Actor Aahana Kumra criticises filmmakers for preferring influencers over actors, creating challenges for outsiders

LEISURE | P2



N-missile in frontline

delivery of 250 nuclearcapable missile launchers to frontline military units

INTERNATIONAL | P9

Services growth eases

India's services sector growth records another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June

BUSINESS | P10



Crucial match

India will eye victory over Germany to ensure a medal when the two sides clash in the

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

PM chairs CCS meet

New Delhi: Prime Minister

Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet

Monday night as the

Committee on Security (CCS)

government's top brass was

briefed about the situation in

as Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina fled her country

and landed in India on her way

to London, Modi was joined by

including Home Minister Amit

Shah, Defence Minister Rainath

Singh, External Affairs Minister

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

They were briefed by officials

neighbouring country, official

other members of the CCS,

S Jaishankar and Finance

on the situation in the

sources said.

Bangladesh. The meeting came

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 127 | www.orissapost.com

2 schoolkids among 3 killed in accident



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 5: Three persons, including two minor schoolchildren, were killed when a speeding truck hit the motorcycle on which they were travelling from behind on the connecting road to a flyover on State Highway no 2, here in Keonihar district Monday.

After the accident, the truck driver drove away from the spot. The deceased were identi-

fied as Krishna Bhusal, his son Nikit Bhusal, 5, and Ganesh Sharma, 9, son of Santosh Sharma, a neighbour of Krishna --all residents of Azad Basti area in the town. Nikit was studying in UKG and Ganesh was a Class I student at DAV Public School here.

According to information. at around 7 am, Krishna took the two kids on his motorcycle to drop them at the school. While they were on their way, a speeding truck hit the twowheeler from the rear near the connecting road to the flyover on State Highway no 2. The truck dragged the riders for 50 metres, killing them all on the spot. The impact of the accident was so severe that broken parts of helmets worn by Krishna, plastic water bottles, school bags and the body parts of the deceased lay scattered on the road.

Angry locals staged a road blockade following the accident demanding a host of safety measures on the road.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi announced ₹30,000 as immediate assistance to the next of kin of the deceased, apart from ₹2 lakh compensation to each under the solatium scheme.

The Joda police has registered a case (232/24) and launched a hunt for the absconding truck driver, said IIC, Lokesh Sahu.

RREGULAR by MANJUL



It's time to reconsider our Akhand Bharat dream. These people are even bigger Andolanjeevis



WEATHER CTC **BBSR** 33.0°C **Max Temp** Min Temp 95% Humidity

FORECAST PARTLY

19.4 Rainfall **CLOUDY SKY**



North Korea marks the





hockey semifinals at Paris

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 2024

TURMOIL IN BANGLADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Embattled Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase on the outskirts of Delhi Monday. hours after she resigned as the prime minister following weeks of deadly anti-government protests that killed nearly 300 people.

Hasina arrived in India as part of her plan to travel to London, multiple diplomatic sources said shortly after the C130J military transport aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force that carried the Awami League leader touched down at Hindon in Ghaziabad

But that plan appeared uncertain Monday night after British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in London that the people of Bangladesh "deserve a full and independent UN-led investigation into the events of the past few weeks"

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, accompanied by senior officials, met Hasina at the Hindon airbase and is understood to have conveyed India's position on the developments in Bangladesh, sources said. It is learnt that Hasina has been moved to a safe location after the meeting and it is unlikely that she would leave India Monday night.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed Modi about the situation in Bangladesh. Jaishankar also apprised the



ON THE BOIL: Protesters celebrate beside a defaced portrait of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after news of her resignation, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, PTI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi about the developments in the neighbouring country.

The sources said Hasina's plan was to leave for London. However, "certain issues" have come up bringing uncertainty to the plan.

India is yet to make any comment on the developments in Bangladesh. It is expected that Jaishankar will make a statement in Parliament Tuesday on the situation in the neighbouring country. Hasina, 76, who ruled the South Asian country with an

iron hand for 15 years, resigned as the prime minister following the massive protests that initially began as an agitation against a job quota scheme but weeks later morphed into a mass movement

demanding her ouster from power. The controversial quota system provided for 30 per cent reservations in civil services jobs for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

India decided to provide a safe passage through the Indian airspace to Hasina's aircraft fol-

lowing a request from Dhaka,

the sources cited above told PTI. Indian government sources said New Delhi is closely following the fast-paced developments in Dhaka. In Dhaka, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said Hasina has resigned and an interim government is

"I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," he said in a televised address. The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order.

carnage: Investors

Stock market

lose ₹15.32L-cr

taking over the responsibilities.

Coaching centres have become 'death chambers': Apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Coaching centres have become "death the lives of students, the Supreme Court said Monday as it issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi government on three IAS aspirants drowning in the basement of an institute here.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said the incident was an eyeopener for all.

On July 27, three civil services aspirants drowned in the basement library of Rau's IAS Study Circle in the Old Rajinder Nagar area here after it was flooded following heavy rain.

Seven people, including Rau's IAS Study Circle CEO Abhishek Gupta and coordinator Deshpal Singh, have been arrested in the case.

"This is horrible what we are reading. If need be, we will even close down these coaching centres. For the time being, the coaching should go online, unless there is meticulous com-



pliance of building regulations and other safety norms.

'These places (coaching centres) have become death chambers. Coaching centres are playing with the lives of these aspirants who have come from different parts of the country with dreams and are working hard," the bench said.

"The recent unfortunate in-

cident which took away lives of three young aspirants who joined the coaching centres for their career is an eye-opener for one and all. We, therefore, deem it appropriate to expand the scope of proceedings and issue notice to the Centre and the NCT of Delhi to show cause as to what safety norms have been prescribed so far and what is the effective mechanism evolved to ensure compliance," he said.

The top court took cognisance of the matter while hearing a petition filed by an association of coaching centres challenging a December 2023 Delhi High Court order which had directed the city's fire services and the civic body to inspect all coaching centres here to ascertain if they are complying with the fire

safety norms. Terming the plea frivolous, the apex court dismissed the appeal while imposing a cost of ₹1 lakh on the association and said no coaching centre should be allowed to operate unless there is compliance with fire safety norms and other requirements.

₹8,263cr GST collected on health insurance premiums

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The government has collected ₹8.263 crore towards GST on health insurance premiums in 2023-24 fiscal. Parliament was informed Monday

The Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the government has received representations requesting for exemption or reduction in the rate of GST on life insurance

and health insur-

Since its inception, GST @18 per cent rate is levied on premiums paid towards health insurance, the Minister of State said in a written reply in the

Lok Sabha. However, certain insurance schemes catering to poor sections of the society and differently-abled, such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Jan Arogya Bima Policy and Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme are exempted from GST.

In 2023-24, the GST collection from health insurance premiums stood at ₹8,262.94 crore, while ₹1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premiums.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties are planning to stage a protest in the Parliament complex Tuesday to press for the rollback of 18 per cent GST on life and health insurance premiums

Sources said Monday that Opposition parties were coordinating on the issue for

a joint protest to pile pressure on the government during the ongoing Budget ses-

Trinamool Congress MPs have raised the issue in Parliament and party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the matter.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari also wrote to Sitharaman and urged her to consider withdrawing the GST which, he said. amounted to taxing uncertainties of life and restricting the industry's growth.

New Delhi, August 5: Stock market investors lost a whopping ₹15.32 lakh crore Monday following a crash in Indian equities triggered by a sharp plunge in Japanese and other global mar-

The 30-share BSE benchmark plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

Following the sharp decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped by ₹15,32,796.1 crore to ₹4,41,84,150.03 crore (USD 5.27 trillion).

"Domestic equity indices came under the grip of global markets carnage as a host of external factors like recession fears in the US on the back of weak jobs data, interest rate hike in Japan leading to impact on Yencarry trade and a raging Middle East conflict triggered massive sell-off across the board,' Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong

settled sharply lower. Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4 per cent Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for recession. A report Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks.

On Monday, the Nikkei closed down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8 per cent Friday,making this its worst two-day decline ever. More 10

Netaji's painting among Presidents' gifts on auction egantly embrace the stone on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: A shell craft painting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Lord Buddha's statue are among the selected 250 gifts, received by President Droupadi Murmu and former presidents, available for bidding that began Monday.

Interested persons can place their bids for these exquisite gifts via https://upahaar.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in/ -- a dedicated portal launched by Murmu recently.

Encased in an elegant frame with intricate detailing, Netaji's painting which "commemorates a pivotal moment" in the history of the country is the most expensive item available for bidding

with the base price of ₹4,02,500. "The painting features a metic-

ulously crafted depiction of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. created entirely from delicate shell pieces. He is portrayed in his iconic military uniform, standing resolutely, embodying strength and determination.

"The craftsmanship captures every detail, from the folds in his uniform to the intensity in his gaze, using a unique combination of shell textures and colours,' read the description of the painting that weighs 14.15 kg. At the top of the frame, the me-

mento marks the 75th anniversary of the historic act of hoisting the Indian Tricolour by Netaji for the first time in Port Blair December 30, 1943. "This event holds immense historical significance as a sym-

bol of struggle for Indian

Independence and Netaji's un-



wavering commitment to the cause," it said. Another item available for e-auction is a statue of Lord Buddha seated under a tree. This gift was received by President Murmu from the Mahabodhi Temple, an ancient Buddhist temple located in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

"It holds immense historical and spiritual significance as the sacred place where the Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment. With a vibrant yellow backdrop, this Buddha statue with a golden-coloured drape, is portrayed in the serene dhyan mudra, symbolising deep meditation and inner peace," read the gift's description.

The tree, crafted with intricate hues of green, yellow, orange, and brown, stands unique in its artistry. The roots of the tree elwhich Buddha is seated, adding a profound touch to the overall composition of the culture. This memento is also available for bidding with a base

price of ₹82,500. An elegant tro-

phy, received by former presi-

dent Pranab Mukheriee, is also open for auction with a base price of ₹2,700 The base of the trophy is sturdy and solid, providing a firm foundation that contrasts beautifully with the delicate and transparent globe above, reads the description

est priced item. The bidding, which started on Monday, is open till August 26. After the conclusion of the bidding period, the items will be delivered to the highest bidders.

of the gift, which is the low-



leisure



SWIFT'S TORTURED POETS **RETURNS TO NUMBER 1 SPOT**

Pop icon Taylor Swift's latest album, The Tortured Poets Department, has reclaimed the Number 1 spot on the Billboard 200. This marks the album's 13th nonconsecutive week at the top. Swift's 11th album, released on April 19, spent its first 12 weeks at Number 1 until Eminem's The Death of Slim Shady.

BLAKE LIVELY FEELS GUILTY ABOUT GOING TO WORK

Actress Blake Lively has admitted she sometimes feels guilty for working and having to take time away from her personal life away from her kids James, Inez, Betty, and Olin, with husband Ryan Reynolds, reports Entertainment Tonight.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will want to catch up with old friends that you have been neglecting for some time. The stars suggest that you will enjoy yourself. Your excitement will brighten up your activities. Your frankness and honesty are what set you apart from others, says Ganesha

TAURUS

You will be very sensitive about the image you project Ganesha sees you treating this very seriously and doing everything you can to make this right impression. Today, you will remain decent, dignified and fosussed in all that you do. Do not be too eager to please others.

GEMINI

A hectic and busy day awaits you, which will probably leave you feeling bored and listless. Find creative ways to beat the boredom, or take a break and do things which appeal to you today, says Ganesha

CANCER You will begin the day with a definite plan for a bright future. You will resolutely implement plans that you have made will save you a lot of time in the future. Ganesha says that you will succeed in every endeavour today.

LEO

Your decisions today will be not only be correct, but also resolute and steadfast. Your health will be fine. At the work-place, things ought to proceed as usual. However, you will concentrate more or work today. In personal relationships, some minor arguments could cron un

Opening up to your beloved about your whims and fancies as well as your goals shall be the key today. And, why not. urges Ganesha. Your intimate relations should be built on trust and mutual compatibility. Your energy levels will hit the sky. Make the most of this spurt by finish

Ganesha says that you shall soon be able to travel away from the mundane life. You will pay more importance to your professional matters as opposed to your per sonal matters. Today you will be able to attain success in every thing you do with the blessings of Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Today, you are like a balloon that may burst any time. You may vent out all the sweet and bitter experiences and feel much lighter. Or it may have adverse effects on your health, says Ganesha. You prefer to stay in your cocoon, in the varmth of your near and dear ones

SAGITTARIUS

Determined and dedicated, that's what you are when it comes to work. Well, this may even find you amidst heaps of files and loads of work. No wonder you become a workaholic. You are likely to enjoy during the latter half of the day. Have a fun-filled evening!

CAPRICORN

Your interests are guarded by the Almighty, so don't worry about them. Not that you are not ambitious, but you are satisfied with what you have and gained. You have set some realistic goals for yourself and you are making sincere efforts to achieve them.

AQUARIUS

You are close to you family, and now is the time to enjoy the company of your loved ones at home. You will take them out for shopping, go with them on picway, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Ganesha feels that you will sympathize with people today. This will help you get people's good wishes. You can prove to be a good boss, co worker, husband or wife and son or daughter. Ganesha advises you to carry on with these virtues.



actors' dilemma

Mumbai: Actress Aahana S Kumra reacts to filmmakers moving on from actors to influencers, creating an unfillable void in the industry and the disadvantage of being an outsider

"When I started out, there wasn't this kind of pressure to look a certain type on social media and keep doing reels and dance videos. A lot of casting today is happening on the basis of social media followers. It's very difficult and excruciatingly painful to get work in today's time. Even filmmakers who you want to work with are moving towards people with social media clout, the so-called 'influencers'. So, actors are left wondering, should I become an influencer and start dancing on social

media to get job? Should I start ranting, do mimicry or

be like a Dilli ki aunty? Is this how you are going to get a job? Because I don't think those people will be able to do anything more than that," she insisted.

"It is a very brutal and difficult industry. It won't give you a second chance as an outsider, though as an insider, vou'd get 20-30 films to ruin before you figure out how to perform. Young kids from film families are being groomed from as early as they are five years old to be in the industry. It's a bit clannish in today's time. We will be lacking actors in our industry after a point in India. If you are being told to make a social media reel every day and dance to get cast, who's going to act? she ended.



Rimi shuts down plastic surgery rumours

> Mumbai: Actor Rimi Sen, who has been a part of films such as Dhoom, Golmaal-Fun Unlimited and Johnny Gaddaar reacts to the recent plastic surgery rumours after her Instagram pictures went viral.

She's been out of the limelight for years now, but a random Reddit post brought the actress right back into it. She trended for a whole day, after her latest pictures started circulating on social media. Her altered looks led people to believe she has gone under the knife.

During a chat with a media portal, she said, "Agar logon ko aisa lag raha hai ki maine plastic surgery karvayi hai... if it's in a good way, it's very good for me. Bina plastic surgery karaye bina hi log bol rahe hain. I have only got fillers, Botox, PRP treatment done, nothing

She added, "One shouldn't need to get plastic surgery done unless someone is on the run after committing any crime! There are so many good doctors outside India, who are very good at facelifts. I too want to get it done, but I will think about it after I cross the age of 50. Abhi inn sab

se kaam chal raha hai." Sen goes on to say that she currently has two doctors she consults and gets treatment done from, "They help me a lot to look good. Shayad logon ko meri latest pics mein skin achha lag raha hoga mera. Anyone can look good by using these things, and having discipline. But if you are calling what I have done bad, then tell me how can I correct it, so I can tell my doctors where they are going wrong. I can say isko correct kar do.

Fardeen credits genetics for his evergreen looks

> Mumbai: Post the success of Jungle back in early 2000s, actor Fardeen Khan had become the talk of the town. He was considered to be one of the most looking actors in the business and the clothing brand that he endorsed saw its profits jump manifold. But there also came a time post the death of his father that he gave up on his career and his health took a backseat and ended up putting a lot

But a few years ago, he decided to come back to acting and he was seen on screen after a gap of 14 years with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heermandi-The Diamond Bazaar. He played the role of Wali Mohammed in this historical drama. Post the success of Heeramandi, Fardeen teamed up with his friends Akshay Kumar and Mudassar Aziz for Khel Khel Mein, which is releasing in theatres on During an exclusive conversation, we asked Fardeen

if he was ageing in reverse, given how he looks exactly the same as he looked in the early 2000s. Modestly the actor refused to believe it at first and quipped, "Just genetics... I thank my mother and my father (smiles)." He also added that he has just made some lifestyle changes and began to look after himself. On the work front, Fardeen will also be seen in Housefull

5 with Akshay and Sanjay Gupta's Visfoot.

Neha shares her health disorders

SUDOKU

6

2

4 8

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5

3

4

Mumbai: Singer Neha Bhasin, the voice behind hit film songs such as Kuch Khaas Hai, Dhunki, and Asalaam-e-Ishqum, said her nervous system is broken as she revealed her diagnoses with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD) and fibromyalgia. The 41-year-old penned a lengthy note on Instagram de-

tailing her health struggle, challenges and symptoms. She wrote, "After Years of knowing something is off. Finally with more awareness medically today comes the Diagnosis (on paper since 2 years, I have known since I was 20) which helps get the right treatments for the mental and hormonal illnesses and with all of this comes major realisation and then THE acceptance that At least for now my nervous system feels broken. My monthly PMDD still finds a way to throw me in an

> ure? Asks my OCPD...Flares up what my DR calls Fibromylgia which now I am finally AC-CEPTING too ... I have worked out. Danced, performed through pain for years thinking am just tight so stretch more. My therapist says for sometime do NOTHING. REST.

old dark hole or dig many new ones. Is this my fail-

In the post, Bhasin said she has monthly fatigue, body pains, mental pain, anxiety, monthly depression and past traumas. Fixing an unhealthy relationship with food and body, sleep hygiene and therapy are some of the ways to manage her condition. The singer, concluded she was in a lot of pain but was trying to be more grateful.

