



DADLS-18



ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ୧୫,୦୦୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ୬ ଟି ନୂଆ ରେଳ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପାଇଁ ମାନ୍ୟମତ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ

ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ କୃତଜ୍ଞ
ପରିବହନ, ଶିଳ୍ପ, ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନକୁ ମିଳିବ ବଳ

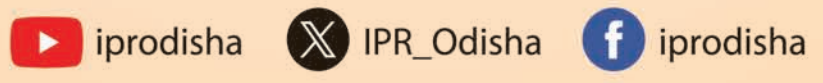


ନୂତନ ରେଳ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ

- ୧ ଗୁଣ୍ଡପୁର-ଥେରୁବାଲି (୭୩.୬୨ କି.ମି.)
- ୨ କୁନାଗଡ଼-ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର (୧୧୬.୨୧ କି.ମି.)
- ୩ ବାଦାମପାହାଡ଼-କେନ୍ଦୁଝରଗଡ଼ (୮୨.୦୬ କି.ମି.)
- ୪ ବାଙ୍ଗିରିପୋଷି-ଗୋରୁମହିଷାଣୀ (୮୫.୬୦ କି.ମି.)
- ୫ ମାଲକାନଗିରି-ଭଦ୍ରାଚଳମ୍-ପାଣ୍ଡୁରଜାପୁରମ୍ (୧୭୩.୬୧ କି.ମି.)
- ୬ ବୁଢ଼ାମରା-ଚାକୁଳିଆ (୫୯.୯୬ କି.ମି.)

ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ରେଳଲାଇନ୍ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ରାୟଗଡ଼ା, କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର, ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ, ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତ ହେବ

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



OIPR-15001/13/0055/2425

leisure



CAN'T WATCH HORROR FILMS: SARAH PAULSON

Actress Sarah Paulson, who is tagged as a scream queen because of her roles in *American Gothic*, and *Bird Box* said she cannot watch horror movies. "I'm such a ninny when it comes to horror stuff. I just can't watch the movies," Paulson told *people.com*.

AVATAR 3 OFFICIALLY TITLED FIRE AND ASH

The visual spectacle film franchise *Avatar* has got its official title for the third part. Director James Cameron and stars Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington revealed the first official title for the film during the D23 exp: *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You spend happy times with your loved ones today. Ganesh suggests you learn to play some musical instrument as it is a good way to express emotions. Besides, it gives you a novel method to attract new people. Do it promptly before the mood changes.

TAURUS

This day you are likely be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesh sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end.

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to pursue your heart's many desires today. You will want to spend more time with your family and your children. You need to translate desires into action by better balancing your schedule, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesh. You will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

LEO

Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may bump into you today. You will be in a happy mood as a result. Marital life will be blissful, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imagination, innovation and motivation to further your enterprise, advises Ganesh. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will be more aware about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor. You will spend most of your time looking after your external beauty. Due to this you will not be able to pay attention to anything else other than your looks.

SCORPIO

Despite a secured job and a harmonious home environment, you are still looking for something else. Long-term, financial security keeps bothering you. And your worries are solved to some extent as unexpected monetary gains are on cards today, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesh. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business yield profits.

CAPRICORN

Celebrations are in the offing and all the near and dear ones are invited to the party. Today, you will enjoy yourself to the fullest, feels Ganesh. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespective of how hard you have worked to achieve them. Realty seems a good investment option for you. With cooperative bosses and supportive colleagues, today is a good day for professionals as well.

AQUARIUS

If the Almighty loads you with pain, He will also bless you with pleasure, assures Ganesh. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able to finish them off one by one. It will drain you out, so later on the day take a hot water bath, sit back and relax, says Ganesh.

PISCES

You are not by nature ill-tempered or jealous. However, you will need to be on guard against being both, today. Someone may try to sully your image or slander your name today. However, the best way to deal with provocation is not to lose your temper and to continue as usual, for things will take care of themselves soon enough, says Ganesh.

Aahana promotes conscious clothing

Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra, known for her roles in *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Call My Agent: Bollywood*, has ventured into the world of fashion with her own clothing line, 'Raah Jaipur'. It's a venture she has started in collaboration with her dear friend, who is also her mentor, fashion designer Gazal Mishra.

Talking about her new beginnings, Aahana said, "I have been thinking of opening my own clothing line since I started travelling extensively. I used to see a lot of Indian clothing brands thriving, and I wondered why I don't have my own clothing line. After all, as Indians, we come from a space where cotton is easily available and fabrics are just so wonderful. That's when I came to a concrete decision two and a half years ago."

Having walked for Gazal for her fashion events, she teamed up with her and set up a unit in Jaipur, which she frequents to overlook the manufacturing of their outfits. Talking about how involved she is in this business, she shared, "I wanted to promote conscious clothing and definitely something that could be sustainable and good for earth and not damage the environment. So, we set up a unit in Jaipur. We have called it Raah Jaipur. Raah means path, as the both of us are on the path of discovering us as business partners. I spend a lot of time in the production unit personally understanding how clothes are manufactured and how the business of manufacturing takes place. I am quite involved in the business. I do two trips to Jaipur in a month. Ghazal has been a great mentor."



Malaika on handling negative publicity

Mumbai: Television personality and former VJ Malaika Arora has shared how she reacts when something bad is written about her; she has been in news over her alleged breakup with long-time boyfriend, actor Arjun Kapoor. In an interview, she also talked about people complimenting her on her looks. She said, "Sometimes when I find something nasty written about me, I'll admit, it messes up my day, but I'm getting better at blocking out the noise. I work a lot on keeping myself the way I am—mentally strong and being able to reinvent myself—by practicing yoga and meditation, doing my retreats, eating, and sleeping on time."

The former VJ shared how people praise her. She said, "When someone says, 'You look amazing at 48,' it feels fantastic. I don't think people mean it in a derogatory way. It's a compliment. At 48, if I can look the way I do, it's due to my hard work, dedication, and focus, which is paying off. It feels great when someone asks, 'What do you do to stay like that?'"

On the work front, Malaika has featured in many films, such as *Kaante* and *EMI*. She also performed in the songs *Chaiyya Chaiyya*, *Gur Naalo Ishq Mitha*, *Maahi Ve*, *Kaal Dhamaal*, and *Munni Badnaam Hui*.

AGENCIES

Aamir: Want to give a platform to new talents

New Delhi: Actor Aamir Khan shared that his decision to produce *Laapataa Ladies* was driven by the realisation that he can't act in every exciting story, and now he wants to create opportunities for emerging talent.

The Kiran Rao-directed film was screened at the Supreme Court judges, their families, and officials. Both Khan and Rao were welcomed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. Speaking at a session post screening, Khan said during the COVID-19 pandemic, he had ample time for contemplation about his career. "I was 56 at the time, and I thought I might have 15 more years of active work left. I'll work till the age of 70, who knows what will happen after that?" the actor said.

"When I was thinking about this, I thought, as an actor, I've had one film release in three years. So, whatever I've learnt in the past so

Shraddha inspired by Aashiqui 2 character



Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is busy promoting her upcoming movie *Stree 2*, reflected on her portrayal of 'Aarohi' in *Aashiqui 2*, describing it as a very special character in her career.

Talking about the same, she said, "*Aashiqui 2* is a very special film in itself for me. She (Aarohi) had all those qualities that I would also want to have in myself. The way she loves is incredible. The capacity she has to love is incredible, and she loves so purely," the actress said. The *ABCD 2* actress shared that she is inspired by her character, Aarohi, in real life.

During the interaction with the audience, the actress called upon a female fan to share the stage with her. "She wants to sing yaar! Let's sing together," the actress says. Both of them sang *Chahun Main Ya Naa*, the popular track from *Aashiqui 2*.

Stree 2 is slated for release this Independence Day, which also stars Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

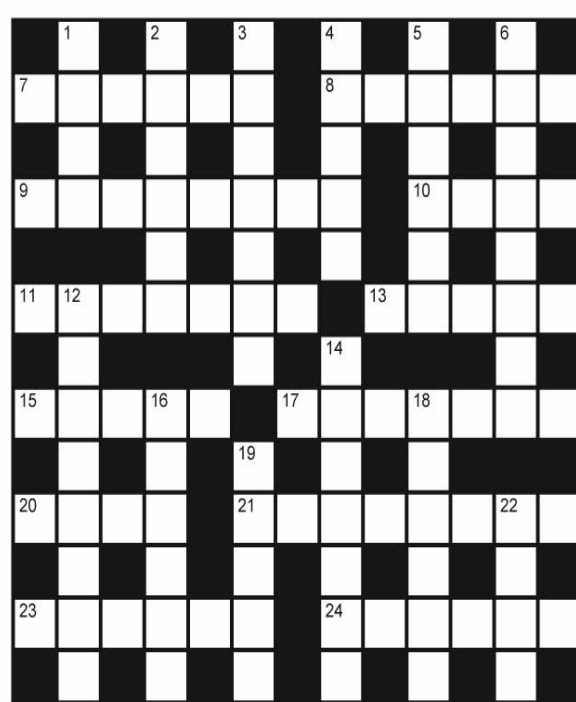


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Rock band instrument
 - 8 Means of approach
 - 9 H2O part
 - 10 Playing with a full deck
 - 11 Brooks
 - 13 Very virile
 - 15 Silly billy
 - 17 On target
 - 20 Sharp rebuke
 - 21 Doubter
 - 23 Reveal
 - 24 Soapbox
- Down
- 1 Wharf
 - 2 Deprive of food
 - 3 Japanese paper folding art
 - 4 Needle
 - 5 Iran, once
 - 6 Slakes
 - 12 Paltry
 - 14 Family member, familiarly
 - 16 Tyrrhenian Sea port city
 - 18 Royal home
 - 19 Double birdie
 - 22 Rainbow goddess

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

P	R	V	C	C	G
B	E	A	R	E	A
R	D	S	N	N	A
Z	I	T	S	A	N
O	E	Y	I	F	
A	F	F	A	B	L
O	C	S	G	G	T
P	L	A	T	E	
K	I	T	I	U	N
S	L	O	V	E	N
L	O	I	A	E	T
T	R	I	T	O	N
E	Y	E	E	S	M

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Railway projects
 Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says 6 rail projects approved for Odisha would be ready by the end of 2031
DOWNTOWN | P3

Boosting ties
 EAM S Jaishankar meets Maldivian President and emphasises New Delhi's commitment to deepen India-Maldives ties
INTERNATIONAL | P7

Retro back in style
 With its new generation Gold Star, BSA Motorcycles, the legendary British brand, is poised to enter India and reclaim its glory
BUSINESS | P8

Hooda loses bout
 Reetika Hooda puts up a stout defence against top seed Aiperi Medet Kyzy before losing the women's 76kg quarterfinal bout
SPORTS | P9

Fringe group attacks Muslims in UP calling them Bangladeshis

Ghaziabad, August 10: Members of a Hindu right wing outfit assaulted a group of people living near a railway station here and destroyed their shanties, claiming that they were Bangladeshi infiltrators, police said Saturday.
 Bhopendra Chowdhary, the president of the Hindu Raksha Dal, and Badal alias Hariom Singh were arrested in connection with the case late Saturday, they said.
 Officials said that those attacked are not Bangladeshis and an FIR had been lodged against Chowdhary, also known as 'Pinky', and 20 others for rioting, hurting religious feelings and other offences.
 Some of the residents were injured in the incident that occurred around 7.30 pm Friday, they said.
 Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra told PTI, "Those living in the shanties are from Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), not Bangladesh."
 "The police are contemplating invoking the National Security Act (NSA) against the attackers in the case," Mishra added.
 The incident occurred near Guldhar railway station when Chowdhary along with 20 of his supporters reached there, according to the police.
 The group accused the residents of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and went on to vandalise their temporary shelters, the police said.
 According to ACP (Kavinagar) Abhishek Srivastava, on receiving information about the incident, an investigation was conducted which revealed that the victims were not Bangladeshi nationals.
 Sub-Inspector Sanjiv Kumar, who was on duty in Sanjay Nagar Sector-23, filed the FIR at the local Madhuban Bapudham police station.
 In his complaint, Kumar alleged that after hearing some commotion, he along with his police team arrived at the scene, where they observed Pinky and his supporters abusing and assaulting some Muslims while shouting anti-Bangladeshi slogans. The group also demolished the shanties.
 "I tried to explain to them that these people are not from Bangladesh, but they continued beating them and damaging their shelters," Kumar alleged in his complaint. The FIR has been lodged against Chowdhary and 20 unidentified individuals under relevant provisions of the law, the police said.



Paris Olympic bronze medallist Indian Hockey players on their arrival at the Indra Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, Saturday

2 soldiers killed in encounter with terrorists

Srinagar, August 10: Two Army personnel died while four others were injured during a fierce gunfight with terrorists in a forest in Anantnag district of South Kashmir Saturday, officials said.
 The conflict occurred during a cordon and search operation that was initiated by the security forces based on intelligence reports indicating the presence of terrorists in the remote Ahlan Gagaramandu forest.
 Two civilians were also injured in the crossfire, officials said. According to them, the skirmish began when a group of terrorists opened fire at the joint search parties comprising Army troopers, including para commandos, and local police. In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured, officials said, adding the injured soldiers were promptly taken to a nearby hospital where two died shortly after arrival.
 This encounter is a grim reminder of a similar operation in the general area of Kokernag last September, during which four security personnel, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish and Deputy SP Humayun Bhat were killed in the week-long engagement with terrorists.

Hindenburg salvo at Sebi chief

New Delhi, August 10: US short-seller Hindenburg Research launched a fresh broadside against market regulator Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch, alleging she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal.
 In a blogpost, Hindenburg said 18 months since its damning report on Adani, "SEBI has shown a surprising lack of interest in Adani's alleged undisclosed web of Mauritius and offshore shell entities."
 Citing "whistleblower documents," it said, "Madhabi Buch, the current chairperson of SEBI, and her husband had stakes in both obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal."
 Obscure offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds, allegedly controlled by Vinod Adani - elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani - are al-



leged to have been used to round-trip funds and inflate stock price. Hindenburg said, "A declaration of funds, signed by a principal at IIFL states that the source of the investment is 'salary' and the couple's net worth is estimated at USD 10 million."
 "In brief, despite the existence of thousands of mainstream, reputable onshore Indian mutual fund products, an

industry she now is responsible for regulating, documents show SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch and her husband had stakes in a multi-layered offshore fund structure with minuscule assets, traversing known high-risk jurisdictions, overseen by a company with reported ties to the Wirecard scandal, in the same entity run by an Adani director and significantly used by Vinod Adani in the alleged Adani cash siphoning scandal," it alleged.
 It went on to cite the Supreme Court order where it was recorded that Sebi had "drawn a blank" in its investigations into who funded Adani's offshore shareholders.
 "If SEBI really wanted to find the offshore fund holders, perhaps the SEBI chairperson could have started by looking in the mirror," it said. "We find it un-

surprising that SEBI was reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson."
 No immediate comments were available from Sebi.
 In January last year, Hindenburg Research, which in the past has shorted, or bet against, companies like electric truck maker Nikola Corp and Twitter (now X), accused Adani Group of pulling "the largest con in corporate history"
 by using a web of companies in tax havens to inflate its revenue and manipulate stock prices, even as debt piled up.
 Though the conglomerate vehemently denied all allegations, the damning report sent the group's shares into a free fall, wiping out over USD 150 billion in market value of the 10 listed entities at their lowest point.

