Committed to craft Sharvari Wagh says she is a director's actor and her priority has been to submit to the story

LEISURE | P2



Prisoner exchange

US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan return to the United States, hours after being freed from Russian detention

INTERNATIONAL | P9



Markets bleed

Sensex tanks 885 pts, Nifty retreats from 25K level as weak US data triggers global equity rout

BUSINESS | P10



Archers miss mark

Indian mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara come close to ending India's 36-year wait for Olympic medal in archery

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 124 | www.orissapost.com BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2024

SUPERB SAVE: India's goalkeeper PR Sreejesh (16) in action during the Hockey Men's Pool B match between India and Australia at the 2024 Summer Olympics, at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, in Colombes, France, Friday as India register their first Olympic win against Australia in 52 years

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The 'creamy-layer concept' is acceptable as long as it doesn't apply to us politicians and our families

MARKET WATCH VARIATION SENSEX **80981.95** 🖊 885.60 DOLLAR 83.80 **1** ₹0.07 **1.14** EURO 91.49 GOLD ₹70,300 **1** ₹646 SILVER ₹ 82,299 **₹295**

WFATHER

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	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.0°C	30.6°C
Min Temp	25.5°C	23.8°C
Humidity	95%	94%
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil
CODECACT		MAL

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



MHA nod for Khurania's repatriation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Friday approved IPS officer YB Khurania's repatriation to the state with immediate effect. Khurania was previously posted as Special DG, BSF, Western



Command. Sources said the 1990batch Odisha cadre officer is likely to become the next Odisha

Director General of Police (DGP). In Odisha, he had earlier served as the twin city Police Commissioner and the SP of Nayagarh, Jajpur, Rourkela, Mayurbhanj and Ganjam.

State moots third party fire auditors

DEBASISH PANIGRAHI, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: As manpower crunch in the Fire Services department has been proving a major impediment in the regular safety audit of clinical and non-clinical establishments in the state, plans have been mooted for appointing third party auditors for the purpose.

Top sources in the state Fire Services department told **Orissa POST** that a proposal to this effect has already been submitted to the government and it is in the final stages of approval.

"We expect the proposal will come through during a Cabinet meeting soon," they said.

The need for the move arose, sources said, primarily on account of the fact that a large number of (almost over 5,000) clinical establishments, and double the number of other establishments, requiring mandatory fire safety audits in the state, remain unaudited. "We don't have the required manpower to carry out audits at such large number of establishments. In the absence of such exercise,



life and property at these establishments are vulnerable to hazards," the sources added.

As the Fire Services department was grappling with the issue, the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rules, 2009, came to the rescue. "We decided to adopt the practices followed in Maharashtra as a solution," a senior Fire official said requesting anonymity.

Elaborating, he said, the Maharashtra rules have provisions for appointment of third party auditors who will be empanelled by the Fire department to conduct audit at the establishments requiring fire audits in case they don't have in-house arrangements like keeping a fire safety supervisor.

"These third party auditors can be hired by the firms just like

they hire auditors to audit their accounts. This is because, annual fire safety audit is a mandatory license condition for all establishments," the official said.

The auditor should have a degree from the National Fire Service College in Nagpur to be considered eligible for such a job. "Otherwise, the candidate should posses a civil engineering, or an equivalent degree with experience in handling fire safety of an establishment," the official said of the auditors' minimum eligibility criteria.

Such a person would undergo training at the Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA), Bhubaneswar before being deemed fit for certification as fire safety auditor. "Only after getting a certificate from OFDRA, the candidate can apply for empanelment," the official

Once hired by an establishment, the third party auditor will be required to carry out the fire audit at mandated intervals and upload the report for verification, as and when required, the official added.

'SEN'SATIONAL SHOW

Lakshya becomes first Indian shuttler to enter Olympic semifinals PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 2: Lakshya Sen inched closer to a maiden Olympic medal after becoming the first Indian male shuttler to advance to the semifinals with a thrilling three-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen at the Paris Games here Friday. The 22-year-old from

Almora, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, combined pace with precision and held his nerve during key moments to emerge 19-21 21-15 21-12 winner against world number 11 Chou, a 2022 World Championships



tense quarterfinal battle. Sen, the reigning Commonwealth Games

champion, will face the winner of the match between 2021 World Champion Loh kean Yew of Singapore and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the last four. Women's singles play-

Manu on cusp of hat-trick Chateauroux: Indian

shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hatcoming up with one of her performances in her favourite event, the 25m

ers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal are the only Indians to have crossed the quarterfinal stage in Olympics. In men's singles, Parupalli Kashyap and Kidambi Srikanth had reached the quarterfinals in 2012 London and 2016 Rio editions respectively.

trick of Olympic medals, most memorable

sports pistol, as she

HP cloudburst toll up by 8 Diarrhoea claims 2 lives :

Shimla: Rescue operations were underway Friday to trace about 45 people missing following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, officials said. With the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll due to the flash floods in Nirmand, Saini and Malana in Kullu, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision has increased to eight.

28 others fell sick due to a suspected diarrhoea outbreak in Ganiam district. officials said Friday. A medical team from Berhampur was sent to Adapada in Sanakhemundi block to provide treatment to the affected people, they said. Consumption of water from wells was

Berhampur: At least two persons died and

said to be the cause of the outbreak.

Study links El Nino to cholera outbreak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: An El Nino event may have helped create the environment conducive for spread of cholera by driving climate extremes such as unusual temperatures and rainfall, according to a new study that analysed strains circulating during the early 20thcentury pandemic in India.

Researchers found that the environment could have helped in creating and spreading a new strain of the bacterium Vibrio cholerae, first discovered in 1884 by German microbiologist Robert Koch. that caused the water-borne disease affecting the small intestine.

The role of environment in spreading cholera has been debated for the last two centuries, according to the team of researchers, including those at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain.

The cholera pandemic during 1899-1923 was the sixth since the first in 1817, and documented to have been especially lethal in India, Arabia and northern Africa. In 1900, an unprecedented 700,000 deaths were reported from



then under the British rule.

In this study, published in the journal PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases, the researchers analysed historical data of prevailing climate conditions and cholera deaths across various regions in India. Their analysis revealed that the patterns in cholera deaths coincided with the unusual seasonal temperatures and rainfall driven by the

El Nino event of 1904-1907 The researchers correlated the timing of these unusual weather events with the development of a new invasive strain, suggested by a "very steep rise in the case fatality (that) was apparent from the harbour population in the capital Calcutta."

Additionally, the team also analysed past climate conditions and cholera data for the ongoing 'El Tor' pandemic, which began in 1961

The authors found that the climate conditions in the past bear similarities to strong El Nino events that have been linked with cholera strain changes -- new strains replacing predominant ones -- during the ongoing seventh pandemic. Each year, there are about 13-40 lakh cases and 21,000 to 1.4 lakh deaths around the world due to the bacterial disease, according to the World Health Organisation.

"Our results support a role of climate acting as a major driver of the 1904-07 anomalous cholera episode, which would have facilitated the establishment of the novel strain," the authors wrote.

They further examined the possibilities of new cholera strains emerging aided by a warmer climate, using models. The authors found that climate extremes, driven by global warming, could boost the chances of new strains of cholera to emerge through the end of the current century.

















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eisure



CRUISE TO HELP CLOSE PARIS OLYMPICS WITH EPIC STUNT

Hollywood actor Tom Cruise will play a major role in the Paris Olympics Closing Ceremony later this month. The *Mission: Impossible* actor has already pre-recorded part of the visual spectacular.

KENDALL: I DON'T LET A LOT OF PEOPLE INTO MY LIFE

Model Kendall Jenner has revealed that she is very selective about who she allows into her life. "I don't really let a lot of people in -especially now. But I never really have since I was young" Kendall shared on Emma Chamberlain's Anything Goes podcast.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com

Today, you may want to express your artistic streak Hence, you may either decide to paint the walls of your house in vibrant colours, or touch up some old unused furniture in art deco style. You may even get nostalgic about an old matchbox collection and decide to restore it. Ganesha encourages all such

TAURUS

A good day for money and love (you need more?). A quality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win yourself hearts smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leade in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

The first half of the day should see you fresh and rosy with enthusiasm. You will be able to channel your energies in the right direction today. You will be able to pursue projects which really interest you. You will likely spend your lunch time in the company of friends and family. Overall, a productive and satisfying day awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The health of a kin may cause anxiety, says Ganesha. Your lack of enthusiasm will influence you on family matters. So you will have to focus on family members. New ties and contacts are in the offing. Over-all a hectic and profit-able day

You will be worried about financial matters today and will attempt to organise your monetary transactions intelligently. You will need to change your spending habits, both at work and at home. You should put off controversial discussions with your family members for some other

VIRGO

You will share your thoughts and ideas with other people. You could develop a new outlook on life, says Ganesha, Don't miss any chance to make your near and dear ones feel that they are special in your life. Ganesha foretells that you will take the advise of your close friends on professional and moral matters.

Ganesha says that you shall

find your life more meaningful and fulfilling today because you will be able to indulge the artistic streak in your personality. In the evening, you may go out shopping, possibly for buying new things for your home. On the whole an exciting day awaits you today.

SCORPIO

Suddenly, you may become health conscious. According to Ganesha, today's resolution would be eat healthy and live a healthy life. A regular exercise regime would top the list of daily activities. Today, you realise the true meaning of the adage, 'work is worship'.

SAGITTARIUS

The day does not begin on a good note, says Ganesha. Certain circumstances at work may prove you weak. You are likely to come across hurdles in your work dur ing the later half of the day.

CAPRICORN

You are very close to your family members and they will lend a helping hand whenever you need them. They will help you climb the ladder of success and making the upward movement more comfortable. Happiness will come to you, however, you may have to pay a price for it.

AOUARIUS

You have put your family life on the back burner, but now it is high time you pay attention to it. Make sincere efforts to win the affection and respect of your family members, advises Ganesha, Your honesty will not go unnoticed and you'll again feel the warmth of their hearts.

PISCES

You will need to enlist the cooperation of your colleagues while chalking out strategies at the workplace today, if you desire to make substantial progress, says Ganesha. The good news is that your

efforts are likely to fructify.

Sharvari

calls herself a director's actor

Mumbai: Actress Sharvari has spoken about why her upcoming film Vedaa is important for her and 'her sur-

The actress said: "I hope Vedaa becomes a huge success for us all. I'm very greedy. I want all my films to be hits! I came into this industry, my first film didn't do well, and then I had to wait for three years be-

cause of the pandemic for my films to release and tor's actor." Sharvari: "I'm honestly just too happy right now to enjoy this mo-

ment, and I can have this special moment in my life because of my director Nikkhil Advani, and his unflinching faith in me.

love of the craft. "I'm a director's actor, and I submit to the story; that is my priority. So, what people are lov-Nikkhil sir's vision for Vedaa.'

Sharvari said that she is "hugely" thankful to filmmaker Nikkhil Advani for his faith and support in giving her such an important film and a role like Vedaa.

When just a couple of people were backing me in the industry, it is a debt I will never be able to repay. Vedaa is a very important film for me, for my survival,

and my growth.' The actress, who is currently basking in the success of her latest releases Munjya and Maharaj, called herself a "direc-

> decided to be an actor for the

she said.



CAPTIVATING SHOW: Models walk the ramp at the annual fashion show Navyata 2024, organised by fashion and Interior design institute NIFD Global Bhubaneswar at a city hotel Friday. Actress Sanjeeda Shaikh and fashion designer Ashley Rebello joined the event as main attraction

Ishaan gets philosophical

Mumbai: Actor Ishaan Khatter shared an inspirational quote from former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Friday, encouraging people to persevere in their lives.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Ishaan, who has 1.8 million followers, posted a picture of a roadside wall with Kalam's quote written in Hindi: "Aage badhna hai to behre ban jaao, Kuch logo ko chodhkar baaki sab manobal giraane waale hi hote hain -- Dr Abdul Kalam (If you want to move forward, become deaf; except for a few people, the rest are there to demoralize you).

The 28-year-old actor, son of actors Rajesh Khattar and Neelima Azeem, made his first

the 2005 film Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi! alongside his halfbrother Shahid Kapoor. Ishaan made his debut as a leading actor in the 2017 Majidi drama Beyond the Clouds. The actor then

starred in the 2018 romantic

screen appearance as a child in

drama Dhadak, written and directed by Shashank Khaitan. He has also starred in the series A Suitable Boy and has the upcoming mystery drama series The

pipeline. The series stars Nicole Kidman, Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning, and Eve Hewson.

Perfect Couple in the

'l've always heard good rumours about myself'

Mumbai: Actress Pragya Jaiswal, who is known for her work in Telugu cinema and who is set to make her Bollywood debut with the film Khel Khel Mein, shared that she has always heard positive rumours about herself and expressed her hope that these rumours are true. During the trailer launch event in Mumbai Friday, Pragya was asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home.

Pragya replied: "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself.

All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are

The actress, who is also collaborating with Nandamuri Balakrishna for the film NBK 109, shared her experience of working across different industries Pragya said: "Both of these experiences are

wonderful. I am grateful to work in two different industries and languages. I am only striving to be a part of good films, good stories, and play memorable characters. I am happy that I am getting these opportunities. Language doesn't mean much to me. I just want to do good

Khel Khel Mein, which stars Akshay Kumar, Ammy Virk, Vaani Kapoor, Taapsee Pannu, Fardeen

IANS

Khan, Aditva Seal. Pragya Jaiswal, will be released August 15



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD

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1	Restricted	20	Basket material	5	Pub owner
5	Abruzzie	21	Neptune's	6	Drew a bead on
	Molise locale		realm	7	Complains
8	Luxurious country residence	22	Teacher's admonishment	11	Herbivorous bipedal dinosaur
9	Nominal	Dov	<u>vn</u>	12	Rare bog orchid
10	Dragonfly (7,6)	1	Seething	14	Public sale
12	Keep mum (4,2)	2	Sub-Saharan	15	Common sense
13	Weapons of old		scourge	17	Brownish gray

oolong

3 Darjeeling or

16 Music genre

(5-8)

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

18 Hospital figure

20 Salad topper

SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

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



downtown

PLAY IN CITY

Artistes of Bhubaneswar-based drama troupe Sanchari perform Odia play 'Nishaba' during Natyadhara programme of Culture department at Bhanja Kala Mandap in City, Friday



BJD holds meet to keep flocks together

Mohanta case. But,

there cannot be leader

trading from BJD. All

our leaders are solidly

Bhubaneswar, August 2: A day after senior BJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta joining the ruling BJP, the regional party Friday held a meeting apparently to keep its flocks together.

Senior BJP leader Arabinda Dhali claimed that more BJD leaders will switch sides

Mohanta quit her party Wednesday, hours after she resigned as a Rajya Sabha MP. She joined the saf-

fron party Thursday. The BJP came to power in the state in June defeating the BJD which ruled Odisha for 24 years

BJD MP Sulata Deo, however, dismissed the possibility claiming that the party's eight MPs in the Upper

House of Parliament are together. "There has been horse trading in the Mamata Mohanta case. But, there cannot be leader trading from BJD. All our leaders are solidly with (party president) Naveen Patnaik," Deo, a Rajya Sabha MP said in a video message. BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra also claimed that the BJD MPs in Rajya Sabha are committed to their party

After attending a meeting of grass root level leaders of Mayurbhanj district, senior leader and former MLA Uma Samantray said that one MP has changed her affiliation due to 'allurement and conspiracy'. Mohanta's resignation from the BJD and Rajya Sabha will have

and the leader.

Samantray claimed.

"People of Odisha regret having voted Naveen Patnaik out of power and they also express gratitude to him for all the good works he has done for the state,' he said. On the other hand, Arabinda Dhali alleged that resentment is brewing within BJD.

once its founder becomes sick or anything else happens... The BJP is a national party and it will sur-

"A regional party degenerates

vive all odds," he told reporters here. trading in the Mamata Meanwhile, the

BJD women's wing held a rally at Baripada, the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj district, where they burnt effigies of Mohanta accusing her of betraying

her Kudumi community and people of Odisha, particularly the women. Biju Mahila Janata Dal state general secretary Sabita Behera, who led the women rally at Baripada said, "Naveen Babu had sent Mohanta from 'Palli' (village) to Delhi as she hailed from Kudumi community and a woman as well. However, she has betrayed all of us. The people will teach her a lesson.

On Thursday, a large number of women belonging to Kudumi community had staged a similar protest rally at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district where they too burnt an effigy of Mohanta

Sources in the BJD also said that the party is now closely watching the political developments after Mohanta joined the BJP.