6

9

2

2

4

5 2

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

5

9

6

2 6

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

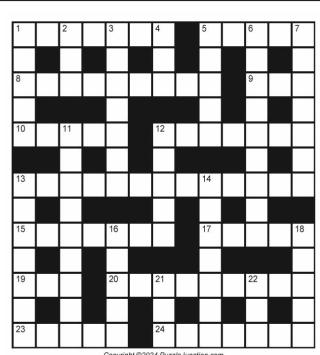


BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Goof

Acre	OSS
1	English
	Channel city
	(2,5)

- 5 Floral leaf
- 8 Comedian's gag ender (5,4) 9 Female swan
- 10 Common sense
- 12 Farmer's yield 13 Study of fossils
- 15 Put on a pedestal?
- 17 Long stories
- priest
- 2 Rooster's mate 3 Car, for one 4 Biblical high

5 Like some

lingerie

boutonniere

20 Japanese port city

23 House style

1 Place for a

24 Wildcats

Down

- 16 Loathe 18 Great balls of fire 21 Greek

22 Bachelor's last

words

6 Pizza topper

11 North American

wild flower

7 Extended

12 Door part

14 Supervise

13 Block

- consonant

7 3 9 1 8 5 6

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

OBCC ADDL CHIEF ENGINEER WITH 42 PLOTS UNDER VIG LENS

BHUBANESWAR: Vigilance sleuths Monday carried out simultaneous searches at 12 places related to Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited Additional Chief Engineer Pradeep Kumar Rath on allegations of amassing disproportionate assets (DA) and claimed to have unearthed huge assets, including 42 plots in prime locations, from the possession of the senior officer and his family members.





PERENNIAL ISSUE: Vehicles pass through a waterlogged road in front of ISKCON temple in Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar as rain lashed the City, Monday

BJD forms panel to oversee party activities across state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday constituted a 15-member committee that will coordinate with various district-level organisations of the party and oversee their activities across the state.

The committee will be headed by former BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra, said Patnaik, the Leader of Opposition and party chief, in a notification.

Though the BJD's districtlevel organisations are functional, the party had suspended its state-level committee after the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, sources said. The new committee will also

state party president and its district chiefs. 'We have been asked to over-

see the activities of the party

work as a bridge between the

with all those working in the field

he 15-member committee will be headed by former BJD senior vice-president Debi Prasad

The other members of the panel include senior party leaders Pramila Mallik, Niranjan Pujari, Bikram Keshari Arukha and Pratap Keshari Deb

in every nook and corner of Odisha, beginning from the highest level to the grass-root level. The committee will coordinate

with all those working in the

field," Mishra said. The other members of the panel include senior party leaders like Pramila Mallik, Niranjan Pujari, Bikram Keshari Arukha and Pratap Keshari Deb.

The committee has representation of senior leaders from different regions of the state,

Nod for Ratna Bhandar laser scanning

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, August 5: The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) Monday approved the standard operating procedure (SOP) for conducting scanning of the Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Srimandir here with the latest scientific tools.

The Ratna Bhandar was reopened last month after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure. It has two chambers - inner and outer.

A section of the people believes that more chambers or tunnels may be inside the inner chamber though, they are not seen by the naked eye, SJTMC said.

"In order to clear the doubts from people's mind, the SJTMC approved scientific or laser scanning of the Ratna Bhandar before its repairs," a member of the committee said after a meeting in which the SOP was ap-

Another SOP for shifting empty cupboards and chests from the inner Ratna Bhandar before its repairs also



got the SJTMC's approval, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee told reporters.

The $\overline{\text{SJTMC}}$'s approval will be informed to the state government, he

Padhee, an IAS officer, said five to six proposals were discussed in the Monday's emergency meeting.

"All ornaments and valuables from the inner and outer chambers of Ratna Bhandar have been shifted to the temporary strongroom. Old articles like cupboards are still inside the inner chamber and those have to be shifted before the repair work," he said.

The SJTA chief administrator said that the SJTMC also approved the draft Shree Jagannath Temple Land Management Rules, 2024 and it will be implemented after getting the government's nod.

Referring to another issue, Padhee said the temple administration had received 35 air-conditioned mini e-buses under a government scheme.

"These were provided by Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited. The meeting decided to move the government to hand over the buses to the Transport department or any other agency for their management,'

On rice collected from devotees through 'Arpana Raths' during the tenure of the previous BJD government, Padhee said the managing committee has asked him and the district Collector to hold discussions with different groups of servitors and submit a proposal with regard to it to the state government

Padhee also said that the Puri SP has suggested upgrading of the Singhadwar police station into a model police station.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 5: More than 5,000 people met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other ministers with their complaints at the CM Grievance Cell here, Monday, the third day of hearing public grievances since July 1.

As many as 2,403 grievances were registered at the cell between 10am and 5pm Monday, Chief Minister's

Office (CMO) sources said Deputy CM Pravati Parida and Ministers Nityananda

Gond, Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Mukesh Mahaling and Krushna Chandra Patra heard the public grievances, they said.

General Administration department Additional Chief Secretary Surendra Kumar, SSEPD department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethy



and other senior officials were also present during the grievance hearing.

Among those who approached the cell with complaints was Santosh Sahoo, a resident of Tangi in Khurda.

"A differently-abled Sahoo had secured a job following all official procedures. However, he lost the job around eight years back for reasons best known to the employer. After listening to Sahoo, the CM assured him of appropriate measures, they said.

Punjab & Sind Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

(In terms of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act -2002) Whereas the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank under the SARFAESI Act 2002 in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(12) read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice u/s 13(2) on the dates stated against the account, calling upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice. As the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) have failed to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice. Notice is hereby given to the following borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the Authorized Officer has taken possession of the property in exercise of powers conferred on Authorized Officer u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with relevant rules. Pursuant to the possession taken by the Authorized Officer under SARFAESI Act 2002 for recovery of the secured debts of Punjab & Sind Bank mentioned against borrower(s) detailed hereunder and interest thereon from date mentioned therein and with cost and charges. Offers are invited by the Authorized Officer in sealed cover for purchase of under noted property on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" as per brief particulars given hereunder:

Date of Sale 22.08.2024, Time of Sale 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Last date of EMD: 21.08.2024 Time upto 5:00 pm Place of Sale: E-Auction through C-1 India Pvt Ltd

2) Name of Borrower/ Guarantor with Address

1) Name of Branch

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name A) Date of 13(2) Notice

A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase

1) BALASORE 2) 1. Mr. Kulendra Gan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairab Gan,

2) M/s Sai Motors Prop: Rajib Das & Rajib Das

. Mr. Shiva Gaan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairaba Gaan, . Dambarudhar Gan (Borrower), S/o. Bhairab Gan,

4. Parbati Gaan (Guarantor), D/o. Nakul Majhi, 5. Smt. Basanti Gan (Guarantor), W/o. Golak Prasad Majhi all at Madhipur Remuna, Baleshwar, Odisha - 756019 and 6. Bidyadhar Majhi (Guarantor), S/o. Bhikari Majhi at Sunhat, Balashwar Sadar, Sunhat Balashwar, Odisha - 756 002

Guarantors: 1. Runu Rani Das Alias Rubirani Das W/o Lt.

Chaitanya Das, 2. Radha Rani Das W/o B K Das, 3. Kalyani

Das W/o Harishankar Das, 4. Subhasmita Das W/o Rajib Das

within the registration Sub- District Balasore. thorised Officer Name : Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Phone No. : 82504 76152. Details of NEFT/RTGS for EMD : IFSC : PSIB0 Equitable Mortgage of all that part and A) 26-04-2023

Remuna Balasore City- Balasore

Decimal (Total Area = 0.050 Decimal) (Gharabari) Mouza- Sovarampur, Tehsil-Balasore, PS-Town Unit No-3,

B) Date of 13(4) Notice C) Demand Notice Amount

Equitable mortgage of all that part A) 24.07.2023 A) ₹20,91,000/and parcel of the property consisting B) 08.11.2023 B) ₹2,09,100/of Plot No 522 In Survey Nol Khata C) ₹14,68,883.03 (Rupees Fourteen C) ₹10,000/-No 662/868 Gharbari - Ac 0.03 dec Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Gharabari Area AC O 03 dec Mouza Hundred Eighty Three and paise Madhipur PS- Remuna Tahasil Three only) with interest thereon

parcel of Land & Building situated at B) 24-07-2023 Khata No-256/184, Plot No-45/1130 C) ₹40,95,770.48 (Rupees Forty admeasuring an area 0.037 Decimal Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Seven & Khata No-256/184, Plot No- Hundred Seventy and paise Forty 46/1131 adm- easuring an area 0.013 Eight only) with interest thereon

A) ₹56,92,000/-B) ₹5,69,200/-C) ₹10,000/-

Date and Time of inspection: 16.08.2024 between 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM.

Terms & Conditions:

2. 1) BALASORE

1. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction on the same day of the sale in cash or DD drawn as above and the balance bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale or such extended period as may be agreed in writing by the Authorized Officer not exceeding three months. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold.

City-Balasore, Dist-Balasore.

2. The successful bidder should bear statutory dues/taxes/fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fees etc as applicable as per Laws and Income Tax Laws. 3. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject tender or bid any or all the offers and for adjournment /postponement/ cancel the auction

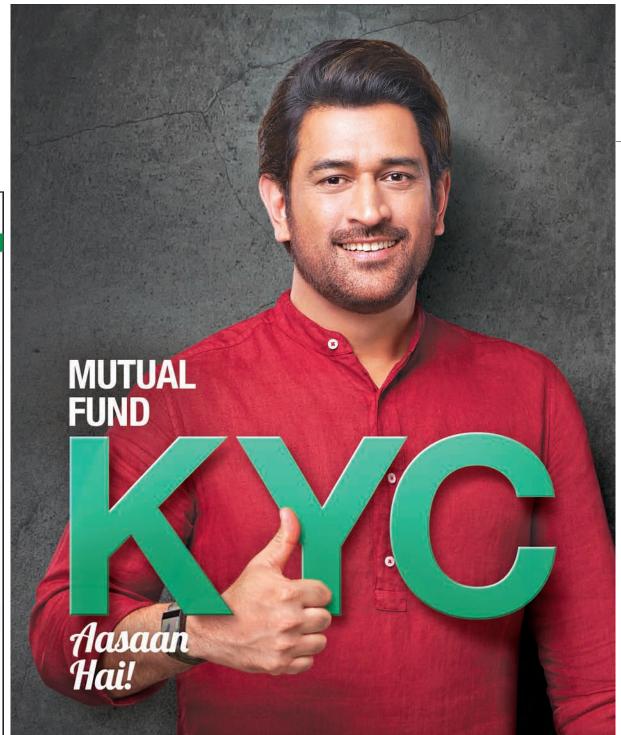
without assigning any reason thereof and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale without any prior notice. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

5. This publication is also 30 days notice to all above borrower(s)/Guarantor(s).

For further details on the subject, please refer to the link provided in : (1) https://www.bankeauctions.com (2) https:// punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaesi-list. The sale will be conducted through https://www.bankeauctions.com.

Date: 06.08.2024 Place: Balasore Authorised Officer, Punjab & Sind Bank

For details visit our website: http://www.punjabandsindbank.co.in



Easy steps to check your KYC Status:

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MUTUAL **FUNDS** Sahi Hai

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

OPF seeks action against private coaching centres

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Amidst the controversy surrounding the coaching centres operating without legal permission in the country, Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Monday wrote a letter to Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj calling for stringent action against such centres functioning in the state in an unregulated manner.

In the letter, OPF president Basudev Bhatt said, "OPF would like to bring to your notice that several coaching centres are being run without government permission throughout the state and there is no proper mechanism to regulate them.'

"The coaching centres offering classes to students above 18 years are fleecing parents by charging exorbitant fees without knowledge of the higher education department. As a result, parents are incurring huge financial loss," he said.

Talking about the modus operandi of such coaching centres. Bhatt said, "In order to get maximum number of students,

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The

Regional Institute of Education

(RIE) Bhubaneswar Monday cel-

ebrated the 62nd Foundation

Day highlighting the institu-

tion's commitment to excellence

in the area of school education

as well as teachers' education.

NCERT director Dinesh

Prasad Saklani was the chief

guest while Delhi Skill and

Entrepreneurship University

VC Ashok Kumar Nagawat at-

tended the event as guest of ho-

nour. Speaking on the occasion,

Saklani underlined the trans-

formative role of National

Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and

curriculum frameworks in qual-

ity improvement of school edu-

cation and teachers' education

He called for collaborative ap-

proach in achieving growth and

excellence in the field of edu-

in the country.

RIE BHUB CELEBRATES

62ND FOUNDATION DAY

Coaching

OPF president Basudev Bhatt said many parents complained of harassment by coaching centres which cheated students by providing poor standard of education and charging excess money

these centres put up large hoardings and publish full-page advertisements in newspapers. Not only this, they publish fake photos of students by claiming that they studied in their classes and passed with flying colours.

"Through regular advertisements in newspapers and on TVs, they try to influence parents to send their wards to their coaching centres," he said.

Bhatt said apparently there

efforts of RIE towards this di-

rection. Nagawat underscored

the importance of integrating

skill development and adapting

to technological advancements

in education. Earlier, dean of

Instructions Manasi Goswami

welcomed the guests and briefed

are no rules and regulations to put a check on these centres. However, Union Ministry of Education recently issued one guideline for regulation of coaching centres, he added.

He cited several examples wherein many parents complained of harassment by coaching centres which cheated students by providing poor standard of education and charging excess money. In many cases, such coaching centres destroyed the career of students, he claimed.

"Students from Class X and XII join coaching for various competitive and entrance examinations. In the process they lose touch with regular classes. By the time they finish coaching, their presence percentage drops sharply in regular classes. Many students thus cannot appear for their college examination," Bhatt said.

"We therefore request the government authorities to take appropriate measures to address the issue and stop violation of parents' rights by formulating clear guidelines for private coaching centres," he concluded.

Britannia sees 4-5% cost inflation

Kolkata: Leading biscuits maker Britannia Industries Ltd Monday said it anticipates a cost inflation of 4-5 per cent going forward, and the company will take a call on price hike accordingly. It expects an increase in the cost of some raw materials, including cocoa, flour and sugar, vice chairman and managing



IN MEMORIAM: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi pays homage to Pandit Nilakantha Das on his 141st birth anniversary at Odisha Legislative Assembly Library in Bhubaneswar, Monday

CIFA holds consultation on ornamental fisheries

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, recently organised a two-day national stakeholder consultation on Sustainable Development of Ornamental Fisheries in India.

The event brought together more than 65 stakeholders from across the country, including ornamental fish breeders, farmers, traders, manufacturers, and hobbyists, as well as fisheries department officers from 11 states and scientists from ICAR fisheries institutes such as



Joining the occasion as chief guest, NFDB chief executive BK Behera spoke about various developmental schemes of the NFDB, including entrepreneurship models and insurance

He informed that the NFDB plans to promote the ornamental fisheries through the development of the cluster approach. He motivated the participants to avail the board's different pro-

motional initiatives. ICAR-CIFA director PK Sahoo

stressed the importance of adopting scientific practices to produce quality ornamental fish, thereby increasing India's share in the international market.

Topics discussed on this occasion include boosting India's ornamental fish export, advancing domestic production, enhancing retail trade and hobby promotion, fostering indigenous manufacturing, and addressing policy and institutional issues

The stakeholders focused on key areas such as production of quality ornamental fish on a mass scale through better scientific practices, expanding research and development, strengthening the export framework and encouraging local manufacturing among others.

₹1.19cr embezzled

from OLIC account

IIM Sambalpur hosts 4-day in-house MIP

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

about the glorious past of the Principal PC Agarwal highlighted the institute's remarkable achievements and commitment to academic excellence over the last six decades. A MoU was signed on this oc-

casion between RIE, Bhubaneswar and Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DESU), New Delhi, to enhance collaboration in skill development and educational programmes. Retired faculty members were felicitated for their contributions in the field of education. Cultural programmes highlighting country's rich heritage were also organised.

Sambalpur, August 5: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur recently concluded its 4-day in-house management immersion programme (MIP) for Institute of Integrated Learning in Management (IILM) University students aimed at providing immersive experience of management education and campus life at IIM Sambalpur.

The MIP was designed to provide 62 students from IILM University unparalleled experiential learning experience in flipped classrooms, practical management insights and handson experience through various interactive sessions, workshops, and case studies conducted by faculty and industry experts.



ethical standards, inspired by the avatars of Lord Vishnu. "We ensure everyone feels valued, fostering leaders who ap-

ment to blending tradition with

modernity while upholding high

preciate the importance of inclusivity in innovation and ethics," he said.

Speaking as chief guest, Joint President of Hindalco Industries Limited Debasish Mallik underscored the significance of bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world applications.

He said that effective leadership goes beyond task management, focusing on inspiration and empowerment. "At Hindalco Hirakud, we pro-

mote an environment of learning, growth, and continuous improvement. Embracing failure as a learning opportunity is crucial for driving innovation and supporting teams through both successes and challenges," he remarked. The event featured a visit to

Hindalco Industries, offering students insights into industrial operations and management practices. Additionally, as part of a societal outreach initiative, the students visited weaving industries in Attabira. The visit allowed them to engage with local weavers, understand their craft. and learn about IIM Sambalpur's efforts to support and promote

consciousness or internal mo-

Creativity and novel mean-

Humans can use imagination

and combine existing knowl-

edge in unique ways to generate

entirely new ideas and mean-

Sonepur, August 5: Funds worth ₹1.19 crore have been misappropriated from the bank account of Odisha Lift Irrigation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Corporation (OLIC) office here in Subarnapur district allegedly by the assistant accountant of the office, a report said Monday.

