurated the session.





**A final settlement of the Kashmir issue should be reached by peaceful means under the UN Charter and full respect for human rights**  
FARHAN HAQ | DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON FOR THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## SECOND-HOTTEST MONTH

July 2024 is the second-warmest month worldwide, trailing slightly behind July 2023, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service reported



## of the day quote

How can I say this in the nicest possible way. My goal in life was that man (Donald Trump) would never step in the White House again  
NANCY PELOSI | REPRESENTATIVE, US

This (Israeli rejection of Norwegian diplomats in Palestinian areas) is an extreme act that primarily affects our ability to help the Palestinian population  
ESPEN BARTH EIDE | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWAY

I am predicting this from prison that this government (led by Shehbaz Sharif) has only two months  
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 Indians arrested at Nepal airport

**Kathmandu:** Five Indians were arrested in Nepal on Thursday for allegedly carrying millions of Nepali rupees without disclosing any source, the police said. Prakash Narayan Gupta (44), Ajaya Mishra (43), Ashish Gupta (45), Bimal Gupta (46) and Pankaj Jaiswal (39), all Indian nationals, were arrested from Ranjha Airport in Nepalgunj Municipality in western Nepal during a security check as they were about to board a Kathmandu-bound plane, the police said. The police said they have recovered 2.4 million Nepali Rupees from them without any valid supporting documents.

### Quake hits Japan

**Tokyo:** A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Miyazaki prefecture and other areas in southwestern Japan Thursday, prompting the country's weather agency to issue its Nankai Trough Earthquake Extra Information for the first time. The earthquake, measuring lower 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7, occurred at 1643 local time at a depth of 30 kilometers off the waters of Hyuga-nada in southern Kyushu, one of the country's four main islands, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). Shortly afterwards, the JMA started investigating whether this earthquake is related to the possibility of a large-scale quake anticipated along the Nankai Trough, which experts have warned for years.

### Cab mins swear in amid protest

**Nairobi:** Police hurled tear gas at protesters calling for the President's resignation in the Kenyan capital Thursday as a new Cabinet was sworn in. The protests in Nairobi were organised by activists upset with President William Ruto even after he dismissed almost all of his ministers and added opposition members to what he called a "broad-based" government. Businesses in the city were closed and public transport vehicles remained out of the central business district where they normally operate.

### Boat explosion in Nigeria kills 20

**Yenagoa:** At least 20 people were killed when a wooden boat caught fire and exploded on a river in Nigeria's coastal state of Bayelsa Wednesday, a police spokesperson said. The boat was carrying traders taking goods to coastal communities, Bayelsa police spokesperson Musa Muhammad said Thursday. Traders make weekly trips between coastal settlements and the state capital Yenagoa.

# B'desh's new leader takes oath

## NOBEL LAUREATE MUHAMMAD YUNUS SWEARS IN AS HEAD OF BANGLADESH'S INTERIM GOVT

AGENCIES

**Dhaka, August 8:** Bangladesh's Nobel Peace Prize winning economist Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as the head of the country's caretaker government Thursday three days after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to quit and flee the country following violent protests.

Yunus, 84, was recommended for the role by student protesters and returned to Dhaka earlier Thursday from Paris, where he was undergoing medical treatment.

"The country has the possibility of becoming a very beautiful nation," an emotional Yunus told reporters at the airport. "Whatever path our students show us, we will move ahead with that."

Yunus will be the chief adviser in the interim government tasked with holding fresh elections in the South Asian country of 170 million people.

He Thursday promised to de-

liver a government which assures safety to its citizens and urged them to assist him in rebuilding the protest-torn Bangladesh, as the Nobel laureate described the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as the country's "second independence".

Yunus, 84, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering work on microlending, was appointed by President Mohammed Shahabuddin as the head of the interim government after Hasina resigned and fled to India following widespread protests against her regime over a controversial quota system in jobs.

Yunus, who was in Paris for the Olympic Games, returned to the country via Dubai Thursday on an Emirates flight. Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman, senior officials, student leaders and civil society members welcomed him at the airport.

At an emotional press conference at Dhaka's Hazrat



## Hindus in Bangladesh try to flee to India

**DHAKA:** Hundreds of Bangladeshi Hindus have tried unsuccessfully to flee to India this week after many homes and businesses of the minority community were vandalised following the overthrow of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hindus make up about 8% of Muslim-majority Bangladesh's 170 million people. Many living close to India are trying to flee but facing resistance from both sides, local people said. Both countries have said they have stepped up border patrolling since the violence. Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, a local government official in Thakurgaon district in northwestern Bangladesh, said around 700-800 Hindus tried to flee to India around Wednesday evening after some of their houses were attacked and looted.

Shahjalal International Airport after his arrival, Yunus described the change of regime in Bangladesh as the "second independence".

"Today is a day of our pride," he said. "We have got independence for the second time. We have to protect this independence." He expressed gratitude

# UK riots halted by police, communities

REUTERS

**London, August 8:** A heavy security presence, rapid arrests and displays of unity by people across Britain prevented a repeat of widespread rioting involving racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants, officials said Thursday, adding that they remained on alert.



After police deployed in force and thousands of anti-racism protesters took to the streets Wednesday evening, threats of widespread gatherings by far-right anti-immigration groups did not materialise.

But the government said it was still cautious after days of riots triggered by false online posts wrongly identifying the suspected killer of three young girls in a July 29 knife attack in Southport, northwest England, as an Islamist migrant.

More than 400 people have been arrested across the country and Britain's most senior police officer, London Commissioner Mark Rowley, said more had been arrested Thursday morning, including many with criminal backgrounds.

For Prime Minister Keir Starmer, a former chief prosecutor, it is the first major test of his premiership since winning a July 4 election in which the

previous Conservative government highlighted immigration as a major issue.

