



Vaani's perspective

Actor Vaani Kapoor, sharing her thoughts on failure, says a film is an effort of many people coming together

LEISURE | P2



SCO summit invitation

Pakistan invites PM Narendra Modi to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet at Islamabad in October

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Growth forecast

Moody's Ratings raises India's GDP growth forecast for 2024 and 2025 to 7.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, on strong broad-based growth

BUSINESS | P11



Sheetal shines

Armless archer Sheetal Devi in pre-quarterfinals with brilliant show at Paris Paralympics

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Biju Patnaik sports honour for Jena

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of National Sports Day, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi presented the prestigious Biju Patnaik Sports and Bravery Awards to nine sportspersons here, Thursday. Javelin thrower Kishore Jena, who took part in the recently-concluded Paris Olympics, was conferred the 'Biju Patnaik Award for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games'. Among others, weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi was honoured with the 'Best Upcoming Athlete Award'. P12

MLA wants more security

Jajpur: A first-time MLA has sought additional security at his office and residence, expressing apprehension that his opponents could launch attacks for 'political revenge'. Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo, the MLA from Dharmasala constituency, has written to Jajpur Collector P Anvesha Reddy in this regard. Underlining the need for additional security, he alleged that some armed 'anti-social elements' attacked his staff at office in Jaraka August 24. The miscreants also fired in the air to threaten the staff, he claimed, adding that an FIR was filed at the Dharmasala police station following the incident. "Though the police are investigating into the matter, the culprits are yet to be apprehended even five days after the incident," Sahoo said in the letter.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



24x7 CHANNEL

Yeah, it's brutal but not a newsworthy crime. The victim and the accused both belong to the same religion

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	82134.61 ↑ 349.05
NIFTY	25151.95 ↑ 99.60
DOLLAR	83.878 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	92.89 ↓ ₹0.44
GOLD	₹72,070 ↑ ₹327
SILVER	₹84,617 ↑ ₹640

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.9°C	32.4°C
Min Temp	25.4°C	24°C
Humidity	88%	88%
Rainfall	11.1	5.6

FORECAST: GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY WITH HEAVY RAIN



IN SAFE HANDS: An Indian Army personnel carries a child during a rescue operation of stranded people following heavy rainfall, in flood-hit areas of Jannagar, Rajkot and Dwarka, Thursday. PHOTO

BLOOD ON CITY STREETS

Cops detain minor, associate for killing 33-yr-old man over one-sided love affair

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Capital city Thursday woke up to the chilling murder of a 33-year-old man by a minor and his associate over an alleged one-sided love affair at Suka Vihar in Dumduma area under Khandagiri police limits here in a crime that sent shockwaves across the state.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh identified the deceased as Jagat Mallik alias Jaga of Suka Vihar. "The minor, who is the prime accused, and his associate have been detained for questioning," the DCP said, adding that the weapon used in the offence has been confiscated.

According to the deceased's family, the prime accused, a Class XII student, had an unrequited love for the Mallik's niece. Around a couple of months back, Mallik allegedly caught hold of the minor, made him to do sit-ups, and reprimanded him for his advances towards the girl. Both families had a faceoff over the issue and the minor's father had even issued death threats to Mallik, they alleged.

Police said Mallik was returning home after attending a



File photo of Jagat Mallik

- The prime accused, a Class XII student, had an unrequited love for the victim's niece
- The accused surrendered before the Khandagiri police
- The victim's family attributed the incident to a result of police inaction

cultural programme in Cuttack late Wednesday night when the prime accused and his associate intercepted him about 100 metres away from his residence.

"The three got into a heated argument. The prime accused

later pulled out a sword as per a pre-meditated design and hacked Mallik multiple times before the victim could react," police added.

The accused fled the spot in a jiffy, leaving behind a profusely bleeding Mallik. The victim managed to drag himself up to his house before collapsing near the gate.

Hearing his faint cries for help, Mallik's family members came out and rushed him to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, the accused surrendered before the Khandagiri police and confessed to their crime in what is being suspected to be an ostensive bid to lessen the severity of punishment.

The victim's family, on the other hand, attributed the incident to a result of police inaction.

"We had approached the Khandagiri police against the boy's family in June. However, the cops became a mute spectator when his father arrived at the police station and threatened to eliminate us. The situation would have been different if the police had acted in time," alleged the girl's mother.

3 terrorists killed in J&K gunfights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 29: Security forces have foiled two infiltration bids along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, killing three terrorists, officials said Thursday.

"One terrorist has been confirmed eliminated (in Tangdhar operation). Two terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation in general area Machhal, Kupwara, along with the recovery of two AK rifles, one pistol and four hand grenades," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on its X handle.

The Army said searches were in progress at both locations.

Police officials said the two operations were launched August 28 based on specific inputs by Kupwara Police a day earlier.

They said police has been maintaining close vigil and developing on ground human intelligence regarding infiltration attempts from the LoC at Kupwara. "In keeping with intelligence inputs, two specific inputs were developed Tuesday about simultaneous infiltration attempts from Karnah Sector and Kumkadi in Machhal Sector. Inputs were shared with concerned Army units and joint ambushes of JKP and Army were deployed," the officials said.

Quota, 'suspension' of devpt work rock House

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state Assembly Thursday witnessed uproarious scenes as BJD MLAs created a ruckus over alleged suspension of development work in all 314 blocks, while the Congress members staged a walkout demanding an increase in reservation in technical and medical education.

Unable to run the House smoothly, Speaker Surama Padhy adjourned the proceedings till 4:00 pm.

The BJD members created a ruckus after the Speaker disallowed discussion on an adjournment motion moved by them on the alleged suspension of development work in 314 blocks in the state for two months now.

The Congress MLAs raised their demand to enhance the reservation for SC, ST and OBCs in technical and medical education in the state and demanded a ruling from the Speaker on the matter. The Congress legislators created a ruckus and staged a walkout after they did not get a response from the Speaker.

The Opposition members

raised these issues during the Zero Hour.

Claiming that the BJP government has given an unwritten directive to officials not to undertake any development work in the blocks, BJD member Arun Sahoo questioned as to why the government is making delay on the discussion on their adjournment motion.

BJD MLA Ganeswar Behera supported him and demanded the Speaker to allow discussion on the topic.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling said the topic brought by the BJD members was not specific. He requested the agitating members to return to their seats and participate in the proceedings of the House.

The Speaker said she cannot allow discussion on the topic as it is neither 'specific' nor related to a 'recent occurrence'.

On the other hand, after staging a walkout, the Congress members, led by leader Rama Chandra Kadam, went to Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum to Governor Raghuraj Das seeking his intervention to fulfil their demand related to enhancement of reservation of students.

'Bijli' gives birth to quintuplets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: In what would bring cheer to animal lovers, nine-year-old lioness Bijli gave birth to five cubs at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), on the outskirts of the City here, official sources said, Thursday.

With this, the number of lions in the zoo went up to 26.

Bijli was brought to NZP from Indore Zoo in 2020.

The Asiatic lioness became a mother for the first time in July 2021 when she gave birth to three cubs. While two of them died, the third cub was not accepted by the mother. Hence, it was hand-reared by zookeepers.

In March 2022, the lioness gave birth to a cub— Kamini. This



The lioness was brought from Indore Zoo in 2020

time, too, it was hand-reared by zookeepers.

It was in November 2022 when Bijli gave birth to five cubs. Of these, one died and two were given to Alipore Zoo a few days back.

HURUN INDIA RICH LIST 2024: GAUTAM ADANI RICHEST INDIAN; SHAH RUKH KHAN MAKES DEBUT

India saw a new billionaire every 5 days in 2023

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 29: The country churned out a new billionaire every five days throughout 2023, the Hurun India Rich List 2024 said, Thursday.

Recouping the dent caused by the Hindenburg Research report, Gautam Adani's net worth shot up 95 per cent to ₹11.6 lakh crore last year, which helped him replace Reliance Industries Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani to become the richest Indian, it said.

Ambani's overall net worth increased by 25 per cent to ₹10.14 lakh crore, according to the list. In 2023's report, Adani's wealth

declined by 57 per cent to ₹4.74 lakh crore, and Ambani was way ahead with a fortune of ₹8.08 lakh crore.

In the 2014 edition, Hurun had pegged Adani's fortunes at ₹44,000 crore, which made him the 10th richest Indian then.

Shiv Nadar and family of HCL gained one spot to be the third richest with a net worth of ₹3.14 lakh crore, while Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla slipped by one notch to the fourth position with a net worth of ₹2.89 lakh crore. Sun Pharmaceuticals' Dilip Shanghvi continued his ascent on the list, securing the fifth richest tag against sixth last year with a net worth of

₹2.50 lakh crore.

Radha Vembu of Zoho was the wealthiest among self-made

women with a fortune of ₹47,500 crore, while Zepto's co-founders Kaivalya Vohra and Aadit Palicha, who are in their early 20s, were the youngest on the list with a net worth of ₹3,600 crore and ₹4,300 crore, respectively.

Actor Shah Rukh Khan made his debut on the list with a fortune estimated at ₹7,300 crore, which was much higher than business partner Juhi Chawla with ₹4,600 crore net worth secured second place among the entertainers.

Interestingly, 16 professionals also made it to



the list with Arista Networks' chief executive Jayshree Ullal being the wealthiest at ₹32,100 crore and followed by D-mart chief executive Ignatius Navil Noronha at ₹6,900 crore, according to the list.

Gera Developments' Kumar Pritamdas Gera's wealth grew the fastest at 566 per cent in the 2024 list, while Ambani and Adani had the biggest growth by quantum, the list said.

"Reflecting the trend of the rich becoming richer, India minted a new billionaire every five days last year and took the total count of US dollar billionaires to cross the triple-century mark for the first time," it said.

leisure



GWYNETH PALTROW JOINS MARTY SUPREME CAST

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow will feature alongside Timothee Chalamet in filmmaker Josh Safdie's upcoming film with studio A24. Titled *Marty Supreme*, the film will see Chalamet playing the role of the ping pong player Marty Reisman, reports *Variety*.

ANGELINA TO BE HONOURED AT TIFF

Actress Angelina Jolie is set to receive a special honour for her contribution to the cinema and humanitarian work at the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival. Angelina will be receiving the TIFF Tribute Award in Impact Media at the upcoming film festival, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are brimming with your creative instincts today, and will be eager to accept challenging tasks. Some benefits are on the cards at the office. But don't forget to relax, says Ganesh, as your body frequently requires careful attention.

TAURUS
This is one of those days when you are likely to misplace and lose valuable things, particularly money. Ganesh urges you not to indulge heavy gambling or blind speculation. I quest of easy money. Have no doubt that you are most likely to lose whatever you wager and incur huge losses. Be careful. Don't get carried away by impulses. Exercise self restraint. Good fortune will smile on you sooner than you imagine.

GEMINI
You will be flooded with mental stress and worry today. You will have a hard time expressing your feelings and emotions today. You will feel nostalgic and will be flooded with memories, however, do not let your past cloud your present and your future, says Ganesh.

CANCER
An episode could upset you; so control your anger, suggests Ganesh. A slight hurdle on the job front, you may show interest in antiques.

LEO
In the earlier half of the day you will look to improve your creativity and will have discussions with others regarding the same. You need to pay more attention to your relationships with others. You will try to increase your social status. You will be able to accomplish all your goals today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Look before you leap. Ganesh warns that there may be trouble brewing for you and it may catch you unawares. You will be very upbeat at work, and you realise that your high spirits benefit your colleagues too. You may reserve the evening for a quiet time with your family, reminiscing the happy times spent together in the past.

LIBRA
Having an elderly hand to guide you and back you up is always a good thing. Today promises to be very advantageous to you when it comes to gaining from your seniors. It may have something to do with your exceptional skills in building rapport with people, or your ability to perform truthfully. Whatever it is, you are an instant and irresistible charmer and people have a high regard for you; a perfect time to go hit the social circuit and make full use of those skills, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Get your family together today and spend most of the time with them, says Ganesh. If being practical is important, then have your close friends over at your place too. A romantic dinner with your beloved is on the cards today.

SAGITTARIUS
Self-righteousness, and a sense of duty set the mood for the day today. You'll be a miserly scrooge in the afternoon. But later in the day, expect dinner with your sweetheart to be extravagant and blissful.

CAPRICORN
You may have craved for a mini vacation to some place quaint and peaceful for long, and would have given up the idea every time because of the burgeoning work pressure. But it's time to get impulsive. Give your imagination a free reign today, and go where it takes you, for travel is on the cards, and that too with your sweetheart, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Put on your best outfit; freshen up your face and look your best as today, you will be the centre of attention. Be it personal or professional, you will perform extremely well on all the spheres of life, leaving everyone, especially your opponents spellbound, says Ganesh.

PISCES
An important day awaits you. Your spirits will be high, and your intuition uncanny. Guided by these, it is likely that you will make several significant decisions today in matters of finance and relationships. Your energy levels will be unflagging and you will find yourself at the peak of your abilities, says Ganesh.



IN CONVERSATION: Former diplomat and author TCA Raghavan responding to a question by celebrated novelist Chandras Choudhury during a discussion on the former's recently released book, *Circles of Freedom- Friendship, Love and Loyalty in the Indian National Struggle* at the office of **OrissaPOST** and **Dharitri** in Bhubaneswar, Thursday (L). The book brings to light the contributions of five lesser-known nationalists -- Asaf Ali, Sarojini Naidu, Syud Hossain, Syed Mahmud and Aruna Asaf Ali--in India's freedom struggle. On the sidelines of the event, the author and the moderator pose with the twin publications' Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and staffers.



PICS: BIKASH NAYAK

VAANI mantra to face failure



MUMBAI: Actress Vaani Kapoor, known for her versatile roles in films like *Shuddh Desi Romance*, *Befikre*, *War*, *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*, and *Shamshera*, has had her fair share of successes and setbacks in Bollywood.

In a conversation with an entertainment portal, Vaani opened up about dealing with failures, understanding her own growth, and embracing the process of aging with grace. She admitted that dealing with failure is a continuous learning process. The actress is trying to detach herself emotionally from setbacks, recognising that they are an inevitable part of life. Despite her efforts to stay objective, she acknowledges that she often places undue pressure on herself, a trait she recognises as self-inflicted.

"A film is an effort of so many people coming together. You have the captain of the ship who takes the last call. A film is also made on the edit table. There is a background score. There are other people and characters. So it's not just all on your shoulders," she shared.

Vaani views her life as an ongoing journey of learning and self-improvement. "I'm here today because of all the things that have happened in the past. It has made me who I am and I take pride in that. I strive to be a better human being," she concluded.

AGENCIES



'FILM PROMOTIONS MAKE NO DIFFERENCE'

MUMBAI: Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah feels that film promotions have become redundant and serve no purpose in amping up the curiosity of the audience.