It is alleged that the assistant accountant Balaram Meher is behind the fraud in the office as he went absconding after the reports surfaced. OLIC Managing Director Sudhanshu Mohan Samal has ordered a probe into the fraud by a high-level team. Meanwhile, the team launched an investigation into the matter while the state Vigilance department launched a preliminary probe into the charges. The incident has spread shockwaves in the area.

It is alleged that the funds sanctioned by the state government for installation of deep bore well and other lift irrigation projects were being deposited in the name of an executive engineer at the Sonepur branch of Union Bank. Assistant accountant Meher, instead of depositing the money in the Union Bank account, used fraudulent methods to transfer the amount to his own account. It is alleged that he used ID, password, cheque and official seal of the executive engineer to transfer funds worth lakhs multiple times to his own account.

After reports surfaced, the executive engineer Prafulla Kumar Behera has lodged a complaint at Sonepur police station.



AI: Navigating new frontier of intelligence & responsibility

rtificial intelligence has made remarkable advances, with large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT capable of feats that rival or even surpass human performance. However, as these AI systems

become increasingly sophisticated, a fundamental problem has emerged: we don't fully understand how they work. This lack of understanding

for researchers, developers and society at large In a recent Nature article, the opacity of AI systems raises concerns about their reliability, potential biases and the ethical

implications of their widespread

presents a significant challenge

Knowledge gap

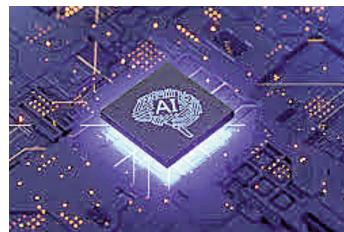
This knowledge gap not only hinders the ability to improve and refine AI systems but raises questions about their trustworthiness and how to responsibly integrate them into critical domains such as healthcare, finance and decision-making processes.

In response to this pressing need for greater insight into Al functioning, researchers have proposed a novel multidisciplinary framework called psychomatics.

Introduced in a recent paper by different European and American researchers, coordinated by the Humane Technology Lab (Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan), this approach aims to bridge the gap between artificial and biological intelligence by combining insights from cognitive science, linguistics, and computer science.

Psychomatics is derived from the fusion of 'psychology' and 'informatics,' and offers a comparative methodology to explore how LLMs acquire, learn, remember, and use information to produce their outputs.

By drawing parallels between AI systems and biological minds, this framework seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the



similarities and differences in their cognitive processes

The central question driving psychomatics is: "Is the process of language development and use different in humans and

By addressing this fundamental inquiry, researchers hope to gain valuable insights into the nature of language, cognition, and intelligence - both artificial and biological.

Learning and development Humans acquire language through a gradual process of social, emotional, and linguistic interactions that begin in infancy and continue throughout

In contrast, LLMs are trained on vast, pre-existing datasets in a relatively short time frame. This fundamental difference in the learning process has signif icant implications for how each

Sources of meaning

For humans, language is just one of several sources of mean ing. Human understanding of the world is also informed by direct experiences, emotions, and imagination.

LLMs, on the other hand, derive meaning exclusively from the linguistic patterns present in their training data. This limitation can lead to what researchers call 'hallucinations' - instances whereas LLMs confidently produce incorrect or nonsensical information.

Intentionality and consciousness

Humans possess conscious intentions, self-awareness and the ability to make deliberate choices.

LLMs are capable of producing coherent and seemingly purposeful responses but lack true

LLMs, while adept at recombining existing information in

tivations.

ing generation

impressive ways, are ultimately limited to the patterns present in their training data. They cannot truly create novel meanings in the way that humans can. Contextual understanding and

pragmatics

Humans excel at interpreting subtle contextual cues, understanding sarcasm and navigating complex social situations.

While LLMs can often produce contextually appropriate responses, they struggle with more nuanced aspects of communication, such as detecting sarcasm or understanding faux pas without explicit training in



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Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823. Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373

OrissaPOST

Man beats wife to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, August 5: In a gruesome incident, a man allegedly killed his wife Monday morning by hitting her head repeatedly with a bucket over domestic dispute at Banida village under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore district.

The deceased woman was identified as Kabita Mohanty, 32, and her accused husband has been identified as Sanjay Mohanty, 38, a resident of Banida village

According to reports, Sanjay

got married to Kabita, daughter of Nabin Kumar Das of Jamagadi village under Dantun police limits in West Bengal, 15 years ago. However, the couple was frequently quarreling over familial disputes. Sanjay, who works in Hyderabad, had returned home 15 days ago. The couple again quarreled Monday morning following which Sanjay, in a fit of rage, started beating Kabita repeatedly on the head with a steel bucket. Hearing her screams, her mother Shantilata Mohanty alerted her neighbours who then overpowered Sanjay



and called a 108 ambulance.

A critically injured Kabita was rushed to Jaleswar hospital in an ambulance where the doctor declared her 'brought dead'. On being informed, Jaleswar PS IIC Ranjan Kumar Sethi, ASI Chiranjib Rout and Nampo police outpost officer Fakir Charan Pradhan reached the spot and arrested the accused from the spot. A forensic team was also rushed to the spot for further investigation.

10-year prison for rape bid on minor

Phulbani: Phulbani Fast Track POCSO Court Judge Kailash Chandra Swain Monday convicted Rupak Digal for attempting to rape a minor girl in 2021 and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment. The judge also slapped a penalty of Rs 9,000 on the convict apart from the punishment. In case of default, the convict has to undergo additional 21 months jail term, ordered the judge. According to the case diary, the convict Rupak Digal, a resident of K Nuagaon area, had committed the crime March 25, 2021. The 13-year old minor girl had gone along with her family members to watch opera in her village. She went back home and was returning again to the opera venue, when Digal dragged her to a nearby forest in a bid to rape her. However, the minor girl somehow managed to free herself from the clutch of the convict and rushed home. She narrated her ordeal before her mother, and as per her advice, lodged a complaint at K Nuagaon police station. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case (110/21), arrested and forwarded Digal to court. The judge pronounced the judgement after hearing from 17 witnesses and going through the medical report, said Special Public Prosecutor



FLIRTING WITH DANGER: A scooterist attempts to cross a temporary bridge at Kainsari under Udala block in Mayurbhanj district, Monday as the Deo

NHRC asks CS to ensure safe ferrying of boats

The direction comes in the backdrop of the fatal capsizing of a boat carrying about 50 passengers in the Mahanadi river in Jharsuguda district, April 19, which led to death of about seven people

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, August 5: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a detailed report from the the Chief Secretary on the action taken by the state government to ensure safe ferrying of boats.

The NHRC also asked the Chief Secretary to direct all the District Collectors of Odisha to check the fitness of all registered ferry boats in their respective jurisdictions and submit a list of the number of ferry boats found operating unlawfully.

The apex rights body recently directed the Chief Secretary to send a detailed action taken report (ATR) against the delinquent officials responsible for the failure to supervise and ban the operationalisation of disputed unlawful and unfit ferry boats in Jharsuguda district. If no such action has been initiated vet, the reasons for not taking lawful action should be provided.

Adjudging a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC has called for an ATR within six weeks.

The petition contended that the fatal incident of the capsizing of a boat carrying about 50 passengers in the Mahanadi river in Jharsuguda district, April 19, resulted in the deaths of about seven people.

It has been reported that the boat was ferrying passengers from the Bandhipali area of Bargarh district when it encountered turbulent waters and capsized near Saradha Ghat in Jharsuguda district.

Further reports indicate that the boat was overcrowded, operated without a valid license, and lacked a fitness certificate issued by the concerned authorities, resulting in the deaths of two minor boys and two women from the Kharsani area of Raigarh district in Chhattisgarh. They were traveling to Patharseni in the Ambabhona block of Bargarh district.

Stating that the earlier recommendations of the NHRC in a

complied with, Tripathy requested the NHRC to ensure a free, fair, and impartial investigation of

He also requested the NHRC to direct the governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to submit reports on this incident with recommendations on the implementation status of laws, rules, norms, and parameters in this regard, the payment of adequate compensation to the next of kin of the deceased, and the construction of bridges where there are no alternative transportation facilities.

this fatal incident and to take ac-

tion against the errant officials.

The NHRC noted that it is not out of place to mention that the complaints pertaining to boat accidents across Odisha. In one such previous case in 2019, the commission, July 14, 2022, observed. "There was a need to conduct a detailed study focusing on the causes of boat capsizing accidents and precautions to be carried out by boat owners and drivers.

The complainant submitted a reminder and brought to the commission's attention the latest boat tragedy in Chilka lake. It was submitted that 79 people died in boat tragedies in Odisha last year, the highest in the country. Furthermore, the commission has not received the requisite report in compliance with its

The petitioner stated that a direction should be issued again to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, to submit an action taken report in light of the commission's observations.

As far as setting the criminal justice system into motion, it has been done by filing the FIR. Regarding compensation to the NOK of the deceased eight victims, the state government of Chhattisgarh has paid Rs 4 lakhs each to its deceased residents, the NHRC observed.

However, what astonished the commission is the non-responsiveness of the Government of Odisha through the Chief Secretary, who has failed to submit any report on record in this case despite explicit directions.

It is evident through the report of the SP, Jharsuguda, that the disputed mechanized boat with a seating capacity of 20 was operating in state waters in broad daylight with 60 persons on board (three times its permissible limit), openly violating the rules

NAME OF WORK : SIGNALLING CONAL WORK EACH COSTING RS

5.00.000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION

UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENION SECTION ENGINEER SIGNAL

BRAHMAPUR OF KHURDA ROAL DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Value in (₹): 70,56,430.10

Bidding Start Date: 07.08.2024

Date and Time of Closing of Tender

No manual offers sent by Post / Courie

against such e-tenders even if thes are submitted on firm's letter head an received in time. All such manual offer

shall be considered invalid and shall b

rejected summarily without an

Complete information including

e-tender documents of the above-e-Tender is available in website

Note: The prospective tenderers are

advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen

days before the date of closing of tende

to note any changes / Corrigendu

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) (P/24-25 Khurda Road

FOR ONE YEAR.

EMD (₹): 1,41,100.00

At 1100 Hrs. of 21.08.2024.

https://www.ireps.gov.in

issued for this tender.

PR-389/P/24-25

Record production in RSP's Bolani mines

Rourkela: Bolani Ore Mines (BOM) under Odisha Group of Mines (OGOM) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has recorded its best ever departmental production and despatch in the month of July. Bolani Ore Mines produced 4.61 lakh tonne lumps and fines departmentally in July surpassing its earlier best figure of 4.44 lakh



tonne registered in July, 2021. The cumulative departmenta production of lumps and fines between April to July, 2024 has also reached an all-time high of 24.01 lakh tonne. The performance was also reflected in the despatch front. Bolani Ore Mines clocked its highest-ever department specific dispatch of 6.71 lakh tonne in July, exceeding the previous record of 6.43 lakh tonne from July 2021. The cumulative departmental dispatch from April to July also reached a record-breaking 25.71 lakh tonne. Besides, BOM dispatched 51 rakes of fines to the steel plant for conversion into pellets.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHARIAR ROAD

At/P.O.: Khariar Road, Dist.: Nuapada (Odisha), PIN - 766104 Email: nackhrd@rediffmail.com, Executive Officer: 9937130262 No. 1994 Date: 03.08.24

Corrigendum - 01

No. C-356: The Expression of Interest publised in 02.08.2024 No. 1954. The work name is "Preparation of plan, site map detailed drawing, structural design 5 Nos. project of NAC Khariar Road". Notification will publish www.nuapada.odisha gov.in instead of www.nuapada.nic.in.

OIPR-13136/11/0006/2425

Sd./- Executive Officer NAC, Khariar Road

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAK, DIST.: BHADRAK

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No. C-354: The Executive Officer. Bhadrak Municipality. Dist.: Bhadra nvites sealed quotations from the intending registered firms/authorized dealers/distributors/suppliers and manufacturers of supply of Sanitation tems to Bhadrak Municipality for the period from 01.09.2024 to 28.02.2025. The prescribed quotation schedule can be obtained from Municipal Office, Bhadrak on deposit of Rs.6,000/- (Rupees six thousand only including GST @ 18% (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Drai in favour of Executive Officer, Bhadrak Municipality payable at Bhadral from dated 05.08.2024 to dated 20.08.2024 at 01.00 P.M.

The quotation paper along with all documents should reach the undersigned by Speed Post/Registered Post/Parcel Post on or before dated 22.08.2024 upto 01.00 P.M. will in no way, be responsible for any delay in receipt of the quotation documents. The quotation will be opene on dated 22.08.2024 at 04.00 P.M. in presence of the quotationer o heir authorized representative if any. The quotation received beyond the

schedule date and time will not be considered at all. All terms and conditions may be seen in the quotation proforma The undersigned has rights to accept, cancel or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

By Order of the Chairperson Sd./- Executive Officer **Bhadrak Municipality**

OIPR-13152/11/0005/2425





Skill India

Government of India Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Applications are invited for the Post of Chairperson in National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), New Delhi, (a Non-statutory regulatory authority under Administrative Control of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship).

The detailed advertisement along with the eligibility criteria, prescribed proforma and other necessary information are available at the website of this Ministry (http://www.msde.gov.in). Interested candidates may send their applications complete in all respect in the prescribed format to the Joint Director (E&P Wing) either by email (ecopolmsde@gov.in) or by post on or before 5.30 P.M. 30th September, 2024.

Sd./- Joint Director Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Place: New Delhi Date: 05.08.2024 cbc 63101/11/0004/2425

Floodwater destroys groundnut cultivation

Sunabeda, August 5: Groundnut cultivation on over 1,000 acre of farmland Jolaput reservoir in Korapur district was destroyed following discharge of floodwater from the dam leaving the displaced farmers in a fix. Water level in the reservoir

had fallen in the summer season. However, the water level increased after torrential rainfall lashed the district due to a low-pressure in the Bay of Bengal. As a result. hundreds of farmers in eight out of 10 panchayats, who have been displaced for the reservoir, were pushed to the brink of bankruptcy. This has also pushed them into distress as they stare at a bleak future ahead.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture and Revenue departments are also reluctant to make an assessment of the crop loss and



recommend the names of affected farmers for compensation despite losses amounting to several lakhs as they lack land pattas. This has sparked resentment among the farmers who claimed that they have become landless after their lands were acquired for construction of the reservoir.

Displaced farmers of Padua, Kulabir, Panthalung, Paraja, Badapada, Atanda, Kularsingh, Golur in Bilaput panchayat adthey had cultivated groundnuts on the acquired land as it was lying vacant without being put

They had also taken up the cultivation in the summer season and for the fertility of the land. However, their hopes were shattered following the crop loss.

Sources said that the Jolaput reservoir and Macchkund hydroelectric project were established as part of a joint venture between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in 1955.

The purpose of the two projects is irrigation and power production. Over 1,963 sq km land spread over 100 villages in 10 panchayats of Nandapur block were acquired for Jolaput reservoir. The residents in these villages lost their homeland, farmlands, means of livelihood and also the adjoining jungles in the process.

to Malkangiri while the rest constructed houses on the hilly and forest lands and started staying there. As they were living a life of poverty, they decided to grown some crops on the vacant land.

The agriculture officials in Nandapur block had distributed groundnut seeds and kits to the registered farmers for cultivation of groundnut on 150 hectare in 23 panchayats. As per the list, only 12 farmers in Golur and Atanda nanchavats received the groundnut seeds while the rest of the

farmers procured it from outside. All the affected farmers and sarpanches in eight panchayats have drawn the attention of the district administration, Pottangi MLA Rama Chandra Kadam, his Koraput counterpart Raghuram Machha and Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka to intervene and take steps to address their plights.

Poacher arrested; skulls of deer, leopard seized



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, August 5: Forest officials arrested a poacher after skulls of a leopard and barking deer were seized from his possession in Mayurbhanj district.

On a tip-off, a team of forest officials Sunday raided the house of Lanka Badra in Makabadi village and found a leopard skull, Samrat Gowda, deputy director of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) said Monday. Badra was arrested and interrogated. During interrogation, Badra revealed the detailed pro-

cedure he followed for poaching wild animals and recreated the crime scene inside the forest, said The investigating officer seized

a few bones suspected to be of some wild animals from the crime scene. Further, arrest of the accused led to the discovery of weapons used in the crime from his house at Makabadi, the officer said.

During the second search, dry meat, three snares, skull of a barking deer with antler, an axe, bill hook, poison and two bags were seized from Badra's house. A case has been registered and

further investigation is going on, the

deputy director stated.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, NAYAGARH
Khandapada Road, Near Fire Station, Pin-752069
E-mail: eerwss_nay@nic.in & eerwssayagarh@gmail.com Ph:(06753) 2522173 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT IDENTIFICATION NO.RWS&S DIVN., NAYAGARH-03 OF 2024-25 No.O-168: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in single cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in online mode from eligible contractors. Nature of Work: Residential Building Name of Work: Construction of "E" & "F" at RWS&S Section Office, Odagaon Ranpur, Khandapada under RWS&S Division, Nayagarh in the district o Nayagarh (CH-Residential Building) No. of Works: Rs.24.85 Lakhs (app.) 03 (Three) Months Estimated Cost: Time for Completion Cost of bidding document: Class of Contractors eligible: From 11 hour of 07.08.2024 to 17.00 Availability of bids online: hours of 16.08.2024 17.00 Hours of 13.08.2024 Last date and time for seek ing clarification: Date & Time of opening of On dt.17.08.2024 at 11.30 Hours in echnical bids: the office of the Superintending En gineer, RWS&S Division, Nayagarh Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersorissa gov.in. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the website Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-25042/11/0001/2425 RWS&S Division, Nayagarh



Genius discovers a system; average talent stereotypes it till it is shattered by fresh genius.

