

Call for acceptance
Actor Sunny Leone reflects on being judged for her past in adult film industry, urging people to move forward after 13 years
LEISURE | P2

Harris' running mate
Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris selects Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate
INTERNATIONAL | P9

NHAI to monetise assets
NHAI plans to monetise up to \$2.4 billion worth of road projects in the current fiscal through an infrastructure investment trust route
BUSINESS | P10

Sable's feat
Avinash Sable becomes 1st Indian runner to reach the final of the 3000m steeplechase event at the Olympics
SPORTS | P12

BANGLA UNREST TOLL 440

Dhaka, August 6: On the first day after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, a tense atmosphere prevailed across Bangladesh with police and army patrolling the major streets, according to a report published by BDNews24.com, a news portal.

Late Monday night, President Mohammed Shahabuddin asked all the political parties to normalise the law and order situation in the country and directed the armed forces to take stern measures to protect the lives and properties of the people and state assets.

Tuesday, the President dissolved the Parliament to make way for the formation of an interim administration.

"The decision to dissolve the Parliament was taken following the President's discussions with chiefs of three staff of armed forces, leaders of different political parties, representatives of civil society and leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement," said a statement issued by the President's office.

The leaders of movement ear-



Awami League's central office at Dhaka set on fire after the Prime Minister's resignation

lier set a deadline for dissolving the 12th Parliament which was formed after the January 7 elections installing Hasina as the premier for the fourth straight term.

In a video posted on social media early Tuesday, Nahid Islam, one of the key coordinators of the movement, proposed Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of interim government.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the anti-government protests Tuesday climbed to 440, with 100 more deaths reported after Hasina's departure, according to local media, even as efforts were on by the army to bring the situation under control in the violence-hit nation.

YUNUS TO HEAD INTERIM GOVT
Dhaka: Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been appointed as head of Bangladesh's interim government, says President's Press Secretary. Yunus, 83, is a well-known critic and opponent of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He called her resignation the country's 'second liberation day.' An economist and banker by profession, Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the use of microcredit to help impoverished people, particularly women. His anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, a mode, was replicated across continents.

LORD JAGANNATH IDOL BURNT
Dhaka: Amid ongoing political unrest in Bangladesh, 'radicals' reportedly destroyed the idols of Lord Jagannath and sibling deities at an ISKCON temple in Meherpur. Three devotees who lived on the premises somehow managed to escape, said Yudhisthir Govinda Das, a spokesperson of the organisation. A number of Hindu temples, households and businesses were vandalised, women assaulted and at least two Hindu leaders affiliated with the Awami League party killed in violence following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, community leaders claimed Tuesday.

Two killed in firing from service pistol

Binka/Sonepur, August 6: Two persons were killed in an alleged firing from the service revolver of a police personnel following an alleged heated altercation at Chulmal village of Bhandar panchayat under Binka police limits in Subarnapur district, Tuesday.

The deceased, both cousins, were identified as Shesadev Jhankar, 30, and Manoj Jhankar, 28, of Chulmal village.

They died on the spot after the bullets pierced through their heads. Manoj was posted as a police constable at the district police headquarters in Sonepur and working as a personal security officer (PSO) of former Cabinet Minister Niranjan Pujari, the sitting MLA from Sonepur. The incident has sent shockwaves in the area.

The incident is stated to have occurred after the two had a heated altercation over some issues in a field adjacent to the village. They had attended a feast



hosted by some of their friends. Family members rushed them in an ambulance to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival.

Police later recovered the bodies and sent those to a hospital for post mortem. However, it is yet to be ascertained as to who fired the bullets and the reason behind it. Meanwhile, Subarnapur SP Yashpratap Shrimal and IGP Northern range, Himashu Lal along with other police personnel rushed to the spot and directed an investigation into the incident.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	78,593.07	↓ 166.33
NIFTY	23992.55	↓ 63.05
DOLLAR	83.95	↑ ₹0.10
EURO	91.68	↓ ₹0.33
GOLD	₹68,827	↓ ₹482
SILVER	₹79,423	↓ ₹175

NEET SCAM: YOUTH ARRESTED IN CITY

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The CBI has arrested one more person here for his alleged involvement in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) paper leak case. The accused has been identified as Susanta Samanta, 34.

The probe agency arrested Samanta from Bhubaneswar Saturday and produced him before the court of executive magistrate of CBI in Patna Monday. The matter came to light Tuesday. The CBI urged the court to take Samanta on 10-day remand. However, the court allowed the probing agency to take Samanta on a five-day remand for further investigation into the case, sources informed. CBI, so far, has taken custody of five persons in connection with the case and it is interrogating them to extract more information about the scam.

Vinesh assured of historic wrestling medal

Paris, August 6: She grappled on the streets with an 'unjust system' without a care in the world and Tuesday Vinesh Phogat brought a lot of that panache to the mat as well, taking down one big name after another to become India's first woman wrestler to enter the finals of the Olympic Games.

The 29-year-old from Haryana defeated Yusneylis Guzman Lopez of Cuba 5-0 in the semi-finals where she used brain and brawn in equal measure to be assured of at least a silver in her third Olympic outing.

This was after she was stretched off on her debut in Rio 2016 and had a forgettable outing in Tokyo four years later.

"Tomorrow is an important day, will talk then," she told the waiting media before vanishing



from the sight to prepare for her summit battle against American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.

India to play for bronze
Paris: India lost 2-3 to Germany in the semifinal of the men's hockey of the Paris Olympics here Tuesday. It was a dream chance for India to enter the final of the Olympics after 44 years but Germany played spoilsport to that. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (7th) and Sukhjeet Singh (36th) scored for India, while Gonzalo Peillat (18th), Christopher Ruhr (27th) and Marco Miltkau (54th) were the scorers for Germany. India will now take on Spain in the bronze medal match, while Germany will be up against Netherlands in the final.

On the day, she beat world No. 1 and reigning Olympic champion Yui Sasaki during the dying moments of their pre-quarter-final fight, handing the legendary Japanese her first defeat in 83 bouts.

If the first six minutes were a

shocker for the wrestling world, the next six minutes against 2018 European champion Oksana Livach of Ukraine were an assurance of her class where she made a mockery of her opponent just when she needed to.

The last six minutes on the day against Lopez were another masterclass in tactical acumen where she was a tigress on the prowl waiting for that one mistake where she could get the single-leg hold of her opponent.

It was a very lonely battle as it wasn't just about winning against the opponent on the mat but also about fighting a way more bitter battle off it.

Her character and credibility came in for questioning, and then there was a knee surgery less than a year before Olympics which had the Doubting Thomases wanting her to fail.

But for 18 minutes Tuesday,

Vinesh didn't have the option of failing. After all, she came here as a representative of all those women who have been severely wronged by the wrestling establishment. **MORE P12**

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.0°C	30.2°C
Min Temp	25.0°C	24.5°C
Humidity	98%	94%
Rainfall	4.7mm	2.8mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

SHORT TAKES

CBI books Hindalco for fraud in green grant

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked the country's leading aluminium producer Hindalco of the Aditya Birla Group for alleged corruption in getting environmental clearances for coal mining between 2011 and 2013, officials said Tuesday. The agency has also named T Chandini, the then director in the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, for favouring the company as member secretary of the Expert Appraisal Committee in allowing mining in the Talabira-I mine in the critically polluted area of state's Jharsuguda in violation of guidelines, they said. Chandini, by misusing her official position, communicated to Hindalco that their proposal for grant environmental clearance would be considered in the next meeting of the EAC to be held February 25 and 25, 2010, the agency alleged. The Central probe agency has registered the FIR after a nearly eight-year-long preliminary inquiry.

Not UP but Punjab: Minister

BHUBANESWAR: The state government may procure potatoes from Punjab to improve supplies and reduce prices of the tuber, a minister said. The price of potatoes continued to remain high at ₹45 a kg even after procurement from Uttar Pradesh, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra told reporters. The price of the tuber has increased in the state due to "inadequate" supply from neighbouring West Bengal. "We are now procuring potatoes from Uttar Pradesh. If needed, we will import from Punjab," Patra said. The minister denied the allegation that the potatoes from UP are not as good as West Bengal. "It is not true that the potatoes from Uttar Pradesh are not of good quality. The UP potatoes are much better than that of Bengal and the price difference due to transportation costs is also Re 1. Odisha can procure the tuber from any other state, including Punjab, to meet its demand," the minister said Tuesday.

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ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୭, ୨୦୨୪

ଆମ ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ ଆମ ଗୌରବ

ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ, ବୟନ ଓ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

leisure

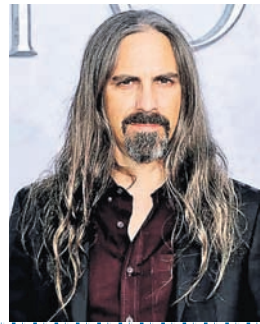


LILY ALLEN CONSIDERED QUITTING MUSIC AFTER HAVING DAUGHTERS

Singer Lily Allen shared that she thought about quitting music and studying to become a lawyer after having her daughters Ethel and Marnie. The *Smile* singer said that she felt ashamed to have not left school with any qualifications and had considered dropping her career at different times.

BEAR MCCREARY COMPOSES FOR THE LORD OF THE RINGS SEASON 2

Emmy Award-winner Bear McCreary has composed tracks for *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* season 2, which also includes two new tracks featuring renowned singers Rufus Wainwright and Jens Kidman, will be released worldwide on August 23.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will focus your attention today on your beloved. You will feel very energetic, but your commitment to work will falter. So don't be surprised if your superiors are annoyed. However, Ganेशha says today is a day for romantic pursuits.

TAURUS
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost.

GEMINI
You will try to think up creative ways to perform your daily routine to get a break from the boredom and the rut of your daily schedule. You need to mingle more with people and practice some humility. Guests will come visiting at your home, says Ganेशha.

CANCER
The day looks set to be so good that you may end up inviting jealousy and envy from people around you. The stars are favourable for matters pertaining to heart. In short, a great day for boosting love and relationships. Fantastic opportunities may come your way.

LEO
It is an important day for you. Everyone in the office will accept your capabilities and will praise you. You may incur expenses on entertainment and luxuries. Your financial difficulties will now be solved. It is better to have an eye on long term gains. A progressive day on the whole, says Ganेशha.

VIRGO
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganेशha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

LIBRA
Ganेशha says you will be getting good news from abroad, which will make you happy. Those of you who are searching for jobs will get good news coming your way. Ganेशha says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

SCORPIO
You are one social butterfly today. However, shunning the gossips, you spread kindness and happiness in your social groups. People will look up to you today for this reason. What goes around, comes around; spread joy and you are sure to receive joy, says Ganेशha.

SAGITTARIUS
Suddenly, you become ambidextrous and plan to multi task today, says Ganेशha. Your instincts will guide you today; trust them and move ahead. You may come across few challenges. But, anyway, who wants an easy way out, right?

