**BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2024** 

**Bhumi's fashion choices** Actor Bhumi Pednekar shares insights into her fashion evolution and how she stays updated with trends

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 126 | www.orissapost.com



#### Ukraine deploys F–16s

Ukrainian pilots have started flying F-16s for operations within the nation, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says

INTERNATIONAL | P9



#### **Curbs on ads**

India, which bans direct advertising of liquor, is set to announce rules that will bar even surrogate ads and sponsoring of events

BUSINESS | P10



#### Fight for bronze

Lakshya Sen went down to Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semi-final and will now fight for Bronze at 2024 Paris Olympics

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

# DAV Unit-8, AIIMS champs



PRIZED MOMENT: Winners of the Junior category of Mettle Meet 2024, students of DAV Public School Unit-8 (Left) and champions of the Senior category, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar students pose with their cheques and trophies along with Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and quizmaster Ajay Poonia after the Grand Finale of the event Sunday

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 4: DAV Public School Unit-8 and AIIMS, Bhubaneswar emerged champions in the Junior and Senior categories, respectively, in the sixth edition of Mettle Meet which witnessed fierce battle of wits and a fantastic finish at Hotel Crystal Crown here,

In the Senior category, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack and NIT. Rourkela earned the first runners-up and second runners-up status respectively. Last year's winner AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, who led in

the finals till the last round, retained the crown. Earlier, they had achieved the first runner-up and second runner-up status in 2017 and 2019.

Similarly, DAV Public School, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar emerged victorious with a big lead over first runners-up KIIT International School while DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar stood third in the Junior cate-

After an intense screening in the prelims, 16 finalists -- eight each from the Junior and Senior groups -- qualified for the finals. Altogether, as many as 82 teams from schools and colleges across

the state participated in the quiz competition.

'We love Mettle Meet as another child that we have and how it has grown bigger every year. We have seen increasing number of students in this competition every passing year. It started in 2016 with the motive of reviving the dimming art of quizzing

and giving a platform to the bright minds to bring back the joy of quizzing," said Adyasha Satpathy, Chief

#### Executive, **Orissa POST**.

She said both the prelims and finals were exciting and all the teams, which participated in the event, deserved to win. "In my eyes, all are winners," she

added. Tathagata Satpathy, Editor, Orissa POST said, "I hope that quizzing will remain as a part of your life because it is

not just knowing general knowledge or being able to answer questions. It also makes you think laterally and out of box. It teaches you not to go in the obvious rot. In today's world, those who can blaze a path of their own, they are the ones who will stand out. There will of course be millions of plodders, but you will be the trailblazers."

Quizmaster Ajay Poonia said the standard in the competition was quite high in the finals of both the categories.

The event was watched live by many on social media platforms of the newspaper's digital ventures. The winners received Rs 1,00,000 as prize money while first and second runners-up got Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively, in both Senior and Junior categories.

Pratyush Dhal of DAV, Unit 8 said, "We had prepared for the finals for the last six months after we missed the finals last year. We started with negative but took that as a challenge and tried to fight back. Quizmaster Ajay Poonia's questions were very tricky. We tried to count the competitors' points and then tried to maintain the lead."

Bighnesh Das of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar said, "We became the champions of Mettle Meet for the second time this year. Mettle Meet is a great platform for quiz

#### **OPENING CEREMONY ROW Vatican 'deplores** offence' caused to

**Christians in Paris** 

ASSOCIATE PRESS

Rome, August 4: The Vatican said Saturday it "deplored the offence" caused to Christians by the Olympic Games opening ceremony, a scene of which evoked Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper' and featured drag

A week after a storm of criticism erupted around the event, the Holy See issued a statement in French that it was "saddened by certain scenes at the opening ceremony" and joined those who had been offended.

"At a prestigious event where the whole world comes together to share common values, there should be no ridiculous allusions to religion," it said.

To critics, the scene during the July 26 ceremony evoked Jesus and his apostles in Da Vinci's famous painting. It featured DJ and producer Barbara Butch — an LGBTQ+ icon wearing a silver headdress that looked like a halo while flanked by drag artists and dancers. France's Catholic bishops said it made a mockery of Christianity.



The ceremony's artistic director Thomas Jolly has repeatedly denied he had been inspired by 'The Last Supper', saying the scene was meant to celebrate diversity and pay tribute to feasting and French gastronomy. Paris Olympics organisers apologised to anyone who was offended by the tableau.

The Vatican spokesman didn't immediately respond when asked why the Holy See was only responding now, a week after the event and after Catholic leaders around the world had expressed outrage at the scene.

#### **HP CLOUDBURST TOLL TOUCHES 13**

Shimla: The death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh has increased to 13 with the recovery of four bodies from Mandi and Shimla districts Sunday. Over 40 people are still missing after a series of cloudbursts occurred in Kullu's Nirmand, Saini and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31 and wreaked havoc.

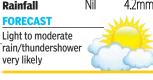
#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



agree. No one except a businessman hould have sweeping control over the nation's assets

WEATHER CTC **BBSR** 33.5°C **Max Temp** Min Temp Humidity 4.2mm

Light to moderate rain/thundershower



#### 9 kids killed as wall caves in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sagar (MP), August 4: Nine children were killed and two others injured after a wall of a dilapidated house collapsed in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district Sunday, a senior official said. The incident occurred between 8.30am and 9am near the campus of a temple during a religious programme in Shahpur village under the Rehli assembly seat, as per officials.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has suspended the chief municipal officer (CMO) of Shahpur Nagar Panchayat and a sub-engineer.

He also directed civil bodies across the state to identify the dilapidated buildings and take action. Nine children, aged 10 to 15 years, were killed and two injured in the wall collapse incident at a religious programme in Shahpur, Sagar Divisional Commissioner Virendra Singh Rawat told PTI over the phone.

Senior officials, including the district collector, have reached the spot, he said. The chief minister expressed grief over the incident and announced assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

A programme of Parthiv Shivling Nirman (making Shivling out of clay) was going on under a tent near the dilapidated house, and a wall collapsed and fell on the tent, local BJP MLA and former minister Gopal Bhargava told reporters.

The children got crushed under the tent and debris, he

### Fresh clashes claim 97 in Bangladesh

#### INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA SHUT DOWN; COUNTRYWIDE CURFEW IMPOSED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 4: At least 97 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and hundreds injured Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters in different parts of Bangladesh, forcing authorities to cut off mobile internet and enforce a nationwide curfew for an indefinite period.

The clashes broke out Sunday morning when protesters attending the non-cooperation pro-



gramme under the banner of Students

Discrimination with the onepoint demand of the government's resignation over a job quota system Six Awami faced opposition

from the support-**League leaders** ers of the Awami and activists were League, Chhatra beaten to death by League, and Jubo anti-government League activists. protesters At least 97 people

have been killed in clashes, shootings and counterchases across the country surrounding the non-cooperation program, leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported.

According to police, 14 policemen have been killed across the country. Of them, 13 were killed in Sirajganj's Enayetpur police station. One person was killed in Comilla's Elliotganj, the paper said. More than 300 policemen were injured. The fresh round of clashes erupted days after over 200 people were killed in clashes between police and mostly student protesters demanding an end to the controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

#### 100 new PACS soon

Berhampur: The state government has decided to open 82 new Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), 21 Primary Milk Cooperative Societies and to make five PACS as multi-purpose societies in Ganjam district, an official said Sunday. This was decided at the Ganjam District Cooperative Development Committee meeting, held under the chairmanship of Collector Dibyajyoti Parida at Chhatrapur recently. The Collector has directed the cooperative officials to prepare the feasibility reports for opening up of the new PACS in panchayats, where there is no PACS, the official said.

### Medal hopes up as 10-man India beat GB, enter semis

Sunday's win was special in more ways than one because an average hockey fan in India is not used to seeing the team show such tenacity in a high-pressure situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 4: A battle-hardened PR Sreejesh gave a big fillip to the Indian hockey team's aspirations of winning a second consecutive Olympic medal with his splendid shootout saves in a 4-2 victory over Great Britain that earned his side a place in the semifinals of the Paris Games here Sunday.

Playing most of the match without key defender Amit Rohidas, who was shown a red card for hitting a rival player

with his stick, the team did extremely well to hold Great Britain

to 1-1 in regulation time. Great Britain dominated possession and played with manto-man marking, not allowing India to attack much. In the absence of Rohidas, Manpreet Singh, who plays in mid-field, was asked to man the defence.

Reduced to 10 men on the pitch, India could not play scoop balls, a strategy that worked for the side in previous matches, but it managed to escape without getting



It all boiled down to how Sreejesh would perform and the veteran goalkeeper did not disappoint, blocking the third and

fourth attempts by Connor Williamson and Phillip Ropper after the score was tied 2-2 in the shootout.

James Albrey and Zach Wallace had scored earlier for Great Britain while skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Upadhyay and Rajkumar Pal sounded the board for India.

'We had no option but to keep the score tied till the end. We focussed on defence, we played to a structure and today communication between the players was pretty good. It was a

team effort," Harmanpreet said. The skipper said they had to forget the red card and move

"We could not change what had happened. It was a team effort; it was our best defence,playing with 10 men, that was a hard part."



## eisure



my love for fashion and beauty.'

sparking conversa-

tions. Embrace what

you enjoy," she con-

AGENCIES

cluded.

#### **NICOLE KIDMAN: MARRIAGE REQUIRES COMPROMISE**

Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman has shared the key to a happy marriage. The Others actress, who is married to music star Keith Urban since 2006, told Victoria Beckham for Vogue Australia that marriage requires compromise, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

#### **KERR'S GROWING UP CRUSH** WAS PRINCE WILLIAM

Model-actress Miranda Kerr has admitted to being obsessed with the British royal Prince William during her younger years. Kerr, who was previously married to actor Orlando Bloom, told Us Weekly, "My celebrity crush growing up was Prince William."





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You will be a compassionat and caring person. Today you are feeling very gener ous and will give freely of your treasures, which, Ganesha says, will be adequately compensated in future. You have the exceptional ability to combine work and fun, and will treat peers and juniors as your family.

#### **TAURUS**

Your efficiency and resourcefulness will, today, be funcmanage difficult problems and sort out complex issues with any sweat. You make have to take instant decisions on vital and central issues, without any forewarning, or time to think things out. The day being a favourable one, you will not go wrong, assures Ganesha. You will gradually become calm and relaxed as the evening approaches. Later, you will most probably be hanging out with friends.

#### GEMINI

You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind and will likely revisit old memories from th past. The post noon sessions should see some occurrences that will leave you feeling sentimental. You will take decisions guided by your heart rather than your mind

#### **CANCER**

Ganesha warns you of minor ailments. Don't eat very cold items. You will help others in tackling their problems Ganesha says that you must begin by yourself any auspicious task.

#### **LEO**

You will come into some money by accident today. There is a good chance of making a huge gain in the share market today. You will be filled with a lot of selfconfidence. Nobody will be able to influence your opinion today. However, your strongly expressed views may end up hurting someone, says Ganesha

#### **■ VIRGO**

What you wish to do today is to overhaul the looks of your living space. You might want to add some pieces of furniture or some items of decoration that define your personality. Ganesha advises you to be ready in the evening to be a great performer or probably to lend some valuable help

Ganesha says you will use your creative and artistic skills in decorating and renovating your home. You will experience a feeling of pride when all will appreciate your home décor. You wil want to spend the evening all alone as you may feel uneasy in the company of your friends and not particularly in the mood to socialise. Ganesha says you should try to be calm and cool.

#### SCORPIO

You shall be bursting with self-confidence today, says Ganesha. On the professional front, your herculean efforts will bear fruit. Domestic affairs will remain har monious, predicts Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Ganesha advises you to flock with birds of the same feather today. The perfection in your ideas may not materialise on paper today. And, it shall be evasive even when you get to the job of executing ideas. But keep working, advises Ganesha and remain practical later in the day.

#### CAPRICORN

It's all true and not too hard to digest either: your family will be your ladder to success and will bless you with all the luck you need, says Ganesha. You will make a good head-start today, right from your home, and will continue to maintain the same tempo at work too. Only at the fag end of the day will you realise that you are richer, not in terms of the amount of money you have, but by the number of hearts you will have won with your million dollar smile.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Cleaning up the clutter, either at your home or office, will be priority number one. Grab this chance to impress your boss or spouse and make your per sonal space squeaky clean. A dinner by candlelight with your beloved will ease your tired muscles, says Ganesha.

#### PISCES

Your powers of concentration and focus come to the fore. Your lucidity and eve for detail will save you from many a hassle that could have developed later on. The time that this will save your bosses and peers will bring you many accolades, says Ganesha

#### **MUMBAI:** Actress Bhumi Pednekar, in an exclusive interview, shared insights into her fashfashion ion evolution, how she stays updated with trends, and her wardrobe es-

choices sentials. "My fashion choices are as unconventional as my film roles," said Pednekar while shooting for HT City Showstoppers. She emphasised that her personal style evolves with her self-perception and often aligns with the characters she portrays.

Pednekar, known for films like Thank You for Coming and Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, prioritised on what suits her and what she enjoys over following trends. She stated, "Trends come and go; I prefer a classic approach, which may seem unconventional." On staying updated with fashion trends, she explained, "Fashion has no hard and fast rules. It's inclusive, and owning your style with confidence makes any fashion choice valid.

The lockdown period significantly influenced her fashion sensibilities. Previously tied to her rural and traditional film roles, she embraced her authentic self during this time.

This transition, though challenging, was supported most renowned singers, is known for her nuby her

merous hit songs and is one of the highest-paid vocalists fans in the Indian film inand Sunidhi

opens up on music mafia Bollywood mafia con-

dustry. She said, "It's everywhere. Lobbying is present in awards shows, music, films, and reality shows. It's something you can't escape. Do your work, and if you want to be a part of it, make changes

Mumbai: Sunidhi Chauhan, one of India's

dustry. Recently, she

opened up about the

Bollywood music

mafia and payment

issues in the in-

dustry, a topic that

Sonu Nigam has

also commented on.

During her recent

podcast, Sunidhi was

asked if the

trols things in the in-

Sunidhi was also asked about situations where multiple singers record a song, but only one is chosen, and the others don't get paid. She responded. "I haven't been paid for many films. Even today, they don't pay me. They ask, and I don't take money because I feel I don't need it for that song. Sometimes, want to help, so I mention my price and sing.