FOR A BIG CATCH: A fisherman casts his net in Kuakhai river in Bhubaneswar, Friday. The river has been flooded following release of water from Hirakud dam

Man held for harassing minor

Bhubaneswar: The Jatni police Friday arrested a 26-yearold man for allegedly harassing a minor. Police said it was a case of one-sided love affair. Jatni IIC Soumyakant Baliarsingh identified the accused as Manoj Kumar Das, a resident of Ranipur village. Since the past few days, Manoj had been stalking the minor girl when she would return home from her school. On June 26 Manoj forcibly stopped her when she was on her way to school and pressurized her to accept his overtures, Baliarsingh said adding, "He even offered her chocolates." The victim finally narrated Manoj's advances before her parents. Baliarsingh said Manoj promised to mend his ways when the victim's parents confronted him. However, Manoj allegedly stopped the minor while she was returning from school June 29 and forced her to reciprocate her love for him. Following this, the minor's parents lodged an FIR with the Jatni police which booked Manoj under IPC Sections 341, 354 along with Section 8 of POCSO Act. He

42.82L MGNREGS job cards deleted in Odisha

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: As many as 42,82,945 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) job cards from Odisha were among the 4,43,04,661 that have been deleted since 2019-20 fiscal, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan told

states/Union Territories. Job cards can be cancelled/deleted after due verification only if it is a fake job card (incorrect job card); duplicate job card; households not willing to work; family shifted from gram panchayat permanently; and single person in job card and that person has expired," Paswan said.

deletions stood at 27,97,013 in 2020-21 and 14,33,431 in 2019-20.

Among the states, 99,26,063 job cards were deleted in Bihar, 91,42,876 in Uttar Pradesh, 42,82,945 in Odisha, 24,05,859 in West Bengal, 37,74,160 in Madhya Pradesh, 35,54,193 in Andhra Pradesh and 17,93,357 in Jharkhand since 2019-20.

According to the ministry website, 14.23 crore job cards have been issued under MGNREGS, covering 24.77 crore workers. Of these, 9.1 crore job cards are active, covering 13.11 crore workers.

Odisha sees 24.98% growth in July State GST collection

16.01% growth: Odisha registered a Gross GST collection of ₹4.925.02cr during July 2024 against ₹4,245.40cr collected during July 2023

18.15% rise: Collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha during July 2024 stands at ₹3.209.66cr against ₹2,716.52cr collected during July 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Odisha has recorded a collection of ₹2,035.18 crore under State GST (OGST + IGST settlement) during July 2024 against ₹1,628.43 crore collected during the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 24.98 per cent, official sources said, Friday.

The progressive collection under State GST till July 2024 stands at ₹8,866.95 crore against ₹7,055.53 crore



4.44% growth: 21.02L waybills have been generated in July 2024 against 20.13L in July 2023

collected till July 2023, recording a growth rate of 25.67 per cent, they

Odisha has also registered a Gross GST (CGST+IGST+OGST+Cess) collection of ₹4,925.02 crore during July 2024 against ₹4,245.40 crore collected during the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth rate of 16.01 per cent.

The progressive collection under Gross GST up to July 2024 stands at ₹20,841.33 crore against a collection of ₹18,058.84 crore up to July 2023, recording a growth rate of 15.41 per cent, they pointed out.

"The collection under all Acts montored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha, including OGST, IGST Settlement, VAT and Profession Tax, during July 2024 stands at ₹3,209.66 crore against ₹2,716.52 crore collected during July 2023—a growth rate of 18.15 per cent," they said, adding that the progressive growth rate up to July 2024 under all Acts stands at 19.60 per cent.

During July 2024, 21.02 lakh waybills have been generated against 20.13 lakh during July 2023, recording a growth of 4.44 per cent. It reflects the buoyancy in the state

Out of the 21.02 lakh e-waybills generated during July 2024, about 12.10 lakh were intra-state, while 8.92 lakh were interstate in nature.

Of the total, 22,24,982 job cards were deleted in 2024-25 till July 30 this year. the Rajya Sabha, Friday. The minister said 1,02,71,048 job cards 'Verification of job cards is a reguwere deleted in 2023-24, 2,25,38,538 in 2022lar exercise conducted by the 23 and 50,39,649 in 2021-22. Job card

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Transforming Lives

Vigilance unearths engineer's 85 plots

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Vigilance sleuths Friday uncovered assets worth crores of rupees owned by a high-ranking engineer, including 85 plots, a gold biscuit, and other valuables.

The case marks the third instance in a series involving senior officials with substantial landholdings. In the past weeks, the anti-corruption wing had detected 52 plots owned by an Excise official and 34 plots held by another senior engineer and his family.

The Vigilance Directorate, in a

statement, said their sleuths uncovered a market complex, a fivestorey building, and 85 plots — including one in West Bengal—along with 218 gram of gold, including a gold biscuit, and Rs 11.7 lakh in cash in possession of Pravas Kumar Pradhan, chief construction engineer of Anandpur Barrage Division in Salapada, Keonjhar. "The plots were purchased by Pradhan in different years in his name as well as in names of his familv members. The total registered sale deed value comes to over Rs 2 crore," the statement added.

Nod for Upper Indravati HPSP



New Delhi, August 2: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has approved the detailed project report of two hydro pumped storage plants (HPSPs) – 600MW Upper Indravati in Odisha's Kalahandi district and 2,000MW Sharavathy in Karnataka - in record time, the Ministry of Power said Friday.

To fast-track the concurrence process of HPSPs in line with ease of doing business drive of the Government of India (GoI), the CEA has further revised the guidelines to simplify the process for preparation of detailed project reports of HPSPs and its concurrence, it said.

According to the statement, the 600MW Upper Indravati HPSP in Odisha is being developed by Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (a government of Odisha undertaking unit) and 2,000MW Sharavathy HPSP in Karnataka by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (a unit of Karnataka government). "CEA has also received huge number of proposals of HPSPs (worth around 60GW), under Survey & Investigation, which are at various stages of preparation of detailed project report," it said.

After preparation of detailed project reports, these HPSPs will be uploaded by the developers on CEA website for concurrence under Section 8 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

According to the Ministry of Power, the government has prioritised the development of energy storage systems, particularly PSPs, to ensure the energy security of the country.

As per the National Electricity Plan (Generation), the installed capacity of energy storage systems including BESS

is projected at 74GW by 2031-32. Under the revised guidelines, the developers are allowed to submit the detailed project reports of PSPs online with completion of first 13 chapters. Some of the

chapters have been dispensed with. Now there is no mandatory requirement of approval of cost and financial chapters. These chapters need to be submitted only for reference and record to meet the requirement of the Act.

Ayushman Bharat: Over 29K hospitals empanelled till June



Only one private and 11 public hospitals in the state have so far been empanelled under the Union government health insurance scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Over 29,000 hospitals, including 12,625 private ones, have been empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as of June 30, Union Health Minister JP Nadda told the Lok Sabha Friday.

All empanelled hospitals have signed MoUs with their respective State Health Agencies Central and State call centres, letters to SHAs etc. Beneficiaries can approach the State Health Agency for tak-

According to the data shared,

in Delhi, 52 private and 11 pub-

lic hospitals have been empan-

elled while in West Bengal it is

10 private and 27 public hospi-

tals. Only one private and 11

public hospitals in Odisha have

been empanelled under the

2,948 public hospitals have been

empanelled under the scheme in

Uttar Pradesh, while 1,202 pri-

vate and 996 public hospitals in

Tamil Nadu, 1,027 private and

1,406 public hospitals in Andhra

Pradesh, 868 private and 1,747

public hospitals in Gujarat and

564 private and 2,968 public hos-

pitals have been empanelled

Beneficiaries can seek re-

under the scheme in Bihar.

A total of 2,634 private and

scheme, Nadda said.

ing action against erring hospitals, including de-empanelment of the hospitals. All empanelled hospitals are available for providing treatment to the eligible beneficiaries, Nadda said in a written response to a question.

ing their grievances related to denial of treatment by the empanelled hospitals or regarding any other issue related to the scheme, using different media, including web-based portal Centralised Grievance Redressal Management System (CGRMS),

The activeness of a hospital is measured through the number of treatments provided by the hospital under the scheme, which is dynamic in nature.

Hospital empanelment is a continuous process, he said.

To increase the network of empanelled hospitals, a multipronged strategy is adopted, which includes reaching out to the hospitals and their associations, organising workshops to address their concerns and simplifying empanelment

As a result of these efforts, there has been a constant increase in the network of empanelled hospitals under the scheme, the minister said



BRIDGING GAPS: After a long wait, the overbridge at Hanspal Square, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, was thrown open to public Friday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

More rain likely due to low pressure area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The state which is already encountering wet spells, is likely to receive more rainfall due to the formation of a low pressure area over adjoining Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday.

"Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area has formed over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining Jharkhand. Associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6km above the mean sea level. It is likely to move westnorthwestwards and become more marked over the next 24 hours," IMD said in its latest



The state government had issued a warning of heavy rainfall at a few places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Bargarh districts over the next 24 hours

It said widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning strikes is also likely over the

SRC Satyabrata Sahoo has asked the district **Collectors to remain** prepared for any eventuality that may arise due to heavy rainfall

However, the intensity of rainfall will decline from Saturday as the system is gradually moving away from the state to the west-northwest direction, a senior official said.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahoo has asked the district Collectors to remain prepared for any eventuality that may arise due to heavy rainfall.

MSSRF chairperson meets CM, Deputy CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Ex-WHO chief scientist and chairperson of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). Soumva Swaminathan, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan here, recently and discussed about introducing modern science and technology to improve the livelihood of farming communities.

Earlier, she also paid a courtesy call to Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at his office and invited Deo to attend a two-day international conference on hungerfree world, to be held at Chennai August 7 and 8.

At the meeting, Principal Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Director Prem Chandra Chaudhary and other senior officers were present.

Swaminathan proposed to develop the Biju Patnaik Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre at Jeypore in Koraput district into an international training centre for farmers.

374 heatstroke deaths till July States and Union Territories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: A total 374 deaths due to heatstroke and 67,637 cases of suspected heatstroke were reported in the country between March 1 to July 27 Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel told the Lok Sabha Friday.

Uttar Pradesh was the worstaffected state with 52 deaths, followed by Bihar, which recorded 37, and Odisha and Delhi, which logged 26 and 25 deaths each, according to the data compiled under the National Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), shared by the minister.

are submitting data on heat stroke cases and deaths on the **Integrated Health Information** Portal since 2023, Patel said in a written reply.
The MoHFW issues advisories

for states and UTs health departments to ensure various awareness, preparedness and response measures in early March every year.

This year, the advisory was issued February 29 with a communication from Secretary, Union Health Ministry, to the chief secretaries of all states and UTs outlining measures to strengthen the health sector preparedness and increasing community awareness, Patel said.



Acharya: Community radio promoting Odia traditions

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Community radio stations are taking forward the task of promoting folk music, tribal culture and Odia traditions these days like what the All India Radio (AIR) used to do for decades in the past, said Subodh Chandra Acharya, Secretary, Odia Language, Literature and Culture

department. Speaking at a seminar titled 'Role of Radio in Promotion of Culture' at Soochana Bhawan here Friday, Acharya said radio has been playing an important role in promoting the state's culture and language. The seminar was organised by social organ-



The event was aimed to highlight the often unrecognised contribution of radio in safeguarding and promoting the state's culture.

Speaking on the occasion, former director of AIR and Doordarshan, Shantanu Kumar Rath, said radio has been playing a significant role in preserving and promoting Odia language and culture since the establishment of Odisha's first radio station in Cuttack in 1948.

The seminar emphasised the future role of community radio stations in promoting local culture in their respective regions. The proceeding was chaired by

the founder of Outreach, Subrat Kumar Pati, while the distinguished guests included Padmalochan Das, a former director of AIR and Doordarshan.

CM grievance hearing will resume Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will resume public grievance hearing at the CM Grievance Cell in Unit-V here, Monday, from 11am onwards.

The registration for the same will begin from 8am onwards, Monday; a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department stated.



CM's grievance cell remained shut due to the budget session

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Nakul Kumar Sahoo, S/o - Purnachandra Sahoo resident of village Mangalajodi, near Mukteswar Station, Po-Mangalajodi, Ps - Tangi, Dist - Khordha, Odisha declare by this affidavit No - 876, dated 29-07-2024, that now onwards I shall be known as Bularam Sahoo for all future purposes.

THE VAMPIRE STAR. **CALLED WOCS 9005,** IN THE STAR CLUSTER M67. IS LOCATED IN THE CONSTELLATION **CANCER**

team of astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute of the department of Science and Technology, made a groundbreaking discovery of a vampire star in the star cluster M67 using data from the ultra violet imaging telescope, on board AstroSat, India's first dedicated space observatory.

M67 is a collection of over 500 stars that are loosely gravitationally bound, a grouping known as an open cluster.

The vampire star, called WOCS 9005, in the star cluster M67, is located in the constellation Cancer. It has been rejuvenating its youth by sucking up material from a companion.

The findings, to be published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', shed light on a complex rejuvenation process, known as mass transfer in a binary sys-

Using spectroscopy, a technique where the light of the star is dispersed into its colours like the rainbow, the team from IIA studied the surface composition of WOCS 9005.

'This star is expected to show chemistry very similar to our Sun, but we found that its atmosphere is rich in heavy ele-



Indian astronomers decode mystery of vampire star

ments such as barium, yttrium, and lanthanum," said lead author Harshit Pal, from IIA, who carried the study as a part of his MS

thesis project at IISER Berhampur.

These heavy elements are rare and are found in a class of stars

called 'asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars', where abundant neutrons for a slowly occurring neutron capture process (sprocess) are available to produce these heavy elements from lighter ones.

But, these AGB stars end their lives as white dwarfs (WDs) by shedding their outer layers which are enriched with heavy elements into their surroundings.

However, these AGB stars are more massive and evolved than WOCS 9005, leading to a puzzle.

"The presence of heavy elements in the spectrum pointed to a polluted atmosphere of the vampire star and the source of pollution being an external source," said Annapurni Subramaniam, director IIA and

co-author of the paper. Subramaniam stated that "the external source is likely to be its binary companion, which must make the heavy elements when it passed through its AGB phase, and later became a white dwarf star.'

The team took images of the vampire star and estimated its UV brightness using the UVIT on AstroSat.

With a temperature akin to the Sun, the vampire star is not expected to be bright in the UV. But the team detected considerable UV brightness for

The analysis proved that it indeed originated from its hot and small companion.

Calculating theoretically, the scientists validated that this is indeed the remnant of the star that produced heavy elements.

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OrissaPOST

Bisra's lifeline wallows in neglect Diarrhoea claims two in Ganjam here as his condition was critical said Savajini Davi addition.

THE BARSUAN-BISRA STREAM WHICH WAS ONCE THE LIFELINE FOR 5 GRAM PANCHAYATS, **APART FROM BEING A BEAUTIFUL PICNIC** SPOT, IS ON THE VERGE **OF EXTINCTION IN JUST 10 YEARS**

RAJESH MOHANTY, OF

Rourkela, August 2: The Barsuan-Bisra stream that was once a scenic spot and lifeline for over five gram panchayats (GPs) under Bisra block may get consigned to history, thanks to administrative negligence and pollution.

Originating from Saranda jungle, this stream, barely a 30-metre wide during monsoon now, has remained a lifeline for five GPs -Dareikela, Maneka, Udushu, Bisra and Santoshpur. After passing through these GPs, it flows into

Journalist Pradeep

Mohapatra no more

Berhampur: August 2: Pradeen

Mohapatra, a former professor

of journalism and mass communication at Berhampur

University, passed away at a hos-

pital in Bhubaneswar Thursday

night following a cardiac arrest.

his wife, who is also a retired

professor from the same

Mourners, including academics, journalists, activists,

politicians, and traders, gath-

ered at his residence in Bhimarao

Peta to pay their respects after

books and magazines. Post-re-

tirement, he continued contributing to journalism by writing

columns on social issues and media

He was notably the editor of

'Janani', the first Odia feature

colour magazine published in

Berhampur, and authored several

books on the history and future

of Odia journalism

in different Odia periodicals.

his body was

brought home.

Mohapatra ed-

ited various

university

Before his

He was 69 and is survived by

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

university.



River Koel. Apart from irrigating the hundreds of hectares of agricultural lands of these panchavats, this narrow stream meets the needs of drinking water and other daily chores, according to sources.

However, continuous neglect and ill-treatment have narrowed it down. Domestic and other wastes are being dumped in it while many drains carrying household sewage also merge into it.

"It has become the dustbin for the five GPs at this moment," said a resident of the area. Besides. accumulation of silt on the banks of the stream has encouraged growth of shrubs, leading to further shrinking of the nullah.

"The water is gradually becoming unfit for use," rued a villager of Santoshpur GP

Meanwhile, many residents have recalled their memories associated with the natural stream.

"I have many fond memories associated with the stream because I grew up on its scenic bank. The stream has served many families of our locality including ours all throughout the years, including the era of my ancestors," said Peter Xess. Similar sentiments were echoed by a few people who have grown up near its bank.

A doctor working at Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) who began his career at Bisra PHC, said, "The entire stretch was a real scenic picnic spot just 10 years back and we had visited the place on several occasions. But today, when I hear about it, I really feel sorry for its neglected state. The decay has set in during the last 10 years.

Bisra Sarpanch Suraj Nayak said. "No fund is available at the GP level for cleaning the water and restoring the stream. However, I have drawn the attention of the district administration for construction of a treatment plant and revival of the stream.'

When this was brought to the notice of the regional officer of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) Anup Mallick, said, "This stream does not come under my purview but I will look into it. I will definitely draw the attention of the BDO in this regard.

Though Orissa POST called Bisra BDO Jagannath Hanuman to seek his reaction in this regard, he didn't pick the phone.

Berhampur, August 2: At least two persons died and 28 others fell sick due to a suspected diarrhoea outbreak during the last few days in Ganjam district, officials said Friday.