SRI AUROBINDO



Hasina Runs

'n a fast paced development, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reportedly resigned, run away to India and has supposedly Ltaken refuge in Delhi 5 August. Weeks of protests over job quota reforms had thrown the country into the worst ever turmoil since the war of independence in 1971. The movement spearheaded by students and vouths of the country was reminiscent of the struggle that had led to the country's freedom decades back. Then the people were fighting against the military and political forces of undivided Pakistan that sought to deny a democratically elected party to rule the country. But, this time around the people, especially students and youths have waged a titanic battle against a government that had captured power in controversial circumstances securing a doubtful mandate.

Hasina had to answer for a system of job quota that was allegedly used for favouring supporters of the ruling party by virtue of its members and supporters being relatives of those who had fought for the country's freedom. The way the privilege was used, millions of aspiring youth have been denied government jobs cornered by the ruling Awami League and its supporters. The violent crackdown by the government took a heavy toll of lives and eventually it was the Supreme Court that reduced the quota from 30 per cent to 5 per cent.

The verdict itself was hailed by the agitators as a resounding victory for the protest movement. Hasina, however, condemned the way the agitation had been conducted accusing the sponsors of being aided and abetted by religious fundamentalists in league with the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Even if there was some truth in it, Hasina's description of the agitators as "razakars," who had collaborated with the Pakistani army during the liberation struggle, added fuel to fire. Though she later claimed her words were distorted, the damage was done.

Once the students tasted victory, they revived their demand for the resignation of Hasina as PM which rose to a crescendo and took a violent turn on 4 August. It was at this stage that the Army had to intervene by putting up barricades. According to the Bangladeshi newspaper Daily Star, Hasina left Dhaka 5 August morning for a "safer place" which was identified by Reuters as Delhi. According to one report, she wanted to record a speech before leaving the country. But she could not get an opportunity to do so. The ongoing mass protests had resulted in at least 300 deaths. Defying curfew and the police barricades, protesters opened the gates of the Gono Bhaban and entered the premises of the Prime Minister's residence in the afternoon. Thousands of people who took positions at Shahbagh in the capital also headed towards the Gono Bhaban. Protesters joining from different places of the capital were seen storming Gono Bhaban, overturning furniture, smashing glass doors, and taking away different items. The protesters also set fire to the party office of Awami League in Dhanmandi.

Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman addressed the nation in the afternoon and said a transitional government would be formed. "Justice will be served for all the killings. Keep trust in the army, we will work together," he said. The General also called upon all to be quiet and said they would hold meetings with different political parties including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and Jamat-e Islami.

Significantly, in a Facebook post, Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, who is currently living in the US, urged the army to "keep our people safe and our country safe and to uphold the constitution.

Bangladesh under Hasina has been doing well on the economic front, though the distribution of wealth and economic development left millions disenchanted. Her highhandedness in taking on her opponents had attracted criticism both within and outside the country.

It is a good sign that the Army chief has not till now shown any sign of supplanting democracy and imposing military rule. Bangladesh had bitter experiences of being ruled by army generals. If that happens, it would be a sad day for democracy. It could also be an alarm bell for New Delhi in many ways as Bangladesh, currently the only neighboring country friendly towards India, will now be certainly disturbed.

FOCUS BANGLADESH

QUOTA TO CHAOS



Ajit Ranade

LAST YEAR TOO THERE WERE VIOLENT PROTESTS AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER PARTY, **OSTENSIBLY AGAINST ALLEGED**

CORRUPTION

rime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reportedly resigned and fled the country. How rapidly and suddenly her regime has unravelled. It started with an antiquota protest. But more about it later. She had won her fifth Her government won its fourth consecutive term, having ruled since 2009. She has been the longest serving leader since the formation of the country of Bangladesh. In her previous victory of 2018, her party the Awami League secured a landslide victory winning 288 out of 300 seats in parliament. She is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, considered the father of the nation, who founded the Awami League in 1949. During Sheikh Hasina's last three terms since 2010, Bangladesh has had extraordinary economic growth during the decade, averaging around 6 to 8% per annum, peaking at 8.2% in 2019. Even during COVID the economy had a positive growth rate of 3.5% which then rebounded to 6.9% in 2021. Briefly Bangladesh's per capita income measured in dollar terms exceeded that of India.

The poverty rate since 2010 has fallen from 31% to 20%, and Bangladesh will graduate out of the "least developed country" category as per the World Bank by 2026. One of the spectacular successes of Bangladesh has been the export of readymade garments (RMG), in which it has now overtaken India and is the second largest exporter in the world. The RMG constitutes 80% of manufacturing exports, 11% to GDP, and employs 2.5 million women, and attracts foreign direct investment.

But all this economic growth and resilience is for nought thanks to the meltdown due to countrywide rioting. Since 2022 the economy has been affected by high inflation (upward of 8.5%) especially in food and commodities. That inflation is mostly imported, due to geopolitics and the conflict in Ukraine. As a result, the Bangladeshi trade deficit has worsened, putting pressure on foreign ex-



The anti-quota unrest turned into an anti-government movement and political opponents took advantage of the deteriorating situation

stress in debt repayment. It is knocking on the doors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for relief loans. The financial sector is very vulnerable. Income and wealth inequality has risen to unprecedented levels. And don't forget that Sheikh Hasina's party's victory earlier this year was marred by a boycott by the main opposition party, and a voter turnout of barely 40%. The turnout was 80% in 2018. This economic backdrop is important to keep in mind as we witness the large-scale riots and crumbling social order in our neighbouring nation.

The immediate provocation was the reinstatement of quotas in government jobs for relatives and descendants of freedom fighters of the 1971 liberation war. That initial quota was introduced in 1972 and was 30%. Over the years it expanded to nearly 56%. But there was increasing resentment against it. It was seen as detrimental to the interests of meritorious candidates. In 2018 due to widespread protests, mainly from young jobseekers and students the quota system was scrapped. But there was an appeal against the scrapping in the High Court. This year in June the High Court reinstated the quota system, triggering nationwide riots, again mainly by the youth and students. This time since inflation and vouth unemployment change reserves and causing a are high, there is economic aggravation adding to the quota question. The protests turned violent causing concern even from the United Nations. More than three hundred people have died so far in the civil unrest. The government has clamped down harshly, imposing curfew, banning the assembly of people and suspending the internet. In a hasty decision the Supreme Court overturned the High Court judgement

The government has banned the Jamaat-e-Islami, which is also blamed for inciting violence and for terrorism. The anti-quota unrest turned into an anti-government movement and political opponents took advantage of the deteriorating situation. Last year too there were violent protests against the Prime Minister and her party, ostensibly against alleged corruption. The protesters demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister, but now she has resigned and fled the country. Actually, the constitution of Bangladesh anyway does not allow political parties based on religion like the Jamaat. But it had managed to survive till now.

There are lessons from Bangladesh's descent into chaos. The anti-quota protesters felt that meritorious youth were being denied opportunities, because of quotas based on birth or blood relationships to freedom fighters. They see this as irrelevant in the present context Besides there was large-scale

fraud in obtaining freedom fighter credentials and certificates. In India the quotas work on the basis of being part of historically socially disadvantaged groups in society. But there have been instances of fake caste certificates for grabbing quota benefits. In Bangladesh nearly 40% of the youth in the age-group of 15 to 29 are in the NEET category i.e. not in employment, education or training. Some 18 million youth are jobless. According to the Bureau of Statistics, about 37million people faced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2023. The government raised electricity, utility and gas prices thrice within a single year causing much hardship and inflationary burden. Amidst charges of corruption especially in government, inequality was rising. The wealthiest 10% get 41% of the nation's income, while the bottom 10% receive only 1.3%. The conditions of high youth unemployment, out of control inflation, the deteriorating foreign exchange situation causing fuel prices to be raised, and worsening inequality was the recipe for a tinder box. Into this was thrown in the ignition spark provided by reservation which was reinstated by a court, even after it was scrapped back in 2018. And the other element of Islamic radicalisation extremist ideology tapping into youth discontentment. How quickly a country which was coasting along for a decade of strong, export led growth with improvements in poverty as well as human development indicators and social capital, can crumble. But maybe we will see it bounce back and it will show the kind of resilience it demonstrated in its post COVID recovery. Maybe the extremist elements will be overpowered by larger sections of society with deep roots in Bengali and syncretic culture as well as democratic sensibilities. A stable and prospering neighbour that is Bangladesh is also in India's interest.

> The writer is a noted Pune-based economist. **@THE BILLION PRESS**

SPECTRUM SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

How AI undermines democracy



AUTOCRACIES AND

DEMOCRACIES

ACROSS ALL

PRODUCTS?

WEAK

the distorting medium of their own desires. Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must

Those who forget good and evil and seek only to know the facts are more likely to achieve good than those who view the world through

believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be

Let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others argue over small

things, but not you. Let others cry over small hurts, but not you. Let things, but not you. Let others cry over small indice, we contain the contained by others leave their future in someone else's hands, but not you.

JIM ROHN

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

WISDOM CORNER

- **1806:** After a thousand years the Holy Roman Empire came to its official end, with the secession of its confederated states, when Emperor Francis II of Austria put down the imperial crown.
- **1926:** First Woman to Swim Across the English Channel. Gertrude Ederle, an American Olympic swimmer swam across the English channel a body of water between England and France, in 14 hours and 34 minutes. Only 5 other people, all men, had swum across the channel before Ederle.
- **1945:** US bombs Hiroshima. In the first of the only two times nuclear weapons have been used in warfare, the United States dropped a nuclear bomb, nicknamed Little Boy on the industrial city of Hiroshima in Japan. Over 150,000 people were estimated killed by the resulting explosion. Japan had joined the Second World War in December 1941 on the side of the Axis powers. After the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings 3 days later on August 9, Japan surrendered to the Allies and ended the Pacific War.
- 1962: Jamaican attains independence. The Caribbean island country was first colonized by the Spanish in the early 16th century. In 1655, the British invaded Spanish Jamaica and made it a colony after the Spanish surrendered. Jamaica soon became one of the most profitable colonies of the British Empire, especially after sugarcane was brought to the island by the English. The Jamaica Independence Act of July 1962, which was a result of anti-colonial sentiments that were spreading throughout the globe, gave Jamaica full independence by leaving the Federation of the West Indies.
- 1965: Voting Rights Act becomes law in the United States. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act, which prohibited any discrimination in voting. The act enforces the 14th and 15th amendments to the US Constitution.
- **1990:** The UN Security Council imposed economic sanctions on Iraq, ruled by Saddam Hussein, for its invasion of Kuwait four days ear-
- 1996: At the Palace in Los Angeles, the hugely influential punk rock band the Ramones played their last concert.

S President George HW Bush once remarked that, "No nation on Earth has discovered a way to import the world's goods and services while stopping foreign ideas at the border." In an age when democracies dominated the technological frontier, the ideas Bush had in mind were those associated with America's own model of political economy.

But now that China has be-Martin Beraja & come a leading innovator in AI, David Y. Yang might the same economic integration move countries in the **DOES CHINA HAVE** opposite direction? This question is particularly relevant to de-**AN AUTOCRATIC** veloping countries, since many **BIAS, OR IS IT** are not only institutionally fragile, but also increasingly con-**SIMPLY EXPORTING** nected to China via trade, foreign **MORE TO** aid, loans, and investments.

While AI has been hailed as the basis for a "fourth industrial revolution," it is also bringing many new challenges to the fore. AI technologies have the potential to drive economic growth in the coming years, but also to undermine democracies, aid autocrats' pursuit of social control, and empower "surveillance

capitalists" who manipulate our behaviour and profit from the data trails we leave online.

Since China has aggressively deployed AI-powered facial recognition to support its own surveillance state, we recently set out to explore the patterns and political consequences of trade in these technologies. After constructing a database for global trade in facial-recognition AI from 2008 to 2021, we found 1.636 deals from 36 exporting countries to 136 importing countries.

From this dataset, we document three developments. First, China has a comparative advantage in facial-recognition AI. It exports to roughly twice as many countries as the US does (83 versus 57 links), and it has about 10% more trade deals (238 versus 211).

While different factors may have contributed to China's comparative advantage, we know that the Chinese government has made global dominance in AI an explicit developmental and strategic goal, and that the facial-recognition AI industry has benefited from its demand for surveillance technology, often receiving access to large government datasets. Second, we find that autocracies and weak democracies are

more likely to import facial-recognition AI from China. While the US predominantly exports the technology to mature democracies. China exports roughly equal amounts to mature democracies and autocracies or weak democracies. Does China have an autocratic

bias, or is it simply exporting more to autocracies and weak democracies across all products? When we compared China's exports of facial-recognition AI to its exports of other frontier technologies, we found that facialrecognition AI is the only technology for which China displays an autocratic bias. Equally notable, we found no such bias when investigating the US.

One potential explanation for this difference is that autocracies and weak democracies might be turning specifically to China for surveillance technologies. That brings us to our third finding: autocracies and weak democracies are more likely to import facial recognition AI from China in years when they experience domestic unrest.

The data make clear that weak democracies and autocracies tend to import surveillance AI from China - but not from the US - during years of unrest, rather than preemptively or after the fact. Imports of military technology follow a similar pattern. By contrast, we do not find that mature democracies import more facial-recognition AI in response to unrest. Our research adds to the evidence that trade does not always foster democracy or liberalise regimes. Instead, China's greater integration with the developing world may do precisely the opposite.

Like all dual-use technologies, facial-recognition AI has the potential to benefit consumers and firms. But regulations must be carefully designed to ensure that this frontier technology is diffused around the world without facilitating autocratisation.

Martin Beraja is an Assistant Professor at MIT. David Y. Yang is a Professor at Harvard University.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Divided Britain

Sir, This refers to "PM Starmer slams far right thuggery," OrissaPOST, August 5. The deep divisions existing in British society since Brexit, and the impact of the short-sighted policies of previous Conservative Party governments, burst out into the open during the violent rioting across the UK over the weekend. The disorder, arson and looting - the worst in more than a decade - followed the viral of false information on social media, especially X, and calls by far right groups for protests against immigrants and Muslims. The misinformation blamed the murder of three young girls on a Muslim migrant, though authorities identified the attacker as a Christian teenager born to Rwandan parents. The rioting represents the first major challenge for newly elected PM Keir Starmer, not so much in terms of controlling the violence and restoring calm, but containing the dangerous fanning of xenophobia and hatred by the far right. Countering their narrative will be more difficult, given that the far-right Reform UK ranked third in overall votes in the recent election, suggesting support for its policies amid political and economic uncertainties.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Tragic chapter

Sir, The Hiroshima bombing, which took place on 6 August, 1945, stands as a tragic chapter in human history due to its profound and far-reaching impact on countless lives and the course of warfare. The dropping of the atomic bomb by the United States on the city resulted in the deaths of an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, with many more suffering from injuries, radiation sickness, and long-term health effects. The sheer scale of devastation and human suffering caused by the bombing is unparalleled in modern history. The Hiroshima incident highlighted the terrifying power and consequences of nuclear weapons, ushering in the nuclear age and changing the nature of warfare forever. It brought to the forefront the moral and ethical implications of using such weapons of mass destruction, sparking debates on the necessity, justification, and implications of atomic warfare.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

national



Today marks five years since the historic abrogation of #Article370 and 35A under PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's leadership. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and **Kashmir and Ladakh**

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

NEW WORLD RECORD OF PLAYING DAMRU SET IN MP'S UJJAIN

A new Guinness World Record was created in Madhya Pradesh Monday under the 'largest damru ensemble' category as nearly 1,500 persons played the small power drums on the Mahakaleshwar temple campus in Ujjain, officials said. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated the people for setting the new world record





reconstruction of the

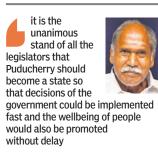
historical conference.We have to revive the damaged brand and at the same time we have to prove that the Andhra administration is one of the best

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

As a Cabinet we have advised the Governor to withdraw his showcause notice and to reject the petition

seeking Siddaramajah's prosecution by activist T J Abraham, I'm hopeful and don't feel that the Governor will do it (sanction prosecution), despite the Cabinet's advice along with facts G PARAMESHWARA

KARNATAKA HOME MINISTER



N RANGASAMY | CM, PUDUCHERRY

SHORT TAKES

Security beefed up at **B'desh High Commission**

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has beefed up security at the Bangladesh High Commission here in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's resignation as prime minister and an imminent takeover by an interim government in the neighbouring country. Police have also tightened security outside the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in case Hasina lands in the national capital, an officer said, Several senior police officers, including New Delhi district's Deputy Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahla, visted the high commission to check the security arrangements, an

Body of Pakistani intruder repatriated

Jammu: Body of an intruder, who was recently shot dead by the BSF while attempting to illegally sneak into India, was repatriated to Pakistan along the International Border here Monday, officials said. The unarmed intruder was gunned down after he ignored repeated warnings and attempted to cross the border fence through the Khora border outpost in the Samba district on the night of July 31. The body was returned to Pakistani Rangers by the BSF at border outpost Octroi in the Suchetgarh sector of the Jammu district, the officials said.