Doctor raped and murdered in hospital

Kolkata, August 10: Police arrested one person for his alleged involvement in the sexual assault and murder of a woman postgraduate trainee (PGT) doctor at the state-run Kar Medical College and Hospital, a senior officer said Saturday.
 The arrested man, an outsider had free access to the different departments of the hospital, he said. "We have arrested one person, who is an outsider. His activities are quite suspicious and he seems to be directly involved in the crime," the police officer told PTI.
 Talking more about the arrested accused, police said that they recovered a torn part of a Bluetooth earphone which led to the culprit. In fact, other PGTs and female doctors also identified the culprit from CCTV footage grabbed from other parts of the hospital premises, a source in the police department said.
 Police officers also claimed that

IMA warns of nationwide stir
New Delhi: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) Saturday gave authorities a 48-hour ultimatum to complete the probe into the rape and murder of a doctor in a state-run medical college and hospital in Kolkata and warned of nationwide protests if the culprits are not arrested within the period.
 The arrested accused had given different statements during the grilling done. "Now, we are trying to find out who else was with him or he had someone else with him," he said, adding that police might conduct necessary medical examinations on him.
 Police officers also questioned two intern doctors the entire Friday night in connection with their ongoing probe into the death of the woman doctor, he said. The semi-nude body of the woman PGT doctor was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital in Kolkata Friday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can we fire the teacher for not showing up at school or teaching? After all, she's an NRI!

Disney teases Moana 2; Dwayne's show charms fans

Anaheim, August 10: Disney teased its upcoming movies and television series including "Moana 2" in a rousing showcase featuring sneak peeks, live performances and surprise appearances from actors including Dwayne Johnson, Zoe Saldana and Jude Law.
 Fans at Disney's D23 convention welcomed CEO Bob Iger with a standing ovation Friday at the top of the showcase.
 "The world needs to be entertained maybe even more so now than ever before and we take that responsibility seriously," he said before presentations teased new movies in the "Avatar", "Toy Story" and "Incredibles" franchises.
 In the evening's first surprise, Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson of "Moana" jolted the crowd of over 15,000 at the Honda Center with a performance of a song featuring drummers and dancers in costumes styled after

the beloved animated movie. Both actors are reprising their roles as Moana and Maui, respectively, in "Moana 2," which is set to hit theatres November 27.
 Before showing an extended sneak peek of the film, Johnson

said that working on the films has been special to him, noting that his daughters, who are six and eight years old, were in the crowd. Disney subsequently released the film's first full-length trailer online. The footage introduces characters

new (Moana now has a little sister) and familiar, like her pet pig Pua and the Kakamora, a band of dart-blowing coconut-clad pirates.
 Johnson also announced that he'd be continuing

ing his long-running work on Disney projects to create a "Monster Jam" live-action movie. The studio did not announce any updates to Johnson's other Disney project, the live-action "Moana", that is in development.
 Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni teased the May 2026 Star Wars film "The Mandalorian & Grogu", which they said only started filming recently. Favreau said he felt compelled to "put something together" for the showcase and showed a brief clip featuring the title characters, as he put it, "on a whole new journey".
 Law spoke about "Star Wars: Skeleton Crew", announcing it will be coming to Disney+ on December 3.
 "I fell in love with 'Star Wars' when I was a 10-year-old boy," Law said before he shar-

ing footage from the show, which has been billed as a coming-of-age tale.
 Pixar Animation Chief Creative Officer Pete Docter announced the studio is developing a third installment of "The Incredibles" franchise.
 Andrew Stanton, who directed the first two "Toy Story" films, has returned to lead "Toy Story 5".
 Director James Cameron and actors Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington reunited on stage to share new information about the third installment of "Avatar". They announced the official title, "Avatar: Fire and Ash", and shared concept art that shows new glimpses of Pandora. Cameron said the film was too early in the production phase to show clips.
 "The new film is not what you expect, but it's definitely what you want," said Cameron, who will be bestowed "Disney Legends" status in a ceremony to close out D23 Sunday.



WEATHER

BBSR	CTC
Max Temp 34.0°C	34.0°C
Min Temp 26.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity 97%	91%
Rainfall Nil	Nil

FORECAST
 Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

Symphony a tribute to spirit of Bharat: Kej

Ricky Kej elevates the celebration by organising a record-breaking event with around 14,000 tribal students from KISS



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The symphony is a celebration of our diverse heritage and a tribute to the spirit of Bharat, eminent music composer and 3X Grammy winner Ricky Kej said Saturday in a press conference here after setting a new Guinness World Record for the "Largest Singing Lesson" of the Indian National Anthem.

At a joint press conference with KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, Kej announced that the recording would be released at 5pm August 14 across all streaming platforms, YouTube, and his social media accounts.

Kej said the project is a testament to the power of music in bringing people together.

Expressing his happiness, Samanta said that this is a proud moment not only for the institution but also for the state and the country.

Talking to mediapersons, Kej said he did not receive support from anyone but acknowledged the help of Samanta and KISS, which supports 80,000 indigenous children (40,000 current students and 40,000 alumni).

Replying a question, Kej said the entire recording will be made available completely royalty-free for any purpose provided the content is completely unedited and unadulterated to ensure that there is no disrespect to the Indian National Anthem.

"Individual versions of this recording featuring each maestro performing the anthem from beginning to end will be released after August 15", Kej said. The recording includes performances by notable musicians such as Bansuri maestros Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia and Rakesh Chaurasia, Santoor exponent Rahul Sharma, Sarod wizards Amana and Ayaan, Nadaswaram maestros Sheik Mahaboob Subhani and

Expressing his happiness, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said that this is a proud moment not only for the institution but also for the state and the country

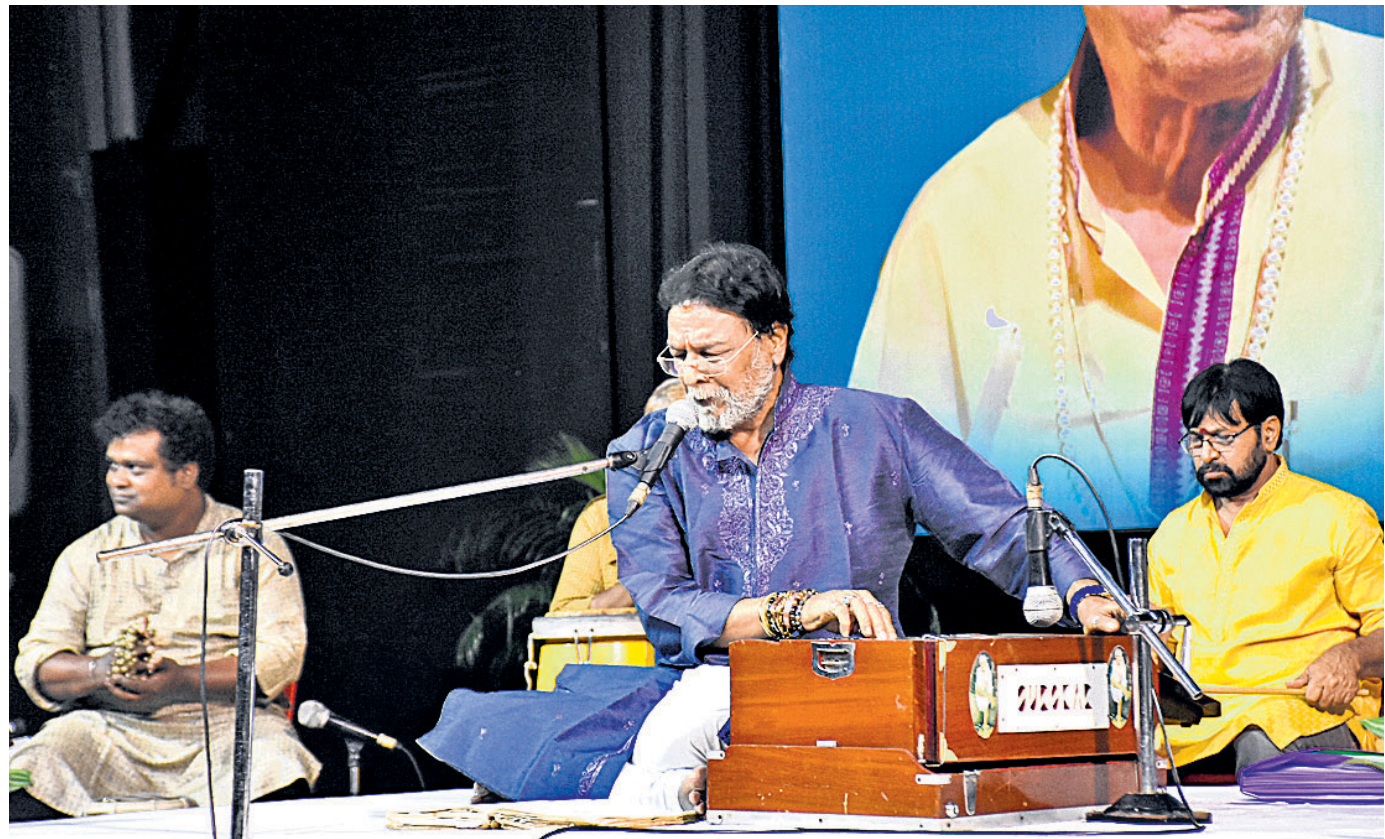
Kaleeshabi Mahaboob, Veena maestro Jayanthi Kumaresh, and Carnatic percussionist Giridhar Udupa.

Giving details about the project, Kej said that the video featured 14,000 children of KISS forming a map of India and the word 'Bharat' in Hindi and English.

"The achievement symbolises the unity and diversity of India, showcasing the nation's rich cultural heritage and the limitless potential of its youth" he said.

Kej collaborated with renowned VR filmmaker Sairam Sagiraju and developers Krishnaprasad Jagadish and Raksha Rao to create a virtual reality version of the project.

Guinness World Records Official adjudicator Rishi Nath confirmed the new record, stating, "What we achieved here in Bhubaneswar was a phenomenal 13,944 participants in 'The Largest Singing Lesson'. Congratulations to Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Ricky Kej, and Professor Samanta."



MELODIOUS PERFORMANCE: Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi's son, Babu Panigrahi performs on his father's birth anniversary celebration organised by Sanjukta and Raghunath Panigrahi Cultural Heritage Foundation at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Odia, Santali group join Wikimania in Poland

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: A group of Odia and Santali wiki-mediators from the state attended the annual Wikimania conference in Katowice, Poland recently.

The Odia wikimedians user group was represented by Subhasish Panigrahi, Chimmayee Mishra and Aliva Sahoo.

Panigrahi, an administrator of the Odia Wikipedia, has been contributing to develop content for a long time. He has recently added a number of voice recordings in Odia language, which can be useful for machine learning and text-to-



speech applications. "Our presence at this prestigious event provides an opportunity to share experiences, learn from the global community, and further strengthen the

multilingual efforts of the Wikimedia movement," said Panigrahi.

Mishra, an engineer by profession joined the Wikimedia movement in 2015. She presented a session at conference. Sahoo, since 2015 has been actively contributing to the Odia Wikipedia and Hindi Wikipedia. She has also made contributions to Wikimedia Commons, Odia Wikisource, and Wikidata.

Ramjit Tudu represented the Santali wikimedians at the conference. Tudu joined the event through a scholarship provided by CIS-A2K. He played a crucial role in developing the online content of Santali language.

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS ELIMINATION

MDA campaign launched in 6 states including Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The bi-annual mass drug administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination was launched Saturday by the Union government across six states in the country including Odisha.

Union Minister of State for Health Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav virtually unveiled the second phase MDA campaign targeting 63 endemic districts across Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

The campaign will provide door-to-door administration of preventive medications in endemic areas, advancing India's goal to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis ahead of the global



target. Alongside this, the 'Revised Guideline on Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis' and IEC material were unveiled to provide a clear roadmap for elimination efforts.

In his address, Jadhav said that "Lymphatic Filariasis, a mosquito-borne disease, is preventable through simple measures, therefore, the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) rounds are crucial in halting its transmission."

Jadhav reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to public health stating preventive measures such as avoiding mosquito bites and consuming anti-filarial medicines are key to stopping the transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis, which affects populations across 20 states and union territories (UTs) in India.

"This disease not only impacts health and well-being but also leads to lifelong disability,

due to lymphedema, affecting families profoundly," he said.

"To ensure success in the upcoming MDA rounds it is imperative that 90 per cent of all eligible populations consume these medicines," he said while stressing on the need to have dedicated efforts to prevent and eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in India.

Jadhav also noted that efforts are being made to ensure pucca houses for people living in mud houses that make them more vulnerable to such diseases.

He said efforts will also be made to develop a vaccine for Lymphatic Filariasis and also highlighted that disability certificates are provided to the people affected with Lymphatic Filariasis.

'Koraput has potential to be key eco-tourism hub'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Koraput, a beautiful place, has potential to be key eco-tourism hub and it can generate huge employment opportunities for the local tribal youth, Central University of Odisha (CUO) VC Chakradhar Tripathi said at a programme held on the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples recently.

The theme was 'Empowering Local Tribal Youth and Creating Mass Employment Opportunities in Eco-Tourism'.

Tripathi, in his speech, highlighted the responsibilities of the university in line with the mandate of the Central government to develop the socio-economic standards of the people of the region.

"The CUO is the medium between 'local to global' and will take a leading role to showcase the potentiality of the Koraput



to the globe," he said.

On the occasion, Sambalpur University former VC Bishnu Charan Barik joined as key-note speaker while Institute of Hotel Management Principal Sharada Ghosh attended the programme as guest of honour.

Other dignitaries included former Member of Parliament Jayaram Pangi, Adivasi Bikash Parishad adviser Debi Prasad Prusty, social activist G John and Jugabrata Kar, district tourism officer Talina Pradhani and district culture officer Pritisudha Jena. CUO associate professor and coordinator of the programme Kapila Khemundu

delivered the welcome address. In his address, Barik said, "Koraput is an important hub of tourism and if properly developed, it will be placed as an important tourist destination at international level. It can be done by employing rural youth in the development process."

Pangi said that due to lack of support, the beautiful place of Koraput is not popularised as a tourist destination. "If systematic planning is done, Koraput will be developed like Kullu and Manali. The local youth can get employment opportunities if eco-tourism can be developed in the district," Pangi added.