The actor recently sat down for a roundtable conversation with his co-actors Vijay Varma, Arvind Swami, Pankaj Kapur and Manoj Pahwa, and the director of the show, Anubhav Sinha. When Anubhav asked him why he dislikes promotions, he said, "I feel it makes no difference. I feel the actors love doing the promotions and to show their faces on screen as it helps them grab the eyeballs."

The actor further mentioned that the audience smells out what they want to see. He then went on to recollect how his generation would wait for films for over 2 years. He shared, "I remember when I was in school or college, Dilip Kumar's films used to get released in a span of 2 years. But, we used to plan in advance that we are going to watch this film. Nothing would dissuade me from seeing it. The audience decides what they want to see, and us saying that 'We have worked really hard on this film' makes no difference to them. You have worked hard but that's your job as an actor; why are you heaping praise on yourself?"

IAN S

Mumbai: Singer Jonita Gandhi is very excited about opening for one of her favourite artistes, English singer Dua Lipa, who is set to perform in Mumbai, November 30.

Gandhi, who is eager to showcase her own music before Lipa takes the stage, talks about her love for the pop star. "I love her music," she gushes, adding, "The Dua Lipa song that had the most impact on me was New Rules (2017); it was the first one I ever heard."

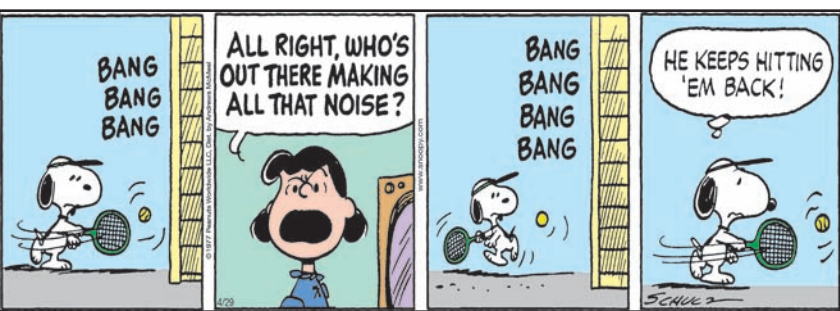
The 34-year-old shares: "Although I haven't started planning my setlist, I'm definitely going to perform as many of my songs as I can. I have so much in store. When people live geographically far away from their favourite artistes, it adds to the hype of them being in your city to perform."

Calling this an exciting phase in her singing career, Gandhi also touches on her long anticipated acting debut, which was initially slated for 2021. "There are no films on the horizon yet, but I'm open to exploring acting opportunities in the near future," she ends.

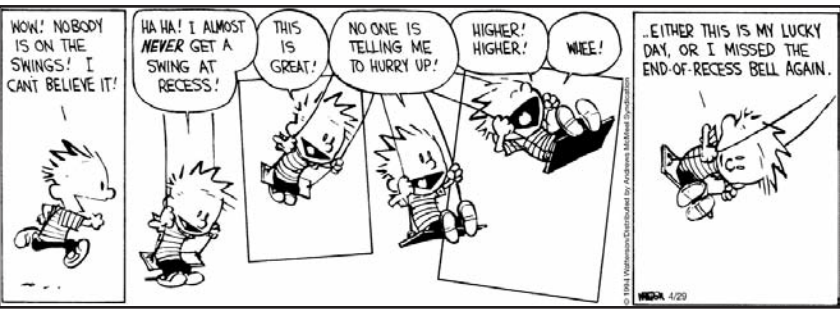
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

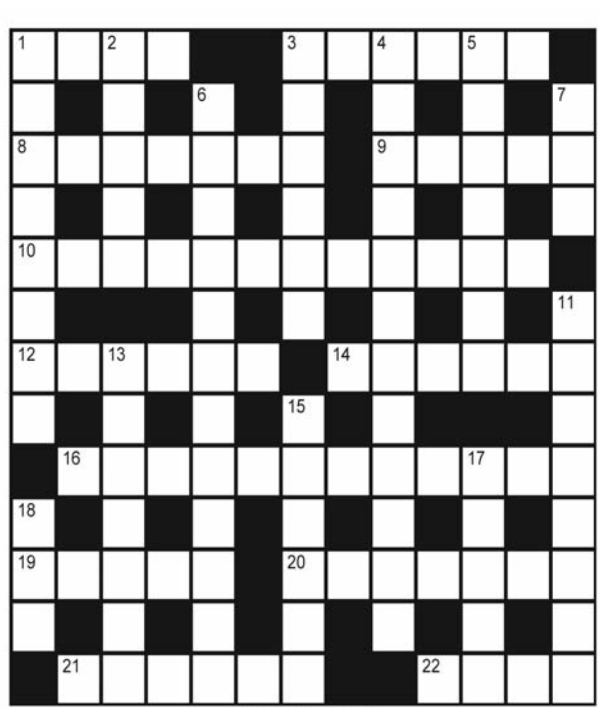


BREVITY



FUN post

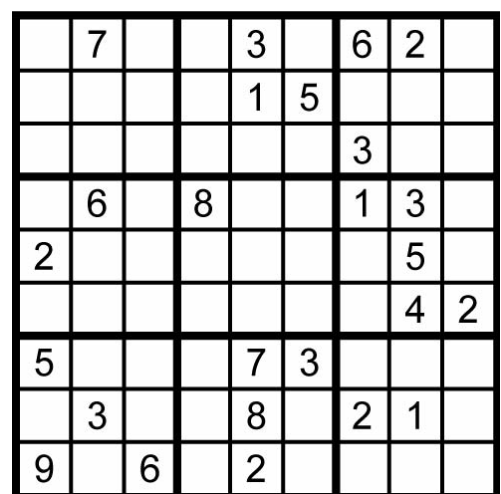
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Digit extender
 - 3 Felt hat
 - 8 Kind of counter
 - 9 Manacles
 - 10 Part of the Good Book (3,9)
 - 12 Chatterbox
 - 14 Guarantee
 - 16 Irreversible accomplishment (4,8)
 - 19 Scale
 - 20 Lethargic
 - 21 Catherine de Medicis was one
 - 22 ___ de force
 - 4 Math period (7,5)
 - 5 Polished
 - 6 More than just attractive
 - 7 Employ
 - 11 Confuse
 - 13 Plutonic rock
 - 15 Spotted wildcat
 - 17 Disney dog
 - 18 Old French coin
- Down**
- 1 Sobriquet
 - 2 Acquired relative (2-3)
 - 3 Luau in Mexico

SUDOKU

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

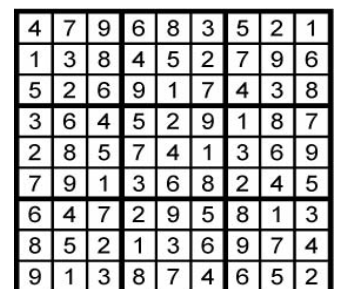


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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- ◆ Project Cost ₹ 76,200 crore
- ◆ All weather Greenfield port development
- ◆ Total Capacity of about 300 Million Tons per Annum
- ◆ Deep draft of 20m
- ◆ Entire port on Reclaimed land
- ◆ Able to handle vessels of 24000 TEUs
- ◆ Capacity to handle about 23.2 Million Containers per Annum

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- More than 1 crore Indirect Employment potential
- EXIM boost through India Middle East Europe Economic corridor (IMEC)
- Trade boost through International North South Transportation Corridor (INSTC)
- Handle Mainline Mega Vessels plying on international shipping lanes between Far East, Europe, Middle-East, Africa and America
- Enhanced exports, trading and marketing of local products

FISHERIES

- Modern Fishing Harbours for safe landing, berthing for fishing vessels and hubs of fisheries activities
- Infusion of new technologies like Re-circulatory Aquaculture System, Biofloc and Cage Culture
- Ensuring availability of quality fish seed and feed
- Seamless Cold chain facilities and smart fish markets
- 5.23 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities generated
- Fish species diversification and promotion of indigenous species
- National Rollout of Vessel Communication and Support System



FISHING HARBOUR



AQUAPARK



SEA CAGE



CAVE

In the august presence of

C. P. Radhakrishnan
Governor, Maharashtra

Eknath Shinde
Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Sarbananda Sonowal
Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Rajiv Ranjan Singh
Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Shantanu Thakur
Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel
Union Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

George Kurian
Union Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Devendra Fadnavis
Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Ajit Pawar
Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Sudhir Mungantiwar
Minister of Fisheries Department, Maharashtra

Ravindra Chavan
Guardian Minister, Palghar

Sanjay Bansode
Minister of Ports Development, Maharashtra

Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara
Member of Parliament, Palghar

Cong seeks governor's intervention to enhance quota for ST, SC, OBCs

CONGRESS MLAS URGE GOV TO STEP IN FOR ADDRESSING 'GROSS INJUSTICE' BEING FACED BY RESERVED CATEGORY STUDENTS IN STATE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: State Congress legislators Thursday sought the intervention of Governor Raghuraj Das to enhance reservation quotas for SC, ST and OBCs in technical and medical education in the state.

Congress MLAs have been raising the issue in the state Assembly for the past few days. Senior Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati again raised the issue during zero hour and demanded a ruling from the Speaker.

As the Speaker did not give any ruling on the matter, expressing displeasure, the Congress members led by Rama Chandra Kadam staged a walk-out from the House and went to Raj Bhavan and sought the Governor's intervention.

These groups collectively make up 94 per cent of the state's population, with SC-ST forming 40 per cent and OBC constituting 54 per cent

In a memorandum submitted to the Governor, the Congress MLAs said 'gross injustice' was being faced by students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the state.

These groups collectively make up 94 per cent of the state's population, with SC-ST forming 40 per cent and OBC constituting 54 per cent, they claimed.

"Unfortunately, despite their

significant demographic representation, they continue to suffer from inequities in access to higher education and employment opportunities due to the state's reservation policies," the MLAs said.

Alleging that there is a disparity in the reservation policies for OBC, SC, and ST students in the state, the Congress leaders said the government is providing 22.5 per cent for STs, 16.25 per cent for SCs, and 11.25 per cent for OBCs in employment.

However, in higher education, particularly in technical courses such as MBBS and engineering, STs receive only 12 per cent, SCs eight per cent, and the OBCs have no reservation at all, they claimed.

"While the state government implemented the Centre's 2019 directive to reserve 10 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections (EWS), benefiting just six per cent of the population, it has remained silent on providing OBC students (54 per cent in population) their due share," they said.

Due to this biased reservation policy, hundreds of students from OBC, SC, and ST categories are being denied their constitutional rights to pursue higher education each year, they alleged.

CHSE official in Vig net over DA

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state Vigilance Thursday arrested an official of the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha in a disproportionate assets (DA) case, an official said.

The accused Purendra Kumar Sethy is a record supplier in the CHSE, which conducts the class 12 state Board examination.

Acting on a tip-off, the Vigilance sleuths conducted raids at three locations in Bhubaneswar and Jagatsinghpur district Wednesday, and recovered a four-storeyed building in Bhubaneswar, 16 benami record of rights (RoRs), bank and other deposits of ₹16.77 lakhs, ₹1.70 lakh cash, two four wheelers, five two wheelers and other household articles of Sethy, the official added.



REGALING POSE: Artists perform on the second day of 19th Guru Dakshina cultural programme organised by Kalashrama at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: On the occasion of National Sports Day Thursday, KIIT and KISS organised several programmes to reflect institutions long-standing commitment towards sports and education.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, addressing the gathering, highlighted the pioneering efforts of the institutions in promoting sports and stated, "What the rest of India is doing today, we started 24-years ago."

KIIT, KISS hold events in City



Emphasising his commitment to fostering Olympic talent, Samanta exuded hope that more than 15 students from the institution will qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. He also assured that students performing well in sports would be

provided with international-standard facilities along with their education.

Catalytic Innovators Group founder, and practitioner at the University of Washington, Akhtar Badshah, speaking at a parallel event in KISS, praised

Samanta's remarkable achievements.

KIIT Vice-Chancellor Saranjit Singh praised the state's role in the resurgence of hockey over the last decade. He said, "There is no university in India that has an astro-turf hockey ground like ours. With the sports infrastructure available at KIIT and KISS, I hope the future Dhyan Chand will emerge from here."

Mountaineer Bibharani Patra was honoured with a cash award of ₹50,000 at the event. On the occasion, KIIT Sports Newsletter was also launched.

No human transmission of bird flu detected: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling Thursday said that no person has been infected with bird flu in the state so far.

Mahaling's comment came in the wake of some media reports claiming that one person was infected with the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

Speaking to reporters here, he said transmission of bird flu to human beings has not been detected in the state.

"The disease is totally under control. The government is on alert and taking all preventive measures. We had sent some swab samples from Pipili and Satyabadi blocks of Puri to the regional medical research centre (RMRC) for testing and the reports came negative," the minister said.

However, as a precautionary measure, one person has been put under isolation, he added.

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik said about 30,000 chickens have been culled so far in the state.

He said 21 rapid response teams have been engaged for the culling exercise, while another 10 teams were deployed for sanitisation.

The state government has also restricted transportation of birds to and from the two blocks of Puri, Mallik said.

Rain on cards for next 3 days



A traffic cop on duty at Rupali Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 29: A new low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal (BoB) which is likely to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in several parts of the state over the next three days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

According to the IMD's regional centre here, the low-pressure area formed over central and adjoining northern regions of the BoB due to a cyclonic cir-

ulation is likely to intensify into a depression as it moves towards the northern coast of Andhra Pradesh and the southern coast of Odisha.

In anticipation of heavy rainfall, the IMD has issued an orange warning for the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam.

Additionally, a yellow warning has been issued for the districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Nuapada, Bargarh, Boudh, and Subarnapur, indicating that

residents should stay alert to changing weather conditions.

For Friday, the IMD has escalated the alert to a red warning (take action) for Malkangiri, Koraput, and Gajapati districts due to the anticipated severe weather. Rayagada, Ganjam, Nabarangpur, and Kalahandi districts are under an orange warning, signaling that residents should be ready for potential disruptions.

Moreover, a yellow warning has been issued for Nuapada, Bolangir, Boudh, Kandhamal, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, and Jagatsinghpur districts Friday. Given the expected rough sea conditions, the IMD has advised fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea along and off the coast from August 30 to September 1.

From June 1 to August 29, the state has received 804.1 mm of rainfall, which is below the normal 896.3 mm. During this period, Malkangiri experienced excess rainfall, 20 districts recorded normal rainfall, while the remaining nine districts had deficient rainfall, the IMD said.

Odisha aims to become millets hub



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state government plans to elevate the promotion of Shree Anna value chains and to make the state a millets hub in the country, an official said Thursday.

