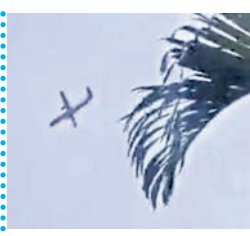




Kubbra's journey

Actor Kubbra Sait sheds light on the challenges and triumphs that have shaped her career

LEISURE | P2



Plane crash in Brazil

A VoePass plane with 62 people aboard crashes in a fiery wreck in Brazil's Sao Paulo state Friday

INTERNATIONAL | P9



Ola Electric's IPO

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd surge 20 per cent to hit the upper circuit against the issue price of ₹76 after making market debut

BUSINESS | P10



Surgery on cards

Silver-winning javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra says he will go for surgery soon to heal the adductor niggle he has been suffering from

SPORTS | P11

Debutant Aman locks bronze in Oly wrestling

AGENCIES

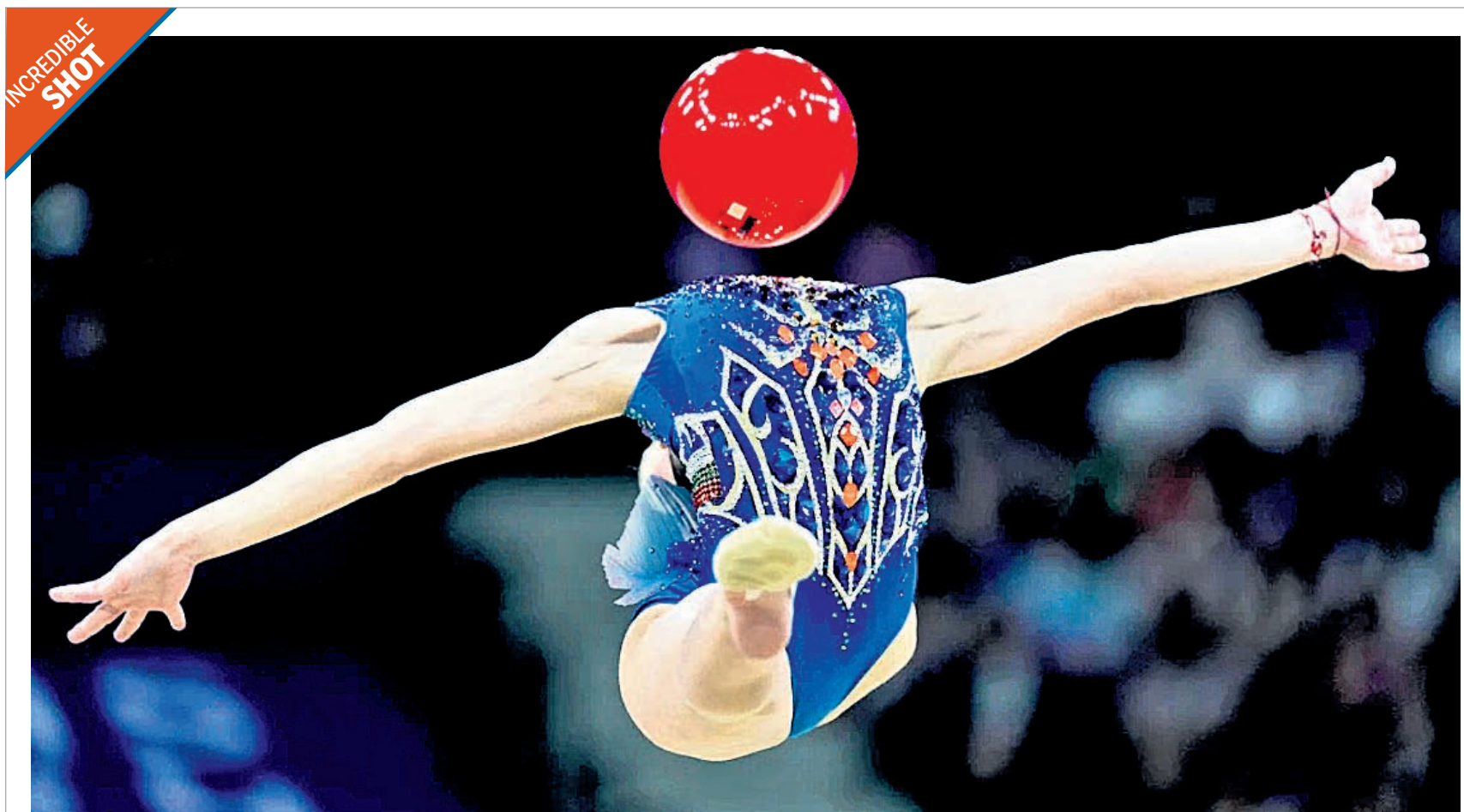
Paris, August 9: Wrestler Aman Sehrawat added to India's medal tally by winning the bronze medal in the 57kg freestyle category here Friday. He defeated Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz 13-5. With Aman's victory, India now have six medals from this edition of the Games, still one less than the seven, the country bagged in Tokyo. India have so far won five bronze medals (three in shooting, one each in hockey

and wrestling) and a silver by Neeraj Chopra.

Aman won the bout to keep the tradition of wrestlers returning home with a medal since 2008 Beijing Games, where Sushil Kumar had finished third. Incidentally Aman was the only Indian male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Olympics. Aman had lost to Japanese top seed Rei Higuchi in the semifinals Thursday, but remained in contention for the bronze.



India's Aman Sehrawat (in blue) in action against Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in the bronze medal match, Friday. PTI PHOTO



Stiliana Nikolova of Bulgaria performs in rhythmic gymnastics individuals all-round qualification round at La Chapelle Arena at Paris Summer Olympics Thursday. AP PHOTO/FRANCISCO SECO

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If the ED can't touch him, there's only one solution. Send him to Rajya Sabha, and let the Chairperson deal with him

SC stays hijab ban

Nearly two years after a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered opposing verdicts on the contentious issue of banning hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka, another SC bench, while hearing a plea challenging a Bombay High Court verdict upholding a Mumbai college's decision to ban hijab inside the campus, unequivocally opined that girl students must have the freedom to choose what they want to wear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The Supreme Court Friday stayed a Mumbai college's decision banning 'hijab, burqa, cap and naqab' on the campus and said girl students must have the freedom to choose what they wear.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar came down heavily on the Chembur Trombay Education Society, which runs the 'NG Acharya and DK Marathe College' for issuing such a circular and asked whether it would ban 'bindi' and 'tilak' also.

During the hearing, Justice Kumar asked senior advocate Madhavi Divan, appearing for the society, how was the college empowering the girl students by issuing such a circular.

"How are you empowering the women by telling them what to wear? I think it's less said the better. Where is the freedom of choice for the women? Where is freedom of choice of what to

wear to the girl students? Educational institutions should not force their decisions on the girl students on what to wear," said Justice Kumar.

Divan contended that the college is a co-educational institution and the intention behind the directive is to ensure that the religious faiths of the students are not revealed. The lawyer said the circular was not limited to 'hijab, burqa or naqab'



but extended to even ripped jeans and other such attire.

Unimpressed, Justice Khanna asked "Will the students' names not reveal their religious identity?" and added "Religion is in their names also. Do not impose such rules."

Justice Kumar further observed, "You have suddenly woken up to the fact that they are wearing it and come out with instructions. It is unfortunate. After so many years of Independence, you have come to know there are so many religions in this country."

The bench issued notice to the education society and sought its response by November 18.

"We partly stay clause 2 of the impugned circular to the ex-

tent that it directs that no hijab, no cap, no badges will be allowed in the campus. We hope and trust this interim order is not misused by anybody," the bench ordered. It granted liberty to the educational society and the college to approach the court in case of any misuse of the order.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves and advocate Abiha Zaidi, appearing for the petitioners, including Zainab Abdul Qayyum, submitted that students were not able to attend the classes due to the circular.

The girl students have been wearing hijab for the past four years, Gonsalves said, adding that now they are being stopped from attending the classes.

Divan submitted there are 441 girl students from the Muslim community who are happily studying in the college and they are given lockers and to keep their burqa or hijab in them.

"None of the 441 girls had any problem except for these three girls, who approached the high court against the circular," she said.

"We are a non-political, religion-neutral school. We only wanted that wearing hijab or naqab does not become a barrier for students in interaction," she submitted, urging the court to not take away its autonomy.

The top court was hearing a plea challenging a Bombay High Court verdict upholding the college's decision to ban hijab, burqa and naqab inside the campus.

TUBER TROUBLE

Govt to sell potato at ₹30 by August 17

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: At a time when potato prices are skyrocketing and unrelenting to come down, the state government has decided to procure the kitchen essential from Uttar Pradesh through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and sell it at government fair price shops at ₹30 per kg by next weekend.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said the decision has been taken to supply potatoes to consumers at ₹30 per kg after they reach from Uttar Pradesh.

The state has been facing an acute potato crisis after neighbouring West Bengal stopped transportation of the tuber and traders

from the state refused to purchase it from Uttar Pradesh stating that people don't like the variety available in the northern state.

"The state government will purchase potatoes through NAFED and supply those to consumers at ₹30 per kg," he said.

The minister said the state government has already placed an order through NAFED for procuring 300 metric tons of potatoes in the first phase.

"It will be available in the state by next weekend. In the first phase, it will be made available through government retail shops in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur," the minister asserted.

Patra has also directed officials to take necessary steps to ensure hassle-free sale of potatoes among the people.

3 INJURED AS CRANE COLLAPSES AT SCB



PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, August 9: At least three labourers were critically injured after a portion of a tower crane fell on them during the ongoing construction work for redevelopment of SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here Friday.

The injured were identified as Mubarak Ansari of Bihar, and Dinabandhu Behera and Bansidhar Mallick. As per preliminary information, the crane was installed to lift construction materials atop the 10-storey building under construction.

When the work is in progress, the crane collapsed and fell on more than 50 labourers on the ground. Three of the workers sustained critical injuries.

The injured labourers were rushed to the casualty ward of the premier hospital for treatment. Construction work at the site remained suspended and the area was cordoned off. It is still unclear if the labourers were wearing appropriate safety gear and the SOP or the required safety measures were in place.

WEATHER

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	79705.91 ↑ 819.69
NIFTY	24367.50 ↑ 250.50
DOLLAR	83.95 ↓ ₹0.06
EURO	91.71 ↑ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹69,855 ↑ ₹151
SILVER	₹80,396 ↓ ₹217

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°C	32.0°C
Min Temp	26.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity	95%	94%
Rainfall	8mm	Nil

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Right to speedy trial sacrosanct: Top court

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: Right to speedy trial and liberty are "sacrosanct", and prolonged incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted to become "punishment without trial", the Supreme Court said Friday.

While granting bail to senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia in the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi Excise Policy scam, the apex court said he has been deprived of his right to speedy justice as he is incarcerated for around 17 months and trial has

not yet started.

"As observed by this court, the right to speedy trial and the right to liberty are sacrosanct rights," a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said.

"We find that on account of a long period of incarceration running for around 17 months trial, and the trial even not having been commenced, the appellant (Sisodia) has been deprived of his right to speedy trial," the bench said in its 38-page verdict.

"As observed time and again, the prolonged incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted to become punishment without trial," it said.

RELIEF TO SISODIA

Judges take time off to watch 'Laapataa Ladies'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: It was a unique occasion when judges of the Supreme Court, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary, took time off their busy schedule to watch 'Laapataa Ladies', a film based on gender equality, screened in the auditorium of C-block Administrative Building Complex of the apex court with actor Aamir Khan receiving a warm welcome from Chief Justice DY Chandrachud.

"I don't want a stampede in the court but we welcome Mr Aamir Khan who is here for the screening of the film," the CJI said.

The film, a heartwarming, empowering take on two brides



in rural India who accidentally get swapped during a train journey, is produced by Rao's Kindling Productions and Khan's Aamir Khan Productions.

'Laapataa Ladies', based on

the theme of gender equality was screened at the auditorium of the apex court's administrative building complex. The film starring Ravi Kishan, Nitanishi Goel, Pratibha Ratna, and Sparsh

The film starring Ravi Kishan, Nitanishi Goel, Pratibha Ratna and Sparsh Shrivastav in pivotal roles had premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in September 2023

Shrivastav in pivotal roles had premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in September 2023. The film received a standing ovation at the festival.

"As part of the activities organised during the seventy-fifth year of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India, the movie 'Laapataa Ladies' which is based on the theme of gender equality, was screened Friday

August 9, 2024 in the Auditorium, C-block, Administrative Building Complex," said a communication circulated by the administration section of the apex court.

Rao said to see the film get screened for the judges at the top court was a "rare honour".

"It fills my heart with immense pride to see 'Laapataa Ladies' making history by being screened at the Supreme Court of India. I am deeply grateful to the honourable Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud for this rare honour," Rao said in a statement.

The filmmaker said that while she had hoped the story to resonate deeply, the outpouring of love from audiences has exceeded her expectations.

leisure



BLAKE LIVELY ENCOUNTERS WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

Hollywood actress Blake Lively, who can be seen in the recently released movie *It Ends with Us*, had an uncomfortable moment in London during the promotional run of her movie. However, the actress handled it like a pro. The wardrobe malfunction happened during a photocall.

PAMELA COMPARES HER PLAYBOY IMAGE TO A 'CARTOON CHARACTER'

Former Playboy model Pamela Anderson has described her image in the 1990s as a 'cartoon character'. "That was the beginning of me. What is this cartoon character that I'd created? OK, that was fun. But I'm not that person anymore," She told Better Homes.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be very active today. Your activities will result in progress and success. However in the evening you will feel the need for some solitude. Pay heed to your moods, and get into a solitary corner to be alone. Ganesh says it's okay to confide your problems to your dog.

TAURUS
There is a strong prospect that you will work extremely hard to prove yourself at your workplace today, predicts Ganesh. At times, the returns may not be in proportion to your efforts. You will unwind at the end of the day with a happy and content feeling, expects Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will spend the major part of your day with your spouse and children, if any. You also stand to benefit from your parents. If unmarried, your relationship with your beloved will enter an exciting phase. Inhibitions, if any, will be thrown out of the window and the bonding is likely to be intense.

CANCER
Today you are likely to receive financial support from your loved ones, says Ganesh. By the time the Sun sets, your family may receive some good news in relation to a wedding. A festive mood is likely to set in your house.

LEO
You will be serious about your work today. You will organise your schedule for the day in the morning itself. You will take up tasks that are dear to you and will analyse the results of your labours in the past. In the later half of the day, you will be able to have good relations with everyone who comes into contact with you.

VIRGO
Today it will be family responsibilities that will dominate the day. Juniors will offer you a lot of help, but you must remember that what you seek is valuable and that it will demand a lot of effort from you. Ganesh advises you to be careful of people in general.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today may not be a great day for you professionally as higher ups in your office may try to block your path to success. You will have to spend more time doing work and this will mean spending less time with your family. Ganesh says never forget the sacrifices your family members have made for your success.

SCORPIO
Important discussions in family would keep you occupied almost throughout the day. However, you do not neglect your work for that, says Ganesh. New projects are about to begin. Travel and tours are on the cards, along with expenses.

SAGITTARIUS
You are so energetic today that your feet are bouncing, literally, says Ganesh. Your dynamic ways at work will keep the work milieu full of enthusiasm and excitement. Work can also be fun in what you team mates learn from you. Your love story is likely to begin a new chapter in the evening.

CAPRICORN
You will be the centre of attention at work, foretells Ganesh. You will put your best foot forward and impress everyone around, including your boss, with the level of efficiency you bring to the table. Some of your colleagues may have given you a hard time in the past and said mean things behind your back, but today, they will also give you a pat on your back for your achievements.

AQUARIUS
If you're thinking of doing some soul-searching today, the stars completely back you. And yes, remember to take a break — no one deserves it more. Go on a long drive with a buddy if you must. And if you get a chance to travel, grab it! Getting away from the humdrum will clear your mind, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Today is a day devoted to matters of the heart as well as your heart. So, while you will probably be busy during the day keeping tabs on the refurbishments you have planned for your residence, the evening should probably see you in a romantic setting murmuring sweet nothings to your soul mate, says Ganesh.

Sangita wary of overexposer

Mumbai: Actress Sangita Ghosh, who is fondly remembered as Pammi from the show *Des Mein Niklla Hoga Chand*, has revealed why she maintains a low profile on social media.

"I think I'm not too inclined to constantly engage on social media. I don't like to put myself out there too much. There are pros and cons to sharing too much of yourself online. When you do, people have the chance to comment and judge you," she said.

She wants to keep the mystery around her, said Sangita.

"While it may not make a huge difference, being always available online means there's no element of mystery; people know everything about you," she said.

The actress strongly asserted that she prefers to keep her life private and only share work-related information on social media.

"I'm not someone who creates dancing reels or engages in similar activities. Hats off to those who do take the time to be active online, but that's just not for me," said the actress.

Sangita is on social media and is not completely absent.

"Occasionally, I engage and answer a few questions. I also interact with print media and similar platforms. I prefer to keep it that way and not make myself too available. My focus is on my family, my work, and my fans," she added.

AGENCIES



KIARA'S BEAUTY PHILOSOPHY

Mumbai: Kiara Advani has captivated audiences not just with her acting prowess but also with her enviable complexion. Her skin, often described as 'glass-like,' has become the envy of many, sparking curiosity about her skincare regimen.

In a recent appearance at a Mumbai event, where she stunned in a pink off-shoulder gown, the actress shared insights into her beauty philosophy. When asked by Lifestyle Asia India about her favourite beauty trend, she said, "Is glass skin a trend? Because I like the luminous feeling of it," she mused.

Advani believes in the power of sim-

licity when it comes to maintaining her youthful glow.

"My skincare routine is centered on hydration, sun protection, and minimal makeup — a surprisingly attainable regimen for anyone seeking a radiant complexion," shared the actress.

She also talked about the generational remedies and hacks that her family has taught, always works for her skin.

On the work front, Kiara will be next seen in *Game Changer* with Ram Charan, and *War 2* with Hrithik Roshan and Jr. NTR.

AGENCIES



'Men too are victims of patriarchy'

Mumbai: Actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar feels that men today are also victims of patriarchy as they are taught since childhood to 'not be weak'.

Farhan was speaking on the podcast *Figuring Out With Raj Shamani* when the host said that one of his great dialogues is from the 2015 film *Dil Dhadakne Do* directed by his sister Zoya Akhtar.

"Tum permission de rahe ho matlahb ke tum apne aap ko ek authority main put kar rahe ho aur woh barabari nahi hai," the host said, quoting Farhan from the film.

In reply, Farhan said: "We are taught that men don't cry, don't complain, and just get on with it... Because you have been taught since the time you were a kid that you have to be in control. You are not allowed to be weak. Men today are also victims of that patriarchy..."

The host then asked how men struggle to share and ask for help, to which Farhan replied: "Women are easier at doing it. Men in general are closeted."

Further into the conversation, Farhan revealed the greatest learning he got from his lyricist-screenwriter-poet father, Javed Akhtar.

"(He said) ...Don't be happy with your work too soon. That is the greatest learning," said Farhan.

IAN5

Kubbra on career challenges, triumphs

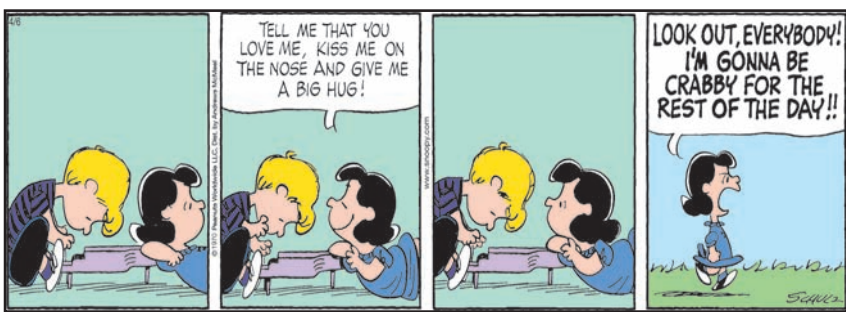
Mumbai: In a candid conversation on the podcast *Pee Room Conversations* for Pee Safe, actress Kubbra Sait offered a glimpse into her personal and professional journey. She delved deep into her experiences in the entertainment industry, shedding light on the challenges and triumphs that have shaped her career.

