

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesh chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

TAURUS

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesh. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

GEMINI

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesh counsels hard work to achieve success.

LEO

You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to unforeseen problems, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

In all likelihood, you will be eager to grab the monetary challenges that come your way, as they only enhance your desire for success. You will bring up new ideas and better methods of tackling the challenges on hand. Ganesh gives you an assurance that your present business views will do you a world of good.

LIBRA

Ganesh advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

SCORPIO

Thank Ganesh that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation or listening to soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not work-out, and you may experience this soon.

CAPRICORN

Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today. You'll be in a completely romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happiness of your sweetheart.

AQUARIUS

Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesh advises you to travel alone, because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips. But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find enjoyment in that, too.

PISCES

Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings.



SANDRA SET TO GET BACK AFTER TWO-YEAR BREAK

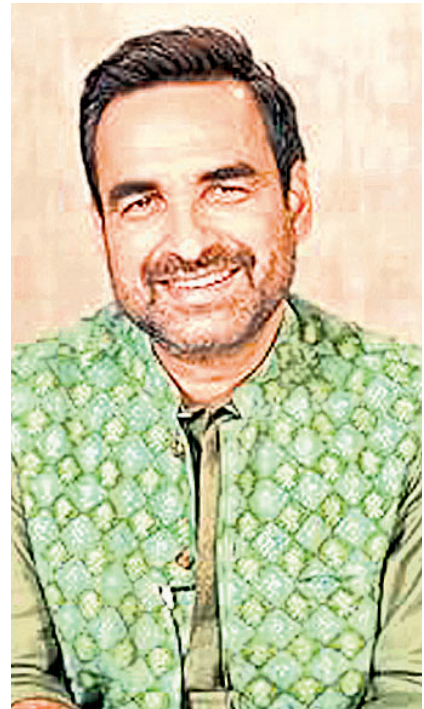
Actress Sandra Bullock is all set to get back in the game after taking a two-year hiatus for her family including her two children and care for her late partner Bryan Randall who passed away last year at the age of 57, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

JISOO TO FEATURE IN KOREAN ZOMBIE SERIES NEWTOPIA

Jisoo, who is the member of all girls K-pop group *Blackpink*, is all set to star as the lead of the cast of upcoming zombie thriller series *Newtopia*. She will star in the zombie thriller, featuring two lovers navigating a zombie-infested Seoul, reports variety.com.



Pankaj's take on maintaining image



Mumbai: Actor Pankaj Tripathi shared that he doesn't let the pressure maintaining an image in public get to him. "If you fall in the trap of maintaining an image, then you will be stuck in that lifelong. Nothing will come out of it," Tripathi shared.

The 49-year-old said, "I can become popular by doing PR but not memorable. That I can only do with my characters and my behaviour in life. Work is important and I want that only my work gets talked about. These days there is a trend to be humble. Even those who are not, pretend to be humble."

"I'm exploring myself to discover whether I'm genuinely humble or pretending to be," added Tripathi, who was last seen in *Mirzapur*.

Weighing in on the trend of celebs getting clicked by paps, Tripathi said "I don't like the paparazzi culture but I am not against those who do it. It is their way of life. They are even invited at events now as part of the film's promotions. They are part of the pop culture now."

When asked what he would like to change about the film industry, he shared and concluded, "I would rather change myself instead of changing anything in this film industry. People can do whatever they like."

AGENCIES

Janhvi bares her limits

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor has committed to never going bald for a role, honoring the memory of her late mother, Sridevi. She has explained that her decision is influenced by Sridevi's pride in her long hair, which she chooses to maintain in her mother's memory.

During her appearance on the IMDb segment *On the Scene*, she discussed what she would never do for a role. When asked about her limits, she revealed that she would not go bald, even for a life-changing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

and model Nora Fatehi's previous statement about feminism made headlines after netizens criticised her opinion. She had previously advocated for the concept of family but chose her words poorly. Now, Nora has apologised for any hurt caused by her comments.

In an interview, the actress expanded on her previous remarks, acknowledging that the Western culture of I can do everything by myself is acceptable. However, she emphasised the importance of supporting nuclear families and households of two people, who can play a crucial role in raising children to be positive members of society in the future.

The actress mentioned that alternatives like bald caps or VFX could be used instead. While she has dislocated her shoulder, bled, broken bones, and endured various forms of trauma for her roles, going bald is something she refuses to do. Even for a recent film where her character was meant to have short hair, she had a significant dispute.

Janhvi recalled an incident where her mother scolded her for cutting her hair short. She shared that during the filming of *Dhadak*, her mother was very upset and told her, "How could you? Do not cut your hair for any role." Her mother had a routine of applying oil and massaging Janhvi's hair every few days and was very proud of it. Because of this, Janhvi has decided not to cut her hair.

On the work front, Janhvi will be seen next in *Uljah* and *Devara Part 1*.

AGENCIES

Nora apologises for feminism comment

Mumbai: Actress and model Nora Fatehi's previous statement about feminism made headlines after netizens criticised her opinion. She had previously advocated for the concept of family but chose her words poorly. Now, Nora has apologised for any hurt caused by her comments.

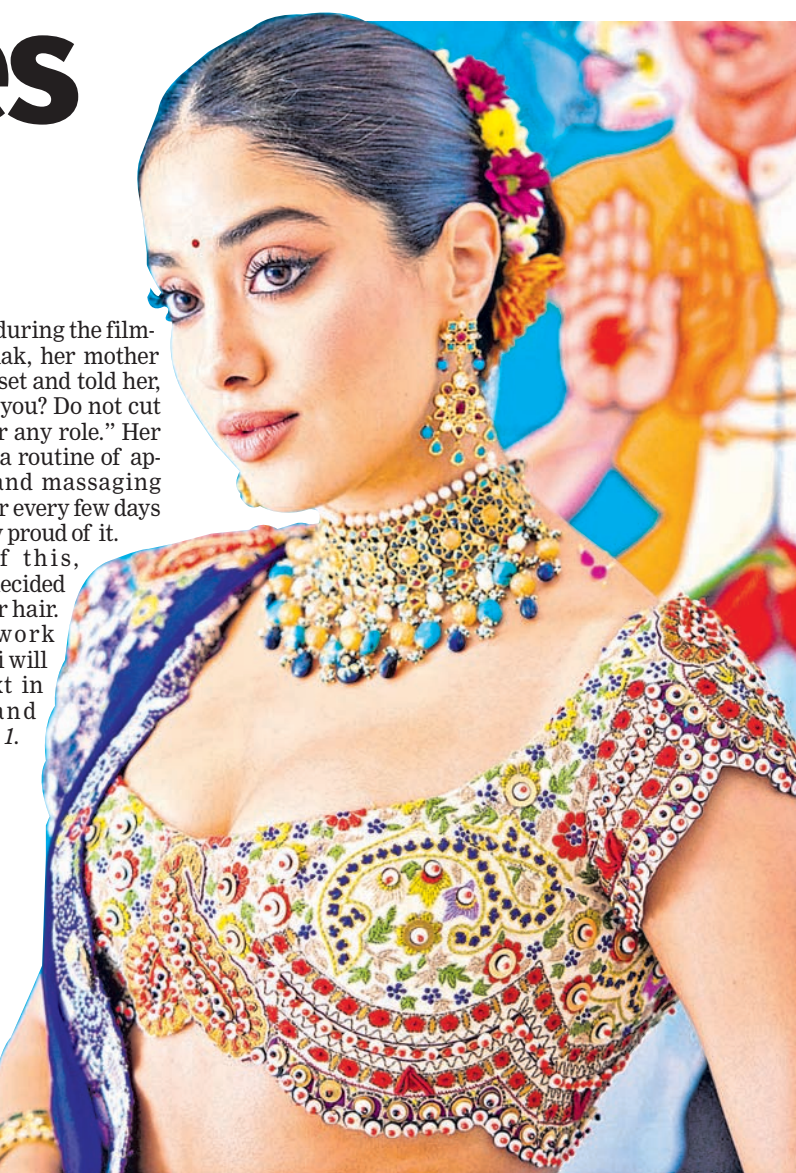
In an interview, the actress expanded on her previous remarks, acknowledging that the Western culture of I can do everything by myself is acceptable. However, she emphasised the importance of supporting nuclear families and households of two people, who can play a crucial role in raising children to be positive members of society in the future.

Nora clarified that her remark was taken out of context, stating that she apologised for making people upset and hurting them, but it was not intentional. She emphasised her education and personal experiences in forming her opinions. Nora added that she does not want what's happening in the West to occur here because there's nothing better than upholding traditions, values, and morals.

In an earlier chat with *BeerBiceps*, she had expressed scepticism about gender equality and criticised the notion of complete independence, stating that feminism has ruined society.

On the work front, Nora was last seen in *Kunal Khemu's Madgaon Express*.

AGENCIES



Tabu did not like herself in Haider!

Mumbai: Actress Tabu, who is known for her ace performances and movies like *The Namesake*, *Maqbool*, *Chandni Bar*, and *Astitva*, continues to keep pushing the envelope. In an interview, Vishal Bhardwaj said that the most irritating quality about Tabu is that she doesn't like herself when she sees herself on-screen.

He had said that she didn't like herself even when she saw *Haider*. During an in-depth chat with an entertainment portal, commenting on the same she said, "On the edit table I saw some parts. Sometimes you feel that it could have been better. I keep doing 'kitkit' about something so now Vishal Bhardwaj doesn't show me anything. He is used to it. I keep finding flaws and giving him sug-

gestions but now he's used to it. Now we've also come to a place where I'll say anything and he won't listen to me. But I'm also stubborn when I go on the sets and be like, 'Aisa hi karengi'."

"I'm not just my critic. I can see where I have done satisfactorily well according to my standards. I understand why people appreciate my work, though I often think I could approach past projects differently now. I ignore these thoughts and focus on finding new, unexpected ways to collaborate with directors, striving for creative freedom and unpredictability," concluded Tabu.

AGENCIES



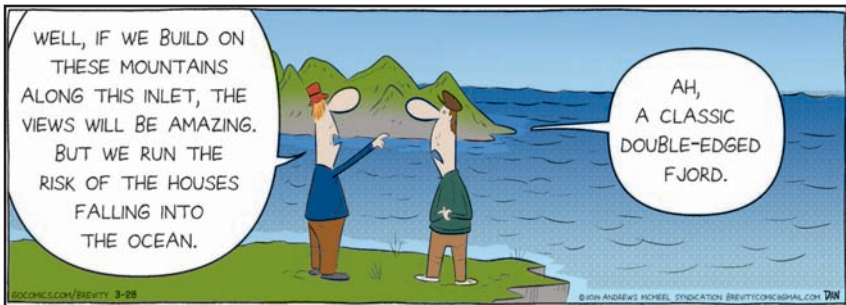
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

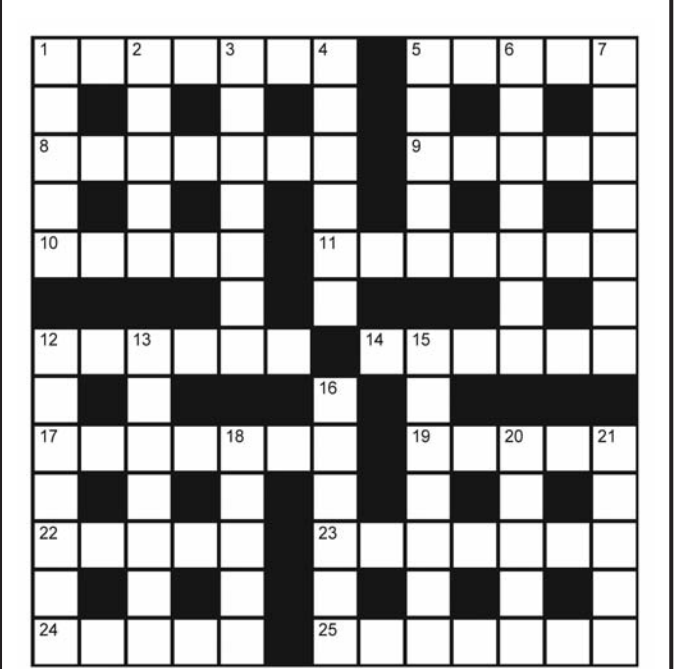


BREVITY



FUN post

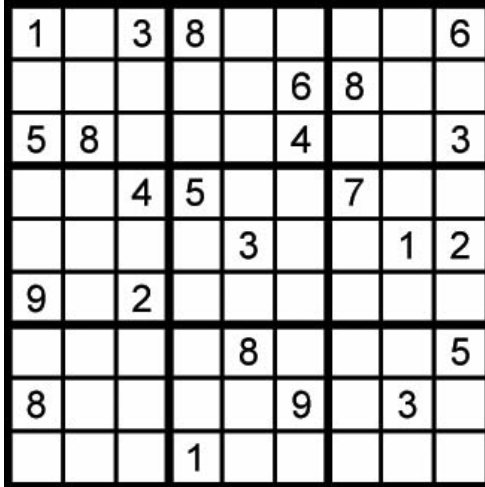
CROSSWORD



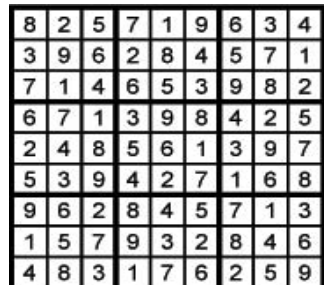
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Idea
 - 5 Orchard fruit
 - 8 Small slender dog
 - 9 State of depression
 - 10 Limerick
 - 11 Really bad
 - 12 Short-horned grasshopper
 - 14 Climbing palm of Sri Lanka
 - 17 Schematic
 - 19 Carpet fasteners
 - 22 True heath
 - 23 Detective's probe
 - 24 Fills up
 - 25 Obstetrician's prognosis (3,4)
- Down**
- 1 Show fear
 - 2 In need of a muffler
 - 3 Convey
 - 4 Colourful aquarium denizens
 - 5 Monk's living quarters
 - 6 Drop sharply
 - 7 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 12 Boards
 - 13 Horse-drawn vehicle
 - 15 Type of shop or car
 - 16 Threaten
 - 18 Nature calls?
 - 20 Popular wedding gift
 - 21 Fashion

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Fire breaks out at a bakery unit in Badagada area of Bhubaneswar Thursday. No injury or casualty was reported in the incident

downtown

SC irked over Rly jobs with forged papers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: How could someone be appointed to a government job without proper checking and verification of documents, the Supreme Court asked Thursday while expressing surprise over the appointment of some employees in the Railways on the basis of forged documents.

The apex court said such instances in the Railways, one of India's largest employers, ought to be checked.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Sanjay Karol was dealing with a matter concerning termination of services of some employees who were appointed on compassionate grounds in the Eastern Railway. The top court noted they were sacked as their appointments were found to be based on forged and bogus documents.

"Before parting with the matter, however, in the facts of this case, we express our surprise towards the actions of the appellant-employer who appointed the respondent-employees on the basis of questionable documentation, which was later found to be forged, fabricated and bogus," the bench said in its verdict.

"How could someone be appointed to a government job without proper checking and verification of documents? The Railways are regarded to be one of the largest employers in the

How could someone be appointed to a govt job without proper checking and verification of documents, asks the SC

country and yet such incidents falling through the cracks ought to be checked," it said.

The bench was dealing with the Centre's appeals challenging the Calcutta High Court's August 2012 verdict which had reversed the order passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta bench.

These employees had approached the tribunal against the termination order.

The tribunal had dismissed their applications after which they moved the High Court.

The apex court noted that the Railways had issued show-cause notices to these employees asking why their appointments on compassionate grounds should not be terminated as they were secured using forged and fabricated documents with respect to the employment of their respective fathers.

It noted that after receiving their responses, the authority terminated their services on finding that their appointments were based on forged, fabricated and bogus documents.

The bench said the principle of compassionate appointment has been put in place to ameliorate the suffering that is cast

upon members of a family following the sudden death of the earning member.

"An equally well-recognised principle is that compassionate appointment cannot be claimed as a matter of right. It is therefore clear that a person, claiming an appointment on such ground, has to demonstrate his relationship to the deceased person and eligibility for appointment," it said.

The bench said the tribunal as also the authority had recorded a categorical finding that the employees had not submitted any document to establish their claim and submitted forged and bogus documents.

It noted that these employees had, at every stage, actively participated in the adjudication process of their alleged improper and illegal appointments.

The bench said after it was discovered that they had secured appointments on the basis of forged and fabricated documents, an FIR was also registered against them in December 2005.

"Compassionate appointment is granted to those persons whose families are left deeply troubled or destitute by the primary breadwinner either having been incapacitated or having passed away. So when persons seeking appointment on such ground attempt to falsely establish their eligibility, as has been done in this case, such positions cannot be allowed to be retained," it said.

The apex court said these employees, having obtained their position by fraud, "would not be considered to be holding a post for the purpose of the protections under the Constitution".

While allowing the appeals, the bench set aside the High Court verdict and restored the order passed by the tribunal.

"The respondent-employees were rightly dismissed from service by the appellant-employer," it said, while clarifying that its observations were only with respect to dismissal from service and shall have no bearing on the criminal proceedings pending against them in the court concerned.



LOSS OF GREENERY: Branches of several trees near Telephone Bhavan in Bhubaneswar are being cut for safety reasons Thursday

OP PHOTO

BATTLE OF BRAINS BEGINS TOMORROW

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 1: The sixth edition of Odisha's biggest quizzing extravaganza 'Orissa POST Mettle Meet-2024' is all set to kick off at Hotel Crystal Crown here Saturday when 82 top educational institutions of the state will participate in the war of minds during the preliminary rounds.

Top eight teams each in Junior and Senior categories will be elevated to the summit clash which is scheduled for Sunday.

The winners in each category will get ₹1 lakh cash prize, while the first runners-up will get ₹50,000 and second ₹25,000.

Renowned quizmaster Ajay Poonia will be conducting the sixth edition of Mettle Meet for the third time.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Poonia said he is very excited to conduct the Mettle Meet. "The excitement for the event is rising with each passing year which can easily be seen as the number of institutions increasing by the year."

Last year, the event was held after a long gap due to Covid-19

pandemic, he said adding that the enthusiasm for the event is going up.

Poonia advised the students/contestants to read **Orissa POST** as it con-

egory while those in Plus III and other streams including Engineering, Medical and Management come under Senior category. Each team has four participants.