Officials dismissed suggestions the riots were political.

"Any suggestion they're patriots, or they've got a cause is nonsense," Rowley said. "They're criminals, and frankly, most of them are going to be charged with violent disorder, and most of them are going to go to prison for a few years."

Several thousand people from anti-racism groups gathered at Walthamstow, north London, following threats to an immigration advice centre there. Others have protected mosques and hotels housing migrant asylum seekers that were among other targets.

Rowley hailed a "successful" night that had gone "very peacefully" apart from a few criminal incidents. "I think the show of force from the police, and frankly, the show of unity from communities, together defeated the challenges that we've seen," he told reporters.

One man was jailed for three years Wednesday for violent disorder and punching a police officer, and two others received jail sentences of two years and eight months Thursday. The government has also secured hundreds of prison places to jail those engaged in violence.

Fast and tough judicial action was viewed as helping quell the last serious nationwide rioting in England in 2011, for which almost 4,000 people were arrested.

Starmer said Wednesday night was "much better than expected" but he was holding an emergency meeting with police later Thursday to ensure efforts to contain any further riots continue.

# Fears for women's rights over Iraqi bill

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Iraq, August 8:** Iraq is set to introduce a bill that may cut down the age of marriage to nine for girls and 15 for boys, as per reports.

Right advocates have raised an alarm that the bill introduced in the Iraqi parliament would roll back women's rights in an already patriarchal society and increase the prevalence of underage marriages in the country.

The bill would allow citizens to choose either religious authorities or the civil judiciary to decide on family affairs. Critics fear this will lead to a slashing of rights in matters of inheritance, divorce and child custody.

In particular, they are worried it would effectively scrap the minimum age for Muslim girls to marry, which is set in the 1959 Personal Status Law at



18, charges lawmakers supporting the changes have denied. According to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF, 28 percent of girls in Iraq are already married before the age of 18. "Passing this law would show a country moving backwards, not forwards," Human Rights Watch (HRW) researcher Sarah Sanbar said. Amal Kabashi, from the Iraq Women's Network advocacy

group, said the amendment "provides huge leeway for male dominance over family issues" in an already conservative society.

Activists have demonstrated against the proposed changes and were planning to protest again later Thursday in Baghdad.

The 1959 legislation passed shortly after the fall of the Iraqi monarchy and transferred the right to decide on family affairs from religious authorities to the state and its judiciary.

This looks set to be weakened under the amendment, backed by conservative Shiite Muslim deputies, that would allow the enforcement of religious rules, particularly Shiite and Sunni Muslim.

There is no mention of other religions or sects which belong to Iraq's diverse population.

In late July, Parliament withdrew the proposed changes when many lawmakers objected to them.

# GAZA AIRSTRIKES Israel kills 40 Palestinians

## The country's military says it has struck dozens of military targets across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including rocket launching pads

REUTERS

**Cairo, August 8:** Israeli forces stepped up strikes across the Gaza Strip Thursday, killing at least 40 people, Palestinian medics said, in further battle with Hamas-led militants as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region.

Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nuseirat camp, killed four; medics said. Nuseirat and Bureij are among the densely populated enclave's eight historic camps and seen by Israel as strongholds of armed militants.

Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medics.

The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza, causing deaths and injuries among them.

Israel's military said it had struck dozens of military targets across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including rocket launching pads.

The ministry in the Hamas-run



territory does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its death lists.

As Gaza's war churns on, Israel has been battering down for another attack expected in the coming days following vows from Iran and its Lebanon proxy Hezbollah to retaliate for the assassinations last week of Hamas

leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut.

A relatively contained conflict between Israel and Hezbollah along its northern border, a spillover from the Gaza fighting, now threatens to spiral into an all-out regional war.

On Thursday dozens of Palestinians rushed into Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis to bid farewell to slain relatives before carrying them away for burials.

The Israeli military renewed evacuation orders to Palestinian residents in several districts in eastern Khan Younis, saying it would act forcefully against militants who had unleashed rockets from those areas.

The army posted the evacuation order on X, and residents said they had received text and audio messages.

# China confirms discovering world's first large shallow gas field in SCS

## OBSERVERS SAY THE FINDINGS OF A MASSIVE NEW GAS FIELD WERE EXPECTED TO ADD TO THE PREVAILING TENSIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, August 8:** China has confirmed the discovery of a major gas field, estimated to be over 100 billion cubic metres, in the disputed South China Sea, which is expected to add fuel to the current round of military and diplomatic tensions between Beijing and other claimants in the region.

The original gas in place (OGIP) of the Lingshui 36-1 gas field, the world's first large, ultra-shallow gas field in ultra-deep waters, has been estimated at more than 100 billion cubic metres, state-run China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) announced Wednesday.

The relevant government authorities have approved the

**South China Sea is globally significant mainly because of its rich oil, natural gas and fish resources**

data, it said.

The Lingshui 36-1 gas field is located in waters southeast of Hainan, China's southernmost island province, the CNOOC said, without specifying whether it falls in the disputed waters of the South China Sea (SCS).

The SCS is hotly contested waters. While China claims most of the SCS, The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. The



US, EU, Japan and allies back the claims of the small countries against China.

Observers say the findings of a massive new gas field were expected to add to the prevailing tensions.

The CNOOC has estimated that the OGIP of the Yinggehai,

Qiongdongnan and Zhujiangkou basins in the SCS is more than 1 trillion cubic meters.

Tensions are mounting in the South SCS, a hotly contested and globally significant waterway that has become a flashpoint for conflict mainly because of its rich oil, natural gas and fish

resources. It is also one of the world's busiest shipping routes, through which more than 20 per cent of global trade passes.

