

SHORT TAKES

Proposals worth ₹22K crore cleared

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has approved 11 investment proposals worth ₹2253.15 crore which will create employment opportunities for 3,817 persons, officials said Thursday. The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) headed by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said Thursday that the projects were approved recently. **P3**

1.29cr NOTA votes registered in 5 yrs

New Delhi: About 1.29 crore votes were cast for NOTA (none of the above) option in state and general elections during 2018 to 2022, poll rights body ADR said Thursday in a report. According to the report, on an average NOTA has secured 64,53,652 votes in the state Assembly elections (approximately 1.06 per cent) of the total votes cast. The highest NOTA vote was recorded in Gopalganj constituency of Bihar. **P7**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Number of spam calls has gone manifold up. 5G is definitely better!

FLYING FOR GLORY



India's Baveleen Paur performs Thursday during the team event of rhythmic gymnastics at the Birmingham CWG **PTI PHOTO**

3 Odisha ex-lawmakers' assets attached by ED

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 4: The Enforcement Directorate said Thursday it has attached assets worth ₹2.16 crore of a company, whose former directors included an ex-MP and two former MLAs from Odisha, in a money-laundering probe linked to an alleged chit-fund scheme fraud.

A provisional order for attaching the properties of 'Nava Diganta Capital Services Ltd' and its group companies has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In a statement, the ED said the group companies are represented through directors Anjan Kumar Baliyarsingh, Pradeep Kumar Pattnaik, Kartikeya Parida and ex-directors such as former Mayurbhanj MP Ramachandra Hansdah, former Keonjhar Sadar MLA Subarna Naik and ex-MLA



from Kharlar: Hitesh Kumar Bagarti. Hansdah, who was with the NCP and the BJD, joined the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) last year. Naik too was with the Biju Janta Dal (BJD). He and Hansdah were suspended by the BJD after they were arrested by the CBI in this case in 2014. Bagarti too was arrested in the same case and he had won the seat on a BJP ticket.

The attached assets include deposits worth ₹16 lakh kept in 48 accounts of the IDBI Bank and Indian Bank, two land parcels worth ₹2 crore at Narendrapur mouza in Puri district and Kaipadar mouza in Khurda district. The total worth of the assets attached is

₹2.16 crore. The money-laundering case stems from an FIR and two charge sheets filed by the CBI against the accused.

"Nava Diganta Capital Services Ltd was collecting public deposits by issuing redeemable preference shares and non-convertible debentures (income debentures and wealth debentures) by fraudulently luring the gullible public on the pretext of giving higher interests by issuing money receipts and certificates to this effect without having any authorisation whatsoever from any regulatory authority namely RBI, SEBI etc to do such activities," the ED claimed.

The company, it said, was found to be 'misappropriating' the invested amount and 'diverting' the funds by way of granting loans and advances to its other group concerns like 'Nava Diganta Projects Ltd' and 'Nava Diganta Properties Ltd'.

Woman, daughter run over by truck driver after row

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhamrasala/Jenapur, August 4: A truck driver allegedly mowed down a woman and her daughter in this district after a heated argument over overtaking, police said Thursday. The incident occurred Wednesday when Sritika Chakrabarty (47) and her daughter, Somali (26) were returning home in Rathapadia village under Sukinda block on a scooter after attending a shradh ritual in neighbouring Kendrapara district, a police officer informed.

The truck driver, Amar Swain, a resident of Totakan in Samparu panchayat, overtook the two-wheeler from the wrong side. The driver also abused the mother-daughter duo at Aruha Chowk under Dhamrasala police limits, following which a bitter argument broke out between Somali and him, police said. Locals intervened to calm the situation and sent them to their respective destinations.

However, Swain went with his vehicle about five kilometres from the argument site and waited near Barada Chowk on NH-53 under Jenapur police station locality. When the scooter riders reached there, he intentionally mowed down the two-wheeler killing both occupants.

Initially it was thought to be a case of accident. However, police during investigation found out that the two deceased had been mowed down by Swain deliberately.

Swain has admitted to his crime and was arrested Thursday. A murder case has been lodged against him, SP Jajpur district, Rahul PR said Thursday.

After the post-mortem, the bodies were consigned to flames at the native village of the deceased.

Justice Lalit to have 5th shortest tenure as CJI

The process to appoint Justice Lalit has been set in motion with CJI Ramana recommending his name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana set in motion Thursday the process of appointment of his successor by rec-

ommending the name of Justice Uday Umesh Lalit to the Centre in accordance with convention. The CJI personally handed over a copy of his letter of recommendation to Justice Lalit, next in seniority to Justice Ramana.

Justice Ramana, the 48th Chief Justice of India who took over as head of the Indian judiciary from SA Bobde April 24, 2021, is scheduled to demit office August 26 after

NAME OF CJI	TENURE	PERIOD
Kamal Narain Singh	17 days	Nov 25 1991-Dec 12 1991
S Rajendra Babu	29 days	May 2 2004-May 31 2004
Jayanti Chhotolal Shah	35 days	Dec 17 1970-Jan 21 1971
Gopal Ballav Pattanaik	40 days	Nov 8 2002-Dec 18 2002

his tenure of over 16 months. Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65.

"Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Shri Justice NV Ramana

today recommended the name of Hon'ble Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit as his successor to the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice," a Law Ministry statement said.

If he is appointed, Justice Lalit will have a tenure of 74 days as CJI, the fifth shortest in office. He will be in office from August 27 to November 8. The shortest period in office for a CJI after independence belongs to Kamal Narain Singh who was in the chair for 17 days. Odisha's Gopal Ballav Pattanaik also features in the list of shortest tenures when he was in the CJI office for 40 days. **Contd..P4**

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(545) Mark Secured	(543) Mark Secured	(542) Mark Secured	(542) Mark Secured	(542) Mark Secured	(541) Mark Secured	(540) Mark Secured	(540) Mark Secured	(540) Mark Secured	(540) Mark Secured

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percentage of 1st Div. - 98%, Highest mark - 573

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KIM KARDASHIAN, PETE DAVIDSON FIND LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP HARD

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian and comedian Pete Davidson remain strong despite being miles apart from each other. The couple reportedly finds a long-distance relationship hard, but won't let it get in the way of their hot romance, reports aceshowbiz.com.

MOMOA SURPRISES PASSENGERS, SERVES DRINKS ON FLIGHT

Hollywood star Jason Momoa made a very special trip this week from Los Angeles to Hawaii. He also made it a never-to-forget trip for the passengers on the flight. The actor was travelling to Hawaiian Airlines to celebrate the airline's partnership with his water company Mananalu.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

All eyes may be on you today — for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

You may have a tendency to feel frustrated when the results are not the way you expected, feels Ganesha. You must still work hard and finish whatever you undertake today. You will discuss some vital issues with a close friend and relive cherished secrets with your life partner.

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You may face unwanted events and circumstances. As a result you will feel sad, yet you will wriggle out of it with your efficiency. Put in efforts in studies, says Ganesha. remember that in success destiny is one per cent and effort 99 per cent.

LEO

You will spend an enjoyable day with your favourite relatives and friends. In the office also, you will be afforded rare co-operation from all your colleagues. Financial gains are indicated. It is a good time for lovers, who will experience an intimate bond with their partners, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You are born with a talent for business. Your organisational skills too are flawless. Ganesha advises you to use all your creativity, innovative ideas and ability to motivate others to make progress in your business. Ganesha says you may freely express yourself and make full use of your sharp judgement.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that you will be more careful about your outward appearance and will try to enhance it further. Towards the evening you may impress people around you when you attend a social function. Those of you who are single can put forth a marriage proposal to their beloved today and it will be accepted. Those of you who are married may have a joyous and happy married life.

SCORPIO

Your stars indicate splurging of money today. And this time, you do it for your near and dear ones. After all, what is money without friends and family? You may even go out of your way to make them happy by entertaining them with outings and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS

Staying away from home, for a long business trip may be painful. But, when you strike great deals, it's worth it. Besides good returns from business, Ganesha also has many other surprises in store for you. Be hopeful!

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 Ganesha. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespective of how hard you have worked to achieve them. Really seems a good investment option for you. With cooperative bosses and supportive colleagues, today is a good day for professionals as well.

AQUARIUS

Today will not be your day. You will find it difficult to create a peaceful environment in your home and adding to the woes will your children who will be making things even more difficult for you to handle. There may be some family disputes also, and green-eyed neighbours will try to add fuel to the fire. Try to be calm and evaluate situation with mind not with heart, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

You will race ahead of you competition today. No matter what field you are in, you will find yourself at an advantageous point, well ahead of your contemporaries. You will be able to complete the task at hand with lesser effort than required. Do not let this translate into arrogance as it may come to haunt you in the future, advises Ganesha.

Mrunal Thakur going places

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who was once a television actor, has acted in Marathi cinema too. After being a part of films made in her mother tongue (Marathi), she took a plunge in Hindi film industry. Soon, she is all set to see the release of her debut south film starring Dulquer Salmaan.

Talking about her exploring projects in multiple languages, Mrunal who was seen in films like *Super 30*, *Batla House*, *Toofaan* and *Dhamaka* says, "I am someone who likes doing different things at the same time. I would shoot for 15 days for my TV show and 15 days I would shoot for the film. I never like to sit at home idle. I am a workaholic and like to be on toes."

She further adds, "I have done a Telugu film now. Language should never be a barrier for an actor. What matters is how you are able to reach out to the audience. I want to do international films in foreign languages like Spanish and French too. It is always nice to learn about different cultures through these films. So, I am really happy that I don't prefer to get stereotyped." AGENCIES



Fake news irks Alia

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt, who is currently expecting her first bundle of joy with husband Ranbir Kapoor, is currently going through a very busy phase in her life. While she is expecting her first child post a dreamy wedding with the actor, on the professional front she has two big projects lined up for release *Darlings* and *Brahmastra*.

In a recent conversation, Alia spoke about the spotlight on her personal life more than professional and her experience as a debutante producer.

The overwhelming coverage around her personal life in the media may give an impression that her work is not in the media focus but, Alia gracefully disagrees, "I feel there is a lot of focus on my work. Unfortunately, the nature of showbiz is such that people are interested to know about your personal life and as an actor you sign up for that."

But, there's one thing that irks her and rightly so - the fake news.

Alia says, "The only thing that I get annoyed with is people making up fake news. But, again that's something that's difficult to control in the digital sphere." She claims that venturing into production has had no effect on the actor in her. For a generous amount of time on the *Darlings* sets, she walked around like an actor hired to do a job and not the producer of the film. IANS

One On One will be a fun ride for the viewers: Rajit

Known as 'Byomkesh Bakshi' among his fans, the name of National award winning actor Rajit Kapur is synonymous with content-driven movies. He has been active in films, TV shows, stage and web series for over 30 years. 'The Making of the Mahatma' actor is in the City with his anthology of plays 'One On One', as part of a fundraiser organised by Zain Foundation Trust for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The prolific performer takes time off to talk to **Orissa POST** on a host of topics. Excerpts:

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

How One On One is different from other conventional plays?

Often the stage lovers don't get the opportunities to watch dramatised version of some beautifully written stories. In *One On One*, we are presenting a collection of seven short plays, interwoven with each other, based on some good short stories. I'm sure the play will be a fun ride for the viewers.

Odisha is a culturally rich state, have you ever watched any Odia play?

I have not seen any of them, but I have staged a play *Mahua*, the theme of which has an Odisha connection. We used folk music of Odisha in that play.

How is the response of the audience here in comparison to other cities?

The response varies from one city to another. While people in metros prefer to watch commercial plays, I think, Odia viewers are more drawn towards folk theatre.

You have portrayed many real life characters like Mahatma Gandhi, Vikram Sarabhai and Jawaharlal Nehru. How challenging were the roles?

Pretty challenging because one needs

to do a lot of homework as they are not fictional. It's not possible to match them physically, but through their mannerisms an actor can convince the audience which I tried my best to do.

What role the character Byomkesh Bakshi played in your success as an actor?

Well, I am happy people still remember me as Bakshi and it is being binge-watched on YouTube channels. But for me, it was part of my job and I have moved on.

What gives you more satisfaction as an actor?

Well, I am happy people still remember me as Bakshi and it is being binge-watched on YouTube channels. But for me, it was part of my job and I have moved on.

actor? Theatre or films?

I love theatre because I get my work evaluated instantly by the audience. Besides, a chemistry is built up between the performer and audience during stage plays which is not the case in movies.

Any plans to turn to film direction?

I am yet to get a good plot to work on. Once I get one, I may consider directing a film. At the moment I am content with stage direction.

What are your future projects?

This year, my focus is more on the theatre. However, I have a couple of movies like *Goldfish* and *Agent Durga* that I shot earlier which will be released in the coming days.



RAJIT KAPUR

Raima on rumours about her love life

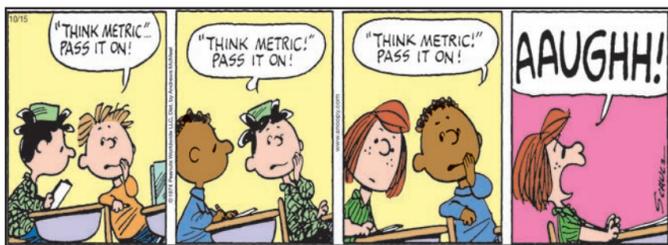
Kolkata: Raima Sen can't understand why everyone is always so curious to know about her love life and marriage plans. She often finds it irritating. During a recent interview, the versatile actor stated that she is an independent working woman and she is surprised to see why people keep asking her when she will get married.

