

Committed to craft
Sharvari Wagh says she is a director's actor and her priority has been to submit to the story

LEISURE | P2

Prisoner exchange
US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan return to the United States, hours after being freed from Russian detention

INTERNATIONAL | P9

Markets bleed
Sensex tanks 885 pts, Nifty retreats from 25K level as weak US data triggers global equity rout

BUSINESS | P10

Archers miss mark
Indian mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara come close to ending India's 36-year wait for Olympic medal in archery

SPORTS | P12



SUPERB SAVE: India's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh (16) in action during the Hockey Men's Pool B match between India and Australia at the 2024 Summer Olympics, at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, in Colombes, France, Friday as India register their first Olympic win against Australia in 52 years

State moots third party fire auditors

DEBASISH PANIGRAHI, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: As manpower crunch in the Fire Services department has been proving a major impediment in the regular safety audit of clinical and non-clinical establishments in the state, plans have been mooted for appointing third party auditors for the purpose.

Top sources in the state Fire Services department told **Orissa POST** that a proposal to this effect has already been submitted to the government and it is in the final stages of approval.

"We expect the proposal will come through during a Cabinet meeting soon," they said.

The need for the move arose, sources said, primarily on account of the fact that a large number of (almost over 5,000) clinical establishments, and double the number of other establishments, requiring mandatory fire safety audits in the state, remain unaudited. "We don't have the required manpower to carry out audits at such large number of establishments. In the absence of such exercise,



life and property at these establishments are vulnerable to hazards," the sources added.

As the Fire Services department was grappling with the issue, the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rules, 2009, came to the rescue. "We decided to adopt the practices followed in Maharashtra as a solution," a senior Fire official said requesting anonymity.

Elaborating, he said, the Maharashtra rules have provisions for appointment of third party auditors who will be empanelled by the Fire department to conduct audit at the establishments requiring fire audits in case they don't have in-house arrangements like keeping a fire safety supervisor.

"These third party auditors can be hired by the firms just like

they hire auditors to audit their accounts. This is because, annual fire safety audit is a mandatory license condition for all establishments," the official said.

The auditor should have a degree from the National Fire Service College in Nagpur to be considered eligible for such a job. "Otherwise, the candidate should possess a civil engineering, or an equivalent degree with experience in handling fire safety of an establishment," the official said of the auditors' minimum eligibility criteria.

Such a person would undergo training at the Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA), Bhubaneswar before being deemed fit for certification as fire safety auditor. "Only after getting a certificate from OFDRA, the candidate can apply for empanelment," the official said.

Once hired by an establishment, the third party auditor will be required to carry out the fire audit at mandated intervals and upload the report for verification, as and when required, the official added.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL

The 'creamy-layer concept' is acceptable as long as it doesn't apply to our politicians and our families

MHA nod for Khurania's repatriation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Friday approved IPS officer YB Khurania's repatriation to the state with immediate effect. Khurania was previously posted as Special DG, BSF, Western



Command. Sources said the 1990-batch Odisha cadre officer is likely to become the next Odisha Director General of Police (DGP). In Odisha, he had earlier served as the twin city Police Commissioner and the SP of Nayagarh, Jajpur, Rourkela, Mayurbhanj and Ganjam.

'SEN'SATIONAL SHOW

Lakshya becomes first Indian shuttler to enter Olympic semifinals

Paris, August 2: Lakshya Sen inched closer to a maiden Olympic medal after becoming the first Indian male shuttler to advance to the semifinals with a thrilling three-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen at the Paris Games here Friday.

The 22-year-old from Almora, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, combined pace with precision and held his nerve during key moments to emerge 19-21 21-15 21-12 winner against world number 11 Chou, a 2022 World Championships



bronze medallist in an intense quarterfinal battle. Sen, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, will face the winner of the match between 2021 World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the last four Women's singles play-

Manu on cusp of hat-trick
Chateauroux: Indian shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event, the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final.

ers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal are the only Indians to have crossed the quarterfinal stage in Olympics. In men's singles, Parupalli Kashyap and Kidambi Srikanth had reached the quarterfinals in 2012 London and 2016 Rio editions respectively.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	80981.95 ↓ 885.60
NIFTY	24717.70 ↓ 293.20
DOLLAR	83.80 ↑ ₹0.07
EURO	91.49 ↑ ₹1.14
GOLD	₹70,300 ↑ ₹646
SILVER	₹82,299 ↓ ₹295

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.0°C	30.6°C
Min Temp	25.5°C	23.8°C
Humidity	95%	94%
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

HP cloudburst toll up by 8

Shimla: Rescue operations were underway Friday to trace about 45 people missing following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, officials said. With the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll due to the flash floods in Nirmand, Sainj and Malana in Kullu, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision has increased to eight.

Diarrhoea claims 2 lives

Berhampur: At least two persons died and 28 others fell sick due to a suspected diarrhoea outbreak in Ganjam district, officials said Friday. A medical team from Berhampur was sent to Adapada in Sanakhemundi block to provide treatment to the affected people, they said. Consumption of water from wells was said to be the cause of the outbreak.

Study links El Nino to cholera outbreak

New Delhi, August 2: An El Nino event may have helped create the environment conducive for spread of cholera by driving climate extremes such as unusual temperatures and rainfall, according to a new study that analysed strains circulating during the early 20th-century pandemic in India.

Researchers found that the environment could have helped in creating and spreading a new strain of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, first discovered in 1884 by German microbiologist Robert Koch, that caused the water-borne disease affecting the small intestine.

The role of environment in spreading cholera has been debated for the last two centuries, according to the team of researchers, including those at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain.

The cholera pandemic during 1899-1923 was the sixth since the first in 1817, and documented to have been especially lethal in India, Arabia and northern Africa. In 1900, an unprecedented 700,000 deaths were reported from



provinces across India, which was then under the British rule.

In this study, published in the journal *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, the researchers analysed historical data of prevailing climate conditions and cholera deaths across various regions in India. Their analysis revealed that the patterns in cholera deaths coincided with the unusual seasonal temperatures and rainfall driven by the El Nino event of 1904-1907.

The researchers correlated the timing of these unusual weather events with the development of a new invasive strain, suggested by a "very steep rise in the case fatality (that) was apparent from the harbour population in

the capital Calcutta."

Additionally, the team also analysed past climate conditions and cholera data for the ongoing 'El Tor' pandemic, which began in 1961.

The authors found that the climate conditions in the past bear similarities to strong El Nino events that have been linked with cholera strain changes - new strains replacing predominant ones - during the ongoing seventh pandemic. Each year, there are about 13-40 lakh cases and 21,000 to 1.4 lakh deaths around the world due to the bacterial disease, according to the World Health Organisation.

"Our results support a role of climate acting as a major driver of the 1904-07 anomalous cholera episode, which would have facilitated the establishment of the novel strain," the authors wrote.

They further examined the possibilities of new cholera strains emerging aided by a warmer climate, using models. The authors found that climate extremes, driven by global warming, could boost the chances of new strains of cholera to emerge through the end of the current century.

OrissaPOST PRESENTS

Grand Finale
4TH August

Reviving Quizzing
METTLE MEET 2024
A Quiz Extravaganza

PRELIMS TODAY

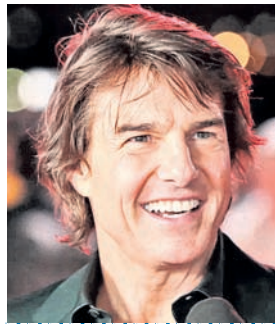
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leisure



CRUISE TO HELP CLOSE PARIS OLYMPICS WITH EPIC STUNT

Hollywood actor Tom Cruise will play a major role in the Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony later this month. The *Mission: Impossible* actor has already pre-recorded part of the visual spectacular.

KENDALL: I DON'T LET A LOT OF PEOPLE INTO MY LIFE

Model Kendall Jenner has revealed that she is very selective about who she allows into her life. "I don't really let a lot of people in -- especially now. But I never really have since I was young" Kendall shared on Emma Chamberlain's *Anything Goes* podcast.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today, you may want to express your artistic streak. Hence, you may either decide to paint the walls of your house in vibrant colours, or touch up some old unused furniture in art deco style. You may even get nostalgic about an old matchbox collection and decide to restore it. Ganesh encourages all such fulfilling activity.

TAURUS
A good day for money and love (you need more?). A quality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win yourself hearts, smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leader in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
The first half of the day should see you fresh and rosy with enthusiasm. You will be able to channel your energies in the right direction today. You will be able to pursue projects which really interest you. You will likely spend your lunch time in the company of friends and family. Overall, a productive and satisfying day awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The health of a kin may cause anxiety, says Ganesh. Your lack of enthusiasm will influence you on family matters. So you will have to focus on family members. New ties and contacts are in the offing. Overall, a hectic and profit-able day.

LEO
You will be worried about financial matters today and will attempt to organise your monetary transactions intelligently. You will need to change your spending habits, both at work and at home. You should put off controversial discussions with your family members for some other opportune time, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will share your thoughts and ideas with other people. You could develop a new outlook on life, says Ganesh. Don't miss any chance to make your near and dear ones feel that they are special in your life. Ganesh foretells that you will take the advice of your close friends on professional and moral matters.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you shall find your life more meaningful and fulfilling today because you will be able to indulge the artistic streak in your personality. In the evening, you may go out shopping, possibly for buying new things for your home. On the whole, an exciting day awaits you today.

SCORPIO
Suddenly, you may become health conscious. According to Ganesh, today's resolution would be to eat healthy and live a healthy life. A regular exercise regime would top the list of daily activities. Today, you realise the true meaning of the adage, 'work is worship'.

SAGITTARIUS
The day does not begin on a good note, says Ganesh. Certain circumstances at work may prove you weak. You are likely to come across hurdles in your work during the later half of the day.