The CNOOC statement also quoted Zhou Xinhui, its President and chief executive, as saying that the "South China Sea has been a major region for the company to boost natural gas reserves and production. The successful testing of Lingshui 36-1 further expands the resource base for the development of a trillion-cubic-meters gas region in the South China Sea".

"The company will continue to step up exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources in the South China Sea and to enhance our capacity of energy supply," the Hong Kong-

based South China Morning Post quoted Zhou as saying.

China is the world's largest natural gas importer, with about \$64.3 billion spent on 120 million tonnes of liquefied and pipe gas in 2023. The discovery of major reserves would be a boost to the country's energy security.

However, developing oil and gas in the SCS would likely face diplomatic and political risks from rival claimants, the Post report said.

In 2014, CNOOC's oil rig Ocean Oil-981's operation in a disputed area near the Paracel Islands triggered widespread anti-China protests in Vietnam.

Beijing has also tried to stop unilateral oil and gas development in the SCS by other countries.

## of the day quote

We grew 9 per cent in the first half of 2024. Of course, quarter two is low seasonality and this year it was even low considering elections. But when we look at the third quarter it is again showing a good amount of bookings. The market is there. We are confident of a double-digit growth to end the year

JSFL will lead the way in shaping a prosperous and inclusive financial future for India by focussing on technology and developing tailor made products

The IT sector has consistently stood as a major employment powerhouse. However, recent quarters saw a slowdown in hiring, with companies exercising caution as they navigated through global uncertainties and economic shifts. Now, the tide is turning. Companies are actively ramping up their hiring efforts

## Q1 RESULTS

### LIC profit jumps

**New Delhi:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Thursday reported a 10 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹10,461 crore in the June 2024 quarter. The state-owned life insurance behemoth had a net profit of ₹9,544 crore in the year-ago period. The total income increased to ₹2,10,910 crore during the latest June quarter as against ₹1,88,749 crore in the year-ago period, LIC said in a regulatory filing. During the quarter under review, the first-year premium rose to ₹7,470 crore as against ₹6,811 crore in the year-ago period, it said.

### MRF profit drops

**New Delhi:** Tyre maker MRF Thursday said its consolidated net profit declined by 3 per cent year-on-year to ₹571 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. The company had reported a net profit of ₹589 crore in the April-June quarter of last fiscal. Total income increased to ₹7,280 crore for the period under review as against ₹6,515 crore in the June quarter of FY24, MRF Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

### APBL profit rises

**New Delhi:** Airtel Payments Bank Limited (APBL) Thursday said its net profit for the June quarter rose 41 per cent year-on-year to ₹7.2 crore, amid uptick in digital savings bank accounts alongside other digital offerings.



**The Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul industry in the country is expected to go up to \$4 billion in seven years from the present \$2 billion**  
KINJARAPU RAM MOHAN NAIDU | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

### SEBI AMENDS AIF RULES

Markets regulator Sebi has amended alternative investment funds (AIF) norms specifying maximum permissible limit for extension of tenure by 'Large Value Funds'. In a notification, Sebi said a large value fund for accredited investors may be permitted to extend its tenure up to five years. This is subject to the approval of two-thirds of the unit holders by value of their investment in the large value fund for accredited investors



# RBI keeps hawkish stance

**The central bank keeps interest rate unchanged for ninth time in a row despite global market volatility**

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 8:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged Thursday, as widely expected, retaining its focus on bringing inflation down even as global market volatility left other major central banks poised to ease policy.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which consists of three RBI and three external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for a ninth straight policy meeting.

Four out of six MPC members voted in favour of the rate decision. The MPC last changed rates in February 2023, when the policy rate was raised to 6.50%.

The monetary policy stance was retained at 'withdrawal of accommodation' to aid the MPC's focus on bringing inflation towards the target, with four of the six members voting in its favour.

It is important for monetary policy to stay the course in bringing inflation down towards its 4% medium term target, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, adding that India's food inflation remains "stubbornly" high. "Growth remains resilient, inflation has been trending downward and we have made progress in achieving price stability, but we have more distance to cover," Das said. Ensuring price stability is important for sustainable growth, he added. There are significant chal-

## Growth, inflation forecasts unchanged

**R**eserve Bank Thursday retained the growth and inflation projection at 7.2 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively for the current fiscal amid expectations of a normal monsoon.

In its last bi-monthly monetary policy review in June, RBI had projected real GDP growth and retail inflation at the same.

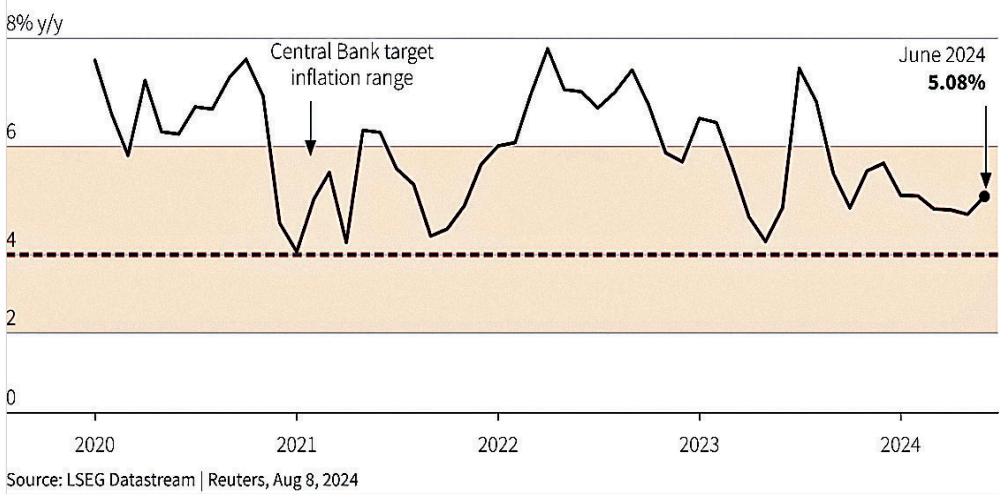
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das while announcing bi-monthly monetary policy said that improved agricultural activity brightens the prospects of rural consumption, while sustained buoyancy in services activity would support urban consumption.