Kubbra emphasized the importance of maintaining an outsider's perspective, even when deeply immersed in the entertainment industry. She believes this unique viewpoint has played a pivotal role in her professional growth. "When we talk about insider outsider, it's reduced to really a stupid fraction of nepotism," she stated.

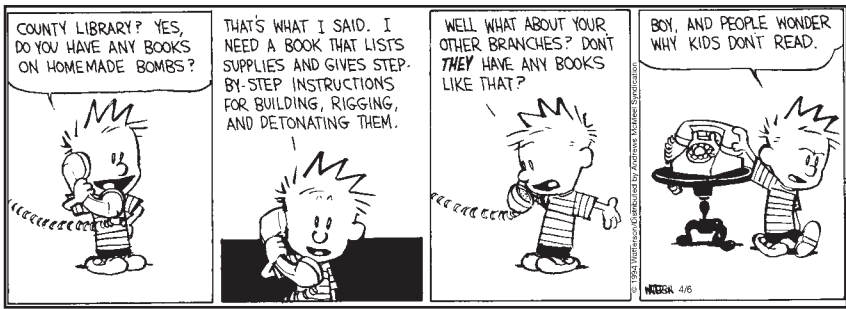
The actress also discussed the challenges of transitioning from a host to an actor, highlighting the stark contrast between performing in front of a live audience and delivering a performance through the camera lens. "I did not know how to look at a point besides the camera lens and deliver a line or just stare there because I was a host, and my entire audience used to be in front of me alive. I was present for an audience that was a spectrum and now my audience was through that lens," she revealed.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

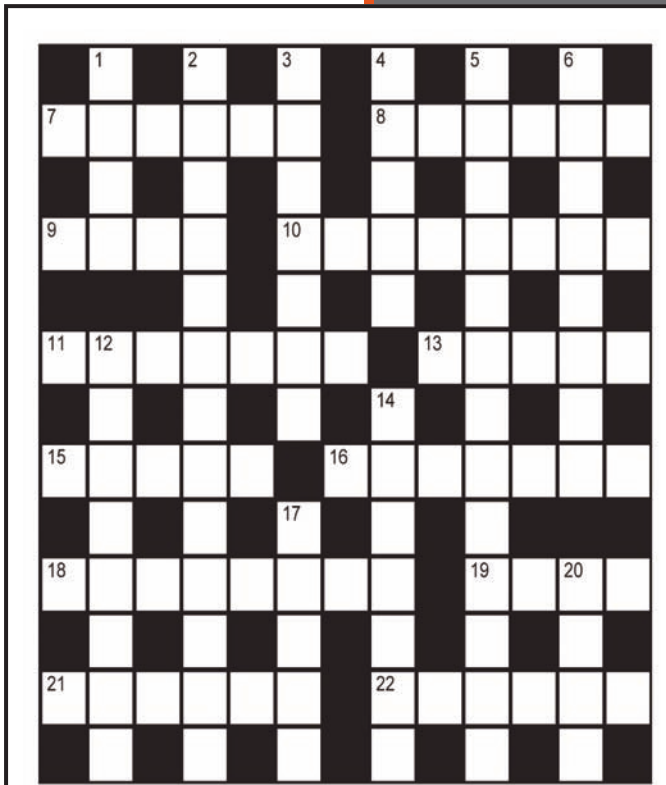


BREVITY



FUN post

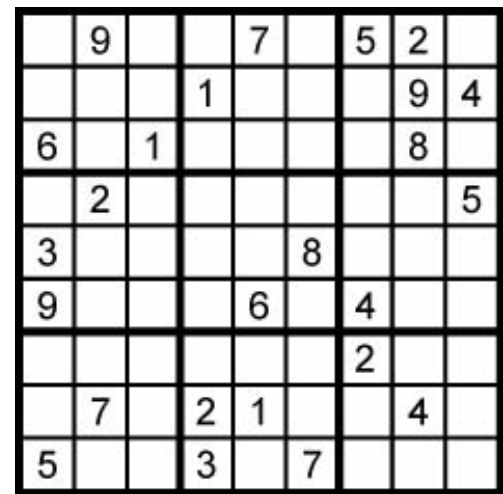
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Watch out!
 - 8 On the train
 - 9 Pasta choice
 - 10 Bless
 - 11 Cordial
 - 13 Escargot
 - 15 Dish
 - 16 Promotional item
 - 18 Untidy
 - 19 Kind of cow
 - 21 Moon of Neptune
 - 22 Macaque
 - Down**
 - 1 Persian spirit
 - 2 Geiger counter finder
 - 3 Ships, etal.
 - 4 Clever
 - 5 Back-up plans
 - 6 Writing on the wall
 - 12 Traditional knowledge
 - 14 Swiss cheese
 - 17 Foolish
 - 20 Shantytown

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

DOME ELIGIBLE
E A F O A A
S I N G I N G F O Y E R
C E A O F L L
R E S I N F O S T E R
I C F A P
E K S H E D W A F F L E
B U S H E D D A F R
D Y N A M O V O L E S
T H G U I T E P
R A I T A B A S M A T I
U G T L E V E R
E N H A N C E D M E R E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida inaugurates a new building at Utkala Balashram in Puri, Friday

downtown

10 districts on alert as Mahanadi swells

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu Friday alerted the Collectors of 10 districts after the level in Mahanadi increased due to the discharge of water from Hirakud dam.

The districts that were put on alert were Sambalpur, Sonapur, Nayagarh, Angul, Boudh, Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara.

A total of 5.78 lakh cusecs of water was flowing in Mahanadi at Mundali at 8am Friday, a senior official said.

Sahu asked the Collectors to give special attention to people living in low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, six more sluice gates were opened at Hirakud dam to release more water after rain in the upper catchment areas of Mahanadi.

Currently, water is being re-

Report rain damages: SRC



The state government has directed the district Collectors to assess and report

damages due to recent heavy rains, official sources said, Friday.

In a letter, the SRC has directed Collectors of 10 districts to give special attention to the people residing in low-lying areas.

"Restrictions must be imposed on the entry of people to the submerged roads, culverts, and bridges. Collectors should also inform the SRC in case of any untoward incident," the SRC said.

Chief Engineer Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty said that though some rivers were swelling, there was no fear of flood anywhere.

Meanwhile, reports said that the floodwater has already entered some low-lying areas of Khurda and Cuttack districts.

Water Resources department

leased through 14 gates, including nine on the left spillway and five on the right spillway of the reservoir.

The water level of the dam stood at 612.25-ft at 6am against its full reservoir level of 630-ft.

Cabinet nod for 6 new rail projects in Odisha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved eight railway projects, including six in Odisha, with total estimated cost of ₹24,657 crore, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Friday.

The new line projects will provide direct connectivity and improve mobility, facilitating enhanced efficiency and service reliability for the Indian Railways, Vaishnaw said in a press briefing.

The eight projects covering 14 districts in seven states such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal will increase the existing network of the Indian Railways by 900 kilometres, he said.

"With these projects, 64 new

The eight projects covering 14 districts in seven states such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana and WB will increase the existing rail network

stations will be constructed, providing enhancing connectivity to six Aspirational Districts (East Singhbhum, Bhadrak, Kothagudem, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Rayagada)," he said.

Six of these eight railway lines—Gunupur-Therubali, (Rs 1,326 crore), Junagarh-Nabrangpur (Rs 3,274 crore), Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram via Bhadrachalam (Rs 4,109 crore), Badampahar - Kandujhargarh (Rs 2,107 crore), Bangriposi - Gorumahisani (Rs 2,549 crore) and Buramara-Chakulia (Rs 1,639 crore).

Two other new lines Jalna - Jagaon and Bikramshila - Katareah are in Maharashtra and Bihar, respectively.

8 dists get 14 govt degree colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Higher Education (HE) Minister Suryabanshi Suraj inaugurated 14 new government degree colleges in eight districts of the state, Friday.

The new colleges were inaugurated at Tiring in Mayurbhanj, Thuamul Rampur in Kalahandi, Gurundia and Nuagaon in Sundargarh, Bandhugaon and Narayanpatna in Koraput, Jharigaon, Kosagumuda, Raigarh and Tentulikhunti in Nabarangpur, Kashipur and Ramanguda in Rayagada, Dharakote in Ganjam and Khajuripada in Kandhamal through virtual mode.

"Education is the only medium through which the youths can empower themselves and bring transformation in the society. These 14 government degree colleges set up in remote areas will attract students to higher education and help reduce



REMEMBERING FREEDOM FIGHTERS: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi waters a plant after paying homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on August Kranti Diwas in Bhubaneswar, Friday

'Govt considering pension for families of freedom fighters'

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said the state government is considering giving pension to families of freedom fighters under a new scheme called 'Kutumba Yojana'.

Addressing a function commemorating 'August Kranti Dibasa', the anniversary of the Quit India Movement, Majhi expressed the government's commitment to supporting the families of freedom fighters.

He said the state government plans to identify the families of freedom fighters before implementing the pension scheme.

He highlighted the sacrifices made by freedom fighters to secure India's Independence and reiterated the government's intention to show due respect to their families.

Discussing the Quit India Movement, Majhi noted its wide-spread impact across Odisha,

citing significant contributions and sacrifices by leaders such as Nabakrushna Chaudhary, Harekrushna Mahatab, Viswanath Das, and Acharya Harihar. He also mentioned the vigorous movement in Koraput led by Laxman Naik, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause.

Majhi spoke about the life of martyr Madho Singh and called for a new revolution in Odisha to restore the state's pride and move forward on the path of development.

He urged citizens to contribute individually to this new direction of progress.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan emphasised the collective struggle for freedom and the ongoing fight against injustice.

Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj also attended the programme, paying tributes to the martyrs.

Chapter of City's iconic bookstore may close soon



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Modern Book Depot, one of the Capital City's oldest independent bookstores, is facing imminent closure after the landlord of the property slapped an eviction notice on the storeowners sometime ago.

Opened in 1970, the over five-decade-old iconic landmark at Master Canteen Square has been a favourite destination for a variety of readers—from renowned writers, bureaucrats, politicians to journalists and thinkers—from across Odisha and outside too.

Opened by Dewan Chand, a Punjabi migrant, at a time when Bhubaneswar used to be a sleepy township with a sizeable number of book connoisseurs, the mantle of running the establishment later fell on the shoulders of his son Om Prakash.

75-year-old Om Prakash, who studied at Sainik School in the City, told this reporter that he could have made a career in defence services. "But I decided to assist my father in running Modern Book Depot in Calcutta, and later when it expand to Bhubaneswar," he said.

He said he was around 20-years-old when he joined his father at the family enterprise.



"My love for books has kept me motivated to run this shop which is one of the oldest bookstores in Odisha. We have also bookstores in Agra, Kolkata, Shillong and Siliguri," he said.

Sometime ago, former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had paid a surprise visit to the store after hectic campaigns for the last state and general elections to buy some books.

Not just Patnaik, a string of former chief ministers such as JB Patnaik, Biju Patnaik and Girdhar Gamang also used to visit the bookstore often, informed Om Prakash.

The bookstore had the rare privilege of having Nobel laureate VS Naipaul as its patron who once visited in the company of his wife Nadira. Moreover, famous chef and Indian food writer Tarla Dalal and Jnanpith award winner UR Anantamurthy had also visited the bookstore, Om Prakash said.

Om Prakash said the bookstore has been an integral part

of the City's history and its growth. "It's a heritage place for book lovers. The city doesn't have that many bookstores where readers can get a wide-range of books," Om Prakash said adding that the closure of the store would mean the discontinuation of an old tradition intrinsically woven into the cultural and intellectual fabric of the Temple Town.

He said the thought of closing down the store hurts him deep within as it would mean his life-long sacrifice meeting an abrupt end. "Apart from me, nobody in my family is interested in running this bookstore. My father started this bookstore, and therefore, there are a lot of emotions attached to this place. All I want is to run the establishment till I am around," he said emotionally.

Meanwhile, scores of booklovers and netizens extended their support and shared fond memories on social media advocating for the preservation of the establishment.

Tarani Trotter a social media user shared, "Save The Cultural Centre of Bhubaneswar! If you think of any non-academic bookstore in a Tier-II city like Bbsr; how many such standalone stores can come to your mind! I'm sure, it must be just a couple of such outlets with Modern Book Depot at Station Square, leading the way."

Rites Misra a social media user said: "Spent a major part of my childhood in this shop. Om Prakash of Modern Book Depot Bhubaneswar. He always has a varied collection of books. In recent times many bookstores in several parts of the country shut down. Let's hope that is not yet another one."

Odisha celebrates India's hockey win



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The Sports and Youth Services department Friday hosted a grand event at Kalinga Hockey Stadium here to celebrate Indian men's hockey team's achievement at the Paris Olympics Thursday.

The team secured their second consecutive bronze medal after 52 years, marking a significant milestone in Indian sports history.

The event was graced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj.

The event saw cultural performances, symbolic Olympic ring formations by 300 plus athletes and ceremonial cutting of a Chhena Pod. On behalf of the entire state, Chief Minister extended heartiest congratulations and gratitude to each and every player of the Indian hockey team. Addressing the gathering, he said, "Representing India on the international stage is a significant achievement, regardless of the medals and prizes. Our team has consistently given their best, and their hard work is truly commendable. They have made the state and nation proud, and inspired millions of young sportspersons. Special heartfelt thanks to Odia hockey hero Amit Rohidas whose contribution to the growth of Indian hockey is exemplary."

Inspiring young sportspersons, the CM said his government will always extend the support needed for them to excel in sports. We will continue to stand by our athletes and help them transition from grassroots to gold, he added.

Many Cabinet Ministers, Secretaries and officials of various government departments and eminent sportspersons were present.

4th-batch of Agniveers pass out of INS Chilka

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Chilika, August 9: Adding yet another feather to its cap, the INS Chilka Friday held the Passing Out Parade (POP) of the fourth-batch of Agniveers. The event marked the culmination of 16-weeks of rigorous naval training across all verticals.

Reportedly, 1889 Agniveers, including 214 women, took part in the parade. This event was preceded by a wreath laying ceremony to brave-hearts at the Chilka War Memorial by the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

During the valedictory ceremony, CNS Tripathi honoured the Shivaji Division



with championship trophy while runners-up trophy was conferred to Arjun Division. A bilingual trainee magazine of INS Chilka, Ankur, was also unveiled on the occasion.

Moreover, Tripathi awarded meritorious Agniveers with prestigious awards.

The event was also attended by Vice Admiral V. Srinivas, Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharker and others.

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Naveen demands inclusion of 169 communities in ST list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 9: Leader of Opposition in Assembly Naveen Patnaik Friday demanded inclusion of 169 communities in the ST list of the state and several tribal languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

Patnaik, the BJD president, made the demands while attending a function to observe International Day of the World's Indigenous People at the party's headquarters here.

Addressing a gathering, he said, "The BJD government had sent a proposal to the Centre to include as many as 169 communities in the ST list of Odisha. It has been pending with the Union government since long."

Patnaik said, "The BJD government had also repeatedly requested the Centre for inclusion of various tribal languages like Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Saura and others in the 8th Schedule of our Constitution."

"I hope that the Union Government will take appropriate steps in this regard soon," Patnaik said, adding that tribals constitute nearly 25 per cent of Odisha's population.

He said that 64 major tribes and 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) live in Odisha.

Stating that the state government headed by him had taken several steps to protect the culture of the tribals, Patnaik said several institutions were named after prominent tribal leaders when he was at the helm of the state.

The BJD which ruled the state for 24 years in a row was defeated by the BJP earlier this year.



Congress demands caste census in state

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Srikant Jena Friday urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to conduct a caste census in the state immediately. "A detailed caste census in the state will bring the true picture of the social, educational and economic condition of the population," Jena said in a letter to Majhi. Addressing the reporters here, Jena said nearly 5,100 students from Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) are deprived of reservation granted for them as per the Constitution in medical and engineering education in the state. He also requested Majhi to ensure that the constitutional rights of the deprived Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC) students in the state are provided. This will enable the government to ensure that the justice is served to the deserving communities, the Congress leader said.

The BJD government had sent a proposal to the Centre to include as many as 169 communities in the ST list of Odisha. It has been pending with the Union government since long

NAVEEN PATNAIK | LOP

"To protect tribal culture, the BJD government had formed a Special Development Council.

It was new concept in the country," Patnaik said.

The former chief minister said that his government had set up a large number of hostels for tribal students in different residential schools.

"We are proud of our tribal brothers and sisters. The BJD will continue its efforts for their development and protection of their unique identity," he said.

KISS achieves world record for national anthem

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) here has achieved another milestone as approximately 13,944 students have entered the Guinness Book of World Records for performing the Indian National Anthem as the largest single group.

The students collaborated with three-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej to create a monumental version of the anthem, which will be officially released on the eve of Independence Day, according to KISS source.

Expressing his happiness over this achievement, founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta said that this is not just a proud moment for KISS, but also for the state and the country.

Guinness World Records officials announced the record-breaking feat recently at a press conference held in New Delhi.



The National Anthem performance will feature Ricky Kej, who directed the music in collaboration with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

The group performance also includes flute maestro Hariprasad Chaurasia, sarod maestros Aman and Ayaan Ali Khan, and santoor maestro Rahul Sharma, along with many other renowned artists.

IIT-Madras will prepare draft to tackle road safety challenges

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 9: IIT-Madras, with its strong reputation in road safety, will draft a comprehensive plan to effectively tackle road safety challenges in rural areas of the state, with a special focus on mining regions.

Presently, IIT-Madras has partnered with various state governments in collecting data, analysing, and developing solutions.

A meeting in this regard was convened here recently, with representatives from IIT-Madras, chaired by Principal Secretary of Commerce and Transport department Usha Padhee and was attended by Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur.

Head of the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety at IIT-Madras Venkatesh Balasubramanian shared comprehensive insights on utilising modern techniques and structured approaches to enhance road safety management.

Various key points highlighted at the meeting includes, underlying causes of accidents, potential strategies to mitigate them, and the methods to save lives in accident-prone areas.

The state government has intensified its efforts to reduce accidents and related fatalities, with a focus on rural areas in



Every driver is a member of my family: Jena

Every driver is a member of my family and I will always take their welfare seriously, said Minister of Commerce and Transport Bibhuti Bhusan Jena while addressing a gathering at the regional transport office here, recently.

During the felicitation programme, organised by Odisha Driver Mahasangha, representatives from different transport associations across the state were present, along with transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur

and senior officials of the department.

Jena was briefed on various demands from the drivers association. He assured that necessary measures are being taken by the government to make the Odisha motor transport driver and workers' welfare board to be more effective.

The Minister called for collective efforts to raise awareness among the drivers about road safety regulations and curb accidents in the state.

high-risk districts.

On the occasion, Padhee underscored the significance of timely execution and the measurable impact of all planned initiatives.

Conference to amplify voices of youth on climate change

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 9: A three-day Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY) on climate change, organised by Youth4Water Plus campaign, with support from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Odisha was inaugurated at KT Global School in Khurda Friday.

OCOY-2024 is dedicated to amplify the voices of state's most vulnerable youths, including those from tribal, fishing and farming communities, from the regions impacted by sea erosion, cyclones, and other climate challenges.

On the occasion, UNICEF India WASH specialist Karina Malczewska said, "As UNICEF, we try to facilitate dialogues on climate change and sustainability, amplifying youth voices

and fostering collaboration with various stakeholders."