'Influx from Bangladesh cause for concern'

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Saturday said the influx of people from Bangladesh in the wake of unrest in the neighbouring country is a cause for concern, and his government has imposed night curfew in some districts to check infiltration. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on Monday, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July. "I appeal to all legislators to organise lunch at different relief camps across Manipur on Independence Day, as well as interact with the inmates to address their problems and grievances," Singh said. "Har Ghar Tiranga is the brainchild of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to instill a sense of nationalism and belongingness. We will be holding motorbike rallies and every house will hoist the tricolour," he said. People are encouraged to display the national flag at their homes and other establishments during the run-up to Independence Day August 15 as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

Wearable devices like smartwatches can cause anxiety

Nowadays, in the fitness-obsessed world, it is not an uncommon sight to see people looking repetitively at their smartwatches to meet their desired step and target/burn calories, without knowing that this can trigger anxiety, experts said Saturday.

Wearable devices, particularly medical-grade ones, have grown in popularity, especially among the younger generation who want to stay informed about their health. And to treat the body like a temple is certainly a noble thing to do, but doing it in extremes proves counter-effective, as Oscar Wilde said, that whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing, it often has a noble motive.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, found that patients with irregular heartbeat or atrial

fibrillation (AFib) used a wearable device known as 'Wearables'. Wearable users reported significantly higher rates of symptom monitoring, preoccupation, and increased treatment concerns.

As much as 20 per cent of wearable users experienced anxiety, prompting them to contact their doctors in response to irregular rhythm notifications.

These individuals then underwent significantly more ECGs, echocardiograms/trans-oesophageal echocardiograms, and AF ablation, an invasive procedure to burn electrical pathways.

Wearable devices like Apple Watch and Fitbit are popular for monitoring health. Still, they can also cause anxiety in users due to the unfiltered information they provide, as many lack the knowledge or perspective to interpret it.



A recent study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, found that patients with irregular heartbeat or atrial fibrillation (AFib) used a wearable device known as 'Wearables'

As much as 20% of wearable users experienced anxiety, prompting them to contact their doctors in response to irregular rhythm notifications

side effects of this unfiltered deluge of information. Most individuals don't have the knowledge or right perspective to interpret the data these machines are vomiting out.

Heart rate variability is a common concern, leading to panic reactions and high blood pressure. Hypersensitive users may experience panic attacks, leading to medical advice or emergency procedures, such as ECG, ECHO, Holter, and CT coronary angiograms, which encourage hypochondriac-like behaviours.

"The commonest query is the extremes of heart rate variability. Is it too low or why is it 150 beats per minute? Am I going to have a stroke or heart failure? These panic reactions are common among some users who tend to be hypersensitive about their health issues. These mini-panic attacks then lead invariably to high blood pressure and heart rate readings eventually forcing these individuals to seek medical opinion or rush to emergency and undergo additional high-end tests like ECG, ECHO, Holter and CT coronary angiograms etc.," said Agrawal.

Most individuals don't have the knowledge or right perspective to interpret the data these machines are vomiting out

VINAYAK AGRAWAL | SENIOR DIRECTOR AND HEAD, NON-INVASIVE CARDIOLOGY, FORTIS MEMORIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Holter, and CT coronary angiograms, which encourage hypochondriac-like behaviours.

"The commonest query is the extremes of heart rate variability. Is it too low or why is it 150 beats per minute? Am I going to have a stroke or heart failure? These panic reactions are common among some users who tend to be hypersensitive about their health issues. These mini-panic attacks then lead invariably to high blood pressure and heart rate readings eventually forcing these individuals to seek medical opinion or rush to emergency and undergo additional high-end tests like ECG, ECHO, Holter and CT coronary angiograms etc.," said Agrawal.

The devices aren't wrong, but their excessive use is, knowledge should have perspective too, a word of warning as per the experts.

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Artisans shape a clay idol of Lord Ganesh in Unit IX area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday



downtown

VAISHNAW: 6 RAIL PROJECTS TO COMPLETE BY 2031 END



DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 10: A day after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved six railway projects for Odisha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Saturday said these projects would be ready by the end of 2031.

Addressing media on virtual mode, Vaishnav said the Ministry of Railways is in touch with the state government to ensure hassle-free land acquisition for these projects.

“The Centre has plans for ₹1 lakh crore worth rail infrastructure development projects for Odisha. Till now, projects worth ₹70,000 crore have already been sanctioned for Odisha. The ₹15,004 crore worth six projects approved by the CCEA for Odisha will be completed by 2031 end,” the Railway Minister said, adding

that around 3 crore people will be engaged during the execution of these projects.

About the new projects for Odisha, Vaishnav said ₹1,326 crore has been sanctioned for Gunupur-Therubali New Line in Rayagada district (73.62 kilometre), ₹3,274 crore for Junagarh Road-Nabarangpur New Line (116.21 kilometre) in Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts and ₹4,109 crore for Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram (via Bhadrachalam) New Line (173.61 kilometre) in Malkangiri district.

The other railway line projects sanctioned for the state are Badampahar-Kendujhargarh New Line (82.06 kilometre) in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts at an allocation of ₹2,107 crore, Bangriposi-Gorumahisani New Line (85.60 kilometre) in Mayurbhanj district at an allocation of ₹2,549 crore and

Buramara-Chakulia New Line (59.96 kilometre) in Mayurbhanj district for which ₹1,639 crore, Vaishnav pointed out.

With these projects, 64 new stations will be constructed, providing enhancing connectivity to six Aspirational Districts (East Singhbhum, Bhadrak, Kothagudem, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur and Rayagada), benefiting about 40 lakh population spread over 510 villages.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) sources said these are essential routes for transportation of commodities like agriculture products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, bauxite, limestone, aluminium powder, granite, ballast and containers.

The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 143 MTPA, they said.

The new projects will help achieving climate goals and minimising logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (32.20 crore litre) and lower CO2 emissions (0.87 MT) which is equivalent to plantation of 3.5 crore trees, they pointed out.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has assured the Railway Minister that the state government will leave no stone unturned for ensuring early completion of land acquisition for the projects.



AHOY: A ship of Indian Navy near Puri beach, Saturday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Court infra boost can reduce pendency: CJI

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, August 10: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud Saturday emphasised on strengthening infrastructure in the courts to deal with pendency in cases even as he said different mediums like the Lok Adalats were being adopted to reduce the number of court cases.

He said modern technology like Artificial Intelligence was being used to translate the court verdicts in regional languages for the convenience of people.

The CJI was speaking to reporters on the sideline of the 37th convocation of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here.

Replying to a question on pendency of cases, the CJI said like in hospitals, people have faith in the courts which is also one of the reasons for the increase in

number of cases.

“If you see in a hospital, the number of patients go up and similarly in courts, the number (of cases) rises. What is the reason behind it? People have ‘aastha’ (faith) in hospitals that is why the number of patients increases. People have ‘aastha’ and trust in courts and that is why number increases,” the CJI said.

“For this, we have to increase infrastructure. Like infrastructure in the hospitals has to be increased and similarly, infrastructure in the courts has to be increased,” he added. “And we also have to adopt new mediums,” the CJI stressed as he said that a special Lok Adalat was held last week in which around 1,000 cases were decided in five days.

The CJI said as many as 21

benches of the Supreme Court worked and heard around 4,000 cases during the summer vacation this year.

Out of 4,000 cases, 1,170 were disposed of, he said.

“Through different mediums, we can reduce the number of cases,” the CJI said. Commenting on another issue, the CJI said it has been observed that the language used in courts is English.

“To make common people easily understand about their cases, he said, with the help of Artificial Intelligence, the court verdicts are being translated in regional languages.

“From 1950 till 2024, there are around 37,000 SC verdicts and out of which, 22,000 judgements have been translated into Punjabi. More than 36,000 verdicts have been translated into Hindi. We

are translating verdicts in all languages,” he said.

The CJI further said live-streaming of hearings in the Supreme Court is being undertaken.

“Through technology, we have taken many initiatives,” he said. Replying to a question on shortage of judges, Chandrachud said there are many reasons behind it.

In the Allahabad High court where the strength of judges is 160 and it is not easy to create infrastructure for 160 judges, he said.

He said there is no vacancy in the Supreme Court and 34 judges were working during his tenure.

The CJI, however, laid emphasis on filling vacancies in the district judiciary.

The CJI said it is important for the high courts and the state governments to fill those vacancies in the district judiciary, he stressed.

Like in hospitals, people have faith in the courts which is also one of the reasons for the increase in number of cases
BY CHANDRACHUD | CJI

‘Scientific community has many jewels from Odisha’



COURTESY CALL: Odisha Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra with Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh in New Delhi, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, has given numerous jewels to the scientific community and contributed to development of the country, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said in New Delhi, Saturday.

The Union Minister’s statement came during a meeting with state’s Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra in the national capital.

Singh congratulated Patra on his victory in the recent Assembly elections in state and being given the responsibility as a minister.

Singh expressed confidence that a double engine government, both at Centre and Odisha, will foster the state on the in-

vestment map and usher entrepreneurship and innovation among the youth of the state.

“Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, has given numerous jewels to the scientific community and contributed to development of the country,” Singh said.

Patra commended the feat achieved by the scientific community under the charge of Singh and sought his guidance and support. Singh assured him of cooperation from the Union government as far as his ministries are concerned.

At the outset, Singh said, “People have reposed their faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chose development.”

He also said that Odisha will play a key role in development of India and achieving the vision 2047 and display an example of competitive co-operative federalism.

SJTA notice on Pratihari servitor

Puri: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has issued a show-cause notice to Sibusundar Mahapatra, a Pratihari servitor, for dereliction of duty, sources said Saturday. SJTA administrator (Rituals) Jeetendra Kumar Sahu issued a notice to the Pratihari servitor to explain his absence during the opening of the temple gates Friday morning. The daily rituals of the day were delayed due to his absence. The notice said that action would be taken as per the Temple Act if he failed to explain his absence during the opening of the temple gate.



FOR A CAUSE: Students of various self-financing courses stage a sit-in in front of Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor’s residence in Cuttack to press for fulfilment of their demands, Saturday

Govt suspends OBCC additional chief engineer

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The state government Saturday suspended Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited additional chief engineer Pradeep Kumar Rath on charges of corruption and possession of disproportionate assets (DA) worth over ₹10 crore.

The Vigilance Directorate had arrested Rath in connection with the DA case in August 6. A special Vigilance court has sent the OBCC additional chief engineer to judicial custody till August 17.

“Rath is now facing charges of corruption. He has already spent over 48 hours in judicial custody. The Works department has placed Rath under suspension,”



said the state government in a statement.

Till further orders, the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil) in the Capital city here has been designated as the headquarters for Rath.

“He cannot leave the headquarters without prior permission of the Chief Engineer (Civil),” it said.

The Cuttack Vigilance police station has registered a case against Rath, his spouse and son under multiple Sections of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Fisherman lands Lego shark lost at sea for 27 years

A fisherman from Devon has caught a rare Lego shark 27 years after it went missing from a shipping container in the 1990s, The Guardian reported.

The toy is one of 5m pieces lost overboard in the ‘Great Lego Spill of 1997’, when a freak wave hit a cargo ship ‘Tokio Express’ off the coast of Cornwall. The pieces are still washing up today, it said.

Richard West, a 35-year-old fisherman living in Plymouth, discovered the long-lost shark 20 miles south of Penzance Tuesday. He contacted the project Lego Lost at Sea, whose founder Tracey Williams confirmed the piece to be the first-ever reported shark from the spill.

“It’s way better than any fish I’ve caught all week. I’m so happy

about it,” said West.

He found the object lying on top of his fishing nets while sailing the Defiant FY848 in search of monkfish and sole.

“I could tell straight away what it was because I had Lego sharks in the pirate ship set when I was little. I loved them. It’s been 25 years since I’ve seen that face,” West told the BBC.

The plastic object, which West has nicknamed Sharky, is worn from more than two decades underwater and is missing its dorsal fin. Over time the submerged Lego pieces break apart into smaller and smaller fragments, eventually becoming microplastics.

Williams said the sharks featured in several Lego sets from 1997, including Shark Cage Cove, Shark Attack and Deep



PIC: TRACEY WILLIAMS/LEGO LOST AT SEA VIA THE GUARDIAN

Sea Bounty. The official Lego inventory showed that 22,200 dark grey Lego sharks and

29,600 light grey ones were in the lost container – 51,800 sharks in total.

“Richard and I now have joint custody of the shark,” Williams added.

Many of the pieces found from the shipping container are sea-themed – they include life rafts, scuba tanks, cutlasses, flippers and seagrass.

A few months ago, a 13-year-old boy found a ‘holy grail’ Lego octopus washed up on a beach in Marazion. The octopuses are considered the most prized finds as only 4,200 were onboard.

Williams started the Lego Lost at Sea project as a ‘bit of fun’ during the summer holidays, but more than 80,000 Facebook and X followers later, Williams has united a global community of beachcombers monitoring where the Lego and other cargo spills are turning up. She also published a book in 2022 showcasing

her work.

As well as creating an archive of our times, the project has helped raise awareness around the waste that has populated Britain’s beaches, said Williams.

“It’s encouraged people to get into beach cleaning and other environmental action,” Williams said, “And it helps explain things like ocean currents and the dangers of plastic pollution. Although so much plastic on the beach can be overwhelming, sorting through it can be strangely cathartic. It’s order from chaos.”

Williams has begun mapping the findings for a scientific paper on the spill, and she encourages anyone who has found any of the pieces to get in touch with Lego Lost at Sea.

AGENCIES

We have every one of us a role to fulfil, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy

THE MOTHER



Laws in Old India

Events in Bangladesh and the overthrow of the government have come with predictable violence especially against the minorities, particularly Hindus. Attacking minorities is for some reason a pillar of nationalism in South Asia's post independence states. All nations here also contend with an unresolved identity crisis.

The Constitution of Bangladesh opens with the phrase 'Bismillah ir rahman ir rahim'. Article 2A says that 'the state religion of the Republic is Islam, but the State shall ensure equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions'.

A 2010 order from Bangladesh's Supreme Court apparently restored secularism. It said that the 'preamble and the relevant provisions of the Constitution in respect of secularism, nationalism and socialism, as existed on 15 August 1975, will revive'. However, it left the text on the State's religion untouched. And so, we have the unusual situation of a nation whose Constitution opens with a Quranic verse in the name of Allah, the preamble pledges 'that the high ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism shall be the fundamental principles of the Constitution' but there is also a state religion, which is Islam.

Like Dubai, Bangladesh has its weekly holidays on Friday and Saturday and is one of the few nations that works on Sunday. This is a practice that even Pakistan does not follow.

At Independence, Pakistan integrated religion into law because it felt this would lend a positive impulse to the nation. Explaining this, Pakistan's first prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan said material and scientific development had leapt ahead of the development of the human individual. The result was that man was able to produce inventions that could destroy the world and society. This had happened only because man had chosen to ignore his spiritual side and if he had retained more faith in god, this problem would not have come up.