CAPRICORN
You firmly believe in the concept of 'health is wealth'. You have maintained a very good health so far and it will not be an issue today, also. Successful completion of current projects seem to be a distant target, however, you will finish them off.

AQUARIUS
You wish to have more than twenty-four hours in a day! You are determined to finish off your pending work but somehow you will find it extremely difficult to get the load off your shoulders. You will try everything; from canceling your vacations to postponing your dates, but nothing will seem enough, feels Ganेशha.

PISCES
Ganेशha asks you not to undertake any new project or business venture due to the alignment of the planets being unfavorable. You will do well in tasks that do not require too much creativity and innovation. Do not take sides when you are not required to and it make have heavy consequences in future.

'Adult star tag is used for traction'

Mumbai: Actress Sunny Leone, in a recent interview, reflected on being judged for her adult film career.

Sunny, when asked about her initial struggle in Bollywood when she was judged over her previous career in the adult film industry. She said, "I think that in my initial time being here in India, it is expected of the certain words or tag people use for you. That is completely normal. I think it's more bothersome now that we are still talking about it. Come on! It's been 13 years now since I have been here. If you don't let it go, how do we all move forward? So, it is high time. It is not a conversation piece which is interesting anymore. It's something you know has happened in my life. We all have done a lot of work and grown in our own ways. I think it's odd now that a publication uses it for traction."

Sunny shot to fame in Indian entertainment industry with *Bigg Boss* and made her debut with Pooja Bhatt's erotic-thriller *Jism 2* and later featured in popular Hindi films like - *Shootout at Wadala*, *Ragini MMS 2*, *Hate Story 2* and more.

On the work front, Sunny will be next seen in Anurag Kashyap's neo-noir-thriller *Kennedy*.

AGENCIES



Taapsee's comfortwear

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu, who has two films lined up to release this month, has shared her newfound appreciation for sarees and how they have helped her discover a different side of her personality.

The actress revealed that wearing sarees, which are a traditional part of Indian attire, has introduced her to a new aspect of herself and also shared that it's truly comfortwear. She said, "I think I discovered a new side of my personality. When I embraced wearing sarees, and by sarees, I don't mean the ones that people generally wear on red carpets or special occasions or festivals. I'm talking about the daily wear sarees."

The *Pink* actress, who is currently in Paris enjoying the Summer Olympics, has been seen strolling around in her avant-garde sarees. Taapsee has collaborated with the fashion label Suta and is embracing the vibrant colours of France while donning stunning sarees. The actress noted, "I realised a different side of my personality started showing when I wore these sarees. Over time, as I liked what I saw in the mirror, I became more and more comfortable wearing them."

On the professional front, Taapsee will next be seen in *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dilruba* and *Khel Khel Mein*.

IAN5



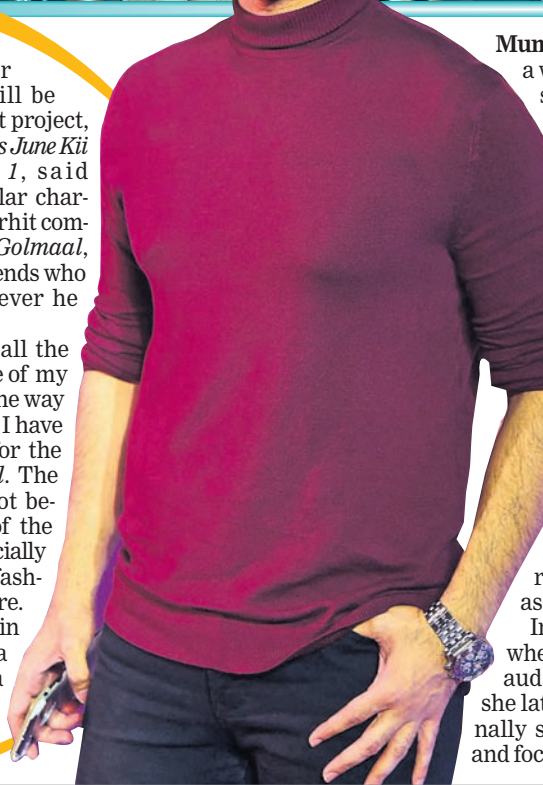
Golmaal's Lucky is my good luck charm: Tusshar

Mumbai: Actor Tusshar Kapoor, who will be seen in his latest project, the web series *Dus June Kii Raat-Chapter 1*, said 'Lucky,' his popular character from the superhit comedy film franchise *Golmaal*, is like one of his best friends who tags along with him wherever he

goes. "There are some things that walk with you all the time, and it's okay. I find that character is like one of my best friends. He's always hovering behind me in one way or another. 'Lucky' is like my good luck charm... I have a lot of gratitude for that character (Lucky), for the franchise, and for the entire team of *Golmaal*. The character worked because of them. It was not because of me, but because of the hard work of the entire team. When your character is liked, especially by families and kids, it never goes out of fashion," Kapoor told PTI in an interview here.

Dus June Kii Raat is produced by Sachin Mohite and co-produced by Ektaa Kapoor and features Priyanka Chahar Choudhary.

PTI



Mumbai: Sanaya Irani, a well-known television actress, has revealed the unpleasant experiences she encountered while trying to enter the Hindi and South Indian film industries.

In a recent interview, Irani disclosed that many industry professionals meet new actresses to determine if they are willing to compromise their values.

When asked about her experiences with the casting couch, Irani recounted an incident from her early career. A South Indian filmmaker insisted on meeting her despite her disinterest in films at that time. During the meeting, he bluntly told her she wasn't "fuller" enough for the role, which she interpreted as an attempt to assess her willingness to compromise.

Irani also shared an experience in Bollywood, where she was asked to contact a director for an audition. Initially told it was for a music video, she later discovered it was for a film. When she finally spoke with the director, he was dismissive and focused on whether she was comfortable wear-

Sanaya Irani shares her casting couch experience

ing a bikini rather than discussing her character. Irani, unimpressed by his attitude, asked directly about the role's nature. The director responded rudely, emphasizing the need to wear a bikini, leading Irani to end the call.

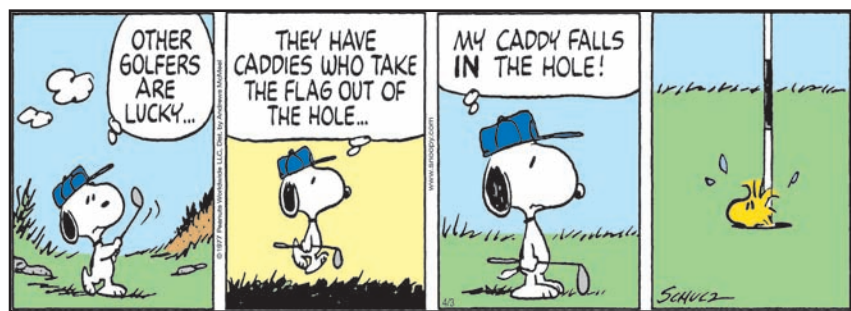
These encounters highlight the darker aspects of the film industry and the challenges actresses face beyond their talent and dedication. Irani's experiences shed light on the industry's underlying issues and the pressure on actresses to compromise their integrity.

On the work front, Sanaya was last seen in *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon* opposite Barun Sobti.

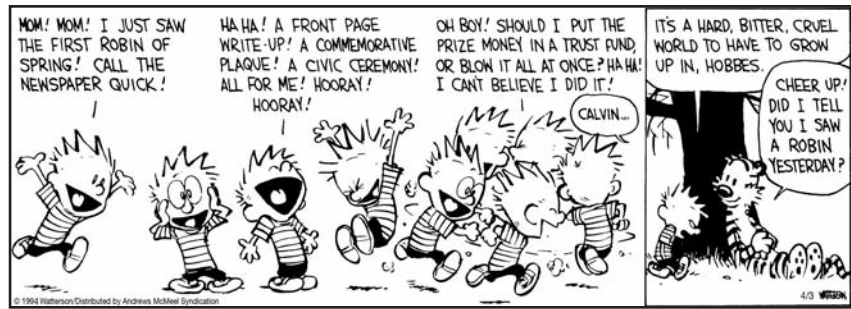
AGENCIES



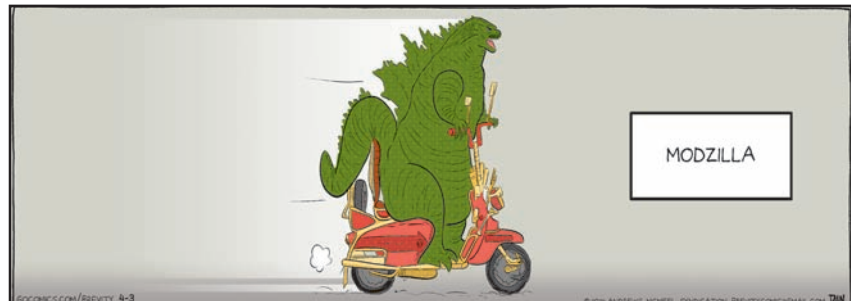
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

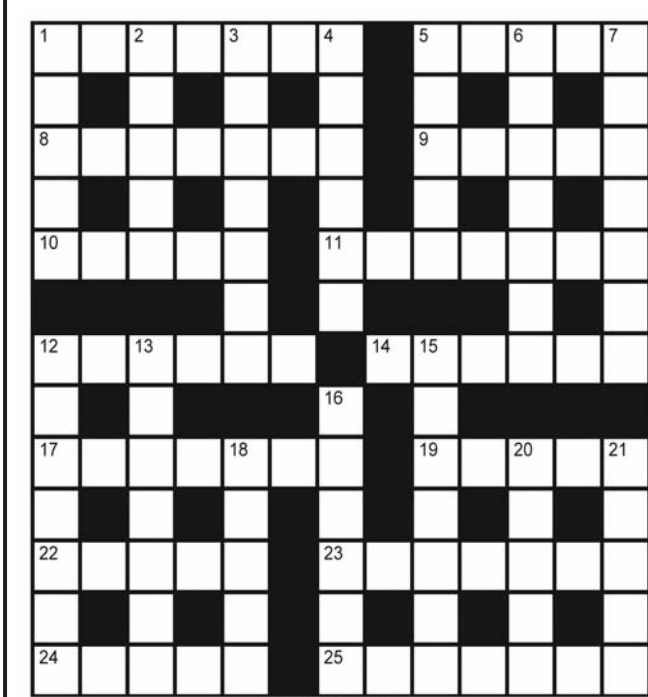


BREVITY



FUN post

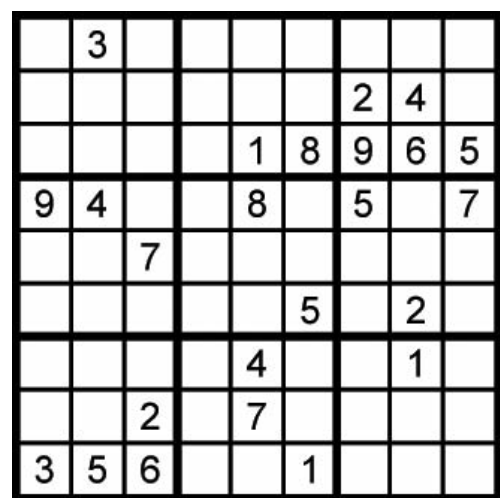
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Ottoman
 - 5 Recipe direction
 - 8 Competition between foes
 - 9 Slow mover
 - 10 Elbow
 - 11 Soft-finned fish
 - 12 Drives back
 - 14 Fervent
 - 17 Covered porch
 - 19 Subject
 - 22 Set securely
 - 23 Apiary
 - 24 Concert venue
 - 25 Fancy desk (4-3)
- Down**
- 1 Graceful bird
 - 2 Socked away
 - 3 Wildcatter's concern (3,4)
 - 4 Data input device
 - 5 Fundamental
 - 6 Captivate
 - 7 Late
 - 12 Copy
 - 13 One of Aesop's fables, e.g.
 - 15 Breakfast staple
 - 16 Thief
 - 18 Neighbor of Pakistan
 - 20 Direct
 - 21 Sneak around

