BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY JULY 31, 2024



Not in good terms

Actor Taapsee Pannu says she doesn't believe in appeasing paparazzi as they misuse her statements for commercial gains

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LEISURE | P2



Return to ruins

Thousands of Palestinians return to their homes in the ruins of Khan Younis after a week-long Israeli incursion which killed hundreds

INTERNATIONAL | P9



'Wilful defaulters'

RBI issues a Master Direction on the Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters to examine the 'wilful default' aspect in all NPAs

BUSINESS | P10



Dominant show

ndian men's hockey team beat Ireland despite a few defense lapses to more or less secure its passage into the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

IPS officer Pandit Rajesh suspended

for misconduct

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The state government Tuesday suspended senior IPS officer Pandit Rajesh Uttamrao for allegedly misusing his position, an official statement said.

Uttamrao, a 2007-batch IPS officer, was serving as DIG, Fire Services & Home Guards.

"A complaint has been received, alleging that Pandit has disgraced the dignity of his position by misusing his power last Saturday (July 27) night,' said the statement issued by the chief minister's office (CMO).

It was alleged that Pandit misbehaved with a woman police inspector and her husband July 27. Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said that police action will be taken if any complaint is lodged over the alleged incident.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered the department concerned to immediately suspend the errant senior police officer and take appropriate action against him on the basis of a confidential report submitted by the Director General of Police (DGP) on the incident.

123 buried in sleep Trains derail: Two from Rourkela dead



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), July 30: In one of the worst natural disasters in Kerala, at least 123 persons were killed and 128 injured in massive landslides triggered by torrential rains in Wayanad Tuesday. With hundreds trapped under the debris, sparking fears of mounting fatalities, rescue agencies were racing against time to pull out any survivors. Government sources said 123 people have been killed so far in the tragedy

Heart-wrenching scenes and phone conversations of several people crying and pleading to be rescued, as they were either trapped in their houses or had no way to move out of places where they were stranded, were witnessed after the landslides that

left a trail of death and destruction in the picturesque hamlets of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala and Noolpuzha.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said: "Due to the intense rainfall, landslides occurred, and an entire region has been destroyed. Ninety-three bodies have been recovered so far." He said 128 people are undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

2 from Odisha missing

Bhubaneswar: Two persons from Odisha are missing in the landslides in Kerala's Wayanad, the chief minister's office (CMO) said. "The state government is in regular communication with the Kerala government in view of the massive landslide where many lives were affected in Wayanad. As per the information received from the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, two rescued Odia people are under treatment while two others are still missing," the CMO said in a post on X.

The Kerala government has sought further assistance from the nation's defence forces to augment the rescue teams. A 43-member team from the 122 Infantry Battalion (TA) MADRAS has been deployed to aid in the efforts.

PM Narendra Modi expressed concern over the incident. He said he spoke to CM Vijayan and assured all possible help from the Centre to the state. Modi also announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured.

Meanwhile, Congress sources in New Delhi said that Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will visit landslide-hit Wayanad Wednesday.

AGENCIES

Jamshedpur/Bhubaneswar, July 30: Two passengers from Rourkela were killed and 20 others injured after at least 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district early Tuesday, officials said.

The accident occurred at 3.45am near Barabamboo, around 80km from Jamshedpur, under the Chakradharpur Division of the South Eastern Railway (SER), they said.

The deceased were identified as P Bikash Rao of Railway Colony and Ajit Kumar Samal of Malgodam area in Rourkela.

SER spokesperson Om Prakash Charan said there was another derailment of a goods train nearby, but it was not yet clear

whether the two accidents occurred concurrently.

'Two persons were killed and 20 injured as 18 coaches of Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed near Barabamboo. Rescue operations are on and an NDRF team is rushing to the spot," West Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary said.

He claimed that the "Howrah-Mumbai train hit the stationary goods train". Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren directed officials to expedite relief operations. The Railways made an ex-gratia payment of ₹10 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, the SER said.

Meanwhile, a trolley of an empty goods train derailed at a yard in Sambalpur division Tuesday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I also spat several times on the waterlogged street. The police

MARKET WATCH

INDEX VARIATION SENSEX **81455.40 1** 99.56 NIFTY 24857.30 21.20 DOLLAR 83.72 **1** ₹0.00 ₹0.17 EURO 90.43 ₹214 GOLD ₹68,054

SILVER **₹81,715** 👚 ₹428

WEATHER

BBSR CTC 29.5°C 29.4°(**Max Temp** 24.5°(Min Temp 94% **Humidity** 20.4mm Rainfall 33.6mm

GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY WITH

FORECAST

HEAVY RAIN

Officer of Telegram recently revealed that he has over "100 biological kids". He took to the messaging app to share the same with his 5.7 million subscribers. "I was just told that I have over 100 biological kids. How is this possible for a guy who has never been married and prefers to live alone?" he said.

avel Durov, the Founder

and Chief Executive

Mr Durov said about 15 vears ago, a friend approached him with a "weird request". "He said that he and his wife couldn't have kids due to a fertility issue and asked me to donate sperm at a clinic for them to have a baby. I laughed my ass off before realizing he was dead serious," he added.



He stated that the boss of the clinic told him that "highquality donor material" was in short supply. The doctor went on to say that it is the 39-year-old's "civic duty to donate more sperm to anony-

mously help more couples.' 'This sounded crazy enough to get me to sign up



mous use by families who

for sperm donation. Fast forward to 2024, my past donating activity has helped over a hundred couples in 12 countries to have kids. Moreover, many years after I stopped being a donor, at least one IVF clinic still has my frozen sperm available for anony-

want to have kids," he said. The entrepreneur stated that he now plans to open-source his DNA so that his biological children can find each other. Discussing the importance of healthy sperm, Durov said that he is proud that he did his duty. "Of course, there are risks, but I don't regret having been a donor. The shortage of healthy sperm has become an increasingly serious issue worldwide, and I'm proud that I did my part to help alleviate it. I also want to help destigmatise the whole notion of sperm donation and incentivise more healthy men to do it, so that families struggling to have kids can enjoy more options. Defy convention - redefine the norm, he wrote on Telegram. AGENCIES

Manu clinches historic 2nd Olympic medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chateauroux (France), July 30: A calm and composed Manu Bhaker scripted history to become the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two Olympic medals in a single edition of the Games as she combined with an equally unruffled Sarabjot Singh to clinch the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze here Tuesday.

The Indian pair defeated the Korean duo of Lee Wonoho and Oh Yeh Jin 16-10 to earn the country its second medal at Chateauroux's shooting range.

Special status: Opposition

demands CM's statement

Bhubaneswar: The BJD and the Congress

Majhi to inform the Assembly whether he

Opposition parties raised the issue in the

senior BJD MLA and former minister Arun

Kumar Sahoo said the chief minister should

inform the House whether he demanded the

"special category status or the special focus

state tag or any special allocation of funds for

Odisha" at the Governing Council meeting of

Telegram CEO 'father' of over 100 kids

Tuesday asked Chief Minister Mohan Charan

demanded special category status for the state

at the recent NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi. The

House a day after Majhi returned to the state

from the national capital. During the Zero Hour,

The 22-year-old Bhaker had earlier snared the women's 10m air pistol bronze medal at the same venue Sunday. wiping off the memories of a horrendous

medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics, but that achievement had come in the pre-Independence era. While it is a massive achievement for women's sport in the country, Tuesday's medal is also redemption for Sarabiot, who had failed to make the men's 10m air pis-

tol final, finishing ninth Saturday with

Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020 where her

pistol malfunctioned leaving her in tears. Before her, British-Indian athlete

Norman Pritchard had won two silver

a score of 577. "I'm feeling proud and there is a lot of gratitude, thanks for all the blessings" said Bhaker after the match, which the two young Indians

played with remarkable poise to make it a one-sided

INDIA bloc demands Kejriwal's release

New Delhi: INDIA bloc leaders gathered at Jantar Mantar here Tuesday to demand the release of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal amid his declining health and hit out at the BJP-led Centre for "suppressing" the voice of Opposition. They also blamed the Central government for the deaths of three civil services aspirants at a flooded basement of a coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar here. Slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "End dictatorship" were raised during the protest. Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi were also present at the rally. P7













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eisure



JLO URGES CITIZENS TO REGISTER FOR VOTING

As the US elections draw closer, several Hollywood personalities have urged people to register to vote. Jennifer Lopez Monday took to Instagram and wrote: "We are officially 100 days away from election day. Let's go!! Register here."

CARDI B'S WARNING TO HER RAP RIVALS

Cardi B has taken to social media to slam her rap rivals, warning that they 'should've left (her) alone'. The 31-yearold star has taken to social media to hit out at her critics promising to 'teach' them some lessons on her new album.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com

realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Making up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesha says be ready to open going out for a movie or shopping at the

TAURUS

This day has been earmarked for beautification, a makeover, says Ganesha. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store.

You will feel lonely and unwanted today. You will feel the need for someone who can calm your troubled mind. Meditation and yoga will help you calm yourself. It is a good day to receive love

CANCER You will succeed in a new venture and will brim with radiance and energy Ganesha says this is the best time for gettogether and kindle contact with friends

You will look to give your house a new appearance by decorating it or undertaking some renovation projects. You will make the best out of waste and produce some ing the ambience of your nest. You will be able to save up on some money

You will excel remarkably in whatever work you prefer to engage yourself in today. Ganesha says your aspiration to start a business endeavour in a foreign country will bear fruit. To considerably enhance your self-image, it is necessary to make required improvements in your personal appearance

Ganesha says that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your tenyou will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done

SCORPIO According to Ganesha, your

new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your personal life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to plan pains, no gains reminds Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself stand ing at crossroads. and your decision power does not seem to help you much, says Ganesha. You are likely to become controversy's favourite child: this may add fuel to the fire. Be wise, and take guidance of experienced people

CAPRICORN

God helps those who help themselves, likewise, your sincere efforts will be paid off well, today. If you're dealing with shares and stocks, it maybe your day, today. Your life partner will proved to be lucky for your success, so give him/her the credit he/she deserves, suggests Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You always see the larger picture, and desire to chan nelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesha. You will be the life of every party you will go to today.

PISCES

This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesha. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new



Mumbai: Radhika Madan was seen with Akshay Kumar in the recently-released film Sarfira. In an interview with a news channel, the actor said she does not judge celebs for getting Botox or fillers as she opened up about the industry's beauty standards. Radhika said she herself was open to them; the actor also recalled 'people used to tell her that her iaw is little uneven'

Radhika doesn't look down on her peers who have gone under the knife, saying, "I don't judge people who get things done because it makes them feel confident and improves their self-image, which is very important... I didn't feel the need at that point. People used to tell me that my jaw is little tedha. Did they expect me to sit with a scale and measure it (laughs)? I was quite surprised because I was Kareena Kapoor in my head. Maybe they couldn't see it. I didn't buy that at that point.'

The actor added that if in the future, if she wants to go through with some cosmetic injectable, she'll do so without giving it much thought. Radhika said, "I still don't buy it but maybe I will after a few years. I don't know but I may just get it done. It all depends on the kind of selfimage I have at that point. I wish it remains the way it is right now. In my mind, I'm still Kareena Kapoor. And even if it's not, I won't judge myself. So, I'm pretty much okay with all of that." IANS



Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu admits she has a strained relationship with the paparazzi. In an interview with a radio channel, the actor opened up on why she doesn't believe in appeasing them and how the photographers misuse her statements and videos for

their own commercial gain. "How will you click on the news then? Tell me who clicks on positive news? When was the last time you clicked on a positive news? Now, this kind of news is more sensational. 'She's being nasty and rude to paparazzi' so everyone is like, what happened? Let's see. So that is more exciting for an audience," Taapsee

"These things aren't fetching me films. My films speak for themselves. So I don't have to appease a section of so-called media, I don't even call them direct media because they're serving their vested interest that someone just clicks on their portal. I don't call them media. Media is not supposed to desperately put out lines or videos that are clickbait,' Taapsee added.

She said the paparazzi know exactly when they come physically too close to her or have shouted at her or have chased her car. She added that she doesn't want to be made apologetic about her privilege. She's a normal woman who wants them to respect her privacy and physical space.

Taapsee will be next seen in Phir Haseen Dillruba and Khel Khel Mein.

When Sanjay wanted to 'marry' Saira Banu



Mumbai: Actor Sanjay Dutt celebrated his 65th birthday Monday, and veteran actress Saira Banu marked the occasion with a special anecdote

from his childhood. The actress took to her Instagram stories and shared a throwback image

of a young Sanjay with her late hus-



band, Dilip Kumar.

Alongside the picture, Saira recounted a charming story from when Saniay was a child

The actress penned a note over the picture as she shared a story from the time when a young 'Sanju' expressed his wish to marry her

Saira wrote: "@duttsanjay has always been like a family to me. My entire family, starting from Ammaji to Aapaji, to Sahib, and to me, we've watched him grow from a tiny toddler into the remarkable person he is today. I still remember when Nargis Aapa would come to our house for functions, and he would accompany her, this cute, good-looking kid.

The actress continued, "Nargis Ji would then shake his hands and say, 'Chalo, Saira Ji ko bolo tum kya bolte ho mujhe?' And then Sanju would look at me and say, 'Main Shaila Banu se shaadi karunga'in a cute little voice. Hahahah, so adorable! I believe Sharmila Tagore and I were the top favourites of Sanju. 'Many hands make light work', and we've all cherished being part of his journey.

Saira expressed that Sanjay holds special place in her heart, concluding with, "With all my love and blessings, I wish him a very happy birthday.

FUN

DOST

Mumbai: Jaya Bachchan, an actor-politician, chastised Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Singh today in parliament for adopting Amitabh Bachchan's name as her middle name. She took a moment to remind everyone that she had her own identity as well.

Harivansh called her to speak in a parliament session on Monday, saving, "Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan ji, please." Jaya responded: "Sir, sirf Jaya Bachchan bolte to kaafi hojata (It would've been enough to call me Jaya Bachchan).' But it was pointed out that's what her name is officially registered as.

Harivansh Narayan

She said, Some new method has emerged that

Jaya rejects being identified by hubby's name

identity of their own. This new thing... Fans responded to the video, with some calling her 'brave'. One questioned, "No but why Amitabh got added? If she

women have

to be known

by their hus-

band's name.

Women have no

identity. They have

no achievements, no

did not add, who did? Or is it occurring to everyone?" Another person replied, "She's not wrong in any sense btw."

One admirer responded to misogynistic remarks that did not see her point, commenting, "People today are so selective. Had there been any other woman in her place, the comments would have supported her. She is not wrong though. Before she became a

'Bachchan' she was a successful actress herself. Indeed, how far we have come.'

9

2

6

4

6

9

SUDOKU

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

5

8

3

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

8

9

3

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9 3

6

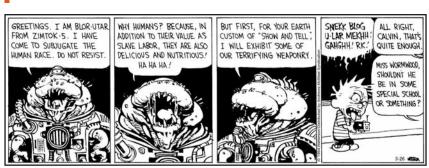
8

4

PEANUTS



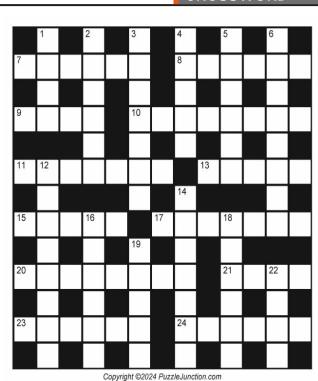
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com 17 Hazelnut

composition

24 Carmaker's woe

20 Eternal

21 Musical

23 Snare

<u>Across</u>	
7	Cause for
	olasses

- 8 Health facility 9 Elusive creature
- 10 Outsider
- 11 After suicide or
- combat
- 13 Fore-and-aft-

- 15 Modern letters (1-4)
- rigged vessel
- Down
 - 1 Orpheus's
 - instrument

 - 2 Booty 3 Nationalist
- 12 Close at hand

4 Cake topper

5 Aeneid poet

6 Swine (4,4)

- 14 It falls between Canada and the
- USA 16 Brush aside
- 18 Wild horse 19 Afr.
- heavyweight 22 Hideous

SUDOKU

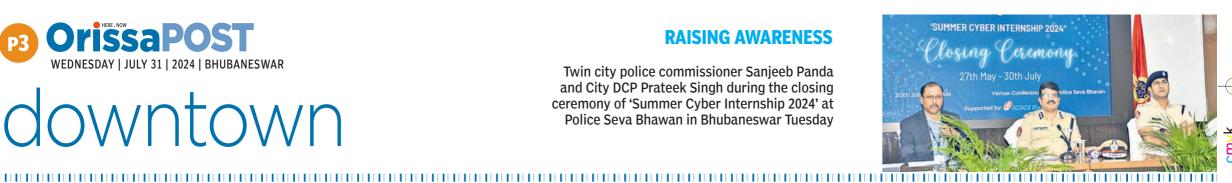
5 8 7 2 8 3 7 2 6 5 5 3 6 4 8 2 7 2 6 8 1 7 3 5 4 9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

RAISING AWARENESS

Twin city police commissioner Sanjeeb Panda and City DCP Prateek Singh during the closing ceremony of 'Summer Cyber Internship 2024' at Police Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Tuesday



DEMAND FOR SPL CATEGORY STATUS AT NITI MEET

OPPN WANTS CM'S HOUSE STATEMENT

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Opposition BJD and Congress Tuesday asked Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to inform the Assembly whether he demanded special category status for the state at the recent NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi.

The Opposition parties raised the issue in the House a day after Maihi returned to the state from the national capital.

During the Zero Hour in the

Assembly, senior BJD MLA and former min-**BJD leader Arun Kumar Sahoo said** ister Arun Kumar Sahoo said the Chief though the Centre Minister should inform had earlier the House whether he rejected the demanded the 'special state's demand for category status or the the special special focus state tag or category status any special allocation of based on a funds for Odisha' at the committee report, Governing Council it recently meeting of the provided special NITI Aayog allocations of Majhi, along with funds to Andhra

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, had attended

the NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi July 27. Noting that the BJP, in its elec-

Pradesh and Bihar

tion manifesto in 2014, had promised the special category status for Odisha, Sahoo said, "The Chief Minister should inform the House whether he made the same demand during the NITI Aayog meeting.'

The BJD leader said though the Centre had earlier rejected the state's demand for the special category status based on a committee report, it recently provided special allocations of funds to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

"Odisha has sent 20 BJP MPs

should be reciprocated with special attention. The 20 MPs helped the BJP form government at the Centre. The people have also changed the government in Odisha by voting in favour of the saffron party. Therefore, the state should get the attention of the Centre," Sahoo said.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam also said the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre should provide special category

status to the state since it formed the 'double engine sarkar' in Odisha.

The term 'double engine' is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state.