State Agriculture Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, speaking at the 'UK-India Strategic Trade Workshop: Strengthening Millets Value Chains' held here recently, emphasised that the multi-stakeholder workshop pro-

vides a crucial platform for strengthening collaboration between India and the United Kingdom in promoting Shree Anna value chains.

Padhee mentioned, "By sharing knowledge, technologies, and best practices, Odisha can significantly enhance the Shree Anna value chain, which will play a crucial role in ensuring food security and sustainability."

The workshop was organised by the University of York in collaboration with the department

of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment of the state government. The aim was to explore and enhance Shree Anna value chains at the state, national, and global levels.

The event was divided into four insightful sessions. The first session focused on technologies and innovations for expanding Shree Anna production at the state, national, and global levels. This was followed by a discussion on technologies and innovations for the production and market expansion of Shree Anna, covering both domestic and international markets.

The third session highlighted tribal and community entrepreneurship, focusing on the role of indigenous communities in millet production. The final session centered on the policy and support mechanisms necessary to strengthen the Shree Anna value chain.

Kisan Mela held at ICAR-CIFA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Khurda and ICAR-CIFA jointly organised Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at its campus here, Thursday.

ICAR DDG (Agriculture Extension), New Delhi US Gautam inaugurated the event.

The guests present on this occasion included former VC, BCKV, West Bengal MM Adhikary, ICAR ADG (Agriculture Extension), New Delhi RR Burman, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata director Pradip Dey, and OUAT (Extension Education) dean PJ Mishra. In his address, Gautam highlighted the importance of adopting various agricultural and allied sector activities such as mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, aquaculture, dairy farming, and horticulture to double farmers' income. Burman hailed the achievements of ICAR-CIFA and KVK in transferring technology to farmers and stressed the importance of digital extension for disseminating technological information.

ScinoVision-2024 at DPS Kalinga



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga recently organised science exhibition 'ScinoVision-2024' on its campus.

On this occasion, students from Classes VI to IX and Class XI displayed their science exhibits with innovative ideas.

The exhibit included Tesla coils, glasses for the blind, fire alarm and home laser security systems using thermistors and lasers, customised colour-coded tensioners for scheduling irrigation for rice cultivation, biodegradable fishing-nets made from algae and language and image translators using coding.

CM slams Mamata for 'hateful' remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi slammed his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee for allegedly making 'negative' and 'hateful' comments about the state.

Referring to the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in a Kolkata hospital, Majhi also alleged that Banerjee was making 'vindictive' comments without giving justice to the victim of the heinous crime.

"If Bengal is set on fire, Assam, northeast, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Delhi will also be affected," Banerjee had said, addressing a TMC students' wing rally in Kolkata recently.

"Odisha is a peaceful state and its people are responsible...who has given you the authority to make negative, divisive and insensitive remarks on Odisha? The people of Odisha will not accept such a hateful,

negative remark and insensitive attitude towards our state," Majhi said on X.

He urged Banerjee to refrain from making such comments.

"Without giving justice to the victim of the heinous crime, the vindictive comments you are making are dangerous for the country. I urge you to refrain from making this kind of statement and remain calm," Majhi said on the microblogging site.

August 9, the police recovered the body of the woman's post-graduate trainee doctor from the seminar hall of the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

"Mamata Banerjee, being a woman, has failed to protect women in her state. Instead of giving priority to the safety of women, today she is trying to divide the country. This effort will never be fulfilled, the people will give a befitting reply," Majhi added.

Over 10K ltrs of illicit liquor seized; 91 held

Bhubaneswar: Continuing the crackdown against illegal sale and manufacture of illicit liquor, the Excise department Thursday seized 10,112 liters of alcohol and 1,10,167 kg of fermented liquor (pocha) across the state. At least 172 cases were lodged under relevant sections of the Excise Act and 91 persons were produced before local courts, said a senior officer at the department. Meanwhile, the officer said 112 sites used for manufacture of illicit alcohol were destroyed, whereas five vehicles were seized. According to sleuths, similar raid was carried out by five teams in Salia Sali slum of the Capital City, which led to the arrest of 10 persons in the matter. Around 1,027 liters of illicit alcohol and 8,030 kilograms of pocha were seized from several establishments near Nilachakra Sahi area. "In a separate instance, an accused woman Salma Marandi who was running several dens for illicit manufacture of liquor in the area, managed to give the police a slip. Those sites were demolished by the sleuths," an official said.

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FOCUS SOCIETY

IDENTITY & NATIONALISM



A conception of the Indian nation slowly emerged where the Muslims were essentially a community on trial while other religious communities had to work in cooperation with and often in subordination to the Hindu majority

choices. For instance, the revered leader and Nehru ally, Chaudhry Khaliqzaman unexpectedly left for Pakistan leaving everyone bewildered. Similarly, ZH lahri, a vocal opponent of the Two Nation theory, left for Pakistan in 1949. The legendary classical musician Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan moved to Pakistan for five years before returning to India. However, it was only the elites who were privileged enough to experiment. Many left for Pakistan solely to reside in relative physical and mental peace.

Moreover, bureaucratic setbacks prevented many from changing their decision. For instance, five thousand railway workers changed their preference from Pakistan to India after realising that violence was prevalent on both sides. Patel's response to an individual who sought to change his decision was a brief bureaucratic refusal as "once a final choice is made it should be adhered to."

In a time of great uncertainty, the bureaucracy demanded absolute certainty and unchangeable decisions. It was an imperative intended to build a solid constituency. Nationalist thought has always leaned towards certainty to achieve firm uniformity and clarity. This kind of thinking assumes a strict separation between the private and the public. However, the private intrudes into the public often. For instance, Ambedkar's fight for reservations and rights of the Scheduled Castes was both a private and a public fight. In the realm of the nation too, the private and public identities of citizens can peacefully exist. The proper way to imagine a nation is to construct it based on continual negotiation. Thus, just as one can be a labourer and an Indian, Bengali and an Indian, Hindu and an Indian - one can also be a Muslim and an Indian. Any suggestions to the contrary lead to a form of crude, tyrannical, and exclusivist nationalism.

The writer is a columnist.

The establishment of a nation is constructed by the constitution of a core or mainstream and minorities. The historian Gyanendra Pandey analyses the ways in which the core is formed in relation with the "hyphenated national" i.e. Indian Muslims, African-Americans etc.

When it comes to discussing "Muslims" and nationalism in the Indian context, two terms are crucial to comprehend i.e. "Nationalist Muslims" and the notion of minority and majority. When it comes to Hindus, the term is reversed i.e. Hindu nationalism. This term does not merely signify Hindus who happen to be nationalists. It signifies a brand of nationalism that stresses on Hindu culture, Hindu tradition and the Hindu community.

"Secular" or "Indian" nationalism developed alongside Hindu nationalism. This form of nationalism emphasised on the pluralist and composite character of Indian society while rejecting attempts to the primacy of Hindu elements in national self-consciousness. This is the nationalism enshrined in the Constitution. Politically conscious Hindus are usually divided into either "Hindu nationalists" or "Indian nationalists."

Though the Muslim variant of nationalism spearheaded by the likes of Fazl-Ul-Haq and Maulana Mohamed Ali developed alongside the broader Indian nationalist movement, the adherents of these movements were referred to as "Nationalist Muslims" as opposed to just "Muslims." This view was partly developed due to British efforts of keeping Muslims on their side to combat the rising Hindu nationalism. The call for a separate Muslim land leading up to partition solidified this view.

A similar distinction emerged between "minority" and "majority." Pandey argues that the use of such terms have an ideological connotation signifying that members of a certain culture belong to a particular place

while others do not due to fundamental and often unspecified difference. The Partition fixed these terms in the national consciousness. Muslims had to make a choice between India and Pakistan and demonstrate the sincerity of their convictions and loyalty.

Though the actual state of all nations and nationalism is characterised by fluidity, inequality and uncertainty, the nationalist always seeks uniformity, clarity and "purity." As for the question of whether Muslims had the right to reside in India, for secular nationalists like Gandhi and Nehru, the answer was clear i.e. all those who wished to. However, a significant proportion of the population and leadership continued to be suspicious of Muslims. Sampurnanand, the then education minister in the UP-Congress government, wrote an article a few weeks before Partition opining that India's Muslim population will be sympathetic to Pakistan during a war.

Similarly, the socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia asked Muslims to "surrender arms and be loyal citizens of India." Even an oath of loyalty was not enough to prove the loyalty of

Muslims as a Congress paper questioned why Muslims refused to sing "Vande Mataram" with its Hindu connotations after pledging loyalty to India.

A conception of the Indian nation slowly emerged where the Muslims were essentially a community on trial while other religious communities had to work in cooperation with and often in subordination to the Hindu majority.

Partition was a time of great and unexpected uncertainty. Thus, the question of loyalty was often brought up. Nehru, for instance, remarked that only those who considered India as their own nation, gave their undivided loyalty and did not look for any external agents for help will be welcome to live in India. Though this sounds like an unobjectionable statement in first glance, it also comes across as a refusal to acknowledge the helplessness that many had to unwillingly face. For instance, the Calcutta-based newspaper "The Statesman" questioned how the Muslims were supposed to prove their loyalty when fleeing in fear was interpreted as a sign of disloyalty and extra-territorial attachment.

Even the relatively prosperous elite had to make hard



Anwesh Satpathy

NATIONALIST THOUGHT HAS ALWAYS LEANED TOWARDS CERTAINTY TO ACHIEVE FIRM UNIFORMITY AND CLARITY



Kaushik Basu

History has repeatedly shown that countries often take unexpected turns after a rebellion, no matter how justified

The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it

THE MOTHER



Power Vacuum

The downfall of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unfolded faster than almost anyone expected. In early July, students took to the streets to protest the job-quota system that reserved 30% of civil-service positions for veterans of the 1971 War of Independence and their descendants. Police were ordered to quell the unrest, and given permission to shoot if needed. By 5 August, nearly 300 people had been killed, and Hasina, under serious pressure from the army, had resigned and fled the country.

The controversial job-quota system, which came under fire amid increasing economic hardship, rising youth unemployment, and soaring inflation, is widely viewed as the cause of the revolt. But this was merely the spark that lit the fuse. The deeper and more significant problem was Hasina's growing authoritarianism, which upended Bangladesh's political landscape and left little room for dissent.

I sensed this shift during my visit to Bangladesh last year. The people I spoke to, including many supporters of Hasina's Awami League - the party that led the country's independence movement under the leadership of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - were critical of her increasing authoritarianism, intolerance of dissent, and intimidation of the media. They lamented, albeit sotto voce, the destruction of Bangladesh's founding principles: democracy and secularism.

The tragedy is that it did not have to be this way. Hasina was a courageous, secular leader who steered Bangladesh away from religious fundamentalism, which can impede economic and social progress. At the same time, she oversaw the country's remarkable growth story. In 2019, Bangladesh overtook India in per capita GDP, an outcome that would have seemed impossible even five or ten years earlier. To be sure, it was partly caused by India's 2016 policy of demonetization, a failed attempt to curb "black money" and corruption that led to a steady deceleration in the economy's growth rate over the next five years. But Bangladesh's robust exports and development gains also played a vital role.

The power vacuum resulting from this unexpected revolt can jeopardise Bangladesh's stability. History has repeatedly shown that countries often take unexpected turns after a rebellion, no matter how justified. Religious extremist groups will undoubtedly try to seize power. If that happens, it might spell the end of Bangladesh's successful trajectory.

Still, there is cause for hope. Both the students who led the rebellion and the country's military leaders have acted responsibly: instead of grabbing power for themselves, they established an interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus. Bangladesh's constitution does not offer clear guidance on how long such a government can rule. Some have called for swift elections, but I think that they should be delayed until at least next summer. The economy must be stabilised, and political institutions must be rebuilt before a national vote can be held.

Despite being one of the world's economic success stories, Bangladesh has struggled in recent years. The country's two biggest economic challenges - high youth unemployment and inflation rates - cannot be corrected in a matter of weeks. The central bank's autonomy has clearly been eroded over the last few years and will need to be restored, and the government must make several fiscal corrections to boost employment.

On the political front, it will be important for the interim government to be - and to be perceived as - non-partisan. Some factions may try to ban the Awami League and its affiliated groups. This would be a mistake. Individual members who committed crimes should not be allowed to run for office. However, as a party, the Awami League has played a crucial role as a progressive force and as a bulwark against extremism. Many of its members opposed Hasina's authoritarian turn in recent years but were too afraid of retribution to voice their concerns.

My last meeting with Hasina was at the World Bank on 1 May, 2023, when then-President David Malpass invited her to celebrate 50 years of partnership between the Bank and Bangladesh. As I walked to the Bank's main building in Washington, I had to navigate a throng of Bangladeshis who had gathered outside to protest against her. In the meeting, Hasina was surrounded by a small group of staff and advisers who nodded in agreement to whatever she said. Did they really see eye to eye with Hasina, or was it simply too costly to disagree?

The writer, a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

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WISDOM CORNER

Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people

CARL SAGAN

For the meaning of life differs from man to man, from day to day and from hour to hour. What matters, therefore, is not the meaning of life in general but rather the specific meaning of a person's life at a given moment

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

It's in responsibility that most people find the meaning that sustains them through life. It's not in happiness. It's not in impulsive pleasure

JORDAN PETERSON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1800:** Gabriel, an African American bondsman, assembled an army of about 1,000 enslaved people outside Richmond, Virginia, in the first major slave rebellion in U.S. history; alerted government officials thwarted the revolt, and Gabriel and others were executed.
- 1918:** Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin was shot twice in an unsuccessful assassination attempt.
- 1963:** Telephone hotline between Washington DC and Moscow is established. The system of direct communication between the heads of the Soviet Union and now Russia and the United States was set up during the height of the Cold War when the Cuban Missile Crisis almost led the two countries to the brink of an active war. The hotline was used for the first time in 1967 during the 6-day long Arab-Israeli War.
- 1983:** Historic spaceflight by Guion S. Bluford, Jr. US astronaut Guion S. Bluford, Jr. became on this day in 1983 the first African American to travel into space, serving as a mission specialist aboard the shuttle orbiter Challenger, and later flew on three other missions.

SPECTRUM CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The paradox of war for peace

In a world where nations often find themselves entangled in conflicts, the notion of achieving peace through war remains a perplexing paradox. History is rife with examples of wars waged in the name of peace, with leaders justifying violence as a means to secure a better future. Yet, this approach raises profound ethical and philosophical questions about the actual cost of peace and whether it can be achieved through the bloodshed of war.

