

HINDENBURG HEAT ON SEBI

Congress says the latest revelations only reinforce its demand for setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the full scope of the Adani mega scam

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: Even as Sebi head Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch slammed the Hindenburg Research report as 'baseless' the Congress demanded Sunday a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the matter. The Trinamool Congress (TMC), on the other hand, demanded that either Madhabi should resign or should be suspended immediately

Left Parties too supported the demand for a JPC probe into the SEBI-Adani nexus.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the integrity of SEBI has been 'gravely compromised' by the allegations against its chairperson and asked whether the Supreme Court would look into this matter suo motu once again. "The integrity of SEBI, the securities regulator entrusted with safeguarding the wealth of small

retail investors, has been gravely compromised by the allegations against its chairperson," Rahul said on 'X'

"Hindenburg Research' had alleged that it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to act against Adani Group may be because Madhabi had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate. The allegation was refuted by the SEBI head while Adani Group said it never had any commercial relations with the Buchs.

Latching on to the Hindenburg allegations, Congress said the revelations only reinforced its demand for setting up a 'Joint Parliamentary Committee' to investigate the full scope of the Adani mega scam. "This raises fresh questions



Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

about Gautam Adani's two 2022 meetings in quick succession with Ms Buch shortly after she became SEBI chairperson. Recall that SEBI was supposedly investigating Adani transactions at the time," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge also asserted that JPC inquiry is imperative to probe this 'massive scandal'. He alleged that until a JPC probes the issue, concerns persist that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to 'shield his ally', compromising India's Constitutional institutions, painstakingly built over seven decades.

"SEBI had previously cleared Adani, a close associate of PM Modi, before the Supreme Court following the January 2023 Hindenburg Report revelations. However, new allegations have surfaced regarding a quid-pro quo involving the SEBI chief," Kharge said.

"The small and medium investors belonging to the middle

class who invest their hard-earned money in the stock market need to be protected, as they believe in SEBI," Kharge added.

Madhabi and Dhaval in a joint statement strongly denied the 'baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report'.

"Our lives and finances are an open book," they said. "It is unfortunate that 'Hindenburg Research' against whom SEBI has taken an enforcement action and issued a show cause notice has chosen to attempt character assassination in response to the same," they added.

Separately, Adani Group in a regulatory filing called the allegations by Hindenburg as 'malicious, mischievous and manipulative'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If we truly want a fair investigation, sir, we can't rely on our govt agencies

Majhi urges Mamata to ensure potato supply

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi spoke Sunday to his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee and requested her to improve the supply of potatoes.

During the telephonic conversation, Majhi said the supply of potatoes to Odisha had improved after their meeting in New Delhi, but now the situation has deteriorated again. The CM urged Banerjee to intervene in the matter and resolve the problem, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

"Banerjee has assured the CM of appropriate steps to resolve the issue," the statement added. Majhi also told Banerjee that the disruptions in supply of tuber are 'causing immense problems to the consumers in the state'.

The Odisha CM dialled Banerjee after the West Bengal police al-

legedly installed CCTV cameras in border villages to check unauthorised transportation of potatoes to Odisha.

Meanwhile the Odisha government has started selling potatoes at ₹100 for three kilograms in retail shops across the state under the public distribution system (PDS).

Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra said Sunday potatoes have been sent to various places in the state through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

"After this move by the government, traders have also started releasing potatoes in the market. I am hopeful that they would sell the tuber at a reasonable price," the minister told reporters here.

Odisha has been facing an acute potato crisis after neighbouring West Bengal stopped the transportation of the tuber.

Two held in Airfield double murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Four days after the sensational double murder case in Kuha village under Airfield police station limits, the Special Squad of the Commissionerate Police arrested two persons from Hansapal locality. The two who were allegedly involved in the gruesome murders went underground to evade police action. Sources said a two-wheeler and a knife have been seized from the duo following their arrest.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said the accused were identified as Ganesh Mallick, 34, and Pradeep Mallick, 39. They are cousins. Following the murders, Ganesh and Pradeep fled to Puri and Chandikhol

respectively to evade arrest. The cops, however, tracked the duo's location after assessing their Call Data Records (CDR) and scanning CCTV footages of nearby areas. While the two were returning home, around 11.00pm, Saturday, the cops laid a trap near Hansapal area and arrested the duo.

Singh said the victims, Rashmiranjan Sethi, 24 and Sambit Rout, 23, were stabbed to death over a parking dispute near Block-5 of Kalyani Plaza, a residential apartment August 7. The duo succumbed to the serious injuries inflicted on the chest and stomach, while they were being taken to Capital Hospital.

Airfield police have booked the two arrested under Sections 115(2), 117 (2), 126 (2), 103 (1) and 3 (5) of the BNS.

Former Minister Natwar Singh dead

New Delhi: Former External Affairs Minister (EAM) K Natwar Singh passed away Saturday night after prolonged illness, family sources said here Sunday. He was 93. He breathed his last at a hospital in Gurgaon where he had been undergoing treatment for the past couple of weeks, they said. Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. A former Congress MP, Singh was India's External Affairs Minister for the period 2004-05 during the UPA-I government led by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He also served as ambassador to Pakistan and was attached to the office of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1966 to 1971.

DADLS-19

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ବୁଝାଇବା ଦେଶଭକ୍ତିର ଗଜା ଘରେ ଘରେ ଉଡ଼ାଇବା ତ୍ରିରଙ୍ଗା

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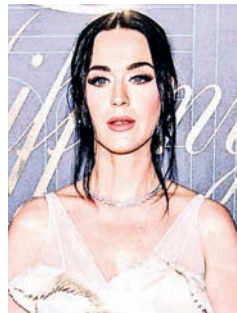
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ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

OIPR-15001/13/0056/2425

leisure



KATY PERRY RUBS LINT ROLLER OVER HER FEET AT NIGHT

Singer Katy Perry has opened up about her weird nighttime routine, which involves cleaning her feet with a lint roller before she hits the sack. Perry said, "I swear by my lint roller. I will lint roll the bottom of my feet before I get into bed," reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

SADIE SINK IS HAVING AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT

Actress Sadie Sink, who stars as Max in the science fiction horror drama television series *Stranger Things*, cannot believe that the show is coming to an end, as she looked back on her time filming the fifth and final season, reports *Entertainment Tonight*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

TAURUS

Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with someone close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy.

GEMINI

You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted. An auspicious and joy-filled day awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER

People will be stunned at the swift pace of your work. All your pending tasks and projects will be fruitful. But Ganesh advises you not to do anything haphazardly or in any careless manner. Ganesh thinks you as an extraordinary orator.

LEO

Financial gains will make you happy today. You will have the opportunity to participate in social functions. All your work will get completed as per schedule. You will be able to channel your energy effectively, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Consummation of work and success will be the high points today, says Ganesh. You will gain the much needed appreciation for your dedication to work and your desire to succeed in whatever you do. A long-awaited promotion may materialise today, and there is also the bright prospect of some monetary arrears coming your way.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that today is going to be an unforgettable day for all those people who are in love or a romantic relationship. If you plan to propose to your beloved today is a good opportunity for it as success will come easily to you. You will be able to spend a day filled with joy, happiness.

SCORPIO

Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesh, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

SAGITTARIUS

Your stars are mighty today and plan a pleasant day for you, says Ganesh. You are a thorough professional and garner compliments for this attitude. You also have a knack to sail through all the troubles at work. This approach of yours is sure to win hearts of people and add some names in your friends' list

CAPRICORN

You love your family and you will try your best to live up to the expectations of your family members. If you are a student, you will finish up your existing projects and get on with some fresh assignments, foretells Ganesh. Don't block your imagination; give yourself some freedom so that you can test your creativity and talent.

AQUARIUS

You may have to remain indoors today. But, don't think that you will get bored. You can do a lot of things, like playing cards and other board games, reading, watching the natural world around, and what not.

PISCES

You will race ahead of you competition today. No matter what field you are in, you will find yourself at an advantageous point, well ahead of your contemporaries. You will be able to complete the task at hand with lesser effort than required. Do not let this translate into arrogance as it may come to haunt you in the future, advises Ganesh. The evening will provide for a romantic recluse with your loved one.

Deepshikha on being typecast

Mumbai: Actress Deepshikha Nagpal, reflecting on her 30-year career across television, OTT, and film, shared that she felt typecast in negative roles but expressed surprise and delight at being cast in a positive role for *Megha Barseenge*. Despite past typecasting, she remains optimistic and grateful for ongoing opportunities in the industry.

In an exclusive interview with a media agency, Nagpal revealed her surprise at being cast in a positive role for her latest show, *Megha Barseenge*, after previously being known for her villainous characters.

She discussed how she has been often cast in glamorous, strong, and negative roles. When approached with a negative character, she enquires about the motivations behind the role, emphasising that not everyone is inherently negative. Instead, certain emotions drive their negative traits, which she brings to life in her performances.



In her previous show, where she played a positive role, Deepshikha was initially surprised and delighted when approached by the channel. She questioned whether they were certain about casting her, given her casting in negative roles. Despite her belief that she might never be cast in positive roles, she revealed that she is inherently positive and optimistic in real life.

Nagpal expressed contentment with her place in the industry, despite any complaints. She emphasised her positive outlook, noting that being active in the field and having the opportunity to choose roles signifies her continued relevance and luck. She appreciates that she still has options and feels fortunate to be where she is.

New Delhi: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan was his usual charming and witty self at the 77th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland, where he received the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera award—Locarno Tourism, or career leopard, for his contribution to cinema.

The 58-year-old, who is the first Indian personality to be felicitated with the honour, was presented with the award at the Piazza Grande square, packed with an 8,000-strong crowd.



SRK honoured at Swiss film fest

In his award acceptance speech, the *Dilwale* actor thanked the audience and Locarno Film Festival's artistic director, Giona A. Nazzaro, for their warm welcome. "I want to thank you all for welcoming me with such wide arms, wider than the ones I do on screen, to this really pretty, very beautiful, cultural, artistic, and extremely hot city of Locarno. So many people stuffed up in a little square and so hot, it's just like being at home in India. Thank you so much for having me here; it's been a wonderful last two evenings," he said.

"Cinema is the most profound and influential artistic medium of our age. Art is the act of affirming life above all. It transcends every man-made boundary into a space of liberation. It doesn't need to be political, polemical, or even moralizing. Art and cinema only need to express their truth from the heart. I feel encouraged after being awarded the Pardo alla Carriera Ascona-Locarno Tourism at the film gala," he continued.

Wrapping up his speech, the actor said he accepted the award with humility, kindness, and goodness and with the promise that awards like this encourage me to keep trying to embody all the facets of life, emotions, and to try to give that one more take, one more shot, one more emotion.

Radhikka finds tag of TV actor harsh

Mumbai: Radhikka Madan, who started off her career with television, has now emerged as one of the most sought-after actresses in the industry. The actress, who made a mark in the industry with her films like *Pataakha*, *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*, *Angrezi Medium*, and *Shiddat*, has now opened up about how earlier the tags of a television actor vs movie actor were 'pretty harsh'.

In a recent interview with an entertainment portal, the young actress shared that the transition from television to films was not at all easy. She said earlier, one had a tag of either a television actor or a movie actor, and there was no space in between. She stated that the tags were pretty harsh; however, she never believed in them.

She also expressed that nobody asked her about such tags, as all they asked her after the audition was whether she had done some work earlier. She added that though she has never experienced such distinction, a lot of other people scared her by telling her that TV actors are not looked at or called for auditions. She also

spoke about auditioning with Mukesh Chhabra and Shanoos Sharma, and they were very courteous. She added that they didn't judge her and only commented on what she was performing, and that seemed fair at that point. She also said that it is unfair to attribute actors to mediums, as 'an actor is an actor'.



Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi said that sometimes even she cannot believe what she puts her body through as she listed out what all she did on a day. However, she added that she would not want it any other way.

Huma took to Instagram stories, where she shared a photograph of herself as she sat in a dimly lit place. She listed out the things she did in a day, she wrote: Sometimes I can't believe what I put my body thru...Whole full day near Ajmer, cardio after pack up, watch the olympics (obvio), drive three hours to Jaipur, catch a flight at 6 am, land at 8 am and straight to shoot."

However, Huma does not mind it, as she tagged it as her 'best life'. "Who am I kidding? Best life...would not want it any other way. Blessed grateful for everything in my life #gratitude," she wrote.

On the work front, the 38-year-old actress will be seen next in *Bayaan*, *Jolly LLB 3*, and *Gulabi*.

Huma on living her 'best life'



PEANUTS



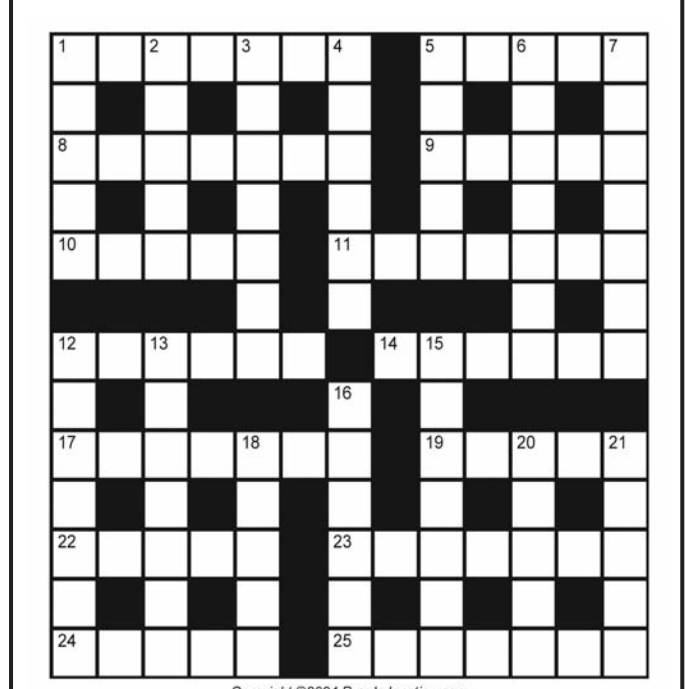
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Paving material
 - 5 Stockpile
 - 8 Bolt with the loot
 - 9 Public persona
 - 10 Recipe direction
 - 11 Blown away
 - 12 Fireside
 - 14 Kind of sauce
 - 17 Type of can or man
 - 19 Grocery section
 - 22 Squirrel's stash
 - 23 Pingpong items
 - 24 Short simple song
 - 25 Connipion fit
 - 6 Versus
 - 7 Slight
 - 12 Allan Quatermain creator
 - 13 Traveller's destination
 - 15 *Arabian Nights* character
 - 16 Tyrant
 - 18 Needle
 - 20 Kind of panel
 - 21 England's ___ Downs

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

G	S	O	T	P	Q
G	A	I	U	R	E
H	D	R	O	G	E
S	T	R	E	A	M
N	I	N	N	I	P
F	A	E	A	A	A
S	L	A	P	A	G
U	N	V	E	L	P
G	S	E	A	E	S

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

MEN AT WORK

Fire services personnel dousing a blaze at an aluminum factory in Jagatpur Industrial Estate, Cuttack, Sunday. No one was hurt in the incident



CM to unfurl Tricolour in City



Bhubaneswar, August 11: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will hoist the flag in the Capital City here on the occasion of 78th Independence Day, Thursday...

Harichandan in Ganjam. Likewise, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling will unfurl the Tricolour in Bargarh, Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena in Gajapati...



I-DAY AHEAD: Rehearsal for state-level 78th Independence Day celebrations underway at PMG in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Nod to translocation of tigers from MP

Bhopal, August 11: The National Tiger Conservative Authority (NTCA) has approved the translocation of some tigers from Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha...



The three states have sought three tigers and a tigress each, he said. During a programme to mark International Tiger Day last month...

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Visually-challenged beggar builds Shani temple in Khurda

Bhubaneswar, August 11: A visually-challenged octogenarian who makes a living out of begging has done something incredible and set an example worth emulating for his 'abled' counterparts.



Meet Raghu Rout, 80, who devotes would often find begging by the roadside, performed the 'Purnahuti' of a three-day-long Yagna he organised to mark the consecration of a Shani temple on the premises of Hatakeswar temple in Atri near Khurda, Sunday.

Absconding chain snatcher held

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Airport Police Sunday arrested a 33-year-old man for his alleged involvement in a chain snatching case. Police said accused Juma Sheik, of Mukundadaspur in Balipatna area, has been absconding for at last two years.