She added, "You don't want to hurt anyone's ego because not everyone thinks like you. They might not understand how you feel."

#### laborators. She noted, "Accepting and loving myself fully and working with creative professionals has nurtured The actress shared that not every style suits everyone and stressed the importance of embracing one's unique style. "Fashion will always elicit mixed reactions, but its beauty lies in

Mumbai: Sushmita Sen inspires her admirers and shared a stunning photo of herself staring out at the sea. While the image is undeniably catchy, her text elevates the post to new heights. While

The post captioned, "Fate whispers to the warrior, 'You cannot withstand the storm.' The warrior whispers back, 'I am the storm." Further expressing her love for the fans, she added, "I love you guys.." along with hashtags #embraceit #itsallhappeningforyou #good-morning #duggadugga Sushmita's admirers reacted positively to

her tweet, leaving positive comments. "My calm my peace, standing alone within calm and peace," an admirer wrote. Another wrote "She is my hope, and she needs to know that. (white heart emoji)"

"You are the most beautiful warrior (red heart emojis)," wrote one ad-

you too, Sush (red hear emoji), you are and will be my motivation and is). heaps and heaps ou. Maa dugga s you with

who was inspired by the quote wrote, "Just the lines I wanted this morning @sushmi-A fan wrote a touching remark that read, "Love



series Beecham House (2019), came into the spotlight with Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail. Her path to recognition spanned six years and now she looks forward to pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons with every film. She says, "Times have changed; the audience now prioritises

quality content, storytelling, and acting above anything else. Of course, stars play a massive role in drawing footfalls to the theatres, but ultimately, the story is the real hero.'

Talking about life before and after the success of 12th Fail, Medha adds, "People usually associate this achievement with the film's success, but for me, just landing this part was massive because I knew many big actors were considered and newcomers were

> alised someone had finally recognised my potential. Life has taken a 180-degree turn. Big filmmakers I only dreamt of working with are showing faith in me, and no one is asking me to audition. Access to these wonderful opportunities was unthinkable. I have been in Mumbai for almost six years now, I bagged 12th Fail in the fifth year of my journey here. It wasn't easy, but I don't like to call it a struggle. It's an overused term.'

auditioned for it. After bagging 12th Fail, I re-

#### **PEANUTS**



#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



#### BREVITY



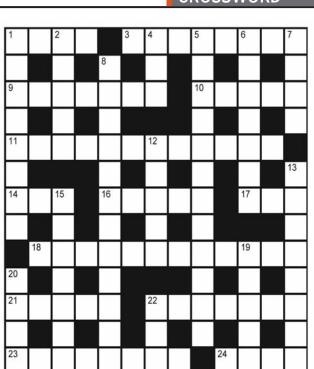
FUN

POST

LOSE ANY

HEAD COVERS!

#### **CROSSWORD**



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17 Historic period

18 Group frenzy

(4,8)

22 Streetcar

21 Bitter

23 Meet

24 Vesicle

ACIOSS							
1	Eat	like	a	bird			

- 3 Mercantile
- battle (5,3)9 Daydreaming
- 10 Eye socket
- 11 Type of
- doctrine or
- history
- 14 Check for 16 Ham it up

- accuracy
- Down
- 1 Comprehend
- 2 Kind of duty

4 Cereal grain

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 15 Used car, at times (5-2) 19 Track event

5 Profile sample

6 Spot on the net

(5-7)

7 Grade

12 Satire

8 Permanent

13 Accelerator

- 20 Soft mineral
- 22 Harbor craft

#### 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.

1		3	6				1	
	2		22		ď	4		2
		7				2		5
		9		5	6			4
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#### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

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

SUDOKU



## downtown/state

#### **PAYING TRIBUTES**

**POLITICKLE** by MANJUL

Leaders and members of various organisations paying their tributes to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on the occasion of her 18th death anniversary after garlanding her statue at LIC Square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## Govt to open over 100 new co-op societies in Ganjam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 4: The state government has decided to open 82 new primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), 21 primary milk cooperative societies and to make five PACS as multi-purpose societies in Ganjam district, an official said Sunday.

This was decided at the Ganjam district cooperative development committee meeting, held under the chairmanship of district collector Dibyajyoti Parida at Chhatrapur recently.

The collector has directed the cooperative officials to prepare ing up of the new PACS in panchayats, where there are no

PACS, the official said. Out of 503 panchayats in the district, the PACS are functioning in 421 panchayats at present. In the last year, 21 new PACS were opened, said Biswaranjan Das, deputy registrar of the cooperative societies (DRCS),

Similarly, at present, 55 primary milk cooperative societies are functioning under the Greater Ganjam-Gajapati Cooperative Union.

As per the decision of the Central government, each uncovered gram panchayat will have ployment opportunities. This will enable farmers to realise better prices for their products, and expand their markets, he said.

The DRCS said they have already identified five PACS in the district to develop as multipurpose cooperative societies. The main purpose of the multipurpose cooperative societies is to diversify the business activities of the PACS and to make them vibrant economic entities at the panchayat level.

"We will further study their potential before recommending the government to upgrade them as multi-purpose societies," said Das.

He said the PACS at Dakhinapur, Kukudakhandi Bipulingi, Bada Baranga and Dharakote will be upgraded as multi-purpose societies

The PACS will undertake business activities including dairy, fishery, setting up of godowns, procurement of food grains, sale of fertilisers, seeds, LPG, petrol and diesel. The societies will also set up common service centres and fair-price shops.



need to pledge towards winning all the 35 Vidhan Sabha and five Lok Sabha seats in coming elections so that the ST Morcha can take the lead of the party in Odisha.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday urged BJP workers to

focus on winning all the 33 ST-

reserved MLA and five Lok Sabha

Majhi said this during a meet-

ing organised here by the BJP's ST

Morcha to felicitate newly-elected

In the recent elections, the

Majhi said, "On this day, we

seats in the next elections.

The CM reflected on his early days with the BJP and high-



lighted the efforts by both his government and the Modi ad ministration to advance the welfare of tribals, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram advised senior BJP tribal leaders to each adopt one constituency where the party lost in the recent elections.

He said the BJP government will definitely be a people's government as "we are not a one-man show," while indicating towards the previous BJD government which

was allegedly functioning under the control of VK Pandian, a close aide of Naveen Patnaik.

VE DEVELOPED A

SYSTEM. THE REAL ARCHITECT'S NAME

WILL NEVER BE REVEALED

"Priority should be given to the party's elected public representatives like MLAs and MPs, which did not happen during the previous BJD government, he said. Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik announced plans to implement the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act) in the state.

We have been fighting for implementation of the PESA Act in the state. I want to assure you all that the law will be implemented in a year," Naik said.

Naik assured that the Bill for PESA Act implementation would be presented in the upcoming Assembly session, after persistent advocacy for the law's

#### Sniffer dog 'Storm' heads to Wayanad for rescue operation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 4: A sniffer dog 'Storm' along with a 5member police team of Berhampur left for landslidehit Wayanad in Kerala Sunday morning to join the search and rescue operation in landslidehit Chooralmala and Mundakkai.

According to sources, the K9 squad proceeded to Kerala on the direction of DGP Arun Sarangi. The team with the German Shepherd is expected to reach Palakkad Monday and will then be taken to the landslide sites.

Storm has been serving in the police force for the last seven years and has been trained to trace people trapped under debris and slush following natural calamities like earthquake and landslides.

The massive landslide that occurred in Wayanad district in Kerala has left over 350 dead while the number of death tolls is increasing with each passing day with hundreds still missing.



The team will stay with 'Storm' till the completion of the rescue and search operations.

"The sniffer dog has been taken to landslide hit Wayanad due to its skill in rescue operations," DIG Sarthak Sarangi, who is also in-charge as Berhampur SP said.

#### a PACS or a primary dairy or fishthe feasibility reports for open-

Patana: Police in Keonjhar district Sunday busted an inter-state dacoit gang by arresting four members and seizing gold and silver ornaments along with cash and four mobile phones from their possession. The three arrested accused, who are from Majhigaon village in Jharkhand, were identified as Md Rahat, 23, Md Sahil, 21 and Md Nassiruddin, 21. The fourth accused Tapan Behera, 35, is from Jayantigarh village under Jagannathpur police limits in Keonjhar. According to Ghatagon SDPO, Prabhat Kumar Tripathi and Patana IIC, Bibhas Pradhan, Tapan runs a jewellery shop and used to purchase stolen ornaments from these accused in throwaway prices. He then sold those items at higher prices to customers. Except Tapan, all the accused were involved in burglary from many houses at Patana, Turumunga, Ghatagaon, Jhumpura and Harichandarpur areas in Keonjhar district. The police forwarded them to court Sunday.





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### Killer Development

ayanad, a hilly district in north Kerala, came face to face with the wrath of nature in the early hours of 30 July as massive landslides of unprecedented scale buried hundreds in their sleep. Experts are of the view that it was a disaster in the waiting as a fatal cocktail of massive deforestation, relentless mining and climate change had already endangered this district located in the Western Ghats.

A landslide atlas published last year by the Indian Space Research Organisation's National Remote Sensing Centre has pointed out that Kerala is home to 10 out of the country's 30 most landslide-prone districts, with Wayanad positioned at 13th. The atlas further revealed that about 0.09 million sq.km in the Western Ghats and the Konkan hills spanning Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra—are susceptible to landslides

Another study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in 2022 on the declining forest cover in Wayanad revealed that 62 per cent of the district's forests vanished between 1950 and 2018. Scientists have indicated that climate change is likely to heighten the risk of landslides in the Western Ghats, recognised as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity.

The landslides also highlight how warnings from the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel led by renowned ecologist Madhav Gadgil were routinely ignored by the authorities. In 2011, the panel submitted its findings to the Centre, suggesting that the entire mountain range be classified as an ecologically sensitive area, divided into zones based on their ecological vulnerability. Among its recommendations was a blanket ban on mining, quarrying, new thermal power plants, hydropower projects, and large-scale wind energy development in the most sensitive area, referred to as zone 1. However, none of these recommendations made 14 years ago were implemented in the face of stiff resistance from successive state governments and other stakeholders.

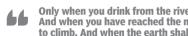
Wayanad-like tragedies have become all too common in the eco-fragile regions in north, northeast and south India. Come monsoon, and we are flooded with news of landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods claiming lives and properties in the states like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and other mountainous regions across the country.

In the light of monsoon rains becoming all the more unpredictable, experts have called for a reliable early warning system along with a structured evacuation plan in vulnerable hilly regions to save precious lives from such recurring tragedies.

Forget heeding to such sensible advice, the governments, Centre and states, most often act in ways that are detrimental to the environment. In Uttarakhand, the government went ahead with the Char Dham Project connecting the Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri despite experts flagging the risks of building a highway in the fragile land. And the results are for everyone to see -- land subsidence in Joshimath, frequent landslides in various parts of the state, the Uttarkashi tunnel collapse incident, and the

Unconcerned governments in connivance with greedy corporates have damaged our natural environment beyond redemption, all in the name of development.

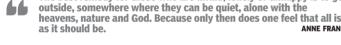
#### WISDOM CORNER



And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you

When you encourage others, you in the process are encouraged because you're making a commitment and difference in that person's life. Encouragement really does make a difference.

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go



#### THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1772: Russia, Prussia, and Austria signed a treaty creating the First Partition of Poland, depriving that country of approximately half of its population and almost one-third of its land.
- 1914: In Cleveland, Ohio, the first electric traffic light was installed; it eatured red and green lights.
- 1930: U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio.
- **1960:** Burkina Faso gains its Independence. The landlocked West African country, known as Upper Vota until 1984, became a French protectorate in the late 19th century. In 1958, the Republic of Upper Volta was created as a self-governing French colony. After independence, Maurice Yaméogo became the first president of the country, whose name was changed to Burkina Faso in 1984.
- 1962: Nelson Mandela is arrested. The South African anti-apartheid activist and adherent of nonviolence was arrested by the government at Rivonia, a suburb of Johannesburg. After a year-long trial, Mandela was imprisoned at the infamous Robben Island prison where we spent the next 18 years. He was released from prison in 1990 after spending 28 years as a political prisoner. In the early 1990s, after intense international and domestic pressure, in part from the efforts of Mandela, the South African government started taking steps to end apartheid - a government policy of racial segregation and discrimination. As a result, Mandela was elected the country's first black president in 1994.
- 1963: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom signed the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in Moscow. The treaty, which came as a response to the heightening tensions due to the frequent testing of nuclear weapons by the these 3 countries during the Cold War, banned the testing of nuclear weapons anywhere on land, over water or in space. Underground testing was still allowed under the treaty, until it was also banned in 1996 after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty came into force.

#### LOL

#### TIME FOR WEDDING

police officer stopped a motorist Awho was speeding down Main

"But officer," the man began, "I can explain.' "Just be quiet," snapped the officer.

"I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say,"



A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding... He'll be in a good mood when he gets back.

"Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

#### FOCUS DEVELOPMENT

## IS GEOGRAPHY DESTINY?



Anwesh Satpathy

THE REASONS **FOR THE POVERTY OF TROPICAL COUNTRIES IN CONTRAST TO TEMPERATE COUNTRIES ARE ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHICAL** 

♥he question of geography's role in socioeconomic and technological development has been much contested. Given the contentious nature of the debate, it is important to first review the arguments put forth by both proponents and critics of the thesis concerning the effects of geography on development.

One of the ways of evaluating the importance of geography is to trace the trajectory and reasons for technological and socio-economic advancements of the West in comparison to the East. There are two primary hypotheses that attempt to explain the rise of the West i.e. long-term lock in and short term accident. Long-term lock in theorists believe that there was always certain inexorable factors which laid the pathway for the industrial revolution to occur in the West. There is great disagreement among long-termers on the exact nature of these factors. Jared Diamond, for instance, places great emphasis on geography and environment. European conquests over other countries made them believe in inherent cultural superiority. The white race was argued to be the most superior as well as civilized. Other explanations included the belief in a superior Western culture inherited from the Greeks against the stagnant and superstitious culture of the East. These ideas provided further justification for colonialism. Karl Marx, meanwhile, argued that the centralisation of Oriental nations was what stopped the flow of progress and history while the Western world marched from feudalism to capitalism to the eventual proletariat revolution. Marx's ideas would later be moulded by the likes of Lenin and Stalin to justify totalitarian tyranny. The short-termers, as Ian Morris terms them, believe that the rise of the West is a simple accident. The economic historian



One of the ways of evaluating the importance of geography is to trace the trajectory and reasons for technological and socio-economic advancements of the West in comparison to the East

Andre Gunder Frank argues that the rise of the West was simply an accident of history due to the shrinking of the silver supply. This led to political crisis in Asia and discouragement of innovation while Europe started the mechanising of industries

Morris argues that both these approaches are flawed. Using social development as comparative measures. Morris shows that the astonishing surge in social development occurred only around 1800 CE. Eastern regions had scored higher than the West for around a thousand vears. Thus, neither the long term approach nor the short termers can adequately explain the shape of history. A combination of both, however, helps us explain a lot.

