

BATTLE OF BRILLIANCE

Steel plant to come up in CM's home dist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The state government Saturday decided to form a task force, headed by the Chief Secretary, for setting up a mega steel plant in Keonjhar, the home district of the Chief Minister, officials said.

The decision was taken during a meeting where Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reviewed the industrial scenario in the state.

Though the Keonjhar district is abundant with raw materials like iron ore, power and water, the area does not have a steel plant.

Notably, Majhi hails from Keonjhar district and it is his priority to set up a major steel facility in the area, an official said.

The task force will be headed by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, which will expedite the process of holding talks with investors for the proposed steel plant in the district.

ArcelorMittal had planned to set up a 12-mtpa steel plant in Keonjhar but the project was later abandoned due to local protests.

The proposed steel plant will have an advantage in terms of supplies of raw materials as several iron ore mines are located across Keonjhar district, another official said.

During the meeting, Industries Department Secretary Hemant Sharma apprised the Chief Minister of the industrial situation in the state and said around 989 proposals have been received by the government for setting up industries. Of them, 674 projects have got the nod of the state government through single window clearance authority. **P3**

THE FINALISTS

JUNIOR CATEGORY

- KIIT International School
- Mother's Public School
- Loyola School
- DAV Public School, CDA
- SAI International School
- DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar
- DPS Kalinga
- DAV Public School, Unit 8

SENIOR CATEGORY

- NIT Rourkela
- SCB Medical College and Hospital
- KIIT University
- IIT Bhubaneswar
- NISER, Jatni
- VIMSAR, Burla
- NLU of Odisha, Cuttack
- AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

interesting.

Prathmesh Gourav of SAI International School, one of the participants in Junior category, said, "The prelims questions were very tough and the quizmaster's way of posing them was very tricky. We were confident of being selected for the finals as we made it to the finals last year too. We were very alert and most of the questions had clues for the answers which we took advantage of."

University of Odisha, Cuttack and AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Quizmaster Ajay Poonia had set several brain-twisters in the preliminary round to test the nerve and wit of budding talents.

Sharing his views on the outcome of the first day, Poonia said, "Seeing the preliminary performance, I must say the motto of reviving the quiz culture by Orissa POST is successful. The competition was nail-biting and the margin of loss and win was very less. I am sure the finals will be tougher than the prelims."

The questions asked during the preliminary round ranged from diverse subjects covering politics, sports, culture, international affairs and health. Use of audio-visual questions by the quiz wizard made the competition more



SHOW BEGINS: The Junior teams who qualified for the finals of Mettle Meet 2024, pose for photo-up with Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Saturday OP PHOTO

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 3: The sixth edition of Odisha's biggest quizzing extravaganza, Mettle Meet, organised by Orissa POST, got off to a spectacular start amid an overwhelming participation of students representing 82 premier educational institutions of the state, Saturday. Hotel Crystal Crown of the City was the new venue of the event this year.

A total of 16 teams from the state's top educational institutions won the tough preliminary round battle and qualified for the finals to be held Sunday. The top eight teams each in Junior and Senior categories will sweat it out to bag the prestigious trophy and cash prize of ₹1 lakh. Welcoming the participants,

Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said, "We started Mettle Meet with an objective to offer an ideal platform to quizzing and quizzers from schools and colleges of the state. In quizzing, you always learn something and can also enjoy, which was our motto. We started off with just 16 teams and the event is getting only bigger with each passing year."

Significantly, Satpathy announced that the next edition of Mettle Meet is set to be bigger—from a state-level event to a national one.

"As Mettle Meet is growing, we hope to make it national next year with brains from other states participating in it," she said.

The Editor of the daily, Tathagata Satpathy, in his wel-

come address, said, "We are happy to host another edition of Mettle Meet. We are excited that like every year this year too all top educational institutions of the state are participating, and the numbers are higher than the previous years. I hope Mettle Meet offers varied and rich experience to the participants and also test their wits."

He went on to add, "Quizzing is not just about general knowledge it is beyond that. It mentally challenges the best of brains."

The venue was abuzz with activities since early morning hours as batches of participants started arriving in from all parts

of the state.

The preliminary round for Junior category was based on 35 questions, with no negative marks and eight teams - KIIT

International School, Mother's Public School, Loyola School, DAV Public School, CDA, SAI International School, DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar, DPS Kalinga and DAV Public School, Unit 8—qualified for the Grand Finale.

In Senior category, the colleges that made it to the last eight were NIT Rourkela, SCB Medical College and Hospital, KIIT University, IIT Bhubaneswar, NISER, Jatni, VIMSAR, Burla, National Law



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Going for a bath or to Parliament?

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.5°C	33.4°C
Min Temp	25.1°C	23.5°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	13.4mm	3mm

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Man held after marrying 5 women, proposing 49

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 3: A 34-year-old man was arrested in Bhubaneswar on the charge of marrying five women without divorcing anyone and duping them of lakhs of rupees posing himself as a police officer, an official said Saturday.

It was also found out during investigation that the accused was interacting with 49 other women in a matrimonial site over proposals of marriage.

After receiving separate complaints from two women whom he had married, the police laid a trap using a female officer, and arrested Satyajit Samal, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda told at a presser.

The police recovered a car, a motorcycle, ₹2.10 lakh in cash, a pistol, some ammunition and two marriage agreement certificates from his possession. Of his total five wives, two were from

Odisha and one each was from Kolkata and Delhi. The police were yet to get details of the fifth woman.

The police officer said the accused, from Jajpur district, has currently been living in Bhubaneswar, used to target young widows and divorcees.

"Samal used to demand cash and cars after promising to marry them. He also used to threaten them with a gun if they sought their money back," he said.

According to one of the two complainants, she got in touch with Samal through a matrimonial site. Later, he allegedly forced her into a physical relationship on the pretext of marriage and demanded money to purchase a car.

The victim took a personal loan from a bank and bought a car worth around ₹8.15 lakh for him. She also gave him ₹36 lakh to start a business.

In case of the other complainant, the accused allegedly took ₹8.60 lakh and a motorbike from her.



Most chatbots are 'left-leaning'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: When chatbots were tested for their political inclination, most of them revealed a left-of-centre stance, a study has revealed.

However, when the chatbots, including ChatGPT and Gemini, were tested after being 'taught' a certain political inclination - left, right or centre - they produced responses in alignment with their 'training,' or 'fine-tuning,' David Rozado, a researcher from Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand, found.

This shows that chatbots can be 'steered' towards desired locations on the political spectrum, using modest amounts of politically aligned data, the author said in the study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

Chatbots are AI-based large language models (LLMs), which are trained on massive amounts of textual data and are, therefore, capable of responding to requests framed in the natural



language (prompts).

Multiple studies have analysed the political orientation of chatbots available in the public domain and found them to occupy varied locations on the political spectrum.

On 24 different open- and closed-source chatbots, the author performed political orientation tests. He found that most of these chatbots generated 'left-of-centre' responses, as adjudged by the majority of the political tests.

Further, using published text, Rozado also induced a political bias by fine-tuning GPT-3.5, a type of machine learning algorithm developed to adapt LLMs to specific tasks.

Thus, a 'LeftWingGPT' was created training the

model on snippets of text from publications such as The Atlantic, The New Yorker, and from books written by authors with similar political persuasions.

Likewise, for creating 'RightWingGPT,' Rozado used text from publications such as The American Conservative and books by similarly aligned writers.

Finally, 'DepolarizingGPT' was created by training GPT-3.5 using content from the Institute for Cultural Evolution, a US-based think tank, and the book Developmental Politics, written by the institute's president, Steve McIntosh.

"As a result of the political alignment fine-tuning, RightWingGPT has gravitated towards right-leaning regions of the political landscape in the four tests. A (similar) effect is observed for LeftWingGPT.

"DepolarizingGPT is on average closer to political neutrality and away from the poles of the political spectrum," the author wrote.

Ex-cop shoots dead son-in-law in court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 3: An Indian Civil Account Services (ICAS) officer was shot dead by his father-in-law, a retired assistant inspector general of the Punjab Police, at the mediation centre in the district court complex here Saturday, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Harprit Singh. His father-in-law, Malwinder Singh Sidhu, has been arrested, they said.

There was a matrimonial dispute between ICAS Harprit Singh, who was posted as controller of accounts in the Ministry of Agriculture in Delhi, and his wife Amitoj Kaur. Divorce proceedings have been going on since 2023.

The firing incident took place at around 2 pm after the two families came to the Chandigarh district court complex in Sector 43 for the fourth mediation proceedings, the officials said.

OrissaPOST PRESENTS

Reviving Quizzing

METTLE MEET 2024

A Quiz Extravaganza

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GRAND FINALE TODAY 2 PM ONWARDS

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GWYNETH CELEBRATES BROTHER JAKE'S FILM

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow celebrated her filmmaker brother Jake Paltrow's recent achievement, as his film *June Zero* has been named one of the best films of 2024. She took to her Instagram stories and shared a snapshot of the list of 'best movies of 2024 so far according to critics.'

KRISTEN CHIPPED HER TOOTH AT AFTER-PARTY

Actress Kristen Wiig recently reminisced about an incident that left her with a chipped tooth, which involved alcohol. In a recent appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, Kristen shared a story about how she humorously recounted how an elbow hit her beer bottle, causing the mishap.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today you will have to give in to your spouse's demands for improving the environment at home. In your own interest it will be advisable, says Ganesh, to hasten the measures needed to be taken and stay focussed on them as you are the one who is guilty of neglect.

TAURUS
You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the ones of the opposite sex. It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesh. If per chance, there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love. It is near certain that the wedding bells will be ringing for you sooner than you think.

GEMINI
Your family members and your friends will have much higher expectations from you today, and trying to fulfill the same will make you irritable. However, you will figure out creative ways to juggle the many demands made upon you and come out on top at the end of it all, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges today. You may be the scapegoat, though, fears Ganesh. Beware, or this may shake you and lower your self-confidence. Try to shake off your weaknesses, and you should see yourself obtaining energy and positivity.

LEO
People involved in Sales and Marketing related jobs will attend productive meetings and will make effective presentations. However, delays in journeying are a possibility. It is a good time to recognise your inherent capabilities. You will be able to prove your worth in the next 2-3 days, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
In all likelihood you will indulge in some writing or artistic work, which will bring about wonderful results. As you are passionate about these things, you may convert them into your hobbies, if you are not involved in them as a professional. Ganesh gives you the green signal to enjoy the clout that you wield over others with your sweet words.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will spend time with your family members by putting them above other commitments. There may be plans made to go out for dinner or for a short excursion with them. Ganesh says that the health of a close relative may be a cause of concern for you today.

SCORPIO
The one thing that we neglect the most about ourselves is health. But today you are unable to do that. Your health needs to be paid enough attention as you may be suffering from ailments. Try to regularise your routine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You are all set to groom your skills as a professional. Talking about work, determination and dedication are likely to rule you today. Putting your heart and soul, your work speaks volumes about your efforts. Appreciation, though slow in pace, is on its way to encourage you.

CAPRICORN
You'll be popular today at your workplace. Your honesty and efforts will be recognised, which will be fulfilling for you. But, tomorrow will be a different day and times may not be favourable for you. It is, therefore, necessary for you to understand the importance of today and utilise it to the maximum, advises Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You will go through some heavy mood swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalculated decisions, advises Ganesh, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

PISCES
Today will be a hectic day for you. Most of your time will be spent in making your relationships on the business as well as the personal front more meaningful. You will likely find yourself attending social events. There is also the possibility that you will attend some religious ritual today.



Tamannaah defends John's 'idiot' comment

Mumbai: The trailer for John Abraham's film *Vedaa* premiered in Mumbai, drawing attention. Amid controversy over his focus on action films, Abraham called a reporter an 'idiot' and urged viewing before judgment. Actress Tamannaah Bhatia defended the film on social media, highlighting its depth and the return of director Nikhil Advani, enhancing the film's anticipation.

On X, Tamannaah addressed fans and critics alike, emphasising that the film offers more than just high-octane action. She wrote, "Don't judge *Vedaa* by its cover—trust me when I say, it's more than just an action film! My friend @TheJohnAbraham, one of the nation's favourite action heroes, is bringing his incredible influence to a genre he's totally mastered. This time, he's telling a different kind of story through action, showing just how deeply this genre can convey meaningful cinematic experiences today."

She also highlighted the return of director Nikhil Advani to the helm after several years, adding to the film's anticipation. She expressed her excitement about the film, noting, "What's even more exciting, personally to me, is that Nikhil Advani is returning to the director's chair after 6 or 7 years, which adds yet another layer of anticipation to our film." She praised her co-stars, including Sharvari and Abhishek Banerjee, and shared her enthusiasm for the project, stating, "Although my contribution to the film is modest, I'm genuinely so excited about its release and to have partnered with John, Nikhil sir, Sharvari, and the entire crew of *Vedaa*."

'Want to live like myself'

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is gearing up for the release of her highly anticipated film *Khel Khel Mein*, which features an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Ammy Virk, Vaani Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Aditya Seal, and Pragya Jaiswal, got candid about her status as an outsider in the film industry and how it has impacted her career.

In an interview with a radio channel, the *Thappad* actress acknowledged that her outsider status has caused her to miss out on some work opportunities. However, she expressed contentment with the

path she has chosen, stating, "That's okay; that's still not the end of life. I feel, and I have always said, 'life is very limited.' I don't want to live like

someone else. I want to live like myself."

The *Pink* actress emphasised that she is not driven by the desire to become the highest-paid actress in the Hindi industry. "What's the worst that can happen? I won't become the highest-paid actress. I don't want to become the highest-paid actress," she said.

The actress further explained that she is always number one in her own life, as she is running her own race. "Mera jitna abhi chal rahi hai meri kitchen chal ri hai usse. Aaj subah, I was reading this headline of Akshay sir's (Akshay Kumar) interview, and I loved it. Wo kehte hai, 'mujhe yeh sab sunke lagta hai mein Maha Lakshmi race course mein daudta hua ghoda hu'. Meri life mein mein hamesha number one pe hu kyunki mein akeli bhaag rahi hu aur mein wahi rahungi."



Tabu fumes over question on pay parity



Mumbai: Tabu is tired of hearing the same questions around the subject of pay parity in the film industry being directed at the female actors. The actor, who was in conversation with a portal, said that the same question should be thrown at the people who are paying the male actors more.

During the conversation, she said, "Every media person will ask a female about pay parity. Every journalist will ask only the woman, 'You know a man is paid more, you are paid less. So why are you asking me? Why don't you ask the person who is paying them more? How am I supposed to answer this question?' Unless you just want to sen-

sationalize the quote by saying, 'I hate it that I'm being paid less,' that's all. I can either say that or I can say that, 'I'm okay with what I'm being paid.' Why don't you ask the male actor why you are getting paid more?"

She went on to add, "That will be an interesting perspective. This whole beauty perspective, I feel is more interesting when there is an outside lens to it. Beauty or physicality is always in the context on the lens that is on it."

On the work front, Tabu is currently seen on her recently released movie *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* alongside Ajay Devgn.

Rashmika all praise for designers

Mumbai: Actors Rashmika Mandanna and Vicky Kaushal were seen elevating the beauty of Falguni Shane Peacock's stunning collection at the final show of a fashion event. Rashmika has now shared a heartfelt note of gratitude along with some classy pictures of Vicky and herself.

She took to her Twitter to post a series of pictures with Vicky after their ramp walk. They were seen striking some dreamy couple poses, and their undeniable chemistry had taken social media by storm. Netizens could not stop praising the duo for their stunning look, and they are now even more excited to watch them in the upcoming film *Chhava*.