When he was spotted Sunday morning, a waiting police team in plain clothes rounded him up. On November 11 last year, the police received a complaint from one Jaysree Sahoo stating that two bike-borne miscreants snatched her gold chain while she was waiting for bus near Pokhariput Square.

Study uncovers what makes cocaine so dangerous

The dreaded narcotic substance triggers a specific protein in the brain to hijack normal brain circuitry, promoting further drug-taking behaviour

Cocaine, a drug that has long been infamous for multiple overdose deaths, and erratic behaviour - from rock prodigy Tom Petty to Charlie Sheen, once Hollywood's highest paid sitcom star - has ruined talents and fortunes for long.



The MUSC team focused on a small population of cells within the nucleus accumbens, a brain region known for regulating motivation and reward-associated learning. They discovered that NPAS4-expressing neurons increased in response to cocaine exposure.

D2 neurons typically act as a brake on drug-taking behaviour, but NPAS4 appears to weaken this brake, strengthening drug-context associations and increasing the likelihood of relapse.

'Demand for decentralised medical entrance test no solid solution'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: While the Supreme Court has asked the national testing agency (NTA) to overhaul the way it conducts National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), demand for decentralisation medical entrance test has seen a revival even as some experts say that the old system is no solid solution.

According to the NEET domicile rule, 85 per cent of medical seats are reserved for students who are bona fide residents of the state and have completed their Class XII from a school there. The rest 15 per cent are earmarked for aspirants from other states.

In the wake of the NEET fiasco, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and West Bengal passed resolutions in their Assemblies to be

allowed to opt out of the NEET and conduct their own medical entrance exams.

Such a proposal also found mention in the Lok Sabha, when DMK member Rani Srikumar slammed NEET, alleging that it has shattered the dreams of many students.

Notably, before NEET was introduced in 2016, medical entrance exams used to be conducted by several entities, including states. However, some experts say that returning to the old system may give rise to the same old problems that became the reasons for scuttling it.

Former AIIMS director MC Mishra said there is nothing wrong with states asserting their right to conduct an exam, provided they take care of the logistics that they failed to do even earlier.

"There is nothing wrong if some states want to conduct medical entrance exams. It used to happen earlier also. When I was a student, exams were conducted at the state level. Then came Combined Pre-Medical Test (CPMT), and then NEET," he said.

Should the states get the exemption, they must ensure that NEET qualifiers get admission in the 15 per cent seat reserved for the all-India quota candidate as per the NEET domicile rule,

said Mishra.

"They will have to think about that. The functionality and the logistics of it have to be worked out," he said.

Mishra said, "I don't think this should be encouraged. What if two states decide to conduct the exam on the same date? An aspirant can appear at only one place at a time. Effort must be to make NEET airtight and conduct it online."

"As much as they curse NEET, states have not been able to conduct their entrance exams well. There have been fraudulent practices in the past too. Here, at least there is no government intervention," he said.

Delhi Medical Council's Secretary cum Registrar Girish Tyagi said there are more chances of manipulation at the state level as well as that of a compromise with the uniformity of the exam pattern.

"A central exam is more uniform and that must be maintained. Another reason is that NEET is conducted in several languages. Also, it will be challenging for states to bring uniformity in question papers, something that stands to affect the quality of doctors," Tyagi, an urologist, said.

Kapil Gupta, the founder of NEETPrep.com, an online portal providing coaching for aspirants of the medical entrance exam, said there is nothing new in states, at least Tamil Nadu, wanting to go back to the earlier system.

"This is the same shenanigan the Tamil Nadu government has been playing since 2016. West Bengal and Karnataka too have joined the bandwagon. To be exempted from NEET, they need the President's approval and their request is sent back every year," Gupta said.



THREADS OF AFFECTION: A family checking rakhis at a makeshift stall in Saheed Nagar area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday, as Raksha Bandhan comes closer

PIC:BIKASH NAYAK

Illegal Bangladeshis to be repatriated: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: In the wake of recent unrest in neighbouring Bangladesh, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan has asserted that there was no report of influx of Bangladeshis into the coastal state through sea route. The minister also said Bangladeshis staying illegally in Odisha will be identified and repatriated to their country.

Police said three-tier security is being maintained along the coastline by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Odisha Marine Police.

Replying to queries from journalists on the possibility of influx of Bangladeshi nationals into Odisha through sea route in the wake of political turmoil in the neighbouring country, Harichandan said that Chief



Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has instructed both Coast Guard and Odisha Marine Police to undertake patrolling along the coastline to prevent such at-

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has instructed both Coast Guard and Odisha Marine Police to undertake patrolling along the coastline to prevent influx of Bangladeshi nationals

tempts. He asserted there has been no such report after the recent incidents in Bangladesh.

"Some Bangladeshis have been residing in Odisha for a long time. The state government will verify their documents such as visa and work permit or any other valid reason to stay in the

state. Illegal infiltrators will be sent back to their country after verification," he said.

Odisha Police said the state's 480-km-long coastline is under three-tier security scanner.

While the first five nautical miles are being guarded by Marine Police of the state, the waters between five nautical miles and the country's maritime border at 80 km from the coast is being managed by the Coast Guard. Also, the Indian Navy is monitoring and patrolling in international waters, a police officer said.

According to government sources, a total of 3,740 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants have been identified in seven districts of Odisha. Of them, 1,649 are in Kendrapara, 1,112 in Jagatsinghpur and 655 in Malkangiri.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.0°C	33.5°C
Min Temp	25.9°C	24.0°C
Humidity	82%	85%
Rainfall	08	21.2

FORECAST

FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING

CLASSIFIED

LOST

The Notice is hereby given to the Public in general that, original registered Sale Deed No.11662000269 & 11662000270, dated 22.01.2020 executed by Legal heir/successors of Late Prafulla Kumar Sahu namely Hiramani Sahu (Wife), Satadibi Sahu (Daughter), Abhilash Kumar Sahu (Son) and Kailash Chandra Sahu (Son) in favor of Swagatika Meher & Gitanjali Meher respectively relating to property bearing Khata No.- 66/19, being link document to property bearing mutation khata No.- 66/19, Plot No.- 433/712 & 433/713, Area Ac.0.05dec. standing in the name of Richpal Meher situated at Mouza-Dumburipali, Tehsil-Sonepur, Dist.- Sonepur has been lost. If the same is found please contact Punjab National Bank, Sonepur. Further, Punjab National Bank intends to create mortgage in respect of the property details of which are given in the notice for the purpose of loan. Any person claiming any interest or title in the property or otherwise having any objection can made representation to Punjab National Bank, Sonepur within seven days (07 days) of the date of this Notice.

OLA observes National Librarians' Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha Library Academy (OLA) held its ninth annual convention to mark the National Librarians' Day at ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) here, Sunday.

A seminar organised on 'Rejuvenating the Movement: Revive the Commitment for Odisha Library Advancement' (RMRCOLA) brought together several library professionals, educators, researchers, and policymakers from across the state

to discuss the future of library services. A commemorative souvenir was also released on the occasion. RMRCOLA-2024 founding president and organisation secretary Banamber Sahoo and OLA president Bibhuti Bhusan Sahoo graced the event.

Guests paid rich tributes to the father of library science, SR Ranganathan on his 132nd birth anniversary.

The chief guest, ICMR-RMRC director Sanghamitra Pati, in her address, highlighted the role played by libraries in development of human resources in the society.

On this occasion, a proposal 'Libraries Offering Knowledge and Scholarly Utilities to Rural and Urban Areas' (Lokasutra) was presented outlining nine key areas for the advancement of the library system in the state.

Sahoo informed that the proposal will be submitted to the state government for consideration, with an aim to modernise and develop the library system.

A session by Bakul Foundation on 'SWOT Analysis of Library Services' explored the current challenges and opportunities in library sector.

Faculty devpt programme held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: With the objective of enhancing the ability for delivering need-based programmes using the participatory approach, State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD & PR) hosted a faculty development programme here, recently.

The event was inaugurated by PR&DW Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani.

Speaking on the occasion, Lohani expressed hope for the



programme's success and said, "The participation of resource persons from nationally-renowned institutions like XIM University, alongside highly regarded in-house faculty and freelance experts, ensures that the sessions will be conducted with

precision and align with the objectives of the programme curriculum."

Around 50 faculties from SIRD & PR, State Panchayati Raj Resource Centres and District Panchayati Raj Resource Centres attended the programme.

Participants, representing different states including Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal were present on the occasion.

High-risk slingshot move to send robot craft to Jupiter

THERE ROBOT WILL BEGIN EXPLORATION OF TWO OF JUPITER'S MOONS, EUROPA AND GANYMEDE, IN A BID TO FIND SIGNS OF LIFE THAT MAY LURK IN THEIR ICE-COVERED OCEANS

In one of the most daring operations ever undertaken in interplanetary flight, European space scientists will send the Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer (Juice) to make a flyby of Earth and its moon and carry out the first double gravity-assist manoeuvre in space.

The high-risk exercise is aimed at taking the 1.6bn (£1.4bn) robot craft to its target, Jupiter, by July 2031.

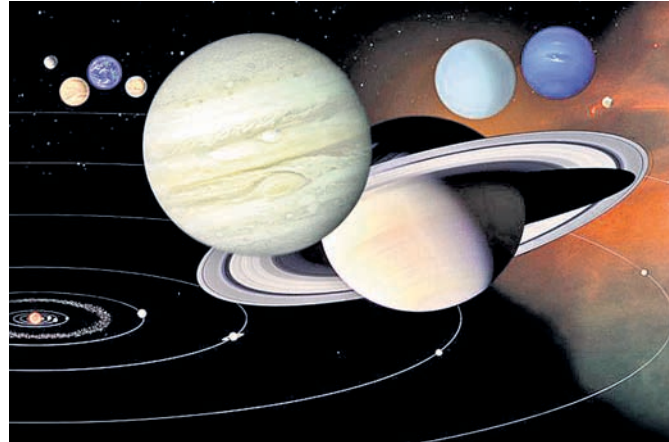
There robot will begin exploration of two of the giant planet's moons, Europa and Ganymede,

in a bid to find signs of life that may lurk in their ice-covered oceans.

The manoeuvre will require extraordinarily accurate navigation, however. The slightest mistake could take Juice off course and doom the mission, European Space Agency (ESA) has warned.

"It's like passing through a very narrow corridor; very, very quickly: pushing the accelerator to the maximum when the margin at the side of the road is just millimetres," said Juice's spacecraft operations manager, Ignacio Tanco.

The craft's delicate celestial dance will begin Wednesday as it passes close to the moon and then flies on to Earth, exploiting their gravitational fields to change its speed and direction as it sweeps in a slingshot motion over the two worlds and into the inner solar system. A flyby of Venus will then take place next year, followed by two further slingshots past Earth in 2026 and 2029 before Juice finally



heads off to Jupiter.

It is an extraordinary interplanetary waltz that will require Juice to travel at exactly the right speed, time and direction for each encounter.

To fly straight to Jupiter would require Juice to carry 60,000kg of propellant, an unfeasible load. In addition, it would need more fuel to slow down so that it could enter into orbit around the planet. It is an approach that will also

be adopted by Nasa later this year when it launches its own Jovian moon mission, Europa Clipper. It will reach Jupiter in 2030 and will focus its attentions on Europa while its European counterpart will make Ganymede its prime target.

"We know Europa has an ocean beneath the ice on its surface and we are pretty sure Ganymede has one as well," said Emma Bunce, director of the

Institute for Space at Leicester University.

Juice and the Europa Clipper should both make vital contributions to the hunt for life in the solar system and that means a great deal depends on how well Esa and Nasa space engineers cope with the their flyby encounters.

"It is going to be very exciting and a bit hair-raising," added Bunce. "Nevertheless, this manoeuvre is going to be vital to the mission. The more precisely it is carried out, the less fuel we will need to use to make future course corrections and we will have more to use to explore Jupiter and its moons," she said.

Bunce, said that the probe was not designed to detect life on Jupiter's moons directly. "It is going to address the question of habitability, by studying the properties of the subsurface oceans. It will tell us whether or not life could be present," she added.

The idea that we might find alien life on ice-coated moons

around planets in deep space would have seemed ridiculous a few decades ago. It was assumed that planets nearer the Sun, in particular Venus and Mars, offered the best hopes.

But Venus has been found to have a surface temperature of 475C, while its atmosphere has a crushing, unbearable pressure that has pulverised robot probes landing there.

In addition, it was discovered that Mars had lost its atmosphere and surface water billions of years ago. Efforts to find evidence of life below the surface have so far produced no results.

In contrast, probes launched several decades ago have revealed that three of Jupiter's main moons - Ganymede, Callisto and Europa - are worlds of ice that are covered in vast oceans of liquid water, the one-prerequisite for the existence of life on Earth. "If ever there was a next-best place to look for life, it's here," says the US astronomer Neil deGrasse Tyson.

AGENCIES

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Illegal parking of trucks spells doom for jumbos, commuters

Queues stretching as long as 5 km are often seen on NH-49 as drivers park their trucks and wait for their turn to load iron ore from Gandhamardan mines in Keonjhar district



We are facing a hard time with difficulties without food and drinking water and rest facilities. No one is hearing our problems

PRAFULLA SAHU | TRUCK DRIVER

Keonjhar, August 10: At a time when man-elephant conflict has taken alarming proportions in Keonjhar district, illegal parking of hundreds of trucks on a stretch of Mumbai-Kolkata NH-49 from Suakati to Putulpani Square, which is an elephant corridor under Bhuyan Juanga Pirha (BJP) forest range, has become a bane for the commuters as well as for the animals.

Sources said queues stretching as long as 5 km are often seen as drivers park their trucks and wait for their turn to load iron ore from Gandhamardan mines located near Suakati under Bansapal block.

Due to absence of parking facility, drivers are forced to park the trucks on the national highway leading to traffic snarls. Due to this, commuters face a harrowing time during their travel and accidents also occur often on the highway resulting in loss of life and properties.

As this area is an elephant corridor, pachyderms also cross the highway often to the other side and face serious difficulties. Sources said the Bhuyan Juang Pirha (BJP) forest range area in Keonjhar forest division,

which extends up to Sundargarh and Angul forest division, is a favourite habitat of the elephants. Movement of elephants can be seen on NH-49 at various points of time throughout the year.

The Forest department has put up information plaques at various strategic points, which warn commuters and motorists not to encroach upon the area by parking their vehicles and control the speed of the vehicles.

Environmentalists and wildlife lovers have expressed their displeasure over the illegal parking of trucks. They lamented that the Forest department is not taking any legal action against the vehicles for blocking the elephant corridor. Many a time, the animals fail to cross the road and move ahead, get disturbed and stray into nearby localities and unleash a reign of terror.

On the other hand, truck drivers also suffer untold hardships as they have to park their vehicles on the highway due to lack

of a parking yard. "We are facing a hard time with difficulties without food and drinking water and rest facilities. No one is hearing our problems," said Prafulla Sahu, a truck driver.

Social activist Pradeep Mohanty said that despite earning huge profits, neither the mining companies and the truck owners' associations nor the administration constructs a parking yard in the area. An arrangement for parking has been made near Tentuli village in Suakati but that too has been identified as an elephant corridor, he added.

A trucker Ayeshkanta Pattnayak said if the main gate of the place is shifted one km from Putulpani Square then the problem of parking on the NH could be avoided. However, no one is taking it seriously despite several complaints, he alleged.

Local people alleged that the police personnel and the Transport department are not taking steps to clear traffic snarls on the highway despite frequent accidents occurring on the route which have claimed many lives in past few years.

Forest range officer Nayankanta Sahu said it is illegal to block the elephant corridor. He said that the department has been reminding the NHAI patrolling team to clear the highway of illegal parking but they are yet to take a call on the matter. This issue has also been taken up in many inter-departmental coordination meetings but to no avail.

In this regard, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Dhanraj HD said, "Insignias have been installed at several spots for the safe movement of elephants in the corridors and the Forest department is taking action against the violators."



SCIENCE EXPO: A boy explains his project to the visiting students at a zonal level Science Exhibition held at Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Kakatpur in Puri, Sunday

3 hurt as cops, cattle smugglers exchange fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 11: Three persons including two cops sustained critical injuries during a shootout with cattle smugglers in the wee hours of Sunday. The shootout took place during police raids at Pithagola and Kadua areas under Harichandanpur police limits in Keonjhar district.