The root of technological as well as socio-economic development lies in the agricultural revolution. That pre-agricultural hunter-gatherer societies were extremely violent has been shown repeatedly by the likes of Steven Pinker. The emergence of agriculture led to stable societies, created surplus and necessitated the domestication of animals. All of these developments were dependent on geography. The habitable and warm regions i.e. the cores, were the ones where agriculture, domestication and innovation occurred. The Hilly Flank region in Western Eurasia, for instance, had unique concentration of domesticated plants and animals. It marks as one of the earliest sites showing the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to more sustainable and permanent agricultural societies. Diamond shows that the maiority of domesticated animals were concentrated in either Europe or Asia. While Africa had tamed elephants, it was of little use in terms of agriculture, which Africa's uneven geography and climate did not favour. As a consequence of living among domesticated animals, Eurasian societies developed immunity to diseases that originated from these animals. The societies in the Americas, on the other hand, had no exposure or immunity to these diseases. As a result, the interaction of both these societies resulted in widespread deaths. The importance of geography in technological innovation, in this instance, is quite clear.

The most influential and exhaustive critique of the thesis concerning the importance of ge-

ography is given by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson through their book 'Why Nations Fail'. Through examples of Mexico and the United States, North and South Korea, East and West Germany, the authors argue that geography does not determine social advancement. Instead, it is good and efficient institutions that determine the prosperity of a country. Reliance on a single natural resource can lead to civil wars and grave political instability, argue Acemoglu and Robinson, through the example of the diamond boom in Sierra Leone. Many relatively rich temperate countries such as Argentina, Egypt and Libya have bad institutions while countries like Costa Rica and Tanzania have often had stable governments The reasons for the poverty of tropical countries in contrast to temperate countries are environmental and geographical. Tropical areas are more prone to parasitic disease while being agriculturally less productive. Soil fertility is higher in temperate countries than tropical ones. While Acemoglu and Robinson are correct in emphasising the detrimental role of bad institutions to development, they are incorrect in dismissing geographical factors almost entirely.

Geography plays a crucial role in impacting social and technological development. It is true that our shape of history remains complete if we only consider geography. Evolutionary biology and environmental factors, for instance, contribute much to our historical trajectory Nevertheless, the massive effect of geography is indispensable if we seek to understand the rise and fall of civilizations, nations and prosperity.

The writer is a columnist and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.

#### SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

### Generative AI's hallucinations



Max von Thun

IT IS TIME TO STOP **TREATING INNOVATION AS AN** END IN ITSELF, **REGARDLESS OF** WHAT PURPOSE IT **ACHIEVES OR** WHOSE INTERESTS **IT ADVANCES** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

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(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

its dominant search engine. Users searching for information in the US are now sometimes shown an AI-generated overview that summarises the results, followed by the usual list of websites ranked by relevance.

Within days, people were reporting bizarre, inaccurate, and downright dangerous answers from the new AI Overviews feature. The model suggested using glue to help cheese stick to pizza, touted the cardiovascular benefits of running with scissors, and claimed that former US President Barack Obama is a Muslim. Google rushed to fix these errors, but many experts argue that they are intrinsic to the technology. Google CEO Sundar Pichai himself described such "hallucinations" as an "unsolved problem" and an "inherent feature" of the technology. Tacitly admitting failure, Google appears to have shrunk the proportion of users who are shown the overviews.

Google was widely - and rightly - panned for launching a technology that is clearly unfit for use and could harm users. But few have considered why the tech behemoth was able to act so brazenly in the first place. The

corporated generative AI into Commission Chair Lina Khan, user experience much worse. "too big to care." Google controls around 90% of the global market for web search and faces little competitive pressure. It can release an unreliable or unsafe product without fear of losing customers to rivals.

Similarly, Google's market power gives it no incentive to maintain quality. Its search engine has been rapidly deteriorating over the past few years, with organic results being increasingly crowded out by ads and spam content. Cory Doctorow coined the term "enshittification" to describe tech compa nies' practice of providing consumers with helpful and affordable (or free) services and then hiking prices and reducing quality once they corner the market. Examples abound: Amazon has gradually increased seller fees while inundating buyers with more sponsored results, while Meta-owned Instagram and Facebook increasingly push ads, videos, and other clickbait instead of trustworthy news and updates from friends and family.

The same logic applies to "upgrades," such as Google's AI Overviews. These intentional and sometimes drastic product changes are sold under the pro-

n May, Google rolled out a answer is simple: it is, in the gressive-sounding banner of "inlong-expected update that in- words of Federal Trade novation" but often make the

> The rivalry between tech companies, especially the scramble over generative AI, is sometimes cited as evidence of competitive forces in the industry. But this argument fails to distinguish between competition "for the market" and competition "in the market." Tech giants might appear to compete with one another, but it is almost always a mirage. In fact, each firm is trying to deepen the moat around its own sphere of influence, resulting in a tense but largely static coexistence. And in those rare instances of direct competition, such as between Microsoft and Google in web search, market share remains largely unchanged.

More worryingly, today's AI ecosystem is rife with collusive behaviour: tech giants are increasingly forming partnerships akin to the lucrative agreements that Google made to maintain its search dominance. These include Microsoft's cloud-computing deal with Meta, a recently announced partnership between Apple and OpenAI, and Google's plans to embed its AI technologies in Samsung phones, several of which are already facing scrutiny from antitrust authorities

Tech giants are competing in one realm: each wants to win investors' approval and avoid giving the impression that it is falling behind in the AI arms race. But the toxic combination of recklessly vying for growth and suppressing competition is fueling the dangerous and wasteful deployment of untested technologies.

Encouraging marginally more competition between tech monopolists, in the hopes that they will be forced to focus more on safety and reliability, will not be enough. Binding regulation, such as the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, is a necessary first step toward holding these companies to account.

Equally important, it is time to stop treating innovation as an end in itself, regardless of what purpose it achieves or whose interests it advances. Instead, we must develop a far more nuanced understanding of how narratives about innovation are shaped and steered by investors, dominant firms, and other powerful actors. Only then can we have a meaningful conversation about the role of AI in our societies.

The writer is Director of Europe and Transatlantic Partnerships at the Open Markets Institute.

#### **Preserving monuments**

Sir, In an odd incident last week, Hyderabad's 135-year-old iconic Charminar clock was damaged by pigeons, with an 'L' shaped hole noticed on the white background of the clock near the '25 minute' mark. The impairment highlights the challenges faced in preserving historical monuments. Pigeon infestation is a common issue in many ancient structures, often leading to significant damage over time. The hole in the clock's dial board, although seemingly minor, represents a broader issue of maintaining the integrity of heritage sites. The Charminar clock is more than a timepiece; it is a part of Hyderabad's rich history. Ensuring its preservation therefore is essential to maintaining the cultural heritage of the city and

preserving the clock for future generations. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Broader conflict

Sir, The assassination of Hamas' political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran following Israel's strike on a senior Hezbollah commander in response to a rocket attack on Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which killed a dozen childrenhas escalated tensions in West Asia. This development increases the risk of the conflict expanding from Israel to Lebanon and Syria, potentially involving Iran due to its support for Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in Yemen. Israel now faces potential retaliation from Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as from Iran. Hamas' armed wing has stated that Haniyeh's assassination will intensify the conflict and have significant consequences. Haniyeh, who was the diplomatic representative of Hamas and played a key role in negotiating a Gaza ceasefire with the US, Egyptian, and Qatari mediation, was seen as a moderate compared to the group's more militant members. His death disrupts ongoing ceasefire talks. Qatar's Prime Minister has criticized the killing, questioning how mediation can succeed if one side eliminates the negotiator from the other. The assassination undermines efforts to prevent further escalation and could impact the global economy. This development is particularly concerning for the US, which has been advocating for a ceasefire to end the 10-month Gaza conflict. Israel's targeting of Hamas and Hezbollah leadership may lead to a broader regional conflict

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH







Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy hands over a cheque of ₹50,000 and winners' trophy to KIIT International School, Bhubaneswar, the first runners-up in Junior category of Mettle Meet 2024, at Hotel Crystal Crown, Bhubaneswar, Sunday as the daily's Editor Tathagata Satpathy and quizmaster Ajay Poonia look on.



Quizzers of DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar, the second runners-up in Junior category, receiving the a cheque of ₹25,000 and the trophy







### RAISING

### THE BAR

Mettle Meet's juggernaut continued to march ahead with élan as the sixth edition of eastern India's biggest quizzing extravaganza, hosted by Odisha's only home grown English daily Orissa POST, witnessed a record participation of contestants from over 80 top educational institutions of the state. The two-daylong battle of brains witnessed many anxious moments as the bright young minds, split into Senior and Junior categories, cracked volleys of tricky questions put by eminent quizmaster Ajay Poonia with wit and presence of mind. Sunday's Grand Finale saw eight top teams from each category, which emerged successful from the preliminary rounds on the previous

day, vie for the summit clashes before a packed audience of parents, teachers, students and dignitaries. As curtains came down on the mega event, some walked away with the coveted trophies while those who missed out by a whisker romped home with an experience of lifetime

Bhubaneswar, August 4: With over 80 top educational institutions from across the state registering their active participation in the sixth edition of Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2024, the biggest quizzing extravaganza of eastern India was a grand success not just in terms of scale of arrangements, but also by the enthusiasm it evoked among thousands of stakeholders for the marquee event.

Excitement ran high among the participants as well as their parents and teachers who streamed into the venue at Hotel Crystal Crown in Patia for the preliminary rounds Saturday, and the Grand Finale Sunday.

During the proceedings, while the participants got engrossed in finding the right answers, their mentors wished the bright minds with bated breath to hit the bulls' eye.

Nevertheless, they enjoyed every moment of the event, in as much as the participants, and were all praise for the initiative by Odisha's only homegrown English daily in not just keeping the tradition of quizzing alive in the state, but scaling up the level of participation and proportion with every passing year.

Shahid Khan, a teacher at DPS Kalinga, said Mettle Meet is a platform that gives a chance to young minds from all over the state. "They are not just from the twin city. As the event has grown now, participants are coming from as far as Burla or Dhenkanal to take part and test their knowledge with some of the best minds

#### Friendship is all about trust

Call it a chance operation or a rendezvous set-up by divine intervention, the grand finale of Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2024 coincided with Friendship Day, validating the deep trust and bonding among the participants. Apart from the sparkling intelligence and creativity of participants, their shared camaraderie made them bag the desired results. Chirag Malik of DAV Public School, Unit-VIII, said prior to attending the event, they had entrusted each other with ample faith. Adweya Sarangi of KIIT International School said a strong friendship always acts as a crushing force in challenging times

Medhir Sarangi, from DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar, which made into the second runners-up this year, said being the youngest member in the group he gave his best efforts. "The electrifying atmosphere of Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2024 is a one-of-a kind experience for students," he added. Divyajyoti Tripathy, from DAV Unit-VIII which bagged the winners crown in Junior category said the results reflect the dedicated team effort which each of the participants devoted since a year ago. "After DAV Unit-VIII ended up as runners-up last year, an intense preparation followed keeping in mind to win the title in the 2024 edition of Mettle Meet," he said. Quiz master Ajay Poonia kept the audience engaged with the proceedings and enthralled them with his trademark humour and flawless presentation.



Participants from SCB Medical College, Cuttack, the first runners-up in Senior category, with their trophy and a cheque of ₹50,000



Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy hands over a cheque of ₹25,000 to NIT, Rourkela, the second runners-up in Senior category while Editor Tathagata Satpathy looks on.









# TRYST WITH TALENT





























## national



There was no talk of seat sharing in today's meeting. We are going to contest as the MVA alliance and bring about change. People favour the MVA and that was evident in the Lok Sabha polls RAMESH CHENNITHALA | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

#### **FIRST-EVER SOPS ON** TRANSPORTING ORGANS

The Union Health Ministry has come out with its first-ever SoPs for seamless transport of human organs through various modes of travel, which will allow airlines carrying them to request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing and also arrange front-row seats





I appeal to the BJP and JD(S) workers to work together. Who should become chief minister is not important to me With your blessings I have been the chief minister of the state twice. Welfare and development of the state and its people are important for me H D KUMARASWAMY UNION MINISTER

Political oppression is nothing compared to social oppression. Have the lives of millions of Dalits and Adivasis in the country become



talking about special status for Bihar. I ask why Nitish Kumar could not press for the restoration of 20 sugar mills that have been moribund for years? He has been in power for nearly 20 years which shall be remembered for wasted opportunities

STRATEGIST TURNED ACTIVIST





big-big countries,

#### Fire breaks out in empty train at **Visakhapatnam**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam, August 4: Three air-conditioned coaches of an empty stationary express train were gutted in a fire accident at Visakhapatnam Railway Station Sunday, police said.

There were no casualties in the Korba-Visakhapatnam Express (18517) as all the passengers had deboarded by the time the fire was detected.

The train had arrived on platform number four from Chhattisgarh's Korba in the morning and was to depart for Tirupati later.

A railway official said the Korba Express arrived at 6.30 a.m. and had to go for mainte-



nance to the coaching depot. The train was locked and power was shut down, he said.

Railway Protection Force personnel noticed smoke in the B7 coach around 9.20 a.m. and alerted the authorities and fire services

"By then all passengers had deboarded the train after its arrival," said the official.

According to the railway officials, the fire quickly spread to adjoining coaches. The B7 coach was completely gutted while B6 and M1 coaches were partially damaged. Four fire engines rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Joint Commissioner of Police Fakirappa said there were no casualties in the accident. He said railway officials were conducting an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Barring the damaged coaches, the railway personnel shifted the train to the depot for maintenance. Visakhapatnam Police

Commissioner Shankabratha Bagchi visited the railway station.