It was religion, he said, that tempered the dangers of science and as Muslims, Pakistanis would adhere to Islam's ideals and make a contribution to the world. The State's enabling of Muslims to lead their lives in alignment with Islam did not concern non-Muslims, so obviously they should not have a problem with the reference to that, he said.

What happened instead was that the laws concerning Pakistan's Muslims fell away in time. Early Islam existed at a time when there were no jails. Punishment for criminal offences was usually corporal instead of detention. Pakistan introduced amputation of limbs as punishment for theft and trained a set of terrified doctors to carry these out. But Pakistan's judges, trained in Common Law like India's, were reluctant to pass these sentences and so the laws remained frozen and unused. Pakistan introduced stoning as a punishment for adultery but nobody has been stoned to death.

A brief period of enthusiasm for lashing those accused of drinking alcohol ended, and, in 2009, the Federal Shariat Court read down the punishment for lashing, with the judges saying drinking was a lesser crime. Under president Pervez Musharraf Pakistan changed the punishment for rape — which was conflated with fornication if the survivor could not produce witnesses to the act — from shariah back to the penal code. The law enforcing zakat by debiting 2.5 per cent from the bank accounts of Pakistan's Sunnis failed because people withdrew their money just before it was due to happen. The Shia, who have a hierarchical clergy to whom they give the money directly, had previously objected and were exempted.

The law enforcing fasting in Ramzan — quite needless because most subcontinental Muslims observe the fast anyway — ran into opposition after Muslim restaurant owners and multiplex owners complained. A shariat court order demanding a ban on interest in the banking system has been ignored by successive governments.

The last major attempt to Islamise Pakistan was over two decades ago under Nawaz Sharif: The so-called 15th Amendment, which was defeated in the Senate. Pakistan remains insufficiently Islamic and, with no hierarchical clergy like Iran's, can never become theocratic. Unlikely Saudi Arabia it has never had moral police because Pakistanis are culturally South Asians with local practices.

While Pakistan has moved towards secularism, India has moved substantially in the other direction. This has been true since the 1950s but especially in recent times. In 2015, BJP states began criminalising the possession of beef, triggering a series of beef lynchings. In 2019, India's Parliament criminalised the utterance of triple talaq in one sitting, punishing Muslim men for a non-event (because the Supreme Court had already invalidated triple talaq earlier). After 2018, seven BJP states criminalised interfaith marriage by disallowing conversions and invalidating such marriages, including those which had children. Conversions to Hinduism — defined as "ancestral religion" — are exempt and not counted as conversions in the BJP states of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. Many states have been squeezing Christians through anti-conversion laws. Nobody has ever been convicted of forced conversion so this is not required but the intent is to harass.

In 2019, Gujarat tightened a law that keeps Muslims ghettoised by denying them access to purchase and lease of properties from Hindus. In effect, foreigners can buy and rent properties in Gujarat that Gujarati Muslims cannot. We need not get into the treatment of Kashmiris here because the collective punishment imposed on them no longer arouses interest in us.

Pakistan wanted to be constitutionally communal, India wanted to be secular but is communalising itself. All three nations share a penal code given to them by Macaulay a century and a half ago. But they have amended their laws to enable the State to specifically target minorities. This is today happening in India and is something that Pakistan went through.

One hopes that Bangladesh, with its new beginning, moves towards the secularism that is the inevitable destiny of all three nations that comprised Old India.



Aakar Patel

While Pakistan has moved towards secularism, India has moved substantially in the other direction. This has been true since the 1950s but especially in recent times



DK Giri

WHEN THE PROTEST BY THE STUDENTS ERUPTED, THE DISGRUNTLED POLITICAL CLASS JOINED THE PROTEST AND FUELLED THE FIRE

India's friendly neighbour Bangladesh, all of a sudden plunged into a major crisis causing death, destruction, displacement and a dramatic change of government. The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who ruled the country for 20 years, out of which 15 years consecutively had to flee the country to save her life. India has reacted but not "strong enough or in a helpful manner". It is in order that we examine the cause and consequence of the current crisis in Bangladesh and implications of India's position on it.

The Head of the interim government in Bangladesh, the Nobel laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus said that he was saddened by India's neutral and apathetic reaction to the developments in Bangladesh. New Delhi's initial reaction was that it is an internal matter of Bangladesh. To that, Yunus' response was that India's non-involvement is like someone keeping quiet or looking the other way when their neighbour's house is on fire. The second consequence of New Delhi's position was that a lot of Hindus flocked to the border to cross over to India. Without any support from India, the minority Hindus feared the worst.

In the line of non-interference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Head of the interim government. At the same time, he urged Prof. Yunus to ensure safety and protection of minority communities in Bangladesh. He added that India remains committed to working with Bangladesh to fulfil the shared aspiration of both our peoples for peace, security and development.

On the other hand, the Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar maintained a studied optimistic posture on the developments in Bangladesh especially on the interim government. He said, "the wishes of the people of Bangladesh are

FOCUS BANGLA CRISIS

INDIA'S NON-INTERFERENCE



For the time being, there appears to be peace in Bangladesh but one is not sure how long. Also, the crimes on hapless minorities should not go unpunished

paramount" and taking cognizance of the attacks on minority communities, suggested that "It is a task of every government of Bangladesh to protect all its citizens".

On the Bangladesh crisis, what prompted it? How did the 'iron lady' of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina's government fall like a house of cards? For the last 15 years, Hasina led Bangladesh to impressive economic progress. The country of 170 million people saw millions being lifted out of poverty. She hosted 14 lakhs Rohingya Muslim refugees and earned international praise. She won three consecutive elections. What then went wrong for the most powerful Prime Minister of Bangladesh?

The trigger that caused the unrest was an unpopular quota for government jobs which was originally introduced by her father after the liberation of Bangladesh. More than 50 per cent of government jobs were reserved for various sections of which 30 per cent were for the descendants of freedom fighters who fought in the 1971 liberation war. Actually, Ms Hasina had cancelled the system in 2018 following protests. Unfortunately, in June 2024, the old system was reinstated by the Bangladesh

High Court. This triggered protest by the students, first on university campuses and later spreading across the country.

The second reason was the lack of political legitimacy for her government. Historically, particularly recently, the government and opposition in Bangladesh had a hostile relationship. The leader of BNP, the main opposition party and the former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was sentenced to a five-year jail term which was later extended to ten years. Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the radical Islamist party was convicted and hanged by the war-crimes tribunal. The BNP had boycotted two consecutive Parliament elections. On top of it, independent analysts had flagged cases of irregularities in the election process. When the protest by the students erupted, the disgruntled political class joined the protest and fuelled the fire.

The mistake made by Ms. Hasina was that she failed to decipher the depth of students' anger. She also underestimated the strength of her political opponents. She called the protesters 'razakars', a pejorative term used for those who helped Pakistani troops during the lib-

eration war. This inflamed passions. The involvement of foreign agencies like Pakistan and China also cannot be ruled out. In any case, the onus of handling the situation lay on Hasina's shoulders. Instead of engaging the students and the protestors in some kind of dialogue, she resorted use of force to counter the uprising. She unleashed both police force and the Awami League activists on the protestors who were also violent. Violence begets violence. That is exactly what happened in Bangladesh.

In July, some 200 people were killed, mostly protestors, in clashes. The protest began against the quota, later turned against the government and with the involvement of anti-social, land-grabbing fundamentalist forces, the uprising turned against minorities especially Hindus. But there was a twist in the tale. That also escaped the political sagacity of Hasina. After the protest, the court had scaled down the quota system. The students called off the protest. That was clearly a victory for the students. But they did not stop. Proverbially, they had tasted blood and were infected by the vested interests. They called for a second round of protest. This time, it was for the ouster of Hasina's government. She could not handle it again and that brought the curtain down on her government.

For the time being, there appears to be peace in Bangladesh but one is not sure how long. Also, the crimes on hapless minorities should not go unpunished. They have been nicely caught on camera. It will not be difficult for the administration to book them. This will teach a lesson to the miscreants who fish in troubled waters. New Delhi should remain vigilant.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Saving the faltering energy SDG



Woochong Um

THE CURRENT PACE OF RENEWABLE-ENERGY ADOPTION STILL FALLS SHORT OF WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO HIT THE PARIS AGREEMENT'S MID-CENTURY NET-ZERO TARGETS

Although we are fast approaching five years until the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, we are still far from achieving SDG7, which calls for universal access to clean, affordable energy. Worse, we are in the middle of yet another year that will shatter heat records. Each month since June 2023 — 13 months in a row — has ranked as the planet's hottest average on record for that month, and June marked the third month in a row that Earth had exceeded the 1.5°C limit set by the Paris agreement.

Since the turn of the century, the share of the global population with access to electricity has grown from just over 75% to 91%. But the pace of progress has fallen behind the rate of population growth. Disruptions in energy markets caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine, and instability in the Middle East have caused the number of people lacking access to electricity to increase for the first time in over ten years, to 685 million people in 2022—ten million more than in 2021. If this continues, more than 660 million people will still be without electricity in 2030, and our pursuit of SDG7 will have failed.

While there have been significant strides toward connecting populations across Asia, Latin America, and other parts of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind and is home to 80% of all people without access to energy globally. With hundreds of millions of people at risk of being left behind, urgent action is needed to avert more setbacks on the path to SDG7. The current pace of renewable-energy adoption still falls short of what it will take to hit the Paris agreement's mid-century net-zero targets, and to meet the immediate development needs of those living in energy poverty.

There are still reasons for hope. They are the same reasons that guided my tenure at the Asian Development Bank, and which attracted me to join the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet. Achieving SDG7 and solving climate change is possible only if we work together to tackle this race against time.

We are already seeing Alliance partners mobilize. This spring, the World Bank and the African Development Bank announced a new, first-of-its-kind partnership to bring electricity to 300 million people in Africa by 2030. This is precisely the level of international collaboration that

emerging economies desperately need.

To close the gap, we must strengthen existing policies and mobilize greater investment, especially for programs targeting remote and low-income areas where most of the unelectrified population lives. Too much focus and investment in the global energy transition are given to greening the grid and reducing fossil-fuel consumption in wealthy countries. Yet, there seems to be less understanding that consuming more energy is essential to improving the economic prospects of the 685 million people living without electricity, and the hundreds of millions more with unreliable or unaffordable access.

Ending energy poverty — by providing the "modern energy minimum" of 1,000 kilowatt-hours per person per year — implies enormous additional annual energy demand. Today, per capita energy consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, is only 180 kWh, whereas most citizens of rich countries consume 6,000-13,000 kWh every year. If energy-poor countries do not receive the support needed to deliver electricity at scale from renewables, the majority of global emissions by 2050 could

derive from them.

In 2024, the share of global clean-energy investment in emerging markets and developing economies outside China is expected to remain at around 15% of the total. That is far below what is required to ensure full access to modern energy and meet rising energy demand in a sustainable way. With Nigeria and emerging economies across Africa facing economic crises, international cooperation to unlock climate finance for energy access has never been more urgent.

Energy creates opportunity. When investments in electricity are matched with investments in the tools to use that energy productively — solar-powered water pumps, refrigerators, agro-processing machinery, equipment for microenterprises, and essential services like schools and hospitals — incomes grow, productivity rises, new businesses emerge, jobs are created, and people thrive. Making these investments a reality will require unprecedented levels of international collaboration. No organization can do it alone.

The writer is CEO of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

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Double standards

Sir, It is appreciable that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has hastened to express its serious concern over incidents of violence against minorities, particularly the Hindus in Bangladesh, and has urged the Yunus-led interim government to protect the minorities who have been allegedly attacked by the protesting mobs. However, it is a wonder why the same RSS has never bothered to open its mouth, preferring to advise their BJP government at the centre to bring the anarchy and violence against innocent people under control, change the Chief Minister who is alleged to be behind all the problems, and stop the atrocities committed by the goons there. They never bothered when more than 250 people were killed, thousands injured, around 4800 houses and properties burned down, women paraded naked, fondled, raped, and killed, more than 300 churches vandalised, and violence has continued unabated for more than a year now! Moreover, why have they not advised Prime Minister Modi to pay a visit to Manipur, which he has never undertaken till date? Don't they believe that the people of Manipur are also Indians? What a blatant exhibition of double standards by the RSS!

Tharcius S Fernando, CHENNAI

Life is full of choices

Sir, Have you noticed that a bronze medallist is generally more happy than a silver medallist at the end of the game? It's not an incidental finding but a proven fact in many research studies after studying the reactions of silver medallists vs bronze medallists. Ideally, a silver medallist should be more happy than a bronze. But, the human mind doesn't work like mathematics. Counterfactual thinking causes this phenomenon. The silver medallist thinks, Oh, I couldn't win the gold medal. The bronze medallist thinks, 'At least I got a medal.' A silver medal is won after losing, but a bronze medal is won after winning. This happens even in our lives; we don't appreciate what we have but feel sad about what we don't have. Let's be grateful for our blessings, they far outweigh our problems if we start counting. Life is, after all, full of choices, do always count your blessings to stay positive and motivated.

CK Ramanathan, GHAZIABAD

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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WISDOM CORNER

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough

RABINDRA NATH TAGORE

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

If you want to create a masterpiece, you must always avoid beautiful lies

JEZRY GROTOWSKI

national



India is one of the pioneers in innovation but its fruits are limited to a very few
BY CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

MEA, NSIL SIGN MOU

The Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement on Saturday to grant assistance for the launching of the Nepal-built Munal satellite, according to an official statement



of the day quote

The total debt of the state, including loans from power companies and guarantees, stood at ₹7,48,612 crore, of which ₹4,08,170 crore was inherited from the previous government (TDP)
YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | YSRCP CHIEF

Ninety per cent of those persecuted in Bangladesh are Dalit Hindus, yet there is silence because they do not serve as a vote bank here
YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

It would have been good if Modi had gone earlier and seen the conditions of Wayanad on the ground as some of us have done. I was there last week, it was a very emotionally searing experience, otherwise serious calamity
SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

X POST OF THE DAY

So the Congress Govt in Telangana wants the people of the state to believe that this was a minor incident at #Sunkishala & not talk about it even though more than 75 Crores of exchequer money was lost!!! What & Who is stopping the Telangana Govt from blacklisting the agency which is executing the Sunkishala work? Why are you hesitant to go for an independent probe by a sitting HC Judge? Are you trying to hush up the mishap? Any answers or accountability
@RahulGandhi Ji? @KTRBRS

SHORT TAKES

Heavy rains lash parts of Himachal

Shimla: Heavy rains lashed parts of Himachal Pradesh as 135 roads remained closed in the state following landslides and flash floods. Reports of damages due to heavy rains, landslides and flash floods have poured in Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and Sirmour districts but no casualty was reported. The Lahaul and Spiti police have issued an advisory for residents and travellers to exercise extreme caution and not to cross Jahalmn nallah where the water level is rising rapidly.