The finals

The excitement for the event is rising with each passing year which can easily be seen as the number of institutions increasing by the year

AJAY POONIA | QUIZMASTER



tains a lot of information on current issues. He also advised them to pay attention to the questions during the competition and listen carefully without panicking as most of the answers are hidden in the questions.

Like previous year, this year also students upto Class XII have been classified under Junior cat-

will be livestreamed on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Mettle Meet which started in 2016 with participation of 18 top institutions in the state is aimed at reviving the art of quizzing in Odisha. Since then the numbers as well as enthusiasm have grown exponentially.

Last year, AIMS Bhubaneswar and DAV CDA emerged champions in the Senior and Junior

categories, respectively.

Speaking to **OrissaPOST**, Bighnesh Das, a second year AIMS Bhubaneswar student, who was part of the team that won the finals in 2023, said he is excited to compete again as Mettle Meet is one of Odisha's top quizzing events. With all the top educational institutions participating in the event, the competition becomes more interesting as well as tough. Das said he and his team are armed with master strategies to beat their opponents and that they will focus on the current affairs as the questions in the competition are multilayered but with simple answers.

Similarly, Ankit of DAV-CDA said he is excited to compete in the mega event and bring laurels for his school.

Orissa POST is the state's only homegrown English daily. Since its launch in 2011, the newspaper has slowly but steadily carved a niche for itself among the readers. It has been the leading source of insightful information for people. The publication is known for its pro-people and youth oriented approach.

Madhumita Parida's suicide note seized

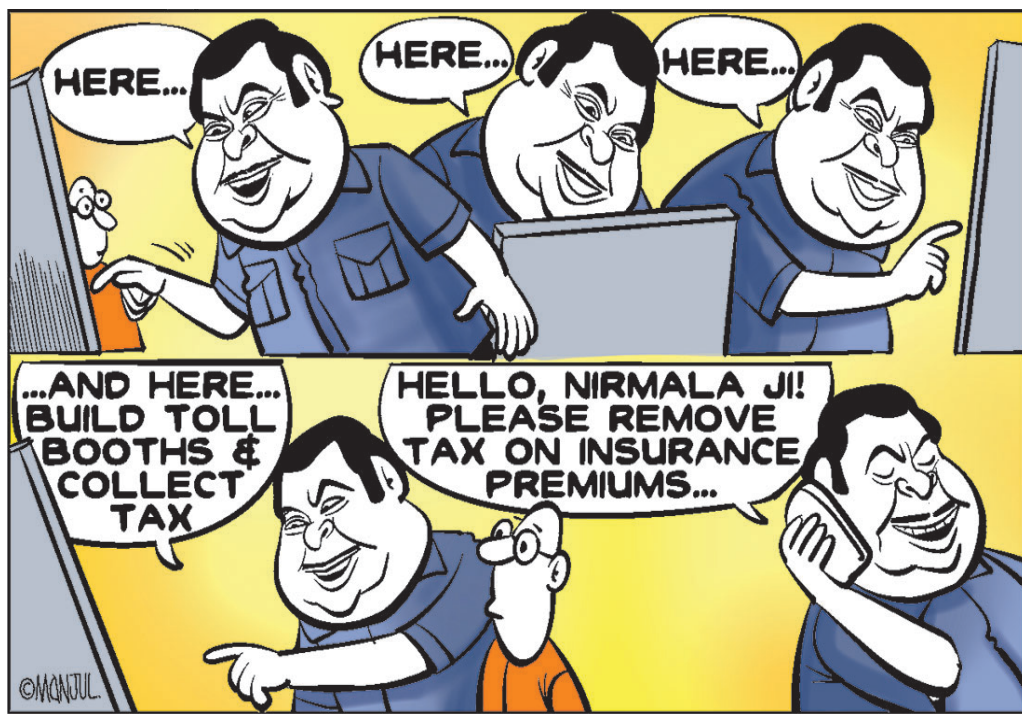
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Dhauli police Thursday seized the suicide note of Madhumita Parida, a journalist who ended her life by jumping before a moving train near Sishu Bhawan Square here, a week ago.

Dhauli police station IIC Pradipta Kishore Nayak said the cops came across the photo of a suicide note in Madhumita's phone during probe. "Therefore, we carried out a search at the couple's residence to find the physical copy of the suicide note. This would be produced before the court to substantiate her husband Sridhar Jena's role in her suicide," he added. Nayak said accused Sridhar was also bought to the spot during the search to discover additional details about the case.

Reportedly, the local court Thursday granted a day's remand of Sridhar to cops for further interrogation.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Strangers on chariots: Police notice to 3

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Puri, August 1: The police here Thursday issued notices to three persons who were found on the chariots during the annual Rath Yatra, wearing servitor attire and carrying fake passes.

The notices were issued after the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) provided CCTV footage and drone camera pictures showing their unauthorised presence on the chariots.

On the day of commencement of Rath Yatra, Rajesh Kumar Sahu of Gandia village in Dhenkanal district and Prasanna Kumar Behura of Kusumpur village in Kendrapara district were spotted on the chariot wearing servitor attire and holding servitor passes. They were asked to appear before the police to give their statement regarding the matter.

Two criminal cases have been registered in Singhadwar and



Three persons from Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Kendrapara districts were spotted on chariots with servitors' attire during this year's Rath Yatra

Kumbharpada police stations following complaints by temple administrator Ajay Kumar Jena.

In a similar incident during Bahuda Yatra, Gopalkrushna Polanki of Berhampur in Ganjam district was removed

from the chariot under the instruction of SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhi.

The temple administration has also issued a show-cause notice to a Daitapati (temple servitor) who allegedly facilitated the entry of non-servitors onto the chariot during the car festival.

Another complaint has been lodged with Kumbharpada police station.

Sources said that three high-ranking individuals, including a vice-chancellor and a professor of a Sanskrit university, and a senior officer of a fertilizer company had climbed onto the chariots near the Lions' Gate on the day of the Rath Yatra.

Although they were identified, the administration and police are yet to initiate legal action against them.

Meanwhile, devotees demanded that the SJTA, without considering their positions, should also initiate legal action against them.

BJP, BJD spar over Mamata Mohanta switching sides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 1: War of words ensued between BJD and BJP after Mamata Mohanta quit BJD and joined BJP even as protests erupted in Mayurbhanj district against the ex-parliamentarian Thursday.

Led by BJD leaders, a large number of Kudumi women gathered at Biju Patnaik Chhak in Rairangpur town and burnt the effigy of the former Rajya Sabha MP, claiming that she betrayed the community.

BJD leader Ratikant Parikshya said his party had nothing to do

with the protests. "People belonging to Kudumi community protested against Mohanta. We had no role in it," he claimed.

Mohanta joined the BJP in New Delhi, a day after resigning as a Rajya Sabha member and quitting the Naveen Patnaik-led party. Addressing a press conference here, BJD leader Sarojini Hembram claimed that Mohanta not only betrayed the people of Mayurbhanj but also those of her community.

"BJD president Naveen Patnaik had sent her to Rajya Sabha to raise the voice of



Kudumi people at the national level. However, she has betrayed the community by resigning from the Upper House of Parliament," she said. BJD spokesperson Lenin

Mohanty alleged that Mohanta worked for the BJP during the simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly.

"BJP has lured Mohanta to increase its tally in Rajya Sabha as it did in some other states. The BJP has to pay a heavy price for this conspiracy," he claimed.

State BJP leader Bisheswar Tudu said there was no need for his party to lure an MP when it is in power in the state as well as at the Centre.

"Why the BJP will hatch any conspiracy when it is in power in both places? Had it been the election time, it could have been

possible. But after elections, there is no point in luring anyone to join the BJP," he said.

Tudu, a former Union minister, said it was possible that Mohanta was feeling suffocated in the BJD as the leaders of the party had no right to express themselves. BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty claimed that BJD leaders lost trust in Patnaik.

"He was in power in Odisha for 24 years. However, his former ministers, MPs and MLAs do not have confidence in him. This was the reason for Mohanta's resignation and joining the BJP," he added.

2 held for duping passport applicants

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Nayapalli police Thursday arrested two cheats for allegedly duping passport applicants by impersonating Passport Seva officials here.

Nayapalli IIC Satyaranjan Pradhan said the accused were identified as Santosh Kumar Swain, 34 and Tikuna Subudhi, 32, both locals. The fraud came to the fore after a complaint was lodged by Jyotiprabha Jena and Suresh Chandra Panda regarding the fraud.

In the complaint, Pradhan said, Jyotiprabha alleged that Tikuna Subudhi lured him with

the promise of issuing a passport and extracted ₹8,500 from him. Later, Tikuna ignored him and denied to return the money he had taken for the purpose. Similarly, complainant Suresh lodged an FIR claiming that Santosh cheated him of ₹3,500 on the pretext of issuing a passport for his wife.

"Further investigation is underway to ascertain whether the duo has duped more people in similar manner," said Pradhan.

Taking advantage of public inconvenience due to technical snags plaguing the passport office, brokers are duping the gullible passport applicants, it was learnt.

Heavy to very heavy rain likely for next 2 days: IMD

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 1: A fresh cyclonic circulation formed over North Bay of Bengal (BoB) is likely to trigger heavy to very heavy rain in several parts of the state during the next couple of days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

The cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining south Bangladesh extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height persists.

Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is likely at one or two places in Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Boudh, Subarnapur, and Sambalpur districts during the next 24 hours, IMD said.

Also, heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) may occur over some places in Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur,



Kendrapara, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Nayagarh, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Kalahandi districts, the weather agency said.

The local Met office warned of one or two spells of intense rain in some parts of Cuttack. "It can cause water logging in low-lying areas, occasionally poor visibility and traffic disruption. People are advised to keep a watch on the weather and act

accordingly," it added.

The highest rainfall of 156mm was recorded at Baripada during the last 24 hours, the weather office said.

While Mayurbhanj district recorded very heavy rainfall, districts like Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Puri, Bolangir, Sundargarh and Jajpur also experienced heavy rainfall.

There is likelihood of heavy rainfall in Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Puri districts and possibility of low visibility, IMD said.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahoo said, "As there is possibility of submergence of roads and bridges, and inundation of low-lying areas, the officials are directed to ensure use of pumps for dewatering, clearance of the drainage channel and evacuate people in the low-lying areas if required."



CHOCK-A-BLOCK: Traffic moves at a snail's pace on national highway on account of heavy rush across Rasulgarh to Vani Vihar flyover in Bhubaneswar, Thursday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Min Swain visits Seafood Park

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Minister of State for Industries (Independent charge) Sampad

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate of Bhubaneswar dated 30.07.2024 I Dharitri Pattnaik, W/o Late Kushi Ranjan Pattnaik, Plot No.-2132/5058, Tankapani Road, Bhubaneswar, District - Khorda declare that I have changed my name from Jolly Pattnaik to Dharitri Pattnaik. Henceforth I shall be known as Dharitri Pattnaik For all Purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit in the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I, Tulsi Das, W/o. Harekrishna Das resident of At: Padhanpara, P.O.: Barha Damodarapur, P.S.: Rajkanika, Dist.: Kendrapara do hereby declare that My actual name is Tulsi Das which has been mentioned in Aadhaar Card, PAN Card and Service Book of my husband but in passport my name has been wrongly spelled as "Tulasi Das". So Tulsi Das and Tulasi Das is one and same person i.e me. Deponent.

Chandra Swain Thursday visited Seafood Park at Deras in Khurda district.

He inspected the park infrastructure facilities like effluent treatment plant, cold storage and block ice unit, packaging, polythene unit and a research and development facility among others.

The park officials told Swain about water and power problems to which he directed the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) officials to address the issues at the earliest.

Swain expressed his satisfaction over physical progress of the park infrastructure and said that the park has the potential to create round 15,000 jobs.

'Disaster mgmt should include animal welfare'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: There is a need to include animal welfare in the disaster management planning as part of disaster preparedness resilient for both humans and animals, experts opined in a conference hosted by Humane Society International (HSI), in collaboration with Anchalik Jan Seva Anushtaan, here Thursday.

More than 50 experts from Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Veterinary University participated in panel discussions to explore and address the issue.



HSI disaster response and relief coordinator Jaihari AK said, "To hold frequent dialogues on such important issues are crucial for problem-solving. Odisha is our primary focus for disaster risk reduction, and this conference is a starting point in getting all stakeholders together to understand the emerging need for animal welfare."

"We should include animal welfare by conducting ground-level capacity building programmes, establishing veterinary emergency response units across the state, enhancing coordination, training, and re-

sources," said Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations consultant Hansen Thambi Prem.

"Animals are integral part of our society. Disaster management plans and policies should include all sections of society, including animals," said former member of Board of Revenue Aurobindo Behera.

According to state government's annual report 2020-21, approximately nine lakh animals and birds were affected by heavy rains and floods in the state. Notably, the state has a livestock population of about two crore animals in 30 districts, playing an integral part of the rural livelihood system.

'Sambalpuri Din' at Ravenshaw varsity



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 1: Ravenshaw University (RU) celebrated 'Sambalpuri Din' at Annex-III in Seven Pillars of Wisdom here, Thursday, which also marks the birth anniversary of Sambalpuri poet Satya Narayan Bohidar.

The third edition of the Sambalpuri Din was organised by Paschim Odisha Kutumb (POK), a group representing students from western part of the state.

On the occasion, poet Achyut Purohit, Choudwar-Cuttack MLA Souvik Biswal, and RU CPGC Luna Samanta attended the event.

The day is dedicated towards celebrating the culture and traditions of western Odisha and aimed at promoting literature, arts, and traditional craftsmanship, said POK founder Abhishek Acharya.

"The essence of celebrating this day lies in preserving our cultural roots and providing a platform for talented youths to showcase their skills," Acharya added. One of the members of POK, Ashok Tandi said, "Satya Narayan Bohidar has left a great legacy behind him to influence the future generations. We are following his path by celebrating and showcasing our region's rich cultural and heritage. Bohidar was prolific writer known for his contributions to Sambalpuri literature."

State fares better than India in exclusive breastfeeding

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 1: As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 68.5 per cent of infants in Odisha are breastfed within the first hour of birth, which is significantly higher than the national average of 41.8 per cent, informed the Director of Family Welfare on the World Breastfeeding Week (WBBW), Thursday.

A state-level workshop was held on this occasion by Women and Child Development (WCD) department at the conference hall of State Social Welfare Board.

Attending the programme as chief guest, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Women and Child Development Pravat



Parida underlined the benefits of breast milk for both mother and child even as she stressed on child's rights over mother's milk.

Agreeing with this year's theme, 'Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all', the minister directed officials to make all necessary arrangements to ensure the right of the

child and to provide cribs and nursing homes for working mothers in all the offices.

Director of Family Welfare Sanjukta Sahoo said, "Breast milk is crucial as it contains protective antibodies that help infants defend against diseases and is their first source of nutrition."

"Breastfeeding benefits both

mothers and babies, promoting their lifelong health and development. The state government has banned promotion of commercial preparations in health institutions since the Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act, enforced and amended in 2003," Sahoo said.

She further said, "The government supports breastfeeding through 12 BFHI-accredited hospitals, Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMCs) in two hospitals, Lactation Management Units in 18 locations and promoting skin-to-skin contact through Kangaroo Mothers' Care (KMC)."

"Additionally, 31 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling centres are set up at District Headquarter Hospitals. The

'MAA' programme has trained medical officers, staff nurses, ANMs, ASHAs, and AWWs in IYCF across the state," she said.

Nutrition Specialist at Unicef Odisha Sourav Bhattacharjee elaborated on the theme, stating, "This year's theme emphasises that many women face breastfeeding challenges due to structural barriers and aggressive formula marketing. Solutions include comprehensive policies, healthcare improvements, and community initiatives."

Notably, the World Health Organisation recommends that infants be breastfed within the first hour of birth and exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, with no other foods or liquids provided during this period.

Bacteria, plants can clean up toxic waste from gold mines

The acid mine drainage — when water mixes with heavy metals in mines and then flows out into the environment — poses grave health risks. Metals like uranium, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and mercury can percolate through the soil in large quantities and end up in the groundwater, or get into rivers.

Acid mine drainage dries out on the surface and then blows around as toxic dust. It can cause serious illness including cancer, kidney failure and asthma.

Researchers reviewed different acid mine drainage treatment technologies from around the world to determine which technologies would remove toxic metals and any other waste left behind after removal of gold.

The study found that a combination of existing treatments would be most effective in cleaning up the mine drainage specif-

ically using plants to suck the toxins up or bacteria to eat them.

Researchers reviewed the existing cleanup methods and technologies together with a scientist from South Africa's mineral research organisation, Mintek.

They observed that some available treatment technologies only treat certain pollutants and leave other toxic minerals behind. Others, when used for large scale cleanups, are very expensive and produce a lot of secondary waste (waste resulting from the treatment technologies), which then needs its own disposal process.

They struck upon the idea of combining several technologies for the cleanup process. One such process is phytoremediation — when plants are grown on top of solid pollution and absorb toxins through their roots, removing them from the environment.



The other technology, developed by Mintek, is known as "cloSURE". It uses anaerobic prokaryotic microorganisms — a type of bacteria that can grow in large quantities when oxygen is absent, for instance in lakes or manure.

These tiny micro-organisms, when mixed with the acid mine drainage, remove all the metals and the sulphate from the waste. The cloSURE technology can

treat acid mine drainage with high sulphate and metal content. Meanwhile, the plant-based phytoremediation approach is very effective on solid dumps such as mine dumps because it can be grown over the mound, binding it together and preventing the waste from eroding and spreading out.

When both these technologies are applied in the same area, they will ensure that both liquid

and solid mine waste is treated. Both the technologies are affordable.

The government should put funds aside for this purpose, so that the residents are protected from the adverse effects of mine dumps which have existed for decades, researchers observed.

If the mines are not treated, the impact of the contaminated water and dust on the health of the people living in nearby areas will be much more severe, they added.

The research revealed just one of the innovative ways in which acid drainage can be addressed. But more needs to be done to tackle the issue more broadly.

There's a need for scientists to come up with cheap and efficient adsorbents — solids that can suck pollutants out of an area, such as activated carbon.