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUVA (FIJI): President Droupadi Murmu was Tuesday conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the country's highest civilian award as she hailed the ties between the two countries and said India stands ready to partner with Fiji to build a stronger, resilient, and more prosperous nation.

downtown

NITI Aayog to help state prepare vision docus

STATE AIMS TO ACHIEVE \$500 BILLION ECONOMY BY 2036 AND \$1.5 TRILLION BY 2047, SAYS CM



that Odisha desires to contribute significantly to the growth of the country and become a growth engine of India by 2047. The Chief Minister further said that Odisha targets a 500 billion dollar economy by 2036 when the state will be celebrating the centenary of its formation.

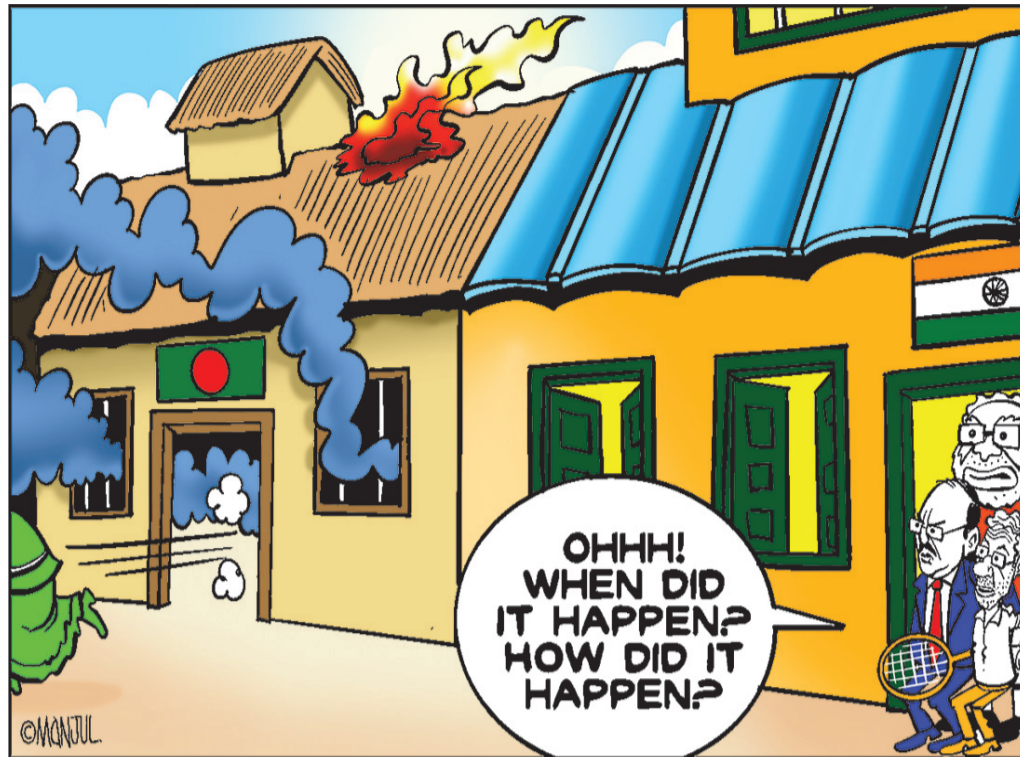
vision documents, one for 2036 and another for 2047," Subrahmanyam asserted.

During the discussion, it was decided that a steering committee will be formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja. Roadmap for the vision will be prepared in three months.

Before the meeting with the CM, the NITI Aayog CEO and its officers had an extensive discussion with secretaries and senior officers of all the state departments.

Among others, Chief Secretary Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and Additional Chief Secretary to CM Nikunja Bihari Dhal were present.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BJD TO INTENSIFY STIR AGAINST POLAVARAM

granting funds for the completion of Polavaram project, besides according it the national project status," former MP Pradeep Majhi said.

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Opposition BJD formed a committee Tuesday to intensify its protest against Polavaram multipurpose project in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh that was being 'promoted' by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

The committee, headed by former minister Atanu Sabayasachi Nayak, has Debi Prasad Mishra, Pradeep Majhi and Bhruhu Baxipatra as its members.

"The members will visit Motu and Padia, and other likely-to-be affected areas in Malkangiri district. The BJP has dealt a blow to Odisha after coming to power at the Centre and the state by

cussions with the TDP-led Andhra government if it wants," Congress MLA Sofia Firdous said. Meanwhile, the BJP said the BJD is trying to pull off a political stunt to mislead the people of the state.

Meanwhile, Congress said the BJD kept the issue pending while being in power for 24 years in the state. "Instead of visiting the spot, the BJD should work to stop the project. It kept the issue hanging while being in power for 24 years. The BJP's double engine government can also take steps in this direction by holding dis-

Meanwhile, the BJP said the BJD is trying to pull off a political stunt to mislead the people of the state.

The Polavaram project, being developed on the Godavari river in Polavaram mandalam of Andhra Pradesh, is aimed at irrigating over 4.3 lakh hectare of land and generating 960 mw of hydropower, along with the supply of drinking water to nearly 30 lakh people in 611 villages.

Vig arrests engineer with 50 plots of land

Bhubaneswar, August 6: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited additional chief engineer Pradeep Kumar Rath on charges of amassing assets, including 50 plots of land, disproportionate to his known sources of income, official sources said.

Following allegations of amassing disproportionate assets (DA), teams comprising nine DSPs, 11 inspectors, and other supporting staff Monday conducted searches at 12 places in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Jajpur and

Khurda related to Rath, posted at the office of the Chief Construction Engineer, R and B (Cuttack Circle).

During searches, the anti-corruption wing sleuths claimed to have found two three-storey buildings including one in Bhubaneswar, three luxurious flats in Capital City, a two-storey medicine store-cum-residential premises here, a crusher unit in Dhenkanal, two-earthmovers, one excavator and a rock breaker from the possession of Rath and his family members.

These apart, 50 plots in upscale areas like Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, around 1 kg gold and

silver jewellery, postal and bank deposits of ₹2 crore, investment in business of ₹1 crore, two four-wheelers and as many two-wheelers were also found in their possession.

"Sri Pradeep Kumar Rath, Additional Chief Engineer, OBCC, office at Chief Construction Engineer, R&B Cuttack Circle was arrested by Odisha Vigilance and forwarded to the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. In this connection, Cuttack Vigilance PS Case (20/24) was registered against him, his spouse and son under

Sections 13(2)/r/w 13(1)(b)/12 of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018," a Vigilance press statement read.

Rath joined the government service in 1991 as a stipendiary engineer with a monthly salary of ₹2,000. His service was regularised in 1999 when he was serving in the rural development division in Dhenkanal and he continued there as an assistant engineer till 2001, the Vigilance department said. He was posted in various offices of Keonjhar, Jajpur, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack under the Works department and in 2022, he was promoted to the rank of additional chief engineer of OBCC.

Two arrested for bizman murder

DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 6: The Commissionerate Police blew the lid off the sensational murder of a businessman in the City last month with the arrest of two persons, including his business partner, Tuesday.

Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda identified the arrested as Bunty Digal, 27, and his associate Bijay Kumar Nayak, 37.

"A knife, blood-soaked clothes, two four-wheelers and two mobile phones were seized from their possession," Panda said.

Bunty had come in contact with the victim—Nabaghana Patasani—around four years ago.

"He joined Nabaghana's business as a partner. However, things turned ugly after Nabaghana didn't clear Bunty's dues. Nabaghana also slapped Bunty in full public view when the latter asked for his money," Panda said.

Unable to bear the humiliation, Bunty asked Nabaghana to come to Sri Sai Lodge near Ghatikia, where he stabbed him to death. With the help of Bijay, Bunty dumped Nabaghana's body at Kandala river.

ICG steps up vigil along WB, Odisha coastlines

AGENCIES

Kolkata, August 6: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) units along Odisha and West Bengal coastlines have increased vigil after the toppling of the government in Bangladesh.



Though no specific instructions have arrived as yet from the ICG headquarters in Delhi, all units under the Headquarters North East Region, based in Kolkata, are on standby to deal with any unauthorised movement from across the Maritime Boundary Line (MBL) between India and Bangladesh.

"Our assets at sea are maintaining constant vigil while aircraft from Kolkata and Bhubaneswar are also carrying out

sorties. This is essential to prevent any attempt to cross over into Indian territorial waters by unauthorised people," said a senior ICG official from New Delhi.

Till a few days ago, there was bonhomie between the ICG and the Bangladesh Coast Guard. The two forces have also participated in several tabletop and physical exercises to jointly tackle accidents at sea due to bad weather, piracy, smuggling, and pollution.

After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government Monday and the subsequent takeover by the Army, communication lines have been severed.

There is a possibility that non-state actors would take advantage of the situation in Bangladesh to carry out a strike on assets along India's eastern seaboard. Apart from this, Bangladeshi nationals, fearing persecution in their own country, may also try to enter India by sea.

The ICG has ships based at Haldia in West Bengal and Paradip in Odisha. All the units have been directed to remain prepared for quick mobilisation.

DRDO's bag decomposes in 3 months

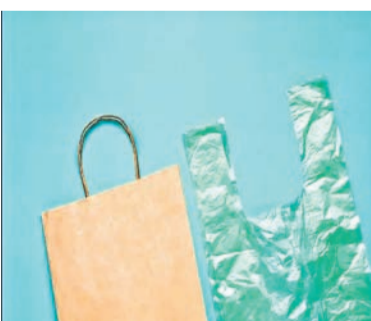
A team of scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Polybutylene adipate terephthalate (PBAT)-based biodegradable packaging, revolutionising the market with eco-friendly alternatives that decompose within three months, leaving no harmful residue.

DRDO scientist K Veerabrahmam and his team at Advanced Systems Laboratory of DRDO at Hyderabad developed biodegradable packaging products using PBAT, a biodegradable polymer derived from petroleum products or plant oils.

This innovative technology has been shared with over 40 industries free of cost, aiming for widespread adoption across the country and the world, the team said Tuesday.