MUDA scam: K'taka HM may meet Prez

Bengaluru: Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said Saturday that if Governor Thaaarachand Gehlot accords consent to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land scam, they will meet President Droupadi Murmu regarding the matter. Speaking to reporters near his residence in Bengaluru, he stated that he believes the Governor will not proceed with the prosecution. However, if permission is granted, they will engage in a legal battle.

PMK wants NEET to be scrapped

Chennai: Tamil Nadu unit Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president and former Union Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss Saturday demanded scrapping the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination for Post Graduate admission. Notably, PMK is a constituent of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and had contested the 2024 Lok Sabha as a part of the BJP-led alliance.



Indian Air Force (IAF) team after returning to India following their participation in Exercise 'UDARA SHKATI 2024' in Malaysia

T V Somanathan named as new Cabinet Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Finance Secretary T V Somanathan was Saturday named as the new Cabinet Secretary by the government for a tenure of two years.

He will succeed incumbent Rajiv Gauba, who completes his unprecedented five-year term in the top bureaucratic post this month-end.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Somanathan's appointment as the Cabinet Secretary with a tenure of two years from August 30, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

The ACC-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also approved his appointment as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat "from the date he joins the assignment till he takes over as Cabinet Secretary", it said.

Meanwhile, a new Union Home Secretary is also likely to be appointed by the government soon, as incumbent Ajay Kumar Bhalla (a 1984 batch IAS officer) completes his five-year tenure August 22.

WOMAN DOCTOR MURDER CASE

IMA gives 48-hour ultimatum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) Saturday gave authorities a 48-hour ultimatum to complete the probe into the rape and murder of a doctor in a state-run medical college and hospital in Kolkata and warned of nationwide protests if the culprits are not arrested within the period.

The doctors' body called for an impartial, time-bound thorough investigation and also sought a detailed inquiry into the conditions "enabling the crime" along with urgent steps to improve the safety of doctors especially women in workplace.

If safety and security cannot be ensured in the citadels of learning, it only indicates the incompetency of the administration, the IMA said. The body of the postgraduate trainee doctor was found in the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Friday.

"We demand that the authorities act with precision and



Junior doctors protest at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata

in time of 48 hours failing which IMA will be constrained to initiate nationwide action.

"A fair, transparent and time-sensitive criminal investigation is in order. An ultimatum of two days is given to arrest culprits otherwise IMA will undertake nationwide protests," the IMA said in a statement.

It said that the entire medical fraternity of India is shocked beyond words at the brutal murder and that this heinous crime

was committed inside the seminar hall on the 3rd floor of the campus. "There are reasons to believe that she was raped before the murder. This crime is an index of the anarchy and insecurity prevailing on the campus," it said. "IMA HQs mourns the death of this precious daughter of India and condemns the existing situations that enabled this crime to be committed with impunity inside the campus... "The entire medical fraternity

Mamata vows to seek death penalty

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday vowed to seek death penalty for the accused in the brutal sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in a state-run hospital. Banerjee also instructed officials to expedite the trial by moving it to a fast track court. She said her government would have no objections to a CBI probe if the students demand it, emphasising, "If they do not trust the West Bengal government, they can approach any investigating agency; we have no objection."

of India stands with the bereaved family and her colleagues," the statement said.

West Bengal Police has arrested one person in the case, a senior officer said Saturday. The man was an outsider who had free access to the different departments of the hospital, he said.

2-storey building collapses in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: One labourer died while two others were injured after a two-storey banquet hall collapsed in north-west Delhi's Model Town area during heavy afternoon rain Saturday afternoon, officials said.

The incident took place in Mahendru Enclave where the old building, which was being repaired, collapsed around 2.45 pm, they said.

Earlier in the day, the officials said it was an abandoned house but later clarified that the building was being used as a banquet hall. With the help of the local police, NDRF personnel and other rescue team members, three people - identified as Vishal, Pawan and Jai Singh were taken out of the rubble and sent to a nearby hospital.

CCTV footage of a nearby house captured the incident on camera. The police said the building was about 50 years old and was closed for the past few years. Some labourers were doing the repair work as it was in a dilapidated condition, a police officer said.

Three fire tenders were deployed for the rescue operation, an official of the Delhi Fire Service said, adding that two of the injured are in critical condition. One of the injured, 28-year-old Vishal, a JCB crane driver, died during treatment at Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital in Ashok Vihar, an official said.

Meanwhile, one injured is undergoing treatment at ESI hospital in Basai Darapur and the other one at Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital, the official said.

According to officials, the labourers were having their lunch when the building collapsed. Two four wheelers and two scooters parked nearby also got damaged in the incident.



KERALA LANDSLIDES

Centre to aid in relief efforts

AGENCIES

Wayanad(Kerala), August 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday visited the landslides-hit Wayanad district and assured that the Central government will "spare no effort" in helping Kerala in the relief and rehabilitation while describing the tragedy as "nature displaying its furious form".

Modi, who arrived in the hill district by helicopter from Kannur airport, conducted an aerial survey, walked through the disaster-stricken Chooralmala to get a firsthand view of the destruction caused by the July 30 landslides, visited one of the relief camps and interacted with survivors.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during his visit to the ravaged parts said, "I would like to assure the survivors and victims that they are not alone in this time of distress. The nation, the Centre, the state, everyone, is with them. While we cannot replace the lives that have been lost, we should all try to ensure the future and dreams of those who survived are not shattered."

After Modi's visit, state Public Works Minister PA Mohammed Riyas told reporters that on behalf of the state government, Chief Minister Vijayan stressed the need for a comprehensive reconstruction of the landslides-hit areas. Revenue Minister K Rajan said the region has incurred a loss of ₹1,200 crore while ₹2,000 crore was sought for rehabilitation alone.

LG lays foundation stone of RDSS in Ladakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Leh, August 10: Lieutenant Governor (LG) Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) laid the foundation stone of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) by POWERGRID in Ladakh, at the Raj Niwas here.

RDSS is a reforms-based and result-linked scheme of the Centre for improving the health of Distribution Companies (DISCOMs). It aims to make DISCOMs operationally efficient and financially sustainable. The total outlay of the scheme stands at ₹3 lakh crore with budgetary support of ₹97,631 crore.

Ladakh got approval of schemes worth ₹862.84 crore with gross budgetary support from the Centre of ₹776.56 crore. The balance of ₹86.28 crore would be funded by the UT. POWERGRID CMD RK Tyagi, in his ad-



dress, reiterated the CPSU's commitment for the sustained development of Ladakh's power infrastructure.

Tyagi said POWERGRID is committed to ensuring that every corner of Ladakh has access to reliable and quality power. Terming the ceremony as a

significant milestone in POWERGRID's journey towards achieving this goal, Tyagi assured the gathering that POWERGRID will not leave any stone unturned to make this project a grand success.

The Lieutenant Governor informed that Ladakh adminis-

tration is firm in its resolve for practical, pragmatic and viable solution to strengthen power infrastructure in the UT.

POWERGRID (Northern Region-II) Executive Director Rajesh Kumar, in his welcome address, explained the highlights of the proposed scheme and threw light on the initiatives POWERGRID has been undertaking in Ladakh.

Leh Deputy Commissioner Santosh Sukhadeve, Ladakh Power Development Department Administrative Secretary Vikram Singh Mallik, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Pawan Kotwal and LAHDC, Kargil Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor Jaffer Akhoun and senior officers from Ladakh administration as well as Power Grid Corporation of India Limited were also present on the occasion.

Sisodia calls for unified Oppn against 'dictatorship'

THE FORMER DEPUTY CM OF DELHI CLAIMED THAT WHILE IN JAIL, HE WAS PAINED TO SEE HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSMEN BEING PUT IN PRISON IN 'FAKE CASES JUST BECAUSE THEY DID NOT DONATE MONEY TO THE BJP'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: AAP leader Manish Sisodia Saturday called upon party workers and people to fight against "tyranny" in the country and said if all Opposition parties stand united against "dictatorship", Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will come out of prison within 24 hours.

Addressing AAP workers at the party headquarters here a day after his release from Tihar jail

on bail, he said party workers need to start working hard immediately to ensure the BJP loses the Assembly polls in Haryana, Delhi and elsewhere. The former Delhi deputy chief minister urged the new allies of the BJP-led NDA as well as the Opposition INDIA bloc parties to unite against "dictatorship", not just to save their leaders from being imprisoned but most importantly in the interest of the country.

The Aam Aadmi Party is part



of the INDIA bloc. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the AAP and another INDIA bloc constituent Congress

fought the elections together. "If the whole Opposition gives a call (against dictatorship) with full force, Arvind Kejriwal will

come out of jail within 24 hours," Sisodia said. The Delhi chief minister is in Tihar Jail in connection with an excise policy scam case.

He is the "symbol of honesty" in the country, Sisodia said and termed the entire case against the chief minister a "web of conspiracies" spun by the ED and CBI to "tarnish" his image.

The former deputy chief minister claimed that while in jail, he was pained to see hundreds of businessmen being put in prison in "fake cases just because they did not donate money to the BJP".

Sisodia, a trusted lieutenant of AAP supreme Kejriwal, walked out of jail Friday after spending 17 months behind bars in connection with the excise policy case. He posted a picture

of him Saturday having tea with his wife and wrote, "First tea of an independent morning... after 17 months".

The AAP leader visited the Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place here along with AAP leaders, including MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj, and offered prayers there.

Scores of party workers gathered on the temple premises to greet him and raised slogans. Later, Sisodia paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

Addressing party workers at the AAP headquarters, he said the BJP leaders are not more powerful than the Constitution. Every person has to fight this "dictatorship" that is putting leaders in jail and also harassing citizens, Sisodia said.

international



We consider it our duty to avenge the blood of Haniyeh, who was killed in a bitter incident in Iran
ESMAEL QA'ANI | COMMANDER OF THE QUDS FORCE OF IRAN'S IRGC

RECORD NUMBER OF DENGUE CASES IMPORTED INTO FRANCE

More than 3,000 cases of dengue fever have been imported into mainland France so far this year, setting a new record, local media reported, quoting the country's public health agency (SPF). Between May 1 and August 6, SPF recorded nearly 1,000 imported dengue fever cases in mainland France



of the day quote

The United States supports his call for calm and peace and remains committed to working with Bangladesh as it charts a democratic and prosperous future for the people in Bangladesh
ANTHONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

At least four people were killed and 24 others injured in a Russian strike on a shopping mall in the Donetsk region
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

We want to get a deal. We believe that it's possible to do that ... But it's going to require some leadership on all sides here and some compromises
JOHN KIRBY | WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Trump's plane diverted in Montana

Bozeman: Donald Trump travelled to Montana for a Friday night rally intended to drum up support for ousting the state's Democratic senator, but the former president's plane first had to divert to an airport on the other side of the Rocky Mountains because of a mechanical issue, according to airport staff. Trump's plane was en route to Bozeman, Montana, when it was diverted Friday afternoon to Billings, 142 miles to the east, according to Jenny Mockel, administrative assistant at Billings Logan International Airport. Trump continued to Bozeman via private jet.

Authorities probe cause of plane crash

Vinhedo: Brazilian authorities worked Saturday to piece together what exactly caused the plane crash in Sao Paulo state the previous day that killed all 62 people on board. Local airline Voepass' plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport in Guarulhos with 58 passengers and 4 crew members, when it went down in the city of Vinhedo.

Convict in Kremlin critic murder freed

Kyiv: A man convicted in the killing of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov has been discharged from jail after signing a contract to join the military operation in Ukraine, state-run news agencies TASS and RIA Novosti reported Saturday. Nemtsov, a critic of President Vladimir Putin and former deputy prime minister under president Boris Yeltsin, was shot dead in 2015 as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin in the heart of the Russian capital.

Debby finally moves out of US

Washington: Debby finally moved out of the US Saturday after the storm spent the better part of week unleashing tornadoes and flooding, damaging homes and taking lives as it moved up the East Coast after first arriving in Florida as a hurricane.

7 killed in plane crash

Santiago: Seven people were killed when a small plane crashed in the southern Chilean region of Aysen, the Civil Aeronautics Directorate said. Both the pilot and the six occupants in the plane were killed in the crash that occurred on Friday, and investigators were heading to the scene to carry out an investigation, the agency said in a statement.

Dozens of Rohingya fleeing Myanmar killed in drone attack

Bangkok, August 10: At least 150 civilians from Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority may have been killed this week in an artillery and drone attack in the western state of Rakhine that survivors suspect was carried out by a major force in the resistance to military rule. The Arakan Army, the military wing of the state's Rakhine ethnic group, denied responsibility for the assault Monday on Rohingya trying to flee fierce fighting in Maungdaw town by crossing the Naf River into Bangladesh. A statement issued Friday by an international medical assistance group, Doctors Without Borders, said that in the past week, it has been treating increasing numbers of



Bangladesh. A statement issued Friday by an international medical assistance group, Doctors

Without Borders, said that in the past week, it has been treating increasing numbers of

Rohingya people with violence-related injuries who managed to cross the border into Bangladesh. The statement said some patients "reported seeing people bombed while trying to find boats to cross the river into Bangladesh and escape the violence. Others described seeing hundreds of dead bodies on the riverbanks." Pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed forces have been attempting to oust the country's military rulers since they seized power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the

fighting in Rakhine has raised fears of a revival of organized violence against members of the Rohingya minority. In 2017, a military counter-insurgency campaign drove at least 740,000 members of their community to Bangladesh for safety. Almost all still remain there in overcrowded refugee camps, unable to return home because of the continuing instability. Many Rohingya have lived in Myanmar for generations, but face widespread prejudice and are generally denied citizenship and other basic rights in the Buddhist-majority country.

North Korea has flown more trash balloons: S Korea



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 10: South Korea's military says North Korea is again flying balloons likely carrying trash toward the South, adding to a bizarre psychological warfare campaign amid growing tensions between the war-divided rivals. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Saturday that the winds could carry the balloons to regions north of the South Korean capital, Seoul. Seoul City Hall and the Gyeonggi provincial government issued text alerts urging citizens to beware of objects dropping from the sky and report to the military or police if they spot any balloons. There were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage. North Korea in recent weeks has flown more than 2,000 balloons carrying waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts toward the South in what it has described as a retaliation toward South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border. Trash carried by at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound late last month, raising worries about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. The balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt, South Korea's presidential security service said. South Korea, in reaction to the North's balloon campaign, activated its front-line loudspeakers to blast broadcasts of propaganda messages and K-pop songs. Their tit-for-tat Cold War-style campaigns are inflaming tensions, with the rivals threatening stronger steps and warning of grave consequences.