CAPRICORN
You are very close to your family members and they will lend a helping hand whenever you need them. They will help you climb the ladder of success and making the upward movement more comfortable. Happiness will come to you, however, you may have to pay a price for it.

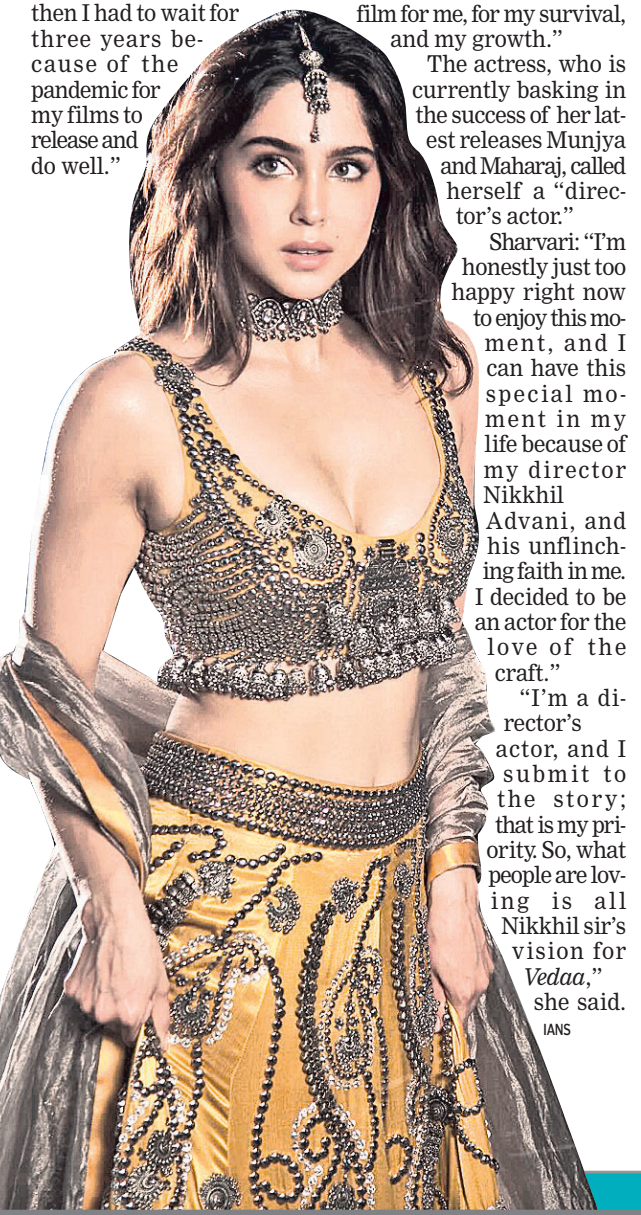
AQUARIUS
You have put your family life on the back burner, but now it is high time you pay attention to it. Make sincere efforts to win the affection and respect of your family members, advises Ganesh. Your honesty will not go unnoticed and you'll again feel the warmth of their hearts.

PISCES
You will need to enlist the cooperation of your colleagues while chalking out strategies at the workplace today, if you desire to make substantial progress, says Ganesh. The good news is that your efforts are likely to fructify.

Sharvari calls herself a director's actor

Mumbai: Actress Sharvari has spoken about why her upcoming film *Vedaa* is important for her and her survival. The actress said: "I hope *Vedaa* becomes a huge success for us all. I'm very greedy. I want all my films to be hits! I came into this industry, my first film didn't do well, and then I had to wait for three years because of the pandemic for my films to release and do well."

Sharvari said that she is "hugely" thankful to filmmaker Nikkhil Advani for his faith and support in giving her such an important film and a role like *Vedaa*. "When just a couple of people were backing me in the industry, it is a debt I will never be able to repay. *Vedaa* is a very important film for me, for my survival, and my growth." The actress, who is currently basking in the success of her latest releases *Munjya* and *Maharaj*, called herself a "director's actor."



CAPTIVATING SHOW: Models walk the ramp at the annual fashion show Navyata 2024, organised by fashion and Interior design institute NIFD Global Bhubaneswar at a city hotel Friday. Actress Sanjeeda Shaikh and fashion designer Ashley Rebello joined the event as main attraction
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Ishaan gets philosophical

Mumbai: Actor Ishaan Khatter shared an inspirational quote from former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Friday, encouraging people to persevere in their lives.

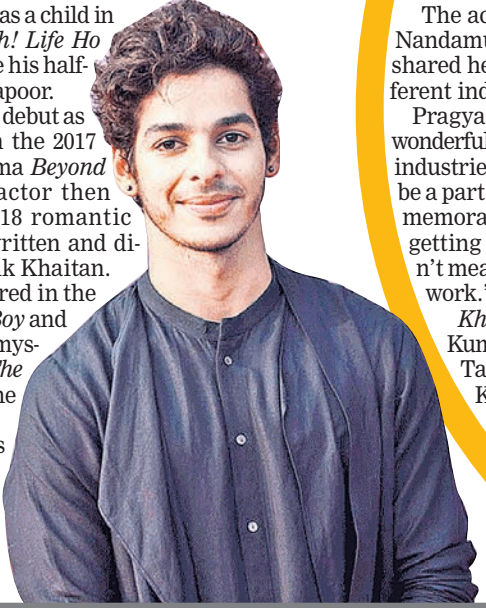
Taking to Instagram Stories, Ishaan, who has 1.8 million followers, posted a picture of a roadside wall with Kalam's quote written in Hindi: "Aage badhna hai to behre ban jao, Kuch logo ko chodhkar baaki sab manobal giraane waale hi hote hain -- Dr Abdul Kalam (If you want to move forward, become deaf; except for a few people, the rest are there to demoralize you).

The 28-year-old actor, son of actors Rajesh Khattar and Neelima Azeem, made his first screen appearance as a child in the 2005 film *Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!* alongside his half-brother Shahid Kapoor.

Ishaan made his debut as a leading actor in the 2017 Majid Majidi drama *Beyond the Clouds*. The actor then starred in the 2018 romantic drama *Dhadak*, written and directed by Shashank Khaitan.

He has also starred in the series *A Suitable Boy* and has the upcoming mystery drama series *The Perfect Couple* in the pipeline.

The series stars Nicole Kidman, Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning, and Eve Hewson.



'I've always heard good rumours about myself'

Mumbai: Actress Pragya Jaiswal, who is known for her work in Telugu cinema and who is set to make her Bollywood debut with the film *Khel Khel Mein*, shared that she has always heard positive rumours about herself and expressed her hope that these rumours are true.

During the trailer launch event in Mumbai Friday, Pragya was asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home.

Pragya replied: "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are indeed true."

The actress, who is also collaborating with Nandamuri Balakrishna for the film *NBK 109*, shared her experience of working across different industries.

Pragya said: "Both of these experiences are wonderful. I am grateful to work in two different industries and languages. I am only striving to be a part of good films, good stories, and play memorable characters. I am happy that I am getting these opportunities. Language doesn't mean much to me. I just want to do good work."



FUN post

PEANUTS



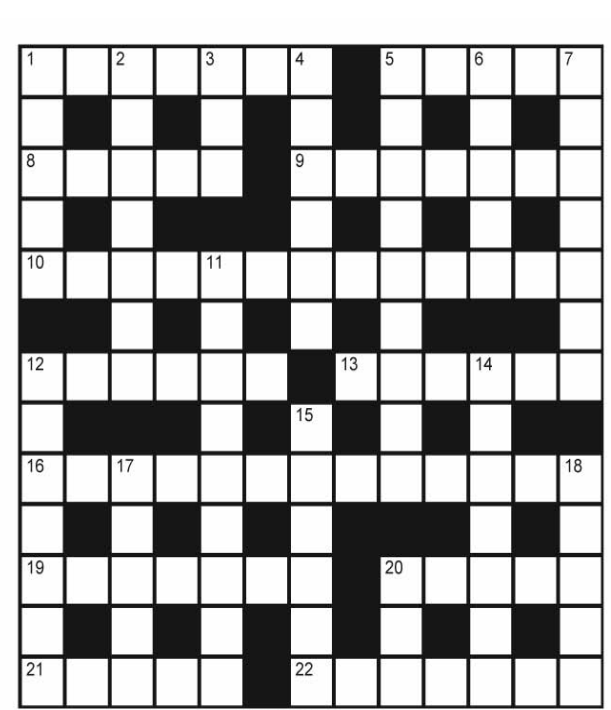
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



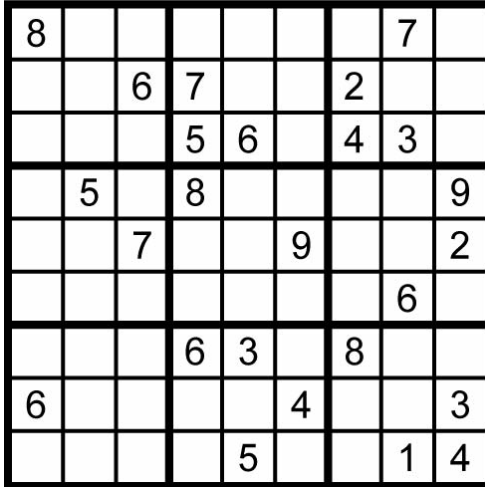
CROSSWORD



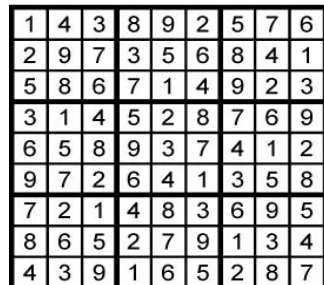
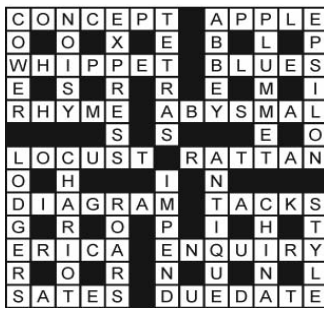
- Across**
1 Restricted
5 Abruzzie
8 Luxurious
9 Nominal
10 Dragonfly (7,6)
12 Keep mum (4,2)
13 Weapons of old
16 Music genre (5-8)
- 19** Despoil
20 Basket material
21 Neptune's realm
22 Teacher's admonishment
- Down**
1 Seething
2 Sub-Saharan scourge
3 Darjeeling or oolong
- 4 Harm
5 Pub owner
6 Drew a bead on
7 Complains
11 Herbivorous bipedal dinosaur
12 Rare bog orchid
14 Public sale
15 Common sense
17 Brownish gray
18 Hospital figure
20 Salad topper

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



Artistes of Bhubaneswar-based drama troupe Sanchari perform Odia play 'Nishaba' during Natyadhara programme of Culture department at Bhanja Kala Mandap in City, Friday

downtown

BJD holds meet to keep flocks together

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 2: A day after senior BJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta joining the ruling BJP, the regional party Friday held a meeting apparently to keep its flocks together.