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NIFTY	25010.90 ↑ 59.75
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GOLD	₹69,701 ↑ ₹689
SILVER	₹83,040 ↓ ₹556

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	29.6°C	28.4°C
Min Temp	26.6°C	24.2°C
Humidity	97%	95%
Rainfall	24	21.4
FORECAST		
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FOLK DANCE: Girls perform traditional dance on the occasion of Sambalpur Din at Gangadhar open-air stage in Sambalpur, Thursday

Chhattisgarh woman swept away in Mahanadi for over 50km; rescued

PNN & AGENCIES

Jharsuguda, August 1: In a bizarre incident, a woman from Chhattisgarh was swept away for over 50 km in the Mahanadi river with shackles in her legs before she was rescued by fishermen near Palsada village under Lakhanpur block in Jharsuguda district, Thursday.

The woman was identified as Sarojini Ranveer, a native of Purath village under Pusar police limits in Chhattisgarh.

Following her rescue, some villagers informed the police which admitted her to a local hospital for treatment. Police also informed their counterparts in Pusar police station in Chhattisgarh.

Meanwhile, the incident has sparked surprise and disbelief among the locals as well as the police as to how the woman could



stay afloat in a swollen Mahanadi and came this far alive.

According to reports, Dani Seth, Ramesh Seth, Jeetendra Meher and Surdas Meher from Palsada village were fishing in the river when they saw a woman being swept away in the flooded river. They immediately jumped

into the waters and managed to pull her to the banks.

She was alive and able to speak. She identified herself as Sarojini Ranveer, a native of adjoining Chhattisgarh. The rescuers found her two legs tied by a chain. The woman asked for food following her rescue which the rescuers provided her immediately.

Sarojini's brother, who came to take her back, claimed she was living with his family after getting separated from her husband. "As she was mentally unstable, we tied her ankles with the shackle. She somehow fell into the river and was swept away," he claimed.

Jharsuguda's Superintendent of Police Parmar Smit Parshottamdas said that the woman underwent a health check-up at the community health centre after the rescue and was doing fine.

Preschool education hit in Rayagada as 569 AWCs lack infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 1: Preschool education, or pre-primary education, has gone haywire in Rayagada district with over 569 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) reportedly lacking their own infrastructure.

Preschool education is the first stage of organised education which involves care and education of little children before they reach the age to attend regular schools. The Centre and the state governments are spending crores of rupees to strengthen preschool education, but that has reportedly not helped in strengthening infrastructure of Anganwadi Centres in Rayagada district.

Lack of proper infrastructure has seriously hit the imple-

mentation of various programmes at these Anganwadi Centres, like vaccination drives, health camps, measurement of weights of children, supply and storage of nutritious food and teaching to the children.

While some of the Anganwadi Centres lack proper infrastructure, few run out of dilapidated structures.

Some Anganwadi Centres don't have a kitchen, forcing cooks to prepare food out in the open in unhygienic conditions, Anganwadi workers alleged. Interestingly, some Anganwadi Centres even function on the verandah of houses belonging to Anganwadi workers' or villagers. This has seriously hampered children's preschool education in various parts of the district



and rendered it impossible for Anganwadi workers to discharge their duty in the right earnest.

According to reports, the district has 2,082 Anganwadi Centres out of which only 1,513 have their own buildings. The rest 569 do not have their own infrastructure.

The department of Elementary Education has given its approval for construction of 1,807 Anganwadi buildings. However,

work on a majority of the buildings is yet to start, while in some other cases, the work is only halfway through.

Forty-nine Anganwadi Centres - six in Gudari block, 19 in Gunupur block, five in Kalyansingpur block, eight in Kolnara block, three in Muniguda block, five in Padmapur block and three in Rayagada block - function from their own buildings which are in dilapidated condition. Moreover, 47 Anganwadi Centres are in unsafe condition due to a host of reasons.

This apart, 714 Anganwadi Centres have toilets, while 1,375 Centres are equipped with kitchens. However, a majority of these Anganwadi Centres lack drinking water facilities, like tube well, for which par-

ents are not keen to send their children there. The district has many hilly and remote regions where the Anganwadi Centres are running from shabby and dilapidated rooms.

Jayanti Padmalaya Sahoo, president of the Rayagada unit of All Odisha Anganwadi Ladies Workers Association, said the state government should complete the construction 294 Anganwadi Centres where work began in 2020, and make those functional at the earliest.

Meanwhile, when contacted, district social welfare officer (DSWO) Pratima Pradhan said that construction of some Anganwadi buildings has received government approval while others have been delayed due to land acquisition and other problems.

Lifer for 14 in murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 1: A local court Thursday sentenced 14 persons to life imprisonment after convicting them in the murder of a person, and murderous attack on others, over past enmity during Holi festival in 2009.

Additional district and sessions judge Pradip Kumar Samal at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 each on the convicted persons. The judge passed the order after examining the statements of all witnesses and the police chargesheet, Public Prosecutor Brundaban Nayak said.

Meanwhile, two of the 16 accused arrested in the murder

case died during the protracted trial which spanned over a period of 15 years. The incident occurred March 12, 2009 on the day of Holi festival at Ghasisahi near Paralakhemundi over past enmity. The accused persons broke into the house of Anjali Nagbansh and assaulted her kin Chinababu Nagbansh, Babi Guralu and Siba Nagbansh who were sleeping. They also barged into the adjacent house of Madhu Nagbansh and attacked him and his wife brutally. Later, they were trying to break open the door of Pannada Srinu but fled on noticing the arrival of police which rescued the critically injured persons and admitted them to a hospital. Siba Nagbansh died during treatment.

Woman ends life over domestic disputes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khajuripada, August 1: A woman allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison over a domestic dispute at Gedri Paju village under this police limits in Kandhamal district, Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Minakshi Bhoi, wife of Bipra Bhoi, in the village. Family members found her frothing from mouth and admitted her to the district headquarters hospital in Phulbani. She however, succumbed during treatment.

Sources said the couple was living happily till Bipra got hooked to alcohol and started consuming it on regular basis, which Minakshi objected.

Recently, she went her parent's house. Thereafter, Bipra brought her back to his house. However, consumed poison Wednesday night over some issues, sources added.

Bhitarkanika National Park reopens after 3-month break



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, August 1: The Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district was thrown open for tourists Thursday after a three-month-long break.

It was closed for tourists from May 1 to July 31 in view of the mating and nesting seasons of the saltwater crocodiles, said Manas Das, the Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) of the park.

Bhitarkanika National Park with

its beautiful assemblages of mangroves is acclaimed as the mini Amazon.

The three month long prohibition order had been imposed on tourists and the locals not to enter the forest areas as during the nesting and breeding time crocodiles turn more violent and the reptiles need tranquil and calm environment for mating and nesting, added the forest officer.

Around 114 salt-water crocodiles nested during the nesting season of the reptile this year in Bhitarkanika, added the forest officer.

The Forest department has recently built a 600-metre-long wooden canopy bridge 15 meters above the ground in the mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika to provide an opportunity for tourists to get a close view of the wildlife and forest, added the forest officer.

Tourists and visitors intending to visit Bhitarkanika should log on to www.ecotourodisha.com and ensure their bookings.

Admin apathy: Keonjhar farmers dig up canal to irrigate farmlands



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 1: Fed up with protracted administration apathy, farmers of Kenduposhi and Narasinghpur villages under Sadar block in Keonjhar district have finally dug up a two kilometre-long earth canal to irrigate their farmlands.

The remarkable feat has not only resolved their longstanding irrigation problem to some extent, but also made them an example for others to emulate.

According to reports, the villagers raised money from their own pockets and contributed free labour to dig the two kilometre-long irrigation facility. They said they decided to take upon themselves the task after their repeated pleas for the canal fell on deaf ears of the offi-

cial concerned.

Sources said that there is no concrete canal for irrigation in those villages under Nuagaon panchayat. Due to lack of repairs, the earthen canal remained buried for a long time.

As a result, many farmlands in the area were lying uncultivated owing to lack of irrigation facilities. This year, though the farmers had started cultivation works on time, they were unsure of a good harvest due to scanty rainfall in the area.

They were waiting for the rainfall to happen to proceed with their cultivation works as there was no alternative source to irrigate their farmlands. In the absence of sufficient water, they could not start ploughing the fields, or plant the paddy saplings.

This made a group of farmers, including Suresh Munda, Dilip Munda,

Chandan Munda, Gurucharan Munda, Naresh Munda, Akash Munda, Nara Munda, Lokesh Munda, Bikram Munda, Debanand Patra, Lambodar Patra, Bharat Patra, Sanatan Patra, Buddhadev Patra, and Bhulu Patra of Kenduposhi village, and fellow villagers, to team up and excavate the two-kilometer long water channel - from the concrete canal at Hatikutch - which was lying buried and unused.

The farmers alleged that the Hatikucha concrete canal is not stretched till Narasinghpur village through Kenduposhi village. Hence, the water coming from Betajhari river failed to reach their fields. This rendered it impossible for many farmers to water their farmlands. As a result, the uncultivated barren farmlands were mostly used for grazing cattle.

Meanwhile, the farmers alleged that despite several complaints, the district administration is not taking steps to construct a concrete canal. This has sparked resentment among the hapless farmers.

They have demanded that the district administration should initiate measures to construct a concrete canal from the Hatikucha main canal up to Narasinghpur village, through Kenduposhi village, which would benefit hundreds of tribal farmers.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION
BERHAMPUR

No.O-160 E-Mail - eervelect.bam@yahoo.com

e-Procurement Notice No - EERWELBAM - 02/2024-25

1 Name of work	(I) Shifting of 11 KV & LT line for construction of HL bridge over Bagh Nallah at 2.23 Km on Karandibali to Pahoraju via Dangimendi road in the dist. of Kandhamal (II) Shifting & reerection of Electrical infrastructure due to widening of road from Raising Chaka to Tangilipadar.
2 Estimated Cost	(I) Rs. 5.32 lakhs (Excluding GST) (II) Rs. 22.83 lakhs (Excluding GST)
3 Period of completion	90 days
4 Bid Identification No	EERWELBAM - 02/2024-25
5 Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	From Dt. 08.08.2024 at 12.00 A.M. to Dt. 20.08.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
6 Date & Time of opening of tender	Dt. 21.08.2024 at 1:00 P.M.
7 Procurement officer/Name and address of the officer inviting Bids	Executive Engineer, R.WEL.DIVN.BAM, At- Near I.T Office Ambapua, Dist. - Ganjam, Berhampur, Odisha - 760011

Further detail can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Sd./ Executive Engineer,
Rural Work Electrical Division,
Berhampur

OIPR-25190/11/0001/2425

No. 6-2(13)/2019-Estt. 30 July 2024

VACANCY CIRCULAR - 01/2024

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organization under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India invites applications upto **31.08.2024** from eligible employees of Central/State Govt./Autonomous Body/PSU for filling up **one post of Assistant Director General (Administration) in the Pay Level-12 on Deputation basis including short term contract, for a period of three years, which may be thereafter extended/curtailed, if required by the ICMR Hqrs.**

2. For more details, please visit <https://main.icmr.nic.in>. The application received after the due date of receipt of applications or incomplete or NOC not received through proper channel will not be considered.

Assistant Director General (Admin)
CBC-17152/12/0015/2425

Bank of India **Gold Auction Notice**

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

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by **23.08.2024**, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at **Concerned Branch Premises on 27.08.2024 at 11.00 AM**. For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments/ coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Total Dues as on 31.07.2024 (excluding unapplied interest Charges, Cost & Expenses)
PURI BRANCH, OLD SADAR THANA ROAD, PURI-752001, MOB.: 9861696803					
1.	555277610002664	Sarbeswar Parida, S/o- Sahadeb Parida, At: Tota Behera Sahi, Baliguali, Konark-Puri Marine Road, Puri-752002	49.510	44.260	₹2,02,000/-
2.	555277610002826	Rajashree Das, C/o- Manoj Das, Tala Mali Sahi, Puri-752001	41.320	37.790	₹1,62,000/-

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 01.08.2024

Zonal Manager,
Bank of India

UCO BANK **POSSESSION NOTICE**
Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423 For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, CRPF HQR Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, CRPF HQR Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon.

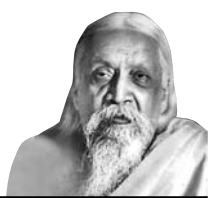
Name and Address of the Borrower / Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrower: Mr. Rajkumar, S/o: Braja Bihari Ray / Guarantor: Mrs. Maheswata Mukherjee, Both are At: Plot No.: 43/167, Gayatri Vihar, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, PIN - 751003, Odisha	₹40,05,401.68 as on 15.04.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	03.05.2024 / 24.07.2024	1) All that part and parcel of immovable property situated at Khata No.: 187, Plot No.: 418, Regd. Area of Land: Ac. 0.0625 Dec., Mouza: Sampur, Classification: Bajefasal, P.S: Khandagiri, SRO: Khandagiri, Dist.: Khordha, in the name of Mrs. Maheswata Mukherjee, Bounded by East: Govt. Road, West: Plot No.: 412, North: Plot No.: 416, South: Plot No.: 412, 420, 2) All that part and parcel of immovable property situated at Khata No.: 233/216, Plot No.: 317/1502, Regd Sale Deed No.: 4415/2007, Land Area: Ac.0.102 Dec, Mouza: Sampur, Classification: Bajefasal, P.S: Khandagiri, SRO: Khandagiri, Dist.: Khordha, in the name of Mrs. Maheswata Mukherjee, Bounded by East: Govt. Road, West: Sub Plot No.: 21, North: 20' Wide Road Left by Vendor For The free access of the Vendee, South: Revenue Plot No.: 317

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 01.08.2024

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

“ The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives

SRI AUROBINDO



Dead Heat

Kamala Harris can win the US presidency. Yes, Donald Trump is a formidable candidate, whose campaign was bolstered by his defiant reaction to the 13 July attempt on his life. But Harris has emerged as the presumptive Democratic nominee with stunning speed following President Joe Biden's withdrawal; within a matter of days, she clinched the support of more delegates than needed to secure the nomination at next month's party convention in Chicago.

Minutes after Biden stepped aside, Harris was making calls and corraling backers. Biden's campaign apparatus got behind its new candidate without a hitch. Within 48 hours, Harris had raised \$100 million and had effective access to the war chest that Biden had already amassed. An overwhelming 70% of Democrats were in favour of rallying behind Harris rather than holding an open competition. Polls show Harris and Trump in a virtual tie, making clear that Harris has quickly closed the widening lead that Trump had built over Biden.

This surge in support for Harris stems in part from relief among Democrats that they now have a fighting chance, but it also reflects widespread enthusiasm about her appeal, record, and qualifications. With an Indian mother, a Jamaican father, and a Jewish husband, Harris' multicultural credentials will help her rally enthusiasm among younger, more progressive voters and non-whites – groups Biden struggled to reach. She engages intently on domestic issues that are high priorities for these cohorts, including racial and gender equity, reproductive rights, immigration, and climate change.

Harris' position on the Gaza war also appeals to progressives. In March, she called for “an immediate ceasefire” and told Binyamin Netanyahu last Thursday that she “will not be silent” on Palestinian suffering.

Trump has labeled Harris a “radical left person,” but she is in fact a pragmatic centrist. During her bid for the 2020 presidential nomination, Harris did veer toward the progressive camp on some issues – particularly climate change. But throughout her career she has generally aligned with her party's moderates. As a prosecutor in California, she faced criticism from the left for being too tough on crime. As a US senator and now as vice president, her views on most issues have been broadly in line with the centrist policies pursued by Biden. On the economic front, those policies have contributed to a robust post-pandemic recovery.

According to Trump, Harris is the “bum” responsible for the influx of migrants across the southern border while she served as vice president. Biden's administration admittedly struggled to reduce illegal immigration. But Harris was not the “border czar” that Republicans make her out to be. Her main role was to lead the administration's effort to tackle the root causes of migrant flows by fighting corruption and improving economic opportunity in the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America – El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Such efforts take years to pay off. In the meantime, Harris has been delivering a tough message. “Do not come,” she warned Guatemalans in 2021, adding, “If you come to our border, you will be turned back.”

After Republicans – at Trump's prompting – sank an ambitious, bipartisan immigration reform bill in June, Biden issued an executive order to clamp down on illegal border crossings. Help from Mexican authorities, as well as the introduction of an app that allows asylum seekers in Mexico to schedule an appointment at a US port of entry, has helped stem the flow. These policies – hardly the work of radical leftists – have reduced unauthorised border crossings to a lower level than when Trump's first presidential term ended in 2021.

Harris' pragmatic centrism should broaden her appeal among moderates in the swing states – Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin – that will likely determine the result in November. Trump was already having difficulty garnering support among independents and moderate Republicans, and he only made it harder for himself by picking US Senator JD Vance as his running mate.

By choosing Vance, Trump doubled down on energizing his base – whites without a college education, who represent just over 40% of the electorate. But Trump cannot win just by rallying this sizable base, which is why he may come to regret choosing a running mate who fails to broaden the electoral appeal of the Republican ticket. Furthermore, Ohio is already a reliably Republican state, so picking an Ohioan does little to boost Trump's prospects.

By locating herself in the political center, Harris has a crucial opportunity to win over moderate swing-state voters. To that end, she is likely to choose as her running mate a prominent swing-state politician. Moreover, Harris should be able to gain traction among moderate women voters in suburban communities, many of whom have trouble tolerating Republican positions on abortion rights as well as Trump's sordid past, crude rhetoric, and chronic legal problems.

Harris has the experience needed to prevail. Her background as a prosecutor should serve her well when she debates a convicted felon who sought to overturn the 2020 election without a shred of supporting evidence. And whereas most recent presidents, including Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump entered office without any meaningful experience in US foreign policy, Harris has spent almost four years benefiting from the mentorship of Biden, one of America's most seasoned statesmen.

Harris has met over 100 world leaders and travelled to virtually every corner of the globe. She has been at the forefront of efforts to address emerging challenges, including artificial-intelligence safety and US strategy toward both commercial and national-security activities in outer space. Serving as vice president also gave her the opportunity to master the policymaking process, a notable asset in view of the chaos that characterised Trump's White House.

Now that she is in the spotlight, Harris is effectively re-introducing herself to many Americans. Her recent public appearances have the more natural feel that she needs to make an authentic connection to the electorate and build on the excitement and momentum that have so quickly materialised.

Harris and Trump are in a dead heat, and the stakes could not be higher. Biden made that clear in his Oval Office address on 24 July: “Whether we keep our republic is now in your hands.” Harris is the right person at the right time to achieve that goal.

The writer is Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University.