War, by its nature, is destructive. It tears apart communities, shatters economies, and leaves scars that linger for generations. The aftermath of war often includes not just the physical devastation of cities and landscapes but also the psychological trauma endured by those who survive. The promise of peace that follows such devastation may seem hollow when the price paid in human lives and suffering is considered. The logic of war for peace rests on the belief that conflict can resolve disputes and create a stable order. Proponents argue that military action is

sometimes necessary to overthrow tyrannical regimes, prevent atrocities, or secure national interests. Indeed, there are instances where military intervention has led to the downfall of oppressive governments or the liberation of oppressed populations. However, even in these cases, the path to peace is uncertain. The vacuum left by a defeating enemy can lead to chaos, and the seeds of future conflicts are often sown in the ashes of war.

Moreover, pursuing peace through war can perpetuate a cycle of violence. When nations resort to military solutions, they may provoke retaliation, leading to prolonged conflicts. Fueled by the fear of potential threats, the global arms race only exacerbates tensions. In this vicious cycle, peace becomes an elusive goal, always out of reach, as nations remain trapped in a perpetual state of readiness for war. The moral implications of seeking peace through war are equally troubling. War dehumanises the enemy, reducing individuals to obstacles in the path

to victory. This mindset can lead to atrocities as the lines between combatants and civilians blur. The ethical cost of war is not just in the lives lost but in the erosion of our collective humanity. Can we honestly claim to have achieved peace if it comes at the expense of our moral integrity?

There is also the question of whether peace achieved through war is sustainable. History has shown that peace treaties and post-war settlements often lay the groundwork for future conflicts. The Versailles Treaty, which ended World War I, is a prime example. The punitive measures imposed on Germany sowed the seeds of resentment that eventually led to World War II. In such cases, peace is not a lasting resolution but a temporary pause in the cycle of violence. The alternative to achieving peace through war lies in diplomacy, dialogue, and understanding. True peace is built on mutual respect, empathy, and cooperation. It requires nations to address the root causes of conflicts, such as inequality, injustice, and resource scarcity, rather

than resorting to violence as a quick fix. It is a more challenging path, demanding patience, compromise, and the willingness to see beyond immediate gains. However, the peace resulting from such efforts is more likely to endure as it is rooted in all parties' shared interests.

As we navigate the complexities of international relations in an increasingly interconnected world, we must reconsider the notion that war can be a path to peace. The cost of peace achieved through war is too high, measured not just in lives lost and cities destroyed but in the moral and ethical compromises made along the way. It is time to reject the paradox of peace at the cost of war and embrace the harder but ultimately more rewarding pursuit of peace through non-violent means. Only then can we hope to build a world where peace is not a fleeting illusion but a lasting reality.

The writer is a Research Scholar, Department of Business Administration, Berhampur University.



Ashyashree Praharaj

HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT PEACE TREATIES AND POST-WAR SETTLEMENTS OFTEN LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE CONFLICTS

Clarion call

Sir, The hallucination of the enchanting Malayalam cinema has fallen apart and has broken into smithereens. The Justice K. Hema Committee report reveals a pervasive culture of coercion, fear, and gender-based abuse in the Malayalam film industry, calling for urgent reforms to protect women's rights and dignity. The report chiefly underscores the nauseating fact that harassment begins as soon as a woman seeks a role in the industry, with insiders perpetuating the idea that successful women are those who are willing to make "compromises" and "adjustments." Even as the nation is grappled with the shocking rape and murder of a young female doctor in a leading Kolkata medical college and hospital, this shocking report serves as a stark reminder of the deep-rooted gender inequalities in Indian society - a society that worships numerous female goddesses and frequently touts the rhetoric of women's empowerment (Nari Shakti) across the political spectrum. The Hema Committee report is a clarion call for urgent corrective measures, not just within the Kerala film industry but also film industries across the country and various other key sectors like aviation, hospitality, media, and healthcare, where an increasing number of young and qualified women are employed.

Ranganthan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Waste of time

Sir, In the Odisha Assembly, members of the Opposition, including the Biju Janata Dal and the Congress, created ruckus over the demand for a caste census in the state. Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinapati and BJD MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi attempted to ascend the Speaker's podium but were restrained by the security personnel. Such incidents and the subsequent adjournments of the Assembly proceedings are detrimental to our democratic process. It is imperative for our legislators to recognise the significance of constructive debate and discussion. They must acknowledge that democracy cannot thrive without robust dialogue. Furthermore, maintaining decorum and discipline within the Assembly is essential to prevent the squandering of tax-payers' money and the valuable time of the legislature.

Uddeshya Thakur, DHENKANAL

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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RAINS TAKE A PAUSE IN GUJARAT

RAINS CLAIM 19 MORE LIVES, TOLL RISES TO 26; 17,800 EVACUATED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 29: The situation in rain-battered Gujarat improved a little Thursday as the rains have eased, but floodwaters were yet to recede in several areas including Vadodara city following the incessant showers of the last three days, officials said.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel conducted an aerial survey of Kutch, Jamnagar and adjoining Devbhumi Dwarka districts to assess the damage. Barring the coastal areas of Kutch and Devbhumi Dwarka districts, rains subsided during the day, officials said.

In the evening, CM Patel visited Vadodara where floodwaters of the Vishwamitri river had wreaked havoc in the last two days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to CM Patel and took stock of the situation.

As many as 26 persons died August 26 and 27 across the state in rain-related incidents, authorities had said Wednesday.

In a post on X, CM Patel said, "Gujarat has been receiving incessant rains for the last three days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called me up today on the second straight day and inquired about the situation."

"He expressed concern over the floods in Vishwamitri river and wanted to know about the relief and rescue measures being taken for the people of Vadodara," the CM said.

Due to a deep depression over Saurashtra and Kutch region, three coastal districts - Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar - have been receiving heavy rainfall during the last two

days, said a release by the IMD, adding that parts of this region would receive "heavy to very heavy" rains Friday too.

During the last 36 hours ending at 6:00 pm Thursday, Mandvi taluka of Kutch district received 469 mm of rainfall, the highest in the state, said a release by the State Emergency Operations Centre.

It was followed by 404 mm of rain in Abdasa taluka of Kutch district, 355 mm in Dwarka taluka of Devbhumi Dwarka district, 303 mm in Bhanvad of Devbhumi Dwarka district, 275 mm in Kalyanpur taluka of Devbhumi Dwarka, 275 mm in Lakhpat taluka of Kutch, 259 mm in Khambhalia taluka of Devbhumi Dwarka, 234 mm in Jam Jodhpur of Jamnagar district and 183 mm in Kalavad taluka of Jamnagar.

Teams of Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), its state counterpart SDRF along with local administration are engaged in relief and rescue operations in the worst-affected districts of Vadodara, Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Kutch, officials said.

In a release, the State Emergency Operations Centre said as many as 1,785 people were rescued Thursday while



13,183 people were shifted to safer places in view of rainfall and waterlogging.

More than 50,000 people have been relocated and around 4,200 people were rescued from flood-affected areas in the state so far, said the release. In some cases, helicopters were used by the security forces to take peo-

ple to safer locations. CM Patel conducted an aerial inspection of Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts and held review meetings.

At a meeting in Jamnagar,

the CM was informed that 12 persons were airlifted while 450 people were rescued in the district during the day, said an official release, adding that nearly 2,300 persons were shifted to

Vadodara limping back to normalcy

Vadodara: Gujarat's Vadodara, where a swollen Vishwamitri river flooded several areas amid torrential downpours, is limping back to normalcy as water has receded from most parts of the city, allowing people to move freely, officials said Thursday. From its peak level of 37 feet, 12 feet above the danger mark, Vishwamitri, which runs through the city, is now flowing at 31 feet, the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) said in a release. Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi visited the city to review the current situation and ongoing relief activities as a few pockets are still waterlogged and facing power outages.



safer places and two lakh food packets were distributed.

Later, the CM along with chief secretary Raj Kumar reached Dwarka collector's office to take stock of the situation. At the meeting, the CM was informed that 130 persons were rescued with the help of NDRF as well as the Coast Guard while 1,596

persons were shifted to safer places.

At Meghpar-Titodi village of Kalyanpur taluka, eight persons stranded in floodwaters were airlifted with the help of a Coast Guard helicopter, said the release.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi visited the city to review the situation as well as relief operations. Some parts of the city are still facing waterlogging and electricity outage.

According to the VMC release, the water level of the Vishwamitri came down as the gates of Ajwa dam were closed on Wednesday. Water subsided in most parts including Sayajigunj, Fatehgunj, outside the Railway Station and Harni area which were the worst-affected localities, it said.

PM calls CM to assure assistance

The situation in rain-battered Gujarat improved slightly Thursday as the rainfall activity subsided, but Vadodara and some other parts of the state are still reeling under a flood-like situation due to overflowing rivers while the authorities continue the rescue and relief operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel for the second consecutive day and took stock of the situation. He also asked the CM to ensure that proper steps are taken to prevent the spread of diseases post floods. In a post on X, CM Patel said, "Gujarat has been receiving incessant rains for the last three days. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called me up today on the second straight day and inquired about the situation." "He expressed concern over the floods in Vishwamitri river and wanted to know about what relief and rescue measures are being taken for people of Vadodara," the CM said. The PM took stock of the relief measures in all the districts of the state and assured all help to the state. He also instructed that proper measures for cleaning be taken to ensure that diseases do not spread after floods, Patel added.



Loco pilot saves 5 lions on track

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhavnagar, August 29: The loco pilot of a goods train saved the lives of five lions when he applied emergency brakes and stopped the train in time in Gujarat's Amreli district in the early hours of Wednesday, an official said.

The incident occurred around 4.30 am on the Pipavav-Rajula section of the Gir forest where loco pilot Bhupendra Meena was piloting a goods train, the Western Railway's Bhavnagar division said in a release.



Meena was alerted about the presence of five Asiatic lions on the tracks through a torch-light by the Forest department 'trackers' deployed there to ensure the safety of the big cats, it said.

The loco pilot slammed the emergency brakes and brought the train to a halt. The train left for its destination after the lions moved away from the tracks.

This is the second such incident this month wherein loco pilots have saved the lives of lions in Gujarat. An alert loco pilot stopped the train in time August 19 to save the lives of two lions on the same section between Pipavav and Rajula.

In June, the lives of 10 lions were saved after the pilot of a goods train applied emergency brakes on spotting the big cats on the tracks near Pipavav Port.

In the last few years, many lions have either died or been seriously hurt on the railway line connecting Pipavav Port with north Gujarat. As per the release, loco pilots of the Bhavnagar railway division have saved the lives of 60 lions since April 2024.

JHARKHAND LAND SCAM

Top court seeks bank statement of accused

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, who is out on bail, is also an accused in a money laundering case arising from the alleged land scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The Supreme Court Thursday sought the bank statements of an accused to ascertain the financial transactions related to the sale of 4.55 acre land of the Indian Army in Ranchi allegedly by creating false property documents.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is out on bail, is also an accused in a money laundering case arising from the alleged land scam. The top court was hearing an appeal of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging the grant of bail to co-accused Dilip Ghosh by the Jharkhand High Court November 28, 2023.

"You produce the bank statement (of the accused) of the relevant period by today evening it-



self. It will come up for hearing tomorrow (Friday)," a bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma told senior advocate S.Nagamuthu, representing Dilip Ghosh.

The top court refused to list the case for hearing on a later date as sought by Nagamuthu, saying it will be heard Friday itself.

As per the federal anti-money laundering probe agency, a parcel of 4.55 acres belonging to Indian Army was sold off by non-owners by creating falsified documents.

It said Afshar Ali, a resident of Bariatu in the Jharkhand capital, and his accomplices prepared a fake deed at the office of RoA (Registrar of Assurances (Records), Kolkata in the name of a Prafulla Bagchi claiming that the land belonged to the latter.

Ranchi commuters suffer as autorickshaws go off road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 29: Commuters and school students faced hardship in Ranchi Thursday as autorickshaws considered the life-line of the city transportation system went off the roads in protest against some government restrictions.

Different associations have also decided to stop plying of cab aggregators and city buses from Thursday. Students of many schools Thursday morning were seen walking several kilometres with their parents to reach school.

"Due to the strike of autorickshaws, we are facing a big trouble. My daughter and I have been walking for six kilometres to and fro for the past two days," Babita Devi, a parent, told PTI after leaving her daughter at a private school in Dipatoli Ranchi.

Students, who use autorickshaws as means of transportation for going to school, are facing a similar situation across the city. Train and bus passengers are also facing problems due to the strike.

The limited autos which are plying are charging hefty amounts from commuters.

The autorickshaw associations including battery-operated e-rickshaws are on indefinite strike since August 27 in protest

The autorickshaw associations including battery-operated e-rickshaws are on indefinite strike since August 27

against several issues such as prescribed routes, alleged discrepancies in permit issuance and hefty fine during crackdown by Ranchi district administration.

State CNG Auto Driver's Association president Dinesh Soni said the administration has divided the entire Ranchi city into four zones and prescribed 17 routes for autorickshaws and 113 routes for e-rickshaws.

"The auto-rickshaw and e-rickshaw associations have protested the new route charts. We want rollback of the new route chart," Soni said.

He said that the administration has also restricted the plying of permit-holding autorickshaws to only three kilometres.

"There are 5,000 permits holding autorickshaws while 12,000 non-permit holding autos. The number of permits is not being increased and now the kilometre limit has also been reduced," he said.



Drivers keep their autorickshaws off the roads on the second day of their strike over route permit issues

STAFF CRUNCH

Private doctors to provide treatment in state-run hospitals

THE CM MENTIONS SIGNIFICANT RECRUITMENT EFFORTS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AND OTHER AREAS TO BOOST MANPOWER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 29: To address shortage of doctors in state-run hospitals, the Jharkhand government has decided to rope in private doctors to provide treatment in facilities where there is a lack of specialists.

This was announced by the government during distribution of appointment letters to 365

community health officers (CHOs) by Chief Minister Hemant Soren here at a function Thursday.

"The government is continuously working to enhance health infrastructure in the state. We have undertaken several initiatives in this regard and are developing a system so that residents do not need to seek treatment in other states," the Chief Minister said.

"To tackle the shortage of specialist doctors, particularly in community health centres and district hospitals, the government has decided to allow private doctors to provide treatment in these facilities. They will be offered incentives for their services," state health secretary Ajoy Kumar Singh said.



The CM also highlighted the recent launch of schemes aimed at improving cleanliness, repairs, and maintenance of health centres, hospitals, and medical

colleges. An annual budget of ₹5 crore has been allocated for these purposes, he said.

"A provision of ₹2 lakh for sub-health centres, ₹5 lakh for pri-

The government is continuously working to enhance health infrastructure in the state. We have undertaken several initiatives in this regard and are developing a system so that residents do not need to seek treatment in other states

HEMANT SOREN | CHIEF MINISTER

mary health centres, ₹10 lakh for community health centres, ₹50 lakh for sub-divisional hospitals and ₹75 lakh for district hospitals annually has been kept for the purpose of cleanliness and maintenance," Soren said.