Nine Kanwariyas electrocuted to death

Hajipur (Bihar): At least nine Kanwar Yatra pilgrims were electrocuted to death and two others sustained injuries when the vehicle they were travelling in came in contact with a high-tension overhead wire in Bihar's Vaishali district. a senior official said Monday. The incident took place in Sultanpur village in Industrial police station area around 11.15 pm Sunday.

Amoebic brain fever: 3 persons diagnosed

Thiruvananthapuram: Three persons who bathed in a pond in this South Kerala district have been diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis, State Health Minister Veena George said Monday. In a statement, she revealed that a recent death in Thiruvananthapuram was also confirmed to have been from the deadly disease, commonly known as amoebic brain fever.



HC grants liberty to Kejriwal to move trial court for bail

The high court noted that when Kejriwal had filed the bail plea before it, the charge sheet was not filed in the trial court in the case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Delhi High Court Monday granted liberty to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to approach a trial court with his plea seeking bail in the CBI corruption case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam, noting the change in circumstances of the case.

The high court noted that when Kejriwal had filed the bail plea before it, the charge sheet was not filed in the trial court in

However, now the CBI has filed its charge sheet before the special judge and it would be in the benefit of the AAP leader to first approach the trial court for his bail, the court said.

In a separate judgment, the high court also dismissed Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI in the case. The high court had July 17 reserved its order on his plea challenging his arrest by the CBI.

Hearing the bail plea, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said though there is no quarrel about the proposition that the district courts and the high court have concurrent jurisdiction but at the same time it has been held time and again by the Supreme Court that the party must first approach the court of first instance.

"In the present case, it is more in the benefit of the petitioner (Kejriwal), considering the complexity and the web of the facts and the material on record, to comprehensively determine the role of the petitioner in this al-



leged conspiracy to determine if he is entitled to bail."

"It may also be noted that when the bail application was filed before this court, the charge sheet had not been filed. However, in the changed circumstances, when the charge sheet has already been filed before the special judge, it would be in the benefit of the petitioner to first approach the court of sessions judge," the high court said.

It disposed of the bail plea with the liberty to Kejriwal to approach the special judge for the

The high court had reserved the order on Kejriwal's bail plea July 29 after hearing the arguments of the counsel for the AAP leader and the central

The CBI prosecutor had submitted that the charge sheet has been filed in the trial court July 29 and the proprietary demands that the bail plea be first con-

sidered by the special judge. He had submitted that there

were voluminous records not only pertaining to the petitioner but to the other co-accused in this conspiracy and it may not be possible to bring forth the entire circumstances in this bail plea in the first instance before the high court as the records are available with the trial court.

While opposing the bail plea, the CBI had said Kejriwal was the "sutradhaar" of the excise scam and there was evidence to show his involvement in the offence.

The CM's counsel had opposed the CBI's submission to go to the trial court and submitted that the law recognises concurrent jurisdiction of the trial court and the high court to consider the bail plea.

He had said \bar{t} here was nothing which prevented the high court from hearing the bail plea in the first instance and Kejriwal was willing to forego his first step of the ladder and suffer the consequences of missing out the option of filing the plea before the trial court

BSF orders 'high alert'; DG visits India-WB border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, August 5: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday issued a high alert across all its formations along the 4,096-km India-Bangladesh border in the wake of the developments in the neighbouring country, officials said.

BSF Director General (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders toured the front in West Bengal to review the security situation. The DG landed in Kolkata around 10.30am on a flight from Delhi.

Chawdhary along with senior officers toured the remote North 24 Paraganas district and the Sunderbans riverine area to review preparations, a spokesperson for the South Bengal Frontier of the force headquartered in Kolkata said.

The force has directed all its field commanders to be on ground and deploy all personnel on border duty immediately as part of the high alert, a senior officer told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The South Bengal Frontier spokesperson said, "In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert all along Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has been increased.

He added, "The DG was apprised of the role of BSF in maintaining national security along the sensitive international border." The BSF chief is expected to be in the region for the next few days. A Delhi-based BSF spokesperson said the situation on the Bangladesh border is normal as of now.

Troops are aware and alert about the recent development and situation across the IB is being closely monitored to deal any unforeseen situation, he said

'Wayanad disaster result of illegal human habitat expansion, mining'



Scientists from

the state and

deadly mix of

mining in the

climate change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Kerala government allowed "illegal human habitat expansion and mining" in the state's fragile region which resulted in the devastating landslides in Wayanad district, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

said Monday. Yadav told PTI Video that the consultation with the states on the notification of eco-sensitive zone in the Western Ghats should be finalised soon.

The environment ministry has issued six draft notifications, including one issued July 31, since March 10, 2014, to declare over 56,800 square

kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states as eco-sensitive but the final notification is pending amid objections from states. Yadav said an expert panel set up in April 2022 to find a

breakthrough is in "constant touch with the states" "Since the ownership of forests

them to submit their objections and suggestions to the committee headed by former director general of forest Sanjay Kumar. There should be consultation with local stakeholders too. Instead of doing this, illegal human habitat expansion and mining were allowed (in Kerala)

> which resulted in this natural disaster (in Wayanad)," he told PTI Video.

"The Western beyond attributed Ghats is one of the the disaster to a most fragile regions in the country like the Himalayas. Serious forest cover loss, efforts must be made to prevent disasters in such regions and fragile terrain and the Kerala government is also responsible for ensuring the same," he said.

> Last week, the Centre issued a sixth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslidehit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within 60 days.

ART 370 ABROGATION ANNIVERSARY

Cong and PDP protest, BJP celebrates



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/Jammu, August 5: The fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was marked by contrasting reactions across the region with mainstream regional party leaders kept "locked" inside their homes.

The day underscored the ongoing political divide in Jammu and Kashmir, with regional parties calling for the reinstatement of rights they argue were stripped away, while the ruling BJP party celebrated the government's decision as a step towards greater integration.

While a handful of activists of ne BJP celebrated in Srinagar. Congress and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) held protests in Jammu, declaring the day a "black day" for the region. The day was marked by claims of repression from regional party leaders as former chief minister and PDP president Mehhooha Mufti announced on social media that she had been placed under house arrest and calling August 5, 2019, a "dark day" for both Jammu and Kashmir and Indian democracy.

"I have been placed under house arrest while the PDP office has been locked," Mehbooba said. "The day when a semi-autonomous state was disempowered and robbed of everything special," she lamented.



Children play on a flooded street after monsoon rainfall, in Guwahati, Monday

Majority of employed rural youth want to switch job

THE SURVEY FINDINGS INDICATE THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THE MALE YOUTH AGED 18-25 ARE EMPLOYED, WHEREAS ONLY A QUARTER OF THE FEMALE YOUTH IN THE SAME AGE BRACKET ARE WORKING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Around half of rural men aged 18 to 25 are employed while only a quarter of the women in the same age bracket are working, according to a survey involving 5,169 youths across villages of the country, the report of which was released Monday.

The report added that 70-85 per cent of the youth said they wanted to change their jobs.

The State of Rural Youth Employment 2024, brought out by the Global Development Incubator (GDI), Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN), Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), and Transform Rural India Foundation (TRI), is based on interviews with 5,169 rural youths

between 18 and 35 years of age. The survey findings indicate that more than half of the male Rural India makes up 70 per cent of the country but contributes only 46 per cent towards the country's GDP

youth aged 18-25 are employed, whereas only a quarter of the female youth in the same age bracket are working.

Among those aged 26-35, about 85 per cent of men are employed, and nearly 10 per cent are currently unemployed after having worked earlier.

In contrast, 40 per cent of women in this age group are employed, while a quarter had exited the workforce, and a third had never been employed.

"These findings highlight a gender disparity where most employed individuals were male. while a majority of those who



had never worked were female.

a statement on the report said. According to the report, 70 to 85 per cent youth currently employed expressed a desire to change their jobs, seeking new

opportunities. "Among those aiming for a ca-

reer change, a majority of both genders and age groups showed

interest in starting small man-

ufacturing, retail, or trading

ventures. However, younger

women stood out with a prefer-

ence for securing salaried posi-

tions in government roles," the

report said.

The report stressed on finding out what the rural youth wants.

"Rural India makes up 70 per cent of the country but contributes only 46 per cent towards the country's GDP. Rural India is also home to two-thirds of India's 378 million youth, with agriculture and allied activities employing 80 per cent of these youth. However, with low productivity and decreasing returns, overall low value-added economic activity in rural areas, and seasonal distress migration, hidden/under employment is a critical challenge in the country,' the report said.

The report also said women seeking salaried positions showed a strong preference for teaching roles, followed by clerical positions like accounting and customer-facing jobs at front desks, with sales and marketing roles being less favoured. Men seeking salaried employment favoured teaching, accounting/clerical roles, and fac-

tory work. 'These preferences reflect growing demand for these occupations in rural India and the increasing popularity of gig work," the report said.

It also highlighted that vocational work is not widely seen as aspirational, necessitating efforts to restore dignity, fair practices, and pride in manual labour to unlock local and profitable

opportunities for youth. 'Younger women (aged 18-25) ঽ favour government jobs while older women (aged 26-35) show increasing interest in self-employment. This shift may indicate that as women age, they prefer selfemployment, possibly due to increasing social and domestic responsibilities," the report added.

national



Today, on one side by the use of power, the entire media has been turned into a government mouthpiece, and on the other hand, the BJP government is preparing to gag digital media, social media, OTT platforms and even those who write and speak in private capacity by bringing the broadcast bill

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

Hindus and Muslims, snatch the

rights of Muslim brothers and

work on the manner in which

to snatch the rights given to them

in the Constitution," he said

after paying tributes to late MP

and party leader Janeshwar

Mishra on his birth anniversary

Basheer said the move on the

part of the government is ill-in-

tentioned. "A committee was

appointed under K Rahman

Khan and the BJP wanted to

have a grip on the Waqf prop-

erties. They want to take cus-

tody of the Waqf properties.

If such a legislation comes, we

will very strongly oppose it.

We will also speak with like-

minded parties," he told re-

If the government goes ahead

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka

with the bill, it must be prepared

for strong opposition, Basheer

Chaturvedi alleged that the BJP-

led government wants to run

away from the discussion on

Budget and, therefore, they have

come up with the Waqf issue.

porters outside Parliament.

IUML's ET Mohammed

in Lucknow.

JAISHANKAR TO INAUGURATE **1ST BIMSTEC BUSINESS SUMMIT**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will inaugurate the first BIMSTEC Business Summit here which aims to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the members of the seven-nation grouping





first position in production, but since the government has bridge the gaps, we have turned into an importer ... Price of milk has gone up by 55 per cent in

SAAYONI GHOSH TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP

We don't believe in just making announcements. We believe in effective planning, ensuring last mile delivery, identifying bottlenecks in last mile

delivery and taking steps to remove J P NADDA | HEALTH MINISTER



term gains. Unfortunately, often the development performance of the government goes unrecognized by

PEMA KHANDU CM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH





Babasaheb's call is more relevant today than ever. The politi cal parties and their Savarna leaders do not want us to be united because the

fear the vast political power that we will unlock if stay united. They want to divide and rule for their socio-political advantage. They want to deprive us of political power! My people, we have to stay united and not let Savarnas and their puppets divide us, or else we will fail not only Babasaheb but our future generations as well Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat

@PRKSH AMBEDKAR

IndiGo to introduce **business class seats**

New Delhi: IndiGo will introduce business class seats in select flights on 12 domestic routes starting from November 14 and will also launch a customer loyalty programme, as the 18-year-old airline embarks on ambitious business expansion plans. Making the announcement at an event to mark 18 years of flying, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers Monday said the business class seats will be open for booking from August 6 and added that business class passengers will be offered curated special meals.

Peacocks died of heat stroke in Palam in June

New Delhi: The 27 peacocks found dead at the Palam air base in June had succumbed to heat stroke and a postmortem revealed they had no disease. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in the Lok Sabha Monday. He said the Central government is very concerned about the protection of the country's national bird and has taken several steps.

Cheetah cub dies in Kuno Park in MP

Bhopal: A five-month-old cub of African cheetah, Gamini, died at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh Monday, an official said. The cub's health condition suddenly worsened Monday morning and emergency treatment was given. But the cub unfortunately died, as per a release issued by the APCCF (Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest) and Director Lion Project.

Oppn vows to block Court orders return of assets worth 212cr to depositors **Waqf Act amendment**

The bill to amend the Wakf Act, 1995, if it is introduced and passed, will make it mandatory for the Wakf boards to register their properties with the district collectors to ensure their actual valuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Several Opposition leaders Monday alleged that the BJP-led government wants to bring a bill for amending the Wakf Act to create a divide in the society and asserted that they will strongly oppose such a legislation.

Several BJP leaders, however, strongly defended the imminent move, stressing that the Modi government has always worked with the intention of bringing transparency in every sphere.

The bill to amend the Wakf Act, 1995, if it is introduced and passed, will make it mandatory for the Waqf boards to register their properties with the district collectors to ensure their actual valuation. There are 30 Waqf boards in the country.

The sources Sunday pointed out that the revenue generated by all Waqf properties is estimated at ₹200 crore per annum. This is not in sync with the number of properties such bodies have, they said.

The government is all set to bring a bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing the Waqf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency



appointed under K

the BJP wanted to have a grip on the Waqf properties. They want to take custody of the Waqf properties. If such a legislation comes, we will very strongly oppose it. We will also speak with like-minded parties

ET MOHAMMED BASHEER | IUML

in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies, sources said Sunday.

They claimed that the move comes in the backdrop of demands from within the Muslim community.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said his party will oppose the Centre's move to bring a bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards, and accused the BJP of trying to snatch the rights of Muslims.

'We will be against it (Wakf Act amendment bill)," Yadav told reporters when asked about the proposed amendment.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 5: A special PMLA court in Kolkata has ordered "restitution of assets" worth about ₹12 crore to investors who were duped in an alleged Ponzi fraud orchestrated by the Rose Valley Group of the city more than a decade ago, officials said Monday.

The court has identified 14 fixed deposits worth a total ₹11,99,35,385.60 (around ₹12 crore) to be handed over to the Assets Disposal Committee (ADC), headed by retired

Calcutta High Court judge Justice Dilip VALLEY Kumar Seth to be **FRAUD** disbursed to the fide bona claimants on pro-

rata basis or as directed

by the committee or the court. These fixed deposits were attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the antimoney laundering law some vears ago after it booked a case against the Rose Valley Group, its chairman Gautam Kundu and others in 2014.

CASE

The trial in the case is ongoing. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provides that "the special court trying the offence may restore any property/assets involved in money laundering to a third party claimant with a legitimate interest, including banks".

The ED earlier restituted assets to the banks in two cases -- the alleged loan fraud case against liquor businessman Vijay Mallya and the one against diamantaire Niray Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi. Assets worth more than ₹15,000 crore have been restituted in these two cases to public sector

MCD NOMINATION

SC backs LG's right to nominate aldermen

THE APEX COURT PRONOUNCED ITS VERDICT ON THE DELHI GOVT PLEA AFTER RESERVING IT FOR NEARLY 15 MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: In a major setback to Delhi's Aam Aadmi Party government, the Supreme Court Monday ruled that the law "expressly enables" the lieutenant governor to nominate aldermen to the MCD and he is not bound by the advice of the council of ministers in the matter.

Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala rejected the Delhi government's plea challenging the LG's power to nominate 10 aldermen in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi without the aid and advice of the council of ministers.

The apex court pronounced its verdict on the Delhi government's plea after reserving it for nearly 15 months.



A bench of Chief Justice DY

In its ruling impacting the

fraught relationship between the LG's office and the AAP-led Delhi government, the bench said the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act as amended in 1993 "expressly enables the LG to nominate persons having special knowledge to the corpora-

It said the power expressed by the statute in the name of the LG, also seen in the context of other

tory scheme in which the powers and duties are distributed among authorities under the Act.

'The context in which the power

is located confirms that the LG is intended to act as per the mandate of the statute and not guided by the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The power to be exercised is the statutory duty of the LG and not the executive power of the state. This is how we analysed the constitutional provisions," Justice Narasimha said while pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench. The bench said the statutory power under provision 3(3)(b)(1) which deals with nomination of persons having special knowledge was vested with the LG for the first time by the 1993 amendment of the DMC Act of 1957.

The bench said the DMC Act as amended in 1993 recognises five authorities exercising the state's power and duties under the Act - these are the Central government, the government of NCT, administrator, corporation and the commissioner. It said the amendment Act of 1993 carries out several amendments to the original DMC Act of 1957 by which the power, duties were allocated to the authorities depending on the function they perform under the law.

SC extends interim stay on directives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Supreme Court Monday exstaying the directives issued by the BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh, asking eateries along the Kanwar Yatra routes to display the names of their owners, staff and other details.

The Opposition had dubbed the directives issued by the three states as divisive and discriminatory against Muslims, and the apex court's order effectively ensured that the Yatra was held without their orders being en-

A large number of devotees travel from various places with

'kanwars' carrying holy water from the Ganga to perform 'jalabhishek' of Shivlings during the Hindu calendar month of 'Shravan'. Many believers shun consuming meat during the month they consider holy Many don't even consume meals containing onions and garlic.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and R Mahadevan could not hear the matter due to paucity of time but extended the interim

The counsel appearing for one of the parties submitted that Kanwar Yatra is currently going on and Shravan will end August 19. When he requested the court for an early hearing, the bench said a date will be fixed, without specifying when will the mat-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the situation in Bangladesh, in New Delhi, Monday

Row over inclusion of castes in OBC list

TOP COURT SEEKS QUANTIFIABLE DATA ON BACKWARDNESS FROM BENGAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Supreme Court Monday asked the West Bengal government to provide quantifiable data on social and economic backwardness and the inadequate repre-

sentation in public sector jobs of the castes that were included by it in the OBC list for granting quota benefits.