Cattle smuggler Arif Khan of Santarapur village under Ghatagaon police limits sustained critical injuries after police fired in self-defence. Cops have arrested five persons in this connection. The accused were identified as Arif, Sk Hakim of Santarapur village, Sonu Mohammed of Janghira village, Deepak Kalindi and Debu Kalindi of Bakola village under Jashippur police limits in neighbouring Mayurbhanj district. All the five



accused were produced in court Sunday and remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas.

Over 25 cattle were rescued and three pick-up vans, one jeep, two country made revolvers and several sharp-edged weapons

were seized from the possession of the smugglers. Two separate cases have been registered at Harichandanpur and Pandapada police stations in this connection. ASP Dillip Kumar Nayak said at a presser held at the Keonjhar Town police station.

Sources said the police were tipped off that 25 cattle were being smuggled outside the state from Kaliahata area under Telkoi police limits. On being informed, two teams from Harichandanpur police station and a special squad raided the Pithagola and Kadua areas to rescue the cattle and nab the smugglers. The cattle smugglers opened fire on the police when they noticed the cops. In retaliation, police also opened fire. In the process Arif was shot twice on both his legs. Currently he is undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

Locals detain 7 from Bihar as suspected B'deshi nationals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, August 11: In the aftermath of the turmoil in Bangladesh followed by the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, locals here in Bhatrak district detained seven unknown persons suspecting them as infiltrating Bangladeshi nationals, Sunday.

Notable, the state government has issued a high alert over likelihood of influx by Bangladeshi nationals into Odisha, which might lead to law and order situation. To prevent infiltration through the sea route, all the marine police stations have also been put on high alert.

The locals noticed the seven persons travelling in an auto-rickshaw near AB High School Square and detained them suspecting they had infiltrated into Odisha in the wake of the turmoil in Bangladesh.

The detainees went nervous and failed to reply when they were questioned about their identities. This sparked tension in the area as the locals threatened them and asked them to reveal their identities.

On being informed, police reached the spot and took them into custody. During verification, police found out that they were in fact natives of Bihar. Later, with the help of the district administration, police contacted their Bihar counterpart and released them from custody. Among the seven, six were found to be physically disabled, Basudevpur police SI Devi Prasad Mohapatra said.

In another case of mistaken identity, locals detained a suspected Bangladeshi national under Nayakanidhi police limits and handed him over to the police in the district Sunday.

Illegal sale of IMFL, country liquor rampant in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 11: Illegal sale of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) and country liquor in and around Rourkela has become a cause of concern for the Excise department with unlicensed bars springing up in the dhabas and small eateries.

Such dhabas have mushroomed on a stretch of more than 25km starting from Vedvyas till Bisra.

"Just walk into any dhaba or small eatery near garages or truck parking spots and you will definitely find foreign and country liquor easily," said one social activist who did not want to be named. Interestingly the tippler pays these dhabas a premium for one bottle of IMFL or a pouch

of country liquor.

"I am surprised as to how country liquor, which is a banned substance in Sundargarh district, is available so openly. Besides, seizures of country liquor happen in regular intervals," said the same activist.

Recently, a spurious foreign liquor racket which was operating under KBalang and Koira PS areas was busted. Liquor smugglers were bringing in raw materials from Jharkhand and were preparing spurious liquor in these areas. Both the places mentioned being mining areas have a strong presence of transporters and truckers.

Speaking on the mushrooming of illegal liquor shops,

Excise Superintendent Asif Ali said, "We are more concerned about the spurious IMFL and the country liquor as those are deadly. Illegal sales are also being checked and we are keeping an eye."

In the April-June period, the department has detected 832 cases and arrested 689 persons. Besides, it has charged 152 persons.

The department has seized 3,77,535 kg of fermented mahua wash used in manufacturing of the popular country liquor 'mahuli'. Besides it has seized 123.23 litre duplicate IMFL. "The country liquor sale is a big challenge for us. Because if a small mistake is made in preparation, it will become spurious, and can claim lives."

DEO starts probe into fake teachers' recruitment issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 11: Amid the controversy surrounding the recruitment of fake teachers in Bargarh district, the district Education department, after a long silence, has initiated steps to investigate the matter.

Following the direction of District Education Officer (DEO) Radhakanta Chhattri, the Block Education Officers (BEOs) have started the verification process in their respective blocks.

The certificate verification of teachers employed in Bargarh block has started at Samaleswari Government High School in Ambapali. The verification process of certificates including appointment letters, educational degrees, caste and disability certificates, began last week and will continue till August 30.

During the investigation, credentials of teachers appointed during the tenure of late Kailash Guru, the former chairman of the Sambalpur Education Board, were checked.



Meanwhile, there have been reports of individuals identifying themselves as media representatives and claiming connections with influential leaders and officials to intimidate some teachers by labeling them as fake.

Such individuals have been calling the teachers over phone and even visiting their schools or residences. They have been allegedly extorting large sums of money by issuing threats of exposing them as fake teachers. The harassed teachers have asked the administration to take action against the so-called media representatives.

HVV protest rally over violence on Hindus in B'desh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 11: The Hindu Veer Vahini, a socio-cultural organisation, Sunday staged a protest march over violence against the Hindu community in Bangladesh amid the political unrest.

Over a thousand people from various pro-Hindu organisations participated in the rally. Besides, several BJP leaders lent their support to the protest march which started from Bisra Chowk, one of the main intersections of the city and terminated near Udit Nagar Chowk.

The main purpose of the march was to highlight the plight of the minority Hindus in Bangladesh amid the unrest and lawlessness after the exit of Sheikh Haseena as the prime minister. Besides, the organisations have also asked the administration to identify the illegal migrants from Bangladesh. One of the advisors of the outfit, Kedar Mohanty said, "It is high time we Hindus fight for our rights. If we don't show our strength then no one is going to listen to us."

YOUTH HELD FOR DUPING JOB ASPIRANT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 11: A 30-year old youth was arrested in Bhatli area in this district Saturday on charge of duping a job aspirant by fraudulently offering him a job of forest officer; police said Sunday. A two-wheeler, ATM card, Rs 48,890 cash, mobile, fake Forest department stamps, uniforms and badges were also seized from the possession of the accused.

The arrested individual has been identified as Gaur Barik, 30, a resident of Dangarapada village under Saintala police lim-



its in Bolangir district.

According to reports, the accused Gaur had promised one Ashish Barik of Sanaamalipali village under Bhatli police limits in Bargarh district to get him recruited as a forest officer and had taken Rs 48,890 from him.

Gaur also gave Ashish a Forest department uniform and fake appointment letter. When Ashish discovered that he was duped by Gaur, he lodged a written complaint in this regard at Bhatli police station. Acting on the complaint, a case (239/24) was registered at Bhatli police station. Gaur was arrested and produced in Bargarh court, Saturday.

The investigation revealed that Gaur is a fraudster with a history of such activities. Previously, he had committed similar fraud in the Bargarh Sadar police station area.

Poacher held from Similipal sanctuary

Baripada: Forest department personnel have arrested a poacher from the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district, an official said Sunday. The Forest personnel arrested the poacher during patrolling Saturday. The accused has been identified as Mangal Bansingh (43), a resident of Nuniagoda village of the district, the Forest official said. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Forest personnel from the Chahala wildlife range patrolled the area near the Poragoda footpath and found out that some people had entered the core area of STR with weapons. The team chased the intruders and were able to catch Mangal. They seized one bow and three arrows from his possession, the official said.

Talcher-Bimalagarh railway link inches closer to reality

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 11: Hopes have rekindled following some recent developments on the much awaited Talcher-Bimalagarh railway link.

Fresh tender has been floated in the first phase for 32-km Bimalagarh-Mhauldhipa railway line connectivity at a cost of Rs 500 crore. Land acquisition is left only for 6.5 km of this route. Meanwhile, sources in the

Revenue department have confirmed that this process would be over by September end.

It has been decided that a full-fledged office will be functional for this purpose at Boani soon. It is to be noted here that, nearly 76 acre private land could not be handed over to the Railways for various reasons. All land related cases will be heard August 14 in the LARA court. Everybody is hopeful that impediments re-

garding land acquisition will soon be resolved.

President of Sachetan Nagarik Manch (SNM) Bimal Bisi, who has waged almost a lone battle on this front, said, "I have expressed my gratitude to the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav. In a letter to the state Revenue department dated June 18, 2024, I had enquired about the status of land acquisition in Deogarh, Angul and Sundargarh districts." Bisi further informed that

after his letter, the additional secretary of state Revenue department had written to the Collectors of all the three districts and "instructed them to expedite the land acquisition process in their respective districts."

"Once land acquisition on the 32-km stretch is over, it will open the path for further acquisition," Bisi exuded hope. He thanked the efforts of Pranabandhu Sahu, former CMO of East Coast Railway.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAK BHADRAK, PIN-756100
E-mail: eobdkmunicipality@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS
(Through E-Procurement)
Tender Reference No. 11/BM/2023-24
Tender Call Notice No. 3781/BM/dtd.08.08.2024
Tender ID No.

No.C-400: The Executive Officer, Bhadrak Municipality, Bhadrak invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through e-procurement in conformity with the detailed tender call notice to be eventually drawn up in Municipal Agreement form for execution of the works as detailed in the table below from eligible class of contractors registered with the state Government/ Contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with central Government/ MES/ Railways and Municipal Contractors on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. Only tenderers with sound financial background capable of investing required amount for advance procurement of all materials required for the work need apply.

1. Name of the Work	: Repair & renovation of road from Shani Mandir Chhakt to NH-16 via New Bus Stand in Ward No.6
2. No. of Works put to tender	: 1 No. individual civil construction works
3. Estimated Cost	: As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
5. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of Dt.14.08.24 to 17.00 hours of Dt.28.08.24
6. Mode of deposit towards cost of Bid document & EMD	: Online
7. Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid	: 11.00 hours and onwards of Dt.29.08.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Bhadrak Municipality Bhadrak

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersorissa.gov.in" or "http://tenders.or.nic.in/nicgep/app".
Sd./- Executive Officer, Bhadrak Municipality
OIPR-13152/11/0006/2425

One who loves God finds the object of his love everywhere.
SRI AUROBINDO



SEBI & ADANI

In a country where most institutions are happy being subservient to the status quo and none has the guts to call a spade a spade, it took a foreign entity to expose the prevailing muck in the entire capital market. US based agency Hindenburg Research, earlier known for its expose on the Adani group perceived as being close to the Prime Minister, has this time pointed fingers directly at none other than the head of the country's capital markets regulator. In a broadside against the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch, the agency has alleged that she and her husband Dhaval Buch had stakes in offshore funds connected to the Adani scandal.

Hindenburg, citing whistleblower documents, says that the Bermuda-based Global Opportunities Fund, which a Financial Times investigation found was used by entities close to the Adani group to trade shares in the group companies, had sub-funds. Buch and her husband invested in one of these sub-funds in 2015. In 2017, her husband applied to become the sole operator of the account, before Buch was appointed a full-time member of SEBI. In 2018, Buch wrote an email seeking to redeem all her husband's investments in the fund. And in 2022, she was appointed the head of SEBI.

Hindenburg then cited the Supreme Court order to point out that SEBI had "drawn a blank" in its investigation into who had provided funds to Adani's offshore shareholders. "If SEBI really wanted to find the offshore fund holders, perhaps the SEBI chairperson could have started by looking in the mirror," SC had said. "We find it unsurprising that SEBI was reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson."

The Buchs have vehemently denied the allegations as baseless and asserted that their finances are an open book. In a statement, the couple also said it is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research against whom SEBI has taken an enforcement action and issued a show cause notice has chosen to attempt character assassination of the chairperson in response to the same.

Hindenburg Research, which has built up a reputation as a 'David' taking on corporate 'Goliaths', had in January last year come out with a scathing report blaming the Adani group for "the biggest con in corporate history." The report set off a gigantic decrease in the group's stock prices, wiping out roughly \$86 billion in market capitalisation.

This time the charges are not against any particular company but against the head of the capital markets regulator itself. This raises serious questions on our entire financial system and the economy. In a country where the banking system is already facing trust deficit from citizens, as evident from the dwindling bank deposits, such allegations against the capital markets regulator could lead to a drop in the overall investor confidence. Such reputation damage would also put off foreign investors and the results would be detrimental to the whole economy.

The government must initiate a probe into the allegations and, as rightly demanded by the Opposition, eliminate conflicts of interest in the regulator's investigation of the Adani group and form a Joint Parliamentary Committee for a thorough probe into the entire "scam." The government should act to restore investor confidence and not just wait for the issue to die down, as is generally the case.

Bangladesh After Hasina

Three days after Sheikh Hasina resigned and ran away from Bangladesh the country's only Nobel laureate, Muhammad Yunus, assumed charge as the "chief adviser" of a caretaker government formed to bring peace and democracy that had, as her critics say, been undermined during her 15 years of "autocratic rule."

Chaos and lawlessness have gripped Bangladesh since the students' uprising in protest against an "unjust" job quota and killings and violence that took place under Hasina's rule. Right wing groups, supporters of the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and jihadi organisations are believed to be behind the counter-violence the country is now experiencing. The foremost challenges facing Yunus could be to ensure law and order after days of attacks on the houses of Awami League politicians, sporadic attacks on temples and homes of minority Hindus who were considered close to Hasina. There has been a noticeable absence of policing as exemplified by students this week managing traffic on the busy streets of Dhaka. These students explained they were helping traffic management since many police officers and men have refused to be out on duty till there is peace and they are not attacked. The protesters are furious with the police for the ruthless crackdown on students during the agitation against quota and subsequent violence.

It is interesting to note that Yunus said, immediately after swearing in, that his caretaker government "commits to bringing freedom to every home," adding in the same breath that those who committed wrongdoing during Hasina's tenure "will be held accountable." These words clearly give the "go ahead" sign to the street mobs to decide and act on whomsoever they think must be made 'accountable'.

The interim government is a mix of both experience and youth and includes rights activists, professors, lawyers, former government officials and other prominent members of Bangladesh's civil society.

But it is the surprise inclusion of two 26-year-old student leaders who spearheaded the recent movement against Hasina that is likely to trigger controversy in the coming days. Nahid Islam, a student of sociology at Dhaka University, has been given the telecommunications portfolio while Asif Mahmud, a student of linguistics at the same university, will look after sports.

Defending his inclusion Islam said "if Bangladesh is led by its youth, the country will stay true to its goals." Mahmud said he was ready for the challenges that lay ahead. What he said is a mixture of rhetoric and reality, "the state institutions were devastated under (Hasina's) fascist regime. Our goal is to eradicate fascism by reforming these institutions."

Former army officer M Sakhawat Hossain has been given the Ministry of Home Affairs. He used to be close to Hasina's Awami League but supported the student protests against her government.

The Ministry of Finance has been given to Saleh Uddin Ahmed, who governed the central bank during the 2001-2006 rule of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Former diplomat and columnist Touhid Hossain will look after foreign affairs.

Other notable figures in the new government are climate change minister Syeda Rizwana Hasan, a winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for her environmental work, rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan, who will handle industries, electoral reforms activist Sharmeen Murshid, charged with the Ministry of Social Welfare and women's rights activist and advocate for biodiversity-based ecological agriculture Farida Akhter, who will run the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

The other members of the cabinet are former Attorney General Hasan Ariff (local government affairs), Yunus' longtime associate Nurjahan Begum (health) and Muslim leader and academic Khalid Hossain (religious matters).

There are three more ministers, psychiatrist Bidhan Ranjan Roy from the Hindoo community, Supradip Chakma from the indigenous Chakma community based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and independence fighter Faruk-e-Azam. But, their portfolios are yet to be announced.

Thus on paper the interim government with its wide array of leaders from all walks of life looks remarkably diverse. It will be keenly watched whether the new administration will be able to take the country of 170 million people out of what one of the members of the new government called a "dark era" and the prospect of military rule or religious fundamentalist-controlled regime. Bangladesh has multiple threats waiting for it in the near future. None of its neighbors seem capable of helping it in this crisis.

FOCUS NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

FROM SHELVES TO SCREENS

As we celebrate National Library Day and reflect on the enduring legacy of SR Ranganathan, a pivotal figure in library and information science, it's essential to address a pressing question: Do libraries remain relevant in our technologically advanced world?

When was the last time you curled up with a book and a cup of tea, or felt the urge to share a book's insights with friends or family? The days of eagerly spending pocket money on books and savoring the scent of freshly printed pages are now fond memories. We still cherish the first books we read and often quote them among friends, with some passages vividly etched in our minds. Occasionally, we may cling to a withered rose, symbolising the cherished memories we associate with an old book. While decorating bookshelves with cherished collections used to be a joy, digital formats now dominate our reading habits. Many of us have shifted to accessing books through devices, finding it more convenient to relax with digital content. This shift often means we skim through chapters, missing the deeper contexts that make books meaningful.