In her tweet, she expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be a showstopper at the event for Falguni Shane Peacock. She praised the meticulous work of the designers, weavers, and the entire team.

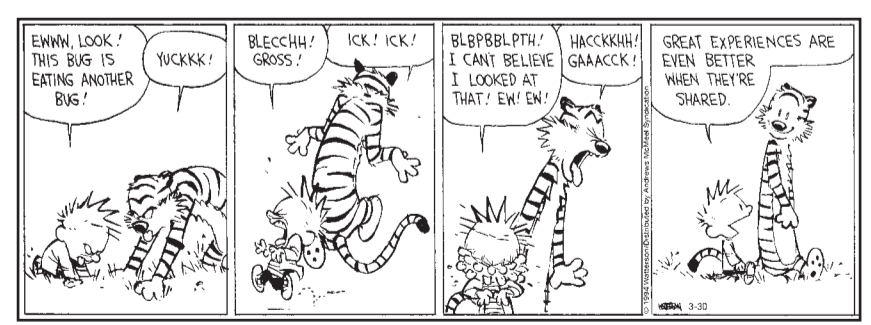
She started the show in a stunning white lehenga with sequins and pearls, later switching to another white lehenga with gold details. Kaushal matched in an ivory and gold bandhgala.



PEANUTS



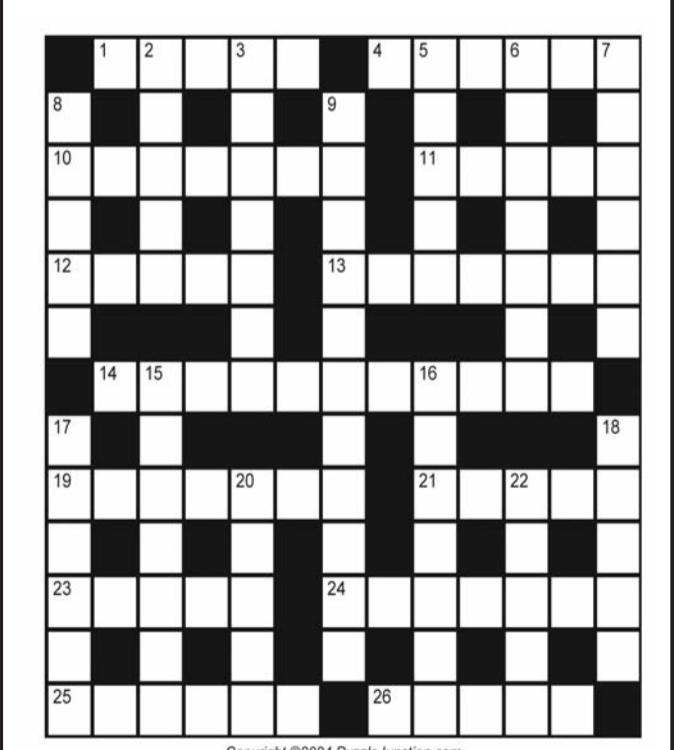
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



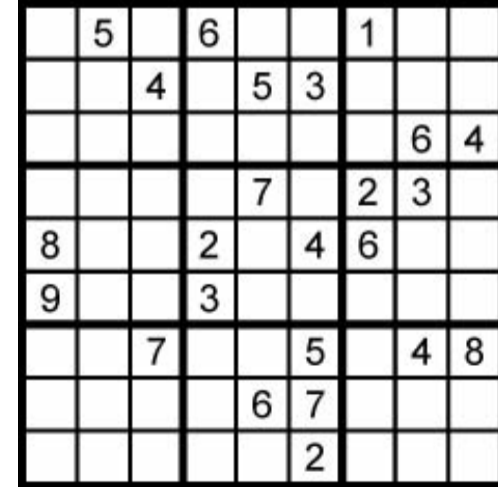
FUN post CROSSWORD



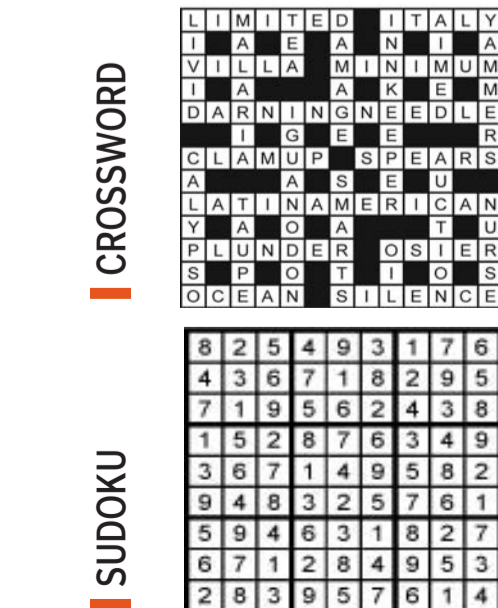
- Across**
- 1 Numbers game
 - 4 Manservant
 - 10 Sauce ingredient
 - 11 Caravan beast
 - 12 Guitar sound
 - 13 Tell tales
 - 14 Rogue
 - 19 Bone builder
 - 21 Mole kin
 - 23 Hearing-related
 - 24 In particular
 - 25 Scattershot
 - 26 Hold dear
 - 6 Backache
 - 7 Easement
 - 8 Gear wheel part
 - 9 Deposit, of sorts (4,7)
 - 15 Wing part
 - 16 Finite
 - 17 French pastry
 - 18 Aquamarine
 - 20 Ice house
 - 22 Brownish
- Down**
- 2 Alpha's opposite
 - 3 Chemical weapon (4,3)
 - 5 Gastric woe

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

downtown

CRACKDOWN ON UNRULY DRIVERS

STA to begin docu verification



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: State Transport Authority (STA) is all set to commence enforcement drive throughout the state in order to curb reckless drivers without valid documentation on the roads.

Special teams will be constituted and put in action to inspect and impose fine according to the laid Motor Vehicle Act.

However, the previously announced one-time tax exemption scheme by the Commerce and Transport department remains in effect, informed the officials. Vehicle owners who have not yet paid the taxes are urged to settle their dues and avail the exemption without entirely paying the penalty amount before the deadline, an official stated.

State transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur held a discus-

sion with department senior officials and Regional Transport Officers (RTOs), Saturday.

Before initiating enforcement actions, the commissioner advised officials to take immediate measures and ensure the tax exemption scheme by the department reaches as many vehicle owners as possible, allowing them to benefit from the programme.

According to the exemption scheme, commercial vehicle owners with pending dues as of March 31, 2022, can take advantage of the programme. The scheme mandates that all outstanding taxes must be paid in a lump sum. The penalty incurred due to delayed payment will be completely waived.

Additionally, for vehicle owners who wish to scrap their vehicles, the exemption scheme provides benefits. Vehicles with tax arrears from April 1, 1992, to March 31, 2020, can avail a 50

per cent waiver on the tax amount, along with a full waiver of penalties. For vehicles with outstanding taxes before April 1, 1992, a 100 per cent waiver on the entire due amount has been announced, allowing owners to scrap their vehicles without any payment. Even if a vehicle has already been scrapped without prior RTO approval, owners can still benefit from the scheme.

However, slightly different rules apply to tractors, agricultural tractors, trailers, and three-wheeled passenger and goods vehicles. Detailed information on these exemptions is available with all RTOs and on Transport department's official website. Vehicle owners with pending taxes are advised to visit their respective RTOs to pay the outstanding dues in lump sum and take advantage of the one-time exemption scheme, which is available only until December 26, 2024.



WARMING UP: The sighting of a gharial near Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Setu on the Kathajodi riverbank in Cuttack triggered panic among locals, Saturday OP PHOTO

State receives 989 industry proposals

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 3: During a meeting to review the industrial scenario in the state Saturday, Industries department Secretary Hemant Sharma apprised Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi that around 989 proposals have been received by the government for setting up industries.

Of them, 674 projects have got the nod of the state government through single window clearance authority.

As many as 352 industries have been provided with land for the establishment of their plants, Sharma said.

While work for 183 projects



was in progress, 74 industries are in operation in the state, he said.

During the meeting, it was also informed that there were 12 proposals for Foreign Direct

Investment (FDI) in the state.

Sharma said the Industries department has been putting all-out efforts to implement 41 important investment proposals.

Majhi directed the officials concerned to provide support to industries to set up their units in the state as Odisha has a vast potential to grow as an industrially developed state in the country.

He also asked the officials to stress on the implementation of projects in the labour-incentive sectors like textiles and food processing.

The state government aims at creating 3.5 lakh employment opportunities in Odisha in the next five years.

State Industries Minister Sampad Swain and other senior officers were present in the review meeting.

PRESENCE ON CHARIOTS

Puri police summons Sanskrit University VC



AGENCIES

Puri, August 3: Singhadwar police has issued a notice to Srinivas Barkhedi, Vice-Chancellor of a Central Sanskrit University, to explain his presence on the chariot during the Rath Yatra here this year.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has issued a directive prohibiting unauthorised persons on the chariots of the lords except for the servitors and temple officials on duty.

The CCTV footage and drone camera pictures submitted by the temple administrator, Ajay Kumar Jena, along with his complaint, showed that the Vice-Chancellor, along with one of his associates, was on the chariot dressed like temple servitors.

The police identified the VC and registered a case under various sections of the Temple Act against him.

Sources said the presence of many unauthorised persons on the chariots has been noticed, and the police are busy identifying them.

Earlier, the three people who were on the chariots during the Car Festival were summoned to appear before the police to explain their position. The temple administration has also issued a show cause notice to a senior Daitapati for facilitating the entry of non-servitors to the chariots in the garb of servitors.

Complaints have been filed in this regard in the Singhadwar and Kumbharpada police stations by the temple administration.

'Courts have bolstered India's reputation for arbitration'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: The courts in the country have bolstered India's reputation as a favourable destination for arbitration by upholding the sanctity of arbitral awards, Supreme Court judge Justice Hima Kohli has said.

She was speaking at a seminar -- 'Recent Developments in Arbitration to Promote Business' -- organised by law firms Gibson Dunn Secretariat and UNUM Law, along with the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) and General Counsels' Association of India Friday.

Justice Kohli said the growth of international trade made dispute resolution more complex and to address the challenges, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), especially arbitration, had emerged as a powerful tool for businesses.

"In recent years, India has made significant strides in establishing itself as a reliable partner in arbitration and mediation services. India's transformation into a commercial arbitration hub has been driven by the judiciary's unstinting commitment to fast-tracking matters under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and fos-

tering a broadly pro-enforcement regime," said Justice Kohli.

The apex court judge said various landmark judgments showed that India is committed to upholding the sanctity of arbitral awards. "By limiting judicial intervention and respecting arbitral awards, the effort of the Indian courts has bolstered India's reputation as a favourable destination for (alternative) dispute resolution. This judicial philosophy complements legislative reforms and signifies India's ambition to become a global hub for arbitration," she said.

Justice Kohli underlined the need to foster a specialised arbitration bar, comprising experts and legal practitioners solely engaged in arbitration, because of the upsurge of institutional arbitration in the country.

She said seminars and training sessions would streamline every facet of the arbitration process, from the drafting stage to enforcement of the award, besides boosting confidence in the country as an arbitration hub. "This would also ensure that arbitration gains traction and does not take a back seat compared to litigation in court," said the top court judge.

Justice Kohli underscored that the recent amendments in the

Arbitration and Conciliation Act aligned the laws with the best international practices and promoted a pro-arbitration regime that inspired confidence in the resolution of commercial disputes.

"In 2021, the Act underwent further amendments. The 2021 amendment to the arbitration process is aimed at addressing new challenges and improving its effectiveness. These changes are directed towards promoting institutional arbitration, recognising the importance of specialised arbitration institutions, ensuring confidentiality during the proceedings and impartiality in the appointment of arbitrators," she said.

Regarding the entry of foreign law firms in India in specific areas and on a reciprocal basis, which was permitted by the Bar Council of India in March 2023, Justice Kohli said it would provide the young talent with opportunities to compete with peers in the Western countries, besides enabling Indian law firms to adopt global best practices.

"Additionally, these regulations will help address concerns about the influx of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and establish India as a hub for international commercial arbitration," she said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 3: In order to build collaborative efforts to enhance Santali language content online, wikipedians joined hands together to commemorate the 6th anniversary of Santali Wikipedia recently.

During an online discussion, participants from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh shared their thoughts on recent developments and future prospects of various ongoing projects related to developing the language.

Key discussions highlighted the immediate importance of increasing online content and making the language more accessible to a broader audience, particularly in regions where the language is dominantly spoken.

The community plans to carry

out a series of outreach programmes throughout the anniversary month at several places, including Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Assam, as well as at Jhapa in Nepal and Dinajpur in Bangladesh. The objective of the programmes will be to generate more engagement by connecting with students from colleges and universities, and raise awareness about the importance of preserving and promoting the Santali language through digital platforms.

"By involving young minds, the community hopes to foster a new generation of Santali Wikipedians who will continue to contribute for expansion of the language repository," said the organisers.

The anniversary meet was coordinated by Bodi Baski and was supported by Ramjit Tudu.



ଉତ୍ତମ ଉପାଦାନ ଉପରେ
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Govt engineer held over DA

Bhubaneswar: A senior government engineer was arrested Saturday in a corruption case after properties that included 85 plots and a market complex were found in his possession, officials said. The accused, a chief construction engineer in the Irrigation department, was posted in a barrage project in Keonjhar district, they said. In the searches that were conducted in properties linked to him, the engineer was found in the possession of disproportionate assets (DA). Among these were a five-storied building, a market complex, 85 plots of land, 335 gm gold, deposits of over ₹78 lakh and ₹11.7 lakh in cash, they added. The accused, a native of Balasore district, accumulated such properties within 40 years in service. An investigation is underway, the Vigilance official said.

NASA indicates climate-threatening CO2 swirling over India

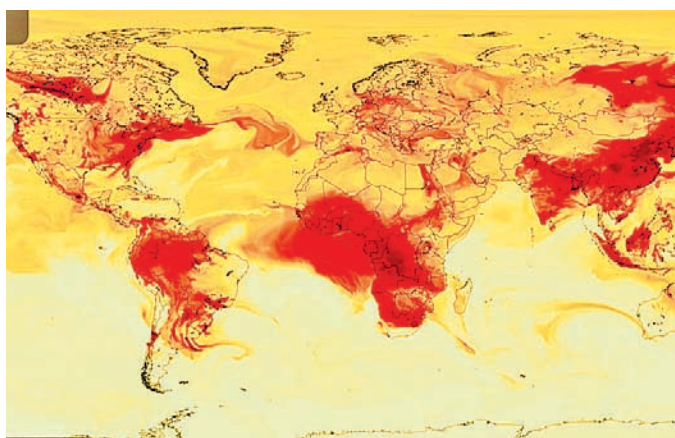
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regularly capture stunning images of our universe, leaving space lovers mesmerised. The social media handles of the US Space Agency are a treasure trove for those who love to watch educational videos and fascinating images showcasing Earth and space. Now, in its recent post on YouTube, the agency unveiled a groundbreaking visualisation tool that offers an unprecedented look at how carbon dioxide (CO2) moves around our planet. It provides a stunning, animated map of global CO2 concentrations, revealing the complex patterns of this crucial greenhouse gas.