Sharing her thoughts on the matter the *Teen Patti* actor said, "I know what I want in the next five years in my career because it is a goal. But marriage is not an end goal for me. It is not like I will get settled down after I get married. I am very comfortable in my space right now."

Speaking about how she describes her ideal man Raima added, "Someone you can come home to and talk to about your whole day. But that person does not necessarily have to be a man, he/she could be a friend or a mother figure too." AGENCIES



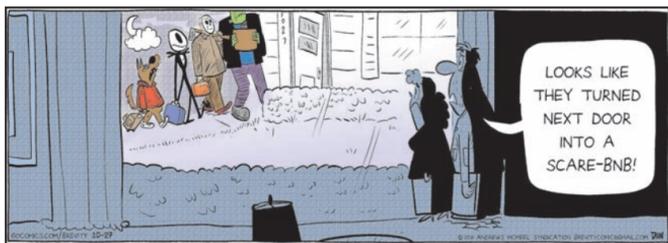
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

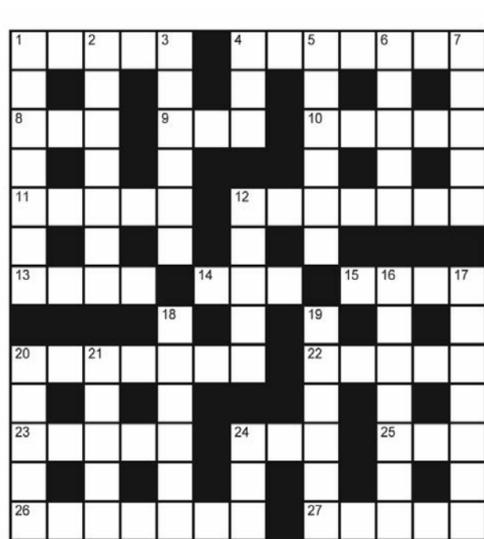


BREVITY



FUN post

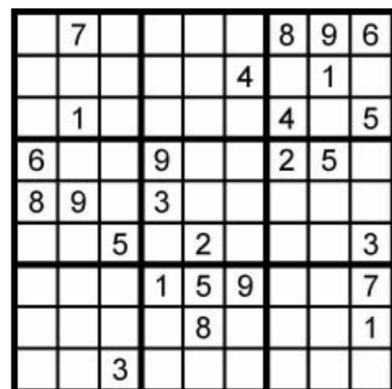
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Office papers
 - 4 Pilot's place
 - 8 Rya, for one
 - 9 Bluejacket
 - 10 Castle features
 - 11 Honkers
 - 12 Statistician
 - 13 Window frame
 - 14 Bushy tailed canine
 - 15 Rainbow goddess
 - 20 Prepare for a snooze (3,4)
- Down
- 22 Savour
 - 23 Rub the wrong way
 - 24 Victorian, for one
 - 25 Bar stock
 - 26 Get all out of shape
 - 27 Mug
 - 1 Optical illusions
 - 2 They stick to metal
- 3 Gun dog
- 4 Elevator part
- 5 Night sky attractions
- 6 Public square
- 7 "Yummy!"
- 12 Squirrel's stash
- 16 Be ecstatic
- 17 Oil source
- 18 Ravel classic
- 19 Flower parts
- 20 Horse sense
- 21 Hanker for
- 24 Eastern newt

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



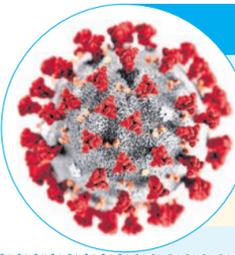
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FEE HIKE DECRIED

Students of Madhusudan Law University in Cuttack stage a sit-in on the institution premises condemning fee hike, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,56,63,225	55,61,95,511	64,28,581
India	4,40,87,037	4,34,24,029	5,26,530
Odisha	13,16,473	13,01,930	9,144

REMEMBERING NANDINI



People from various walks of life, including MLAs Prafulla Samal and Shashi Bhusan Behera and activists of Utkal Sammilani as well as Puja Sanskruti Surakhya Abhiyan, pay homage to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 16th death anniversary at LIC Square near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Nod to investment proposals worth ₹2,253cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), led by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, has approved 11 investment proposals worth Rs 2,253.15 crore which will create employment opportunities for 3,817 persons, an official said Thursday.

Industries department Principal Secretary Hemant Kumar Sharma outlined the project proposals for consideration, it was learnt. Giving nod to the project proposals, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to ensure providing proactive facilitation to the approved units for their early grounding.

The proposals approved in the meeting were mostly from sectors like aluminum downstream, steel,



food processing, infrastructure, oil and gas, information technology, electronic system designing and manufacturing. The Industries Principal Secretary said, "As most of the proposals are from downstream and manufacturing, the units will boost economic activities in their respective areas through generation of indirect employment opportunities."

Adani Enterprises Limited's proposal to set up a data centre at a cost of Rs 500 crore also got the SLSWCA's nod. The centre which will offer cloud hosting services will generate employment opportunities for 200 people. The proposal of Arya Iron and Steel Company Pvt Ltd to set up a Billet/Color coated TMT and Filter Cake Handling System in Keonjhar district with an investment of Rs 175.75 crore was also approved during the meeting. The initiative will provide jobs to 600 people. Meanwhile, Amrit Dhara Nutrifoods LLP's proposal to set up a dairy product processing unit in Cuttack with an investment of Rs 59.48 crore also got the single window clearance. The unit is expected to provide employment opportunities to 152 persons.

90% land acquisition completed: Gadkari

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: About 90 per cent of land for the much-talked about Gopalpur-Ratanpur Coastal Highway has been acquired so far, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha Thursday.

In a written reply to a question raised by Puri MP Pinaki Misra, Gadkari said that as per the suggestion of state government, the alignment of Gopalpur-Ratanpur Coastal Highway has been modified to start from Rameshwar (near Tangi) instead of Gopalpur. Land acquisition for the coastal highway from Rameshwar (near Tangi on NH 16)-Brahmagiri-Puri-Konark-Naugaon-Paradip Port-Ratanpur has started and is currently in 3A stage (90 per cent

GOPALPUR-RATANPUR COASTAL HIGHWAY

completed), he said. The approximate cost of land acquisition for the project is about Rs 817 crore. The work of the highway has not commenced as the project is in DPR stage, he added. In April 2015, Gadkari had announced the coastal highway project during his visit to Odisha. After that, the project was delayed due to a political slugfest between the BJP

and the BJP. Later, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change refused to accord approval to the alignment of the highway. Originally it was between Gopalpur and Digha. Now, the coastal highway will start from Tangi in Khurda district to Digha. A total of 150 structures, including 20 major bridges, 69 minor bridges, four rail over bridges, five vehicle underpasses and two flyovers, will be constructed for the project, sources said.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	58298.80 ↓ 51.73
NIFTY	17382.00 ↓ 6.20
DOLLAR	79.96 ↑ ₹0.17
EURO	80.61 ↑ ₹0.07
GOLD	₹52,181 ↑ ₹792.00
SILVER	₹58,010 ↑ ₹456

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	33.2°C	34.2°C
MIN	26.0°C	26.0°C
Humidity	92%	91%
Rainfall	1.6mm	5.8mm
Forecast	Light rain	rain likely

Bribery: CBI raids Mahima Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths Thursday raided the office and residence of Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) chief Mahimananda Mishra in connection with Rs 25 lakh bribe allegedly paid by a contractor to a senior official of Paradip Port Authority (PPA), an official said. Apart from carrying out searches at the Paradip and Cuttack offices of OSL and Mishra's residence in the Silver City, the central agency sleuths also raided the office of Karam Chand Thapar (KCT) in Paradip, of which OSL is the handling agent, added the official. CBI also interrogated Saroj Das, the chief mechanical engineer of PPA and Sumant Rout, who was working as a contractual worker at Das's office. Sources said based on the complaint of KCT, the CBI laid a trap and caught Rout, who was receiving Rs 25 lakh bribe from an OSL official on behalf of Das. The sources said that the CBI has detained Das, Mishra's son Chandan, Rout in connection with the incident.

Govt urges people to take booster doses of vaccine at the earliest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The state government Thursday urged people to come forward and take the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the earliest, expressing concern over the fact that only a few have been administered the third shot thus far, even as infections continue to get detected in the state. The administration is looking at ways to administer as many precautionary doses as possible by September 30, the deadline set by the Union government for giving free jobs at public healthcare institutions, Health Director Bijay Panigrahi said. "Only 26 per cent of those aged above 60 have taken the precaution doses," Panigrahi said in a media briefing in Bhubaneswar. Around 2.65 crore of the population is between 18-60 years, of which only eight per

AROUND 2.65 CRORE OF THE POPULATION IS BETWEEN 18-60 YEARS, OF WHICH ONLY EIGHT PER CENT OR 22.84 LAKH PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THE BOOSTER DOSE

cent or 22.84 lakh people have taken the booster dose, according to the official. Panigrahi added that around 25 lakh individuals above 12 years of age are yet to get their second dose. He requested everyone to do the needful as soon as possible as cases could surge at any time. Meanwhile, Odisha reported 870 new infections Thursday, pushing the tally to 13,16,473. As many as 157 children were among the new patients. The state had logged 920 cases Wednesday. The toll rose to 9,144 after Bhubaneswar and Cuttack reported one fatality each. Of the new infections, Sundargarh reported the 220 cases, followed by 140 in Khurda. Odisha now has 6,325 active cases, while 13,00,951 patients have recovered from the infection, including 928 since Wednesday. Besides, 53 other COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far. The test positivity rate stood at 4.17 per cent as the cases were detected out of 20,880 samples.

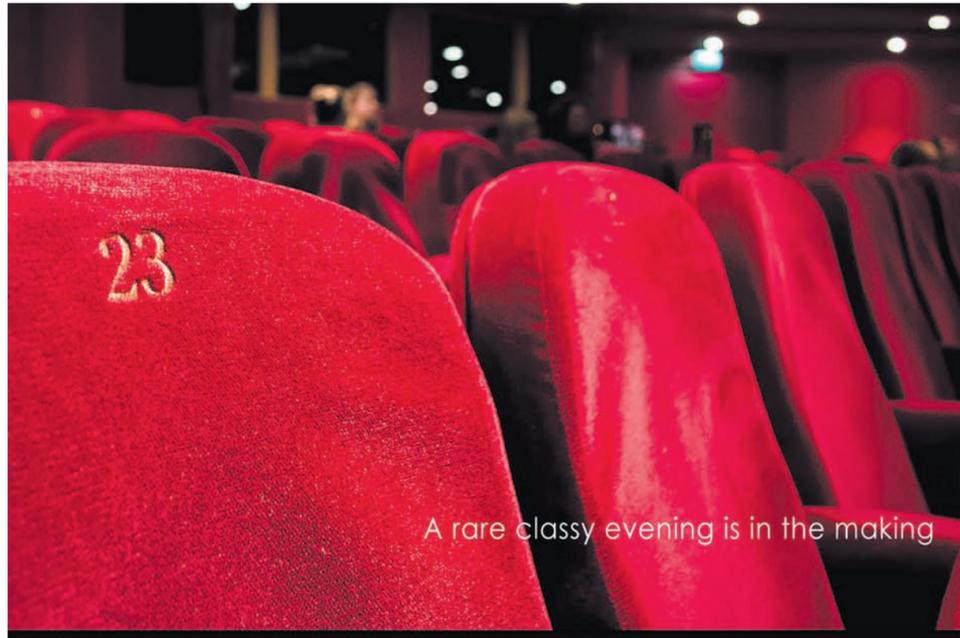
CM asks Union Bank to support SHGs



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with Union Bank's MD and CEO A Manimekhalai

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday asked the authorities of the Union Bank to enhance financial support to farmers and women self-help groups (SHGs). Patnaik said this when Union Bank's Managing Director and CEO A Manimekhalai called on the Chief Minister at his residence here. An official release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that both of them discussed a wide range of topics including financial inclusion of the poor and disadvantaged. "Patnaik has asked the bank to support farmers and women SHGs," the release said. She agreed to the proposal of the chief minister to enhance the Union Bank's outreach programme to provide more support for farmers and women SHGs, the release said.



A rare classy evening is in the making

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Met predicts heavy rain



with gusty wind speed of 45-55 kmph in the region.

The Met issued a yellow warning of 70-110 mm heavy rain in some parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati and Ganjam districts Friday.

There can be downpour in several districts, including Puri and Cuttack, over the subsequent three days, according to a bulletin.

An orange warning of very heavy rainfall up to 200 mm has been issued for some areas of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Gajapati districts Sunday. Very heavy rain can also occur across Puri, Khurda, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Malkangiri and Koraput Monday. Showers can lead to waterlogging in low-lying areas and landslides or mudslides in vulnerable hilly areas, the weather office said. The maximum temperature is set to be above normal by 2-3 degree celsius during the next 24 hours, it added.

area, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

The weather system may form over northwest and west-central Bay of Bengal around Sunday, it said, predicting widespread rainfall from Saturday to next Wednesday across the state.

Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture into the deep sea areas of west-central Bay of Bengal from Sunday due to squally weather

PESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The Met office Thursday warned of heavy to very heavy rain in Odisha over the next several days due to the possible formation of a low pressure area.

Rainfall activity is expected to increase from Friday due to the gradual strengthening of the monsoons and the anticipated low pressure

Admission of 3 students into BJB College cancelled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The Higher Education department Thursday cancelled the admission of three students of Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar (BJB) Autonomous College due to submission of fake Person with Disability (PwD) certificate during the time of admission.

In a letter, department said that admission of Preetimayee Maharana, Priyanka Mangaraj and Manas Ranjan Pradhan has been cancelled due to submission of fake Divyang certificates during the time of admission. The department directed Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) to update the same in Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal. Earlier, the Higher Education department had cancelled the admissions of as many as eight students into the BJB Autonomous College for allegedly furnishing fake disability certificates. The admission of as many as 28 students of Bhadrak Autonomous College has also been cancelled.

Justice UU Lalit to have 5th shortest tenure as CJ

Continued from P1

Justice Lalit has been part of several landmark judgements including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant 'triple talaq' among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional.

If appointed, Justice Lalit will become the second CJ who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar. Justice Lalit, who was a renowned senior advocate, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court August 13, 2014.

Among the other landmark judgements which Justice Lalit has been a part of, a bench headed by him had ruled the erstwhile royal family of Travancore has the management right over the historic Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala, one of the richest shrines in the country. Born November 9, 1957, Justice Lalit had enrolled as an advocate in June 1983 and practised in the Bombay High Court till December 1985. He shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986, and in April 2004, he was designated as a senior advocate by the apex court.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit dated 03.08.22 before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar. I Bishnu Charan Das, F/o Bibhujee Das, want to change my wife's name from Gouri Das to Gauri Das. Hence forward she will be known as Gauri Das for all purposes.

Youth's body found from rly track; suicide suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: The body of a youth was found from the railway tracks near Patia railway station here late Wednesday evening. The deceased identified as Partha Narayan Das was a resident of Lambhitala village under Brahmagiri police limits in Puri district.

Das who worked as video editor in a noted electronic media web portal was staying in a rented house in Prashanti Vihar area under Infocity police limits.

According to sources, some locals spotted Das's mutilated body and informed police late Wednesday evening. On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the body to Capital hospital for post-mortem.

The deceased's body was later

handed over to the family members after the completion of autopsy Thursday morning. Sources in Police claimed that locals told the cops that Das jumped before a running train at around 9:30pm Wednesday.

The deceased's brother told media persons that Das had reportedly asked his mother to pay Rs 30,000 which she sent through phonepe Wednesday afternoon. He expressed shock on the suicide news and demanded proper investigation into the matter to find out whether Das had committed suicide or someone had killed him in a pre-planned manner.

However, the family members are yet to lodge a complaint. Meanwhile, police have initiated probe into the matter registering an unnatural death case.

NLUO organises legal awareness programme on maternity benefit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: With an aim to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene, Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 and welfare of women through skits and presentations, Legal Aid Society of National Law University, Odisha, Cuttack (NLUO), in collaboration with Department of Justice Pro Bono Club and Centre for Mediation and Negotiation organized a mega legal awareness programme and mediation camp under the scheme DISHA Thursday at Jankia, Khurda.

As many as 23 students from the Legal Aid Society of NLUO under the leadership of faculty advisors Kuntirani Padhan, Nikita Pattajoshi and Akshay Verma came forward to create awareness and distributed free sanitary napkins to



all the attendees.

As part of the mediation camp, a group of students demonstrated the importance of mediation as a mode of dispute resolution to the attendees and performed a skit. This was followed by a presentation on the changes brought to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 and how they are benefiting women by Dhiraj Behera, programme manager and Debapriya

Das, from Shadow, Bhubaneswar, a program implementing partner.

The hour long programme was attended by members of the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), women members from self-help groups and girl students from the local school. The programme saw immense participation from the attendees regarding prospects of mediation for various kinds of disputes in the question and answer session.



A firing range to train NCC cadets from Cuttack & Bhubaneswar for national-level shooting competitions inaugurated at Sri Sri University in the Silver City

SOA felicitates Deo for nat'l film award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: Eminent film critic and author Surya Deo, who was chosen for special mention in the 68th National Film Award 2020 for best writing on cinema for his book in Odia - 'Kali Pain Kalira Cinema', was felicitated by Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Wednesday.

SOA founder president Manojranjan Nayak felicitated Deo whose book competed with 21 other publications to get the award. Congratulating Deo on his success, Nayak said SOA would plan to undertake research on Odia cinema and culture in collaboration with the film critic. Deo narrated his experience in retracing the history of Odia cinema, the challenges he faced during the research and documentation. The book contained detailed documentation of 21 Odia classics and more than 100 rare photographs and posters.



An excavator deployed by BDA razes a structure at Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

CARE Hospitals organises patient connect program

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: CARE Hospitals organized a patient experience workshop titled "CARE Connect" Thursday on the occasion of National Bone & Joint Day to showcase the lifestyle of patients post joint replacement surgery.

The event was attended by more than 20 patients from across Odisha who stole the show with their ramp walk. Joint pain is a common problem these days and a large population of young and middle-aged people has been affected by this issue. Moreover, the side effects of Covid-19 also extend to weakness and pain in the muscles and joints. In fact, nutritional deficiency including Vitamin D3 and B12 are also important contributing factors that can severely affect the bones and cartilage that are the support and strength of the joints.

On the occasion, Sandeep Singh,



Consultant Orthopaedic at CARE Hospital, said, "A number of things can affect your mobility, including fitness, health, and age. Mobility is something that we should all think about in regards to our health and function. Not only can it be an indicator of how healthy you are, but it's also an essential aspect of health that's vital for the quality of life. Since joint pain is not normally a life-threatening condition, many sufferers of joint damage or degeneration think that it is better to suffer than to undergo surgery." Meanwhile, Kislay Anand, hospital chief operating officer, said that the Department of Orthopaedics provides comprehensive and world-class orthopaedic services.

Climate change will significantly affect bird diversity: Study

Climate change will not only impact the number of bird species by 2080 but also have profound effects on their diversity and community composition, according to a study.

The scientists related past bird distributions to climate data and then applied these relationships to two future climate scenarios - based on low and medium greenhouse gas emissions - to predict changes in species distributions. The team looked not only at changes in numbers of species in areas but also at the types of species that would occur.

To summarise changes in species types they calculated something called phylogenetic diversity that summarises how many different types of birds would occur. For example, a community that had a

lot of closely-related species, such as insect-eating songbirds, would have a much lower phylogenetic diversity score than a community that included a mix of more distantly-related species, for example songbirds plus other species such as birds of prey, partridges or gulls.

The researchers analysed how the communities of birds all over the world could change in the future and discovered that that climate change will not only affect species numbers but will also have profound effects on phylogenetic diversity and community composition.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, evaluated data for a total of 8,768 bird species globally to predict how many different lineages could be lost regionally, or added, as species respond to climate change



by shifting their distributions.

Although the researchers project species losses to be most common in tropical and subtropical areas, phylogenetic restructuring of species communities is expected to occur around the world. The study emphasises that preserva-

tion of local phylogenetic diversity can be a key to the resilience of biological diversity to environmental changes.

"In our study, we examined the effects of global warming on the regional distribution of terrestrial birds around the world," said study

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, evaluated data for a total of 8,768 bird species globally to predict how many different lineages could be lost regionally, or added, as species respond to climate change by shifting their distributions.

The study emphasises that preservation of local phylogenetic diversity can be a key to the resilience of biological diversity to environmental changes.

lead author, Alke Voskamp of Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Germany.

"The focus was on the effects on species richness as well as on various aspects of phylogenetic di-

versity, primarily how closely related the species are to each other," Voskamp said. Study co-author, Professor Stephen Willis of Durham University, UK noted that the diversity of lineages is very often related to the diversity of traits that species possess and thus to their roles and functions in ecosystems.

"For example, species from more distant lineages often have different beak types, and hence eat different types of food," Willis said.

"Change means that the ecosystem functions that birds perform in an area may also change in the future, with potential consequences for food webs, seed dispersal and plant pollination," he added.

The research highlights the importance of considering diverse measures in climate impact assessments. PTI

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SHORT TAKES

■ Youth held for kidnap, rape

Aska: A minor girl was allegedly raped by a youth after being kidnapped from her home here in Ganjam district, police said Thursday. The accused identified as Jagannath Goud, a native of Gangpur police limits in Ganjam district, has been arrested. Police also rescued the survivor from the residence of the accused. Medical examination was conducted on the accused and the survivor at MKCG Medical College and Hospital. Later, Goud was produced in special POCOS court, said Aska IIC Prasant Kumar Sahu. Family members had lodged a complaint at Aska police station July 17 after the girl went missing from home July 6.

Illegal mining in Ranpur unabated despite NGT fiat



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Ranpur, August 4: Mafia gangs are carrying out rampant mining of murrum and laterite stones in Mayurjharia area under Ranpur tehsil of Nayagarh district despite a directive issued by National Green Tribunal (NGT) to halt it, a report said.

Locals said the administration fears to take action allegedly due to pressure from the mining mafia. Some are of the view that the administration, instead of taking action, is actually protecting the mafia gangs.

However, Sub-collector Lagnajit Rout said illegal mining will be investigated and action will be taken against the guilty. Reports

said 144.09 acre (Plot No-1689 and Khata No-495) is reserved for gramya jungle in Mayurjharia area. A part of the land has cashew plantation and Odisha Cashew Corporation Limited used to lease it out at intervals. The tehsil administration, however, has leased out four acres of the cashew plantation in 2020-21. The leaseholder was accused of doing excessive mining on the land.

In the last two years, murrum and laterite stones have been extracted from 3 acres of land by felling cashew trees. Inside the cashew forest, there are mining pits as deep as 40 to 50 ft. Locals have repeatedly been drawing the attention of the

Locals are of the view that the administration, instead of taking action, is actually protecting the mineral mafia gangs active in the area

Collector, sub-collector, tehsildar, RDC and ST secretary towards the illegal and excessive mining, but to no avail.

Shiba Prasad Raiguru, a local leader, said, "Illegal mining will not be stopped here as officials from top to the bottom are involved in it, resulting in losses to the government. Illegal mining is being run by a well-oiled racket here."

Dillip Kumar Samantray, who had moved the NGT against the illegal mining here, said that cashew forest is being cleared to carry out mining of murrum and laterite. "The leaseholder is not filling up the voids created after mining. Now, the leaseholder is expanding its area by felling cashew trees. The NGT order has failed in curbing the illegal mining. The administration is doing precious little."

The sub-collector hinted at investigation into the issue before a suitable action is taken against the guilty.

■ Rairakhole Bandh over NH repair

Rairakhole: The Citizens' Forum here observed Rairakhole Bandh Thursday over the demand for restoration of National Highway-55, particularly the stretch from Rairakhole to Sambalpur. Vehicular movements on the route came to a standstill for several hours due to the bandh. The stretch is in bad shape, giving nightmarish experience to commuters, local alleged.

PMGSY roads messed up; 5 SDOs may face music

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 4: After detection of substandard work in various road projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Kendrapara-Jajpur Rural development circle, the chief engineer of PMGSY has been directed to frame draft charges against five SDOs.

According to reports, seven road projects under PMGSY had been built in Kendrapara-Jajpur Rural development circle in 2021. However, the quality of the road work was compromised in violation of guidelines. A team of national quality



IN A NUTSHELL

- Seven road projects under PMGSY had been built in Kendrapara-Jajpur Rural development circle in 2021
- A team of national quality monitor had investigated the standard of the road projects in 2021 and submitted a report

monitor (NQM) investigated the standard of the road projects in 2021 and had submitted a report.

All these roads were laid under rural development sub-divisions of Jajpur Road, Mahakalpara, Pattamundai, Aul and Marshaghai.

These PMGSY roads are from L060 expressway to Benapatia; from L042 Embankment to Raghunathpur; from Palimi to Desahi; Podana to Mandia; Juna to Purusottampur; Bhusaranga to Khamanagabindha and

Gunupur to Kathiapada.

However, five SDOs who are responsible for looking after proper execution of PMGSY projects have not yet submitted their action-taken reports on the report of the NQM team.

The engineer-in-chief of the Rural Development department has expressed concern over the negligence of these SDOs and has sent a letter to the office of the chief engineer (PMGSY) to frame draft charges against the SDOs concerned. Besides, he has also recommended submission of action-taken report based on NQM guidelines.

RALLY FOR AMITY



CRPF jawans of 19th Battalion in Rourkela took out a bike rally in support of peace, brotherhood, unity and amity in the country on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Elderly man killed on suspicion of witchcraft

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Rayagada, August 4: In a shocking incident, an elderly man was allegedly beaten to death on suspicion of practicing witchcraft in a village in Rayagada district, police said Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Dai Majhi of Titiguda village under Kashiapur block in Rayagada district. Fortunately, the victim's two sons - Durya Majhi and Lalu Majhi - managed to escape from the attack with critical injuries.