The deceased were identified as Kenchu Nayak and Kanchan Nayak, both above 70 years of age. Others were under medical observation at their residences A medical team from

Berhampur was sent to Adapada village



Sanakhemundi block of the district Thursday to provide treatment to the affected people, they said.

Of the 28 people who were taken ill, 20 were undergoing treatment at Adapada community health centre and one of them was referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital

ical, said Sarojini Devi, additional district medical officer (ADMO), Ganjam.

The two elderly persons, who died in the village due to suspected diarrhoeal infection, were also inflicted with some other diseases, he said.

Consumption of water from wells was suspected to be the cause of the outbreak of the seasonal ailment while the area witnessed rain in the last week.

"Samples from various water sources in the village have been collected for laboratory tests," Devi said.

NOTICE

यूनियन बैंक 🌘 Union Bank

REGIONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR DEMAND 3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI,

BHUBANESWAR-751015, Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank

OMC CAMPUS BRANCH

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST

Borrower: (1) M/s S.K.D Associates, Prop.: Sri Suvendu Kumar Das, Address: Plot No.2335/4061 5154, Room No. A-1, Jagatpur, Cuttack, Odisha-754021 .

<u>Guarantor/Mortgagor:</u> (2) Sri Suvendu Kumar Das, S/o: Mr Krushna Chandra Das, Address: Gopinathpur,

Padhanpada, Cuttack, Odisha- 754200 (3) Mr Krushna Chandra Das, S/o: Sri Mahani Das, Address: Gopinathpur, Padhanpada, Cuttack,

Sub: Notice under Sec. 13(2) read with Sec. 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Notice dated 20.07.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by our **OMC Campus Branch**, through the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities / loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA on 28.06.2024. You have executed loan documents, while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the bank. The details of the credit facilities and secured assets are as under:

SL	Type of Facility	as on 30.06.2024	Interest	Expenditure	Total Dues			
1	Over Draft	Rs.49,39,288.91	Rs.61,910.00	0.00	Rs.50,01,198.91			
	Total: Rupees Fifty Lakhs One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Fight and Paisa Ninety One only							

Mortgage of immovable property described herein below

Residential land in the name of Sri Krushna Chandra Das, Khata No. 767/1007, Plot No. 1034/3990, Mouza- Sribantapur, Tahasil- Baranga No. 266, PS- Cuttack Sadar, Dist- Cuttack, Ac 0.120dcml i.e 5226 sq.ft., bounded by: North- Common Road left by vendor, South- Rest Part of Plot No. 1034, East- Plot No.1035, West- Plot No.1032.

Therefore You as the borrower and guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum of Rs.50,01,198.91 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Eight and Paisa Ninety One only) together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication . That on your failure to comply there with we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest Act 2002. In terms of section 13(13) of the Act, you shall not transfer the aforesaid secured assets from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets Date:03.08.2024

Place: Bhubaneswar

Yours faithfully Chief Manager cum Authorized Office

DEMAND

NOTICE



REGIONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR 3/1 A CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI.

BHUBANESWAR-751015,

BALUKHANDA BRANCH

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST

Borrower/Mortgagor: (1) Mr Manas Kumar Rath, S/o: Mr Suresh Chandra Rath, At: Behera Sahi, CT

Co-obligant/Guarantor: (2) Mrs Snehalata Praharaj, W/o: Mr Suresh Chandra Rath, At: Behera Sahi

(3) Mr Suresh Chandra Rath, At: Behera Sahi, CT Road, Penthakata, Puri-752002

Sub: Notice under Sec. 13(2) read with Sec. 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 .

Notice dated 23.07.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by our **Balukhanda Branch**, through the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities / loan facilities availed by you have been classified as

NPA on 29.05.2024. You have executed loan documents, while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the bank. The details of the credit facilities and secured assets are as under Outstanding amount Other Interest Expenditure as on 30.06.2024 Outstanding Rs.1.00.979.64 **Housing Loan** Rs.1,01,040.64

Rs.12,365.00 Rs.200.00 Rs.4,25,323.07 **Housing Loan** Rs.4,12,758.07 **Total Dues** Rs.5,13,737.71 Rs.12,426.00 Rs.200.00 Rs.5,26,363.71 Total: Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three and Paisa Seventy One only

Mortgage of immovable property described herein below Land and building on Plot No. 50/310, khata no.87/67, Area: Ac0.013.37 decimals, municipality

holding no. 2422/2, Mouza - Balukhanda, P.S: Puri Town (now marine P S), owned by Mr Manas Kumar Rath, Bounded by- North: Property of Maheswar Mishra , South : Road , East: Property of Dhani Behera, West: Property of Maheswar Mishra.

Therefore You as the borrower and guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum of Rs.5,26,363.71 (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three and Paisa Seventy One only) together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply there with we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security interest Act 2002 . In terms of section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the aforesaid secured assets from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets . Date: 03.08.2024

Place: Bhubaneswar

Yours faithfully Chief Manager cum Authorized Officer

Cops crack businessman murder

TWO INCLUDING DRIVER OF THE SLAIN BUSINESSMAN FORWARDED TO COURT



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 2: Biramitrapur police have cracked businessman Basant Badaik murder case and forwarded two persons, including his driver, to court Friday. Search operations are on to nab the remaining five miscreants.

The persons who have been forwarded to court were identified as Ram Kumar Sahu of Olani village and Chitta Ranjan Singh of Purunapani. Singh, who was the driver the 45-year-old slain businessman of Olani village, was immediately taken into custody after

the crime as cops grew suspicious over discrepancies in his statements after the crime. During interrogation, Singh disclosed the name of Sahu and his involvement in the crime.

Badaik was returning from Rourkela July 30 when, around 10:30pm, Singh slowed down the vehicle near Jatia Pahad, as per a prior plan. Meanwhile, the killers who were following the duo in a Scorpio from Rourkela overtook Badaik's car near Jatia Pahad blocked the road. Soon they started abusing them. The driver, who was well prepared, escaped while

ran in the opposite direction. However, he was intercepted by the miscreants near a culvert.

Badaik got down from his car and

Singh revealed before the police that the assailants, seven in number, killed him there with sharp weapons and dumped his body in a small stream. Badaik had received severe injuries on his back, chest neck and head.

Singh then informed Badaik's family members who reached the spot and recovered the bloodstained body. He was taken to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) where doctors declared him dead.

Biramitrapur SDPO Susant Das said, "We took the driver into custody and then on his confession Sahu was also picked up. Both confessed to the crime and also provided valuable information regarding the crime." He further added, "They were forwarded to court Friday and the search is on for the absconding five-six

As per the plan, the miscreants had partied at Rourkela and the driver kept them updated about Badaik's movement. The assailants had started following Badaik

भारतीय जनसंचार संस्थान

Indian Institute of Mass Communication (A Deemed to be University) Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, JNU New Campus, New Delhi 110 067 (Advt. No.02/2024)

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Deemed to be University under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India with its main campus in New Delhi and Regional Campuses at Aizawl, Amravati, Dhenkanal, Jammu and Kottavam, invites ONLINE applications from eligible candidates for 01 Post Professor and 20 Posts of Assistant Professors in the field of Mass Communication. Details of Proforma for application, pay scale, eligibility qualification etc. are available in 'Vacancy' section on the website of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, i.e. http://www.iimc.gov.in/vacancy

The last date to submit Online applications: 23.08.2024 cbc 22103/11/0006/2425



Government of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

Invitation of applications for hiring of One (01) Software and Network Professional in **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India**

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) invites applications from eligible candidates as Software and Network Professional (One (01) Post) for attending IT related works as per Term of Reference (TOR). Candidate with requisite qualification and experience as prescribed would be hired as Software and Network Professional. Vacancies are liable to be changed without any prior notice and without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2. The details including eligibility criteria, TOR etc. are available on the AERA's website: www.aera.gov.in. Last date of receipt of application is 21.08.2024 upto 5.30 P.M. Applications to be submitted as per details/mode mentioned in the vacancy notice. Applications received after due date and time will not be considered.

Deputy Chief

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003 CBC 03112/12/0006/2425

MCL launches free civil services coaching

Sambalpur, August 2: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) launched a coaching initiative 'Ujjwal Jharsuguda - MCL Ki Ek Pehel' under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme at Brajrajnagar College Thursday.



Revenue Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari attended the event as the chief guest. Also present on the occasion were Chairm

Collector Aboli Sunil Naravane, Jharsuguda Superintendent of Police Parmar Smit Parshottamdas and Director (Personnel) of MCL Keshav Rao. The initiative aims at supporting the vocational aspirations of students from Jharsuguda district. It

will cover coaching expenses for UPSC, OPSC, banking, and other competitive examinations. Each year, 100 selected students will benefit from free coaching initiative at two key locations Brajrajnagar College and Laxmi Narayan College, Jharsuguda.

The coaching will be delivered by renowned institu-

tions to ensure high-quality preparation. In addition to 'Ujjwal Jharsuguda - MCL Ki Ek Pehel', MCL has previously launched the MCL-Super 50 initiative in Bhubaneswar to support underprivileged students aspiring to enter prestigious IITs. MCL's "Bright Futures Programme" embodies the company's dedication to enhancing educational opportunities and contributing to societal development through impactful CSR activities.

Woman, son die of electrocution

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, August 2: In a tragic incident, a man and his mother died due to electrocution at Jayantagiri village under Borriguma block in Koraput district Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Duryodhan Amanatya and his mother Rama. According to reports, Duryodhan came in contact with a live wire while he was trying to remove his towel from it at his

scream, his mother Rama rushed to his rescue but she was also electrocuted. Although Duryodhan's

residence. Hearing his

wife and mother-in-law were affected by the shock, they survived the mishap. Rama and Duryodhan were taken to the district headquarters hospital at Jeypore where doctors declared them brought dead.

The police have started an investigation into the incident.

Tender No. eT-CRW-MCS-EL-2-2024 NAME OF WORK : MISCELLANEOUS

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Dy. Chief Electrical Enginee CRW / Mancheswa

Date: 02.08.2024

REGIONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR 3/1 A, CIVIC CENTRE, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR - 751015, Ph. No.: 0674-2541936/2538502/26, E-mail: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank

Amount Due

Union Bank of India

₹1.44.18.000/- as on 30.06.2024

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.08.2024, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit & Bid increment amount are also mentioned hereunder.

STATION SQUARE BRANCH, Flat No.: 121 & 122, Kharvel Nagar, Station Square, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751001, Ph. No.: 9777666543, Email: ubin0903337@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower / Co-applicant / Guarantor: 1) M/s. ODI PLAST, Prop.: Mr. Sachidananda Das, At: Plot No.: 58/E, Bhagabanpur Industrial Area, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar, PIN - 751009

Property No.1: All that piece and parcel of Factory Land & Building along with all the plant and machineries at IDCO Plot No.

58/E, Revenue Khata No.: 503, Revenue Plot No.: 54 (P) having Total Land Area of Ac. 0.115 Decimal at Bhagabanpur Industria Area, Mouza: Bhagabanpur, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, P.S: Tamando, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN - 751019

Reserve Price: ₹91,40,656/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹9,14,065/- / Bid Increment Amount : ₹90,000/-

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 29.08.2024 between 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension), e-Auction Website: https://ebkray.in

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: https://ebkray.in For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in

https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in, For further details please contact to Respective Branch

This May also be treated as 15 days Sale Notice under rule 8 (6) / rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place: Bhubaneswar Sd/- Authorized Officer



Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER



BABUDOM

BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Rot Runs Deep

he Pooja Khedkar scandal is causing quite a stir and revealing some ugly truths about our bureaucracy. The rot runs deep.

Ever since the news broke about IAS probationer Puja Khedkar using fake documents about her caste and financial status to snag her position, the media and social media have been flooded with similar stories. It turns out several IAS and IPS officers have been misusing the reservation quota to pass the UPSC exams. Now, babus like Abhishek Singh from Uttar Pradesh and four officers from Gujarat are under investigation. The CBI is looking into favouritism in Chhattisgarh exams from 2020-2022, while Rajasthan is reviewing over 1 lakh hires for irregularities.

This rush to report has unfortunately led to some genuine and eligible candidates being wrongly accused. With all these investigations ordered, doubts about the selection process are mounting, especially since the NEET exam is already under the microscope.

This whole mess has sparked a call for more transparency and scrutiny in selecting babus, particularly under the disability criteria. The integrity of the civil services is at stake. Without quick and thorough action, public trust will keep eroding.

Gauba makes history

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba will make history when he steps down at the end of August, becoming India's longest-serving cabinet secretary. A 1982-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre, Gauba will have clocked five years in the top role.

His predecessors didn't come close: Pradeep Kumar Sinha served four years and 79 days, while Y.N. Sukthankar, the second Cabinet Secretary of independent India, held the post for a day less. Traditionally, a Cabinet Secretary's term can be extended from two to four years. However, during Sinha's tenure, the rules were tweaked, giving him an additional three months. Last year, in extending Gauba's term for the third time, the government fur-

ther relaxed these rules. As Gauba's tenure wraps up, there's a buzz about his succes sor. Sources have informed DKB from the 1987 batch are in the

that three senior IAS officers running: Finance Secretary TV Somanathan (Tamil Nadu cadre), Gujarat Chief Secretary Raj Kumar,

and Jal Shakti Secretary Vini Mahajan (Punjab cadre). Additionally, S Krishnan (Tamil Nadu cadre) from the 1989 batch has emerged as a Sources say that Somanathan seems to be leading the race. Known

for his financial acumen and integrity, he's been the Expenditure Secretary since December 2019 and also serves as Finance Secretary. His reputation is so stellar that the World Bank once asked for an extension of his tenure there, which was granted by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Prime Minister Modi and his Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra. Kumar's tenure as Secretary of Defence Production was highly challenging, and he now serves as Gujarat's Chief Secretary, known for his no-nonsense approach. Vini Mahajan, the third contender, could make history as India's first

Raj Kumar, another strong contender, is noted for his proximity to

woman cabinet secretary. Currently the Secretary of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Mahajan has extensive experience in the PMO and previously served as Punjab's chief secretary.

So, who among these worthies will ultimately succeed Gauba or will Modi surprise us with someone else? Stay tuned for updates.

Green revolution in elections

Dr Heera Lal, a 2009-batch IAS from the Uttar Pradesh cadre and author of the popular book Dynamic DM, has spearheaded a groundbreaking initiative in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, setting a remarkable benchmark for green elections. This initiative isn't just about conducting elections but doing so in a way that is environmentally conscious and sus-

In an era in Anandpur Sahib stand out. By focusing on reducing the carbon footprint of the electoral process, Dr Lal demonstrated how civic responsibilities and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. This initiative includes measures such as reducing paper use, promoting digital campaigns, and ensuring waste management practices are in place. These steps, though simple, are significant in their impact, reducing the strain on our natural resources.

What makes this endeavour particularly praiseworthy is its replicability. Anandpur Sahib's model can be adopted by other constituencies, creating a ripple effect that could lead to nationwide changes in how we conduct elections. This is not just about one town or election but about setting a precedent for future generations.

Dr. Lal's vision for a green election is a commendable stride towards a more sustainable and responsible democratic process. It's a call to action for other leaders to follow suit, embracing innovation to protect our environment while upholding democratic principles. Anandpur Sahib and Dr. Lal have shown that thoughtful planning and execution can help achieve greener, cleaner, and more efficient elections.

> Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy

APJ ABDUL KALAM

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- **1492:** Hoping to find a westward route to India, Christopher Columbus set sail on his first transatlantic voyage, departing from Palos, Spain, with three small ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María.
- **1914:** Germany declared war on France in World War I.
- 1921: A day after being acquitted on insufficient evidence—largely because key evidence had disappeared from the grand jury files, eight Chicago White Sox players were banned from baseball for life, accused of receiving bribes to intentionally lose the 1919 World Series.
- 1940: Lithuania was "accepted" into the U.S.S.R. following the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states.
- 1958: The U.S. atomic submarine Nautilus passed beneath the thick ice cap of the North Pole, an unprecedented feat.

FOCUS POPULATION

IMMIGRATION CONUNDRUM



Otaviano Canuto & Eduardo de Carvalho Andrade

WHILE **INCREASED LONGEVITY REPRESENTS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT OF MODERN** MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, THE STEEP **DECLINE IN FERTILITY OVER** THE PAST **DECADES IS A CAUSE FOR** CONCERN

opulations around the world are aging, as mortality and fertility rates fall. While increased longevity represents a remarkable achievement of modern medicine and public health, the steep decline in fertility over the past decades is cause for

The collapse in birth rates can be attributed to powerful structural factors – such as urbanization, education gains, and women's increased participation in the labor market as well as the perception that childbearing is more manageable with a smaller number of children. As a result, governments' efforts to reverse the trend have fallen short.

Countries with falling fertility rates eventually reach a demographic tipping point, though, as our recent research shows, and the pace at which different countries are approaching this threshold varies significantly. We divided the world into three groups. The first includes 52 countries – 41 in Africa, ten in Asia, and Papua New Guinea in Oceania - where the fertility rate is still higher than 2.9 children per woman. Projections suggest that the populations of these countries - almost all of which are low or lower-middle income, with the notable exception of Israel - will continue to grow until the end of the century.