Yunus condemns attacks on minorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 10: Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus Saturday condemned attacks on the minority communities in the violence-hit nation, terming them as "heinous", and urged the youth to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families from harm. Thousands of Bangladeshis Hindus have been trying to flee to neighbouring India to escape the violence. Reaching out to students who are at the forefront of the protests, Yunus, a Nobel laureate, cautioned them not to let their efforts be sabotaged by those seeking to undermine their progress, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. "There are many standing by to make your efforts futile. Don't fail this time," he said while addressing the students at the Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur city. Yunus unequivocally condemned the attacks on minority communities in the country, calling the acts "heinous". He urged the students to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families from harm. "Are they not the people of this country? You have been able to save the country; can't you save some families?... You must say — no one can harm them. They are my brothers; we fought to-



Stressing the importance of youth leadership, Yunus said, "This Bangladesh, is now in your hands. You have the power to take it wherever you want. This isn't a matter of research — it's a power within you"

gether, and we will stay together," he asserted, underscoring the need for national unity. He also urged the people of Bangladesh to emulate the way student activist Abu Sayed stood valiantly during the anti-government demonstrations that led to the toppling of the Sheikh Hasina government. Sayed, 25, of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University, was among the first protesters to be killed in police firing July 16 during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. Yunus, who was sworn in Thursday as the head of the interim government, met with Sayed's family members

in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila, The Daily Star newspaper reported. "We have to stand the way Abu Sayed stood... Abu Sayed's mother is everyone's mother. We have to protect her, protect her sisters, protect her brothers. Everyone has to do it together," he told reporters after meeting Sayed's family. Yunus said that the responsibility of building a new Bangladesh is for every Bangladeshi. "We will remember him (Abu Sayed) through this. Therefore, we should ensure that we do the work (needed)," he said. "Abu Sayed is no longer a member of just one

2 Indian-American lawmakers seek US intervention

Washington: Two prominent Indian-American lawmakers have sought the US' direct intervention to stop the "coordinated attacks" against minority Hindus in Bangladesh, underlining that instability in the region, "fuelled by religious intolerance and violence", is not in the interest of America or its allies. Members of minority communities in Bangladesh faced at least 205 incidents of attacks in 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government August 5, according to two Hindu organisations — Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Udayan Parishad — in the violence-hit nation.

family. He is the child of all families in Bangladesh. The children who will grow up and attend school and college will know about Abu Sayed and will say to themselves, 'I too will fight for justice.' Abu Sayed is now in every home," Yunus said. Meanwhile, thousands of Hindu agitators, including students, blocked the Shahbagh intersection for the second consecutive day Saturday, protesting attacks on their homes, shops, and temples in various parts of the country, *The Daily Star* newspaper reported.

India, Maldives look to reset ties

Jaishankar is on a three-day official visit to Maldives to reset the bilateral relationship, the first high-level trip from India after the archipelago nation's pro-China president Muizzu assumed office last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, August 10: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu here Saturday and emphasised New Delhi's commitment to deepen India-Maldives ties for the benefit of the people in the two countries and the region. "Privileged to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu. Conveyed greetings of PM @NarendraModi. Committed to deepening India-Maldives ties for the benefit of our people and the region," Jaishankar posted on X along with a photograph of the meeting. Meanwhile, in a post on X, Muizzu said it was a pleasure to meet Jaishankar and join him in the official handover of water and sewerage projects in 28 is-



lands of the Maldives. "I thank the Government of India, especially Prime Minister @narendramodi for always supporting the Maldives. Our enduring partnership continues to strengthen, bringing our nations closer through cooperation in security, development, and cultural exchange. Together, we build a brighter, more prosperous future for the region," he said, sharing some photographs of his meeting with Jaishankar. Jaishankar's trip to the Maldives comes weeks after President Muizzu's visit to India in June to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Earlier, Jaishankar met Maldivian Defence Minister Ghassan Maumoon and dis-

cussed bilateral security cooperation and the "shared interest" in maintaining peace and stability in the region, amidst China's growing presence in the archipelago nation. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November 2023. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel manning three aviation platforms in the Maldives. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians by May 10, the mutually agreed date. This is the first official visit of Jaishankar to the Maldives since assuming office for a second term in June 2024. His previous visit was in January 2023.

Israeli strike on Gaza school kills nearly 100

REUTERS

Cairo, August 10: An Israeli airstrike on a Gaza City school compound housing displaced Palestinian families killed around 100 people, the Gaza Civil Emergency Service said Saturday. Israel said around 20 militants had been operating at the compound. Video from the site showed body parts scattered around and more bodies being carried away and covered in blankets on the floor. Empty food tins lay in a puddle of blood, and burnt mattresses and a child's doll lay among the debris. In another video, men prayed over a dozen body bags laid out on the ground of the Tabeen school complex. The territory's Civil Emergency Service, which has a credible record in



stating casualty numbers, and the Hamas-run government media office said in separate statements that the complex had been attacked as its occupants were performing dawn prayers. Tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought shelter in Gaza's schools, most of which have been closed since the war began 10 months ago. Around 350 families had been sheltering at the compound, Bassal said - some of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

Russia imposes security regime on border regions

UKRAINIAN FORCES RAMMED THROUGH THE RUSSIAN BORDER EARLY TUESDAY AND SWEEPED ACROSS SOME WESTERN PARTS OF RUSSIA'S KURSK REGION, A SURPRISE ATTACK THAT MAY BE AIMED AT GAINING LEVERAGE IN POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE TALKS AFTER THE US ELECTION

REUTERS

Moscow, August 10: Russia was fighting intense battles Saturday against thousands of Ukrainian troops as deep as 20 km (12 miles) inside the Kursk region after Ukraine's biggest attack on Russian sovereign territory since the start of the war in 2022. Supported by swarms of drones and heavy artillery fire, Ukrainian units moved quickly to carve out a sliver of the Western Russian territory beside the border while sabotage units pierced deeper inside

Russia, according to Russian war bloggers. "The armed forces continue to repel the attempted invasion by the Ukrainian armed forces," Russia's Defence Ministry said Saturday, adding that intense battles were focused around Malaya Loknya, Olgovka and Ivashkovskoye, settlements around 10-20 km inside Russia. In a sign of the gravity of the situation, Russia imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions Saturday while Belarus said it had repelled what it thinks was a major drone attack from



Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin cast the Ukrainian attack as a major provocation and though Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, said Wednesday that Ukraine's incursion had been halted, Russia

has thus far failed to push the Ukrainian forces back over the border. Russian military bloggers said Saturday the situation had stabilised after Russia rushed in forces to halt the surprise advance, though they said Ukraine

was swiftly building up forces. The Ukrainian attack has prompted some in Moscow to question why Ukraine was able to pierce the Kursk region so easily after more than two years of the most intense land war in Europe since World War Two. "A full scale military operation is underway against a very serious enemy who are certainly not idiots," said Yuri Podolyaka, a popular Ukrainian-born, pro-Russian military blogger.

the war: Kyiv is concerned that US support could weaken if Republican Donald Trump wins the November Presidential election. Trump has said he would end the war, and both Russia and Ukraine are keen to gain the strongest possible bargaining position on the battlefield. Ukraine wants to pin down Russian forces, which control 18% of its territory, while showing the West that it can still muster major military operations that hurt Russia even if the Kursk front is unlikely to change the outcome of the war.

of the day quote

So today, whatever we are, it will be different from what we had anticipated at the time of the announcement of the merger. The merger has strengthened the bank's pathways for future growth

In India, tourism contributes only 6.5 per cent to GDP and a similar share in employment. This sector holds enormous potential for creating jobs. If the government can leverage this opportunity effectively, it could address up to 50 per cent of our employment challenges

Earlier the phones priced under ₹10,000 used to dominate the market in India, and it was around 35-40 per cent. Now, the major market has gone to the mobile phones priced in the range of ₹10,000 to ₹20,000, which is close to 43 per cent

SHORT TAKES

Siemens Q3 PAT grows 25 per cent

New Delhi: Siemens has reported a 25 per cent rise in profit after tax (PAT) at ₹531 crore during the April-June quarter of this fiscal, on account of higher revenues. The company, which follows the October to September fiscal year, had reported a PAT of ₹424 crore a year ago, a company statement said Friday. Its revenues rose to ₹4,714 crore, up 7 per cent from ₹4,407 crore in the year-ago period. The company's new orders stood at ₹6,245 crore, an increase of 18 per cent over ₹5,288 ₹crore in the same period last year.

Jagran Prakashan Q1 profit falls 6.5%

New Delhi: Jagran Prakashan Ltd, the publisher of Hindi daily Dainik Jagran, Saturday reported a decline of 6.51 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹41.03 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had posted a net profit of ₹43.89 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Jagran Prakashan Ltd (JPL). Its revenue from operations was down 2.3 per cent to ₹444.11 crore in the June quarter. It was at ₹454.57 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

Aurobindo Pharma Q1 net jumps 61 pc

New Delhi: Aurobindo Pharma Saturday said its consolidated net profit increased 61 per cent year on year to ₹919 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024, aided by strong sales across markets. The Hyderabad-based drug maker had reported a net profit of ₹571 crore in the April-June quarter of last fiscal. Revenue from operations increased to ₹7,567 crore in the June quarter as against ₹6,851 crore in the year-ago period, the drug maker said in a statement.

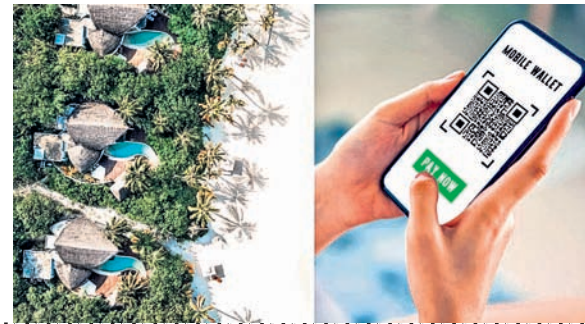
Signature Global cuts 16% net debt

New Delhi: Realty firm Signature Global's net debt has come down by 16 per cent in June quarter to ₹980 crore on better cash flows amid strong sales in its housing projects. In its latest investor presentation for the June quarter, the company informed that its net debt stood at ₹980 crore as June 30, 2024, as against ₹1,160 crore at the end of the last financial year.



We are in discussion with the IFSC, trading of sovereign green bonds will be operationalised very soon. I think in the second half (of the current financial year), it will be possible

UPI IN MALDIVES India and Maldives have signed an agreement to introduce the Unified Payments Interface in the archipelago nation, which will have a very positive impact on its tourism sector, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said



Garment sector hit by B'desh crisis: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The Indian garment and knitted fabric sector is witnessing a bit of uncertainty due to the Bangladesh crisis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Saturday, expressing hope that the interim government there will settle things sooner rather than later.

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India, she said efforts are being taken to ensure that borders with the neighbouring country are safe.

With regard to Indian investments, she said, the textile industry particularly from Tamil Nadu has made investments there in good faith and they have done well having gone there.

"The exports from Bangladesh also increased because of the duty and quota liberal approach that we have towards low-income countries. They (Indian garment industry based in Bangladesh) could even export to India." Particularly, she said, the garment and knitted fabric sector is seeing a bit of uncertainty because of the crisis in the neighbouring country.

"I hope that the investments are all safe... it's too early for me to see what kind of an impact this situation in Bangladesh will have on our economy. I hope that the interim government will settle things sooner rather than later so that both the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to normalcy," she said.

Earlier this week, Bangladesh plunged into a political crisis when Sheikh Hasina resigned as



the Prime Minister and fled the country. Soon after Parliament was dissolved leading to the creation of an interim government.

The 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus Thursday took oath as the head of an interim government, replacing Sheikh Hasina who abruptly resigned and fled to India leaving the country in turmoil following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs.

On Friday, Bangladesh's interim leader Yunus announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors and named a former top diplomat to head the foreign ministry.

The Nobel laureate's first task is to bring stability to Bangladesh after he responded to a call by student protesters for him to temporarily lead the country following weeks of deadly anti-government demonstrations against the government led by Sheikh Hasina.

I hope that the investments are all safe... it's too early for me to see what kind of an impact this situation in Bangladesh will have on our economy. I hope that the interim government will settle things sooner rather than later so that both the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to normalcy

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

INDIAN FIRMS RESUME OPS

Bangalore: Indian companies are slowly resuming normal operations in neighbouring Bangladesh following disruption linked to deadly anti-government protests that forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee to India. Here are some details of what Indian companies have said about their activities in Bangladesh, where many products made by India-based firms are household names:

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA (LIC) LIC of Bangladesh partially resumed operations in the country from August 8 after closing its offices for three days. It has 13 offices in the country and sold nearly 4,500 policies in the financial year ended March 2024. The unit of the Indian government-backed LIC, however, said the situation had "still not reached the stage of normalcy" and "may continue to hamper the operations".

PEARL GLOBAL INDUSTRIES The Indian garment maker, which supplies to global brands including GAP, Macy's and Ralph Lauren, said its factories resumed operations August 7 with "normal 97%+" staff attendance, after two days of a curfew-mandated shutdown. It said it was operating 70% of its facilities at full capacity and would resume operations at the rest when it felt more confident about the security of its workers in certain parts of Bangladesh. It has four plants in the capital, Dhaka, and Gazipur where it manufactures hoodies, tracksuit pants and other items.

MARICO The consumer goods maker, which sells its Parachute brand of hair oil and Saffola cooking oil in Bangladesh, said August 7 a majority of its retail sales force and distributors had resumed their work. It expected manufacturing to follow suit soon. Marico, however, said it remained watchful of the situation and was prioritising the safety of its employees, factory workers and distributors.

Café Coffee Day parent faces insolvency trial

NCLT AUGUST 8 ADMITTED THE PLEA FILED BY IDBI TRUSTEESHIP SERVICES LTD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Corporate dispute tribunal NCLT has ordered initiating insolvency proceedings against Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL), the parent company of Coffee Day Group which operates Cafe Coffee Day chain of coffee houses.

The Bangalore bench of the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) August 8 admitted the plea filed by IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd (IDBITSL) claiming a default of ₹228.45 crore and appointed an interim resolution professional to take care of the operation of the debt-ridden company.

CDEL, which also owns and operates a resort, renders consultancy services and is engaged in the sale and purchase of coffee beans, had defaulted in the payment of coupon payments of redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs).



The financial creditor had subscribed 1,000 NCDs through private placement and paid ₹100 crore towards the subscription in March 2019. For that CDEL executed and entered into an agreement with IDBITSL agreeing to appoint as the debenture trustee for the debenture holders.

However, CDEL defaulted in paying the accrued aggregate coupon payments due on various dates between September 2019 and June 2020.

Consequently, the debenture trustee, on behalf of all the debenture holders, issued a notice of default July 28, 2020 to CDEL and approached NCLT.

CDEL opposed the move claiming that IDBITSL is not authorised to initiate CIRP (Corporate insolvency resolution process) as the Debenture Trustee Agreement and Debenture Trust Deed do not grant powers to it to initiate CIRP.