## Rains lash western, central India

The India Meteorological Department has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in eastern, northeastern and northern parts of the country on Monday while isolated places in Bihar Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are likely to witness thunderstorms accompanied by lightning

New Delhi, August 4: Heavy rains lashed western and central parts of India Sunday while a cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir led to the closure of the arterial Srinagar-Leh national highway, cutting off the Kashmir Valley from Ladakh and rendering the Baltal base camp for the Amarnath Yatra inaccessible.

The death toll in last week's landslides in Kerala's Wayanad and Himachal Pradesh rose to 221 and 11, respectively, while more than 370 people, including pilgrims, stranded on the rain-ravaged trek route to Uttarakhand's Kedarnath, were evacuated.

So far, more than 10,000 people have been rescued from Kedarnath, Bhimbali and Gaurikund. The trek route to Kedarnath suffered extensive damage as a result of a cloudburst in Junglechatti near Lincholi last Wednesday.

Army personnel were deployed at an inundated residential area in Maharashtra's Pune amid heavy downpours and water discharge from the Khadakwasla dam, officials said. In view of the discharge of water from Khadakwasla, Mulshi, Pavana and other dams in the Pune region, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde directed authorities to be alert and shift people from dangerous zones to safer places with the assistance of NDRF, SDRF and the Army, if needed

Officials of Maharashtra's irrigation department said 35,000 cusecs of water was discharged from the Khadakwasla dam following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas in the past fortnight. The ghat section in Pune district received heavy rainfall in the last two days.

In Jammu and Kashmir, some



#### Kerala grapples with relief efforts

district continued for the sixth day Sunday, authorities intensified efforts to recover bodies and also prepared a mass grave for unidentified remains, amid discussions in the state on donations to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund and whether to classify the natural calamity as a 'national disaster'. More personnel and equipment were deployed Sunday in areas where the likelihood of finding bodies is high, and a drone-based Intelligent Buried Object Detection System was used to identify locations where bodies might be buried deep under huge boulders or logs.

buildings suffered damage while the Srinagar-Leh national highway was closed following a cloudburst in Ganderbal district that triggered a flash flood.

The highway's closure has cut off the Kashmir Valley from Ladakh while the Baltal base camp for Amarnath yatra has also been rendered inaccessible

Heavy rainfall in Jharkhand has led to the swelling of a couple of rivers in the state. forcing the East Singhbhum district administration to issue an alert for people residing in the low-lying areas

The water level in Kharkai and Swarnarekha rivers has been rising for the last couple of days due to incessant rains in the state. According to an official release, the water level in the Swarnarekha river was at 116.58 metres at 9 am Sunday against the danger mark of 121.50 metres. The water level of the Kharkhai was flowing at 126.83 metres against the red mark of 129 metres, it added.

Around 3,500 cusecs of water was released into the Swarnarekha river from the Chandil Dam in the adjoining Seraikela-Kharswan district of Jharkhand. People residing in the catchment areas have been asked not to venture out near the rivers. and duly follow the directives issued by the administration.

In neighbouring West Bengal rainfall occurred at most places in all the districts with a few places in Birbhum witnessing heavy showers. The Damodar

released 1.2 lakh cusecs of water from the Panchet and Maithon dams along the Jharkhand-West Bengal border Sunday morning after heavy discharge of water from Tenughat upstream. A total of 90,000 cusecs of water was released from Panchet and Maithon Saturday

Several south Bengal districts, including Purba and Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, Paschim and Purba Medinipur, Bankura, Hooghly and Howrah have been impacted by the release of water by DVC. The death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh increased to 11 with the recovery of two more bodies from the Mandi district.

Over 40 people are still missing after a series of cloudbursts occurred in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31 and wreaked havoc.

The rescue operations are still underway and sniffer dogs, drones and other equipment are also being used to locate the missing people.

According to officials, 410 rescuers from the Army, NDRF, SDRF, ITBP, CISF, Himachal Pradesh Police and home guards are involved in the hunt.

A total of 87 roads are still closed in the state. The local meteorological office has warned of heavy showers, thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in Himachal Pradesh till August 8. Intermittent rains lashed parts of Himachal Pradesh with Hamirpur receiving the highest rainfall at 54 mm since Friday evening, followed by Berthin and Dharamshala at 19 mm each. Neri 11 mm, Kangra 9.7 mm, Kukumseri 9.6 mm, Sundernagar 8.1 mm, Manali and Chamba 6

#### **Two Arunachal** men missing near LAC, believed to be held by PLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Two men from Arunachal Pradesh, missing for nearly two years after they disappeared from a remote area along the India-China border, are believed to be in the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) custody but the Chinese military has not confirmed their presence.

Batelum Tikro, 35, and his cousin, Bainsi Manyu, 37, went missing August 19, 2022, while looking for medicinal herbs in a high-altitude region of the Chaglagam area in the state's Anjaw district. Extensive searches have vielded no information about their whereabouts. Families and local authorities continue to seek answers, raising concerns about the security and safety of individuals in border areas.

"I have come to know that they were detained by the Chinese army," Tikro's brother Dishanso Chikro told PTI over phone. Chikro said he has approached

local army authorities several times to seek information about his brothers. "I am told that the issue was raised by the Indian Army with their Chinese counterparts. But no response has come so far," he said. Anjaw MLA and State's Women and Child Development Minister Dasanglu Pul confirmed that the duo went missing along the border with China while looking for medicinal herbs. "The Chinese side has not yet acknowledged that the youths are in their custody. But I am told that they are still alive," she told PTI over phone.

After the two went missing, Chikro lodged two complaints of missing persons at Havuliang police station (registration numbers: 0005/2022 and 0006/2022) October 9, 2022. It was mentioned in the complaints that "some fellow villagers might have last seen them at border areas August 24, 2022" but since then there has been no sign of the where-

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 7 killed, 25 injured in bus-car collision

Etawah (UP): Seven people were killed and 25 injured early Sunday when the bus they were on fell into a ditch after a collision on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in the Usrahar area here, police said. Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar told reporters that a bus with Nagaland number plate was on its way to Delhi from Rae Bareli, when at around 12.45 am it collided with a car coming from the wrong lane.

#### 3 coaches of empty **MEMU train derail**

Saharanpur (UP): Three coaches of an empty local train derailed while it was taken to the washing shed from the Saharanpur railway station Sunday, officials said. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Ambala division Mandeep Singh Bhatia told reporters that the MEMU train was empty and no one was injured.

#### SC to hear Sisodia's bail pleas today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday pleas filed by AAP leader Manish Sisodia, seeking bail in corruption and moneylaundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan will take up for hearing both the pleas.

#### **Several RJD leaders** join JD-U in Bihar

Patna: Several RJD leaders joined JD-U Sunday in the presence of Bihar ministers . Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Ashok Chaudhary who welcomed them into the party. On the occasion, JD-U State President Umesh Singh Kushwaha said, "People are joining JD-U after being influenced by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar.'



The birthday of Acharya Balkrishna ji, General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth, was celebrated as Herb Day at the Yog Bhawan Auditorium of Patanjali Wellness, Patanjali Yogpeeth II, Saturday. On the occasion, over one lakh medicinal plants like neem, tulsi, aloe vera, clove, amla were distributed and planted for free by Ramdev ji and Acharya ii as well as Patanjali Yoga Committees established all over the country. Along with this, 887 units of blood were donated in Haridwar along with Acharva Balkrishna ii and over 1,000 units of blood were donated through Pataniali Yoga Committees across the country. Officials, teachers and students of all the projects and educational institutions associated with Patanjali Yogpeeth attended the programme.

### BSP doesn't agree at all: Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 4: BSP chief and former Uttar Pradesh said her party doesn't agree with the recent Supreme Court's verdict allowing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes.

"The sub-classification of people within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been permitted, our party doesn't agree with it at all, Mayawati said while addressing a press conference here.

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court Thursday held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward. "Because the atrocities faced by the people of SCs and STs have been faced as



in which it would not be right to do any kind of sub-classification," she said.

The former Chief Minister said, "We have appealed to the honourable Supreme Court to reconsider its decision, otherwise if the reservation facility given by the most revered Baba Saheb to make crores of Dalits and tribals stand on their feet in this country is abolished, it will become very difficult." Mayawati said, "Those who say that SCs-STs have become economically strong, then I think only 10 or 11 per cent of the people must have become strong, the condition of the rest 90 per cent is very bad." Mayawati targeted the ruling

party and the Congress saying, 'The Centre and the BJP, who say that they are the supporters of the SC-ST community, should advocate for them properly... which they did not. The Congress also adopted a vague attitude on the matter.'

She said, 'In such a situation, we have to tell the BJP government at the Centre that if your intention is clear then whatever decision has come, you people should amend the Constitution in Parliament and bring it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.' Raising questions on the intentions of political parties, she said, 'I do not accept the decision taken by the Supreme Court because Parliament also has the right to overturn it.'

### Dharavi redevelopment plan gets shot in the arm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 4: In a shot in the arm for redevelopment of Asia's biggest slum, a newly

formed association of residents of Dharavi and its vicinity has lent its support to ongoing state government-led survey of informal tenements, a precursor to the \$ 3-billion project by the Adani group that promises to transform lives of an estimated one million residents.

We request the survey be conducted at the earliest possible time to ensure that the redevelopment can move forward without further delays," Citizen and Society Development Welfare body of Dharayi residents wrote to S V R Srinivas, CEO Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP/SRA), of government of Maharashtra, July 30.

Representatives of Citizen



memorandum seeking expedition of the survey being conducted in Dharavi. Mapping of the roughly 600

acres of densely populated Dharavi is crucial for the redevelopment that is likely to take seven years to complete. Eligible residents will get a 350 square foot flat in the area once the project is completed, while ineligible residents will be rehoused elsewhere in Mumbai. 3-D mapping expert Genesys International Ltd will map the area while UK structure needs and Boston based Sasaki Associates Inc is in charge of overall re-design. Dharavi residents, known as

Dharavikars, have also asked Srinivas to take legal action against those who are opposing the survey process. The delegation stressed to

Srinivas that obstructing the survey process was not only detrimental to the redevelopment efforts but also constituted a violation of the law.

Deepak Kaitke of the association in the letter said the residents of Dharavi "emphasise

Dharavi redevelopment project." Later talking to PTI, he said the association has told Srinivas that they want the master plan for the development to be disclosed first. "What we told Srinivas is that the Master Development Plan has to be disclosed first. We want to know who will be relocated, where and when the flats will be ready. The details and timelines need to be disclosed." Last week, several residents took to the streets opposing the disruption of the survey by some. They wanted Srinivas to recognize Dharavi Banao Andolan as the right representative of the people of Dharavi and not the non-residents of Dharavi, who are actively opposing the survey and the overall redevelopment efforts.

Around 30 to 40 DRP survey teams are visiting each and every tenement, despite heavy rains and knee-deep water logged small

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Provide security to rape survivor: Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Sunday urged the court to order protection for the Ayodhya rape survivor considering the "sensitivity" of the case. He also said people trying to "politicise" the case must not be allowed to succeed. "The government should make the best possible medical arrangements for the rape survivor. It is the government's responsibility to protect the girl's life," Yadav said in a post on X.

#### Nipah virus detected in bat samples

Thiruvananthapuram: The presence of the Nipah virus has been detected in bat samples collected from Pandikkad in Kerala's Malappuram district. where the death of a 14-year-old boy due to the infection was reported June 21. According to Health Minister Veena George, antibodies were found in six out of 27 fruit bat samples collected within a five-kilometre radius. The minister said that all tests of those on the contact list of the infected individual conducted as per Nipah protocol have been negative for the virus so far. A total of 472 people are on the contact list, and 261 individuals who have completed the mandatory 21-day isolation period have been removed from the list, she added.

#### Tharoor criticised for Wayanad post

New Delhi: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has put out the definition of "memorable" to hit back at those criticising him for using the word in a social media post on the Wayanad landslide relief works he participated in. It started with Tharoor sharing on X a video montage of the relief works he was a part of for victims of the landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district. "Some memories of a memorable day in Wayanad," he captioned his post Friday. Several people slammed him for using the word

and Society Development consultancy Buro Happold Ltd the urgent need for the comby-lanes of Dharavi, to ensure will outline the physical infra-Welfare, who have given the slomencement of the survey for the that no tenement is left behind. "memorable" in the post.

## international



It's interesting how 'any time, any place' becomes 'one specific time, one specific safe space'. I'll be there September 10, like he (Donald Trump) agreed to. I hope to see him there

KAMALA HARRIS | VICE PRESIDENT, US

#### **PUTIN OFFERS AID TO NK**

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered humanitarian assistance to help North Korea cope with damages from recent floods, both countries said, in another sign of expanding relations between the two nations





I have heard you loud and clear. I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, and I want to assure

you that our government is committed to listening and addressing the concerns of our citizens

BOLA TINUBU | PRESIDENT, NIGERIA



been as strong as today, never

MARÍA CORINA MACHADO FORMER DEPLITA OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, VENEZUELA

Russia consistently repeats the crimes of the Nazis defiantly showing norms of the



ANDRIY KOSTIN PROSECUTOR GENERAL

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Houthi rebels hits container ship

Dubai: A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a Liberian-flagged container ship travelling through the Gulf of Aden, authorities said Sunday, the first assault by the group since Israeli airstrikes targeted them. The Houthis offered no explanation for the two-week pause in their attacks on shipping through the Red Sea corridor, which have seen similar slowdowns since the assaults began in November over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

#### May 9 riots: Khan refuses to apologise

Islamabad: Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan has refused to apologise for the May 9 riots that erupted after his arrest last year and claimed that it was the Army that owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

#### **Torrential rains** in Pakistan kill 11

Peshawar: At least 11 people died in the last 24 hours due to torrential monsoon rains that caused flash floods and roof collapses in northwest Pakistan Sunday, authorities said. At least seven deaths were reported from Tank and Karak districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan. Three people died when the roof of their house collapsed due to heavy rains in Tank district, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority said.

## Indian student faces deportation Ukraine deploys F-16 jets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 4: A 19-vearold Indian student, who was arrested and charged with falsifying records to gain admission in a US university, will have to return to India under a plea deal entered into with American au-

Aryan Anand had submitted fake and falsified documents to secure admission into Lehigh University, a private research university in Pennsylvania for the 2023-2024 academic year.

A report in the Lehigh University's student newspaper 'The Brown and White', said last month that a police investigation had found that Anand had falsified admission and financial aid documents. He had even "faked his father's death" as part of the conspiracy to obtain admission and scholarship, it said.