Senior BJD leader Arabinda Dhali claimed that more BJD leaders will switch sides.

Mohanta quit her party Wednesday, hours after she resigned as a Rajya Sabha MP.

She joined the saffron party Thursday.

The BJP came to power in the state in June defeating the BJD which ruled Odisha for 24 years in a row.

BJD MP Sulata Deo, however, dismissed the possibility, claiming that the

party's eight MPs in the Upper House of Parliament are together.

"There has been horse trading in the Mamata Mohanta case. But, there cannot be leader trading from BJD. All our leaders are solidly with (party president) Naveen Patnaik," Deo, a Rajya Sabha MP said in a video message. BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra also claimed that the BJD MPs in Rajya Sabha are committed to their party and the leader.

After attending a meeting of grass root level leaders of Mayurbhanj district, senior leader and former MLA Uma Samantray said that one MP has changed her affiliation due to 'allurement and conspiracy'. Mohanta's resignation from the BJD and Rajya Sabha will have

no impact on the party, Samantray claimed.

"People of Odisha regret having voted Naveen Patnaik out of power and they also express gratitude to him for all the good works he has done for the state," he said. On the other hand, Arabinda Dhali alleged that resentment is brewing within BJD.

"A regional party degenerates once its founder becomes sick or anything else happens... The BJP is a national party and it will survive all odds," he told reporters here.

Meanwhile, the BJD women's wing held a rally at Baripada, the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj district, where they burnt effigies of Mohanta accusing her of betraying

her Kudumi community and people of Odisha, particularly the women. Biju Mahila Janata Dal state general secretary Sabita Behera, who led the women rally at Baripada said, "Naveen Babu had sent Mohanta from 'Palli' (village) to Delhi as she hailed from Kudumi community and a woman as well. However, she has betrayed all of us. The people will teach her a lesson."

On Thursday, a large number of women belonging to Kudumi community had staged a similar protest rally at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district where they too burnt an effigy of Mohanta.

Sources in the BJD also said that the party is now closely watching the political developments after Mohanta joined the BJP.

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FOR A BIG CATCH: A fisherman casts his net in Kuakhai river in Bhubaneswar, Friday. The river has been flooded following release of water from Hirakud dam

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Man held for harassing minor

Bhubaneswar: The Jatni police Friday arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly harassing a minor. Police said it was a case of one-sided love affair. Jatni IIC Soumyakant Baliarsingh identified the accused as Manoj Kumar Das, a resident of Ranipur village. Since the past few days, Manoj had been stalking the minor girl when she would return home from her school. On June 26 Manoj forcibly stopped her when she was on her way to school and pressurized her to accept his overtures, Baliarsingh said adding, "He even offered her chocolates." The victim finally narrated Manoj's advances before her parents. Baliarsingh said Manoj promised to mend his ways when the victim's parents confronted him. However, Manoj allegedly stopped the minor while she was returning from school June 29 and forced her to reciprocate her love for him. Following this, the minor's parents lodged an FIR with the Jatni police which booked Manoj under IPC Sections 341, 354 along with Section 8 of POCSO Act. He was arrested subsequently.

42.82L MGNREGS job cards deleted in Odisha

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: As many as 42,82,945 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) job cards from Odisha were among the 4,43,04,661 that have been deleted since 2019-20 fiscal, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan told the Rajya Sabha, Friday.

"Verification of job cards is a regular exercise conducted by the

states/Union Territories. Job cards can be cancelled/deleted after due verification only if it is a fake job card (incorrect job card); duplicate job card; households not willing to work; family shifted from gram panchayat permanently; and single person in job card and that person has expired," Paswan said.

Of the total, 22,24,982 job cards were deleted in 2024-25 till July 30 this year. The minister said 1,02,71,048 job cards were deleted in 2023-24, 2,25,38,538 in 2022-23 and 50,39,649 in 2021-22. Job card

deletions stood at 27,97,013 in 2020-21 and 14,33,431 in 2019-20.

Among the states, 99,26,063 job cards were deleted in Bihar; 91,42,876 in Uttar Pradesh, 42,82,945 in Odisha, 24,05,859 in West Bengal, 37,74,160 in Madhya Pradesh, 35,54,193 in Andhra Pradesh and 17,93,357 in Jharkhand since 2019-20.

According to the ministry website, 14.23 crore job cards have been issued under MGNREGS, covering 24.77 crore workers. Of these, 9.1 crore job cards are active, covering 13.11 crore workers.

Odisha sees 24.98% growth in July State GST collection

16.01% growth: Odisha registered a Gross GST collection of ₹4,925.02cr during July 2024 against ₹4,245.40cr collected during July 2023

18.15% rise: Collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha during July 2024 stands at ₹3,209.66cr against ₹2,716.52cr collected during July 2023



4.44% growth: 21.02L waybills have been generated in July 2024 against 20.13L in July 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Odisha has recorded a collection of ₹2,035.18 crore under State GST (OGST + IGST settlement) during July 2024 against ₹1,628.43 crore collected during the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 24.98 per cent, official sources said, Friday.

The progressive collection under State GST till July 2024 stands at ₹8,866.95 crore against ₹7,055.53 crore

collected till July 2023, recording a growth rate of 25.67 per cent, they said.

Odisha has also registered a Gross GST (CGST+IGST+OGST+Cess) collection of ₹4,925.02 crore during July 2024 against ₹4,245.40 crore collected during the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth rate of 16.01 per cent.

The progressive collection under Gross GST up to July 2024 stands at ₹20,841.33 crore against a collection

of ₹18,058.84 crore up to July 2023, recording a growth rate of 15.41 per cent, they pointed out.

"The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha, including OGST, IGST Settlement, VAT and Profession Tax, during July 2024 stands at ₹3,209.66 crore against ₹2,716.52 crore collected during July 2023—a growth rate of 18.15 per cent," they said, adding that the progressive growth rate up to July 2024 under all Acts stands at 19.60 per cent.

During July 2024, 21.02 lakh waybills have been generated against 20.13 lakh during July 2023, recording a growth of 4.44 per cent. It reflects the buoyancy in the state economy.

Out of the 21.02 lakh e-waybills generated during July 2024, about 12.10 lakh were intra-state, while 8.92 lakh were interstate in nature.

Vigilance unearths engineer's 85 plots

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Vigilance sleuths Friday uncovered assets worth crores of rupees owned by a high-ranking engineer, including 85 plots, a gold biscuit, and other valuables.

The case marks the third instance in a series involving senior officials with substantial landholdings. In the past weeks, the anti-corruption wing had detected 52 plots owned by an Excise official and 34 plots held by another senior engineer and his family.

The Vigilance Directorate, in a statement, said their sleuths uncovered a market complex, a five-storey building, and 85 plots—including one in West Bengal—along with 218 gram of gold, including a gold biscuit, and Rs 11.7 lakh in cash in possession of Pravas Kumar Pradhan, chief construction engineer of Anandpur Barrage Division in Salapada, Keonjhar. "The plots were purchased by Pradhan in different years in his name as well as in names of his family members. The total registered sale deed value comes to over Rs 2 crore," the statement added.

Nod for Upper Indravati HPSP



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has approved the detailed project report of two hydro pumped storage plants (HPSPs) – 600MW Upper Indravati in Odisha's Kalahandi district and 2,000MW Sharavathy in Karnataka – in record time, the Ministry of Power said Friday.

To fast-track the concurrence process of HPSPs in line with ease of doing business drive of the Government of India (GoI), the CEA has further revised the guidelines to simplify the process for preparation of detailed project reports of HPSPs and its concurrence, it said.

According to the statement, the 600MW Upper Indravati HPSP in Odisha is being developed by Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (a government of Odisha undertaking unit)

and 2,000MW Sharavathy HPSP in Karnataka by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (a unit of Karnataka government). "CEA has also received huge number of proposals of HPSPs (worth around 60GW), under Survey & Investigation, which are at various stages of preparation of detailed project report," it said.

After preparation of detailed project reports, these HPSPs will be uploaded by the developers on CEA website for concurrence under Section 8 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

According to the Ministry of Power, the government has prioritised the development of energy storage systems, particularly PSPs, to ensure the energy security of the country.

As per the National Electricity Plan (Generation), the installed capacity of energy storage systems including BESS is projected at 74GW by 2031-32.

Under the revised guidelines, the developers are allowed to submit the detailed project reports of PSPs online with completion of first 13 chapters. Some of the chapters have been dispensed with.

Now there is no mandatory requirement of approval of cost and financial chapters. These chapters need to be submitted only for reference and record to meet the requirement of the Act.

Our Vision

To actively contribute to the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate. In doing so, build a better, sustainable way of life for the weaker sections of society and raise the country's human development index.