PBAT-based biodegradable packaging is set to transform the market with its remarkable strength and durability, comparable to conventional plastics. These products offer an eco-friendly alternative without compromising on quality.

Extensive environmental impact studies, including the IS 17088 test, have confirmed that these biodegradable bags decompose within three



months, leaving no harmful residue and ensuring they are compostable, it said.

"Despite the slightly higher production cost of ₹160 to 180 per kg compared to traditional polyethylene bags at ₹140 per kg, DRDO and its partners are committed to keeping these biodegradable bags cost-effective. By sharing the technology free of charge and fostering collaborations, we aim to scale up production and distribution efficiently. This approach ensures that the benefits of this eco-friendly solution reach a broad audience," said Veerabrahmam.

He mentioned that the success of this initiative is already evident at the Tirumala temple, where biodegrad-

able bags are now used for distributing Tirupati Laddus.

This pilot project serves as a model for further implementation in tourist destinations, coastal areas, and other regions, promoting the widespread adoption of biodegradable packaging solutions.

The potential applications of this technology extend beyond carry bags. Biodegradable materials can be utilised for medical waste bags, aprons, garbage bags, nursery bags, shrink films, and packing films, showcasing their versatility and broad utility. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the journey towards sustainable living and environmental preservation, the team said.

"The patent of this technology is in progress. The extensive research conducted by the Advanced Systems Laboratory of DRDO in Hyderabad underscores their commitment to finding the best environment-friendly replacements for hazardous plastic. The collaboration with Elastico Private Limited and the involvement of multiple industries exemplify the collective effort required to combat the plastic pollution crisis," it added.

Advertisement for 'ଦଶମ ଜାତୀୟ ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ ଦିବସ ପ୍ରମାରୋହ' (10th National Handloom Day Promotion) featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu. It highlights the promotion of handloom products and includes contact information for the Odisha Handloom Development Corporation.

Advertisement for 'ବୟନିକା' (Boyanika) biodegradable packaging. It features a woman in a saree and text in Odia promoting the eco-friendly bags. It includes a 90%+90% discount offer and directs customers to shop online at www.boyanika.com.

FOCUS ECONOMIC POLICY

WHAT AILS NITI AAYOG



Replacing Niti Aayog with the Planning Commission is not the solution for India's unsustainable growth. It will only put the stale medicine back into the old bottle

Banerjee is unhappy with NITI Aayog; she wants the Planning Commission back.

Those who forget history will repeat it. NITI Aayog is the same medicine for the economy, only in a new bottle and with a new brand. When the UPA returned for its second term in 2009, deep cracks in India's growth story were already showing. Growth, though fast, was not inclusive, and the environment was degrading rapidly. The goal of the 12th Five Year Plan, which was abandoned along with the Planning Commission, was "Faster, More Sustainable, and More Inclusive Growth." In ten years, NITI Aayog has been unable to alter the shape of India's growth. Inequalities between the top and bottom have widened further. Incomes are not rising at the bottom to keep up with inflation while the number of millionaires is increasing faster. Decent jobs with adequate incomes are not available even for educated youth. The demographic dividend is turning into a disaster. Drinking water is becoming scarce even in metros. Hillsides are collapsing, beaches are being eroded, river waters becoming toxic, and Indian cities have become the most polluted in the world.

The Indian government is confused. It has accepted that it must grow jobs and industry within the country. At the same time, it is being pressed by economists and large corporations to open its borders fur-

ther to flows of trade and integrate faster with international supply chains. These economists say India must not go backwards to the pre-1991 socialist era. But they have no concrete solutions for increasing the pace of job creation.

India is suffering from the same disease of inequitable and unsustainable economic growth that the whole world is. Insufficiently regulated financial flows across borders created a global financial crisis in 2008. Economists promised they would change their theories to create a "new normal." They did not; they only pressed harder on the accelerator to get economic growth out of the slump. Global economic growth reversed again when the COVID pandemic froze global supply chains in 2020. Glaring inequities between the rich and poor were starkly revealed. Policymakers vowed "never again." They would change the economic model fundamentally. They have not. They are pressing even harder to grow the size of the economy. They do not know how to alter its shape. The country needs a new model of the economy and a new way of shaping public policies that is not dominated by pro-market economists wedded to economic theories that are failing all around the world.

The global economy is a large machine in economics theory that extracts energy and resources for its consumption from the natural world and from

human beings. Global supply chains carry food, materials, and energy within the machine. Multi-national corporations, and economists wedded to the borderless trade and free markets ideology, want to increase the efficiency of the economic machine, and reduce frictions in flows across national borders, because this can increase global GDP with the same resources. There is no place in their model for equity within countries and amongst countries, in the use of resources or distribution of the surpluses produced from the machine's efficiency.

The time has come to change the paradigm of economic progress. New ideas are required which economics science does not have. The economy is only a component of a complex system composed of society and the natural environment. Growth policies derived from this limited and faulty model are harming society and the natural environment; they are not economically sustainable either: India needs a new model of economic governance. Banerjee wants the Planning Commission back. Replacing Niti Aayog with the Planning Commission is not the solution for India's unsustainable growth. It will only put the stale medicine back into the old bottle.

A new model of growth is required. As well as a new, participative approach to planning. Chief Ministers should not have their voices shut off after a few minutes—as they were in the meetings of the Planning Commission, and again in the Niti Aayog meeting Banerjee attended. Most of all, the views of common people must be heard, and not only the ideas of experts who have statistics which, as it is turning out, are wrong (like employment), or even if right, like the size of the GDP, are not measuring what really matters to the people on the ground.

The writer is a former Member of the Planning Commission and author of several books, the latest is "Shaping the Future: A Guide for System Leaders."

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Arun Maira

THE ECONOMY IS ONLY A COMPONENT OF A COMPLEX SYSTEM COMPOSED OF SOCIETY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

When the communist party in West Bengal joined the capitalist game and invited the Indonesian Salim Group to set up the Haldia SEZ and the Indian Tata Group to set up the Nano car plant in Singur, Mamata Banerjee took to the streets with peasants whose lands were taken. In May 2011, she ended the 34-year rule of the longest serving elected communist government in the world. She arrived in the Planning Commission and demanded special status for West Bengal which the Commission would not give.

Other Chief Ministers were also dissatisfied with the Planning Commission. Jayalalitha, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, refused to come to the Planning Commission to get her plans approved. She objected to boffins in Delhi telling the State how to spend its own money for the welfare of its people. Narendra Modi of Gujarat also disliked economists in the Planning Commission who thought their statistics gave a more accurate picture of reality than he and his officers on the ground. Even business associations were unhappy with the Planning Commission. Too much planning, too little implementation, they said. Some recommended the Planning Commission should be replaced by an Implementation Commission. Civil society was dissatisfied too. The plans were focused only on GDP growth; the growth was not inclusive nor environmentally sustainable, they complained.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Commission, called for a review. Government officials, business leaders, and civil society were consulted. The Prime Minister summarised the diagnosis. The Planning Commission must become a systems reforms commission, not a maker of economic plans; and must become a force for persuasion of change, not an allocator of money. Narendra Modi, who rose on the wave of dissatisfaction with the UPA government, abolished the Planning Commission and replaced it with NITI Aayog. Mamata

IN JEST THIS

Fame & fortune follow a medal

Winning an Olympic medal can transform an athlete's life, especially if the athlete comes from a country that does not win many medals. Just ask Carlos Yulo, who won two gold medals in gymnastics at the Paris Olympics, becoming the first male Olympic gold medalist in the history of the Philippines, and the country's second Olympic champion ever.

The Philippines government and various businesses immediately showered him with gifts, including loads of cash, a house, and free ramen for life.

Yes, he'll be able to eat ramen noodles for breakfast, lunch and dinner! And that's not all the free food he's getting. Restaurants have offered him free macaroni and cheese for life, free grilled chicken for life, and free food at various buffets, ensuring that Carlos Yulo will never win another medal.

Well, hopefully he'll continue to be disciplined with his diet, waiting until retirement to con-

sume all that food. He's only 24 after all, and has several more years of serious gymnastics left before he can dedicate himself to serious eating.

His cash awards, mostly from government entities but also private companies, exceed 32 million Philippine pesos (about ₹4.6 crore).

In addition to the house that he's receiving from the government, Yulo is getting a fully furnished three-bedroom condo from the real-estate corporation Megaworld. It comes with high-end appliances, two balconies and a maid room. If he doesn't have a maid, he can easily convert this room into an Olympic medal display room or even a ramen storage room.

Among his many rewards from Filipino businesses, Yulo will be getting free colonoscopies for the rest of his life. The free colonoscopies begin at age 45, so he still has 21 more years of colonoscopy-free life.

As you can imagine, Yulo is now the most eligible bachelor

in the Philippines. He doesn't need to describe himself on dating apps -- he just needs to say, "We can go out for free ramen anytime."

Yulo is as much a hero in the Philippines as Neeraj Chopra is in India. Chopra won a gold medal in javelin at the Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first athlete from India to win an Olympic gold medal in a track and field event. He received cash awards of more than ₹3 crore, a Mahindra XUV700, and unlimited free travel on IndiGo for a year. But Chopra, surprisingly did not get free biryani for life.

However, a restaurant in New Delhi called Sita Ram Diwan Chand did offer free "chole-bhature" to anyone named Neeraj. But that was only for a single day.

Was it really fair that so many Neerajs got to enjoy a free meal based on the accomplishment of one Neeraj? Some of these Neerajs couldn't even tell a javelin from an anvil.

It wasn't just food that the Neerajs got to enjoy. Two petrol pump operators, one in Gujarat and another in Tamil Nadu, offered a few litres of free petrol to anyone named Neeraj for a limited period.

The rewards that athletes receive vary considerably from one country to another. If you win a medal for an oil-rich country in the Middle East, you can give free petrol to your namesakes for an unlimited period.

In South Korea, a male athlete who wins a medal gets an exemption from the usual requirement of 18 months of military service by age 28.

In Poland, a gold medalist receives an apartment, a diamond, a painting and a holiday voucher.

Indonesia's Apriyani Rahayu won a gold medal in Tokyo for badminton (women's doubles) and received five cows, as well as a house and plot of land. It may not be as appealing as "free ramen for life," but I wouldn't complain about "free milk for life."



Melvin Durai

WAS IT REALLY FAIR THAT SO MANY NEERAJS GOT TO ENJOY A FREE MEAL BASED ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ONE NEERAJ?

WISDOM CORNER

Your entire life only happens in this moment. The present moment is life itself. Yet, people live as if the opposite were true and treat the present moment as a stepping stone to the next moment - a means to an end

ECKHART TOLLE

To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness

CONFUCIUS

Peace in the world starts with peace in oneself. If everyone lives mindfully, everyone will be more healthy, feel more fulfilled in their daily lives and there will be more peace

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1782: George Washington ordered the creation of the first U.S. military decoration, the Badge of Military Merit (today called the Purple Heart), which was later awarded to three Revolutionary War soldiers for bravery in action.