Anand was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Jordan Knisley June 12, with a bail of \$25,000. He pleaded guilty to one count of forgery.

As part of the plea deal, he was sentenced to one to three months in Northampton County Prison, "which amounted to a time-served sentence", lehigh-valleylive.com quoted defence attorney Molly Heidorn as

As part of the deal, Anand is required to return to India and Lehigh chose not to seek restitution of about \$85,000. He was released to the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement

According to a release issued by the office of Northampton County's district attorney Stephen Baratta, Anand had created a fake email address impersonating a school principal, the report in lehighvalleylive.com said. The release had said that Anand's father is alive and in India.

Anand's forgery came to light after a post he shared on the social media site Reddit titled 'I have built my life and career on lies' prompted the investigation into his case. In that anonymous post, he had laid out the details of his fraudu-

**OFFERS NO RELIEF** 

United States, August 3: More

than 6,000 firefighters in

California's Central Valley con-

tinued to battle the largest blaze

in the US Saturday, which burned

its way into the history books as

the state's fourth-largest confla-

There was barely a taste of

rain Saturday from thunder-

storms that brought wind and

rainfall of zero to one-tenth of

The heat of 38 Celsius along

an inch, forecasters said.

gration on record.

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 4: Ukrainian pilots have started flying F-16s for operations within the nation, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday, confirming the longawaited arrival of the US-made fighter jets more than 29 months since Russia's invasion.

The Ukrainian leader announced the use of F-16s, which Kyiv has long lobbied for, as he met military pilots at an air base flanked by two of the jets with two more flying overhead.

"F-16s are in Ukraine. We did it. I am proud of our guys who are mastering these jets and have already started using them for our country," Zelenskyy said. The arrival of the jets is a

mains unclear how many are available and how much of an impact they will have in enhancing air defences and on the battlefield.

Russia has been targeting

milestone for Ukraine after many

months of waiting, though it re-

We did it. I am proud of our guvs who are mastering these jets and have already started using them for our country VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY

bases that may house them and vowed to shoot them down so they will not impact the war.

Built by Lockheed Martin, the F-16s had been on Ukraine's wish list for a long time because of their destructive power and global availability. They are equipped with a 20mm cannon and can carry bombs, rockets and missiles.

Talking to reporters on the tarmac of an airfield, Zelenskyy said Ukraine still did not have enough pilots trained to use the F-16s or enough of the jets themselves.

"The positive thing is that we are expecting additional F-16s, many guys are now training," he



said. It was important, he said, that Kyiv's allies found ways to expand training programmes and opportunities for both Ukrainian pilots and engineer-

Russia has used that edge to conduct regular long-range missile strikes on targets across Ukraine and also to pound Ukrainian front line positions with thousands of guided bombs, supporting its forces that are

slowly advancing in the east. 'This is the new stage of development of the air force of Ukraine's armed forces,

Zelenskyy said. "We did a lot for Ukrainian forces to transition to a new aviation standard, the Western combat aviation," he added, citing hundreds of meetings and unrelenting diplomacy to obtain

"We often heard 'it is im-

#### Ukraine sinks Russian submarine

Kyiv: Ukraine has sunk a Russian submarine and hit a Russian airfield in the past 24 hours, in line with a surge of long-range attacks against Russian targets, officials said. Russia said Ukrainian drones also hit an apartment building, killing one person. Ukraine struck a Russian Kilo-class submarine and an S-400 anti aircraft missile complex in the Moscow-occupied Crimean peninsula, according to a statement from the General Staff Saturday. Units of the missile forces, as well as the Navy, damaged four launchers of the Triumph air defence system, while in the port of Sevastopol, the "Rostov-on-Don", a submarine of Russia's Black Sea fleet, was attacked and sank, the

possible' as an answer but we still made our ambition, our defensive need, possible,'

### Israeli strike hit Gaza schools, kills 30

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Palestinian Territories, August 4: Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike hit two schools in Gaza City Sunday, killing at least 30 people, while the military reported it had struck Hamas command centres.

These bring to at least 11 the number of schools in Gaza to be struck since July 6, killing around 150 people, based on a tally of tolls previously given by officials in the Hamas-run territory.

"The number of martyrs in the massacre of the Hassan Salameh and Al-Nasr schools' bombing has risen to 30. Dozens were also wounded." civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. Bassal said most of the dead and wounded were women and children.

He said the schools were housing Palestinians displaced from their homes in the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas

with winds up to 25 mph or more

in some spots, offered little relief

to the firefighters trying to contain

the Park Fire, scorching the wilder-

ness terrain some 161 km north of

that just brought us down-drafts,

that's a problem," said Christopher

Young, a spokesman for the California

Department of Forestry and Fire

Protection, or Cal Fire. "Lightning

Blazes from the Park Fire,

started by an alleged arsonist

who pushed a flaming car down

a 60-foot gully near Chico,

California, July 24, has since

burned more than 400,000 acres

is a factor we worry about.

"We had some thunderstorms

Sacramento, the state capital.



Israel's military confirmed the strike targeting the two schools.

"The schools were used by Hamas' Al-Furgan Battalion as a hiding place for its terrorist operatives and as command centres," the military said in a statement.

On Saturday, a similar Israeli strike hit another school compound in Gaza City, killing at least 17 people, according to the civil defence agency

The Israeli military has repeatedly accused Hamas of using

or more than 600 square miles, an

area larger than the city of Los

Angeles. The 42-vear-old man ar-

rested had not entered a plea as

of Saturday, but was charged with

arson and held without bail, of-

More than 560 homes and other

structures were destroyed since

the blaze started 11 days ago, feed-

ing off of downed timber and

tinder-dry grass and brush. The

fire was 27% contained Saturday,

ficials said.

California blaze now fourth-largest in state history

civilian facilities as command and control centres or to hide their commanders and operatives. The Palestinian group denies the accusation.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas operatives attacked Israel October 7, resulting in the death of 1,197 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Operatives also seized 251 people, 111 of whom are still held hostage in Gaza, including 39 the

More than 4,000 people were

evacuated in the Park Fire in-

cluding retiree Jim Young, 65, of

Red Bluff, California, where he

lived in a trailer home with his

dog, a black Labrador Retriever

He and the dog spent the last

eight days camped out with some

other families in a gravel lot at a

wilderness trailhead about 6 miles

from his home, worrying every

home," Young told Reuters

Saturday evening. "Our property

is safe. So many lost everything. But

me and Sparky can go home now."

"We just found out we can go

officials said.

named Sparky

day if it was safe.

The murders last week were seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups as misinformation spread that the suspected attacker was an immigrant and a radical Islamist. Police have said the suspect was born in Britain and are not treating it as a ter-

The protests have spread

### 'far right thuggery' The Prime Minister has

PM Starmer slams

**BRITAIN UNREST** 

told far right thugs that they 'will regret' their actions as he promises swift retribution for civil unrest and riots

REUTERS

London, August 4: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Sunday condemned what he described as "far-right thuggery" after days of violent antiimmigration protests culminated in an attack on a hotel, saying perpetrators would face

Violent protests have erupted in towns and cities in Britain after three girls were killed in a knife attack at a children's dance class in Southport in northwest England last week.

rorist incident.



Saturday, resulting in dozens of arrests as shops and businesses were vandalised and looted and several police were injured. Hundreds of anti-immigrathe full force of the law.

tion protesters gathered by a hotel near Rotherham Sunday, northern England, which Britain's interior minister said was housing asylum seekers. The protesters, many wear-

ing masks or balaclavas, threw bricks at police and broke several hotel windows, a Reuters witness said, before setting nearby bins on fire and pushing them into the hotel.

"I utterly condemn the farright thuggery we've seen this weekend," Starmer said in a statement. "Be in no doubt, those that have participated in this violence will face the full force of the law.'

## WIN FOR MEXICO Migrants to apply online for US entry

MORE THAN 680,000 PEOPLE SCHEDULED CBP ONE APPOINTMENTS AT EIGHT MEXICAN LAND CROSSINGS WITH THE US FROM ITS INTRODUCTION IN JANUARY 2023 THROUGH JUNE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, August 4: The Biden administration will expand areas where migrants can apply online for appointments to enter the United States to a large

swath of southchange will spare ern Mexico, ofmigrants from ficials said travelling north through Saturday, potentially eas-Mexico to get one of ing strains on 1,450 appointments the Mexican government made available

and lessening dangers for people trying to reach the US border to claim asylum.

Migrants will be able to schedule appointments on the CBP (Customs and Border Protection) One app from the states of Chiapas and Tabasco, extending the zone from northern and central Mexico, US Customs and Border Protection said. The move satisfies a request of Mexico, an

increasingly close partner of the US in efforts to control extraordinary migration flows.

from traveling north through Mexico to get one of 1,450 appointments made available daily, CBP said. The

"We consistently daily

> said in a statement. The statement confirmed remarks a day earlier by Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Bárcena, who said closer relations with the United States cut migration sharply from late

US officials have said increased

The change will spare migrants agency said it will hap-

engage with our partners in the Government of Mexico and work together to adjust policies and practices in response to the latest migration trends and security needs," CBP

pen soon but did not

give a date



Mexican enforcement is largely responsible for a sharp drop in US arrests for illegal border crossings during the first half of this year. Mexican officials have stepped up their presence at highway checkpoints and on railroads leading to the US border, returning most to southern Mexico.

In June, the US temporarily suspended asylum processing for those who enter the country illegally, making CBP One of the

driving down illegal entries. US officials said arrests for illegal crossings plunged 30 per cent in July from the previous month to the lowest level of Joe Biden's presidency and the lowest since September 2020.

only avenues for migrants to enter

the US to seek asylum and further

"We have managed to decompress our (northern) border in a very meaningful way and that has helped. our relationship with

the United States be very, very dynamic and very positive," Bárcena said Friday.

More than 680,000 people scheduled CBP One appointments at eight Mexican land crossings with the US from its introduction in January 2023 through June. The top nationalities are Venezuelan. Cuban and Haitian. US authorities recently limited slots for Mexicans due to the high number of applicants from the country.

The perils of travelling through Mexico to be kidnapped or robbed has prompted many migrants to fly to northern border cities like Tijuana for their CBP One appointments once they reach the southernmost point from which they can apply, until now, Mexico City.

Migrants generally enter Mexico in Chiapas or Tabasco from Guatemala. Mexico City may offer more job opportunities and relative safety but the cost of living is higher, prompting some to live in informal camps in the nation's capital.

The Authorized Officer of the Axis Bank Limited (formerly known as UTI Bank

Ltd), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

rcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules . 2002 issued a demand notice dated 04.03.2024 calling upon the borrower M/s SHREERAM FOOD PRODUCTS having its Registered office at Plot No. 1281/2565, Unit 32, Gobind Prasad, Bhubaneswar 751010 and Unit address at Akhupadar, P O Odagaon, Dist. – Nayagarh, Orissa - 752081 AND Guarantor(s) /mortgagor(s) 1) Smt. Swarnalata Sahoo, w/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha - 752081 2) Smt. Swarnalata Sahoo w/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo (In the capacity of Legal heir of Baikuntha Nath Sahoo since deceased). Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081 3) Shri Suryakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081, 4) Shri Suryakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo (In the capacity of Legal heir of Baikuntha Nath Sahoo since deceased) Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081, 5) Shri Tarakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081, 6) Shri Tarakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo (In the capacity of Legal heir of Baikuntha Nath Sahoo since deceased), Nelia Sahi Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081, 7) Shri handrakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081 and 8) Shri Chandrakanta Sahoo, s/o of Late Baikuntha Nath Sahoo (In the capacity of Legal heir of Baikuntha Nath Sahoo since deceased), Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha – 752081to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.12,63,49,717.82 (Rupees Twelve Crores Sixty Three Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred seventeen and

The borrower/mortgagor/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with rule

paise eighty two only) being the amount due as on 31.01.2024 (This amount

include interest applied upto 31.01.2024) together with further interest w.e.f 01.02.2024 at the contractual rate of interest, till the date of payment and other

consequences, damages etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of

8 of the said rules on this 3rd August 2024. The guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Bank Limited (formerly known as UTI Bank Ltd.) for Rs.12,63,49,717.82 (Rupees Twelve Crores Sixty Three Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred seventeen and paise eighty two only) being the amount due as on 31.01.2024 (This amount include interest applied upto 31.01.2024) together with further interest w.e.f 01.02.2024 at the contractual rate of interest and other consequences, damages etc.

Description of the Immovable Property (Secured Assets) Date of Possession Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building on Plot No. 616 617 Khata No. 196/185 and Plot No. 613 Khata No. 196/361, Mouza - Akhupadar, admeasuring total area of AC 1.46 dec, registered in the name of Late Shri Baikuntha Nath Sahoo.Booted And bounded by -North: Plot No. 618 and 821; South: Plot No. 615 (Anabadi ) and Plot No. 797;East: Road;West: Plot No. 614 and 612

Place: Nayagarh, Odisha

03-08-2024



## business

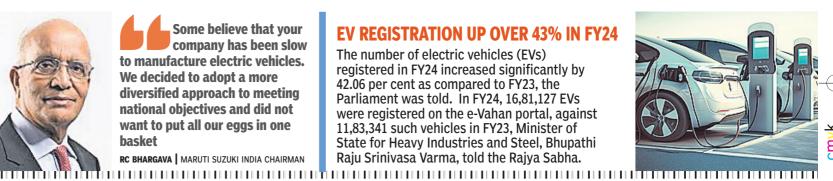


Some believe that your company has been slow to manufacture electric vehicles. We decided to adopt a more diversified approach to meeting national objectives and did not want to put all our eggs in one

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

#### **EV REGISTRATION UP OVER 43% IN FY24**

The number of electric vehicles (EVs) registered in FY24 increased significantly by 42.06 per cent as compared to FY23, the Parliament was told. In FY24, 16,81,127 EVs were registered on the e-Vahan portal, against 11,83,341 such vehicles in FY23, Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, told the Rajya Sabha.





commissioned in the early 1980s with one MTPA capacity to now the world's third

largest cement company, outside of China, UltraTech's journey has been marked by scorching growth, ambitious bets and flawless

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA CHAIRMAN ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

F&O (future and options) kind of things are being discouraged for the retail (investor) by the regulator. Those

who are resorting to such kind of an instrument, they might come back to the banking system

DINESH KUMAR KHARA | SBI CHAIRMAN

Today, a new consumer class has emerged. needing to be serviced with lowpriced packs encouraged to make the use of Fmami brands an extension of their daily lives and gradually move them to the premium. The combination of this entry-level approach and a premium positioning represents the Emami of the future

HARSHA V AGARWAL EMAMI VICE CHAIRMAN AND MD

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Amara Raja profit up 26%

New Delhi: Amara Raja Energy & Mobility (ARE&M) has posted about 26 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹249.12 crore fo June quarter FY25. It had reported a net profit of ₹198.31 crore for April-June period of 2023-24, the company said in an exchange filing Saturday. Revenue from operations rose to ₹3,263.05 crore from ₹2,796.27 crore in the yearago quarter. Revenue growth was aided by year-on-year healthy volumes registered in the automotive aftermarket, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers). and export markets, the company said in a statement.