Transforming Lives

UTKAL ALUMINA INTERNATIONAL LTD
Doraguda, Kucheipadar
Rayagada

Ayushman Bharat: Over 29K hospitals empanelled till June



Only one private and 11 public hospitals in the state have so far been empanelled under the Union government health insurance scheme

(SHAs). According to the data shared, in Delhi, 52 private and 11 public hospitals have been empanelled while in West Bengal it is 10 private and 27 public hospitals. Only one private and 11 public hospitals in Odisha have been empanelled under the scheme, Nadda said.

A total of 2,634 private and 2,948 public hospitals have been empanelled under the scheme in Uttar Pradesh, while 1,202 private and 996 public hospitals in Tamil Nadu, 1,027 private and 1,406 public hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, 868 private and 1,747 public hospitals in Gujarat and 564 private and 2,968 public hospitals have been empanelled under the scheme in Bihar. Beneficiaries can seek re-

dressal of their grievances by filing their grievances related to denial of treatment by the empanelled hospitals or regarding any other issue related to the scheme, using different media, including web-based portal Centralised Grievance Redressal Management System (CGRMS), Central and State call centres, letters to SHAs etc.

Beneficiaries can approach the State Health Agency for taking action against erring hospitals, including de-empanelment of the hospitals. All empanelled hospitals are available for providing treatment to the eligible beneficiaries, Nadda said in a written response to a question.

The activeness of a hospital is measured through the number of treatments provided by the hospital under the scheme, which is dynamic in nature.

Hospital empanelment is a continuous process, he said.

To increase the network of empanelled hospitals, a multi-pronged strategy is adopted, which includes reaching out to the hospitals and their associations, organising workshops to address their concerns and simplifying empanelment processes.

As a result of these efforts, there has been a constant increase in the network of empanelled hospitals under the scheme, the minister said.



BRIDGING GAPS: After a long wait, the overbridge at Hanspal Square, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, was thrown open to public Friday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

More rain likely due to low pressure area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state which is already encountering wet spells, is likely to receive more rainfall due to the formation of a low pressure area over adjoining Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday.

“Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area has formed over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining Jharkhand. Associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6km above the mean sea level. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and become more marked over the next 24 hours,” IMD said in its latest bulletin.



The state government had issued a warning of heavy rainfall at a few places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Bargarh districts over the next 24 hours

from 5.30am Friday. It said widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning strikes is also likely over the next five days.

SRC Satyabrata Sahoo has asked the district Collectors to remain prepared for any eventuality that may arise due to heavy rainfall

However, the intensity of rainfall will decline from Saturday as the system is gradually moving away from the state to the west-northwest direction, a senior official said.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahoo has asked the district Collectors to remain prepared for any eventuality that may arise due to heavy rainfall.

MSSRF chairperson meets CM, Deputy CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Ex-WHO chief scientist and chairperson of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Soumya Swaminathan, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan here, recently and discussed about introducing modern science and technology to improve the livelihood of farming communities.

Earlier, she also paid a courtesy call to Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at his office and invited Deo to attend a two-day international conference on hunger-free world, to be held at Chennai August 7 and 8.

At the meeting, Principal Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Director Prem Chandra Chaudhary and other senior officers were present.

Swaminathan proposed to develop the Biju Patnaik Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre at Jeypore in Koraput district into an international training centre for farmers.

374 heatstroke deaths till July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: A total 374 deaths due to heatstroke and 67,637 cases of suspected heatstroke were reported in the country between March 1 to July 27 Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel told the Lok Sabha Friday.

Uttar Pradesh was the worst-affected state with 52 deaths, followed by Bihar, which recorded 37, and Odisha and Delhi, which logged 26 and 25 deaths each, according to the data compiled under the National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), shared by the minister.

States and Union Territories are submitting data on heat stroke cases and deaths on the Integrated Health Information Portal since 2023, Patel said in a written reply.

The MoHFW issues advisories for states and UTs health departments to ensure various awareness, preparedness and response measures in early March every year.

This year, the advisory was issued February 29 with a communication from Secretary, Union Health Ministry, to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs outlining measures to strengthen the health sector preparedness and increasing community awareness, Patel said.

Acharya: Community radio promoting Odia traditions

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Community radio stations are taking forward the task of promoting folk music, tribal culture and Odia traditions these days like what the All India Radio (AIR) used to do for decades in the past, said Subodh Chandra Acharya, Secretary, Odia Language, Literature and Culture department.

Speaking at a seminar titled 'Role of Radio in Promotion of Culture' at Souchana Bhawan here Friday, Acharya said radio has been playing an important role in promoting the state's culture and language. The seminar was organised by social organisation 'Outreach'.



The event was aimed to highlight the often unrecognised contribution of radio in safeguarding and promoting the state's culture.

Speaking on the occasion, former director of AIR and Doordarshan, Shantanu Kumar Rath, said radio has been playing a significant role in preserving and promoting Odia language and culture since the

establishment of Odisha's first radio station in Cuttack in 1948.

The seminar emphasised the future role of community radio stations in promoting local culture in their respective regions.

The proceeding was chaired by the founder of Outreach, Subrat Kumar Pati, while the distinguished guests included Padmalochan Das, a former director of AIR and Doordarshan.

CM grievance hearing will resume Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will resume public grievance hearing at the CM Grievance Cell in Unit-V here, Monday, from 11am onwards.

The registration for the same will begin from 8am onwards, Monday; a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department stated.



CM's grievance cell remained shut due to the budget session of the Assembly.

Indian astronomers decode mystery of vampire star

THE VAMPIRE STAR, CALLED WOCS 9005, IN THE STAR CLUSTER M67, IS LOCATED IN THE CONSTELLATION CANCER

A team of astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the department of Science and Technology, made a groundbreaking discovery of a vampire star in the star cluster M67 using data from the ultra violet imaging telescope, on board AstroSat, India's first dedicated space observatory.

M67 is a collection of over 500 stars that are loosely gravita-

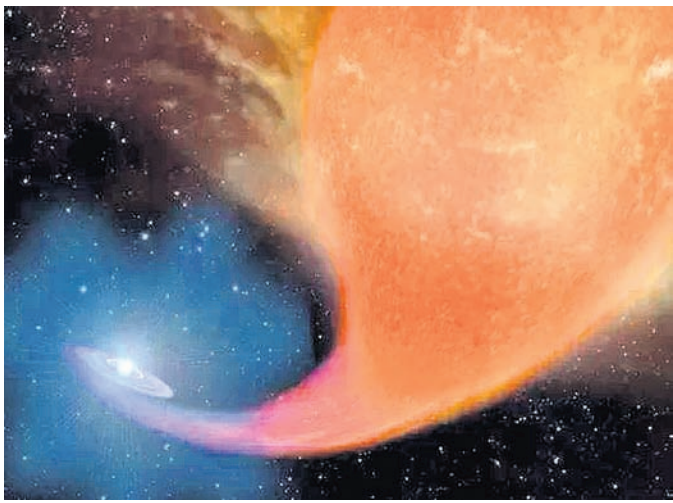
tionally bound, a grouping known as an open cluster.

The vampire star, called WOCS 9005, in the star cluster M67, is located in the constellation Cancer. It has been rejuvenating its youth by sucking up material from a companion.

The findings, to be published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', shed light on a complex rejuvenation process, known as mass transfer in a binary system.

Using spectroscopy, a technique where the light of the star is dispersed into its colours like the rainbow, the team from IIA studied the surface composition of WOCS 9005.

"This star is expected to show chemistry very similar to our Sun, but we found that its atmosphere is rich in heavy ele-



ments such as barium, yttrium, and lanthanum," said lead author Harshit Pal, from IIA, who carried the study as a part of his MS

thesis project at IISER Berhampur.

These heavy elements are rare and are found in a class of stars

called 'asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars', where abundant neutrons for a slowly occurring neutron capture process (s-process) are available to produce these heavy elements from lighter ones.

But, these AGB stars end their lives as white dwarfs (WDs) by shedding their outer layers which are enriched with heavy elements into their surroundings.

However, these AGB stars are more massive and evolved than WOCS 9005, leading to a puzzle.

"The presence of heavy elements in the spectrum pointed to a polluted atmosphere of the vampire star and the source of pollution being an external source," said Annapurni Subramaniam, director IIA and co-author of the paper.

Subramaniam stated that "the

external source is likely to be its binary companion, which must make the heavy elements when it passed through its AGB phase, and later became a white dwarf star."

The team took images of the vampire star and estimated its UV brightness using the UVIT on AstroSat.

With a temperature akin to the Sun, the vampire star is not expected to be bright in the UV. But the team detected considerable UV brightness for this star.

The analysis proved that it indeed originated from its hot and small companion.

Calculating theoretically, the scientists validated that this is indeed the remnant of the star that produced heavy elements.

IANS

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national

of the day quote

If infiltration continues, the days are not far when the CM will have to surrender before them (infiltrators). It is not a political issue but the responsibility of everyone to save the state. The state government should build consensus over the issue and initiate action against the infiltrators

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

Our demand to the Government of India is to roll back GST from life insurance and medical insurance premiums on grounds of people's health imperatives. This GST is bad because it adversely affects the people's ability to take care of their basic vital needs

MAMATA BANERJEE | CM, WEST BENGAL

I am so pleased to share that we have increased tough location allowance (TLA) of level 9 and above and level 8 and below Karmveers by 25 per cent

PEMA KHANDU | CM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

Saeeda Vineeta joins NGT as Registrar General

New Delhi: Saeeda Vineeta, a member of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services, recently joined on deputation as the new registrar general in the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal. She joined the state's judicial service in 2007 as a civil judge (junior division) and was promoted to the senior division in 2012. Vineeta, who became a district judge in October 2018, also worked as secretary of the Madhya Pradesh District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights till Aug 8

New Delhi: Air India Friday announced suspending flights to Tel Aviv till August 8, amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. The Tata Group-owned airline operates five weekly flights to the Israeli city from the national capital. "In view of the ongoing situation in parts of the Middle East, we have suspended the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect up to and including 08 August 2024. We are continuously monitoring the situation..." the carrier said in a post on X.