1942: Japanese airfield on Guadalcanal seized by Allies. In the Allies' first major offensive in the Pacific theatre during World War II, U.S. Marines on this day in 1942 landed on Guadalcanal and captured the airfield from Japan, sparking a battle that lasted some six months.

1948: At the Olympics in London, track-and-field athlete Fanny Blankers-Koen, who was pregnant with her third child, helped the Dutch team win the 4 x 100 relay, becoming the first woman to capture four gold medals at a single Games; she earlier had won the 100 metres, the 200 metres, and the 80-metre hurdles.

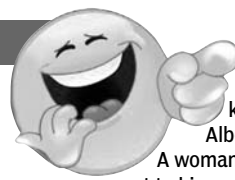
1960: Ivory Coast attains independence. The West African country known as Côte d'Ivoire gained its independence from France after being a member of the French Community for 2 years. Ivory Coast became a French Colony in 1893 under the leadership of explorer Louis Gustave Binger. Felix Houphouët-Boigny became the first president of the independent country and remained in office until his death in 1993.

1978: US President Jimmy Carter declared a federal health emergency in Love Canal, a neighbourhood in Niagara Falls, New York, following the leakage of toxic chemicals buried under the community; it was the worst environmental disaster involving chemical wastes in US history.

LOL

Calming the baby

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart which contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, "Don't get excited, Albert; don't scream, Albert; don't yell, Albert;



keep calm, Albert."

A woman standing next to him said, "You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your son, Albert." The man looked at her and said, "Lady, I'm Albert."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Indo-US ties intact

Sir, Bilateral ties between Washington and New Delhi are stable notwithstanding the case of an Indian "agent" accused of hatching a conspiracy to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the US in the so-called "murder-for-hire" accusation. In another matter blown out of proportion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's June 8 and June 9 Moscow visit is said to have annoyed a section of the US bureaucracy because the NATO summit conference was being held at the same time at Washington. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent meeting with US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken during the Quad meeting at Tokyo should allay all apprehensions on any possible bilateral discord. Jaishankar was categorical in stating that India was on the same page with the US with regard to a host of issues. In the past, New Delhi and Washington have not encouraged short-sighted accusations to hamper mutual friendship, and there is no reason to believe on the contrary now.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Djokovic's Golden Slam

Sir, In the aftermath of the 2024 Wimbledon final defeat to Carlos Alcaraz, Novak Djokovic found it remarkably easy to come to terms and take revenge on the Spaniard in the Paris Olympics when he beat him in straight sets, though via tie-breakers. At Paris, Djokovic endured and remained solid in all aspects of the game, and delivered when the biggest moments arrived to claim a historic victory in one of the most memorable Olympic finals ever staged. With this triumph, the Serbian great joins an elite group of players who have won all four Grand Slam singles titles and an Olympic gold medal, thus completing the "Golden Slam," which includes Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Serena Williams, and Rafael Nadal. This historic win cements Djokovic's legacy as one of the greatest tennis players of all time, showcasing his relentless pursuit of excellence and his ability to triumph against the odds. The victory now solidifies Djokovic's domination in tennis as he added an Olympic gold to his illustrious tally of 24 Grand Slam titles.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national



Our government is committed to supporting journalists and has taken several initiatives to improve their working conditions and quality of life. I am dedicated to ensuring the well-being of journalists and suggested that the APC and APUW could organize an annual conclave

ISRO LIKELY TO LAUNCH EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE-8 AUG 15

The Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is likely to be launched August 15, ISRO sources said Tuesday. The EOS-8 will be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3, it said. "Most likely it will be launched August 15 (Independence Day) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh," sources told PTI



of the day quote

Now the eastern front has opened. We should be extremely careful and we should watch the situation with great care

All the sectors should be developed simultaneously. Development should not be only about economic prosperity but it should also aim at social, industrial and education development

As there will always be a limit for expansion of even the Manohar International Airport, the significance of Dabolim airport cannot be undermined and it shall always be a very useful facility for the development of tourism in Goa

INDIA bloc parties protest against GST

CARRYING PLACARDS READING 'TAX TERRORISM', THE PROTESTING MPS RAISED SLOGANS DEMANDING THAT THE GST ON LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS BE ROLLED BACK



New Delhi, August 6: INDIA bloc parties staged a protest in Parliament premises Tuesday to press for the rollback of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and health insurance premiums.

Kharge said, "Today in the Parliament premises, INDIA bloc parties demanded immediate removal of 18% GST on health and life insurance premiums as this extortion is a severe blow to our people, especially the middle class."

In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "The Modi government even collected ₹24,000 crore from millions of common Indians who pay health insurance premiums every year by saving every penny to ensure that they do not have to bow down to anyone in case of a 'health crisis' in life."

Oppn members allege Budget only for firms

New Delhi: Opposition members Tuesday attacked the government in the Lok Sabha alleging that the Union Budget has nothing for the salaried and middle class and seems to favour the corporates.

to taxing uncertainties of life and restricting the industry's growth.

AISSC welcomes proposal to amend Wakf Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 6: The All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) Tuesday welcomed the government's decision to amend the law governing Waqf boards, saying it was long due.

All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council chairman Hazrat Syed Naseruddin Chishty demanded a separate Dargah Board under the amendments. "In the present Waqf Act, there is no mention of dargahs at all. The Waqf Boards do not recognise the traditions of the dargah as many of our traditions are not there in sharia, so we demand a separate Dargah Board," he said at a press conference.

SHORT TAKES

Woman killed after 2 houses collapse

Varanasi (UP): A 43-year-old woman was killed and nine people, including a woman police constable, were injured after two old houses in the Khoya Gali Chowk near the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi collapsed early Tuesday, officials said.

Fire in four tent godowns in Delhi

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out in four tent godowns in south Delhi's Jaunapur area in the early hours of Tuesday, destroying four vintage cars parked nearby and decorations worth crores of rupees.

RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY

Congress members protest against suspension of MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 6: Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani Tuesday debarred Congress MLA Mukesh Bhakar from the Assembly for six months following an overnight dharna in the Well of the House by his party legislators, who had prevented the marshals from evicting him after his first suspension a day earlier.

During the protest around 11.45 am, Congress MLA Ramila Khadiya felt uneasy and the speaker adjourned the House for half an hour. Khadiya was examined by the doctors in the Assembly. After the House reassembled and Bhakar did not leave, the speaker suspended him for six months on a proposal moved by Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg and adjourned the House sine die.

Plastic dumping causing serious environment damage in riverbanks

SUPREME COURT SAYS ANY ATTEMPTS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN RIVERS, INCLUDING THE GANGA, WILL REMAIN 'ILLUSORY' WITHOUT A UNIFIED EFFORT



New Delhi, August 6: The Supreme Court has said dumping of plastic is causing serious environment degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the river banks and water bodies in the country.

illegal/unauthorized constructions, the desired improvement of the quality of the water in river Ganga/all other rivers and water bodies in the country will remain illusory," the bench said.

Ganga floodplains in Patna submitted by the appellant. "The illegal and unauthorized constructions and permanent encroachments on the floodplain of Ganga are creating tremendous amounts of waste, noise and generating vast quantum of sewage. They are aggravating the risk to life and property of the dwellers occupying the surroundings since every year, the areas stated in preceding paras go down under flood waters. The illegal constructions were obstructing the natural course of the river," said the plea filed through advocate Akash Vashishtha.

E-Auction Sale Notice by Indian Bank. Includes details for three properties in Sambalpur, Odisha, with descriptions, dates, and reserve prices. Includes QR codes for document, Ebkray, and Tender.

national

of the day quote

In view of the rapidly changing political situation in the neighbouring country Bangladesh, today's all-party meeting is very important, in which the decision of all parties to stand by the decisions of the government is considered appropriate and necessary

We are moving ahead in Amrit Kaal under the Modi government and our children will get to see a developed India by 2047

The damage is of large scale. The route has been breached at 29 places due to landslides. Water and power supply lines have been hit, besides disruption to telecommunication lines

X POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING : Vinesh Phogat the warrior who single handedly took on BJP and Brijbhushan Singh, was abused by BJP IT cell and was literally made to cry on national TV. Today, she shut everyone up by shocking the world and defeating the Tokyo Gold Medalist Vinesh Phogat. The warrior on and off the ring. Tough day for the BJP IT cell which tarnished her image and questioned her abilities.

SHORT TAKES

Woman attempts immolation in UP

Lucknow: A 30-year-old woman suffered 90 per cent burn injuries after allegedly attempting to immolate herself in Lucknow's Vikramaditya Marg area, claiming torture by her husband and in-laws, police said Tuesday. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged in a post on X that the woman had arrived in Lucknow for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "janata darbar" but her failure to be heard forced her to take the step.

1 killed in J'khand iron plant blast

Hazaribag (Jharkhand): One person was killed and six others were injured in an explosion at a sponge iron plant in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Tuesday, police said. The incident took place at Pawanputra Steel and Alloys plant in Barhi police station area, about 135 km from Ranchi. Barhi police station in-charge Chandra Sekhar Kumar said the deceased was identified as Jitendra Kumar (50). Police said out of six injured, four have been referred to Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS).

SC reserves order on Sisodia's bail plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court, which Tuesday reserved its order on pleas filed by AAP leader Manish Sisodia seeking bail, asked the CBI and ED where they see the "end of the tunnel" in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The apex court said there are total 493 witnesses in both the cases and asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) how long it will take to conclude the trial. The law officer said there were eight important witnesses each in the cases.



“We have no option but to enter politics and come to power if we want to get reservation for the Maratha community”
MANOJ JARANGE | ACTIVIST

TOP COURT TO HEAR PLEA OF NCPCR ON CHILD MARRIAGE

The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to list for hearing a plea of child rights body NCPCR seeking an authoritative pronouncement on a vexed legal question whether a secular law on prohibition of child marriage will prevail over the Muslim personal law



BANGLADESH UNREST

Monitoring status of minorities: India

TOP SOURCES SAID INDIA HAS ALREADY REACHED OUT TO THE NEW DISPENSATION IN DHAKA AND SOUGHT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OVER 10,000 INDIANS PRESENTLY RESIDING IN BANGLADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 6: India is "deeply concerned" over the situation in Bangladesh, especially about the status of the minority communities, and is in regular touch with authorities in Dhaka. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Tuesday, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and landed at the Hindon airbase near Delhi. In India's first reaction to the dramatic developments in Bangladesh, Jaishankar, in suo-motu statements in both houses of Parliament, said Hasina decided to resign after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment and requested for approval "at very short notice" to come to India "for the moment". "We welcome that, but will naturally remain deeply concerned till law and order is visibly restored. Our border guarding forces have also been instructed to be exceptionally alert in view of this complex situation," he added.