#### **Zomato collects** ₹83cr platform fee

New Delhi: Food delivery aggregator Zomato, which began charging platform fee on orders from last August, collected ₹83 crore through the new levy till March, the company's annual report has revealed. Platform fee has been cited as one of the three key factors driving Zomato's Adjusted Revenue, which grew 27 per cent yearon-year to ₹7,792 crore in FY24. "Adjusted Revenue as a percentage of GOV (gross order value), continued to increase primarily due to increase in restaurant commission take-rates, improvement in ad monetization and introduction of platform fee from Q2FY24 onwards," the

#### Startups raise record funding

report stated.

New Delhi: In a robust funding week, at least 32 Indian startups secured more than \$341 million in funding. The Indian startup ecosystem saw six growthstage funding deals and 22 early-stage deals last week. Six startups raised more than \$216 million, led by mobility startup Rapido which secured \$120 million. Among other Indian startups that raised a substantial amount of funding, like fintech firms Navi and BharatPe, and sports tech company KheloMore. Among other startups that secured funding last week were renewable energy firm BluPine and EV startups Simple Energy and Kinetic

## Fuel retailers see profit slump

New Delhi, August 4: After reporting record profits, state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), BPCL and HPCL posted up to 90 per cent slump in their June quarter earnings as margins fell and they booked under-recovery on the sale of domestic cooking gas LPG at government-controlled rates.

IOC. the nation's largest oil firm, reported 81 per cent drop in standalone net profit in April-June the first quarter of current 2024-25 fiscal year - to ₹2,643.18 crore as opposed to a profit of ₹13,750.44 crore a year back, according to a company filing. Net profit also declined sequentially, when compared to an earning of ₹11,570.82 crore in March quarter.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) posted 90 per cent drop in profit to ₹633.94 crore as compared to an earning of ₹6,765.50 crore in April-June 2023 and ₹2,709.31 crore in the preceding March quarter.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) net profit dropped to ₹2,841.55 crore in April-June from ₹10,644.30 crore a year back and ₹4,789.57 crore in January-March, its filing showed.



The three fuel retailers made extraordinary gains from holding petrol and diesel prices despite a drop in cost. The price freeze was justified in the name of recovering losses they had suffered in the previous year when they did not raise retail

prices despite a surge in cost. The gains arising from the price freeze were eroded with petrol and diesel prices being cut by ₹2 per litre each just before general elections and a fall in refining margins.

Also, the three had uncompensated LPG subsidy - IOC book-

ing under-recovery of ₹5.156.23 crore in April-June, BPCL ₹2,015.10 crore and HPCL ₹2,443.71 crore, according to the filings.

As per an order of the oil ministry, when market determined price (MDP) of LPG cylinders is less than its effective cost to customer (ECC), oil marketing companies (OMCs) have to retain the difference in a separate buffer account for future adjustment. However, as on June 30, 2024, the three firms had a net negative buffer as the retail selling price was less than MDP.

The three retailers IOC BPCI and HPCL had reported record profits totalling about ₹81,000 crore in FY24 (2023-24), which was far more than their annual earnings of ₹39,356 crore in preoil crisis years.

This is because they resisted calls to revert to daily price revision and pass on softening in rates to consumers on grounds that prices continue to be extremely volatile - rising on one day and falling on the other and that they needed to recoup losses incurred in the year, when they kept rates lower than cost.

IOC in 2023-24 posted a standalone net profit of ₹39,618.84 crore compared to ₹8,241.82 crore in 2022-23. While the company could argue that FY23 was impacted by the oil crisis, the FY24 earnings are higher than even the pre-crisis years - ₹24,184 crore net profit in 2021-22 and ₹ 21,836 crore in 2020-21.

BPCL posted a net profit of ₹26,673.50 crore in FY24, higher than ₹1,870.10 crore earnings in 2022-23 and ₹8,788.73 crore in

HPCL's 2023-24 profit of ₹14,693.83 crore is compared with a ₹8,974.03 crore loss in FY23 and a profit of ₹6,382.63 crore in 2021-22, according to the filings.

### Mcap of eight most valued firms slumps ₹1.28L-cr



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: (PTI) Eight of the top-10 most valued firms together lost ₹1,28,913.5 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards, amid weak trend in

The valuation of TCS tumbled ₹37.971.83 crore to ₹15.49.626.88 crore, the most among the top-10 firms.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys tanked ₹23,811.88 crore to ₹7,56,250.47 crore.

ITC's mcap dropped by ₹16,619.51 crore to ₹6,11,423.11 crore and that of State Bank of India slumped by ₹13,431.54 crore to ₹7,56,717.85 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries Limited declined by ₹13.125.49 crore to ₹20.28.695.57

Bharti Airtel's market valuation went lower by ₹11,821.5 crore to ₹8,50,389.88 crore and that of ICICI Bank diminished by ₹7,843.75 crore to ₹8,42,176.78

The valuation of Hindustan Unilever dipped by ₹4,288 crore to ₹6,32,862.41 crore. However, the mcap of HDFC

Bank jumped ₹32,759.37 crore to ₹12,63,601.40 crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India

(LIC) soared ₹1,075.25 crore to ₹7,47,677.98 crore. Last week, the BSE bench-

mark declined by 350.77 points or 0.43 per cent. In the ranking of the most

valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the number one rank followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

### Spending on outbound tourism to rise 11% annually: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Spending on outbound tourism is expected to grow from USD 18.82 billion in 2024 to USD 55.39 billion in 2034, a report said.

The 'Navigating Horizons' report jointly prepared by Nangia NXT and Ficci said packaged tours still dominate the outbound market in India, with a share of 39.20 per cent in 2024, as there is a preference for choosing pre-planned tour packages from travel service providers due to greater convenience and customisation.

The report said that availability of Indian or vegetarian food options as well as awareness about niche tourism will help increase the number and frequency of Indians engaging in foreign travel in the coming years. The market has already seen robust growth with rising disposable incomes, an expanding middle class, systemic ease and flexibility in obtaining visas, and a desire for international experiences.

'Countries like Egypt, Azerbaijan and Georgia, among others, known for their rich history, cultural heritage, natural beauty and unique topographies, are attracting more and more Indians to venture abroad. Such destinations are often more affordable as well." the report said.



With a rising urban and young population, the inclination towards exploring international destinations is expected to continue to grow. Demographic trends thus are likely to support growth in outbound tourism in the near future, it added.

"India's outbound tourism market is showing stellar growth and is projected to reach USD 18.82 billion in 2024. There have also been measurable benefits to allied industries such as aviation and hospitality. The growth in the industry is bolstered by increased consumer spending, visa reforms, social media visibility and commercial marketing efforts," said Suraj Nangia, Head (Government and Public Sector Advisory), Nangia NXT.

With the Indian outbound market expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.4 per cent and reach USD 55.39 billion by 2034, the outlook is positive with coordinated efforts by all stakeholders propelling the industry forward, Nangia added

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 4: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep the key interest unchanged at 6.5 per cent Thursday, and wait for more macroeconomic data before taking a call on rate cut in line with expectations, experts said. The US Federal Reserve has de-

cided to maintain a status quo on its interest rate for now and indicated there could be monetary policy easing in the coming months.

Amid persisting inflationary pressures, RBI will be closely tracking the US monetary policy trajectory before changing its stance on interest rate, which has remained unchanged since February 2023, experts opined.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may also refrain from rate cut as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated interest rate of 6.5 per cent (repo rate).

The meeting of the Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das headed MPC is scheduled for August 6 to 8. Das will announce the decision of the rate-setting panel August 8 (Thursday). The central bank last hiked the

repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at same level in its last seven bi-monthly monetary policy reviews.

'We do expect a status-quo

RBI likely to keep interest rate unchanged at 6.5%

position to be adopted by RBI in the forthcoming credit policy. Inflation remains high even today at 5.1 per cent and while

this will come down numeri-

cally in the coming months, it will

be more due to the base effect,'

said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. He further said growth is on the stable path which means that the present interest rate situation does not militate against

business "The RBI would rather wait and be sure that inflation is on the downward path on a durable basis before taking any action. While we do not expect any change in GDP forecast, there is a possibility of new guidance on inflation numbers," Sabnavis said. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said that high growth in FY2024, combined with the inflation of 4.9 per cent in first quarter of the current fiscal are unlikely to shift the voting

pattern of the four members who voted for a status quo in the June 2024 meeting towards a change in stance or rate cut in the August 2024 meeting itself. "If the food inflation outlook

turns favourable on the back of a normal distribution of rains in the second half of the monsoon season, and in the absence of global or domestic shocks, a stance change is possible in October 2024. This could be followed by a 25 bps rate cut each in December 2024 and February 2025, with an extended pause thereafter," she said.

Last month, Governor Das had said the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent

Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global (India), too said that the central bank is expected to maintain

the status quo on the interest rate for now as retail inflation\_\_\_ continues to pose challenges. 'We hope central bank would

shift towards a more supportive stance later. The likely change in stance, as and when it happens, would offer borrowers a sigh of relief, and housing loan offtake, which is showing early signs of moderation, would probably again start seeing the uptick. This shift, combined with achieving the 4.9 per cent fiscal deficit target, will benefit the overall economy, including real estate, and the sooner it happens, the better," Aggarwal said.

Puneet Pal, Head-Fixed Income, PGIM India Mutual Fund, also opined that the RBI would keep the rate unchanged.

'We think that the upcoming MPC policy's undertone may be relatively dovish given that fiscal consolidation is well on track with the fiscal deficit number printing below 5 per cent and the global monetary easing cycle well and truly underway with rate cut by Bank of England after the rate cuts from ECB and Bank of Canada," Pal said, and added the last US Fed meeting earlier in the week also had dovish undertones.

The MPC is entrusted with the responsibility of deciding the policy reporate to achieve the inflation target of 4 per cent, keeping in mind the objective

## India plans tougher ad curbs on liquor makers

**Tuborg Zero Soda** 

New Delhi, August 4: India, which bans direct advertising of liquor, is set to announce sweeping rules that will bar even surrogate ads and sponsoring of events, which could force firms such as Carlsberg, Pernod Ricard and Diageo to redraw marketing campaigns.

Such "surrogate ads" often get round the ban by ostensibly showing less desirable items instead, such as water, music CDs or glassware garbed in logos and hues linked to their key product, and often promoted by popular Bollywood film stars.

Now they could bring fines for companies and bans for celebrities endorsing tobacco and liquor ads deemed misleading, according to the top civil servant for consumer affairs and draft rules being reported for the first time by Reuters

"You can't take a circuitous way to promote products," the official, Nidhi Khare, told Reuters, adding that final rules were expected to be issued within a

"If we find ads to be surro-

gate and misleading, then even those who are endorsing (products), including celebrities, will be held responsible.

For example, brewer Carlsberg promotes its Tuborg drinking water in India, with an ad showing film stars at a rooftop dance party and the slogan "Tilt Your World," which echoes its beer ads elsewhere, emblazoned with message: Responsibly".

Competitor Diageo's YouTube ad for its Black & White ginger ale, which has drawn 60 million views, features the signature black-and-white terriers from its scotch of the same name.

The changes threaten a seachange for liquor makers in India, the world's eighth-biggest alcohol market by volume, with annual revenues Euromonitor estimates at \$45 billion. Growing affluence among

its 1.4 billion people makes India a lucrative market for the likes of Kingfisher beer maker, United Breweries, part of the Heineken Group, which has more than a quarter of market share by volume. Popular for their whiskies,

Diageo and Pernod taken to-

gether, have a market share of about a fifth, while for Pernod, India contributes about a tenth of global revenues.

The new rules call for "prohibition against engaging in surrogate advertisement," which extends to sponsorships and ads for products viewed as "brand extensions" that share the characteristics of an alcohol brand, the draft said.

Penalties under the new rules rely on consumer law, opening manufacturers and endorsers to fines of up to 5 million rupees (\$60,000), while promoters risk endorsement bans running from one to three years Carlsberg declined to com-

ment, while other companies did not respond to Reuters' queries, including those on sales of non-alcohol products.

Members of the International Spirits and Wines Association of India, which represents Diageo and Pernod, "are committed to a compliant way of building brand extension businesses, said its outgoing chief executive, Nita Kapoor.

The group was in talks with the government and supported advertising of "genuine" brand extensions, she added.

Health World Organization says bans or comprehensive curbs on alcohol advertising "are cost-effective measures" in the interest of public health.

Its data shows India's consumption of alcohol per person will rise to nearly 7 litres in 2030, from about 5 litres in 2019, a period over which fellow Asian giant China's consumption will

drop to 5.5 litres. And alcohol-related deaths in India stood at 38.5 for every 100,000 of its population, versus 16.1 for China

Khare said India's draft followed a review of global best practices, in countries such as Norway, which bans ads for alcohol and other goods relying on features of a liquor brand, in curbs that researchers say have

cut alcohol sales over time. The new draft rules prohibit marketing of items such as soda or music CDs employing a "similar label, design, pattern, logo" to that of alcohol products, explicitly targeting efforts to get around current bans. Ads for items such as glasses

and soda cans allow "brand names to appear in all their ads, creating its recall value for the consumers," however, the draft The new rules follow warn-

ings to some liquor companies, such as Pernod, and some domestic tobacco firms to halt misleading ads, a senior government source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. India is not against brand ex-

tension ads, the official added, but wants them to properly depict the product being showcased, rather than giving consumers the impression that the ad is for a liquor brand.

One India video promoted by Pernod, ostensibly for glassware products linked to its whisky brand, Blenders Pride, shows Bollywood star Alia Bhatt walking a ramp under flashing disco lights, and saying, "My life, my

While it has a logo similar to that of the whisky brand, the video, which also appears on the website of the Blenders Pride Glassware Fashion Tour, shows no glassware products.