"This global map of carbon dioxide was created using a

model called GEOS, short for the Goddard Earth Observing System. GEOS is a high-resolution weather reanalysis model, powered by supercomputers, that is used to represent what was happening in the atmosphere - including storm systems, cloud formations, and other natural events," NASA explained in the caption of the video.

"This model pulls in billions of data points from ground observations and satellite instruments - and has a resolution more than 100 times greater than your typical weather model," the agency added.

The video shows orange plumes erupting from the surface of the Earth and swirling around the planet. Over India, you can also see the greenhouse gas blow-



ing from neighbouring continents and also originating from the subcontinent. According to NASA, the pulsating oranges indicate CO2 concentrations of

420-460ppm over India.

The space agency explained that these orange plumes come from various sources including power plants, wildfires and cities.

"Over China, the United States, and South Asia, the majority of emissions came from power plants, industrial facilities, and cars and trucks," said climate scientist Lesley Ott at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"In Africa and South America, emissions largely stemmed from fires, especially those related to land management, controlled agricultural burns and deforestation, along with the burning of oil and coal. Fires release carbon dioxide as they burn," Lesley Ott added.

Further, the map exhibits a pulsating appearance. This is because, firstly, fires typically intensify during daylight hours and subside at night, creating a diurnal pattern, NASA said. Secondly, the absorption and

release of CO2 by plants during photosynthesis and respiration contribute to the fluctuations. This pulsing effect is particularly noticeable in regions with abundant vegetation, such as mid- to high-latitude forests and tropical areas, the agency explained.

Carbon dioxide is a heat-trapping greenhouse gas and the primary reason for Earth's rising temperatures. As CO2 builds in the atmosphere, it warms our planet. However, all this carbon dioxide isn't harmful to air quality. In fact, we need some carbon dioxide to keep the planet warm enough for life to exist. But when too much CO2 is pumped into the atmosphere, the Earth warms too much and too fast.

AGENCIES



Sin and virtue are a game of resistance we play with God in His efforts to draw us towards perfection

SRI AUROBINDO



Listen to Criticism

The dictionary defines the word 'propaganda' as being 'information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.' In Old India, propaganda was managed by controlling Doordarshan. Or at least that is what political parties assumed. The news segments in the evenings reported on the government and its agenda. The Opposition was given no space. This was accepted as being natural. During elections, however, the Opposition would demand to be given as much screen time as the ruling party, especially in delivering their manifestos. Party leaders would read them out in front of the camera, and smaller parties would then ask to be given as much time as the larger ones.

With the coming of private news channels a quarter century ago, this changed and instead of Doordarshan, or perhaps along with it at least in the initial years, senior party leaders would come to panels in studios. It seemed that this was the dawn of independence and some of the senior journalists around today are the product of that time, particularly those who were in the old Star News segment which became NDTV.

The phenomenon of Godi media beginning in the months before 2014 took us back considerably to propaganda. This time it was worse than in Old India and more damaging. On Doordarshan, the Opposition was merely ignored; it was not daily vilified and attacked and called anti-national. On Doordarshan, even when it was in the hands of hypocrites, minorities were not the constant target and distraction was not the only game. In New India this became the daily fare of the channels and remained so for a decade.

But a third shift has now come and while it is relatively recent it is so fully established that the government is moving to gain control over it. That shift is the rise of independent journalists using social media to reach large audiences. This includes the set of people known as content creators, who might not necessarily be journalists by background but engage with current affairs through humour, particularly satire. How large are their audiences? Have a look at the numbers. On YouTube, independent journalists have as much reach as news channels. Punya Prasun Bajpai (47 lakh subscribers), Ajit Anjum (61 lakh), Abhisar Sharma (67 lakh) and Ravish Kumar (1.1 crore) can rival entire news networks. Times Now (53 lakh subscribers), Republic (62 lakh) and India Today (93 lakh) are in the same region. Dhruv Rathee (2.3 crore subscribers) has as much reach as Zee News (3.6 crore).

Indeed in many ways the reach of the independent voices is more because of the concentration of their content on one specific daily issue. The average Ravish Kumar video gets over 10 lakh views while the average one from Zee gets a few thousand, because there are so many of them. Distribution of these clips through WhatsApp further amplifies the independent voice's reach. The sharing of advertising revenue by social media networks like YouTube affords these individuals the opportunity to be able to do their work outside of a corporate space.

In addition to the journalists, a set of humourists has risen to comment on our times. They are the product of the stranglehold of Godi media and the suffocation people have felt of having propaganda inflicted on them. A few names are worthy of mention, like Bhagat Ram, Ms Medusa, Meghnad, Garima, Ranting Gola, Shyam Rangeela and Urshiv Kothari, all of whom I follow and greatly admire and whose work I enjoy. Unfortunately for the government there are few quality creators on the other side. This is because propaganda and sycophancy are not good ingredients for humour. Godi creators tend to produce content that is sullen and angry and for this reason generally ignored.

It will take an academic paper or a book to examine the effect of the independent voices on our democracy. There is to my mind little doubt that they have managed to loosen the monopoly of the Modi government on narrative.

It is for this reason that the government has moved to throttle the voices of the creators and independent journalists. This is being done through the broadcast bill a draft of which is being circulated. Essentially it seeks to regulate everyone who is on social media because that is the only way in which the government can interfere, block and ban content it doesn't want seen. The government is also trying to go after independent websites like The Wire, Scroll, Newsland and Newsminute.

Because these creators are independent individuals on social media, they cannot be licensed or regulated in the way that news channels can. This is why the government is attempting to do this with the broadest of definitions that will affect every single person using social media. The intent might be to use the law in targeted fashion but that will not be how it will turn out. Bad laws produce bad outcomes.

Will the Modi government be successful in pushing the regulation through? It will not. This is not the same place we were last year. There are too many obstacles for it and too many points of resistance. Even if it had been passed in the previous Parliament through brute force it would have been a total mess in implementation. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet will be compelled to do what governments in other democracies must: listen to criticism from citizens and tolerate it and even learn from it. In doing so, perhaps they can also get a laugh out of the material, as many of us so often do.



Aakar Patel

Godi creators tend to produce content that is sullen and angry and for this reason generally ignored



Kaushik Basu

FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LIKELY BE SHOCKED THAT WE HAVE TOLERATED SUCH EXTREME LEVELS OF INEQUALITY, JUST AS WE ARE HORRIFIED BY OUR ANCESTORS' ACCEPTANCE OF SLAVERY

While there are many ways to measure economic inequality, key metrics consistently show that disparities are getting worse. According to a recent United Nations report, 71 per cent of the world's population now lives in countries where inequality has increased.

Unsurprisingly, this includes India and China. A recent paper by Thomas Piketty and his co-authors shows that the income share of the top 1 per cent in India has risen to its highest level since 1922, the earliest data that they have, when the country was still under British colonial rule.

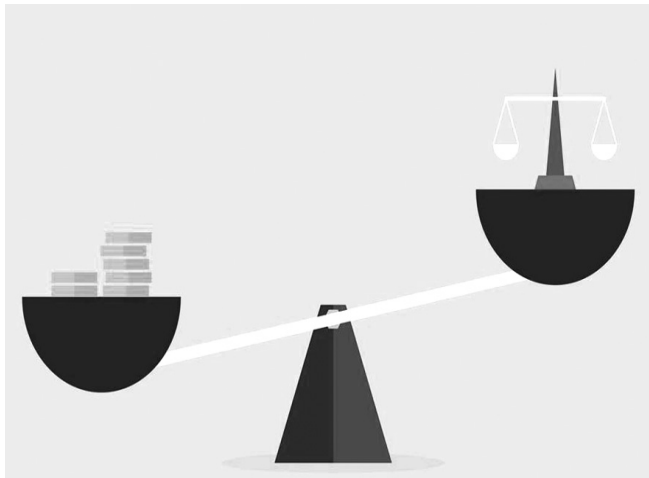
At the same time, global inequality remains extremely high. While billionaire wealth has reached unprecedented levels, the World Bank estimates that 712 million people worldwide survive on less than \$2.15 per day.

Future generations will likely be shocked that we have tolerated such extreme levels of inequality, just as we are horrified by our ancestors' acceptance of slavery. But as David Hume argued in the eighteenth century, moral imperatives ("ought") cannot be derived from objective facts ("is"). In other words, problems like inequality cannot be resolved through science or reason alone. Instead, we must highlight their moral implications to persuade people to act.

Two key aspects of global inequality deserve particular attention. First, economic disparities are set to worsen both within and across countries. As technological advances like artificial intelligence reduce demand for human labour, working-class households around the world could become increasingly impoverished. Meanwhile, those who own the machines and run the largest corporations are expected to amass unpre-

FOCUS ECONOMY

INEQUALITY KILLS DEMOCRACY



By taxing all incomes above a certain threshold and transferring this money to those earning below it, governments could reduce inequality without harming incentives

dent power and wealth. The United States – home to nearly 38 million people living below the poverty line despite being one of the world's richest countries – provides a glimpse into this bleak future.

Second, extreme inequality poses a mortal threat to democracy, enabling billionaires and moneyed interests to influence elections, capture traditional and social media, and shape public perceptions. Regrettably, judging by social-media chatter and trolling, some of the strongest opposition to progressive taxation and redistributive policies comes from the poorer segments of society, largely owing to misinformation and manipulation.

The toxic combination of extreme inequality and AI-powered misinformation is also a factor fueling pressure on liberal democracies and the rise of authoritarian forces around the world. By enabling a few wealthy individuals to wield disproportionate influence, today's global economy increasingly marginalises and

disenfranchises much of the world's population.

To be sure, misguided attempts to reduce inequality also carry significant risks. For example, trying to achieve perfect egalitarianism would be unwise, because some disparity is necessary to create incentives. Similarly, concentrating all wealth in the hands of the state, as the Soviet Union did, would lead to mismanagement of demand and supply and, ultimately, cronyism.

Instead, what we really need is a progressive tax system that redistributes incomes from the rich to the poor while preserving incentives. Fortunately, there is significant scope for such measures. In my recent book Reason to Be Happy, I propose a tax regime that I call the "accordion tax," which aims to narrow the income gap by taxing high earners and transferring the revenue to those with lower incomes.

While this model essentially functions as a progressive tax

system, its strength lies in its micro structure. Beyond a certain point, the super-rich no longer seek to earn more to buy things. Simply put, after the fifth yacht, the sixth is merely a status symbol aimed at outdoing other wealthy individuals.

By taxing all incomes above a certain threshold and transferring this money to those earning below it, governments could reduce inequality without harming incentives. The richest person will remain the richest, and the second-richest person will work just as hard to reach the top. But the incentives of the middle and working classes, whose members work primarily to make ends meet rather than try to surpass their neighbours, will remain intact.

Although the accordion tax could act as a powerful tool for reducing inequality at the national level, today's globalised economy poses significant implementation challenges. If a government taxes high incomes too aggressively, it risks triggering capital flight.

Thus, reducing global inequality requires multilateral agreements. While the US is well-positioned to lead this effort, its ability to do so depends on the outcome of November's presidential election. Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic nominee, offers hope for greater distributive fairness. By contrast, a victory for former President Donald Trump will likely cause inequality to worsen. We can only hope that American voters make the right choice.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

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SPECTRUM LAW

Mediation for inheritance disputes



P Madhava Rao

MORE THAN 78 PER CENT OF THE OVER ONE CRORE CIVIL CASES PENDING IN INDIAN COURTS ARE ABOUT INHERITANCE AND SUCCESSION DISPUTES

The complex Hindu Succession Act of 1956 defines who gets what when someone succeeds or inherits an elderly person's property. Female children did not inherit an equal share of their parents' or ancestors' property until recently. Children born from void or voidable marriages were not given a share of their biological parents' property until the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that they can inherit their parents' joint Hindu family property under the Mitakshara Law.

Following the cases of Arunachala Gounder v. Ponnusamy, 2022, and Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma, 2020, daughters now have an equal share of their parents' property. In Revanasiddappa vs. Mallikarjun (2011), a case involved Section 16(3) of the 1955 Hindu Marriage Act, amended to establish inheritance rights for such children. The Supreme Court ruled in June 2022 that live-in partners' children are legitimate in Kattukandi Edathil Krishnan & Another vs. Valsan & Others.

Two types of cases return to

court: A legal heir certificate lets the claimant approach banks and investors to reclaim their moveable property or shares. Explaining legally the various classes of legal heirs is difficult. Legal heirs use a certificate if the property owner dies without a will. A will simplifies family disputes.

Second, the property succession occurs when the original owner or ancestor dies without a will. According to national judicial data grid statistics, more than 78 per cent of the 1,09,93,516 civil cases pending in Indian courts are about inheritance, succession, ancestral property shares, refusing to share property with female siblings, legitimacy of children from void and voidable marriages, and property percentages.

Instead of fighting cold wars within the family, or coming on to the streets or knocking the doors of a court of law, now there is an option. The disputing family members sit down and resolve their disputes without outside interference. Or they can use a neutral mediator to resolve their dispute with-

out airing their differences and disputes.

To quote a Supreme Court case, the bench of Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice PB Varale observed: "The case in hand was one of the most appropriate cases in which the Court should have attempted to resolve the dispute through alternate means, namely mediation and conciliation. In Afcons Infrastructure Limited vs. Cherian Varkey Construction Company Private Limited and Others, this Court held that disputes involving partition or division among family members, coparceners, or co-owners should typically be resolved through the Alternative Disputes Redressal (ADR) process. The courts must investigate these methods for amicable resolution of family disputes."

In another case, the appellant, Mahendra Nath Soral, filed a suit for partition over the properties left by his late father, naming his two brothers and two sisters as defendants. However, in this appeal, the appellants are only disputing the partition proceedings re-

garding the roof rights of a plot in Kota. The Court noted that this case exemplifies the bitterness among the legal heirs of the late Rameshwar Nath Soral regarding the partition of his properties. While stating that it is 'properties' versus 'proper ties', 'Short term gain' vs. 'Long term relations', the Court observed, "One can either get a share in the properties that too by litigating or can maintain proper ties amongst the family members with little give and take and not going to the extent of minute details."

The latest example for preferring mediation for a court's judgement is of the case of siblings of famous industrialist Baba Kalyani.

Since we enacted the Mediation Act of 2023, we can not only reduce the burden on courts but also maintain our family relationships through dialogue and discussion among family members with the assistance of a qualified mediator.

The writer is a former senior international advisor to UNDP.

WISDOM CORNER

Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune

CARL JUNG

It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation... even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind

LEONARDO DA VINCI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1704: Gibraltar captured by Britain. During the War of the Spanish Succession, Britain took control of Gibraltar on this day in 1704 after Spain surrendered, and "the Rock" subsequently became a British colony and a symbol of British naval strength.

1914: In response to the German invasion of Belgium, Great Britain entered World War I, declaring war on Germany.

1944: The secret annex in Amsterdam where Anne Frank and seven others were hiding was discovered by the Gestapo; all were sent to concentration camps, with only Otto Frank surviving.

Safety concern

Sir, The Lok Sabha was told that deaths due to snakebites are on the rise in India. Rajiv Pratap Rudy provided a new dimension to the increased incidences of snakebite in the country linking it to global warming based on "The Lancet" report. Annually, about 50,000 snakebite deaths are reported in India. Rising temperature due to global warming means more snake and human encounters. The farming community may predominantly be afflicted by the bites due to rapid shifting of habitats by snakes. By 2070, if the climate change continues unabated, the reptiles may totally change their habitats and that does not portend well for human safety. Monsoons exacerbate snakebite incidents because both people and snakes tend to seek shelter elsewhere, away from their natural dwellings.