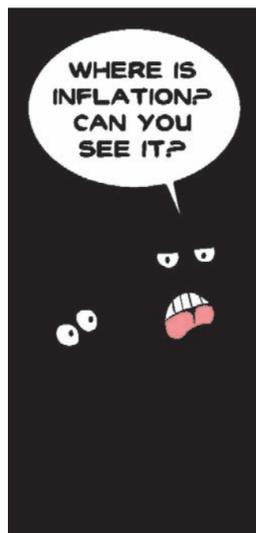
Durya and Lalu are now under treatment at Tikiri hospital, the police said.

According to locals, the incident took place late Wednesday night when Dai, his wife and two sons were fast asleep at their home in Titiguda village.

Suddenly, some villagers allegedly barged into their house and pulled out Dai and his sons from the house. After tying them with a rope, the locals allegedly beat them. Dai was severely injured in the attack by the villagers leading to his death while his two sons managed to escape from the villagers' clutches, they said.

Later, Tikiri police rushed to the village, recovered Dai's body and sent it for post-mortem.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Man gets 12 years in jail for raping minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, August 4: A special POCOS court here Thursday sentenced a 37-year-old man to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of raping a minor girl in 2017.

The incident took place inside Shri Jagannath Temple in Baripada. POCOS court judge Sumita Jena also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on the convict, Gurucharan Behera, of Deulasahi under Baripada Town Police Station, special public prosecutor, Abhinna Kumar Pattnaik said.

The court also directed District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹4 Lakh to the rape survivor.

Patnaik said the convict had taken the 10-year-old girl inside the temple after luring her with chocolates at around 9pm March 31, 2017.

Baripada town police arrested him after registering a case against him under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The judgement was based on the medical report, statements of the minor girl, and 24 witnesses, the special public prosecutor said.

Dhenkikote woman killed by hubby; friend set free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, August 4: A man, identified as Purastam Naik of Khaliabeda under Ghatagaon police limits was earlier suspected to have killed a woman after raping her, but police investigation revealed that it was the woman's husband, Bira, who committed the crime and tried to put the blame on his friend.

The murder was outcome of an extramarital affair between the woman (deceased) and Bira's friend. The incident has taken place in Dhenkikote area of Keonjhar district.

Ghatagaon IIC Pratibha Sahu said that the deceased's husband is the killer and police have registered a case in this regard.

Police said Bira's wife and his friend Purastam had physical relationship. Purastam was entertained with wine and dine at the house of Bira Sunday night. At midnight, Bira was shocked to see his friend and wife in an objectionable position.

Furious, Bira picked up a crowbar and pushed it into his wife's private parts. The pro-

Bira was shocked to see his friend and wife in an objectionable position. He picked up a crowbar and pushed it into his wife's private parts

fusely bleeding woman was taken to Jharbada hospital, where she was declared dead. To hide the fact from local residents, Bira spread a word that she had taken her wife to a godman for treatment, but she died.

Later, he brought the body and buried it in the backyard of his house. Then, he told his two daughters to blame Purastam for the crime. Accordingly, his daughters filed a complaint against Purastam at Ghatagaon police station following which the body was exhumed in the presence of a magistrate and sent for post-mortem. Police detained Bira and Purastam and grilled them about the incident. Bira confessed to his crime and Purastam was freed.

70% handloom units closed in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 4: Lack of government sponsorship, publicity and marketing facilities along with use of modern sewing machines and quality threads has dealt a body blow to the traditional handloom sector in this district, as per a report.

The impact can be gauged from the fact that over 70 per cent of the handloom units in the district have been shut down. Moreover, over 7,000 weavers have lost their jobs to modernisation sweeping the textile industry. They have been managing their profession somehow but the Covid pandemic dealt a heavy blow to their businesses.

They have stopped preparing clothes like dhoti napkins (gamchha) and sarees which had been their bread and butter for decades. Moreover, several handloom weavers' cooperative societies which had been marketing their products and working to safeguard their interests have now become a thing of the past after becoming defunct.

Tapan Sahu, a weaver of Kushiapal village on the outskirts of Kendrapara town, said that many looms have fallen silent as several weavers are now not keen on weaving sarees, lungis, dhotis and towels.

Increasing cost of raw materials has robbed the sheen off their businesses. He said that over 10,000 weavers of Kushiapal, Dihasahi, Hariapur, Korua,



HIGHLIGHTS

INCREASING COST OF RAW MATERIALS HAS ROBBED THE SHEEN OFF HANDLOOM BUSINESS

YOUTHS ARE NO MORE INTERESTED IN THE AGE-OLD OCCUPATION AND ARE MIGRATING TO OTHER STATES IN SEARCH OF JOBS

OVER 7,000 WEAVERS HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS TO SWEEPING MODERNISATION IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Kutaranga, Keutagada and other villages were depended on weaving clothes for their livelihood.

Hand woven napkins, dhotis and shawls produced were in great demand even in foreign countries. Weaving clothes in the loom became part of the curriculum and a school was established for the purpose during the freedom struggle launched by Mahatma Gandhi. However, despite a demand for handloom products

many units are on the verge of closure while others have shut down due to lack of government sponsorship.

Another weaver Narayan Bhadra of Korua village said that weaving is the second form of livelihood for many after agriculture. Over 3,000 people are still engaged in weaving textile products. Their business was completely shut for a period of two years during Covid pandemic while

some have returned to the business after lifting of the restrictions.

However, the weavers are losing their faith on this business after being troubled by a series of problems. The youths are no more interested in the age-old occupation and are migrating outside in search of other jobs.

Harekrushna Das, president of Kushiapal handloom weavers' cooperative society, said that the demand for handloom products is still high but lack of marketing facilities is troubling them.

Another weaver Ajay Kumar Behera said increasing cost of raw materials and lack of its proper availability have hit them hard. Moreover, the restrictions on use of chemical colours have got in the way of manufacturing impressive handloom products. Things have come to such a pass that the weavers now fail to recover the production cost of a handloom product when sold.

This apart, handloom products do not get the kind of publicity that Sambalpuri handloom or Jhel saree of Mayurbhanj worn by President Droupadi Murmu gets, he added.

When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal said the state government is laying stress on improvement of handloom sector and marketing the products through Khadi Board and Boyanika. Recently, the government has sanctioned ₹15 crore to Boyanika. This will help improve the business of the weavers, he added.

DIRECTORATE OF STATE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, ODISHA
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751012
Ph.: 2394336, 2395338, 2396072 (Hostel), Fax: 2391954
E-mail: sihfwodisha@nic.in & sihfwodisha@gmail.com
Tender Notice No. SIHFV-OE-OE-0020/2022-2923 Dt.02.08.2022
(SIHFV-OPP-Pur-04/2022)

TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR REPAIRING OF HMT PRINTING MACHINE (BI-COLOUR (D/D) SOM - 236)

No. E-368: Sealed tenders are invited from the authorised service centre/supplier/agencies for supplying of spare parts & repairing of HMT printing machine (bi-colour (D/D) SOM-236) of the Offset Printing Press, Directorate of S.I.H.&F.W.(O). Details of tender documents can be downloaded from official website i.e. <https://www.sihfwodisha.nic.in> & <https://www.odisha.gov.in/tender> from 5th Aug. 2022 to 26th Aug. 2022. In such cases the tender is required to pay cost of tender application/processing fees amounting Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand) only (non-refundable) in shape of D.D. drawn in favour of Director, S.I.H.&F.W., Odisha, payable at Bhubaneswar. The tender document shall be received upto 26th Aug. 2022 by Regd. Post/Speed Post. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and to alter/amend the terms and conditions of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Director
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Branch: A/108, 2nd Floor, C/O Sundaram Finance Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.

SALE NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Sundaram Home Finance Limited, formerly known as Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Limited., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section 13(2), issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice.

The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below.

Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, by inviting sealed tenders from the public up to 16.00 hrs on 05.09.2022. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 05.09.2022. Tenders received after 16.00 Hrs. on 05.09.2022, and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed tenders received by RPAD up to 16.00 Hrs. on 05.09.2022, will be opened on 05.09.2022 at 16.30 hrs. at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Property	Place for Title Verification
Lalitendu Sahoo (Borrower), No.5, 2nd Floor, Raghavnagar 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, New Timber Yard, Off Mysore Road, Bangalore, 560026. Also at: No 12, 1,12 2a,13 1a, Divyashree Greens, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Domlur, Bangalore, 560071. Also at: Mouza : Ballapada, Tahsil - Jatni, Khurda District, Bhubaneswar-754213.	Rs. 49,28,751/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty One Only) as of 05.08.2022 +Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	Rs.10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only) Earnest Money Deposit 25% of the Tender Amount	Sundaram Home Finance Limited A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007. Place for Opening of Tender M/s. Sundaram Home Finance Limited, 23, Cathedral Garden Road, 2nd Floor, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034 Date of opening the Tender 05.09.2022 @ 16.30

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES: All the piece and parcel of the property comprised in Khata No.186/311, Shitiban, Plot No.170, Kisan: Gharabari, measuring Ac.0.011decs. Out of total area Ac.0.026decs. And property comprised in Khata No.186/218 Shitiban, Plot No.170/667, Kisan: Ghara, measuring an extent of Ac.0.017decs. Out of total area Ac.0.054decs. In Total One Mouza, Two Khata, Two Plots, Sub Plot B, admeasuring Ac.0.028decs. Situated at P.S.No.17, under the Jurisdiction S.R.Khandagiri, Mouza-Ballapada, P.S.Bhubaneswar, Tahasil-Jathi, District-Khurda. Bounded on the: North By :Plot No.46, South By : Road, East By : Rev.Plot No.171, West By : Sub-Plot No.A. Which is more fully and particularly described in the Title Deed.

Note : The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Lalitendu Sahoo, Loan Account No.66200020, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200020.pdf

Date: 05-08-2022 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER

FOCUS INDO-MALDIVES TIES

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST



Although politics and politicians change, the assurance given by Ibrahim Solih is heartening for India. New Delhi has to carry its neighbours in trust and confidence

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's four-day visit to India marks a turning point in South Asian politics as China meddles in it, and internal rebellion in countries such as Sri Lanka poses a potential threat of spreading to other countries in the region. The visit, which began Monday, is hailed by both sides as a manifestation of their respective friendly foreign policies towards each other. For Maldives, it is 'India First' and for India, it is 'Neighbourhood First'. Both the strategies claim to work in tandem to tackle shared concerns and promote mutual interests.

The second important backdrop to this visit consists of the 'leadership tension' between President Solih and the Speaker and former President Mohamed Nasheed. In fact, Solih's visit takes place in the face of a number of controversies raging back home, involving a delicate balance between his former friend Nasheed as well as religious extremist parties in his ruling coalition. Recall, angry youth had this June disrupted the yoga event held at a stadium in Male organised by the Indian High Commission, calling it 'un-Islamic'. A serious confrontation is afoot in Male as a no-confidence motion is sought to be moved against Speaker Nasheed protesting against the arrest of Nazim Abdul Sattar, an attorney and a brother. Nasheed claims the arrest as well as the no-confidence vote 'would benefit radical elements in the country'. The Government of India, however, is quiet on the internal tension.

South Block is asserting that Maldives, though the smallest country in Asia, is India's key neighbour and is known as the toll gate of the Indian Ocean. Maldives straddles a 960-km-long undersea ridge stretching north to south and forming a wall in the Indian Ocean. Though small in size, the geo-strategic importance of the island nation is significant. Notably, India's relations with Maldives have been multi-dimensional, largely cordial and cooperative. However, these were deeply strained under Maldives's pro-China ex-President Abdullah Yameen, who spearheaded the 'India Out' campaign. In recent years, both sides assert that the partnership has witnessed rapid growth in most areas of cooperation, especially in the field of development. New Delhi has already given the island nation over 1.2 billion USD for upgradation of infrastructure and is engaged in additional 45 infrastructure development projects. This visit is supposed to lend a fresh momentum to the bilateral relations, tightening geopolitical, security, and economic ties. A tweet from Ministry of External Affairs characterises and sums up the relationship. It reads: "A warm welcome to a close friend and a maritime neighbour: Ibrahim Mohammad Solih's official visit to India provides an opportunity to nurture the unwavering friendship between our two countries and will lend further momentum to the multifaceted partnership."

As India declares that Maldives has always been a close and significant maritime neighbour, New Delhi has extended timely help to it. President Solih acknowledged India's contribution to the development and stability of the island nation and highlighted the positive role in his country's affairs in the past two years. In particular, he thanked the Indian government for helping out in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply of vaccines. Notably, India has extended a further support of 100 billion USD as line of credit for augmenting development activities and decided to support in 2020, implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project in Maldives. President Solih announced that the Male connectivity projects will be completed under India's 100 million USD grant and 400 million USD line of credit from the US. Addressing the media, Solih said: "Maldives-India relationship goes beyond diplomacy. This visit is an affirmation for the close bond between our two countries."