The top court also issued notices to the private litigants who had moved Calcutta High Court against the inclusion of 77 castes,

mostly Muslims, in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list.

The high court May 22 struck down the OBC status of several classes in West Bengal granted since 2010, finding such reservations to vacancies in services and posts in the state illegal.

Unchecked traffic seriously affecting wildlife in Sariska Tiger Reserve

CEC RECOMMENDS DEPLOYING A SPECIAL TIGER FORCE IN SARISKA TIGER RESERVE (STR) AND PRIORITISING ISSUES SUCH AS STAFF SHORTAGES, UNCONTROLLED **CATTLE GRAZING AND VILLAGE RELOCATION**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Supreme Court-mandated Central Empowered Committee has flagged serious harm to wildlife in the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, primarily due to unchecked tourism and traffic, and recommended a blanket ban on private vehicles plying to the famous Pandupol Hanuman temple in the core area.

In a report dated July 22, the Central Empowered Committee

(CEC) said the massive vehicular traffic inside the reserve was negatively affecting tiger breeding, with the big cats having "virtually ignored" the area south of the three roads leading to the temple. It also recommended deploy-

ing a special tiger force in Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) and prioritising issues such as staff shortages, uncontrolled cattle grazing and village relocation. The CEC suggested that the

state government could consider constructing a ropeway, an elevated road, a motorable twin tunnel, or an electric tramway to benefit both wildlife and pilgrims. There are around 305 identi-

fied temples in STR and the heavy traffic creates problems for 'There is a significant change in the behaviour of the animals,'

in environment matters, noted. The primary issue hindering conservation is the unrestricted movement of tourist vehicles to the Pandupole temple, located 22 kilometres inside the core area of the tiger reserve.

the CEC, which aids the top court



Taking serious note of the lakhs of devotees visiting the ancient temple, the Supreme Court had in July last year set up a high-level panel to suggest an "everlasting solution".

The high-level panel -- comprising officials from Rajasthan's Forest and Environment department, environment ministry, the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India -- had suggested that a blanket ban on the entry of private vehicles of pilgrims inside the reserve might not be an acceptable solution.

Instead, it recommended regulating the entry of private vehicles and starting electric shut-

Unsatisfied with the panel's report, the apex court directed members of the panel and the CEC to collaborate and submit a comprehensive report within three months.

The CEC and the high-level panel members decided to enlist SP Yadav, the director general of the International Big Cat Alliance, as an additional expert. Based on field visits conducted by CEC member Chandra

There are around 305 identified temples in STR and the heavy traffic creates problems for wildlife

Around two to three lakh people visit the temple during the mela period (July-August) every year and more than 8-10 lakhs annually

Prakash Goyal and Yadav, and discussions held with STR officials and the high-level panel, it submitted a report to the Supreme Court.

The committee observed that the current traffic, including vehicles going to the Pandupole temple, exceeded the STR's car-

rying capacity. On an average, around 630 private vehicles, including 300 four-wheelers, visit the temple Tuesdays, Saturdays and full-moon days. This number rises to around 1,800 vehicles during the annual mela in August and September when the tiger reserve is closed to tourists, according to National Tiger Conservation Authority guidelines.

Around two to three lakh people visit the temple during the mela period (July-August) every year and more than 8-10 lakhs annually.

"Tigers are avoiding areas with heavy traffic throughout the year due to the high pilgrim inflow at the Pandupole temple and other visitors. Only on two occasions, August 2012 and August 2014, have cubs been born close to these (three) roads leading to the temple. In the past 10 years, no births have occurred near the roads used by pilgrims, the CEC report noted.

Vehicles are parked randomly at different places inside the forest area near the temple, and the temple's trust prepares offerings and 'bhandara' in the temple area, in violation of the rules.

Apart from being a forest fire hazard, this also leads to pollution inside the pristine forest area. Visitors to the temple stop midway to bathe in nearby streams, polluting water sources that are major sources of potable water for the animals in the reserve. Wastewater from the temple complex is let out into the nearby nullah, spreading diseases among wild animals, the CEC said in its report.

international



She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power, it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia. She's very disappointed

SAJEEB WAZED JOY | SON OF SHEIKH HASINA

Rahman's statue vandalised

Mobs vandalised a statue of former Bangladesh President and the country's independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka



INDO-BANGLA TRADE HALTED AMID CRISIS

Kolkata: Indo-Bangladesh trade 'halted' Monday afternoon amid unrest in the neighbouring country due to large-scale protests that resulted in President Sheikh Hasina resigning Monday, according to traders. On Sunday, the Bangladesh government announced a three-day trade holiday, excluding essential services, through a notification. West Bengal Exporters **Coordination Committee** secretary Ujjal Saha said that due to lack of clearance from Bangladeshi customs at their land ports, export and import activities were stalled in all land ports. There had been some movement in the morning, but later it stopped, he said. Trade was disrupted following violent protests against the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh in the last two days.

AIR INDIA CANCELS FLIGHTS

New Delhi: National carrier Air India Monday announced it has cancelled flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect, amid the growing unrest in the neighbouring country. "In view of the emerging situation in Bangladesh, we have cancelled the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect," Air India posted on X.

Hasina's fall from grace

FROM RECORD FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TERM TO DRAMATIC OUSTER

AGENCIES

Dhaka, August 5: Sheikh Hasina, who resigned as Bangladesh's Prime Minister and fled the country Monday following weeks of protests, has been one of the dominant figures in its politics since the assassination of her father, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, nearly a half-century ago.

Her flight came less than seven months after she celebrated a fourth straight term in power and fifth overall, by sweeping a national election in January that was boycotted by the main opposition.

The 76-year-old was flown in a military helicopter Monday with her sister to take refuge in India, media reports said.

Hasina, who provided stability to the once military-ruled Bangladesh but at the same time criticised as an autocratic leader by Opponents, was among the world's longest-serving female heads of government.

Protests began in June after student groups' demands for the scrapping of a controversial quota system in government jobs escalated into a

movement seeking the end of her rule. Her political career was rooted in bloodshed. Her father, who led Bangladesh's fight for independence from Pakistan in 1971, was assassinated with most her family in a military coup in 1975. She was fortunate



to have been visiting Europe at the time. She returned to Bangladesh from

India, where she lived in exile, in 1981 and was elected head of the Awami League.
INCREASINGLY AUTOCRATIC RULE

Hasina first led the Awami League party to victory in 1996, serving one five-year term before regaining power in 2009, never to lose it again.

As time went on, she became increasingly autocratic and her rule has been marked by mass arrests of political opponents and activists, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Rights groups warned of a virtual one-party rule by the Awami League.

Zia, herself a former Prime Minister and the widow of Ziaur Rahman, a former President of Bangladesh who was assassinated in 1981, was jailed in 2018 on graft charges that the Opposition says have been trumped up. She was barred from political activity.

BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) and rights groups say Hasina's government arrested 10,000 Opposition party workers on trumped up charges in the lead-up to the January election, which the Opposition boycotted.

Hasina refused BNP demands to resign and allow a neutral authority to run the election.

Both she and her rivals accused each other of trying to create chaos and violence to jeopardize the democracy that has yet to take firm root in the country of 170 million people.

Despite criticism of her years in power, Hasina was credited with turning around the economy and the massive garments industry, while winning international praise for sheltering Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.



sial quota system in government jobs. That escalated into a campaign to seek the ouster of Hasina, who has been in power for 15 years and most recently swept to a fourth straight term in January.

Nearly 250 people have been killed in the violence. Zaman, 58, assumed the duties of army chief June 23 for a period of three years - the normal tenure for the position.

Born in Dhaka in 1966, he is married to Sarahnaz Kamalika Zaman, the daughter of General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, who was army chief from 1997 to 2000.

Zaman holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from the National University of Bangladesh and a Master of Arts in Defence Studies from King's College, London, according to the Bangladesh Army

Prior to becoming the army chief, he served as the Chief of General Staff for little over six months - a role in which he oversaw, among other things, military operations and intelligence. Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping operations, and budget.

A history of upheaval and coups

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation after weeks of violent protests, announced Monday in a televised address by the army chief, has brought focus once more to the country's history of political upheaval and coups

- 1975: The country's first Prime minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, was assassinated along with most of his family members in a military coup that brought in a long period of military rule Two more coups in the same year ended with General Ziaur Rahman seizing power in November.
- <mark>981:</mark> Ziaur Rahman was assassi nated by rebels who stormed into a government guest house in Chittagong city where he was residing. The violence was believed to be the act of a small group of army officers, but the army itself remained loyal and suppressed the rebellion.
- 1982: Rahman's successor, Abdus Sattar, was ousted in a bloodless mil-itary coup led by Hussein Muhammad Ershad, who took over as chief martial-law administrator and later assumed the office of president.
- **2007:** The army chief staged a military coup and backed a caretaker government that ruled the country for the next two years until Hasina took power in 2009.
- 2009: Unhappy with their wages and living conditions, revolting paramilitary forces killed more than 70 people in the capital Dhaka, most of people in the capitars whom were army officers.
- The mutiny, as it was called, which had spread to nearly a dozen towns, ended after six days as the angry guards surrendered following a series of discussions.
- 12: The Bangladesh army said it had campaign to introduce Sharia, or Islamic law, throughout the country
- <mark>2024:</mark> Bangladesh's Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said Hasina had resigned following vio-lent anti-quota protests and an in-terim government would be formed to lead the country.

Centre, Bangabandhu **Museum damaged** Bangabandhu Bhaban, also known as the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, at Dhanmondi 32, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper

DHAKA: An unruly mob Monday damaged the **Indira Gandhi Cultural** Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) and the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum located at the Dhanmondi area in the Bangladesh capital, eyewitnesses said. The protesters Monday afternoon set fire to several key locations in Dhaka, including

reported. The museum was dedicated to Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated while serving as president in 1975. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in the same area was also damaged by the unruly mob, according to eyewitnesses.

Israel confiscates

Palestinian tax funds

Israel, August 5: The country's

far-right Finance Minister

Bezalel Smotrich has ordered

the seizure of 100 million shekels

(\$26 million) of tax funds in-

tended for the Palestinian Authority, saying it would be

used to pay for Israeli victims of

In a statement issued late

Sunday, the finance ministry

said the confiscation of funds

was "part of measures to com-

The statement quoted

Smotrich as accusing the

Palestinian Authority, which

governs parts of the Israeli-oc-

cupied West Bank, of diverting

the funds to the "families of ter-

Israeli politicians have regu-

larly criticised the Ramallah-

based Palestinian Authority for

granting financial support to

the families of Palestinians killed

or jailed for acts of violence

The finance ministry state

terrorism.

bat terrorism".

against Israel.

 $J_{
m over}^{
m ust}$ month after he became Bangladesh's army chief. General Waker-Uz-Zaman has been thrust into the limelight, announcing the

fifth time it had withheld funds,

which Israel collects on behalf of

not immediately respond to AFP

Since Hamas's October 7 attack

triggered the war in Gaza, Israel

has imposed economic curbs on

the Palestinian Authority, often

withholding tax revenues it col-

Smotrich said Monday on so-

cial media site X that the with-

holding of Palestinian funds

was part of a broader strategy

to prevent the creation of a

Palestinian state "to ensure se-

curity" for Israelis, alongside

increased settlement in the West

Authority and its leaders, and

maintaining complete Israeli

control over the area.

the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority did

requests for comment.

lects on its behalf.

resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who fled the country Monday. Zaman said in a televised address that after discussions with "all political parties", it was decided that an interim government would be formed. It was not clear if the

army would play a role, **Spotlight** but Zaman said, "We will now go to the president of the on B'desh country, where we will discuss about the formation of the army chief interim government. form the interim government, and manage the nation," he said.

Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence that began last month after student groups demanded scrapping of a controver-

AMID RIOTS

Starmer holds emergency meeting

UK PM vows speedy punishment to quell violent protests



REUTERS

London, August 5: British 'We are working on the ground Prime Minister Keir Starmer to remove this threat (of a said violent protesters who had Palestinian state) by strengthtargeted Muslim communities ening settlement through conwould swiftly face the "full force struction, fighting the terror of the law" as he sought to quell days of anti-immigration rioting. funds of the Palestinian

The stabbing to death of three young girls in the northwest English town of Southport last week has been seized on by antiimmigrant and anti-Muslim groups, with disinformation spread online and amplified by high-profile far-right figures to spark disorder in towns and cities.

'Whatever the apparent motivation, this is not protest, it is pure violence and we will not tolerate attacks on mosques or our Muslim communities,' Starmer said Monday after an emergency meeting with police and prison chiefs.

'The full force of law will be visited on all those who are identified as having taken part."

The violence erupted last Tuesday after social media posts said the suspected attacker in Southport was a radical Islamist who had just arrived in Britain and was known to intelligence services.

Police say the 17-year-old suspect was born in Britain and they are not treating it as a terrorist incident. Protests, mostly involving a

few hundred people, have continued in towns and cities across the country, with bricks thrown at police officers, shops looted and mosques and Asian-owned businesses attacked. Cars have been set on fire and some unverified videos on social media have shown ethnic minorities being

Interior minister Yvette Cooper said rioters had felt "emboldened by this moment to stir up racial hatred"

She promised a reckoning to

those involved, saying the government would back punishments ranging from jail sentences to travel bans. Police have

arrested around 420 so far. In Rotherham, northern England, protesters tried to break into a hotel that housed asylum seekers in what Starmer called an act of "far-right thuggery"

Protests also turned violent in Liverpool, Bristol, Tamworth, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, and Belfast, in Northern Ireland, with largely young men wearing balaclavas and draped in the British flag hurling rocks and shouting "Stop the Boats", a reference to migrants arriving in dinghies on the south coast.

Police have blamed online disinformation, amplified by highprofile figures for driving the

Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson and previously the leader of the defunct anti-Islam English Defence League, has been blamed by media for spreading misinformation to his 875,000 followers on

"They are lying to you all," Yaxley-Lennon said. "Attempting to turn the nation against me. I need you, you are my voice."

Elon Musk, the owner of X, also weighed in. Responding to a post on X that blamed mass migration and open borders for the disorder in Britain, he wrote 'Civil war is inevitable."

Starmer's spokesperson said there was "no justification" for Musk's comment.

NK MARKS DELIVERY OF **250 MISSILE LAUNCHERS**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 5: North Korea marked the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units at a ceremony where leader Kim Jong Un called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear programme to counter perceived US threats, state media said Monday.

Concerns about Kim's nuclear programme have grown as he has demonstrated an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and authorized his military to respond with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the launchers were freshly produced by the county's munitions factories and designed to fire "tactical" ballistic missiles, a term that describes systems capable of delivering lower-yield nuclear weapons.

Kim said at Sunday's event in Pyongyang the new launchers would give his frontline units "overwhelming" firepower over South Korea and make the operation of tactical nuclear

weapons more practical and efficient. State media photos showed lines of army-green launcher trucks packing a large street with seemingly thousands of spectators attending the event, which included fireworks.

North Korea has been expanding its lineup of mobile shortrange weapons designed to overwhelm missile defences in South Korea, while also pursuing intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the US mainland.

Kim's intensifying weapons tests and threats are widely seen as an attempt at pressuring the United States to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and to end US-led sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear programme. North Korea also could seek to dial up tensions in a US election year, experts say.

Kim lately has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to further accelerate his weapons development. In response, the United States, South Korea and Japan have been expanding their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrencestrategies built around strategic US military assets.



business



The residential real estate sector in India has been strong over the past three years and we believe the sectoral tailwinds will continue over the next few

PIROJSHA GODREJ | GODREJ PROPERTIES EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

CARGO TRAFFIC GROWS

Cargo traffic at 12 major ports in the country grew 5.92 per cent to 70.08 million tonnes (MT) in July from 66.17 MT handled in the year-ago period, according to the data released by major ports' apex body Indian Ports Association. The data also showed that 10 of these major ports logged positive growth in cargo traffic handling, while the remaining two saw a negative growth, as per the IPA.





Investigation Office is investigating the entire matter. It is also looking into why all the investors have not come forward to claim the refunds and where are

UNION FINANCE MINISTER

overwhelming response to our QIP reflects the

model, execution capabilities, and driving strong growth and

KANDARP PATEL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF AESL

The launch of **Ample Parks** significant milestone in our commitment to developing sustainable and

world-class industrial infrastructure

AMIT SINHA MD & CEO AT MAHINDRA LIFESPACES

Q1 RESULTS CORNER

ONGC net profit drops 15 pc

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Monday reported a 15 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit on higher exploration cost write-off. Its net profit of ₹8,938.10 crore in April-June - the first quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year compared to ₹10,526.78 crore earnings in the same period of last year, according to a stock exchange filing by the company. The profit was also lower sequentially compared to ₹9.869.37 crore in the January-March quarter. India's largest crude oil and natural gas producer wrote off ₹1.669.73 crore cost incurred in the unsuccessful survey and drilling of wells to find oil

Bharti Airtel net jumps 2.5 times

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel reported more than 2.5 times jump in its consolidated profit to ₹4,160 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024, compared to the year-ago period. The company posted a profit of ₹1,612.5 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue from operations of Bharti Airtel increased by 2.8 per cent to ₹38,506.4 crore during the reported quarter from ₹37,440 crore in the June quarter of the last year. Bharti Airtel's India revenue increased by 10.1 per cent to ₹29,046 crore on a Y-o-Y basis.