"As we gather for OCOY-2024, let us celebrate the achievements of young climate champions and reinforce our collective commitment to nurturing their potential," she added. Around 150 youths across the state and 20 experts and trainers from different parts of the country and abroad participated in the conference. Participants from diverse groups, representing various districts across genders, socio-economic backgrounds, and rural and urban regions, will collaborate to develop grassroots climate action strategies and influence national policy.

Special emphasis was given to including participants from tribal indigenous communities, the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

AM/NS India holds awareness drive on breastfeeding

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, August 9: As part of World Breastfeeding Week, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) organised an awareness drive, focused on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants at Musadia village under Nuagarh gram panchayat in Paradip recently.

Member of the CSR wing of AM/NS India Niranjan Dwivedi headed the session and highlighted that mother's milk is essential for an infant's growth and overall development and offers a rich source of vital vitamins, minerals, and antibodies.

Dwivedi emphasised that breastfeeding plays a crucial role in protecting infants against allergies, sickness, obesity, and diseases such as diabetes and cancer, as well as from common infections.



On the occasion, he also mentioned the need for lactating mothers to maintain a balanced diet, which is crucial for both the mother's health and the quality of breast milk. "A proper diet ensures that the milk contains the essential nutrients needed for the baby's growth," he added.

Around 40 lactating mothers participated in the event, engaged in discussion and shared their own experiences and concerns.

Several anganwadi workers, auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANM) workers, paramedical staffs and self-help group (SHG) members also joined the programme.

The session highlighted World Health Organisation's guidelines which recommend breastfeeding for minimum six months, with continued breastfeeding alongside other foods up to two years or more. AM/NS India continues to support community health and wellness through various CSR initiatives.

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By an affidavit, before Notary Public, Nabarangpur, I Madan Harijan S/o Dharamdas Harijan of vill. Phampuni, P.O - Motigam, PS. Kodinga, Dist.

Nabarangpur state that I very much appreciate with the religion of Christianity and intend to take the religion by my own choice decision. I undertake that from today, I shall take the Christian religion at Berseba Church phampuni at presence of all members and I shall not compel the Govt. facilities in future as a SC candidate in all respect in any corner at any time shall known as Christian for all time.

New approach to terraform inhospitable Mars

The proposed strategy involves releasing engineered dust particles into Mars' atmosphere to enhance its greenhouse effect. Unlike natural Martian dust, these particles are designed to trap heat more efficiently

A new study has shown how the terrain of Mars can be re-engineered, making it a little more hospitable, given the planet's notorious reputation as barren.

A study from the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Central Florida in the US suggests a revolutionary method to terraform Mars. The new approach, involving engineered dust particles, could potentially raise the planet's temperature by

more than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, making it suitable for microbial life.

This method is over 5,000 times more efficient than previous global warming schemes for Mars, marking a significant advancement in modifying the Martian environment. Unlike earlier proposals that required importing materials from Earth or mining rare Martian resources, this strategy utilises resources already abundant on Mars.

"This suggests that the barrier to warming Mars to allow liquid water is not as high as previously thought," said Edwin Kite, an associate professor at the University of Chicago and corresponding author of the study.

While this method won't make Mars breathable for humans, it could lay the groundwork for microbial life and food crops that might gradually add oxygen to the atmosphere, much like Earth's early history.

Proposals to make Mars habitable have a long history, from Carl Sagan's ideas in 1971 to recent concepts like transparent gel tiles to trap heat. However, the biggest challenge remains Mars' temperature, averaging about -80 degrees Fahrenheit.



The proposed strategy involves releasing engineered dust particles into Mars' atmosphere to enhance its greenhouse effect. Unlike natural Martian dust, these particles are designed to trap heat more efficiently. The researchers created particles shaped like short rods, similar

to glitter, which can scatter sunlight towards the surface. "You'd still need millions of tons to warm the planet, but that is five thousand times less than you would need with previous proposals," said Kite. Calculations suggest that continuous release of these particles at 30 liter per second could warm Mars by over 50 degrees Fahrenheit within months, and the effect would be reversible if the release is stopped.

Further research is needed to understand the long-term effects and how quickly the engineered dust would cycle out of Mars' atmosphere. The study focuses on warming Mars for microbial life and food crops, not creating a human-breathable atmosphere.

"This research opens new avenues for exploration and potentially brings us one step closer to the long-held dream of establishing a sustainable human presence on Mars," said Kite.

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Defaulting lessees continue to own black stone quarries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 9: Leaseholders, who have been issued penalty notice for illegal extraction of black stones exceeding the permissible limit from the quarries under Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district, continue to hold sway as they or their kin still have the lease of several quarries. Locals have blamed the district administration for such a situation as it went silent after issuing the penalty notices and failed to act against the errant lessees. This has emboldened the tainted leaseholders to loot black stone from the quarries with impunity.

The matter came to light in a reply by state Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena to a question raised by Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu during the recently concluded session in the Assembly.

The penalty notices worth ₹313.40 crore were issued to 19 leaseholders after they were found to have extracted stones more than the permissible limits during a drone mapping of the quarries in Dharmasala tehsil area.

The leaseholders have moved the Orissa High Court after receiving the notices. Questions are being raised as to how the district administration could further grant permission for mining to some of the accused leaseholders or their family members and why their environmental clearances (EC) were not withdrawn.

It is alleged that the concerned tehsildar is hand in gloves with the leaseholders in the irregularities as this could never have taken place without the tacit



support of the latter. Residents have demanded a high-level probe and stringent action against the concerned tehsildar for promoting rampant looting of black stones from the quarries at the cost of the environment.

They alleged that the district administration, instead of withdrawing the environmental clearances (EC) for violation of minor mineral concession rules, has only issued show-cause and penalty notices to the accused leaseholders.

Reports said that leaseholder Prahallad Lenka was slapped ₹15.40 crore and ₹4.68 crore penalties after the drone mapping brought to the fore excessive extraction of black stones from Rahadpur and Barada hills.

However, Lenka continues to be the leaseholder of a 10-acre quarry on Rahadpur black stone hill. Similarly, another leaseholder Jyotsna Jena was issued a penalty notice of ₹79.46 crore but still owns the lease of one-fourth area on Dankari hill. Moreover, leaseholder

Rangadhar Pradhan was issued a penalty notice of ₹16.68 crore but he continues mining black stone from Quarry No-17 in Anjira hill.

This apart, leaseholder Jyotsna Jena's husband, Prasant Jena, continues to mine black stones from Quarry No-17 on Dankari hill. Moreover, the 19 defaulting lessees have grabbed the lease of other black stone quarries in the name of their kin. Meanwhile, the leaseholders continue to extract black stones over the permissible limits due to silence and tacit support of the administration.

Peeved over the development, residents of Dharmasala had earlier approached the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA). The member secretary of SEIAA had directed the Jajpur Collector to conduct necessary probe and take suitable action in this regard, August 31, 2023.

However, the District Collector is yet to take any action in this regard. This has emboldened the defaulting leaseholders to continue to plunder black stones quarries with impunity.

Residents expressed hope that the newly elected MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu will certainly take steps in this regard.

When contacted, Deputy Director Jay Prakash Nayak of Minor Minerals department said his department is aware of collection of the outstanding penalty and is taking action against the defaulters. The mining leases have been given earlier and the Revenue department should take action against the defaulting leaseholders engaged in excessive black stone mining.

Trust vote at Junagarh NAC postponed as ADM absent

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna/Junagarh, August 9: The no-confidence vote at the Junagarh NAC (Notified Area Council) in Kalahandi district has been postponed once again. The vote was to take place against NAC Chairperson Mukesh Agrawal at 11am Friday.

However, due to the absence of Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Tanmay Kumar Darwan, who was responsible for overseeing the election process, the vote had to be postponed. Darwan, who is currently serving as the District Magistrate of Kalahandi, could not attend the vote as informed by the local Executive Officer (EO) Pramod Kumar Khilo.

Previously, a similar no-confidence vote scheduled August 1 had been postponed due to the absence of the then ADM Trilochan Patra, who was unable to attend due to health issues.

Such repeated disruption has caused significant dissatisfaction among the local BJD councillors. Junagarh MLA Captain Dibya Shankar Mishra, who was present at the scene, expressed his displeasure stating that the district administration is undermining the democratic process by neglecting such important proceedings.

Out of the 12 councillors in the Junagarh NAC, 10 belong to the BJD and only two to the BJP. Given the numerical majority, it was anticipated that the vote would go against the elected chairperson Mukesh Agrawal.

Cradle of hockey Sundargarh revels in Paris bronze victory

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 9: The inmates of Panposh Sports Hostel in Sundargarh district, widely known as the cradle of hockey, celebrated the Indian team's bronze medal victory at Paris Olympics 2024. Similar celebrations were held at several places in the district including Saunamara, the native village of ace defender Amit Rohidas.

"This is certainly a big win for the game and the country," said Kanhu Charan Chaudhury, senior coach at the hostel. For coach Bijaya Lakra, who used to train Amit, it was a momentous moment. "Look at the way he rushed and saved two crucial penalty corners. He has proved himself as one of the best defenders in Indian hockey," said the ace coach. He confidently added, "Had he played in the semi-final, the result would have been different." Everyone was full of praise for all the players, especially Harmanprit Singh, the captain, and Sreejesh, the goalie.

Cadets of the hostel were on the turf with flood lights on. They burst crackers and also distributed



sweets among themselves. "We are very happy for the victory and also for Amit sir. I would try my level best to be like him," said a first year trainee. Another girl cadet in her second year said, "What a game the team played. We knew India would definitely win a medal but a gold medal was what we wanted."

At Saunamar, the defender's mother Golapi Rohidas' joy knew no bound. "I have no words. When he missed out the semi-final, I was very sad. But all my sorrow evaporated when the team won bronze in such a big platform consecutively for the second time," she said. Accolades and bouquets filled the entire drawing room of the modest house. "At one point of time there was no space for us here, the entire neighbourhood wanted to watch the match in our house,"

said Golapi. "With God's grace there will be more like Amit and Dilip Tirkey in the coming days," she exuded hope. The entire Saunamara was ready to celebrate the win all through Thursday night.

Meanwhile, former Indian skipper Ignace Tirkey said, "This is surely going to give hockey the much needed impetus it needs and I am sure, we will see more such honours in the coming days." "Even now everything looks so surreal. I am pinching myself out of disbelief," He further added.

Lazarus Barla, one of the finest defenders who manned the back along with Dilip Tirkey, was all praise for the team and Amit. He said, "We lost in the semi-final. It was painful but that was gone with the bronze in our kitty. The whole country feels proud of the team today."

Youth arrested for kidnapping, raping minor girl

Tihidi: Police here Thursday arrested a youth for allegedly kidnapping and raping a minor girl of Kanpada area under this police limits in Bhadrak district and forwarded him to court, sources said Friday. The accused has been identified as Ranjan Kumar Maharana, a resident of Gud village under Soro police limits in Balasore district. According to sources, a minor girl was found missing from her home July 28 morning. The girl's father launched a frantic search but could not trace her and lodged a complaint in this regard at Tihidi police station. Acting on the complaint, a case (360/24) was registered and after investigating the case, Tihidi IIC Prasanna Kumar Nayak managed to arrest Ranjan. During interrogation Ranjan informed police that he had kidnapped the minor girl from Tihidi Bazar and was staying with her at a rented house at Sun village under Basudevpur police station limits in order to marry her. Despite knowing that the girl is a minor, Ranjan raped her multiple times during their eight-day stay at the rented house. When Ranjan came to know that the girl's father was searching for her frantically, he dropped her at Tihidi Bazar and fled the spot. Later, when the girl returned home, IIC Nayak met the girl to investigate the matter and Pirhat PS ASI Champabati Marndi recorded the statement of the victim. However, when the police took the minor girl to Bhadrak hospital for medical check-up, she declined. Later police presented her before the SDJM court at Bhadrak for recording of statement, Friday.

Viral photos show calf trying to wake dead mother elephant



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 9: Heart wrenching visuals have emerged from the Hadagarh forest range under the Anandapur wildlife division in Keonjhar as pictures

showed an elephant calf trying to lift and wake its dead mother. The incident has deeply moved many animal lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

After the death of the mother elephant Wednesday, the teary-eyed young tusker repeatedly tried to lift her from the ground but eventually, in despair, returned to the forest. The tragic incident has touched the hearts of many who saw the pictures which have since gone viral. The photos have been confirmed as authentic by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abhay Kumar Dalai.

The young tusker spent several hours beside the lifeless body of its mother trying to revive her. The young elephant would leave only to return again and try once more to wake her. After multiple futile attempts, the baby elephant eventually gave up and returned to the forest, the local range officer said.

The death of an elephant is always a sorrowful event; but the tragic sight of the bond between a mother elephant and her calf makes it even more heartbreaking, locals said.

The Hadagarh elephant sanctuary covers an area of 91.89 sq kms spreading across multiple forest divisions including Anandpur, Balasore, Baripada, and Karanjia. Elephants in the area do not stay in one place for long and migrate frequently. The elephant and calf duo had been seen roaming in the region for some days before this incident.

Biker dies after head-on collision with tractor

Baliapal: A 59-year-old man died after the two-wheeler he was riding collided head-on with a tractor near the embankment of a canal on Baliapal-Kalipada main road under Baliapal police limits in Balasore district Friday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Murali Mandal, a resident of Kalarui village under Jamakunda panchayat. Murali used to procure fish from different locations for selling at Simulia market to make a living. As usual Murali was going to Simulia market after collecting fish from Dagara sea beach Friday, when a speeding cement laden tractor headed to Kalipada from Baliapal hit him and sped away. As a result, Murali was flung on to the roadside and sustained severe injuries. Locals rescued Murali from the spot and rushed him to Baliapal CHC, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The impact of the accident was so severe that one of the hands of the deceased got completely separated from his body and was untraceable.

RSP, ALIMCO distribute prosthetics

Rourkela: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) under its CSR initiative has distributed 128 prosthetics and assistive devices to differently-abled and senior citizens with disabilities residing in Lathikata block in association with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation). Present on the occasion were BDO Manas Kumar Sahoo, AGM (CSR) TB Toppo and other officials of the RSP, block administration and ALIMCO. The beneficiaries, 59 differently-abled persons and senior citizens, received battery-operated motorised tricycles, hand propelled tricycles, wheel chairs, hearing aids, smart canes, smart phones, axillary crutches besides other assistive devices. The program was part of the initiative launched by SAIL to provide aids to the differently-abled persons across all its units. RSP has signed an MoU with ALIMCO for the distribution of aids and assistive devices to differently-abled persons and senior citizens.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. C-389
RAJGANGPUR MUNICIPALITY
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- Approximate Estimated Cost : 6.21 Cr.
- Period of Completion : 365 days
- Date & time of availability of the bid documents in the portal : 08.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 27.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date of receipt of Bids : 27.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. in the portal
- Bids receipt online shall be opened on : 28.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name & address of the Executive Officer, Rajgangpur Municipality
- The bidder have to participate in ONLINE bidding only, further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./ Executive Officer
Rajgangpur Municipality
 OIPR-13094/11/0003/2425

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

INVITATION OF BIDS/OFFERS FOR PREMISES ON LEASE

Central Bank of India requires premises admeasuring 92.90 to 139.35 Sq. m. (1000-1500 sqft.) carpet area in ready possession / ready for possession within 3 months at Nayachowk, Cuttack preferably on the ground floor with adequate parking space for their Nayachowk Branch. The premises should be located at **Badambadi Road, between Link Road Square to Badambadi Traffic**. There should be a provision for an on site ATM with an area of 5.94 to 9.29 Sq.m. (64 to 100 Sq.ft.). No brokers or intermediaries please. Priority will be accorded to Government / Semi Govt. bodies or public sector undertakings. Kindly download the formats/terms and conditions from the website <http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in> or collect the same from Central Bank of India, Nayachowk Branch, Plot No.: 3098/3099, Link Road, Cuttack-753012 / Regional Office at 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar - 751003 during office hours. The last date for submission of offers is 29.08.2024 upto 4.00p.m. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Date: 09.08.2024 Sd/- Chief Manager

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
 Tender Call Notice No. 5888 (PW) Date.08.08.2024
 Tender ID : 2024_ORULB_103297

Civil work : 3 Nos
 Bid Value : Rs.3.42 Lakhs to Rs.42.01 Lakhs
 Date and Time Schedule : One Calendar Month to Three Calendar Months

Start	End	Opening
11.00 A.M. on dt. 09.08.2024	5.00 P.M. on dt. 17.08.2024	11.00 A.M. on dt. 22.08.2024

Tender details can be seen from the procurement portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Executive Engineer
 City Division-II, CMC
 OIPR-13031/11/0031/2425

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ Punjab National Bank
 HRD Department, Circle Office, Balasore, 2nd Floor, Bharat Timber Complex, Vivekananda Marg, Balasore, Odisha-756001

NOTICE

This has the reference to advertisement dated 20.11.2021 regarding recruitment of Part Time Sweeper (P.T.S) & dated 25.05.2022 regarding recruitment of Peon in Balasore Circle for FY: 2021-22.

It is informed that the administrative decision has been taken that the pending process of the recruitment of Subordinate staff advertised on 20.11.2021 & 25.05.2022 for FY-2021-22 is scrapped.

CHIEF MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARIPADA
 No. O-192 Tel. No. 06792-254029, Fax No. 06792-259464, E-Mail : eerwss_bpd@rediffmail.com, eerwss_bpd@ori.nic.in

Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 05 of 2024-25, Date : 09.08.2024

- Nature of the work : Construction of additional 05 Nos Office Rooms along with 03 Nos toilets in GF & FF of RWS&S Division, Baripada in the District of Mayurbhanj in Percentage rate contract (01 package).
- Estimated Cost : 38.77 lakhs.
- Period of Completion : (180) days.
- Date and time of availability of bid document in portal : From 11 hour of 21.08.2024 to 31.08.2024 upto 17 hours.
- Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Both Technical & Financial Bid for each Package Upto 17 hours of 31.08.2024.
- Name and address of the O.I.T. : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada.
- Date & Time for Opening of Tender : 02.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Corrigendum and addendum if any shall only be published in the above website <http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in>

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal : "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Sd./ Executive Engineer
 RWS&S Division, Baripada
 OIPR-25014/11/0001/2425

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Government of India)
 File No. A-12024/1/2024-A and F Dated: 01.08.2024
Subject: Engagement of Consultants on contractual basis in WDRA.

Applications are invited from retired Government/Central and State PSU officials for the position of Consultants in WDRA as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies
1.	Sr. Consultant (Technical)	01
2.	Consultant (Technical)	01
3.	Consultant (Banking)	01
4.	Consultant (Warehousing)	01
5.	Consultant (Assaying)	01
6.	Jr. Consultant (A & F)	01

2. Eligibility criteria, Terms and Conditions etc. for engagement of the above Consultants are available on the website of the WDRA 'www.wdra.gov.in'. The applications should be proficient in working on computers and typing work.

3. Interested candidates, who fulfill the eligibility criteria, may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma in a sealed cover superscripted "Selection of Consultant on Contract Basis" within a period of 30 days from the date of publication in the Employment News to the Director (Admin & Finance). Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, NCUI Building, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016.

Sd./ (Navneet Sandhu)
 Deputy Director (A.F.&C)
 CBC - 08109/12/0003/2425

सेंट्रल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पेट्रोकेमिकल इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)
CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (CSTS), BHUBANESWAR
 (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)
 S-379, Sector -A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-10
 Email: cipetsat@gmail.com/mct/cipet.gov.in, Website: www.cipet.gov.in

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
 Date: 10.08.2024

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed Agency/Firms/Dealers for the publishing of advertisements in Newspaper as per the terms and condition of EOI at CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar. Interested Agency/Firms/Dealers may submit their quotation on or before 09.09.2024 at the above address. The other details are available at CIPET website - www.cipet.gov.in.
 Director & Head, CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar reserves right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.