The public library movement in India, which began in the late 19th century with the efforts of pioneers like Maharaja Sayajirao III and the Gaekwad of Baroda, aimed to democratise access to knowledge. Figures such as William Alanson Borden and SR Ranganathan significantly shaped this movement through library education and legislation. As the library system enters its second century, its mission to provide equal access remains crucial. Honoring those who have championed public libraries and literacy is essential for building stronger, more inclusive communities. Recent research highlights a notable shift in library usage patterns in India. Reports, in-



While decorating bookshelves with cherished collections used to be a joy, digital formats now dominate our reading habits

cluding the National Library of India's 2019 annual report and studies published in the Journal of Library and Information Science (2020) and the International Journal of Library Science (2018), show a clear trend towards increased use of digital resources, such as e-books and online databases.

The National Mission on Libraries (2021) and the Ministry of Education (2022) also reflect these changes, emphasising the need for libraries to adapt to digital realities. A 2019 Pew Research Center study reveals that time spent on mobile phones has increased, with many dedicating more time to social media and online streaming than to reading books. The 2017 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) report notes that Indian public libraries hold an average of just 5,700 books, a stark contrast to the 108,000 found in libraries in developed countries. The 2018 UNESCO Institute of Statistics report highlights that only 12% of Indian public libraries have computers, and just 8% offer internet access. Additionally, a 2016 Press Trust of India (PTI) article notes that only 10% of

the 1.2 million librarians in India are professionally qualified. The Ministry of Culture reports that while there are 54,856 public libraries in the country, only a few meet international standards.

Once thriving, book clubs and reading traditions are now rare. A 2022 National Endowment for the Arts survey highlights that people aged 20-44, the busiest demographic, are increasingly disengaged from leisure reading. Modern lifestyles, with their demanding schedules, have shifted preferences toward quick, bite-sized information through apps and online sources. In countries like Japan and South Korea, long commutes and demanding work schedules have led to a preference for audio-books and e-reading.

A 2022 report by the National Library of India indicates that while literacy rates have improved, the focus remains on educational texts rather than leisure reading. In contrast, Scandinavian countries excel in global literacy rankings due to their emphasis on regular library visits and promoting reading habits from an early age. In developing countries, particularly in rural India, libraries

face severe underfunding and staffing shortages. A 2023 study reveals that about 60% of children in rural India lack access to libraries. Additionally, modern entertainment options, such as social media, online games, and OTT platforms, often distract from reading. Surveys show that people spend more than eight hours a day on digital platforms, contrasting sharply with the time needed for focused reading.

Urbanisation has led to the rise of gated libraries, cafes, and coffee shops, creating a knowledge divide based on wealth. The affluent have easy access to these spaces, while those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are often excluded, turning knowledge into a privilege of the wealthy. This deepens cycles of inequality and marginalisation, as public libraries decline and lack of internet access isolates those without resources.

In the 21st century, rural public libraries are becoming vital civic institutions. They offer open and accessible spaces that bridge information gaps, address digital divides, and reduce disparities, especially for children. These libraries serve as hubs of social equality, providing valuable resources to diverse groups, from elders reading newspapers to women's groups starting businesses. While district libraries face challenges, they remain popular among students for studying and leisure. To maximise their impact, it is crucial to revitalise the joy of visiting libraries and support local initiatives. By doing so, libraries can fully realise their potential to foster dialogue, discussion, and inclusivity within communities.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi.

SPECTRUM PUBLIC FINANCE

Limits of central-bank independence



Stefan Gerlach

CENTRAL BANKS WOULD DO WELL TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE CONSEQUENCES THAT THEIR ACTIONS MAY HAVE ON PUBLIC FINANCES

Central banks are not sovereign principalities, and their governors are not sovereign princes. While central-bank independence has been essential to effective policy-making in recent decades – giving monetary authorities the political cover to pursue necessary but potentially painful measures when conditions demand – the limits of the principle are almost certain to become clearer in the coming years.

The reason is not that there have been catastrophic monetary-policy mistakes, or that governments want to manage monetary policy themselves. Central banks have generally done a good job, and governments are happy to let them do it.

While the US Federal Reserve and other central banks certainly could have stepped in earlier to stop or mitigate the recent surge in inflation, most sober observers regard that episode as unavoidable. It was caused by a series of extraordinarily large and entirely unexpected shocks to the world economy – not least COVID-19 and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Central bankers can be forgiven for not anticipating the first global pandemic in a century and the first major war in Europe

in 80 years.

So, why is the principle of central-bank independence becoming more vulnerable? The main concern is the growth of central banks' balance sheets – owing to years of quantitative easing (QE) – which are now leading to large losses. While central-bank independence is fine for governments, in principle, losses that will have first-order effects on public finances are another matter. And this is especially true if losses are materializing at a time when demand for public spending on climate-change adaptation and mitigation, strategic competitiveness, and defense has increased massively.

Central-bank independence is often seen as a panacea to the type of high and persistent inflation that characterized the 1970s and early 1980s. To many, it looks like a free lunch: disinflation and long-term price stability without any adverse effects on growth and unemployment. But defenders of central-bank independence have almost certainly overestimated its role as a guarantor of low inflation.

Consider a counterfactual: the Monetary Authority of Singapore has achieved an average inflation rate of almost 2% since its mon-

etary-policy framework was introduced in the early 1980s. Few central banks can match this stellar record, and yet four government ministers sit on the MAS's board, and there is little doubt that the Singaporean government can control monetary policy if it so wishes. Singapore has achieved consistently low, stable inflation without a robust regime of central-bank independence.

What matters most for price stability is the central bank's ability to set interest rates and other policy levers as it sees fit. Firm political support for the objective of maintaining low inflation is essential; but complete legal independence does not seem to be a necessary condition for achieving it.

Moreover, when economists quantify central-bank independence, the Fed itself scores poorly – worse than central banks in many inflation-prone Latin American countries – yet it is generally regarded as doing a good job of ensuring price stability. Again, the key question is whether there is a political consensus against meddling in the central bank's pursuit of low inflation.

Central banks are quick to point out that their objective is

to ensure stable prices, not to generate government revenues. While this claim is certainly true, it is a little naive. When central-bank independence was embraced around the world a quarter-century ago, no one anticipated that central banks' profits and losses would matter much for public finances. But large losses do matter, and since the situation has changed, politicians might come to believe that the consensus behind central-bank independence and the form it takes also need to change.

Governments hold the power to appoint monetary policymakers, so it stands to reason that they will not appoint to officials who are tone deaf about government interests and priorities. This is why central-bank governors in many countries are often drawn from the ranks of former treasury officials.

Central banks would do well to be more sensitive to the consequences that their actions may have on public finances. Ultimately, that may be the only way to protect their freedom to align monetary policy with their price-stability mandate.

The writer is Chief Economist of EFG Bank in Zurich. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

Daunting dilemma

Sir, This refers to "Trust deficit dips deposits," Orissa POST, August 11. The diminishing low-cost current and savings accounts of banks from 43% of total deposits a year ago to 39% this year has prompted Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to lay emphasis on the need for banks to raise more deposits and step up lending. Indian banks are facing a daunting dilemma as urban savers increasingly flock to higher-yielding investments like mutual funds and stocks, undermining banks' traditional advantage of low-cost deposits. The rush for equities is such that even tax tweaks on capital gains are unlikely to significantly boost deposit growth. Meanwhile, deposit growth is crucial for banks as it provides a stable and low-cost source of funds, essential for financing loans and maintaining liquidity, even as insufficient deposit growth in long term can undermine a bank's financial stability and growth prospects. However, consumers can't be blamed for this as they prefer to park money where the returns are high. Perhaps, the blame is on the dismal savings rates and ineffective policy transmission by banks. Add to this, household consumption and the affinity to spend has also gone up significantly. People like to travel, go out and eat. There is a whole quest for experience, which also to a certain extent makes a dent to the savings.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Relentless spirit

Sir, Ace Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat remains determined, showcasing her strength and perseverance despite facing a devastating turn of events at the ongoing Paris Olympics. She has faced opponents not just on the mat but also against societal expectations and organisational challenges. From dazzling performances on the world stage to the grit shown during protests, her narrative threads through the fabric of contemporary Indian athletics. The vibrancy of Phogat's spirit serves as both inspiration and cautionary tale for aspiring athletes. Wrestling, as demanding and gruelling as it is, brings with it not just the thrill of competition, but also the reality of sacrifice and stringent regulations. Through thick and thin, Vinesh Phogat remains emblematic of the relentless spirit of athletes everywhere.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

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Deendayal Antyodaya Vojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is not only supporting women SHGs to increase their livelihoods but is also promoting avenues of self-employment for the local youth
JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

UP TO HAVE 30,000 'SURYA MITRAS'

The Uttar Pradesh government plans to train 30,000 youngsters as "surya mitras" to achieve its goal of having solar panels on the rooftop every house in the state. To achieve the target of having solar panels in every house in Uttar Pradesh, there will be a significant need for skilled workers in the solar energy sector



of the day quote

The main objective of any kind of reservation should be the empowerment of the neglected society, not the division or disintegration of that society, this violates the basic principle of reservation itself
AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

The border talks remained stalled due to the assembly elections in Mizoram last year. Now, we are on track again. A ministerial group of Mizoram will visit Guwahati for the next round of talks by January. We have extended our invitation to them
ATUL BORA | ASSAM MINISTER

Our effort is to open two universities. We want to attach the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education with the university and all madrasas should be recognised (by the university) so that there is no dispute in the future
OM PRAKASH RAJBHAR | MINORITY WELFARE MINISTER, UP

SHORT TAKES

Former MLA's wife killed in bomb blast

Imphal: A former MLA's wife was killed in a bomb blast in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, officials said Sunday. The bomb blast was triggered at a house adjacent to that of former Saikul MLA Yamthong Haokip Saturday evening, they said. Sapam Charubala, the second wife of Haokip, was injured in the blast and was taken to a health facility in Saikul but later succumbed to her injuries, the officials said. Haokip was also in his house when the blast took place but he was not injured in the incident.

Three killed in road mishap

Jaipur: Three people, including two students were killed in a collision between a car and a truck here, police said Sunday. The accident happened late Saturday near NRI Circle of Pratap Nagar area when a car rammed into a truck carrying vegetables while it was taking a turn, police said. Two critically injured were rushed to the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital where doctors declared them brought dead.

Four killed in gunfight

Imphal: Four armed men were killed in a fratricidal shoot-out between militants and village volunteers of the same community in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) and three village volunteers of the same community were killed in the gunfight in Molnom area Friday. In retaliation to the killings, village volunteers set ablaze the residence of UKLF self-styled chairman SS Haokip.

Two killed in roof collapse

Jalaun (UP): A woman and her seven-year-old son died and two others were injured after the roof of their house collapsed in Koch area here Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Mahaluba village around 5.30 am, Mohini (32), her son Debu, daughter Aditi (10) and husband Akhilesh (35) were asleep and the roof collapsed trapping the family under its debris, they said. The police reached the spot after getting information from the villagers.

Village courts fight vacancies, financial woes to deliver justice

In 1986, the law commission had suggested setting up village courts to provide affordable and quick access to justice to citizens at their doorsteps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Conceived as a tool to deliver affordable and quick access to justice, 'gram nyayalayas' or village courts are today finding it difficult to live up to their purpose due to manpower shortage and financial crunch. So far 481 gram nyayalayas have been notified by 15 states, of which 309 have been made

operational in 10 states, the law ministry told Parliament in the just-concluded Monsoon session. In 1986, the law commission had suggested setting up village courts to provide affordable and quick access to justice to citizens at their doorsteps. After years, The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 came into effect from Gandhi Jayanti the next year. The Act provides for the establishment of gram nyayalayas

at the grassroots level to provide access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to anyone due to social, economic or other disabilities. Citing "certain studies", the law ministry said in the parliament that the main reasons for slow progress in setting up of these village courts include non-filling of the post of 'nyayadhikaris' in many states, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of first-class judicial magistrates. Limited pecuniary jurisdic-



tion of gram nyayalayas, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from states, reluctance from legal and state authorities and lack of community awareness were the other reasons cited for the present state of affairs of village courts,

the government said. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for "slow take off" of such courts in some states, it added. Many states have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level. As per guidelines, the Centre provides ₹18 lakh per gram nyayalaya to meet non-recurring expenditure as a one-time measure and bears 50 per cent of the recurring expenses of these courts, subject to a ceiling of ₹3.20 lakh per courts per annum during the first three years.

28 dead as rains wreak havoc in north, northwest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: At least 28 people died in rain-related incidents Sunday as heavy downpours lashed north and northwest India, causing landslides, traffic chaos and house collapses, as well as a dam breach which inundated several villages in Haryana. The Jammu and Kashmir Administration said the annual Amarnath yatra has been suspended after heavy rains in the Shri Amarnathji Yatra area.

too, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls on several road stretches. Officials said Sunday a seven-year-old boy drowned in a waterlogged park in Rohini's Sector 20 the previous evening. They said seven calls were received regarding waterlogging at different locations and four about fallen trees. Traffic was disrupted on the Najafgarh-Phirni road near Dhansa stand and Bahadurgarh stand. Gurugram recorded 70 mm of rainfall during the day. Waterlogging was reported from several areas, including police lines, Bus Stand Road, Sheela Mata Road, Narsinghpur Service Road, Basai Chowk, Khandas, Sanjay Gram Road, Sohna Road and Subhash Chowk, sectors 30, 31, 40, 45, 47, 51, 22, 23, 4, 5, 12, 13 48. These areas also saw traffic snarls with vehicles and pedestrians having to wade through knee-deep waters.



This was the second straight day of heavy rains in the region with Rajasthan being the worst hit as the state reported 16 deaths over two days -- two on Saturday and 14 Sunday. Its Karauli district recorded "exceptionally heavy rainfall" of 38 cm.

Three girls were killed and one person is missing in Himachal Pradesh where landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy rains over the last two days have led to the closure of more than 280 roads. Officials said 458 power and 48 water supply schemes are also affected in the state.

Nine people, including eight members of a family, died in Punjab's Hoshiarpur Sunday as their vehicle got swept away by a flooded seasonal rivulet. Heavy rains lashed central, south, southwest and east Delhi

Two deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun where a woman and her seven-year-old son died after the roof of their house collapsed in the Koch area following heavy rains.

'Pakistan pushing foreign trained terrorists into J&K'

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LT GOVERNOR ASSERTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A 'BIG CHANGE IN THE SITUATION IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 11: Pakistan has been pushing highly foreign trained terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to destabilize its security situation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha claimed Sunday and said a strategy has been formulated and security forces being redeployed to foil the neighbouring country's nefarious designs.



Pakistan is the birthplace of terrorism, it emanates from there. India and the Jammu and Kashmir administration are making concerted efforts to counter it, with several other countries also contributing to these efforts
MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In an exclusive interview with PTI here, he asserted that there would be a "big change in the situation in the next three months". The Jammu region, previously known for its peaceful atmosphere, has seen a surge in terror incidents, particularly in the border districts. Attacks on an IAF convoy, a pilgrim bus and the killing of soldiers in Kathua during the last few months highlight the evolving threat.

controlled. The neighbouring country will not succeed in its evil designs."

Two soldiers and a civilian were killed during an encounter between terrorists and security forces Saturday in Anantnag in south Kashmir. Pointing to the terror incidents in the Jammu region, Sinha said, "The incidents are sad. We acknowledge them and want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the country that these incidents will definitely be

"Pakistan is the birthplace of terrorism, it emanates from there. India and the Jammu and Kashmir administration are making concerted efforts to counter it, with several other countries also contributing to these efforts," he told PTI. The L-G exuded full faith in the Army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police in controlling the situation, and said, "You will see a big change in the coming three months."

increased," Sinha said. Asked to comment about Pakistan's continuance in fomenting trouble in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "We seem to be unaware of the internal situation in Pakistan. The country cannot even provide food to its own people. Because of this, Jammu and Kashmir has become a favourite subject for them." To a question about claims that men trained by the Pakistan Army's Special Service Group (SSG) were being infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir to engineer terror incidents here, Sinha accepted that highly trained foreign militants have infiltrated into the region. "It is a sensitive issue. Speaking about these issues in the press is not appropriate. It is not necessary to disclose everything publicly," he said.