While justifying Odisha's demand, Kadam said there are two factors - tribals, Dalits, and OBCs are a majority in the state and the coastal state

faces natural disasters frequently. "Therefore, the state should get the special category status. Odisha should not be deprived of its rights," he said.

Congress member CS Razan Ekka said the Chief Minister should inform the House on the demand for the special category status for Odisha.

The coastal state should get a special allocation of funds as it witnesses frequent floods and cyclones, the legislator said.

The Congress MLA also raised the issue of Mahanadi water dispute with the neighbouring Chhattisgarh.



SEASONS FIRST: First floodwaters pass through Mundali barrage in Cuttack Tuesday

No flood threat in Mahanadi river system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 30: There is no fear of flood in the Mahanadi river system, though water was released from Hirakud dam raising the level at Mundali barrage in Cuttack district, a state government official said Tuesday.

The authorities of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district last Sunday released the season's first floodwater downstream of the river Mahanadi river through 20 gates. The water will pass through Mundali barrage in Cuttack district Tuesday night, they said.

"However, there is no threat of flood in the Mahanadi river system following the release of water from Hirakud dam, Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty, engineer-in-chief (EIC), Water Resources department, said.

"As per estimation, a maximum of about 5.10 lakh cusec water will pass through Mahanadi river through Mundali barrage and it will flow on the riverbed only," Mohanty said.

However, the government is on full alert and a nodal officer has been deputed to Cuttack to monitor the situation, he said.

The water level of Hirakud stood at 614.47 feet against its full reservoir capacity of 630 feet, Tuesday morning, the official said. While the inflow of water into

the reservoir has reduced to 1.90 lakh cusec, the outflow was 3.50 lakh cusec. The water level of the dam is on a declining trend.

The authorities are now planning to close down some gates.

Due to heavy rainfall in north Odisha, the water level of Jalaka river has increased. The river

POTATO

was flowing at a level of 6.34 metre at Mathani in Balasore district above the warning level of 6 metre.

However, it was below the danger level of 6.50 metre and started a falling trend, the official said. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja

held a virtual meeting with the Collectors of districts concerned and took stock of the situation of different rivers in their jurisdictions.

Collectors of Sonepur, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Puri attended the meeting. The district Collectors have kept ready the multipurpose cyclone shelters and emergency

response teams.

Wednesday.

The IMD forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in the districts of Keonjhar, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack. Jagatsinghpur, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Koraput, Kandhamal, Sonepur,

Boudh, and Jharsuguda

689 illegal apartments in City to face music

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: In bla-

tant violation of civic body

norms, as many as 719 apart-

ments, including 689 here, have

been constructed illegally in

various towns and cities of Odisha, Housing and Urban

Development Minister (H&UD)

Krushna Chandra Mohapatra

apartments are based in the City

here, the minister said 689 apart-

ments have already been served

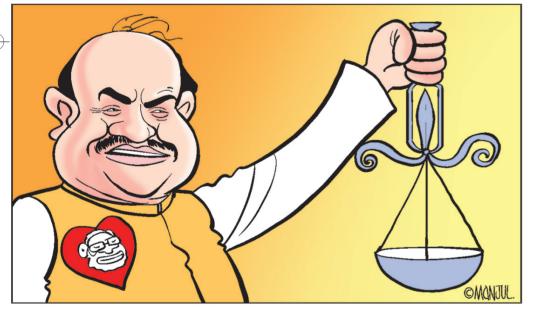
notices by Bhubaneswar

Development Authority (BDA).

Stating that a majority of the

told the Assembly Tuesday.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Excise officer with 172% DA held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday ar-Excise rested Joint Commissioner (Bhubaneswar) Rama Chandra Mishra after finding him in possession of assets 172 per cent more than his known sources of income.

Acting on complaints that the officer possessed property exceeding his known sources of income, a team of Vigilance officers, including 10 DSPs, 15 inspectors, and other staff, carried out searches at 10 locations associated with Mishra, Monday.

During searches, the sleuths found six multi-storey buildings, 52 plots, approximately 230 gram of gold, and other items in Mishra's and his family's possession, an official said.

"After thorough search, inventory and further enquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Rama Chandra Mishra, Joint Commissioner of Excise, Bhubaneswar were calculated and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets (DA) which were 172 per cent in excess of his known sources of income,"

Vigilance sources said. They added, "In this connection. Bhubaneswar Vigilance PS Case No.15 dated 30.07.2024 was registered against Sri Rama Chandra Mishra, Joint Commissioner of Excise and his spouse U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 P.C. Amendment Act, 2018. Mishra was taken into custody after he failed to give satisfactory account of such possession.

Min objects to Naveen's letter

Bhubaneswar: Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Tuesday raised an objection to BJD president and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Naveen Patnaik, writing a letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the potato crisis in Odisha. The minister was replying during a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion over the price rise of essential commodities. He rejected allegations of Opposition BJD

and Congress that the state's BJP government has failed to check the price rise of essential commodities, including vegetables, potatoes and

onions. In his reply, the minister said he had come to know that the Leader of Opposition had written a letter to Banerjee over the issue. "This is kind of cheap politics and the drama should stop. Our CM has met Mamata Banerjee and spoken to her over her decision to stop the supply of potatoes, following which its transportation has normalised," the minister said



CM takes exception to 'name changer' jibe

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday took exception to BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik calling the current BJP government as 'name changer' and 'jumla sarkaar'.

Majhi, while speaking during a debate on the general discussion on the 2024-25 Budget in the Assembly, instead asserted that the Budget would lav the foundation for the establishment of 'Viksit Odisha' by 2036.

Amid a walkout by both Opposition BJD and the Congress members, Majhi said that the Patnaik government was actually 'jumla sarkaar' as it had formulated schemes to benefit the party's vote bank, while this year's Budget is a

'people's Budget' which signifies Odia Asmita.

The CM asserted that the Budget, which was presented July 25, was in fact, 'game changer' and not 'jumla' as alleged by Patnaik

"The Budget will lay the foundation for the establishment of 'Viksit Odisha' by 2036, the year the state completes 100 years of its formation," he said.

Referring to the BJD president's father and former CM Biju Patnaik, after whom most of the schemes of the previous government were named, Majhi asked what was wrong if the BJP dispensation renamed some schemes after some other legendary figures of the state.

"If all schemes are named after one person, then it will be an injustice to other legendary figures and will hurt Odisha's pride as well," Majhi

Citing an instance, the CM said that his government renamed the Chief Minister's Power Development Programme as 'Mukhya Mantri Shakti Bikas Yojana'.

"What is wrong in changing the name of such a scheme?" he questioned, adding his government has only renamed the scheme from English to Odia.

He said that many sons of the soil have contributed significantly to Odia language, history, culture, freedom struggle and creation of a separate state.

"So, to remember the contribution of these great sons, why is it wrong to name some schemes after them?" he asked.

The minister was replying to a question posed by Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati. According to reports, the num-

ber of illegally-built apartments in the City has seen a sharp rise as it has crossed 200 in the past three years. On March 2021, replying to a question of MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati, then H&UD Minister Pratap Jena said Bhubaneswar has 487 illegally constructed high-rises of the total 1,643 approved ones. Taking note of the discrep-

ancies, BMC Commissioner Rajesh Pravakar Patil said a ioint action by BMC and BDA would be undertaken after a thorough review of illegal constructions. However, he did not specify clearly whether the civic body would move in for demolishing buildings whichhave not adhered with government norms.

₹275.01cr for safety fencing along tracks of trains at speeds up to 130kmph

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: In a significant move to enhance railway safety and increase train speeds, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹275.01 crore for safety fencing along tracks in the Bhadrak-Palasa and Khurda Road-Puri Railway Sections of the Khurda Road Division under East Coast Railway (ECoR), official sources said, Tuesday.

ECoR sources said the project will facilitate the safe operation and beyond.

The Ministry of Railways has decided to construct boundary walls nearer to the tracks. The current plan involves installing fencing at the boundary of railway land, with the actual distance to be determined by the zonal railway authorities based on site conditions, maintenance requirements, multi-tracking works. the level of trespassing and the overall effectiveness of the proposed fencing.



The initiative also aims to seal the entry to track at level crossings, ROBs (flyovers), RUBs (underpasses), bridges and other critical locations requiring access control.

Apart from this, cattle grazing near rail will get restricted to the railway line. This will also provide for smooth traffic movement and prevent loss of livestock and wildlife.

Railwav Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has recently informed in Lok Sabha that safety fencing would be strategically implemented at vulnerable locations to support plying of Vande Bharat trains at speeds between 110kmph and 130kmph.

40-year-old man kills self in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: A 40year-old man died by jumping in front of a moving train in Vani Vihar area here, Tuesday.

GRP (Bhubaneswar) inspector in-charge (IIC) Ashok Gochhayat identified the deceased as Rajesh Mohanty, a native of Ersama in Jagatsinghpur district.

The body has been sent for autopsy to Capital Hospital. The post-mortem report will help ascertain the exact cause of death. A case of unnatural death has



been registered in this connection," the IIC said, adding, "We are yet to establish as to what forced Mohanty to resort to the extreme step.

Mohanty had been working with a private company in the City, sources said.



WEDNESDAY | JULY 31 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Key initiatives to boost polytechnic edu

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The Skill Development & Technical Education (SDTE) department Tuesday announced three major initiatives aimed at improving the quality of diploma-level education in the state.

During an event, the department published the third edition of the polytechnic rankings 2024 in presence of Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain.

The Quality Council of India (QCI), a government organisation based in New Delhi, was tasked with conducting the ranking exercise.

Bhubanananda Odisha School of Engineering (BOSE) bagged the first spot, while KIIT Polytechnic, Bhubaneswar stood second and Utkalmani Gopabandhu Institute of Engineering, Rourkela secured the third rank.

Similarly, Government Polytechnic, Jajpur got fourth position followed by Government Polytechnic Bhubaneswar (fifth), Government Polytechnic, Balasore (sixth), DRIEMS Polytechnic, Cuttack (seventh), Government Polytechnic, Bargarh (eighth), Gandhi Institute of Excellent Technocrats, Bhubaneswar (ninth) and Divine Institute of

Engineering and Technology,

Baripada (10th).

"The evaluation involved multiple stages, including field visits to 132 polytechnics across the state. The rankings, which cover both government and private polytechnics, are based on government-approved parameters. These rankings aim to promote healthy competition among polytechnics, ul-

timately benefiting the students of the state," department officials said.

Also, the integrated websites for SCTE&VT, DTE&T, CPC, and DSDE were inaugurated to provide streamlined services to diploma and ITI students. Previously, each organisation maintained separate websites, despite data interdependency.

The new integrated platform, initiated by SCTE&VT, allows for efficient data exchange and one-stop information access. Each organisation will retain ownership of their respective websites, with relevant data being shared across platforms,

the officials said

The CPC website now includes features for registration of aspiring students, alumni, and recruiting agencies, automating the recruitment process.

Recognising the need for life skills, including communication, entrepreneurship, and innovation among government polytechnic students for employability, the department has partnered with the renowned organisation Mac Millan to provide life skills training.

This programme, starting from the 2024-25 session, will be implemented over three years, targeting students in their second and third years. Professionally trained trainers from Mac Millan will deliver the training at each government polytechnic. The initiative aims to enhance employability and foster an entrepreneurial mindset among students.

These initiatives reflect state's dedication to providing quality education, improving student services, and fostering the holistic development of polytechnic students, paving the way for a brighter future.



PLANTATION DRIVE: Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh takes part in Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign at Dumduma, Tuesday

Debate on Union Budget held at FMU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: A national debate on the topic 'Union Budget 2024-25: An Analysis' was organised by department of Social Science at Fakir Mohan University (FMU) in Balasore, Tuesday.

On the occasion, dignitaries including EGROW Foundation CEO Charan Singh, former professor of Economics at KIIT University SN Mishra and professor of Economics at Tripura University Indraneel Bhowmik joined the programme.

Singh highlighted the conceptual framework of macroeconomic instruments and focused on the importance of fiscal consolidation and economic growth.



FMU vice-chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy congratulated the department for arranging such an important topic for discussion and debate.

Mishra, in his speech highlighted the trends of employment, education, nutrition, and unorganised sectors. He emphasised on justice and equality for economically underdeveloped and underprivileged sections of our society.

Bhowmik explained about the future of agricultural practices and use of natural energy resources in farming to boost the Indian economy. Later, he concluded with an analysis of the funds allocation and provisions for northeastern states and highlighted the gap which exists between the actual allocation and utilisation of resources.

ASSIFIED

By virtue of an affidavit

Cuttack, I, Tapasa Kumar

Panigrahi, aged about 47

1099/3695, Satabdi Nagar,

Bhubaneswar do hereby

state that in my daughter

Taniska Panigrahi Birth

Tapas Panigrahi instead

Panigrahi. Tapasa Kumar

Certificate my name

wrongly recorded as

Panigrahi and Tapas

Panigrahi same person.

of Tapasa Kumar

before Notary Public.

years, S/o. Trilochan

Panigrahi, Plot No.

'Changes in lifestyle could prevent head, neck cancers'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Alarming rise in head and neck cancer cases due to increased consumption of alcohol and tobacco can only be prevented through lifestyle changes, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas said at an awareness programme here, recently.

Department of ENT and Head and Neck Surgery, in collaboration with department of Radiation Oncology, organised a cancer awareness programme that highlighted the free care provided by the institute, which includes surgery, post-operative radiotherapy, and chemotherapy under one roof.

As part of its practice, the institute conducted a free screening for oral cancer and other head and neck cancers.

"Once diagnosed, cancer can be treated and cured with surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy," Biswas said, adding, "Early treatment significantly extends patient survival." ENT and Head and Neck Surgery department head Pradipta Kumar Parida urged individuals with symptoms such as decreased mouth opening, oral ulcers, loose teeth, and neck swelling to seek medical advice.

"Head and neck cancers, particularly affecting the oral cavity, are the most prevalent cancers among the Indian population, with males being more frequently affected," Parida said.

According to institute officials, a significant number of cancer patients, with more than 10,000 individuals visit the ENT and Radiotherapy OPD annually. Among these, 3,500 to 4,000 patients undergo head and neck cancer surgery every year. Additionally, nearly 1,200 patients receive radiotherapy and chemotherapy, they said.

The event was attended by Dean Prasanta Mohapatra, medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida and Ashok Kumar Jena including faculty and students.

Excess enrolment fees a burden for marginalised: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Burdening the marginalised with exorbitant enrolment fees in an already 'predisposed' legal system will create further barriers and violate their dignity which is crucial to substantive equality, the Supreme Court said Tuesday.

The observations were made by the top court in a judgment by which it held that the state bar councils (SBCs) cannot charge exorbitant fees for enrolling law graduates as lawyers.



A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the SBCs and the Bar Council of India (BCI) cannot charge more than ₹750 and ₹125 for enrolling law graduates from the general and SC-ST categories respectively. "In a legal system that is predisposed against the marginalised, the pre-condition of paying exorbitant fees in the name of enrolment fee creates a further barrier for many. The burden of payment of enrolment fees and other miscellaneous fees imposed by the SBCs fall equally on all persons seeking enrolment," the bench said.

SRC alerts Collectors as IMD predicts heavy rain



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The special relief commissioner (SRC) Tuesday alerted all the Collectors and civic body authorities in view of the heavy rain forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

In a letter to all Collectors, SRC Satyabrata Sahu issued certain advisories for the districts under yellow warning. The district authorities should keep administrative machinery ready to face any eventuality, SRC said.

"In urban areas, low-lying areas may have water logging, and roads and drains may be submerged under water. The urban local bodies (ULBs) must keep the drains and stormwater channels de-congested, and adequate dewatering pumps may be deployed as per requirement," the letter read.

Sahu directed the Collectors to report him at the earliest re-

garding the areas experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall.

The Collectors have also been asked to submit a report on damage, if occurred due to heavy rainfall immediately for information of the government.

The IMD said that a cyclonic

circulation lies over Jharkhand and another cyclonic circulation lies over Bangladesh and the neighbourhood. Rainfall activities are likely to

Rainfall activities are likely to continue till August 4. The weather agency has put several districts under a yellow warning for heavy to very heavy downpour.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places of Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Cuttack. Similarly, heavy rainfall is at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri, Deogarh, Boudh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, and Malkangiri," IMD said.

Orientation for MBBS aspirants held in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Wiseman Global LLP, an education consultancy firm, in collaboration with ISM Medical College, Kyrgyzstan organised an orientation programme for the MBBS aspirants here, Tuesday.

On the occasion, delegates in-

cluding Daniial Chyngyshpaev, Artur Buiuklianov and Marina Larina represented ISM Medical College. ISM Medical College said

that it will help the students, who could not secure good ranking in NEET examination, pursue medical course with nominal fee.

The institution follows the same syllabus as Indian medical colleges and their rules and regulations.

Wiseman Global LLP has partnered with 817 universities worldwide and facilitated over 3,000 students to pursue their higher education abroad.



S'pore restaurant puts crickets on menu as edible insects

THE SEASIDE RESTAURANT IS THE FIRST EATERY TO PUT INSECTS ON THE MENU AFTER THE CITY STATE'S STRINGENT FOOD AUTHORITY THIS MONTH APPROVED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION 16 SPECIES RANGING FROM CRICKETS TO GRASSHOPPERS, GRUBS AND MEALWORMS

t Singapore's House of Seafood restaurant, the fish-head curry comes with a side of crunchy crickets, the tofu has bugs crawling out of it and the patrons can't get

enough.

The seaside restaurant is the first eatery to put insects on the menu after the city state's stringent food authority this month approved for human consumption 16 species ranging from crickets to grasshoppers, grubs and mealworms after two years of deliberation.

Crickets and other insects have long been enjoyed as street food in Southeast Asia, but not in the wealthy financial hub, where food imports come with strict restrictions for safety and hygiene purposes.

Francis Ng, chief executive of House of Seafood, said cus-

tomers love it when the dishes play up the insects, like that tofu dish he plated to look like bugs were crawling out of it, and a dish of glutinous rice balls studded with silkworms.

"It looks scarier so customers can film for their Tiktok," said Ng, adding that his phone has been ringing off the hook with customers eager to book a tasting.

The restaurant has drafted a menu with 30 dishes that feature insects, which they can sell to the general public once their importers are approved by the food authority. For now, Ng is offering free samples.

In 2019, Singapore declared it was aiming to produce 30 per cent of its nutritional needs by 2030 instead of the current model where 90 per cent of food is imports, and food security expert



Paul Teng said insects could certainly help move towards this goal – if people got over 'the yuck factor'.

"Most insects are almost all protein," said Teng, who works at the Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, adding that there needs to be local production to make this alternative protein source affordable.