Hasina's India stay may be extended

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's plan to travel to London has hit a roadblock over some "uncertainties" and she is unlikely to move out of India for the next couple of days, people familiar with the matter said Tuesday. Hasina, who landed at the Hindon airbase Monday in a C-130J military transport aircraft hours after resigning as the prime minister, has been shifted to an unspecified location under tight security, they said.

her travel plans for taking refuge in another country is finalised. Though Hasina, who is accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana, wanted to travel to London, the UK is understood to have conveyed that it is unlikely to heed to her request for asylum. Following this, she is considering several options including the UAE, the US, Belarus, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Finland, said a source. In his remarks in Parliament,

Jaishankar said India-Bangladesh relations have been "exceptionally close" for many decades over many governments, adding concern about recent violence and instability in that country is shared across the political spectrum. Delving into the developments leading up to Hasina's resignation following weeks of students' protests, he said New Delhi had "repeatedly counselled restraint

and urged that the situation be diffused through dialogue".

The External Affairs Minister said the bulk of the students have already returned to India in the month of July, adding it is India's expectation that the host government will provide the required security protection to the Indian missions in Bangladesh.

Hasina, who ruled the South Asian country with an iron fist for 15 years, resigned as the prime minister Monday following 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.

Jaishankar said India is looking forward to the normal functioning of the Indian missions once the situation stabilizes. The external affairs minister also touched upon the dramatic developments in Bangladesh. Jaishankar said that August 5, demonstrators converged in Dhaka despite the curfew. Jaishankar described the situation in Bangladesh as "still evolving".

Talking about the genesis of the problem in the neighbouring country, he said there has been "considerable tensions, deep divides and growing polarisation" in Bangladesh politics since the January parliamentary polls.

Wayanad landslides: Death toll rises to 402



AGENCIES

Wayanad, August 6: The rescue operations in landslide-affected four villages of Kerala's Wayanad entered the eighth day Tuesday with the death toll reaching 402 and around 170 still missing.

The over 1,200-strong rescue team comprising personnel from all the Defence forces, NDRF, SDRF, police, fire services and volunteers began searches early in the morning in the four worst-affected areas in Churalmala, Velarimala, Mundakayil and Panchirimaldom.

Special teams have been searching in the Chaliyar River from where several bodies and dismembered body parts were recovered in the past few days. DNA tests are being conducted on all such body parts.

In over 100 relief camps, mostly set up in various educational

institutions in and around the affected areas, over 10,300 people have been housed.

State Revenue Minister Tuesday said the Local Self Government (LSG) department has now been asked to give a list of buildings belonging to the government besides identifying homes that are presently locked and also information about the number of resorts in the locality.

"The State Education Minister V Sivankutty is reaching here and we will soon decide on how the educational needs will go ahead. The standard operating procedures will be in place. At the moment most of these relief camps operate in educational institutions. Once we get the list from the LSG department, we will move the people to resorts, closed homes and such places," said Rajan.

"We assure that none of the people in the affected places will be left uncared. The weekly cabinet meeting will be held online Wednesday, where more decisions with regards to rehabilitation will be made and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will announce it," added Rajan. Even as the rescue operations entered the eighth day, this will go on till the Army takes a final call. Meanwhile, help is pouring into the Chief Minister Distress Relief Fund and the decision has come that all state government employees will contribute their salaries of five days to it.

SNIPPETS

BSF asks locals to not venture near border

New Delhi/Kolkata: The Border Security Force (BSF) has asked locals residing along the 4,096 km-long India-Bangladesh international border to not undertake unnecessary movement in the frontier areas especially during the night in the wake of the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Dhaka, officials said Tuesday. BSF Director General (Acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary continued his border tour for the second day as he visited integrated check post (ICP) Petrapole, the largest such facility in South Asia located at a distance of about 80 km from Kolkata, and a "highly sensitive" border post of the force in the North 24 Paraganas district along the front.

India alerts citizens about UK travel

London: The High Commission of India in London Tuesday issued a safety advisory for Indian nationals to "stay vigilant and exercise due caution" amid ongoing violent clashes which have targeted immigrants and asylum-seekers in parts of the UK since last week. The advisory posted on the social media channels of the Indian mission also provides emergency contact information for anyone in need of urgent assistance. It comes a week after the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England, and incorrect social media claims over the UK-born suspect's asylum-seeker status.

Rekha Sharma's tenure as NCW chief ends

New Delhi: National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma's tenure ended Tuesday. Sharma, 60, assumed the charge of NCW chairperson August 7, 2018. Reflecting on her time in the NCW, she said, "These nine years have been like a roller coaster ride for me. Coming from a humble background to finishing three terms in the NCW is a long way I have walked." Her association with the NCW began in August 2015 as a member. She was given additional charge as the NCW chairperson from September 29, 2017, before officially becoming its chief in 2018. In a post on X, Sharma said, "These nine years have been like a roller coaster ride for me. Coming from a humble background to finishing three terms in the NCW is a long way I have walked." Throughout her tenure, Sharma was a vocal advocate for gender sensitisation of police personnel, emphasising their role as the first point of contact for victims.



Students participate in a peace rally commemorating Hiroshima Day in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

HP: Moderate flash flood risk in 7 districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 6: The meteorological centre here Tuesday cautioned of moderate flash flood risk in isolated parts of Himachal Pradesh's seven out of 12 districts - Kangra, Sirmour, Chamba, Shimla, Kullu, Kinnaur and Mandi - in the next 24 hours. The weather office issued an 'orange' alert of very heavy rain in parts of 10 districts of Bilaspur,

Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una for the next 24 hours till Wednesday evening.

It also issued an 'orange' warning of heavy to very heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in the state August 7 and 10.

Monsoon activity is likely to intensify from Tuesday evening and continue for the next five to six days, bringing fairly wide-

spread rain across the state, the MeT said.

As intermittent rain continued to lash several parts of the state, 53 roads were closed, while 63 water supply schemes were affected, the state emergency operation centre said Tuesday evening. Sixteen people died in flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts July 31 and 40 are still missing.

Over 84% districts prone to extreme heatwaves: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 6: More than 84 per cent of the districts in India are prone to extreme heat waves and 70 per cent are experiencing a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, according to a new analysis.

The report, "Managing Monsoons in a Warming Climate" by the independent developmental organisation IPE Global Limited and Esri India Technologies, said the country was experiencing extended summer-like conditions during the June-September monsoon.

Abinash Mohanty, head of Climate Change and Sustainability Practice at IPE Global Limited and the author of the study, said, "Our analysis suggests that eight out of 10 Indians will be highly exposed to extreme events by 2036." "Embracing hyper-granular

risk assessments and establishing climate-risk observatories should become a national imperative to safeguard Indian agriculture, industry and large-scale infrastructural projects from the vagaries of climate change," he said.

The report said Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tripura were the top five heatwave hotspot states in the 2013-22 decade. It said 74 per cent of districts in the coastal regions, 71 per cent in the plains, and 65 per cent in the hills had 'high to very high' exposure to extreme heat waves.

Districts in the plains and hills experienced a 36 per cent increase in heatwave days during the 2013-22 decade while coastal districts recorded a 30 per cent rise, it added. "Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tripura were the top five heatwave hotspot states in this decade," the report stated.



It also noted that the decade recorded fewer cumulative heatwave days compared to the previous two decades. The decade's most impactful extreme heatwave event occurred in 2015, the second deadliest after the 1998 event.

The analysis suggested that during the March-May period and the subsequent June-September period, districts in

the plains experienced the maximum number of heatwave days. Coastal districts saw a decline in the number of heatwave instances, both in frequency and intensity, in the past decade, which could be attributed to the increase in cyclonic activities in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Government data shows ex-

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tripura were the top five heatwave hotspot states in the 2013-22 decade

Uttar Pradesh (1,485), Telangana (1,172), Punjab (1,030), Bihar (938), Maharashtra (867), Odisha (609), Jharkhand (517), Haryana (461), West Bengal (357), Rajasthan (345), Gujarat (263), and Madhya Pradesh (213).

Delhi recorded 13 such deaths. The maximum number of deaths (1,908) were recorded in 2015.

This summer, India experienced 536 heatwave days, the

highest in 14 years, with the northwestern region recording its warmest June since 1901, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The country recorded 181 heatwave days in June, the highest since 2010.

Official data shows that India recorded 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths in 2024, during one of its hottest and longest heat waves.

The intense heat overwhelmed the water supply system and power grids, with Delhi grappling with a severe water crisis. Temperatures breached 50 degrees Celsius in parts of Rajasthan, with nighttime temperatures hovering around 35 degrees Celsius in many places.

In Delhi, which logged 40 consecutive days of temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius since May 13, there were around 60 heat-related deaths this year, according to reports.

international

of the day quote

Work has begun to establish a Chinese bank in the Maldives. In addition to it, the free trade agreement between the Maldives and China would offer numerous benefits

MOHAMED SAEED | MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE, MALDIVES

We are determined to boost self-defence and deepen cooperation with democratic partners in a bid to ensure peace and prosperity

LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

Nuclear-armed nations and supporters of atomic deterrence deliberately ignore the fact that once people invented a weapon, they used it without exception

HIDEHIKO YUZAKI | GOVERNOR OF HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

SHORT TAKES

Mass rally demands jailed Khan's release

Peshawar: Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's imprisoned former Prime Minister rallied Monday in the country's volatile northwest to mark the first anniversary of his arrest and demand his immediate release, officials said. The protest is part of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf or PTI opposition party's campaign aimed at pressuring the current government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to free him without any further delay. The rally was held in Swabi, a city in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where Khan's party rules.

Landslide kills seven in Nepal

Kathmandu: Seven people were killed in a landslide that hit a remote area in western Nepal Tuesday morning, according to the police. A team of Nepal Police and local representatives were involved in the rescue and rehabilitation operations, carried out soon after the landslide triggered by incessant rain in Badigad Rural Municipality of Baglung district. Seven people were killed when the landslide swept away two houses in the Badigad area Tuesday, according to the police.

Russia detains Italian man

Moscow: An Italian man has been detained in Moscow after flying a drone near the Kremlin, state news agency TASS reported Tuesday, citing law enforcement sources. TASS said Russian law enforcement agencies detained the man, a flight attendant, for operating the drone over Zaryadye Park which sits just beside the Kremlin in central Moscow. The Italian embassy in Moscow did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NKorea slams US

Seoul: North Korea said Germany's entry into a US-led UN border monitoring force on the Korean peninsula would raise tensions, accusing Washington of creating an Asian version of NATO, state news agency KCNA reported Tuesday. Germany, a close US ally, Friday became the latest member of the United Nations Command, a group that helps police the heavily fortified border between South Korea and North Korea and has committed to defend the South in the event of a war.



The Kyiv regime's illusions that the Europeans will arrange another beautiful peace summit at which all their internal problems will be resolved by themselves, are costing the people of Ukraine dearly

SERGEI SHOIGU | SECRETARY OF SECURITY COUNCIL, RUSSIA

PAK NA PASSES BILL

Pakistan's National Assembly (NA) Tuesday passed a bill seeking to bar independent lawmakers from joining a party after a stipulated period



Harris picks running mate

Tim Walz, a 60-year-old US Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, said he was honored to join Harris on the ticket

REUTERS

Washington, August 6: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate Tuesday, choosing a progressive policy champion and a plain speaker from America's heartland to help win over rural, white voters. Harris announced the selection in a text message to supporters. "I'm pleased to share that I've made my decision. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will join our campaign as my running mate," she said. "Tim is a battle-tested leader who has an incredible track record of getting things done for Minnesota families. I know that he will bring that same principled leadership to our campaign, and to the office of the vice president."