Devotees carry a Lord Ganesh idol for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS Sisodia holds meeting with AAP leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: AAP leader Manish Sisodia held a meeting with senior leaders Sunday to discuss the strategy for the Delhi Assembly polls slated to be held early next year. Senior Aam Aadmi Party leaders, including Delhi ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bhardwaj and Gopal Rai as well as the party's Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak attended the meeting. Gopal Rai is also the convener of the party's Delhi unit. Later, Sandeep Pathak, who is also the AAP's national gen-



eral secretary (organisation), said the strategy for the Delhi Assembly polls and the political situation in the national capital were discussed in the meet. "Sisodia will hold a meeting

with MLAs Monday and with party councillors Tuesday. He will begin a foot march to meet the people of Delhi August 14. It has become clear to the people of the country that the BJP has only one agenda -- to stop our work and break our party. Despite such adverse conditions, the AAP has stood strong and is doing good work," Pathak said. Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister of Delhi and a trusted lieutenant of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, walked out of jail Friday on bail after spending 17 months behind bars in connection with the excise policy case.

PM Modi releases climate-resilient seed varieties

BESIDES THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL FARMING, NARENDRA MODI DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MILLETS AND UNDERLINED HOW PEOPLE ARE MOVING TOWARDS NUTRITIOUS FOOD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient and biofortified seed varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops, aiming to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income. Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these varieties span 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. Modi unveiled the seeds at three experimental agriculture plots at Delhi's Pusa Campus, where he also interacted with farmers and scientists. According to an official statement, Modi stressed on the significance of value addition in

agriculture while discussing the importance of these new varieties with farmers. Farmers present on the occasion said that these new varieties would be highly beneficial to them because of lower input cost. The Prime Minister discussed the importance of millets and underlined how people are moving towards nutritious food. He also talked about the benefits of natural farming and the increasing faith of common people towards organic farming. Modi noted that people have started consuming and demanding organic foods. Farmers appreciated the ef-

orts of the government in promotion of natural farming. They also lauded the role played by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in creating awareness, the release said. Modi suggested that the KVKs should proactively inform farmers about the benefits of the new varieties being developed every month to create awareness about their benefits, the statement said. The Prime Minister also lauded the scientists for the de-

Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, these varieties span 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops



velopment of these new crop varieties. The scientists informed that they have been working in line with the suggestion given by the Prime Minister to bring unutilised crops into the mainstream, the statement said.

The field crop varieties include cereals, millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, and fibre crops. For horticulture, the PM released new varieties of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, tubers, spices, flowers, and me-

dicinal plants. Since 2014, Modi has advocated for sustainable farming practices and climate-resilient methodologies to bolster farmers' income. He has consistently emphasized on the promotion of bio-fortified crop varieties, linking them to government initiatives like the Mid-Day Meal scheme and Anganwadi services to combat malnutrition in India. Later addressing reporters, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that today is a historic day for farmers as 109 varieties of 61 crops which have been released will help increase farmers' income, enhance production and reduce costs.



Yogi ji only spreads animosity by making religion the basis of his politics. The kind of low-level statements he is making on the Bangladesh issue are highly condemnable

AJAY RAI | UP CONGRESS CHIEF

ANOTHER BRIDGE COLLAPSES

Another small bridge has collapsed in the Raghapur block of Bihar's Vaishali district, an official said Sunday. No casualty was reported after the structure collapsed in Paharpur village Saturday



of the day quote

In the last 10 years, what development has been done in Haryana by the BJP? SUNITA KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S WIFE

Usually the culture is you root for yourself but this culture is less in BJP than other parties SHAURYA DOVAL | BJP LEADER

You may recall our recent exchange in the Rajya Sabha during Question Hour. The Union Government's proposed ₹72,000 crore 'Mega Infra Project' in Great Nicobar Island is a grave threat to Great Nicobar Island's tribal communities and natural ecosystem JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

X POST OF THE DAY

1992; Harshad Mehta scam hit, and then-FM P. Chidambaram stepped down. 2024; #HindenburgResearch exposes the Adani-SEBI scandal, but FM Nirmala Sitharaman is silent. I repeat this will prove to biggest scam after Electoral bond

SHORT TAKES

Apex court to hear Kejriwal's plea today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a Delhi High Court order upholding the summons issued to him in a criminal defamation case for retweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in May 2018. A three-judge bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Kumar and R Mahadevan is likely to hear the matter in which Kejriwal has admitted that he "committed a mistake" by retweeting the alleged defamatory video.

13-yr-old boy dies of electrocution

New Delhi: A 13-year-old boy died of electrocution after he came in contact with an electric pole here, police said Sunday. The incident happened in Rahnola area while the boy was playing cricket, they said. The Rahnola police station received a PCR call Saturday at 1.27 pm regarding the death of the boy due to electrocution, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (outer) Jimmy Chiram said. The police team reached the spot and was informed that the boy was playing cricket in Kotla Vihar Phase-2, when he got electrocuted after he came in contact with an iron pole supplying electricity to a 'gaushala' (cowshed), DCP Chiram said.

MP: Trainer aircraft crashes, 2 pilots hurt

Guna (MP): Two pilots were injured after a trainer aircraft belonging to a private aviation academy crashed at an airstrip in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district Sunday, police said. The two-seater Cessna 152 plane crashed at around 1.30 pm, possibly due to engine failure, after remaining airborne for 40 minutes, Guna Cantt police station in-charge Dileep Rajoria said. Two pilots on board the plane suffered injuries but were out of danger and have been admitted to a hospital here, he said in a statement.

WOMAN DOCTOR MURDER

WB: Police wait for final autopsy report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 11: The police were waiting for the final post-mortem examination report to come to a conclusion regarding the murder of a woman doctor, whose body was found in state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital here, an officer said.

The preliminary autopsy report suggested that she was sexually abused and murdered. "We are waiting for the final autopsy report to come to a conclusion in this case. Our probe findings needed to be verified with the final report of the post-mortem," the police officer told PTI.

The initial autopsy report stated that the victim was bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts. There were also injuries on her left leg, neck, right hand, ring finger and lips. Meanwhile, another police officer said that circumstantial ev-

idence also indicated a possibility that the doctor was first murdered and then raped.

Sleuths of the Kolkata Police team Sunday formed to investigate the murder, collected samples from the seminar hall of the hospital, a police source said. The body of the woman post-graduate trainee was found in the hospital's seminar room Friday morning. A civic volunteer, an outsider frequently quenting the hospital premises, was arrested Saturday.

The police also reconstructed the crime scene though the arrested accused was not present, the officer said. He said that after committing the crime, the accused went to a police barrack and slept till Friday morning. Investigation revealed that the arrested man was also a member of a welfare unit of the Kolkata Police, he said.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal, who visited the

- The preliminary autopsy report suggested that she was sexually abused and murdered
- The initial autopsy report stated that the victim was bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts
- There were also injuries on her left leg, neck, right hand, ring finger and lips
- Meanwhile, another police officer said that circumstantial evidence also indicated a possibility that the doctor was first murdered and then raped

hospital for the second time in three days, held meetings with officials. "We are also talking to persons who were on duty on Thursday night till the next morning. CCTV footage is also being checked," he said.

The police have seized the clothes and shoes worn by the accused during the crime. As to whether anybody else was involved in the crime along with the arrested accused, the officer said, "As of now there is no evidence of that."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vowed to seek death penalty for the perpetrator. Meanwhile, Kolkata Police deployed a huge contingent at the hospital Sunday.

The hospital authorities expelled the two security persons contractually employed at the emergency ward for not discharging their duties properly which, in a way, led to the crime against the doctor, another official said.

BSF foils infiltration bid, detains 11 Bangladeshis



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Eleven Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended while trying to infiltrate into India through the international border in West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya, the Border Security Force (BSF) said Sunday.

They are being questioned and will be handed over to the respective state police for further legal action, a BSF spokesperson said. He also said the BSF was in regular touch with its counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to sort out mutual issues, especially about the prevention of atrocities on Indian nationals and people from minority communities in Bangladesh.

Last week, the Union Home Ministry formed a committee under the BSF additional director general (ADG) (Eastern Command) to look into the safety and security issues being faced by minorities in Bangladesh following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government.

The BSF is the designated armed force to guard the 4,096-km-long India-Bangladesh border that runs the five eastern states of West Bengal (2,217 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km). The force has been on a "high alert" all along this front since the fall of the Hasina government and amid

PIL in SC seeks release of Rohingya refugees

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre to release the Rohingya refugees who have been indefinitely detained for two years or above. The PIL, drawn by advocate Ujjaini Chatterji, challenges the indefinite detention of the Rohingya asylum seekers and refugees, including young women and children, in India, in "violation of the procedures established by law."

the turmoil in the neighbouring country.

The border guards have thwarted a number of infiltration attempts and sent back thousands of Bangladeshi people over the last few days with the help of the BGB at many points along the Bangladesh frontier. The South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata said in a statement that its Eastern Command ADG Ravi Gandhi chaired an operational conference Saturday to review the security along the border "amid the current unrest in Bangladesh" and the upcoming Independence Day August 15.

It said, "11 Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended on the border while infiltrating into India. Two each were nabbed from West Bengal and Tripura borders while seven were apprehended from Meghalaya border."

UP BYPOLLS

BSP to fight all 10 Assembly seats: Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 11: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati Sunday announced that her party will field candidates in all the 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh where bypolls are going to be held.

The Election Commission is yet to declare the schedule for the by-elections to Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan and Sisamau Assembly seats.

In a statement, released after a meeting of the BSP's state unit district chiefs, office bearers and functionaries, the party said Mayawati reviewed the preparations for the upcoming Assembly bypolls.



"Ten assembly constituencies have fallen vacant after the Lok Sabha elections. No official announcement of the date has been made so far but activities pertaining to this are increasing continuously, especially the ruling party, BJP, and its government have made it an issue of prestige, due to which the interest of the people in the bypolls has also increased," it said.

"The BSP will field its candidate in all these Assembly constituencies, where by-elections will take place, and will contest the bypolls with full might," the statement said. By-elections were necessitated for nine seats as the MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha. The Sisamau seat fell vacant due to the disqualification SP leader Irfan Solanki as MLA after he was sentenced to jail in a criminal case.

Mounting an attack on the BJP, Mayawati said, "There is tremendous anger among the common public as the BJP government at the Centre and in the state has not only failed in stopping rising poverty, unemployment, price rise and backwardness but has also not paid enough attention towards this."

NDA eyes majority in RS after bypolls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The BJP-led NDA is expected to achieve a clear majority in Rajya Sabha after bye-elections for 12 seats scheduled next month, which would help the party get the nod for key legislations such as the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

In the upper house with the current effective strength of 229, the BJP has 87 MPs and with its allies the number is 105. Six nominated members, who usually cast their vote with the government, take the strength of the NDA to 111, four short of the half-way mark of 115.

The Congress has 26 members in the Upper House and its allies add another 58, taking the opposition alliance numbers to 84. Among the key fence-sitters are the YSR Congress Party with 11 members and BJD with eight members. Elections to the 12 vacant Rajya Sabha seats in nine states will be held on September 3. The Election Commission has announced 12 separate elections for each of the seats, handing over a clear advantage to the ruling party in the state.

The BJP and its allies are expected to win 11 of the 12 seats in the elections, which will take the NDA past the half-way mark to 122 seats in the 245-member house. Four seats from Jammu and Kashmir in the Upper House are vacant as the Union Territory is yet to get its first legislative assembly. This reduces the effective strength of the Rajya Sabha to 241.

Focus on nutrition, safety of women, kids: WCD minister



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi has urged the states and Union Territories to leverage the schemes of the ministry to focus on the nutrition and safety of women and children.

Devi made the appeal Saturday during a meeting with the ministers of women and child development and social welfare departments from various states as well as the administrators and lieutenant governors of Union Territories.

To ensure their effective implementation, all major programmes of the ministry have been classified under three umbrella schemes -- Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti.

sure that the benefits of our efforts reach the grassroots level. It is essential to work in collaboration with the states, which will not only foster the development of individual states but also contribute to the overall progress of our nation, aligning with the prime minister's vision of a 'Developed India', she said.

The meeting featured deliberations on current projects, developmental achievements and future strategies aimed at ensuring better progress for women and children across the country, according to an official statement. The Union minister said the states and the Union Territories should upgrade 'anganwadis' to 'Saksham Anganwadis', set up anganwadi-cum-creches, and working women's hostels 'Sakhi Niwas' in large numbers.

The Union Minister also solicited the participation of the states and Union Territories in the seventh edition of 'Poshan Maah' in September to spread awareness about behavioural practices around nutrition.



Derailed wagons of a goods train are seen at Shaktinagar area in Sonbhadra district Uttar Pradesh. No one was injured in the incident, which took place at around 11.30 am

Why were you silent for 15 days: Deshmukh to Fadnavis

Fadnavis has been locked in a war of words with Deshmukh, since the latter accused the BJP leader of trying to exert pressure when he (Deshmukh) was the Home Minister in the MVA government to frame key politicians, including the then CM Uddhav Thackeray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, August 11: NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh Sunday asked Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis what made him level allegations 15 days after being "exposed".

In its counter, the BJP said Fadnavis speaks with facts and his statements are well-grounded. Fadnavis has been locked in a war of words with Deshmukh, since the latter accused the BJP leader of trying to exert pressure when he (Deshmukh) was the home minister in the MVA government to frame key politicians, including the then CM



Uddhav Thackeray. The Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) is a constituent of the Opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), also comprising Shiv Sena (UBT) headed by Uddhav Thackeray and Congress.

In a post on X Sunday, Deshmukh said that 15 days back, he had "exposed" how Fadnavis had conspired three years ago to jail ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray and the then minister Aaditya Thackeray.

Deshmukh said Fadnavis was targeting him through dismissed and jailed policeman Sachin Waze and former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, who "placed a bomb in a Scorpio vehicle outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house and orchestrated the murder of the Scorpio's owner".

The NCP (SP) leader claimed that Waze and Singh were parroting Fadnavis's lines.

"Singh was to be arrested by central agencies three years ago, but he sought refuge with the BJP and is now making accusations as per your instructions. Why were you silent for 15 days? Did you suddenly remember to accuse me now," he asked.

Responding to Deshmukh's attack, BJP state spokesperson Chandan Goswami said Fadnavis speaks with facts and all his statements are well-grounded. "MVA (Maha Vikas Aghadi) is continuously whipping up false narratives and there is no truth in their words," he added.

Fadnavis had alleged Saturday that during the erstwhile MVA government, a "contract" was given to some officials to jail him and other BJP leaders in false cases. The plan failed as many good officials refused to register false cases, he said.

Fadnavis was responding to a query about former Param Bir Singh's allegation that Deshmukh pressured him to file false cases against certain BJP leaders. Deshmukh had resigned as home minister in 2021 after Param Bir Singh accused him of setting a target to collect ₹100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

international



Maldives for us is a key partner in the Indian Ocean region. It is very much at the heart of our "Neighborhood First Policy" and it is therefore very natural that the cooperation between our two countries has moved beyond the traditional role

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

AFGHAN REFUGEES RETURN HOME

A total of 1,779,603 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from Pakistan, Iran, and other countries over the past 12 months, the country's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation reported



of the day quote

It's a danger, he's (Donald Trump) a genuine danger to American security. Look we're at an inflection point in world history. We really are and democracy is the key

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

I think they're both (competitor and adversary), right, and I think that what we want to do here is build the kind of international order where we can check China

J D VANCE | SENATOR, US

We all need to watch our language because there is a direct connection between inflamed language and inflamed tension and violence

MIKE BURGESS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SECURITY, AUSTRALIA

SHORT TAKES

Uganda landslide: Toll rises to 17

Kampala: A vast landfill site in the Ugandan capital collapsed, killing at least 17 people, the Red Cross said. Fourteen other people were injured when the Kiteezi landfill, which serves as a waste disposal site for much of Kampala, collapsed late Friday. At least two of the dead were children, Kampala Capital City Authority said in a statement. The collapse is believed to have been triggered by heavy rainfall. The precise details of what happened were unclear, but the city authority said there was a "structural failure in waste mass". Venezuela's top court says opposition failed to submit proof in election dispute

Venezuela SC on election dispute

Caracas: Venezuela's Supreme Court Saturday said that it had not received evidence from the Opposition coalition in the disputed July 28 presidential elections and warned that its decision in determining the winner would be final. The South American nation's elections authority, which the Opposition claims is loyal to President Nicolas Maduro, declared the leader had won re-election, while the Opposition argues its candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez, won.