Both the countries inked six agreements in various areas and issued a joint statement, which significantly reiterated that both countries would not allow their territories to be used against the other. It said, "This partnership is a force of stability in the Indian Ocean region." The six pacts are expected to facilitate cooperation in capacity building, cybersecurity,

housing, disaster management and infrastructure development in Maldives. In order to counter transnational crimes and terrorism in the Indian Ocean region, both signed a cybersecurity agreement, wherein Prime Minister Modi said, "Chances of terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational crimes are high in the Indian Ocean region. We have, therefore, decided to increase cooperation in this field, which will include training and capacity building of the security officials in Maldives."

On surveillance, India announced to provide Landing Craft Assault (LCA) to the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and another warship to replace CGS Hurabee, a naval patrol vessel gifted in 2006. It will also provide 24 utility vehicles to MNDF. Another agreement is to design and construct 61 police infrastructures across Maldives. Remember, that India had built a National College for Policing and Law Enforcement in Addu city, which was inaugurated by EAM S Jaishankar on his earlier visit this year. Further, New Delhi has been supporting construction of social housing units in Maldives.

Although politics and politicians change, the assurance given by Ibrahim Solih is heartening for India. New Delhi has to carry its neighbours in trust and confidence. Solih said, "Maldives will remain a true friend of India... India has always been a reliable ally to Maldives through thick and thin."

The height of his acknowledgement of friendship with India was when he said, "It is during my administration thus far, that we have reached the pinnacle of our diplomatic and economic relations." He affirmed, "On our part, our relations with India will always be of highest priority." New Delhi should reciprocate such confidence of her smaller neighbours.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC. @INFA



DK Giri

SOUTH BLOCK IS ASSERTING THAT MALDIVES, THOUGH THE SMALLEST COUNTRY IN ASIA, IS INDIA'S KEY NEIGHBOUR



Slavoj Žižek

Ultimately, both sides are fighting over the spoils of a system in which they are wholly complicit

The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.

THE MOTHER



Woke Left & Alt-Right

The Canadian psychologist and Alt-right media fixture Jordan Peterson recently stumbled onto an important insight. In a podcast episode titled "Russia vs. Ukraine or Civil War in the West?," he recognised a link between the war in Europe and the conflict between the liberal mainstream and the new populist Right in North America and Europe.

Although Peterson initially condemns Russian President Vladimir Putin's war of aggression, his stance gradually morphs into a kind of metaphysical defence of Russia. Referencing Dostoevsky's Diaries, he suggests that Western European hedonist individualism is far inferior to Russian collective spirituality, before duly endorsing the Kremlin's designation of contemporary Western liberal civilisation as "degenerate." He describes postmodernism as a transformation of Marxism that seeks to destroy the foundations of Christian civilisation. Viewed in this light, the war in Ukraine is a contest between traditional Christian values and a new form of communist degeneracy.

This language will be familiar to anyone familiar with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's regime, or with the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol. As CNN's John Blake put it, that day "marked the first time many Americans realized the US is facing a burgeoning White Christian nationalist movement," which "uses Christian language to cloak sexism and hostility to Black people and non-White immigrants in its quest to create a White Christian America." This worldview has now "infiltrated the religious mainstream so thoroughly that virtually any conservative Christian pastor who tries to challenge its ideology risks their career."

The fact that Peterson has assumed a pro-Russian, anti-communist position is indicative of a broader trend. In the United States, many Republican Party lawmakers have refused to support Ukraine. JD Vance, a Donald Trump-backed Republican Senate candidate from Ohio, finds it "insulting and strategically stupid to devote billions of resources to Ukraine while ignoring the problems in our own country." And Matt Gaetz, a Republican member of the House of Representatives from Florida, is committed to ending US support for Ukraine if his party wins control of the chamber this November.

But does accepting Peterson's premise that Russia's war and the Alt-right in the US are platoons of the same global movement mean that Leftists should simply take the opposite side? Here, the situation gets more complicated. Although Peterson claims to oppose communism, he is attacking a major consequence of global capitalism. As Marx and Engels wrote more than 150 years ago in the first chapter of The Communist Manifesto:

"The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations. ... All fixed, fast-frozen relations, with their train of ancient and venerable prejudices and opinions, are swept away, all new-formed ones become antiquated before they can ossify. All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned, and man is at last compelled to face with sober senses his real conditions of life, and his relations with his kind."

This observation is studiously ignored by Leftist cultural theorists who still focus their critique on patriarchal ideology and practice. Yet surely the critique of patriarchy has reached its apotheosis at precisely the historical moment when patriarchy has lost its hegemonic role - that is, when market individualism has swept it away. After all, what becomes of patriarchal family values when a child can sue her parents for neglect and abuse (implying that parenthood is just another temporary and dissolvable contract between utility-maximising individuals)?

Of course, such "Leftists" are sheep in wolves' clothing, telling themselves that they are radical revolutionaries as they defend the reigning establishment. Today, the melting away of pre-modern social relations and forms has already gone much further than Marx could have imagined. All facets of human identity are now becoming a matter of choice; nature is becoming more and more an object of technological manipulation.

The "civil war" that Peterson sees in the developed West is thus a chimera, a conflict between two versions of the same global capitalist system: unrestrained liberal individualism versus neo-fascist conservatism, which seeks to unite capitalist dynamism with traditional values and hierarchies.

There is a double paradox here. Western political correctness ("wokeness") has displaced class struggle, producing a liberal elite that claims to protect threatened racial and sexual minorities in order to divert attention from its members' own economic and political power. At the same time, this lie allows Alt-right populists to present themselves as defenders of "real" people against corporate and "deep state" elites, even though they, too, occupy positions at the commanding heights of economic and political power.

Ultimately, both sides are fighting over the spoils of a system in which they are wholly complicit. Neither side really stands up for the exploited or has any interest in working-class solidarity. The implication is not that "Left" and "Right" are outdated notions - as one often hears - but rather that culture wars have displaced class struggle as the engine of politics.

Where does that leave Europe? The Guardian's Simon Tisdall paints a bleak but accurate picture:

"Putin's aim is the immiseration of Europe. By weaponising energy, food, refugees and information, Russia's leader spreads the economic and political pain, creating wartime conditions for all. A long, cold, calamity-filled European winter of power shortages and turmoil looms. ... Freezing pensioners, hungry children, empty supermarket shelves, unaffordable cost of living increases, devalued wages, strikes and street protests point to Sri Lanka-style meltdowns. An exaggeration? Not really."

To prevent a total collapse into disorder, the state apparatus, in close coordination with other states and relying on local mobilisations of people, will have to regulate the distribution of energy and food, perhaps resorting to administration by the armed forces. Europe thus has a unique chance to leave behind its charmed life of isolated welfare, a bubble in which gas and electricity prices were the biggest worries. As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky recently told Vogue, "Just try to imagine what I'm talking about happening to your home, to your country. Would you still be thinking about gas prices or electricity prices?"

He's right. Europe is under attack, and it needs to mobilise, not just militarily but socially and economically as well. We should use the crisis to change our way of life, adopting values that will spare us from an ecological catastrophe in the coming decades. This may be our only chance.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at European Graduate School. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest, and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained. LAO TZU

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest. CONFUCIUS

I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers. KAHILIL GIBRAN

SPECTRUM EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM

A strategic opportunity for India

The 7th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) will take place in Russia's Far Eastern port of Vladivostok from 5-8 September and represents a grand strategic opportunity for India. These two great powers have expanded their special and privileged strategic partnership in an unprecedented manner.

New Delhi has decisively acted to become the Kremlin's irreplaceable valve from Western pressure and thus preemptively averted Moscow's potentially disproportionate dependence on Beijing. This was a game-changer in terms of shaping the contours of the global systemic transition to multi-polarity that was accelerated by the Ukrainian conflict. EEF is always a major event in Russia-India relations, but this year it is more important than ever due to a larger context. Russia urgently needs to diversify from its hitherto disproportionate economic dependence on EU towards the Global South, and India has been designated its priority partner in this respect.

They've already revived the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) through their shared Iranian strategic partner and have thus come to align their grand strategies in Eurasia, which is a major accomplishment. It is now time to do the same in the Indo-Pacific by taking maximum advantage of the EEF to that end.

The Vladivostok-Chennai Maritime Corridor (VCMC) that was jointly announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter's appearance at the EEF in September 2019 as the guest of honour creates the geo-economic basis for bringing this about, but implementation was unexpectedly delayed as a result of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, there's no better time than now for reviving the VCMC exactly as the INSTC was recently revived, which will align their Indo-Pacific grand strategies and thus enable them to more effectively shape the emerging multipolar world order in the eastern hemisphere. The whopping 99-paragraph Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Prosperity that was agreed to during President Putin's visit to New Delhi in December 2021, which importantly was his first trip abroad since the pandemic began apart from his brief meeting with US President Joe Biden in Geneva earlier that summer, provides a detailed action plan for implementing this vision.

Paragraphs 31-34 in particular explain how they hope to accomplish this in the Far East while paragraph 42 did the same when it came to the INSTC, the vision of which has already achieved tangible dividends as was earlier explained. It's now incumbent on both great

powers to revive the VCMC during next month's EEF.

The bulk of bilateral trade between Russia and India concerns arms and energy, the latter of which surged by over 50 times since Moscow began selling Delhi discounted oil after the start of its special military operation in Ukraine. Natural resources, however, should be but a single part of more comprehensive economic relations between these rising great powers. Influential Russian businessman Oleg Deripaska recently told the Economic Times that he envisions his country's trade with India replacing its lost trade with Europe, but economic ties must urgently diversify in order for that to happen, and it'll take a lot of time for that to occur. Therein lies the importance of next month's EEF since India can double down on the Russian dimension of its multi-polar grand strategy to make inroads in its partner's resource-rich and geo-strategically positioned Far Eastern region. The VCMC will predictably have a major resource component to start off with, but it mustn't remain limited only to trade in that sphere. Rather, flagship projects can serve as magnets for attracting other investments in different industries as Indian entrepreneurs build upon prior successes to truly making themselves an economic force to be reckoned with in this part

of the Indo-Pacific.

Russia needs major investments in Far East in order to have a more solid basis upon which to build the geo-economic dimension of its Indo-Pacific strategy. China's already a key player in that part of the country but the Kremlin pragmatically wants to preemptively avert any potentially disproportionate dependence on China there just like it hopes to do in general like was earlier explained. Japan and the Republic of Korea were once considered to be promising partners for diversifying Russia's development of the Far East but those two are reluctant to offend their American military ally by expanding trade with Moscow after the Ukrainian conflict. India therefore does not have much competition there in this respect since New Delhi has already proven that it won't unilaterally concede on its objective national interests related to its special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia.

India as a civilisation-state should therefore prioritise the creation of a comprehensive joint action plan for developing the Russian Far East, one which might begin with expanding energy and other resource cooperation but will inevitably evolve into other domains including academic, industrial, merchant, and tourist cooperation, etc.

The writer is a Moscow based journalist. @IANS



Andrew Korybko

NEW DELHI HAS DECISIVELY ACTED TO BECOME THE KREMLIN'S IRREPLACEABLE VALVE FROM WESTERN PRESSURE AND THUS PREEMPTIVELY AVERTED MOSCOW'S POTENTIALLY DISPROPORTIONATE DEPENDENCE ON BEIJING

The hooch menace

Sir, Illicit liquor related deaths are quite common in India. A few are highlighted and the rest go unreported. In early 2021, spurious liquor claimed precious lives in the districts of Morena and Bulandshahr in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively. It is common knowledge that no state is spared of hooch deaths. But what is tragic about last week's hooch tragedy in Gujarat is that there is prohibition in place in the state. Botad district was the worst hit while there were some casualties in Ahmedabad district. Nearly fifty people breathed their last in Botad district with many in the know claiming the state was not revealing the exact numbers. Manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of liquor have been banned in the state since 1949 through the Bombay Prohibition Act. After Gujarat became a state in 1960, the law was further "tightened". Select star hotels in the state can 'permit' guests to consume liquor in the safe confines of their rooms. But illegal liquor sale has been going on unabated, and the Botad tragedy is a stark example. In liquor related deaths, bootleggers are routinely rounded up, and materials used in preparing hooch are seized and destroyed. Those from the lower socioeconomic sections are easy targets for illicit liquor vendors because they fall prey to inexpensive and powerful liquor sold by unscrupulous elements. The spurious hooch dealers lure and con the poor by offering employment opportunities, among others. When a person indulges in partake of the spurious liquor, the toxic actions of methanol onsets slowly but surely. Nationalisation of the sale of liquor to eliminate unlawful liquor operators, through a national liquor policy, and taking stringent measures to control the free availability of rectified spirit are steps that can arrest hooch deaths.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Diplomatic coup

Sir, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has ruffled Chinese feathers. Pelosi ignored China's repeated warnings, including a veiled threat of military action, against her trip to pull off a diplomatic coup. Her trip is the highest level visit by a US official in 25 years. While China vowed targeted military countermeasures, the US deployed four of its warships, including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, in waters east of Taiwan. Pelosi's Taiwan trip could further jeopardise US-China relations and lead to regional unrest.