Civic apathy

Sir, Three UPSC aspirants died in Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi when the basement of an IAS coaching centre was flooded due to heavy rain. The three their lives were lost due to the negligence of the government and civic authorities. The fact is that AAP-controlled Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) neither cleaned the roadside drains nor stopped the illegal commercial activity in the basement of the coaching centre nor did they clean the storm water drains which can handle water. The result was that the water went to the basement quickly and precious lives were lost. On the other hand, the AAP says that they do not have power. Officers do not listen to them. They gave orders to clear the drains but order was ignored. Students are especially angry with MCD. What is shocking is that a month before this incident, a Rau's IAS Study Circle student had complained to the Delhi govt that classrooms are being run illegally in the basement without a no objection certificate. As usual, the police arrested the junior engineer of MCD and suspended an assistant engineer. Stringent action must be taken against the real culprits and they must be put behind the bars.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Croc rescued from village pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 3: Rajnagar forest range personnel have rescued a 4.9-foot long female estuarine crocodile from a pond at Barhapur under Koilpur panchayat of Rajnagar block in this district.

According to Forest officials, the female crocodile was spotted in the early hours of Friday by Kalpataru Khandua near his pond located on the backyard of his house.

Rajnagar Forest personnel rushed to the spot after being informed by the villagers and managed to fish out the estuarine crocodile with the help of a fishing net.

The rescued crocodile was later released into the Baumsagadi river which is within the Bhitarkanika National Park, Forest officials said.



The reptile had strayed into the pond from the nearby crocodile-infested Hansua river. Crocodiles generally stray from their natural habitat to nearby rivers and water bodies as the salinity levels increase due to the ingress of tidal water into the

creeks and rivulets. In search of less saline water, the reptiles move from Bhitarkanika National Park to nearby rivers and ponds, explained Chittaranjan Beura, ranger of Rajnagar forest range.

2 kanwariyas, another run over by truck



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, August 3: At least three persons including two kanwariyas were killed and two others rendered critical after a Bhubaneswar bound truck laden with husk overturned on National Highway-16 at Dimiria Square under this police limits in Ganjam district, Saturday.

Among the deceased, the two kanwariyas were identified as Ranji Naik and Papu Naik, residents of Harijan Sahi near Bhagabati temple in Banpur of Khurda district, and a casual

labourer as A Banamali Patra of Dalibati village under this police limits.

The truck after mowing them down sped away for a few metres and overturned. As a result, the driver and helper of the truck got trapped inside the vehicle and sustained critical injuries.

The duo was rescued and admitted to the Khallikote community health centre. The doctors there shifted the driver to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after his health condition deteriorated.

Sources said the mishap occurred when the two kanwariyas, Ranji and Papu, after collecting water from Rushikulya river were on their way to Uma Maheswar temple in Balugaon. The speeding truck ran over them and the casual labourer Banamali, who was riding a bicycle.

The two kanwariyas died on the spot while Banamali was pronounced dead on arrival at the Khallikote community health centre. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation.

Soil conservation overseer in Vig net for accepting bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 3: Vigilance officials here apprehended the soil conservation overseer of Ulunda block in Subarnapur district while accepting a bribe of ₹11,000 from a farm pond beneficiary for preparing a muster roll at Patabhadi Chowk in Sonepur, Saturday.

The entire tainted bribe money has been recovered and seized from the possession of the accused overseer identified as Sudhanshu Sekhar Rana. The Vigilance department has registered a case (18/24) against Rana under Section 7 of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018.

According to an official press release, accused Rana was trapped by the Vigilance sleuths while accepting a bribe of ₹11,000 from complainant Ramachandra Mahakur, a resident of Brasinghapur village under Ulunda block. The accused had demanded the amount from the beneficiary for facilitating the release of the final bill for completion of excavation work under 'farm pond' scheme. Further investigation into the matter is under progress.

KEDARNATH LANDSLIDES 4 from Keonjhar stuck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 3: At least four kanwariyas from Keonjhar district have been stranded in Uttarakhand since Wednesday night following landslides triggered by cloudburst at Kedarnath shrine.

Three of the devotees are natives of villages under Telkoi police limits while another hails from an area under Sadar police limits. They have been identified as Sadananda Sahu, 35, of Jagmohanpur village, Kartik Khillar, 44, of Saruali village, Maheswar Pradhan, 54, of Chandrasekharpur village under Telkoi police limits and Rushinath Mohanta, 28, of Kempasada village under Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district.

All of them had planned to perform rituals at the Kedarnath shrine July 31 and return home by the next day. However, all



their plans were left frustrated due to the landslides triggered by a cloudburst. The highway leading to the shrine and a bridge in between Soneprayag and Gourikund were washed away in the cloudburst and accompanying landslides disrupted all communications on the route.

They were left stranded on

the route leading to the shrine as the weather condition deteriorated. The district administration is in contact with the persons. One nodal officer has also been deputed to oversee their safe return to their homes. All of them are safe and will return after weather condition improves, Keonjhar Collector Vishal Singh said.

Fresh record by RSP

Rourkela: The sheet shearing line (SSL) unit of the state-of-the-art hot strip mill-2 (HSM-2) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has achieved an all-time best monthly production of 22,646 tonne of HR Plates in July 2024, surpassing the previous best of 17,729 tonne recorded in June, thereby registering an impressive growth of 28 per cent. In addition, the SSL also achieved a record monthly despatch of 22,058 tonne in July, marking a 35 per cent increase from the previous best of 16,279 tonne registered in June. The SSL line at HSM-2, installed and commissioned by a consortium of Mitsubishi Corporation and L&T under the supervision of the projects department, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and advanced automation, including auto shearing and handling capabilities. The shearing line features an automatic sheet strapping machine and an automatic sheet paint marking machine, ensuring high efficiency and precision in operations. Additionally, the line is equipped with advanced yard mapping with manufacturing execution system (MES) and crane location tracking system (CLTS) enabled cranes, enhancing the overall operational effectiveness.

Seminar held on 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 3: The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Saturday organised a one-day workshop on 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' at Vikash Bhawan here. The aim of the workshop was to expedite implementation of the forest protection law, and ensure the social safety and economic development of the tribals dependent on the forest.

Detailed discussions were held on how to provide social security to the tribals and others dependents on the jungles and include them in different developmental programmes being run for them by the government. The other points of discussion were how to bring them to the mainstream and protect their culture, tradition, forest and its products.



Some of the prominent departments working in this direction like the ST & SC Development department, Forest, Environment and Climate Change department and Revenue and Disaster Management department participated in this workshop and

discussed how to maintain coordination.

Stress was also given on maintaining the right coordination between the departments and skilling the officers and supporting staffs. The participating officials were sensitised about how to properly evaluate

and examine all the applications and how to provide the rights for cultivation to the tribes on forest lands. The workshop was organised by the ITDA department and Dharendra Sethi, the project director coordinated it where some of the senior officials of the district participated.

Bank of India E-Auction Sale Notice. Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Ph.: 0674-2362249. Includes details of properties for auction, reserve prices, and dates.

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751007. E-Auction Sale Notice. Includes details of properties for auction, reserve prices, and dates.

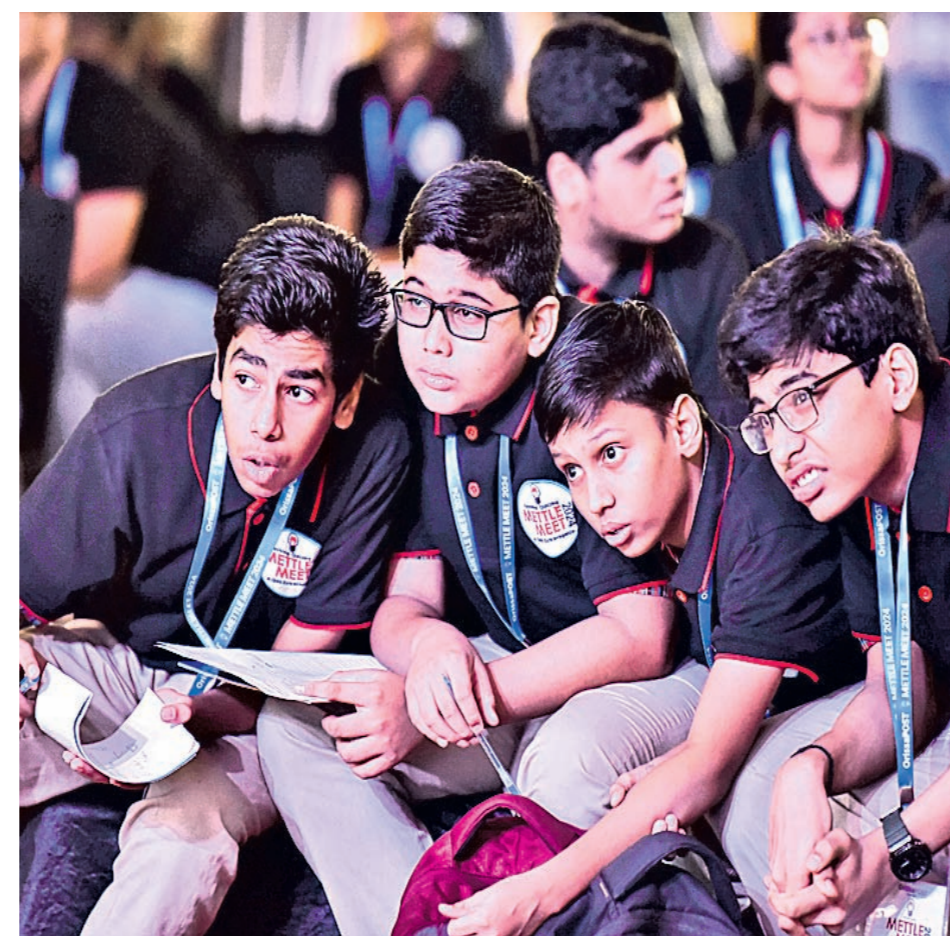


METTLE MEET 6.0

Odisha's biggest quizzing extravaganza- Mettle Meet 2024- organised by leading English daily **Orissa POST** got off to a spectacular start at a hotel in Bhubaneswar with excitement running high among the participants as well as their parents and teachers who witnessed their children/students enthusiastically joining many bright minds from across the state during the preliminary rounds of the sixth edition of battle of wits



Members of the eight teams in the senior category who qualified for the final of Mettle Meet 2024 pose with **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Saturday



national



“ Creamy layer cannot be allowed in SC quota. Allowing sub-groups within SC quota will not serve the purpose of uplifting the socially marginalised segment that has been a victim of the practice of untouchability ”
CHIRAG PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

MANN DENIED POLITICAL CLEARANCE TO VISIT PARIS

The Centre has denied political clearance to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for visiting to Paris to support the Indian hockey team at the ongoing Olympic Games, an official source said Saturday



of the day quote

What property did Shivakumar possess before entering politics? He possessed one black and white television and a DVD player. He has ₹1,500 crores of property now. Shivakumar has said that he is ready to go to jail. I am not conspiring against him to send him to jail

HD KUMARASWAMY | UNION MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND STEEL

I have taken out the details. From December to July (this year), 47 murders took place; 48 murders had taken place in the six months prior to that

A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

Amit Shah had spoken about the Aurangzeb fan club. Uddhav Thackeray today proved that he is indeed from the Aurangzeb fan club

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DEPUTY CM

POST OF THE DAY

So in India, apparently the LTCG is one of the lowest. What this chart misses is: 1) We have one of the highest indirect taxes 2) We also have additional taxes like STT 3) Our Stamp duty on Real Estate is almost 2X higher than most nations Let's keep UAE & Singapore aside (which have lower tax rates). In some nations like Thailand, equities are exempted from LTCG. And, finally, let's not forget: the returns on your taxes (close to 0 social benefits for people paying direct taxes)

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

'Mysuru Chaloo' march kicks off

Bangalore: The opposition BJP and its ally JD(S) in Karnataka Saturday kicked off their seven-day 'Mysuru Chaloo' march from Bengaluru, demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alleging his involvement in the illegal site allotment scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and JD(S) Youth Wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy started the march by blowing a bugle amidst the drum beats.

Cong MLA, son booked

Yadgir (Karnataka): A case was registered by the police against Congress MLA Channareddy Tannur and his son Pampanagouda Tannur on Saturday after a Dalit sub-inspector allegedly died by suicide, following his transfer within seven months of posting. The MLA and his son were booked on charges of intentional insult with an intent to provoke breach of peace, abetment of suicide and joint criminal liability on a complaint by Parusharam's wife Shwetha N V.

Incessant rain lashes Kolkata

Kolkata: Incessant rain lashed Kolkata and its neighbouring districts Saturday as a low-pressure area turned into a deep depression, an official said. As a result of the rains, waterlogging was reported from several parts of Kolkata, including the airport. Similar was the scene in the neighbouring cities of Howrah, Salt Lake and Barrackpore.

Heavy rain lashes parts of India

In Himachal, flash floods and landslides due to cloudbursts and heavy rains have led to the closure of 114 roads, while the weather department warned that heavy showers would continue until August 7

AGENCIES

Shimla, August 3: Heavy rains lashed large parts of the country Saturday, especially in Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand where showers due to a deep depression affected normal life, while two children were killed in Madhya Pradesh after a house collapsed on them following incessant rains.

In Himachal Pradesh, flash floods and landslides due to cloudbursts and heavy rains have led to the closure of 114 roads, while the weather department warned that heavy showers would continue until August 7.

The state's road transport corporation has suspended its bus services on 82 routes.

The hunt for 45 people, who went missing after a series of cloudbursts in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana; Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31 resumed Saturday morning. As many as 410 rescuers from teams of the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt with the help of drones.

The death toll in the calamity rose to nine Saturday with the recovery of one more body from Kullu district.

Moderate to heavy showers continued to lash parts of the state, with Jogindernagar re-



ceiving the highest rainfall of 85 mm since Friday evening.

In the south, Tamil Nadu's Namakkal district remained flooded as the Cauvery River flowed above the danger mark, inundating low-lying areas. Chief Minister M K Stalin said that 11 relief camps have been set up in the district and about 1,086 people have been shifted there.

In Madhya Pradesh, a three-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy died in their sleep and five others were injured after their house collapsed following incessant rains in a village in Narsinghpur district.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of extremely heavy rainfall in Maharashtra's Palghar, Pune and Satara districts Sunday and issued an orange alert, forecasting heavy rains, for Thane, Mumbai, Raigad, Sindhudurg and Nashik. Several areas were inundated, roads got washed away, trees uprooted, houses

damaged and a bridge collapsed due to incessant rains in Jharkhand for the past two days, forcing the state government to order the closure of all schools Saturday.

However, no death was reported from any part of the state, a disaster management official said, adding that NDRF teams were deployed in Ranchi Friday to rescue people from low-lying areas. In adjoining West Bengal, incessant rain lashed Kolkata and its neighbouring districts as a low-pressure area turned into a deep depression. Waterlogging was reported from several parts of the state's capital, including the airport but flight services were not affected.

The southern districts of Howrah, Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, Purba Bardhaman, Hooghly, Nadia, and North and South 24 Parganas districts will continue to experience showers over the next 12 hours, he said.

Flight operations at the Kazi Nazrul Islam airport in Paschim Bardhaman district continued to be suspended for the second consecutive day Saturday as the airport is yet to be ready for operations. The operations at the airport were shut down Friday due to water logging in and around its premises.