The second group comprises 94 countries - located on all continents and covering all income groups -where the population is already falling, such as in Italy and Japan, or is expected to decline at some point this century. Sixty-four of these countries already have fertility rates below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman, and the others are moving toward this threshold. To date, no government has reversed the trend of falling births after this threshold has been passed.



Despite the dire headlines about increased refugee flows and illegal border crossings, our research has shown that immigration contributes to increased economic growth in destination countries, partly by lessening the burden of an aging population

But it is not all doom and gloom. The third group, comprising 14 high-income countries, demonstrates that immigration can help offset declining fertility rates and maintain population levels. Foreigners account for more than 10% of the population in all of these countries - including the United States, Canada, and Australia – with just one exception (the Czech Republic). Even though deaths will outnumber births in these countries, their populations may continue to grow for some time, given their ability to

attract immigrants. The aging of a country's population brings two economic challenges. The first is what we call the geriatric fiscal trap. Given that most social security systems pay pre-defined benefits to retirees, spending on pensions tends to outpace contributions as the working-age share of a population falls. Public spending on health also usually grows as a proportion

To reduce this fiscal imbalance, policymakers will be driven to increase taxes, especially as elderly voters become a potent political force. With less disposable income, the younger generation is likely to have fewer children, reducing the future tax base and causing the fiscal situation to deteriorate further.

The second challenge is declining productivity. The people advancing scientific knowledge, including inventors and Nobel Prize winners, and the successful entrepreneurs implementing these ideas in the marketplace are generally under the age of 50. Unless we learn how to increase the fluid intelligence of older adults, allowing them to think creatively and solve new problems, population aging could reduce the pace of innovation, resulting in lower productivity and eco-

One could imagine new technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence, leading to the development of machines that would enhance and aug ment human ingenuity. Nonetheless, immigration currently offers the best defense against a graying society; already, it has been a boon for rich countries that are able and willing – to welcome foreigners. Despite the dire headlines about increased refugee flows and illegal border crossings, our research has shown that immigration contributes to increased economic growth in destination countries, partly by lessening the burden of an aging population.

In the US, for example, the foreign-born population has higher average schooling levels than its native-born population (undoubtedly contributing to the brain drain in their countries of origin). Moreover the US economy's extraordinary performance over the past two years would not have been possible without the post-pandemic immigration uptake.

Anti-immigrant sentiment has been on the rise in many rich countries, improving the electoral prospects of far-right parties in Europe and potentially becoming a decisive factor in the US presidential election this November. This poses a conundrum for politicians. They must convince their voters that facilitating immigration benefits all – or risk facing the economic challenges brought about by an aging population.

Otaviano Canuto, a former vice president and executive director of the World Bank, is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution while Eduardo de Carvalho Andrade is an associate professor at the Insper Institute of Education and Research. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Biased priority to promote crony capitalism



Satya Narayan Misra

IN THE DIN OF **SCALING UP** INDIA'S WEALTH AND GROWTH. THE **FM HAS CLOSED** HER EYES TO THE **CONSTITUTIONAL** COMPULSION OF **CARING MORE FOR** THE BOTTOM **50 PER CENT**

coded in the Directive Principles of State Policy to promote socio-economic justice. Specifically, the duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition (Article 47), provision of early childhood care and education (Article 45), and promotion of the educational and economic interests of SC, ST, and other weaker sections of society (Article 46), living wage for workers are important templates before the FM. Transcending political differences, every government pays special attention to programmes like ICDS started by Indira Gandhi in 1975 to bring down IMR and MMR, the Poshan scheme to bring down malnutrition among children and anaemia among girls, MN-REGA started in 2005 to provide 100 days of work to unskilled workers in villages and bring down rising income inequality under (Article 38(2).

While education has become a fundamental right from the age of 6-14, early childhood education of nearly 50 million poor children in the 22 lakh Anganwadi centres remains a

hough explicitly not stated, dismal cesspool of neglect. The Allocation in the much hypededucation of poor children and suggests concrete measures to foster positive learning envi ronments during these years, provide Anganwadi workers with proper training, and improve the infrastructure of these centers. The allocation for school education allocation in this budget has hardly moved from 72473 cr to 73008 cr, with practically no attention to early childhood education.

The track record of malnutrition among children is truly deplorable with nearly 33% suffering from malnutrition and 25% stunted due to persistent malnutrition and poor sanitation around the households where these children live as per the latest NFHS V. Anaemia among adolescent girls has gone up from 53.1% (2015-16) to 57% in 2019-2021. A research study in Odisha, where the anemia rate of 64.3%, reveals that this is not due to the non-availability of stock but due to poor supply chain management and poor application of technology. This also shows how accountability which is the blood of democracy is at very low ebb.

every Union Finance NEP 2020 recognizes this seri-Minister tries to meet NEP 2020 recognizes this seri-ous lacuna in our existing dis-gone down from ₹21523 cr last many of the expectations enpensation for early childhood year to ₹21206 cr. It's a sad commentary on Modi's rhetoric of Anemia Mukt Bharat

The FM seems to have forgotten the agony the poor people have gone through during COVID-19 when the abysmally poor health infrastructure and primary healthcare centres were exposed. The allocation to the Health Ministry has hardly gone up from last year's allocation of ₹86175 cr to ₹87656 cr in 2024-25. The allocation to education and health which should have been 6% and 2.5% of the Budget has been again pegged at 3% and 1.3% respectively. MNREGA which gives livelihood to nearly 7 cr families has been whittled down from 105000 cr to 86000 cr. It is indeed ironic as the prime thrust of this budget is to create nearly 40 million jobs in the next four years. Quite clearly, adequate nutrition, quality education, and basic health care at affordable cost are the three critical pillars that pave the way for quality employment for about 8 million who seek employment every year. This dichotomy between India's growth aspiration and development pillars is going to dent seriously the de-

is trying to harvest.

The World Inequality Report (2024) shows how the tor India's population has improved its share of the national pie from 33% in 1957 to 56% in 2022, while the bottom 50%'s share has come down from 24% in 1957 to 12% in 2022. Piketty in a research article in 2023 has brought out how a 2% wealth tax on people with a net worth above ₹10 cr and an inheritance tax will generate 2.7% of the GDP of India. This will be enough to fund the critical shortfall in allocation for education and health. The Constitution mandates at Article 39(b) that the State should distribute resources of the community to subserve the common good. Piketty is merely reminding India's policymakers to put into effect its constitutional mandate of distributive justice. In the din of scaling up India's wealth and growth, the FM has closed her eyes to the constitutional compulsion of caring more for the bottom 50%. The Constitutional expectation of promoting egalitarianism has been compromised in government's biased priority to promote crony capitalism.

> The writer teaches Constitutional Law

TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST

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

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

FM's opportunity

Sir, It is laudable that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has advised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to waive the 18% GST on premiums for life and health insurance policies. Most senior citizens and pensioners find it very difficult even to pay the basic premium itself on health policies, and an additional 18% GST on the premium prohibits most of them from going in for the policy, causing irreparable damages when they fall sick and have no means to get hospitalisation benefits. While the poor and middle income groups are very upset that Sitharaman has not announced anything worthwhile for them in the general Budget, this is a golden opportunity for her to assuage their wounded feelings. She should immediately accede to the advice of her senior ministerial colleague, Gadkari and do away with the GST on premiums for life and health Insurance.

Tharcius S Fernando, CHENNAI

Shame game

Sir, Angela Carini, an Italian female boxer, halted her bout against her biologically male opponent to save her own life. This happened when Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who, having been biologically male, was accepted as a female at the Paris Olympics, made short work of an Italian opponent, a woman boxer, in one of the most controversial Olympic bouts in just under 46 seconds. It is clear that athletes who have male genetic characteristics should not be admitted to women's competition. It is a shame game after all.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, MUMBAI

Misplaced comment

Sir, Donald Trump's comment, "Kamala Harris has decided to turn black for political gain," invoking her racial identity during his interaction with African American journalists in Chicago, is repelling and loathsome. Trump simply doesn't understand race. His comment is not only misplaced, but it is also counterproductive and dangerous. Trump's recent comments mark but one in a series of episodes showing he shares a misunderstanding all too common even in today's increasingly diverse and multiracial society. His false confidence in his identity leads him to believe that once he knows who you are, he'll also know how you'll think and act. It is unfortunate that Trump has failed to understand, accept, and fully grasp that millions of Americans are multiracial.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

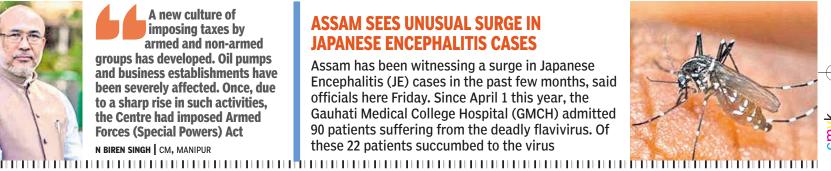
national



A new culture of imposing taxes by armed and non-armed groups has developed. Oil pumps and business establishments have been severely affected. Once, due to a sharp rise in such activities. the Centre had imposed Armed **Forces (Special Powers) Act** N BIREN SINGH | CM. MANIPUR

ASSAM SEES UNUSUAL SURGE IN JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS CASES

Assam has been witnessing a surge in Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in the past few months, said officials here Friday. Since April 1 this year, the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) admitted 90 patients suffering from the deadly flavivirus. Of these 22 patients succumbed to the virus



If infiltration continues, the days are not far when the CM will (infiltrators). It is not

a political issue but the responsibility of everyone to save the state. The state government should build consensus over the issue and initiate action against the infiltrators

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA CM, ASSAM

Our demand to Government of India is to roll back GST from life insurance and medical insurance premiums on grounds of people's health imperatives. This GST is bad because it adversely affects the people's ability to take care of their hasic vital needs

MAMATA BANERJEE CM. WEST BENGAL



below Karmveers by 25 per cent

PEMA KHANDU | CM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SHORT TAKES Saeeda Vineeta joins

NGT as Registrar General New Delhi: Saeeda Vineeta, a

member of the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services recently joined on deputation as the new registrar general in the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal. She joined the state's judicial service in 2007 as a civil judge (junior division) and was promoted to the senior division in 2012. Vineeta, who became a district judge in October 2018, also worked as secretary of the Madhya Pradesh District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights till Aug 8

New Delhi: Air India Friday announced suspending flights to Tel Aviv till August 8, amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. The Tata Group owned airline operates five weekly flights to the Israeli city from the national capital. "In view of the ongoing situation in parts of the Middle East, we have suspended the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect up to and including 08 August 2024. We are continuously monitoring the situation..., the carrier said in a post on X.

Fuel loading begins

operator Friday said it has started fuelling the third home-built 700 MWe nuclear reactor, which is expected to start commercial operations later this year. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) said the initial fuel loading process has begun at Unit-7 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) at Rawatbhata Thursday. The NPCIL has already commissioned two 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar in Gujarat. The RAPP Unit-7 is part of the two 700 MWe PHWRs being built at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan.

crypto fraud case

Srinagar: In its first ever raids in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Enforcement Directorate Friday conducted searches as part of its money laundering probe linked to a cryptocurrency fraud case in which investors lost more than ₹7 crore worth of deposits. officials said. The agency's zonal office here raided at least six premises in Leh town of Ladakh, Jammu in J-K and Sonipat in Harvana in the case against AR Mir and others.

Cloudburst wreaks havoc in Himachal

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 8, RESCUE OPERATION ON TO TRACE 45 MISSING PEOPLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 2: Rescue operations are underway Friday to trace about 45 people missing following flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, officials said Friday.

With recovery of three more bodies, the death toll due to the flash floods in Nirmand, Saini and Malana areas in Kullu, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision has increased to eight.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu along with Education Minister Rohit Thakur visited Samej on the border of Shimla and Kullu district to take stock of the situation and talk to the victims.

Over 30 people were missing after a cloudburst near Shrikhand Mahadev route Wednesday night triggered flash floods in Sarpara, Ganvi and Kurban nallahs.

Talking to reporters, Sukhu said 17-18 women and 8-9 children are among those missing. The rescue of people is our first priority.

The chief minister announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 for the victims and also said that they would be given ₹5,000 a month for rent for the next three months along with gas, food and other essential items.

He said that arrangements would be made for schooling of children as several primary and secondary schools have been damaged.

A relief package would be announced for the disaster-hit victims after the monsoon season is over, he added.

Five bodies were found in Mandi's Rajban village, one in Nirmand in Kullu, officials said Friday while mutilated parts of



two people were recovered in Rampur, SP Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI.

The two bodies recovered in Rajban Friday were identified as that of Aman (9) and Aryan (8) while five people are still missing on this site.

Relatives of the missing persons are camping at the sites with hope fading with every passing hour.

"Bodies of my father-in-law and mother-in-law have been recovered but my son, my brotherin-law, his wife and their sixyear-old son and two-month-old daughter are still missing," a wailing woman told PTI Videos.

"Fear of death kept us awake all night as we climbed to a mountain to stay safe," said another villager who came out after hearing screams to see houses swept

in flash floods

As per the state emergency operation centre, 103 houses have been completely or par-

tially damaged in the three districts besides six motorable and 32 foot bridges, shops, schools and vehicles in the past 36 hours.

Kerala landslides: 210 people dead

Wayanad (Kerala): The number of people who have died in the massive landslides that hit Wayanad district three days ago has gone up to 210, Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas said Friday. According to the figures released by Riyas at a press conference here, 210 bodies, including that of 83 women and 29 children, have been recovered. Of them, 119 bodies have been handed over to relatives of the deceased persons, the minister said. Meanwhile in a bright spot amid the gloom, Friday -- three days after the massive landslides, when hope of finding survivors is dwindling -- rescuers were able to reach a family of four isolated in an area near Padavetti Kunnu here and moved them to a relief camp, he said. Around 1,374 rescue personnel are continuing search operations in the landslide-hit areas, the minister said. Additionally, ground penetrating radars and drones are also being used as part of the search-and-rescue operations, he said. The minister said that 218 persons are missing, according to the records of the district administration, after taking into account Aadhaar documents, details of tourists, checking with Asha workers and speaking to people in the relief camps and hospitals.

At the site of the Malana I power project in Manikaran area of Kullu district, 33 stranded people were rescued Thursday night and Friday morning by the teams of the NDRF and home said Commissioner, Kullu, Torul S Raveesh.

Talking to reporters outside the Parliament in Delhi, BJP MP from Mandi Lok Sabha seat Kangana Ranaut expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the cloudburst incidents, and said life of people in the tough terrain is difficult and such disasters are adding to their pain every year.

"The prime minister and home minister have assured that relief would be given to the state I am also going to different ministries in New Delhi to get help for Himachal and would visit the state soon," she added.

Personnel of the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police, State Disaster Response Force, police and home guards are involved in the rescue operations and the help of drones is being taken to locate the missing persons, officials added.

Due to flash floods triggered by cloudburst, the water in Samej Khud in Shimla district's Rampur rose, leaving two people dead and over 30 missing, Shimla SP Gandhi had told PTI.

Mutilated body parts of two persons were recovered Thursday, he added.

So far since the onset of monsoon June 27 till August 1, as many as 73 people have died in rain-related incidents and the state has also suffered losses to the tune of ₹649 crore, according to the state's Emergency Operation Centre.

IAF helicopters join rescue operations in Uttarakhand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudraprayag (U'Khand), August 2: The IAF's Chinook and MI17 helicopters Friday joined the rescue operations in Uttarakhand to evacuate pilgrims still stranded on the rainravaged trek route to Kedarnath. The trek route to Kedarnath suffered extensive damage as a result of a cloudburst in Junglechatti near Lincholi Wednesday night. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said since the start of rescue operations Thursday morning, 5,000 people have been evacuated to safety, with some being airlifted.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) aided in the rescue efforts, he said. "Heavy rain has caused extensive damage. The entire government machinery, the NDRF, SDRF, district administration and the state's Disaster Management department are engaged in the rescue work. On my request to the PMO, the IAF's Chinook and MI17 helicopters have also joined the rescue operations," Dhami told PTI Videos.

"If the weather remains good, all stranded pilgrims will be taken to safe locations by this evening,' the chief minister added.

According to officials, nearly 21,00 people were rescued Friday by 3.30 pm. Aerial and surface rescue operations by NDRF and SDRF personnel Thursday led to the safe evacuation of more than 3.000 pilgrims.

into nuclear reactor

New Delhi: India's nuclear

ED raids Ladakh in



A worker cleans the road after a truck carrying tons of paint overturned near Patlipada Bridge on Ghodbunder

DELHI COACHING CENTRE DEATHS

HC transfers probe to CBI, raps police for SUV driver's arrest

New Delhi, August 2: The Delhi High Court Friday transferred the probe into the drowning of three civil services aspirants at the basement of a coaching centre here from police to the CBI "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation".

Criticising the police for arresting an SUV driver and blaming him for the incident, the high court said, "Mercifully, you have not challaned the rainwater for entering into the basement.'

"You would have said how dare the water enter the basement. You could have fined the water also, the way you arrested the SUV driver for driving his car there," it said.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked the

(CVC) to nominate a senior officer CBI," the high court said. into the criminal case in a timebound manner.

The court said one needs to look at the bigger picture as there is a far more fundamental problem in the city and it was time to relook at Delhi's administrative, financial and physical infrastructure, which is outdated and not in line with the present-day needs.