"The healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates; trust on capex by the government; and visible signs of pick up in private investment would drive fixed investment activity. Improving prospects of global trade are expected to aid external demand," he said. The spillovers from protracted geopolitical tensions, volatility in international financial



### India's inflation increased in June

Retail inflation rose to a four-month high in June on sharp spike in food prices.



Source: LSEG Datastream | Reuters, Aug 8, 2024

markets and geoeconomic fragmentation, however, pose risks on the downside, he said.

Taking all these factors into consideration, he said, real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.2 per cent, with Q1 at 7.1 per cent; Q2 at 7.2 per cent; Q3 at 7.3 per cent; and Q4 at 7.2 per cent.

Real GDP growth for Q1 FY26 is projected at 7.2 per cent, he said, adding, the risks are evenly balanced.

On inflation, Das said, a degree of relief in food inflation

is expected from the pick-up in the south-west monsoon and healthy progress in sowing and buffer stocks of cereals continue to be above the norms.

Besides, he said, global food prices showed signs of easing in July, after registering increases since March 2024.

Assuming a normal monsoon, and taking into account the 4.9 per cent inflation print in Q1, he said, CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent, with Q2 at 4.4 per cent; Q3 at 4.7 per cent;

and Q4 at 4.3 per cent.

CPI inflation for Q1FY26 is projected at 4.4 per cent, he said, adding, the risks are evenly balanced.

Das further said that the headline CPI inflation edged up to 5.1 per cent in June 2024 due to higher-than-expected food inflation.

Fuel remained in deflation for the tenth consecutive month, he said, adding, that core inflation moderated to a historic low in May and June.

**The MPC may look through high food inflation if it is transitory; but in an environment of persisting high food inflation, as we are experiencing now, the MPC cannot afford to do so. It has to remain vigilant to prevent spillovers or second round effects from persistent food inflation and preserve the gains made so far**

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

"We will remain watchful of all incoming domestic and external data," Das said at a press conference, giving no hint that global factors would alter the path of India's monetary policy.

lenges to medium term global growth, Das said in his policy statement, while acknowledging recent market volatility and the move towards rate cuts by several central banks.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Benchmark interest rate (repo) retained at 6.5% for ninth time
- GDP growth forecast for FY25 retained at 7.2%
- Retail inflation projection also retained at 4.5% for FY25
- Current account deficit manageable; forex kitty at peak of \$675bn
- Indian rupee remained largely range-bound in FY25 so far

- Indian financial system remains resilient, gaining strength
- RBI to set up public repository of digital lending apps to check unauthorised players
- To introduce 'Delegated Payments' through UPI;
- Proposes steps to speed up cheque clearance
- Limit for tax payments through UPI raised from ₹1L to ₹5L per transaction
- Next meeting of MPC scheduled during October 7 to 9

## Canara Bank inaugurates new premises

**BHUBANESWAR:** Canara Bank, a leading public sector bank, has inaugurated its new premises of Cuttack Regional Office and Mid Corporate Branch Thursday. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Bhavendra Kumar, Executive Director of Canara Bank along with the bank's State Head Jagdish Chander (General Manager), Kumar, who was available in Bhubaneswar for official work, has inaugurated the new premises of RO-Cuttack, MCB II along with Chander. He also visited and addressed women SHG loan camp which was organised at Banki, Cuttack. The executive director explained the different facility and schemes being offered by the bank for women like savings bank account and recurring deposit schemes. He also briefed about different government schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY and its benefits to all women beneficiaries. The bank sanctioned ₹5 crore loan covering 125 SHG groups.



BANK BUZZ

## HISTORIC FIRST

### NSE crosses 10cr investors' mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Thursday said its unique registered investors have crossed the 10 crore mark for the first time, with the latest 1 crore addition taking place in just five months.

The investor base has seen more than 3-time jump in the last five years, facilitated by rapid growth in digitisation, rising investor awareness, financial inclusion and sustained market performance.

"The unique registered investor base on the National Stock Exchange of India crossed the 10-crore mark on August 8, 2024," the bourse said in a statement.

With this, the total number of client codes (accounts) registered with the exchange stands at 19 crore. This includes all client registrations done till date. Notably, clients can register with more than one trading member. Investor registrations at NSE have seen an accelerating trend over the last few years.

The exchange said that it took over 25 years for the registered investor base to hit the 4-crore mark in March 2021. The subsequent 1 crore increments have come through at an accelerated pace, taking on an average of about 6-7 months, with the last crore added in just over five months.

Of the 10 crore registered investors, the median age is 32 years. Five years ago, it was 38 years. This reflects the increasing interest in markets among the youth. Nearly, one in five investors today are females.

Moreover, indirect participation has also increased with nearly 2.1 crore new SIP accounts opened between March 2024 and June 2024.

## BCCI SETTLEMENT

### US court's rejection to lenders a win: Byju's

REUTERS

**Bangalore, August 8:** India's Byju's said Thursday that a US court has shunned its lenders' attempts to block its settlement with the Indian cricket board, calling it a "win" for its "turn-around efforts" in the country where it was once valued at \$22 billion.

The education technology company recently settled a \$19 million payment dispute case with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Following this, an Indian tribunal ordered a halt on insolvency proceedings against Byju's. However, the US-based Glas Trust, representing some lenders to a Byju's group company, opposed the halt, saying founder Byju Raveendran and his brother used money owed to the lenders to clear BCCI dues.