Director & Head

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/303/2024 Dated: 27.06.2024

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from the eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Principal, University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS). The post carries Scale of Pay Level 14 as per VII CPC Pay Matrix. The last date for receipt of applications is within two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the *Employment News*. For details, please visit the University website www.du.ac.in and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU".

Any addendum / corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

REGISTRAR

Important Note:
 The details regarding qualifications, experience etc. are available on the University website www.du.ac.in, along with this advertisement. The applicants are required to read these details before filling up the form.

CBC-21231/12/0005/2425

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR EVALUATION STUDY OF SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED INDIVIDUALS FOR LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE (SMILE) SCHEME, SUB-SCHEME - 'CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME FOR COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION FOR WELFARE OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS'

The Scheme cover several comprehensive measures for welfare measures for transgender persons. The objective of the Scheme are as follows:

- The objective is to provide financial assistance to the Transgender students studying in IX and above to enable them to complete their education
- To support Transgender students to study further in order to prepare themselves to earn their livelihood and to find a dignified place for themselves in the society as they face several barriers physical, financial, psychological, mental in pursuing studies and living with dignity. At times such students are deprived of harnessing their latent skills and thereby miss the opportunity.

Important information on date and time schedule:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
1	Publication of NIT	22.07.2024 at 1000 hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	05.08.2024 at 1000 hrs
3	Start date and Time of Submission of e-Tender	22.07.2024 at 1000 hrs
4	End date and Time of Submission of e-Tender	22.08.2024 at 1700 hrs

For more details and Notice Inviting e-Tender, please visit <https://socialjustice.gov.in> and <https://gem.gov.in>
 CBC 38101/11/0007/2425

FOCUS DEVELOPMENT

MAKE-BELIEVE VISION



The World Bank reports that it will take India 75 years to reach a quarter of US per capita income while China will take over 10 years as it cautions countries from falling into 'middle income trap'

The recently released approach paper 'Vision for Bharat@2047' notes that India is at a turning point in its history and 21st century can be hers. It says India is capable of becoming a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 with the quality of life of a developed nation! This would mean a per capita income of \$18,000 per annum. The GDP would have to grow nine times than today's \$3.3 trillion and the per capita income would need to rise eight times from \$2392 per annum currently, as per the document. It is expected to become the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027 as the GDP crosses \$5 trillion.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

IF GROWTH MEANS ALLOWING CRONY CAPITALISM TO PROSPER AT THE COST OF HUMAN LIVES AND THE MISERIES OF THE POOR, THIS INDEED IS TRAGIC

But questions arise whether such optimistic projections are really attainable, given that even if there's sustained growth of say 7%, it's not happening. Moreover, by merely emphasising on GDP, a nation can't be called developed. The per capita income has to be taken into consideration. There is a need for the government to come out with statistics of per capita income of the economically weaker sections and low-income groups and the change since the start of the millennium.

At same time, a World Bank report titled 'World Development Report 2024: The Middle-Income Trap' found that it will take India 75 years to reach a quarter of US per capita income while China will take over 10 years as it cautioned countries from falling into what is known as 'middle income trap'.

Defining the concept of Viksit Bharat, the paper said it is Bharat which will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-

income countries.

It will be worthwhile to re-visit Oxfam reports of past few years. The most startling revelation is that while the government has set a target of ending poverty by 2030 under the SDGs, it may not be possible for another 229 years. This is in sharp contrast to various reports of Niti Aayog of ending poverty. The question then arises: when the country is beset with poverty- or near-poverty conditions - becoming 'developed' purely on the basis of wealth generated by a few business houses has no meaning.

Not just the widening disparity in incomes between the urban and rural sectors, the organised and unorganised sectors and the incomes of the salaried class and the farming community are quite glaring. Crony capitalism is ruling the country, where the focus is on the industrial class and providing various opportunities

for their growth.

Figures suggest that the real earnings (adjusted after inflation) of the self-employed workers, the largest group that forms over half the workers, declined in real terms, as per the report titled 'State of Working India 2023' by the Centre for Sustainable Employment of Azim Premji University. The report further showed that the benefits of growth obtained by the corporate sector failed to reach the marginalised segments.

Not just the Oxfam findings but various other studies point to the fact that India has a far way to go to reach the status of a developed nation. Whether it is the 2023 report on food security and nutrition, released by five UN agencies, that found over 74% of Indians unable to afford a healthy diet or the Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranking the country as low as 111 among 125 countries are all

examples of where the country stands today.

As such, all talk by politicians of being a developed country can only be said to be wishful thinking. The only way to take the country forward is to adopt a decentralised approach to planning and development and ensure the backward regions of the country get the essentials necessary for a proper existence. A proper strategy needs to be adopted to increase the incomes of small farmers and traders, who have been struggling over the years.

Another aspect that needs attention in view of the Wayanad landslides, where over 300 people are reported to have died and another 250 missing, is the need for proper disaster management while also ensuring that the current strategy of development does not lead to environmental degradation by allowing businesses to profit, ignoring ecological sensitivity. If growth means allowing crony capitalism to prosper at the cost of human lives and the miseries of the poor, this indeed is tragic.

The path of development, at least for a populous country like India, must be a grassroots approach, aimed at common man's welfare, and not following the path of mindless consumerism and materialism. Those politicians who swear by Mahatma Gandhi should read, comprehend his vision and accordingly implement India's strategy. Will the government change its strategy and follow a judicious path of balanced, regional development that meets the concerns of the masses, more than satisfying business concerns? Is the vision for real, where it makes the poorest feel it's their country?

INFA

Task Cut Out

Yoga is a generic name for any discipline by which one attempts to pass out of the limits of one's ordinary mental consciousness into a greater spiritual consciousness

SRI AUROBINDO



Preety Sudan has her work cut out as she steps into the role of UPSC chairperson. Taking over from Dr Manoj Soni, who resigned unexpectedly amidst a storm of controversy, she faces the daunting task of restoring the commission's credibility. Soni resigned for personal reasons and left five years before his term was scheduled to end. His departure coincided with a scandal involving trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who is accused of fraudulently taking the Civil Services Examination 12 times, well beyond the permitted attempts. This scandal has severely tarnished the UPSC's image, and Sudan's leadership will be crucial in navigating the aftermath.

A retired 1983-batch IAS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, Sudan brings a wealth of experience. Having served as the Union Health Secretary during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in shaping the country's response to one of the most significant health crises in recent history. Appointed as a member of the UPSC in 2022, Sudan now steps into the chairperson's role with the formidable challenge of steering the commission towards greater transparency and much-needed reforms.

Her tenure, which will last until March 2025, is relatively short, but the expectations are high. The UPSC, once a symbol of integrity in Indian bureaucracy, now finds itself in desperate need of a larger cleansing. Sudan's experience, particularly her strategic acumen displayed during the pandemic, will be essential in restoring trust and ensuring that the UPSC emerges stronger from this crisis.

Surprise shake-up at BSF

In a move that took many by surprise, the Ministry of Home Affairs suddenly removed BSF Director General Nitin Agrawal and his deputy, Special DG (West) YB Khurania, sending them back to their state cadres without warning. Agrawal, from the 1989 Kerala cadre, had only been in the top job since last June, while Khurania, a 1990 Odisha cadre officer, was in charge of the BSF's operations along the Pakistan border.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

This abrupt move has set tongues wagging, with many wondering what's really behind it. The timing is especially curious—Agrawal was still two years away from retirement, so the decision has left many puzzled. Some believe it's a response to the recent spike in militant activity in Jammu and Kashmir, a region where the BSF is on the frontlines.

There were already whispers that Khurania might be heading back to take on the role of Director General of Police (DGP) in his home state, but the sudden removal of both officers at the same time has fueled speculation that this could be about more than just routine transfers. With rising concerns over border security, especially with increasing infiltration incidents, some think this shake-up could be a direct response to those challenges.

The government hasn't said much about the reasons behind the move, but it's evident that the situation is far from straightforward. As events unfold, we'll likely get a better sense of what prompted this unexpected change in leadership at the BSF.

The enduring relevance of KK

President Droupadi Murmu recently appointed new Governors for several states, including Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Telangana, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. The Lt Governors of Puducherry and Chandigarh were also changed. Among these appointments, the most intriguing is that of K. Kailashnathan, one of Gujarat's most influential bureaucrats, who has been named Lt. Governor of Puducherry.

Kailashnathan, widely known as KK, has been a pivotal figure in the administrative corridors since his retirement as Additional Chief Secretary of Gujarat in 2013. His appointment now as the Lt. Governor of Puducherry underscores his continuing importance to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

KK's administrative journey is marked by his seamless transition from retirement to becoming the Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Gujarat, a role specifically created for him. During his tenure, he served under four Chief Ministers—Narendra Modi, Anandiben Patel, Vijay Rupani, and Bhupendra Patel. Despite this, KK has consistently been seen as a trusted confidant of Modi, effectively acting as a vital link between Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

KK's influence in Gujarat's administrative landscape has been enduring, and his latest appointment merely highlights the trust and reliance that the central leadership continues to place in him.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

To accuse others for one's own misfortunes is a sign of want of education. To accuse oneself shows that one's education has begun. To accuse neither oneself nor others shows that one's education is complete

EPICTETUS

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks

WARREN BUFFETT

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1792: Louis XVI of France imprisoned. As the French Revolution (1787-99) continued, the country's monarchy was effectively overthrown on this day in 1792 when King Louis XVI and his wife, Marie-Antoinette, were imprisoned (they were eventually guillotined).

1793: The Louvre opened in Paris, and it later became the most-visited museum in the world.

1944: Battle of Narva ends. The 8-day long battle was fought between the German Army and the Soviet Leningrad Front for the control of the Narva Isthmus in Estonia during the Second World War. The battle ended with decisive German victory.

1950: Sunset Boulevard, considered one of Hollywood's greatest films, had its world premiere; the film noir is especially noted for Gloria Swanson's portrayal of a fading movie star.

1990: Magellan Space Probe is inserted in orbit around Venus. The first spacecraft to be launched by a space shuttle, Magellan was a robotic space probe that spent 8 months gathering data about the surface of the planet also known as Earth's twin. The probe was launched from Kennedy Space Center, Florida on May 4, 1989, when Space Shuttle Atlantis took it to low Earth orbit and released it.

SPECTRUM INDIA-VIETNAM TIES

The elephant in the room

When the Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh visited India and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month, a leading newspaper reported the event with the caption "With eye on China, India offers Vietnam \$300 billion line of credit," underscoring the elephant in the room. Although, like other bilateral relations, India-Vietnam relations have their own imperatives in terms of cultural and political convergence, China's belligerence has given a twist to the tale. For decades together when the two communist states established relations with each other, it was customary for both of them to describe their relationship as those between 'lips and teeth'. China supported the struggle waged by Vietnam for national and social revolution in their fight both against the French in mid 1950s winning the war in the battle of Dienben Phu in 1954 and the later against the USA in 1970s. The fraternal relationship between the communist regimes developed fissures in late 1970s culminating in China's 'punitive war' in Vietnam in early 1979 when Vietnamese troops occupied Kampuchea, now called Cambodia.



Rup Narayan Das

ALTHOUGH INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS HAVE THEIR OWN IMPERATIVES IN TERMS OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL CONVERGENCE, CHINA'S BELLIGERENCE HAS GIVEN A TWIST TO THE TALE

Not to be forgotten, when China attacked Vietnam on 17 February 1979 to 'teach a lesson', India's then Foreign Minister late Atal Behari

Vajpayee, who was visiting China, decided to cut short his visit to China as a mark of solidarity with Vietnam reiterating India's commitment to Vietnam. The Chinese attack on Vietnam echoed in Indian Parliament on 19 February. India urged that the fighting should immediately end and as a first step Chinese forces should withdraw from Vietnam.

India's commitment to Vietnam is not rhetoric, but real and substantive. India has been engaged in the contested South China Sea (SCS) both as a strategic and an economic gesture, although India is not a party to the dispute. Besides Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei and even Taiwan claim jurisdiction over the strategically important SCS which is a critical Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs). As symbolic and substantive gesture of India's engagement in SCS, ONGC Videsh had been present in Vietnam for quite some time since 1980s including in a major oil venture for offshore oil and natural gas exploration.

India concluded the agreement with Vietnam during the visit of the Vietnamese President, Truong Tan Sang, to India on 12 October, 2011. The state-owned ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and its Vietnamese counterpart, Petro-Vietnam, inked a three-year agreement for long-term cooperation in the oil and gas sec-

tor. The agreement was intended for developing long-term cooperation in effect for three years. Some of the key areas in which both the companies are desirous to cooperate are related to: the exchange of information on the petroleum industry; exchange of working visits of authorities and specialists in various fields of the petroleum industry; new investments; expansion and operations of oil and gas exploration; and production, including refining, transportation, and supply in Vietnam, India, and third countries according to the laws and regulations of their countries. The visiting President of Vietnam, Truong Tan Sang, said that all the disputes with China, including claims over SCS, would be solved peacefully through negotiations and code of conduct for good relations in the region. The cooperation between ONGC Videsh and Petro-Vietnam goes back to the 1980s, which led to the signing of the production sharing contract between Hydrocarbon India Ltd, renamed later as ONGC Videsh, and Petro-Vietnam in Phu Kan basin in Vietnam through regular bidding process. As there was not much prospect of hydrocarbon in SCS, India of late is going slow in the hydrocarbon exploration. India's foray into SCS also conveys a subtle message to China that if the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor could pass through Indian Occupied

Kashmir, then why not ONGC (Videsh) in the disputed SCS.

Yet another evidence of India's commitment to Vietnam, under the rubric of 'act east' policy was the extension of \$100 million line of credit in 2014 for contracting offshore high-speed patrol boats. The latest \$300 million line of credit is in continuation of the earlier offer. There is also a talk of India providing the BrahMos missile to Vietnam. India has already provided the missile to the Philippines. India, however, is sulking in deference to Chinese sensitivity.

India has been articulating its considered views on the SCS in both bilateral and multilateral fora. This has riled China. India's position on the SCS is consistent and has been articulated on several occasions in bilateral as well as multilateral communications. India attaches importance to freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded lawful commerce as per the law of the Sea Convention, 1982. India stands for the peaceful resolution of the dispute including respect for the legal and diplomatic process without resorting to threat or use of force.

The writer is a former senior fellow of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and also Indian Council of Social Science Research.

Silver lining

Sir, Neeraj Chopra has made India proud by bagging another medal at the Olympics: silver. The final was tough, and every athlete on display on the night of the javelin finals was keen to prove a point or two. After Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem stunned everyone with a spectacular 92.97 metres throw, the pressure was squarely on the Indian champion. That was exactly why Neeraj had only one clean throw; he wanted to surpass Arshad by going the whole hog. In the process, he may have curbed his natural throwing instincts. However, as Neeraj rightly said after the finals, it was Arshad's day. That said, Neeraj, is not the one to take the gold loss lying down. The 26-year-old has had niggling injuries of late that have slowed him down. But the champion has set a high benchmark for himself.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Marauding mobs

Sir, The downfall of Sheikh Hasina government followed by the violent protests in Bangladesh has turned out to be a nightmare for the minorities, especially the Hindus. The marauding mobs looted and burnt down homes and businesses, even as their women are abducted and molested. The anarchical condition in the country helps the anti-India and pro-Pakistani elements to target Hindus freely. Tens of thousands of Hindus have been forced to flee their homes, with a few trekking to the border to escape the orgy of mob violence and torture. Though the military authorities are being prodded by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, their hands seem to be full in handling the gigantic crisis. The vacuum created by the fast-changing events has led to a sense of instability at the top of the military and civilian administrations as well. The Modi government needs to take the initiative to convene an all-party meeting for the passage of a unanimous appeal for an immediate end to the atrocities against Hindus and Sikhs in the neighbouring country and call for an early restoration of normalcy. Also, the drastic reduction in the population of Hindus in Bangladesh points to the subsequent waves of minority repression that prompted them to leave their country of birth.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

national

of the day uote

There is an urgent need to protect tribal culture, tradition, land and forests. Tribals here have shown their struggle to the world. I am proud that I was born in Jharkhand, which is known as the land of brave people, the land of icons like Bhagwan Birsa Munda

The state government has always been committed to ensuring tribal communities, from Ambaji to Umargam, receive basic amenities such as water, healthcare, education, and employment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established Gujarat as a unique model for tribal development

When Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray was alive, leaders from Delhi would come to Matoshree (the residence of the Thackerays in Bandra here) to meet him. But today the entire family has to camp itself in Delhi. There can be no case of helplessness because they abandoned ideology

SHORT TAKES

Vikram Misri to visit Nepal August 11-12

New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will pay a two-day visit to Nepal beginning Sunday, in his first trip abroad after assuming charge of the top office. Announcing the visit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the foreign secretary's upcoming trip reflects the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal under its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

Suspect arrested in Bareilly serial killings

Bareilly (UP): Police in Bareilly arrested a suspected killer involved in a series of murders targeting middle-aged women in the district from the past one year, officials said Friday. The 35-year-old accused, identified as Kuldeep Kumar, has confessed to killing six women, according to the police. Kumar revealed during interrogation that he was troubled by his stepmother, who abused him and had tried to strangle him, they added. Initially, the police were investigating a series of nine murders committed in a similar pattern.

DM orders closure of 124 coaching centres

Patna: The Patna District Administration Friday ordered the closure of 124 coaching centres in the state capital after finding them ineligible for registration, an official said. The district administration had reviewed 138 recent applications for registration and rejected 14 of them for being non-functional. Consequently, closure orders were issued to 124 coaching centres deemed ineligible, Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh told PTI.

Guj: Five dead in van-truck collision

Godhra: Five persons were killed and two injured Friday in a head-on collision between a van and a truck near Godhra town in Gujarat's Panchmahal district, a police official said. The incident took place at 4:30pm on a state highway passing through Gollav village when the van was carrying passengers from Godhra to Chhotaudepur, while the truck was coming from the opposite direction. Superintendent of Police Himanshu Solanki said.

India set to become \$8 trillion economy by 2034: Shaurya Doval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: India is set to become a \$ 8 trillion economy by 2034 and will pivot much of the world in terms of its economics and geopolitics, according to BJP leader and founder of think-tank India Foundation Shaurya Doval.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, he said the country is likely to face significant headwinds in the future as far as its ability to export is concerned.

Doval said that "as we head into the next 25 years, we are going to see India is going to pivot much of the world in terms of its economics and its geopolitics, and that's great news for India and Indians".

"This is primarily being driven by our economic rise, which is now reaching a point which Einstein used to call as power of momentum," he said.

"It took us 60 years, the British left us with an economy of 30 billion dollars, in 2007, we became a trillion dollars...it took us like three generations. From 2007 to 2014, we went to 2 trillion dollars. Today, we are at 4 trillion (dollars) and this is despite Covid," Doval said.

What was achieved in the last 75 years, \$ 4 trillion, will be achieved in the next 10 years alone, and "by 2034, we will be an 8 trillion dollar economy", he said.

The banker-turned-political thinker noted that more countries are focusing on building their own capacities, particularly after the Covid experience.

"Now, this for India is little bit of problem because we need goods and services in our trade to grow our economy. So, we are going to face significant headwinds as far as our ability to export is concerned," Doval said in a statement.

Opposition wants to oust Dhankhar as Vice President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The turbulent relations between Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and INDIA bloc parties came to a head-Friday with sources saying that the Opposition is considering submitting a notice for moving a resolution to remove the Vice President from his office.

They said the timing of the notice is to be discussed and decided and though the resolution may not go through it would be a statement to highlight the Chair's "blatantly and consistently partisan" approach.

According to Article 67(b) of the Constitution, "Vice-President may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People; but no resolution for the purpose of this clause shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution."

A source said around two days ago, Leader of House J P Nadda was informally informed that the Opposition is considering submitting a motion for removing Dhankhar.

The source said concerns of Opposition parties include microphone of the Leader of Opposition being turned off repeatedly. The Opposition wants the House to be run by rules and convention and personal remarks against members are unacceptable, the source said.