"Getting people to accept insects in their diet is a challenge. But really, it's a normal food item. Let's do something about it to prepare the consumer for it," he said. "Me personally, I have no problem eating insects." The United Nations has

deemed bugs a sustainable source of protein to feed a global population estimated to swell to 9.7 billion by 2050 and global food security issues due to extreme weather and conflicts have also increased the interest in the high-quality, economical nutrition that bugs provide.

In Singapore, all insects approved for human consumption must be farmed in a controlled environment and not harvested from the wild, and cannot be fed contaminants like manure or rotten food, according to the food agency.

In tandem, the Food and Agriculture Organisation has been promoting farming of insects for human consumption and animal feed, and there has been local interest to import insects, but cost remains a barrier for now: Ng said insects make up 10 per cent of his costs at the House of Seafood, and they are all imported.

"The price is definitely higher than eggs," he said.

It's too early to tell if insects will become a feature of the Singapore diet or whether demand will fizzle out as it has for fake meat products.

But for now, some diners say they are happy to develop a taste for bugs.

"If they have a higher source of protein, why not? I'll add it to my daily meal and daily food intake," said Bregria Sim, a 23-year-old a logistics executive, adding she would pay around \$\$40 (\$30) for the novelty dishes.

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Quacks rule the roost as govt hospitals lack docs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, July 30: Lack of doctors at government-run hospitals here has not only pushed the residents into the pre-Independence era but also provided a fertile ground for the growth of quacks/fake doctors and fraudulent health

These quacks provide gullible patients the medicines that not only fail to cure diseases but also lead to harmful side effects. potentially resulting in death a reality that many cannot even

Posing as doctors without valid degrees or certificates is a criminal offence under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the negligence of officials responsible for addressing this issue is considered even more unfortunate by the public.

In this regard, Para-legal volunteer Prafulla Das said healthcare is a noble service, not a business. "The Odisha State Legal Services Authority has taken up a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) to safeguard in-

nocent people from being harassed by fake doctors," he said adding that a committee has been formed, and its members will covertly visit villages and cities to catch these quacks.

Many homoeopathic and ayurvedic practitioners are deceiving the general public by practicing allopathy without proper qualification. Some pharmacists, health workers and unlicensed individuals are also treating patients. There are even allegations that some doctors exaggerate their qualifications. Those attempting to expose these frauds complain that they do not get any support from the government and informants often face retaliation.

According to lawyer Bhabani Shankar Panda, "There is a need to create an online database of all the doctors to help the public verify the authenticity of individuals in the medical pro-

He also said people in various parts of the state are falsely presenting themselves as doctors and practicing both allopathy and homoeopathy. Previously, the Orissa High Court had dian affidavit with updated information on the techniques available to identify fake doctors and whether the state government has implemented it.

Social worker Praveer Nayak said that the role of Anganwadi and ANM workers are very much essential to monitor fake

Due to a lack of awareness, patients in rural areas often seek advice from fake doctors. Nayak said even though the government has appointed ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, ANMs and women's organisations in every village, they do not seem to be monitoring these fake doctors and raising complaints against them with the departmental higher-ups, alleged the locals.

One can find mushrooming clinics near markets and hospitals offering all types of medicines and treatments in Pattamundai, Rajnagar and Mahakalpara areas

Subrata Kumar Barik, a student from Bilikana Shasan in Rajnagar, died after consuming medicines from a fake doctor July 15, 2023. Following the incident, local authorities temporarily closed several clinics, while a fake pathology lab here was reportedly sealed three days after the incident.

When asked, Anita Pattnaik, chief district medical officer, stated that public awareness programmes are being conducted throughout the district. She also emphasised the need for people to become more aware.



LIVELIHOOD MATTERS: Women farmhands on their way to work as paddy transplantation starts in Padampur sub-divisional area of Bargarh district following low pressure triggered rainfall, Tuesday

Median plantation on NH-20 comes a cropper

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 30: Flagrant violation of norms was found in median plantation programme initiated on Panikoili-Rimuli stretch of National Highway-20 indicating a possible failure of the green drive along the highway.

Many plants have died unnatural death due to lack of proper maintenance, said sources, adding that more money is now being pumped in for re-plantation.

According to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) rules, a maximum of 666 seedlings can be planted on 1-km stretch of a median.

Abhipsa Construction Company is undertaking plantation on the median where the plants have either died or are

non-existent. According to sources, a target has been set to plant about 35,000 tecoma and bougainvillea saplings on the median of NH-20. However, 10,000 saplings have so far been planted.

Meanwhile, it is alleged that plantation is not being carried out properly due to lack of proper supervision by NHAI. According to plantation norms, holes upto 1 foot are dug and insecticide is applied in the hole before planting the saplings.

However, allegations have come to the fore that the agency has planted the saplings carelessly without following the process. Similarly, the company has dug holes only upto 4 to 5 inch deep. Also, it has not applied pesticides or fertilizers for the sustenance of the plants.

Saplings running upto 3-4 ft

height standing on 4-5 inch deep holes started falling due to movement of heavy vehicles, strong winds and torrential rains.

Moreover, another rule says that saplings should be tied to bamboo sticks to help them stay firm. However, the contract agency didn't care a fig for this norm which resulted in severe damage to the plantation.

Median plantation programme has a history of failure thanks to lack of proper plantation procedures, regular watering, clearing of unwanted weeds and other

Lack of median plantation is also resulting in road mishaps as blazing lights of vehicles coming from the opposite direction on the other lane are blinding the drivers due to lack of obstructions on median.

When contacted, NHAI horticulturist Suryakiran Nath affirmed that plantation work on NH20 was going on. However, he preferred not to say anything about the work without the approval of higher officials.

Project manager of Abhipsa Construction Company Pramod Bastia said saplings are being planted in adherence to the rules and a direction has been issued to support the saplings with bamboo sticks.

3 kids meet watery grave in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, July 30: Three minor girls drowned after falling in an abandoned morrum quarry at Aturikana village of Padhiaripalli panchayat under this block in Keonjhar district, Tuesday.

The deceased were identified

as Bharati Patra, 4, daughter of Dinabandhu Patra, Payal Patra, 3, daughter of Gouranga Patra and Lipsa Patra, 3, daughter of Kodanda Patra - all are residents of Aturikana village.

According to sources, the trio had gone to 'Ama Kalika' centre in the village but after some time, they wandered off towards the nearby abandoned morrum quarry on a private land.

Unfortunately, the trio accidentally fell into the quarry filled with rainwater and drowned. The owner of the land after extracting morrum left the place abandoned which became a pond following the recent rains.

Locals fished out the bodies of the three children and informed Soso police who reached the spot, seized the bodies and sent them for post-mortem.

Hatadihi tehsildar Habil Xaxa and Childline members reached the spot and took stock of the situation. Three cases (17, 18, 19/2024) of unnatural deaths were registered at Soso police station in this regard. Investigating officer Narasingha Tanti said a probe is in progress to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident and assured strict action against the guilty.

NGT seeks report on Jajpur black stone mining deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Dharmasala, July 30: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a reply from the state government over death of 44 labourers in various black stone quarries and crusher units under Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district, a report said.

A division bench comprising Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma of the green body heard the matter July 29 and directed the Chief Secretary and others to submit their responses through affidavits within four weeks. The environment watchdog

was hearing a petition filed by Youth United for Sustainable Environment Trust. Advocate Shankar Prasad Pani pleaded on behalf of the petitioner. The next hearing is scheduled for September 13.

The petitioner has made the district Collector, Dharmasala tehsildar, additional secretary of Water Resources department, member secretary of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and their counterpart of state environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA), executive engineer R&B division at Panikoili, deputy director of mines, Jaipur Road, Jaipur SP. executive engineer, minor irrigation division, director general of mines safety, deputy director of Forest department and leaseholder Narayan Rout as the



respondents in the case.

According to the case diary, 44 ious black stone quarries and stone crusher units under Dharmasala tehsil during last seven years. Three labourers were also killed when a portion of Dankari hill caved in May 15, 2024.

Leaseholder Rout was permitted to extract black stone on four acre land of khata no-465 and plot no-128(P) and 45(P) on Dankari hill. The SPCB, without making a proper review of the lease, gave consent to operate April 18, 2024.

Taking advantage of the situation, Rout went in for excessive extraction by using explosives. The farmlands adjoining the hills were destroyed due to plying of overloaded dumpers and trucks and also resulted in air pollution in the area. The black stone mining also made substantial damage to a large water body Ranibandha and the Paikarapur minor irrigation

The assistant executive engineer of the minor irrigation project had written to Dhramasala tehsildar August 31, 2018 over the issue but in

It is alleged that the mining plan and the terms and conditions of SPCB have not been followed as far as this black stone quarry is concerned. The Works department has remained mute spectator to the damage caused to the roads due to plying of overloaded vehicles while mining was carried out in complete violation of norms

This has resulted in death of five to 10 labourers at black stone quarry every year. The number of mishaps is increasing by the year as the administration has failed to take exemplary action against illegal mining.

Notably, OrissaPOST, in its report May 17, 2024, had highlighted the death of labourers at Dankari hill

Bizman murdered; driver detained

Rourkela: A day after a businessman was murdered Monday night when he was returning from Rourkela, his driver was detained by police Tuesday over his alleged involvement in the crime. Basant Badaik, 45, a businessman of Olana village under Hatibari police station, was returning from Rourkela, when, around 10:30pm, the driver informed him that he was being followed. A Scorpio overtook his Swift Desire car near Jatia hill and waylaid his vehicle. Soon, as per the driver, seven persons alighted from the vehicle and started abusing Badaik, who tried to escape. The driver also tried to flee in another direction. The group. which had stopped Badaik's car, split into two. While five people followed Badaik, two followed the driver. After a while, they left the driver and chased Badaik. The assailants caught Badaik after running nearly a hundred metres They threw him into a stream and fled the scene. Later, his family members and some villagers reached the spot and took Badaik to RGH where he was declared brought dead. Police became suspicious of the driver as he repeatedly changed his statements.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The F-Tender have been already unloaded in

ebsite: http://www.ireps.gov.in

No. MCS/Stores/E-Procure Tender Notice/5596A/212, Dt. 24.07.2024

Tender No.: 9224596A DESCRIPTION : BOGIE FRAME ASSEMBLY FOR HAND BRAKE SIDE-LSLRD BOGIE WITH AIR SPRING IN SECONDARY

SUSPENSION CONFIRMING TO ICF DRAWING NO. LSLRD/US-0-3-001, Alt-Nil. Quantity: 09 Nos. Tender Closing Date and Time :

At 1500 Hrs. of 19.08.2024 Dy. Chief Materials Manager

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Prafulla Kumar Dhal, S/o

4, P.O./P.S.: Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack has lost the Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 6476 Dtd.09.12.2005 which executed by Ramakanta Gupta n favour of Hrusikesh Pati (Vendor of Prafulla Kumar Dhal) in respec of Khata No. 71, Plot No. 90 under Mouza Cuttack Town, Unit No. 6 Uttar Deulasahi for which he has lodged a F.I.R. on 26.07.2024 before the Bidanasi Police Station, Cuttack. However Prafulla Kumar Dhal has applied for a housing loan before the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttact by offering mortgage of the said property title documents.

Therefore all concerned having any claim over the aforesaid purchase roperty under Regd. Sale Deed No. 6476, Dt. 09.12.2005 is required to file any claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen Days) from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said documents is free from encumbrance nd any claim against the applicant/mortgagor and the company as the nortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 days of

Cuttack Dt.27.07.2024

Pravata Kumar Rout (Advocate) LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttack Branch, Link Road, Cuttack Mobile No.: 9861515731

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RENGALI LEFT BANK CANAL DIVISION

At/P.O.: Kamakhyanagar, Dist.: Dhenkanal, Odisha, PIN - 759018 Ph.: 06769-270771 Email ID: eerlbcdivision@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. RLBCD-P,-04/2024-25 Category of Work Civil Construction Works 04 (Four) Nos. Varies from Rs.18.88 Lakhs to Rs.8.38 Lakhs "D" & "C" or equivalent grade/class
Rs.6,000/- to Rs.4,000/- (Non-refundable)
Online through Electronic Payment Mod
(Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designater Period of Completion Hiller Balmking Trans and their Aggregator Banks)
Varies from Rs. 18,880/- to Rs. 8,380/-/ Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Interne Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designated Banks and their Agregator Banks) EMD/Bid Security Amount Mode of Payment 8 Other Details (i) Procurement Officer Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar 01.08.2024 from 10.00 hours to 13.08.2024 Availability of Bid Documents (ii) Availability for Online Bidding n 14.08.2024 at 11.00 hours in the O/o. the uperintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bant anal Division, Kamakhyanagar (through

Online)

Date, time & venue of On 28.08.2024 at 11.00 hours in the O/o. the transparent lottery for Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Ban finalization of bids, if required Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar. *Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha websit

https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Sd./- Superintending Engineer

OIPR-32298/11/0006/2425 R.L.B. Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar

E- AUCTION

Wildlife criminal gets 3-year RI

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The sub-divisional judicial magistrate of Kuchinda has convicted a wildlife criminal for possessing leopard skin and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for three years with

On the day of International Tiger Day Monday, the court convicted Sankirtan Munda of Pahadamara in Deogarh district for a commission of offence under Section 411 IPC & U/S 51 the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Sankirtan was apprehended by the special task force (STF) of Odisha Police February 15 last on Kuchinda-Bonaigarh road under Kuchinda police station.

During the search operation, two leopard skins and other wildlife products were recovered from his possession, while the accused person and another were waiting there to deliver the same to a customer.



After a successful investigation, a chargesheet was submitted against the accused persons under Sections 379/411/120-B IPC r/w. 51 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

During investigation, the seized leopard skins were also sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for biological and chemical examination, and an affirmative opinion was received.

The trial was conducted against the accused person, and during the trial, the prosecution examined seven witnesses and exhibited 11 documents.

It is the sixth STF case where the accused persons were convicted under the Wildlife Protection Act. Till date, trials have been completed in six wildlife cases, and all the cases ended

STF Odisha has taken special efforts to ensure that the investigation is of the highest standard and meticulously follows the prosecution in the courts so that the cases are brought to a logical conclusion or conviction.

STF is the specialised wing of Odisha Police to curb organised crime as well as cases against wildlife in

2018. So far, it has booked 101 cases and arrested 232 wildlife criminals. The STF has so far seized 59 leopard hides, 27 elephant tusks, 23 live pangolins, 42 kg pangolin scales, two tiger

hides and 11 deer hides.

The task force got the power and au-

thority to investigate wildlife cases in

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया BOI

Bank of India Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House,

₹53.700/- /

₹10,000/-

Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Ph.: 0674-2362249 Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following property "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank

BRANCH/ Reserve Price Name & Address of the Borrower / Total Dues **Description of the Property** EMD / Bid Increment Amount VSS NAGAR BRANCH , PH.: 8249758170 , All that part and parcel of Residential Sheds situated over Khata ₹5,37,000/-No.: 255/189, Plot No.: 17/880, Area: Ac. 0.030 Dec. i.e 1307 (excluding GST & Borrower: Tarique Ahemad Khan, S/o: sqft., Mouza: Renchkhelar, P.S.: Nimapara (48), Tahasil Late Liyakat Alli Khan, At: Renchkhelar, other statutory Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Standing in the name of Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752114 / Total dues) /

Dues: ₹9,33,802.80 + interest, costs and by East: Road, West: Rest part of Plot No.: 17, North: Mouza expenses, less any part amount repaid. Renchsasan, South: Rest part of Plot No.: 17 Date & Time of E-Auction: 09.09.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

Tarique Ahemad Khan, S/o: Late Liyakat Alli Khan, Bounded

with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 06.09.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 06.09.2024 with prior

appointment of the authorised officer The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://ebkray.in

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 31.07.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of India



Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.

Orissa Post

WEDNESDAY | JULY 31 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

SRI AUROBINDO



Abuse of Power

isuse of power and authority seems to be the birth right of many in high positions in our country. Especially Indian bureaucrats, after passing one single exam in their lives, consider themselves a separate and superior race to mere mortals like us. They may be from the coveted civil services like IAS, the police services like IPS or streams like IRS and others, the rigid hierarchical structure ingrained in our society often arms them with so much power that they take every mortal's submission for granted. At times they cross all limits of propriety and indulge in activities of the highly unlawful kind. And when top officers entrusted with law enforcement themselves get caught on the wrong side of the law, it tells a lot about the deep-seated mess in our system.

Let us check some of the superficial facts involved. The suspension of senior IPS officer, Pandit Rajesh Uttamrao for allegedly misusing his position, is a case in point. The 2007 batch IPS officer was serving as DIG, Fire Services & Home Guards, Orissa.

A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office states that the action was taken on the basis of a complaint alleging that "Pandit has disgraced the dignity of his position by misusing his power last Saturday (July 27) night." Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered the Home department to immediately suspend the "errant senior police officer and take appropriate action against him," according to the statement. During the period of suspension, the IPS officer will be stationed at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack and shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining the permission of the DGP.

The disciplinary measures were announced three days after the IPS officer physically assaulted the spouse of a woman police inspector of the Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch in Bhubaneswar with whom he reportedly had an extramarital affair. According to the complaint, the officer trespassed into the woman cop's home while under the influence of alcohol, ransacked her furniture, and attempted to forcibly take her away to marry her. While creating the scene, the inebriated IPS officer allegedly resorted to physical assault on the inspector's husband. It is pertinent to note here that no complaint was filed by the woman inspector or her husband in this connection. In such a situation, if no written complaint is filed in future, then the allegation will become infructuous. And even the government action of suspending the IPS officer may be proven wrong.

Pandit's case is definitely not an isolated incident. Orissa happens to take the cake in such matters and these bureaucrats manage to eat that cake too. It is not intended to trivialise this issue by blaming the current political lot occupying seats of power. The state's administration has inherited a system which is nearly a quarter century old and very well entrenched by now, as it is. The former just ousted political set up, very consciously, put down political entities and instead heeded exclusively to bureaucrats. This gave out a clear and loud message to all segments of society that it is not politicians of the ruling party but the officers of the government who would be responsible to deliver succour to citizens. The proverb 'Old habits die hard' holds good for this senior police officer who also played out a drama out of habit. This incident highlights the dire need now of a few but very strong willed political figures who will take it upon themselves to openly dismantle the old and deeply entrenched system of (mis)governance that was encouraged by the earlier political head. This is needed for the survival and well being of democracy in this state.

This Pandit Rajesh incident coming close on the heels of the reported physical assault on an Assistant Section Officer (ASO) of the Raj Bhawan, allegedly by the son of Orissa Governor Raghubar Das, speaks volumes about the prevailing law and order situation in the state. The ASO Baikuntha Pradhan had alleged in his compliant that he was assaulted simply because he could not provide luxury vehicles to the Governor's son during the latter's visit to Puri Raj Bhawan. Adding insult to injury, the state administration shunted the complainant ASO days after he lodged the complaint. The Raj Bhawan incident led to a huge political storm in the state with the two Opposition parties -- BJD and Congress -- calling for justice for the ASO. The Puri Collector, tasked with probing the case, is yet to submit his report which already seems fated to go in a particular but obvious path.