Judge Brendan Shannon of Delaware Bankruptcy Court has rejected Glas Trust's application for a temporary restraining order aimed at blocking the BCCI settlement, Byju's said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear



when the Glas Trust applied for the restraining order. The Trust did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for a comment.

The founder's brother, who cleared the dues, said the payments were done from "personal funds" and liquidation of personal assets.

"The court's decision affirmed that it has no jurisdiction over the BCCI to halt the settlement and recognized that granting Glas' requested relief would be an extraordinary and unjustified measure," the embattled startup said Thursday.

Byju's has suffered setbacks in the last few years, including boardroom exits, an auditor resignation, and a public spat with foreign investors over alleged mismanagement. The company, currently valued at less than \$3 billion, has denied any wrongdoing.

## One in four GenZ drawn to new-age jobs

### 43% READY TO GIVE UP WORK-LIFE BALANCE, SAYS STUDY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** One in every four GenZ respondents in India is more inclined towards new-age job fields like Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity and content creation while 43 per cent are willing to sacrifice the work-life balance to succeed in their career, a study has found.

The study, the Quest Report 2024, which unveils Gen Z traits and trends on dreams, careers, and aspirations, also found that only 9 per cent of respondents want to pursue entrepreneurship as they seek stability and security in work life.

Gen Z usually refers to those born between 1995 and 2010. "One out of 4 Indian respondents are more inclined towards



new-age job fields like content creation, data analysis, AI, and cybersecurity," the study commissioned by IQOO in association with CyberMedia Research, said. IQOO is a sub-smartphone brand of the vivo group.

"43 per cent of respondents in India and 46 per cent globally are willing to give up work-life balance to succeed in their career," it said, adding that around 62 per cent of the Indian

youth are willing to give up their hobbies and other interests to achieve their dreams.

"Recent debate on work-life balance due to deliberation on 14-hour work day & 70-hour work-week have stirred conversations amongst the Gen Z," the study noted.

The study of 6,700 Gen Z respondents, aged between 20-24 years, from seven countries including the US, the UK, Malaysia

Brazil and India, stated that 19 per cent of Indians surveyed prefer career advancements in big organisations while 84 per cent of Indian respondents believe their jobs align with their goals, compared to 72 per cent globally.

As many as 45 per cent of Questers said that they would take up higher studies to support their quest while 32 per cent believe they should take up relevant jobs to support their dreams.

Around 46 per cent feel financial constraints as a barrier to pursuing their choice of career. However, over 90% are confident in achieving their dream despite the barriers.

"2X of women feel gender affects the pursuit of their dreams compared to men," the study said.

The study covered three broad areas- Gen Z Questers' spirit & motivation to fulfill their dreams, obstacles & barriers that disrupt their quest for passion, and career choices that drive their interests.

# 'Broken' Vinesh quits mat

WRESTLER ANNOUNCES HER DECISION TO RETIRE A DAY AFTER BEING DISQUALIFIED FOR BEING 100 GRAMS OVERWEIGHT

**Paris, August 8:** Her long-cherished Olympic dream shattered by a cruel twist of fate, a crestfallen Vinesh Phogat bid adieu to her international wrestling career Thursday. She said that she doesn't have the strength to continue anymore. The 29-year-old announced her decision on social media, seeking forgiveness from everyone who supported her.

Vinesh, a three-time Olympian addressed her mother Premilata in her farewell note. "Ma, wrestling has won, I have lost. Please forgive me, your dreams and your courage, everything is broken," she said. "I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye wrestling 2001-2024. I shall be indebted to you all. Forgive (me)," added the two-time World Championships bronze medalist.

Vinesh's stunning decision comes a day after she appealed against her disqualification from the Olympic finals in the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), demanding that she be awarded a joint silver medal. The matter is to come up for hearing later in the day.

Vinesh had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the gold medal bout in her category Tuesday night. She was assured of at least a silver medal before the disqualification. She has won gold medals in both the Asian and Commonwealth Games.

For the past one year, Vinesh had also been the face of fierce protests against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by women grapplers.

Vinesh, who has always competed in the 53kg category, was forced to come down to 50kg



Abhinav Bindra presents a bouquet to Vinesh Phogat at the Games Village, Thursday

just months before the Paris Games after the quota place in that division was locked by Antim Panghal. Vinesh's relationship with the Olympic Games has been a painful one, starting with her debut in the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro. She had to be

### 'A true warrior'

**Paris:** India's first individual Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra paid glowing tributes Thursday to wrestler Vinesh Phogat. He said her fight resonated with him and she embodies the 'true spirit of a warrior'. "It is said that sport is a celebration of human will. I have known that to be true many times in my career but never has it resonated more than now. As I look around me, I see a nation and its people celebrate your unyielding resolve," Bindra posted on 'X' along with a couple of pictures of meeting her. "You are a fighter - on and off the mat. Through you, we are learning what it means to never lose the fight in us, even as a loss weighs heavily. You embody the true spirit of a warrior," Bindra added.

stretched off the mat after suffering a career-threatening anterior cruciate ligament tear in her quarterfinal bout. She was just 21 at that time.

Vinesh rebuilt herself over the next four years and made it to the Tokyo Games. However, this time, she seemed a bit under-prepared and was knocked out following a quarterfinal loss.

Her build-up for the 2024 Games was perhaps the most controversy-ridden and tumultuous. She was on the streets for over a month, protesting against Brij Bhushan and the 'government inaction' on the charges against him. She eventually dropped to 50kg category to stay in the hunt for an Olympic berth and against all odds, made it too.

But as fate would have it, she fell short yet again. Cruel luck came in her way of winning at least a silver medal.

# Tributes pour in from wrestlers

India woke up to another shock Thursday after a heartbroken Vinesh Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling. It prompted an outpouring of support from the sporting community. India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medal winner Bajrang Punia led the tributes for Vinesh that overflowed social media platforms.