An irrigation department official said 36,000 cusec water was discharged from Panchet dam and 70,000 cusecs from Durgapur barrage after heavy rains. Accusing the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) of discharging water to "engineer a man-made flood", TMC leader Kunal Ghosh, in a post in Bengali, on X said, "When water level rises in Jharkhand, DVC aggravates the situation in Bengal by releasing water. But never releases water in summer when the state needs the most for irrigation and farming activities."

Voicing apprehension that the water level might rise during high tides next Monday, Ghosh said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is keeping a close tab on the situation.

Heavy rains also lashed Rajasthan with Kolai Magra in Bikaner district receiving the maximum rainfall of 195 mm. In a 24-hour period till 8.30 am, Masuda in Ajmer recorded 180 mm of rain followed by 170 mm each in Beawar's Nayanager and Ajmer's Pisangan, 150 mm in Mangliawas.

AYODHYA RAPE CASE

Akhilesh's DNA test demand sparks row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 3: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Saturday sparked a controversy with his remarks demanding a DNA test of the accused in the Ayodhya gangrape case in which the 12-year-old victim became pregnant.

While BSP chief Mayawati asked how many accused were subjected to DNA tests under the SP rule in such cases, the BJP too stepped up its attack, alleging Yadav has given a "clean chit" to accused Moid Khan who is linked to the Samajwadi Party. In a statement issued from the SP headquarters on Saturday, Yadav said, "Without a DNA test in the Bhadarsa case of Ayodhya, BJP's allegation would be considered biased."

The BJP hit back, alleging the SP is defending a "paedophile" and showing its "boys will be boys mindset" while leaders of the INDIA bloc are "silent".

"Because the girl belongs to the Nishad community and the brute belongs to the vote bank, evidence is being sought from her even though she is pregnant."

"What do they want to prove with the DNA test? Who all were involved in the gangrape, will this be decided on the basis of the DNA test? Is the rapist who made the girl pregnant the only



one guilty of rape?" BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said on X.

UP minister and Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad, who broke down in tears after meeting the victim and her family in Ayodhya, hit out at SP leaders, accusing them of shielding the accused, and said he would protest at the SP office against the atrocity.

In his statement, Yadav alleged that the BJP was rattled after its defeat in Lok Sabha elections including in Ayodhya. "Justice should be done by getting the DNA test done of all accused instead of doing politics by just making allegations," he said, adding "levelling allegations to defame the Samajwadi Party without investigating the incident is motivated by political malice."

The SP chief also demanded that the government should immediately provide assistance of ₹20 lakh to the victim's family.

However, BSP chief Mayawati questioned Yadav's remarks on the DNA test of the accused.

Five policemen, teacher sacked for narco-terror links

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 3: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday sacked six government employees, including five policemen, for their "deep involvement in anti-national activities", officials said.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha invoked article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution to terminate them from service, they said. Under proviso 'c' of the Article, the president or the governor, is empowered to terminate an employee without recourse to the normal procedure if satisfied that the person's retention in public service is prejudicial to the security of the State.

"The government today dismissed six employees - five from the police department (constables) and one from the education department (teacher) - for their deep involvement in anti-national activities," an official said. Their activities had come to the notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and they found them "thickly involved" in activities prejudicial to the interests of the State, evidencing their involvement in terror-related activities, they said.

The officials identified the sacked employees as Head Constable Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, Selection Grade Constables Saif Din, Khalid Hussain Shah and Irshad Ahmad Chalkoo, Constable Rahmat Shah and teacher Nazam Din.

WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

AGENCIES

Wayanad, August 3: In a remarkable display of courage and compassion, officials from the Kerala forest department successfully rescued four toddlers and their parents, who belong to a tribal community, after they were stranded in a cave atop a hill following the devastating Wayanad landslides.

The four-member rescue team, led by Kalpetta range forest officer K Hashis, braved incessant rain and treacherous terrain to save the Pania community family, which included children aged between one and four. The daring rescue mission involved an arduous eight-hour trek.

Reports indicate that the family had been trapped in a cave atop a hill, which overlooked a deep gorge and was surrounded by dense forest, for five days.

Four kids rescued from cave



The forest officials discovered the mother wandering in search of food for her starving children and their father. She subsequently guided them to the cave where the entire family had taken shelter, having gone without food for the last five days.

The path to rescuing the family was fraught with challenges, including a steep slope and heavy rainfall. The rescuers had to tie ropes to trees and rocks to navigate the hazardous climb. The children, exhausted and hungry, were provided with food and clothing upon their return to the Attamalla anti-poaching camp.

Images and videos of the heroic rescue operation have gone viral on social media, garnering widespread praise for the forest officials' bravery and dedication in risking their own lives to save the tribal family.

Death toll rises to 218

Wayanad (Kerala): The death toll in the Wayanad landslides increased to 218, the district administration said Saturday. The 218 dead include 90 women and 30 children, the administration said. Of the 218 bodies recovered from the landslides-hit areas, 152 have been identified by relatives, it said. It further said that 143 body parts have also been recovered till date. The administration also said that autopsies of 217 bodies and 143 body parts have been performed and 119 remains were handed over to next of kin. Besides these, 518 people were admitted to hospitals and of them 89 are undergoing treatment, the statement said. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that the search and rescue operations which began July 30 have reached the final stages.

Ex-cop Waze reiterates bribery allegations against Anil Deshmukh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, August 3: Maharashtra politics hotted up Saturday with sacked police officer Sachin Waze reiterating allegations of bribery against former home minister and NCP (SP) leader Anil Deshmukh, prompting the Opposition to question the "timing" and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis assuring an inquiry.

Deshmukh and Fadnavis are locked in a war of words since the former accused the BJP politician of trying to exert pressure as the then Opposition leader when he (Deshmukh) was home minister in the erstwhile MVA government, to frame key politicians including the then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Reacting to Waze's claims, Fadnavis, who heads the Home department, assured to conduct a proper inquiry into Waze's latest allegations. Fadnavis had denied allegations against him. Deshmukh resigned as Home Minister in 2021 after former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh accused him of setting a target to collect ₹100 crore a month from bars and restaurants in the city.

Waze, accused of planting gelatin sticks outside Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' and also booked for the related murder of businessman Mansukh Hiran, had earlier told an inquiry commission that he had paid money to Deshmukh's associates on the latter's instructions.

Legendary Indian classical dancer Yamini Krishnamurti passes away at 84

SNIPPETS

New Delhi: Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurti died at the Apollo hospital here Saturday. She was 84. "She was suffering from age-related issues and was in the ICU for the last seven months", Krishnamurti's manager and secretary Ganesh told PTI. Krishnamurti's mortal remains will be brought to her institute - Yamini School of Dance at Hauz Khas - at 9 am Sunday. The details of her last rites are yet to be finalised. Krishnamurti is survived by two sisters. Born December 20, 1940 in Madanapalli in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district to Sanskrit scholar M Krishnamurti, she took to dance at the tender age of five at the Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai under the tutelage of legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale. Also proficient in the form of Kuchipudi, Krishnamurti expanded her horizon by learning Odissi from the likes of Pankaj Charan Das and Kelucharan Mohapatra.

4 school kids buried alive as wall collapses in MP's Rewa

Bhopal: Four students of a private school were buried alive after the wall of a house collapsed in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa Saturday. The incident occurred in the Garh police station area, around 45 km from the Rewa district headquarters. The deceased have been identified as Anshika Gupta (5), Manya Gupta (7), Siddhart Gupta (5), and Anuj Prajapati (6). The abandoned house was located hardly 20 meters away from Sunrise Public School, where the children were enrolled. After school was over, some students were heading towards their homes. As they were crossing the old and abandoned house, its back wall collapsed. At least, eight students aged between five to seven years and a woman teacher were buried.

Uddhav accuses BJP of indulging in 'power jihad'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 3: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Saturday launched a broadside against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing the former ally of indulging in "power jihad" by breaking political parties to form a government.

Hitting back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his "Aurangzeb Fan Club" barb aimed at him, he dubbed the top BJP leader a political descendant of Ahmad Shah Abdali, the Afghan king who defeated the Marathas in the third battle of Panipat.

Addressing party workers at the Shiv Sankalp rally here, he also accused the Eknath Shinde-led dispensation of bribing voters by giving "revdis" (freebies)

to them in the form of schemes like the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana, under which eligible women in the state will get ₹1,500 every month.

Accusing the former ally of breaking parties, he said, "If Muslims are with us after we explained to them our Hindutva, then we are (according to the BJP) the Aurangzeb Fan Club. Then what you are doing is power jihad."

During an event in Pune last month, Shah had attacked Thackeray and dubbed him "the head of the Aurangzeb fan club" who was "sitting with people who sought pardon for 1993 Mumbai serial blasts convict Yakub Memon".

Referring to his remarks, Thackeray, who had challenged



his friend-turned-adversary and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis that "either you will be there or I will (in politics)", said he was not referring to any person.

"Some people thought I challenged someone, but I don't challenge bed bugs. Here, T means my

cultured Maharashtra and 'you' means the party which loots Maharashtra," the former chief minister said. Bed bugs are not supposed to be challenged, but crushed, he said.

"This government (at the Centre) is a leakage government. There are paper leaks also," he

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over photos of leakage in the new Parliament building, Thackeray said the new complex has started leaking in just 14 months

The PM asks what the Congress did in 60-70 years, but Modi should give an account on why the new Parliament building, which was built barely a year ago, started leaking, Uddhav Thackeray said

said. Thackeray also accused the BJP of engineering division among castes.

"This is not the Hindutva taught to us by Chhatrapati Shivaji. This (the one practised by the BJP) must have been taught by Aurangzeb which we do not believe in. Our Hindutva

is the one that takes forward the Maharashtra dharma of Chhatrapati Shivaji," he said.

Taking a dig at the delay in getting judgement on disqualification of MLAs who rebelled against him, Thackeray said, "We have faith in the judiciary. The result will be given in 5-50 years. The term of (the legislative assembly) is getting over. Even if they (the rebel MLAs) are disqualified, they can contest polls."

Thackeray added that democracy was getting murdered in broad daylight and stressed that justice will be delivered in the court of the people. Talking about the pothole-riddled roads during the monsoon, he hit out at Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

international

of the day quote

Russian combat aviation must be destroyed wherever it is, by all effective means. It is also quite fair to strike at Russian airfields. And we need this joint solution with our partners, a security solution
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

It's something that we're going to continue to monitor (missile testing by North Korea) and something that we will always work with our Republic of Korea and Japanese allies on and coordinate on
SABRINA SINGH | DEPUTY PENTAGON PRESS SECRETARY, US

We expect the Venezuelan authorities to comply with the agreed commitments and to respect the will of the Venezuelan people
ESPEN BARTH EIDE | FOREIGN MINISTER, NORWAY

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist attack in Somalia kills 37

Mogadishu: At least 37 people were killed, and 212 others injured, in a suicide bombing and gunfire attack conducted by al-Shabab militants at a beachside hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, the local authorities confirmed Saturday. Addressing the media persons, Somali Police Spokesperson Abdifatah Adan said that five terrorists and a suicide bomber were killed by the security forces. Additionally, the security forces have evacuated the civilians trapped in the hotel and defused an explosive-laden car parked in the area.

Vietnam Communist Party gets new chief

Hanoi: Vietnamese President To Lam was named Saturday to the nation's top position, general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam, replacing Nguyen Phu Trong, who died two weeks ago. Lam, 67, had temporarily taken on the party chief's duties July 18, a day before Trong's death, as his health deteriorated. Party delegates unanimously supported Lam's nomination, officials told a press conference.

Building collapse in Russia claims 10

Moscow: The death count from the partial collapse of a residential building in the Russian city of Nizhny Tagil has risen to 10, said the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The Ministry said on Friday that rescuers have found 10 bodies and 15 people have been rescued from under the rubble, Xinhua news agency reported. Five people are reportedly in critical condition at a hospital. Death toll in residential building collapse in Russia rises to 10.

English village celebrates Indian Army connection with exhibition

London, August 3: A charming English village in the heart of the New Forest region in Hampshire of southern England has been celebrating its lesser-known Indian Army connection with an insightful exhibition. Red Pepper and Black Pepper, The Indian Army in the New Forest (1914-1916) and Bournemouth opened at the New Forest Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst village recently to tell the story of



mutual warmth and friendship between the troops and the local population during the First World War. The name of the exhibition alludes to the letters home of the Indian recruits which were often censored and hence some of the soldiers referred in code to the British as "Red Peppers" and themselves as "Black Peppers". "It was great to see this exhibition in the heart of the beautiful New Forest and see the enthusiasm the residents have for commemorating the events from over a hundred years ago," said UK-based historian Shrabani Basu, the author of 'For King and Another Country Indian Soldiers on the Western Front, 1914-1918' who delivered a talk entitled 'Turban in the Trenches' at the Community Centre in Lyndhurst.

British police boost presence in Sunderland

Sunderland, August 3: British police are putting more officers on the streets amid warnings of more violent disorder this weekend and mosques have tightened security after anti-immigration protesters torched cars following the murder of three young girls. Riots involving hundreds of people, or thousands in one protest in London, have erupted this week, after false information spread rapidly online that the suspect in the killings in the north-west town of Southport was a radical Muslim migrant. Police have said the suspect, Axel Rudakubana, is a 17-year-old who was born in Cardiff, Wales.



Prime Minister Keir Starmer, facing his first big test since being elected a month ago, has condemned the "far-right" for the violence, met police chiefs and backed forces to take strong action. He has travelled twice to Southport since the attack, meeting community leaders and thanking the emergency services. The last time major widespread violence erupted in Britain was in 2011 when thousands took to the streets for six nights after police shot dead a Black man in London.

ISRAEL RETALIATION Hezbollah to strike deeper

Iran says it is no longer confined to military targets



Tehran, August 3: Iran said Saturday it expects Lebanon's Tehran-backed Hezbollah group to hit deeper inside Israel and no longer be confined to military targets after Israel killed the Hezbollah military commander. Hezbollah has been exchanging near-daily fire with Israeli forces, saying it is targeting military positions over the border, since its Palestinian ally Hamas attacked Israel October 7, sparking war in Gaza. But a strike claimed by Israel in an overcrowded residential area of South Beirut changed the



calculus, Iran's mission to the United Nations said. "We expect Hezbollah to choose more targets and (strike) deeper in its response," said the mission quoted by the official IRNA news agency. "Secondly, that it will not limit its response to military targets." The strike Tuesday killed Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur. According to Lebanon's health ministry, five civilians, three women and two children, also died. Israel said Shukur was responsible for rocket fire that killed 12 youths in the annexed Golan Heights, and had directed Hezbollah's attacks on Israel since the Gaza war began.

An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced persons in Gaza City killed at least 15 Palestinians Saturday, hours after two strikes in the occupied West Bank killed nine militants including a local Hamas commander, Hamas said

"Hezbollah and the (Israeli) regime had observed certain lines", including limiting strikes to border areas and military targets, Iran's mission said. The Beirut strike crossed that line, it added. Hours after Shukur's killing, the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in a pre-dawn "hit" on his accommodation in Tehran, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said. Israel has declined to comment.

US to send more warships to Middle East

Washington: The US military will deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the Middle East, the Pentagon said Friday, as Washington seeks to bolster defenses following threats from Iran and its allies Hamas and Hezbollah. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had approved sending additional Navy cruisers and destroyers, which can shoot down ballistic missiles, to the Middle East and Europe. It is also sending an additional squadron of fighter jets to the Middle East. "Austin has ordered adjustments to US military posture designed to improve US force protection, to increase support for the defense of Israel, and to ensure the United States is prepared to respond to various contingencies," the Pentagon said in a statement. It also added it would increase readiness to deploy more land-based ballistic missile defenses.