Dhankhar and INDIA bloc parties sparred Friday once again with the Congress accusing the Chair of acting in a "par-



Opposition sources said 87 members have signed on the proposal to initiate action against Dhankhar

tisan" manner against the entire Opposition.

Soon after opposition walked out of Rajya Sabha protesting against what they termed as "unacceptable" tone and disrespect shown by Dhankhar, the Congress held a press conference to claim that the Chair was not giving the Opposition the importance it deserves in the Upper House.

"Opposition parties feel that the Chairman's approach is partisan. Rajya Sabha is a House that sets parameters for other legislatures. In that House, the Chairman should not be seen partisan. The Congress alone does not feel that way, all Opposition parties feel his behaviour is partial towards one side," Congress leader Ajay Maken said at the press conference. The Opposition is not getting the importance it deserves in the Upper House, he said.

TN CM LAUNCHES ₹1K MONTHLY ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR BOYS

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Friday launched the 'Tamizh Pudhalvan' (Tamil son) scheme of ₹1,000 per month assistance to help boys from government and state-aided schools pursue higher education



J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

Won't let internal, external forces disrupt election: CEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 9: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Friday said no internal or external forces would be allowed to disrupt the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir which will be held "at the earliest".

Talking to reporters at the end of the two-day visit of an Election Commission delegation to the Union Territory, Kumar emphasised that all political parties in the region have sought for the Assembly elections to take place soon.

This was the first major exercise for preparing the grounds for holding the maiden Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir after it was downgraded to a Union Territory August 5, 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. The visit of the three-member EC team led by Kumar comes ahead of the September 30 deadline given by the Supreme Court earlier this year for the completion of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Accompanied by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu, the CEC highlighted that the timing for the elections is right, especially in light of the successful parliamentary elections held recently.

"We are ready to build on the successes of the parliamentary elections. We will first review the availability of security forces in New Delhi, keeping in mind the Supreme Court's deadline of September 30," he added.

The EC delegation was in Srinagar Thursday where they met representatives of political parties as well as senior officials including Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo and Director General of Police R R Swain.

LS names members for joint panel on Waqf Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The joint committee of Parliament to examine the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will have 31 members -- 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha -- and will submit its report by the next session.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Friday adopted a motion moved by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio, naming the members to be part of the committee.

The Lok Sabha members in the panel are Jagdambika Pal, Nishikant Dubey, Tejasvi Surya, Aparajita Sarangi, Sanjay Devarayalu, Dilip Saikia, Abhit Gangopadhyay, DK Aruna (all BJP); Gaurav Gogoi, Imran Masood and Mohammad Jawed (all Congress); Mohibullah (Samajwadi Party); Kalyan Banerjee (Trinamool Congress); A Raja (DMK); Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (Telugu Desam Party); Dileshwar Kamait (JDU); Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT); Suresh Mhatre (NCP-Sharad Pawar); Naresh Bhaske (Shiv Sena); Arun Bharti (Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas); and Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM).

Those included from the Rajya Sabha are Brij Lal, Medha Vishram Kulkarni, Gulam Ali, Radha Mohan Das Agrawal (all BJP); Syed Naseer Hussain (Congress); Mohammed Nadimul



Haque (Trinamool Congress); V Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP); M Mohamed Abdulla (DMK); Sanjay Singh (AAP); and nominated member Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is expected to name the committee's chairperson soon. There is a view that BJP's Pal may head the panel but officials said a final call would be taken by Birla. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha Thursday and referred to a joint committee of Parliament after a heated debate, with the government asserting the proposed law did not intend to interfere with the functioning of mosques and the Opposition calling it targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution.

The committee will submit its report to the Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the next session, Rijiju said. A delegation of Muslim clerics also met Rijiju to extend its support to the amendments to the Wakf Act, 1995, proposed by the government amid the Opposition's strong criticism.

LS clears Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The Lok Sabha Friday passed a Bill to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act and further improve the ease of doing business in the aviation space.

The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024 seeks to remove redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934 -- which has been amended 21 times -- at a time when India is one of the fastest-growing civil aviation markets in the world.

The Bill seeks to resolve existing anomalies between various aviation laws and ensure a coherent regulatory environment with well-defined chapters and clauses. With the proposed legislation, the ministry also aims to promote the ease of flying by having a robust regulatory framework, encouraging foreign direct investment, and ensuring compliance with international conventions and best practices.

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, who moved the Bill for passage, emphasised the government's commitment to addressing issues related to airfares. He announced plans to establish an efficient online grievance redressal mechanism to manage passenger complaints and ensure timely resolutions.

This mechanism aims to balance the interests of airlines and passengers, preventing exploitation through excessive airfares while maintaining the financial viability of airlines.

The Bill supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by introducing provisions for regulating aircraft design and manufacturing. This aims to promote self-reliance within the aviation sector, enhancing domestic production capabilities and technological advancements, he said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/ E-Tender/42, Dt. 05.08.2024
1. Tender No. eTender-EASTKUR-135-2024, Date: 30.07.2024

Description: PROPOSED CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH "GRID SEPARATION WORK AT PARADEEP UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME BY KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY".

Approx cost of the work: ₹249.11 lakhs, EMD: ₹27.46,000/-

2. Tender No. eTendersSouthKUR-139-2024, Date: 30.07.2024

Description: REPAIRS TO SERVICE BUILDING SUCH AS STATION BUILDING, WAITING HALL, RETIRING ROOM, DORMITORY, PLATFORM TOILETS, RPF POST BUILDING, GRP POST BUILDING, CFI OFFICE, PARCEL OFFICE, BOOKING OFFICE, TICKET COLLECTOR'S OFFICE IN THE SECTION OF ARGUL TO BALUGAON UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS) BALUGAON OF THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BALUGAON OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹296.35 lakhs, EMD: ₹2,98,200/-

3. Tender No. etender-EastKUR-143-2024, Date: 31.07.2024

Description: UNLOADING OF INCOMING MATERIALS, LEADING AND STACKING OF MATERIALS, TRANSPORTATION OF PHWY MATERIALS FROM DIFFERENT LOCATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION AT SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER/ DSD/CUTTACK UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-ICUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹67.71 lakhs, EMD: ₹1,35,400/-

Completion Period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) Months (For sl. no. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (For sl. no. 2) and 36 (Thirty Six) Months (For sl. no. 3).

Date & time of Tender Closing: 21.08.2024, 1500 hrs (For All Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-409/P/24-25) Khurda Road

SEBI भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड

Securities and Exchange Board of India
SEB' BHAVAN, 5TH FLOOR, 'B' WING, PLOT NO. C4-A 'G' BLOCK, BANDRA - KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA (EAST), MUMBAI - 400 051, TELEPHONE: 022 2644 9686 EMAIL: YPP@SEBI.GOV.IN

Invitation for Applications under SEBI Young Professional Program

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) invites applications from eligible candidates who are desirous of engagement with SEBI under its Young Professional Program (YPP).

The details of the aforementioned program are available on SEBI Website: www.sebi.gov.in under "Careers" section. The last date for submission of application is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers.

Human Resources Department, SEBI
CBC - 15204/11/0081/2425

[GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA] No.B-164

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH

E-mail : eepwdbgh@gmail.com Phone/Fax : 06646-234819

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.) e-Procurement Notice

IDENTIFICATION NO. IFB-SE PWD BGH No.04 OF 2024-25

No. 3823, Dated - 08.08.2024

- The Executive Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.
- No. of Road work : 01 No.
- Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : "B" Class Contractor
- Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : 11:00 hrs. of 13.08.2024 to 17:00 Hrs. of 22.08.2024.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid : 23.08.2024 at 11:30 hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
- Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only

OIPR-34039/11/0004/2425 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division

OFFICE OF THE DHENKANAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL

E-Procurement Notice No.C-395

Tender Call Notice No. 2996/DKLMPLTY/Date - 03.08.2024

1	Name of the Work :	"Construction of Dhenkanal Smart Park at Dhenkanal Municipality"
2	No. of works put to tender	One (No. of individual work)
3	Estimated cost	Rs. 222.8 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	06 (Six) Months
5	Date and time of availability	From 11.00 hours of Dt. 09.08.2024 to 17.30 of dt. of bid document in the portal dt. 23.08.2024
6	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	17.30 hours of Dt - 23.08.2024
7	Date and time of opening of Technical bid	11.00 hours of Dt. - 27.08.2024
8	Name and address of the Officer :	Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality, Dhenkanal Inviting Bid

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-13146/11/0010/2425 Sd./- Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality

Tumultuous Monsoon session ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: A tumultuous Monsoon session of Parliament, which saw the approval of the Union Budget and also a spat between Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and SP member Jaya Bachchan, concluded Friday.

An aggressive Opposition sought to corner the NDA government on issues ranging from the alleged overlooking of the middle class in the Union Budget, the controversial order of the Uttar Pradesh government asking stall owners along the route of the

Kanwar Yatra to display their names, and the introduction of Waqf (Amendment) Bill which was referred to a joint committee.

After a public outrage over withdrawal of indexation benefits on the Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax in the Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman softened the blow by introducing flexibility in taxation.

The disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat in the Olympics after being found overweight before the final bout also saw the government and Opposition come to blows in Parliament.

Bank of India Gold Auction Notice

Bank of India BOI Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jaydev Bihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by 02.09.2024, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at Concerned Branch Premises on 03.09.2024 at 11.00 AM. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 09.08.2024 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)
BANK OF INDIA, SME BRANCH, 102, CUTBACK ROAD, BHUBANESWAR-751006, CONTACT NO.: 0674-6532153/2571625					
1.	556177610000880	Praveena Mulakala, W/o- Mulakala Amar Sreenu, Plot No.: 1306, Balipatana, Bentapur, Khorda, PIN-752102.	156.800	149.000	₹ 6,80,814/-

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 09.08.2024 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

national

of the day quote

It is necessary to restore the traditional governance system of the tribals in the state. At present, Jharkhand is the only state in the country where PESA Act is not implemented. I request the chief minister to get the law implemented immediately

SANTOSH GANGWAR | GOVERNOR OF JHARKHAND

My sincere congratulations and best wishes to Professor Muhammad Yunus and those who have taken up their duties in Bangladesh. Hopefully, our relationship with them will improve further

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Who will retire, who will not, we will get to know in the days ahead, when the case is decided by the court in a few days. Let's decide who will retire after that

B S YEDYURAPPA | VETERAN BJP LEADER

X POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING
Some people in Delhi are beating & driving out illegal Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators in the middle of the night! Disturbed by the atrocities being committed against women & Hindus in Bangladesh, they took this step, saying that if the govt doesn't expel these illegal infiltrators, they will do it themselves.

SHORT TAKES

■ Puja's bail plea: HC adjourns hearing

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday adjourned the hearing on an anticipatory bail plea filed by former Maharashtra cadre probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who allegedly submitted false OBC and PwBD (Persons with Benchmark Disabilities) certificates and fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permissible limits provided for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) by faking her identity. A bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad, which was slated to take up the matter for hearing Friday, did not assemble and will hear Khedkar's plea Monday (August 12) now.

■ Bomb shells found in scrap shop

Betul: Bomb shells found Friday in a scrap dealer's shop in Betul in Madhya Pradesh are defused ones as per an examination conducted by the bomb disposal squad, a senior police official said. The discovery of these shells, which look like miniature rockets with 'practice' written on them, were found during routine searches conducted by police ahead of Independence Day, the official added. A bomb disposal squad from Narmadapuram and an Indian Air Force team from Amla Station here were called in as some of the bomb shells were suspected to be live.

■ Auditorium gutted

Kolhapur: An auditorium built more than a 100 years ago during the rule of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in Kolhapur city of western Maharashtra was gutted in a major fire, with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Friday ordering an inquiry into the incident. The auditorium, Keshavrao Bhosale Natyagruha, which represented the cultural heritage of Kolhapur, was gutted in the blaze that broke out Thursday night, district officials said.



India is going to become the third largest superpower in the next two years, but this can happen only when our priority is not our caste or religion, but the nation

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

INDIA TO BOOST HELICOPTER MANUFACTURING: MINISTER

Expanding the helicopter industry presents a significant opportunity and the government is set to advance towards manufacturing helicopters, Union Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said Friday. India is poised for a significant transformation in its aviation sector with the introduction of the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024, he said



Truth triumphed with SC bail to Sisodia: AAP

The court granted bail to the former Deputy Chief Minister in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the Delhi excise policy "scam" case, noting that he has been in custody for 17 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The AAP Friday said the Supreme Court granting bail to Manish Sisodia is a "tight slap" on the "dictatorship" of the BJP-led Centre but rued that the relief came after a year's delay, and hoped its other jailed leaders, including supreme Arvind Kejriwal, would also get justice.

"Today truth has won. In the end, only truth wins," said a post by "Team Kejriwal" on the Delhi Chief Minister's official handle on X. Kejriwal is in the Tihar jail in the same case.

In a post on X, his wife Sunita Kejriwal said, "Bhagwan ke gar der hai andher nahee", emphasising there is always justice in God's house.

During the hearing, a bench of justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said Sisodia has been in custody for 17 months and trial has not yet commenced, depriving him of the right to speedy trial. Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) February 26 last year for purported irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him in the money laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR March 9 last year. He resigned from the Delhi cabinet February 28 in 2023. Sisodia had sought bail con-



tending that he has been in custody for 17 months and the trial against him has not yet started. The ED and the CBI had opposed his bail pleas. Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Education Minister Atishi on X said, "Satyamev Jayate", soon after the apex court granted bail to him. During an event in Dwarka, where she inaugurated a school, Atishi broke down while welcoming the verdict. "They kept him in jail for 17 months on false charges, and today, he has been granted bail. Today, is the day that the man behind the education revolution of Delhi has been granted bail," she said. She alleged that he was sent to jail because he provided good education to children and allocated

25 per cent of the budget to education. This made him an excellent education minister, Atishi said. The verdict is a "tight slap" on the "dictatorship" of BJP-led central government, AAP Rajya Sabha member Singh, who was also jailed in connection with the case, told a press conference.

Kejriwal was arrested March 21 by the ED in connection with the excise policy case. In May, he was granted interim bail for Lok Sabha poll campaigning. He surrendered June 2. He was arrested June 26 by the CBI in the case from the Tihar jail. Though the chief minister has been granted interim bail by the apex court in the ED case, he continues to be in jail because of the CBI case. Former Delhi health minister Jain is in jail in a different money laundering case lodged by ED.

AAP Delhi state convener and minister Gopal Rai told the press conference said, "The Supreme Court bail gives a message that no dictatorship can go on indefinitely. Sisodia is known as the father of the education revolution in Delhi. The penance of the people of Delhi has bore fruit today."

Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the verdict will prove to be a "milestone" not only for Sisodia but also for all those politicians in jail against whom there is no proof or witness under the "black law" of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Mizoram, Assam hold border talks after 20 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, August 9: Mizoram and Assam discussed the border issues on Friday, twenty months after the two northeastern neighbours held a meeting to find an amicable solution to the inter-state boundary dispute, an official said.

The meeting between delegations of both states is being held in Aizawl. The two states held the last round of talks in November 2022 in Guwahati.

During Friday's meeting, the Assam delegation is led by Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora while the Mizoram side is headed by Home Minister K Sapdanga, the official said.

This is the fourth ministerial-level talks between the two neighbouring states since August 2021 and the first meeting after the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) came to power in December last year. Three Mizoram districts - Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit - share a 164.6 km border with Assam's Cachar, Karmganj and Hailankandi districts.

The dispute mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations - 1875 and 1933. Mizoram claims that 509 square miles area of the inner line reserved forest, notified in 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873, falls within its territory. Assam, on the other hand, regarded the map prepared by the Survey of India in 1933 as its constitutional boundary.

Vast areas within the inner line reserved forest now fall under Assam. Similarly, a certain extent of the area, as per the 1933 demarcation line, is now on the Mizoram side.

BSF foils Bangladeshi infiltration attempt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 9: Tension prevailed at the Sitalkuchi fenced land border area of Cooch Behar district in West Bengal on Friday morning after panicked Bangladeshi nationals, numbering nearly a thousand, assembled on the other side of the fence in their bid to cross over to India and seek refuge.

The attempt was, however, foiled by the BSF which maintained a strict vigil at the border. The Bangladeshis were later removed from the spot by the Border Guards Bangladesh personnel, the Border Security Force confirmed. The crowd, allegedly comprising mostly Bangladeshi Hindus, assembled some 400 metres away from the fence alongside a water body at the Genduguri and Doikhawa villages in the Lalmonirhat district of Bangladesh.

Heavy deployment of the 157 Battalion of the BSF at the Pathantuli village, maintaining vigil on automobiles and on foot, made the infiltration bid of the foreigners impossible. The dis-appointed Bangladeshis were heard raising slogans in support of their demand for entry into Indian soil. When inquired about the incident, a senior BSF official confirmed that a large number of Bangladeshis had as-

sembled at the border but were later taken back by the BGB. "The Bangladeshis had gathered at the border, but none were able to enter the country as the border was completely sealed. They were later taken back by the BGB into their own country," the official said. In a statement released later in the day by the Guwahati Frontier of the BSF, the organisation called the development a "new border challenge". "This emerging challenge is new to the BSF which is primarily entrusted with the security of India's borders along both Bangladesh and Pakistan. Faced with the delicate task of managing humanitarian concerns while ensuring border security, the BSF demonstrated exceptional professionalism, with its officers and men swiftly responding to the situation," the statement read.

It outlined how the force promptly approached its Bangladeshi counterpart, the BGB, to take the people away without escalating tension.

"This operation underscores the BSF's unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's borders while also recognizing the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns with compassion and strict adherence to international standards," the statement added.

SNIPPETS

Hoarding collapse: HC refuses to give relief to Bhide

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court Friday said it found no "infirmary" or legal flaw in the arrest of advertising firm director Bhavesh Bhide, prime accused in the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse case, who had sought release claiming that his arrest was illegal and the incident was an "act of God". A division bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande dismissed the petition filed by Bhide which contended that proper procedure mandated by law was not followed when he was arrested.

Himachal tragedy: Toll touches 27

Shimla: The death toll in the flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh July 31 midnight rose to 27 with recovery of five bodies Friday, officials said. As the search operation to trace about 30 missing people entered the ninth day, the families of the victims have lost hopes of seeing their loved ones alive. The tragedy occurred in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision. The worst hit was Samej village on the border of Shimla and Kullu district where about 20 people are still missing.

Woman doctor's body found in Kolkata hospital

Kolkata: The semi-nude body of a woman post-graduate trainee (PGT) doctor was found inside the seminar hall of a government-run hospital in Kolkata Friday, the police said. The deceased, a second-year student of the chest medicine department, was on duty Thursday night. The body bore injury marks. Her father alleged that she was raped and murdered inside RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and efforts are on to hide the truth.

SC nixes plea to postpone NEET-PG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The Supreme Court Friday refused to postpone NEET-PG examination scheduled for August 11, saying it can't put the careers of two lakh candidates in jeopardy for five students who have filed the petition.

The top court dismissed a plea seeking deferment of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Postgraduate) (NEET-PG) which claimed that candidates have been allocated cities that are highly inconvenient for them to reach.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said judges are not academic experts.

"How can we postpone such an exam? Mr Sanjay Hegde, nowadays people just come asking to postpone the exam. It's not a perfect world. We are not academic experts.

"As a matter of principle, we will not reschedule the exam. There are two lakh students and



four lakh parents who will weep over the weekend if we postpone it. We cannot put the careers of two lakh candidates in jeopardy at the behest of five petitioners. We cannot do this. Let there be certainty for medical students. We do not know who is behind these petitions," the bench said. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that rescheduling NEET-PG is needed because one set of aspirants will take the exam in the morning and an-

other in the afternoon because of the paucity of examination centres. He urged the bench to issue directions to conduct the exam in a single batch to ensure a uniform and fair testing environment for all candidates.