The frequency of such instances of abuse of power points to the existing rot in the system that needs to be stemmed immediately. The faith of citizens in institutions has already diminished. It is essential to revive the belief, in the minds of citizens, that all is not lost.

WISDOM CORNER



Time and space always change, but there is something which is eternal and changeless. For example, the world and time, past or future, nothing exists for us in sleep. But we exist. Let us try to find out that which is changeless and which always exists.

RAMANA MAHARSHI

The disc appeara

The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion,

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUE

66 All the

All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1667:** The Treaty of Breda ended the Second Anglo-Dutch War and transferred New Netherland (now New York and New Jersey) to England.
- 1917: Third Battle of Ypres begins. Also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, the battle was part of World War I and took place between July 31 and November 6 for control of the Belgian city of Ypres.
- 1921: Whitney M. Young, Jr., who spearheaded the drive for equal opportunity for African Americans in industry and U.S. government service while he was head of the National Urban League (1961–71), was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky.
- 1971: Lunar Roving Vehicle first used on the Moon. On this day in 1971, Apollo 15 astronauts James B. Irwin and David Scott first used the four-wheeled battery-powered Lunar Roving Vehicle to extensively explore the Moon's surface, in particular the Hadley-Apennine site.
- 1991: The US and the USSR sign Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. The treaty, also known as START I, limited the number of nuclear weapons and missiles the signatories could deploy. It came into force in December 1994, and expired 15 years later in 2009.



Knitting & driving

Apoliceman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts out



the window... "Pull over!"
"No," she shouts back, "a pair of socks!"



A NEW WORLDVIEW



Dennis J. Snower

SOLIDARITY
WITHOUT
AGENCY IS
TYRANNY;
AGENCY
WITHOUT
SOLIDARITY IS
CHAOS

ot only is climate change moving faster than global efforts to stop it, but our capacities for dealing with such large problems of our own making seem to be diminishing. With economic inequality, job insecurity, and stagnating living standards creating a widespread sense of alienation and disempowerment, societies are fragmenting, and political polarisation is deepening.

The problem is not that humans are predominantly ignorant or evil. Most people abhor social discord, abject poverty, and environmental destruction. But they find themselves trapped in systems that induce them to behave in destructive ways. For example, our socioeconomic system focuses primarily on individual economic success (narrowly defined), and rests on the assumption that what is good for the economy is good for society and the environment.

But this assumption is false. While businesses are expected – in fact, required – to focus on financial performance, politicians are supposed to act in the national interest, and consumers naturally seek to satisfy their wants at minimum cost. The system allows for these goals to be pursued as a matter of principle, with measures to protect people and nature coming only as an afterthought.

As a result, aggregate economic prosperity has become increasingly decoupled from social and environmental prosperity. Unless there is a recoupling, we will destroy the basis of our livelihoods. Our current predicament thus requires an entirely new worldview – a different way of understanding how our world works and our role in it.

The last time a radically new worldview emerged was during the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Enlightenment, which elevated the values of individual autonomy, humanism, reason, and the social contract.

The democracies that emerged during this era were meant to serve the goals of autonomous citizens, while capitalist economies catered to the preferences of autonomous consumers. Nature increasingly



Most people abhor social discord, abject poverty, and environmental destruction. But they find themselves trapped in systems that induce them to behave in destructive ways

came to be viewed as a resource to be exploited to satisfy human needs and wants. The Enlightenment worldview set the stage for the past 225 years of unprecedented economic growth, rising living standards and life expectancy, and the spread of the rule of law.

But while Enlightenment values remain vital for protecting human well-being, we must recognise that they also have contributed to the brokenness of our current world. Too much emphasis on individual autonomy blinds us to the broader societal forces that are driving political fragmentation and social distrust. Viewing the world only with dispassionate objectivity impoverishes our capacity for solidarity and a sense of belonging. The obsession with mastering the natural world blinds us to the need to proceed humbly and responsibly in ecosystems that we do not fully understand.

A new worldview would stress the fact that our very existence as autonomous individuals depends on a much larger, immensely complex human order - one that spans our physical neighborhoods, our web of social connections, our place in the landscape of power relations, our network of economic relations, and the natural world. To live in harmony with this broader order is to promote sustainability and to find meaning not in the exclusive pursuit of our own happiness, but by aligning our individual purposes with

our collective goals.

We flourish when we live in solidarity with our families, friends, and communities; when we exercise agency by shaping our surroundings and innovating; when we enjoy sufficient economic gain to satisfy our basic material needs; and when we live sustainably in our environment. These are four fundamental drivers of flourishing: solidarity, agency, gain, and environmental sustainability, summarised by the acronym SAGE.

These drivers are all measurable annually. Katharina Lima de Miranda and I have done so for nearly 150 countries over the past decade and a half. Low solidarity and agency are associated with the wave of populist discontent that led to the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom and Donald Trump's election in the United States. "Take back control" (the Brexit slogan) is about a lack of agency, while "build the wall" is about a lack of solidarity. Countries with high solidarity and agency were better able to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 pandemic.

Though markets can promote economic efficiency under the right conditions, there is no "invisible hand" that can deliver solidarity, agency, material gain for all, and environmental sustainability. While the traditional political debates between right-and left-wing parties have been about the size of GDP growth versus its distribution, the SAGE framework reminds us that peo-

ple do not live by bread alone. Politicians ignore solidarity and agency at their own peril.

While the Enlightenment worldview led to unprecedented economic growth and appreciation of individual liberties, the SAGE worldview focuses on how to align our individual goals with our collective goals. It seeks to promote harmonious orders of interdependence for people and the planet. It implies four principles of collective action, which can be applied to global problems such as climate change.

The first principle is shared purpose. For example, as climate change is a global problem, it must be addressed through solidarity at a global level, enabling countries to have shared climate goals.

The second principle is agency-based governance. Applied to climate policies, this involves international agreements committing governments to binding decarbonization pathways, and giving those countries the means to hit their targets and a voice in global negotiations.

The third principle concerns the redirection of material gain. Business incentives and operating conditions will need to be reformed to ensure that profit cannot be earned at the expense of environmental sustainability or social cohesion. This can be done with taxes on polluting; socially harmful activities; subsidies for clean, socially beneficial pursuits; and regulations setting collective bounds on economic activities. Moreover, consumer incentives can be redirected along similar lines.

The fourth principle is about pervasive environmental responsibility. All our economic activities must become environmentally sustainable. Those who contribute to the Earth's bounty should be rewarded, and those who plunder it should be penalised. These SAGE principles can ensure that everyone's basic material and social needs are met within a thriving natural world.

The writer is a visiting professor at University College London.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Kamala Harris battles two evils



Melvin Durai

THE UNITED
STATES IS ALMOST
250 YEARS OLD
AND HAS HAD 45
PRESIDENTS. NOT
A SINGLE ONE OF
THEM HAS WORN A
DRESS -- AT LEAST
NOT IN PUBLIC

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

emocrats in America are bursting with joy as they embrace a new candidate who has injected excitement into the presidential race. While endorsing Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic leaders have expressed their deep gratitude to Joe Biden for stepping aside, sending him touching messages such as, "Thank you so much, Joe. Let us help you with the door."

Harris is seeking to make history as America's first female president, first Indian-American president, and first African-American president with a Jewish husband.

president with a Jewish husband. Those are just a few of the firsts she would achieve. Her father is from Jamaica, so she would become the first Jamaican-American president. Her late mother was Tamil (from Chennai), so she would become the first president who knows the proper way to eat a dosa.

Many Tamil Brahmins, remembering that her mother was a Tamil Brahmin, would consider Harris the first TamBram president, though her Caribbean connection would make her the first TamBramJam president. To win the White House, Harris

will need to overcome a pair of evils – and I don't mean Donald Trump and JD Vance. I'm talking about racism and sexism. Is there enough racism in

America to keep her out of the White House? I don't think so. I believe that the majority of Americans do not really care what race a political candidate is, as long as the candidate is not trying to marry their daughter.

Yes, one of the true tests of whether you are prejudiced or not is how willing you are to accept a son-in-law of a different race, especially if he isn't a doctor. Unfortunately, most people around the world would fail this test.

Race is an important factor in marriage for the vast majority of people, and doubly so for some. Just ask Olympic athlete Crystal Emmanuel of Canada. She didn't just marry a fellow athlete of the same race, she married an athlete of the same two races: 100 meters and 200 meters. She competed against her

wife, Michelle-Lee Ahye of Trinidad and Tobago, at the last two Olympics. I wouldn't accuse them of racism, of course, unless they looked down on the marathoners.

Thankfully for Harris, Barack Obama paved the way. America's first Black president is considered one of its greatest presidents by historians. He is arguably the most popular living ex-president and the secondmost popular Obama in America, trailing his wife, Michelle.

With his prodigious charm and charisma, Obama coasted to the White House in 2008, even winning a traditionally Republican state like Indiana. He undoubtedly got millions of votes from people who would otherwise be prejudiced.

Middle-aged dad: "No, you can't date Jordan. Find yourself a white boyfriend."

Teenage daughter: "But dad, you voted for Obama." Dad: "Yes, but I heard his

speeches. He filled me with hope about the future." Daughter: "Okay, dad, I'm

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

going to drop Jordan and date Robert instead." Dad: "Is Robert white?"

Daughter: "No, but he gives great speeches. He's in the debate club." Racism isn't as big a hurdle

for Harris to surmount as sexism. The United States is almost 250 years old and has had 45 presidents. Not a single one of them has worn a dress -- at least not in public.

Meanwhile, about 60 countries around the world have had female leaders. Fourteen of them have had multiple female leaders, and three -- Finland, Moldova, New Zealand, and the UK -- have had three female leaders. India had its first female leader in 1966, not long after Harris was born.

It's worth remembering that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, and it was only the outdated Electoral College that kept her from becoming America's first female president. Now it's Harris' turn, and American voters need to realise that this is the 21st century, and it's time to catch up with the rest of the world.

Alienating moderates

mental to Trump's campaign.

sorting to misogynistic and racist attacks against Kamala Harris. While this approach may resonate with Trump's core supporters, it risks alienating moderate voters, independents, and undecided individuals who value civility and inclusivity in politics. This shift in tactics could have significant repercussions for the overall success of his campaign, potentially reshaping the electoral landscape. Kamala Harris' endorsements from influential figures like Barack and Michelle Obama have likely galvanised her campaign, attracting new supporters and donors. Her message of freedom, emphasising the right to make decisions about one's own body and safety, resonates strongly with many Americans, particularly women and marginalised communities. This alignment with fundamental values of autonomy and protection has bolstered her appeal and expanded her base of support. Trump's tactics may mobilise his base, energising his core supporters who respond positively to his attacks on Harris. However, this approach carries the risk of driving away moderate voters, who may view Trump's behaviour as divisive and un-presidential. Additionally, suburban women, a crucial demographic, may be particularly turned off by Trump's misogynistic rhetoric, potentially shifting their support to Harris. This erosion of support in key areas could prove detri-

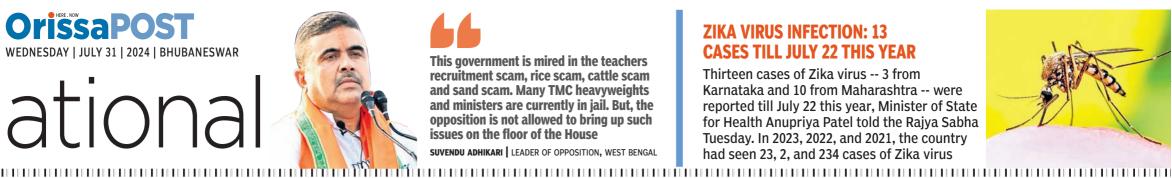
Sir, Donald Trump's recent campaign strategy has taken a concerning turn, re-

Deprived of platform

Sir, The boycott of the NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting by a host of Chief Ministers from non-ruling BJP states over "Budget bias" has reignited the debate on the true functioning of this policy think-tank. Unlike the Planning Commission, NITI Aavog doesn't have statutory powers, as it merely operates as an advisory body, which limits its ability to enforce policy decisions. Until the emergence of NITI Aayog, India kept the federation going, using the twin instruments of Finance Commission and Planning Commission to address critical imbalances – of earning capacity and of development expenditure. By abolishing the Planning Commission, a forum where Chief Ministers would regularly air grievances, consult, and debate with the Centre, the government has deprived regional leaders of a vital platform of self-expression.

nanorm of sen-expression. **Ranganathan Sivakumar,** CHENNAI

national



This government is mired in the teachers recruitment scam, rice scam, cattle scam and sand scam. Many TMC heavyweights and ministers are currently in jail. But, the opposition is not allowed to bring up such issues on the floor of the House

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | LEADER OF OPPOSITION, WEST BENGAL

ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION: 13 CASES TILL JULY 22 THIS YEAR

Thirteen cases of Zika virus -- 3 from Karnataka and 10 from Maharashtra -- were reported till July 22 this year, Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel told the Rajya Sabha Tuesday. In 2023, 2022, and 2021, the country had seen 23, 2, and 234 cases of Zika virus





proved our sincerity by waiving the loans of up to ₹1.50 lakh each of about 18 lakh farmers. By waiving

loans of up to ₹2 lakh in August, we want to make the farmers free of debt burden, like how the country got Independence in August

A REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

that China has built and operationalised a bridge connecting the north and south banks of Pangong Lake, which allows it to have a strategic dominance in the sector,

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Based on the strength of the election cannot be won. The party contests it and it is the party which



KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA DEPUTY CM. UTTAR PRADESH

government, an

SHORT TAKES

Three killed in road accidents

Ratlam/Seoni (MP): Three persons were killed and as many were injured in accidents involving motorcycles in Ratlam and Seoni districts of Madhya Pradesh, police said Tuesday. Two men were killed, and one was injured when their motorcycle hit a road divider on Barbad Road under the industrial area police station in Ratlam Monday evening. assistant sub-inspector (ASP) Sunil Singh Raghay said. In Seoni, a 22-year-old woman died, and two others sustained injuries after a speeding car hit their motorcycle near Dhuma village on the Jabalpur-Lakhnadon Highway Monday evening.

4 labourers killed as roof collapses

Jaipur: Four labourers were killed and six injured when the roof of an under-construction building collapsed in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, police said Tuesday. The construction of a community hall was underway in the Khamnor area and 13 labourers were working at the site. The roof of the underconstruction building collapsed Monday night, trapping 10 of the labourers, Rajsamand Collector Bhanwar Lal said. While two of the labourers died on the spot, two succumbed to injuries during treatment.

3-year-old girl falls into borewell

Singrauli (MP): A three-yearold girl died hours after she accidentally slipped into a borewell near a village in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh Monday evening and was rushed to a hospital after being rescued, officials said. Shoumya, daughter of one Pintu Sahu, fell into the borewell near Kasar village. located about 40km from the district headquarters, while playing in an agriculture field at around 5 pm. Bargawan police station inspector Shivpuian Mishra told PTI over phone from the spot.

4 Naxals held

Bijapur: Four Naxals were arrested from separate locations in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh Tuesday, police said. Three among them were involved in triggering a blast targeting police personnel in a forested area in Kanwadgaon-Pidiya village in December last year, while the fourth one, identified as Ganpat Podiyam, was wanted for killing a purported police informer.

Editors guild seeks review of new criminal laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Editors Guild of India has sought a review of the new criminal justice laws that were implemented this month, contending that their provisions could potentially be used against journalists.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the guild has said over the years and under successive governments. many provisions under criminal laws, the "so-called" offensive-speech laws in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) -- sections 153A, 153B, 295A, 298, 502 and 505 -have been liberally used to file FIRs against journalists whose reporting has been critical of the establishment.

"This has been done by governments across states and party lines," the guild has said in its letter to Shah dated July 29.

The guild has suggested an additional level of review before a criminal complaint is registered against a journalist.

"It is our strong belief that there is a need for a deep consultation and formulation of some set of guidelines for regulating prosecutions against members of the press/media for actions in the course of their duty," it has said.

The guild has said a complaint against a journalist should be reviewed by a high-ranking police officer and the same may be brought to the notice of the Press Council of India for



PR machine of fail minister continues: Cong

TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 20 INJURED AS 18 COACHES OF HOWRAH-MUMBAI MAIL DERAILED NEAR BARABAMBOO STATION IN JHARKHAND, TUESDAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Congress took a swipe at Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Tuesday after a train derailment in Jharkhand, saving since June. the "Fail Minister" has "overseen three accidents" that have cumulatively cost 17 lives, but there is "no accountability" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new India.

Two persons were killed and 20 injured as at least 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district in the early hours of Tuesday, officials said.

Congress general secretary Privanka Gandhi Vadra said the news of loss of lives in the tragedy is saddening.

"May god give peace to the departed souls. I pray to god for the injured. The railways used to be a mode of transport for common people but now, there is neither any comfort nor safety



for the common people," she said in a post in Hindi on X.

"In the last two weeks, more than half a dozen accianother railway dents have accident. But the PR happened, machine of the Fail common **Minister continues** people are losing their JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY lives. But the railway minis-

ter and the government are not paying any heed to this. Should the railway minister not be held accountable for causing accidents instead of fixing those? Can one simply evade responsibility by making excuses after every accident?" the Congress leader asked.

Responsibility must be fixed and strict action must be taken because it is important to stop playing with the safety of the common people, she said.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Yet another railway accident. But the PR machine of the Fail Minister

'In June and July 2024 alone, the Fail Minister has overseen three accidents that have cumulatively cost 17 Indians their lives and left 100s injured," he said in a post on X, hitting out at Vaishnaw.

Congress's Media and Publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Train Accidents: A Weekly Reality in Modi's New India.

"July 18: Train accident in Gonda, UP: Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express: 4 killed, 31 injured. July 19: Goods train derailed in Valsad, Gujarat. July 20: 12 wagons of a freight train derailed in Amroha, UP. July 21:3 wagons of a goods train derailed in Alwar, Rajasthan. July 21: Goods train derailed in Ranaghat, West Bengal. July 26: Goods train derailed at Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Orissa. July 29: Bihar Sampark Kranti Express detached from other coaches in Samastipur, Bihar. July 30: Several coaches of the Howrah-CSMT Express train derailed in Chakradharpur, Jharkhand: 2 killed, 20 injured," he said in a post on the microblogging platform.

In the usual aftermath, Vaishnaw would visit the site with his public relations team by the evening and upload a reel on social media by the next day, Khera said, taking a dig at the railway minister.

"In Modi's new India, there is no accountability, no resignations, only grandiose talks about irrelevant rail projects that no one uses," he added.