Trust deficit dips deposits

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: Household savings in India are increasingly shifting from the traditional bank deposits towards alternate investment products such as mutual funds, leading to a deposit-lending mismatch in the banking sector. A series of bank failures over the last few years is believed to have led to a trust deficit among depositors, who now prefer high-risk investment instruments over the supposed safety of banks. During the last four years, India has witnessed three banks going into the red — Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, YES Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank — on account of bad debt, while top nationalised banks like the Punjab National Bank and the State Bank of India have lost thousands of crores of depositors' money to scammers and willful defaulters of the likes of Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya.

Alarmed by the dwindling deposits, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday exhorted banks to focus on their core busi-

ness and explore new ways to attract deposits.

"Both RBI and the government have been asking banks to focus on their business activity... they should be aggressive in deposit mobilisation and then lend. That is the core activity of banks," she said.

Interacting with the media after her customary post Budget address to the central board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), she said there is mismatch between credit and deposit growth presently.

Stressing that banks should give emphasis on collecting deposits, she said, "RBI has given them some liberty in managing the interest rates. Using that liberty, they should make deposits attractive... bring innovative products and mobilise deposits."

She also urged bankers to shun lazy banking and focus on small savers rather than big or bulk deposits.

"Trickles (small savings) are going to be your bread and butter, money to bank on... that trickle which was the emphasis long back, which kept noth-

ing for the other side (big deposits). Now we've (banks) gone to the other side completely. Now they are chasing bulk deposits to meet their targets," she said.

But the requisite small deposit mobilisation is one of the very critical jobs of a bank, she said, adding "it might be grinding monotony, but that's where your bread and butter lies."

Echoing a similar view, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "We have been witnessing about 300 to 400 basis points gap between deposits and credit growth, deposits are lower. So at the moment, our effort is to highlight this point. It is kind of a proactive caution for the banks' management that going forward, this may create structural issues with regard to liquidity management. As it stands today, we don't see a crisis. But it has to be attended to."

The RBI Governor while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy earlier in the week, also had expressed concerns over the deposit-lending mismatch in the banking sector.

He had said that banks were taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand.



Shah urges sugar mills to diversify ethanol output

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Saturday called on sugar mills to explore alternatives to sugarcane for ethanol production, pushing for a multi-dimensional approach to biofuel manufacturing.

Speaking at an event organized by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCFSF), Shah said India would achieve its 20 per cent ethanol blending target by 2025-26, ahead of the original 2030 deadline.

The minister highlighted that the government's ethanol blending programme has helped reduce the country's crude oil import bill and address environmental concerns.



"You need to be futuristic and look at opportunities and expand. Ethanol can be made from multiple sources," Shah said, urging cooperative sugar mills to shed their orthodox approach and explore alternative feedstocks such as maize and bamboo.

Shah said about 1,000 crore litres of ethanol is required for blending, and the necessary infrastructure to achieve this target is in place.

He emphasised the need for sugar mills to modernise and adopt new technologies, citing potential export opportunities once the Global Biofuels Alliance is established.

The minister challenged NFCFSF to expand its operations, suggesting the federation to set up one cooperative sugar mill for every three districts in four states within a year.

Shah also advised NFCFSF to hire professionals to guide loss-making cooperatives and set a target of increasing mills' annual turnover by 25 per cent in two years. "We have a habit of working inefficiently and seeking help from the government. The government will be willing to help more if you work efficiently.... Make a dynamic Federation, not a demand-driven Federation," he added.

Retro is back in style: Iconic BSA Motorcycles set to return

Hallowed British and European motorcycle marques are enjoying something of a revival in India, as Indian ownership and an increasing appetite for the retro-cool lifestyle breathe new life into them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 10: With its new generation Gold Star, BSA Motorcycles, a legendary British brand, is poised to enter India and reclaim its glory in the contemporary era.

Tapping into this desire for the days gone by, Classic Legends has revived a number of brands from yesteryear, reimagining some of their most iconic hits for the modern age. Beyond mere transportation, these brands represent a lifestyle choice. They appeal to riders who value heritage, craftsmanship, and the thrill of the open road.

Hallowed British and European motorcycle marques are enjoying something of a revival in India, as Indian owner-

ship and an increasing appetite for the retro-cool lifestyle breathe new life into them. Several iconic names, from Jawa, originating in the Czech Republic, to the legendary Yezdi brand under Jawa ownership, are making significant strides in the Indian motorcycle market among avid bike enthusiasts. Now, joining this resurgence is another legendary nameplate set to make its mark—the BSA Gold Star.

With the impending introduction, Classic Legends is not only looking at reviving the storied legacies of BSA Brand but also enriching the diverse tapestry of the Indian motorcycle market. With the BSA Gold Star, the company is committed to bringing back the excitement of riding an authentic retro motorcycle, which



is also a symbol of excellence and ageless engineering.

Known for its racing pedigree and timeless design, the Gold Star promises to capture hearts with its blend of nostalgia and modern features tailored for today's riders. Like its other Classic Legends peers, the BSA Gold Star represents a bridge between the past and the present, appealing to riders who appreciate history while embracing the advancements of modern motorcycle engineering.

The company intends to serve enthusiasts of the revered classic motorcycle brands.

About Classic Legends Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd. was founded with a vision to reintroduce iconic motorcycle brands in India & International markets. The company currently boasts of an elaborate portfolio constituting Jawa, Yezdi & BSA marquee brands. It aims to bring to consumers a quintessential motorcycling lifestyle experience by co-creating exciting prod-

uct and service offerings within its motorcycling ecosystem and bringing back renewed fervour into the retro classic motorcycle market.

Launched in 2018, Jawa Motorcycles was the first brand to be re-introduced as a part of the Classic Legends stable. Soon after the launch, the brand became the top searched motorcycle brand on Google with its inventory for 10 months sold out in the first month itself. Jawa is now an established motorcycling lifestyle brand, having iconic models like the Jawa, 42 & Perak in its portfolio.

The launch of Yezdi Motorcycles in 2022 introduced three distinct motorcycles models, purpose built to celebrate the spirit of fun, thrill & adventure. The combined product portfolio of Jawa & Yezdi brands, offers a full gamut of premium models, catering to entire motorcycling spectrum from urban city rides, off-roading to long distance touring.

AMAN AVOIDS VINESH FATE

Accolades pour in for young wrestler

Paris, August 10: To gain something, Aman Sehrawat firstly needed to lose something. When the scales of the weighing machine showed 61.5 kg Thursday after his semi-final defeat to eventual champion Rei Higuchi, Aman had a bigger job at hand before taking the mat for the bronze medal play-off.

Sehrawat lost 4.6 kg in 10 hours and won bronze Friday becoming the youngest Indian individual medal winner

India's youngest Olympic bronze medal winning grappler had to shed 4.5 kilograms of bodyweight in a stipulated time of 10 hours before mandatory second day weigh-in to qualify for the 57 kg bout.

cutting weight. He was then given a 30-minute break, followed by five sessions of 5-minute sauna bath. By the end of the last session, Aman was still weighing 900g more. He was given a massage and then the coaches asked the Chhatrasal trainee to do light jogging.

The target was gold but I had to be content with bronze this time. I had to forget the semifinal defeat. I told myself, let it go and focus on next. Sushil pehlawan ji won two medals, I will win in 2028 and then in 2032 also

It was case being exactly 100 gram less than critical limit. If 100 gram became tragedy for Vinesh Phogat, it was a case of relief for Aman.

It was followed by five 15-minute running sessions. By 4:30am, Aman was weighing 56.9kg - 100g less. The coaches and the wrestler heaved a sigh of relief.

Aman had lost his semifinal bout against Japan's Rei Higuchi around 6:30 pm Thursday.

In between these sessions, Aman was given lukewarm water with lemon and honey and a bit of coffee to drink.

There was no time to waste. The 'mission' began with a one-and-a-half-hour mat session during which the two senior coaches engaged him in standing wrestling and it was followed by a one-hour hot-bath session.

Aman would not sleep after that.

At 12:30 they hit the gym, where Aman had a non-stop one-hour run on the treadmill.

"I watched videos of wrestling bouts, the whole night. We kept checking his weight every hour. We didn't sleep the whole night, not even during the day," said coach Dahiya.

The sweating would help in

"Weight cutting is routine, normal for us but there was tension, a lot of tension due to what

Chhatrasal's rich legacy

Living up to the expectations, Aman Sehrawat Friday bagged the men's 57kg free-style bronze medal at the Olympics with a commanding win over Darian Toi Cruz, bringing some cheers to the Indian wrestling contingent that has been rocked by controversies. The sport of wrestling has not missed a medal at the Olympics since 2008 and Aman's effort ensured the streak remained unbroken. Sushil Kumar broke the glass ceiling by winning the bronze in Beijing (2008), and since then Yogeshwar Dutt (2012), Sakshi Malik (2016), Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia (2021) have kept the tradition intact. Aman's effort also helped India win its sixth medal and move closer to the Tokyo Games tally of seven. Having lost his parents at a tender age of 12, the famed Chhatrasal stadium - where his father had enrolled him in 2013 - became his second home. He comes from the centre that has given India four Olympic medalists - Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya.

happened the other day (with Vinesh). We could not let slip another medal," said Dahiya.

All the hard work came to a fruition when Aman won the bronze medal, beating Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz Friday to become India's youngest ever Olympic medalist.

Wrestler Aman Sehrawat overcoming adversity to stand on the podium Friday touched an emotional chord with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BCCI secretary Jay Shah and former cricketer Virender Sehraw as they led the tributes to the 21-year-old, who won a bronze medal to take India's tally at the Paris Olympics to six.

The 21-year-old 57kg free-style grappler, was raised by his grandfather after he lost his parents as a child. Before him, celebrated shuttler PV Sindhu held the title of being

India's youngest Olympic podium finisher after she claimed a silver in the 2016 Games at the age of 21 years, one month and 14 days.

PM Modi lauded Aman's tenacity, saying, "More pride thanks to our wrestlers! Congratulations to Aman Sehrawat for winning the Bronze Medal in the Men's Freestyle 57kg at the Paris Olympics. His dedication and perseverance are clearly evident. The entire nation celebrates this remarkable feat."

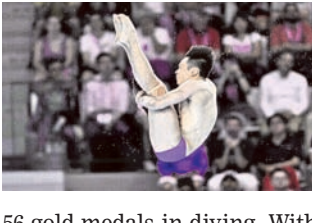
Praising the youngster, who has trained since childhood at the famed Chhatrasal Stadium, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on 'X', "What a way to earn your first Olympic medal! Aman Sehrawat, your performance in the bronze medal match was top-notch! You have battled through every adversity, and despite the struggles, you've come out on top. The entire nation is proud of you, Aman!"

Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia, who also comes from Chhatrasal, said, "Well done Aman Sehrawat brother! Congratulations to this great wrestler for the bronze medal. Aman, you played very well. Indian wrestling never returns empty handed from the Olympics (since 2008)."

Olympic gold-medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra said Aman's humility makes him stand out. "Your determination on the mat, your focus, and the way you carry yourself with humility and grace - these are the qualities that make a true champion. Securing bronze in Paris is a huge achievement, but more than that, it's a reflection of your relentless pursuit of excellence. I'm incredibly proud of you, and I know you've made the entire nation proud too. Keep shining, champ!" wrote Bindra on 'X'.

China's unprecedented Olympic diving sweep

Saint-Denis: Cao Yuan defended his title in the men's 10-meter platform on Saturday and gave China an unprecedented sweep of the diving gold medals at the Paris Olympics. The Big Red Machine won all eight golds at the Olympic Aquatics Centre, most of them with dominating victories.



Three times China has won seven of eight golds, but never all eight. Until Saturday, the last sweep of any kind was the United States taking all four golds at Helsinki in 1952. The US once dominated the diving events, but China began its rise to prominence with its first gold in 1984 at Los Angeles. Beginning in 2000, the Asian powerhouse has captured an astonishing 46 of

56 gold medals in diving. With teams limited to two divers in the individual events, China claimed gold and silver in women's platform and men's springboard. China finished with 11 medals overall, one shy of its record-breaking total at the Tokyo Games. The only other nation to win a dozen diving medals at a single Games was the US in 1932 when the Americans swept the podium in all four events at Los Angeles.

Hooda shows promise but loses in QF

THE 21-YEAR OLD WRESTLER HAD BECOME FEMALE U23 WORLD CHAMPION LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris: Indian wrestler Reetika Hooda put up a stout defence against top seed Aiperi Medet Kyzy before losing the women's 76kg quarterfinal bout, which turned into an intense power struggle at the Paris Olympics here Saturday.



Up against the Asian Games champion and World Championship silver medalist, Reetika managed to restrict her formidable rival to standing wrestling but eventually lost the bout on criteria after it ended 1-1.

If the two wrestlers end with the same score, the one who scores the last point is declared winner. "You can't win bouts by just de-

fence," India coach Virender Dahiya fumed. "Yes, she fought well but what's the point if your strong defence does not get you

win. Reetika did not let her attack but she herself did not attack. You lose by one point, or 10 points, you lose. Reetika could have won

Reetika's fate would now depend on Aiperi's result in the next bout. If she reaches the final, Reetika will get the repechage round to get into bronze play-off

this bout," he said. The Kyrgyzstan wrestler began on an aggressive note with a double leg attack but Reetika, using her immense upper body power, held her ground. Had it not been for a strong defence, Reetika could have been flipped by Aiperi for a takedown.

Reetika got the first point on Aiperi's passivity in the first period but she was also put on the clock in the second period and lost the lead for lack of attacking move.

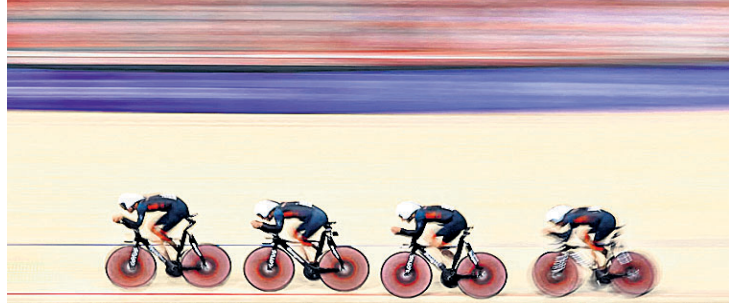
The Kyrgyz wrestler got hold of Reetika's right leg but the Indian again did well and wriggled out of her rival's grip. After getting the equaliser, Aiperi just needed to defend and she did that by using all her experience, keeping Reetika in a head-lock position.

Reetika is the last of the five Indian women in fray. Antim Panghal (50kg), Anshu Malik (57kg) and Nisha Dahiya (68kg) have already exited the competition.