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WISDOM CORNER

- “If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of” **BRUCE LEE**
- “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance” **ALAN WATTS**
- “Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care” **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

FOCUS INDIA, UK & EUROPE

BUILDING BUSINESS

The new Foreign Secretary of Britain, David Lammy made his first visit to India on 24 July, soon after the British Labour Party came to power on 5 July. His maiden visit reflects the significance Britain attaches to India, more so, after it exited from the European Union. Likewise, Europe is increasingly interested in India; the popular perception being that it is looking at India as an alternative market and manufacturing hub to China. The usual question is whether New Delhi is equally warming up to both the UK and the EU.



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DK Giri

WHILE THE TRADE DEAL IS IMPORTANT AND IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN SOON, INDIA AND THE UK NEED STRATEGIES THAT GO BEYOND THE TRADE DEAL



Charles A. Kupchan

With an Indian mother, a Jamaican father, and a Jewish husband, Harris' multicultural credentials will help her rally enthusiasm among younger, more progressive voters and non-whites – groups Biden struggled to reach

If we cast our attention back to history, especially to the post-World War II and the Cold War, India's relations with both Britain and Europe were not so warm. Given the geopolitical situation obtaining then, especially as India was decolonised from Britain, it was perhaps natural, as the popular perception was of suspicion against colonial Britain and capitalist Europe. India did make diplomatic contact in 1962 with then emerging European Economic Community; but it was not until 1972 when Britain joined the European Community that India could make any formal treaty with the EU. But, that is history.

Lammy's party had promised in its manifesto to expedite the signing of FTA with India. He said that “his trip to India reflects one of the new government's top foreign policy priorities: reset with Global South.” His party also had announced that it wants to “reset and re-launch India-UK relations.” In addition to pushing the momentum on FTA, Lammy stressed on a deeper strategic and economic partnership with India. To lay out the ground for such a partnership, he signed an agreement which foregrounds both

countries to work together on crucial technologies, from critical minerals and AI to semiconductors and telecoms.

To recall, the FTA deal aimed at doubling the two countries' trade from its 2020 level of USD 50 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030. Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had promised to have a deal done by Diwali in October 2022. That was not to happen. Both countries held 13 rounds of negotiations without success. The talks were suspended as both countries held their general elections in 2024. While the trade deal is important and is likely to happen soon, both countries need strategies that go beyond the trade deal. This was the impression delivered by Lammy during his visit.

In parallel, strong initiatives are taken by Europe-India Centre of Business and Industry (EICBI), a European Parliament accredited organisation. EICBI is a geopolitical forum that aims at fostering trade and en-

hancing relations with India and with India & UK & EU corridor. Members of Parliament from UK, India and EU participate in its activities. It desires to tap the potential of more than 1.8 billion people consisting of 1.3 billion from India, 447 million in the EU and 67 million in the UK.

EICBI is going to organise in September, the next UK-India Leaders Conference 2024, the 32nd summit in Europe to consolidate India-UK and India-EU engagements. The summit is focussing on two topics: India-UK FTA talks – where things currently stand and UK-India relations: navigating the bottlenecks. Such meetings and activities provide a first-hand understanding of the Indian markets and business opportunities in India for the UK/EU companies. Likewise, the visiting delegations from India have been able to understand the market in the UK/EU and the opportunities available in these regions.

But there are constraints both in India-UK as well as India-Europe relations. In the FTA itself, the key outstanding issues are visa and mobility rules for skilled Indian professionals, social security contributions by Indian workers on improved access for UK services and goods, including electric vehicles and several food and drink products to the Indian market. New Delhi is also seeking exemptions from a UK carbon tax. India and the EU are also negotiating an FTA.

India's trade deals (FTAs) are strategically important to India-UK as well as EU. India is the second largest source of foreign investment to the UK while Indian exports to the UK are six times that of Russia although less than USA and China. This should be the first FTA for the UK since Britain left the EU. This could set the pace for UK to sign such deals with other Commonwealth countries. Similarly, if the EU wants to find a substitute to China which they consider a systemic threat, they will have to build India as a partner. Only India can match China in terms of size of the market and human resources.

To conclude, it is evident that India-UK relation is a major dynamic in India-EU transactions. Although Britain has formally left the EU in a controversial referendum, Britain and EU relations will impact India and India-UK relations will influence India-EU partnership. That is why three entities – India-UK and EU are being taken together by EICBI and other lobbyists and pressure groups. That trend is reflected in the title of this article.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

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SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

The future of employment

As we inch closer to 2030, India stands at the precipice of a transformative decade poised to reshape its job landscape. The convergence of technology demographic shifts, and evolving socio-economic dynamics promises to redefine the essence of employment in the country.

The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and automation revolutionise job roles across various sectors. Traditional roles in manufacturing and routine administrative tasks will likely see significant automation, leading to a decrease in demand for low-skilled jobs. However, this technological shift will create many opportunities in AI development, robotics, data analysis, and cybersecurity. India's ability to harness its vast pool of tech-savvy youth will be crucial in driving this transition.

The gig economy is anticipated to expand exponentially by 2030. With increasing internet penetration and the rise of digital platforms, more individuals are expected to opt for freelance and remote work. This shift will offer flexibility and empower workers to diversify their skill sets and engage in multiple projects simultaneously. However, it will necessitate a ro-

bust framework to ensure job security, fair wages, and social benefits for gig workers.

India's commitment to sustainable development and addressing climate change will spur growth in the green job sector. Renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture are areas for significant job creation. As the nation works towards its goals, environmental scientists, sustainability consultants, and renewable energy technicians will become increasingly prevalent.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of a resilient healthcare system. By 2030, India is expected to witness a surge in healthcare-related jobs, driven by an ageing population and the need for advanced medical care. Biotechnology, personalised medicine, and telehealth will emerge as critical areas, requiring a skilled workforce capable of leveraging cutting-edge medical technologies.

Continuous education and skill development will become paramount in the evolving job market. The traditional education system must adapt to provide lifelong learning opportunities, focusing on skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. The rise of online learning platforms and

vocational training institutes will play a crucial role in equipping the workforce with the necessary skills to thrive in the future job market.

India's IT sector has long been a cornerstone of its economy, and by 2030, it will continue to evolve and expand. Emerging technologies like blockchain, quantum computing, and 5G will drive new job roles. Professionals skilled in these advanced technologies will be in high demand. Furthermore, as businesses increasingly adopt digital transformation strategies, roles in digital consultancy, IT infrastructure management, and cloud computing will see significant growth.

Agriculture, a vital sector of the Indian economy, will undergo a transformation driven by technology. Precision farming, drone technology, and the Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture will optimise crop yields and resource usage. Job roles will shift towards agri-tech specialists, data scientists focusing on agricultural data and drone operators. Moreover, there will be an increased demand for professionals skilled in sustainable and organic farming, reflecting the growing consumer preference for environment-friendly products.

By 2030, India's tourism and

hospitality sector is expected to rebound and flourish, driven by a growing middle class and increased international travel. Job roles will diversify to include tourism tech developers, sustainable tourism consultants, and experience curators who design unique travel experiences. Given the global trend towards health and wellbeing, the sector will also see a rise in demand for professionals specialising in wellness tourism.

Dynamic changes across various sectors will characterise India's job landscape by 2030. While technology will be a significant driver of this transformation, other factors such as sustainability, urbanisation, and consumer preferences will also shape the future of work. Embracing these changes and preparing the workforce through continuous learning and skill development will be essential for harnessing the opportunities. As India navigates this transformative decade, the synergy between government policies, industry initiatives, and educational reforms will be vital to creating a resilient and prosperous job market.

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



Ashyashree Praharaj

WITH INCREASING INTERNET PENETRATION AND THE RISE OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS, MORE INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPECTED TO OPT FOR FREELANCE AND REMOTE WORK

Bail as a rule

Sir, Some laws in India are indiscriminately employed by the law enforcers to willingly keep certain people inside the bars for a prolonged period. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) that deals with those threatening the sovereignty and integrity of the nation is one such Act. Some days back, the Supreme Court granted bail to a person languishing as an undertrial for nine good years under the UAPA. Article 21 of the Constitution speaks about protection of life and public liberty as fundamental rights of a citizen. Though bail is a temporary privilege, non-uniformity in its application has led to chaos and overburdening of prisons. The top court has repeatedly said that bail should be a rule and jail only an exception. Besides, keeping an accused indefinitely in prison is neither preventive nor punitive. However, the hierarchical system of India's courts means inconsistent interpretation of laws.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Nature's fury

Sir, The recent landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, have underscored the growing threat posed by climate change to the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats. This region, renowned globally for its unparalleled biodiversity, is increasingly becoming a hotspot for landslides. Scientists attribute this alarming trend to the changing climate. Rising temperatures are altering rainfall patterns, leading to more intense and localised downpours. These extreme weather events, coupled with the region's unique topography and geology, create ideal conditions for landslides. The Western Ghats, with its steep slopes and fragile ecosystem, is particularly vulnerable to these destabilising forces. Moreover, the warming Arabian Sea is contributing to the problem. Studies indicate that the increased heat is fueling the formation of deep cloud systems, resulting in extremely heavy rainfall over short periods. This intense precipitation overwhelms the land, triggering landslides. It's crucial to recognise that climate change is not the sole culprit. Unsustainable human activities, such as deforestation, unplanned development, and improper land use practices, have exacerbated the situation. To mitigate the risks and protect lives, a comprehensive approach is needed. This includes strengthening early warning systems, implementing sustainable land management practices, and investing in robust disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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national



In our Act East policy and our Indo-Pacific vision, Vietnam is our important partner... We support development, not expansionism (Hum vistarad nahi, vikasvad ka samarthan karte hei)

CASHLESS TREATMENT FOR CRASH VICTIMS

The government has formulated a scheme to provide cashless treatment to victims of road accidents. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister Nitin Gadhkar said under the scheme, the eligible victims are administered health benefit packages relating to trauma and polytrauma care at empanelled hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY), up to a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh for a maximum period of seven days from the date of accident



of the day quote

The Jharkhand government has prevented me from going to Gopinathpur. If a Chief Minister cannot visit there, one can imagine the condition of the common people

Be prepared for SP to be 'safa chatti' in the 2027 Assembly elections. Then we will ask Congress about the ₹1 lakh promise

We are greatly perturbed by the news of the Wayanad landslides in Kerala. It is really a grave disaster. On humanitarian grounds, we are sending a team of two of our MPs, Saket Gokhale & Sushmita Dev, to visit the affected areas

SC VERDICT TO SUB-CLASSIFY SC/ST

Some MPs welcome, others question

In a landmark decision, the SC ruled in favour of sub-classifying Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to allocate separate quotas for the more backward groups within these categories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: From welcoming the decision as a step towards greater social justice to raising concerns about its implementation without conducting caste census, members of Parliament Thursday expressed varied reactions to the Supreme Court's verdict on sub-classifying SCs and STs to allocate separate quotas for the more backward groups within these categories.



Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud noted that the subclasses are not excluded from the SC/ST List, emphasising the inherent heterogeneity within these groups

Shambhavi Chaudhary of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) highlighted the fundamental basis of reservation.

"The basis of reservation was untouchability. It was meant to uplift those castes that were left behind by giving them reservation. Therefore, the creamy and non-creamy layer cannot apply to SC/ST as the basis is untouchability and social representation," she said.

BJP MP Brij Lal welcomed the verdict, asserting it addresses the economic disparities within the SC/ST communities.

"I welcome the Supreme Court's decision because it ensures that those SC/ST families who have generations in government jobs and have become wealthy should not get reservation. Instead, poor labourers and farmers living in villages who are doing manual labour should receive reservation. This is a social issue as well, because if someone is deprived of reservation today, their next generation might become poor again. Therefore, I welcome the SC's judgment," he stated.

Lal also criticised the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing them of historically failing Dalit communities.

Congress MP Sukhdev Bhagat emphasised the importance of representation in reservations, aligning with the apex court's interpretation.

The 7-judge bench, by a 6:1 majority, held that such sub-classification does not violate Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

Reacting to the verdict outside Parliament, Lok Sabha MP Chandrashekhar Azad expressed concerns about the implementation of the verdict.

"Does this not violate Article 341? I also want the deprived classes to benefit but the way the government has privatised and implemented policies, how will the backward castes benefit? They say only those who feel the pain know it. I want to see how many SC/ST judges are on the bench, who the lawyers were, and what their intentions were. All this should come to light."

"If sub-classification starts, the SC should first work towards bringing democracy. When they (judges) support EWS and then

become Rajya Sabha members or commission members, many questions arise. What monitoring has been done on the atrocities committed against SCs and STs? SC/ST people are now aware, and discussions will happen. This cannot be done without the caste census. I cannot say anything more without studying the verdict," Azad told PTI Videos.

Echoing these sentiments on conducting caste census, Congress MP Pappu Yadav underscored the necessity of a caste-based census for effective implementation.

"The SC has said the right thing but the question is who will implement it. The RSS? How much of the SC's verdict has been respected? The talk about a caste census to see who has what and who should get opportunities is very clear. Once the caste census is done, it will become clear who received what and when. This verdict is absolutely correct, and the communities that have not received opportunities should come forward," Yadav said, highlighting the critical role of data in addressing historical injustices.

SHORT TAKES

Chandipura virus spreads to Patan

Ahmedabad: Chandipura virus in Gujarat has now spread to Patan district after affecting Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Jamnagar, and Banaskantha, officials said Thursday. "A 7-year-old child from Nayta village in Patan has been critically infected and is currently on a ventilator at Gharpur GMERS Hospital," the officials said. They said that the health authorities are on high alert following the first case in Patan, adding that the local health department has initiated a comprehensive response, including conducting surveys and spraying insecticide in the affected village to curb the spread of the virus.

Fisherman dies: MEA summons SL envoy

New Delhi: The Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi Thursday morning, where a strong protest was lodged concerning the death of an Indian fisherman, according to a ministry statement. The ministry reported that earlier that day, a collision occurred between a Sri Lankan naval vessel and an Indian fishing boat approximately 5 nautical miles north of Katchatheevu Island. Among the four Indian fishermen aboard the vessel, one has perished, another remains missing, and two have been rescued and taken to Kankesanthurai.

Khalid Saifi moves Delhi High Court

New Delhi: "United Against Hate" founder Khalid Saifi Thursday approached the Delhi High Court against invocation of the charge of attempt to murder against him in a case related to the communal riots that erupted in parts of the city in February 2020. The senior lawyer appearing for Saifi argued that once the offences under the Arms Act were dropped against him, and neither any weapon was recovered nor the alleged gunshot was attributed to him, the charge under section 307 (attempt to murder) IPC can't be framed.

Two die of electrocution

New Delhi: A 12-year-old boy died of electrocution after coming in contact with a live wire in southwest Delhi's Bindapur area, police said Thursday. Mudit was returning home from a tuition class Wednesday when the incident occurred, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Kumar Singh said. The boy was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him dead, he said. In another incident, a 28-year-old man was died of electrocution at his home in southeast Delhi's Mithapur area, the police said.

SNIPPETS

Five kanwariyas electrocuted in Jharkhand

Latehar: Five Kanwar Yatra pilgrims, including two minors, were electrocuted to death in Jharkhand's Latehar district Thursday morning when their vehicle came into contact with a high-tension overhead wire, police said. Five others were injured in the accident that occurred at Tam Tam Tola in Balumath Police Station area around 3 am. The pilgrims were returning from Baba Baijyanath temple in Deoghar when their vehicle hit an electricity pole, a senior officer said.

BRS protests in Telangana Assembly

Hyderabad: Members of the BRS held a protest in the Telangana Assembly Thursday demanding an apology from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his alleged insulting remarks against women members of the Opposition party. Hitting back at the Opposition party, Revanth Reddy said he always respected women and sisters. As soon as the House commenced business, the BRS MLAs wearing black badges rose and started raising slogans. The members entered the well of the House and indulged in sloganeering during a discussion on a bill for setting up skill universities in the state.

Terrorist hideout unearthed in Rajouri

Rajouri/Jammu: The security forces have seized a consignment of arms and explosives after busting a cave-type terrorist hideout in a forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said Thursday. The hideout was unearthed during an ongoing joint cordon and search operation by the police, Rashtriya Rifles, BSF and CRPF personnel at Gulabgarh in Dharamsal area of Kalakote, they said. An AK assault rifle, two magazines, a pistol with two magazines, two hand grenades, three explosive packets and nearly 100 rounds of assorted ammunition besides some eatables, a rucksack and a couple of cigarettes packets were recovered from the hideout, the officials said.

'Climate models underrate rainfall trends in northwest India by 70%

The study also finds relevance in the context of the landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, with winds and the warming over the Arabian Sea related to the southern region, said co-author Raghu Murtugudde



mate heavy rain over northwest India and Pakistan. This is bad news for this vulnerable and sensitive region," Murtugudde, an earth system scientist and IIT-Bombay professor, told PTI.

The Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) is a global collaborative framework aimed at improving knowledge of climate change and provides freely available data for Earth System research. Results from CMIP models feature in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports.

The project's Phase Six (CMIP6) was initiated in 2014 to fill knowledge gaps of CMIP5 and address new challenges emerging in climate modelling. Results of simulations done by the CMIP6 models are being evaluated by scientists for their consistency with actual weather

trends, including those of the Indian monsoon. The 24 CMIP6 models that the researchers analysed could not accurately reproduce the summer low-level jet (of air) in response to the warming in the Middle East during spring season. The region's warming is known to trigger heavy rainfall over the north-western edge of the Indian summer monsoon. Part of the Sun's incoming heat energy is absorbed by the air, while the land absorbs the rest and is released later when temperatures come down.

As a result of the models' deficiencies, they fail to produce a pressure gradient between the Middle East and the tropics, because of which they are not able to predict how the winds shift over the Arabian Sea as seen in nature, Murtugudde said.

The underestimates in rainfall intensity can potentially increase uncertainties around the risk of flooding under climate change, thereby impacting the reliability of projections, according to the study's authors. Going forward, Murtugudde suggested that India needs to develop a decadal prediction system for planning instead of the expensive (CMIP6) projections.

Woman groped on Lucknow street; 8 cops face action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 1: A woman was groped by a rowdy group on a waterlogged street here, prompting the arrest of 16 men, action against eight policemen including a DCP and a cryptic remark in the Assembly by CM Yogi Adityanath. He said a "bullet train" will be run for the offenders.