Marico net profit grows up 8.7%

New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG major Marico Ltd Monday reported an 8.71 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹474 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, helped by volume gains and gross margin expansion. It had posted a net profit of ₹436 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Marico. The company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 6.7 per cent to ₹2,643 crore during the quarter under review. It was ₹2,477 crore in the year-ago period. It has an 'underlying volume growth of 4 per cent in the domestic business and constant currency growth of 10 per cent in the international business," according to an earnings statement from Marico.

MONDAY MAYHEM

AN OVER 12 PER CENT PLUNGE IN JAPAN'S NIKKEI AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST DENT **MARKET SENTIMENT WITH SENSEX AND NIFTY TANKING NEARLY 3 PER CENT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 5: Stock markets crashed nearly 3 per cent Monday due to across-the-board selling in banking, IT, metal and oil & gas shares following a global equity rout, wiping out more than ₹15 lakh crore of investor money in a single day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, the index tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at more than a month's low of 24.055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33 per cent to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed more than 5 per cent due to general election results.

Sensex and Nifty had declined more than 1 per cent in the previous session Friday. In two ses-



sions to Monday, the key indices have corrected around 4 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge dropped 4.21 per cent and midcap index plummeted 3.60 per cent.

An over 12 per cent plunge in Japan's Nikkei and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East dented market sentiment, analysts said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled sharply lower.

Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4 per cent on Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the US economy could be headed for recession.

A report Friday showing hiring by US employers slowed last month by much more than expected convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-time highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks.

Monday, the Nikkei closed down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8 per cent Friday,

-2.91 L&T making this its worst two-day decline ever. Its worst single-day rout was a plunge of 3,836 points, or 14.9 per cent. October 19, 1987. a global markets crash that was dubbed "Black Monday" but proved to be only a temporary setback despite fears it might have augured a worldwide downturn.

TOP GAINERS

1.17 HDFC Bank

0.61 Kotak Bank

0.41 Nestle India

0.32 Asian Paints

LOSERS

-4.63 Maruti Suzuki

-4.17 Tata Motors

-3.92 JSW Steel

-2.97 Tata Steel

European markets were also trading with deep cuts. The US markets ended significantly lower Friday

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors slumped over 7 per cent. Adani Ports, Tata Steel, SBI. Power Grid, JSW Steel and Maruti were the other big lag-

However, Hindustan Unilever and Nestle ended in positive ter-

"The global markets were jolted into a cautious mode by recessionary fears in the US following disappointing job statistics and unwinding of carry trade following the rapid rise of the ven. The effects were felt by the domestic market as well and near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"The global market is reeling as bears enter with a cocktail of bad news. The fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, was the initial catalyst. This was compounded by fears of a recession in the US after extremely poor jobs data, which spooked market sentiment," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

All indices ended lower. Services index nosedived 4.56 per cent, utilities tanked 4.30 per cent, realty by 4.25 per cent, capital goods by 4.13 per cent, industrials by 4.08 per cent, power by 3.91 per cent, oil & gas by 3.88 per cent and commodities by 3.82 per cent.

"Nifty fell more than 2.6 per cent driven by global sell-off post signs of US recession setting in and rise in interest rates in Japan. A disappointing job scenario in the US coupled with the fear of a reverse Yen carry trade, following an interest rate hike in Japan, led Asian markets to plunge on Monday with Nikkei falling more than 12 per cent. European stocks fell, extending last week's decline amid a deepening global rout in equities and a rotation away from the technology shares that have powered this year's rally,' said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

A total of 3,414 stocks declined while 664 advanced and 111 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Services sector growth eases slightly in July



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: India's services sector growth recorded another month of robust expansion in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace than in June, largely supported by robust demand conditions and investment in technology, a monthly survey said Monday

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index was at 60.3 in July down only fractionally from 60.5 in June.In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

'Service sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by domestic demand. Looking ahead, services firms remained optimistic about the outlook for year ahead," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

New export orders increased at the third-strongest pace since the inception of the series in September 2014, amid strengthening demand for Indian servof the sources of rising export orders mentioned by panellists included Austria, Brazil, China, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and the US. Favourable economic conditions and optimistic expectations for output supported recruitment among services firms, the survey said.

On the price front, higher wage and material costs continued to push up business expenses, with the overall rate of inflation quickening from June. Stronger cost pressures and positive demand trends contributed to the steepest rise in prices charged for the provision of services for seven years.

Looking ahead, services firms remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30 per cent of the survey panel forecast greater output volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2 per cent expect a decline.

The overall level of sentiment rose since June and was aligned with its long-run average. Anecdotal evidence suggested that confidence in the outlook for demand and sales, alongside improved customer engagement and new enquiries, boosted optimism.

Sebi amends mutual fund rules to curb front-running

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Capital markets regulator Sebi has amended mutual fund norms requiring Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to put in place an institutional mechanism to identify and deter frontrunning and insider trading in

Additionally, the management of AMCs will be responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the institutional mechanism. Also, the regulator has directed AMCs to have a whistle-blower mechanism.

This came in the wake of Sebi's passing two orders regarding front-running cases involving Axis AMC and Life Insurance Corporation of India

In a gazette notification dated August 1, Sebi said, "Asset management companies shall put in place an institutional mechanism, as may be specified by the Board, for the identification and deterrence of potential market abuse including front-running and fraudulent transactions in

Front-running refers to an illegal practice, where an entity

trades based on advanced information from a stock broker or analyst before the information has been made available to clients.

As per the notification, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Managing Director (MD)or such other person of equivalent or analogous rank and Chief Compliance Officer of the asset management company will be responsible and accountable for the implementation of such an institutional mechanism.

"The asset management company shall establish, implement and maintain a documented whistle-blower policy that shall provide for a confidential channel for employees, directors, trustees, and other stakeholders to raise concerns about suspected fraudulent, unfair or unethical practices. violations of regulatory or legal requirements or governance vulnerability, and establish procedures to ensure adequate protection of the whistleblowers," Sebi said.

To give these effects, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended mutual fund rules, which will come into force from November 1.

UPI transactions jump 36% to ₹60L-cr in Jun atr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: UPI transactions in the first three months of the current fiscal have grown over 36 per cent to ₹60 lakh crore, Parliament was informed Monday.

As per the details of UPI transactions shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha, 4,122 crore UPI transactions worth ₹60 lakh crore took place between April and June in 2024-

In the April-June period, 2,762 crore UPI transactions took place, having a value of ₹44 lakh crore.

For the full fiscal 2023-24, 13,113 crore UPI transactions were made with a value of ₹200 lakh

In FY23, a total of 8,371 crore UPI transactions took place with a value of ₹139 lakh crore, while in FY22, there were 4,596 crore transactions involving ₹84 lakh

Chaudhary further said that a facility of cardless cash deposits on an inter-operable basis has been extended through UPI.



NPCI has been advised to prescribe the permissible number of ICD transactions for a depositor at the level of Payer PSP or NPCI

Presently, this facility has been made available by a select few banks. To ensure the safety and security of cash deposits through UPI, certain conditions have been prescribed, including a customer is permitted to deposit a

maximum of ₹50,000 per transaction using this facility. Banks are permitted to fix a lower limit based on their risk management policies.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to prescribe the permissible number of Interoperable Cash Deposit (ICD) transactions for a depositor at the level of Payer PSP or NPCI.

Transaction messages shall capture the details of the depositor and clearly stipulate that it is a cash deposit transaction.

for coal-to-synthetic natural gas project PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CIL, GAIL enter pact

New Delhi, August 5: Stateowned CIL Monday said it has entered into a joint venture agreement with GAIL (India) Ltd to set up a coal-to-synthetic natural gas project in West Bengal.

While Coal India Ltd (CIL) will have 51 per cent shareholding in the joint venture, GAIL, the nation's largest gas transportation and distribution firm, will have 49 per cent. The joint venture will be in-

corporated as a private limited company. The initial paid-up share capital is ₹1 lakh, CIL said in a BSE filing. The registered office of the joint venture will be in West Bengal and CIL and GAIL each will have the right to nominate three executives as directors of the JV.

Earlier this year, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved setting up a coalto-synthetic natural gas project through a joint venture between CIL and GAIL, and a coal-to-ammonium nitrate project through a venture between CIL and BHEL. CIL will set up two coal gasification plants as part of efforts to achieve the target of 100 MT coal gasification by 2030.

PASSENGER VEHICLE SALES RISE 10% IN JULY: FADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: Passenger vehicle retail sales in India witnessed a 10 per cent on-year jump in July driven by new model launches and enhanced discounts, industry body FADA said Monday

Total passenger vehicle retail sales rose to 3,20,129 units in July, as compared to 2,90,564 units in July 2023

"Dealers reported benefits from good product availability, attractive schemes, and a wider range of products," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) Vice President CS Vigneshwar said in a statement.

Heavy rains, low consumer sentiment, and intense competition posed challenges but dealers managed to sustain sales through strong promotions and incremental discounts, he added.

Vigneshwar, however, noted that the growth is accompanied by high inventory levels which has surged to a historic high of 67-72 days, equating to ₹73,000 crore worth of stock.

"This poses a substantial risk for dealer sustainability, necessitating extreme caution. FADA urges PV original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to be vigilant about potential dealer failures due to these high inventory levels," he stated.

It is also crucial for the Reserve Bank of India to mandate financial institutions to implement stringent checks before releasing inventory funding, preferably requiring dealer consent or collaterals to prevent the escalation of NPAs, he added.

Two-wheeler retail sales last month stood at 14,43,463 units, an increase of 17 per cent over 12,31,930 units in July 2023.

The segment experienced no-

table growth due to a thriving rural economy, positive monsoon effects, and the government's support programmes enhancing rural incomes,

Vigneshwar noted. "The introduction of new products and better stock availabil-

ity also contributed significantly, despite market slowdowns in

certain regions, excessive rains, and increased competition," he

Commercial vehicle retail sales grew 7 per cent year-onyear to 80,057 units last month.

"Positive factors included growth in the construction and mining sectors, while challenges such as continuous rainfall, negative rural market sentiment, poor finance availability, and high vehicle prices were also noted," Vigneshwar said.

Tractor sales declined 12 per cent year-on-year to 79,970 units

FADA, which collated vehicle registration data from 1,568 out of 1.645 RTOs across the country, noted that the near-term outlook across the auto retail segments shows a blend of optimism and caution.

Two-wheeler sales are expected to be buoyed by factors such as a growing rural economy, positive monsoon impacts and the introduction of new products. The festive season beginning after the Aadi festival and favourable agricultural conditions are also likely to contribute to increased sales.

However, heavy rainfall, ongoing agricultural activities and inconsistent monsoon patterns may dampen demand in certain areas. FADA noted that the PV segment could see mixed results in the near-term.

While the festive season, attractive schemes and good monsoon are expected to boost sales, concerns over low consumer sentiment, heavy rainfall and a lack of new product launches

persist, it said. High inventory levels pose a significant risk and it is crucial for PV OEMs to avoid further increases in stock to prevent financial strain on dealers, FADA ঽ

The CV segment faces a modest outlook, with positive factors including improved market reach and the festive season, tempered by challenges such as bad freight rates and ongoing rainfall, it added.









Lyles fastest man on planet Mahuchikh brings smiles to war-ravaged Ukraine

lst American to win 100 metres gold at Games since Justin Gatlin in 2004



PHOTO FINISH: Noah Lyles (hand raised) pips Kishane Thompson to the 100 metres gold to emerge the world's fastest sprinter at the Paris Olympics, Sunday

confirmed him as the winner in a personal best 9.79 seconds.

the same time as the Jamaican,

and all the hype, Noah Lyles but ahead by the width of a vest. If the race had been 99 meduly delivered when it mattered most by winning the closesttres, Thompson would have been ever Olympic 100 metres final by celebrating a fourth Jamaican five thousandths of a second men's 100m win in five Olympics, here Sunday to give the United but fast-finishing Lyles kept his States the title for the first time form superbly and timed his dip expertly to add the Olympic gold In a blanket finish Lyles be-

to his world title. Lyles ripped his name bib from his shirt and held it aloft with his red, white and blue var-

nished fingernails, announcing himself.

> "It's the one I wanted, it's the hard battle, it's the amazing opponents," said Lyles, the first American male Olympic 100m champion since Justin Gatlin in 2004. "I didn't do this against a slow field – I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest pressure."

> American Fred Kerley took bronze in 9.81 seconds and Akani Simbini of South Africa was fourth, making it a remarkable

slow field - I did this against the best of the best, on the biggest stage, with the biggest

six fourth or fifth-placed finishes in global championships, albeit with the consolation of a national record time of 9.83.

"I did not think I won, I didn't think I dipped at the right time, too early," Lyles said. "I even went up to Kishane (Thompson) while we were waiting and said 'I think you got that one'. But then my name popped up and I thought 'oh my gosh, I'm amazthe fastest man in the world added.

Thompson arrived here as the fastest man in the world this year (9.77 seconds) and was the quickest of the semifinalists Sunday with 9.80 seconds.

"I am a bit disappointed, but I am happy at the same time," Thompson said. "I wasn't patient enough with myself to let my speed bring me at the line in the position that I know I could have gone to," he added.

Sprinter eyes more glory

Lyles only led one time during his Olympic 100-metre sprint for the

ages: at the finish line. Next up is the 200 metres where Lyles is the

favourite. It is his favourite event, a race he has not lost since the

Olympic final in Tokyo three years ago, where he finished third. Lyles is

not shy about what he wants from all this. Lyles made no secret Sunday

that he is in this to promote his sport, but also wants more. "I want my

own shoe," he said. "I want my own trainer. I'm dead serious. I want a

sneaker in my name. There ain't no money in spikes, there's money in

notoriety we get, the fact that hasn't happened, that's crazy for me. I

sneakers. I feel like for how many medals we bring back and the

of Ukrainians watched on YouTube as high jumper

Yaroslava Mahuchikh won gold for the country she was forced to flee, then celebrated with two teammates who also got medals at the Paris Olympics Sunday. Iryna Gerashchenko shared bronze in the high jump and

Saint-Denis (France), August **5:** It was a night for war-torn

Ukraine to rejoice. Thousands

Mykhaylo Kokhan then claimed a bronze in the hammer throw. too – doubling Ukraine's Olympic medal haul from three to six in the span of about an hour.

"Medals are very important for Ukraine because the people are having a very happy time, and they can cheer us and they can celebrate this with us and not think about the war for one day," Kokhan said.

Mahuchikh is from Dnipro, a city of nearly one million located only about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the front lines of the war. When Russia invaded, she piled as much as she could into her car and left town quickly. On her way out, she heard gunfire and could, at times, see shells raining down miles away. The next time she returns to her home city, it will be as an Olympic champion.

Once the medals were assured, Mahuchikh and Gerashchenko ran down the track waving Ukrainian flags, prompting a standing ovation at the Stade de France.

Then, when the two high jumpers were given special permission to run over and embrace Kokhan, all three Ukrainian medallists posed together with their blue and yel-



Yaroslava Mahuchikh in action during her gold-winning effort Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YAROSLAVA MAHUCHIKH It wasn't all about celebrating, though. Mahuchikh also recalled the 'almost 500 sportsman (who) died in this war.

The medals are all for

sportspersons

Ukraine, for our defenders some of who were active

"They will never compete. They will never celebrate. They will never feel this atmosphere,' Mahuchikh said. She added that her gold medal is 'really for all

of them'. Russian rockets and missiles constantly knock out Ukraine's power grid. But Gerashchenko said that the electricity was working Sunday. "Today we have internet, we have light and on the YouTube channel, around 1,60,000 people (watched) online," she said.

Mahuchikh cleared 2.00 metres to finish ahead of Nicola_ Olyslagers of Australia, who also cleared 2.00 but then failed all three of her attempts at 2.02m.

Mahuchikh considered jumping again and could have tried to break the world record of 2.10m that she set less than a month ago in another Paris stadium. But then she stopped and started celebrating.

Mahuchikh was asked why she didn't make any further attempts. "Why not? I was Olympic

champion already," she said. Mahuchikh also gained curiosity for the way she lies down and wraps herself up in a type of sleeping bag between jumps. She said it helps her relax: "Sometimes I can watch the clouds... not think about that I'm at a stadium," she said.

MEDAL ELUDES BILES

lieved he had left it too late to

catch the powerful Kishane

Thompson, but the giant screen

Paris, August 4: After all the talk



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 5: No medal for Simone Biles on the balance beam this time. The American gymnastics star slipped and fell off the apparatus at the end of her acrobatic series during beam finals Monday, denying her an opportunity to add to the bronzes she won on the event at the 2016 and 2020 Games.

Wearing a blue-and-white leotard featuring over 5,000 crystals, Biles was more than halfway through her set when she couldn't quite keep her balance. She hopped off the beam and onto the mat while thousands inside a packed Bercy Arena let out an audible 'ohhh' gasp.

Biles received a score of 13.100 tied with US teammate Sunisa Lee for fourth. There was an extended wait for her score to post. At one point, Biles rolled her eyes in seeming annoyance knowing she wasn't going to finish on the medal stand.

Alice D'Amato of Italy took the gold with a score of 14.366. Zhou Yaqin of China earned silver with a 14.100, just ahead of bronze medalist Manila Esposito of Italy. Biles finished in a tie for fifth with Lee.

Biles is also in the floor final later Monday, an event where she's never lost a major international competition, including a gold in Rio do Janeiro eight years ago.

There is plenty of history on the line for Biles in what could be the last competition of her career. Biles has 10 medals in her Olympic career, including seven gold medals. A medal in the floor final would tie her with Czechoslovakia's Vera Caslavska for the second-most medals by a female gymnast in Olympic history, trailing only former Soviet Union great Larisa Latynina's 18.