US revokes plea deals with 9/11 suspects

US DESCRIBES MOHAMMED AS THE MAIN PLOTTER OF THE ATTACK THAT CRASHED HIJACKED PASSENGER PLANES INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, THE PENTAGON AND A PENNSYLVANIA FIELD

Washington, August 3: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin Friday overrode a plea agreement reached earlier this week for the accused mastermind of the September 11, 2001, attacks and two other defendants, reinstating them as death-penalty cases. The move comes two days after the military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, announced that the official appointed to oversee the war court, retired Brigadier General Susan Escallier, had approved plea deals with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two accused accomplices, Walid bin Attash and Mustafa al-Hawsawi, in the attacks. Letters sent to families of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the al-Qaida attacks said the plea agreement stipulated the three would serve life sentences at most. Austin wrote in an order released Friday night that "in light of the significance of the decision," he had decided that the authority to make a decision on accepting the plea agreements was his. He nullified



Escallier's approval. Some families of the attack's victims condemned the deal for cutting off any possibility of full trials and possible death penalties. Republicans were quick to fault the Biden administration for the deal, although the White House said after it was announced it had no knowledge of it. Republican Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, a member of the Armed Services Committee, earlier Friday had condemned the plea deal on social media as "disgraceful." Cotton said he had introduced legislation that would mandate the 9/11 defendants face trial and the possibility of the death penalty.

Freed prisoner condemns his 'illegal expulsion'



Bonn, August 3: Ilya Yashin, a Russian opposition activist freed from jail in Thursday's prisoner swap, pledged to carry on his political fight against President Vladimir Putin from abroad, but expressed fury at having been deported against his will. The prisoner swap, the largest since the Cold War, saw eight Russians, including a convicted murderer, exchanged for 16 prisoners in Russian and Belarusian jails, many of them dissidents. It was hailed as a win by Western leaders who feared the dissidents' lives after the death in jail last year of politician Alexei Navalny. But Yashin, imprisoned in 2022 for criticising Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, said he had not given his consent to deportation and that others in more urgent need of medical care should have gone instead of him. "From my first day behind bars I said I was not willing to be a part of any exchanges," he said in an emotional news conference in Bonn Friday during which he occasionally removed his glasses to blink back tears. He directed his ire not at the Western governments that had secured his release, who he said had faced a difficult moral dilemma, but at the Kremlin for expelling a political rival against his will. "What happened August 1 I don't view as a prisoner swap but as my illegal expulsion from Russia against my will, and I say sincerely, more than anything I want now to go back home," he added. He was speaking alongside activists Vladimir Kara-Murza and Andrei Pivovarov at the freed prisoners' first public appearance since arriving in Germany. On their second day out of prison, where they had had limited contact with the outside world, Kara-Murza and Yashin especially seemed fired with resolve, and to have kept abreast of world events. All expressed scorn for the government of Putin whom Kara-Murza described as an illegitimate usurper.

Annexure - 1
DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION, KEONJHAR
(2nd Floor, Zilla Parishad Building, Keonjhar, ODISHA - 758001)
E-mail: dmfkeonjhar@gmail.com
QUOTATION CALL NOTICE FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION, KEONJHAR FOR THE FY 2023-24
No. CAD-733: Collector & Chairman-cum-Managing Trustee, District Mineral Foundation, Keonjhar invites quotation from C & AG empanelled list (Last updated) partnership Chartered Accountants Firms for conduct of Statutory Audit of Accounts of District Mineral Foundation, Keonjhar for the financial year 2023-24. The Engagement of Chartered Accountants Firm will be through a Quotation Call Notice. Quotation with all documents can be submitted by interested firm in Speed Post/Registered only to Chief Executive Officer, DMF, Keonjhar, PIN - 758001. The detail terms and conditions along with Bid documents will be available in Keonjhar District website i.e. <http://kenduajar.odisha.gov.in/>

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF PR & DW
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, TALCHER
INVITATION OF BIDS (IFB)
IDENTIFICATION No. TAL-02/2024-25
E-mail: ori-talcher@nic.in
No. i-56: The Block Development Officer, Tendered in behalf of PR & DW Deptt. Govt. of odisha invites percentage of rates BID in Double Cover System of the Work 1. Construction of the community center at Baulpur, Kamapur from a class of eligible bidders as mentioned in Column 4 (Four) registered with the State Government and contractors of the equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways to be eventually drawn up the pwd P-1 from for execution of building (Civil Work). The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid if successful bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHARIAR ROAD
At/Po - Khariar Road, Dist. - Nuapada (Odisha), Pin - 766104
Email: nacrhd@rediffmail.com Executive Officer - 9937130262
Date : 02.08.2024
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
No.C-341 : Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited in two bid system from eligible reputed Firms / Architecture / Technical organizations for suitable feasibility, study of required data as per OPWD and other structural code and related guideline for preparation of Plan, Site Map, Detailed Drawing, Structural Design, in respect of the following projects.

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNABEDA
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
No. 3219/Date : 02.08.2024 No.C-335
Bid-Identification No. M.C-SBD-01/2024-25
Total No. of works - 01 No.
Tender Value : Rs.86,87,000/-
Bid Security : Rs.86,870/-
Available Period : Dt-05.08.2024 at 11.00 AM to 17.08.2024 at 5.00 P.M.
Opening of Technical Bid : at 21.08.2024 11.00 A.M.
Opening of Financial Bid : 22.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
Bidders are requested to participate in advance with their Class-B DSC before the closing date.
Further details please visit : <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>
Sd./- Executive Officer
Sunabeda Municipality
OIPR-13078/11/0007/2425

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL : RAIRANGPUR
Phone No : 06794-222054, E-Mail ID : rairangpur.hud@ori.nic.in/rupnac@gmail.com
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.C-332
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO : 2209/dt. 02.08.2024
BID IDENTIFICATION NO : T1RRP/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice
E-mail : eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) Puri-10/2024-25
No.B-144: The Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single / Double cover system in ONLINE MODE from the eligible class of contractors registered with the state Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government / Railways :

of the day quote

Our market share progressed well as an outcome of sustained investments in brands, product excellence, and innovation

VARUN BERRY | VICE CHAIRMAN & MD, BRITANNIA INDUSTRIES LTD

We have about 450 dealerships currently. We have planned to take it up to 600 by this financial year. If you compare this with anybody else, we still have a long way to go. For the next few years, we will keep on adding 200 odd (showrooms) every year

ASHISH SINGH JOSHI | CLASSIC LEGENDS CEO

Semiconductor is a foundational industry. Whenever a semiconductor unit comes there will be many more downstream employment which will get created and there will be many more upstream, because the ecosystem is so complex that a lot many units come the moment a mother unit comes

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

Q1 RESULTS CORNER

SBI profit rises 4% to ₹19,325cr

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) Saturday reported a 4.25 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit in April-June quarter at ₹19,325 crore, held back by a rise in loan loss provisions and lower growth in core income. On a standalone basis, the profit growth was much slower at almost flat pace of 0.89 per cent during the quarter at ₹17,035 crore. SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, whose over four years stint at the helm will be ending soon, said the first quarter is generally slow and there were "distractions" which limited the growth. He said the bank is confident of growth picking up in the remainder of the fiscal year, and achieving his aspiration of the largest lender reporting a net profit of ₹1 lakh crore in FY25.

Bank of India net profit grows 10%

Mumbai: State-owned Bank of India Saturday reported a 10 per cent growth in its June quarter net profit at ₹1,703 crore, limited by a rise in money set aside for tackling bad loans. The bank had reported a net profit of ₹1,551 crore in the year-ago period. Its core net interest income grew 6 per cent to ₹6,275 crore in the reporting quarter on the back of a nearly 16 per cent jump in advances and the net interest margin widening by 0.04 per cent to 3.07 per cent. The net interest income declined to ₹1,302 crore from ₹1,462 crore during the quarter. Deposit growth came at 9.74 per cent during the reporting quarter.

JK Tyre net profit rises 37%

New Delhi: JK Tyre & Industries Saturday reported a 37 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit at ₹211 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. The tyre maker has reported a net profit of ₹154 crore for the April-June quarter of last fiscal. Total income declined to ₹3,655 crore for the period under review from ₹3,726 crore in the June quarter of FY24, JK Tyre said in a regulatory filing. "We continue to deliver profitable growth with a year-on-year increase in operating margins," JK Tyre Chairman and Managing Director Raghupati Singhania said. The company's strategic thrust on premiumisation and pricing has helped it manage the raw material cost pressures, he added.



Job creation is going to be the toughest challenge ahead not only in India but world over

C RANGARAJAN | FORMER RBI GOVERNOR

INDIA-ASEAN TRADE TALKS

The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-ASEAN free trade agreement in goods will be held in November, an official statement said Saturday. The third round of the negotiations was concluded August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Eight sub-committees have been constituted under the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee for undertaking negotiations on different areas related to the review of the pact.



Telcos to compensate users for service outages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3: Telecom operators will have to compensate subscribers in case of service outages for more than 24 hours at a district level under the new quality of service rules issued by the sector regulator Trai.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has also increased the penal amount to ₹1 lakh from ₹50,000 for failing to meet each quality benchmark under the new rules.

The regulator has introduced a graded penalty system of ₹1 lakh, ₹2 lakh, ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh for different scales of rule violations under revised regulations -- "The Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wirelines and Wireless) and Broadband (Wireline and Wireless) Service Regulations, 2024".

The new norms supersede three different regulations -- Quality of Service (QoS) for basic and cellular mobile services, broadband services, and broadband wireless services.

In case of a network outage in a district, telecom operators will need to provide a rebate on rent for postpaid customers and extend the validity of connection for pre-paid customers as per the new rules.

"If any such significant network outage continues for more



than 24 hours, the service provider shall provide a proportional rent rebate, as per subscribed tariff offering, for the actual number of days of service outage to postpaid subscribers registered in the affected district(s) in next billing cycle," Trai said.

The regulator will count network outage duration of more than 12 hours in a calendar day as one full day for the calculation of rent rebate or extension of validity.

"Rent rebate to postpaid customer or validity extension to pre-paid customer, due delay in rectification of faults or due to significant network outage of more than 24 hours, as applicable, shall be made within one week of rectification of signif-

icant network outage," the new norms said.

However, outages due to natural calamity will not be considered for the extension of validity.

Even fixed-line service providers will have to compensate postpaid and prepaid customers if the fault in their network or service is fixed after three days.

The new rule mandates broadband service providers to activate 98 per cent of connections within 7 days of customers making payment. Mobile service providers will need to provide service-wise (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G) geospatial coverage maps on their website that will help users.

Trai's new rules will come into force after six months.

'Sebi's primary intent to curb expiry day frenzy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 3: Sebi Whole Time Member Ananth Narayan G has said that the "primary intent" of the capital markets regulator in trying to restrict derivative trades is to curb "expiry day frenzy" in options trading.

Replying to the critique of the seven-point proposals released earlier this week, where people warn about throwing the baby with the bath water, Narayan wondered if there is any baby in it at all, and made it clear that it is not Sebi's intent to ban derivatives.

Speaking at the annual Capam event organised by FICCI, he also flagged the issues of a consistent mismatch between demand and supply of securities for many years and urged the industry to step up on this front.

"Primary regulatory intent now is to specifically curb only this expiry day frenzy in options trading, and to reduce the systemic risks around this," he said, speaking of the consultation paper put out by Sebi to restrict F&O activity earlier this week.

Narayan said five of the seven proposals in the July 30 consultation paper are focused on this objective, including restricting the number of weekly option expiries, increasing margins around expiry day, removing the benefit of calendar spreads on expiry day, requiring the moni-



Quoting data from NSE, Sebi Whole Time Member Ananth Narayan G said over 92 lakh individuals collectively lost ₹51,869 crores in FY24 in index derivatives

toring of intraday positions, and rationalization of options strikes.

"As a regulator, we are conscious that we must not throw the baby out with the bathwater. When it comes to the frenzied trading in options nearing expiry, however, it is very difficult to see any baby in this bathwater," he said.

Explaining the concerning activities, he said there are contracts where well over 90 per cent of the trading volume in index options occurs on the ex-

piry day, with a significant concentration in the last hour of trading.

"Trading in index options specifically close to expiry - then starts to resemble a slot machine in a casino, with individuals putting coins into the machine, hoping to hit the jackpot," he said, making it clear that all F&O is not like slot machine and it is the options trading in the final hours ahead of expiry is what concerns the Sebi.

Quoting data from NSE, he said over 92 lakh individuals collectively lost ₹51,869 crores during FY24 in index derivatives, even without considering their transaction costs, and added that 99 per cent of these individuals traded in index options.

"This frenzied hyperactivity in index options on expiry day has little discernable benefits while raising several issues," he said.

FPIs pump in ₹54,727cr in July



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 3: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped in ₹54,727 crore in equity and debt in July anticipating India's strong growth outlook for FY 2025.

An economic survey that was presented before the Union Budget this year projected India's growth rate to be at 6.5 to 7 per cent for 2024-25.

Market experts, citing the data from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), said that FPIs have invested ₹32,364 crore in equity and ₹22,363 crore in debt in July.

For the full year-to-date, FPI investment in equity stands at ₹35,565 crore in the country.

Experts cite three key reasons behind massive inflow: strong economic outlook, rate cut and government fiscal discipline.

An expert said: "FII flows into India should increase due to sev-

eral factors. Firstly, India's economy is performing better than many global peers, making it an attractive destination for investors. Secondly, with the risk-free rate expected to come down in the USA, investors will likely seek better returns elsewhere, including India. Thirdly, the government's robust fiscal discipline could lead to a rating upgrade for India, enhancing its investment appeal."

FPIs activities are influenced by various factors like the performance of the global equity markets, the movement of dollar index, incremental geopolitical events, and opportunities in the Indian markets considering slightly elevated valuation levels.

Another expert said: "This resurgence can be attributed to a stable political environment, ongoing economic reforms, and appealing market valuations within India."

GCCs to become catalyst for job creation: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 3: With India emerging as the hub of Global Capability Centres, a report Saturday revealed that 78 per cent professionals expect the GCC sector to become a catalyst for creating jobs, particularly benefiting temporary workforce in the country.

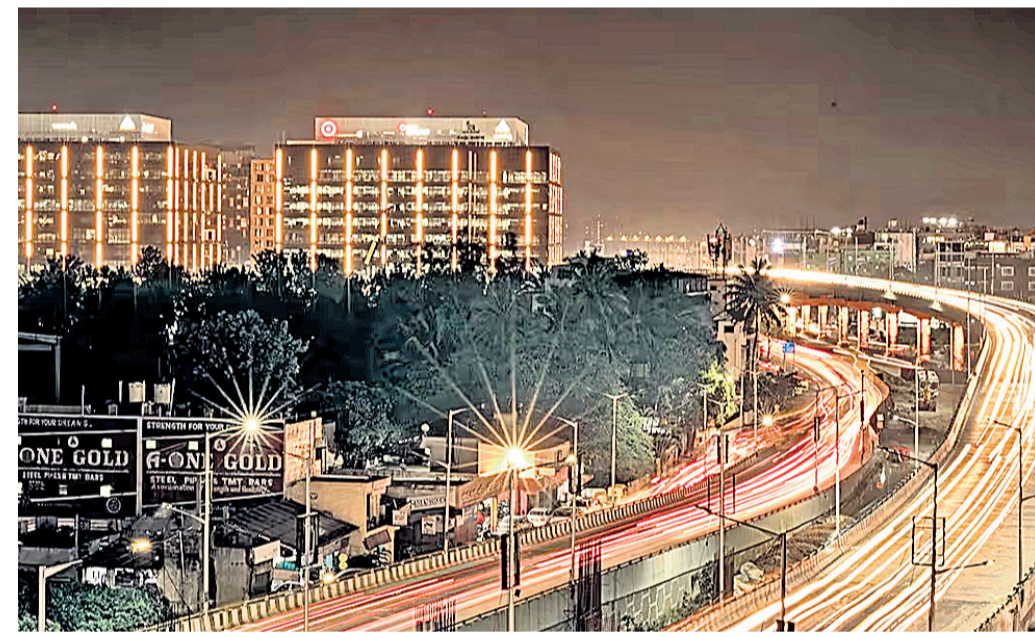
A majority of 78 per cent foresee GCCs as catalysts for creating new job opportunities, particularly benefiting gig workers and the temporary workforce in India, said a report by HR Services and Workforce Solutions provider Genius Consultants.