Additionally, the CM mentioned significant recruitment efforts in the health sector and other areas to boost manpower:

"Thousands of recruitments are underway, even though some critics continue to target the government on employment issues," Soren said, apparently responding to criticism from the BJP without naming the party.

Among 365 CHOs, transgender Amir Mahato, who belongs to Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, also received an appointment letter from the CM.

"I come from a very poor family. Despite challenges, I studied hard to achieve something in life. I did my BSc and MSc in nursing from Sambalpur University. I am very happy today as I was able to fulfill my mother's dream who wanted to become a nurse," Mahato told reporters here.

national



A lot of initiatives to prevent climate change are heavily dependent on people and being a democracy, you know what it means... Sometimes, taking the right stand, taking the hard stand may not be very practical in terms of being a democratic country
KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH | UNION MINISTER

DELHI HC REJECTS THAROOR'S PLEA

The Delhi High Court Thursday refused to quash the defamation proceedings against Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on a complaint over his alleged "scorpion on shivling" remark targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta dismissed Tharoor's plea challenging the defamation proceedings



of the day quote

I am very confident that the PDP will be the kingmaker in whatever situation we are. One thing is clear that no party will get majority
MEHBOOBA MUFTI'S DAUGHTER

The opposition is trying to derail the schemes. Those born with a silver spoon in their mouth won't understand the plight of the poor
MAHA DEPUTY CM

As our sportspersons continue to bring pride through their achievements on national and international platforms, we are launching the Arunachal Olympic Sports Mission
ARUNACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Bahraich: Another wolf captured

Bahraich (UP): A forest department team of Uttar Pradesh captured Thursday a fully grown male wolf under its 'Operation Bhedhya', launched to capture a pack of wolves on the prowl in Mehshi tehsil of Bahraich district that has so far killed seven people. The wolf had terrorised residents in over 35 villages and with its capture, the local population has breathed a sigh of relief, a statement issued here said. So far, the forest department has caught four of the animals from the Bahraich area, with the latest one set to be relocated to Gorakhpur Zoo, it said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised forest department officials for their efforts in ensuring the safety of the local community.

Two YSRCP RS members quit

New Delhi: Two YSRCP members of the Rajya Sabha -- Beedha Mastan Rao Jadhav and Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi -- have tendered their resignation from House membership, parliamentary sources said Thursday. They said Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Thakur has accepted their resignation. Mastan Rao, whose term was to end in June 2028, had switched from the TDP to the Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). He is likely to go back to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Ex-CRPF officer held for manhandling MLA

Jaipur: A former CRPF officer was arrested here Thursday after he allegedly manhandled Congress MLA Rafeek Khan while he was holding a meeting at his residence, police said. Vikas Jakhar, who alleged that the MLA had been harassing his wife, was caught and thrashed by people present at Khan's residence. Jakhar, a Shaurya Chakra recipient, was stopped before he could attack Khan, who is the MLA from Adarsh Nagar and the chief whip of the Congress in the Vidhan Sabha.

Four die in road mishap in T'gana

Hyderabad: Four people died and four others were injured when the car they were travelling in crashed into a stationary lorry in Mahabubnagar district Thursday morning, police said. The incident took place when eight people from Hyderabad including one NRI from UK, after offering prayers in Tirupati were returning in the car to Hyderabad, they said.

India's monsoon now threatening ripe crops

ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL DUE TO THE DELAYED WITHDRAWAL OF THE MONSOON COULD DAMAGE INDIA'S SUMMER-SOWN CROPS LIKE RICE, COTTON, SOYBEAN, CORN, AND PULSES, WHICH ARE TYPICALLY HARVESTED FROM MID-SEPTEMBER

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 29: India's monsoon rains are likely to be prolonged into late September this year due to the development of a low-pressure system in the middle of the month, two weather department officials told Reuters. Above-normal rainfall due to the delayed withdrawal of the monsoon could damage India's summer-sown crops like rice, cotton, soybean, corn, and pulses, which are typically harvested from mid-September.

The crop damage could lead to food inflation, but the rains may also result in higher soil moisture, benefiting the planting of winter-sown crops such as wheat, rapeseed, and chickpea.

"There is an increased probability of a low-pressure system developing in the third week of September, which could delay the withdrawal of the monsoon," said a senior official of the India Meteorological Department, who sought anonymity as the matter is sensitive.

India, the world's second-largest producer of wheat, sugar, and rice, has imposed various curbs on the export of these farm commodities, and any losses due to excessive rainfall could prompt New Delhi to extend those curbs.

The monsoon generally begins in June and starts to re-



gress by September 17 from northwestern parts of the country, ending across the country by mid-October.

The lifeblood of a nearly \$3.5-trillion economy, the annual monsoon brings almost 70% of the rain India needs to water farms and replenish reservoirs and aquifers. Without irrigation, nearly half the farmland in the country depends on the rains that usually run from June to September.

Monsoon rainfall in September and October could be influenced by La Nina weather conditions, which are likely to develop from the next month, said another IMD official.

In the past, when La Nina develops during the second half of the monsoon season, it has led to a delayed monsoon withdrawal, said the official, adding that "this year, we could see a similar pattern".

The two sources shared their assessment ahead of the IMD's monthly forecast for September rainfall and monsoon withdrawal, which is scheduled for this weekend.

India has received 7% more rainfall than average since the monsoon season began June 1. However, some states have experienced as much as 66% more rainfall than average, leading to flooding.

Heavy rains during the third and fourth weeks of September and early October could affect early sown crops that are nearing harvest, said Ashwini Bansod, vice president of commodities research at Phillip Capital India.

"The impact would depend on the intensity and duration of the rainfall. If the rains persist into the first half of October, it could cause more damage if fields get flooded," Bansod said.

6 rly cops suspended over beating of woman, her grandson in Katni

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, August 29: The Madhya Pradesh government Thursday suspended six Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel including a station-in-charge in connection with the beating of a woman and her grandson in Katni district.

Opposition Congress had shared a video of the incident a day before, claiming that the victims belong to the Dalit community.

"An old video of beating of GRP Katni police station cops is getting viral on social media. After I took cognizance of it, I have asked DIG Rail to go to the spot for probing the incident. As per the preliminary probe, I have ordered suspension with immediate effect of then GRP police station in-charge, a head constable and four constables," Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said in a post on X. Earlier in the day, five police personnel were taken off field duty in connection with the incident which, as per a senior GRP official, took place in October last year.

"There was a person named Deepak Vanshkar against whom 19 cases were registered, and who was absconding. He was also externed from the district. His family members had been called to the police station last October for questioning only in this regard," Superintendent of Police (GRP) Simala Prasad told PTT.



A vendor sells vegetables amid rains at Dal Lake in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

India, China vow to maintain peace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: India and China Thursday had a "frank, constructive and forward-looking" exchange of views on the situation along the LAC to "narrow down" differences and find an early resolution to outstanding issues, the MEA said.

The 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs was held in Beijing, the Ministry of External Affairs



(MEA) said in a statement.

During the meeting, it was reiterated that "restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are the essential basis for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations", it said. In line with the guidance provided by the two foreign min-

SpiceJet placed under enhanced surveillance

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: Aviation watchdog DGCA Thursday decided to place crisis-hit SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance that will entail increased spot checks and night surveillance to ensure safety of the airline's operations.

Based on reports of cancellation of flights and financial stress being experienced by SpiceJet, DGCA said it conducted a special audit of the airline's engineering facilities August 7 and 8 and certain deficiencies were found during the audit.

"In light of the past record and the special audit carried out in August 2024, SpiceJet has once again been placed under enhanced surveillance with immediate effect."

"This would entail an increase in the number of spot checks/night surveillance with a view to ensure safety of operations," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a release.

In 2023 also, the regulator had placed SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance. After a series of occurrences reported on the SpiceJet fleet in 2022, a special drive of spot checks was undertaken during which the airline was permitted to release

aircraft for operations only after confirming to DGCA that all reported defects/malfunctions had been rectified, the release noted. Earlier in the day, SpiceJet said its scheduled flights from Dubai are operating normally now after flight cancellations due to operational reasons. According to reports, the airline had to cancel flights over non-payment of certain dues to Dubai airport.

The no-frills carrier has been grappling with multiple headwinds, including financial and legal woes, and is also in the process of raising funds.

Earlier during the day, the low budget carrier had to operate empty flights from Dubai as passengers were not allowed to check in due to the airline's unpaid airport dues. The Hindu reported Thursday.

The alleged disruption comes after a similar case was reported August 2 where some SpiceJet flights in Dubai had been cancelled due to non-payment of dues, with the company citing "operational reasons" for the cancellations, reported PTI. A senior official at India's Ministry of Civil Aviation told The Hindu that they were "monitoring SpiceJet."



SC raps T'gana CM Reddy over Kavitha bail remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The Supreme Court Thursday took strong objection to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's comments related to the bail granted to BRS leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

Irked over Reddy's statement hinting towards alleged deal between the BJP and the BRS for securing bail for Kavitha, the top court said such statements might create apprehensions in minds of people.

"Have you read in the newspaper what he said? Just read what he has stated. What sort of statement is this by a responsible chief minister. That might rightly create apprehension in the minds of people. Is this a kind of statement which should be made by a Chief Minister. A constitutional functionary is speaking in this manner?"

"Why should they drag court in political rivalry? Do we pass orders on consultations with political parties. We are not bothered by politicians or if anybody criticises our orders. We do our duty as per conscience and oath," a three-judge bench headed by Justice B R Gavai told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Reddy.

In an interaction with mediapersons, Reddy Tuesday had said there are doubts over MLC Kavitha getting bail in five



months when Manish Sisodia got it after 15 months and Kejriwal is yet to get it.

"It is a fact that BRS worked for the victory of the BJP in the 2024 LS polls. There is also talk that Kavitha got bail because of the deal between BRS and BJP," he had alleged.

The apex court said it a fundamental duty to have mutual respect for institutions and maintain arm's distance.

"We always say we will not interfere in the legislature, then that is expected from them also. Do we pass orders on political considerations?," the bench also comprising Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan observed. The top court was hearing a petition seeking transfer of the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote scam case, in which Reddy is an accused, from the state to Bhopal.

Common diabetes drug may lower dementia risk: Study

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, while in vascular dementia, brain function is affected due to damaged blood vessels, which block blood flow and oxygen supply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: A common diabetes drug could prevent dementia, with a longer treatment being related with more benefits, a study on Korean population has suggested.

In over two lakh adults aged 40-69 years and having type 2 diabetes, researchers found a 35 per cent reduced risk of dementia associated with taking SGLT-2 inhibitors compared

with DPP-4 inhibitors, also known as gliptins. Further, treatment with SGLT-2 drugs over a longer duration was found to have more pronounced effects - a 48 per cent reduced risk of dementia for more than two years of treatment. Examples of SGLT-2 drugs available in India include remogliflozin and dapagliflozin, while those of DPP-4 drugs are sitagliptin, vildagliptin, and teneligliptin.

However, the researchers, in-



cluding those from the Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Korea, cautioned that the effects could have been overestimated and said that randomised controlled trials, or

RCTs, are now needed to confirm these findings, published in the British Medical Journal. RCTs are considered the gold-standard of clinical trials.

The team noted that details

of health behaviours, such as smoking and alcohol habits, and duration for which the patients had diabetes, were not fully available.

However, the authors pointed out that this was a large study based on nationally representative data, including relatively younger people with type 2 diabetes, and results were highly consistent across subgroups.

SGLT-2, or sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT-2), inhibitor drugs help patients manage diabetes by preventing kidneys from reabsorbing sugar that the body creates. The excess sugar is then removed via urine.

On the other hand, DPP-4, or

dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4), inhibitor drugs function by blocking the DPP-4 enzyme, thereby helping the body increase insulin levels after a meal.

While SGLT-2 drugs are commonly used for treating diabetes in India, there have been rare instances of patients getting a serious infection in their genitals and surrounding areas.

For the study, the researchers used the Korea National Health Insurance Service database to identify over 1.1 lakh pairs of adults, aged 62 years on average and having type 2 diabetes, who were free of dementia and started taking either an SGLT-2 or a DPP-4 drug between 2013 and 2021.

national

of the day quote

Everyone is familiar with the misdeeds of the SP. If you turn the pages, the SP's history is full of black deeds. The SP's cap is 'laal' (red) but its 'karname kale hain' (deeds are black). They are repeating their history

We have to work hard so that the minorities and the Muslims can replace their decades-old fashion to defeat the BJP with the passion to support it. When the BJP doesn't discriminate against any section in terms of development then there should also not be any hesitation in voting for the BJP

We are trying to find that convergence. Include local industry in your debates and conversations. This process and platform are important

X POST OF THE DAY

Why are crimes against dalit women increasing day by day? And more importantly, why are we failing to address them everyday?

SHORT TAKES

Modi meets IFS trainees

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday met officer trainees of the 2023 batch of the Indian Foreign Service and asserted that India engages with the world on an "equal footing, with mutual respect and dignity". During the meeting, the trainees praised the success of the foreign policy under Modi's leadership and sought guidance from him on their upcoming new assignments.

Man gets life term for rape

Faridabad: A Faridabad court Thursday sentenced a man to life imprisonment, two years after he brutally raped and murdered a 34-year-old woman. The court of Faridabad's Additional Sessions Judge Purushottam Kumar also imposed a fine of ₹1.5 lakh on the convict. A woman was found dead on a street in Sector 7, Faridabad, November 7, 2022 with her half-naked body showing signs of rape and brutalisation, police said.

Candidates faint during physical test

Medininagar (Jharkhand): Twenty-five candidates taking part in a constable recruitment exam of the excise department Thursday fainted during a physical test in Palamu district, officials said. Altogether, 60 aspirants fell unconscious during the test involving running in the last three days at Chiyanki airport in Medininagar, they said. Vishwatra Kumar, who hails from Chapra district of Bihar, said he fainted after running 400 metres. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Medininagar) Manibhusan Prasad told PTI that the reason behind the candidates fainting could be breathlessness. The recruitment process will continue till September 9.



The incidents of rape, murder and suicide, especially of innocent girls and women, happening in Bengal, Badlapur in Maharashtra, Bihar, and Kannauj, Agra and Farrukhabad districts of Uttar Pradesh are extremely sad and worrying

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

INDIA COMMISSIONS INS ARIGHAT

India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine was commissioned into the Navy Thursday in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who said this will further strengthen the country's nuclear triad and enhance nuclear deterrence. The ceremony for commissioning took place in Visakhapatnam



KOLKATA HORROR

Audio clips of hosp spark row

The changes in statements on the status of the victim made by an official in those phone calls, raise questions on whether the hospital was initially trying to cover up the ghastly crime



An activist hold a poster of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a protest rally

CM Mamata debunks allegations

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday asserted that she did not threaten junior doctors at state-run hospitals, who have been continuing cease-work for 21 days now to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a woman medic. Banerjee said accusations that have come from certain quarters of her threatening the agitating junior doctors are "completely false" and part of a "malicious disinformation campaign".

victim could be heard asking from the background, "Is she running a fever?" "Come over quickly," was the caller's reply. "Is her condition very serious?" the father's voice was heard asking. "Yes, she is very serious. Come quickly," was the response from the other end. The call lasted for a minute and 11 seconds.