Plane crash: All bodies recovered

Vinhedo: Brazilian emergency crews Saturday recovered the remains of the 62 victims aboard an airliner that plunged to the ground in the town of Vinhedo, near Sao Paulo the day before, killing all on board. The bodies of most of the victims, 34 males and 28 females, had already been moved to Sao Paulo's police morgue for identification. The bodies of the pilot and co-pilot were identified earlier in the day, said Dario Pacheco, mayor of Vinhedo.

Pakistan Soldiers' convoy attacked

Peshawar: At least four Pakistan Army soldiers, including an officer, were injured Sunday when heavily armed militants ambushed a convoy of security forces in Pakistan's restive northwest, sources said. The militants targeted the convoy in Gulshan Adda, Mir Ali, in the tribal district of North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan. Four security personnel, including an officer, were injured in the attack, they said.

GAZA WAR Israel orders more evacuations

Tens of thousands left their homes and shelters in the middle of the night, heading west toward Mawasi and north, already overcrowded with hundreds of thousands of displaced people

REUTERS

Cairo, August 11: Israel expanded evacuation orders in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip overnight, forcing tens of thousands of Palestinian residents and displaced families to leave in the dark as explosions from tank shelling reverberated around them.

The Israeli military said it was attacking militants from the Hamas group, which administered Gaza before the war, who were using those areas to stage attacks and fire rockets.

On Saturday, an Israeli airstrike on a school where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in Gaza City killed at least 90 people, according to the civil defence service, prompting an international outcry.

The Israeli military said it had struck a Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant command post, an allegation the two groups rejected as a pretext, and killed 19 militants.

In Khan Younis in the south of the Gaza Strip, the evacuation instruction covered districts in the centre, east and west, making it one of the largest such orders in the 10-month-old conflict, two days after tanks returned to the east of the city. The announcement was posted



Some are only able to carry their children with them, some carry their whole lives in one small bag. They are going to overcrowded places where shelters are already overflowing with families. They have lost everything and need everything

PHILIPPE LAZZARINI | HEAD OF UN'S AGENCY FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES UNRWA

TENS OF THOUSANDS MADE TO LEAVE HOMES IN DARKNESS

PALESTINIANS AND UN SAY NOWHERE IN GAZA IS SAFE

on X and in text and audio messages to residents' phones "For your own safety, you must evacuate immediately to the newly created humanitarian zone. The area you are in is considered a dangerous combat zone."

Philippe Lazzarini, head of the United Nations' agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, said people in Gaza were trapped and had nowhere to go.

"Some are only able to carry their children with them, some

carry their whole lives in one small bag. They are going to overcrowded places where shelters are already overflowing with families. They have lost everything and need everything," he said.

The Israeli army said it had struck around 30 Hamas military targets in the previous 24 hours, including military structures, anti-tank missile launch posts, and weapons storage facilities.

Philippines slams reckless actions of Chinese air force

REUTERS

Manila, August 11: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr Sunday condemned Chinese air force actions in waters of the South China Sea claimed by both countries, calling the actions "unjustified, illegal and reckless".

Manila and Beijing accused each other Saturday of disrupting their militaries' operations around the Scarborough Shoal in the first incident since Marcos took office in 2022 in which the Philippines has complained of dangerous actions by Chinese aircraft, as opposed to navy or coast guard vessels.

The Philippine military Saturday condemned "dangerous and provocative actions" when two Chinese aircraft dropped flares in the path of a Philippine aircraft during a routine patrol around the shoal Thursday.

The Chinese military's Southern Theatre Command countered that the Philippines had disrupted its training, accusing Manila of "illegally intruding" into its airspace.

On Sunday, Marcos urged China to act responsibly both in the seas and in the skies.

"We have hardly started to calm the waters, and it is already worrying that there could be instability in our airspace," Marcos said in a statement posted by the Presidential Communications Office on the social media platform X.

The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment Sunday.



People attend a protest against pollution and the exploitation of a lithium mine in the country in Belgrade, Serbia

PTI PHOTO

Kursk attack will pressure Russia: Zelenskyy

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 11: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgement of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest incursion into Russian territory since

Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed, pressure on the aggressor

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving.

Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and im-



posed a sweeping security regime in three border regions Saturday, while Belarus, a staunch ally of Moscow, sent more troops to its border with Ukraine, accusing Kyiv of violating its air space.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskiy,

vowing to respond in kind after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

"Today, I received several reports from Commander-in-Chief Syrskiy regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said late Saturday.

"Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed, pressure on the aggressor."

Schoolchildren to be trained in spotting fake news after UK riots

THE MOVE CAME AS THE CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL, GAVIN STEPHENS, CAUTIONED IN AN ARTICLE OVER DISINFORMATION BEING WIDELY SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES DURING THE RECENT VIOLENT CLASHES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 11: Schoolchildren will be taught how to spot extremist content and fake news online under proposed changes to the curriculum in the wake of far-right riots across UK cities fuelled by misinformation on social media.

UK Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson told "The Daily Telegraph" Sunday that she is launching a review of the curriculum in both primary and secondary schools to embed critical thinking across multiple subjects and arm children against "putrid conspiracy theories". It means schoolchildren may analyse articles in English



lessons to help learn how to weed out fabricated clickbait from accurate reporting.

"It's more important than ever that we give young people the

knowledge and skills to be able to challenge what they see online," Phillipson told the newspaper.

"That's why our curriculum review will develop plans to embed

critical skills in lessons to arm our children against the disinformation, fake news and putrid conspiracy theories awash on social media," she said.

"Our renewed curriculum will always put high and rising standards in core subjects first, that's non-negotiable. But alongside this we will create a broad, knowledge-rich curriculum that widens access to cultural subjects and gives pupils the knowledge and skills they need to thrive at work and

throughout life," she added.

The move came as the chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, cautioned in an article in the newspaper over disinformation being widely shared on social media sites during the recent violent clashes.

"What has struck me during the disorder is how vulnerable we all are to disinformation and vile hatred online. We have spoken in recent years about how to keep our children safe online, and what we have learned this week is that left unchecked misinformation and harmful posts can undermine all our safety," he writes.

Bangladesh interim govt warns media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 11: Bangladesh's interim government Sunday issued a stern warning to media organisations, stating that they will be shut down if they publish or broadcast false or misleading news, in a move aimed at curbing the spread of misinformation.

"A nation falters when the media does not uphold the truth," the interim government's Home Affairs Adviser, Brigadier General (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain, said during his visit to injured policemen at Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital.

He warned that the media outlets would face closure if they provided misleading news, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Criticising the media for not presenting the truth, Hossain said, "A country deteriorates when the media fails to report honestly," and argued that had the media accurately reported events, the current situation involving the police might have been avoided.

"The media often ignores the truth...There is a lack of substantive discussion on talk shows, and the media fails to provide accurate information," he said.

Meanwhile, Nahid Islam, adviser for Posts,



Telecommunications, and Information Technology, said action will be taken against officials involved in the internet shutdown during the recent student protests.

Talking to journalists on the first day of joining his office at the Secretariat Sunday, Nahid emphasised that those responsible for the internet shutdown during the protests will face consequences, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

He said access to the internet is a right and disrupting or shutting it down is a violation of human rights. Nahid asserted that the indiscriminate internet shutdowns will no longer be tolerated. Meanwhile, Bangladesh interim govt's chief adviser Muhammad Yunus was Sunday acquitted in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, three days after he took oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, according to a media report.

Taylor Swift plot suspect's lawyer plays down attack plan

REUTERS

Vienna, August 11: The lawyer of the main suspect in a foiled plot to carry out an attack at Taylor Swift concert in Vienna Sunday sought to play down the seriousness of the plan, saying her client was only "playing with ideas".

Swift's three planned concerts this week were cancelled after Austrian authorities discovered a plot allegedly led by a 19-year-old to carry out an ISIS-inspired suicide attack at a soccer stadium where tens of thousands of fans were planning to attend the shows.

Austrian investigators said the youth had recently sworn a pledge to ISIS and had made a full confession after police raided his house, seizing chemicals, machetes and other devices the plotters planned to use in a bomb attack.

Lawyer Ina-Christin Stiglitz told Reuters the youth had only been involved with ISIS for the past month.

"It interested him," she said, suggesting that her client had not really intended to carry out a serious attack.

"It was just playing with ideas," she said. "He says the bomb wasn't of good enough quality, it wouldn't have worked."

He had researched online on how to build a bomb, she added.

Among three other teenagers Austrian police have detained in the investigation was a 17-year-old youth, whom Stiglitz said her client had described as his "best friend and neighbor".

Neighbours of the 19-year-old in the small town of Ternitz expressed shock at his arrest, describing him as reserved but friendly.

of the day quote

Overall, from a demand perspective, we do anticipate that as far as the global demand is concerned, it is likely to remain muted. It has been that way. It's likely to remain muted. No immediate changes there

PB BALAJI | TATA MOTORS GLOBAL CFO

We are targeting to launch projects worth ₹30,000 crore this fiscal year. We have already launched around ₹9,000 crore worth of projects in the first quarter of this fiscal

PIROISHA GODREJ | GODREJ PROPERTIES EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

Moving forward, the direction of the domestic market will be influenced by global markets

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJGIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

SHORT TAKES

F&O norms to hit exchanges

New Delhi: Stock exchanges and brokers, catering to retail traders, could be hit hard by the regulator Sebi's proposed measures for Futures & Options (F&O) trading regulations, with market volumes slumping 30-40 per cent, according to reports. If these measures are implemented, the number of investors could decrease, it added. Moreover, discount brokers, who depend heavily on retail investors, are expected to be more affected than traditional full-service brokers. Sebi, in its consultation paper in July, proposed seven measures, including increasing minimum contract size and upfront collection of option premiums, intra-day monitoring of position limits, rationalisation of strike prices, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day and increase in near contract expiry margin.

RIL's solar giga-factory

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd, India's most valuable company, plans to commission its first solar giga-factory in the current fiscal as it pivots a green pathway to achieve net zero carbon emissions from operations by 2035. In its largest annual report, the firm said it is targeting to commission the first train of 20GW solar PV (photovoltaic) manufacturing by the end of 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025) and scale up to 20GW in a phased manner over 2026. The solar giga factory will include manufacturing of PV modules, cells, wafers and ingots, polysilicon, and glass at a single location. The modules convert sunlight into electricity. It is also targeting industrialising sodium-ion cell production at the MW level in 2025 and first 50 MWh a year lithium battery cells pilot in 2026.

Oravel Stays raises ₹1,457 cr

New Delhi: Oravel Stays Ltd, the parent company of OYO, has raised ₹1,457 crore from a consortium of investors in the latest funding round, sources said. This fund raise concludes the Series G funding round. The IPO-bound unicorn had earlier raised nearly ₹1,040 crore and ₹416.85 crore in the same series. According to different documents accessed by PTI, the additional equity issuance was approved by 99.99 per cent shareholders in an EGM held August 8. The capital will be used to support OYO's growth and its global expansion plans, sources said. The additional fund raise values the company at the same valuation of USD 2.4 billion, as the first Series G tranche issued to InCred in July, a source said.



We believe that India has all the right indicators in place to let us think that there would be really an exponential growth

FRANCESCO SCARDAONI | AUTOMOBILI LAMBORGHINI ASIA PACIFIC REGION DIRECTOR

COAL IMPORTS RISE BY 6 PC IN APRIL-JUNE

India's coal import rose by 5.7 per cent to 75.26 million tonnes (MT) in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 71.16 MT of coal in the same period of the previous fiscal. Coal imports in June were also higher by 6.59 per cent at 22.97 MT compared to 21.55 MT in the same month of the previous fiscal, according to data compiled by mjunction services ltd, a B2B e-commerce platform from a joint venture between Tata Steel and SAIL.



HINDENBURG ALLEGATIONS

Remain calm: Sebi to equity investors

The regulator said the allegations made by Hindenburg against the Adani group have been duly investigated by SEBI and 23 out of 24 investigation were completed in March 2024

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 11: India's markets regulator Sunday asked investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to reports such as that by US-based shortseller Hindenburg Research.

Hindenburg alleged Saturday that the head of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch, previously held investments in offshore funds also used by the Adani Group.

The regulator said the allegations made by Hindenburg against the Adani group have been duly investigated by SEBI and 23 out of 24 investigation were completed in March 2024.

In its first comments following a new report by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research, Sebi Sunday said it has investigated all the allegations against the Adani group.

Chairperson Madhabi Buch made relevant disclosures from time to time and recused herself in matters involving po-



tential conflicts of interest, the regulator said in a statement.

The regulator also said that it has duly investigated the allegations made by Hindenburg against Adani, and said that last of its 26 investigations is nearing completion now.

Earlier, Buch and her husband Dhaval had termed the allegations baseless, and also said that the short seller is attacking the credibility of the capital markets regulator, and also attempting a character assassination of the chairperson.

In a detailed statement issued Sunday evening, the Buchs clarified on the raft of allegations made by Hindenburg in a report Saturday.

"They have chosen to attack the credibility of Sebi and attempt character assassination of the Sebi chairperson," the statement said.

Hindenburg Research alleged that it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to act against Adani group may be because Buch had stakes in offshore funds linked to the conglomerate.

FPIs turn net sellers in Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: After infusing money during the last two months, foreign investors have turned net sellers as they pulled out over ₹13,400 crore from Indian equities in August so far due to unwinding of the yen carry trade and recession fears in the US. So far this year, FPIs have made a net investment of ₹22,134 crore in equities, data with the depositories showed.

Going forward, if the market continues to rise, FPIs are likely to press more sales since Indian stock valuations continue to remain elevated, particularly in relation to valuations in other markets, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Gejgit Financial Services, said. According to the data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew a net amount of ₹13,431 crore from equities so far this month (August 1-9). This came following an inflow of ₹32,365 crore in July on expectation of sustained economic growth, continued reforms and better-than-expected earnings season, and ₹26,565 crore in June driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets.

Before that, FPIs withdrew

₹25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over ₹8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

The latest outflow was triggered by the unwinding of the yen carry trade after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates to 0.25 per cent and recession fears in the US, Vijayakumar said.

This was further exacerbated by escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, which led investors to reduce their risk exposure, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Additionally, the higher valuation of Indian markets provided foreign investors with an attractive profit-taking opportunity. Meanwhile, factors such as growing recession fears in the US, driven by weak jobs data, and uncertainty surrounding the timing of interest rate cuts led to the outflow from Indian equities, Srivastava added.

For the fortnight ended July 31, FPIs were sustained sellers in financial services. However, they were buyers in IT, autos, capital goods and metals during the period under review.

Focused mutual funds' asset base rises 31% in June quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Focused mutual funds, which invest in a concentrated portfolio of stocks, are gaining traction among investors with the asset base of the category growing to ₹1.43 lakh crore in three months ended June 2024, marking an increase of 31 per cent from a year ago.

Interestingly, some of the focused funds offered by the mutual fund houses such as Invesco India Focused Fund, Mahindra Manulife Focused Fund, JM Focused Fund and HDFC Focused 30 Fund delivered a remarkable return of 40-60 per cent in the past year, industry data showed.

Focused funds are a type of mutual fund where the fund manager selects a concentrated portfolio of stocks, typically limited to a maximum of 30 due to regulatory constraints.

This requires the fund manager to be highly skilled in stock selection, as they need to identify the best investment opportunities across the market without bias toward any specific



market cap or sector.

According to data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), the assets under management (AUM) of the focused funds were at ₹1.43 lakh crore in June quarter 2024-25 as compared to ₹1.09 lakh crore in April-June FY24.

This growth highlights the appeal of focused funds as an alternative to portfolio management services (PMS), especially with recent tax changes that make PMS less attractive due to higher costs and tax implications, Feroze Azeem, Deputy CEO, Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd, said.

"With the increase in taxation on both small-term capital

LIC to invest ₹1.30L-cr in stock market in FY25

LIC has exposure in 282 companies through investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty has said that the corporation is looking to make fresh investments of around ₹1.30 lakh crore in equities during the current financial year.

During April-June FY25, the insurance behemoth made an investment of about ₹38,000 crore in shares as against ₹23,300 crore in the same period a year ago.

LIC earned a profit of ₹15,500 crore from its investments in equity markets during the first quarter. The profit from its investment was higher by 13.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

"We are surely looking at the markets and price move-

ments...we are looking to invest a good amount at least whatever we had invested in last financial year...LIC made an investment of around ₹1.32 lakh crore in FY24," he said.