Fuel loading begins into nuclear reactor

New Delhi: India's nuclear operator Friday said it has started fuelling the third home-built 700 MWe nuclear reactor, which is expected to start commercial operations later this year. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) said the initial fuel loading process has begun at Unit-7 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) at Rawatbhata Thursday. The NPCIL has already commissioned two 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar in Gujarat. The RAPP Unit-7 is part of the two 700 MWe PHWRs being built at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan.

ED raids Ladakh in crypto fraud case

Srinagar: In its first ever raids in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Enforcement Directorate Friday conducted searches as part of its money laundering probe linked to a cryptocurrency fraud case in which investors lost more than ₹7 crore worth of deposits, officials said. The agency's zonal office here raided at least six premises in Leh town of Ladakh, Jammu in J-K and Sonapat in Haryana in the case against AR Mir and others.



A new culture of imposing taxes by armed and non-armed groups has developed. Oil pumps and business establishments have been severely affected. Once, due to a sharp rise in such activities, the Centre had imposed Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

N BIREN SINGH | CM, MANIPUR

ASSAM SEES UNUSUAL SURGE IN JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS CASES

Assam has been witnessing a surge in Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in the past few months, said officials here Friday. Since April 1 this year, the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) admitted 90 patients suffering from the deadly flavivirus. Of these 22 patients succumbed to the virus



Cloudburst wreaks havoc in Himachal

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 8, RESCUE OPERATION ON TO TRACE 45 MISSING PEOPLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 2: Rescue operations are underway Friday to trace about 45 people missing following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, officials said Friday.

With recovery of three more bodies, the death toll due to the flash floods in Nirmand, Sainj and Malana areas in Kullu, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision has increased to eight.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu along with Education Minister Rohit Thakur visited Samej on the border of Shimla and Kullu district to take stock of the situation and talk to the victims.

Over 30 people were missing after a cloudburst near Shrikhand Mahadev route Wednesday night triggered flash floods in Sarpara, Ganvi and Kurban nallahs.

Talking to reporters, Sukhu said 17-18 women and 8-9 children are among those missing. The rescue of people is our first priority.

The chief minister announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 for the victims and also said that they would be given ₹5,000 a month for rent for the next three months along with gas, food and other essential items.

He said that arrangements would be made for schooling of children as several primary and secondary schools have been damaged.

A relief package would be announced for the disaster-hit victims after the monsoon season is over, he added.

Five bodies were found in Mandi's Rajban village, one in Nirmand in Kullu, officials said Friday while mutilated parts of



two people were recovered in Rampur, SP Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI.

The two bodies recovered in Rajban Friday were identified as that of Aman (9) and Aryan (8) while five people are still missing on this site.

Relatives of the missing persons are camping at the sites with hope fading with every passing hour.

"Bodies of my father-in-law and mother-in-law have been recovered but my son, my brother-in-law, his wife and their six-year-old son and two-month-old daughter are still missing," a wailing woman told PTI Videos.

"Fear of death kept us awake all night as we climbed to a mountain to stay safe," said another villager who came out after hearing screams to see houses swept

in flash floods. As per the state emergency operation centre, 103 houses have been completely or partially

damaged in the three districts besides six motorable and 32 foot bridges, shops, schools and vehicles in the past 36 hours.

Kerala landslides: 210 people dead

Wayanad (Kerala): The number of people who have died in the massive landslides that hit Wayanad district three days ago has gone up to 210, Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas said Friday. According to the figures released by Riyas at a press conference here, 210 bodies, including that of 83 women and 29 children, have been recovered. Of them, 119 bodies have been handed over to relatives of the deceased persons, the minister said. Meanwhile in a bright spot amid the gloom, Friday -- three days after the massive landslides, when hope of finding survivors is dwindling -- rescuers were able to reach a family of four isolated in an area near Padavetti Kunnu here and moved them to a relief camp, he said. Around 1,374 rescue personnel are continuing search operations in the landslide-hit areas, the minister said. Additionally, ground penetrating radars and drones are also being used as part of the search-and-rescue operations, he said. The minister said that 218 persons are missing, according to the records of the district administration, after taking into account Aadhaar documents, details of tourists, checking with Asha workers and speaking to people in the relief camps and hospitals.



A worker cleans the road after a truck carrying tons of paint overturned near Patlipada Bridge on Ghodbunder Road, in Thane, Friday

DELHI COACHING CENTRE DEATHS

HC transfers probe to CBI, raps police for SUV driver's arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Delhi High Court Friday transferred the probe into the drowning of three civil services aspirants at the basement of a coaching centre here from police to the CBI "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation".

Criticising the police for arresting an SUV driver and blaming him for the incident, the high court said, "Mercifully, you have not challenged the rainwater for entering into the basement."

"You would have said how dare the water enter the basement. You could have fined the water also, the way you arrested the SUV driver for driving his car there," it said.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked the

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to nominate a senior officer to oversee the probe by the CBI into the criminal case in a time-bound manner.

The court said one needs to look at the bigger picture as there is a far more fundamental problem in the city and it was time to relook at Delhi's administrative, financial and physical infrastructure, which is outdated and not in line with the present-day needs.

It formed a committee headed by the chief secretary of Delhi and also comprising DDA vice chairman, Delhi Police commissioner and MCD commissioner to deal with the issue and submit the report within eight weeks.

"Having regard to the nature of the incident and to ensure that the public has no doubt with regards to investigation, this

court transfers the probe to the CBI," the high court said.

It castigated the police and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the drowning incident, saying it was unable to fathom how the students could not come out and sought to know whether the doors were blocked or staircases narrow.

The bench said administratively Delhi has a multiplicity of authorities who are only passing the buck and doing nothing. The public perception is that civic authorities are inefficient, it said.

The high court told the Delhi government counsel that if the administrators are carrying on with a freebie culture, they would not know how to change the structure.

It said Delhi's physical infrastructure is nearly 75-year-old and they are not only inadequate but poorly maintained.

Govt to declare over 56k sq km of Western Ghats eco sensitive

THE NOTIFICATION WAS ISSUED JULY 31, A DAY AFTER A SERIES OF LANDSLIDES CLAIMED OVER 300 LIVES IN WAYANAD DISTRICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Centre has issued a fifth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslide-hit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within 60 days.

The notification was issued July 31, a day after a series of landslides claimed over 300 lives in Wayanad district.

The draft notification proposes to declare 9,993.7 sq km in Kerala, including 13 villages in two talukas of the landslide-hit district, ecologically sensitive.

Overall, the notification includes 449 sq km in Gujarat, 17,340 sq km in Maharashtra, 1,461 sq km in Goa, 20,668 sq km in Karnataka, 6,914 sq km in Tamil Nadu, and 9,993.7 sq km in

Kerala in the proposed ESA.

The draft notification suggests a complete ban on mining, quarrying, and sand mining, with existing mines to be phased out within five years "from the date of issue of the final notification or on the expiry of the existing mining lease, whichever is earlier". It also prohibits new thermal power projects. It says the existing projects can continue to operate but there will be no expansion allowed.

Large-scale construction projects and townships are also proposed to be prohibited, with exceptions for repair and renovation of existing buildings.

"All new and expansion projects of building and construction with built-up areas of 20,000 square metres and above, and all new and expansion townships and area development projects with an area of 50 hectares



and above or with built-up areas of 1,50,000 square metres and above, shall be prohibited. There shall be no restriction on the repair, extension, or renovation of existing residential houses in the Eco-sensitive Area as per prevailing laws and regulations," the notification reads.

All existing healthcare establishments in the ESA can continue to operate, and proposed primary health centres can be established as per laws and regulations. There is no restriction proposed on changing property ownership. In 2010, the Centre formed the

All new and expansion projects of building and construction with built-up areas of 20,000 square metres and above, and all new and expansion townships and area development projects with an area of 50 hectares and above or with built-up areas of 1,50,000 square metres and above, shall be prohibited

There shall be no restriction on the repair, extension, or renovation of existing residential houses in the Eco-sensitive Area as per prevailing laws and regulations

be declared an ESA and divided into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) based on their eco sensitivity.

It recommended a ban on mining, quarrying, new thermal power plants, hydropower projects, and large-scale wind energy projects in ESZ 1.

However, these recommendations faced resistance from state governments, industries, and local communities.

In 2013, the Centre formed a High-Level Working Group under rocket scientist K Kasturirangan to study and recommend measures for the Western Ghats' ecological protection and sustainable development. This group identified 37 percent of the Western Ghats, covering 59,940 square kilometers, as ecologically sensitive.

The government has issued five draft notifications on ESA in Western Ghats, the latest being the one released Friday.

national



The country is passing through a difficult phase; the economy is in peril, due to the wrong policies of the BJP-led central government. They are hell-bent on making the country's condition worse than Pakistan

INDIA TO OPEN EMBASSY IN TIMOR-LESTE: MEA SECY

Ahead of the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, a top Ministry of External Affairs official said here on Friday that New Delhi will soon set up an embassy in Dili, which will make the Delhi-Dili connect stronger



of the day quote

The attitude of both Congress and BJP parties/governments towards the SC, ST, and OBC masses of the country has been liberal, not reformist. They are not in favour of their social transformation and economic liberation; otherwise, the reservation for these people would have been included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to ensure its protection

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's recent statement about moves to arrest him and his son Aaditya Thackeray was a fake narrative

It is your right and I don't want to disrespect you. I am not blaming you. We fell short in lifting the onion export ban. The Mahayuti (ruling alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP) fell short and we bore the brunt

X POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING Congress has announced that it will build 100 houses for people who lost their lands in Wayanad landslide

SHORT TAKES

Five children die at Indore shelter home

Indore: As many as five children have died at a shelter home here over the last three days while 31 other inmates have been hospitalised, prompting the Madhya Pradesh government to order a high-level inquiry.

EC to visit J&K next week

Srinagar: The Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, will visit Jammu and Kashmir from August 8-10 to review preparedness for Assembly polls, weeks before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding elections in the Union Territory.