The plea filed by Vishal Soren and others said many candidates have been allocated cities which are highly inconvenient for them to reach. It said the test cities were allotted July 31 and the specific centres will be declared August 8.

WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

Emotions run high as survivors join search team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), August 9: Mohanan's face turned pale as he disembarked at Chooralmala. He is a part of a group of survivors confronting the devastation of their landslide-ravaged hamlet in Kerala's Wayanad district.

Mohanan and the other survivors were visiting their birthplace for the first time since the devastating landslide that razed everything in the Mundakkai area and left them homeless and grappling with the fact that they may never again see some loved ones who went missing in the landslides.

These people, who were fortunate enough to survive the onslaught of the slush mixed with boulders and trees during the landslide, have seen people getting trapped, their loved ones disappearing in the slush, and



even some getting crushed under the boulders.

They pointed out the places where their houses and their relatives' houses stood to the rescuers as the officers stared at mounds of just mud and rocks left in the place of the homes. Some rocks are so huge that a single one could flatten a two-storeyed building.

He, along with his family, managed to run over to the other

side of the hill when the first landslide took place. These people looked for the rescue teams in the landslide-hit areas, requesting them to search areas where their houses once stood. The cadaver dog 'Storm' from the K9 wing of Odisha police was also there to aid in the search.

The dog sniffed and gave indications of the presence of bodies in two locations pointed out

Mysterious noise sparks panic

Wayanad (Kerala): People in various places in Kerala's landslide-ravaged Wayanad district reported hearing a booming sound and reverberation from the underground Friday morning, creating panic among residents and authorities. The Wayanad district authorities said people from residential areas in the affected places were being shifted to safer locations. They said that the booming sound and reverberation were "felt" in certain areas of Ambalavayal village and Vythiri Taluk.

by the survivors. The earthmovers were then brought in to remove the huge heaps of mud and rocks to search for bodies beneath.

In some places that were shown to the rescue teams by the survivors, nothing could be done as the location was under several hundred tonnes of heavy rocks.

They still could not fathom

the impact of the disaster, as this highly populated area, where rows of well-constructed houses, homestays, and resorts once stood, now has just heaps of mud, rocks, and huge trees shredded to pieces.

They kept on saying what their lives were like before the disaster and how they would never regain anything close to that in the future. The survivors had to stop the search by 12 noon, one hour later than the scheduled time, and had to return.

The initial plan of the government was to carry out a mass search operation involving 190 survivors and the existing search and rescue agencies. But the government decided to reduce the numbers as the time allotted to the search was restricted until 11 am due to security arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the site Saturday.

Five wagons of goods train derail in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Katihar/New Delhi, August 9: Five wagons of a loaded goods train derailed near Kumedpur station in West Bengal's Malda district, a senior official said.

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Chief Public Relations Officer Sabyasachi De told PTI that the derailment took place around 10.45 am. "A total of five wagons derailed and no one was injured," he added. The goods trains (DN IORG/BTPN/LD 70649) derailed while passing Kumedpur station of Katihar division and completely blocked the main line, a source at NFR said.

"The Accident Relief Train (ART) was called from Katihar immediately and it is engaged in restoration of the track. One passenger train, which was stranded after the incident, was taken back to Katihar. It will restart its journey after track restoration," he added. A senior official said the reason for the derailment may be "engineering issue" related to track problem, but it will be known after a detailed inquiry. Katihar Divisional Railway Manager Surendra Kumar said the petrol-laden goods train was going from New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal to Katihar in Bihar.

The 14563 (Balurghat-Siliguri Jn) Intercity Express and 15709 (Malda Town-New Jalpaiguri) Intercity Express commencing journey Friday have been cancelled, it added.

The 22301 (Howrah-New Jalpaiguri) Vande Bharat Express, 13174 (Sabroom-Sealdah) Kanchenjunga Express, 12364 (Haldibari-Kolkata) Intercity Express, 15644 Kamakhya-Puri Express and 15648 (Delhi-Alipurduar Jn) Mahananda Express will be diverted via Katihar.



international



I am happy to announce that India will soon open a consulate in Auckland to fulfil the long-standing demand of the community
DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT, INDIA

ALARMING EXECUTIONS

The UN human rights office is expressing concerns about reports that Iran has executed 29 people over two days this week, with the rights chief decrying 'an alarmingly high number' of executions in such a short period of time



of the day quote

You must face up to the reality that the very existence of nuclear weapons poses an increasing threat to humankind, and you must make a brave shift toward the abolition of nuclear weapons
SHIRO SUZUKI | MAYOR OF NAGASAKI, JAPAN

Delivered my first National Day Message as PM. Singapore is a young nation. But we have overcome much together. Despite the challenges ahead, we have good reasons to be confident of our future
LAWRENCE WONG | PM, SINGAPORE

No one sitting in this House is responsible for the current crisis (allocation of reserved seats) in the country. Only the court was and is the reason
BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI | FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Thailand's Oppn forms new party

Bangkok: Thailand's disbanded Opposition Move Forward unveiled a new political vehicle Friday that will be the biggest party in Parliament, promising to advance reforms and a controversial plan to amend a law that protects the monarchy from criticism. The anti-establishment Move Forward, which won most seats in the last election but was blocked from forming a government, was dissolved by the Constitutional Court Wednesday, which ruled its campaign to reform a law on royal insults risked undermining the constitutional monarchy.

Chinese rocket's space debris

New Delhi: China's Long March 6A rocket broke apart creating over 300 pieces of trackable debris in low Earth orbit, after achieving a significant milestone of launching 18 Qianfan satellites, the US Space Command (USSPACECOM) said Friday. The 18 satellites were part of the first batch aimed to establish China's "own version of Elon Musk's Starlink", called the Qianfan ("Thousand Sails") broadband network. The satellites were launched Tuesday on the Long March 6A rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province.

Japan megaquake: PM cancels Asia trip

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida cancelled a planned trip to Central Asia Friday to lead the government's response after scientists urged people to prepare for a possible "megaquake" off the country's southern coast. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued its first ever "megaquake advisory" Thursday warning of a possible future major earthquake triggered by the underwater Nankai Trough after a magnitude 7.1 quake shook just off the eastern coast of Kyushu island earlier in the day.

Rare exercise

Manila: Crew of Philippine and Vietnamese vessels blasted a boat with water cannon and simulated a search and rescue Friday, in the first joint exercises between coast guards of two countries that have faced off with Beijing in the South China Sea. Vietnam's 90-metre-long ship CSB 8002, which arrived at the port of Manila Monday, joined the Philippine offshore patrol vessel.

Iraqi teen arrested after Taylor Swift attack plot foiled

REUTERS

Berlin, August 9: An 18-year-old Iraqi national was detained in Vienna in connection with investigations into an alleged plot to attack a Taylor Swift concert in the Austrian capital, Austria's interior minister said Friday.

The Iraqi comes from the same circle as the main suspect, a 19-year-old Austrian with North Macedonian roots, Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said.

The Iraqi suspect swore allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group August 6, but it remains unclear whether he had a direct link to the planned attack, Karner said.

More suspects will be questioned and properties searched as investigators continue to look into the plot, he added.



The main suspect, who had also vowed loyalty to IS, was planning a lethal assault among the estimated 20,000 "Swiftie" fans set to gather outside Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium, prompting the cancellation of all three shows due to security concerns.

The 19-year-old, who quit his job less than two weeks before the planned attack, saying he "had big plans", has made a full confession in custody, according to authorities.

Two other Austrian youths aged 17 and 15 were detained Wednesday over the alleged plot.

The 17-year-old, who had been given a job with a company that was providing services at the stadium, has so far refused to give evidence, according to Karner.

The boy, who also appears to have been radicalised, was already known to authorities.

The 15-year-old continues to be questioned intensively by police, Karner added.

Austrian authorities are reported to have received information about the Swift concert threat from US intelligence, as Austrian law does not allow the monitoring of instant messaging apps, which the suspects had used to communicate.

"Cooperation with foreign partners and services is essential and reciprocal. This made it possible to prevent a tragedy in Vienna," Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said.

Swift, whose next scheduled performance is in London next week, has not commented on the concert cancellations.

'Hasina to return to B'desh for polls'

SAJEEB WAZED JOY, SHEIKH HASINA'S SON, DEFENDED HER TENURE AS THE B'DESH PM SAYING THAT SHE TOOK OVER THE COUNTRY WHEN IT WAS A FAILING STATE AND TURNED IT AROUND

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 9: Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return to her country when its new caretaker government decides to hold elections, her son said.

Hasina fled to India Monday after weeks of deadly protests forced her to quit. A caretaker government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus was sworn in Thursday, which will be tasked with holding elections.

For the time being, she (Hasina) is in India. She will go back to Bangladesh the moment the interim government decides to hold an election

SAJEEB WAZED JOY | SON OF SHEIKH HASINA

Speaking to mediapersons, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, who is based in the US, said, "For the time being, she (Hasina) is in India. She will go back to Bangladesh the moment the interim government decides to hold an election."

"A lot has changed in the last two days following continuous attacks on our leaders and party workers across the country. Now we are going to do whatever it takes to keep our people safe,



Hundreds protest over violence against Hindus

DHAKA: Hundreds of people protested in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka Friday against violence targeting the country's minority Hindus since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina quit and fled the country earlier this week. A school teacher was killed and at least 45 people injured as homes, businesses, and temples of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh were targeted following Hasina's resignation Monday. Protesters, some of them carrying posters demanding Bangladeshi minorities be "saved", chanted slogans of "who are we, Bengali Bengali" and appealed for peace as they blocked an intersection in the capital Friday. Hindus, who make up about 8% of Bangladesh's population of 170 million, have traditionally supported Hasina's Awami League party, which sparked people's anger after violent clashes between anti-quota protesters and security forces last month. Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council estimates at least 52 of the country's 64 districts have been impacted by communal violence since August 5 and has sought the help of Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Peace Prize winning economist who took charge as head of a caretaker administration Thursday. "There is deep apprehension, anxiety and uncertainty among minorities across the country," the council said in an open letter Friday.

we are not going to leave them alone. Awami League is the largest and oldest political party in Bangladesh, so we cannot just

walk away from our people. She will definitely return to Bangladesh once democracy is restored," he told PTI.

Plane crashes near Sao Paulo, all 62 on board presumed dead



At an event in southern Brazil, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked the crowd to stand and observe a minute of silence for the victims

REUTERS

Sao Paulo, August 9: An airliner with 62 people on board crashed in Brazil Friday and the country's president said that all passengers are presumed dead.

Video shared on social media showed what appeared to be the plane plunging down behind a cluster of trees, followed by a large plume of black smoke.

Airline Voepass said the plane, which had taken off from Cascavel, in the state of Parana, bound for Sao Paulo's main international airport, crashed in

the town of Vinhedo, about 80 km northwest of Sao Paulo.

The airline said it could not provide further information on what caused the plane, which had a PS-VPB registration, to crash.

The aircraft was listed by flight tracker FlightRadar24 as an ATR 72-500 turboprop. ATR is jointly owned by Airbus and Italian aerospace group Leonardo.

Speaking at an event, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked for a minute of silence for the victims of the crash, adding that all on board were presumed dead.

Firefighters, military police and the civil defense authority dispatched teams to the crash site in Vinhedo.

Brazilian television network GloboNews showed footage of a large area on fire and smoke coming out of an apparent plane fuselage in a residential area full of houses. Additional footage on GloboNews showed a plane drifting downward vertically, spiraling as it fell.

Emergency in Russia's Kursk

KYIV'S BIGGEST ATTACK ON RUSSIAN SOIL SINCE THE WAR BEGAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, August 9: Russia declared a "federal-level" emergency in the Kursk region following a large-scale incursion from Ukraine and sent reinforcements there Friday, four days after hundreds of Ukrainian troops poured across the border in what appeared to be Kyiv's biggest attack on Russian soil since the war began.

Meanwhile, a Russian plane-launched missile slammed into a Ukrainian shopping mall in the middle of the day, killing at least 14 people and wounding 44 others, authorities said.

The mall in Kostiantynivka, in the eastern Donetsk region, is located in the town's residential area. Thick black smoke rose above it after the strike.

"This is another targeted attack on a crowded place, another act of terror by the Russians," Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said in a Telegram post.

It was the second major strike on the town in almost a year. Last September, a Russian missile hit an outdoor market there, killing 17.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that reinforcements were on their way to the Kursk region to



counter Ukraine's daring raid. Russia is deploying multiple rocket launchers, towed artillery guns, tanks transported

on trailers and heavy tracked vehicles, the RIA-

Novosti news agency said, citing the Defence Ministry. "The operational situation in the Kursk region remains difficult," Kursk acting governor Alexei Smirnov said on Telegram.

The Russian Defence ministry reported fighting in the western outskirts of Sudzha, about 10 kilometres from the border. The town has an important pipeline transit hub for Russian

natural gas. Social services and civic associations are providing assistance to people forced to flee their homes by the fighting, he said. The last Russian figure for evacuations in Kursk was 3,000. Little reliable information about the surprise Ukrainian operation has emerged, and its strategic aims are unclear. Ukrainian officials have refused to comment specifically about the incursion, which is taking place about 500 kilometres southwest of Moscow.

But a top adviser to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that border region attacks will cause Russia to "start to realize that the war is slowly creeping inside of Russian territory". Myhailo Podolyak also suggested that the operation would improve Kyiv's hand in the event of negotiations with Moscow.

Eastern Europe's armies struggle to enlist young people

THE COUNTRIES HAVE STRUGGLED TO SIGN UP NEW SOLDIERS AND KEEP EXPERIENCED ONES IN A REGION WHERE POLAND, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA ALL SHARE A BORDER WITH UKRAINE

REUTERS

Czech Republic, August 9: As instructors shout commands, dozens of students taking part in a pilot Czech army programme aimed at boosting flagging enlistment numbers crawl through forest scrub carrying combat rifles and learning proper shooting positions.

Like most former Soviet-satellite states now in NATO, the Czech Republic has missed recruitment targets for years and struggled to maintain troop levels. This has left army units understaffed and unable to reach combat readiness, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, on eastern Europe's fringes, a stark reminder of Moscow's potential

threat to the region.

Around 80 Czech high school students chose to spend part of their summer learning about army life at the four-week training programme being conducted in a closed military zone 94 km west of the capital Prague.

But General Karel Rehka, the Czech armed forces chief, has called the current system unsustainable.

He told Reuters the programme run by the 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade, an army unit operating at just 50 percent of capacity due to a dearth of soldiers, gives students an early taste of army life.

"We want to deter any potential adversary in the future," Rehka said. "If we don't do any-

thing about the lack of human resources in the military, it may mean that we won't be able to preserve our peace and to deter any potential enemy."

In 2021 the Czechs reached 56 percent of their recruiting goal, rising to 85 percent in 2022, according to the most recent army data.

The Czechs are not alone. Countries across eastern Europe have struggled to sign up new soldiers and keep experienced ones in a region where Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia all share a border with Ukraine.

"We cannot do anything without people, if we modernise equipment and don't have enough competent people and motivated people, that is all wasted money," Rehka said.

EUROPEAN-WIDE PROBLEM

Western European nations in NATO face similar challenges. In July Reuters reported that NATO will need between 35 and 50 extra brigades to fully realise



We want to deter any potential adversary in the future," Rehka said. "If we don't do anything about the lack of human resources in the military, it may mean that we won't be able to preserve our peace and to deter any potential enemy

KAREL REHKA | ARMED FORCES CHIEF, CZECH REPUBLIC

its new plans to defend against any attack on alliance territory from Russia.

But the issue hits closer to home for the eastern European countries that spent four decades under Soviet domination and

have long warned about the threat from a more assertive Russia under President Vladimir Putin.

"We also see the probability of Russian aggression against us as not impossible within a

few years," Czech former deputy defence minister Tomas Kopecky, Prague's envoy on Ukraine reconstruction issues, told Reuters.

"So in case Russia attacks, we need to know we can count on a certain amount of soldiers and capabilities."

Governments have turned to digital marketing campaigns, raised enlistment bonuses and considered options include a Czech defence ministry decree, effective September 1, lowering the medical requirements for career soldiers, reservists and new recruits. But with unemployment rates low across eastern Europe, a major challenge is convincing young people to enlist for less money than they can earn in the private sector.

"We have challenges. They are related to the fact that the labour market here is very competitive," Major General Karol Dymowski, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Poland's armed forces, told Reuters.

business

of the day quote

The decline in India's exports of toys from \$177 million in 2021-22 to \$152 million in 2023-24 is due to overall decline in global demand of toys

JITIN PRASADA | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

There is a need to create an enabling framework to help Indian companies issue environmental, social and governance bonds locally

DIMPLE BHANDIA | CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER, RBI

We believe that there is a big potential to grow here in India. We have also already seen with the introduction of Urus we had a big percentage growth. We believe that also in the next year we will see a similar trend

FRANCESCO SCARDAONI | ASIA PACIFIC REGION DIRECTOR, AUTOMOBILI LAMBORGHINI

SHORT TAKES

ICL revenue down

New Delhi: India Cements Ltd Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹58.47 crore in June 2024 quarter even though its sales volume declined 26 per cent as capacity utilisation was severely hit due to continuous liquidity crunch. The Chennai-based company sold its grinding unit at Parli, Maharashtra in April and included the gain of ₹240.68 crore from the sold unit as an exceptional item in the quarterly profit. Before the exceptional items and tax, India Cements Ltd (ICL) had a loss of ₹147.97 crore in the quarter under review.

Grasim profit drops

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Group flagship holding firm Grasim Industries Ltd Friday reported a decline of 12 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹2,267.74 crore for the first quarter ending June 2024, on account of higher depreciation and interest charges on account of new growth businesses. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,576.35 crore during the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Grasim Industries, which controls leading group companies such as UltraTech, Aditya Birla Capital and Aditya Birla Renewables. Its revenue from operations was up 9 per cent to ₹33,860.75 crore during the quarter under review from ₹31,065.19 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Zydus profit surges

New Delhi: Zydus Lifesciences Friday said its consolidated net profit increased 31 per cent year on year to ₹1,420 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024 on the back of robust sales. The drug maker had reported a net profit of ₹1,087 crore in the April-June quarter of last fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to ₹6,207 crore in the period under review as compared to ₹5,140 crore in the June quarter of FY24, Zydus Lifesciences said in a statement.

Info Edge net rises

New Delhi: Internet firm Info Edge, which owns platforms like Naukri.com, Jeevansathi.com, Friday posted 75.6 per cent jump in consolidated profit at ₹258.8 crore for June quarter on account of all-round growth led by recruitment solutions. The company had posted a net profit of ₹147.4 crore for April-June FY24. Revenue from operations increased 8.1 per cent to ₹677 crore during the quarter from ₹626 crore a year ago. Revenue from the recruitment business grew 5.6 per cent year-on-year.



Global markets are demanding low-carbon products, and Indian steel producers not aligning with Low Emission Steel Standard may struggle to compete

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

PULSES IMPORT MAY FALL

India's import of pulses may decline to 40-45 lakh tonne this fiscal from 47.38 lakh tonne in the previous year, as a good monsoon is likely to result in higher domestic production and lower retail prices, industry body IPGA Chairman Bimal Kothari said Friday



EV OPTIMISM

Ola Electric surges 20% on market debut

THE COMPANY'S MARKET VALUATION STOOD AT ₹40,217.95CR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: Shares of Bhavish Aggarwal-led electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric Mobility Ltd surged 20 per cent to hit the upper circuit limit against the issue price of ₹76 after listing on a flat note earlier in the day Friday. The stock made its debut at ₹75.99, marginally down by 0.01 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. The stock made a smart comeback and jumped 19.97 per cent to ₹91.18 – the upper circuit limit.