India pins hopes on Chopra **THROWER STARTS**

CAMPAIGN TODAY PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

firsts in Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra would be eveing another piece of history with his jayelin when he takes aim at his second Olympics amid expectations of a golden finish yet again.

Chopra's fabled consistency would be tested after a season that has seen him battle a nagging adductor niggle. He would begin his quest Tuesday with the qualifications round from where the Harvana lad is expected to make the finals August 8.

A top podium finish will make Chopra only the fifth man in

scores of 25, 23 and 24 in the three rounds.

Winning start for Nisha

Record-breaking feats



Olympics history to defend his title and the first Indian to win two gold medals in an individual event in the multi-sporting spectacle.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908

HITS AND MISSES

Skeet shooters miss bronze

Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka missed the bronze medal by a whisker in

the skeet mixed team event, finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics here Monday.

Maheshwari and Naruka shot 43 to finish fourth behind China's Yiting Jiang and

Jianlin Lyu (44) in the contest for the bronze medal. Earlier, the Indians finished

Paris: Indian grappler Nisha Dahiya won her opening women's freestyle 68kg bout

against Ukraine's Sova Rizhko 6-4 as the wrestling competition got underway at

the Paris Olympics here Monday. India's only entry in the heavyweight category,

Nisha is an Asian Championships silver medallist and got the better of her oppo-

nent from Ukraine without much trouble. She will take on North Korea's Pak Sol

Le Bourget (France): Aleksandra Miroslaw of Poland twice broke her own sport

climbing world record in the women's speed event at the Paris Olympics here

was .03 seconds faster than her own previous world record set in a European

qualifier in Rome in 2023. She was even better in her second run with a time of

Disappointing show by Pahal

6.06. "I feel happy that I am being able to better my own timings," Miroslaw said.

Paris: India's Kiran Pahal failed to book an automatic semifinal spot in women's

400m after finishing seventh in her heat at the Olympics here Monday and she will

now run in the repechage round. Kiran, who turned 24 Monday, clocked 52.51 sec-

World Champion Marileidy Paulino of Dominica won the heat with a time of 49.42

(50.67s) of Austria. The top three in each of the six heats advanced to semifinal.

onds which was well below her season's and personal best of 50.92 seconds.

seconds, followed by Aaliyah Butler (50.52s) of USA and Susanne Gogl-Walli

All the others - except for DNS (Did Not Start), DNF (Did Not Finish) and DQ

(Disqualified) - moved to the repechage round to be held Tuesday.

Monday. Miroslaw set a time of 6.21 seconds in her first qualification run, which

fourth in the qualification after both teams were tied on 146 at the end of the

Maheshwari shone with 50/50 in her final two rounds while Naruka notched

three-round, 150-shot process, forcing a shoot-off. In the qualification,

Chateauroux (France): The Indian shooting duo of Maheshwari

and 1912), Jonni Myyra (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Chopra's idol Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have de-

fended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics. Chopra has competed in just

three events this year. After finishing second in the Doha Diamond League in May with a throw of 88.36m, which is his season's best. Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt 'something' in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs). He later opted out of the Paris Diamond League July 7, insisting that the event was never a part of his competition calendar this year.

Chopra's coach Uwe Hohn later dismissed concerns surrounding his fitness, stating that his adductor has no issues now. The coach also said his ward has been in high intensity phase of training.

Paris swansong for tennis greats

MANY GREATS BID ADIEU AS DJOKOVIC COMPLETES CAREER GRAND SLAM WITH OLYMPIC GOLD

AGENCIES

Paris, August 5: Novak Djokovic on his knees sobbing tears of joy into the red Roland Garros clay after finally winning a gold medal will be the defining image of a magnificent Olympic tennis event. The 37-year-old's win over Carlos Alcaraz was one of the best Olympic matches since the sport returned to the fold in 1988 and will be prominent in the Paris 2024 highlights reel.

It was a story for the ages, a man investing every last drop of sweat to achieve a career Golden Slam and one that surely renders arguments about tennis's place in the Games redundant.

"This kind of supersedes everything that I imagined,' Djokovic said, describing his Olympic gold medal as his greatest sporting achievement.

Alcaraz meanwhile said that the pressure of playing for Spain got to him. "I think I put more pressure on myself because I was playing for Spain, for the Spaniards," he said. "I felt that I let the Spanish people down

by not winning the gold." The sight of Rafa Nadal play-



THAT ECSTATIC FEELING: Novak Djokovic celebrates with his daughter and other family members after winning the tennis singles gold Sunday AP PHOTO

ing quite possibly for the last time on the court on which he won 14 French Open titles was spine-tingling – especially his two victories alongside Spain's new golden boy Alcaraz. They could not deliver the doubles title but perhaps that was simply too much to ask for.

Three-time Grand Slam champion and two-time Olympic champion Andy Murray waved goodbye for a final time as he headed into retirement - and seemed happy for it to happen here. "I've had a great career, made many friends and have been loved the world over," Murray said after

playing his last match at Roland Garros. "What more could I have asked for," he added.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber of Germany also said her farewell to the sport in what felt like a cross-generational Olympic tournament. Chinese sport found a new su-

perstar in the form of 21-year-old Zheng Qinwen who became the country's first Olympic singles champion by beating Donna Vekic in the women's final.

And the other end of the spectrum, the high-quality men's doubles final featured 40-year-old American Rajeev Ram - the oldest player to contest an Olympic final since 1988 - in a clash in

which the combined age was 147. And just to bring the curtain down in fitting fashion, veteran Sara Errani and the ever-smiling Jasmine Paolini claimed Italy's first-ever tennis gold by winning the women's doubles. Like Djokovic, Errani completed her career Golden Slam, only in doubles, and summed up what it meant, "This has been the dream for my whole life. I wanted it more than a Slam," Errani said.

Hockey team eye history ROHIDAS GETS 1-MATCH BAN

India face Germany in the semifinal and a victory will guarantee a silver for the squad



Paris, August 5: Having displayed nerves of steel to be within touching distance of a second successive Olympic medal, the Indian hockey team will fancy their chances against familiar foes and reigning World Champions Germany in the semifinal of the ongoing Games, hoping to better the bronze that they claimed in the Tokyo edition. India won last of their eight

Olympic gold medals way back in the 1980 Moscow Games. Paris provides them a great opportunity to make history. A semifinal win will ensure a silver medal for India, which they last won in the 1960 Rome edition.

Come Tuesday, skipper Harmanpreet Singh and his men would not only look to better the colour of their Tokyo medal but would also want to give a befitting farewell gift to the talismanic PR Sreejesh who will walk

don't count ahead of such a crucial game. We have to start afresh, but we are high on

HARDIK SINGH | VICE-CAPTAIN

into sunset after the Paris Games. Nicknamed 'The Great Wall of Indian hockey', Sreejesh has been phenomenal in the Games so far, standing like a warrior

in front of the post and enjoying every moment of his last hurrah at the Olympics.

Against Britain, Sreejesh made 10 spectacular saves from field shots. If that was not enough, he kept out 10 penalty corners.

'When I stepped on this field today (Sunday), there were 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," Sreejesh had said

a rung below Germany

■ India and Germany played 8 times in the recent past with the former winning 5 games

■ India are ranked 5th in the world,

■ India had defeated Germany 5-4 to win the bronze at Tokyo

after the game.

The Germany game however, won't be easy for the Indians as key defender and first rusher Amit Rohidas has been suspended from the semifinal match after receiving a contentious red card against Britain.

Rohidas' absence will also weaken India's options from penalty corners as he has been second to Harmanpreet from set pieces and the entire responsibility will now rest on the skipper.

"Now, these things are not in our control. While it is a setback to not have Amit on the pitch for the semis, we are focused on the task at hand," said Harmanpreet, who has been India's leading scorer at the Games with seven goals.

"What stood out in our performance Sunday was the team's ability to take on the added responsibility of a key position that Amit played. Every player stepped up and even until the last minute, we were fighting,' Harmanpreet pointed out.

The Indian skipper said that they wanted to play Germany in the final. "We wanted to play Germany in the final. At least, that was what we had discussed amongst ourselves during team meetings ahead of the Olympic Games," Harmanpreet said.

"They are challenging opponents and when we play against them, the match usually goes down till the last second," added



Will Calnan of Great Britain takes a tumble during the tussle for the ball with Amit Rohidas which led to a red card for the Indian defender

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 5: India's key defender and first rusher Amit Rohidas will miss Tuesday's Olympic men's hockey semifinal against Germany after the country's appeal against his onematch suspension, for being redcarded in the quarterfinal, was rejected by the international

This means India will have only 15 players available for the key clash, which is a big setback for the eight-time Olympic champions.

"Amit Rohidas was suspended for one match for a breach of the FIH Code of Conduct which occurred during the India versus Great Britain match on August

"The suspension affects match No. 35 (India's semifinal match against Germany), where Amit Rohidas will not participate and India will play with a squad of 15 players only," the FIH stated.

4," a FIH statement read.

Hockey India (HI) had lodged an appeal against Rohidas' suspension but the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Jury Bench rejected it. "...after inspection and deliberations, HI's appeal has been rejected and Rohidas will not play the semifinal," an HI official stated here.

Rohidas was given the marching orders against Britain almost 40 minutes from the final hooter after his stick unintentionally hit a rival player Sunday.

The 31-year-old Rohidas was engaged in a mid-field battle with Will Calnan when he swung his stick and hit the Briton's face in an attempt to evade the forward. The on-field umpire initially did not rule the challenge to be a serious offence, but TV umpire changed the decision and recommended a red card following a video referral.

Rohidas is a crucial peg in the Indian defence and his job as the first rusher during the penalty corners taken by the opposition is of vital importance. In fact, he acts as the first line of defence against the penalty corners taken by the opponents. Hence he will certainly be missed in the game

SHORT TAKES

England batter Thorpe no more

London: Former England and Surrey batter Graham Thorpe has died aged 55 after battling a 'serious illness' since 2022, the country's cricket board announced Monday, Considered one of the finest batters of his generation, Thorpe was hospitalised shortly after being named the head coach of Afghanistan in 2022 but the details of his medical condition are not known. He is survived by his wife Amanda and four children. Henry, Amelia, Kitty and Emma. "I is with great sadness that the ECB shares the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away," ECB said in a statement, without giving the exact cause of his death. "More than one of England's finest ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world," the statement read.

Poor show by **Indian golfers**

Paris: Shubhankar Sharma ended in tied 40th position for India's best-ever finish in men's golf at the Olympics while compatriot Gaganjeet Bhullar signed off in tied 45th place here Sunday. India's previous best result in the men's golf at the Olympics was tied 42nd achieved by Anirban Lahiri at Tokyo three years ago. World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler played as only he can and produced a sizzling final round of nine-under to grab the gold medal at Le Golf National course. And he broke into tears of joy on the podium as he received his medal.

Karthik appointed SA20 ambassador

Johannesburg: SA20, South Africa's premier T20 competition, appointed Monday former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik as league ambassador. World Cup winner Karthik's vast cricketing expertise is an exciting development for the league, which continues to gather momentum as one of the world's top-tier franchise leagues, "I'm thrilled to join the SA20 as an ambassador. The League has been electric in the first two seasons with some of the world's best players on show and exciting young talent putting up their hands on the global stage. It's a privilege to be associated with the SA20 and I look forward to working with Graeme (Smith) and his team," Karthik said in a statement.

Manu flag-bearer for closing ceremony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris. August 5: Star shooter Manu Bhaker, who created history by winning two bronze medals at the Paris Games, is set to be India's flag-bearer at the Olympic closing ceremony here Sunday

Manu opened India's medal account at the ongoing Games by winning a bronze in individual 10m air pistol event, becoming the first markswoman from the country to win an Olympic medal. She then joined forces with Sarabjot Singh to bag the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze. Yes, Manu has been cho-

sen to be the flag-bearer. She has done exceptionally well and deserves the honour. After all, she is the first Indian to win two medals in the same Olympics," an Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

There are many in the contingent who are more deserving but it will be a real honour for me MANU BHAKER

The 22-year-old shooter from Haryana had earlier said it would be an honour to be India's flagbearer: "There are many in the contingent who are more deserving but it will be a real honour, if I am asked to," Manu had stated.

IOA has not named a maleflag bearer vet but are likely announce one in the coming days. Besides Manu's two medals, fellow shooter Swapnil Kushale clinched India's third medal also a bronze in the

Three Positions. It should be stated that shuttler PV Sindhu and table tennis player Sharath

men's 50m Rifle

Kamal had been India's flag-bearers in the opening

Heartbreak for injured Sen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 5: Lakshya Sen suffered an inexplicable meltdown and missed out on an Olympic medal, going down in three games to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze play-off at the Paris Games here Monday.

A fired-up Sen was unstoppable in the beginning but a nine-point streak from Lee in the second game changed the complexion of the match as the World No.7 Malaysian registered a 13-21, 21-16, 21-11 win in a 71minute clash to secure the bronze

"I had my chances in the second game and could have definitely done better. But credit to him (Lee), he played a really good game. I think at the moment I'm just not able to think right now," a crestfallen Sen said after the match.

"I came well prepared for this match as well. It has been quite a tough week overall. But yeah, the fatigue kept on building. But I was ready to give my 100 per cent in this match," the Indian shuttler added.

Sen, who needed medical attention multiple times for a injured right arm, looked indomitable in the first 30 minutes but once Lee gathered himself from a position where he was



Lakshya Sen in action during his match against Lee Zii Jia at the Paris Olympics, Monday

down by a game and trailing 3-8 in second, the Indian did not seem to have a plan 'B'. His loss means that it would be the first time in 12 years that India will return without a badminton medal from the Olympics.

Sen closed the first game when he hit a lightning fast backhand and Lee's return sailed over the baseline. The second game also

started on a similar note as in no time, Sen zoomed to an 8-3 lead after peppering Lee on his backhand. However, there was a twist in the tale when he lost nine straight points allowing the Malaysian to make a comeback. Then there was no stopping Lee.

Sen needed to replace his bandage, which covered an injury, thrice during the match,

leading to multiple stoppages in play. The Indian said it affected his momentum.

"In between the points the blood was on the floor so they had to wipe it. Sometimes, I was losing the momentum of just having a break in the game and then coming again and trying to refocus on the match. But overall the hand is okay," he said.

Bacteria in Seine hit triathletes hard

Paris, August 5: Triathletes fresh from their second swim in the Seine generally shrugged off the risk of waste in the river making them sick, but highlighted the stress they were put through as the levels of bacteria in the waterway caused repeated disruption.

French authorities have spent 1.4 billion euros (\$1.53 billion) on upgrading the capital's sewage systems, promising the river will be clean enough for residents to swim in by next summer, though that will come too late for the athletes swallowing mouthfuls of it during their Olympic exertions.

The mixed relay went ahead as scheduled Monday after organisers gave the all clear Sunday evening, acknowledging athletes' demands for more certainty after the men's individual race was postponed at the last minute because bacteria levels in the river were too high.



HEALTH HAZARD: Participants in the triathlon event take a plunge into the 'bacteria infested' Seine river in Paris, Monday

"I think they could have invested more into having clean water. It seems like they were just hoping for the best and knew the athletes are going to do it because it's the Olympics,"

said Morgan Pearson, part of the US team that won silver in the relay. "It just seemed like a

bit of a crapshoot if we raced or not," he added Several of the athletes said

the uncertainty over the schedule and the last-minute postponement of the men's race impacted on their focus and their ability to perform on the day.

'It's tough to handle and you probably lose a night of sleep and therefore it influences a lot in your individual performance,' said Germany's Tim Hellwig after his team won gold in the relay.

Britain's Georgia Taylor-Brown, who helped Britain to a very tight bronze finish just behind the US, said she would have liked organisers to set aside an alternate venue for the sport.

Belgium did not compete in the mixed relay after Claire Michel fell ill, with some speculation that the river was to blame, but the country's Olympic committee did not give any details.

Cassandre France's Beaugrand, who won gold in the individual event and finished fourth in the relay, said she didn't know if Michel was infected by the river.

Manika shines as India beat Romania

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 5: Star player Manika Batra led from the front as India prevailed over higherranked Romania 3-2 in a thrilling tie and made a memorable entry into the quarterfinals of the women's table tennis team competition at the Paris Olympics here Monday.

Leading 2-0, India saw Romania fight back to draw level at 2-2 but in the decider, Manika

delivered for her side. Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath started the proceedings with a 11-9, 12-10, 11-7 win over Adina Diaconu and Elizabeta

Samara in the doubles match. Manika then made short work of higher-ranked Bernadette Szocs in a 11-5, 11-7, 11-7 victory as India took a comfortable 2-0 lead in the tie against their fourthseeded opponents. India are

seeded 11th in the competition. In the second singles match however, things did not go in India's favour as Sreeja went

INDIA: DAY 11 SCHEDULE

Table tennis (Men's): India vs China 1.30 pm

Athletics: (Men's Javelin): Kishore Jena 1.50 pm

Neeraj Chopra 3.20pm Women's 400m: Kiran Pahal

2.50 pm **Hockey:** India vs Germany 10.30 pm

ALL EVENTS ON JIO SPORTS AND JIO CINEMA

down 2-3 (11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11) to European champion Samara after winning the first

game. Then Bernadette defeated Archana 11-5, 8-11, 11-7 11-9 to take the tie to the decider. Manika then blanked Adina 3-0 (11-5, 11-9, 11-9) to seal the tie in India's

India will be up against either the USA or Germany in the quarterfinals. Japan, Poland, (France and Thailand are also on the same side of the draw.

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