The alleged offenders were arrested after the woman who was riding pillion on a motorcycle was targeted Wednesday on a waterlogged street in the posh Gomti Nagar area.

Five police personnel, including the local police station in-charge, were suspended for negligence. And deputy commissioner of police (East Lucknow), additional DCP and assistant commissioner of police (ACP) were shunted, an official statement said Thursday.

While speaking in the Assembly on the state's supplementary Budget, the Chief Minister referred to the incident, naming two of the alleged offenders.

"The first criminal is Pawan Yadav, the other criminal is Mohammed Arbaaz. These are people of 'sadbhavna' (goodwill)," he said, and suggested

Above-normal rainfall predicted in Aug-Sept



Prediction of above-normal rain means there's a high possibility of landslides and floods. The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it

THE PRIMARY RAIN-BEARING SYSTEM IS ALSO CRUCIAL FOR REPLENISHING RESERVOIRS CRITICAL FOR DRINKING WATER AND POWER GENERATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: India is predicted to record above-normal rainfall in August and September, with a good chance of favourable La Nina conditions developing by the end of August, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

The IMD said that rainfall over India in August and September would be around 106 per cent of the long-period average of 422.8 mm.

The country has so far recorded 453.8 mm of rainfall against the normal of 445.8 mm since June 1, a surplus of two per cent, owing to a wetter-than-normal July after a drier June.

Normal to above-normal rainfall is predicted in most parts of the country in August-September. Below-normal rainfall is expected in parts of the northeast, adjoining east India, Ladakh, Saurashtra and Kutch, and pockets of central and peninsular India, IMD chief

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press conference. The IMD chief anticipated

deficient rainfall in parts of western Himalayan region in August-September. La Nina, a buildup of cooler-than-normal waters in the central Pacific Ocean aiding monsoon rainfall in the Indian subcontinent, could set in by August end, he said.

Mohapatra said above-normal maximum temperatures are expected over most parts of the country. "Normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely in some areas in the Gangetic plains, central India, and the southeast coast of India."

India recorded nine per cent more rainfall than normal in July, with the central region receiving 33 per cent excess rain.

Mohapatra said that central India, which heavily relies on monsoon rainfall for agriculture, has been receiving good rainfall for the third consecutive monsoon season, benefiting agriculture.

East and northeast India recorded a rainfall deficit of 23 per cent and northwest India 14 per cent. The southern peninsula received 36 per cent more rainfall in July.

COACHING CENTRE DEATHS

Court grants bail to SUV driver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: A court here Thursday allowed the second bail plea of an SUV driver, arrested for his alleged role in drowning of three civil services aspirants in the basement of a coaching centre.

During the proceedings, the Delhi Police told the court that they have decided to drop harsher charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against Manuj Kathuria, the SUV driver.

Additional Sessions Judge Rakesh Kumar was hearing an appeal against the denial of bail to Kathuria by a magisterial court Wednesday. "The bail is allowed," the judge said.

A detailed order of the court is awaited. Kathuria was accused of driving his Force Gurkha car through the street that was flooded by rainwater, causing the water to swell and breach the gates of the three-storey building housing the coaching centre and inundate the basement.

During the proceedings, the Delhi police told the court that they have decided to drop 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder' charge against Kathuria.

"During the further investigation, as carried out in the preceding 48 hours, it has transpired that the ingredients of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) is, at this stage, not being sufficiently established," the investigating officer (IO) said in his reply to the appeal.

Termining the offence as "serious" Wednesday, the magisterial court had denied bail to Kathuria, saying the plea was "untenable at this stage".

Kathuria was arrested Monday along with four co-owners of the basement.

A magisterial court Sunday had sent to 14-day judicial custody Rau's IAS Study Circle owner Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpal Singh.



Farmers burn an effigy during a protest against the Central and Haryana government over honouring of police officers who allegedly used drones and pellet guns against farmers during their agitations, in Amritsar, Punjab



that no 'Sadbhavna train' will be run for them.

"Inkey live bullet train chalegi, chinta mat karo (The bullet train will run for them, don't worry)," Adityanath told the House.

"And preparations are being made for the bullet train," he said, adding that anyone who plays with women's safety will bear the consequences.

A video on social media shows a group of men splashing water on a motorcycle as it wades through the waterlogged road. The men quickly surround the motorcycle and some start pulling it from behind.

Amidst the melee, while the man driving the motorcycle tries to push through, at least one of the accused gropes the woman who is riding pillion. The men stop pulling the motorcycle only when the woman falls down.

national



There are so many missing people. We have recovered so many bodies from many parts of the region. The rescue workers have recovered many bodies from the Chaliyar River. Many body parts were also recovered

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

NEW CYBER SECURITY POLICY IN KARNATAKA

The Karnataka Government Thursday launched a comprehensive cyber security policy 2024 to combat rising levels of cybercrimes and promote awareness, skill building, public-private partnerships and technology integration to protect the State's digital infrastructure



of the day quote

Though Rakhi festival is on August 19, Laddi Behnas (beneficiaries) will get ₹1250 along with additional ₹250 for celebrating Rakhi festival August

The BJP has never advocated for dividing West Bengal, nor has it included such a proposal in any manifesto

Justice should be done to all sections and social justice should win. This is the philosophy of TDP. Sub-classification will be useful to reach out to the poorest sections

X POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING Massive waterlogging in the new Parliament building made by Modi Govt for over 1,250 CRORES

SHORT TAKES

109 women judges in higher judiciary

New Delhi: As many as 109 women judges are serving in the higher judiciary, including three in the Supreme Court, the government informed the Rajya Sabha Thursday.

Puja's anticipatory bail plea rejected

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday denied anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar who has been accused of cheating and wrongfully availing of OBC and PwD (person with disabilities) quota benefits.

Darshan's judicial custody extended

Bangalore: The judicial custody of jailed Kannada superstar Darshan and his associates has been extended till August 14 by the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court Thursday.

12 killed in Bihar lightning strikes

Patna: Twelve people were killed by lightning strikes across four districts in Bihar in the last 24 hours, an official statement said Thursday.

Rahul, Priyanka visit Wayanad

Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains hit Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha hamlets in the early hours of Tuesday, killing 190 people, including women and children, so far



AGENCIES

Wayanad (Kerala), August 1: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with sister Priyanka visited landslides-hit areas of Wayanad Thursday and said he was "deeply pained" to see people who have lost family members and homes in the tragedy, calling it a "national disaster" and demanded an urgent comprehensive action plan.

because you really don't know what to say to them. It's been quite a difficult day for me, but we are going to try and help make sure that the survivors get what is due," he told reporters. "To me, this is a national disaster for sure, but let's see what the government says," he said in response to reporters' queries.

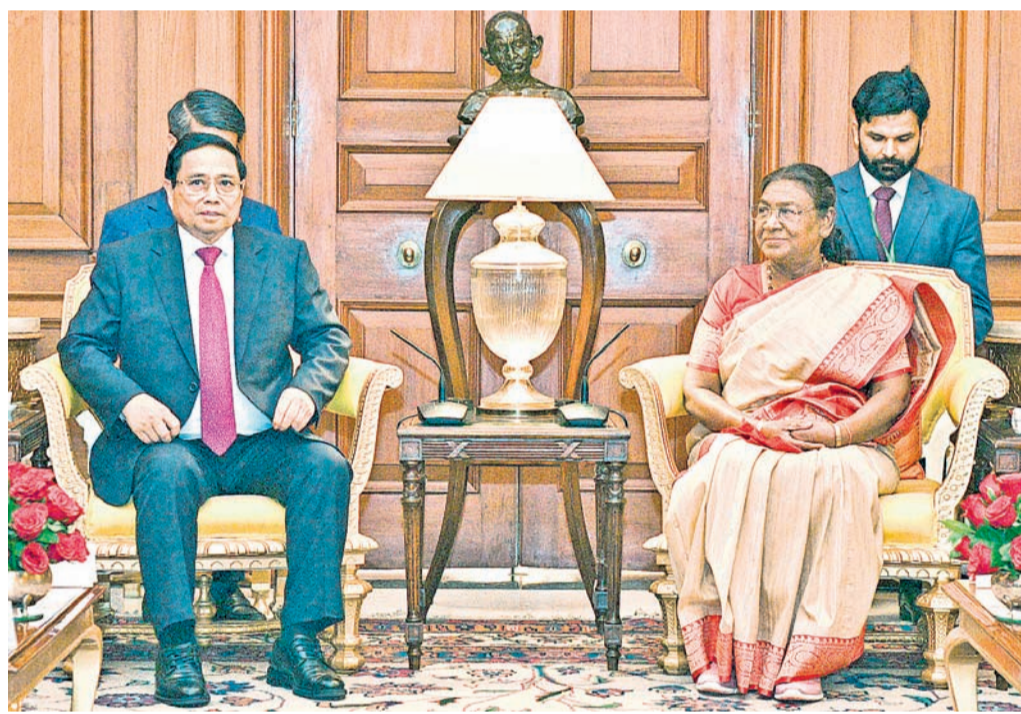
back and want to be relocated or rehabilitated elsewhere. While Gandhi hoped that the government would take the people's wishes into account, Vadra said, "We will have to think of some solution to rehabilitate them in a safer area." Both of them were speaking to reporters after visiting the landslide-affected area of Chooralmala here, a hospital and community health centre in Meppadi, and two relief camps.

8 Indians serving in Russian armed forces died: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Eight Indians working in the Russian armed forces have died and 12 others already left the military, the government said in the Rajya Sabha Thursday.

In reply to a question, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said another 63 individuals are seeking early discharge. "Eight deaths have been reported where the citizenship of the deceased has been verified as Indian," Singh said. The government has received requests for facilitation of early discharge of some Indian nationals purportedly recruited into the Russian armed forces in unclear circumstances, he said. "The exact number of such Indian nationals is not known," he said. "Information available currently indicates that 12 Indian nationals have already left the Russian armed forces while another 63 individuals are seeking early discharge," Singh said.



President Droupadi Murmu with the Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh during a meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

NEET case: CBI files first chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The CBI has filed its first charge sheet in the alleged NEET UG examination paper leak case naming 13 people as accused, officials said Thursday. The charge sheet lists that the accused were allegedly involved in the paper leak and other irregularities, they said. The CBI has kept the probe open, they said. The central probe agency, which is investigating the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, has lodged a six FIRs. The FIR from Bihar pertains to paper leak while the remaining ones from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are

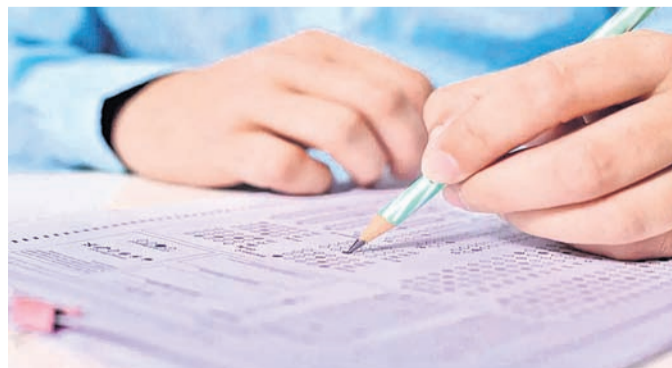


regarding impersonation of candidates and cheating. The agency's own FIR on a reference from the Union education ministry pertains to a "comprehensive investigation" into the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024. The NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. This year, the exam was conducted May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates appeared for the test.

UGC allows varsities to conduct exams to fill vacant seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Central universities can conduct their own entrance exams or admit students on the basis of marks in the qualifying exam if seats remain vacant in undergraduate and postgraduate courses after admissions through CUET, the UGC announced Thursday. Keeping the seats vacant for an entire academic year is not only a waste of resources but also results in denial of quality higher education to many students who aspire to pursue higher studies in central universities, it said. The University Grants Commission (UGC), however, clarified that scores of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will remain the primary criteria for admitting students. "It has come to the notice of the



UGC that seats remain vacant in some of the central universities even after three or four rounds of counselling. To keep the seats vacant for an entire academic year is not only a waste of resources but also results in denial of quality higher education to many students who aspire to pursue higher studies in cen-

tral universities," UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said. "Hence, in order to facilitate the central universities to fill up their vacant seats, the SOPs have been formulated. Students who appeared in CUET, but may or may not have applied to the respective university for the courses or programmes earlier

the list of applicants who appeared in CUET, the university may consider conducting an entrance examination at its own level or the concerned department may conduct a screening test. "The university may also admit students on the basis of marks obtained in the qualifying examination. The entire admission process has to be based on merit and transparency. The reservation roster shall apply for admission to courses/programmes in all cases," Kumar said. The universities have also been asked to ensure that the entire admission process is done on time so that no student faces any kind of academic loss. Admission to all UG and PG courses at central universities are being conducted through CUET since 2022.

MATHURA TEMPLE-MOSQUE DISPUTE

Allahabad HC rejects Muslim side's petition

IN SEVERAL WAYS, THE MATHURA DISPUTE MIRRORS THE LEGAL TUSSLE IN VARANASI, WHERE THE GYANVAPI MOSQUE AND THE KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE ARE LOCATED NEXT TO EACH OTHER



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, August 1: The Allahabad High Court Thursday rejected a plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura, and ruled that the "religious character" of Shahi Idgah needs to be determined. The court dismissed the Muslim side's contention that the suits filed by Hindu litigants relating to the dispute over the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and the adjacent mosque violated the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act - and were thus not maintainable.

temple and a mosque, which are "adverse to each other" -- at the same time. "Either the place is a temple or a mosque. Thus, I find that the religious character of the disputed place as it existed on August 15, 1947 is to be determined by documentary as well as oral evidence led by both the parties," the judge said. He concluded that the cases "do not appear to be barred by any provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995; the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991; the Specific Relief Act, 1963; the Limitation Act, 1963 and Order XIII Rule 3A of the Code of Civil Procedure Code, 1908".

The 1991 Act prohibits changing the religious character of any shrine from what existed on the day of the country's Independence. It exempted only the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute from its purview. The cases filed by the Hindu side seek the "removal" of the Aurangzeb-era mosque they claim was built after demolishing a temple that once stood there. Shahi Masjid committee secretary Tanvir Ahmad said they are studying the high court order and will approach the Supreme Court against it.

However, the court reopened the hearing at the request of Shahi Idgah counsel Mehmood Pracha. The judgment, pronounced Thursday, was finally reserved June 6.

In his ruling, Justice Mayank Kumar Jain said the 1991 Act did not define the term "religious character" and the "disputed" place cannot have a dual religious character -- of a

Hindu side counsel Vishnu Shankar Jain told reporters that with the dismissal of the plea challenging maintainability, the high court will continue to hear all related cases on the temple-mosque issue. The mosque management committee and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board had argued that the suits were barred under Places of Worship Act and other laws. The Allahabad High Court May 31 reserved its judgment on this maintainability plea after hearing both sides.

18 J'khand BJP MLAs suspended from Assembly



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 1: Eighteen Jharkhand BJP MLAs were Thursday suspended from the assembly for a day and subsequently removed by marshals after they refused to leave the House. Speaker Rabintra Nath Mahto acted against the BJP legislators after they caused a disruption in the House in protest against the eviction of Opposition MLAs by marshals the previous day and Chief Minister Hemant Soren's "refusal" to address their questions.

Leader of the Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri alleged that a "dictatorship" was prevailing in Jharkhand and claimed that action was taken against BJP legislators at the behest of the JMM-led government. "Several BJP MLAs spent Wednesday night in the assembly lobby after marshals evicted them from the well of the House. Much before the House proceedings were scheduled to begin at 11 AM Thursday, BJP legislators entered the well of the House, raising slogans demanding the resignation of Soren.

During the protest, they were also seen tearing documents, which led to heated arguments between members of the ruling and Opposition parties.

international

of the day quote

As women engage more actively in regional and international economic activities, they not only elevate their enterprises but also contribute to the overall economies, resilience and sustainability of their communities and nations

India will never be a formal ally or partner of the United States as it is also a great power with its own beliefs, its own interests but the two can act as allies on the global stage

There are 1,400 Japanese businesses operating in India. We would like to see that number grow. And we have an investment target of 5 trillion yen that is \$42 billion by 2027

SHORT TAKES

Bangladesh bans Jamaat-e-Islami

Dhaka: Bangladesh Thursday banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law following nationwide unrest, citing the threat posed by the fundamentalist party to public security. A notification issued by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs Thursday confirmed the ban on the Islamist party, a key ally of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The ban on Jamaat, Chhatra Shibir and other associated groups came through an executive order under Section 18(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

China thanks Indian Navy for rescue

Beijing: China Thursday conveyed its "heartfelt appreciation" to the Indian Navy for rescuing a critically injured Chinese mariner from a cargo ship off the Mumbai coast and providing him with timely medical treatment. The critically injured 51-year-old Chinese mariner, who reportedly suffered heavy blood loss, was airlifted by an Indian naval helicopter amid choppy waters and strong winds from a bulk carrier and provided medical care July 24.

Indian fisherman dies in Sri Lanka

Colombo: An Indian fisherman was killed and another went missing following a collision Thursday morning between a Sri Lankan naval vessel and an Indian fishing boat allegedly poaching in the island nation's territorial waters, according to a media report. Navy spokesperson Captain Gayan Wickramasuriya said that the incident occurred off Delft Island while the Navy was conducting an operation to chase away the alleged Indian poaching trawlers, Daily Mirror online reported.

SKorea offers aid to flood-hit NK

Seoul: South Korea Thursday offered to send aid supplies to North Korea to help the country recover from heavy rains and floods that submerged thousands of homes and huge swaths of farmland. It's unclear whether North Korea would accept South Korea's proposal for help. South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, urged North Korea's Red Cross to promptly respond to its calls for discussions to determine the types and amounts of South Korean supplies and how to deliver them.



Take for example the case of India. India has been able to lift 800 million people out of poverty over the last five or six years simply by the use of smartphones

DENNIS FRANCIS | PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MIGRANTS' CRISIS

A controversial plan in Italy to set up detention camps in Albania for migrants picked up at sea has again been delayed, with a source close to the matter saying it was a few weeks behind schedule



Iran, proxies to plan retaliation

ISRAELI AIR FORCE CHIEF TOMER BAR WARNS THAT ISRAEL WILL ACT AGAINST ANYONE PLANNING TO HARM ITS CITIZENS

REUTERS

Dubai, August 1: Top Iranian officials will meet the representatives of Iran's regional allies from Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen Thursday to discuss potential retaliation against Israel after the killing of the Hamas leader in Tehran, five sources told Reuters.