Market value of LIC's investment in stocks of various companies stood at around ₹15 lakh crore at the end of June, he said.

LIC has exposure in 282 companies through investment in their shares as of June 30, 2024.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to ₹53,58,781 crore as at June-end as compared to ₹46,11,067 crore at the end of same quarter previous year, registering an increase of 16.22 per cent.

Total investment grew by ₹7,30,662 crore, from ₹42,44,852 crore in March 2023 to ₹49,75,514 crore as on March 31, 2024. Total equity investment portfolio constitute ₹12,39,740 crore as against ₹8,39,662 crore in 2022-23, whereas other investments constitute ₹37,35,774 crore as against ₹34,05,190 crore in 2022-23.

For June quarter 2024, LIC reported 10 per cent increase in net profit to ₹10,461 crore as against ₹9,544 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income increased to ₹2,10,910 crore during the latest June quarter as against ₹1,88,749 crore in the year-ago period.

Total premium income for the quarter increased 16 per cent to ₹1,13,770 crore as compared to ₹98,363 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Cement firms report volume growth in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Leading cement manufacturers reported single-digit volume growth in the June quarter, though their topline was muted on account of the continued downturn in the price.

Listed manufacturers such as UltraTech, Ambuja Cements, ACC, Shree Cements, and Dalmia Bharat - in their latest quarter earnings reported gains in volumes, ranging from 3 to 9 per cent and increase in capacity utilisation.

However, soft cement prices have put their topline under pressure in the April-June period. Besides, raw material costs went up marginally due to an increase in the cost of fly ash and slag.

The all-India average cement price was at around ₹348 per 50 kg bag in June 2024, down around 3 per cent year-on-year. However, this was higher when compared to ₹335 per bag in May 2024.

For the first two months of FY25, the average cement price was at ₹340 per bag, down 8 per cent YoY. In FY24, the average price was ₹365 per bag and ₹375 per bag in FY23, according to the report.

Moreover, intense heatwave and general elections also slowed the pace of construction activities in April-May.

UltraTech Cement reported a flat consolidated net profit of ₹1,696.59 crore for the June quarter. The leading cement maker's revenue from operations was up 1.87 per cent at ₹18,069.56 crore for the period.

Volume sales were up 7 per cent to 31.95 million tonne (MT), said the Aditya Birla Group firm which has announced an open offer for the South-based rival India Cements Ltd after acquiring the promoter's stake.

Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of ₹789.63 crore and its revenue from operations was at ₹8,311.48 crore.

Though its results were not comparable due to past acquisitions of Sanghi Industries and ACCPL, its consolidated revenue from operations was at ₹8,712.90 crore in the corresponding June period of FY24.

Ambuja Cement's consolidated sales volume, including its subsidiary ACC, was at 15.8 MT, up 2.6 per cent.

Falling prices hit lab-grown diamond industry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Significant fall in prices, eroding consumer interest and competition with imports are some of the major challenges being faced by the domestic lab-grown diamond industry, think tank GTRI said Sunday.

It also said that while India faces the issue of production overcapacity, it continues to import lab-grown diamonds in large amounts and this issue needs deeper investigation.

To address these challenges, the government needs to take certain steps such as setting clear and consistent rules to standardize quality, certification, and market practices; issuing a Quality Control Order to check quality of imports; and investment in research and development to improve production processes, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of lab-grown diamonds.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that India's lab-grown diamond industry is facing a major challenge, with



prices falling by 65 per cent in the past year, from ₹60,000 to ₹20,000 per carat due to local overproduction and oversupply from abroad.

This sharp decline points to problems like overproduction, high imports, and lack of regulation, which are hurting consumer confidence. Urgent corrective steps are needed to get this high-growth industry back on track, it added.

Meanwhile, natural diamonds cost around ₹3.5 lakh per carat

and this price drop is making it difficult for manufacturers to repay loans taken for purchasing lab-grown diamond making machines, putting them under financial strain, it said.

Lab-grown diamonds, as the name suggests, are created in laboratories replicating the natural high pressure, high temperature conditions under which diamonds are formed in the Earth's mantle.

These diamonds are chemically, physically, and optically

identical to natural diamonds. Natural diamonds come in various shapes, while lab-grown diamonds are usually square or rectangular. Lab-grown diamonds are produced in a rough form and need to be cut and polished, just like natural diamonds.

The value of a cut and polished lab-grown diamond is 6-8 times higher than its rough form.

"The industry faces several challenges, including falling prices, intensifying competition both from local and imports, and the lack of clear regulatory frameworks. These issues pose potential risks to the sustained growth and profitability of India's lab-grown diamond sector," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said that the number of units producing lab-grown diamonds in India has increased to 10,000 units, leading to oversupply and tougher competition.

He also said that it is easy to replace natural diamonds with lab-grown ones in jewellery with many small stones to save costs.

"The human eye can't tell the difference; only an expensive machine (costing around ₹15

lakh) can identify them. This leads to concerns where people wonder if the diamond necklace they bought is made of lab-grown diamonds while they paid for natural ones, creating trust issues," Srivastava said.

The industry lacks clear regulations checking such practices, making it hard to ensure quality. Lack of proper certification, and low trust market operations could slow down the industry's growth.

He added that 98 per cent of India's imports of rough lab-grown diamonds come from Hong Kong (63.7 per cent or USD 728.2 million) and the UAE (28.5 per cent or USD 326 million).

In FY 2024, India imported rough lab-grown diamonds worth USD 1,143.7 million and exported cut and polished ones worth USD 1,304.6 million.

About 20 per cent of the imported rough diamonds were cut and polished for export, while the rest were used in the local market. GTRI suggested that regulation and standardization will reduce uncertainty and ensure fairness in the industry.

THE FIRSTS, NEAR MISSES AND A DEBACLE

INDIA END PARIS OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN WITH SIX MEDALS. HOPES WERE HIGH FOR A HISTORIC PERFORMANCE BUT THE COUNTRY FELL JUST SHORT OF SURPASSING ITS PREVIOUS BEST AT THE RESCHEDULED TOKYO OLYMPICS IN 2021, WHEN THEY SECURED SEVEN MEDALS (1 GOLD, 2 SILVER, AND 4 BRONZE) AND RANKED 48TH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Paris, August 11: India's Paris Olympics campaign concluded as Reetika Hooda fell short in the wrestling quarterfinals, and golfers Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar finished out of medal contention.

A total of 117 Indian athletes participated across 16 sports at the Paris Games: archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, equestrian, golf, hockey, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, wrestling, table tennis, and tennis. India clinched six medals at the Paris Olympics, one silver and five bronze.

Athletics led the way for India with a robust 29-member squad, while the country also fielded its largest-ever contingent of 21 shooters in the shooting events.

Beyond the pursuit of medals, Indian athletes made history by setting new records at the Games along with some near misses on medals after finishing fourth in six events.

Major achievements
Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win a shooting medal at the Olympics.

Moreover, she became the first Indian athlete in the post-Independence era to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Games.

Norman Pritchard, with silver in the men's 200m and men's 200m hurdles at Paris 1900, was the first athlete to win two medals at one Olympics for India.

Manu stormed into the final of the women's 10m air pistol, becoming the first Indian woman since Athens 2004 to qualify for the Olympic finals in shooting. The following day, she won the bronze in the same and cre-

ated history by becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.

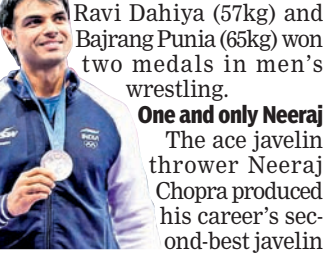


Later, Manu, partnering with Sarabjot Singh, became the first Indian shooting pair to win an Olympic medal in shooting. Overall, it was India's sixth Olympic medal in shooting.

Shooters shine
When Swapnil Kusale clinched the bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions August 1, he secured India's third shooting medal at the Paris Olympics, marking a historic achievement. This not only set a new record for India's best-ever medal tally in a single sport at the Olympics but also earned the nation its first Olympic shooting medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event.

Prior to this, India had never won more than two medals in a single sport at any Olympic Games, with the previous best being two shooting medals at the London 2012 Olympics -- Vinay Kumar (Silver, 25m rapid fire pistol) and Gagan Narang (Bronze, Men's 10m Air Rifle Event). In Tokyo Games, Ravi Dahiya (57kg) and Bajrang Punia (65kg) won two medals in men's wrestling.

One and only Neeraj
The ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra produced his career's second-best javelin



Indian Olympics Association (IOA) President PT Usha and Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Indian Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani with Paris Olympics medal winners and other players of Indian contingent during a felicitation ceremony

throw at Paris 2024 with an effort of 89.45m but was beaten for gold by Arshad Nadeem, who achieved a new Olympic record of 92.97m.

Although it wasn't gold, winning an Olympic silver medal was a significant achievement for the 26-year-old, as it marked only India's second medal in athletics at the Summer Games -- both secured by Neeraj.

In the process, he became the third two-time Olympic medalist from India after adding a silver to his Tokyo 2020 gold medal. Sushil Kumar, PV Sindhu are the other two-time athletes who won two Olympics in successive editions.

Back-to-back medals
India, the bronze medalists in hockey at Tokyo, achieved back-to-back Olympic podium finishes for the first time in 52



years, since the Munich 1972 Games, by rallying from a goal down to defeat Spain 2-1 in the bronze medal playoff.

This victory at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium also secured India's record-extending 13th Olympic hockey medal.

When India beat Tokyo Olympics silver medalists Australia 3-2 in a group game at the Paris 2024 Olympics, it marked their first win over the Aussies in the Games since 1972.

Aman: Youngest medalist
Wrestler Aman Sehrawat became the youngest ever individual Olympic medalist from India at 21

years, 0 months, and 24 days after he secured the bronze medal in 57kg men's freestyle wrestling. He bettered shuttler PV Sindhu's record, who was 21 years 1 month and 14 days old when she won silver at the Rio Olympics 2016.

In addition, star paddler

Manika Batra became the first Indian table tennis player to progress to the pre-quarterfinals of the Olympic Games. She was later followed by Olympic debutant Sreeja Akula in the round-of-16.

Fourth-place finishes
India's history of near misses at the Olympics, dating back to Milkha Singh, saw its toughest chapter this year with six agonising fourth-place finishes.

Among them, shooters Arjun Babuta and Manu, who narrowly missed out on medals in the men's 10m air pistol and women's 25m air pistol events, respectively. In the mixed skeet event, the duo of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan came heartbreakingly close, losing the bronze medal match to China by just one point.



Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat delivered India's best-ever Olympic performance in the mixed team event by finishing fourth. In the bronze medal match against the USA's Brady Ellison and Casey Kaufhold, they fought hard but ultimately fell short, losing 6-2, narrowly missing what could have been a historic first podium finish in archery for India.

India's Paris 2024 Olympics campaign suffered yet another heartbreak with Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanut's fourth place in the women's 49kg weightlifting, which extended



champion Viktor Axelsen in the semis and lost to Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal match, his remarkable journey still stands out as a significant achievement.

The weigh-in saga
Vinesh Phogat, who became the first Indian women wrestler to reach the final at the Olympic Games, was disqualified from her gold medal bout in the women's 50 kg category after failing her second weigh-in.

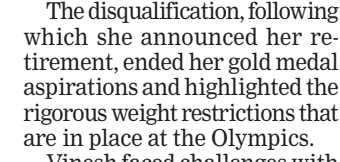
The disqualification, following which she announced her retirement, ended her gold medal aspirations and highlighted the rigorous weight restrictions that are in place at the Olympics.

Vinesh faced challenges with weight cutting and was racing against time to ensure that she met the stringent 50 kg limit. But she ultimately missed the mark by just over 100 grams.

However, she has appealed against her Olympic disqualification with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and demanded a joint silver medal in the 50kg weight category. If Vinesh wins her case for a joint silver medal, India will match their Tokyo tally, but that will not bring a significant change in India's position on the medal tally as they are currently placed 71st.

Lakshya Sen made history as the first Indian shuttler to reach the semifinals in men's badminton at the Olympics. Competing in men's singles, he topped his group with victories over top players like Indonesia's Jonatan Christie, defeated compatriot HS Prannoy in the round of 16, and stunned Chou Tien-chen in the quarterfinals.

Although he fell to defending



the vice chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, said the award will inspire him to continue to work even harder and keep contributing to the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Order, established in 1975, is the highest award of the Olympic Movement. It is awarded to individuals for their distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

Bindra appeared at the Summer Games in five editions, beginning at Sydney 2000. He made his mark for the first time at Athens 2004 when he made it to the final of the men's 10m air rifle.



OLYMPICS TIDBITS

China grab 300th Olympic gold

China won the women's team event in table tennis at the Paris Games Saturday for the country's 300th gold medal in Olympic history. China beat Japan 3-0 in the final for its fifth consecutive gold in the women's team event, a feat that the men had also achieved Friday. China is the dominant force in table tennis, sweeping the five Olympic gold medals in Paris, with the other victories coming in the men's and women's singles tournaments and in the mixed doubles event. China has won 37 of the 42 gold medals awarded in table tennis since the sport was added to the Olympic program at Seoul in 1988.

Man climbs Eiffel Tower ahead of closing ceremony

On the final day of the Paris 2024 Olympics, the area around the Eiffel Tower was evacuated Sunday afternoon after a man was seen scaling the iconic landmark just hours before the Games' closing ceremony. Footage shared on social media captured the daring ascent of a shirtless man climbing the 330-meter (1,083-foot) tower, with many onlookers stunned by the spectacle. The climber was spotted just above the Olympic rings that had been prominently displayed on the second section of the monument, a symbol of the global sporting event that had captivated the world for two weeks. According to local media reports, authorities quickly responded, with police moving swiftly to evacuate tourists and locals from the area around the Eiffel Tower. Despite the disruption, the incident is not expected to impact the closing ceremony, scheduled to take place at the Stade de France in the northern suburb of Saint-Denis at 9pm local time (12:30am IST).

CAS ruling: US gymnast stripped of medal

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the bronze medal given to American gymnast Jordan Chiles in the floor exercise at the Paris Games will be reallocated to Ana Barbosu of Romania. It comes after a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruling upheld an appeal by the Romanian Olympic Committee that an inquiry submitted by the USA about Chiles' score in the gymnastics floor exercise final was filed beyond the 1-minute deadline. "The IOC will reallocate the bronze medal to Ana Barbosu (Romania). We are in touch with the NOC of Romania to discuss the reallocation ceremony and with USOPC regarding the return of the bronze medal," the IOC statement read.



USA continue to rule basketball

Golden Curry's late barrage seals fifth straight Olympic men's basketball gold for US

Paris: USA staved off France 98-87 to win its fifth straight Olympic men's basketball gold medal at the Paris Games in front of a raucous crowd at Bercy Arena.

It was the 17th gold medal in 20 Olympics the Americans have participated in. The five consecutive golds is the second-longest streak for the men to the US winning the first seven Olympic competitions.

Stephen Curry finished with 24 points on eight 3-pointers and had five assists. Kevin Durant, the all-time leading men's or women's scorer in US Olympic basketball history, started his only game of this Olympiad and had 15 points,



four rebounds and four assists. LeBron James, the NBA's career scoring leader and US Olympic assists leader, added 14 points, 10 assists and six rebounds.

Devin Booker had 15 points and six rebounds and Anthony Davis had eight points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots for the US, who are 144-5 in Olympic history.

The gold just added to the legacy of a US roster that included players with 15 NBA cham-

Bindra awarded Olympic Order

Paris: Indian shooting icon Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order in recognition of his "distinguished contribution" to the Olympic movement.

Bindra, who became India's first-ever Olympic individual gold medalist in the 2008 Beijing Games with his top finish in 10m air rifle event, was conferred with the honour by the International Olympic Committee during its 142nd Session here Saturday. "When I was a young boy, it was these Olympic rings, which gave meaning to my life," Bindra said.

"And it was a privilege to be able to pursue my Olympic dream for over two decades. Post my athletic career, it has been a great passion of mine to try and contribute back to the Olympic Movement. It has been a privilege and an honour," he added. The 41-year-old, who is also

Swim stars Marchand, Ledecy set to lead flag-bearers

CLOSING CEREMONY

Paris: Swim stars will be prominent among the flag-bearers when Olympic athletes bid farewell to the Paris Games in a closing ceremony at France's national stadium Sunday night. Léon Marchand has been one of the biggest stars in Paris with his four gold medals and he's set to carry the French flag into the farewell celebration. Katie Ledecy will carry the US flag along with rower Nick Mead.