This optimism about job creation reflects a positive outlook on GCCs' potential to diversify and expand employment avenues in the evolving job market, the survey stated.

The report on GCCs and their potential impact on the Indian industrial market is based on an analysis of inputs from 1,033 professionals.

Almost all the respondents agreed on the pivotal role that GCCs play in advancing the adoption of cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and Internet of Things (IoT), said the report.

This consensus underscores GCCs' significant contribution to enhancing India's technological landscape and fostering in-



novation across various sectors, it stated.

The report also said that an overwhelming 94 per cent of respondents believed that GCCs will positively influence and enhance India's overall economic output.

This sentiment underscores the perceived role of GCCs in stimulating economic growth through increased investments, technology transfer, and job opportunities, it added.

However, a small fraction (3 per cent) holds a contrasting view, it added.

Among those participated in

the survey, 84 per cent expressed confidence that the establishment of GCCs by multinational corporations in India will lead to improved job availability and increased opportunities for local professionals.

This sentiment reflects the belief that GCCs not only bring advanced technological capabilities but also contribute positively to the local job market by creating diverse employment opportunities, the report noted.

"The findings of our report underscore the growing recognition of GCC as pivotal to en-

hancing organizational agility and competitiveness in a globalised economy. With a majority of respondents acknowledging the strategic benefits of GCCs, it is clear that these centres are poised to play a transformative role in shaping the future of India's industrial landscape," Genius Consultants CMD R P Yadav told PTI.

Organisations that capitalise on this trend stand to gain a significant advantage in terms of operational efficiency, innovation, and market responsiveness, he added.

Nasdaq confirms correction as recession fears mount

REUTERS

New York, August 3: US stocks sold off for a second straight session Friday, and the Nasdaq Composite confirmed it was in correction territory after a soft jobs report stoked fears of an oncoming recession. The Labor Department said nonfarm payrolls increased by 114,000 jobs last month, well short of the 175,000 average forecast by economists polled by Reuters, and the at least 200,000 that economists believe are needed to keep up with population growth. The unemployment rate jumped up to 4.3%, near a three-year high.

The data added to concerns the economy was slowing more rapidly than anticipated and the Federal Reserve had erred by keeping rates steady at its policy meeting that concluded Wednesday. Expectations for a rate cut of 50 basis points (bps) at the Fed's September meeting

jumped to 69.5% from 22% in the prior session, according to CME's FedWatch Tool.

"Obviously the jobs number is the big headline, but we seem to have officially entered at least a rational world where bad economic news is read as bad rather than bad economic news is read as good," said Lamar Villere, portfolio manager at Villere & Co. in New Orleans.

"The Fed is going to cut and we're all sort of adjusted to that, that is sort of established. Now it's more like hey, did they wait too long? Do we have a recession on our hands?"

The weak jobs data also triggered what is known as the "Sahm Rule," seen by many as a historically accurate recession indicator.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 610.71 points, or 1.51%, to 39,737.26, the S&P 500 lost 100.12 points, or 1.84%, to 5,346.56 and the Nasdaq



Composite lost 417.98 points, or 2.43%, to 16,776.16.

Adding downward pressure was drop in Amazon, down 8.79%, and Intel which plunged 26.06% after their quarterly results and disappointing forecasts.

The declines pushed the Nasdaq Composite down more

than 10% from its July closing high to confirm the index is in a correction after concerns grew about expensive valuations in a weakening economy.

The S&P 500 closed at its lowest level since June 4. Both the benchmark S&P 500 index and the blue-chip Dow suffered their biggest two-day slides since

March 2023.

The small cap Russell 2000 index slumped 3.52% to close at a three-week low and saw its biggest two-day drop since June 2022.

Chip stocks also continued their recent downturn, and the Philadelphia SE Semiconductor Index closed at a three-month low after its biggest two-day slide since March 2020.

Among the few bright spots, Apple rose 0.69% after posting better-than-expected third-quarter iPhone sales and forecasting more gains, betting on AI to attract buyers.

Of the 11 major S&P 500 sectors, defensive names such as consumer staples, utilities and real estate were the only advanced, with the consumer discretionary sector leading declines as Amazon weighed heavily, for its biggest two-day drop since June 2022.

The CBOE Volatility index,

also known as Wall Street's "fear gauge," breached its long-term average level of 20 points to touch 29.66 its highest mark since last March 2023, before closing at 23.39.

Some market participants viewed the sell off as a chance to pickup stocks at cheaper prices. UBS strategist Jonathan Golub said in a note to clients Friday that market returns are greatest when the VIX is extended and represents a near-term buying opportunity. Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 2.92-to-1 ratio on the NYSE, and by a 4.52-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted 62 new 52-week highs and 15 new lows, while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 34 new highs and 297 new lows.

Volume on U.S. exchanges was 14.75 billion shares, compared with the 11.97 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

OLYMPICS TIDBITS

BADMINTON SPECTATOR DRAGGED FROM ARENA FOR HOLDING UP TAIWAN BANNER

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned the removal of a spectator from the badminton venue at the Paris Olympics for holding up a green banner reading "Taiwan go for it" during competition Friday. Green, the colour of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, is used by people who support Taiwan's separate identity from China and, often, Taiwan independence. Two Reuters journalists saw the spectator being bodily removed up a staircase, shouting, while Taiwanese shuttler Chou Tien Chen was playing. Taiwan competes at the Olympics as Chinese Taipei to avoid objections from China, which claims the democratically governed island as its own territory. Taiwan's government rejects Chinese sovereignty claims. In a statement Saturday, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned "the crude and despicable means by malicious people to arbitrarily snatch the slogan 'Taiwan go for it' from our country's national during the Olympic Games."

NO ANTHEM, NO FLAG AS BELARUSIAN WINS GOLD

van Litvinovich from Belarus Friday became the first athlete competing as a neutral at the Paris Olympics to win gold -- but it will not appear in the official medals table. The 23-year-old retained his title in the men's trampoline final, with China's Wang Zisai and Yan Langyu taking silver and bronze. Athletes from Russia and ally Belarus are competing under a neutral banner after being banned from world sport following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has overseen their gradual return under a neutral banner and under strict conditions. To be invited to the Games, "neutral individual athletes" who achieved good enough results to qualify had to pass a double check. International sports federations and the IOC verified that the competitors did not actively support the war in Ukraine or have any links with their countries' armies. They were not allowed to take part in the opening ceremony or compete under their national flags. If athletes make the podium, their achievements are not recognised in the medals table. Only 15 Russians and 17 Belarusians accepted the invitation to compete under the neutral banner.

DEEPIKA fails to decode Olympic puzzle

ARCHERY CAMPAIGN ENDS IN DISMAL FAILURE

Paris: Deepika Kumari placed herself in an advantageous position against Korea's Suhyeon Nam by winning two of the first three sets but shot a horrible 7 with the second arrow of the fourth set to throw away a great opportunity as India's archery campaign folded at the Paris Olympics here Saturday. Deepika had begun the day well with a 6-4 win over Germany's Michelle Kroppen but lost by the same margin to Nam, who had won the women's team gold Friday. Teenager Bhajan Kaur was eliminated earlier in the day after losing her pre-quarterfinal match to Indonesia's Diananda Choirunisa in a shoot-off. Competing in her fourth Olympics, Deepika yet again left the big stage empty-handed. However, there was no hope around her this time, following disappointments in London, Rio and Tokyo editions. The fourth place finish by Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara in the mixed team event was India's best perform-



Poor show by athletes

Paris: Two-time Asian Games gold-medallist shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor could not come anywhere close to his personal best, finishing a dismal 15th in Group A and failing to qualify for the final of the Olympics here Friday. Overall, the 29-year-old shot-putter finished 29th. A total of 12 athletes meeting the Olympic Qualification Standard of 21.35 or at least the 12 best performers advanced to the final in shot put, which will be held Sunday. Toor, one of the most celebrated Indian athletes who defended his 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold in the Hangzhou edition of the continental games last year, had just one legal throw of 18.05 metres, following which he fouled the next two attempts in his group. On a day when 5000m runners and Hangzhou Asian Games gold medallist Parul Chaudhary finished overall 24th and Ankita Dhyani 40th in the heats and failed to qualify for the final round, Toor's insipid performance stood out as the tall thrower as he barely managed to heave the iron ball beyond the 18-metre mark, falling way short of his personal best of 21.77 metres and season's best of 20.38. Toor, the national record holder, had made it to the Paris Olympics through the world ranking quota. Toor had complained of pain in his ankle a day before the start of the National Inter-State Championship in Panchkula in June, but still he took part in the event despite not being fully fit. In women's 5000m, Parul missed her national record time by one-third of a second but that was enough for an overall 24th position as she and Ankita failed to qualify for the final round.

MANU'S PAINFUL MISS

HEARTBREAK FOR SHOOTER AS SHE MISSES OUT ON GRAND TREBLE AT OLYMPICS

Chateauroux (France), August 3: The sensational Manu Bhaker's dream of a grand treble went up in smoke after she lost the tie-shoot for bronze medal to Hungarian Veronika Major by the narrowest of margins in the women's 25m sports pistol event at the Olympic Games here Saturday. In a high-quality final, Bhaker gave it her all and was placed No 1 among eight shooters for a brief period, but she could not maintain her consistency and eventually finished fourth. Nonetheless, the 22-year-old will return home with her twin bronze-medal feat in women's 10m air pistol and mixed team 10m air pistol partnering Sarabjot Singh. The affable Indian shot 28 in the final to be tied at third place along with Veronika after the eighth series of five shots. She missed two of the five shots to aggregate three points, while Veronika drilled in four bullets into the target to clinch the third spot, leaving Bhaker to pack up the kit and leave her firing station. Bhaker conceded at the end of the contest that she was nervous, and no matter how hard she tried to remain calm, she couldn't. "I got like really nervous about it, but again, I was trying my best to keep calm and to just try to do my best. But that was not enough," Bhaker said after the event. The first series was a disaster



Expectations were really high from Bhaker to bring home a hat-trick of medals given her awe-inspiring form

I'm glad that I got two medals, but right now, I'm not very... well, fourth place is not a very good place
MANU BHAKER

Shooting fraternity lauds Paris feats

The Indian shooting contingent's biggest-ever medal haul at the Olympics here, after drawing a blank in the previous two editions in Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo, definitely calls for celebration but the fraternity is treading cautiously with an eye already on the 2028 Los Angeles Games. All of India's medal at the Paris Olympics have come via shooting thus far and there is a slight possibility of increasing the medal count to four by the time the competition ends Monday. The highlight of the campaign has been Manu's two medals, the second one shared with Sarabjot Singh in the 10m pistol mixed team. Fielding a record 21-member team at the Chateauroux Shooting Range, India has made six finals, including two near medal misses in 10m air rifle with Arjun Babuta finishing a painful fourth and Manu missing out on a third medal by the narrowest of margins in 25m pistol Saturday. "India is the biggest county and they doing well is very important for the shooting world. Big improvement for India means big improvement for the world. It has got three medals here, maybe they increase it to six at LA28," International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) president Luciano Rossi told PTI after watching Manu's 25m pistol final. "Since India and China are the two biggest markets, we are also seeing if India can host some qualification events for LA. We will also be doing a World Cup in India soon," Rossi added.

in which Bhaker missed three out of five targets, but gradually she cut down on the errors and bounced back in the second and third series, shooting two consecutive 'fours' to take her points tally to 10 going into the elimination round. The elimination round was topsy-turvy to say the least. Bhaker's chances waxed and waned until she took the top spot for a brief period in the seventh series (fourth elimination round). However, South Korea's Jin Yang wrested back the top spot immediately even as Bhaker slipped to tied third with three bad misses in the eighth round, which saw her slump from second spot to joint third with Veronika on 28 points. The shoot-off was nerve-jangling for both the markswomen and Bhaker had three clear shots out of five on target, while Veronika had four. The ace shooter said that she will take a lot of positives from the fourth-place finish and come back stronger in the Los Angeles Games in 2028. "It (Olympics) turned out to be very good for me, but well, there's always a next time so I'm already looking forward to the next one (in LA)," she said. Her finish just outside the medal bracket once again brought back memories of fourth-place finishes of Indian shooters in the quadrennial showpiece. She joined the likes of Joydeep Karmakar (men's 50m rifle prone, 2012 London), Abhinav Bindra (men's 10m air rifle, 2016 Rio) and Arjun Babuta (10m air rifle, 2024 Paris Olympics), among others.

DINGHY SAILING Nethra placed 24th; Saravanan 23rd

Marseille: India's Nethra Kumanan had a tough day in office in the women's dinghy sailing event's opening series at the Paris Olympics as she slipped to 24th spot after Race 6 here Saturday. Having finished 11th after three races Friday, the 26-year-old slipped to 24th after three more races Saturday. While Nethra was placed 19th after Race 4, she dropped to 25th after Race 5 before regaining some composure and finishing a spot above after Race 6. As for the men's dinghy event, Vishnu Saravanan was placed 23rd after Race 6 Saturday. The 25-year-old Indian was ranked at 22nd after Race 4 Friday but Saturday he dropped a spot in Race 5, remained there after Race 6. Four more races of the opening series remain in both the events, with Race 7 and Race 8 to be held Sunday, followed by another two Monday. The top 10 boats from the opening series will enter the medal race Tuesday. The top three boats will be decided via the overall score from the opening series and the final. Meanwhile, the 18-year-old Bhajan did well to stretch her Indonesian rival to a shoot-off but fluffed the first shot by managing an eight when she needed a 10 to secure her passage into the last eight. "Certainly I was lacking in something, that's why I lost. I will work on that when I go back home," Bhajan said after her 1/8 elimination round match.



Biles flies to new heights

American comes back from mental health issues to bag third Paris gold

Paris: Simone Biles won the vault final Saturday to clinch her third gold medal of the Paris Games, dominating the competition with her signature Biles II vault to beat Brazilian silver medallist Rebeca Andrade with American Jade Carey taking bronze. Biles soared high into the air as she performed her explosive Yurchenko double pike for a massive score of 15.700. The American also impressed with her second effort. She powered down the runway and launched into the Cheng vault, which incorporates a round-off, half-on entry with a one-and-a-half twisting flip to finish. She earned 14.900. The 27-year-old claimed a comfortable victory at the Bercy



The most decorated gymnast now has 10 Olympic medals overall, with seven of them being gold

Arena with an average of 15,300 points. Biles arrived in Paris as the world's most decorated gymnast and she has reached new heights by claiming gold medals in all three women's events contested so far in Paris. She now has 10 Olympic medals overall, with seven of them being gold. She led the US team to the top of the podium in the team final before claiming a second all-around Olympic title two days ago. Biles can add to her tally further when she competes in the balance beam and women's floor finals Monday.