**Bajrang Punia:** Vinesh, you did not lose but yet you have been defeated. For us, you will always be a winner and along with being India's daughter you are India's pride as well. Many will be inspired by your deeds in the future.

**Sakshi Malik:** Vinesh you were not the one who lost. It's the defeat of every daughter of our country for whom you fought. This is a defeat for entire country. The country is with you. As an athlete I salute your struggle and passion.

**Mahavir Phogat (coach):** It is true, people lose heart. When she will come home, we (I, Bajrang, Gita) will all sit and talk. We will take a decision and convey it. In the heat of the moment, people take such decisions but after some time, we will decide on it. We will encourage her to play 2028 Olympics. I thank (the) Haryana government for announcing the reward. As long as I am active, I will be helping her and the other wrestlers.

**Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (Olympic silver medalist):** A sportsman's life has years of struggle, ups and downs, then that important day comes to show the skills and win the game, then if this kind of mistake happens, then it is sad and heart-breaking. But I want to say to Vinesh that she is young and should face this challenge

and move ahead with a lot of positivity. We are all with her, a champion is the who stands after falling."

**Geeta Phogat (CWG gold medalist):** Sister Vinesh, we will always be indebted to you for what you have done for the country. Your passion and struggle will be remembered for centuries. You are a role model for all girls. You saying goodbye to wrestling like this is very sad for the whole family and the whole country.

**Sanjay Singh (WFI chief):** I got to know about her retirement through social media and I am also shocked to learn she decided to retire on her own. I would urge her to not make decisions in a sad state of mind and make a rational decision once she has recovered from the debacle mentally. We will also talk to her.



## OLYMPICS TIDBITS



### Love blooms in the air

**Saint-Denis (France):** Rarely has an Olympic pin contained so much love. When French runner Alice Finot got down on one knee and proposed to her boyfriend after her Olympic steeplechase race, she attached a 'Love is in Paris' pin on his shirt. "I told myself that if I ran under nine minutes, knowing that nine is my lucky number and that we've been together for nine years, then I would propose," Finot said. Finot finished the race fourth in eight minutes, 58.67 seconds and then ran over to the stands where she found her boyfriend, Spanish triathlete Bruno Martinez. "I don't like doing things like everyone else," Finot said. "It was the best way I could express my life and there can be no better place than the Olympics as we are both Olympians."

### IHF promoting gender equality

**Paris:** In line with the Paris Olympics' goal to achieve gender equality, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has showcased its commitment to inclusion and diversity by introducing mixed-gender on-field umpiring for the first time in the sport's Olympic history. This marks a significant change, as mixed-gender umpiring has not been a regular occurrence at the Olympic Games. In Paris, umpires and technical officials are evenly split between genders, with 50:50 ratio. "Gender equality is anchored into hockey's DNA, and FIH won't miss any opportunity to promote it. With the introduction of mixed-gender on-field umpiring at the Olympics, FIH is showcasing once more its determination towards a more gender-equal sport and society," said FIH president Tayyab Ikram here Thursday.

### Rajnath lauds Bhaker feat

**New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh showered Thursday praise on star pistol shooter Manu Bhaker as he met the double Olympic bronze medalist after her triumphant return from the Paris Games. Singh said every Indian is elated by her 'incredible performances'. He also shared a photograph of their meeting in a post on X. "Delighted to meet India's ace shooter, Manu Bhaker, who scripted history at the Paris Olympics by winning two bronze medals for the country. Every Indian is elated by her incredible performances," Singh wrote.

# Antim deported, faces 3-yr ban

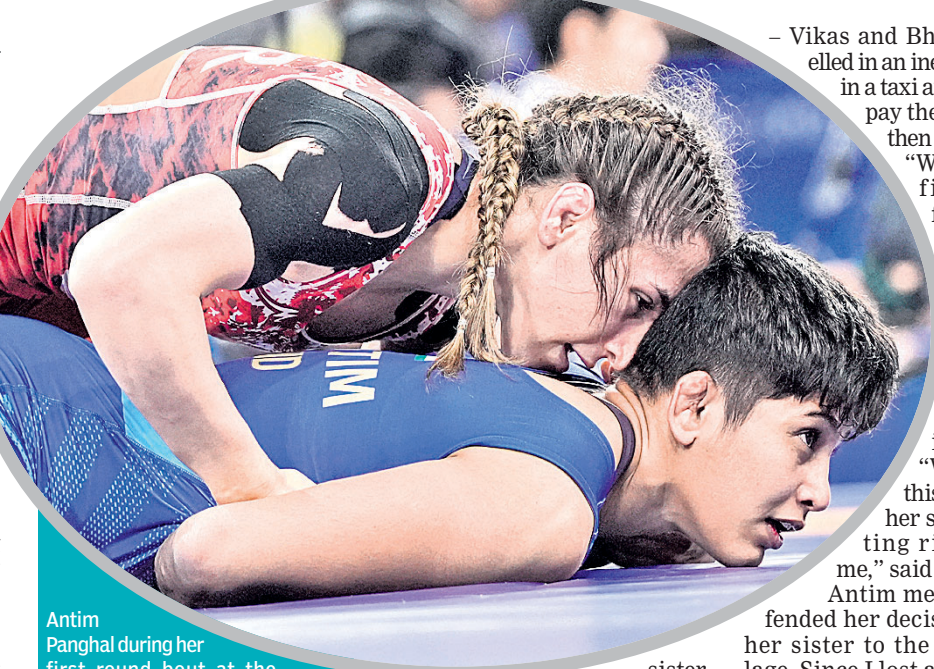
Major embarrassment for IOA after wrestler gives her official card to sister to enter Games village

**Paris, August 8:** In a major embarrassment for the country, wrestler Antim Panghal and her entire entourage has been deported from here for a major disciplinary breach. Antim and her entire team boarded the flight from here Thursday night. It has been alleged that the young wrestler handed her official accreditation card to her sister who was caught by security while leaving the Games Village.