The second phone call, which lasted for about 46 seconds, arrived some five minutes later. It was perceptively from the same caller and she was heard saying, "Her condition is critical, very critical. Please come over as soon as you can."

To a desperate appeal from the father asking what happened to his daughter, the voice at the other end repeated, "Only doctors can say that. You please come over."

When the father asked her to reveal her identity, the caller said, "I am the assistant superintendent. I am not a doctor. We have brought your daughter to

the emergency ward. You please come over and contact us." "But what could have happened to her? She was on duty," a panic-stricken mother's voice could be heard in the background. "You come over quickly, as soon as you can," was the reply.

The third and final call was the one which pronounced the death of the victim, albeit with a twist. "Yes, please listen... we were repeatedly telling you before... your daughter... may have... died by suicide... or, she may have passed away. The police are here. All of us from the hospital are here. We are calling you to ask you to come down quickly," the apparently same voice from the first two calls announced in disjointed sentences. The final call lasted for 28 seconds.

The clear changes in the hospital's statement, from the victim "falling a little ill" to "very critical and admitted in emergency ward" to, finally, "may have died

Ready to apologise 100 times: Shinde

TALKING TO REPORTERS HERE, SHINDE SAID THE OPPOSITION HAS OTHER ISSUES TO DO POLITICS ON BUT SHIVAJI MAHARAJ, A REVERED FIGURE IN MAHARASHTRA, SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF IT



nine months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, triggering a political storm in the state, which is due for polls in the next few months.

Mumbai, August 29: Under fire over the collapse of a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Thursday asserted he would not hesitate to touch the feet of the warrior king 100 times and apologise for the incident if required.

As the collapse of the statue four days ago in Sindhudurg district continued to generate heat, the state government set up a technical committee to find out reasons for the crash, while members of the ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, staged silent protests across Maharashtra over the incident.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji is a patron deity of Maharashtra. I am ready to touch his feet 100 times and apologise (for the statue crash). I will not shy away from apologising. Our government functions keeping his (Shivaji's) ideals in mind," Shinde insisted. His remarks came a day after Ajit Pawar apologised to the people of the state for the collapse of the structure which was installed in the coastal district's Malvan tehsil, around 480km from Mumbai.

The 35-foot statue of the 17th-century Maratha empire founder installed at Rajkot Fort premises collapsed August 26, nearly

The state government has pointed out that the project was handled by the Indian Navy. The Navy Thursday said it conceptualised and steered the project of installing the Shivaji statue in coordination with the state government which provided funding for it. In a statement, the Navy said it remains committed to assisting in all measures to repair, restore and reinstate the statue at the earliest.

A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office after Shinde held a late night meeting Wednesday with ministers, top state and Navy officials said the government has set up a technical committee to probe reasons behind the collapse of the Shivaji Maharaj statue.

The panel will comprise engineers, IIT experts and Navy officials. Shinde said two joint panels have been formed. One panel will ascertain the reasons behind the crash, while the other committee comprising experts, sculptors with experience of building Chhatrapati Shivaji statues, engineers and Navy officials will look into the reconstruction aspect.

"Our endeavour is to rebuild the statue," the CM maintained. Shinde said the Navy has demanded that the area where the statue was installed by cordoned off for inspection and starting rebuilding work.



SNIPPETS

Assam passes compulsory Muslim marriage, divorce registration Bill

Guwahati: The Assam Assembly Thursday passed a bill for compulsory government registration of marriage and divorce of Muslim people. The Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Bill, 2024 was introduced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan Tuesday. While replying to queries, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said all earlier registrations of marriages conducted by Kazis will remain valid and only new ones will come under the purview of the legislation. "We are not interfering with the marriages solemnised by Islamic rituals under Muslim Personnel Law at all. Our only condition is that Islam prohibited marriages will not be registered," he added.

Simranjit passes derogatory comment on Kangana Ranaut

Chandigarh: Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) president and former MP Simranjit Singh Mann Thursday made a derogatory remark mentioning "rape" on BJP MP Kangana Ranaut, triggering outrage among women organisations. The actor-politician slammed Mann for 'trivialising' the crime against women even as the Punjab politician doubled down in two successive posts on X a few hours later. Mann made the disparaging remark when reporters in Karnal sought his comment on a controversial interview recently by the MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. She had then alleged that bodies were hanging and rapes taking place during the farmers' protest against the now-repealed agril laws.

Relief for Mukesh as court stays arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi/Thiruvananthapuram, August 29: In a scandal that has shaken the Malayalam film industry, actor-politician M Mukesh along with three other prominent actors have been booked in cases of rape and sexual assault, sparking a fierce political debate and calls for the ruling party MLA's resignation. Amid intense protests by the opposition and demands from a section of Left party members for his resignation, Mukesh obtained relief from a court in Kochi, which granted him protection from arrest until September 3. The ruling Left and the embattled MLA faced further trouble when senior CPI leader Annie Raja called for Mukesh's resignation as an MLA, after he was booked for rape following a complaint by a female actor.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with others during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Gandhi Thursday shared a video of one of the martial arts sessions held at campsites of his east to west 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' earlier this year and said a "Bharat Dojo Yatra" is coming soon

Varsity of Southampton to set up India campus under NEP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The UK's University of Southampton has become the first foreign university to set up its offshore campus in India under the new NEP, the Centre announced Thursday. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had in 2023 announced Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India Regulations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar handed over a Letter of Intent (LoI) to university representatives at an event here. According to officials, the University of Southampton submitted a proposal for opening a branch campus in Gurugram that was approved by the UGC standing committee, comprising noted academics from India and abroad, for issuing a LoI as

per regulations.

"The degrees awarded by the India campus of the University of Southampton will be the same as in the host university. The programmes offered in the branch campus of University of Southampton in India will have the same academic and quality standards," UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said. "The Indian campus of the University of Southampton is expected to start its academic programmes in July 2025. The courses offered will be in subjects focusing on business and management, computing, law, engineering, art and design, biosciences and life sciences," he added.

Australia's Deakin University and the University of Wollongong have already set up campuses in GIFT City in Gujarat. However, the University of Southampton



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the handing over of Letter of Intent to the University of Southampton which will be establishing a campus in India under NEP 2020. UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar is also seen

will be the first foreign university to set up an India campus under UGC norms. The minister highlighted the initiative would help establish a strong interactional footprint

of brand India in the educational sphere. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan termed the development as a foot forward towards realising the goal

The University of Southampton is a founding member of the leading research-intensive Russell Group of universities in the UK

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said the development reflected both the vision of elevating India's educational standards to the highest global levels and delivering on the education pillar of India-UK cooperation

of "internationalisation at home", as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

"Glad that more and more globally-renowned HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) are evincing keen interest for multi-faceted collaborations with top Indian institutions as well as for tapping the potential of India as a global education and talent hub of the future," he said in a post on X.

"Establishment of campuses of foreign universities in India and Indian HEIs abroad is not just about expanding educational opportunities, it is about creating a vibrant ecosystem of research, knowledge exchange and global collaboration. Educational institutions across countries have a responsibility to produce 'global citizens' with global ethos who can provide solutions to global challenges," the minister added.

Mark E Smith, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Southampton, said no university could be truly global in the 21st century without engaging with India.

Andrew Atherton, the university's vice-president for international and engagement, said they would develop world-class, work-ready graduates with specialist and transferable skills.

international



So, now in Bangladesh, it's seen as Sheikh Hasina plus India versus the people of Bangladesh. That is why there is this anger against India, as it is considered an ally of the Awami League
AMIR KHASRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY | FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE, BANGLADESH

TYPHOON SHANSHAN PUMMELS JAPAN

Millions of people were ordered to evacuate their homes as Typhoon Shanshan lashed southwest Japan with strong winds and torrential rain Thursday, knocking out power, snarling air traffic and forcing major factories to close



of the day quote

I think that at the moment, we have to decide that we must fully eradicate terrorism from Balochistan through our collective vision, power, and unwavering determination
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

This is a war against Palestinians not just against Hamas. The level of civilian casualties and dead is unconscionable
MICHAEL MARTIN | MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IRELAND

The main thing is for what is happening in France not to run into political persecution
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

SCO meet: Pak invites Modi

Indian PM gets invitation from Pakistan to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting which is to be held in Islamabad

AGENCIES
Islamabad, August 29: Pakistan has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation heads of government meeting being organised here in October, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said here Thursday.
During a weekly press briefing, the Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that invitations have been sent to the heads of countries to participate in the meeting which will take place October 15-16, the Dawn newspaper reported.



Officials' meetings focusing on financial, economic, socio-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation among the SCO member states.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations.
When asked about ties with India, the spokesperson said, "Pakistan does not have direct bilateral trade with India."
Pakistan downgraded its ties with India after the Indian Parliament suspended Article 370 August 5, 2019, a decision that Islamabad believed undermined the environment for holding talks between the neigh-

The meetings will focus on financial, economic, socio-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation

Ukraine F-16 crashes, pilot succumbs during Russian airstrikes

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 29: An F-16 fighter jet used by Ukraine crashed Monday, Kyiv's military said, the first such loss reported since the long-awaited arrival of the US-made planes in the country was confirmed this month.

The jet came down and its pilot died while it was approaching a target during a Russian airstrike, the Ukrainian General Staff said Thursday in a statement on Facebook.

The F-16s had "demonstrated high efficiency" and downed four Russian cruise missiles, it added. "Connection with one of the aircraft was lost while it was approaching the next target. As it turned out later, the plane crashed, the pilot died," the statement added.

Ukraine has not given detail on the size of its new fleet, though the loss is likely to have left a significant dent. The Times of London has cited a source familiar with the matter as saying Ukraine had six of the jets.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed August 4 his pilots had started flying F-16s, hailing the moment as a major milestone in the fight against the invasion Russia launched 29 months ago.

He said Tuesday F-16s were used to repel a major Russian attack a day earlier of more than 200 missiles and drones, which targeted the energy sector.

Monday's crash did not appear to be the result of Russian fire, and possible causes from pilot error to mechanical failure were still being investigated, a US defense official told Reuters.

Military analysts have said the arrival of the small number of planes, while significant, is unlikely to be a turning point in the conflict.

West Bank Operation Israel kills Islamic Jihad commander



REUTERS

Jerusalem, August 29: Israeli troops killed a local commander of the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad movement in the West Bank and four other militants Thursday in a gunbattle during one of the largest assaults in the Israeli-occupied territory for months.

The military said it killed Muhammad Jabber, known as Abu Shujaa, the head of a network of fighters in the adjacent Nur Shams refugee camp, during a "significant exchange of fire" around a mosque in the city of Tulkarm in which four other Palestinian fighters were also killed.

The Tulkarm division of Islamic Jihad's armed wing confirmed his death, which brought the total number of Palestinians killed during the past two days to 17, and said fighters had attacked Israeli forces near the Abu Ubaida mosque.

The operation began in the early hours of Wednesday with hundreds of Israeli troops backed by helicopters, drones and armoured personnel carriers raiding the flashpoint cities of Tulkarm, Jenin and areas in the Jordan Valley.

There was also a complete network outage at Jawwal, one of the two main telecommunications companies in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank, according to the Reuters witness.

In Jenin earlier, Israeli bulldozers edged along empty, rubbish-strewn streets as the sound of drones pierced the sky.
The troops searched ambulances on the streets and in front of Jenin's main hospital, having blocked off access to it Wednesday to prevent fighters from seeking refuge there.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Israel's launch of large scale military operations was "deeply concerning" and called for an immediate halt. In response, Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon said the operations had a clear goal "preventing Iranian terror-by-proxy that would harm Israeli civilians."

More than 660 people, combatants and civilians, have been killed, according to Palestinian tallies, some by Jewish settlers who have carried out frequent vigilante-style attacks on West Bank Palestinian communities.

Israel says Iran provides weapons and support to militant factions in the West Bank and the military has, as a result, cranked up its operations there.

Referring to the latest operation, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on X overnight "This is a war in every sense, and we must win it."

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan says no to TTP talks

Islamabad: Pakistan Thursday said it has no plans to hold talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and asked Afghanistan's Taliban government to take "robust action" against these terror groups and prevent their activities. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the presence of terror groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), in Afghanistan was confirmed by multiple international reports including the United Nations.

B'desh flood: Toll rises to 52

Dhaka: The death toll from devastating floods that have ravaged southeastern Bangladesh for weeks reached 52 Thursday, according to a report of the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry, as millions of people remained cut off in parts of the country. Twenty-one more flood-related deaths were reported in Bangladesh Thursday, raising the toll from the current flooding to 52, according to the National Disaster Response Coordination Center under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Xinhua news agency reported.

Russia bans 92 Americans

Moscow: Russia's Foreign Ministry announced 92 additions Wednesday to its list of Americans banned from entering the country, including some journalists who formerly worked in Russia, and law enforcement and business people. A ministry statement said the bans were imposed "in response to the Russophobic course pursued by the Biden administration with the declared goal of 'inflicting a strategic defeat on Moscow.'" It said the banned journalists represent "leading liberal-globalist publications involved in the production and dissemination of fakes' about Russia and the Russian armed forces."

Macron to visit Serbia

Belgrade: French President Emmanuel Macron starts a two-day state visit to Serbia Thursday with the focus on the possible sale of 12 Rafale multi-purpose fighter jets to the country, which has maintained close ties to Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine. Macron is to meet populist President Aleksandar Vucic in Belgrade Thursday evening, when the deal reportedly worth 3 billion Euros (\$3.3 billion) is expected to be announced. An official in Macron's office said the warplane talks are part of larger strategy of "bringing Serbia closer to the EU."

SNIPPETS

Hong Kong court convicts former editors of sedition



Hong Kong: A Hong Kong court Thursday found two editors of the now-defunct Stand News media outlet guilty of conspiring to publish seditious articles in a case that has drawn international scrutiny amid a security crackdown in the China-ruled city. The two editors, Chung Pui-kuen and Patrick Lam, could be jailed for up to two years when they are sentenced September 26. Their conviction is the first for sedition against any journalist or editor since Hong Kong's handover from Britain to China in 1997. Critics, including the US government, say their case reflects deteriorating media freedoms under a years-long national security crackdown in the China-ruled city. Stand News, once Hong Kong's leading online media with a mix of critical reportage and commentary, was raided by police in December 2021.