At the NSE, shares of the firm listed at par with the issue price of ₹76. Later, the stock soared 20 per cent to ₹91.20 – its upper circuit limit, in a remarkable comeback. The company's market valuation stood at ₹40,217.95 crore. The ₹6,145-crore initial public offer of Ola Electric Mobility received 4.27 times subscription on the final day of bidding Tuesday. The initial share sale had a price band at ₹72-76 a share. The Initial Public Offering

Despite receiving demand well below street expectation, Ola listed well above street expectations can be attributed to market mood

PRASHANTH TAPSE | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES



(IPO), the first by an electric vehicle maker, had a fresh issue of up to ₹5,500 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of up to 8,49,41,997 equity shares.

According to its prospectus, Ola Electric Mobility Ltd (OEML) plans to utilise ₹1,227.6 crore out of the proceeds of its ₹5,500-crore public issue on capacity expansion of its cell manufactur-

ing plant to 6.4 GWh from 5 GWh. The company is also looking to use ₹1,600 crore from the fresh fund on research and product development, another ₹800 crore will be deployed to repay debts and ₹350 crore for organic growth initiatives.

In its Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), OEML said the Phase 1 (a) and Phase 1 (b) of the set up and expansion of the Ola Gigafactory at Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu will be funded from internal accruals and long-term borrowings availed by its arm Ola Cell Technologies Pvt Ltd (OCT).

The company said a portion of the proceeds will be used for capital expenditure to be incurred by OCT for expansion of the capacity of cell manufacturing plant from 5 GWh to 6.4 GWh.

AGAINST INSOLVENCY

Byju's US lenders appeal before SC

REUTERS

Delhi, August 9: Some overseas lenders to India's Byju's have appealed to the country's apex court opposing a verdict that had quashed insolvency proceedings against the embattled education startup.

US-based Glas Trust, representing some lenders of a Byju's group company, August 7 filed an appeal before Supreme Court, challenging an appeals tribunal's verdict that allowed Byju's and the cricket control board of the country to settle a \$19 million payment case.

Glas, earlier this month, opposed the settlement at the Indian appeals tribunal, but was rejected. Before the tribunal, Glas said founder Byju Raveendran and his brother used the money owed to lenders to clear the cricket board's dues.

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

The Supreme Court will take up Glas' plea Monday.

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

Forex reserves at record peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 9: India's forex reserves jumped by \$7.533 billion to a new record high of \$674.919 billion for the week ended August 2, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

The overall kitty had dropped by \$3.471 billion to \$667.386 billion in the previous reporting week ended July 26. The previous high for the reserves had stood at \$670.857 billion, reached July 18.

For the week ended August 2, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.162 billion to \$592.039 billion, the data released Friday showed.

Gold reserves increased by \$2.404 billion to \$60.099 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$41 million to \$18.161 billion, the apex bank said.

GLOBAL STOCKS RALLY

D-St bounces back

ON THE WEEKLY FRONT, THE BSE BENCHMARK SLUMPED 1,276.04 POINTS OR 1.57%, WHILE THE NIFTY DECLINED 350.2 POINTS OR 1.41%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 9: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded 1 per cent each Friday following buying in blue-chips such as Reliance and Infosys amid a rally in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex bounced back 819.69 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 79,705.91 with 28 of its constituents closing in green and two in red. The index opened higher amid gains in Asian markets and later surged 1,098.02 points or 1.39 per cent to hit a high of 79,984.24.

The NSE Nifty soared 250.50 points or 1.04 per cent to 24,367.50. During the day, it rallied 302.75 points or 1.25 per cent to 24,419.75. "Positive US jobless claims data eased the fears of recession and provided a favourable broader market reaction," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Most of the Sensex firms settled in the positive territory. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, JSW Steel, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries and Infosys were the biggest gainers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Maruti were the laggards. "The markets started strong, gaining over a per cent, buoyed by positive global cues," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.



Sensex bounced back 1.04% to settle at 79,705.91

Nifty soared 1.04% to end session at 24,367.50

Market investors became richer by ₹4.46 lakh crore Friday as stocks made a smart comeback after the previous day's decline, driven by a rally in global peers

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.21 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.79 per cent. All the indices ended in the positive territory, with IT surging 1.59 per cent, consumer discretionary by 1.57 per cent, realty by 1.56 per cent, auto by 1.51 per cent, teck by 1.41 per cent and capital goods by 1.37 per cent.

A total of 2,330 stocks advanced while 1,579 declined and 97 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong ended higher while Shanghai settled lower.

European markets were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended significantly higher Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,626.73 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.03 per cent to \$79.18 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark declined 581.79 points or 0.73 per cent to settle at 78,886.22 in a volatile trade on Thursday. The NSE Nifty retreated to settle lower by 180.50 points or 0.74 per cent to 24,117.

143rd birth anniversary of Central Bank founder

Bhubaneswar: Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar celebrated 143rd birth anniversary of Sorajji Pochhikhanawala, the founder of the bank. Regional Head Shrish Kumar Sharma, Deputy Regional Head Suresh Chandra, Chief Manager Balakrishna Swain and Chief Manager Mukund Kumar Karn inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamps and addressed all the centralites. The bank has launched new schemes like Cent Queen for Women - a new savings account exclusively for women to meet their financial needs along with accidental death insurance cover, Cent e-Vehicle for girl students, aged between 18 to 28 years, having an earning parents/spouse, Cent MSE Spice Scheme, Cent MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation and WhatsApp banking on this occasion.

Canara hikes lending rate by 5 bps across tenors

New Delhi: State-owned Canara Bank Friday raised the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points (0.05 percentage point), across tenors, making most of the consumer loans costlier. The benchmark one-year tenor MCLR, which is used to price most consumer loans such as auto and personal, will be at 9 per cent against the earlier rate of 8.95 per cent, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. The three-year MCLR will be 9.40 per cent, while for two-year will be 9.30 per cent, up 5 basis points. Among others, the rate of one month, three month and six month tenors will be in the range of 8.35-8.80 per cent. The MCLR on overnight tenor will be 8.25 per cent against 8.20 per cent. The new rates are effective from August 12, 2024. The rate hike has come a day after RBI kept its benchmark lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth consecutive time.

RISING ECONOMY

India becomes next big growth bet as China lags

From PepsiCo to P&G, global giants are pumping more money into India

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 9: India has become the next big bet for PepsiCo, Unilever and other packaged goods giants looking to fill the growth vacuum left by an uneven recovery in China. With India's economy expanding at the fastest pace among major emerging markets, companies are trying to serve its diverse palette by launching new flavors and size variants aimed at attracting the country's vast population and untapped rural market. Major consumer goods companies based in India, the world's most populous country, are expecting higher government

spending, a better monsoon season and a resurgence in private consumption to help consumer spending recover in the coming quarters.

That is expected to boost the combined market share of the top five multinational companies - Coca-Cola, P&G, PepsiCo, Unilever and Reckitt - to 20.53 per cent in 2023 from 19.27 per cent in 2022, mainly in the baby care, consumer health, cosmetics, beverage and household categories, according to research firm GlobalData.

Their total market share in China is forecast to shrink to 4.30 per cent in 2023 from 4.37 per cent in 2022, the data showed.

"China went through a long and extended Covid... they even went through a brief period of negative growth, and after this, growth has been very sluggish. In comparison to that, the



growth rate in India hovering around 4% seems like a healthy growth for total fast-moving consumer goods," said K Ramakrishnan, Managing Director, South Asia, at Kantar's Worldpanel Division. Both the urban and rural segments in India have seen growth, but rural has fared a little better, he said.

New products lined up Consumer goods companies have also been pumping money into India with launches like PepsiCo's Kurkure Chaat Fills, Coca-Cola's packaging upgrades to increase the shelf-life of its products and Nestle's plans to introduce its premium coffee brand Nespresso at year-end. As a result, Coca-Cola's house-

While the last decade had companies focused on selling into China, the next decade is about selling into India. You have to go where the demographic and economic tailwinds are at your back

BRIAN JACOBSEN | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ANNEX WEALTH MANAGEMENT

hold penetration in India increased by 24 per cent for the 12 months ended June, PepsiCo's by 12.7%, Nestle's by 6.7% and Reckitt's about 3.8%, data from Kantar showed.

Mondelez International is partnering with the Lotus Biscoff cookie brand to sell its products, and plans to launch new Oreo pack sizes this month. The company reported a mid-single-digit percentage growth in the chocolate category in India in the second quarter. Coca-Cola also

posted double-digit volume growth in India, while Unilever recorded sequential improvement in the country. PepsiCo's Africa, Middle East and South Asia region reported a rise, with the company expecting India to be the "big growth space" there.

The results contrast muted volume growth in the region last year for most of these companies. On the flip side, China has seen feeble demand.

KitKat maker Nestle reported a fall in total sales in the Greater China region in the latest quarter and said overall economic and consumer sentiment there was "clearly weaker than expected". "China has always been considered kind of the darling of growth for investors, but as we have seen that bloom is off the rose there," said Don Nesbitt, senior portfolio manager at F/M Investments.

Rivalry & Friendship beyond borders

CHOPRA TO GO FOR SURGERY SOON 'Competition with Neeraj helping me'

Javelin star says that he pushed himself just to participate in the Olympics despite adductor niggle

Paris, August 9: India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra opened up late Thursday night about his injury woes after clinching a silver medal in the Olympics. He revealed that he might have to undergo a surgery soon. He said he had pushed himself extremely hard to compete here while battling a constant fear of breaking down. Chopra was dealing with a nagging adductor niggle (a problem related to muscles in the thigh) in the run up to the Paris Games. But he managed a season's best effort of 89.45m to secure a silver medal, making him the first track-and-field athlete from India to have two Olympic medals, the first being an unprecedented gold in Tokyo.

"I have a lot on my mind. When I am throwing, 60-70 per cent focus of mine is on the injury. I don't want to get injured. Whenever I go for a throw, you will see that my speed is slow. I am pushing myself," Chopra informed.

"The doctor told me to go for surgery but I didn't have that much scope to take that decision, because it takes a lot of time to prepare for the



The doctor told me to go for surgery to cure my injury. I did not do so because it takes a long time to prepare for the Olympics," Chopra added.

The 26-year-old, despite not being at his best here, became only the third Indian sportsperson to win back-to-back Olympic medals after PV Sindhu and Sushil Kumar. "I am still pushing myself," Chopra said with a hint of frustration. "It's not good in sport, it's not good to push and continue. If you want to run a long career then you have to be fit and healthy but there are competitions where you can't make a decision. Now we will work on this and work on the technique. I will talk to my team and take a decision on surgery," the star spearman added.

Chopra said that he has been undergoing treatment for his niggle since 2017. As far as fitness is concerned, it has been a 'tough

time in the last seven years'. He didn't mention the 90m mark but Chopra said he has potential to achieve bigger throws. Chopra's career-best remains 89.94m which was achieved back in 2022. "When I scored an 88m in the 2018 Asian Games, I felt that I still have a lot of throws left. So, until that happens, I won't be able to find peace. And I want to tell you that there is a lot inside, he said without getting into the specifics. "And I will do it. I will keep my mind ready for the future. I will work on things. I will keep myself fit," asserted the Indian

"I had to go through very tough times to make it to this stage. That is the main reason why I have remained humble"

ARSHAD NADEEM

Paris, August 9: History-making Pakistan javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem is quite pleased that his rivalry with Indian superstar Neeraj Chopra is becoming as talked about as the cricketing battles between the two feuding neighbours. He believes this rivalry will fuel the sporting ambition of youngsters in both the nations.

Nadeem bested Chopra for the first time in their 11 face-offs to claim the Olympic gold medal with a sensational Games record of 92.97m here Thursday night. Chopra took the silver with a season's best effort of 89.45m. In the process Nadeem added another chapter to their storied rivalry.

"The rivalry is there when it comes to cricket matches and other sports, definitely. But at the same time, it is a good thing for youngsters in both countries who are pursuing a sport to follow us and follow their sports icons and bring laurels to their countries," the 27-year-old Nadeem told reporters after becoming the first Pakistani to clinch an individual Olympic gold medal.

Nadeem is also Pakistan's first individual medallist since the 1988 Seoul Olympics where boxer Hussain Shah claimed a middleweight bronze.

"Everyone prayed for me, and I was hopeful of doing well. Over the years, I got a knee injury and recovered, and worked hard on my fitness. I was even confident of throwing beyond 92.97m, but that throw was enough for me to get the gold," Nadeem said of his performance.

Nadeem and Chopra, despite being fierce competitors on the field, are good friends off it. A few months back, when Nadeem made a social media appeal for funds to buy a quality javelin, Chopra was among those who stepped forward to offer their support.

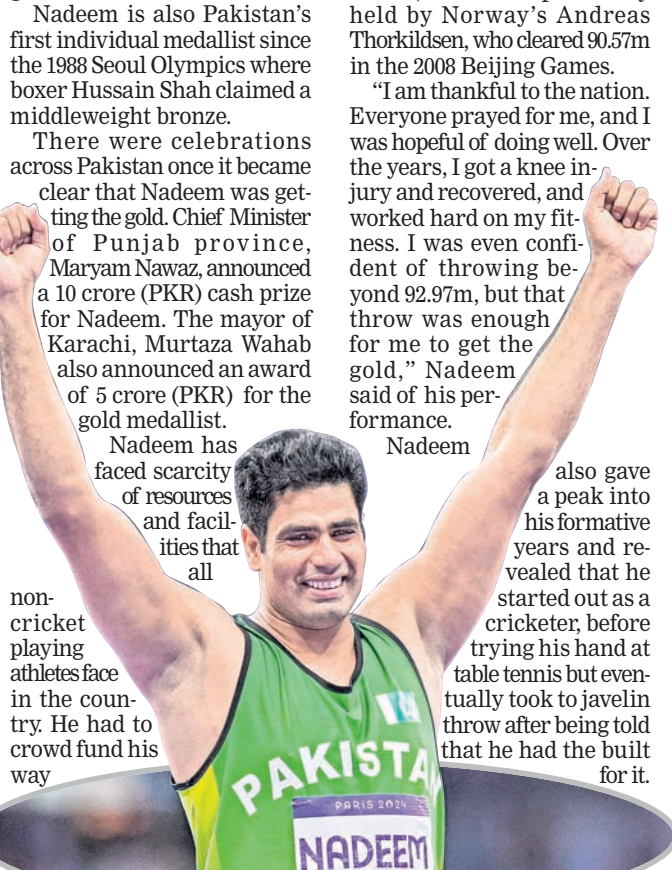
The over six feet tall Nadeem was the dark horse in Thursday night's final where Chopra entered as the top qualifier. But the Pakistani stunned the high-quality field with two throws that measured over 90m, one of them being a new Olympic record, which was previously held by Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen, who cleared 90.57m in the 2008 Beijing Games.

"I am thankful to the nation. Everyone prayed for me, and I was hopeful of doing well. Over the years, I got a knee injury and recovered, and worked hard on my fitness. I was even confident of throwing beyond 92.97m, but that throw was enough for me to get the gold," Nadeem said of his performance.

Equally happy for both: Saroj Devi

New Delhi: Elated over her son's silver medal, Neeraj Chopra's mother Saroj Devi also expressed happiness for Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who broke the Olympic record to beat the Indian defending champion in Paris. She said Nadeem is also like her 'child'. "We are very happy with Neeraj's silver. The one (Nadeem) who got gold is also our child and the one who got silver is also our child...all are athletes, all work hard," Saroj stated Friday. "Nadeem is also good, he plays well, there is no difference between Neeraj and Nadeem. We got gold and silver and there is no difference for us," she added. Both Chopra and Nadeem are good friends off the field despite being rivals on it. Chopra's fondness for 'desi khana' is well-documented and his family is planning to welcome the two-time Olympic medallist with his favourite dish 'Churma'. "He did really well. We will welcome him with churma which is his favourite. I am delighted, people are lighting firecrackers, we are making ladoos," Saroj added.

Chopra's aunt Kamlesh said that the family had an inkling that he was unlikely to win a gold after Nadeem's monstrous throw. "After Nadeem's throw (92.97m) we had a feeling (that he will win gold) but he is also our son, we are happy with him. He's also Asia's son. We don't differentiate between Nadeem and Neeraj. Both have got gold and silver and we are very happy," stated Kamlesh. "We're proud of Chopra for his achievement, not disheartened at all," she added.



Nadeem also gave a peak into his formative years and revealed that he started out as a cricketer, before trying his hand at table tennis but eventually took to javelin throw after being told that he had the built for it.

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR NEERAJ

New Delhi: Despite being dethroned as the Olympic champion, people from all walks of life, including President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Friday, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's silver-winning effort at the Paris Olympics, Thursday night. Here's what they had to say about Chopra.

Droupadi Murmu: Heartiest congratulations to Neeraj Chopra on winning silver medal in Paris Olympics and scripting history: He is the first Indian athlete to win a gold and a silver medal in two successive Olympic Games. India is proud of him. His feat will inspire generations to come. India looks forward to Neeraj Chopra bringing home more medals and glory in the future.

Narendra Modi: Neeraj Chopra is excellence personified! Time and again he's shown his brilliance. India is elated that he comes back with yet



another Olympic success. Congratulations to him on winning the silver.

Manu Bhaker: ONWARDS AND UPWARDS! He has done it once again, this time in Paris. @Neeraj_chopra1 you are truly one in a million. Congratulations on yet another medal at the Olympics!

Gagan Narang: Heart of GOLD gave us a Silver lining today. @Neeraj_chopra1 your hard work dedication perseverance and above all Humility is something all athletes need to emulate... Congratulations and best wishes for LA 2028..

I'll be cheering for you...CHAMPION.

Mansukh Mandaviya (Sports Minister): What a moment for Bharat! A Silver Medal for @Neeraj_chopra1. He has won his 2nd consecutive Olympic medal! This incredible achievement is historic—no individual in independent Bharat has ever done it before in athletics. Congratulations Neeraj, you've inspired a nation and shown the world what determination and excellence look like.

Gautam Gambhir: The icon never returns without bringing joy to every Indian! #NeerajChopra.

Mohammed Shami: Congratulations to Neeraj Chopra for clinching the silver medal at the Olympics. Your perseverance and passion continue to inspire the nation. You've shown once again that there are no limits to achieving dreams through hard work and dedication.

Covid-hit Lyles ends 3rd in 200m US down Serbia in basketball thriller

STEPHEN CURRY, KEVIN DURANT INSPIRE INCREDIBLE COMEBACK FOR CHAMPS

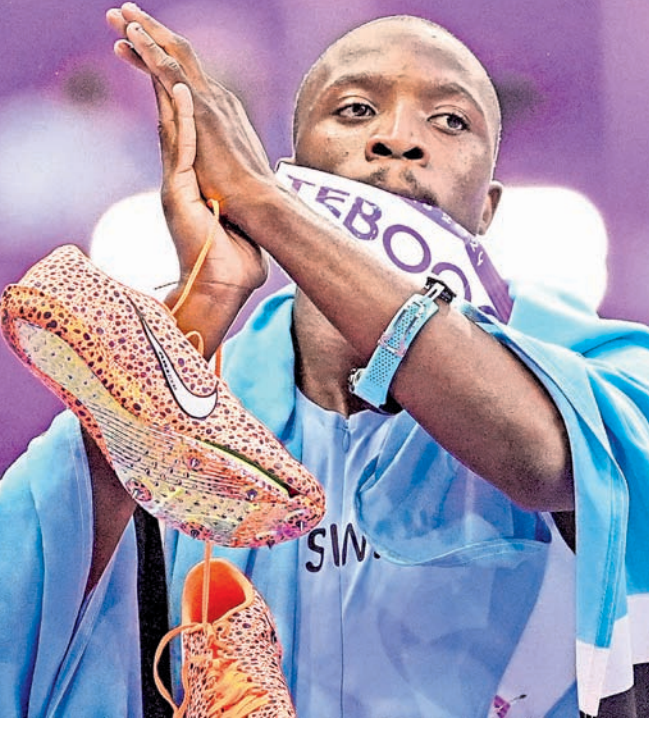
Paris, August 9: Noah Lyles, who tested positive for Covid-19 Tuesday and took bronze in the Olympic 200 metres sprint Thursday, said the virus 'definitely' affected his performance, and that he had been coughing through the night ahead of the race. The US athlete, who has asthma, was taken off the track in a wheelchair after the finish as he battled to catch his breath and tore his singlet half off.