## DAY OF HEARTBREAKS IN PARIS Lovlina outwitted in QF

SEN LOSES IN SEMIS TO PLAY BRONZE-MEDAL PLAYOFF

Paris, August 4: India's dream of a first-ever Olympic gold in badminton will remain unfulfilled after Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-game defeat to reigning champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals at the Paris Games here Sunday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The 22-year-old from Almora, a world championships bronze medallist, squandered a three-point advantage in the first game and a 7-0 lead in the second to surrender 20-22 14-21 to the twotime world champion Axelsen in a 54-minute semifinal clash.

Sen will get another chance to be come the first Indian male shuttler to win an Olympic medal when he meets Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal playoff.

It was Sen's eighth loss to the Danish star with the Indian beating him only once at the 2022 German

Open final. "If I would have closed first game, then I would have better chance of closing the match. In the second game also, started

well but couldn't keep the lead," Sen told the broadcaster after the con-

About losing the first game after being 20-17 ahead, Sen said "As the game went on, he started attacking more and I became passive, only defending. I should have taken

chances and attacked more.' Axelsen thus made it to his second successive final at the Olympics and is now one step away from joining Chinese legend Lin Dan as a twotime gold medallist.

his previous losses, this will hurt Sen the most as he had the chance to deal the first blow on his fancied opponent, but instead, he wilted under pressure against the towering Dane, who always found a way to wriggle out of tricky sit-

> Axelsen's delaying tactics while serving also unsettled Sen a bit.

Sen struggled with the length, spraying wide and long to concede a 2-5 lead early on. He drew parity with a cross-court shot and then tried to construct the rallies. His trademark crosscourt smashes deep into his opponent's forehand helped him to lead 8-7 at one stage.

The Indian kept the pressure on Axelsen and another fine cross-court and an onthe-line return gave him a two-

point advantage. Sen's patient play worked as Axelsen made a series of unforced errors to concede a

I would take my learnings and positives from this game and give my 100 percent in bronze medal

Axelsen won two good rallies, including one involving 43 shots. Soon, Sen moved to 17-11, but Axelsen then started dominating proceedings and rained down a monstrous forehand to narrow the lead down to 16-18.

Sen left his opponent wrongfooted with an away shot and then produced another incredible cross-court to gather three game points.

But the voungster imploded next as he lost all three of them after serving into net and going long twice. Sen sent a return to serve out and netted again to hand over the opening game to his rival.

The Indian looked too defensive and committed a series of unforced errors as the Dane made it 7-8 after nailing down another forehand smash.

Paris: India's boxing campaign at the ongoing Olympics came to a medal-less end after Tokyo edi-

tion bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) bowed out following a hard-fought quarterfinal loss to China's Li Qian in the women's competition here Sunday.

Borgohain, the reigning world champion in the category, went down 1-4 to the Tokyo Games silver-winning 34-year-old in a messy contest during which both the boxers were repeatedly cautioned for clinching and holding.

The 26-year-old's loss ended India's boxing campaign in the Olympics after Nishant Dev was ousted from the men's 71kg quarterfinals Saturday night, also a close contest.

A six-strong boxing contingent, comprising four women and two men, was representing the country in the Games. Out of these, four had crashed out in the preliminary stage itself.

It was a pacey start to the proceedings as Borgohain and Qian quickly got into a tangle. However, none of the boxers

seemed willing to launch the first attack. The holding and clinching started pretty early in the bout and the referee had to repeatedly step in to separate the two old foes.

Qian seemed determined while Borgohain came across the more animated of the two early on.

The Chinese connected some clean combination punches and a left hook towards the end of the first round. She was particularly impressive before she took a 3-2 lead in the contest.

The second round didn't start  $\,$ any different but Qian was more purposeful in her approach. Her right straights were on target while Borgohain was cautioned twice for excessive holding.

It was once again 3-2 in favour of Qian but with a different set of judges scoring in her favour this time, she only had a slender one-point lead on one card, while the remaining four were tied.

The holding and clinching continued in the third round too and both the women seemed a bit

However, Qian showed great

Indian contingent exits Paris without medals after Lovlina, Nishant lose OFs to keep Borgohain at a distance. Borgohain was not up to it when it came to controlling the pace of the bout and repeatedly took hits on counter-attacks. The Assamese had fought Qian in the Asian Games final last year and gone down 0-5. She later beat Qian in the semifinals of world the championship semifinal in 2023. But more recently, she was bested by the veteran in Ölympic tournament in Czechia June.

Feeling robbed? Welcome to Olympics boxing competition

#### Shooters miss final target Chateauroux: Indian shooters Vijayveen Sidhu and Anish Bhanwala gave a good account of themselves in the qualifications

but could not enter the final of the 25m rapid fire men's pistol event at the Olympic Games here Sunday. Vijayveer and Anish shot brilliantly over two stages of final 10 shots of the second rapid-fire stage,

qualification, staying in contention till the only to shoot scores of 92 and 93, finishing ninth and 13th respectively. Only the top six shooters make the final cut. In the women's skeet competition, Maheshwari Chauhan

and Raiza Dhillon ended in 14th and 23rd place respectively in the qualification. Maheshwari aggregated 118 across five series with the first three series taking place Saturday. She recorded scores of 23, 24, 24, 25, 22. Raiza aggregated 113 after a sequence that read 21, 22, 23, 23, 24. Here too, only the top six in the qualifications make it to the final. Italy's 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist Diana Bacosi also failed to clear the qualifications, finishing just below Maheshwari at 15th place with a total of 117. On the first day of qualifications, Maheshwari was closely following the leading pack at eighth position with an aggregate of 71. She had shot 23, 24, 24 and despite a 25 Sunday, she could not make the cut. Raiza was placed 25th among 29 shooters with an aggregate of 66 (21, 22, 23). In the men's event, both shooters fired scores of 293 in the first precision stage to go into the rapid fire round in fifth and seventr positions. Vijayveer then shot a 100 and 98 in the first two rapid-fire series to move up to second at one stage as Anish also shot 99 and 97 to stay in touch with the top six. But the final round changed all of that. India still has one more start in the shotgun competitions as Maheshwari comes back with Anant Jeet Singh Naruka for the mixed team skeet, an event which will be making an Olympic debut.

New Delhi: For a sport that relies on a simple exchange of blows to decide the winner, boxing has an incredibly complex scoring system.

And every Olympics, the debate, the rage, and the incredulousness surrounding what exactly the judges are observing to decide the winner becomes louder, and more intense.

The latest case in point is India's Nishant Dev, who lost 1-4 to Mexico's Marco Verde Alvarez in the 71kg quarterfinal despite seemingly dominating the contest.

He isn't the first and if boxing's stakeholders continue to avoid introspection, he won't be the last or perhaps, he could be among the last in the Olympics at least. The sport's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 edition is not yet guaranteed and the opaque scoring system isn't helping the cause.

These Olympics have been horrendous," declared Michael Conlan, the Irish superstar, whose

Djokovic finally becomes GOAT

TENNIS LEGEND WINS FIRST OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL BY BEATING ALCARAZ, GIVING THE 37-YEAR-OLD

FROM SERBIA THE LAST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT MISSING FROM HIS GLITTERING RESUME



famous expletive-laden tirade against judges after losing in the 2016 Rio quarterfinals is considered one of the most defining images of the state of the sport.

Conlan, who turned professional after being "robbed" in Rio,

has commented on just one bout at the ongoing Games in Paris and by the look of it, his disgust for the amateur scoring system

In the Tokyo 2020 Games, it was the iconic MC Mary Kom, who left the ring perplexed when she lost a pre-quarterfinal bout despite actually leading in terms of rounds won. "The worst part is that there

is no review or protest. Honestly, I am sure the world must have seen, this is too much what they have done," she had told PTI at

The Indian had trailed 4-1 in the opening round against Colombia's Ingrit Valencia.

In the next two rounds, Mary Kom got three of the five judges to rule in her favour but the overall scoreline was still in favour of Valencia. The Manipuri clinched the third round too but once again, it was 3-2 and not 4-1 which was what she needed to swing the final score in her favour.

Olympic singles without drop-

Djokovic joins an elite group

ping a set.

### **Katie Ledecky swims**

greats coming into the Paris Olympics, Katie Ledecky made it official Saturday by storming to victory in her signature event, the 800 metres freestyle to end her work in the French capital in grand style. French tor-

pedo Leon Marchand may be the prince of Paris, electrifying the home nation with four spectacular gold medals. But it is Ledecky leaving Paris sharing the throne of greatest female Olympian with Larisa Latynina after winning a ninth gold medal to equal the Russian gymnast's record. "The week was kind of, you know, had its ups and downs like any other meet," said Ledecky, whose Paris haul also included gold in the 1,500, silver in the 4x200 freestyle relay and bronze in the 400m free. "I knew I just had to focus on the races, don't focus on times, just focus on getting the job done, getting to hear the national anthem at the end of the races as many times as I could." It was Ledecky's second gold medal in Paris and the ninth of her remarkable career, which marked another milestone. She became only the sixth Olympian to reach that figure, joining swimmer Mark Spitz, track star Carl Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi in a tie for second place. The only athlete to win

#### Refugee team's first medal

the first athlete on the Refugee Olympic Team to clinch a medal at the Paris Games, of-



fering hope for a team created to call attention to the plight of refugees across the world. Ngamba's victory comes after a fierce bout with French boxer Davina Michel in the women's middleweight quarterfinals. The win means she's at least scored a bronze medal as she advances to the semifinals. Ngamba was a flag bearer for the 37 athletes making up the biggest Olympic Refugee Team since the idea was born ahead of the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Ngamba, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, moved to the United Kingdom at the age of 11 and said she was granted refugee status in 2021 because she could have been imprisoned for being gay in Cameroon.

#### **TOWARDS GLORY**

into history books lready rated one of swimming's all-time

Paris, August 4: Novak Djokovic completed his career Golden Slam as the 37-year-old Serb fought off Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a magnificent Olympic men's singles final battle at Roland Garros Sunday. After heartbreak in Beijing, London, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo, Djokovic simply would not be denied the one title that had eluded him for so long, winning 7-6(3) 7-6(2) in front of an enthralled crowd on Court Philippe Chatrier.

more golds: swimmer Michael Phelps with 23.

Cameroonian boxer Cindy Ngamba Sunday became



at 4-4 in which Djokovic repelled five break points. Alcaraz blinked first in the tiebreak to allow Djokovic to move ahead and when another tiebreak was required to decide the second set, again Djokovic

Top seed Djokovic delivered

one of the finest performances

of his career to deny a man 16

years his junior and become

only the fifth player to win all four

singles Grand Slams and the

Olympic title during a career.

by soccer-style chanting that

shattered the calm of the adja-

cent Bois de Boulogne, neither

player took a backward step in

The first set alone lasted one

hour 33 minutes as the two glad-

iators wrestled for control in a

series of spellbinding games, one

a ferocious contest.

With points being celebrated

REUTERS

found another gear, moving 6-2 in front and sealing victory with

a stunning forehand winner. Djokovic roared to the sky and after consoling a stunned Alcaraz at the net he then fell to his knees and sobbed into

the Parisian clay in the centre of the court before climbing into the crowd where he was swamped by his

Games in

1988, sobbed

tears of joy, the 21-

family, friends and team.

> While Djokovic, the oldest Olympic singles champion since tennis

It was an incredible fight and I had to play my best tennis. I put my heart, my soul, everything to win gold. I did it for my country first, for Serbia

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

year-old Alcaraz looked inconsolable after failing to add the gold medal to this year's French Open and Wimbledon crowns.

"I think I did a really great tournament, I think I did a really great match," the four-time Grand Slam champion said. "Obviously in front of me, I had a really hungry Novak.'

Djokovic had lost three times in Olympic singles semi-finals and only had a solitary bronze medal from four Games appearances. He knew when arriving in Paris that this was his final chance to fill the last remaining space in a bulging trophy

cabinet containing 24 Grand

And how he earned it -- overturning his crushing loss to

Alcaraz three weeks ago in the Wimbledon final



# Scintillating Sreejesh show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: In the last leg of an illustrious career he might be but PR Sreejesh continues to be the point of difference for the Indian men's hockey team when the big moment comes calling.

Just when you think you have seen enough of him, the genial goalkeeper from Kerala would conjure something special at the post, and leave you pleasantly sur-

Through the team's highs and lows over the last many years, he has remained an indispensable part, playing a key role in its run to a historic bronze medal at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Exactly three years later, with the team seeking a second consecutive medal at the Games. the 36-year-old goalkeeper, who is ageing like a fine wine, once again rose to the occasion and delivered an incredible performance at the post to deny Great Britain a place in the semifinals of the sporting spectacle.

During an interaction with PTI, Sreejesh once said, "Goalkeepers are like fine wine, they get better with age.'

Sreejesh, will will retire from international hockey after the Olympics, is simply savouring every moment on the world's biggest sporting stage.

When he did that impromptu sit-down jig after pulling off two incredible saves in the shootout against Great Britain to seal

SHORT TAKES

**Barca defeat Madrid** 

New Jersey: The two Spanish

Barcelona's preparations for the

season continue as Barcelona

MetLife Stadium in the friendly

that also saw a stoppage for an

hour due to the thunderstorm

protocol. The first real danger

came for Barcelona when Pau

Victor got his head on the end

from a corner, forcing Courtois

minutes before the game was

stopped for more than an hour

due to thunderstorm protocol.

Following the restart, Ancelotti's

side began to cause problems in

their opponents' area. Arda Guler

outstanding control and a superb

one-on-one with Ter Stegen, but

As Real Madrid dominated

Barcelona took the lead four

headed into the net by Victor.

**Haaland's hat-trick** 

Columbus: Manchester City's pre-

ended with an entertaining 4-2 win

over Chelsea at the Ohio Stadium.

An Erling Haaland hat-trick, two of which came in the opening five

minutes, and Oscar Bobb strike

earned Pep Guardiola's men a

deserved victory in their final

season. Former City man Raheem

Chelsea before the hour and Noni

Madueke added a second late on,

but it did little to dampen what was

friendly ahead of the 202425

Sterling pulled one back for

a convincing display from

Guardiola's men. With Stefan

Ortega Moreno making two

impressive saves and James

sets City up nicely for next

McAtee hitting the post, there

could have been more goals at the

Saturday's Community Shield final

Ohio Stadium, but a 4-2 triumph

against Manchester United. The

two teams will met again in their

League season when Chelsea will

champions at the Stamford Bridge

opening game of the Premier

**Kroos Germany's** 

player of the year

Berlin: Toni Kroos has been voted

Germany's player of the year for

the 2023-24 season. Meanwhile.