The region faces a risk of widened conflict between Israel, Iran and its proxies after Ismail Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran Wednesday and the killing of Hezbollah's senior commander Tuesday in an Israeli strike on the outskirts of the Lebanese capital Beirut.

Representatives of Iran's Palestinian allies Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, as well as Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthi movement, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi resistance groups will attend the meeting in Tehran, said the sources, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

"Iran and the resistance members will conduct a thorough assessment after the meeting in Tehran to find the best and most effective way to retaliate against the Zionist regime (Israel)," said a senior Iranian official, with direct knowledge of the meeting.

Another Iranian official said Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali



All fronts of the resistance will take revenge for Haniyeh's blood

ALI AKBAR AHMADIAN | THE SECRETARY OF SUPREME NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, IRAN

Khamenei and senior members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards will attend.

"How Iran and the resistance front will respond is currently being reviewed. This will certainly happen and the Zionist regime (Israel) will undoubtedly regret it," General Mohammad Baqeri, Iran's armed forces chief of staff, told state TV Thursday.

Iran and Hamas have accused Israel of carrying out the strike that killed Haniyeh hours after

against anyone planning to harm its citizens.

"We are also strongly prepared in defence. Hundreds of aerial defence soldiers, along with air control personnel, are stationed across the country with the best systems, ready to carry out their mission," said Bar.

MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS

Hamas' armed wing has said in a statement Haniyeh's killing would "take the battle to new dimensions and have major repercussions". Vowing to retaliate, Iran said the US bore responsibility because of its support for Israel.

"Iran asked key commanders of the Iraqi resistance groups to travel to Tehran Wednesday to attend an urgent meeting to dis-

cuss retaliation against recent Israeli strikes, including in Lebanon and Iran and the US strike in Iraq," said an Iraqi militia local commander.

Another militia source said the resistance group commanders left to attend Haniyeh's funeral and also to attend a "top urgent meeting" to decide the following steps to retaliate against Israel and the United States.

Iranians turned out to mourn Haniyeh Thursday, a day after he was assassinated.

"All fronts of the resistance will take revenge for Haniyeh's blood," Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency.

US reaches plea deal with 9/11 masterminds



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, August 1: US prosecutors have reached a deal with 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the Pentagon said Wednesday, reportedly involving a guilty plea in exchange for avoiding a death penalty trial.

The agreements with Mohammed and two other accused moves their long-running cases toward resolution. These have been bogged down in pre-trial maneuverings for years while the defendants remained held at the Guantanamo Bay military base in Cuba.

A Pentagon statement said no details of the deal would be immediately made public at this time, but the New York Times reported that Mohammed, Walid bin Attash and Mustafa al-Hawsawi had agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy in exchange for a life sentence instead of a trial after they could get the death penalty.

Much of the legal jousting surrounding the men's cases has focused on whether they could be tried fairly after having undergone methodical torture at the hands of the CIA in the years after 9/11, a thorny question that the plea deals help avoid.

Mohammed was regarded as one of Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden's most trusted and intelligent lieutenants before his March 2003 capture in Pakistan. He then spent three years in secret CIA prisons before arriving in Guantanamo in 2006.

'War on Terror' prison
Bin Attash, a Saudi of Yemeni origin, allegedly trained two of the hijackers who carried out the September 11 attacks, and his US interrogators also said he confessed to buying the explosives and recruiting members of the team that killed 17 sailors in an attack on the USS Cole.

He took refuge in neighboring Pakistan after the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and was captured there in 2003, and was then held in a network of secret CIA prisons. Hawsawi is suspected of managing the finance for the 9/11 attacks. He was arrested in Pakistan March 1, 2003, was also held in secret prisons before being transferred to Guantanamo in 2006.

The United States used Guantanamo, an isolated naval base, to hold militants captured during the "War on Terror" that followed the September 11 attacks in a bid to keep the defendants from claiming rights under US law. The facility held 800 prisoners at its peak, but they have since slowly been repatriated to other countries. President Joe Biden pledged before his election to try and shut down Guantanamo, but it remains open.

Biggest East-West prisoner exchange since Cold War

REUTERS

Moscow, August 1: US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan were released by Russia Thursday as part of the biggest East-West prisoner exchange since the end of the Cold War, a complex deal negotiated in secrecy for more than a year.

The White House said the US had negotiated the complex trade with Russia and other countries. It said eight prisoners held in the West were being sent back to Russia.

Germany confirmed that they included Vadim Krasikov, convicted of murdering an exiled dissident in Berlin.

President Joe Biden hailed the deal as "a feat of diplomacy and friendship" and praised Washington's allies for their "bold and brave decisions".

"This would not have been possible without our allies," he said, adding "Today is a powerful example of why it's vital to have friends in this world."

Turkey, which coordinated the exchange, said 10 people, including two children, had been moved to Russia, 13 to Germany and three to the United States. Also involved in the swap were Poland, Slovenia, Norway and Belarus.

"After the completion of the ratification procedures of the



parties, the health checks, the planes of the countries to which they would be travelling with the approval and instructions of the MIT," the National Intelligence Agency (MIT) said in a statement.

A Reuters reporter saw a Russian government aircraft taking off from Ankara.

The Kremlin said Moscow's decision to pardon and free prisoners had been made in order to bring Russian captives home.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, a vociferous backer of Russia's war in Ukraine, which has prompted the arrest of hundreds of critics and driven relations with Washington to their worst level since the Cold War, was acerbic in a Telegram post:

"Let the traitors now feverishly pick up new names and actively disguise themselves under witness protection programmes."

Trump questions Harris' identity

Hours after Donald Trump's comments in Black Journalists' convention, Harris told that his remarks were 'yet another reminder' of what the four years under the former President looked like

REUTERS

Chicago, August 1: US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump falsely suggested to the country's largest annual gathering of Black journalists Wednesday that his Democratic rival Kamala Harris had previously downplayed her Black heritage.

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black, until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said, drawing a smattering of jeers from an audience of about 1,000 people.

"So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black? Trump continued. "But you know what, I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't, because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden she made a turn, and she went, she became a Black person."

Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican heritage, has long self-



identified as both Black and Asian. She is the first Black person and Asian American person to serve as Vice President.

Hours after Trump's comments, Harris told members of the historically Black sorority Sigma Gamma Rho gathered in Houston that his remarks were "yet another reminder" of what the four years under the former President looked like.

"It was the same old show of divisiveness and disrespect," Harris said. "The American people deserve better."

Since launching her White House campaign earlier this month, Harris has faced a barrage of sexist and racist attacks online, with some far-right accounts questioning her racial identity. Republican Party leaders have urged lawmakers to refrain from personal attacks and focus on her policy positions.

Trump himself has used personal insults against Harris and said he was going to ignore ad-

vice that he tone down his rhetoric. "I'm not gonna be nice!" he told supporters at one campaign rally.

'BLACK JOBS'

The interview at the National Association of Black Journalists' convention in Chicago started on a tense note, when ABC News reporter Rachel Scott, one of three Black women moderators, listed a series of racist comments Trump had made and asked why Black voters should support him.

In response, Trump called the question "horrible," "hostile" and a "disgrace" and described ABC as a "fake" network.

"I have been the best President for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln," he boasted, drawing groans from the audience. Trump repeated a line from the presidential debate in June, claiming that migrants crossing the US southern border would take away "Black jobs," a term that drew criticism from some Black leaders.

'North Korea wants to restart nuclear talks if Trump wins'

Pyongyang's diplomats were mapping out a strategy for the scenario, with the goal of lifting of sanctions on its weapons programmes, removing its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and eliciting economic aid

REUTERS

Seoul, August 1: North Korea wants to reopen nuclear talks with the United States if Donald Trump is re-elected as President and is working to devise a new negotiating strategy, a senior North Korean diplomat who recently defected to South Korea told Reuters.

The escape of Ri Il Gyu from Cuba made headlines globally last month. He was the highest-ranking North Korean diplomat

to defect to the South since 2016. In his first interview with international media, Ri said North Korea has set Russia, the US and Japan as its top foreign policy priorities for this year and beyond.

While bolstering relations with Russia, Pyongyang was keen to reopen nuclear negotiations if Trump - who engaged in both fiery brinkmanship and unprecedented diplomacy with North Korea during his previous term, won re-election in November, Ri said.

Pyongyang's diplomats were mapping out a strategy for that scenario, with the goal of lifting of sanctions on its weapons programmes, removing its designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and eliciting economic aid, said Ri.

His comments signal a potential about-face from the North's current stance after recent statements ditching the possibility of dialogue with the US and warning of armed con-



Ri Il Gyu partly blames Kim's decision to entrust "inexperienced, clueless" military commanders which led the failure of 2019 Trump-Kim summit

frontation. A summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Trump in Vietnam in 2019 collapsed over sanctions, for which

Ri partly blamed Kim's decision to entrust "inexperienced, clueless" military commanders with nuclear diplomacy. "Kim Jong Un doesn't know

much about international relations and diplomacy, or how to make strategic judgment," he said.

"This time, the foreign ministry would definitely gain power and take charge, and it won't be so easy for Trump to tie North Korea's hands and feet again for four years without giving anything."

RUSSIAN TIES, JAPAN AID

By forging closer ties with Russia, North Korea received help with its missile technology and economy. But a bigger benefit could be to block additional sanctions and undercut existing ones, Ri said, adding it would raise Pyongyang's bargaining power against Washington.

"The Russians got their own hands dirty by engaging in illicit transactions and, thanks to that, North Korea no longer needs to rely on the US to lift sanctions, which essentially means they stripped the US of one key bargaining chip," he said.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida has said he wants to meet Kim, but the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 80s has long been a stumbling block.

According to Ri, Kim would seek to hold a summit with Japan, aiming to get economic assistance in return for concessions on the abductee issue.

Tokyo believes 17 of its citizens were abducted, five of whom returned to Japan in 2002. Pyongyang sees the issue as settled, having admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese nationals and saying those unaccounted for had either died or their whereabouts were unknown.

Ri said Kim would be willing to change that position, established under his father Kim Jong Il, in order to obtain economic support. "They're saying that the issue was resolved, but that's just to boost negotiating power until he makes concessions at a summit," he said.

business



States can directly buy rice from central pool at ₹2800 per quintal. They do not need to participate in the e-auction process

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

JSW MG MOTOR UNVEILS EV

JSW MG Motor India Thursday said it has named its first CUV electric vehicle as MG Windsor. In November, China's largest automaker SAIC Motor inked a joint venture agreement with JSW Group to accelerate the transformation and growth of MG Motor in India



of the day quote

In the medium and long term, the tailwinds for the hospitality sector remain strong, with demand expected to continue outpacing supply

MADHAVAN MENON | EXEC CHAIRMAN, THOMAS COOK INDIA

In India, raw material costs are higher for non-traditional productions due to import dependence and high tariffs. China benefits from lower costs due to large-scale local production and efficient supply chains, while Vietnam offers competitive costs with low or zero tariffs on imports

At this point in time that specific policy is not something that is suitable for us. So, we don't intend to leverage it at this point in time

PB BALAJI | TATA MOTORS GROUP CFO

D-St scales historic highs

SENSEX RISES FOR 5TH DAY, NIFTY CROSSES 25K MOUNT FOR FIRST TIME ON US FED RATE CUT HOPES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 1: Benchmark Sensex advanced 126 points to close at an all-time high while broader Nifty scaled the historic 25,000 mount for the first time in a volatile trade Thursday following gains in banking and oil shares as the US Federal Reserve hinted at a rate cut by September.

Extending its winning run to the fifth day in a row amid weak global trends, the 30-share Sensex climbed 126.21 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at a new lifetime high of 81,867.55. The index opened higher and rallied 388.15 points, or 0.47 per cent, to hit an all-time intra-day high of 82,129.49 in the morning session.

The NSE Nifty rose 59.75 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 25,010.90. Intraday, it scaled the record 25,000 level for the first time, ris-

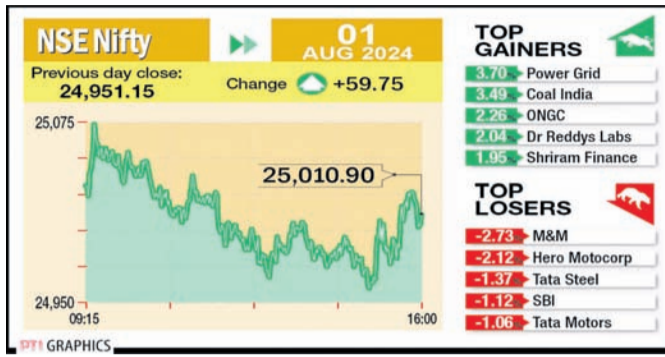
ing 127.15 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 25,078.30.

From the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Nestle India, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Maruti Suzuki India and Reliance Industries were the major gainers.

In contrast, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Motors were the laggards.

The benchmarks started positive taking cues from the global market following the Fed Chair's indication that a rate cut might be considered at the September meeting due to easing inflationary pressures.

"However, the broader market closed on a negative bias due to escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East leading to rising crude oil prices," Vinod Nair, Head of Research



at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge fell 0.70 per cent and MidCap by 0.80 per cent in the broader market. During the day, BSE MidCap hit its all-time high level.

Among the indices, utilities zoomed by 2.04 per cent, power by 0.86 per cent, energy by 0.80 per cent, oil & gas by 0.59 per cent and metal by 0.35 per cent.

Realty, capital goods, industrials, auto, telecommunication, and consumer discretionary were among the laggards. "Indian equity indices rose

for the fifth consecutive session. Indian markets opened higher on the back of positive cues from US markets where FOMC Chair Jerome Powell said a cut as early as September was a possibility," Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head Retail Research of HDFC Securities, said.

Maruti Suzuki India shares settled 1 per cent higher after the homegrown automobile major reported a 47 per cent jump in net profit to ₹3,650 crore for the June quarter. During the day, the stock hit a 52-week high on the bourse.

3RD-HIGHEST-EVER

GST collections in July rise 10.3% to ₹1.82 L-cr

So far this fiscal (April-July), collections have grown 10.2 per cent to about ₹7.39 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: GST collections in July rose 10.3 per cent to over ₹1.82 lakh crore, mainly driven by domestic transactions in goods and services, according to official data released Thursday.

This is the third-highest-ever monthly collection recorded since the indirect tax regime was rolled out 7 years ago July 1, 2017.

According to the data, total refunds stood at ₹16,283 crore in July. The net Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection after adjusting refunds was over ₹1.66 lakh crore, a growth of 14.4 per cent.

In April 2024, the previous high was in April 2023 when it was ₹1.87 lakh crore.

At ₹1.82 lakh crore, collection in July 2024 is the third-highest ever.

So far this fiscal (April-July), the collections have grown 10.2 per cent to about ₹7.39 lakh crore. MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India said, "While the gross GST revenues have shown an increase of 10.3 per cent, it is interesting to observe that the growth in GST revenues from imports is more than that from domestic supplies."

These collections are based on supply transactions during June, which is typically a slow off-take month before the onset of the festive season, Mani noted.

There appears to be a slowdown on the refunds side, leading to a net increase of 14.4 per cent compared to a gross increase of 10.4 per cent, Mani added.

Abhishek Jain, National Head, Indirect Tax, KPMG in India, said a 10 per cent plus growth in collections for this year vis-a-vis the last year aligns well with expectations and depicts signs of stability and maturity of GST implementation in India. With festivities coming up in the next few months, the collections should witness a further increase, Jain said.

Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY India said the data shows a surge in tax collections from Nagaland, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar, and Ladakh, which suggests heightened economic activity and consumption in these developing regions of India.

Further, a potential stagnant or decline in collections during August (compared to July month) is anticipated due to the monsoon season's impact on overall economic momentum, Agarwal added.



The Gross GST revenue stood at ₹1,82,075 crore, which includes Central GST of ₹32,386 crore, State GST of ₹40,289 crore, and Integrated GST of ₹96,447 crore. The compensation cess mop-up was ₹12,953 crore.

The revenues were driven by taxes from domestic activities, which grew 8.9 per cent to ₹1.34 lakh crore in July. The revenue from imports jumped 14.2 per cent to ₹48,039 crore.

Gross GST revenues hit a record high of ₹2.10 lakh crore

₹2000 BANKNOTES

98 per cent returned; ₹7,409 crore worth notes still with public

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 1: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday said 97.92 per cent of the ₹2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only ₹7,409 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public.

The RBI May 19, 2023 announced the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of ₹2000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal was announced, has declined to ₹7,409 crore at the close of business July 31, 2024.

Thus, 97.92 per cent of the ₹2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned, the central bank said in a statement.

The facility for deposit and/or exchange of the ₹2000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country till October 7, 2023.

The facility for the exchange of the ₹2000 banknotes has been available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023.

From October 9, 2023, RBI issue offices are also accepting ₹2000 banknotes from individuals and entities for deposit into their bank accounts.

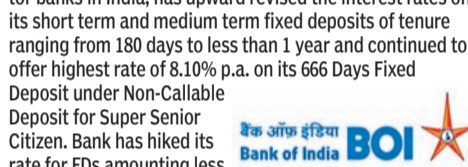
Further, members of the public are sending ₹2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country to any of the RBI issue offices for credit to their bank accounts.

The ₹2000 banknotes were introduced in November 2016, following the demonetisation of the then-prevailing ₹1000 and ₹500 banknotes.

BANK BUZZ

BoI increases rates on short, medium term FD

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India, one of the leading public sector banks in India, has upward revised the interest rates on its short term and medium term fixed deposits of tenure ranging from 180 days to less than 1 year and continued to offer highest rate of 8.10% p.a. on its 666 Days Fixed Deposit under Non-Callable Deposit for Super Senior Citizen. Bank has hiked its rate for FDs amounting less than ₹3cr and now offering 6% for 180 days to less than 1 year. Further, BoI has also hiked its rate for FDs amounting ₹3cr to less than ₹10cr and now offering 6.50% for 180 days to 210 days and 6.75% for 211 days to less than 1 year. Additional rate of interest of 0.65% on deposits of Super Senior Citizens and 0.50% on deposits of Senior Citizens below ₹3cr is offered for FDs with maturity period of 6 months and above. Bank has continued its '666 Days - Fixed Deposit', offering the best interest rate of 7.30% for customers and general public. Super Senior Citizen will get 7.95% p.a., Senior Citizen will get 7.80% p.a. under 666 Days Fixed Deposit. Loan against FD and Premature Withdrawal facility is also available.



Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative of Govt of India, State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle has carried out mass plantation of 3,540 saplings in western part of Odisha. Plantations were carried out in Odisha AdarshaVidyalaya (OAV) Rengali and OAV, Kuchinda of Sambalpur district, OAV, Haldipali Bargharh and OAV, Barpali of Bargarh district, OAV, Kursud, Titlagarh and OAV, Kantabanji of Bolangir district and OAV Barkote of Deograh district. Various fruit bearing trees such as mango, litchi, guava, custard apple, pomegranate and other orchard trees like neem, karanj, drum stick, amla, lemon, papaya, debdaru, babul and other forest and medicinal saplings were planted inside the school campus areas. Sanjay Kumar Jha, DGM (B&O) Sambalpur Module and Manas Kumar Pradhan, Regional Manager RBO Sambalpur graced the event at OAV Rengali. Madhusudan Rath, Regional Manager, Bargharh had joined at OAV Haldipali Bargharh. Pradyumna Kumar Swain, Regional Manager, Bolangir had joined at OAV Kursud, Titlagarh. SBI Bhubaneswar Circle has carried out the plantation drive under CSR initiative in association with NGO SARC Sambalpur.

Mfg growth eases slightly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: India's manufacturing sector growth eased slightly in July, on softer increases in new orders and output, while cost pressures and demand strength led to the steep increase in selling prices since October 2013, a monthly survey said Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) moderated slightly from 58.3 in June to 58.1 in July.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

India's headline manufacturing PMI showed a marginal slowdown in the pace of expansion in July, but with most components remaining at robust levels, the small drop is no cause for concern, Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: SBI plants 3,540 saplings in western Odisha

Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative of Govt of India, State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle has carried out mass plantation of 3,540 saplings in western part of Odisha. Plantations were carried out in Odisha AdarshaVidyalaya (OAV) Rengali and OAV, Kuchinda of Sambalpur district, OAV, Haldipali Bargharh and OAV, Barpali of Bargarh district, OAV, Kursud, Titlagarh and OAV, Kantabanji of Bolangir district and OAV Barkote of Deograh district. Various fruit bearing trees such as mango, litchi, guava, custard apple, pomegranate and other orchard trees like neem, karanj, drum stick, amla, lemon, papaya, debdaru, babul and other forest and medicinal saplings were planted inside the school campus areas. Sanjay Kumar Jha, DGM (B&O) Sambalpur Module and Manas Kumar Pradhan, Regional Manager RBO Sambalpur graced the event at OAV Rengali. Madhusudan Rath, Regional Manager, Bargharh had joined at OAV Haldipali Bargharh. Pradyumna Kumar Swain, Regional Manager, Bolangir had joined at OAV Kursud, Titlagarh. SBI Bhubaneswar Circle has carried out the plantation drive under CSR initiative in association with NGO SARC Sambalpur.



Despite slowing since June, Indian manufacturers reported a substantial increase in new work intakes. There were also reports of strengthening demand from clients based in Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East, Indian manufacturers experienced a robust increase in international sales during July.

The overall rate of expansion was marked and the second-strongest in over 13 years, the survey said. On the price front, buoyant demand also exerted pressure on prices. Input costs rose at one of the quickest rates in nearly two years, which contributed to the steepest increase in selling prices since October 2013.

SNIPPETS

India largest mkt for Meta AI usage

India has become the largest market for Meta AI usage, according to a senior Meta official. During Meta's Q2 earnings call, Chief Financial Officer Susan Li said the company is seeing good momentum with its longer-term engagement priorities, including generative AI and Threads (Meta's rival to Twitter, now X). Li added that people can use Meta AI in over 20 countries and eight languages.

ATF, commercial LPG prices hiked

Jet fuel, or ATF price Thursday was hiked 2 per cent and the rate of commercial LPG used by hotels and restaurants by ₹6.5 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price was hiked ₹1,827.34 per kilolitre, or 1.9 per cent, to ₹97,975.72 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is second straight monthly increase in jet fuel rates. Alongside, oil firms increased the price of commercial LPG by ₹6.5 to ₹1,652.50 per 19-kg cylinder. The increase follows four monthly price reductions, the last one being that of ₹30 per cylinder July 1.

Hero MotoCorp forays into Philippines

Hero MotoCorp Thursday said it has commenced operations in the Philippines. The strategic expansion marks a significant milestone in the company's efforts to strengthen its global presence, it said in a statement. Terrafirma Motors Corporation (TMC), a part of the Columbian Group of Companies, one of the leading automotive groups in the Philippines, will serve as the exclusive assembler and distributor of the company's products and services, it added.

Nasscom bats for Infosys

Apex IT association Nasscom Thursday came out in support of Infosys -- which is facing a ₹32,403 crore GST notice, saying that the move reflected a lack of understanding of the industry's operating model. Flaggging the issue of the applicability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism (RCM), Nasscom rued that multiple companies are facing avoidable litigation, uncertainty, and concerns from investors and customers. "Recent media reports of a GST demand of over ₹320 billion (Rs 32,403 crore) reflects a lack of understanding of the industry's operating model," Nasscom said in a statement, without naming Infosys.

QR-Code payments: Paris yet to decode UPI method

UPI WAS INTRODUCED IN PARIS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR WITH AN AIM TO ALLOW INDIANS TO BUY TICKETS TO VISIT THE ICONIC EIFFEL TOWER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 1: "I don't know what you are talking about," says the information desk official at the Eiffel Tower, the iconic engineering marvel, when asked how to buy a ticket using UPI or the QR-code mode of payment.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was introduced in Paris in February this year with an aim to allow Indians to buy tickets to visit the iconic tower without having to worry about currency exchange rates or carrying large amounts of foreign currency.

The Eiffel Tower was the first merchant to offer UPI payments in France, and the service was planned to be extended to other merchants in the tourism and retail space across the country and Europe.

However, the ticket counters at one of the most significant

landmarks in Paris, have neither arrangements nor information about whether a Quick Response (QR) code is even an option to buy a ticket.

Hisham Mohammed, who works as a guide at the Eiffel Tower, was pretty excited when he learned that such an option was being made for the Indians.

"Well, it was only in the news. No one knows here about the UPI option," Hisham, who hails from Hyderabad, told PTI as he waited for his next guided tour of the monument.

"I came running the next day after the announcement but found nothing here. No one had a clue then and no one knows even now."

"We were glad to hear that this was happening. UPI is convenient, but it was all in the news, nothing on the ground," he said.

The official website for on-line ticket booking offers credit



and debit cards as options for payment. The guided summit tour through the elevator is priced at Euro 64.

With a record 14.04 billion transactions in India in the month of May - up from 920 million in 2017-18 - UPI's first full of operations, UPI has gone global and is now available across seven countries - UAE, Nepal, Singapore, Bhutan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Thailand where Indian can transact at almost 3

million merchant establishments. The numbers at Paris currently are insignificant compared to the more than 250 million local QR code points.

EUROPE YET TO WARM-UP TO QR-CODE

India accepted and adapted to this mode of payment quickly when UPI (Unified Payment Interface) was launched in 2016. However, you would not find a single restaurant or store in

It's a very cultural thing. We, the French people, love our cards and cash. Our relationship with money is such that we need to have something (cash) in our hands, feel it

BETTINA CAMILLERI | EUROSPOORT WORKER

We were glad to hear that this was happening. UPI is convenient, but it was all in the news, nothing on the ground

HISHAM MOHAMMED | EIFFEL TOWER GUIDE

Porte Maffiot or Champ-Elysees or far-away NorthSouth Paris Arenas where merchants accept this mode of payment.

The QR codes, largely, in Europe are dynamic and thus the URL encoded in them redirects to a second URL that can be changed on demand, even after a code is printed. Static QR codes can't be changed in that way.

Bettina Camilleri, who works with Eurosport, says dematerialising money is something hard to accept in South Europe, especially for the generation that

has grown up. People in their late 40s or 50s are not inclined to use smartphones for payments.

"It's a very cultural thing. We, the French people, love our cards and cash. Our relationship with money is such that we need to have something (cash) in our hands, feel it," she said.

"It's probably because we don't feel like it's a secured payment. I think it's coming, but we're going to need some time to get used to it."

Bettina's logic is not without reason.



UNPRECEDENTED FEAT

FIRST TIME IN 124 YEARS: SHOOTERS EARN INDIA NEVER-SEEN-BEFORE OLYMPICS MILESTONE

Today the heartbeat was on the higher side. I just tried to control my breathing and did not try anything different. Everyone is more or less the same at this level

SWARNIL SINGH

Accolades pour in for Swapnil

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the country's sports fraternity in hailing Swapnil Kusale after the Indian shooter claimed a landmark bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Paris Olympics Thursday.

Kusale kept his composure to stage a remarkable comeback and help the country claim its first ever Olympic medal in the event. He shot an aggregate of 451.4 in the eight-shooter final to finish third after being placed sixth at one stage.

"Heartiest congratulations to Swapnil Kusale for winning bronze medal at Paris Olympics! He has become the first Indian to win a medal in Men's 50m rifle 3 positions category," President Murmu tweeted. "It is for the first time that India has won three medals in shooting events in the same Olympic Games. The entire shooting contingent has done India proud. I extend my best wishes to all our players for the upcoming events. I wish Swapnil Kusale wins more laurels in the future," she added. His medal took the country's overall tally to three, all bronze, at the Paris Games. PM Modi wrote on X:

"Exceptional performance by Swapnil Kusale! Congrats to him for winning the Bronze medal in the Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions at the #ParisOlympics2024. His performance is special because he's shown great resilience and skills. He is also the first Indian athlete to win a medal in this category. Every Indian is filled with happiness."

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also praised the 28-year-old shooter for his historic achievement. "Congratulations to Swapnil Kusale for winning a historic BRONZE medal in the Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions at the #ParisOlympics2024! The first Indian to win a medal in #Olympics in this event — your achievement makes us incredibly proud!" Mandaviya tweeted.

Olympic medallist rifle shooter Gagan Narang, who is the chef de mission of the Indian contingent for the Paris Games, said Kusale's bronze is "worth more than gold" given that it's the country's first Olympic medal in prone events. India's first individual Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra was "absolutely thrilled" after Kusale's podium finish in Chateauroux.

"Absolutely thrilled for Swapnil's epic bronze medal win in shooting at the Paris Olympics! Your hard work, grit, and passion have truly paid off. Competing at the highest level and coming away with a medal in shooting is a testament to your dedication and talent," Bindra tweeted. Fielding a 21-member shooting contingent in Paris, the country has already won three bronze medals.

Sen sails through

Shuttler enters men's singles quarterfinals against beating compatriot Prannoy ending his Olympics journey



Paris: Lakshya Sen registered a comfortable straight-game win over compatriot HS Prannoy to become only the third male player ever from the country to reach the quarterfinals of the Olympics badminton competition here Thursday.

The 22-year-old from Almora, a reigning Commonwealth Games champion and a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, looked in complete control as he notched up a 21-12 21-6 win over world no 13 Prannoy in a 39-minute pre-quarterfinal clash.

Sen joined Parupalli Kashyap and Kidambi Srikanth, who had reached the quarterfinals in the London and Rio edition of the Olympic Games in 2012 and 2016 respectively. Currently ranked 22, Sen will face 12th seed Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the quarterfinals.

"I think having tough matches gives you confidence. I am now ready to go deep into the tournament. It will be a tricky match against Chou. I have to go and recover well and give my 100%," Sen said after the match. Sen was steady in his defense and mixed his attack well, while Prannoy, who played a three-game match last evening, looked tired and didn't show much resistance during the 39-minute contest.

It was the end of campaign for Prannoy, who had recovered from a bout of Chikungunya to

DREAM DUO LOSES



Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's dreams of securing a maiden Olympic medal came crashing down after a heartbreaking three-game loss to Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in the men's doubles quarterfinals at the Paris Games here Thursday. One of the favourites for the gold medal, Satwik and Chirag, the reigning Asian Games champions and Commonwealth Games winners, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 21-13 14-21 16-21 in a hard-fought quarterfinal against the world number 3 Malaysians. Expectations were high from the two Indians given the pair's domination with four final appearances and two titles at the French Open and Thailand Open this year.

Sen was off to a good start, leading 7-4. He kept things under control as Prannoy seemed to struggle, played too defensively and was left to do the catch-up act. Sen closed out the opening game comfortably. The second game was a blur as Sen looked rock solid and quickly wrapped up the contest after leading all the way.

AGENCIES

Paris, August 1: It all started with Manu Bhaker clinching a bronze in the women's individual 10m air pistol final in the Paris Olympics Games 2024. The young pistol shooter opened India's account on the medals tally, before combining with Sarabjot Singh in the mixed team 10m air pistol event to bag another bronze.

On Day 6 of the Paris Games, Olympics debutant Swapnil Singh took the tally to three medals, bagging the country's first medal ever in the men's 50m Rifle 3-Positions final, a bronze. In the process, the shooters earned India a big first in the 2024 edition of the Olympic Games.

Kusale shot an aggregate of 451.4 in the eight-shooter final of men's 50m Rifle 3P event, to finish third after being placed sixth

at one stage of the event. The last time a 50m rifle shooter made it to the Olympic finals was in 2012 London when Joydeep Karmakar finished fourth in 50m rifle prone event. The event is no longer a part of the Olympic Games.

It is the first time ever in India's history of competing in the Olympic Games, which started in 1900, that a single sport has given the country three medals in a single edition. There have been occasions where India has won two medals in the same sport in a single edition of the Olympic Games, but never before has a sport given the nation three medals.

Even in shooting, which has been one of the most rewarding sports for India in the Olympic Games of the past, the best any Indian contingent has achieved is two medals - Gagan Narang and Vijay Kumar win-

ning a bronze and a silver, respectively, at the London Games in 2012.

In the 2020 Tokyo Games, India won two medals in boxing - Bajrang Punia's bronze in 65kg freestyle wrestling and Ravi Kumar Dahiya's silver in 57kg freestyle wrestling.

India still has more events to go in the Olympics shooting. There remain expectations of more medals in the sport, especially with Manu Bhaker who will next be competing in the women's 25m air pistol event.

SHARPSHOOTERS
It is the first time ever in India's history of competing in the Olympic Games that a single sport has given the country three medals in a single edition

- Manu clinched bronze in women's individual 10m air pistol
- Manu, Sarabjot Singh bagged bronze in mixed team 10m air pistol
- Debutant Swapnil wins bronze in men's 50m Rifle 3-Positions

PROBLEMS AT PARIS

Olympics village marred by thefts

Athletes have been victims of thefts at the Paris 2024 Olympic village and the incidents had been reported to the police, organisers said Thursday. The Kyodo news agency Monday reported that a Japanese rugby sevens player had his wedding ring, a necklace and cash stolen from his room at the village, which is situated just north of central Paris. Javier Mascherano, head coach of the Argentine Olympic soccer team, reported last week that some of his players were robbed before their first game last Wednesday. "Those incidents have been reported to the police," Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps told a press conference. A police station is located nearby but no law enforcement officers are actually in the village.

France foils 68 cyberattacks

French authorities have detected and foiled 68 cyberattacks linked to the Olympic Games since last week, Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said. Two of the attacks were directed at Olympic sites at Bercy and La Villette in the French capital last Thursday, he told reporters. "All these 68 cyberattacks, including the two cyberattacks that targeted Olympic sites, were detected in time and foiled," Attal said. He gave no details on the nature of the other attacks. This year, the French National Agency for Information Systems Security (ANSSI) said it had been training all the various entities involved in the protection from cyberattacks amid expectations that such attempts would increase during the Olympics.

CAMPAIGN ENDS

Archery: Men's singles challenge winds up

Indian archer Pravin Jadhav bowed out of the Paris Olympics after losing his individual men's recurve opening round clash in straight sets to Kao Wenchao of China Thursday. Jadhav lost 0-6 (28-29 29-30 27-28) in the round of 64. Even though Jadhav shot as many as four 10s through the course of the match, the Chinese archer managed to pip the Indian by a point in each of the three sets. With Jadhav's loss, India's campaign in the men's individual event ended as veteran Tarundeep Rai and Dhiraj Boomadevara lost their respective knockout match earlier this week. The seasoned Deepika Kumari and 18-year-old Bhajan Kaur still remain in contention in the women's individual event and will be in action in the pre-quarterfinals Saturday. The Indian men's and women's teams had made quarterfinal exits earlier in the tournament.

TT: Manika, Sreeja miss chances galore

Curtains fell on India's historic singles table tennis campaign at the Paris Olympics following Manika Batra's meek surrender against higher-ranked Japanese Miu Hirano and Sreeja Akula's fighting loss against world number one Yingshaw Sun on her bitter-sweet birthday, Wednesday. Never ever India had two singles players competing for quarterfinals berths but seasoned Manika and Sreeja showed that TT had potential to do better at the big stage by reaching the Round of 16. Both the players had chances to take games against their superior rivals but lacked consistency and finishing skill and eventually fell by the wayside. Manika had become the first Indian to progress to the pre-quarterfinals at the Olympic Games Monday and Sreeja, who turned 26 Wednesday, joined her senior colleague in the Round of 16 with a 4-2 win over Singapore's Jian Zeng. Sreeja could have made her 26th birthday even more memorable had she taken her chances on the second game in which she had five game points but lost six points in a row to concede the game, succumbing to the Chinese onslaught. Indian players will now compete in the team events.

Turkish shooter breaks internet

Chateauroux: Turkish pistol shooter Yusuf Dikec has gone viral on social media for his seemingly casual attitude while shooting his way to a silver medal at the 2024 Olympics. The most-shared images show Dikec shooting in a T-shirt with one hand in his pocket, a seemingly standard pair of glasses and an impassive look on his face. He's been likened to a regular guy competing at the Olympics, or even a hitman. The 51-year-old is no newcomer, though. He's competed at every Summer Olympics since 2008. Some memes contrast Dikec with his Serbian opponent Damir Mikec, who was wearing a blinder over one eye, a lens over the other and a large pair of ear defenders. Dikec and Seval Ilayda Tarhan won the silver medal in mixed team 10-meter air pistol shooting Tuesday. It was Turkey's first-ever medal in Olympic shooting. Mikec and Zorana Arunovic won gold for Serbia. The bronze went to India's Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh.