Walz, a 60-year-old US Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, said he was honored to join Harris on the ticket. "I'm all in," Walz said on X, formerly Twitter. "Vice President Harris is showing us the politics of what's possible. It reminds me a bit of the first day of school."

As governor, Walz has pushed a progressive agenda that includes free school meals, goals for tackling climate change, tax cuts for the middle class and expanded paid leave for Minnesota workers. Walz has long advocated for women's reproductive rights but



Walz has served 12 years in Congress before he became Minnesota governor in 2018

also displayed a conservative bent while representing a rural district in the US House, defending agricultural interests and backing gun rights. Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, is adding a popular Midwestern politician whose home state votes reliably for Democrats in presidential elections but is close to Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial battlegrounds. Such states are seen as crucial in deciding this year's election, and Walz is widely seen as skilled at connecting with white, rural voters who in recent years have voted broadly for the Republican Donald Trump, Harris' rival for the White House.

UK EXPANDS JAIL CAPACITY

REUTERS

Liverpool, August 6: The British government has increased its prison capacity to help tackle violent, week-long anti-immigrant riots that have prompted a growing number of countries to warn their citizens about the dangers of travelling in Britain.

Riots across a number of towns and cities have erupted following the murder of three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed event in Southport, a seaside town in northern England, after false messaging on social media wrongly identified the suspected killer as an Islamist migrant. The Justice department, which is being forced to release some prisoners early as it battles a jail overcrowding crisis, said nearly 600 prison places had been secured to accommodate those engaged in violence.

About 400 people have been arrested so far. "My message to anyone who chooses to take part in this violence and thuggery is simple, the police, courts and prisons stand ready and you will face the consequences of your appalling acts," Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood said. The unrest has prompted



India, Australia, Nigeria and other countries to warn their citizens to stay vigilant.

Riva Peacock, a 22-year-old retail worker in Liverpool, where rioters clashed with police over the weekend, said the violence was shocking.

"There are a lot of people that blame immigrants for the state of this country," she told Reuters. "It's just a real shame that some of the most vulnerable people in our society have been used as a scapegoat for these issues." Prime Minister Keir Starmer has vowed a reckoning to those who have attacked mosques and hotels holding migrants, hurled bricks at the police and counter protesters, and looted shops and burnt cars.

Police Tuesday charged a 28-year-old man with stirring up racial hatred over Facebook posts linked to the disorder. A 14-year-old pleaded guilty to violent disorder.

AMERICA UNPREPARED FOR WARS OF THE FUTURE

On the battlefields of Ukraine, the future of warfare is rapidly becoming a reality. The skies are filled with thousands of drones, operated by personnel using artificial intelligence systems to navigate obstacles and identify potential targets. These AI models are also aiding Ukraine in predicting optimal strike locations. As a result, Ukrainian forces are effectively destroying tanks and bringing down aircraft. Russian units are under constant surveillance, with their communication lines vulnerable to enemy interference, just as Ukraine's are. Both nations are competing to create more advanced technologies capable of countering ongoing assaults and breaching enemy defenses. The conflict in Ukraine is not the only instance where new technology is reshaping warfare. In Myanmar and Sudan, both insurgents and government forces are employing unmanned vehicles and algorithms in their

battles. In 2020, an autonomous drone from Turkey, deployed by troops supporting the Libyan government, targeted retreating fighters, possibly marking the first drone strike carried out without human intervention. That same year, Azerbaijan's military used Turkish- and Israeli-made drones along with loitering munitions to capture the contested region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, in Gaza, Israel has deployed thousands of drones equipped with AI algorithms, assisting troops in manoeuvring through the urban landscape.

In a sense, there is nothing surprising about the pace of such developments. War has always spurred innovation. But today's shifts are unusually rapid, and they will have a far greater effect. Future wars will no longer be about who can mass the most people or field the best jets, ships, and tanks. Instead, they will be dominated by increasingly autonomous weapons systems and



powerful algorithms. Unfortunately, this is a future for which the United States remains unprepared. Its troops are not fully ready to fight in an environment in which they rarely enjoy the element of surprise. Its jets, ships, and tanks are not equipped to defend against an onslaught of drones. The military has not yet embraced artificial intelligence.

The Pentagon does not have nearly enough initiatives aimed at rectifying these failures—and its current efforts are moving too slowly. Meanwhile, the Russian military has fielded many AI-powered drones in Ukraine. And in April, China announced its largest military restructuring in almost a decade, with a new emphasis on building up technology-driven forces.

Yahya Sinwar named as new Hamas leader



REUTERS

Cairo, August 6: Hamas named its Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar as successor to former political chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran last week, the group said Tuesday, in a move that reinforces the radical path pursued since the October 7 attack on Israel.

Sinwar, the architect of the most devastating attack on Israel in decades, has been in hiding in Gaza, defying Israeli attempts to kill him since the start of the war. "The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas announces the selection of Commander Yahya Sinwar as the head of the political bureau of the movement, succeeding the martyr Commander Ismail Haniyeh, may Allah have mercy on him," the movement said in a brief statement. News of the appointment was greeted with a salvo of rockets from Gaza from the bands of militants still fighting Israeli

troops in the besieged enclave. Sinwar, who spent half his adult life in Israeli prisons, was the most powerful Hamas leader left alive following the assassination of Haniyeh, which has left the region on the brink of a wider regional conflict after Iran vowed harsh retaliation.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for the assassination but it has said it killed other senior leaders, including Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Arouri, who was killed in Beirut, and Mohammed Deif, the movement's military commander. Born in a refugee camp in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Sinwar, 61, was elected as Hamas' leader in Gaza in 2017 after gaining a reputation as a ruthless enforcer and an implacable enemy of Israel. He was formerly head of the AI-Majd security apparatus which tracked, killed and punished Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel's secret service before he was jailed.

UK calls for UN-led probe

ASYLUM FOR HASINA IN UK UNCLEAR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 6: The British government has called for a United Nations led investigation into the violent incidents of the past few weeks in Bangladesh, which led to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fleeing to India "for the moment" before reportedly seeking asylum in the UK.

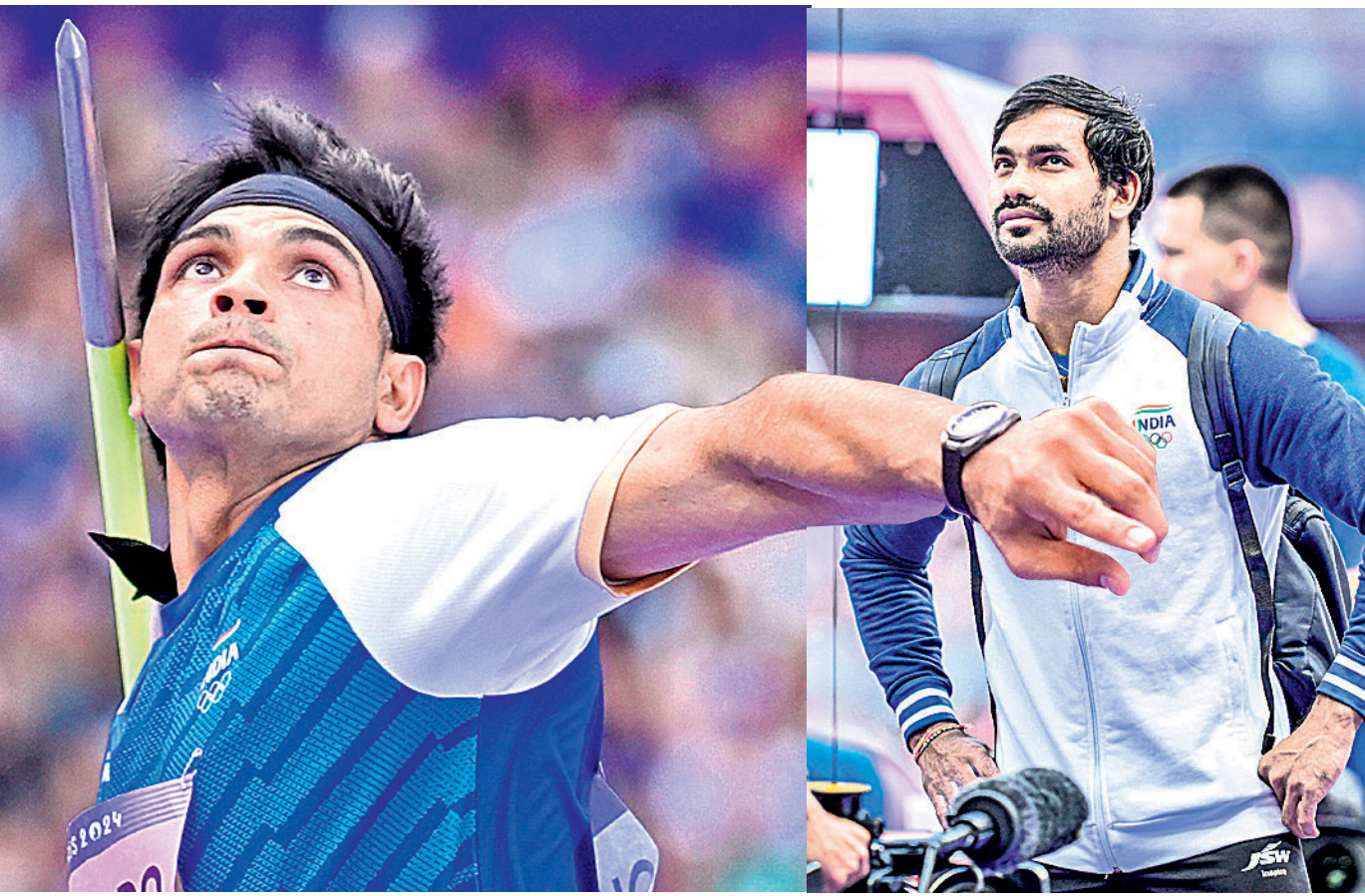
Foreign Secretary David Lammy issued a statement Monday to condemn the "unprecedented levels of violence and tragic loss of life" over the last two weeks in Bangladesh and said the UK wanted to see ac-

tion towards a democratic future for the country. The government has made no official comment on reports of Hasina seeking political asylum in the UK, with Home Office sources only indicating that the country's immigration rules don't specifically allow individuals to travel to the UK to seek asylum. "The last two weeks in Bangladesh have seen unprecedented levels of violence and tragic loss of life. A transitional period has been announced by the Chief of the Army Staff," reads David Lammy's statement. "All sides now need to work to-

gether to end the violence, restore calm, deescalate the situation and prevent any further loss of life. The people of Bangladesh deserve a full and independent UN-led investigation into the events of the past few weeks," the foreign minister said. "The UK wants to see action taken to ensure Bangladesh a peaceful and democratic future. The UK and Bangladesh have deep people-to-people links and shared Commonwealth values," he added. Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar updated Parliament in New Delhi Tuesday to confirm that Hasina had arrived in the country after a forced resignation amid public agitation. According to UK government sources, while the country has a "proud record" of providing protection for people who need it, there is no provision within the Immigration Rules for someone to be "allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge". Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach as the fastest route to safety, officials indicated with reference to the asylum procedures.