5 Naxals killed

Narayanpur (Chhattisgarh): Five Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Tuesday, police said.

Can't direct re-NEET: Top court

THE TOP COURT SAID SINCE THE REMIT OF THE PANEL HAS BEEN EXPANDED, THE COMMITTEE WOULD SUBMIT ITS REPORT BY SEPTEMBER 30 ON VARIOUS MEASURES TO RECTIFY DEFICIENCIES IN THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM



New Delhi, August 2: The Supreme Court Friday said it cannot order holding of NEET-UG 24 afresh as no sufficient material is on record at present to indicate a systemic leak or malpractice compromising the integrity of the examination. It also expanded the remit of the Centre-appointed panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Radhakrishnan to review the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which holds the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) (NEET-UG), and recommend examination reforms.

The order said while the various issues the court dealt with do not lead to the conclusion that the integrity of the NEET was vitiated at a systemic level, the manner in which NTA has organised the exam this year gives rise to serious concerns. It said a body such as the NTA, which is entrusted with the immense responsibility of conducting highly important competitive exams, cannot afford a misstep, take an incorrect decision, and amend it at a later stage.

BSF DG, special DG's tenures cut short; repatriated to state cadres

New Delhi, August 2: The Centre Friday removed the chief of the BSF and another top officer of the paramilitary force which guards the sensitive India-Pakistan border, including the Jammu region where a spate of terror attacks have claimed 22 lives in recent past.



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party leader KC Venugopal visits a landslide-hit area in Wayanad district, Kerala

ISRO announces astronauts for Indo-US mission to ISS

Bangalore, August 2: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been selected for an upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced Friday.

Patanjali's new research in world famous journal

Haridwar, August 2: Food control is extremely difficult in today's global market era. Biosensors can quickly, reliably, and affordably detect food contaminants. Patanjali has conducted a new research to detect pesticides and chemicals in the country's food grains, which has been published by the famous research journal 'Microchemical Journal'.

Improved monsoon leads to power demand moderation: Report

Power demand is estimated to have risen 7 per cent (year-on-year) in July to 150 billion units (BUs) owing to higher power demand in northern states, according to a Crisil report



ELECTORAL BONDS

Apex court says no to SIT investigation

The top court said it cannot order a roving inquiry into purchase of electoral bonds on the assumption of a quid pro quo for award of contract

New Delhi, August 2: The Supreme Court Friday rejected a batch of pleas seeking a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme while observing that it cannot order a roving inquiry. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said it would be "premature" and "inappropriate" to order a probe under a retired judge when the remedies available under the ordinary law governing criminal law procedure have not been invoked.

Article 32 empowers a citizen to approach the Supreme Court directly for enforcement of their fundamental rights recognised by the Constitution. The apex court also declined the prayer of the petitioners to direct the authorities to recover the donations received by political parties through electoral bonds and to reopen their income tax assessment.

"We are of the considered view that the constitution of an SIT, headed by a former judge of this court or otherwise, should not be ordered on the face of remedies which are available under the law governing both criminal procedures," the bench said. The top court was hearing the pleas filed by NGOs - Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), Dr Khem Singh Bhatti, Sudip Narayan Tamankar and Jai Prakash Sharma.

Patanjali Foods Limited advertisement featuring the company logo and text about their research in food safety and quality. The text mentions their presence in various global markets and their commitment to providing nutritious and safe food products.

international

of the day quote

The tremendous outpouring of support we've seen in just a short time makes clear the Harris coalition is mobilised, growing, and ready to put in the work to defeat Trump this November

KAMALA HARRIS | VICE PRESIDENT, US

Given the overwhelming evidence, it is clear to the United States and, most importantly, to the Venezuelan people that Edmundo González Urrutia won the most votes in Venezuela's July 28 presidential election

ANTHONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

Manufacturing is a sleeping giant for New Zealand's economy. With the right tools and support, manufacturing has the potential to supercharge our economic growth

ANDREW BAYLY | SMALL BUSINESS AND MANUFACTURING MINISTER, NEW ZEALAND

SHORT TAKES

Pak pays over \$3.5bn in interest to IMF

Islamabad: Pakistan has paid over \$3.5 billion in interest on loans to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the last forty years. The stunning revelation was made during a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Senator Saifullah Abro, Thursday at the Parliament House, where the Ministry of Finance presented details of the loans and repayments made to the IMF so far. According to The Express Tribune, during the briefing by officials from the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan, it was disclosed that Pakistan has paid over \$3.60 billion in interest to the IMF.

2 PIOs arrested in drug case

Washington: US officials have arrested two Indian nationals with drugs worth \$10 million, the Department of Justice said. Simranjit Singh, 28, and Gusimrat Singh, 19, of Fresno, California were each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, it said.

Canadian warship in Taiwan irks China

Beijing: China has lodged complaints with Canada through military and diplomatic channels after a Canadian warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait, Chinese defence ministry said Friday. The act "caused disturbance and stirred up trouble", the ministry said in a statement. "We warn Canada that it should abide by the One-China Principle, be cautious in its words and deeds on the Taiwan issue," ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said.

India repatriates 21 fishermen

Colombo: Twenty-one Indian fishermen who were arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy were repatriated and are on their way to Chennai from Colombo, the Indian High Commission here said Friday. The Indian High Commission in Colombo and the Indian Consulate in Jaffna in cooperation with the Sri Lankan government authorities had secured the release of the Indian fishermen. "Returning home! 21 Indian fishermen have been successfully repatriated and are on their way to Chennai from Colombo," the High Commission posted on X along with a photograph of the released fishermen.



We continue to expect accountability from the government of India in relation to the alleged role of an Indian government employee in the failed attempt to assassinate a US citizen on US soil that occurred last summer

VEDANT PATEL | STATE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON

GRAND OPNN ALLIANCE

Jailed former Pakistan PM Imran Khan has approved the formation of a grand opposition alliance by expanding the existing platform, Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayin-e-Pakistan



Biden meets freed prisoners

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

REUTERS

Washington, August 2: US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan returned to the United States Thursday, hours after being freed from Russian detention in the biggest prisoner exchange between the two countries since the Cold War.

The White House said it negotiated the trade with Russia, Germany and three other countries. The deal, worked on in secrecy for more than a year, involved 24 prisoners, 16 moving from Russia to the West and eight sent back to Russia from the West.

They included Vadim Krasikov, convicted of murdering an exiled dissident in Berlin, the German government said.

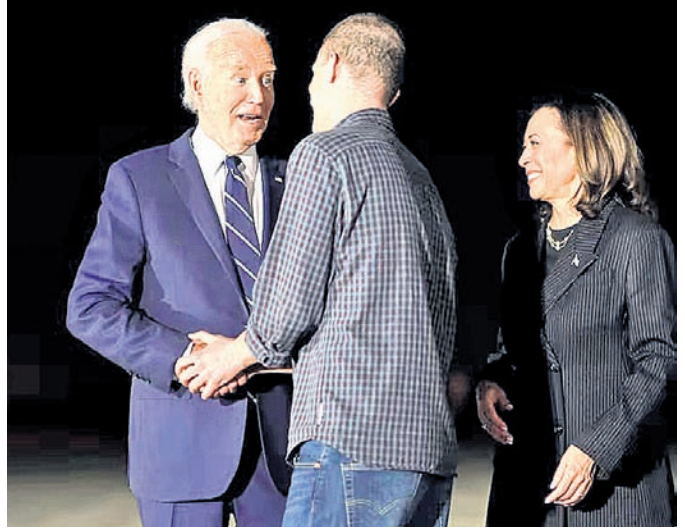
US President Joe Biden hailed the deal as "a feat of diplomacy and friendship" and praised Washington's allies for their "bold and brave decisions."

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, buoyed by the occasion, greeted freed Americans Gershkovich, Whelan and journalist Alsu Kurmasheva as they arrived at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland shortly before midnight.

The President took off his lapel pin and gave it to Whelan as he got off the Bombardier Global 7500 aircraft.

In the West, the dissidents are seen by governments and activists as wrongfully detained political prisoners. All have, for different reasons, been designated by Moscow as dangerous extremists.

Among the Westerners freed, Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter, was accused of



collecting sensitive military information for the CIA, a charge he and the newspaper denied.

The White House posted an emotional two-minute video, of the moment the families of the US-bound detainees spoke to their loved ones by phone from the Oval Office.

The multi-country deal appeared to be a one-time exchange that does not reset the antagonistic US-Russia relationship, which has deteriorated sharply since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. US deputy national security adviser Jon Finer said Washington-Moscow ties remain

I remain concerned that continuing to trade innocent Americans for actual Russian criminals held in the US and elsewhere sends a dangerous message to Putin that only encourages further hostage-taking by his regime

MICHAEL MCCAUL | REPRESENTATIVE, US

"in a very difficult place" despite the swap. "There was no trust involved in this relationship or negotiation," Finer told broadcaster CNN. Critics said freeing Russians convicted of serious crimes could encourage more hostage-taking by US foes.

"I remain concerned that continuing to trade innocent Americans for actual Russian criminals held in the US and elsewhere sends a dangerous message to Putin that only encourages further hostage-taking by his regime," Michael McCaul, the Republican chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement.

PUTIN MEETS RUSSIAN CITIZENS

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin late Thursday met Russian citizens, who were detained in foreign countries and returned to their homeland after a prisoners' exchange deal, at Vnukovo Airport here. Putin congratulated them and announced that they will be nominated for state awards. "First of all, I want to congratulate you all on your return to your homeland. Now I want to address those of you who are directly involved in military service. I want to thank you for your loyalty to the oath, your duty and the homeland, which has never forgotten you for a minute, and here you are at home," the President said while addressing them at the airport. The meeting was also attended by Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Naryshkin and Director of the Federal Security Service Alexander Bortnikov. The most notable Russian prisoner released in the exchange was Vadim Krasikov, who was jailed for life in Germany for the 2019 murder in Berlin of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, a former Chechen separatist leader.