PICTURE PERFECT



Team Spain perform with the hoops in the rhythmic gymnastics group all-around qualifications



Ethan Hayter, Oliver Wood, Daniel Bigham and Ethan Vernon of Britain in action during the men's team track cycling pursuit in Montigny-le Bretonneux



Competitors dive into the Seine river in the men's 10km swimming marathon



Anastasia Bayandina and Romane Lunel of France perform in the artistic swimming duet technical routines

LOSING SHINE

Medals 'deteriorate' after a week

AGENCIES

Among all other major Olympics controversies, this one takes the lead, as it goes to the very core of the Olympic Games fundamentals.

The Paris Olympics 2024 is currently a major talking point across the globe, starting off with their grand opening ceremony followed by the intense sporting action across a plethora of events. However, apart from the events, some major issues also took centerstage in recent times, including the fact around Olympic medals losing their glamor as reportedly getting 'discoloured', as being claimed by Olympic medalists.



Arena in Paris, and has already started complaining about her medal's manufacturing quality. "The medals. Er, there has been some small bits of tarnishing I will admit, yes," Harper said. "Yes I have looked at mine. A little bit of tarnishing. I don't know, I think it's like water or anything that gets on the metal, it's making it go a little bit discoloured."

An Olympic bronze medalist from Great Britain, Yasmin Harper, who is a diver at the Paris Olympics, has claimed that her medal has already started losing its shade, within just a week of being awarded. The athlete from Great Britain won this bronze medal in the women's 3m synchronized springboard event held at the La Defense

However, Harper also mentioned that since it was still a bronze medal, and held a significance of its own, the part of getting discoloration hardly bothers her. A member of the USA skateboarding team, according to agencies, echoed the same version of events like Britain's Harper,

claiming that the bronze medal received by the skateboarding team, has shown signs of discoloration. The athlete from Team USA claimed that the bronze medal has chipped from the back and has slowly started losing its color.

Each medal awarded at this Olympics, including silver and bronze, contains a piece of the Eiffel Tower preserved during renovations to the Paris landmark.

Paris Games organisers say they are looking into the complaints about the medals. "Paris 2024 is aware of a social media report from an athlete whose medal is showing damage a few days after it was awarded," a spokesperson said. "Paris 2024 is working closely with the Monnaie de Paris, the institution tasked with the production and quality control of the medals, and together with the National Olympic Committee of the athlete concerned, in order to appraise the medal to understand the circumstances and cause of the damage."

Hockey team get rousing welcome

It is for the first time since 1972 that India clinched a second consecutive medal in the Olympics after Harmanpreet & Co bagged bronze in Paris



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Hundreds of fans lined up to garland and cheer for them as members of the Indian men's hockey team, including captain Harmanpreet Singh, touched down in the national capital Saturday after fetching a second successive Olympic bronze medal in Paris. The Indian team extended its record overall Olympic medal haul in the sport to 13 with a 2-1 victory over Spain in the third place match in Paris. However, not all members of the winning team made their way back home as a few vital cogs remained in the French capital for the closing ceremony Sunday.

Celebrated goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired at the end of India's campaign, is the joint flag-bearer for the ceremony along with double-medallist Manu Bhaker. He remained in Paris along with Amit Rohidas, Raj Kumar Pal, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Sanjay. This batch is slated to return after the closing ceremony. Harmanpreet and team members were greeted with garlands and celebratory dhol as they made their way out of the arrivals at the Indira Gandhi International airport in the morning. "We have received all the support, and all our requirements were fulfilled. I really want to

You have brought immense glory to India and have inspired millions of young athletes to pursue their dreams. The entire nation is proud of your achievement

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | SPORTS MINISTER

thank... We are very happy and proud," Harmanpreet, who scored a brace in the medal match, told the media on his arrival. "It is a big achievement for hockey. The love that is being showered upon hockey doubles our responsibility. We will also try that whenever we enter the field, we comeback with a medal," he added.

Harmanpreet said the warm welcome has left him quite overwhelmed. "It is very heart-warming to see Indian fans come out to receive and congratulate us for the bronze medal. The team left no stone unturned to prepare for the Olympics and to see your efforts bear fruit, to see the whole country rejoice in our victory, is an inexplicable feeling," he said. The team played scintillating hockey during the Games with the highlight being a 3-2 win over Australia in the group stage after a gap of 52 years in the

Olympics. They pulled off another miraculous win in the quarterfinals against Britain, where the team defended with a man down for over 40 minutes to force a penalty shootout and win by 4-2, courtesy of heroics from Sreejesh. India vice captain and first-time bronze medallist Hardik Singh said the players were rewarded for trusting each other completely during the Games. "...the unshakeable belief that a teammate will step right up to cover up if you miss a step, is what pushed us to always give our best on the field," he said. "The match against Great Britain was when it really shined through. The mid-fielders had the forwards' back, the defenders supported the mid-fielders, and if all else failed we had the big man, PR Sreejesh, between the sticks who bailed us out on numerous occasions." India had beaten Spain 2-1 in the bronze medal match at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in the French capital, following goals from skipper Harmanpreet (30th, 33rd minutes). With his twin strikes Harmanpreet took his goals tally to 10 and finished as the tournament's highest goal-scorer in the men's category. "...we will cherish these memories for some time to come. With this Bronze medal, the Team has proved that Indian Hockey is back on track. We are a force to be reckoned with and on our day, we can really be unstoppable," Harmanpreet said. "All that we need is belief in our Team and the unwavering support of Indian hockey fans. So, I request them to continue loving hockey, continue supporting us and we will win it all for you," he signed off.

SPAIN TAKE HOME FOOTBALL GOLD



Spain, which lost the final to Brazil at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, became the first European gold medalist in men's soccer since it last won the tournament at the Barcelona Games in 1992

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 10: It's been a golden summer for Spanish soccer. Less than a month after winning the European Championship, Spain followed up with a thrilling 5-3 extra-time victory in the Olympic men's final against France Friday. Sergio Camello's two goals at Parc des Princes eventually sealed a dramatic match, which had seen France fight back from 3-1 down to force extra time. "We are the happiest children in the world," said Camello, who had come on as an 83rd-minute substitute. Spain's coach Santi Denia said his players deserved to cry "tears of joy" after "such a long-suffering match." France pushed the game to extra time when Jean-Philippe Mateta equalized from the penalty spot in the 93rd minute of regulation. But Camello coolly lifted over France goalkeeper Guillaume Restes in the 100th and got his second in the first minute of time added on. The Olympic victory marked

a personal double for Fermin Lopez and Alex Baena, who were both part of the Euro 2024-winning squad. Barcelona star Lopez scored twice and Baena got Spain's other goal in a blistering 10-minute spell in the first half which gave it a 3-1 lead at the break after Enzo Millot had opened the scoring for France. But the game was turned on its head when France mounted a late fightback through Maghnes Akliouche and Mateta. The dramatic climax sent the home fans wild as they chanted "Alez Les Bleus" and roared their team on. And while Camello's goals ultimately ended French hopes of a first gold since Los Angeles 1984 the crowd continued to cheer loudly as coach Thierry Henry and his players showed their appreciation with a lap of honor after the final whistle. "It was a crazy final, at the end we got a medal," Henry told France 2. "Unfortunately, we are not Olympic champions but you can't take anything away from this team." Spain's victory ended the dominance of Latin American nations for the last five editions of the Olympics. Brazil and Argentina won twice in that time, with Mexico also taking gold. Nigeria won at Atlanta 1996 and Cameroon at Sydney 2000. Spain's women couldn't make it a medal double in the soccer tournaments after losing 1-0 Germany in the bronze medal match.

SHORT TAKES

Maharaj helps SA keep WI at bay

Port of Spain: West Indies still trails South Africa by 212 runs after Keshav Maharaj's three wickets helped frustrate the hosts on a rain-affected Day 3 of the first test at the Queen's Park Oval. Maharaj bowled a marathon spell of 28 overs unchanged although he was given rest by rain interruptions that halted play for about 90 minutes Friday. West Indies struggled to compile runs when play resumed as the hosts reached 145-4. West Indies went from 114-1 to 124-4, with Maharaj taking the wickets of Keacy Carty and Alick Athanaze in quick succession. Jason Holder (13) and Kavem Hodge (11) then saw out the session until stumps. Carty was his team's top scorer with 42 runs. Earlier Friday, West Indies quickly ended South Africa's first innings at 357 all out after the visitors had resumed on 344-8.

Mandeep moves to Tripura from Punjab

New Delhi: Indian batter Mandeep Singh Saturday announced that he will play for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season, ending his 14-year stint with Punjab. Mandeep played three T20 Internationals for India in 2016 against Zimbabwe. "I have had the most amazing journey at PCA from junior level all the way to senior level whilst also having the best fortune of being the Winning Captain of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for 2023-2024," Mandeep wrote in Instagram. "However, after a lot of deliberation, I think it's time for me to open a new chapter in my career. I have decided that now is the right time to go ahead and play cricket for Tripura in the upcoming domestic season," he added in the social media post.

BCB seeks Bangladesh military assurance

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board has sought security assurance from the country's army chief for conducting the women's T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in October 3-20 amid political unrest in the country following ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The women's T20 World Cup is slated to be held in two Bangladesh cities - Sylhet and Mirpur.

GENDER DISPUTE

Paris gold has 'special taste' for Khelif



REUTERS

Paris, August 10: Victory at the Paris Olympics has "a special taste", said Algeria's Imane Khelif after winning boxing gold Friday, following two weeks of speculation over her eligibility amid a gender dispute that has engulfed the Games. Khelif, who beat China's Yang Liu to claim the welterweight title, and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting were caught up in a storm that has dominated headlines and been the subject of heated debate on social media platforms. Both were disqualified by the International Boxing Association (IBA) from the 2023 World

Championships, which said a sex chromosome test had ruled both of them ineligible. They are competing in the Olympics after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped the IBA of its status as the sport's governing body in 2023 and took control of organising the boxing in Paris. At these Games, the IOC is using boxing eligibility rules that were applied at the 2016 and 2021 Olympics which do not include gender testing. The IOC rejected the results of the IBA-ordered tests on Khelif and Lin as arbitrary and illegitimate, saying there was no reason to conduct them.

I am a woman like any woman. I was born a woman and I have lived as a woman but there are enemies to success and they can't digest my success. That also gives my success a special taste

IMANE KHELIF | ALGERIAN BOXER

Khelif, a silver medallist at the 2022 worlds, said she did not understand the IBA's actions. "All that is being said about me on social media is immoral. I want to change the minds of people around the world," Khelif added. "From 2018, I competed under the authority of the IBA and they know everything about me. I don't recognise this IBA. Some of the members hate me and I don't know why I sent them a message today that my honour is above everything." Khelif is the first Algerian woman to win an Olympic boxing gold medal, as well as the first Algerian boxer to win gold since Hocine Soltani at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The 25-year-old has had immense support from the crowds at her fights, with Algerian fans, many of whom are women, flocking to Roland Garros and the North Paris Arena to cheer her on.

OLYMPICS TIDBITS

Afghan refugee breaker disqualified for wearing 'Free Afghan Women' cape

Refugee breaker Manizha Talash, or "b-girl Talash," was disqualified from the first-ever Olympic breaking competition on Friday, after she wore a cape that said "Free Afghan Women" during her pre-qualifier battle against India Sardjoe - known as "b-girl India." The 21-year-old, originally from Afghanistan and representing the Olympic Refugee team, lost in the pre-qualifier battle against Sardjoe, and would not have advanced even if she hadn't been disqualified. Political statements and slogans are banned on the field of play and podiums at the Olympics. World DanceSport Federation, the governing body for breaking at the Olympics, issued a statement afterwards that said she "was disqualified for displaying a political slogan on her attire during the Pre-Qualifier battle." Talash sought asylum in Spain after fleeing Taliban rule in her home country in 2021. "I'm here because I want to reach my dream. Not because I'm scared," she told The Associated Press before the Olympics from Spain, where she was granted asylum.



Covid an unwelcome attendee at Paris

Many hoped the Paris Olympics would be the post-Covid Games. Instead they seem to be the "who cares about Covid" Games. Noah Lyles won a bronze with the virus in front of tens of thousands of spectators, and dozens of other athletes at the Games have tested positive. But organizers have only issued health recommendations, and no restrictions, allowing athletes to compete if they wish and are able to. In Paris, the Olympics recall pre-Covid-19 times. French people have revived the double-cheeked greeting embrace - "la bise." Fans joyfully reach out at venues to slap athletes' hands. Masks are rarely seen in crowds of supporters, and people from across the world came to France without proof of vaccines or negative virus tests. The World Health Organization said earlier this week that at least 40 athletes at the Olympics had tested positive for the virus, amid growing cases worldwide.



AMID HEALTHY COMPETITION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 10: With their "healthy competition" on the field and "strong friendship" off it, javelin superstars Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem have set out to fulfil their common mission of inspiring youngsters of India and Pakistan and getting them hooked on the sport. Nadeem won the men's javelin gold in the ongoing Paris Olympics with a stunning 92.97m throw - which was also an Olympic record - while Chopra, who was defending his title, took the silver with a season's best effort of 89.45m. "It's already grown a lot. We're already seeing more talented javelin throwers in India. The same is happening in Pakistan," Chopra said when asked whether

their success will lead to a boom in athletics in both India and Pakistan. "When we went to the Asian Games and Arshad couldn't compete due to a knee injury, his replacement, Yasir Sultan, threw very well. The medal Arshad just won will inspire more kids to follow, which is great," Chopra said on Jio Cinema. He was referring to last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where he had won a gold. Asked whether the India-Pakistan rivalry will switch from cricket to javelin, Chopra said, "That'll be possible if we had more competitions like in cricket. We have two major competitions: the Olympics every four years and the World Championships every two years. If we had more competitions, more people would

Chopra, Nadeem look to popularise javelin throw



NEERAJ CHOPRA | INDIAN JAVELIN STAR

ARSHAD NADEEM | PAKISTAN JAVELIN STAR

watch, like the Diamond League and some others," said the 26-year-old from Khandra village near Panipat. The 27-year-old Nadeem also spoke about the significance of

Pakistan will honour the ace athlete Arshad Nadeem with Hilal-e-Imtiaz, the second highest award of the country, for his stupendous feat at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024, it was announced Saturday

Pakistan and India winning gold and silver in Paris Olympics. "I'm really happy. Out of the hundreds of countries participating, Pakistan and India have performed really well. Neeraj won gold at the (2023) World Championships in Budapest, and this is a golden moment for

me," he said. "Our friendship is really strong, and I wish it continues for a long time." Asked how many times he's watched the clip of his Olympic record throw that fetched him the gold, he said, "I've watched it a few times, and I feel I have the capacity to do even better. One day I hope I can showcase this capacity." Chopra hoped that the competition with Nadeem would continue to grow. "It was a very healthy competition, with Arshad doing a great job and breaking the Olympic record. Big congratulations to him. I wish our competition continues to be this strong. We will keep working hard and give javelin support in our countries while motivating kids who may want to take up the sport," he said.