Neeraj cruises into final

DISAPPOINTING OLYMPIC DEBUT FOR KISHORE JENA AS HE FAILS TO FIND A PLACE AMONG THE TOP 12



IN FULL FLIGHT: Neeraj Chopra needed just one throw to qualify for the javelin throw final; a disappointed Kishore Jena gazes at the scoreboard

Paris, August 6: Defending champion Neeraj Chopra turned on the heat as he stormed into the men's javelin throw final of the Olympic Games with a season's best effort of 89.34m in his very first attempt in the qualification round here Tuesday.

The other Indian in fray, Kishore Jena, bowed out of contention to make the 12-man final Thursday after managing a poor throw of 80.73m.

Much like his performance in the Tokyo Olympics, the 26-year-old Chopra crossed the automatic qualifying mark of 84m in his opening throw to occupy the top spot in Group B.

The tremendous effort, which

is the second best of his career, also set aside concerns surrounding Chopra's fitness after he revealed that he had been battling an adductor niggle in the build-up to the Games. His personal best continues to be 89.94m achieved in 2022.

Earlier in the year, Chopra had thrown 88.36m in Doha and also won the Paavo Nurmi Games with a throw of 85.97m. As the defending champion, there will certainly be pressure on him, but Chopra showed that he is up to the task.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who is the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, also qualified for the finals with a throw of 86.59m in Group B. From the same group,

Grenada veteran Anderson Peters too made the cut with a throw of 88.63m.

Chopra produced the most eye-catching performance of the day lasting just a few minutes – quite literally a case of 'he came, he threw and he conquered'.

Earlier in the day, Jena finished ninth in Group A qualification round with an underwhelming throw of 80.73m, which pushed him out of contention for a slot in the finals. Jena's opening throw was correct and he fouled his second attempt before coming up with 80.21m in his last effort.

Julian Weber of Germany topped Group A with a first round throw of 87.76m while former World Champion Julius Yego (85.97m) of Kenya and

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlech (85.63m) of Czechia were second and third respectively.

All those who throw 84m or above, or at least 12 best performers from Group A and B combined will advance to the finals to be held Thursday.

Jena had booked an automatic Olympics berth with his 87.54m throw for a silver medal in the Asian Games in October last year. After that, he crossed the 80m mark in just one out of six competitions before Tuesday. During all the three throws that Jena attempted he did not look confident and the intent was lacking. However, the Olympic experience will certainly do him a world of good.

Resilient Mirabai eyes historic podium finish

LIFTER, HER COACH CLAIM SHE HAS RECOVERED FROM INJURIES

Paris, August 6: Away from the spotlight owing to an injury-plagued buildup, Mirabai Chanu will be in focus Wednesday when she attempts to become India's first weightlifter to win two Olympic medals but a challenging field and lingering fitness concerns stand in the way.

The lifter, who opened India's tally on the first day of the competition at the Tokyo Olympics with a silver medal, has kept a low profile since suffering hip tendonitis during the Asian Games last October.

Chanu has endured a rather underwhelming Olympic cycle thanks to injury and workload management. Her best effort since Tokyo came at the 2022 Commonwealth Games where she lifted 201kg (88kg snatch+113kg clean & jerk). She had won the silver in Tokyo by lifting 202kg (87kg+115kg).

Competing in her pet 49kg weight category, Chanu is likely to be in the race for a silver or

“We know that Mirabai will have to lift at least 205-206kg for a medal. We are ready for the challenge”

VIJAY SHARMA | COACH

bronze if she matches or better her personal best in both sections. Reigning Olympic champion China's Hou Zhihui is the favourite to defend her title.

There are still murmurs surrounding Chanu's fitness after she returned from a five-month hiatus following the hip injury. However, both Chanu and chief national coach Vijay Sharma have claimed that the Manipuri has completely recovered.

“We know that Mirabai has to go well beyond the 200kg mark. This time 202kg will not matter, but somewhere around 205-206kg. We are prepared for the challenge,” Sharma told this agency Tuesday.

However, this is easier said

than done, as the 29-year-old has struggled to surpass her personal best of 88kg in the snatch, set at the 2020 National Championships, and 119kg in clean and jerk, achieved at the 2021 Asian Championships, for quite a while.

Chanu has been training in this city for a month. She got help from American Dr Aaron Horschig, a former weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach. He has been working with Chanu since 2020.

While Chanu, who turns 30 Thursday, will have one eye on her competitors' barbells, the Manipuri's main battle will be with herself at the South Paris Arena here. Chanu however, is known to be a fighter and one of the most tenacious athletes in India. Be it battling intense menstrual cramps to win a medal in Tokyo or attempting a 117kg clean and jerk lift despite injuring herself during the Asian Games, she has always shown her resolute side.



OLYMPIC TIDBITS

Unexpected spectator



Teahupo'o (Tahiti): With all eyes on the ocean during the final day of the Paris Olympics surfing competition here Tuesday afternoon, a surprise guest made an appearance: a whale. A safe distance from athletes Tatiana Weston-Webb from Brazil and Brisa Hennessy of Costa Rica – who were competing in a semifinal match – the whale breached and gave spectators and photographers the Olympic moment of a lifetime. Locals said that whales are frequently seen in Tahiti as they gather around the island during mating, giving birth and migration season.

Hotel apologises to Serena

Paris: A luxury Parisian hotel has apologised to tennis great Serena Williams after she complained, in a social media post seen by more than four million people, that she and her family were turned away from its restaurant Monday. “Yikes @peninsulaparis I've been denied access to rooftop to eat in an empty restaurant of nicer places but never with my kids. Always a first,” Williams said on X. Williams, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, was one of the flame's torchbearers during the Paris Games' opening ceremony. “The restaurant quickly replied to the multiple-time Grand Slam champion. Dear Mrs Williams, Please accept our deepest apologies for the disappointment you encountered tonight. Unfortunately, our rooftop bar was indeed fully booked,” the management of the hotel said.

Seine problems persist

Paris: A test run meant to allow Olympic athletes to familiarise themselves with the marathon swimming course in the Seine river was canceled Tuesday over concerns about water quality. Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps confirmed that World Aquatics made the decision to cancel the exercise. The cancellation comes a day after the triathlon mixed relay event was held in the river. World Triathlon released data Tuesday showing that when the triathletes swam Monday, the levels of fecal bacteria were high.

‘MONDO’ VAULTS INTO GREATNESS

SWEDISH VAULTER BREAKS HIS OWN RECORD FOR THE 9TH TIME EN ROUTE TO GOLD

Saint-Denis (France), August 6: The pole vaulter they call ‘Mondo’ really can put on a show. And after Monday's show, discussions are bound to start as to who has been the greatest pole vaulter of all times – Sergei Bubka or Armand Duplantis.

With the rest of the action at the Olympic track wrapped up for Monday evening and the crowd of 80,000 at the Stade de France still on their feet, Duplantis rested the pole on his right shoulder and took a deep breath. Then, he lifted up that long piece of carbon fibre and took off down the runway and into the night sky.

Another Olympic gold medal already was his. When he came crashing down into the padding on the other side of that sky-high, pink-tinted bar, so was another world record. The ninth time he has broken his own record.

Duplantis, the Louisiana-born 24-year-old who competes for his mother's native Sweden, cleared 6.25 metres (20 feet, 6 inches) to break the world record for the

ninth time – but the first time on his sport's grandest stage.

His next move was a sprint to the stands to hug his girlfriend and celebrate his record and second Olympic gold with all those friends and family wearing yellow and blue. The country's

king and queen were on hand, as well, to witness Sweden's latest history-making leap into the pole vault pit. “It's hard to understand, honestly,” Duplantis said. “If I don't beat this moment in my career, then I'm



FLYING HIGH: Armand Duplantis watches the world from above as he goes over the bar to create a new world record, Monday at the Paris Olympics; (Inset): ‘Mondo’ poses with the scoreboard flashing the world record

“For it to actually happen the way that it did and for me to put the right jump together at the right time, it's very hard to explain. It's bigger than words”

ARMAND DUPLANTIS

core was worth staying for, and almost everyone did. They were not disappointed.

“Mondo is an extraordinary jumper because of four factors,” said American Sam Kendrick, who finished second. “One, he's got a great coach for a long time. He's had a lot of time to develop his skills. He's got great equipment and understanding of the sport. He's a fan of sport, and he's got God's hand on his back.” Kendrick couldn't have been closer to the truth.

China send Indian paddlers packing

Paris, August 6: Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal showed resistance but India suffered a 0-3 loss to mighty China in the pre-quarterfinals, which also ended their campaign in the men's table tennis team event at the Paris Olympics here Tuesday. To put it simply, the Chinese gave a masterclass to the Indian paddlers and dented them. Only Sharath Kamal managed to win a game. The others were no match for their respective opponents.

The Indian duo of Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar lost the opening doubles match 2-11, 3-11, 7-11 to the Chinese pair of the legendary Ma Long and Chuqin Wang.

Playing current World No. 2 Fan Zhendong in the first singles, Sharath took the first game 11-9 with a superlative display. But the Chinese regrouped to outwit the Indian 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 in the next three games as India fell 0-2 behind in the tie.

The 24-year-old Manav then played the second singles but found the going tough against Chuqin, losing 9-11, 6-11, 9-11. Even though he got to nine points in both the first and third games, it never appeared that Manav would win.

FRANCE SET UP SPANISH DATE

Lyon, August 6: Thierry Henry stood with his arms outstretched, facing the jubilant crowd and soaking up the atmosphere. The final of the men's soccer tournament at the Paris Olympics was in sight after France had been pushed to the limit by Egypt in Monday night's semifinal at Stade de Lyon.

Jean-Philippe Mateta, mean-

while, was being mobbed by his teammates after scoring his second goal in a 3-1 win that sets up a final Friday against Spain at Parc des Princes. Spain had earlier defeated Morocco 2-1.

“It was like, I don't know how to say – it was incredible,” Mateta said. “Now we have to do better in the one game left. We won't be satisfied without the gold.”

The host nation's place in the final looked in serious doubt as Egypt was closing in on an upset



after leading through Mahmoud Saber's 62nd-minute goal.

France had hit the frame of the goal on three occasions before Mateta equalised in the 83rd and sent the game into extra time. His second came in the 99th and Michael Olise added France's third in the 108th.

In the other semifinal at Marseille, Juanlu Sanchez came off the bench to fire Spain to a record-equalling fifth Olympic men's soccer final.