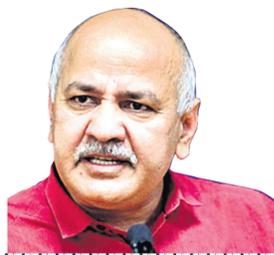
NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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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The AAP government's Business Blasters programme has been successful in developing an entrepreneurial mindset and instilling aspirations among the students
MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

COURT DENIES BAIL TO PANDEY

A Delhi court Thursday dismissed the bail application of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey in a money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of national stock exchange (NSE) employees



of the day quote

Clear land titles are an important requirement if India wishes to become a manufacturing hub, attract businesses and investment
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Like Perarignar Anna said, our popularity and the support people have for us should impress those who criticise us. People and party men hate them and they are not able to take it. Their inability has turned into anger
O PANNEERSELVAM | FORMER TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

The literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh went up to 83 per cent from just 4.8 per cent in 1948
JAI RAM THAKUR | HIMACHAL PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Agnipath scheme: Over 59K register

New Delhi: At least 59,911 youth have registered themselves for the Central government's Agnipath scheme during a recruitment rally in Maharashtra's Nagpur, officials said. The registration for the male candidates during the recruitment rally had started July 5 in Maharashtra's Nagpur, Wardha, Washim, Amravati, Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Akola and Yavatmal districts.

Three rob jewellery shop at gunpoint

Gurugram: Three unidentified armed miscreants robbed a jewellery shop at gunpoint in broad daylight and decamped with jewellery and cash Thursday afternoon. The jeweller was alone when the robbers barged into his shop and committed the crime. However, footage of the robbery was recorded through a camera installed in the shop. The Police are trying to identify the robbers with the help of CCTV footage.

Labourer killed in grenade attack

Srinagar: A labourer from Bihar was killed and two others from the same state in a grenade attack by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district Thursday night, police said. The attack took place in Gadoora area of Pulwama. "The deceased labourer has been identified as Mohd Mumtaz, son of Mohd Jaloo, resident of Sakwa Parsa, Bihar. The injured have been identified as Mohd Arif, son of Mohd Aziz and Mohd Majbool, son of Mohd Arif, residents of Rampor, Bihar. Both are stable," a police official said.

3 militants held

Srinagar: Security forces Thursday arrested three "uncategorised" terrorists in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered incriminating material including arms and ammunition from their possession, police said. They said preliminary investigation revealed that the trio was tasked to carry out attacks in the Handwara area of the district and cause loss of life and injuries to the public and disrupt peace.

Heroin seized

Aizawl: Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police in a joint operation seized 458 gm of heroin worth ₹1.92 crore in Aizawl Thursday. A Myanmar national has been arrested for possessing the contraband, an Assam Rifles statement said. The seized contraband and the accused were handed over to the state police for further legal action, it said.

ISRO eyes share in global small satellite market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: The Indian Space Research Organisation August 7 will launch its smallest commercial rocket - SSLV - to put in orbit two satellites, offering cheap rides to space and eyeing a share in the burgeoning small satellite launch market.

The 34-metre Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is 10 metres shorter than ISRO's warhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and can put payloads up to 500 kg into 500 km planar orbit.

Unlike the PSLV, the SSLV uses solid fuel - hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene - to fire the three stages of the rocket which takes the

payloads to the desired altitude. The liquid-propelled Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) then inserts the satellite into orbit.

In its maiden launch, the SSLV will place in orbit the 145 kg Earth Observation-2 satellite and AzaadiSat, a 8-kg cubesat designed by 750 girl students from government schools across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence.

According to ISRO officials, the SSLV has a low turnaround time and can be assembled within a fortnight, allowing the space agency to provide launch on demand service in the fast growing low earth orbit launch sector.

The SSLV D-1 will soar into the



skies at 9:18 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota Sunday and place in orbit the two payloads at the end of its 13.2 minute flight.

The SSLV is 34 metres in height with a vehicle diameter of two me-

tres and a lift off mass of 120 tonnes.

The PSLV, on the other hand, is 44 metres tall, 2.8 metres in diameter and a lift-off mass of 320 tonnes. It has the capacity to put up to 1,800 kg payloads into orbit. "The SSLV is a ready to transfer

vehicle with modular and unified systems and with standard interfaces for end-to-end industrial production," an ISRO official said.

The key features of SSLV include a booster motor segment with open joint configuration to minimise segment assembly and launch integration time.

It also has a unified interstage joint configuration to enable quick integration and launch, and miniaturised low cost avionics system with industrial commercial off-the-shelf components.

The SSLV also has multi-satellite accommodation with a multi-satellite adaptor deck and a digital control system with fully indigenous electro-mechanical actuators.

Raut's ED custody extended till Aug 8; wife summoned



Raut, who was arrested in the early hours of Monday in an alleged money-laundering case, was remanded to ED custody till August 4 and produced before a Special PMLA Court this afternoon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 4: A Mumbai Special Court Thursday extended Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's custody to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) by 4 days till August 8.

The ED has also summoned Raut's wife Varsha for investigation after certain fresh details have emerged in the case.

Raut, who was arrested in the early hours of Monday in an alleged money-laundering case, was remanded to ED custody till August 4 and produced before a Special PMLA Court this afternoon.

The ED sought an extended custody for Raut till August 10 as it had secured certain documents and wanted to probe related matters, besides investigating other accused in the 2018 case pertaining to money-laundering arising out of the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Goregaon.

At the hearing, Raut and his lawyers informed the Special Judge M.G. Deshpande of lack of proper ventilation in his jail cell but the ED lawyers dismissed the charges saying he is lodged in an aircon-

ditioned cell. Pleading for custody till August 10, the ED's Special Counsel Hiten Venegaonkar argued that Raut was not cooperating with the investigators and evading replies, the sleuths wanted to probe the bank transactions in his wife (Varsha Sanjay Raut)'s accounts, comprising ₹1.08 crore and an additional ₹1.17 crore.

Raut's Senior Advocate Manoj Mohite contended that the ED has already carried out a thorough probe and his client's statement was recorded prior to the arrest August 1, but hardly any investigation was done after he was taken into custody with the same allegations being repeated.

Special Judge Deshpande said that the ED has made legitimate progress in its probe and certain aspects require to be investigated by confronting the accused with the witnesses.

It may be recalled that the ED had raided Raut's residence in Bhandup at dawn on Sunday (July 31), interrogated him at his home for nearly 10 hours before taking him to the agency's office under detention for further questioning, and finally arrested him shortly after midnight Monday.

The ED has alleged that one of the project developers who indulged in a scam of over ₹1,039 crore is a close associate of Sanjay Raut. Raut's team has claimed that the entire case is politically motivated and intended to harass him as he has been exposing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since the past over two-and-half years. Meanwhile, Raut's brother, Shiv Sena MLA Sunil Raut said that they had full faith in the judiciary and the BJP is scared of him.

ED summons Kharge during Parl session

The ED resumed its searches at the office of Young Indian in the National Herald case after Mallikarjun Kharge presented himself before the probe agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: The Congress Thursday raised the issue of ED action and police gherao of its party office and the residences of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, with Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge saying in the Rajya Sabha that he has been summoned by the ED at a time when Parliament is in session.

The ED resumed its searches at the office of Young Indian (YI) here in the National Herald case after Mallikarjun Kharge presented himself before the probe agency with the Congress slamming the summons to the senior party leader right in the middle of the Parliament session.

The appearance of 80-year-old Kharge before the officials of Enforcement Directorate (ED) at the Herald House building and its



action in the money laundering case linked to the Congress-owned newspaper also turned into a slugfest between the Congress and the BJP after the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha told the House during Question Hour he was summoned to appear at 12.30 PM.

The Congress also raised the issue of ED action in both the Houses of Parliament and caused disruptions. While Kharge, who was quizzed for over seven hours, alleged this was an attempt to "frighten and intimidate" the Congress and wondered if democracy would remain alive, his party said the ED summons during the working hours of Parliament was a "black chapter of democracy" and an "insult" to the legislature.

Union minister Piyush Goyal, who is the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, hit back and re-

jected Kharge's charge as "baseless". He maintained that the government does not interfere in the functioning of law enforcement agencies, and asked the Congress leaders to face the law instead of running away.

Launching a scathing attack on the Prime Minister, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he is "not afraid of Narendra Modi" and will not be "intimidated" by the ED action in the National Herald case.

Rahul's attack drew a sharp response from the BJP which accused the Congress of trying to spread "anarchy" and "abusing and intimidating" the ED.

"Sonia Gandhi and Rahul should know that they are not above law. The country is governed by the Constitution," BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

Targeting the government, the Congress said Kharge's summoning by the ED during the working hours of Parliament was an "insult" to the legislature and alleged that "Modishahi" is reaching a new low. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Kharge was called by the probe agency when Parliament is in session and he left around 12:20 pm and presented himself.



Young women eat corn on the cob, bought from a street vendor standing behind the Taj Mahal, in Agra

1.29 crore votes cast for NOTA in last five years: ADR

NOTA secured the highest number of votes in Maharashtra (7,42,134) in state Assembly Elections, 2019, and secured the lowest number of NOTA votes (2,917) in Mizoram Assembly Elections, 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

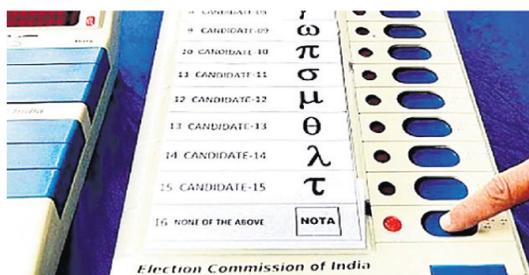
New Delhi, August 4: About 1.29 crore votes were cast for NOTA option in the last five years in state and general elections, poll rights body ADR said Thursday.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the number of votes secured by NOTA (None of the above) in various elections during 2018 to 2022. According to the report, on an average

NOTA has secured 64,53,652 votes (64.53 lakhs) in the state assembly elections.

The report said overall, NOTA secured 65,23,975 (1.06 per cent) votes. Among the NOTA votes in Lok Sabha elections, the highest number of votes i.e., 51,660 was in Gopalganj (SC) constituency in Bihar while the lowest number of NOTA votes i.e., 100 was in Lakshadweep.

Among state assembly elections, NOTA has secured the highest percentage of votes in 2020 at 1.46 per



cent (7,49,360 votes) in two states assembly elections of Bihar (7,06,252 votes) and NCT Delhi (43,108 votes).

NOTA secured lowest percentage of votes in 2022, i.e., 0.70 per cent (8, 15,430 votes) in five states assembly elections (combined) of Goa (10,629 votes),

Manipur (10,349 votes), Punjab (1,10,308 votes), Uttar Pradesh (6,37,304 votes) and Uttarakhand (46,840 votes), the report said.

NOTA secured the highest number of votes in Maharashtra (7,42,134) in state Assembly Elections, 2019, and secured the

lowest number of NOTA votes (2,917) in Mizoram Assembly Elections, 2018. NOTA secured the highest percentage of vote share i.e., 1.98 per cent in Chhattisgarh state assembly, 2018, it said.

NOTA secured the lowest percentage of vote share i.e., 0.46 per cent in both Delhi State Assembly Elections, 2020 and Mizoram State Assembly Elections, 2018. Constituency wise, NOTA has secured as high as 27,500 votes in Latur Rural constituency of Maharashtra and as low as nine votes in Tali constituency of Arunachal Pradesh.

In few constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh such as Dirang, Along East, Yachuli and Nagaland's one constituency Northern Angami the candidate did not have any

RAIN HAVOC Kerala: Red alert in eight districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 4: A red alert was declared in 8 districts of Kerala Thursday by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) as rains continued to lash various parts of the state and disrupted the day-to-day lives of the people as roads got flooded or caved in and many got displaced from their homes to relief camps.



IMD issued a red alert for the day in the districts of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad and Kannur and Orange alert in remaining districts except for Thiruvananthapuram where a Yellow alert is in place.

A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rains of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while orange alert means very heavy rains of 6 cm to 20 cm. A yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 and 11 cm.

The inclement weather in the state resulted in water levels of various rivers - like Chalakkudi, Pampa, Manimala and Achankovil - in various districts rising close to or crossing danger levels.

As the rains intensified in the state and in anticipation of water in Chalakkudi river rising further, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan warned residents along its banks and those in low-lying areas of Thrissur and Ernakulam districts to be cautious and to be ready to evacuate as per instructions of the authorities.

CUET-UG: Second shift exam cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG had a bad start Thursday with technical glitches and administrative issues forcing the NTA to cancel second shift exam across all 489 centres and postpone first shift at some locations in 17 states.

"Due to various administrative and technical reasons, the CUET (UG)-2022 scheduled for August 4 (first shift) has been postponed to August 12 for a few examination centres in 17 states," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, National Testing Agency (NTA).

"Further, because of technical reasons, the question paper for the second shift of the examination could only be uploaded at 5 pm and the download at 489 centres could start at 5:25 pm, while the exam was scheduled to begin from 3 pm," she added.

Parashar said reports were asked from the observers and city coordinators on ground. "Based on their recommendations, the second shift scheduled for August 4 (from 3 pm to 6 pm) is cancelled and the same will now be conducted between August 12 and 14, 2022," she said.

rival candidates so NOTA has secured no votes.

Red Alert Constituencies which have three or more candidates with criminal cases contesting elections, NOTA has secured 26,77,616 votes (26.77 lakhs) in state assembly elections since 2018, the ADR said.