Xabi Alonso won the coaching

accolade for leading unbeaten

Bayer Leverkusen to the Bundesliga

host the Premier League

August 18.

season tour of the United States

minutes later, when

the goal was ruled out for offside.

scored in the 24th minute after

into a fine save after eight

giants, Real Madrid and FC

defeated Madrid 2-1 at the

When I stepped on this field today, there was two options for me. This can be my last match, or I got an opportunity for two more matches and I think, yeah, I got two more matches now. (It is a) daily job of a goalie. Some days it's a different effort (but) today is our day. Even in the shootout, the guys who took shots didn't disappoint PR SREEJESH

a second consecutive semifinal berth for India at the Olympics, you know that this last dance could prove to be very special.

When you talk about the Indian hockey team's victory in any game, you just can't ignore Sreejesh's contribution, be it the Tokyo Olympics or at the ongoing Paris Games.

In Tokyo too, Sreejesh was key to India winning the medal

after 41 years, making crucial saves in the bronze medal match against Germany, which they won 5-4. An ever-smiling, animated character on the turf, always eager to guide guide his team members from the back,

the goalpost for quite some. And Sunday was no different as he rejoiced the 4-2 win in his

Sreejesh celebrated the bronze

at Tokyo by sitting at the top of

wild, energetic fashion, jumping up and down on the turf for a few times.

The performance of the Indian defence and Sreejesh against Great Britain is something to savour for a long time.

Down to 10 men after Amit Rohidas was shown a debatable red card, the Indians played valiantly for more than 40 minutes without the key defender as Great Britain mounted relentless

The Sreejesh-led Indian defence's tenacity was tested to the limit but Great Britain failed to break them despite repeated

Great Britain had 21 shots at the Indian goal and secured as many as 10 penalty corners but they were not enough to get past the 'Great Wall of India'

Sreejesh's reflex and his positioning in front of the goal should be a lesson for upcoming goalkeepers. In the shootout, Sreejesh was outwitted in the first two attempts by James Albery and Zach Walch as he came out of his line early from the one-on-one situations.

But the fine reader of the game, who matured with every tournament since making his senior debut in 2006 at the South Asian Games, didn't take much time to notice his mistake, and it helped him to pull off the two crucial saves in the shoot-out.

Not just against Great Britain but Sreejesh played an instrumental role through the five pool matches, including in the historic 3-2 win over Australia after 52 years in Olympics.

Before stepping on to the turf Sunday, Sreejesh admitted that he was well aware it could be his last international match, and was determined to give his all.

His teammates are determined to gift Sreejesh an Olympic gold medal as he gets ready to bid adieu to the game.

### Enormous challenge awaits wrestlers

Vinesh, five more Indians to chase success in Paris



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 4: Feisty wrestler Vinesh Phogat will have to shake off a tumultuous build-up to the Paris Games when she takes mat, aiming for an elusive Olympic medal, while five of her colleagues will also strive to write their own success stories at the biggest stage when the wrestling event begins here Monday.

Vinesh is easily India's most accomplished woman wrestler, with two World Championships, three CWG and eight Asian Championships medals adorning her cabinet, but her previous two Olympic campaigns have ended in heartbreaks.

She had returned from Rio (2016) with just a broken leg, but from Tokyo (2021), she came back with her soul scarred after a crushing defeat 'by fall' in the quarterfinals. She was accused of misconduct and suspended by the WFI for several alleged transgressions.

She claimed to have endured bouts of depression, and she was not sure of returning to the mat but she did. Not only she returned but also waged a battle outside the mat when she accused the WFI chief of sexual misconduct.

Leading the unprecedented protest, Vinesh spent nights on the streets along with Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik. It was a long battle, which continues in Indian courts.

Gradually, the protest lost steam, and its leaders lost face as the wrestling fraternity accused the three elite wrestlers of hurting the sport with their vested interests.

More challenges awaited Vinesh as she could not particin the World Championships, where Antim Panghal locked in a quota in the 53kg category, which Vinesh had

Now she had to drop down to 50kg, which is full of proven performers like her. Vinesh is unseeded, which means she will

have a tough road to travel.

There is four-time world champion Yui Susaki, four-time Olympic medallist Maria Stadnik, Tokyo Games' bronze winner Sarah Hildebrandt and two-time World medallist

Dolgorjavyn Otgonjargal. It's going to be a Herculean task for Vinesh to come through this impressive field. While there is no lack of talent, hunger, or passion in Vinesh, the lack of competition against top wrestlers could hurt her chances.

#### **FITNESS DOUBTS**

Anshu Malik (women's 57kg) and Aman Sehrawat (men's 57kg) are India's best bet in that scenario, but ambiguity remains on the fitness of the former, who suffered "neck spasm" during training and was advised to take 15 days of rest. She went to Japan for training early this month.

It will be her second Olympic appearance. She has had considerable success at the senior level, having won a Worlds silver. If she is fit, she stands a good chance to making the medal

Antim Panghal too has not been tested since the 2023 Asian Games. She had missed the Asian Championship in March this year, owing to a back injury.

#### **DARK HORSE HOODA**

For the first time, India will have an entry in the heavyweight category at 76kg and it will not be a surprise if Reetika does well. She is not counted among the favorites, but she has the ability to spring a surprise. Even if she does not do well, the experience of being at the Olympics will teach her what is required at that level.

Nisha Dahiya's biggest bane is lack of big-stage experience. She has shown progress but perhaps that would not be enough for the grandest stage.

Indian wrestlers ha missed a medal since the 2008 Beijing Games and the onus is now on these six to continue the trend.

### **Olympics: India**

#### **Schedule - Day 10**

Skeet Mixed Team (Qualification): Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka -- 12.30 pm **Table tennis:** 

Women's Team (Pre-quarterfinal): India vs Romania -- 1.30 pm

Women's Dinghy (Opening series):

Race 9 -- 3.45 pm Women's Dinghy (Opening series): Race 10 -- 4.53 pm Men's Dinghy (Opening series):

Race 9 -- 6.15 pm Men's Dinghy (Opening series): Race 10 -- 7.15 pm Wrestling:

Women's Freestyle 68kg 1/8 Final: Nisha vs Tetiana Sova Rizhko (Ukraine)

Women's 400m (Round 1): Kiran Pahal (Heat 5) -- 3.57 pm Men's 3,000m Steeplechase (Round 1): Avinash Sable (Heat 2) -- 10.50 pm

**Badminton:** Men's Singles (Bronze medal

playoff): Lakshya Sen vs Zii Jia Lee (Malaysia) -- 6.00 pm

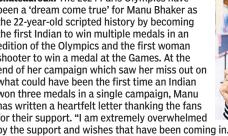
#### **Commemorative** postage stamps for Paris Olympics

New Delhi: The Centre Sunday said it will release a set of commemorative postage stamps Monday to celebrate the Paris Olympics 2024. The Department of Posts will commemorate postage stamps in the presence of Jyotiraditya Scindia, **Union Minister of Communications** & amp; Development of North Eastern Region, and Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment. "Join us on August 5 at 12:00 PM for the release of the commemorative postage stamp celebrating the XXXIII Olympics Paris 2024," the Department of Posts said on X social media platform.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Bhaker pens emotional message

Chateauroux: The 2024 Paris Olympics have been a 'dream come true' for Manu Bhaker as the 22-year-old scripted history by becoming the first Indian to win multiple medals in an edition of the Olympics and the first woman shooter to win a medal at the Games. At the end of her campaign which saw her miss out on what could have been the first time an Indian won three medals in a single campaign, Manu has written a heartfelt letter thanking the fans for their support. "I am extremely overwhelmed



by the support and wishes that have been coming in. Winning two bronze medals is a dream come true. This achievement is not just mine but belongs to everyone who has believed in me and supported me along the way," read the social media post by Manu Bhaker. Manu had carved her way to the final of the 25m women's Pistol shooting event where she dominated in the opening rounds. The 22-year-old found herself tied with Hungary's Veronika Major for third place and was eliminated in the shootoff and finished fourth. "I couldn't have done it without the unwavering support of my family, coach Jaspal Rana sir and everyone who stood by me, including the NRAI, TOPS, SAI, OGQ, Performax & Decially the Harvana government, With all my well-wishers, Competing and performing on the biggest stage for my country is a moment of immense pride and iov." she added. Bhaker finished third in the Women's 10M Air Pistol Individual event before teaming up with Sarabjot Singh for the Mixed Team "Thank you all for being a part of this incredible journey and for standing by me through every step. Your encouragement means the world to me! A bittersweet end to my campaign in Paris but happy to contribute to #TeamINDIA's success. Jai Hind!" concluded the social media post.

#### 'Won't retire until I get Olympic medal' Paris: She has flattered to deceive for four straight Olympics but multiple World Cup

medal winning archer Deepika Kumari has vowed not to quit unless she ends up on podium which she feels could be Los Angeles in four years' time. For Deepika, it has always been a case of not being able to display enough temperament in pressure situation at the grandest stage.

'Obviously, I want to play more in the future and

will continue my game," Deepika told PTI in an exclusive interaction at the India House here. "I really want to win an Olympic medal, and I won't quit until I achieve that. I'll train harder and come back strongly," added Deepika, who has won every international medal except for an Olympic yellow metal. "Firstly, I will present myself more strongly. There are many things, like quick shooting, that I need to learn a bit more about, and it's very important to train myself accordingly. What I learned from the Olympics is that late shooting doesn't work; you have no room to make big mistakes, so you hay to control that. I will learn that from here," she said in hindsight. Deepika, 30, appeared in her fourth consecutive Olympics in Paris, making a remarkable comeback after becoming a mother for the first time in December 2022, when she gave birth to her daughter.

#### **DURAND CUP**

### Odisha FC begin campaign with 5-0 win over BSF FT



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kokrajhar (Assam), August 4: Odisha FC (OFC) started their campaign in the 133rd Durand Cup, with a dominant 5-0 victory over Border Security Force Football Team (BSF FT) in a Group E encounter played at the SAI Stadium here Saturday. Givson Singh Moirangthem's

double and Rahul Mukhi, Ashangbam Aphaoba Singh and Roshan Panna's strikes in the second half, gave a comfortable victory to Odisha, as they went on top of the group standings over North East United FC on goal difference

Odisha began with quick attacks but both teams were holding a steady pace in their efforts to move up the field. Considering Odisha fielded their second team, it can't be denied that they were playing somewhat better than BSF. Odisha FC were dominating

the game with another golden

chance where a flying ball in-

side the opposition box from the

right flank went a bit too far

away from the player positioning cleverly in the middle. They earned a free-kick that was also taken well but BSF goalkeeper Harpreet Singh did well to clear by punching it away. In the last quarter of the first

half BSF were getting into dangerous positions and that too unmarked. On the other hand, Odisha were doing their best and waiting like a fox, as soon as the opponent were making a mistake, the Juggernauts were ready to take opportunity other than the times they were building up from midfield.

The Juggernauts began the second half match where they left off with quick attacks but BSF also picked up their pace and it did not take them long to get into dangerous positions near the Odisha box. But expectedly, Odisha managed to get the lead with three BSF defenders trying to stop three Odisha players but young promising forward Rahul Mukhi kept running, beating them in the run and took the lead for the Kalinga Warriors.

## Vandersay wrecks India

SRI LANKA CARVE 32-RUN WIN IN 2ND ODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 4: Leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay's magical six-wicket haul robbed the roar from Rohit Sharma's brutal fifty as Sri Lanka etched an emotional 32-run win over India in the second ODI here Sunday.

Sri Lanka now lead the threematch series 1-0 after the first match ended in a tie.

India were asked to chase down 241 on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for the spinners, and they ended up at 208 all out in 42.2 overs with Vandersay wrecking them with a haul of six for 33.

A different result loomed as long as skipper Rohit was at the crease, creaming the Lankan bowlers en route to his 64 off 44 balls (5x4, 4x6).

Unmindful of the nature of the pitch, Rohit cut, swept and pulled spinners Dunith Wellalage and Akila Dananjaya and pacer Asitha Fernando to all parts of the ground in the company of a compact Shubman Gill (35, 44b) as India waltzed to 97 in just 13.3 overs.

But a fatal reverse sweep off Vandersay that was taken by a diving Pathum Nissanka snapped Rohit's stay, and it also put the Indian batting unit in a tailspin.

The 97 for one became 116 for two in 17.1 overs and it transpired into even trickier 116 for three four balls later. But more shocks were in store for the Indians as they tumbled to 123 for four, 133 for five and eventually



to 147 for six.

That was six wickets for 50 runs in the span of 10 overs, and the dance of destruction was performed by one man --Vandersay -- who came in as a replacement for injured Wanindu Hasaranga.

Gill drove away from his body for Kamindu Mendis to take a screamer at first slip, Shivam Dube (0) failed to pick a ripping leg-break, Virat Kohli (14) did not read a wrong'un and Shreyas Iyer was defeated by a slider. Dube, Kohli and Shreyas were

adjudged leg before, indicating the indecisiveness in their feet and mind.

KL Rahul lasted just two balls

before dragging Vandersay's delivery that pitched outside the channel onto his stumps. Axar Patel (44, 44b) played smart cricket and milked 38 runs

for the seventh wicket with

Washington Sundar to keep India ticking. But even that feeble lifeline halted when Axar slapped a catch back to Asalanka (3/20) and the rest was a mere formality. Earlier, Indian spinners led

batters through a test of skill, but the hosts found enough fight from their late order to make an acceptable 240 for nine. Washington (3/30) and Kuldeep

by Washington put the Lankan

Yadav (2/33) were at their smartest as the home batters found the going tough. It required a 72-run association

for the seventh wicket between Wellalage (39) and Kamindu (40) for them to wriggle out of a stifling 136 for six.

The Indian bowlers' effort in the last five overs were also less than satisfactory, often spraying the ball around as Sri Lanka added 44 precious runs.

title. The 34-year-old Kroos won the award organized by German sports magazine Kicker for the second time Sunday after being voted player of the year in 2018. Kroos ended his stellar playing career last month after Germany's European Championship exit to eventual champion Spain, having helped Real Madrid to a Champions League and Spanish league double last season.

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