'Two persons were killed and 20 injured as 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed near Barabamboo. Rescue operations are on and an NDRF team is rushing to the spot,' West Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary, who is camping at the accident site, told PTI.

He claimed that the Howrah-Mumbai train had hit a stationary goods train.

The accident site is near the border between West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has directed the officials concerned to expedite the relief operations

ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS

HM operative held in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 30: A Hizbul Mujahideen(HM) operative was arrested as the security forces conducted search operations in different parts of Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Doda districts in Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said.

Abdul Khalil, a resident of north Kashmir's Bandipora, was arrested from Surankote area of Poonch district during an anti-terrorist operation, the officials said.

A pistol and some ammunition were recovered from the possession of Khalil, who is working as a guide to facilitate infiltrating terrorists of proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit, they said.

The officials said that a mobile phone with multiple Pakistani SIM cards were also recovered from the possession of the arrested terror operative.

The security forces also conducted a cordon and search operation in nearly half-a-dozen villages following information about the movement of two suspected terrorists in Dehra Ki Gali area of Poonch, the officials said.

They said that two armed suspects, dressed in black, were seen moving in Salampura village near Dehra Ki Gali late Monday night.

The police assisted by the Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF launched a joint operation immediately after getting the in-



National Health Mission (NHM) employees stage a protest near Director of Health office at Koti in Hyderabad, Telangana

Court reserves order on accused bail pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: A court here Tuesday reserved its order on the bail plea of an SUV driver and four owners of the coaching centre basement in the Old Rajinder Nagar area which was flooded with rainwater and led to the death of three civil services as-

Judicial Magistrate Vinod

COACHING CENTRE TRAGEDY

Kumar reserved the order on the bail plea of the driver Manuj Kathuria and the basement owners Tejinder Singh, Parvinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, and Sarabjeet Singh.

"Order reserved for Wednesday at 4 PM," the court said.

Kathuria has been accused of driving his Force Gurkha car through the street that was flooded by rainwater causing the water to swell and breach the gates of the three-storey building and in-

undate the basement. Rakesh Malhotra, Kathuria's advocate sought bail, saying his client did not know what would happen, nor did he have the intention to cause the incident.

INDIA bloc protests at Jantar Mantar over Kejriwal's arrest

ADDRESSING THE PROTEST RALLY AMID SLOGANS OF 'BHARAT MATA KI JAI' AND 'END DICTATORSHIP', ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S WIFE SUNITA KEJRIWAL HITS OUT AT THE BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Senior gether at Delhi's Jantar Mantar Tuesday to demand the release of AAP supremo and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and asserted that the BJP-led central government does not have adequate numbers and will not survive for long.

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar. Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Congress leaders Gaurav Gogoi and Pramod Tiwari took part in the protest to show solidarity with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the arrest of its national convener.

Many of the Opposition bloc leaders also accused the Centre of obstructing the work of the Delhi government and claimed that it had led to the recent incident in Old Rajinder Nagar



getting trapped in a flooded basement of a coaching centre.

Addressing the protest rally amid slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "End dictatorship", Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal hit out at the BJP, saying its politics is about "hatred" and "stopping" the work of residents of the national capital.

She also alleged that her husband's life was in danger in Tihar.

Kejriwal was arrested so that he could be harassed. Yechury claimed, adding that the chief minister's name was added to an FIR by the CBI so that he does not get bail.

"After presenting the charge sheet five times, they mentioned Kejriwal's name for the first time yesterday. They feared he would get bail in the ED case, so of CBI. We have heard of his diabetes situation, it is important to release him as soon as possible," the CPI(M) leader said.

"From '400-paar', they came down to 240, but their behaviour remains the same. They behave like kings, this cannot go on. This is harassment so that he quits politics," he added.

Asserting that the NDA government will not survive, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut claimed that it does not have adequate numbers.

Drawing similarities between his party and AAP, Raut said it was in their DNA to fight and not bow down before dictatorship.

Deputy Leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha Gogoi said the BJP and its leaders cannot scare the Opposition.

REVOLUTIONISING Integrating sports as mainstream discipline: AFPI

It argues for the absolute equivalence of Olympic sports disciplines with general academic disciplines within the Indian education system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) has released a white paper, calling for making sports such as football mainstream academic disciplines and awarding qualifications for them on par with subjects like mathematics and science.

The white paper titled "Building a Healthy Nation: A White Paper on Olympic Sports and the Indian Education System" authored by AFPI national president Dr Raman Kumar, delves into systemic issues hindering India's Olympic performance and proposes innovative reforms to integrate sports with the mainstream education system.

The white paper was pub-

Medicine and Primary Care.

The Indian education system has produced top-class global corporate leaders. But our Olympic performance has remained modest. This white paper systematically organises the available knowledge and debates around India's sporting performance against the backdrop of our mainstream education culture," Dr Kumar

The white paper highlights India's historical and contemporary challenges in sports, identifying key factors such as inadequate sports infrastructure, limited access to quality coaching and funding con-

It argues for the absolute equivalence of Olympic sports disciplines with general aca-



The white paper highlights India's historical and contemporary challenges in sports, identifying key factors such as inadequate sports infrastructure, limited access to quality coaching and funding constraints

Indian education system.

The paper calls for including sports like football as mainstream academic disciplines par with subjects like mathematics and science.

Dr Kumar said, "Addressing these challenges and creating a

ues and promotes sporting abilities alongside academic excellence is essential to harness the potential of sports in schools fully."

'This requires concerted efforts from various stakeholders, including the schooling system, educational institutions, government, sports organisations, corporate sponsors, and the community.'

Comparing sports with education, the white paper suggested that a balanced approach can lead to success in both arenas.

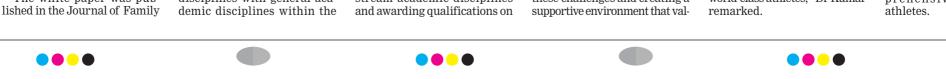
"Our educational institutions have fostered great minds who have excelled globally. By integrating sports into our education system, we can replicate this success in the sports domain, producing scholars and world-class athletes," Dr Kumar

Additionally, the document discusses the impact of cricket's dominance over other sports, the decline in rural sports culture, and the need for societal reforms to address the stereotyping of sportspersons in the Indian education system.

It also outlines the potential economic opportunities that a robust sports culture can bring to the country's people.

In its call to action, the white paper urges establishing a National Sports Open School Examination Board and a National Sports Open University to provide flexible, athletefriendly education systems.

It also advocates for a National Sportsperson Social Security Scheme through an act of Parliament to ensure the comprehensive well-being of



national



The people who said 400 paar did not get a majority. In Uttar Pradesh, where they said they will get 80 seats, the people not only defeated them but also restricted them from gaining majority by giving a mandate in favour of SP and INDIA bloc AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

RAILWAY BOARD DENIES LIGHT DUTY REQUEST FOR FEMALE LOCO PILOTS

The Railway Board has referred to the provisions of several leave facilities for expectant female loco pilots in response to their demand for light duties during pregnancy. In a written communication sent to all zones July 25, 2024, the board said, "It is observed that several provisions of leave are already provided in rules for pregnant female employees which can be availed by the expectant female employees"



increasing... May Allah save us from it. (Pakistanis) also become wiser. Issues cannot be solved like this, they can only get complicated. We will pray that they work towards peace and we

FAROOQ ABDULLAH PRESIDENT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

There is no hesitation in people associated with the Samajwadi Party are found to be directly or

indirectly involved

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

After coming to power, our government will take strict action against officials, be it the commissioner or others, as the work was done under their supervision as civic elections are not held

(in the state)





Chinese army vehi-Lake Bridge - closer to conflict

Modi has capitulated to China, with

allows no discussion in parliament

SHORT **TAKES**

SC grants bail to Anubrata Mondal

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted bail to Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested by the CBI in a cattle smuggling case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma granted the relief to Mondal after noting that the trial in the matter would take time and he has been in jail for two years. The TMC leader will, however, remain in jail as he was also arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (FD) in the same case in November 2022.

Gadkari attends oath ceremony of Iran Prez

New Delhi: Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Tuesday attended the inauguration ceremony of Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran in reflection of close ties between the two countries. Pezeshkian was sworn-in as Iran's ninth President. The presidential poll was necessitated following the death of hardline President Ebrahim Raisi.

SC grants bail to Nawab Malik

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted bail to NCP leader Nawab Malik on medical grounds in a money laundering case. A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma took note of the submissions of a counsel, appearing for the former Maharashtra minister, that he was suffering from various ailments. The top court said medical bail to Malik will be valid till disposal of the regular bail plea pending before the Bombay High Court. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, did not oppose grant of bail, and said the interim medical bail may be made permanent.

LANDSLIDES WREAK HAVOC IN KERALA

'Urgent need for prediction mechanism, safe structures'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Juyl 30: Scientists and experts Tuesday called for a landslide prediction mechanism and construction of safe structures for the vulnerable population after more than 100 people were killed in a series of landslides in Kerala.

Extremely heavy rain triggered a series of landslides in the hilly areas of Kerala's Wayanad district early Tuesday, leaving at least 123 people dead and 128 injured. Many were feared trapped under the debris. Madhavan Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Earth Sciences Ministry, said weather agencies can predict extremely heavy rainfall events, but whether that would trigger a landslide cannot be said with certainty. 'Heavy rainfall does not lead to landslides every time. We need a separate mechanism for landslide prediction. It is difficult but doable," Rajeevan told PTI.

The conditions that lead to landslides, including soil texture, soil moisture and slope are known, and it is important to put all this knowledge into an operational system, he said. 'Unfortunately, we have not done that yet.'

"When a river is in spate, we shift people to safer places. We can do the same thing if there is heavy and continuous rainfall. We have good science and good capability; we just have to convert that into practice,' Rajeevan said in a statement.

Sreekumar, a disaster risk management expert at the Kerala of Local Administration, told PTI that rainfall above 120 mm for two to three days is enough to trigger landslides in the fragile terrain of the southern coastal state. There are many landslide-prone areas in Wayanad. The only thing we can do is move people to safer areas," Sreekumar said.

Significant landslides have occurred in and around this area in the last three decades. In August 2019, 17 people died after



a landslide hit Puthumala in Wayanad, around 10 km from the areas currently affected. Chembramala, the highest peak in the Wayanad hills, and Kartikulam, a small town in the district, saw multiple landslides in 2012 and 1992, respectively.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, said around half of Kerala comprises hills and mountainous regions where the slope is more than 20 degrees, making these places prone to landslides when heavy rains occur.

"Landslide-prone areas are mapped and available for Kerala. Panchavats with hazardous areas should be identified and sensitised. We need to monitor rainfall data in these hotspots and prepare early warning systems targeted at hazard-prone areas. he said. Often, landslides and flash floods occur in regions where the impact of both climate change and direct human intervention in terms of land use changes are evident. At the same time, there have been many severe landslides in regions with minimal land use changes as

Warming of Arabian Sea linked to landslides: Scientist

New Delhi: Warming of the Arabian Sea is allowing the formation of deep cloud systems, leading to extremely heavy rainfall in Kerala in a shorter period and increasing the possibility of landslides, a senior climate scientist said Tuesday. Extremely heavy rain triggered a series of landslides in the hilly areas of Kerala's Wayanad district early Tuesday. Many were feared trapped under the debris. S Abhilash, the director of the Advanced Centre for Atmospheric Radar Research at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) said Kasargod, Kannur, Wayanad, Calicut, and Malappuram districts have been receiving copious rainfall due to the active monsoon offshore trough affecting the entire Konkan region for the last two weeks. The soil was saturated after two weeks of rainfall. A deep mesoscale cloud system formed off the coast in the Arabian Sea on Monday and led to extremely heavy rain in Wayanad, Calicut, Malappuram, and Kannur, resulting in localised landslides, he told PTI. "The clouds were very deep, similar to those seen during the 2019 Kerala floods," Abhilash said.

relief teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Heavy engineering equipment and rescue dog teams are being airlifted and disaster relief teams have been dispatched by the Indian Coast Guard to provide aid and succour to people after a series of landslides in the hilly areas of Kerala's Wayanad district early Tuesday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said more than 100 people have died and around 130 were injured in the massive landslides in the northern Wayanad district, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair.

"As tragic disaster struck at Wayanad in wee hours today, Indian Armed Forces swung into immediate action and 300 Military personnel were moved forthwith to commence rescue operations. During the day, additional columns of Army, Naval teams and helicopters from Air Force were mobilised to assist the rescue and relief



efforts," the Office of the Raksha Mantri said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, his office also said in a post on X that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday spoke to Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to take stock of rescue and relief works being undertaken by the Army units in landslide-hit Wayanad.

The Army, which has been deployed for rescue services in Wayanad district, has managed to save about 1000 persons using a temporary bridge, after the permanent structure was washed away. Some sniffer dogs are being brought from New Delhi to carry out the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra put off their scheduled Wednesday morning visit to landslide-hit Wayanad after authorities informed them that they would not be able to land due to incessant rain and adverse weather conditions. The Congress leaders said they would visit the district as soon as possible.

ICG mobilises INDIA'S EXTREME WEATHER EVENT



ndia has witnessed extreme weather conditions in recent years, from torrential rain and floods to droughts and cyclones. Experts say climate change is worsening such events and making them more frequent and less predictable. More than 100 people were killed after landslides swept through tea estates and homes in Kerala state July 30. Following are details of recent extreme weather events in the country.

HEATWAVE, FLOODS IN DELHI Heavy rains caused floods in capital New Delhi in June following weeks of extreme heat. Torrential rains caused a fatal airport roof collapse in June, while three students drowned in a flooded basement classroom July 27.

In May, thunderstorms caused a billboard to collapse in financial capital Mumbai, killing at least 14 people, while flash floods in July disrupted transportation.

RIVERS OVERFLOW IN ASSAM

Several rivers swelled up in Assam state in the northeast in July after seasonal monsoon rains, triggering floods and landslides that killed at least 79 people and displaced thousands. More than 150 animals, including rare one-horned rhinoceros, drowned in the state's Kaziranga National Park.

CYCLONE IN SOUTHERN INDIA A severe cyclone hit India's southeastern coast in December 2023, after torrential rains and flooding killed at least 13 people. Sustained downpours in Tamil Nadu state in the subsequent days led to inundated neighbourhoods, roads and railways and killed at least 31 people.

HIMALAYAN GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST

A Himalayan glacial lake burst its banks in October 2023 after heavy rains in the northeastern state of Sikkim, triggering the region's worst floods in more than 50 years which killed 179 and swept away homes and bridges.

LANDSLIDE SWEEPS AWAY POWER PROJECTS

A landslide 20 km (12 miles) away from the second highest peak in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand in February 2021 left more than 200 dead triggered flash floods and swept away two hydroelectric projects.

LANDSLIDES NEAR MUMBAI

A landslide in July 2023 flattened several homes in a village near Mumbai, killing at least 27 and trapping scores of residents.

FLOODS IN KERALA

The southern state of Kerala witnessed its worst flood in a century in 2018, which killed at least 373 people and displaced 1.2 million to shelter camps. The state had received 40% more rainfall than usual. REVIERS

Rajya Sabha discusses Wayanad tragedy

NEW DELHI: Several Opposition Rajya Sabha MPs raised the Wayanad tragedy in the House Tuesday and demanded that it be declared a national disaster. The demands were raised by Kerala MPs after more than 100 people were killed and over 400 families were isolated in a massive landslide at Churalpara in Kerala's Wayanad at around 2 AM Tuesday. Kerala CPI(M) MP, John Brittas, demanded that the central disaster management forces be deployed in Kerala "immediately" to carry out rescue and relief work. The MPs said that more than 500 families were trapped due to the landslides, the bodies of some victims were being retrieved far from their homes, and in some cases entire families have been wiped out. The MPs also demanded financial aid of Rs 5,000 crore and called on the Rajya Sabha Chairman to declare the incident a national disaster.

SNIPPETS

Cloudburst in Himachal's Kullu

SHIMLA: A footbridge and three makeshift sheds, including a liquor shop, were washed away following a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in Tosh Nallah in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, officials said Tuesday. The incident took place in the Tosh area of Manikaran early in the morning and no loss of life was reported, Deputy Commissioner Kullu Torul S Raveesh said, adding that a team has been sent to the spot to assess the situation. "Our appeal to people is to stay away from rivers and rivulets and not make temporary structures near nallahs," she said.

Jharkhand: Seven killed in lightning strikes

RANCHI: At least seven people, including two children, were killed, while four others were injured in separate incidents of lightning strikes in Jharkhand Tuesday, officials said. Four people were killed in Ranchi district, and three in Chatra. In Ranchi, three deaths were reported in Mandar block, and one in Chanho. Mandar Circle Officer Rajendra Das said that one death each was reported in three villages -- Cambo, Tilta and Baski - in Mandar police station area, around 30 km from Ranchi.

Extortion Case: Court acquits all accused

JAIPUR: A special court in Ajmer Tuesday acquitted all 15 people, including 11 SHOs and an IPS officer, accused in a decade-old case involving an alleged extortion racket. The court acquitted them giving them benefit of doubt. The 15, one of them a Rajasthan Police Service officer, were made accused under various sections of Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC.

Anurag's 'caste' remark sparks uproar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: BJP leader Anurag Thakur's apparent reference to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's caste during a discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha Tuesday triggered an ugly spat between the Opposition and treasury benches.

Rahul accused Thakur of insulting and abusing him during the debate but asserted that he would not seek any apology from the former Union Minister.

Questioning the Congress' stand on caste census, the BJP leader made certain remarks on Gandhi's caste that triggered an uproar and had Congress members trooping into the Well of the Lok Sabha. "Anurag Thakur insulted me and I don't want any apology from him. Abuse or insult me as hard as you can but don't forget we will pass the



caste census in this Parliament for sure," the Leader of the Opposition said.

Launching a scathing attack on Gandhi for his "chakravyuh" jibe at the BJP-led government a day earlier, Thakur cited purported portions from a book authored by Shashi Tharoor to hit out at successive Congress governments since 1947 and alleged the former Congress chief misinterpreted his position of LoP as "leader of propaganda".

Thakur also took a jibe at Rahul, who stood up twice to counter his remarks targeting the

previous Congress governments. The BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur claimed that Rahul had already made his remarks but sought permission to speak again after someone passed a chit to him.