"I was quite light-headed after that race. Shortness of breath, chest pain, but after a while I could catch my breath and get my wits about me," Lyles said later.

"It definitely affected my performance. I've had to take a lot of breaks... I was coughing through the night. I'm more proud of myself than anything, coming out here to get a bronze with Covid-19," Lyles added.

Letsile Tsegbo won the 200 to claim Botswana's first ever Olympic gold. After his feat he said, "I can't be the face of athletics as I'm not a loud or arrogant person like Noah."

Questions however, are being asked as to how Lyles was allowed to compete with Covid and then permitted to mingle with other athletes. Many have pointed out that since the development came in the last leg of the Olympics, the



issue will not raise a storm.

Lyles had woken up in the middle of the night Tuesday with chills, aching, and a sore throat, he said, and his team then got him on 'as much medication as we legally could to make sure my body could keep

the momentum going'.

In a later post on Instagram, Lyles, who took gold in the 100m sprint last week, said he believed his Olympics was over, indicating he will not compete in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays he was targeting.

Paris, August 9: Down by 11 points in the fourth quarter, against what looked like overwhelming odds, the US Olympic men's basketball team got a spark.

Six points in two seconds was the story. Kevin Durant and Devin Booker provided that wild sequence to start the comeback, Stephen Curry had a scoring night like almost none other in US Olympic history, and the Americans will play for gold at the Paris Games. Curry scored 36 points, including a go-ahead three-pointer with 2:16 seconds left, and the US beat Serbia 95-91 in a semifinal classic Thursday night.

LeBron James had the fourth triple-double in Olympic history for the US, who trailed by 17 points in the first half – the biggest deficit successfully overcome by an American team since NBA players were added to the Olympic mix in 1992. "I've seen a lot of Team USA basketball," Curry said. "And that was a special one."

Serbia led by 11 with 7:19 seconds left. The rest of the way, it was all US. The Americans won a game where they led for three



minutes, 25 seconds. Serbia led for 35:12 – nearly 90% of the game and yet lost.

It'll be the US against hosts France for gold in a dream matchup for the host nation Saturday. The gold medal game is a rematch from the Tokyo Games three years ago, where the Americans prevailed 87-82.

"I'm really humbled to have been a part of this game," US coach Steve Kerr said, tipping his hat multiple times to Serbia. "It's one of the greatest basketball games I've ever been a part of. They (Serbia) were perfect and they played a perfect game. They forced us to reach the highest level of competition that we could find. And our guys were incredible in that fourth quarter, and they got it done," added Kerr.

Hockey attracts more emotion: Sreejesh

Verdict on Vinesh before Games end

HEARING IN CAS AD-HOC DIVISION CONCLUDES WITH IOA EXPECTING A POSITIVE RESOLUTION

AGENCIES

Paris, August 9: The hearing into Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification from the Olympic finals concluded at the ad-hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) here with the IOA insisting that it is hopeful of a 'positive resolution'. The ad-hoc division said that a decision can be expected before the end of the Games Sunday.

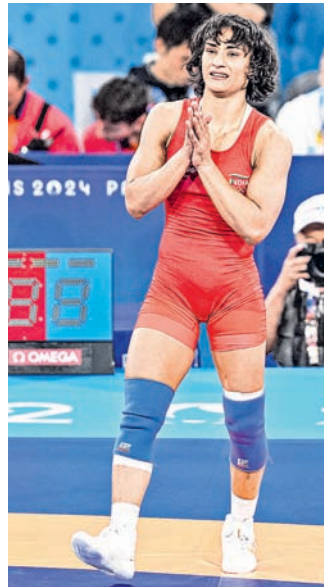
This was after the CAS ad-hoc division, set up especially for dispute resolution during the Games accepted Vinesh's appeal against her ouster for being 100gm overweight on the morning of her final against eventual gold-winner Sarah Ann Hildebrandt of USA.

"Indian Olympic Association remained hopeful of a positive resolution of wrestler Vinesh Phogat's application before the Ad-hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against her failed weigh-in," the IOA said in a statement.

In her appeal, Vinesh has demanded that she be given a joint silver medal with Lopez as she was within the prescribed weight limit during her bouts Tuesday. She was represented by high-profile senior advocates Harish Salve and Vidushpat Singhania.

"Since the matter is sub-judice, IOA can only state that the Sole Arbitrator Dr Annabelle Bennett AC SC (Australia) heard all parties including applicant Vinesh Phogat, the respondents United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as well as IOA as an interested party over three hours," the IOA stated.

"All concerned parties were given an opportunity to file their detailed legal submissions prior



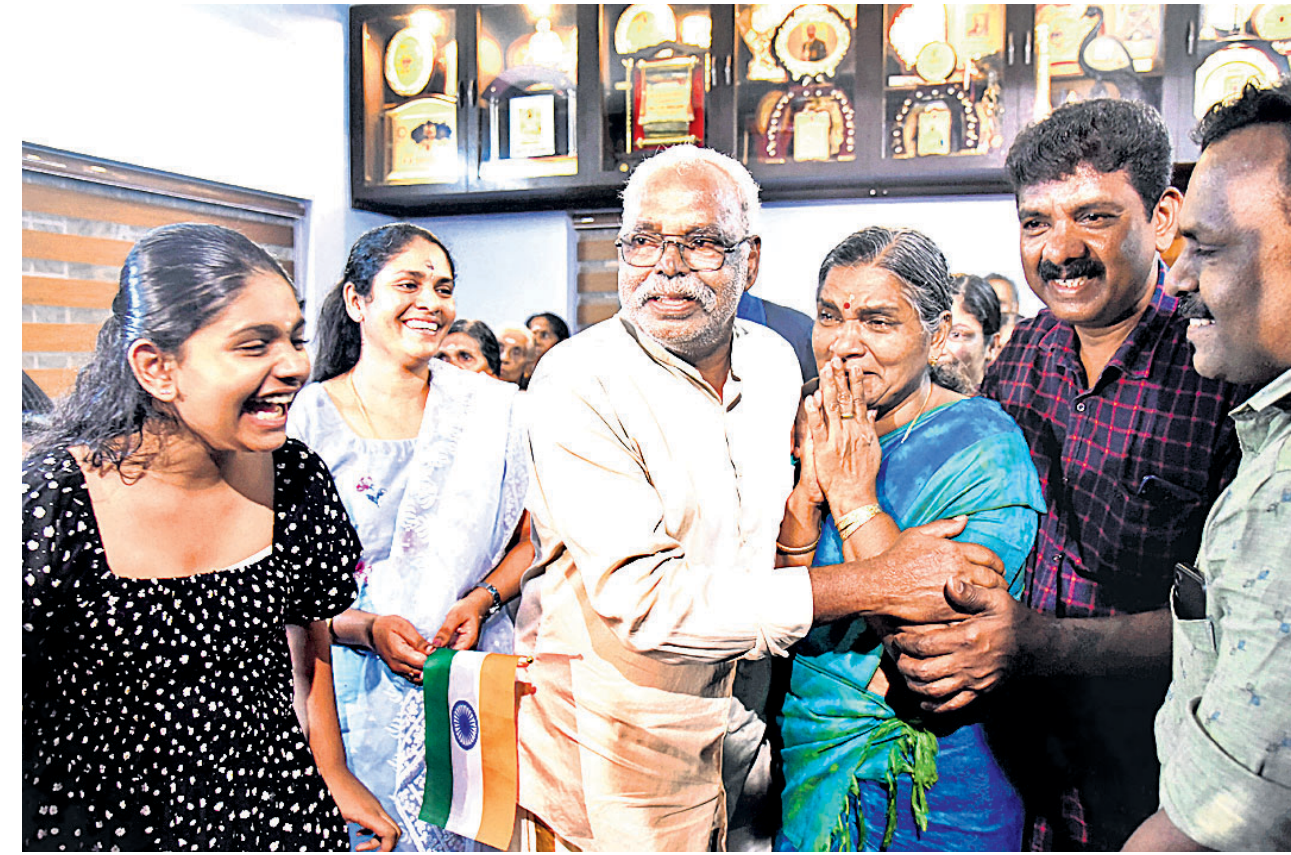
to the hearing and then present oral arguments. It was indicated by the Sole Arbitrator that the operative part of the order may be expected soon, with a detailed order with reasons to follow thereafter," the IOA said.

The body's head PT Usha thanked Salve and Singhania as well as the 'Krida Legal' team for their assistance and arguments during the hearing. "IOA deems its duty to back Vinesh and would like to reaffirm its steadfast, unflinching, and unwavering support to her, regardless of the outcome of this matter. We are proud of her countless achievements on the wrestling mat throughout her stellar career," Usha said.

Reacting to the current situation, IOC president Thomas Bach said Friday he has a 'certain understanding' for Vinesh but also wondered where one would draw the line after allowing small concessions in situations like hers.



PTI PHOTOS



PR Sreejesh's family including his wife, Aneeshya (2nd from left) celebrates at his home after the end of the game, Thursday; (R) Sreejesh smiles as he leaves the turf for the last time in Paris

AGENCIES

Paris, August 9: Retiring Indian men's team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh said Thursday that even though cricket commands more attention in India, but it is always special when the hockey team win a medal. Sreejesh retired from international hockey after India clinched a second consecutive bronze medal with a 2-1 win against Spain here.

"I'm not trying to trick you. See, cricket is a beautiful game, definitely. As like you, all the media showcases cricket a lot, and the others are not getting the opportunity to watch hockey, that is one of the reasons," he told reporters here.

Sreejesh said while there is a

big financial difference between the two sports, hockey still has a lot of emotions attached to it. "There is a huge financial difference between the two sports. But, when it comes to hockey, we've got the emotions. The entire country attaches to the emotion by hockey," Sreejesh stated.

"Our PM (Narendra Modi) said this, whatever things happen, whoever wins a medal, but when Indian hockey teams win a medal, that's special, and we feel it. Sometimes when you count money or emotions, the love, I think, money says no," he added.

Meanwhile Sreejesh's family, including his wife Aneeshya Sreejesh, is planning celebrations in a big manner when Sreejesh returns to his home in

There is huge financial difference between cricket and hockey, but definitely more emotion is attached to hockey

PR SREEJESH

Kerala's Kizhakkambalam. Aneeshya, a former long-jumper herself is planning to cook some of his favourite dishes. "I am not only his wife, but also a die-hard fan. Being a fan I will definitely miss him on the field and being his wife, I will get more of his time. So I am happy and sad at the same time. Both the emotions are there," Aneeshya said Friday.

"I will cook traditional Kerala food for him, vegetarian and non-vegetarian both. He loves it so much and I know he must be craving it. Now that he has retired, there will be no restrictions on eating," she added.

Aneeshya informed that big celebrations are on the cards once Sreejesh returns. "We haven't planned celebrations yet but there will be a lot of people to welcome him. His brother has come from Canada with his family. The whole family has gathered here. It's a big moment for us," she informed.

"There were around 50 people here Thursday. Everyone congratulated us and it is a moment of immense pride that we won two consecutive medals

in the Olympics. He has retired after winning a medal for India, it is a reward for his passion and dedication for the game. I was about to cry when the game ended Thursday, but controlled myself," added the proud wife.

Not many know that Sreejesh used three special sticks in the Paris Olympics with his kids and wife's name written on them. In the quarterfinal match against Britain, he used the stick with Aneeshya's name on it.

"For the shootout, he used the stick with my name written on it and it also has my favourite colour," she said. For regular matches, he used the sticks with our kids' names 'Anushree' and 'Sriyansh' written on them.

SHORT TAKES

H.E.R to perform in closing ceremony

Paris: H.E.R. will perform during the closing ceremony at the Paris Olympics. The five-time Grammy winner is expected to sing the US national anthem live at the Stade de France as part of the handover for the Los Angeles Summer Games in 2028. H.E.R. has won an Oscar, Emmy and Grammy awards during her decorated career. Los Angeles will host the Olympics for the third time, with previous Games being held in 1984 and 1932.

Wrestler arrested

Paris: An Egyptian Olympic wrestler has been arrested here on sexual assault charges, French prosecutors said Friday. The 26-year-old athlete was detained early Friday after allegedly groping a woman outside a cafe, according to a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office. The office did not name the wrestler but said he was born in Egypt and was here to compete in the Olympics. The Egyptian wrestling federation did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Day-night tour game for India

Canberra: The visiting Indian cricket team will play a two-day day-night tour match against Australia's Prime Minister's XI between the first two Tests of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy later this year. India and Australia meet in five-Test series starting November in Perth. The Indian team will play a day-night tour match against the Prime Minister's XI at the Manuka Oval in Canberra November 30 and December 1, Cricket Australia said on their website. The fixture has been added in the itinerary to help the Indian team prepare for the day-night Test at Adelaide, having played one such game on their previous tour in 2020-21.

Easy victory

Montreal: Jannik Sinner opened his National Bank Open tennis tournament title defence with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric here Thursday. Sinner missed the Olympics because of tonsillitis after a quarterfinal loss to Daniil Medvedev at Wimbledon. In January, Sinner beat Medvedev in the Australian Open for his first Grand Slam title. "Very happy and excited to go back on court," Sinner said.

Indian relay teams fare poorly; bow out



Poor change of batons by the Indian relay runners (2nd from) left cost the team dearly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 9: The Indian men's 4x400m relay team failed to live up to expectations as they finished 10th overall in the heats to miss a final round spot in the Paris Olympics here Friday.

The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal, Amoj Jacob and Rajesh Ramesh clocked a season's best of 3 minutes and 0.58 seconds but that was enough only for a fourth-place finish in Heat number 2 and 10th overall out of 16 teams.

The top three teams in each of the two heats and the next two fastest across the two heats advanced to the final. Botswana (2:57.76s), Great Britain (2:58.88s) and USA (2:59.15s) were the top three while Japan was fourth

with a time of 2:59.48s.

India hold the Asian record of 2:59.05 which it had clocked during the 2023 Budapest World Championships where the team was briefly running alongside the formidable USA.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had pinned a lot of hope on the men's 4x400m relay team to make it to the final round, but they failed to do so ultimately.

The women's 4x400m relay team also failed to qualify for the final after finishing 15th overall out of the 16 countries that competed in the round one heats.

The quartet of Vithya Ramraj, Jyothika Sri Dandi, MR Poovamma and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3:32.51 seconds to finish eighth and last in Heat number 2 and 15th overall.

Gender scrutiny rears ugly head again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 9: It's 15 years ago this month that a teenage runner from South Africa was publicly scrutinised over her sex at a major sports event. The lesson everyone was meant to take from that was: never again.

Yet, the humiliation Caster Semenya faced has been repeated for two women competing in boxing at the Paris Olympics, exposing more female athletes to hurtful remarks and online abuse in a contentious divide over sex, gender and identity in sports.

While Imane Khelif of Algeria and Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan could be basking in the pride of winning fights for their countries, they are instead having their sex questioned in front of the world after the Olympics-banned boxing federation claimed they failed sex verification tests last year but has given little information about them.

Olympic officials have called the arbitrary testing 'so flawed that it's impossible to engage with it' and stressed that both boxers were assigned female at birth, identified as women and are eligible to compete in women's competitions.

The two have still been bombarded with hateful remarks, sometimes from prominent people outside of the sports world. "This has effects, massive effects," Khelif said in Arabic in a recent interview with *SN7V*, a sports partner of this agency. "It can destroy people; it can kill people's thoughts, spirit



BOXER IMANE KHELIF OF ALGERIA

and mind. It can divide people," she added.

Their stories bear many resemblances to that of Semenya, the runner whose arrival in elite track and field at the 2009 World Championships forced the sports world to confront an issue that is highly complex and also still largely characterised by the same misconceptions as back then.

The noise around Khelif and Lin has mostly been an ill-informed outcry, with many repeating false claims — that have been amplified by Russian disinformation networks — that the two are men or transgenders.

Semenya experienced the same vitriol. Her reaction to the degrading treatment of Khelif and Lin has been to ask how sports authorities couldn't stop this from happening again.

"Sport is for all people and the constitution says no to discrimination. But the minute they allowed women to be disgraced, it confuses us," Semenya said in an interview this week with the website *SportsBoom.com*. She called for leadership that 'safeguards, protects and respects women'.

Indian sprinter Dutee Chand, also has waged a legal battle against the testosterone regulations and several other runners have been affected and sidelined over the last decade in track and field, the sport that has been most affected by the issue.

Like Semenya, Khelif and Lin will return home with medals of achievement, but possibly burdened by what kind of reaction and misconceptions might follow them. Khelif is 25 years old. Lin is 28.

Sreejesh set to don coach's hat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 9: The 'Great Wall of Indian Hockey' PR Sreejesh will soon be seen in a new role following his retirement from the sport, with Hockey India (HI) set to announce him as the coach of the junior national team. Sreejesh, 36, brought the curtain down on his illustrious goalkeeping career following India's victory over Spain in the bronze-medal match Thursday.

"Yes, we will appoint Sreejesh as the men's junior team coach (under-21) in a few days. We have discussed this with him and there is no one better than him to guide and nurture the youngsters," HI president Dilip Tirkey told this agency from Paris. "He has extraordinary capabilities, which he showed in Paris against Britain. Not just that, he will also be guiding the younger generations of goalkeepers," added Tirkey.

Hockey India also wants Sreejesh to guide the current senior team goalkeepers, Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera, who will replace him in the side. "We would also like Sreejesh to be involved in guiding Krishan and Suraj who are going to replace him. He has vast experience and knows the tricks of the trade," Tirkey informed.

Dream comes true for Poland's Belarusian runner

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint-Denis (France), August 9: Three years ago, Krystsina Tsimanouskaya's Olympics ended in a dramatic stand-off at a Tokyo airport when officials from the Belarus team tried to send her home against her will. She's back at the Paris Olympics representing a new country and looking to settle some unfinished business.

"My No. 1 aim was go out there and run exactly that event that I wasn't able to run in Tokyo," Tsimanouskaya told this agency Thursday night after completing her last race of the Paris Olympics, running the 4x100 me-

tres relay with the Poland team. A diplomatic incident erupted at the Tokyo Games when the Belarus team sent Tsimanouskaya to the airport and she appealed to Japanese police for help. She had criticised Belarus' coaches after they tried to force her to enter the 4x400 metres relay, which she had never raced before.

Tsimanouskaya was barred from running her preferred race, the 200m, and said that Belarusian officials tried to make her board a flight before the police at the airport intervened to help her. Tsimanouskaya said at the time she feared reprisals if she returned to Belarus and



had been warned by her grandmother to stay away. Tsimanouskaya received help to relocate to Poland, where she soon settled in. Now, competing for Poland, she ran her preferred 200m and the 4x100 relay here. Tsimanouskaya lost in the

new repechage round of the 200m and missed the relay final by .22 seconds, but said she wasn't too disappointed.

Two Belarusian coaches were stripped of their Olympic credentials over the Tokyo incident and one of them, Yury Moisevich, was banned from any role in track and field for five years in February after a tribunal ruled his actions were an abuse of power.

Tsimanouskaya speaks fluent Polish. She said she feels accepted in Warsaw, where she works as a personal trainer and influencer and has discovered a love of painting. Her past in Belarus still follows her. She said

she has received online threats. She said her new team warned her safety could be at risk here.

"Before coming here, representatives of the (Polish) team warned me I'd better be on my guard and not leave the (Olympic) Village alone, because they too are worried that something could happen. And in Tokyo, for example, on the Belarus team there were KGB (security service) representatives," she informed. "So, I wouldn't be surprised if there were some strange people even among these neutrals. And that's why, just because of that, I'm still a little worried for myself even now," Tsimanouskaya signed off.