PICS OF PARIS



Amir Rezanejad of the Refugee Olympic Team in action during the men's kayak cross time trial

Kimia Yousofi of Afghanistan advocating for women after fleeing the country to chase her Olympic dream, revealing a sign that read "education", "sport" and "our rights"

Athletes during heat 2 of the women's 5000m run at a brisk pace in first lap

Paris gender row spirals

NO DOUBT BOXERS IN GENDER DISPUTE ARE WOMEN, IOC'S BACH SAYS

REUTERS

Paris, August 3: Algerian boxer Imane Khelif and Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting are women who have every right to compete at the Paris Olympics despite a gender dispute that has overshadowed their competitions, the International Olympic Committee president said Saturday.

The pair were cleared to compete in Paris despite being 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.

The IOC last year stripped the IBA of its status as boxing's governing body over governance issues, and took charge of the Paris 2024 boxing competition.

"We are talking about women's boxing. We have two boxers who were born as women, raised as women, who have passports as women and who have competed for many years as women and this is a clear definition of a woman," Thomas Bach told a press conference.

"There was never any doubt about them being women."

The IOC has said the IBA decision to disqualify them last year was arbitrary and the main cause for the furore that has swept social media and seen people such as JK Rowling and Elon Musk voice their opposition to them competing in the Games.

Khelif pummelled Angela Carini in the round of 16 of their welterweight bout Thursday before the Italian stopped after 46 seconds, with the Algerian's dominant performance further fanning the debate.

LGBTQ+ community sceptic
Some athletes and LGBTQ+ observers worry that hateful com-



What we have seen from the Russian side and in particular from international federation from which we had to withdraw the recognition, that they have undertaken way before these Games a defamation campaign against France, against the Games, against the IOC

THOMAS BACH | PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ments from critics — and the IOC failing to address a larger global conversation before the Olympics — have already started to vilify transgender, nonbinary and other LGBTQ+ people at an event championing inclusion.

It comes as expanding interpretations of gender identity have spurred a larger political tug-of-war, often centered around sports.

While the Paris Olympics has pushed an agenda of openness and a record 193 openly LGBTQ+ athletes are competing, a performance by drag queens during

the opening ceremony faced intense backlash from religious conservatives and others contending that it mocked the Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper." Some performers and the opening ceremony's artistic director say they have received threats.

Nikki Hiltz, one of the world's top middle-distance runners competing in the women's category for the US Olympic team, has faced such hateful comments first hand. Assigned female at birth, Hiltz identifies as nonbinary. "Transphobia is going crazy at

these Olympics," Hiltz wrote on a post on Instagram responding to the boxing debate. "Anti-trans rhetoric is anti-woman. These people aren't protecting women's sport, they are enforcing rigid gender norms, and anyone who doesn't fit into those norms is targeted and vilified."

While some sports have detailed guidelines about transgender athletes and hormone levels in competitions, boxing is relying on rules dating to the 2016 Olympics that say the threshold for eligibility is what appears on an athlete's passport amid a larger rift between the IBA and the IOC.

"The current aggression against these two athletes is based entirely on this arbitrary decision (by the IBA), which was taken without any proper procedure," said Adams of the IOC.

Amid row, Khelif ensures medal

Imane Khelif beat Hungary's Luca Anna Hamori by unanimous decision in a welterweight quarter-final fight at the Paris Games Saturday to ensure Algeria's first Olympic boxing medal since 2000. Khelif's win was emotional — she went to the center of the ring, waved to her fans, knelt and slammed her palm on the canvas, her smile turning to tears. She left the ring to hug her coaches while her fans roared, weeping during their embrace and as she walked out. Khelif will face Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand, whom she beat at the World Championships in 2023 before being disqualified, in Tuesday's semi-finals. "It is hard, she has suffered a lot -- as a child and now as a champion, she has suffered so much during these Games," said Khelif's coach Mohamed Chaoua. "Where is the humanity? Where are the associations for women's rights? She is a victim."

IBA to award prize money to beaten boxer

The International Boxing Association (IBA) will award Italy's Angela Carini, who lost her welterweight round-of-16 bout against Algerian Imane Khelif at the Paris Olympics in 46 seconds Thursday, \$50,000 in prize money, it said Friday. The IBA, which was stripped of its international recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last year, said Carini would receive \$50,000, her federation a further \$25,000 and her coach an additional \$25,000. "I do not understand why they killed women's boxing," IBA President Umar Kremlev said. "Only eligible athletes should compete in the ring for the sake of safety. I could not look at her tears."

Confident India eye Britain scalp to seal semi spot in hockey

The Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Indians would look for an encore from the two departments to outwit the world No 2 Great Britain today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 3: High on confidence after the historic win over Tokyo Games silver medalist Australia in their final pool match, India would look to carry on the momentum and seal a win against Great Britain in the quarterfinals of the men's hockey competition of the Paris Olympics here Sunday.

India saved their best for their last Pool B match, stunning Australia 3-2 to record their first win over the Kookaburras in the Olympic Games in 52 years.

India had last defeated nemesis Australia way back in the 1972 Munich Olympics before the playing surface shifted to astro-turf.

By virtue of the win, India finished second in Pool B behind reigning Olympic champions Belgium, while Great Britain ended third in Pool A.

The Indians looked a completely dominant side against Australia in the first two quarters, controlling the tempo of the match with their relentless

attacking play. The highlight of India's performance against Australia was the co-ordination between midfield, led by Manpreet Singh and vice-captain Hardik Singh, and the forwardline, where Gurjant Singh and Sukhjeet Singh stole the limelight.

Abhishek was the livewire in the forwardline, scoring a superb field goal, his second of the tournament, to hand India the lead.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh once again sparkled for India, scoring a brace, to total six goals in the tournament.

The backline also defended stoutly with Amit Rohidas and Jarmanpreet Singh shining bright.

Veteran custodian PR Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, stood like a wall in front of the goal, making numerous saves, and India would bank on him to deliver the goods once again against Great Britain.

The transition of the ball from defence, midfield to forwardline was a treat to watch.

SHORT TAKES

New NCA set to be inaugurated soon

Bangalore: A new National Cricket Academy (NCA) is set to be inaugurated here soon and it will have 45 practice pitches and an Olympics-sized swimming pool along with other facilities, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said Saturday. Shah informed that the new NCA in Bangalore will also feature 'state of the art training, recovery and sports science facilities'. "Very excited to announce that the BCCI's new National Cricket Academy (NCA) is almost complete and will be opening shortly in Bangalore," Shah wrote on X. "The new NCA will feature three world-class playing grounds, 45 practice pitches, indoor cricket pitches, Olympic-size swimming pool and state-of-the-art training, recovery and sports science facilities." He said the initiative will help the country's current and future cricketers develop their skills in the best possible environment. The current NCA is based in the premises of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and the BCCI is in process of starting NCAs in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the North East.

No disciplinary action on Pakistan players

Karachi: The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to act on the advice of its foreign head coaches and will avoid taking any disciplinary action against any players while allowing them to focus on the upcoming international season. A well-placed source in the board informed Saturday that initially, there were talks about having a disciplinary committee to look into the cases of some players misbehaving during the tours of Ireland and England and the World T20 Cup. "But until now no disciplinary committee has been formed as per the board constitution," he said. The source said as per the constitution, the chairman must appoint independent disciplinary or probe committees if he wants some issues of discipline to be looked into. As per the source, Mohsin Naqvi, the PCB chairman, engaged in comprehensive discussions with the coaches for the red and white ball teams, Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten respectively, along with the selectors Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq. The recommendation given to the board was to focus on the future.

SECOND ODI

India look to find a way past Lankan spinners, slow pitch



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 3: Measures to battle a sluggish pitch and an assortment of Sri Lankan slow bowlers will feature high on India's strategy list for the second ODI to be played here Sunday.

Chasing a manageable 231, India were comfortably placed at 130 for three in the first ODI Friday before losing their way against Lankan spinners, who showed enough pluck to bowl out the visitors for 230 to earn a tie.

Once they survived the Rohit Sharma onslaught upfront, Lanka executed their plans well against the Indian batters, who are not the cleverest performers on rank turners, while not many are tough.

The home side employed their army of tweakers against Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, the meat of Indian top and middle-order, with a telling amount of success.

The trioika was not uncomfortable but was unable to break free either against some well-directed moves of the Lankans, who were precise in their calculations.

Kohli was tied up by Dunith Wellalage, the left-arm spinner, and leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga as the 29 balls that the Indian batter faced out of a total of 32 were by the spinners.

Hasaranga eventually nicked him off, while seeing the comfort of Shreyas against spinners, Lankan skipper Charith Asalanka pressed pacer Asitha Fernando into service.

Fernando repaid the faith in him with the wicket of Shreyas with a peach, also the only Indian wicket to have fallen to a quick.

Rahul, another excellent player of spin, too was snaffled by Hasaranga. But stuttering in one match offers too small a footprint to go after some of the ac-

complished names, but the Indians will be eager to bat long and rotate strike, which is the key to nullifying spinners on such decks.

Sri Lankans Pathum Nissanka and Wellalage showed that en route to their fifties despite a flurry of wickets at the other end, while dealing with Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar effectively.

The four Indian spinners, including Shubman Gill, leaked 126 in 30 overs for four wickets, while their Lankan counterparts' figures stood at -167 in 37.5 overs for nine wickets. So, the Indians will want to minimise the damage without compromising on their run-making ways.

Bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule said as much. "We did bat well in patches, and we could have had some partnerships that would have taken us (home) with less wickets going. We tried our best to get into partnerships," said Bahutule after the first match.

One option India can mull is to bring in either Rishabh Pant or Riyan Parag as both are extremely good at countering spinners and can upset their rhythm playing some of those unorthodox shots.

Wellalage did that to perfection while scooping and reverse sweeping Washington Sundar and Axar. Additionally, Parag comes in with the bundle offer of being an off-spinner and leg-spinner at the same time. But it remains to be seen whether the Indian team management will make a change after just one match, which has not been their trait for a while now.

From Sri Lanka's perspective, they will enter the second match of the three-match series with a better frame of mind after shackling a much superior and vastly experienced opponent.

CHIRAG-SATWIK COACH BOE QUILTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 3: Mathias Boe, the coach of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Saturday announced his retirement from coaching following the ace Indian badminton pair's exit from the ongoing Paris Olympics.

Satwik and Chirag were considered India's biggest medal hope at the Olympics but the Indian duo lost to Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, the Tokyo bronze medallists, in the men's doubles quarterfinals 21-13, 14-21, 16-21 here Thursday.

Boe, a silver medal winner in the London Olympics, had joined Chirag and Satwik as their coach ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

"For me, my coaching days ends here, I'm not going to continue in India or anywhere else,

OLYMPICS FAILURE



for now at least. I have spent too much time in a badminton hall and it's also pretty stressful to be a coach. I'm a tired old man," the 44-year-old from Denmark wrote on his Instagram account.

Under Boe's guidance, Satwik and Chirag had claimed a bronze medal at the 2022 world championships and a gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in

Birmingham.

The duo went on to win the Asian Games gold, the Asian Championships title and also achieved the feat of becoming the first Indian badminton doubles team to become world No 1.

The Indian pair additionally won BWF World Tour titles, including the Indonesia Open Super 1000 and Korea super 500

in 2023 and the French Open super 750 and Thailand Super 500 this year, besides reaching three more finals.

Their sensational run ahead of the Olympics made Satwik and Chirag hot favourites for the coveted title but the duo couldn't go the distance at Paris, and Boe consoled them.

"I know the feeling all too well myself. Pushing yourself to the limit every day, to be in the best shape of your life, and then things doesn't go as you would have hoped for. I know you guys are gutted, I know how much you wanted to bring a medal back to India, but this time it wasn't meant to be," Boe said.

Boe, however, said he is leaving the position as a satisfied man despite his wards failing to return from Paris with a medal.

Shooting society decries Khelo India

Veterans Raninder, Jaspal say nothing coming out of Khelo India; want junior program back under NRAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chateauroux, August 3: The Indian shooting community, including veteran administrator Raninder Singh and renowned coach Jaspal Rana, Saturday called for the junior program to be brought back under the national federation fold as "nothing is coming out of Khelo India" project.

The National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) junior program had to be scrapped to make way for the central government-run Khelo India Games.

The current lot of shooters, including double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, is reaping the rewards of being around for a long time. But experts like Rana and Raninder are predicting doom for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic campaign if the federation does not get complete control of the development program.

"If you want a team for Los Angeles you better give my junior program back. Let NRAI run it and call it Khelo India and whatever you want? But if they (the government) are going to do it, we won't have a team for Los Angeles. Nothing is coming out of Khelo India neither at the na-



tional nor at the international level," Raninder told PTI.

"If you want to train an athlete in shooting, you don't give him 1000 cartridges to shoot every day. He shoots 100 a day and is monitored and mentored correctly. Everybody is a coach in India," added the former NRAI president and International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) vice president.

Former national coach Rana, who is currently Manu's personal coach, could not agree more with Raninder.

"I totally agree with him. Khelo India is a junior program only, it is just that they took everything out of federation's hands and made it Khelo India. How is it that in one year you are getting medals from Khelo India? Because you are picking the best but it took eight years to bring a junior to that (Olympic platform), junior program has to come back," said Rana, who is open to working with the national team again.

At the Paris Games, the shooters not only broke a 12-year

drought of medals but also claimed their best-ever haul in terms of number of podium finishes — three bronze.

Rana warned against making wholesale changes after the Paris campaign, especially when the shooters have overcome the mental hurdle of competing at the Olympics.

"We have overcome mental block many times but we don't stick to the same thing. We change after every successful story," he said, referring to the likes of Jitu Rai and Saurabh Chaudhary, who are not part of the team anymore.

"Why can't we have Abhinav Bindra run the program? Why is he out?" Rana asked while mentioning India's only gold-winning shooter at the Olympics.

"That person could be the biggest asset for Indian shooting fraternity but you will not hire him. You will hire someone from outside who doesn't understand our culture. Foreign coaches are fine but they won't give their 100 percent. After the Olympics their contracts will expire and they will go to another country," Rana reasoned.

Olympics: India

Schedule - Day 9

Shooting:
25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Qualification-Stage 1: Vijayveer Sidhu and Anish -- 12:30 pm
25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Qualification-Stage II: Vijayveer Sidhu and Anish -- 4:30 pm
Women's Skeet Qualification-Day 2: Raiza Dhillon and Maheshwari Chauhan -- 1pm

Golf:
Men's Individual Strokeplay-Round 4: Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar -- 12:30pm

Hockey:
Men's quarterfinals match between India and Great Britain -- 1:30pm

Athletics:
Women's 3000m Steeplechase Round 1: Parul Chaudhary -- 1:35pm
Men's Long Jump Qualification: Jeswin Aldrin -- 2:30pm

Boxing:
Women's 75kg Quarterfinals: Lovlina Borgohain vs Li Qian of China -- 3:02pm

Badminton:
Men's singles semifinals: Lakshya Sen vs Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) -- 3:30pm

Sailing:
Men's Dinghy Race 7 and 8: Vishnu Saravanan -- 3:35pm
Women's Dinghy Race 7 and 8: Nethra Kumaran -- 6:05pm