It formed a committee headed by the chief secretary of Delhi and also comprising DDA vice chairman, Delhi Police commissioner and MCD commissioner to deal with the issue and submit the report within eight weeks.

"Having regard to the nature of the incident and to ensure that the public has no doubt with regards to investigation, this

Central Vigilance Commission court transfers the probe to the

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the drowning incident, saying it was unable to fathom how the students could not come out and sought to know whether the doors were blocked or staircases narrow. The bench said administra-

tively Delhi has a multiplicity of authorities who are only passing the buck and doing nothing. The public perception is that civic authorities are inefficient, it said. The high court told the Delhi

government counsel that if the administrators are carrying on with a freebie culture, they would not know how to change the structure.

It said Delhi's physical infrastructure is nearly 75-year-old and they are not only inadequate

Govt to declare over 56k sq km of Western Ghats eco sensitive

THE NOTIFICATION WAS ISSUED JULY 31, A DAY AFTER A SERIES OF LANDSLIDES CLAIMED OVER 300 LIVES IN WAYANAD DISTRICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Centre has issued a fifth draft notification to declare over 56,800 square kilometres of the Western Ghats across six states, including 13 villages in Kerala's landslide-hit Wayanad, Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), inviting suggestions and objections within

The notification was issued July 31, a day after a series of landslides claimed over 300 lives in Wayanad district.

The draft notification proposes to declare 9,993.7 sq km in Kerala, including 13 villages in two talukas of the landslidehit district, ecologically sensitive.

Overall, the notification includes 449 sq km in Gujarat, 17,340 sq km in Maharashtra, 1,461 sq km in Goa, 20,668 sq km in Karnataka, 6,914 sq km in Tamil Nadu, and 9,993.7 sq km in Kerala in the proposed ESA

The draft notification suggests a complete ban on mining, quarrying, and sand mining, with existing mines to be phased out within five years "from the date of issue of the final notification or on the expiry of the existing mining lease, whichever is earlier". It also prohibits new thermal power projects. It says the existing projects can continue to operate but there will be no expansion allowed

Large-scale construction projects and townships are also proposed to be prohibited, with exceptions for repair and renovation of existing build-

ings.
"All new and expansion projects of building and construction with built-up areas of 20,000 square metres and above, and all new and expansion townships and area development projects with an area of 50 hectares



and above or with built-up areas of 1,50,000 square metres and above, shall be prohibited. There shall be no restriction on the repair, extension, or renovation of existing residential houses in the Eco-sensitive Area as per prevailing laws and regulations,' the notification reads.

All existing healthcare establishments in the ESA can continue to operate, and proposed primary health centres can be established as per laws and regulations. There is no restriction proposed on changing property ownership.

In 2010, the Centre formed the

All new and expansion projects of building and construction with built-up areas of 20,000 square metres and above, and all new and expansion townships and area development projects with an area of 50 hectares and above or with built-up areas of 1,50,000 square metres and above, shall be prohibited

There shall be no restriction on the repair, extension, or renovation of existing residential houses in the Ecosensitive Area as per prevailing laws and regulations

"Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel" under ecologist Madhav Gadgil to study the impact of population pressure, climate change, and development activities on the Western Ghats.

The panel recommended in 2011 that the entire hill range be declared an ESA and divided into three Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) based on their eco sensitivity.

It recommended a ban on mining, quarrying, new thermal power plants, hydropower projects, and large-scale wind energy projects in ESZ 1.

However, these recommendations faced resistance from state governments, industries, and local communities

In 2013, the Centre formed a High-Level Working Group under rocket scientist K Kasturirangan to study and recommend measures for the Western Ghats' ecological protection and sustainable development. This group identified 37 percent of the Western Ghats, covering 59,940 square kilome-

ters, as ecologically sensitive.

The government has issued five draft notifications on ESAin Western Ghats, the latest being the one released Friday.

national



The country is passing through a difficult phase; the economy is in peril, due to the wrong policies of the **BJP-led central government. They are** hell-bent on making the country's condition worse than Pakistan HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

INDIA TO OPEN EMBASSY IN TIMOR-LESTE: MEA SECY

Ahead of the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, a top Ministry of External Affairs official said here on Friday that New Delhi will soon set up an embassy in Dili, which will make the Delhi-Dili connect stronger





The attitude of and BJP parties/governments towards the SC, ST, and OBC masses of the country has been liberal, not reformist. They are not in favour of their social transformation and economic liberation; otherwise, the reservation for these people would have been included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to ensure its protection

MAYAWATI BSP CHIEF

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhay Thackeray's recent statement about moves to arrest him and his son Aaditya Thackeray was a fake narrative

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM It is your right and I don't want to

disrespect you. I am not blaming you. We fell short in lifting the onion export ban The Mahayuti (ruling alliance of BJP.

Shiv Sena and NCP) fell short and we bore the brunt

AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM



Congress has announced that it for people who lost their lands in Wayanad landslide

will build 100 houses Rahul Gandhi inspected the condition and will raise all

kinds of possible helps for people of Kerala. Well done @RahulGandhi @INCIndia

@Amockx2022

SHORT TAKES

Five children die at **Indore shelter home**

Indore: As many as five children have died at a shelter home here over the last three days while 31 other inmates have been hospitalised, prompting the Madhya Pradesh government to order a high-level inquiry. While the exact reasons for the deaths were vet to be ascertained. food poisoning could be among the causes, a doctor said. More than 204 children, including orphans and those suffering from mental ailments, were housed at 'Bal Ashram' shelter home of Shri Yugpurush Dham, NGO, in Malhargani police station limits, an official said.

EC to visit J&K next week

Srinagar: The Election Commission, led by Chief **Election Commissioner Rajiv** Kumar, will visit Jammu and Kashmir from August 8-10 to review preparedness for Assembly polls, weeks before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding elections in the Union Territory. Kumar will be accompanied by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu. In March, Kumar -- who was then the sole member of the three-member commission to visit the Union Territory -- had assured political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the poll panel would soon hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

5 Naxals killed

Naravanpur (Chhattisgarh): Five Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personne in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Tuesday, police said. The gunfight took place in a forest under Kohkameta police station area in Abujhmad, a hilly forest area when a joint team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxa operation, a senior police official said.

Can't direct re-NEET: Top court

THE TOP COURT SAID SINCE THE REMIT OF THE PANEL HAS BEEN EXPANDED, THE COMMITTEE WOULD SUBMIT ITS REPORT BY SEPTEMBER 30 ON VARIOUS MEASURES TO RECTIFY DEFICIENCIES IN THE **EXAMINATION SYSTEM**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Supreme Court Friday said it cannot order holding of NEET-UG 24 afresh as no sufficient material is on record at present to indicate a systemic leak or malpractice compromising the integrity of the examination.

It also expanded the remit of the Centre-appointed panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Radhakrishnan constituted to review the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which holds the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) (NEET-UG), and recommend examination reforms.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave detailed reasons for its July 23 order refusing to cancel the controversy-ridden NEET-UG 24 examination

...sufficient material is not on record at present which indicates a systemic leak or systemic malpractice of other forms. The material on record does not, at present, substantiate the allegation that there has been a widespread malpractice which compromised the integrity of

BSF DG, special

DG's tenures cut

short; repatriated

New Delhi, August 2: The

Centre Friday removed the chief

of the BSF and another top officer

of the paramilitary force which

guards the sensitive India-

Pakistan border, including the

Jammu region where a spate of

terror attacks have claimed 22

Border Security Force

Director General (DG) Nitin

Agrawal and his deputy Special

DG (West) Y B Khurania were

sent back to their respective

state cadres with immediate

effect, according to a govern-

for the two Indian Police Service

(IPS) officers come in the back-

drop of a spate of terror

incidents in the Jammu region,

along the India-Pakistan

At least 22 people, including

11 security personnel and a vil-

lage defence guard (VDG) mem-

ber, have been killed this year

in such incidents in Rajouri,

Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur,

to guard this front, has denied

killed in two encounters in

Kathua and Doda districts last

month. Separate orders issued

by the Appointments Committee

of the Cabinet (ACC) conveyed

they were being "prematurely"

repatriated with "immediate

effect." Agrawal is a 1989-batch

Kerala cadre IPS officer, while

Khurania belongs to the 1990-

batch of the Odisha cadre.

any instances of infiltration.

The BSF, which is entrusted

Five terrorists were also

Kathua and Doda districts.

border.

The repatriation orders

to state cadres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

lives in recent past.

the exam. To the contrary, an assessment of the data indicates that there are no deviations which indicate that systemic cheating has taken place," the court said in a detailed order.

CJI Chandrachud, writing on behalf of the bench, said the information before the court at this stage does not show that the question paper was disseminated widely using social media or the internet, or that the answers were being communicated to students using sophisticated elec-

tronic means which may prove difficult to trace. "The students who were beneficiaries of the leak at Hazaribagh and Patna are capable of being identified. The CBI investigation reveals the number of students who are the beneficiaries of the malpractice at Hazaribagh and Patna at this stage. This leads us to

case, the court cannot direct a reexam." the bench said. The bench said the purpose of assessing whether the sanctity of the exam has been vitiated at

conclude that it is possible to

separate the beneficiaries of

malpractice or fraud from the

honest students. This being the



a systemic level was to facilitate and encourage a proportional response.

The CJI, in the 63-page detailed order, was also critical of the conduct of the Over

23 lakh students The order said while the varitook the NEET-UG ous issues the 2024 held May 5 for court dealt with do not admissions to MBBS, lead to the con-BDS, AYUSH and clusion that the integrity of the other related NEET was viticourses ated at a systemic

level, "the manner in which NTA has organised the exam this year gives rise to serious concerns. It said a body such as the NTA,

which is entrusted with the immense responsibility of conducting highly important competitive exams, cannot afford a misstep, take an incorrect decision, and amend it at a later stage. The bench said it is cognizant of the fact that naparticipation of tens of lakhs students require immense resources, coordina-

tion, and planning. The bench flagged multiple lapses on the part of the NTA, including security breach at an examination centre in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, where the rear door of the strongroom was opened and unauthorised people were permitted to access the question papers, transport of question papers by e-rickshaws and wrong distribution of question papers among candidates.

It said when the results were declared, 67 aspirants had clinched a perfect score of 720/720. The top court directed the NTA to ensure that all concerns highlighted by the court in its judgment are addressed and requested the sevenmember committee headed by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan to keep these issues in mind while making its

ELECTORAL BONDS

Apex court says no to SIT investigation

The top court said it cannot order a roving inquiry into purchase of electoral bonds on the assumption of a guid pro guo for award of contract

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Supreme Court Friday rejected a batch of pleas seeking a courtmonitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme while observing that it cannot order a roving inquiry.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said it would be "premature" and "inappropriate" to order a probe under a retired judge when the remedies available under the ordinary law governing criminal law procedure have not been invoked.

'The court entertained petitions challenging electoral bonds since there was an aspect of judicial review. But the cases involving criminal wrongdoing should not be under Article 32 when there are remedies available under the law," the bench

Article 32 empowers a citizen to approach the Supreme Court directly for enforcement of their fundamental rights recognised by the Constitution. The apex court also declined

the prayer of the petitioners to

direct the authorities to recover

the donations received by political parties through electoral bonds and to reopen their income tax assessment. The bench said these remedies pertain to the exercise of

statutory functions by authorities under the Income Tax Act. 'The underlying premise of the submissions made indicate

that these are assumptions at the present stage and require the court to embark upon a roving enquiry into the purchase of the electoral bonds, the donations which were made to the political parties and the arrangements in the nature of quid pro quo...

We are of the considered view that the constitution of an SIT. headed by a former judge of this court or otherwise, should not be ordered on the face of remedies which are available under the law governing both criminal procedures," the bench said.

The top court was hearing the

Patanjali's new research in world famous journal

Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), Dr Khem Singh Bhatti, Sudip Narayan Tamankar and Jai Prakash Sharma.

At the outset, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Common Cause and CPIL, argued that the disclosures which emerged after the apex court struck down the electoral bonds scheme reveal that there was "quid pro quo" between corporates, who purchased the bonds, and the political parties, who got the donations.



leged an "apparent quid pro quo" between political parties, corporations, and investigative agencies under the garb of the scheme. Terming the electoral bonds

scheme as a "scam", the plea sought a direction to the authorities to investigate the source of funding of "shell companies and loss-making companies which made donations to various political parties, as disclosed by the data released by the Election Commission (EC).

The petition also sought a direction to the authorities to recover the money donated by companies as part of "quid pro quo arrangements where these are found to be proceeds of crime".

A five-judge Constitution bench had February 15 scrapped the electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding introduced by the BJP govern-

Following the top court's judgement, the State Bank of India, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, had shared the data with the EC, which later made it public. The electoral bonds scheme, which was noti-

pleas filed by NGOs -- Common

fied by the government January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of its efforts to bring in transparency in political funding.

ISRO announces astronauts for Indo-US mission to ISS

leader KC Venugopal visits a landslide-hit area in Wayanad district, Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 2: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been selected for an upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced Friday.

Group Captain Shukla's name has been recommended as the primary astronaut and Nair will be his backup, ISRO said. This has been done on the recommendation of the NASA-identified service provider Axiom Space Inc, sources in the ISRO told PTI. In an official release, the ISRO said its Human Space Flight Centre has



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party

entered into a space flight agreement with US' Axiom Space Inc, for its fourth mission to the ISS and a National Mission Assignment Board has "recommended two 'gaganyatris' (astronauts) -- Group Captain Shukla (prime) and Group Captain Nair (backup)'

During the mission, the 'gaganyatris' will undertake selected scientific research and technology demonstration experiments on board the ISS and engage in space outreach activities, it said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, August 2: Food control is extremely difficult in today's global market era. Biosensors can quickly, reliably, and affordably detect food contaminants. Patanjali has conducted a new research to detect pesticides and chemicals in the country's food grains, which has been published by the famous research journal 'Microchemical Journal".

On this occasion, Acharva Balkrishna Ji Maharaj said that through this research, people will now be able to ensure food safety by analysing the quality of food themselves. He said that due to small financial gains, people are adulterating food items without thinking about the ill-effects due to which the



food items have become contaminated. From pulses, grains, milk, spices, ghee to vegetables and fruits, everything is being adulterated. "We are exclusively dependent on food grains to nourish our body," he added. To keep the body healthy, reg-

carbohydrates, vitamins and mineral salts are required, which we get from food grains only.

ular amounts of proteins, fats,

He told that to end the game

of adulteration in food grains. Patanjali not only has prepared indigenous food products without adulteration but will also provide freedom from adulterated food grains through this new research

Acharya also said, "We are proud of our team of scientists and the research of Patanjali Institute, with the help of which people will ensure food security and contribute to sustainable global development."

Improved monsoon leads to power demand moderation: Report

Power demand is estimated to have risen 7 per cent (year-on-year) in July to 150 billion units (BUs) owing to higher power demand in northern states, according to a Crisil report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: As monsoon coverage improves, power demand in India has moderated, especially in the southern regions, a report showed Friday.

Power demand is estimated to have risen 7 per cent (year-onyear) in July to 150 billion units (BUs) owing to higher power demand in northern states, according to a Crisil report.

"However, minus the 16 per cent on-year surge in power de-

mand in the north, demand moderated in other regions," the report mentioned.

Power demand rose 4 per cent in the southern region and declined a marginal 1 per cent in the western region.

"The variance in demand in the north compared to the other regions can be explained largely by the spatial distribution of the monsoon," the report noted.

In July rainfall in Maharashtra and Gujarat was 63 per cent and 45 per cent higher than normal,



respectively. In Karnataka, Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh, rainfall was 60 per cent, 33 per cent and 28 per

cent above normal, respectively. Power generation is estimated to have increased 5 per cent to 156 BUs this July, more than sufficiently making up for the increase in demand

"In fact, excluding hydropower, coal, nuclear and renewable energy generation increased during the month at 4 per cent,17 per cent and 12 per cent (on-year), respectively," said the Crisil report.

The report further mentioned that in line with the on-year rise in power demand, volume traded on the real-time market (RTM) was estimated to have increased 34 per cent on-year in July, indicating the need for immediate delivery during periods of sudden high-power requirement. According to the International

Energy Agency (IEA), India's electricity demand may surge by eight per cent this year.

The country will need an expenditure of a minimum of ₹6.67 lakh crore by 2031-32 in thermalcapacity to meet the growing



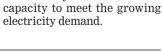












ınternational



We continue to expect accountability from the government of India in relation to the alleged role of an Indian government employee in the failed attempt to assassinate a US citizen on US soil that occurred last summer VEDANT PATEL STATE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON

GRAND OPPN ALLIANCE

Jailed former Pakistan PM Imran Khan has approved the formation of a grand opposition alliance by expanding the existing platform, Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayin-e-Pakistan





outpouring of in just a short time makes clear the Harris coalition is

mobilised, growing, and ready to put in the work to defeat Trump this

KAMALA HARRIS VICE PRESIDENT, US

Given the overwhelming evidence, it is clear to the United States and, most importantly, to the Venezuelan people

that Edmundo González Urrutia won the most votes in Venezuela's July 28 presidential election ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US



the potential to supercharge our economic growth

ANDREW BAYLY SMALL BUSINESS AND

MANUFACTURING MINISTER, NEW 7FAI AND

SHORT **TAKES**

Pak pays over \$3.5bn in interest to IMF

Islamabad: Pakistan has paid over \$3.5 billion in interest on loans to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the last forty years. The stunning revelation was made during a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Senator Saifullah Abro, Thursday at the Parliament House, where the Ministry of Finance presented details of the loans and repayments made to the IMF so far. According to The Express Tribune, during the briefing by officials from the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan, it was disclosed that Pakistan has paid over \$3.60 billion in interest to the IMF.