Panghal had crashed out of the Paris Olympics after losing her opening bout in the women's 53kg Wednesday. She had replaced Vinesh Phogat in the 53kg category, but was completely outplayed by her Turkish opponent and lost 0-10.

"The Indian Olympic Association has decided to fly wrestler Antim and her support staff back after a disciplinary breach was brought to IOA's notice by the French authorities," the body said in a statement, Thursday.

IOA sources both here and in New Delhi stated that Antim and her entire team are set to be banned for three years from wrestling. However, the decision will be formally announced only



Antim Panghal during her first round bout at the Olympics, Wednesday

after they return from Paris. While IOA did not share what the disciplinary breach was, a source shared the details. "Instead of heading to the Games village after her loss, she reached the hotel where her coach Bhagat Singh and sparring partner Vikas, who is actually her coach, were staying. Antim asked her

- Vikas and Bhagat - travelled in an inebriated state in a taxi and refused to pay the driver, who then called police. "We have left to fight fire," fumed an IOA official. When contacted, Vikas flatly refused their involvement in such an incident. "Who told you this? Antim and her sister are sitting right before me," said Vikas. Antim meanwhile defended her decision to send her sister to the Games village. Since I lost a lot is being said that is not true. I had high fever, and had taken permission from my coach to go to the hotel with my sister. I needed some of my belongings which were in the Games village. My sister took my card and asked the officials there if she could take my belongings. They took her to the police station for accreditation verification," Antim informed.

# Poor show by Indian runners

**Paris, August 8:** National record holder Jyothi Yarraji failed to make the semifinals of women's 100m hurdle after finishing fourth in her repechage heat at the Paris Olympics here Thursday. The first Indian to compete in the 100m hurdles in the Olympics, the debutant produced a below-par show as she clocked 13.17s in her repechage heat to finish 16th overall out of 40 total runners. It was well below the 24-year-old's national record of 12.78s and even worse than the 13.16s she clocked in her heats Wednesday. The top two in each repechage heat advanced to the semifinals.

South Africa's Marioune Fourie (12.79s) and Dutch athlete Maayke Tjin-A-Lim (12.87s) advanced to the semifinals from Heat 1.

Earlier late Wednesday evening, Avinash Sable failed to keep pace with the best in the business as he finished 11th in the men's 3000m steeplechase final here.

The 29-year-old Sable clocked 8 minutes 14.18 seconds while crossing the finish line after running in the lead briefly in the dramatic race. Sable had recently broken his own national record with a time of 8:09.91 seconds at the Paris Diamond League.

# Lifter finishes 4th, only 1kg behind 1000 GRAMS DASH MIRABAI'S DREAM

**Paris, August 8:** One hundred grams had dashed Vinesh Phogat's hope of getting an Olympic medal. For weightlifter Mirabai Chanu it was 1,000 grams that prevented her from getting a medal. She came tantalisingly close to clinching a second Olympic medal but a faltered lift in her final attempt cruelly snatched the dream from her grasp, leaving her with a fourth place finish in the women's 49kg event at the Olympics here late Wednesday evening. Mirabai lifted a total of 199kg

(88kg+111kg) at the South Paris Arena. It was three kilograms less than what she heaved at the Tokyo Olympics (202 kg) for a silver medal. She was just one kilogram short of Thai weightlifter Surodchana Khambao who bagged the bronze for her effort of 200kg (88kg+112kg).

The former World Champion had done well to keep herself in medal contention after the snatch event but her failure to lift 114kg in her final clean and jerk attempt cost her dearly. Had she succeeded she would have bagged the bronze medal.



WHEN THINGS WENT AWRY: Mirabai Chanu drops the barbell while trying to lift 114kg at Paris, Wednesday

"I am happy with the performance because I managed this despite having very little time for recovery," Mirabai told

reporters. "I was managing 85kg in practice in snatch and I did it in the competition too. I was confident about clean and jerk also. It was my third day of the women's problem (periods) and that also affected me a bit. However I did my best and I have no complaints," added the Indian lifter.

China's Hou Zhihui smashed the clean and jerk Olympic record as she successfully defended her title with an effort of 206kg (89kg+117kg). Romanian Mihaela Cabei took home the silver with total of 205kg (93kg+112kg).

# Perfect way to finish: Sreejesh

GOALKEEPER CALLS HIS CAREER 'NOTHING SHORT OF EXTRA-ORDINARY'



FITTING FAREWELL: PR Sreejesh punches the air in delight as his teammates salute him after the game Thursday. PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Paris, August 8: "This is the perfect way to finish," said iconic Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh here Thursday after India had defeated Spain 2-1 to win the hockey bronze for the second consecutive time. Sreejesh ruled out any possibility of reversing his decision to retire from international hockey. Before the start of the game he had said that his career has been 'nothing short of extra-ordinary and he couldn't have asked for more'.

"I think this is the better way to finish an Olympic Games, with a medal. We are not going home empty-handed, that's a great thing," Sreejesh said on 'Jio Cinema'.

"I respect the sentiments of people (who may have wanted him to continue). Some decisions are hard, but taking a decision at right time makes the situation more beautiful," Sreejesh said after the match. "So, my decision stays," he asserted, when asked if he may re-

consider.

The 36-year-old from Kerala, whose illustrious career spanned 18 years, had announced before the Olympics that he would call it quits at the end of India's campaign.

"The team did a wonderful job and made this game so beautiful," said Sreejesh. "I am happy that now I have two Olympic bronze medals (the first one from Tokyo). Tokyo has a special place in my heart. That (bronze) gave us back the confidence that we can win medals (in Olympics)," he added.