"Udhar ki buddhi se rajniti nahi chalti (You can't indulge in politics on borrowed wisdom)," Thakur said. The former Union minister said one of the synonyms for lotus is Rajiv, the name of Rahul Gandhi's father

and former Prime Minister. "You linked lotus with violence. Does that mean you also link Rajiv with violence?" the BJP MP asked. Thakur alleged that the definition of OBCs for Congress is "Only Brother-inlaw Commission" and not Other Backward Classes. He also $referred \ to \ former \ Prime \ Minister$ Rajiv Gandhi's Opposition to reservation for OBCs

SAD expels 8 rebel leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 30: Adopting a tough stand against rebels, the Shiromani Akali Dal Tuesday expelled eight leaders, including former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra and ex-Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee chief Bibi Jagir Kaur, for revolting against party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Taking serious note of "antiparty activities" by some senior leaders "under a conspiracy", the Shiromani Akali Dal's disciplinary committee expelled Chandumajra, Kaur and former MLA Gurpartap Singh Wadala, from primary membership of the party, it said.

The party also expelled Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Sikandar Singh Maluka, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Surinder Singh Thekedar and Charanjit Singh Brar. The disciplinary committee is led by senior leader Balwinder Singh Bhundar and also includes Maheshinder Singh Grewal and Gulzar Singh Ranike.

A section of senior leaders last month revolted against Badal, demanding that he step down as party chief following the Shiromani Akali Dal's performance in the Lok Sabha elections in Puniab.

Among the prominent faces who revolted against Badal were Chandumajra, Kaur and Wadala, former ministers Maluka, Dhindsa, Rakhra and Sarwan Singh Phillaur, and party leader Sucha Singh Chhotepur.

After a long discussion, the disciplinary committee concluded that these leaders were tarnishing the image of the partywith their actions, the Shiromani Akali Dal said.

LOVE JIHAD UP proposes life imprisonment for accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 30: The Uttar Pradesh Assembly Tuesday passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that provides for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment, making the law stricter in cases of fraudulent or forced conversion.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna introduced the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House Monday.

It has been proposed that if a person threatens, attacks, mar-

Earlier the maximum punishment provided for those found guilty of marrying a woman by deceiving her and converting her religion was 10 years with a fine of ₹50,000

ries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or trafficks a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category. In such cases, there is a provision of 20

years imprisonment or life im-

prisonment. Under the amended provisions, now any person can register an FIR in conversion cases. Earlier, to give information or complaint about the case, the presence of the victim, her parents, or siblings was necessary.

It has been proposed that such cases will not be heard by any court below the Sessions Court

giving an opportunity to the public prosecutor. Also, all the crimes under the amended Act have been made non-bailable. Chief Minister Yogi

and along with this, the bail plea

will not be considered without

Adityanath had taken this initiative with the intention of curbing 'love jihad', a term coined by some Hindu outfits for alleged forcible conversion.

An ordinance was issued for curbing forced conversion in November 2020 and later, after the bill was passed by both the houses of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature, the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act-2021 came into force.

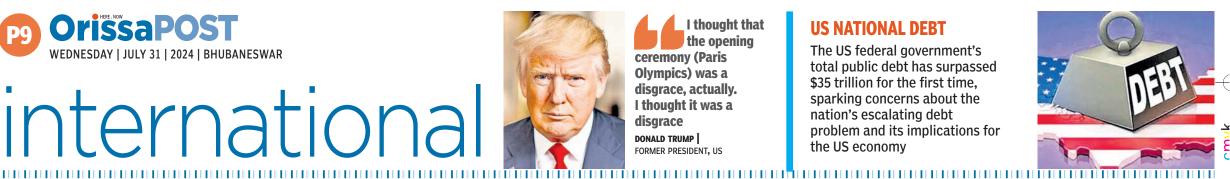
international



I thought that the opening ceremony (Paris Olympics) was a disgrace, actually. I thought it was a disgrace DONALD TRUMP I FORMER PRESIDENT, US

US NATIONAL DEBT

The US federal government's total public debt has surpassed \$35 trillion for the first time, sparking concerns about the nation's escalating debt problem and its implications for the US economy





diplomatic economic coercion, internet attacks, and spreading false and

continuously muddle matters and seek to undermine regional peace and stability

LAI CHING-TE PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

The value of drugs seized in this two-month operation is higher than the GDP of some countries, which clearly shows the scale of the problem facing law enforcement



JURGEN STOCK

The continued transfer of North Korea to Russia is a flagrant violation of UN Security



SHORT **TAKES**

UK Islamist preacher gets life sentence

London: British radical Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary, whose followers have been linked to numerous plots around the world, was sentenced to life imprisonment Tuesday for directing a terrorist organisation. Choudary, 57, was convicted last week of directing al-Muhajiroun, which was banned as a terrorist organisation more than a decade ago, and encouraging others to support the proscribed group. "Organisations such as yours normalise violence in support of an ideological cause," Judge Mark Wall told Choudary at London's Woolwich Crown

Warring tribes reach ceasefire

Peshawar: Warring tribes engaged in clashes for a week in Pakistan's restive northwestern Kurram district have reached a ceasefire brokered by jirga leaders as the death toll rose to 49 in the fighting that also left more than 200 people injured, officials said Tuesday. According to the police and district administration, armed clashes started five days ago between Sunni and Shia tribes in the Upper Kurram district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan.

B'desh set to ban Jamaat-e-Islami

Dhaka: The Bangladesh government Tuesday decided to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami following the deadly nationwide students' protests over quotas in government jobs, accusing the fundamentalist party of exploiting the movement that left at least 150 people dead. The development to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami from Wednesday comes a day after a meeting of the ruling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League-led 14-party alliance. Bangladesh Tuesday observed a national day across the country for the 150 people killed in the

Tropical storm in China kills 22

Beijing: Torrential rains have left at least seven people dead and three others missing in southeastern China, state media said Tuesday, raising the death toll from a tropical storm to 22. All the deaths have been in Hunan province. Four deaths and three missing people were reported in four villages in Zixing city, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

ISRAEL LEAVES DEADLY TRAIL

ISRAELI FORCES OUIT EAST KHAN YOUNIS. PALESTINIANS RECOVER DOZENS OF BODIES

REUTERS

Cairo, July 30: Thousands of Palestinians returned to their homes in the ruins of Gaza's main southern city Khan Younis Tuesday, after Israeli forces ended a week-long incursion there which they said aimed to prevent Islamist armed group Hamas from re-

Palestinian rescue workers and civilians collected dead bodies from the streets of the abandoned battle zone, bringing corpses wrapped in rugs to morgues in cars and donkey

The Hamas-run Gaza media office said Israel's eight-day-long raid in eastern areas of Khan Younis killed 255 Palestinians and wounded more than 300 others. At least 30 people remained missing.

The Israeli military said its forces killed more than 150 Palestinian gunmen during the week-long raid, destroyed militant tunnels and seized weapons.

After the Israeli forces left. people streamed back to their homes on foot and with carts carrying their belongings. Many found their houses damaged or destroyed. The Hamas media office said more than 300 homes had been hit by Israeli fire during the raid, at least 30 of them inhabited when they were struck.

Witnesses said army forces had bulldozed the main cemetery



8-DAY-LONG RAID

- 255 Palestinians killed, over 300 wounded and 30 missing
- Israeli forces claim killing over 150 Palestinian gunmen

in Bani Suhaila, the town on the eastern outskirts of Khan Younis that was the main focus of the raid, as well as houses and roads nearby.

"I am coming back and I have faith in God. I don't know whether we will live or die, but it is all for the sake of the homeland," said Etimad Al-Masri, who had walked for at least five km back to her home.

'Despite the suffering, we are patient and God's willing we will have victory."

Many residents said they had been displaced from their homes

HEZBOLLAH RETALIATION US leads push to rein in Israel's response

The United States is leading a diplomatic dash to deter Israel from striking Lebanon's capital Beirut or major civil infrastructure in response to a deadly rocket attack on the Golan Heights, five people with knowledge of the drive said. Washington is racing to avert a full-blown war between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese move ment Hezbollah after the attack on the Israeli-occupied Golan killed 12 youths at the weekend, according to the five people who include Lebanese and Iranian officials plus Middle Eastern and European diplomats. Israel and the US have blamed Hezbollah for the rock et strike, though the group has denied responsibility.

where they had already claimed to have rooted out Hamas. Thousands of people have been ordered to evacuate their homes, most of them previously displaced several times already.

Efforts to negotiate a ceasefire through mediators, ongoing for months, are once again faltering. On Monday, Israel and Hamas traded blame over the lack of progress.

Hamas wants a ceasefire agreement to end the war in Gaza, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the conflict will stop only once Hamas is defeated. There are also disagreements over how a deal would be implemented.

least two

protests

Unrest in Venezuela

Venezuelan Opposition says Nicolas Maduro stole vote

REUTERS

Caracas, July 30: Opponents and supporters of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro planned to rally Tuesday as protests and clashes spread after a weekend election was awarded to the long-ruling socialist despite opposition claims of a landslide victory. At

Renewed instability in the South America oil producer brought divided international reaction, the United States said Maduro's reelection had no credibility and was mulling more sanctions, while China and Russia congratulated him.

Protests began after the election board declared Monday that Maduro had won a third term with 51% of votes to extend his "Chavista" movement's quarter-century rule.

The opposition, which considers the election body in the pockets of a dictatorial government, said the 73% of vote tallies

to which it has access showed its candidate Edmundo Gonzalez had more than twice as many votes as Maduro

Many Venezuelans staged "cacerolazos", a traditional Latin American protest where people bang pots and pans in anger.

Some blocked roads, lit fires and threw petrol bombs at police as protests proliferated, including near the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas.

We are tired of this government, we want a change. We want to be free in Venezuela. We people were killed want our families to return here," said in connection with one masked protester, referring to the vote count or the exodus of about a third of Venezuelans in recent years. "I'll fight

for my country's democracy. They stole the election from us. said another. Police with shields and ba-

tons in Caracas and the city of Maracay fired tear gas to disperse some protests. Many demonstrators rode mo-

torbikes and jammed streets or draped themselves in the Venezuelan flag. Some covered their faces with scarves as protection against tear gas.

SNIPPETS

Taliban disavows Afghan diplomatic missions abroad

Islamabad: The Taliban Tuesday disavowed many Afghan diplomatic missions overseas, saying it will not honour passports, visas and other documents issued by diplomats associated with Afghanistan's former Western-backed

administration. It's the Taliban's latest attempt to seize control of diplomatic missions since returning to power in 2021. Many Taliban leaders are under sanctions, and no country recognises them as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers. The country's seat at the United Nations is still held by the former government that was led by Ashraf Ghani, but the Taliban wants it. In a statement posted to social media platform X, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said documents issued by missions in London, Berlin, Belgium, Bonn, Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Greece, Poland, Australia, Sweden, Canada and Norway are no longer accepted and the ministry "bears no responsibility" for those documents.

Hungary visa move stokes EU fears of Russian espionage

Budapest: The European People's Party (EPP) has raised security concerns over a decision by Hungary to ease visa restrictions for Russian and Belarusian citizens, fearing it could fuel espionage in the EU, according to a letter seen by Reuters Tuesday. Manfred Weber, chair of the centre-right EPP, has written to European Council head Charles Michel to say the new Hungarian rules could "create grave loopholes for espionage activities, posing a serious risk to national security". "This policy could also make it easier for Russians to move around the (borderless) Schengen area, bypassing the restrictions required by EU law," Weber said in his letter. The letter was first reported by the Financial Times. The Hungarian government did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Pezeshkian sworn in as Iran's Prez

TUESDAY'S CEREMONY CAME TWO DAYS AFTER IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI OFFICIALLY ENDORSED MASOUD PEZESHKIAN

"We hope there will be a cease

fire and calm. We hope that they

act on a ceasefire so that we can

live in security and safety," said

Walid Abu Nsaira, holding some

of his belongings on his shoul-

has wound down. Israel has or-

dered thousands of people out of

homes in al-Bureij in the cen-

tral Gaza Strip, launching strikes

there in apparent preparation

Medics said an Israeli air

strike in nearby al-Nuseirat

killed 10 Palestinians as they

fled from Bureij Tuesday, and

another strike killed four other

Israeli forces have largely com-

pleted their storming of nearly

the entire Gaza Strip and have

spent the past several weeks

launching new assaults on areas

Ten months into the war,

Palestinians inside Bureij.

for a new raid.

As the Khan Younis assault

der as he walked back home.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, July 30: Iranian reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn before Parliament Tuesday as the Islamic republic's ninth President at a ceremony attended by foreign dignitaries.

Pezeshkian won a runoff race against ultraconservative Saeed Jalili July 5 to replace President Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Iran's presidential election took place against a backdrop of heightened regional tensions



since the Gaza war began in early October, disputes with rn powers over Iran's nuclear programme and domestic discontent over the state of the sanctions-hit economy.

Tuesday's ceremony came two days after Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei officially endorsed Pezeshkian and gave the 69-vear-old heart surgeon presidential powers.

"I as the President, in front of the Holy Koran and the people of Iran, swear to almighty God to be the guardian of the official religion and the Islamic Republic system and the con-

stitution of the country," Pezeshkian said at the ceremony which was broadcast live on state TV.

Pezeshkian, who is expected to unveil his government within two weeks, had secured more than 16 million votes during the runoff, or about 54 percent of the roughly 30 million ballots

Tuesday's ceremony was attended by senior officials from several countries including Armenia, Tajikistan, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Cuba and

Khan approaches ATC, seeks bail in 12 terrorism cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, July 30: Jailed former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan Tuesday approached an Anti-Terrorism Court here seeking post-arrest bail in a_ dozen terrorism cases against him related to last year's May 9

The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician's legal has filed the petition.

Last week, the Lahore High Court set aside the ATC's decision to grant his physical remand in these cases, noting that if Khan was not leading the violent protests no case could be instituted against him.

Punjab police July 14 had arrested Khan in these cases registered mainly in Lahore against him including the attack on a military officer's house after the ATC cancelled his pre-arrest bail and granted police his physical remand. On Tuesday, Khan in his petition said that the sole allegation against him is related to "abetment for inciting his

supporters to violence.' 'On May 9, 2023, I was in NAB (National Accountability Court) custody and was not allowed to communicate with the outside world. It was a malicious and politically motivated attempt to frame me in this frivolous FIR, craving for the kind indulgence of this court for the grant of

post arrest bail," he said. "The material collected by police from social media was also the result of an afterthought and, therefore, does not constitute any penal offence as the majority of those co-accused have already been granted bail. There is a need for further Inquiry into my guilt as my continued incarceration is illegal and unjustified given the lack of credible evidence," said Khan, who is currently on judicial remand in all the cases.

He requested the court to grant post-arrest bail in these cases.

The May 9 riots in 2023 were triggered nationwide after Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a 190-million-pound corruption case. He faces over 200 cases and has been in jail since August last year. Khan has been imprisoned at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for almost a year upon his conviction in multiplecases. His wife Bushra Bibi is also jailed along with him.

Republicans call Harris a failed border czar

The reality of Harris' record on migration is far more complicated, according to interviews with three current Biden officials, 13 former officials and others tracking the issue

The region is riddled with corrupt government officials, the drivers of migration are deeply rooted in economic inequality and social factors, and she didn't control the border.

'She was given a very hard, difficult, convoluted portfolio," said US Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee and an architect of a bipartisan border security bill introduced earlier

At campaign rallies and in social media posts, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has intensified his attacks on Harris as a failed "border czar," especially now that she has emerged as the likely Democratic nominee after President Joe Biden ended his campaign for reelection this month.

7 million migrants have been arrested illegally crossing the US-Mexico border under Biden, according to government data, all-time highs that have fueled Republican criticism

The reality of Harris's record on migration is far more complicated, according to interviews with three current Biden officials, 13 former officials and others tracking the issue.

First, Harris was never given the portfolio of border czar, said Alan Bersin, who embraced the label as a special representative for border affairs under Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. "This was not the job assigned to VP Harris," he

Instead, Biden asked Harris to lead diplomatic efforts to reduce poverty, violence and corrup-



tion in Central America's Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as engage with Mexico on the issue

It was similar to the job Biden had when he was Vice President. But that was an overly broad mission, Murphy said.

"It's hard in a short period of time to come up with a strategy that impacts the very real and complicated psychological decision-making that people in those countries go through when they're deciding to come to the United States," Murphy said in

a phone interview. And within months of Harris taking the job, the focus on the three Central American countries was out of step with the reality at the border, where illegal immigration from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela was spiking, several former officials and outside experts said.

"She started off, in a sense, at a disadvantage because everyone was focusing on those three countries in the Northern Triangle, said Roberta Jacobson, who served as a coordinator for the US-Mexico border in the early months of the Biden administration. "Meanwhile, the migrant population was changing dramatically.'

Harris continued to lead the Central America effort although she has increasingly focused on abortion rights this year, a top Democratic issue since a 2022 US Supreme Court decision struck down the nationwide right to an abortion.

The White House said in March that Harris helped engineer \$4 billion in government aid and commitments of \$5.2 billion in private investment to create or support an estimated 250,000 jobs in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Ricardo Barrientos, director of the Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies think tank, said the US aid and private sector investment was a fraction of the remittances migrants from the three countries working in the US send home each year, \$37 billion last year alone.

"It's very small compared to the magnitude of the challenge," he said. "Or some would say, 'too little, too late'.'

By May, the number of migrants from the Northern Triangle caught crossing illegally had fallen to 25,000 from a peak of 90,000 in July 2021, although experts say the impact of Harris' efforts remain unclear.

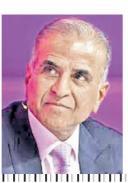
REUTERS

Washington, July 30: Vice President Kamala Harris, tasked to deal with the root causes of migration from Central America as illegal border crossings were rising in 2021, immediately ran into the enormity of the mission.

this year.

Despite Harris' efforts, some

business



The digital economy of India today contributes about 11 per cent of the country's GDP. underlining the commitment from various stakeholders, including the private sector, in ensuring that India achieves its vision of a USD 1 trillion digital economy at an exponential pace SUNIL MITTAL | BHARTI AIRTEL CHAIRMAN

GOLD DEMAND DIPS ON HIGH PRICES

India's gold demand declined 5 per cent to 149.7 tonnes during the June quarter, due to record high prices, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report Tuesday. The gold demand stood at 158.1 tonnes during the corresponding quarter of the previous calendar year, WGC's 'Q2 2024 Gold Demand Trends' report said.





large population of tech-savvy young consumers that inspire us to innovate. I am proud that many young, enterprising engineers who are playing an important role in the development of AI are working at our R&D centres in India

India has a

JONG-HEE (JH) HAN CEO DX DIVISION SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS

There is no rethinking at present to support Chinese investments in the country



We are hiring over 500 youth at the company in the next 3-6 months as interns We have recently opened a big office in

Gurugram. With the new (proposed) scheme from the government, it is relatively easier for us to hire now and financially workable also

NISHANT PITTI EASEMYTRIP CEO

Q1 RESULTS **CORNER**

IOC net profit drops 81%

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, Tuesday reported a 81 per cent drop in June quarter net profit, as refinery and marketing margins fell and the firm booked underrecovery on the sale of domestic cooking gas LPG at government-controlled rates. IOC reported standalone net profit of ₹2.643.18 crore in the April-June period -- the first guarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year -- compared to a profit of ₹13,750.44 crore a year back, the company said in a stock exchange filing. Net profit also declined sequentially, when compared to an earning of ₹11,570.82 crore in the January-March quarter.