NOTA has secured the highest percentage of votes, i.e., 1.63 per cent (6,11,122) in 217 red alert constituencies of Bihar, it said. The ADR has recommended that if in any constituency, votes polled for NOTA are higher than all the contesting candidates then no candidates should be declared as elected and fresh election should be conducted, in which none of the earlier candidates should be allowed to contest.

'Breaking Bad' comes to life in Mumbai

CHEMISTRY POST-GRADUATE HELD AFTER LARGEST SEIZURE OF MEPHEDRONE IN MAHA IN LAST ONE YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 4: Mumbai police seized more than 700 kilograms of mephedrone worth ₹1,400 crore, the largest recovery of the synthetic stimulant drug in Maharashtra in the last one year, after a raid at a drug manufacturing unit at Nalasopara in Palghar district, and arrested five persons, officials said Thursday.

The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of the Mumbai crime branch conducted the raid at the unit located in Nalasopara (west) Wednesday and recovered the contraband, also known as MD, that was meant to be supplied to drug peddlers in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas, an official said.

The main accused in the case is a post-graduate in organic chemistry, who got the formula of pro-



ducing mephedrone through experiments, he said, adding that one of the other four arrested accused is a woman.

The raid was carried out based on specific inputs, which the ANC's Worli team had received after the arrest of a drug peddler from Govandi, a suburb in Mumbai, in

March this year. Continuing its probe into the supply chain, Mumbai police Tuesday arrested one more accused and nabbed the main accused a day later following the raid at his Nalasopara unit. The ANC team recovered 701.740 kg mephedrone valued at ₹1,403 crore from the accused, said Datta

Mephedrone, also known as "meow meow" or MD, is a synthetic stimulant banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act

The main accused is a 52-year-old man, who holds a post-graduate degree in organic chemistry. After experimenting with various chemicals, he found out the formula of producing high quality mephedrone and was manufacturing the banned drug

Nalawade, Deputy Commissioner of Police (ANC), in a press conference. This was the largest seizure of mephedrone in Maharashtra in the last one year, he said.

During the probe, it came to light that the main accused himself was manufacturing the banned drug, he said. The main accused is a 52-year-

old man, who holds a post-graduate degree in organic chemistry. After experimenting with various chemicals, he found out the formula of producing mephedrone, he said, adding that he was producing high quality substance.

Police are investigating the whole supply chain and the financial trails of the drug traffickers, he said. Wholesalers in the drug trade used to contact him for mephedrone and he was not selling the banned substance less than 25 kg in quantity, he said. The accused person was using social media platforms, calling apps for drug peddling and supply, he said. Of the total five accused, four were arrested in Mumbai, while one person was held in Nalasopara, the official said, adding that various angles were being probed in the case. This is one of the biggest drug hauls by the city police in recent times, he said.

BEST's 1st ever double decker e-bus likely to roll from Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mumbai, August 4: The first electric double decker bus is expected to be commissioned for the public in Mumbai from September, Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking officials said Thursday.

The prototype electric double decker bus is ready with all necessary permissions and is expected to be delivered to BEST, which currently has more than 400 single decker electric buses, anytime soon, they added.

The civic-run BEST has awarded a contract to a private company for supply of 900 electric buses in phases, with 50 per cent of these to be delivered by March 2023.

The first electric double decker bus is expected to undergo some trials after delivery. Hence, it will be hit the roads for the public from September. The concerned private manufac-

turing company had planned an event to showcase the bus in Mumbai Friday. It had nothing to do with BEST. However, the event has been cancelled due to some reasons, an official said. Incidentally, the metropolis' premier road transport undertaking will be celebrating its anniversary August 7.

The Undertaking had 900 conventional double decker buses in its fleet since 1990, but the numbers steadily reduced over the years to around 50 now. Five vehicles are used for open deck heritage tours, while the remainder ply on various routes, he added.

'WHO IS REAL SHIV SENA'

SC asks EC not to decide on Shinde group's plea

Apex court was hearing petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs on constitutional issues of splits, mergers of political parties, defections, and disqualifications

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 4: In a relief to Uddhav Thackeray, the Supreme Court Thursday orally asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) not to decide a plea by Eknath Shinde group to recognise them as the real Shiv Sena.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli asked the Election Commission not to take any pre-emptive action on the claim raised by Shinde group for recognising them as the real Shiv Sena party in the meanwhile.

The top court told the ECI that if the Thackeray faction seeks time to file response to its notices on the Shinde-faction petition,



then it should consider their request keeping in mind the views expressed by the apex court.

The bench told senior advocate Arvind Datar, representing ECI, "Let them file affidavits. But can't you hold...let no pre-emptive action be taken... We are not passing any order. But at the same time don't take any pre-emptive action..."

Datar submitted that the disqualification proceedings under the tenth schedule operate in a different territory and it does not affect the ECI's power to decide the claim of rival factions for official recognition.

The top court said it will decide

by Monday whether to refer to a larger bench regarding the constitutional questions involved in the disqualification of MLAs arising from Maharashtra political scenario.

Shinde faction moved the Election Commission seeking their recognition as the real Shiv Sena ahead of the BMC polls. However, the Thackeray faction has contested it saying that a few MLAs can't decide about the entire political party.

Top court was hearing petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs on the constitutional issues of splits, merger, defection and disqualification.



ARTIST'S TRIBUTE: An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Lord Ganesha, dedicated to veteran Bollywood singer Lata Mangeshkar, in Mumbai PTI PHOTO

Will Lalu continue to head RJD?

SPECULATION GROWS AHEAD OF PARTY POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 4: The Rashtriya Janata Dal is gearing up for organisational polls, culminating in election of the national president in October, amid uncertainties surrounding its frail founding chief Lalu Prasad, who has held the top post since the party came into being.

As per the schedule released by the party at its state headquarters here, elections for units at booth, panchayat, block and district levels will start from August 16 and conclude by September 6.

On September 21, elections will be held for state presidents and members of the state executive besides the party's apex body - the national council.

The council will meet in Delhi October 11 for the all-important election of the national president.

Prasad, who is on the wrong side of 70, recuperating from a shoulder injury and looking forward to getting a kidney transplant abroad, had floated the RJD in 1997,

splitting the Janata Dal.

Always elected unopposed to the top party post, Prasad is at present enjoying his 11th consecutive term as the national president. The last time he got elected was in 2019, in absentia, because of jail term he was serving in fodder scam cases.

It has been a matter of speculation for some time as to whether the ailing septuagenarian would consider stepping down. The party rank and file has accepted Prasad's younger son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav as its de facto leader.

The young leader's stature has grown since he steered the party to a handsome performance in the 2020 assembly polls, wherein the RJD emerged as the single largest party, though falling far short of the majority mark.

The elevation of Tejashwi, currently the leader of the opposition, will signal a "generational shift", signs of which have been visible in moves like upper castes and women being given a greater share.

However, there are apprehen-



at the helm of affairs to keep the entire flock together. I don't think he will step down. Ill-health hardly makes him unfit for the top party post," Tiwary told PTI.

The JD(U) of Prasad's arch rival Nitish Kumar, with which the RJD has had a short-lived alliance in recent past, believes that the former chief minister's party is faced with "a historic opportunity" in the organisational polls. "The RJD professes to be a follower of the ideology of Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia. We do so as well and we have no quarrels with their claim."

"But, they must remember that JP and Lohia were always against the politics of nepotism and money power," JD(U) MLC and chief spokesman Neeraj Kumar said, in an obvious reference to corruption charges in which the RJD's proverbial 'first family' is embroiled.

"The RJD has a historic opportunity to promote workers who neither have the advantage of pedigree nor come with deep pockets. We have been doing so in JD(U). They can do likewise if they muster the will," he said.

UNESCO TAG REKINDLES HOPE FOR RESTORATION OF BIHAR'S CENTURY-OLD OBSERVATORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muzaffarpur (Bihar), August 4: The authorities of Langat Singh College here are hopeful that the Bihar government will take steps for conserving the 106-year-old astronomical observatory as it has been included on the UNESCO list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world.

The observatory, the first of its kind in eastern India, was established in the college in 1916 to impart astronomical knowledge to the students in detail.

"A planetarium was also set up in the college in 1946. After 1970, the condition of the observatory, as well as the planetarium, started declining gradually and most of the machines installed there have either been lost or become junk," Dr OP Roy, Principal of Langat Singh College, said.

A few years ago, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had visited the observatory and assured the authorities of grants for its restoration but nothing happened, he said.



"Now, after its inclusion in the UNESCO list of endangered heritage observatories, we are hopeful that the state government will take appropriate steps for its conservation," the principal of the institute said.

It is a great moment for the college, he said adding that everybody associated with it is happy with the development.

Senior faculty members of the college are of the opinion that credit for its inclusion in the UNESCO list also goes to J N Sinha, a former professor at Delhi University.

"His constant efforts for attracting UNESCO's attention to the observatory finally bore fruit," Roy said. Langat Singh College, now affiliated to Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University, was set up in 1899.

26/11 survivor moves HC over housing woes

Mumbai: Devika Rotawan, a survivor and eyewitness to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, has moved the Bombay High Court seeking allotment of residential premises after the Maharashtra government rejected her plea. Rotawan, who was nine years old at the time of the terror attacks at multiple locations in the city, was at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station along with her father and brother when two of the ten Pakistani terrorists opened fire. The plea also said she and her family are living in penury and they would be rendered homeless as they have not been to pay the rent for their house.

Twitter call to #SaveSultanPalace in Patna

Recently, historians, conservationists and ordinary citizens of the country had vehemently opposed the decision to demolish the architectural icon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Patna, August 4: The chorus to save the century-old Sultan Palace in Patna has grown louder with many people taking their protest online against the Bihar government's move to demolish the historic landmark to build a five-star hotel.

The call on Twitter was made by a few netizens and by Wednesday evening, the tweets with appeals to not demolish the iconic building started showing up. By late night, a large number of tweets were made, all carrying a common hashtag - #SaveSultanPalace.

From small towns in Bihar to big cities like Delhi and Kolkata, people joined in to raise their voice

against the government's move and many tagged Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's official account and appealed to him to not dismantle the palace.

"Dear CM @NitishKumar Ji kindly to you, historical place should not be demolished...I hope you will close demolitions process. #SaveSultanPalace," wrote user @Ramholkar_ on Twitter. He also asked people to question the process of demolition of historic buildings.

Another user @Sahilrazvi wrote in Hindi, "A handful of historic buildings are left in Patna. Sultan Palace is among them and a rare specimen of mixed architecture. Government has decided to demolish it to make a five-star hotel. On this decision, historians and



civil society members want to oppose it vehemently." A large number of users who joined the trend also posted pictures of Sultan Palace.

Recently, historians, conservationists and ordinary citizens of the country had vehemently opposed this decision and appealed to the government to preserve and restore the architectural icon and not raise a veritable pride of Patna.

Sultan Palace, located on the historic Gardiner Road (now Beer

Chand Patel Road) near R-Block area, was built in 1922 by the legendary barrister of Patna, Sir Sultan Ahmed, who also briefly served as a judge in the Patna High Court and as the first Indian Vice-Chancellor of the Patna University from 1923-30.

Many citizen-led initiatives having a presence on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, such as Lost Muslim Heritage of Bihar, HeritageTimes, Pedal4Planet also extended sup-

port to it and appealed to save the palace for posterity.

"5star hotel!!! By demolishing an iconic monument listed by Bihar Government itself, also a perfect candidate for 'A heritage category hotel in the capital'. What's stopping YOU to make a dream possible. When you already wanted it before...#savesultanpalace, asked @Diptanashu, and shared a news report on the protest the move is facing from several quarters.



We will not flee, neither are we scared of Narendra Modi. Let him do what he wants to RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BISHNOI JOINS BJP

Former Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi joined the BJP Thursday nearly two months after he was expelled by the Congress from all party positions for defying its whip and voting for the ruling party-backed candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls



of the day quote

Jihadi activity is very different from terrorist or insurgency activities. It starts with indoctrination for several years, followed by active participation in promoting Islamic fundamentalism, and finally going for subversive activities

Despite providing good school infrastructure in comparison to other states and good pay scales to teachers, why is the performance of Goa's NAS performance so poor? This is a question that is haunting me

The current regime has no conscience. The Atal-Advani era was not bereft of political vendetta. But the regime then used to show some shishitachar. The current dispensation has no scruples

SHORT TAKES

Mamata arrives in Delhi on 4-day visit

New Delhi: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrived here Thursday on a four-day visit and is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday to discuss multiple issues, including GST dues for her state. Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress supremo, met her party's MPs and discussed with them the current session of Parliament and the road to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, sources said. She also sought from them suggestions for the names of the seven new districts in West Bengal announced by her recently, they said.

40 injured as bus rams into truck

Patna: Around 40 kanwariyas sustained injuries after a bus in which they were travelling in rammed into a parked truck in Bihar's Gopalganj district Thursday morning. The victims are residents of Sugauli, located on the Indo-Nepal border in West Champaran district. They were on the way to Deoghar in Jharkhand to offer Ganga Jal on the 'Shiva Ling'. According to police, the incident took place at 4 a.m., when the bus reached Bhoktapur village under Kuchaikot police station, and crashed into the truck parked along the roadside from the rear.