There's an air of anticipation of over what director Thomas Jolly has created to bring the Games to a close at Stade de France after the grandiose and unprecedented open-air opening ceremony on the Seine river. Athletes entering on a parade on boats and the celebration of inclusivity generated headlines around the world. The closing ceremony features



gold medals in the pool as he took the Games by storm. He is set to carry the flag alongside mountain bike gold medalist Pauline Ferrand-Prévo.

United States: Swimming great Ledecy will leave the Paris Games with gold medals in the women's 800-meter freestyle and 1,500-meter freestyle, which increased her career haul to nine Olympic golds. She will co-carry the US flag with

rower Mead, who helped the U.S. win its first Olympic gold medal in the men's four class since 1960. **Australia:** Swim star Kaylee McKeown and sailor Matt Wearn will carry Australia's flag. McKeown won the 100- and the 200-meter backstroke titles to repeat her feat from the Tokyo Games in 2021.

India: Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh will be India's flag carriers. Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win a medal in shooting, taking a bronze in the 10-meter air pistol.

She added another in the mixed team event. Sreejesh helped India win another bronze in men's field hockey and the 36-year-old goalkeeper is retiring after the Games.

Italy: Italian couple Rossella Fiamingo and Gregorio Paltrinieri will carry their national flag to bring the Games to close. Fiamingo won a team fencing gold in Paris and Paltrinieri won silver and bronze in the swimming pool.

The closing ceremony for the Paris Olympics will bring out several stars: Billie Eilish, Snoop Dogg and Red Hot Chili Peppers are scheduled to perform. The all-star lineup will hit the stage as part of the handover to the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The city will host the Olympics for the third time.

Boxing dilemma for LA Games

FEDERATIONS MUST JOIN WORLD BOXING TO INCLUDE SPORT AT LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS, PRESIDENT SAYS

AGENCIES

Paris, August 11: Joining World Boxing is the only action national boxing federations can take to ensure the sport is included on the programme for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, the body's president Boris van der Vorst said Saturday.

The boxing competition at the Paris Olympics, which concluded Saturday, was run by the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC stripped the International Boxing Association (IBA) of recognition last year over its failure to implement reforms on governance and finance.

It has not included the sport on the LA 2028 programme yet and has urged national boxing federations to appoint a new global boxing body or risk missing out on the Olympics in four years. International federations are responsible for organising world championships for their sports, as well as Olympic tournaments.

IOC president Thomas Bach said Friday that a decision on boxing's inclusion at the Los Angeles Olympics has to be made in 2025.

"The IOC has made it abundantly clear that the only way that boxing will be restored to the programme for Los Angeles 2028 is if it has a trusted and reliable international federation (IF) to work with that has support of the national federations (NF)," van der Vorst said in a statement.

"World Boxing is that IF. And we are committed to creating a sustainable and inclusive sporting structure - underpinned by strong governance and trans-



parent financial management - where all boxers can compete and excel knowing that the integrity of the sport is guaranteed and competition is fair."

World Boxing, launched in 2023, has 37 members, far fewer than the IBA, and is not recognised by the IOC.

Van der Vorst said he was confident that World Boxing would soon have up to 50 members.

"We cannot allow boxing to exit the Olympic stage, and I invite every NF that cares about their boxers and the future of the sport to take immediate steps to join World Boxing now and work with us to deliver a better future for the sport."

Van Der Vorst said he is leaving Paris even more confident his sport can pull off "the greatest comeback story ever in the Olympic movement."

He has spent the Games speaking to boxing leaders and federation officials as World Boxing attempts to unify the sport under the only practical alternative to the

There's only one reason to join (World Boxing), and that's to save our sport
BORIS VAN DER VORST | PRESIDENT, WORLD BOXING

Russian-dominated International Boxing Association, which has been banished from the Olympic movement.

Boxing is not currently on the program for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the International Olympic Committee

has repeatedly said the sport must find a suitable new governing body - likely by early 2025 - to be restored to the lineup for the Games. An IOC unit ran the past two Olympic boxing tournaments.

While World Boxing has added members regularly since its inception and now boasts a presence on six continents, it still faces a major obstacle in the intransigence of many longtime IBA members who either rely financially on the banned body or align politically with its leadership.

It will be a challenge to recruit many key members, including some of the world's top federations at the moment. Uzbekistan finished another outstanding

GENDER ROW

Lin Yu-ting wins gold

Lin Yu-ting fought to remain poised and calm throughout the Paris Olympics boxing tournament, even when it seemed like most of the chattering world was maligning her, misrepresenting her and questioning the very nature of her being. The flyweight shut off her social media, kept up her training and focused on earning one proficient victory after another. But when she heard Taiwan's anthem while standing on the top podium at Roland Garros with a gold medal around her neck, Lin suddenly broke down in cathartic sobs. She cried not only for the tumult of the past two weeks, but for a lifetime in boxing that culminated in this gold-medal victory over previously unfathomable challenges. Lin routed Julia Szeremetova of Poland 5:0 in the final, capping her four-fight unbeaten run through Paris by winning Taiwan's first Olympic boxing gold medal.



Online harassment: Khelif files complaint

Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif has filed a legal complaint in France for online harassment after a rain of criticism and false claims about her sex during the Paris Olympics, her lawyer said Sunday. Khelif won gold Friday in the women's welterweight division, becoming a new hero in her native Algeria and bringing global attention to women's boxing. The complaint was filed Friday with a special unit in the Paris prosecutor's office for combating online hate speech, alleging "aggravated cyber-harassment" targeting Khelif, lawyer Nabil Boudi said. In a statement, he described it as a "misogynist, racist and sexist campaign" against the boxer. It is now up to prosecutors to decide whether to open an investigation. As is common in French law, the complaint doesn't name an alleged perpetrator but leaves it to investigators to determine who could be at fault.



Olympic cycle with five gold medals - the most by any nation in 20 years - while China racked up three golds and two silvers.

Cuba, despite winning just two medals in Paris, remains one of the world's most impor-

tant boxing federations. Nobody is sure what the IOC will think if World Boxing is unable to land some of the most successful federations, but Van Der Vorst is determined to keep working toward a challenging goal.

Egypt set to bid for 2036, 2040 Olympics

REUTERS

Paris, August 11: Egypt will bid to host the 2036 and 2040 Summer Olympics, with the country's improving infrastructure and sports facilities key for a successful African bid, said the head of the African national Olympic committees association (ANOCA) Sunday.

The continent has never staged an Olympic Games. Cairo last made an unsuccessful bid for the 2008 Olympics.

The most populous country in the Arab world, Egypt has spent billions of dollars building facilities, stadiums and sports complexes in recent years as part of its plans to modernise the country.

The Egypt International Olympic City complex in the new administrative capital the country has been building east of Cairo since 2015 is expected to have a 93,900-capacity national stadium and 21 other sports facilities.

"Egypt will bid for 2036 and 2040," Mustapha Berraf, head of ANOCA told a press conference on the day of the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

There are already several countries and cities interested in bidding for the 2036 Olympics including Indonesia, India, Turkey as well as Qatar and Saudi Arabia

The Algerian sports administrator said another African bid could potentially materialise with South Africa's Cape Town considering an Olympic candidacy. He did not say for which Games it would bid, though.

"Africa has the chance of organising the Games. It will most likely organise the Games in 2040," said Berraf, who is also an International Olympic Committee member. "There is a need to look at infrastructure issues such as roads, airports. Egypt has important infrastructure potential."

Los Angeles will host the 2028 Summer Games while Australia's Brisbane is preparing to stage the 2032 Olympics.



SHORT TAKES

Ponting hails cricket's return to Olympics

Dubai: World Cup winning former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels that cricket's return in Los Angeles edition of the Olympics in four years' time will be a big positive for the game. It will be a part of the two-week-long extravaganza during the 2028 Games set to be held in Los Angeles, which will witness the sport's return to the stage after 128 years. The only time cricket featured in the Olympics was in 1900 with two teams - Great Britain and France - with the former winning the gold medal. "It can only be a positive thing for our game. I've sat on various committees over the last 15 or 20 years, and it's always been on the top of almost every agenda - how do we get the game back into the Olympics? And finally, it's there," Ponting was quoted as saying during The ICC Review.

Durand Cup: Punjab FC beat Mumbai City

Kolkata: Punjab FC cruised to a 3-0 victory over reigning ISL Cup winners Mumbai City FC during their Durand Cup match here Sunday. Mushaga Bakenga of Norway struck twice, while Croatia's Filip Mrzljak struck an injury-time goal as Punjab FC remained unbeaten in the group stage. PFC are placed second in Group C behind Kerala Blasters, who have already advanced to the next round. The Punjab outfit too have a bright chance of making it to the quarter-finals. Punjab put the young Mumbai side under pressure early, repeatedly testing their goalkeeper. However, the MCFC defence held on to end the opening half goalless.

Pherwani, Garg record wins in first round

Mumbai: Sparsh Pherwani and Mayur Garg recorded commanding wins in their respective outings to advance into the round of 32 in the Western India Billiards and Snooker Championship here Sunday. Hosts Khar Gymkhana's Pherwani hammered Gujarat's Oswald Massey 4-0 (53-19, 57-20, 70-23, and 67-26), while Mayur Garg crushed Mumbai's Rahul Sachdev 4-0 (73-30, 63-46, 74-39, and 67-60). Devendra Joshi from the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board had to work hard for a 4-3 win over Mumbai's Nikhil Saigal, which he recorded by a margin of 32-57, 58-53, 54-66, 71-14, 65-35, 47-54, and 64-49. Another PSPB player Laxman Rawat defeated Pune's Aashit Pandya 4-0 (63-23, 67-32, 95-34, and 70-10) in the first round.

Marquez wishes an Indian to coach football team in future

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Becoming the Indian football team head coach is a "dream come true" for Manolo Marquez but the Spaniard Sunday candidly said that it will be better if an Indian manages the national side in future.

The 55-year-old Marquez was last month appointed by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) as national men's team head coach in place of Igor Stimac for a tenure of three years.

During the 2024-25 season, Marquez will also continue his role as FC Goa head coach, managing both club and national team responsibilities concurrently. He will then take on the Indian team's coaching role full-time from 2025 onwards.

"Apart from Spain, India is the country where I have spent the most number of years. Long time ago, I thought I would like to be a national team head coach and I am here. It is a dream come true," Marquez said while addressing his first press conference after his appointment as India head coach.

"In the future, the national team coach has to be an Indian because he (Indian) will know better how the country works, knows the people of different parts of India. So, this has to be the target of Indian football in the coming years," he added.

Marquez has been in India since 2020, having had three suc-



In the future, the national team coach has to be an Indian because he (Indian) will know better how the country works, knows the people of different parts of India. So, this has to be the target of Indian football in the coming years

MANOLO MARQUEZ | HEAD COACH, FOOTBALL

cessful seasons with the Hyderabad FC and another season (2023-24) with FC Goa (3rd place finish in the ISL).

His first international assignment will be the three-team Intercontinental Cup which is being hosted by India in Hyderabad from September 3-9. Syria and Mauritius are the other two teams in the tournament.

After that he will be in charge of the team at the VFF Tri-Nation Series to be played in Vietnam from October 9-15. Lebanon is the other country in that tournament besides hosts Vietnam and India. Both the tournaments are during the FIFA international match window.

The national camp for the Intercontinental Cup is set to start from August 30 or 31.

Jamaican sprint dominance comes to an end at Paris

REUTERS

Paris, August 11: Jamaica's dominance in the women's 100 and 200 metres came to an abrupt end in Paris with sprint queens Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson absent or injured.

Jamaica took 10 of the 12 women's 100 medals available in the four Olympics before Paris, including a clean sweep in Tokyo, and won four of the previous five 200s as they came out on top in their continuing duel with the United States.

Jamaica's "big three", who have 19 Olympic medals between them, filled the podium three years ago, but Thompson-Herah missed the Paris Games through injury and the campaigns of Fraser-Pryce and Jackson were cut short by injury and neither made the start line of either individual final or the relay.

The 100 final had only one Jamaican, Tia Clayton, in a race won by St Lucia's Julien Alfred, with Americans taking the silver and bronze, making it the first time since 1988 that no Jamaicans were on the podium.

Jamaica did not even manage a finalist in the 200 - the first time since 1976 that they did not medal. In total Jamaica walked away from Paris with six medals, down from nine in Tokyo and 11 in Rio. "It's somewhat disappointing



The country did not even manage a finalist in the 200 - the first time since 1976 that they did not medal. The world has caught up with us

MAURICE WILSON | TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, JAMAICA'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

in terms of the number of medals," said Maurice Wilson, technical director at Jamaica's track and field team. "The world has caught up with us," he added, pointing to the United States' successes on the track.

Double sprint champion Thompson-Herah missed the Jamaica trials in June due to an Achilles injury, while Jackson initially dropped out of the 100 before the Games, and then later pulled out of the 200 days before she was due to run.

FOCUS ON SHOOTING

Olympics bronze winner Sarabjot turns down Haryana govt job offer

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: Winner of bronze medal in the mixed team 10m Air pistol event, with Manu Bhaker, India's shooter Sarabjot Singh shot to fame courtesy of his heroics in the Paris Olympic Games. Upon return home, Sarabjot was offered a job by the Haryana government, but he decided to turn it down.

While many athletes representing India complain of lack of support and financial assistance in their journey, Sarabjot doesn't think this is the right time for him to be taking up a government job, as he has not achieved his target yet.

Sarabjot revealed that although his family is keen to see him take up a decent job, shooting remains his top priority at the moment. "The job is good, but I will not take it right now. I want to focus on my shooting first," Sarabjot told reporters.

"My family has also been asking me to get a decent job, but I want to pursue shooting. I don't want to go against the decisions that I have made, so I cannot take a job right now," he said.

Sarabjot and Manu combined to take the Olympics mixed team bronze at the Paris Games but a third-place finish hasn't quenched the thirst that the former has for success at the highest level.

Tech innovations, AI changing the game for modern sports

Athletes can practice against virtual opponents and mimic game circumstances using augmented reality, which aids in developing rapid decision-making under pressure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: As the Olympic Games draw to a close, the spotlight not only shines on the athletes competing for glory but also on the transformative role technology has played in shaping modern sports and training methodologies.

Over the past few years, innovations such as wearable devices, performance analytics,

and virtual reality have revolutionised how athletes prepare for competition, enhancing their training regimens and optimising performance.

The intersection of sports and technology is dramatically altering the landscape. From advanced sensors that track physiological metrics to smart equipment that provide real-time feedback, technology has become an integral part of an athlete's toolkit.

"Technology fits like a glove in the macro fabric of the modern-day ecosystem of sports performance analysis. It empowers young athletes and coaches by democratising access to pro-level analysis and tools, which helps nurture grassroots talent and instill a sense of competitiveness by providing insights that were traditionally available only to top-tier athletes," said



Sudeep Kulkarni, founder and CEO, Game Theory.

The sports industry is increasingly leveraging the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to transform the way performance is analysed and outcomes are predicted, he said.

Stupa Sports Analytics, a sports technology firm based out of Gurugram, recently pro-

vided analytics support to the Indian table tennis team at a preparatory camp for the Paris Olympics, which included performance analytics, rally analysis, and AI insights for both players and coaches.

"The data helped in articulating strategies to play against the world's best players. Prominent players like Sharath

Kamal, Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakker, Manika Batra, Archana Kamath, and Sreeja Akula benefited from these insights, enhancing their preparation and performance," said Megha Gambhir, CEO and co-founder, Stupa Sports Analytics.

Augmented Reality (AR) is also enhancing the spectator experience. AR solutions allow fans to access additional information about players and stats during live events.

A report from the Capgemini Research Institute revealed that nearly 70 per cent of respondents surveyed (10,000) said that emerging technologies have enhanced their overall viewing experience, both inside and outside the stadium.

Emerging technologies are undeniably the future of sports, and at the forefront of this golden era are tech startups. The inte-

gration of technology in sports through startups is reshaping how athletes train, compete, and engage with fans.

These startups are driving innovation and setting new standards in the sports industry.

Founder and general partner at Centre Court Capital, a gaming and sports tech VC, Mustafa Ghouse said sports tech startups are increasingly becoming target sectors for venture capital due to the vast potential for innovation and growth in the sector.

"In India, the interest is becoming more pronounced, particularly in niche areas of sports technology. In the last three years, India saw investments of \$1.2 billion in sports tech. India is also the 3rd largest funded country in sports tech after the US between 2018 through 2022 followed by China," he said.