GAIL net jumps 77%

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Ltd, the nation's largest gas transportation and distribution firm, Tuesday reported a 77.5 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit after earnings from the gas marketing business doubled. Consolidated net profit of ₹3,183.35 crore in April-June was higher than ₹1,792.99 crore earnings in the same period a year, according to stock exchange filing of the company. While earnings from gas transportation business rose 40 per cent, natural gas marketing margins doubled. Pre-tax earnings from natural gas transmission rose to ₹1,446.87 crore from ₹1,028.33 crore in April-June 2023, natural gas marketing earnings soared to ₹2,036.13 crore from ₹1,045.87 crore. Revenue from operations rose to ₹33,692 crore in Q1 FY-25 as against ₹32,227 crore in Q1 FY-24.

TCPL net profit down 14.3%

New Delhi: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) Tuesday reported a 14.34 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹289.25 crore in the first quarter ended in June 2024 on account of exceptional items and lower share of profits from its associates and joint ventures. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹337.71 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from TCPL. Its revenue from operations rose by 16.32 per cent to ₹4,352.07 crore during the quarter under review. It was at ₹3,741.21 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of TCPL, earlier known as Tata Global Beverages Limited (TGBL), stood at ₹3,926.29 crore, up 18.82 per cent in the June quarter.

Check for 'wilful default' in NPA accounts: RBI to banks

'WILFUL DEFAULTER' MEANS A BORROWER OR A GUARANTOR WHO HAS COMMITTED WILFUL DEFAULT, AND THE OUTSTANDING **AMOUNT IS ₹25 LAKH AND ABOVE**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: The RBI Tuesday issued a Master Direction on the Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters under which banks and NBFCs will have to examine the 'wilful default' aspect in all non-performing asset accounts with outstanding amounts of ₹25 lakh and above.

A lender will identify and classify a person as a 'wilful defaulter' by following a specified procedure. The evidence of wilful default will be examined by an identification committee, according to the direction.

'Wilful defaulter' means a borrower or a guarantor who has committed wilful default, and the outstanding amount is ₹25 lakh and above

"The lender shall examine the 'wilful default' aspect in all NPA accounts with an outstanding amount of ₹25 lakh and above...from time to time," it said.

If a wilful default is observed in the internal preliminary screening, the lenders will complete the process of classification/declaring the borrower as a wilful defaulter within six months of the account being classified as NPA.

The Master Direction further said the lenders should formulate a non-discriminatory boardapproved policy that clearly sets out the criteria based on which the photographs of persons classified and declared as wilful defaulters shall be published.

'No additional credit facility shall be granted by any lender to a wilful defaulter or any entity with which a wilful defaulter is associated," it added.

The bar on the additional credit facility to a wilful defaulter or any entity with which a wilful defaulter is associated would be effective for one year after the name of the wilful defaulter has been removed from the List of Wilful Defaulters (LWD) by the lender.

The RBI said the primary objective of the directions is to provide for a non-discriminatory and transparent procedure, having regard to the principles of natural justice, for classifying a borrower as a wilful defaulter by the lenders.

The directions also aim to put in place a system to disseminate credit information about wilful defaulters for cautioning lenders to ensure that further institutional finance is not made available to them, the Reserve Bank said.

These directions will be effective after 90 days.

About 6cr ITRs filed for FY24; 70% under new tax regime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: About 6 crore income tax returns have been filed for income earned in 2023-24, of which 70 per cent were filed under the new simplified tax regime which offers lower rate of tax, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra

said Tuesday. Addressing the post-budget session of PHD Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, Malhotra said there were apprehensions as to whether people would shift to the simplified tax regime.

"About 6 crore filed for last year and 70 per cent is under the new income tax regime. The whole move has been towards simplicity with the ultimate purpose being to reduce the compliance burden,' Malhotra said.

For the 2022-23 fiscal, 8.61 crore ITRs were filed.

The idea behind comprehensive income tax review as announced in the Budget is to make the tax law simpler.

"We will come up with a draft and then we will seek suggestions," Malhotra said.

Currently, India has two personal income tax regimes. In the old income tax regime, the tax rates are relatively high but taxpayers can claim several exemptions and deductions. However, in the new tax regime, tax rates are lower but fewer deductions.

No state denied money in FY25 Budget: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday termed misleading claims by opposition leaders that if any state is not named in the Budget speech, then it does not get any budgetary allocation.

Replying to a Budget discussion in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman asserted that no state was being denied money.

She recalled that in the past Budgets by the UPA government also did not mention names of all states in their Budget speech.

"I have been picking up on Budget speeches since 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and so on. The Budget of 2004-2005 did not take the name of 17 states. I would like to ask the members of the UPA government at that time - did money not go to those 17 states? Did they stop it?" Sitharaman said.

She was responding to comments by several opposition members that the Budget has provided funds only to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and nothing to other states.

Responding to a remark by TMC leader Saugata Roy that the JNU-educated Finance Minister is "bereft of new ideas", Sitharaman retorted by saying that even the Chief Minister and Finance Minister of West Bengal have studied from the University of Calcutta (not from Harvard or Oxford). "I want to ask him, are they too bereft of ideas?"

"From the land of Bengal, which gave us 'Vande Mataram', today we have Professor Saugata Roy, who remarked that I'm 'bereft' of new ideas because I'm from JNU and not Harvard or Oxford... We're all from Indian Universities, and I want to ask him, in what way, are we less than the Harvards and Oxfords of the world? Even he teaches at an Indian University. He should be ashamed of himself," the minister said.

To Roy's remark on inequality in the country, Sitharaman said, "It is a shameful statement to make that inequality was less under British than now."

She said West Bengal's share of the total Industrial Production of the country, which used to be 24 per cent at the time of Independence, declined to just 3.5 per cent by 2021.

She also said the government is complying with the fiscal deficit trajectory. It will bring down the deficit to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26 from the targeted 4.9 per cent for the current fiscal. The deficit was 5.6 per cent in 2023-24. "I am confident of achieving

Sebi returns IPO papers of 4 firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Sebi has returned the IPO draft documents of four firms, including supermart major Vishal Mega Mart, education-focused NBFC Avanse Financial Services and private equity major TPG Capital-backed Sai Life Sciences, an update with the regulator showed Tuesday.

Additionally, the offer document of BMW Ventures was returned too. The company's initial public offering (IPO) papers were received by Sebi July 1. The Securities and Exchar

Board of India (Sebi) has returned the offer documents of these four companies for "non-compliance with Regulation 7(1) (a) of Sebi ICDR Regulations, 2018, as on July 24, 2024". According to the Regulation 7(1) (a) of Sebi ICDR Regulations, an issuer making an initial public offer shall ensure that it has made an application to one or more stock exchanges to seek an in-principle approval for listing of its specified securities on such stock exchanges and has chosen one of them as the designated stock exchange.

Vishal Mega Mart, July 12, took the confidential filing route to submit its draft papers with the markets regulator. Avanse Financial Services filed its draft papers in June to raise ₹3,500 crore through IPO. The proposed initial share sale comprised a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹1,000 crore and an OFS of up to ₹2,500 crore by the selling shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus.

केनरा बैंक 📣 Canara Bank

BIZ BUZZ

Canara Bank opens branch

at NIST University



BHUBANESWAR: Canara Bank has opened a new branch at NIST University, Institute Park, Pallur Hills, Berhampur. Canara Bank General Manager & State Head Jagdish Chander and Vice Chancellor of NIST University Dr. P Rajesh Kumar inaugurated the branch. Berhampur Regional Head & AGM G Venkata Raghu Seshu, along with other Bank executives, University staff and distinguished customers were also present.

Canara Bank has opened 42 Mouza Branch in Cuttack

district July 25. It is opening another eight branches in Odisha within the next few months. On this occasion, the GM said that Canara Bank is providing social banking and digital banking services to enable customers to make cashless transactions in tune with the Govt. of India initiatives viz. BHIM, QR Code, POS Machines etc. Canara Bank shall offer all basic banking services and will cater to all specific needs of customers through wide varieties of retail, MSME and agricultural products

Sensex, Nifty rise for 3rd day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade to settle at record high levels Tuesday, extending their gaining streak to the third day on the back of buying in Tata Motors and HDFC Bank.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed higher by 99.56 points or 0.12 per cent at 81,455.40 -- its all-time closing high -- with 16 of its components advancing and 14 ending lower. The index opened higher and jumped 459.43 points or 0.56 per cent to hit an intra-day high of

The NSE Nifty edged up 21.20 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,857.30. During the day, it surged 135.65 points or 0.54 per cent to 24,971.75. The index hit a low of 24,798.65.

"The domestic market ended flat, due to by profit-booking at higher levels. However, the expectation of dovish comments from the US Fed and BoE in the upcoming policy meetings this week is supporting the optimism," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Despite heavy volatility, the combined market valuation of all BSE-listed companies hit the USD 5.50-trillion (Rs 460 lakh crore) milestone for the first time.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid Corp, Titan, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Maruti



Suzuki India and Tata Steel were among the biggest gain-

Sun Pharmaceuticals, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement and Reliance Industries were among the laggards. In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.88 per cent and the midcap index climbed 0.27 per cent. During the day, both indices hit their all-time high level. Among the indices, Utilities

surged 1.97 per cent, Power bounced 1.49 per cent, Consumer durables rallied 1.15 per cent, oil & gas by 0.73 per cent and consumer discretionary by 0.72 per cent).

FMCG, healthcare, IT and Teck were the laggards.

CAMS shares closed over 9 per cent higher at ₹4,692.20 per piece ahead of June quarter results that are scheduled to be released this Friday.

Tuesday, shares of Tata Motors closed higher by 3 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it advanced 4.9 per cent to hit its 52-week high of ₹1,179.05 apiece. The company's market valuation jumped by ₹12,843.07 crore to ₹3,86,408.44 crore.

Also, shares of transmission and distribution structure manufacturing company Skipper settled over 9 per cent higher at ₹403.75 apiece after the company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹32.42 crore in Q1 FY25.

NTPC, Power Grid, Strides Pharma Science and Colgate-Palmolive shares also hit 52week highs on the bourse.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.05 per cent to USD 79.73 a barrel.

Households losing ₹60,000cr a year on F&O bets: Sebi chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch Tuesday said households are losing up to ₹60,000 crore a year in the problematic futures and options segment.

Speaking at an event at the largest equity bourse NSE, Buch wondered why such bets in the derivative markets should not be called as a 'macro issue', as it had done earlier.

"If ₹50.000-60,000 crore a year is going away into losses in F&O whereas that would have been productively deployed as may be the next IPO round, maybe MF, to other productive purposes, why is that not a macro issue?" Buch said.

A Sebi study had earlier

pointed to 90 per cent of the trades resulting in losses. The capital markets regulator also came up with a consultation paper Tuesday proposing ways

to limit the activity. Responding to a question on the impact of such attempts to curb the fee-yielding trades, NSE's chief executive and managing director Ashish Kumar Chauhan said it will abide by the regulations.

Buch said while there is a short-term trade-off for exchanges by way of fees impact, in the long term it will be beneficial to all the stakeholders.

She also said that exchangetraded funds cannot be an alternative or a replacement for the riskier derivatives activity for investors as the dynamics of liq-



uidity and leverage are very

Meanwhile, to a question on whether a bank customer can use the same KYC (know your customer) validation for investing in mutual funds, Buch replied in the negative and referred to the banking system's troubles with Paytm.

On fininfluencers, Buch said Sebi has identified difficulties in getting registered as an investment advisor being a detrimental factor and will soon be rationalising it.

She said that there are false claims being peddled by such platforms, and added that an entity from the NSE Group has showcased a performance validation mechanism and hinted

that it will soon be implemented. Buch said the Sebi management will also soon be taking a proposal to its board to make ASBA or application supported by blocked amount mandatory and added that to begin with, it can start with at least the qualified brokers.

There is a 'misunderstanding' in the market about the investors not paying the broker to carry out transactions, she said, adding that brokers are getting ₹2,800 crore from trades will now get reclassified as broker fees instead of exchange

The Sebi chairperson also went public with her 'frustration' at the mutual fund industry for not coming up with suggestions for making it easier for the diaspora to invest in schemes.

Buch also pitched for the need to have broader, principle-based regulations on artificial intelligence and hinted that the regulator will look at it.

Replying to a question, Buch also said that it is wrong to equate stock exchanges with crypto exchanges, and gave a stern statement on the same drawing from the ongoing Wazirx challenges.

"USD 250 million cannot vanish (in the exchanges) and be called as an Act of God," she said.

Nation lauds ace shooters

INDIA WON ITS SECOND MEDAL AT THE PARIS OLYMPICS 2024 WITH MANU BHAKER AND SARABJOT SINGH CLINCHING BRONZE IN THE 10M AIR PISTOL MIXED TEAM EVENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Manu Bhaker's consistency and composure drew effusive praise as President Draupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country's sporting fraternity hailed the young shooter for becoming the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two medals in a single Olympic Games

Bhaker combined with Sarabjot Singh win the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze medal at the ongoing Games.

The two 22-year-olds were calmness personified as they won the team bronze defeating South Korea's Lee Wonoho and Oh Yeh Jin 16-10 at Chateauroux's shooting range. Bhaker had earlier bagged the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event. at the same venue Sunday

"Our shooters continue to make us proud! Congratulations to @realmanubhaker and Sarabjot Singh for winning the Bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the #Olympics. Both of them have shown great skills and teamwork. India is incredibly delighted," PM Modi wrote on 'X'.

"For Manu, this is her second consecutive Olympic medal, showcasing her consistent excellence and dedication. #Cheer4Bharat.'

President Murmu also shared



a post on social media, congratulating the Indian shooters. "Congratulations to Manu

'Manu Bhaker has created history, becoming the first woman shooter from India to win two medals in the same Olympic games. She has done us immensely proud. I wish her and Sarabjot Singh many more laurels in the future.'

pistol event for shooting!,"

Murmu wrote.

Bhaker and Sarabjot's medal was the country's second in the ongoing edition.

'Manu & Sarabjot: You've done what no Indian shooting pair has done before. India's first Olympic shooting team medal. Sayour this moment, you've earned it! Proud," wrote India's first-ever Olympic gold medallist

ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR MANU: Manu Bhaker not only joined shuttler PV Sindhu and wrestler Sushil Kumar as the third Indian to win two medals but she also achieved the unique feat of attainting it in the same edition of an Olympics. She will have a chance to win another medal in this edition when she competes in the women's 25m air pistol event whose qualification round will be held August 2

> in individual event, shooter Abhinav Bindra.

> While wrestler Sushil Kumar and shuttler PV Sindhu have won two Olympic medals but Bhaker is the only Indian after independence to win two medals in a single edition.

"Congratulations Manu Bhaker, you have created history by becoming the first Indian to win 2 medals in the same edition of the #OlympicGames!, Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya wrote on 'X'.

"Huge congratulations to @realmanubhaker and Sarabjot Singh for winning the historic BRONZE medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event for Bharat! Your incredible teamwork has made the nation proud.

The cricket fraternity, including new T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav and new head coach Gautam Gambhir, also joined in to congratulate the duo. "Superb performance @realmanubhaker #SarabjotSingh! India's second medal!," Gambhir wrote.

Suryakumar, who was appointed the captain of the T20 side ahead of the ongoing Sri Lanka series, shared on his Instagram

"Congratulations, Sarbjot Singh, Manu Bhaker-congratulations on your 2nd consecutive medal.'

Calling Bhaker "history maker", Beijing Olympics bronzemedallist boxer Vijender Singh wrote: "History maker Manu Bhaker! You've amazed us once again. The entire nation is proud of you. Keep shining bright!"

Former sports ministers Kiren Rijiju and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore also showered praise on the two for their achievePARIS: Manika Batra made history by becoming the first Indian table tennis player to reach the singles pre-quarterfinals at the Olympic Games with a fluent 4-0 win over world number 18 and

here Monday. The 29-year-old Manika dominated from start to finish for a 11-9 11-6 11-9 11-7 win over

home favourite Prithika Pavade

It turned out to be one of the most memorable matches for an Indian table tennis player in Olympics history. Manika had reached the round of 32 at the Tokyo Olympics and she bettered that per-

formance Monday.

Indian roots.

"I am happy that I beat a French player in Paris. I defeated a higher-ranked player. I did not think of creating history and making the pre-quarters, there are more rounds, I will take it match by match and give my best as I always do," Manika told PTI after her match.

Manika's ploy to attack Prithika's backhand proved very effective but that was not the First TT player to reach Olympics pre-quarterfinals

strategy she had devised before the match.

"I had planned to play to her forehand as discussed with my coach but I was getting the points on her backhand, so I did not change the tactics. I did play a few shot on her forehand too, I did not want her to think that I am playing only on her backhand. It was

Prithika's parents are originally from Puducherry but the

a tough match," she said.

the court. I do

next round

MANIKA BATRA

family shifted to France in 2003. She was born in a Paris Prithika, who has **Staying relaxed helps** suburb a year later. me both on and off

The 19-year-old Prithika had competed in the Tokyo **breathing exercises** that help me during Olympics, making a first-round exit but the match. I will give has improved conmy best whoever I siderably since then play against in the as she is currently ranked 18th in the world as against 28th

rank of Manika. Left-handed Prithika came into the Olympics on the back of a splendid run where she made the WTT final for the first time in her career in June but could not find a way to go past Manika, who dished out a commanding

There was no stopping the seasoned Indian, who got a healthy 3-0 cushion in game three as Prithika struggled with

PROBLEMS AT PARIS

Athletes struggling for food at Games Village

Ever since the Paris Olympics began, the organising committee has received severe criticism from foreign athletes and team members over the lack of basic facilities at the venues and Games Village. One athlete on condition of anonymity

alleged to IANS that there is "no food" available in Games Village when they return after participating in their events. "And when we asked officials of the Organising Committee

or volunteers, they had no answers. These basics need to be addressed by the OC (organising committee) urgently," the athlete told IANS. Another athlete said, "We are finding it difficult to explain our also didn't get the food, which was shocking for all of us." Earlier, the head of the Great Britain delegation raised this issue ahead of the first day of competitions. Many GBR athletes had to spend the night without food, forcing the delegation chief to urgently summon a chef from home to take care of their culinary needs for the rest of the Games.