HUSH MONEY CASE

Trump loses appeal of gag order



REUTERS

New York, August 2: A New York state appeals court Thursday rejected Donald Trump's challenge to a gag order in his hush money criminal case, where the former US President was convicted in May charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star.

The decision by the Appellate Division in Manhattan means the Republican presidential nominee cannot comment publicly about individual prosecutors and others in the case until Justice Juan Merchan sentences him September 18, seven weeks before the November 5 election.

Trump's lawyers have argued that the gag order violated Trump's constitutional free speech rights under the First

Amendment.

"The gag order is blatantly un-American," Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump's campaign, said in a statement.

On Thursday afternoon, Trump's lawyers renewed their demand that Merchan recuse himself, citing his daughter's work as a Democratic political consultant and her "long-standing" relationship with Harris.

They also said the "unjust and unconstitutional" gag order restricts Trump's ability to respond to Harris, saying she framed her candidacy as that of "prosecutor vs convicted felon." Harris served as California's attorney general earlier in her career.

Merchan rejected a similar recusal request by Trump before the trial began, and another recusal request last year.

The judge imposed the gag order a few weeks before the trial began April 22, saying Trump's history of making threatening statements could undermine the proceedings.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, people react during the launching ceremony of the Ukrainian Navy's Ada class corvette "Hetman Ivan Vyhovskiy" in Istanbul, Turkey

UK PM's new scheme to clamp down on violent disorder

The authorities stressed that extremist groups will not be allowed to 'hide behind' the legitimate right to protest to 'wreak havoc and intimidation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 2: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced a new scheme that pulls together police and intelligence resources to clamp down on violent disorder on the streets of London amid reports of further protests planned by far-right groups following the fatal stabbing of three schoolgirls.

The new National Violent Disorder Programme is designed to stop criminals intent on causing violence and unrest by bringing together policing capabilities from across the UK to share intelligence on the activity of mobs for of-

officials to make swift arrests. Violent protests included a mosque being attacked in Southport, the site of Monday's stabbings in north-west England, several police officers injured, objects hurled and vehicles set on fire as the unrest spread around the country to Downing Street in London.

"It's not a protest. It's not legitimate. It's a crime and violent disorder. An assault on the rule of law and the execution of justice," said Starmer, after an urgent meeting with police chiefs Thursday. "Whether it's in Southport, London or Hartlepool, these people are showing our country exactly who they are. Mosques targeted because they are mosques, flares thrown at the statue of Winston Churchill, a Nazi salute at the Cenotaph. We've resolved to show who we are. A country that will not allow understandable fear to curdle into division and hate in our communities," he said. The authorities stressed that



extremist groups will not be allowed to "hide behind" the legitimate right to protest to "wreak havoc and intimidation." "Police are already tracking down those involved in violence and anyone else thinking of joining in should know they will face the full force of the law," said Chief Constable Andy Marsh, CEO at the College of Policing. Axel Muganwa Rudakubana,

a 17-year-old Wales-born resident of the nearby village of Banks in Lancashire of Rwandan heritage, was charged with three counts of murder; 10 counts of attempted murder and possession of a knife in the Southport attack Thursday. Judge Andrew Menary lifted the legal restriction on naming the minor accused partly to prevent further misinformation from being spread across social

It's not a protest. It's not legitimate. It's a crime and violent disorder. An assault on the rule of law and the execution of justice

KEIR STARMER | PM, UK

media over Rudakubana's religious affiliation and immigration status.

"Let me also say to large social media companies and those who run them, violent disorder clearly whipped up online is also a crime. It's happening on your premises and the law must be upheld everywhere," Starmer said during his Downing Street address.

Three children, six-year-old Bebe King, seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe and nine-year-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar, died as a result of the attack at The Hart Space community centre in Southport Monday. Eight other children suffered stab wounds in the attack, five of whom remain in critical con-

dition in hospital. Two adults, including one of the organisers of the event, also suffered critical injuries. The new violent disorder programme he announced will support the swift deployment of surge teams to forces who need them, including when they are faced with intelligence that suggests organised violence in a particular area.

"Southport suffered a horrific attack that no community should ever have to face. But instead of being shown respect for their grief, the community had to endure violent disorder and thuggery," UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said.

"Criminals need to face the full force of the law and today we made clear that the police have our strong support in keeping the streets safe. We will work with senior police officers across the country to make sure there is rapid intelligence sharing and swift action to stop violent disorder and make sure criminals pay the price," she said.

OLYMPICS TIDBITS

Ledecky in history books

Katie Ledecky became the most decorated female Olympic swimmer of all-time but the US great had to settle for silver as Australia made sure of the 4x200 metres freestyle gold at the Paris Games Thursday. Ledecky now has 13 Olympic medals -- eight golds, four silvers and a bronze -- one more than compatriots Jenny Thompson, Dara Torres and Natalie Coughlin and Australia's Emma McKeon. She and her great compatriot Michael Phelps are the only swimmers to win 13 medals, with the latter's tally of 28 in no danger of being matched.

Biles' smashing comeback

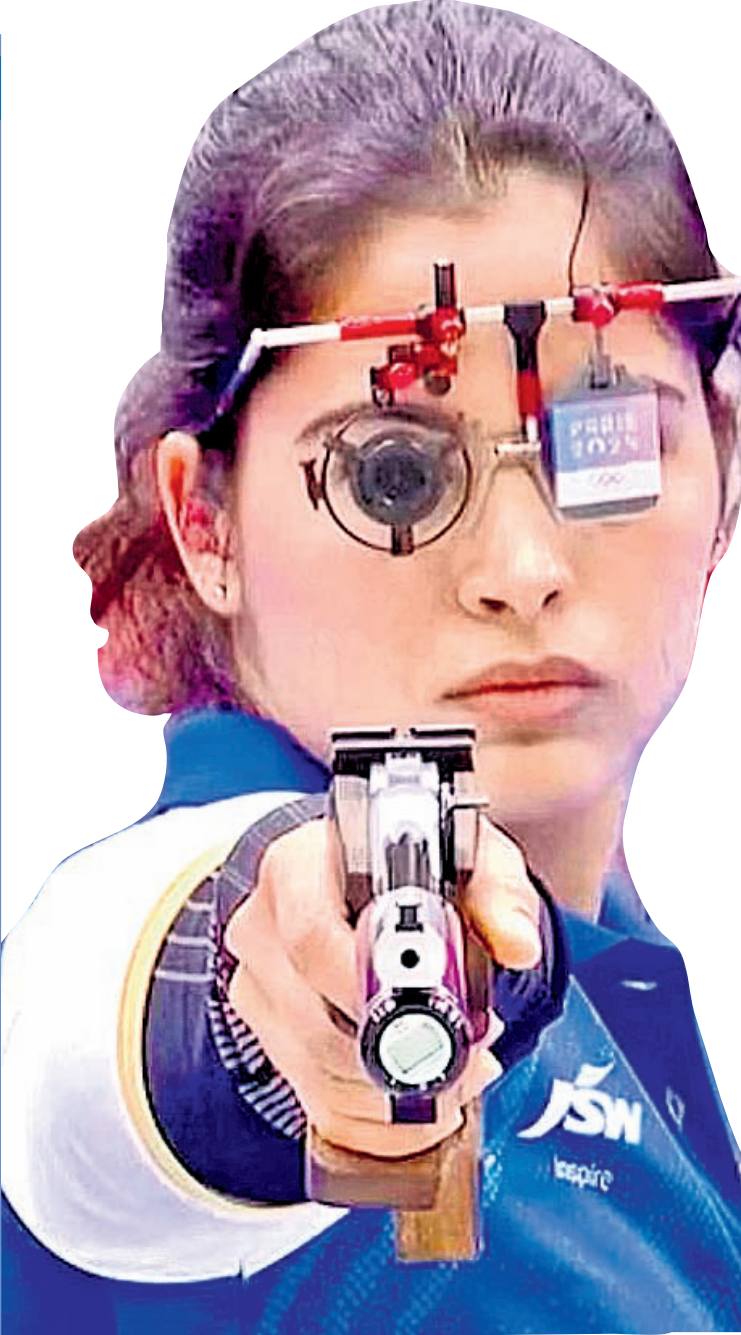
If anyone needed any confirmation about Simone Biles' standing in gymnastics, the sparkling GOAT necklace she slipped on and ecstatically showed off to a TV camera after she sealed the all around title at the Paris Olympics Thursday verified her status as the greatest of all-time. The world's most decorated gymnast clinched her sixth Olympic gold medal in front of a delirious crowd at Bercy Arena after she left all her challengers in her shade, completing a triumphant comeback three years after withdrawing from the same final at the Tokyo Games. Aged 27, Biles edged past Brazil's Rebeca Andrade by 1.199 points to become the oldest athlete since 1952 to win the most coveted individual title in women's gymnastics.

Swimmer collapses

Swimmer Tamara Potocka collapsed at the poolside Friday morning after suffering an asthma attack following a qualifying heat of the women's 200-meter individual medley at the Paris Olympics. Medical staff rushed to assist Potocka, from Slovakia, and carried her away from the poolside on a stretcher. Potocka was seen with an oxygen mask. Slovakian officials later told multiple outlets that Potocka had suffered an asthma attack, and a team official said she did not have her inhaler with her.

Not 'humanly possible'

China's state media, athletes and netizens rallied to support Olympic swimming champion Pan Zhanle after critics including an Australian swim commentator said his world record swim in the 100 metres freestyle was not "humanly possible". Pan smashed his own 100 metres freestyle world record, shaving 0.40 seconds off the previous mark he set at the World Championships in Doha in February, to humble rivals including Australia's Kyle Chalmers and Romania's David Popovici. The 19-year old Pan finished in 46.40 seconds to take China's first swimming gold medal at the Paris Olympic Games. His win came after he "completed rigorous doping test programs prior to and during the games with zero positive results," the China Daily said Friday.