2 PIOs arrested in drug case

Washington: US officials have arrested two Indian nationals with drugs worth \$10 million, the Department of Justice said. Simranjit Singh, 28, and Gusimrat Singh, 19, of Fresno, California were each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, it said.

Canadian warship in Taiwan irks China

Beijing: China has lodged complaints with Canada through military and diplomatic channels after a Canadian warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait, Chinese defence ministry said Friday, The act "caused disturbance and stirred up trouble", the ministry said in a statement. "We warn Canada that it should abide by the One-China Principle, be cautious in its words and deeds on the Taiwan issue," ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said.

India repatriates 21 fishermen

Colombo: Twenty-one Indian fishermen who were arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy were repatriated and are on their way to Chennai from Colombo, the Indian High Commission here said Friday. The Indian High Commission in Colombo and the Indian Consulate in Jaffna in cooperation with the Sri Lankan government authorities had secured the release of the Indian fishermen. "Returning home! 21 Indian fishermen have been successfully repatriated and are on their way to Chennai from Colombo," the High Commission posted on X along with a photograph of the released fishermen.

Biden meets freed prisoners Protesters demand PM

US President Joe Biden hails the deal as 'a feat of diplomacy and friendship' and praised Washington's allies for their "bold and brave decisions'

REUTERS

Washington, August 2: US journalist Evan Gershkovich and ex-US Marine Paul Whelan returned to the United States Thursday, hours after being freed from Russian detention in the biggest prisoner exchange between the two countries since the Cold War.

The White House said it negotiated the trade with Russia, Germany and three other countries. The deal, worked on in secrecy for more than a year, involved 24 prisoners, 16 moving from Russia to the West and eight sent back to Russia from the

They included Vadim Krasikov, convicted of murdering an exiled dissident in Berlin, the German government said.

US President Joe Biden hailed the deal as "a feat of diplomacy and friendship" and praised Washington's allies for their ""bold and brave decisions."

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, buoyed by the occasion, greeted freed Americans Gershkovich, Whelan and journalist Alsu Kurmasheva as they arrived at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland shortly before midnight.

The President took off his lapel pin and gave it to Whelan as he got off the Bombardier Global 7500 aircraft.

In the West, the dissidents are seen by governments and activists as wrongfully detained political prisoners. All have, for different reasons, been designated by Moscow as dangerous extremists

Among the Westerners freed, Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter, was accused of



collecting sensitive military information for the CIA, a charge he and the newspaper denied.

The White House posted an emotional two-minute video, of the moment the families of the US-bound detainees spoke to their loved ones by phone from the Oval Office.

The multi-country deal appeared to be a one-time exchange that does not reset the antagonistic US-Russia relationship, which has deteriorated sharply since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. US deputy national security adviser Jon Finer said Washington-Moscow ties remain

continuing to trade innocent Americans for actual Russian criminals held in the US and elsewhere sends a dangerous message to Putin that only encourages further hostage-taking by his

MICHAEL MCCAUL | REPRESENTATIVE, US

"in a very difficult place" despite the swap. "There was no trust involved in this relationship or negotiation," Finer told broadcaster CNN. Critics said freeing Russians convicted of serious crimes could encourage more hostage-taking by US foes.

"I remain concerned that continuing to trade innocent Americans for actual Russian criminals held in the US and

elsewhere sends a dangerous message to Putin that only en-

courages further hostage-taking by his regime," Michael McCaul, the Republican chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement,

PUTIN MEETS RUSSIAN CITIZE

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin late Thursday met Russian citizens, who were detained in foreign countries and returned to their homeland after a prisoners' exchange deal, at Vnukovo Airport here. Putin congratulated them and announced that they will be nominated for state awards. "First of all, I want to congratulate you all on your return to your homeland. Now I want to address those of you who are directly involved in military service. I want to thank you for your loyalty to the oath, your duty and the homeland, which has never forgotten you for a minute, and here you are at home," the President said while addressing them at the airport. The meeting was also attended by Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Naryshkin and Director of the Federal Security Service Alexander Bortnikov. The most no-

table Russian prisoner released in the exchange was Vadim Krasikov, who was jailed for life in Germany for the 2019 murder in Berlin of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, a former Chechen separatist leader.





Critics of Hasina and human rights groups have accused her government of using excessive force to stamp out the movement,

Hasina's resignation

Dhaka, August 2: At least 20 people were injured in clashes and police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds as thousands protested in the Bangladeshi capital and other parts of the country Friday, calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign.

a charge both Hasina and

her ministers deny

The protesters were demanding justice for the families of the 150 people killed in violence during protests last month over a job quota system.

Scores of youths marched in Dhaka with chants of "we want justice" and waved anti-government banners. Elsewhere in the country, buildings including a district office of the ruling Awami League party were set ablaze, a police booth was set on fire, and armoured vehicles vandalised during demonstra-

Police said they fired rubber bullets and tear gas as crowds attacked them in northeastern town of Habibganj, and lobbed stun grenades to scatter protesters in the nearby city of Sylhet. A witness in Sylhet said about 20 people were injured.

'They set fire to the local Awami League office and several other government offices and torched motorcycles," said

Khalilur Rahman, a police official in Habigani, adding police had fired rubber bullets and tear gas to control the situation.

The current unrest is the biggest test facing Hasina since deadly protests when she won a fourth-straight term in January elections that were boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Student groups led demonstrations last month against quotas in government jobs, including a 30% reservation for families of veterans of the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan.

Those demonstrations spiralled into violence that killed at least 150 people, injured thousands and led to about 10,000 arrests. The protests paused after the Supreme Court scrapped most quotas.

Students have returned to the streets in sporadic protests this week, demanding justice for families of those who were killed. Critics of Hasina and human rights groups have accused her government of using excessive force to stamp out the movement, a charge both Hasina and her ministers deny.

HUSH MONEY CASE

Trump loses appeal of gag order



New York, August 2: A New York state appeals court Thursday rejected Donald Trump's challenge to a gag order in his hush money criminal case, where the former US President was convicted in May charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star.

The decision by the Appellate Division in Manhattan means the Republican presidential nominee cannot comment publicly about individual prosecutors and others in the case until Justice Juan Merchan sentences him September 18, seven weeks

before the November 5 election. Trump's lawyers have argued that the gag order violated Trump's constitutional free speech rights under the First

"The gag order is blatantly un-American," Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump's campaign, said in a statement. On Thursday afternoon,

Trump's lawyers renewed their demand that Merchan recuse himself, citing his daughter's work as a Democratic political consultant and her "long-standing" relationship with Harris. They also said the "unjust and unconstitutional" gag order restricts Trump's ability to respond

candidacy as that of "prosecutor vs convicted felon." Harris served as California's attorney general earlier in her career. Merchan rejected a similar recusal request by Trump be-

to Harris, saying she framed her

fore the trial began, and another recusal request last year. The judge imposed the gag order a few weeks before the

trial began April 22, saying Trump's history of making threatening statements could undermine the proceedings.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, people react during the launching ceremony of the Ukrainian Navy's Ada class corvette "Hetman Ivan Vyhovskyi" in Istanbul, Turkey

UK PM's new scheme to clamp down on violent disorder

The authorities stressed that extremist groups will not be allowed to hide behind' the legitimate right to protest to 'wreak havoc and intimidation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 2: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced a new scheme that pulls together police and intelligence resources to clamp down on violent disorder on the streets of London amid reports of further protests planned by farright groups following the fatal stabbing of three schoolgirls.

The new National Violent Disorder Programme is designed to stop criminals intent on causing violence and unrest by bringing together policing capabilities from across the UK to share intelligence on the activity of mobs for officials to make swift arrests.

Violent protests included a mosque being attacked in Southport, the site of Monday's stabbings in north-west England, several police officers injured, objects hurled and vehicles set on fire as the unrest spread around the country to Downing Street in London.

"It's not a protest. It's not legitimate. It's a crime and violent disorder. An assault on the rule of law and the execution of justice," said Starmer, after an urgent meeting with police chiefs Thursday. "Whether it's in Southport, London or Hartlepool, these people are showing our country exactly who they are. Mosques targeted because they are mosques, flares thrown at the statue of Winston Churchill, a Nazi salute at the Cenotaph. We've resolved to show who we are. A country that will not allow understandable fear to curdle into division and hate in our communities," he said.

The authorities stressed that

extremist groups will not be allowed to "hide behind" the legitimate right to protest to

wreak havoc and intimidation." "Police are already tracking down those involved in violence and anyone else thinking of joining in should know they will face the full force of the law,' said Chief Constable Andy Marsh, CEO at the College of

Axel Muganwa Rudakubana,

a 17-year-old Wales-born resident of the nearby village of Banks in Lancashire of Rwandan heritage, was charged with three counts of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and possession of a knife in the Southport attack

Judge Andrew Menary lifted the legal restriction on naming the minor accused partly to prevent further misinformation from being spread across social

It's not a protest. It's not legitimate. It's a crime and violent disorder. An assault on the rule of law and the execution

of iustice KEIR STARMER | PM, UK

media over Rudakubana's religious affiliation and immigra-

tion status "Let me also say to large social media companies and those who run them, violent disorder clearly whipped up online is also a crime. It's happening on your premises and the law must be upheld everywhere," Starmer said dur-

ing his Downing Street address. Three children, six-year-old Bebe King, seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe and nine-vear-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar, died as a result of the attack at The Hart Space community centre in Southport Monday.

Eight other children suffered stab wounds in the attack, five of whom remain in critical condition in hospital. Two adults, including one of the organisers of the event, also suffered critical injuries. The new violent disorder programme he announced will support the swift deployment of surge teams to forces who need them, including when they are faced with intelligence that suggests organised violence in a particular area.

"Southport suffered a horrific attack that no community should ever have to face. But instead of being shown respect for their grief, the community had to endure violent disorder and thuggery," UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said.

"Criminals need to face the full force of the law and today we made clear that the police have \rightarrow our strong support in keeping the streets safe. We will work with senior police officers across the country to make sure there is rapid intelligence sharing and swift action to stop violent disorder and make sure criminals pay the price," she said.







business



Delighted to announce that every **Olympic medalist from Team** India will be gifted an MG Windsor, a remarkable car from JSW MG India! Because our best deserve the best, for their dedication and success! SAJJAN JINDAL | MD AND CHAIRMAN, JSW

TOUGH MEASURES

Chip-maker Intel has announced to lay off more than 15 per cent of its workforce — or about 15,000 employees - after posting a poor quarterly earnings and dismal outlook. According to the company, the layoffs and other measures will reduce spending by \$10 billion in 2025



India is the top country when it comes to the total number of initial public offerings (IPOs) and issuances globally

MADHABI PURI BUCH CHAIRPERSON, SEB

Robust growth in PT (part truckload) and SCS (supply chain services) businesses and stable growth in

express parcel continues and have enabled improvement in profitability as well SAHIL BARUA | MD & CEO, DELHIVERY

Today, Apple is reporting a new June quarter revenue record of \$85.8 billion, up 5 per cent from a year ago and better than we had expected. EPS grew double digits to \$1.40 and achieved a record for the June quarter

TIM COOK CEO, APPLE

RESULTS CORNER

Titan net drops 5.4 pc to ₹715cr

New Delhi: Leading jewellery retailer and watchmaker Titan on Friday reported a 5.42 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹715 crore for the quarter ended June 2024. The company posted a net profit of ₹756 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago. However, its sales were up 12.64 per cent to ₹12,223 crore during the quarter under review. It was ₹10.851 crore for the corresponding quarter, according to a regulatory filing from Titan. Total expenses increased 12.75 per cent to ₹12.413 crore in the June quarter. Titan's total income in the June quarter rose 11.44 per cent to ₹13,386 crore.

Britannia profit up 11% to ₹505cr

New Delhi: Britannia reported 10.85 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹504.88 crore for June quarter FY25 helped by volume growth and improved operating margins. The company had posted a net profit of ₹455.45 crore for April-June period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Britannia Industries. Revenue from sale of products was up 4.03 per cent to ₹4,129.92 crore in June quarter. Revenue from operation was up 5.97 per cent to ₹4,250.29 crore in the June quarter.

Hindustan Zinc net up 19%

New Delhi: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) Friday reported 19.3 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹2,345 crore for June quarter FY25 due to higher EBITDA. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,964 crore for the year-ago period. Income rose to ₹8,398 crore from ₹7,564 crore in the year-ago period, HZL said in a filing to BSE. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) in the quarter rose 17 per cent to ₹3,946 crore from ₹3,359 crore in the year-ago period.

■ GSK Pharma Q1 net jumps 38 pc

New Delhi: GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd Friday reported a 37.87 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹182.33 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹132.25 crore in the same quarter last fiscal GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (GSK Pharma) said in a regulatory filing.

India may take 75 yrs to reach 1/4th of US income per capita: WB

It will take China more than 10 years to reach one-quarter of US income per capita and Indonesia nearly 70 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: More than 100 countries, including India, face serious obstacles in becoming high-income countries in the next few decades, and New Delhi may take nearly 75 years just to reach one-quarter of US income per capita, a World Bank report said.

It will take China more than 10 years to reach one-quarter of US income per capita and Indonesia nearly 70 years, according to the World Development Report 2024 The Middle Income Trap.

Drawing on lessons of the past 50 years, the report finds that as countries grow wealthier, they usually hit a trap at about 10 per cent of annual US GDP per person - the equivalent of USD 8,000 today. That's in the middle of the range of what the World Bank classifies as middle-income countries.

At the end of 2023, 108 countries were classified as middle-

income, each with annual GDP per capita in the range of USD 1,136 to USD 13,845. These countries are home to six billion people - 75 per cent of the global population - and two out of every three people living in extreme poverty.

The road ahead has even stiffer challenges than those seen in the past rapidly ageing populations and burgeoning debt, fierce geopolitical and trade frictions, and the growing difficulty of speeding up economic progress without fouling the environment, it said.

Yet many middle-income coun-



tries still use a playbook from the last century, relying mainly on policies designed to expand investment. That is like driving a car just in first gear and trying to make it go faster, the

Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies have managed to shift to high-income status

If they stick with the old playbook, most developing countries will lose the race to create reathe middle of this century, said Indermit Gill, Chief Economist of the World Bank Group and Senior Vice President for Development Economics.

TOP GAINERS

HDFC Bank

0.95 Sun Pharma

0.61 Kotak Bank

041 Nestle India

Gill also said the battle for

global economic prosperity will largely be won or lost in middle-income countries.

The report proposes a strategy for countries to reach high-income status. Depending on their stage of development, all countries need to adopt a sequenced and progressively more sophisticated mix of policies

Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies have managed to shift to high-income status and more than a third of them were either beneficiaries of integration into the European Union, or of previously undiscovered oil, the World Bank said.

BIG RELIEF

NCLAT okays Byju's settlement with BCCI



The order, however, comes with a caveat that any failure in payments would lead to revival of the insolvency proceedings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: In a major relief to Byju's, the NCLAT Friday set aside insolvency proceedings against the troubled edtech major over a spon-

Today's sorship deal and ap-**NCLAT** order is proved a ₹158 crore not just a legal settlement with the victory, but a testament Board of Control for to the heroic efforts made Cricket in India. by our BYJU'S family in The National

Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), however, passed the order with a caveat that any fail-

ure to make payments on the specific dates mentioned in the undertaking would automatically lead to a revival of the inproceedings solvency against Byju's.

The appellate tribunal also dismissed the allegation of round-tripping levelled by Byju's US-based lenders, saying they failed to provide any evidence for the same.

The tribunal further said the money was paid by Riju Raveendran (brother of Byju Raveendran) through sales of



In view of the undertaking given and affidavit, the settlement between the parties (is) approved and as a result appeal succeeds and impugned order (passed by the NCLT) is set aside, said a two-member Chennai bench in its order in the open court.

Ravindran has made a payment of ₹50 crore July 31 against the outstanding dues owed by Byju's to BCCI. Another ₹25 crore will be submitted

of ₹83 crore August 9 through The NCLAT was hearing a petition filed by

> ing the initiation of insolvency proceedings

Insolvency Proceedings (CIRP) against Byju's, admitting the plea filed by the Board of Control for

startup worth

D-St in deep red

SENSEX SLIPS 885 PTS. NIFTY RETREATS FROM 25K SUMMIT

BSE Sensex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 2: Halting its five-day winning run, benchmark BSE Sensex plunged 885 points Friday due to profit-taking in metal, auto and IT stocks in line with a global selloff triggered by weak US macro data.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 885.60 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 80,981.95 with 25 of its components declining and five ending with gains. During the day, it nosedived 998.64 points or 1.21 per cent to hit an intraday low of 80,868.91.