Earlier before the game, Sreejesh expressed his gratitude to the countrymen for believing in him.

"As I stand between the posts for the final time, my heart swells with gratitude and pride. This journey, from a young boy with a dream to the man defending India's honour, has been nothing short of extraordinary," he wrote on 'X'. "Today, I play my last match for

India. Every save, every dive, every roar of the crowd will forever echo in my soul. Thank you India, for believing in me, for standing by me. This is not the end, but the beginning of cherished memories. Forever a custodian of dreams," Sreejesh added.

The veteran goalkeeper was in good form as he produced some sensational saves in the tournament, including two in the quarterfinal shootout against Great Britain, to help India seal a second consecutive Olympic semifinal spot.

After making his debut at the 2006 South Asian Games, Sreejesh was a part of various memorable wins for India, including a gold in the 2014 Asian Games and a bronze medal in the 2018 Asian in Jakarta. He was also part of the Asian Champions Trophy-winning side in 2018, and the 2019 FIH Men's Series Finals champion team in Bhubaneswar.

# Wrestler Aman in fray for bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 8: Young Indian grappler Aman Sehrawat lost to Japanese top-seed Rei Higuchi in the 57kg freestyle semifinal bout as the country's hopes of winning a gold medal from wrestling suffered a big blow at the Olympics here Thursday. The 21-year-old Aman will now play for the bronze medal Friday against Puerto Rico's Darian Toi Cruz.

Aman, who had raised hopes of securing a place in the final following two big victories against celebrated opponents in the earlier rounds, was no match for the 28-year-old Higuchi - the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist - as the Japanese toyed with the Indian to stamp his technical superiority with a 10-0 win in just over two minutes.

Higuchi's superior technique was evident in the first few seconds when he attacked Aman's legs to take a 4-0 lead. The Japanese, a former World Champion in 2022 in the 61kg category, kept up the pressure on the Indian, targeting Aman's legs and effecting regular throw downs with ease to garner six



DOMINATING SHOW: Wrestler Aman Sehrawat (in red) in action against Zelimkhan Abakarov in the 57kg category

more points to end the contest.

Aman had earlier rekindled the country's hopes, demolishing former World Champion Zelimkhan Abakarov of Albania by technical superiority to enter the semis.

Aman was in imperious form as he toyed with Abakarov in the second round. Aman locked the opponent's legs at the start of the second round and flipped him over multiple times to earn

eight straight points to secure a 12-0 victory.

Aman's pre-quarterfinal round was also a cakewalk as he ensured an easy passage into the last eight with a dominating performance against North Macedonian rival Vladimir Egorov

Aman the only male wrestler from India to qualify for the Olympics, was amazingly agile as he kept his defence intact while regularly overpowering his 29-year-

old former European champion with leg holds to win the bout on technical superiority (10-0).

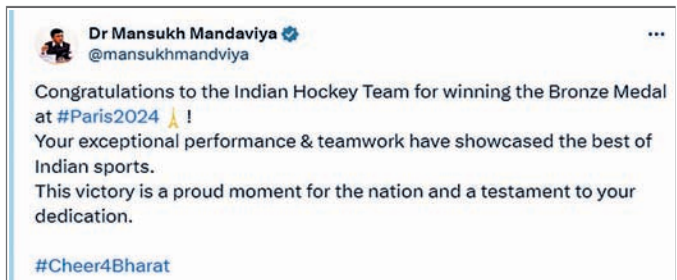
Woman grappler Anshu Malik displayed great determination but could not breach the defence of USA's vastly experienced Helen Louise Maroulis, losing 2-7 in the 57kg pre-quarterfinals. Anshu will not play in the repechage round as her victor Maroulis lost to a Japanese wrestler in the semifinals.

# Nation heaps praise on hockey team

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes as the Indian hockey team won their second successive bronze medal Thursday at the Paris Olympics. People, especially from the hockey fraternity, were lavish in their praise as they took to social media platforms to praise the Indian team. Here's what they had to say.

**Narendra Modi:** A feat that will be cherished for generations to come! The Indian hockey team shine bright at the Olympics, bringing home the Bronze Medal! This is even more special because it is their second consecutive Medal at the Olympics. Their success is a triumph of skill, perseverance and team spirit. They showed immense



grit and resilience. **Abhinav Bindra:** The Indian Men's Hockey Team, with courage etched in every stride, you've brought home a bronze medal which shines with the brilliance of gold. To each of you, who donned the Tricolor with pride - thank you for giving us a moment that will echo in our hearts for generations.

**Ajitpal Singh (Former captain):** The fighting spirit and unity which the Indian team showed in this Olympics is a game-changer. They fought as a unit in adverse situations and climbed up match by match. This is truly remarkable. This performance will definitely inspire youngsters to take up hockey as a career. **Zafar Iqbal (Former captain):** The mental toughness of this team

is at a different level. Whether you win or lose in such a tough competition, you have to have that sort of mental strength. They raised their game match by match. It's a big honour and great achievement and a big morale-booster for Indian hockey.

**Ashok Kumar (Former captain):** It is an unbelievable performance; they have improved step by step in every game. Their mindset is very positive, and the spirit and unity among the team have built the base. It is big for Indian hockey. It came from the blood and sweat of the players.

**VVS Laxman:** Many congratulations to the Indian men's hockey team on securing a second consecutive Olympic bronze medal. Outstanding effort from our boys.

## INDIAN HOCKEY'S MOMENT OF GLORY



1. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Spain in the bronze medal play-off match Thursday
2. Players enjoy a dance in the dressing room with the Tricolour after the triumph over Spain
3. Sreejesh makes a save from a Spanish attack
4. Indian players do a lap of honour to thank the fans at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Paris
5. Amit Rohidas, back after a one-game ban, can't control his emotions after the final hooter