MAGICAL MANU continues to shine

Bhaker qualifies for 25m sports pistol final in second position at Olympics

among the top three almost throughout the qualification phase of 'precision' and 'rapid' rounds, aggregated 590 to be placed second behind Hungary's Veronika Major who equalled the Olympic record with a score of 592.

Manu, who has seen a marked improvement in her shooting after patching up with legendary shooter-turned-coach Jaspal Rana, has won the 10m women's air pistol bronze and 10m air pistol mixed team bronze pairing up with Sarabjot Singh.

She was in impregnable form in the sports pistol qualification rounds, firing 294 in the gruelling 'precision' round with scores of 97, 98 and 99.

The 'rapid round' brought out the best in her as she shot a perfect 100, followed by two 98s for an aggregate of 296.

India's upcoming shooter and multiple Hangzhou Asian Games medallist Esha Singh faltered to aggregate 581 (291 in precision and 290 in rapid) to finish 18th among 40 shooters

The 22-year-old, who has already made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two bronze medals in one edition of the quadrennial showpiece, can add to her aura if she wins a third medal today

and miss the eight-shooter final by a distance.

Just after winning her second bronze medal here, in 10m air pistol mixed team event, Manu had urged the countrymen not to be "disappointed" if she can't add more medals to the tally. But going by her imperious form, the Jhajjar shooter could well be in line to win a gold or silver.

Manu's sterling performance here has come after a failed campaign at the Tokyo Games in 2021 where a pistol malfunction stopped her from achieving her Olympic dream. She said that the heartbreak made her value the medals here even more.

Manu, the second youngest Indian athlete to win an Olympic medal after shuttler PV Sindhu, had added that she looks up to ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and Sindhu because they have "proved themselves".

India has won all three medals so far in shooting, with Manu bagging two and Swapnil Kusale taking the bronze in 50m rifle three-positions Thursday.

Success not surprising

The shooting range in Chateauroux has become Manu Bhaker's happy hunting ground and Olympic champions like Anna Korakaki and Nino Salukvadze, who have observed the Indian sensation for quite some time, are

not surprised by her sensational performance so far.

"Not at all surprised because Manu is a superb talent. I've known her for many years. She's an excellent shooter. She's really a hard worker. I really admire her as a person and as a shooter as well," the 28-year-old from Greece told PTI.

"We have known her potential for many years now. She's showing really, really great skills in both disciplines (10m and 25m). She's a very kind girl. She's always very calm, very kind to everyone. And also as a shooter, you can just tell because she was really young at the time (when she burst on to the scene in 2018). When you see a special talent, you can spot it," Korakaki, who had a forgettable outing at her third Olympics due to a lingering eye issue, told PTI.

Korakaki's gold in 25m pistol and bronze in 10m pistol came at the Rio Games when she was just 20-year-old.

Another Olympic champion, the 55-year-old Nino Salukvadze who won the 25m gold for USSR at 1988 Seoul Olympics before winning a 10m pistol bronze for Georgia at Beijing 2008, considers Manu a very clever shooter.

"Manu is a very clever shooter and all Indians are. 15-20 years ago not many Indians were visible at shooting events but slowly they have great progress. Their spirit must be very strong," said 55-year-old Salukvadze who made her 10th straight appearance at the Olympics.

Chateauroux, August 2: Indian shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event, the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final in second spot here Friday.

The 22-year-old, who has already made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two bronze medals in one edition of the quadrennial showpiece, can add to her aura if she wins a third medal Saturday, something which is well within her grasp after her commanding performance in the qualification round.

Manu, who continued to dominate the event and remained

ARCHERS MISS OUT ON BRONZE

The Indian team had scripted history by entering the semifinals of the Games for the first time

Paris: The history-making Indian mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara came agonisingly close to ending India's 36-year wait for an Olympic medal in archery but fell short to finish fourth at the Games here Friday.

The team had already created history by entering the semifinals of the Summer Games for the first time.

But the duo lost 37-38 35-37 38-34 35-37 to the American combine of world no.1 Casey Kaufhold and three-time Olympic-medallist Brady Ellison to join the fourth-finishers' club at the Olympics. It was nonetheless the best ever performance by an Indian team in the quad-



rennial showpiece.

Ankita felt the pressure the most as she fired two 7s and could manage only a couple of 10s

in the course of the four sets.

Trailing 0-4, the Indians did well to make a comeback as Ankita struck a superb 10.

All four Indian arrows were in the yellow zone while Casey looked a bit nervous firing a 7 with her first arrow before a 9 and 10. But the Indians did enough to take the third set.

While the 22-year-old Dhiraj was more consistent shooting as many as four 10s, Ankita, who was exceptional against the Koreans in the semifinals, produced a below par performance, including a couple of 8s, which eventually cost India the contest.

Earlier in the semifinal, Dhiraj and Ankita had gone down 2-6 (lost 38-36 35-38 37-38 38-39) to defending champions South Korea.

They did well to take a set off the mighty Koreans.

CAMPAIGN ENDS

Panwar exits fighting

Indian rower Balraj Panwar ended his Paris Games campaign in 23rd position in the men's single sculls event after signing off at fifth in the Final D round Friday. The 25-year-old from Haryana clocked 7:02.37, his best timing of the Games, in Final D, which was not a medal round. On Tuesday, Balraj, India's lone representative in rowing at the Paris Olympics, had finished fifth in his quarterfinals heat race. Panwar had progressed to the quarterfinals after finishing second in his repechage round race Sunday. He had finished fourth in his first round heat race on Saturday to make it to the repechage round. Medals are awarded to the top three finishers in Final A.



Early exit for Mann

Indian judoka Tulika Mann crashed out of the women's +78kg event at the Paris Olympics after going down in the opening round to London Games champion Idalys Ortiz of Cuba Friday. The 25-year-old from Delhi, a silver medallist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, lost to the Cuban, who has four Olympic medals including two silver and a bronze, 0-10 by ippon at the Champ-de-Mars Arena. With the defeat, India's judo campaign ended as Tulika was the lone judoka from the country competing at the Games.



RIISING HEAT

Sports Ministry sends 40 ACs for athletes

New Delhi: Indian athletes battling the soaring temperatures and lack of cooling in their rooms in the Paris Olympic Games Village have been provided with 40 portable air conditioners by the country's sports ministry to make their stay comfortable.

The air-conditioners were sent to the Games village after discussions with the Indian Olympic Association and the Indian Embassy in France, according to sources in the ministry.

"Taking into consideration the issues faced by athletes at the Olympic Games Village because of the temperature and humidity in Paris, the Ministry of Sports decided to provide 40 ACs in the Games Village rooms where the Indian athletes are staying," the source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Consequent to the decision, the Indian Embassy in France purchased the ACs and delivered them to Games Village," the source added.

Temperatures have soared in both Paris and Chateauroux, the two main Olympic Games venues.

In the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event, all the eight finalists, including India's bronze-winner Swapnil Kusale, were seen sweating profusely at the Chateauroux shooting range.

There are reports that temperatures have touched an unbearable 40 degrees Celsius on some days in Paris.

Even before the Games started, several contingents had expressed their concerns about the weather in Paris after the organisers said that they would shun air conditioning to cut the carbon footprint of the event.

Instead, the Games organising committee unveiled an under-floor cooling mechanism and built-in insulation to keep the temperatures down at the Games Village. However, unconvinced about the measures, the USA contingent travelled with portable conditioners.

GENDER CONTROVERSY



Meloni, IOC's Bach discuss 'fairness' in sports

Italian boxer Carini stepped out after she sustained a series of crushing blows from her Algerian opponent Imane Khelif, who last year failed a gender eligibility test at the World Championships. The bout lasted only 46 seconds

Paris: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni raised the issue of a gender row in boxing with International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Thomas Bach after Italian boxer Angela Carini pulled out of the Olympics mid-fight Thursday. Meloni said Thursday that Carini's bout against Khelif was not a fight among equals. "During the face-to-face meeting (with Bach), the case of athlete Imane Khelif and the issue of rules to ensure

ANOTHER BOXER ENTERS ROW

Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting, one of two boxers at the heart of a gender row, won her featherweight round of 16 bout against Uzbekistan's Sidora Turdibekova on points by unanimous decision at the Paris Olympics Friday. The 28-year-old Taiwanese, along with Algerian boxer Imane Khelif who won her round of 16 welterweight fight Thursday against Italy's Angela Carini in 46 seconds, have been in the spotlight of the row after being cleared to compete in the Olympics. Both were disqualified at the 2023 World Championships after failing International Boxing Association eligibility rules that prevent athletes with male XY chromosomes competing in women's events.

Differences of Sexual Disorder are a group of rare conditions involving genes, hormones and reproductive organs. Some people with DSDs are raised as female but have XY sex chromosomes and blood testosterone levels in the male range.

The IOC has said the IBA's decision to disqualify the boxers last year was arbitrary and the main cause for the furore that has seen people like British author JK Rowling and billionaire Elon Musk voice their opposition to them

competing in the Games.

"The Algerian (boxer) was born female, registered as female, boxed as a female, and is a female on her passport. Scientifically this is not a man fighting a woman," IOC spokesperson Mark Adams told a news conference Friday.

"There is an awful lot of abuse and misinformation going on online, we are in very close contact with the athletes (Khelif and Yu-ting) and their entourage," he said.

British author JK Rowling, who has become an outspoken figure on the definition of what it is to be a woman, said Carini's dreams had been shattered by unjust rules.

"A young female boxer has just had everything she's worked and trained for snatched away because you allowed a male to get in the ring with her," Rowling wrote on X. "#Paris2024 will be forever tarnished by this brutal injustice," she added.

This is a minefield and as with all minefields we want a simple explanation. That explanation does not exist. If we can get to a consensus, we would be happy to implement that

MARK ADAMS | SPOKESPERSON, IOC