Retreating from its record 25,000 level, the broader Nifty of NSE plummeted 293.20 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 24,717.70. The 50-issue index fell 324.05 points or 1.29 per cent to 24,686.85 during the session

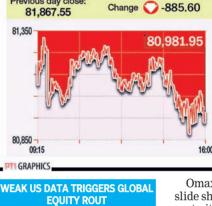
From Sensex shares, Maruti Suzuki India, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies and Infosys were the laggards. Bank,

Pharmaceuticals, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle India and Asian Paints were among the gainers As global equity indices tum-

bled, investors in domestic markets too felt the heat and resorted to profit taking. The recent upsurge had made Indian stocks very expensive and hence correction was due for some time, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities

"Despite the slump, our resilient economy and strong fundamentals along with healthy corporate earnings would keep the downside limited," he added.

for the worse for the US economy reflected in the ISM Manufacturing index dipping sharply to 46.6 spooked developed country markets, bringing



TOP LOSERS Maruti Suzuki -4.17 Tata Motors -3.92 JSW Steel -2.97 Tata Steel Omaxe's shares continues its

back recession fears in the US. Weak earnings from the USIT sector, a potential rise in unemployment, the possibility of further rate hikes by the BOJ. and a slowdown in China's growth are all dampening market sentiment, Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Q1FY25 earnings have been

EQUITY INVESTORS

LOSE RS 4.4 L-CR

MARKETS SNAP FIVE-DAY RALLY

lackluster so far, while broader market valuations remain significantly high, he added. The BSE SmallCap gauge fell

0.58 per cent and MidCap by 1.19 per cent in the broader market. Among the indices, realty tum-

bled by 3.56 per cent, metal by 3 per cent, auto by 2.97 per cent, IT by 2.05 per cent, commodities by 1.83 per cent, teck by 1.79 per cent and capital goods by 1.70 per cent were the laggards. Healthcare was the only gainer.

Investors wealth eroded by ₹4.46 lakh crore in a single-day Friday. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined by ₹4,46,003.7 crore to ₹4,57,16,946.13 (USD 5.46 trillion).

slide show after declining 5 per cent -- its lower circuit limit -- following Sebi restrictions on the realty firm, its Chairman, MD, and three others from the securities market for two years for misrepresenting the company's financials. Zomato's shares jumped more

than 12 per cent after the company reported a multi-fold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹253 crore for the June quarter. European shares fell more

than 1 per cent Friday, tracking a global risk-off sentiment following disappointing US growth data that sparked fears of a re-A rout in Japanese markets

deepened after the Bank of Japan struck a hawkish chord this week. Concerns over outlook for tech companies also weighed, Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said. In Asian markets, Tokyo,

Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended lower Thursday. European markets were quoting lower in mid-session deals Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude rose 0.77 per cent to USD 80.13 a barrel

Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth ₹2,089.28 crore in the capital markets Thursday.

New record as over 7.28 crore IT returns filed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Income tax returns (ITRs) touched a new record of over 7.28 crore, 7.5 per cent higher compared to previous fiscal, by the July 31 deadline, the Income Tax department said Friday.

The total number of ITRs for assessment vear 2024-25 filed till July 31, 2024 is more than 7,28 crore, which is 7.5 per cent higher than the total ITRs for AY 2023-24 (6.77 crore) filed till July 31, 2023, the department said in a statement. Out of the total ITRs of 7.28

crore filed for AY 2024-25, 5.27 crore have been filed in the new tax regime compared to 2.01 crore ITRs filed in the old tax regime, it said

About 72% taxpayers opt for new tax regime

Thus, about 72 per cent of taxpayers have opted for the new tax regime, while 28 per cent continue to be in the old tax regime. The filing of ITRs peaked on July 31, 2024 (the due date for salaried taxpayers and other non-tax audit cases), with over 69.92 lakh ITRs having been filed on a single day.

The department also received 58 57 lakh ITRs from first-time filers, a fair indication of the widening of the tax base.

In a historic first, ITRs (ITF 1, ITR-2, ITR-4, ITR-6) were deployed on the e-filing portal on the first day of the Financial Year i.e. on April 1, 2024. Out of the 7.28 crore ITRs filed for A.Y. 2024-25, 45.77 per cent of ITRs are ITR-1 (3.34 crore), 14.93 per cent are ITR-2(1.09 crore), 12.5 per cent are ITR-3 (91.10 lakh), 25.77 per cent are ITR-4 (1.88 crore) and 1.03 per cent are ITR-5 to ITR-7 (7.48 lakh).

Over 43.82 per cent of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR utility available on the e-filing portal and the remaining have been filed using offline ITR utilities, it said.

During the peak filing period, the e-filing portal successfully handled huge traffic, providing a seamless experience to taxpayers for filing of ITRs. On July 31, 2024 alone, successful logins stood at 3.2 crore.

It is encouraging to note that

RCAP resolution: CoC warns of remedial action

IIHL SAYS DEPOSITED ₹2,750CR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Lenders of debt-ridden Reliance Capital (RCAP) have warned IIHL of remedial action for delay in payment of front money, even as the Hinduja Group arm denied allegations saying it has already deposited ₹2,750 crore under the resolution process in compliance with the NCLT order. IndusInd International

Holdings Ltd (IIHL) has deposited

the requisite capital infusion amount of ₹2,750 crore in its

Group firm said in a statement. An affidavit to this effect along with Bank certificates has been filed with NCLT July 31, 2024, a copy of which has been served to the Committee of Creditors (CoC) and the Administrator. The affidavit also clarifies that IIHL has obtained binding commitment letters and executed term sheets

bank accounts towards its eq-

uity contribution, the Hinduja

for ₹7,300 crore, it said.

It is pertinent to note that the original order approving the Resolution Plan dated February 27, 2024, categorically required the CoC and the Administrator to complete certain actions and conditions for which a meeting was held with them July 29, 2024, it said, adding, these actions and compliances as required are yet to be fulfilled. IIHL, the successful bidder for Reliance Capital, has been given an extension till August 10 subject to certain conditions by NCLT, Mumbai

Nikon introduces world's first partially-stacked sensor in City



Bhubaneswar, Friday. Nikon India reinforces its commitment to full-frame mirrorless camera portfolio that is set to redefine the art of videography as

world's first-ever partially-stacked CMOS sensor and superior Auto Focus capability for an exceptional performance and is ready to outperform. Commenting on the occasion, Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India Pvt Ltd said, "We are thrilled to introduce the Z6III, a highperformance full-frame mid-segment camera that inherits the spirit of innovation from our esteemed Z8 and Z9 models."



The process of e-verification is important to commence the processing of ITRs and to issue refunds, if any, it said.

over 6.21 crore ITRs have been e-verified, out of which more than 5.81 crore are through Aadhaar-based (93.56 per cent).

Copenhagen, August 2: Carlsberg, opens new tab has agreed to take full control of its

Danish brewer said Friday. The group will buy a 33.33% stake in Carlsberg South Asia (CSAPL) from partner CSAPL (Singapore) Holdings as well as other stakes in underlying companies for a total of \$744 million, it said.

The deal is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year, after which Carlsberg will own 100% of the business in



India and 99.94% of the business in Nepal, it added.

"We can now accelerate investments to capture the longterm growth opportunities in this exciting beer market." CEO Jacob Aarup-Andersen said in a statement

Carlsberg last year said it expected to exercise an option to buy out its partner in India and Nepal.

arbitration case against its Nepal-

The company in 2022 won an

JACOB AARUP-ANDERSEN | CEO

based partner Khetan Group in which Khetan had been seeking financial relief related to a dispute that first came to light

The tribunal awarded Carlsberg the right to buy Khetan's shares in the joint venture, which controls around 17% of the Indian beer market

forex reserves dropped by USD 3.471 billion to USD 667.386 billion for the week ended July 26, according to the RBI data released Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty had jumped by USD 4.003 billion to an all-time high of USD 670.857 billion.

For the week ended July 26, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 1.171 billion to USD 586.877 billion, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased by USD 2.297 billion to USD 57.695 billion during the week, the data showed. The Special Drawing Rights

(SDRs) were down by USD 5 million to USD 18.202 billion. India's reserve position with the IMFwas up by USD 2 million to USD 4.612 billion in the reporting week.





As per the undertaking, Riju Friday, and the rest

the last two years BYJU RAVEENDRAN Byju's, challeng-

> against parent company Think & Learn On July 16, the Bangalore bench of the National Company the initiation of Corporate Resolution

Cricket in India (BCCI). The BCCI had approached the NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) over a default of ₹158.9 crore by Think & Learn -- once India's most valu-

Ltd said

Analysts said the sudden turn

BIZ BUZZ

well as photography. Inheriting features from the Z9 and Z8 models like incamera RAW and N-Log videos and EXPEED 7 processor delivering highperformance and industry leading specifications. Z6IIIis equipped with

EYEING EXPANSION Carlsberg to take control of India biz FOREX KITTY DROPS

TO \$667.38 BILLION accelerate investments to capture the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA long-term growth opportunities in this exciting Mumbai, August 2: India's beer market business in India and Nepal, the

OLYMPICS TIDBITS

Ledecky in history books

Katie Ledecky became the most decorated female Olympic swimmer of all-time but the US great had to settle for silver as Australia made sure of the 4x200 metres freestyle gold at the Paris Games Thursday. Ledecky now has 13 Olympic medals -- eight golds, four silvers and a bronze -- one more than compatriots Jenny Thompson, Dara Torres

and Natalie Coughlin and Australia's Emma McKeon. She and her great compatriot Michael Phelps are the only swimmers to win 13 medals, with the latter's tally of 28 in no danger of being matched.



Biles' smashing comeback

If anyone needed any confirmation about Simone Biles' standing in gymnastics, the sparkling GOAT necklace she slipped on and ecstatically showed off to a TV camera after she sealed the all around title at the Paris Olympics Thursday verified her status as the greatest of all-time. The world's most decorated gymnast clinched her sixth

Olympic gold medal in front of a delirious crowd at Bercy Arena after she left all her challengers in her shade, completing a triumphant comeback three years after withdrawing from the same final at the Tokyo Games. Aged 27, Biles edged past Brazil's Rebeca Andrade by 1.199 points to become the oldest athlete since 1952 to win the most coveted individual title in women's gymnastics.

Swimmer collapses

Swimmer Tamara Potocka collapsed at the poolside Friday morning after suffering an asthma attack following a qualifying heat of the women's 200-meter individual medley at



the Paris Olympics. Medical staff rushed to assist Potocka, from Slovakia, and carried her away from the poolside on a stretcher. Potocka was seen with an oxygen mask. Slovakian officials later told multiple outlets that Potocka had suffered an asthma attack, and a team official said she did not have her inhaler with her



Not 'humanly possible'

China's state media, athletes and netizens rallied to support Olympic swimming champion Pan Zhanle after critics including an Australian swim commentator said his world record swim in the 100 metres freestyle was not "humanly possible". Pan smashed his own 100 metres freestyle world

record, shaving 0.40 seconds off the previous mark he set at the World Championships in Doha in February, to humble rivals including Australia's Kyle Chalmers and Romani's David Popovici. The 19-year old Pan finished in 46.40 seconds to take China's first swimming gold medal at the Paris Olympic Games. His win came after he "completed rigorous doping test programs prior to and during the games with zero positive results," the China Daily said Friday.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chateauroux, August 2: Indian shooter Manu Bhaker kept herself on track for a hat-trick of Olympic medals, coming up with one of her most memorable performances in her favourite event. the 25m sports pistol, as she booked a place in the final in second spot here Friday.

The 22-year-old, who has al-

ready made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two bronze medals in one edition of the quadrennial showpiece, can add to her aura if she wins a third medal Saturday, something which is well within her grasp after her commanding performance in the qualification round.

Manu, who continued to dom-

Bhaker qualifies for 25m sports pistol final in second position at Olympics among the top three almost throughout the qualification The 22-year-old, who phase of 'precision' and 'rapid' has already made hisrounds, aggregated 590 to be placed second behind Hungary's tory by becoming the Veronika Major who equalled first Indian athlete to the Olympic record with a score win two bronze Manu, who has seen a marked medals in one edition

of the quadrennial

showpiece, can add to

her aura if she wins a

third medal today

Manu's sterling performance

here has come after a failed cam-

paign at the Tokyo Games in

2021 where a pistol malfunction

stopped her from achieving her

Olympic dream. She said that

the heartbreak made her value

Manu, the second youngest

Indian athlete to win an Olympic

medal after shuttler PV Sindhu,

had added that she looks up to

ace javelin thrower Neeraj

Chopra and Sindhu because they

India has won all three medals

so far in shooting, with Manu

bagging two and Swapnil Kusale

taking the bronze in 50m rifle

The shooting range in

Chateauroux has become Manu

Bhaker's happy hunting ground

and Olympic champions like Anna

Korakaki and Nino Salkuvadze,

who have observed the Indian sen-

sation for quite some time, are

have "proved themselves".

three-positions Thursday.

Success not surprising

the medals here even more.

improvement in her shooting after patching up with legendary shooter-turned-coach Jaspal Rana, has won the 10m wome's air pistol bronze and 10m air pistol mixed team bronze pairing up with Sarabjot Singh.

She was in impregnable form in the sports pistol qualification rounds, firing 294 in the gruelling 'precision' round with scores of 97, 98 and 99.

The 'rapid round' brought out the best in her as she shot a perfect 100, followed by two 98s for a aggregate of 296. India's upcoming shooter

and multiple Hangzhou Asian Games medallist Esha Singh faltered to aggregate 581 (291 in precision and 290 in rapid) to finish 18th among 40 shooters

and miss the eight-shooter final by a distance.

Just after winning her second bronze medal here, in 10m air pistol mixed team event, Manu had urged the countrymen not to be "disappointed" if she can't add more medals to the tally. But going by her imperious form, the Jhajjar shooter could well be in line to win a

not surprised by her sensational performance so far.

"Not at all surprised because Manu is a superb talent. I've known her for many years. She's an excellent shooter. She's really a hard worker. I really admire her as a person and as a shooter as well," the 28-year-old from Greece told PTI.

'We have known her potential for many years now. She's showing really, really great skills in both disciplines (10m and 25m). She's a very kind girl. She's always very calm, very kind to everyone. And also as a shooter, you can just tell because she was really young at the time (when she burst on to the scene in 2018). When you see a special talent, you can spot it," Korakaki, who had a forgettable outing at her third Olympics due to a lingering eye issue, told PTI.

Korakaki's gold in 25m pistol and bronze in 10m pistol came at the Rio Games when she was iust 20-vear-old.

Another Olympic champion, the 55-year-old Nino Salukvadze who won the 25m gold for USSR at 1988 Seoul Olympics before winning a 10m pistol bronze for Georgia at Beijing 2008, considers Manu a very clever shooter.

"Manu is a very clever shooter and all Indians are. 15-20 years ago not many Indians were visible at shooting events but slowly they have great progress. Their spirit must be very strong," said 55-year-old Salukvadze who made her 10th straight appearance at the Olympics.

ARCHERS MISS OUT ON BRONZE

The Indian team had scripted history by entering the semifinals of the Games for the first time

Paris: The history-making Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara came agonisingly close to ending India's 36-year wait for an Olympic medal in archery but fell short to finish fourth at the Games here Friday. The team had already created

history by entering the semifinals of the Summer Games for the first time. But the duo lost 37-38 35-37 38-

34 35-37 to the American combine of world no.1 Casey Kaufhold and three-time Olympic-medallist Brady Ellison to join the fourth-finishers' club at the Olympics. It was nonetheless the best ever performance by an Indian team in the quad-



Ankita felt the pressure the most as she fired two 7s and could manage only a couple of 10s

All four Indian arrows were in he vellow zone while Casev looked a bit nervous firing a 7 with her first arrow before a 9 and 10. But the Indians did enough to take the third set.

While the 22-year-old Dhiraj was more consistent shooting as many as four 10s, Ankita, who was exceptional against the Koreans in the semifinals. produced a below par performance, including a couple of 8s, which eventually cost India the contest.

Earlier in the semifinal, Dhiraj and Ankita had gone down 2-6 (lost 38-36 35-38 37-38 38-39) to defending champions South Korea.

They did well to take a set off the mighty Koreans.

CAMPAIGN

Panwar exits fighting

Indian rower Balrai Panwar ended his Paris Games campaign in 23rd position in the men's single sculls event after signing off at fifth in the Final D round Friday. The 25year-old from Haryanna clocked 7:02.37, his best timing of the Games, in Final D, which was not a medal round. On Tuesday, Balraj, India's lone representative in rowing at the Paris Olympics, had finished fifth in his quarterfinals heat race. Panwar had progressed to the quarterfinals after finishing second in his repechage round race Sunday. He had finished fourth in his first round heat race on Saturday to make it to the repechage round. Medals are awarded to the top three finishers in Final A.

Early exit for Mann

Indian judoka Tulika Mann crashed out of the women's +78kg event at the Paris Olympics after going down in the opening round to London Games champion Idalys Ortiz of Cuba Friday. The 25-year-old from Delhi, a silver medallist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, lost to the Cuban who has four Olympic medals including two silver and a bronze, 0-10 by ippon at

the Champ-de-Mars Arena. With the defeat, India's judo campaign ended as Tulika was the lone judoka from the country competing at the Games.