Pakistan to launch 2nd phase of Afghan refugee repatriation



Islamabad: Pakistan will launch the second phase of the repatriation of Afghan refugees, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced, emphasising the need for the role of the UN and the international community in their rehabilitation. During a meeting Wednesday with a UN delegation led by Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte, Naqvi said Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades, and the phase-wise repatriation of illegal foreigners has already started. Naqvi, who welcomed the UN delegation at the Ministry of Interior, said the second phase of the repatriation of Afghan refugees will be started soon. Pakistan launched the first round of repatriation in November last year after a spike in suicide attacks. Islamabad also blamed them for smuggling, militant violence and other crimes.



South Korean firefighters prepare to lift a vehicle that fell into a sinkhole on a street in Seoul, South Korea PFI PHOTO

UN: Iran continues uranium enrichment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vienna, August 29: Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels in defiance of international demands, a confidential report by the United Nations nuclear watchdog said Thursday.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said that as of August 17, Iran has 164.7 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent. That's an increase of 22.6 kilograms since the IAEA's last report in May. Uranium enriched up to 60 per cent purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

The IAEA report, which was seen by The Associated Press, says Tehran has also not reconsidered its September 2023 decision to ban the most experienced nuclear inspectors from monitoring its nuclear program and that IAEA surveillance cameras remain disrupted.

Ukraine's Kursk incursion tests young Russian conscripts' mettle

Russian civil society groups that advise men on how to avoid military service say they are concerned about pressure on conscripts to sign contracts to become professional soldiers

REUTERS

London, August 29: The last time Liana spoke to her husband Husain before he was captured by Ukrainian troops, he said what he always told her "Everything is fine."

Husain, a 21-year-old conscripted soldier, was dispatched with his Russian army unit in mid-July to a base in the western Kursk region that he said was 15 km from the frontier with Ukraine.

When Husain phoned his wife August 4, he said the situation there seemed calm, Liana told Reuters. The only sign of the war in Ukraine was the buzz of drones overhead, protecting soldiers as they slept.

Two days later, thousands of Ukrainian troops smashed through the border into Kursk in a lightning attack that took Moscow by surprise.

For about three weeks, Liana heard nothing from Husain. Then, Sunday, he called her from a Moscow hospital and said he had been released with more than 100 other Russian prisoners of war who had been captured in Kursk.

Husain told her his unit had come under heavy Ukrainian shelling, and that he and two other conscripts were the unit's only survivors.

Reuters could not independently verify Husain's account. "He thought he was going to



die," said Liana, 19, who spoke on condition that the couple's surnames not be used for fear of recriminations. Liana is relieved that Husain, with whom she has an 18-month-old son, is alive. But she fears that her husband, who worked as a builder, will be sent back to fight in Kursk. "He is still young, he just started to live," she said.

SENSITIVE ISSUE
Russian men are required to complete a year of military service before the age of 30, with

investigation and promised to punish the officials responsible.

Over two years later, investigations by the BBC Russian Service and independent Russian outlet Important Stories show hundreds of conscripts have been sent to Kursk to defend against Ukraine's advance. Dozens have gone missing or were captured. Reuters confirmed the deaths of two conscripts from accounts posted by their families on social media. Artyom Dobrodumsky won medals in children's karate competitions in the southern Rostov region, and graduated from a cadet school. He was 22 when he died in Kursk.

Daniil Rubtsov, who was raised in northwest Russia, received his army notice in December 2023. He hoped to become a police investigator, his mother told Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta. He died in the Kursk region August 7, aged 18.

Russian civil society groups

that advise men on how to avoid military service say they are concerned about pressure on conscripts to sign contracts to become professional soldiers. Alexei Tabalov, founder of legal support group Shkola Priziyvnika (Conscript School), said conscripts, many of them teenagers, are highly susceptible to such coercion.

"It's easy to fool them, manipulate them, blackmail them. You can threaten them and use physical force against them without any real consequences," Tabalov said by telephone.

He said many conscripted soldiers in Kursk had received little military training, and were treated like "service personnel" tasked with maintenance and other low-level tasks.

"Many say they didn't even have access to weapons, which confirms that they weren't considered to be participants in possible hostilities, or defending something," Tabalov said.

business

of the day quote

India is a very important and a promising market and hence you would see that they (Aston Martin) are launching all the models which are available globally in India as well

TUSHAR ANAND | VP (OPERATIONS), ASTON MARTIN

The rooftop solar sector in India is finally taking off, largely due to the Prime Minister's rooftop solar initiative (PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana), which has sparked unprecedented consumer interest

RAJ PRABHU | CEO, MERCOR CAPITAL

The forward-looking Vehicle Scrappage Policy by the government represents a transformative step towards promoting a circular economy and encouraging the use of cleaner and safer vehicles

VINOD AGGARWAL | MD AND CEO, VECV

SHORT TAKES

Gangwal sells stake

Mumbai: The billionaire co-founder of IndiGo, Rakesh Gangwal, sold nearly \$1.3 billion worth of shares in the airline's operator InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. a day after they closed at a record high. Shares in India's leading airline climbed 92 per cent over the past year and closed at a record high of ₹4,859.85 Wednesday. Gangwal and the Chinkerpoo Family Trust sold 22.5 million shares at ₹4,714.90 each in a block equity sale, according to a filing, representing 30 per cent of his IndiGo stake.

Fine on AI Express

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA Thursday imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Air India Express for non-payment of compensation to passengers for cancelled flights. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carried out an inspection as per Annual Surveillance Programme (ASP) 2024 of scheduled domestic operators in June. This was in respect of norms pertaining to facilities and compensation that are to be provided to passengers. "During the surveillance inspection of the airlines, it was observed that Air India Express was not complying with the provisions of CAR Section-3, Series M, Part IV," DGCA said in a release.

Tyre exports surge

New Delhi: Tyre exports from India grew 17 per cent year-on-year to reach ₹6,219 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal with the US emerging as the biggest market, industry body Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) said Thursday. Tyre exports from India recouped in the first quarter of FY25, increasing by 17 per cent YoY. Tyre exports had declined by 14 per cent in the corresponding quarter in the previous year, ATMA said citing data just released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Tax demand notices

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Zomato has received GST tax demand orders of over ₹4.59 crore, including applicable interest and penalty, from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal authorities. The company said it plans to appeal against the demand orders passed by the Assistant Commissioner of GST and Central Excise, Nungambakkam Division, Tamil Nadu and Assistant Commissioner of Revenue, Government of West Bengal.



Ultimate objective of Sebi is to ensure compliance becomes the low hum in the background, like breathing

MADHABI PURI BUCH | CHIEF, SEBI

RETAIL INFLATION FOR FARM, RURAL WORKERS EASES IN JULY

Retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers eased to 6.17 per cent and 6.20 per cent, respectively, in July. The retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers were 7.02 per cent and 7.04 per cent, respectively, in June this year



Moody's ups GDP growth forecast

The ratings agency said that the growth could be higher if the cyclical momentum, especially for private consumption, gains more traction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Moody's Ratings Thursday raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024 and 2025 calendar year to 7.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, on strong broad-based growth.

"From a macroeconomic perspective, the Indian economy is in a sweet spot, with the mix of solid growth and moderating inflation," Moody's Ratings said in its August update of Global Macro Outlook 2024-25.

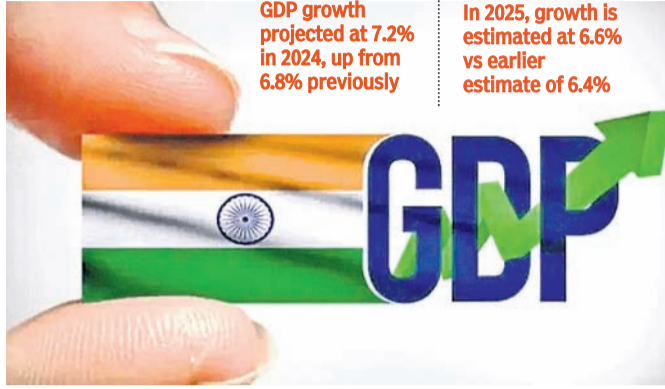
As per the projections, India's GDP growth would be 7.2 per cent in 2024, up from 6.8 per cent previously. In 2025, the growth is estimated at 6.6

per cent versus our earlier estimate of 6.4 per cent.

"We have raised our real GDP growth projections for the Indian economy for 2024 and 2025... These forecast changes assume strong broad-based growth," Moody's said.

The economy expanded 7.8 per cent year-over-year in the first quarter of 2024 despite the persistence of tight monetary policy and demonstrated progress on fiscal consolidation.

Moody's said signs of a revival in rural demand are already emerging, on the back of improving prospects for agricultural output amid above-normal rainfall during the



monsoon season.

Non-financial corporate and bank balance sheets are significantly healthier than before the pandemic, and firms

are increasingly tapping equity and bond markets to raise capital.

Moody's said a recent paper by the RBI also projects a 54 per cent jump in private capex in the current financial year.

The capex cycle should continue to gain steam amid rising capacity utilisation, upbeat business sentiment and the government's continued thrust on infrastructure spending.

Supporting the growth dynamics is rapid and widespread digitalisation of the economy, driven by the government's investments to build digital public infrastructure (a triad of identity, payments and data management solutions), growing telecom and internet penetration and low data usage costs.

RBI cautions public against fraudulent activities in its name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday cautioned against fraudulent activities in its name and asked the public not share account login details, OTP, or KYC documents with unidentified persons.

It has come to the notice of the RBI that unscrupulous elements are using various methods to defraud members of the public by using the name of RBI in some capacity, the central bank said in a statement.

The RBI also listed various modus operandi employed by fraudsters.

Fraudsters use fake letter heads and fake email addresses of the RBI, impersonating as employees of the central bank, and lure people with fictitious offers such as lottery winnings, fund transfers, foreign remittance, and government schemes.

Targeted victims are made to part with money in the form of currency processing fee, transfer/remittance/procedure charges.

RBI further said it has come across some websites and apps of entities such as unauthorised digital lending apps and other supposed financial services providers.

Fitch retains India rating with stable outlook on strong growth

Global rating agency Fitch Thursday affirmed India's 'BBB-' rating with a stable outlook on strong growth outlook and fiscal credibility. Fitch said India is set to remain among the fastest-growing sovereigns globally with GDP growth of 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year and 6.5 per cent in FY26, down from 8.2 per cent in FY24. "Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook," the global rating agency said in a statement. Fitch has kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, since August 2006. Earlier in May, US-based S&P Global Ratings upped India's rating outlook to positive from stable, while affirming the 'BBB-' rating on improved quality of government expenditure and robust GDP growth. Fitch in its rating commentary Thursday said strengthening fiscal credibility from the recent achievement of deficit targets, enhanced transparency and buoyant revenues, have increased the likelihood that government debt can follow a modest downward trend in the medium term. "India's ratings are underpinned by its strong medium-term growth outlook, which will continue to drive improvement in structural aspects of its credit profile, including India's share of GDP in the global economy, as well as its solid external finance position," the rating agency said. Fitch, however, flagged debt and debt service burden of India, compared to other 'BBB-' rated peers.

FinMin lowers minimum public float requirement to 10% for IFSC bourses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The finance ministry has reduced the minimum public float requirement to 10 per cent from 25 per cent in a bid to attract companies to list on stock exchanges at IFSC, Gandhinagar.

The Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City) at Gandhinagar is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) under Special Economic Zone Act, 2005.

The Department of Economic Affairs has amended the Securities Contracts Regulation Rules (SCRR), 1956 to ease the listing requirements for Indian companies seeking to list on international exchanges within International Financial Service Centres (IFSCs) at par with global standards, an official statement said.

Direct listing of equity shares of companies incorporated in India on International Exchange Scheme under the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments), 2019 and Companies (Listing of Equity Shares in Permissible Jurisdictions) Rules, 2024 together, provide a regulatory framework to enable public Indian companies to issue and list their shares in permitted international stock exchanges at GIFT-IFSC.

BIZ BUZZ

Tara Patnaik ranks 540 in Hurun Rich List

Bhubaneswar: Industrialist Tara Ranjan Patnaik has been featured in the Hurun India Rich List 2024. With the assessed net worth of ₹4,900 crore, Patnaik and family have been ranked 540 in the rich list for this year. Patnaik is one of the promoters of Falcon Marine Exports, Falcon Group, a 40-year-old entity, is the largest integrated seafood exporter of the country, with its export business spanning across the globe. The group with diversified ventures in sea foods, animal feeds, trading and real estate sector has established itself as a key player in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Dubai. Hurun report is a comprehensive statistical report published worldwide by chief researcher Rupert Hoogewerf, the promoter of the Luxembourg based firm. The report catapults the Patnaiks into the elite club of Indian conglomerates like the Adanis and Ambanis, ranked 1 and 2 respectively, which is a matter of immense pride for the state.

TOLIC (Bank) holds 56th half yearly meet

Bhubaneswar: Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Bank), Bhubaneswar has organized its 56th half yearly meeting August 29 at State Bank of India, local head office in the chairmanship of Dinesh Pruthi, Chairman, TOLIC (Bank) & Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar. Nirmal Kumar Dubey, Assistant Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Sarada Prasanna Mohanty, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Sudhanshu KK Mishra, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Manoj Kumar Singh, Vice Chairman, TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar & Circle Development Officer, State Bank of India have also graced the occasion. Regional and zonal heads of all public sector banks and insurance companies situated at Bhubaneswar, senior executives and Rajbhasha Officers were also present in the meeting. The meeting was started with welcome address by Manoj Kumar Singh in which he appreciated all the members for their active cooperation and pro-active attitude in official language implementation in their respective offices.

FAG-END RALLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 29: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit their all-time high levels Thursday, driven by a fag-end rally in index majors Reliance Industries and Tata Motors.

Robust buying in energy and FMCG stocks also supported the domestic equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 349.05 points or 0.43 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,134.61, extending its winning momentum to the eighth day in a row. During the day, it soared 500.27 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a lifetime intra-day peak of 82,285.83.

The BSE gauge has surged 1,709.93 points or 2.12 per cent in eight straight trading sessions.

Rallying for the 11th straight session, the NSE Nifty surged 99.60 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 25,151.95. During the trade, the benchmark climbed 140.55 points or 0.56 per cent to hit a fresh record intra-day peak of 25,192.90.

In 11 trading days, the NSE Nifty has jumped 1,012.95 points or 4.19 per cent.