Surfing events postponed due to bad weather



Surfing competition at the Paris Olympics, scheduled for Tuesday, has also been called off due to bad weather conditions, the organisers said. "The competition is OFF, 30/07/2024 7:00am GMT-10 with a color code of RED Technical delegates decision on color code

tendencies for the next session is expected on 30/07/2024 at 17:45 GMT-10," it said. The organisers also said an update for the next session will be made at 17:45 local time (Tahiti) Tuesday. "No competition on Tuesday July 30 in Tahiti due to poor weather conditions: 4m+ wave and very strong onshore wind," French Surfing Federation said in a

Seine water woes: Triathlon set to take the dip

Concerns about water quality in the Seine River led Paris Olympics organizers to postpone the men's triathlon Tuesday, with officials hoping the swimming portion of the race will be able to go forward in the long-polluted waterway in the coming days following an expensive cleanup effort. Organisers said they will try to



hold the men's triathlon Wednesday instead. The women's competition also is scheduled that day, but both will only go forward if water tests show acceptable levels of E coli and other bacteria in the river. Friday is also planned as a backup date. However, storms or rain are forecast Tuesday night through Thursday, which could complicate efforts to reschedule the events because rain generally causes bacteria levels in the Seine to rise.

Paris braces for heatwave following soggy start



The 2024 Olympics famously launched with a rain-soaked opening ceremony that drenched athletes and spectators alike. Now, they're facing the opposite experience Tuesday: a heatwave. Most of France is under a heat wave warning Tuesday, with temperatures

in Paris and surrounding areas expected to climb to 35 degrees C or higher, the national weather agency said. Air conditioning is far less common in homes, shops and restaurants than in places like the United States. The heat was expected to be even worse in the south, including the region around the Mediterranean city of Marseille that is hosting Olympic competitions like soccer and sailing.

Shuttler duo on course to script history

ALREADY QUALIFIED FOR QUARTERFINALS, SATWIK-CHIRAG PAIR **TOPS GROUP AFTER BEATING INDONESIAN** DUO

Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh for

winning bronze medal for India

in the mixed team 10 metre air

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris: Medal contenders Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty notched up a dominating straight-game win against Indonesian duo of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Fajar Alfian to top Group C in men's doubles badminton competition at the Paris Games here Tuesday.

The third-seeded Indian duo beat their opponents 21-13 21-13 in the final Group C match that lasted just 38 minutes

The reigning Asian Games champion Indian pair had qualified for the quarterfinals Monday after the withdrawal of one pair and the loss suffered by another. Tuesday's match was meant to decide group winner.

The Indonesian pair also qualified for the quarterfinals after

finishing second in the group. The draw for the quarterfinals will be held Wednesday.

Satwik and Chirag were scheduled to meet the German duo of Mark Lamsfuss and Marvin Seidel on Monday in what was supposed to to be their second



Group C match. But the match was cancelled following the withdrawal of Lamsfuss due to injury.

As a result, the Group C was considered as a three-pair affair, with the duo of Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar of France being the third one. The Frenchmen lost both their matches and were eliminated.

Only two teams from each of the four groups qualify for the quarterfinals.

My last Olympics, says sobbing Ponnappa

Indian badminton stalwart Ashwini Ponnappa Tuesday broke down in tears, announcing she has played her last Olympics after she and her partner Tanisha Crasto suffered their third straight loss in the women's doubles competition of the Paris Games. Ashwini and Tanisha lost to Australia's Setyana Mapasa and Angela Yu 15-21 10-21 in their final Group C game Tuesday. They ended their campaign after losing all their three group matches. "This will be my last, but Tanisha has a long way to go," said 34-year-old Ashwini, who was playing in her third Olympics, when asked whether she hopes to play in the 2028 Los Angeles Games, "It takes a toll emotionally and mentally, I can't go through this again. It is not easy, you can take all these if you are a little younger. Having played for so long, I can't take it anymore," she said while trying to hold back tears.

CAMPAIGN ENDS

Pugilists crash out

Amit Panghal's campaign at the Paris Olympics mirrored his experience at the Tokyo Games as the seasoned boxer once again made a pre-guarter finals exit while debutant Jaismine Lamboria was also ousted here Tuesday. The-28-year-old Panghal suffered a shock 1-4 split verdict to Zambia's Patrick Chinyemba, an opponent he had defeated en-route his Commonwealth Games title in 2022, in the 51kg Round of 16 bout. Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Lamboria's maiden Olympic campaign also went up in smoke as she went down by a 0-5 unanimous verdict to Tokvo silver medallist Nesth Petecio of Phillipines in the 57kg Round of 32 bout.

Panwar out of medal contention in rowing

India's sole row ing athlete at the Olympics, Balraj Panwar



ed from medal contention after finish ing fifth in the men's single scull fourth quarterfinal Tuesday at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium. The 25-year old finished fifth with a timing of 705.10 which was insufficient to make him qualify for the medal rounds of the competition. He will now take part in the CD semifinals of the event, which will see him fight for a final ranking between 13th-24th place.

IN A FIRST FOR SUMMER GAMES

Medallists celebrate in front of fans

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 30: With medals around their necks and the Eiffel Tower in the background, Paris Olympics athletes chanted, danced and even cried.

In a first for the Summer Games, organisers gave athletes a place to celebrate their victories and be closer to fans - and they made the most of it.

Champions Park launched Monday at the Trocadero, the site of the opening ceremony of the Paris Games, where Olympic winners can share their experience with family members and thousands of fans who this time didn't need to buy tickets or make reservations to be part of Games.

Players from the French men's rugby team, which beat Fiji over



first to be welcomed at the park, dancing and running around the stage as the crowd chanted. They posed at the end of the

stage for a photo with the Eiffel Tower in the background, then led the crowd to chant with them.

"The whole location was the coolest thing," French rugby

player Aaron Grandidier Nkanang said. "We're just in front of the Eiffel Tower, and there's thousands of people out to come and cheer us on. I feel as if this year, they've done a really good job of treating after winning athletes with memories that we're going to cherish forever.

American Haley Batten, a silver-medalist in mountain biking, called it a "crazy experience."

"The Olympics in Paris is just something special. I was soaking all that up and it's crazy to actually achieve a medal and to be able to enjoy this," she said.

French mountain biker Pauline Ferrand-Prévot, the gold medalist, couldn't hold back tears as fans chanted her name.

Others at Champions Park included athletes who won medals in fencing, judo and skateboarding. Each celebration will hold a ceremony for the medal winners of the previous days. Athletes can bring up to four

family members to watch them. Serena Williams and Nadia Comaneci are among the former Olympians scheduled to participate in the celebrations that will take place nearly every day and that include music, entertainers and live broadcast of the Games.

Up to 13,000 fans will be allowed at the venue each day, and organisers expect some 130,000 visitors through the end of the Olympics. More than 1,000 athletes are expected to celebrate (their victories with fans at the Champions Park, according to or-

India cruises ahead

Harmanpreet & Co qualify for quarterfinals in men's hockey with 2-0 win over Ireland



Indian players celebrate after scoring a goal during the Pool B hockey match between India and Ireland at the 2024 Summer Olympics,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris. July 30: The Indian men's hockey team expectedly beat Ireland despite a few defense lapses to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, with skipper Harmanpreet scoring a brace in a 2-0 win in a Pool B match, here Tuesday.

Unlike the previous two matches, India penetrated the rival circle consistently and dictated play in the first half. It was expected, considering that Ireland were the easiest of the opponents in this pool.

India were, however, far from convincing in the second half, but the win has taken them to seven points from three matches while the defeat has ousted Ireland from the quarter-

final race. Belgium and Australia, both unbeaten, have six points each and they

play against each other later in the day. India just about managed to edge New Zealand 3-2 before holding Argentina to a 1-1 draw in their previous two outings.

Most likely, Argentina and New Zealand will fight for the fourth spot in this Pool. The top four teams from each of the two pools qualify for the quarterfinals.

Harmanpreet (13th and 19th minutes) struck once each in the first two quarters, while the second half re-

mained goal-less despite both teams earning plenty of penalty corners. Ireland were profligate, squandering 10 chances.

"We should not have conceded that many PCs in the second half. We have to work on that. But at the same time, we did not concede a goal and that tells our PC defence. But yes, we can't afford so many PCs," defender Jarmanpreet Singh told PTI.

Sukhjeet said the team struggled to control the ball in the latter half.

"We could not control the ball in the third quarter and they made full use of that. They are a good team, we expected a comeback. Yet, we did better in the final quarter," he said.

India earned their first penalty corner as early as the second minute of the match when Abhishek made a move from the left and passed the ball to Sukhjeet Singh.

However, the Harmanpreet strike was blocked by an Ireland on-rusher. Even on rebound, there was a chance, but Mandeep Singh lost possession.

Harmanpreet created another chance by passing the ball to Sumit on the left flank but his reverse strike hit

India did not have to wait long for their first goal. It came from a penalty stroke awarded to India in the 13th minute of the match. Gurjant intercepted the ball in between two Irish players and sent it towards Mandeep Singh.

A tackle by Shane O'Donoghue in front of the goalpost resulted in the umpire awarding a penalty stroke, which was converted by Harmanpreet.

The India captain doubled his side's lead by converting the fourth penalty corner in the second quarter. This was after Ireland defenders blocked two consecutive attempts.

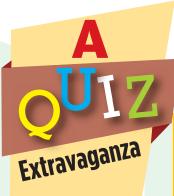
Clearly, India were dictating the play on the pitch but since the team stayed aggressive throughout, many balls were not cleared properly.

Ireland got their first penalty corner of the match on a debatable call by the umpire. A ball from Kyle Marshall touched Manpreet's body but he was standing outside the striking circle. The Indians, who did not have a referral left, protested but the PC remained. India custodian PR Sreejesh blocked the shot to keep India's 2-0 lead intact.

Ireland played much better in the third quarter, earning as many as eight penalty corners but converted none. There were a few defensive lapses from the Indian side but they escaped without any damage. A better opponent could have punished India for the mistakes. Ireland earned two more penalty corners in the final quarter but they lacked finishing.



It's time for **METTLE MEET**an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the **Preliminaries** will take place August 3 and the Grand Finale August 4. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha - both schools and colleges will be competing for the **Grand Prize** of ₹1,00,000 in the Junior and Senior segments.



s a reader of Orissa POST, this is a great chance for

you to be part of the exciting Grand Finale if you an predict the correct answer. There will be one

question on each day for you to answer till July 31, 2024. Every

day there will be two winners. If there are more than two

correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of

lots. All the winners will be invited for the Grand Finale which

will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quizmaster Ajay

Poonia. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle

TODAY'S QUESTION

This is the list of Olympic Gold medalists in which men's team sport going back a few

editions? 1988 - Soviet Union, 1992 to 2020 - USA

except 2004 – Argentina. And women's medals

ANSWER TO TUESDAY'S QUESTION

Students Day

in the same team sport: USA from 1996 – 2020.

up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to met-
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be an nounced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- **Orissa POST's** decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
 - There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee of **Orissa POST** or their family members can be part of the competition

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



ABHA PRIYADARSHINI SUBHAM JENA

Others who answered correctly are

Alok Ranjan Sahoo, Omm Swarup Das, Sibananda Dash, Debasis Parida, Jaba Dasgupta, Rajendra Das, Asit Kumar Satpathy, Arghyashree Jena, Abinash Prusty, Sandeep Rout, Shoumik Jena, Debadatta Tripathy, R Sekhar Rao, Sunil Kumar Navak, Subhashree Jena





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SHORT TAKES

T201 rankings: Smriti, Thakur move up

Dubai: India's Smriti Mandhana moved up to fourth place in the list of batters, while seamer Renuka Singh Thakur was ranked fifth among bowlers, in the latest ICC T201 rankings issued Tuesday. India opener and vice-captain Mandhana. who scored a vital 60 in the Women's T20 Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka, moved up one place to fourth with 743 rating points, Among bowlers, Renuka, who snapped seven wickets in the tournament, is ranked fifth with 722 rating points as she moved up four places. Renuka follows England's Sophie Ecclestone (772) and Sarah Glenn (760) at the first two spots respectively, compatriot Deepti Sharma (755) at third and Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal (743), who moved up one place to be ranked fourth. Radha Yadav. who was Asia Cup's fifth highest wicket-taker with six scalps, reached 13th after moving up seven places.

Arsenal buys Calafiori

London: Arsenal signed Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori from Bologna Monday. The English Premier League club did not confirm the fee for 22year-old Calafiori or the length of contract, but media reports said he agreed on a five-year deal, and Arsenal paid 42 million pounds (\$54 million). "He is a great signing and gives us huge strength to reinforce our defense," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "Riccardo is a big personality and character, with specific skills, which will make us stronger as we push to win major trophies." Calafiori is a versatile defender who can play as center back or left back. He was part of Italy's squad at the European Championship this summer.

PCB chairman Naqvi to India beat SL in Super Over become next ACC prez Press trust of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, July 30: Pakistan Cricket Board's incumbent chairman Mohsin Naqvi is set to become the next president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) later this year as per its rotation policy.

The matter of the president's post was discussed at a recent ACC meeting with Naqvi in line to become the next head.

When the ACC meets later this year, it will confirm that Naqvi will be the next president for a two-year term," a source

BCCI secretary Jay Shah is the incumbent ACC president, having got one-year extension in January this year for a third consecutive term.



"When Shah steps down the PCB chief will take over," the source added.

The ACC has recently awarded the hosting rights of the Asia Cup 2025 to India as the tournament will be held in T20 format and the 2027 edition in ODI format to Bangladesh.

This implies that two major events are scheduled in 2025 the Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March followed by the Asia Cup — which will serve as a precursor to the T20 World Cup 2026.

Pallekele (Sri Lanka), July 30: India defeated Sri Lanka via the Super Over in the inconsequential third and final T20I at Pallekele here Tuesday to sweep the series 3-0.

Kusal Perera (46, 34b) and Kusal Mendis (43, 41b) guided Lanka's chase of 138 before their innings fell apart in the familiar fashion at the business end. SL ended up at 137/8 after stipulated 20 overs, taking the match to Super Over.

For India, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Rinku Singh and skipper Suryakumar Yadav took two wickets apiece. India needed just three runs to win in Super Over. Earlier, SL bowlers produced a tidy effort to restrict India to a modest 137/9.

Once the match started an hour after the scheduled 7 PM be-



ginning because of wet outfield. the Lankans strangled Indian batters with impeccable line and length on a slow pitch.

Spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana led the hosts' bowling, sharing five wickets between them, as only Shubman Gill showed some spunk with a 39 in the company of Riyan Parag (26).

Brief scores:

India: 137/9 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 39, Riyan Parag 26, Washington Sundar 25; Wanindu Hasaranga 2/29, Maheesh Theekshana 3/28) lost to Sri Lanka: 137/8 in 20 overs (Kusal Perera 46, Kusal Mendis 43; Washington Sundar 2/23, Rinku Singh 2/3, Suryakumar Yadav 1/5)

OLYMPICS: INDIA

SCHEDULE - DAY 5

Singh Tomar and Swapnil Kusale-12:30pm Women's Trap Qualification: Shreyasi Singh and Rajeshwari

Kumari -- 12:30pm **Badminton:**

Women's singles (Group stage): PV Sindhu vs Kristin Kuuba (Estonia) --

Men's singles (Group stage): Lakshya Sen vs Jonatan Christie (Indonesia) -- 1:40pm Men's singles (Group stage): HS Prannoy vs Duc Phat Le

(Vietnam) -- 11pm **Table Tennis:**

Women's singles Round of 32: Sreeja Akula vs Jian Zeng (Singapore) -- 2:20pm

Boxing: Women's 75kg round of 16: Lovlina Borgohain vs Sunniva Hofstad (Norway)-- 3:50pm

Men's 71kg round of 16: Nishant Dev vs Jose Gabriel Rodriguez Tenorio (Ecuador) -- 12:18 am (Aug 1) Archery: Women's Individual 1/32

Elimination round: Deepika Kumari vs Reena Parnat (Estonia) -- 3:56pm Men's Individual 1/32 Elimination round: Tarundeep Rai vs Tom Hall (Great Britain) -- 9:15pm

Equestrian:

Dressage Individual Grand Prix Day 2: Anush Agarwalla -- 1:30pm

Durand Cup: NEUFC stroll past Bodoland

Padmanabhan scored a goal each as NorthEast United FC secured a facile 2-0 win over Bodoland FC in a Group E Tuesday. The first half was evenly poised with both the teams showing second one for offside.

YOUNGEST, FASTEST

16-yr-old para swimmer crosses English Channel

THE 16-YEAR-OLD SWAM THROUGH IN TIME OF 17 HOURS AND 25 MINUTES FROM JULY 28 TO 29 AND COVERED A DISTANCE OF 34 KILOMETRES EN ROUTE TO HER FEAT

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 30: At just the age of 16, Jiya Rai became the youngest para swimmer to cross an English Channel. The teenager is not just the voungest. but also the fastest para swimmer in the world to achieve this feat July 28-29.

Jiya swam through the English Channel from the Abbot's Cliff in England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune in France in a time of 17 hours and 25 minutes from July 28 to 29. She covered a distance of 34 kilometres en route to her feat.

Jiva, who hails from Mumbai with Autism Spectrum Disorder, is the daughter of Madan Rai, the MC-at-Arms serving in Mumbai.

The Western Naval Command (WNC) congratulated the young para swimmer on her momentous achievement. "All personnel of WNC convey their heartiest congratulations to Jiya Rai for becoming the world's youngest and fastest female para swimmer to successfully swim solo



across the English Channel," the Western Naval Command (WNC) wrote on X.

"Jiya, a 16-year-old girl with Autism Spectrum disorder, is the daughter of Madan Rai, MCat-Arms, serving at Mumbai. She has many inspiring achievements to her credit, including swimming across the Palk Bay earlier." the WNC added.

Despite all her disabilities, Jiya is on a mission to become the world's first and youngest para swimmer to swim seven oceans. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental condition which has an impact on how people interact with others, communi-

cate, learn and behave. However, she has achieved much more at such a young age,

like in December 2022, she swam 1,100 kilometres. This was done as a part of a six-member relay team from Mumbai to Goa and back to Vasai Fort in 11 days, 22 hours and 13 minutes. She was the youngest and only female participant of the team. As per the Western Naval

Command, Jiva has swum across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar. which is in Sri Lanka, to Dhanuskodi, which is in India. She managed to cover a distance of 29 kilometres within 13 hours and 10 minutes and created a world record on March 20, 2022. Hence, she became the world's youngest and fastest female to swim across the Palk Strait. Jiya has also won medals in the national and state open-water seaswimming championships.

match of the Durand Cup here

Kokrajhar: Jithin MS and Ankith

some intent while attacking, but it was NorthEast who had the better chances. The attacking trio of Nestor Albiach, Jithin and Parthib Gogoi, showed good creativity down the middle and through the wings. On the other end, The Highlanders did score twice but the goals were chalked off for a handball inside the box and the

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