Meloni, IOC's Bach discuss 'fairness' in sports



Italian boxer Carini stepped out after she sustained a series of crushing blows from her Algerian opponent Imane Khelif, who last year failed a gender eligibility test at the World Championships. The bout lasted only 46 seconds

Trailing 0-4, the Indians did

well to make a comeback as

Ankita struck a superb 10.

Paris: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni raised the issue of a gender row in boxing with International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Thomas Bach after Italian boxer Angela Carini pulled out of the Olympics mid-fight Thursday. Meloni said Thursday that Carini's bout against Khelif was not a fight among equals. "During the faceto-face meeting (with Bach), the case of athlete Imane Khelif and the issue of rules to ensure

ANOTHER BOXER ENTERS ROW

aiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting, one of two boxers at the heart of a gender row, won her featherweight round of 16 bout against Uzbekistan's Sidora Turdibekova on points by unanimous decision at the Paris Olympics Friday. The 28-year-old Taiwanese, along with Algerian boxer Imane Khelif who won her round of 16 welterweight fight Thursday against Italy's Angela Carini in 46 seconds, have been in the spotlight of the row after being cleared to compete in the Olympics. Both were disqualified at the 2023 World Championships after failing International Boxing Association eligibility rules that prevent athletes with male XY chromosomes competing in women's events.

fairness in sports competitions were also addressed," Meloni's office said, adding that the Italian government and the IOC would remain in contact over how to deal with

the matter in the future. Italy will host the 2026 Winter Games

This is a minefield and as with all minefields we want a simple explanation. That explanation does not exist. If we can get to a consensus, we would be happy to implement that

Differences of Sexual Disorder are a group of rare conditions involving genes, hormones and reproductive organs. Some people with DSDs are raised as female but have XY sex chromosomes and blood testosterone levels in the male

The IOC has said the IBA's decision to disqualify the boxers last year was arbitrary and the main cause for the furore that has seen people like British author JK Rowling and billionaire Elon Musk voice their opposition to them competing in the Games.

"The Algerian (boxer) was born female, registered as female, boxed as a female, and is a female on her passport. Scientifically this is not a man fighting a woman, IOC spokesperson Mark Adams told a news conference Friday.

'There is an awful lot of abuse and misinformed abuse going on online, we are in very close contact with the athletes (Khelif and Yu-ting) and their entourage," he said.

British author JK Rowling, who has become an outspoken figure on the definition of what it is to be a woman, said Carini's dreams had been shattered by unjust rules.

"A young female boxer has just had everything she's worked and trained for snatched away because you allowed a male to get in the ring with her," Rowling wrote on X. "#Paris2024 will be forever tarnished by this brutal injustice," she added.

REUTERS

RISING HEAT

Sports Ministry (sends 40 ACs for athletes

New Delhi: Indian athletes battling the soaring temperatures and lack of cooling in their rooms in the Paris Olympic Games Village have been provided with 40 portable air conditioners by the country's sports ministry to make their stay comfortable. The air-conditioners were sent

to the Games village after discussions with the Indian Olympic Association and the Indian Embassy in France, according to sources in the ministry.

"Taking into consideration the issues faced by athletes at the Olympic Games village because of the temperature and humidity in Paris, the Ministry of Sports decided to provide 40 ACs in the Games Village rooms where the Indian athletes are staying," the source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. 'Consequent to the decision,

the Indian Embassy in France purchased the ACs and delivered them to Games Village,' the source added

Temperatures have soared in both Paris and Chateauroux, the two main Olympic Games venues.

In the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event, all the eight finalists, including India's bronze-winner Swapnil Kusale, were seen sweating profusely at the Chateauroux shooting range.

There are reports that temperatures have touched an unbearable 40 degrees Celsius on some days in Paris.

Even before the Games started, several contingents had expressed their concerns about the weather in Paris after the organisers said that they would shun air conditioning to cut the carbon footprint of the event.

Instead, the Games organising committee unveiled an underfloor cooling mechanism and built-in insulation to keep the temperatures down at the Games Village. However, unconvinced (about the measures, the USA contingent travelled with portable conditioners.

India stun Australia

Men in Blue register first win in 52 years in Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 2: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as the India men's hockey team registered a famous 3-2 win over Tokyo Games silver medallist and nemesis Australia in its final Pool B match here

Already assured of a quarterfinal berth before Friday's encounter, the Indians played valiantly and dominated the proceedings for major part of the match to stun the Kookaburras, against whom they last won in Olympics in the 1972 Munich

It seemed India had saved their best for their last pool match, as it delivered a power-packed performance, playing attacking hockey from the beginning, and defending well throughout.

Abhishek (12th), skipper Harmanpreet (13th, 33rd) scored for India while Tom Craig (25th) and Blake Govers (55) found the net for Australia.

With this win, India most likely will finish their pool engage ments in the second position with nine points, finishing behind table toppers Belgium (12), who are yet to play a match. The pole position will not change even if Belgium loses its match against Argentina. The goal difference after that match will determine the final placing.

"It was an important match. We needed a match like this before the quarterfinals. From the start we put them under pressure. It's a proud moment to beat Australia," a proud Harmanpreet said after the match.

"We took it quarter by quar ter. It's always said that Australia is a big team, although we don't approach the match with that mentality, it's big win for us.'

The Indians started on an aggressive note and made two circle entries in the first two min-

Veteran India custodian PR



Australia is a big match with that mentality, it's big win for us HARMANPREET SINGH | SKIPPER, INDIA

Sreejesh, who is playing his last international tournament, was rock solid in front of the goal, making some vital saves to deny the Kookaburras.

In the 11th minute, Sreejesh made the first save to deny Tom Wickham, which resulted in a penalty corner. But the resultant effort from Jeremy Hayward

was off target. Jarmanpreet Singh then fired a pass to Sukhjeet Singh from the right flank. He just needed to deflect the ball but he could not stop the powerful strike. The strong Australian defence easily foiled his attempt by the time he gathered the ball and was

Australia created two backto-back opportunities, but the Indian defence was rock solid.

India stunned Australia by taking the lead through Abhishek in the 12th minute. It was Lalit, who received a pass in an empty D, he attempted a shot but that was saved by goalie Andrew Charter. Abhishek got the ball on rebound, turned, and hammered the it past rival goalkeeper Andrew Charter.

A minute later, India got a penalty corner when the ball touched the foot of Jake Harvie and Harmanpreet beat Charter's defence with fierce grounded Tim Brand had an opportu-

nity to reduce the deficit early in the second quarter but he struck the ball wide. Australia earned their second penalty corner of the match in

the 19th minute but Govers' shot was blocked Sreeiesh. Vice-captain Hardik Singh

was a livewire in the mid-field,

feeding the forwards consis-

tently. Australia got their third short cormer in the 25th minute. It was a poor injection from skipper Aran Zalewski but it turned into a goal as the Australians recovered quickly to pass it to an unmarked Craig at the second post, who deflected the ball in.

India also got a penalty corner soon but this time Harmanpreet's strike was kept at bay by Charter. India led 2-1 at half time.

India got their third penalty corner when Manpreet Singh was tackled by an Australian defender. Harmanpreet's goalmouth strike was obstructed by Flynn Ogilvie. India took a referral, which resulted in a penalty

And Harmanpreet made no mistake by converting the chance. Australia earned another short corner seconds from the third quarter but failed to utilise the chance. The Indians too secured back-to-back penalty corners in the final quarter, only to

Manu's coach receives house demolition notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: National pistol coach Samaresh Jung was a bewildered man within hours of landing back in India from the Paris Olympics after discovering that the house he considered his home for nearly 75 years is an "illegal construction" and he had just 48 hours to vacate it.

Jung, who was nicknamed goldfinger' at the peak of his prowess after fetching an astonishing seven gold, five silver and two bronze medals in the 2006 and 2010 Commonwealth Games, said he needs at least two months to pack up and leave.

"This was a property we were staying on for the last 75 years. In 1978, the land and structure was leased out to a Mr Singh and we have been paying rent to him since then," a hassled Jung

"The L&DO (Land and Development Office) served us a notice only vesterday. In fact, I came to know about it one hour after reaching home from Paris. he revealed. Pistol shooters have contributed two of India's three medals in the ongoing Paris Games with Manu Bhaker winning the individual 10m air pistol bronze before combining with Sarabjot Singh to claim the mixed team third position



Jung's house is in the Civil Lines area and he said 200 families have been ordered to leave within two days

The Delhi High Court will hear the matter Monday.

"I am not above law and I will vacate if this is what the law demands. But two days notice is not the way. At least give us a couple of months to move out," he said.

Batters sans Rohit flounder as SL earn a tie

Sindhu terms Paris elimination 'hardest loss of her career'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: Twotime Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu has penned an emotional note on social, calling her loss in the pre-quarterfinals at the Olympic Games in Paris as "hardest" of her career. Sindhu, playing in her third Olympics, lost to China's He Bing Jiao 21-19, 21-14 in a Round of 15 match.

The Chinese was the same shuttler whom the Indian defeated in Tokyo to take bronze, her second Olympic medal, in the re-scheduled Paris 2020 Olympics in August 2021.

"Paris 2024: A Beautiful Journey but a Difficult Loss. This loss is one of the hardest of my career. It will take time to accept (it), but as life moves forward. I know I will come to terms with it," Sindhu posted on X.

"The journey to Paris 2024 was a battle, marked by two years of injuries and long periods away from the game. Despite these challenges, standing here and representing my wonderful country at a third Olympics makes me feel truly blessed,"

"I'm incredibly fortunate to compete at this level and, even more importantly, to inspire a generation. Your messages have been a tremendous source of comfort during this time. My team and I gave everything we had for Paris 2024, leaving it all on the court with no regrets," she further wrote.

Though Sindhu missed out on her hat-trick of Olympic medals the 29-vear-old is looking at her future in the "sport she loves so much" and planning to evaluate the journey ahead carefully.

"Regarding my future, I want to be clear: I will continue, albeit after a small break. My body, and more importantly, my mind needs it. However, I plan to carefully evaluate the journey ahead, finding more joy in playing the sport I love so very much," she concluded.

Former world champion Sindhu won a silver medal on her Olympic debut in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, before clinching bronze in Tokyo Games.

Before Sindhu's loss, the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty had suffered a shock exit, suffering defeat at the hands of Malaysian duo Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik.

OLYMPICS: INDIA SCHEDULE - DAY 8

Shooting: Women's Skeet Qualification

(Day 1): Raiza Dhillon and Maheshwari Chauhan - 12.30 pm Women's 25m Pistol (Medal round): Manu Bhaker - 1.00 pm Archerv: Women's Individual (1/8

vs Michelle Kroppen (Germany) Women's Individual (1/8

Eliminations): Deepika Kumari

Eliminations): Bhajan Kaur vs Diananda Choirunisa (Indonesia) **Sailing:** Men's Dinghy Opening Series

(Race 5): Vishnu Saravanan --Men's Dinghy Opening Series (Race 6): Vishnu Saravanan --

Women's Dinghy Opening Series (Race 5): Nethra Kumanan - 5.55 pm

Women's Dinghy Opening Series (Race 6): Nethra Kumanan

Men's Welterweight (Quarter-

finals): Nishant Dev vs Marco Verde (Mexico) - 12.18 am (Sunday)

Dhoni finally breaks silence on playing IPL 2025 for CSK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 2: With rules around IPL 2025 player regulations and retention scheme in the process of being firmed up. MS Dhoni has said he would wait and see how the rules are before deciding on his IPL future with Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

There is a lot of time for it. We have to see what decision they take on player retention etc. Right now, the ball is not in our court. So, once the rules and regulations get formalised, I will take a call, but needs to be in the best interest of the team," said Dhoni at a promotional event in Hyderabad.

Questions on Dhoni's future at the IPL have been a huge source of discussion, especially after CSK made Ruturaj Gaikwad captain for IPL 2024, where they finished at fifth place in the tournament and failed to qualify for the playoffs.

As of now, all ten IPL teams are not on the same page for the mega auction rules, ranging from player retention to the



Impact Player rule.

After a meeting with all franchise owners' in Mumbai Wednesday evening, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said there was constructive dialogue with the IPL team owners on a variety of subjects, and the recommendations will be taken to the IPL Governing Council further deliberation and evaluation.

Dhoni, who captained India to 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 wickets from eight matches at an economy rate of 4.17.

ODI World Cup triumphs, picked Jasprit Bumrah as his favourite bowler from the Indian team. Bumrah was the Player of the Tournament in India's T20 World Cup triumph in June, picking 15

Colombo, August 2: Skipper Rohit Sharma played on a different track from his other colleagues, who were exposed thoroughly against quality spin bowling as Sri Lanka managed to eke out a tie against India in a low-scoring thriller of an opening ODI here Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In a chase of 231, skipper Rohit smashed 58 off 47 balls on a rank turner with variable bounce taking his team to 71 in 10 overs but all the other batters never looked set against the army of Lankan spinners as skipper Charith Asalanka got wickets off backto-back deliveries to play his part in 44th tie in the history of ODI cricket.

When Shivam Dube (25) hit those two sixes and a boundary through the extra cover region to tie the scores, it seemed like Sri Lanka's woes will continue but Asalanka took it upon himself to at least earn a pyschological win for the home team.

Rohit didn't look one bit rusty during destructive half-century but Indian middle-order stuttered badly showing their ineptitude against slow bowlers.

After Indian bowling unit collectively put up a good show on a turner restricting Sri Lanka to 230 for 8, skipper Rohit's 58 off 47 balls gave India a destructive start, things went downward spiral as Sri Lanka's battery of spinners led by Wanindu Hasaranga (3/58 in 10 overs), Akila Dananjaya (1/40 in 10 overs), Dunith Wellalage (2/39 in 8 overs) and skipper Charith Asalanka (3/30 in 8.5 overs), who not only choked the run-flow but also got

breakthroughs when necessary. On a pitch where skipper Rohit made batting look ridiculously easy, KL Rahul (31 off 43 balls) seemed to once again play his natural waiting game that has always proved to be detrimental for his team's cause and by the time he threw away his wicket, he



couldn't ensure a decisive turnaround

Virat Kohli (23), Shreyas Iyer (24) and Axar Patel (33) all got starts but couldn't capitalise.

However it was Rohit, who looked like playing on a different track to all other batters across both teams. He started with a 88 meter six over cow corner off the very third ball of the Indian innings bowled by Asitha Fernando and then welcomed debutant pacer Mohamed Shiraz with a couple of boundaries and a slap over deep mid-wicket for

While Shubman Gill (16) struggled at the other end, it was never evident as Rohit treated the Lankan bowlers with disdain.

Once he was adjudged leg-before trying a slog sweep of Dananjaya, suddenly the pitch, which looked easy to bat on,

started showing its vagaries. The ball started turning a wee bit more and the variable bounce also created confusion. Kohli got a skidder and was plumb in-front while Washington Sundar (5) got one that Dananjaya fired in with the angle. Iyer didn't look bad in his short innings before an incutter from Fernando breached his defence.

Earlier, intelligent fifties by Pathum Nissanka and Dunith Wellalage carried hosts to a fighting score.

Nissanka (56, 75b, 9x4) was a picture of concentration and Wellalage (67 not out, 65b, 7x4, 2x6) of confidence on a pitch that offered some turn after Lanka skipper Charith Asalanka opted to bat first, but several of their colleagues were unwilling to mimic

Lanka had a shaky start to their innings when Mohammed Siraj ousted Avishka Fernando but Nissanka and Kusal Mendis (14) added 39 runs for a steady second wicket as the hosts staged a

mini-recovery. Just as it happened in the preceding T20I series, the Islanders showed the propensity to throw their wickets away from that point. This is not to undermine the excellent effort put in by the Indian bowlers, who elicited several false shots from the Lankan

Mendis fell leg before to Shivam Dube, who made his return to one-day cricket after a hiatus of five years with that scalp.

From a relatively comfortable 46 for two, the Lankan innings soon crash-landed to 101 for five in the 27th over.

Wellalage was quite impressive after his initial struggles against Kuldeep. The crunchy backfoot punch through the covers for four off Washington and a few other ramps and scoops testified the youngster's potential.

The left-hander, who added another 46 with Akila Dhananjaya for the eighth wicket, brought up his maiden ODI fifty in 59 balls, also assisting his side (to go past the 200-run mark that once appeared far away.

Calendar dispute: FIFA calls for talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 2: FIFA offered talks with global groups of soccer leagues and player unions to end a three-month deadlock after they threatened legal action over adding to the packed competitions calendar.

In a letter seen by The Associated Press, FIFA told the World Leagues Association and FIFPRO Thursday "our offer to engage in dialogue remains on the table" amid a swirl of legal filings and threats in international soccer politics.

"FIFA believes there is a more productive way forward for foot-



tion," soccer's world body said in a statement to the AP.

In May, the leagues and union said FIFA was "inherently abusive" for continuing to add games and competitions that forced their members to adapt.

FIFA has expanded the 2026 World Cup, hosted across North America, to 48 teams from 32,

and added a 32-team Club World Cup that will also be played every four years. It launches next June in the United States.

Also in the coming season, UEFA is expanding its three season-long club competitions with extra teams and more games that squeeze domestic schedules. The European groups of

leagues and player unions also have targeted FIFA — but not UEFA — in a formal legal complaint to Brussels. That is being handled by the European Commission, the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union that can intervene on alleged breaches of competition law.

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