Nikhat knocked out of competition

Paris: In one of the biggest upsets of the Olympic Games boxing competition, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg) bowed out after a 0-5 loss to Asian Games gold medallist Wu Yu, completely outmanoeuvred by the Chinese in a stunningly lopsided bout here Thursday. Nikhat was unseeded for the Games as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which is holding the boxing competition, doesn't recognise the International Boxing Association (IBA), which conducts the world championship. One of India's strongest medal contenders, she had been tasked to navigate a nightmarish draw. "Sorry guys," an emotional Nikhat said after the loss. "It was a learning experience for me. I had not played her before. She was faster. I will analyse this bout once I am home. I was unseeded and this wasn't my first match, she was playing her first, it also impacts. It was an intense bout," she added. "I had worked hard, prepared myself physically and mentally for this Olympics. I will come back strong." Meeting each other for the first time, Nikhat was put under pressure by the top-seeded reigning flyweight (52kg) world champion in the opening round itself. Despite this loss, Nikhat remains one of the most con-

SINDHU'S SHOCK ELIMINATION

Paris: PV Sindhu's hopes of winning a third Olympic medal lay in tatters as she made a shock exit from the Paris Games with a straight-game loss against China's world number nine He Bingjiao in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals here Thursday. The 29-year-old from Hyderabad failed to mount a consistent attack and was outpaced 21-19 21-14 by Bingjiao in a 56-minute round of 16 clash, which was a rematch of the Tokyo Olympic bronze medal play-off. Sindhu, who won the silver and bronze medal at the Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo editions, had topped the group to qualify for the knockout stage here. Bingjiao produced an attacking masterclass with especially her lethal forehand troubling Sindhu. The Chinese landed

hard and accurate smashes to gather points at will, while Sindhu was guilty of going short with her lifts. The Indian couldn't play at a high pace to counter her opponent's attack and after an intense opening game, she faded into oblivion as Bingjiao exacted revenge for the Tokyo defeat.

SHOCKING LOSS

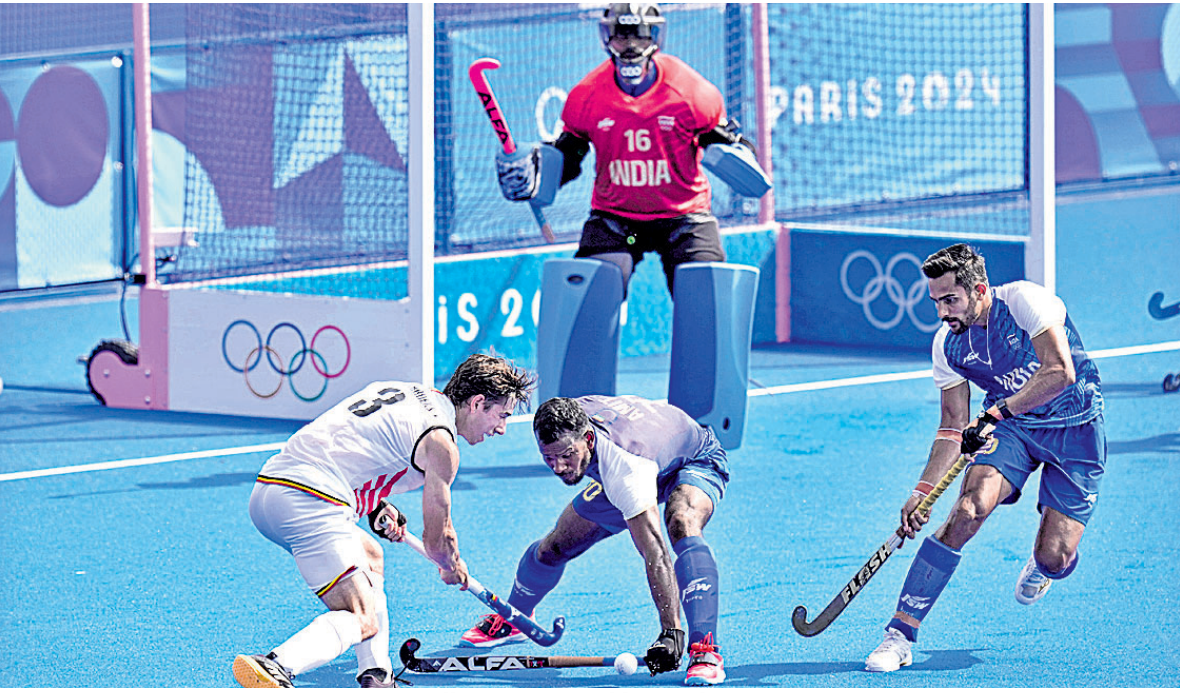
Nikhat thus becomes the fourth boxer out of the six-member Indian contingent to get knocked out of the Paris Games. Former world number one Amit Panghal (51kg), Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Asian Games bronze winner Preeti Pawar (54kg) have all crashed out from the competition. Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and worlds bronze winner Nishant Dev (71kg) are one win away from confirming medals.

Sorry guys, I could not win a medal for the country. I have made a lot of sacrifices to reach here. I had prepared myself well mentally and physically for this Olympics

NIKHAT ZAREEN

Hockey's win run ends

Olympics India suffer first defeat in hockey, lose 1-2 to reigning champions Belgium



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 1: The Indian hockey team suffered its first loss of the Olympic Games here, going down 1-2 to defending champions Belgium after letting slip a one goal lead in a pool match here Thursday.

Abhishek gave India the lead in the 18th minute before Belgium made a strong comeback after half-time to score through Thibeau Stockbroeckx (33rd) and John-John Dohmen (44th) to seal the win and remain unbeaten in the tournament so far.

Both India and Belgium have already qualified for the quarterfinals from Pool B.

India had defeated New Zealand 3-2 before drawing 1-1 against Argentina. In their last match, the Harmanpreet-led side beat Ireland 2-0. They will next play Australia in their final pool match Friday. The Indians were by far the better side on display, at least in the first two quarters as they dominated the possession and created more chances than the Red Lions.

India are second in Pool B standings right now behind Belgium but both teams have qualified for the quarterfinals. The team will next face Australia Friday

The Indian defence did well to start with and didn't allow the Belgian forwards to create any real scoring chances and thwarted two penalty corner opportunities.

Veteran India custodian PR Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, stood like a rock in front of the goal. However, it was Belgium which had the first chance in the form of a penalty corner in the eighth minute but Sreejesh made a terrific save to deny Alexander Hendrickx. The Indians upped the game as time progressed and it was Abhishek who handed his side the lead in the 18th minute.

Abhishek stole a ball from Arthur de Sloover close to the D and entered

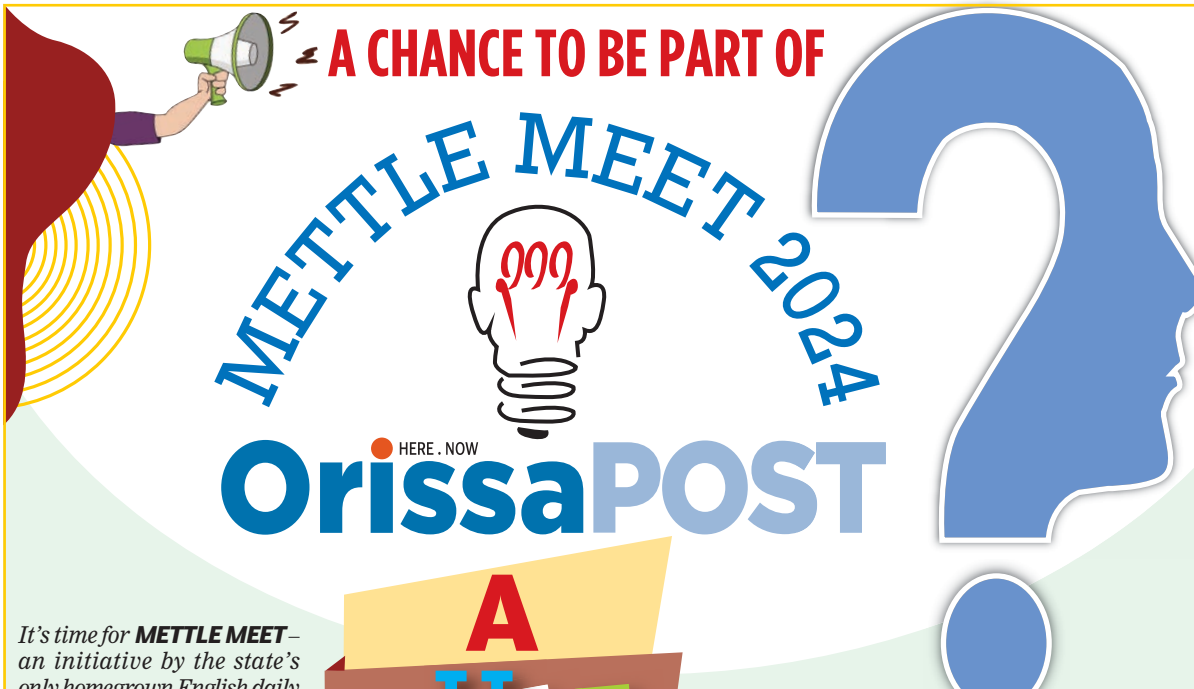
the circle. He then made a fine turn to outwit the Belgian defence and slap his shot home to hand India the lead.

Belgium secured another penalty corner in the 23rd minute but once again Sreejesh was up to the task to deny Hendrickx.

Two minutes later, India secured their first penalty corner but Amit Rohidas fumbled the chance with skipper Harmanpreet Singh not on the pitch.

Trailing by a goal, the Belgians came all out all guns blazing after the change of ends and pressed hard on the Indian defence which wilted under pressure three minutes after the restart. Florent van Aubel created the opportunity from left flank and Stockbroeckx was at the right place at the right time to deflect the pass inside the goal to draw level in the 33rd minute.

The Belgians secured three back-to-back penalty corners. Sreejesh denied Hendrickx on two occasions but Dohmen scored from a rebound during a goal mouth melee on the third attempt to hand Belgium the lead.



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

A QUIZ Extravaganza

RULES & REGULATIONS

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

As a reader of **Orissa POST**, this is a great chance for you to be part of the exciting **Grand Finale** if you can predict the correct answer. There will be one question on each day for you to answer till July 31, 2024. Every day there will be two winners. If there are more than two correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of lots. All the winners will be invited for the **Grand Finale** which will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quizmaster **Ajay Poomia**. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S QUESTION

Sepoy became Jawan

Others who answered correctly are Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Shoumik Jena, Jaba Dasgupta, Debadatta Tripathy, KV Ramana, Sibananda Dash, Prithviraj Padhy, Akankshya Pradhan,

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



SASWAT SOURABH



ABHIJIT RAYCHAUDHURI

SHORT TAKES

Naqvi issues gag order

Karachi: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has advised his office and fellow colleagues to not issue any statements related to India's decision on sending its team for the ICC Champions Trophy early next year. According to information gathered by PTL, the PCB chief has adopted a policy for himself and other officials about not commenting on the issue and allowing the ICC to handle the matter. "That is why in recent days there is no comments or statement coming from either Naqvi or any other board official on what will happen if India doesn't send its team to Pakistan," one PCB insider said. He said Naqvi had directed all concerned officials to keep on making preparations for the Champions Trophy assuming India will be sending its team.

AC Milan beat Madrid

Chicago: Samuel Chukwueze scored in the 55th minute and AC Milan beat Real Madrid 1-0 Wednesday night at Soldier Field in an international friendly. Unmarked as he raced down the right side, Chukwueze left-footed Mattia Liberalli's pass behind goalkeeper Thibault Courtois from 8 yards out. "The result isn't that important, but winning in general is important," new Milan coach Paulo Fonseca said. "I'm really positive about tonight. It was our clear intention to dominate the game with the ball."

RAHUL OR PANT: INDIA'S BIG DILEMMA

GAMBHIR-LED INDIA EAGER TO SETTLE WICKETKEEPER-BATTER DEBATE IN ODIS AGAINST SL; KOHLI, ROHIT IN FOCUS ON RETURN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 1: The Gautam Gambhir-led Indian team management has an opportunity to decide who among KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be India's long-term first-choice wicketkeeper-batter in ODIs when the side takes on Sri Lanka in a three-match series beginning here Friday.

There will be clamour around the first sighting of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as well, after the recent T20 World Cup triumph.

But the think-tank will look to shut out that outside noise, focusing on sorting out the combination in a season that has some marquee one-day events including the Champions Trophy. In that context, the Rahul vs Pant conundrum is certain to get priority treatment in this series.

Rahul is the incumbent wicketkeeper-batter and has been assigned to that role by the previ-



ous set-up under Rahul Dravid since last year's Asia Cup, a tournament in which he made his comeback from a long injury-forced layoff.

Since then, Rahul has done full justice to his duty both in front and behind the wicket.

Since the continental showpiece last year, Rahul has made 834 runs from 21 matches at a fine average of 69.50 with two hundreds. Besides, Rahul also captained India in the ODI series against South Africa earlier this year.

As a stumper too, the 32-year-old has been pretty good.

“It's a tough call (wicketkeeper-batter between Rahul and Pant) to make. Both are quality players, and you know the abilities of both the players. They are match-winners in their own way. They have won a lot of games for us in the past

ROHIT SHARMA | SKIPPER, INDIA

But will Gambhir follow the same route since Pant is back in the reckoning?

Pant's return to India fold through a clutch of T20Is after that horrific accident in 2022 has been heartwarming but he has not set the field ablaze with his outings.

There have been encouraging

sparks during the last month or so. But is that enough to convince the powers that be to pick him ahead of Rahul?

If Gambhir and skipper Rohit decide to keep both Rahul and Pant in the 11, then they will have to think as to how to accommodate Shreyas Iyer, another formidable player in the 50-

over version.

In his last ODI outing, Iyer made a 52 against South Africa at Johannesburg, and his record in 2023 is also impressive - 846 runs from 20 matches at an average of 53 with three hundreds.

So, it could be a three-way tie between Rahul, Pant and Iyer for two batting slots because if India go ahead with all three of them, then they will have to play with five bowlers.

India might not want to walk that rigid path particularly with Hardik Pandya missing this series because of personal reasons.

Hence, India might just want to give a run to either Shivam Dube or Riyan Parag at No 6.

Teams: India: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Sri Lanka: Charith Asalanka (C), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Akila Dananjaya, Ehsan Malinga, Mohammed Shiraz, Asitha Fernando.

Olympics: India Schedule - Day 7

- Golf:** Men's Individual Finals (Round 2): Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar - 12.30 pm
- Shooting:** Women's 25m Pistol Qualification Precision: Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker - 12.30 pm
- Men's Skeet Qualification Day 1: Anantjeet Singh Naruka - 1.00 pm
- Archery:** Mixed Team (1/8 Eliminations): India (Dhiraj Bommadevara and Anika Bhakat) vs Indonesia - 1.19 pm
- Rowing:** Men's Single Sculls Finals (Final D): Balraj Panwar - 1.48 pm
- Judo:** Women's +78kg (Elimination round of 32): Tulika Mann vs Idalys Ortiz (Cuba) - 2.12 pm
- Sailing:** Women's Dinghy (Race 3): Nethra Kumanan - 3.45 pm
- Women's Dinghy (Race 4): Nethra Kumanan - 4.53 pm
- Men's Dinghy (Race 3): Vishnu Saravanan - 7.05 pm
- Men's Dinghy (Race 4): Vishnu Saravanan - 8.15 pm
- Hockey:** Men's Tournament (Group stage): India vs Australia - 4.45 pm
- Badminton:** Men's singles quarterfinals: Lakshya Sen vs Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei) -- 6:30pm
- Athletics:** Women's 5,000m (Heat 1): Ankita Dhyani - 9.40 pm
- Women's 5,000m (Heat 2): Parul Chaudhary - 10.06 pm
- Men's Shot Put (Qualification): Tajinderpal Singh Toor - 11.40 pm

LARGEST-EVER EDITION

Saudi lays out 2034 World Cup bid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dubai, August 1: Saudi Arabia, the only bidder for the 2034 World Cup, will host the 48-team tournament in fifteen stadiums across five cities, including eight in the capital, state media said Wednesday.

The announcement came days after the kingdom submitted its official bid to the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA).

Saudi Arabia plans to host "the largest-ever edition" of the tournament in a single country, according to the bid book, details of which were carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The bid book outlines five proposed host cities for the tour-



spectators and is set to host the opening and final matches of the tournament, SPA said.

As the only bidder, Saudi Arabia was anointed host of the 2034 World Cup last October by FIFA after gas-wealthy neighbour Qatar hosted the Middle East's first World Cup at an eye-watering cost of \$220 billion, including related infrastructure.

To host the 48-team World Cup, the kingdom needs 14 all-seater stadiums capable of holding at least 40,000 people.

By the time the World Cup kicks off, the desert country of 32 million will have hosted the 2027 Asian Cup and even the 2029 Asian Winter Games, a decision panned by environmentalists.

Mumbai, August 1: The IPL team owners were divided in their opinions on issues ranging from the mega auction to the impact substitute player rule when they met with the BCCI officials here Wednesday.

With the mega auction slated to be held ahead of the 18th edition of the T20 league next year, the BCCI had called for a meeting here at its headquarters to discuss the pointers and secretary Jay Shah confirmed the same after the meeting.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India on Wednesday organised a constructive dialogue with the owners of the 10 franchises on various subjects pertaining to the upcoming season of the IPL," he said in a release.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IPL teams divided over mega auction



"The franchise owners tabled feedback on player regulations and other commercial aspects, including central merchandising, licensing, and gaming. The BCCI will now take these recommendations to the IPL Governing

Council for further deliberation and evaluation before formulating the IPL player regulations," Shah added in the release.

Teams are not likely to be allowed to retain more than five players with one Right to Match

(RTM) card. The RTM card gives a franchise the opportunity to match the final bid of a player from their squad of the previous season.

The BCCI secretary later confirmed to the media that the board will be taking its decisions soon on all the points that were discussed.

Among the team owners or co-owners who attended the meeting were Shah Rukh Khan from Kolkata Knight Riders, Kavya Maran from Sunrisers Hyderabad, Ness Wadia from Punjab Kings, Sanjiv Goenka with his son Shashwat from Lucknow Super Giants, KK Grand and Parth Jindal from Delhi Capitals.

Wadia and SRK had a heated debate on the issue of whether to have a mega auction or not.