"Markets were back in action on the expiry day after range-bound sessions, as benchmark indices hit fresh intra-day lifetime highs led by gains in Reliance Industries, which announced a 1:1 bonus issue. Markets were volatile and had slipped into the

D-St scales fresh peaks



Indian equities began steadily and breached a record high. Volatility disturbed the trend in the afternoon due to Reliance Ltd AGM expectations, but the broad market carried the rally to a new high by the end of the day with rapid improvement in sentiment

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

red in mid-session, but rebounded in late trade as investors cheered the bonus issue announcement by RIL, which led to buying action in other select frontline stocks," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Tata Motors jumped over 4 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv,

SENSEX AT 82,134.61, RISING FOR EIGHTH DAY IN A ROW
NIFTY AT 25,151.95, RISING FOR 11TH STRAIGHT SESSION

Bajaj Finance, HCL Technologies, ITC, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and State Bank of India.

Reliance Industries climbed nearly 2 per cent after Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of the firm, said the board of the company will meet September 5 to consider issuing bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1.

"When Reliance grows, we reward our shareholders handsomely," Ambani said.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys and Tata Steel were among the biggest laggards.

India plans reparability index for electronics

INDIA IS THE THIRD LARGEST ELECTRONIC WASTE PRODUCER GLOBALLY AFTER CHINA AND THE US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: India is planning a reparability index for mobile phones and electronic products to address the growing e-waste problem and encourage manufacturers to produce more easily repairable items, officials said Thursday.

The Consumer Affairs Ministry is spearheading the initiative, which will provide a score on key parameters to inform consumers about the ease with which a product can be repaired, the officials said at a national workshop on the issue.

The proposed index will be similar to initiatives in other countries, such as France's reparability index. It will rate



products on criteria including availability of technical documents, ease of disassembly, spare parts availability and pricing.

The workshop was aimed at establishing a consensus among industry stakeholders on "key parameters for accessing and evaluating reparability index" besides promoting longevity in product design, and democratizing repair information to enhance consumer experiences in reusing the mobile and electronics products they own.

Additional Secretary Bharat

Joint Secretary Anupam Mishra highlighted concerns about the lack of genuine spare parts in local markets, compatibility issues with product components, and the absence of information for consumers to repair their own devices.

He also mentioned that the Reparability Index of France rates products on five criteria, while the EU has additional parameters.

HCL Technologies Founder Ajai Chowdhry called for legislation to drive change.

"Today, most products are not repairable. We need to design products which can be repaired... Unless we create a law, things will not change," he said.

The government has already launched a Right to Repair Portal, with 63 companies onboard, including 23 from the mobile and electronics sector.

The initiative aims to reduce e-waste, promote sustainable practices, and create opportunities for third-party repairers in India's growing electronics market.

As India emerges as the third largest economy in the world, we should have a vibrant and tech-savvy repair system. India can become a repair hub for the world

NIDHI KHARE | SECRETARY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Khera emphasized the need for transparent and affordable repair solutions, increased consumer awareness, and support for local repairers.

Ethanol production from sugarcane juice gets nod

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 29: India will allow sugar mills to use cane juice or syrup to produce ethanol in the new marketing year starting November 1, the government said in a notification Thursday.

The world's second-biggest sugar producer imposed restrictions on diverting sugar for ethanol production in December 2023 to increase sugar output after cane crop was hit by below-average monsoon rains.

In the new season, distillers can also use B-heavy molasses, a byproduct with higher sucrose levels, for ethanol production, the government said in the notification.

Around 750,000 metric tons of B-heavy molasses are lying in stock with mills after the government restricted ethanol production from this feedstock last year, said Prakash Naikavare, managing director of the National Federation of



Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. "Now that the restriction is lifted, they can use these stocks," Naikavare said.

Official data shows ethanol blending in India has reached 13.3 per cent by July of the current season, up from 12.6 per cent during the 2022-23 season.

Currently, the country's total ethanol production capacity stands at 1,589 crore litres. Of this, OMCs purchased 505 crore litres of ethanol for blending purposes during the 2023-24 season.

Paralympics opening dazzles all

OVER 4,000 ATHLETES TAKE PART IN CEREMONY WITH MORE THAN 50,000 WATCHING FROM STANDS



(Left) The Indian contingent at the marchpast of the Paralympics opening ceremony; (Right) Fighter aircraft release colours of the French flag during the event Wednesday night

Paris, August 29: Just weeks after hosting the Olympics, the 2024 Paralympics was inaugurated Wednesday in the French capital with a nearly four-hour-long opening ceremony in the heart of the city. Against the backdrop of a setting sun, thousands of athletes paraded down the famed Champs-Élysées avenue to Place de la Concorde in central Paris where French President Emmanuel Macron officially declared the Paralympic Games open. About 50,000 people watched the ceremony in stands built around the iconic square, which

is the biggest here and is visible from afar because of its ancient Egyptian Obelisk. Accessibility for athletes in wheelchairs was facilitated with strips of asphalt laid along the avenue and placed over the square. More than 4,000 athletes with physical, visual and intellectual impairments will compete in 22 sports from Thursday until September 8. Organisers said more than two million of the 2.8 million tickets have been sold for the various Paralympic events. Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and shot-putter Bhagyashri Jadhav led the Indian contingent out in the athletes' parade. The 179-strong Indian contingent, which is the largest-ever in the na-

tion's Paralympics history, features 84 athletes in 12 different sports. Antil, who won the javelin gold at the Tokyo Paralympics, had the honour of being the flag-bearer alongside Jadhav, a silver medalist in shot put at the Asian Para Games in China. The opening ceremony was an ode to diversity, resilience, and spirit of competition, and featured performances that highlighted French culture and the Paralympic values of determination and equality. India had won 19 medals, including five golds at the previous edition of the Games, and the country is hoping to take the number to at least 25 with a double digit haul of gold medals.

Several proven performers are in the team, including shooter Avani Lekhara (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1), who became the first woman to win a Paralympics gold in Tokyo. "The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will show what persons with disabilities can achieve at the highest level when the barriers to succeed are removed," International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Andrew Parsons said in his speech. The opening ceremony was held outside the confines of a stadium, just like when the Olympics opened in the city July 26. Fighter planes flew overhead, leaving red-white and blue vapours in the

colours of the French national flag, before the delegations entered the square in alphabetical order. Some delegations were huge - more than 250 athletes from Brazil - and some were tiny - less than a handful from Barbados and just three from Myanmar. Ukraine's delegation got a loud cheer and some of the crowd stood to applaud them. "The fact these opportunities largely exist only in sport in the year 2024 is shocking. It is proof we can and must do more to advance disability inclusion - whether on the field of play, in the classroom, concert hall or in the boardroom," Parsons stated.

Mixed fortunes for Indian shuttlers



INCREDIBLE COMEBACK: Sukant Kadam reeled off six points in a row to win his opening match at the Paralympics

Paris, August 29: Sukant Kadam, Suhas Yathiraj and Tarun notched up contrasting wins in their respective opening men's singles SL4 group matches to make a resounding start to their campaign in para badminton competition at the Paralympic Games here Thursday. Sukant, 31, who had suffered a knee injury after a bad fall in a cricket field when he was just 10, recovered from an opening game reversal to emerge 17-21, 21-15, 22-20 winner over Malaysia's Mohammed Amin Burhanuddin in his opening Group B match. He fought back from 16-20 down in the decider by reeling off six points on the trot to script an amazing win. Tokyo Paralympics silver medalist Suhas, on the other hand, hardly broke any sweat as he zoomed past Indonesia's Hikmat Ramdani 21-7, 21-5 in his Group A match which lasted just 22 minutes. Playing in his second Olympics, Tarun, who had badly injured his knee after an accident while playing football, defeated Brazil's Oliveira Rogerio Junior Xavier 21-17, 21-19 in men's sin-

SHORT TAKES

Sharuk in final of U-20 Worlds

Lima: India's Sharuk Khan broke the national U-20 record in 3,000m steeplechase to qualify for the final with a sixth-place finish in his heats at the World Athletics U-20 Championships here. The 18-year-old Khan completed the race in eight minutes 45.12 seconds to finish sixth in heat one late Wednesday night and qualify for the finals to be held August 31. The first eight finishers in each of the two heats qualified for the final. Khan's earlier personal best was 8:51.75s, which he clocked while winning a silver at the Asian U-20 Championships in Korea in June last year.

Winless endeavour

Saint Louis: French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja drew his final game with Indian prodigy R Praggnanandhaa to emerge champion at the Sinquefeld Cup and also win the Grand Chess Tour 2024. Winning three and drawing the remaining six games, Firouzja remained undefeated throughout the event. The Indian duo of Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh tied for the fifth spot on a fifty per cent score with both of them ending with nine draws. Both of them failed to register a single win in the tournament.

New role for Oram

Auckland: New Zealand have roped in former pacer Jacob Oram as their bowling coach ahead of the gruelling three-Test away series against India, a much-anticipated showdown in the ongoing World Test Championships cycle. He will take charge October 7. New Zealand will play the first match of the series against India in Bangalore October 16-20, followed by Tests in Pune (October 24-28) and Mumbai (November 1-5).

Trippier retires

London: Kieran Trippier announced his retirement from international soccer Thursday after playing 54 times for England. He made the announcement shortly before England interim coach Lee Carsley announced his first squad since taking over from Gareth Southgate, who left the post after losing the European Championships final to Spain last month.

Kishore honoured with Biju Patnaik award



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi poses with the recipients of the Biju Patnaik Sports and Bravery awards Thursday

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Odisha witnessed Wednesday an electrifying celebration of 'National Sports Day', marked by unprecedented participation and enthusiasm across districts. In a tribute to the legendary hockey wizard Major Dhyani Chand, sports enthusiasts of all ages came together to celebrate the

spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and physical fitness. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi presented the prestigious 'Biju Patnaik Sports and Bravery Awards', acknowledging the remarkable contributions of Odisha's sporting heroes. This grand ceremony highlighted the state's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of sports. The awards were pre-

sented amidst a gathering of sports enthusiasts, dignitaries, and the state's elite athletes at a function here. Javelin thrower Kishore Jena who took part in the recently-concluded Paris Olympics was conferred with the Biju Patnaik Award for 'Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games'. He was presented a cheque of ₹3 lakh and a trophy

by the chief minister during the function. Weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi was honoured with the 'Best Upcoming Athlete Award'. She was awarded a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh. Former India hockey star Lazarus Barla was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contribution to the sport. He was awarded with a trophy and cash award of ₹4 lakh. Jayanti Malik and Rudra Prasad Malik were conferred with 'Biju Patnaik Bravery Award'. They were presented with medals, a cash award of Rs 2 lakh and a citation. Hockey coach Bijaya Kumar Lakra was honoured with the 'Excellence in Coaching Award' and he was presented with a trophy and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh. Visually-impaired cricketer Mohammed Zafar Iqbal was honoured with the 'Outstanding Differently-abled Sportsperson Award'. He was presented with a cheque of ₹2 lakh. Rupaniwta Panda was presented with a trophy and a cheque of ₹2 lakh after she got the 'Outstanding Technical Officer Award'. Nalco received the award for 'Best Contribution to Sports and Games'.

Jagatsinghpur in semifinals



Young girls take part in a FIFA football camp at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Thursday

Bargarh, August 29: Jagatsinghpur defeated Mayurbhanj 4-0 in a match played here Thursday and entered the semifinals of the Senior Women Inter-District football tournament for the PC Behera Trophy. They joined Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Cuttack who had qualified for the semifinals Wednesday winning their respective matches. Even though the scoreline suggests a one-sided match, it was not the case. Mayurbhanj were basically undone by three own goals they conceded. After Anjela Munday had put Jagatsinghpur ahead in the fourth minute, it was the Mayurbhanj footballers who put the ball in their own net trying to defend. The own goals were scored by Mayurbhanj's Malati Naik, Manjari Naik and Reema Singh. Meanwhile the Football Association of Odisha (FAO) celebrated 'National Sports Day' in Cuttack by organising a training camp for under-11 football enthusiasts at the Barabati Stadium. It was a part of the 'FIFA Women's Football Campaign' to promote the game at the grassroots level for youngsters. A total of 120 under-11 girls participated in the training camp where they were taught the basics of the game. Coaches of Odisha Police guided the girls during the training programme. Among others present at the camp were RP Singh (ex-India player), Geetanjali Khuntia and Juli Kishan (both international footballers).

Wimbledon champion Krejcikova knocked out

New York, August 29: Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova was knocked out of the US Open tennis tournament in the second round here Wednesday, defeated by Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-4, 7-5. On the steamiest day of the tournament thus far, with temperatures here surpassing 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius), three men's matches ended when an opponent stopped playing, the last one sending defending champion Novak Djokovic to the third round when Laslo Djere retired early in the third set with what appeared to be pain near his hip after they played for

Indians advance

New York: India's doubles players made a promising start at the US Open with Davis Cupper N Sriram Balaji and Yuki Bhambri progressing to the men's doubles second round with their respective partners here. Balaji and his Argentine partner Guido Andreozzi defeated New Zealand's Marcus Daniell and Mexico's Miguel Reyes-Varela 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (12-6) in 156 minutes while Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti advanced with a 6-3, 6-4 win over local wildcards Ryan Seggerman and Patrik Trhac. more than two hours across the first two sets. The Serbian was leading 6-4, 6-4, 2-0 when the match ended.

Armless archer Devi in pre-quarters

Paris, August 29: India's armless archer Sheetal Devi finished second in the women's individual compound open ranking round with a stunning performance to directly make a round of 16 entry in the Paris Paralympics here Thursday. The 17-year-old Devi from Jammu and Kashmir, who shoots with her legs as she was born without arms, scored a total of 703 points out of possible 720 to finish second behind Ozgur Girdi Cure of Turkey, who set a ranking round world record of 704 points. In fact, Devi also got past the ranking round world record (WR) of 698 set by Phoebe Pine Paterson of Great Britain earlier this month, but the Turkish archer overtook her to claim the



individual compound event at the Tokyo Paralympics. Devi had become a sensation during last year's Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, where she became the first Indian woman to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Games. She had won a third medal - a silver - also. She had won gold medals in the women's individual compound and the mixed team event. Discovered at a military camp in a remote part of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir and adopted by the Indian Army in her childhood, Devi also became the first armless woman to win a Para World Archery Championships medal last year. Devi was born with 'phocomelia syndrome', a rare congenital disorder which kept her limbs underdeveloped.

Sakshi's memoir to release in Oct

New Delhi, August 29: One of India's top women wrestlers Sakshi Malik will come out with her memoir in October in which she gives an 'honest account' of her life - the highs, lows, and everything in between. Published by 'Juggernaut Books', 'Witness' is co-authored by Jonathan Selvaraj. In her fiery memoir, Malik tells her story beginning from childhood, introduction to wrestling in Rohtak, medal win in the Rio Olympics, post-Olympics journey, struggles and triumphs over injuries and self-doubts, and finally, the most recent public battle with the administration of Wrestling Foundation of India (WFI) that has played out on the streets of New Delhi.