Plane diverted after bird hit

New Delhi: A Go First flight operating from Ahmedabad to Chandigarh was diverted to Ahmedabad after an incident of bird hit. As per the aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), engine number 1 of the flight G8-911 is suspected to be hit by a bird and investigation has been initiated.

Azam hospitalised

Lucknow: Senior Samajwadi Party MLA and former minister Mohd Azam Khan has been admitted to the Medanta hospital, following pneumonia and breathlessness. According to an official bulletin from Medanta hospital, the veteran leader was admitted Wednesday night.

Baby buried alive

Sabarkantha (Gujarat): Sabarkantha Police have launched a probe after a baby was found buried alive at a farm in Gambhoi village of the district Thursday morning. The infant was noticed by a farmer when he reached his field in the morning. On seeing a tiny arm outside the mud, he dug the area with the help of others only to find an alive infant.

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR



Students holding the national flag pose as they run through a paddy field, ahead of the 75th Independence Day celebrations, at a village in Birbhum district, West Bengal

EAM, Blinken discuss pressing global issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Thursday held talks on pressing global challenges, amid rising tensions between China and Taiwan following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's high-profile visit to Taipei.

In his opening remarks at the meeting that took place on the margins of an ASEAN conclave in Phnom Penh, Blinken referred to concerns over "challenges" in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.

It is understood that the escalating tension between China and Taiwan, especially in the Taiwan Strait, following Pelosi's visit to Taipei figured in the talks.

China has launched a major live-fire military exercise in the waters around Taiwan in response to Pelosi's visit to the self-ruled island, triggering global concerns.



The Jaishankar-Blinken meeting also came days after the US killed Ayman al-Zawahiri, the al-Qaeda leader and a key plotter of the 9/11 attacks, in a drone strike in a Kabul safe house. "A warm conversation to start meetings on sidelines of ASEAN Ministerial in Phnom Penh. Discussed the ever strengthening India-US relationship and the global situation with US Secretary of State @SecBlinken," Jaishankar tweeted.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Blinken said the US and India are strong proponents of the ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific, according to the US State Department. Last month, Sri Lanka witnessed massive political turmoil following mass protests that forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country.

CLIMATE CHANGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: India has enhanced its climate ambitions in the post-pandemic scenario when the world is seeing less action on climate change and this needs to be appreciated, experts have said welcoming the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

Environment Ministry officials said the two quantified targets included in the NDC are interlinked with the other promises made at the Glasgow conference last year i.e. 500 gigawatt non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and reducing total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes by that year.

"The updated NDC already includes 50 per cent electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based resources by 2030. This

MONKEYPOX SCARE

Govt holds meeting with experts

India has so far reported nine cases of monkeypox including one death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: A meeting of top health experts called by the Centre Thursday deliberated on the need for revisiting existing guidelines on management of monkeypox amid rising number of cases of the disease in the country.

"It was a technical meeting to revisit the existing guidelines," an official said. The meeting was chaired by Dr L Swasticharan, director of Emergency Medical Relief and attended by officials from the National Aids Control Organisation, National Centre for Disease Control and World Health Organisation (WHO) representatives.

According to existing 'Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease' issued by the Centre, any person having a history of travel to affected countries within the



last 21 days presenting with an unexplained acute rash and symptoms like swollen lymph nodes, fever, headaches, body aches and profound weakness is to be considered to be a 'suspected case'.

A 'probable case' has to be a person meeting the case definition for a suspected case, clinically compatible illness and has an epidemiological link like face-to-face exposure, including health care workers without appropriate PPE, direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact, or contact with contaminated material such as clothing, bedding or utensils.

A case is considered laboratory confirmed for monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase

chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing.

Defining contacts, the guidelines stated that a contact is defined as a person who, in the period beginning with the onset of the source case's first symptoms, and ending when all scabs have fallen off, has had one or more of the exposures-- face-to-face exposure, direct physical contact, including sexual contact, contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or bedding -- with a probable or confirmed case of monkey pox. Cases can be prompted to identify contacts across household, workplace, school/nursery, sexual contacts, healthcare, houses of worship, transportation, sports, social gatherings, and any other recalled interactions.

RS passes Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 4: Amid continuous sloganeering by the opposition members, the Rajya Sabha Thursday passed the 'Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022' by a voice vote. Lok Sabha had passed this bill last week.

Opposition members led by Congress were protesting alleging misuse of investigating agencies by the government against the political opponents. In response to the discussion on the bill, Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju talked about the need to have the legislation passed considering the long list of pending cases.

He said that there are at present

715 family courts in the country with over 11 lakh pending cases and the government is emphasising to have at least one family court in each district for speedy disposal of cases. According to the Family Court Act of 1984, it is mandatory for a state government to set up a family court for every city or a town whose population exceeds one million. The Minister informed the House that the Union government has already asked judicial officers to give importance to family matters. Rijiju further mentioned that in India, marriage is not only a union of two individuals but that of families and communities, and that when a marriage breaks down, a structure crumbles.

Navy's all-women aircrew creates history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: In a rare feat, five women officers of the Indian Navy carried out the first independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier aircraft.

The Navy Thursday described the mission by the women officers from its 'INAS 314' frontline naval air squadron in Porbandar as "historic". The aircraft was captained by Mission Commander, Lt Commander Aanchal Sharma, and other members of the team are Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite (both pilots), and tactical and sensor officers, Lt Pooja Panda and Sub Lt Pooja Shekhawat. "On Wednesday, five officers of the Indian Navy's INAS 314 based at naval air enclave in Porbandar created history

Lashkar-e-Khalsa may carry out terror attacks in India: IB

The IB has mentioned about the assassination of former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was attacked by an armed assailant. The IB has warned that such incidents can take place and hence during the Red Fort Tricolour hoisting programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extra arrangements should be made

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 4: Ahead of the Independence Day, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) has issued an alert of a possible terror strike in the national capital and in Jammu and Kashmir by IS affiliated new terror outfit 'Lashkar-e-Khalsa'.

According to information, Lashkar-e-Khalsa has been specially formed by the IS to carry out terror activities in India.

Afghan fighters are part of the new outfit, which has been recently created.

A ten-page note has been issued as a terror advisory by the IB. Violent incidents in Rajasthan's Udaipur and Maharashtra's Amravati have been described in the report to show how the radical groups are active who can create riot-like situations.

Apart from this, the IB has also mentioned about the assassination of former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was attacked by an armed assailant. The IB has warned that such incidents can take place and hence during the Red Fort Tricolour hoisting programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extra arrangements should be made.

India to host UNSC meet on counter-terrorism

United Nation: India will host diplomats of the 15-nation UN Security Council in October for a special meeting on counter-terrorism. India is halfway through the second year of its two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. India's tenure at the Council will end in December this year when the country will also preside as President of the powerful UN organ for the month. India chairs the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022 and will in October host diplomats of the 15-nation Security Council, including US, China and Russia, for the counter-terrorism committee's special meeting.

This time there will be more security arrangements in and around the areas of Red Fort and limited people will be allowed to visit the venue of the Flag Hoisting programme.

The IB has also warned that Lashkar-e-Khalsa can attack Afghanistan and Sudan nationals who are living in India.



Five officers of Indian Navys INAS 314 based at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar, pose for photos

by completing the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft," spokesperson in the Indian Navy Commander Vivek Madhwal said. The INAS 314 is a frontline naval air squadron based at Porbandar, Gujarat and operates the state-of-the-art Dornier 228 maritime reconnaissance air-

craft. The women officers received months of ground training and comprehensive mission briefings in the run-up to the sortie. Commander Madhwal said the first-of-its-kind military flying mission on Wednesday was unique and is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles.

'India enhanced goals when world seeing less action'

The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved India's updated NDC, incorporating two of the promises made by PM Modi at the Glasgow conference -- reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels, and achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by that year



is going to take care of the 500GW non-fossil energy capacity target. Similarly, the decision to increase emission intensity reduction target by another 10 per cent (from 35 per cent earlier to 45 per cent now) will cover another 'Panchamrit' goal -- reducing CO2 emissions by 1 billion ton by 2030," a senior official told PTI.

"Net-zero need not be part of the NDC as it's a 2070 goal and these targets are a step in that direction. However, it could be part of India's 'Long Term Emissions Strategies' document which has to be submitted by the upcoming COP," the official said.

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. RR Rashmi, distinguished fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), said the decision by India to update its NDCs is in line

with the prime minister's Glasgow announcements. It enhances the ambition and yet puts sustainable development at the centre of the debate, she noted.

Director General of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Sunita Narain said India has taken important action at a time when the

world is seeing less action on climate change. "But disappointed that we have stated that we will have 50 per cent installed non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 instead of what India had said in Glasgow that we will meet 50 per cent of electricity requirements from renewables by 2030. This is disap-

pointing as we are already roughly 40 per cent (power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources)," she said.

Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW) fellow Dr Vaibhav Chaturvedi said the share of non-fossil sources in India's power generation capacity has al-

ready crossed 41 per cent on the back of dedicated policies, and emissions intensity of GDP declined by 24 per cent between 2005 and 2016. Emission intensity is the volume of emissions per unit of GDP.

"That India's ambition has been enhanced in the post-pandemic scenario needs to be emphasised and appreciated."

"The Union Cabinet's statement explicitly states that the enhanced NDC is a step towards the net-zero goal, the government should now follow this with explicit inclusion of the 2070 net-zero pledge in its yet to be submitted long-term strategy to the UN," he said.

The revised NDC does not include 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030 and a reduction of one billion tonnes of carbon emissions by 2030.

international



The UN Secretariat does not take money from the oil and gas industry
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

NEW FINDING

Large sections of Australia's Great Barrier Reef now have an unprecedented amount of coral, according to a new report published Thursday



of the day quote

It is too early to say if the peak of the winter Covid-19 wave has passed



MARK BUTLER | AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH MINISTER

Ukraine can end the ongoing conflict at any time by conceding to Russia's non-negotiable terms



DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

The threats of the Israeli leaders, especially Benny Gantz, are unacceptable



ISMAIL HANIYEH | HAMAS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Tibetan festival resumes after 20 yrs

Beijing: A Tibetan community festival, banned for 20 years after the arrest of a popular religious leader, has been allowed by Chinese authorities to resume with no explanation given for the sudden lifting of control, Tibetan sources say, a report mentioned. The annual event held in Nyagchuka county in Sichuan's Kardze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, formerly a part of historic Tibet, features horse races and picnics, a Tibetan living exile told RFA, citing local sources. "But since 2002, the year when Tulku Tenzin Delek was arrested on a charge of bombing a public square, the Chinese authorities had barred Tibetans in the region from celebrating the annual event," RFA's source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan to hold polls by October

Islamabad: Pakistan's election commission is preparing to hold general elections by October, one year ahead of schedule, according to a media report Thursday. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has completed the work of delimitation of constituencies and eliminated any objections regarding them, The Express Tribune newspaper quoted sources as saying. "Work has been completed in all constituencies for all national and provincial seats," it quoted the source as saying.

Nepal general elections Nov 20

Kathmandu: Nepal will conduct general elections in a single phase on November 20, a Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba decided Thursday. The Himalayan nation will hold the elections of the members of the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly on November 20, according to sources in the Cabinet. There are a total of 275 seats in the House of Representatives in Nepal, and out of this 165 members are directly elected.

Pope promotes Vatican nurse

Rome: Pope Francis has promoted a Vatican nurse whom he credited with saving his life to be his "personal health care assistant." The Vatican announced the appointment of Massimiliano Strappetti in a one-line statement issued Thursday. Strappetti, the nursing coordinator of the Vatican's health department, accompanied Francis on a difficult trip to Canada last month. Francis, 85, last year credited Strappetti with having accurately ascertained an intestinal problem that led to the pope's 10-day hospital stay in July 2021 to remove 33 centimeters (13 inches) of his colon that had narrowed.

China conducts precision strikes over Taiwan Strait



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 4: The Chinese military Thursday launched a four-day war game with precision strikes using ballistic missiles over the Taiwan Strait, in retaliation to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei disregarding Beijing's vociferous warnings.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) fired several ballistic missiles into waters to the east of Taiwan on Thursday afternoon, with all of them hitting targets accurately, a Chinese military spokesman said.

Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesman for the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, said that rocket forces in multiple locations on the mainland launched several types of missiles carrying conventional warheads to designated waters off the eastern coast of Taiwan. The Rocket Force is a new wing of the Chinese military, which was created a few

years ago under the reforms launched by President Xi Jinping to exclu-

The collusion between Taiwan and the US will only plunge Taiwan into a deep disaster and bring serious harm to Taiwan's compatriots

TAN KEFEI | CHINESE DEFENCE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

- China holds military exercises after US official visits Taiwan
- Taiwan says various government websites hacked
- China angry at US and Taiwan, calls drills internal matter
- Exercises around the island scheduled to run through Sunday

sively deal with missile systems. The drills tested the rocket forces' capabilities to conduct precision attacks and area-denial tasks, Sr Col Shi noted, adding that the mis-

sile test operations had concluded and related airspace and waters had been reopened to civilian use.

The PLA will perform long-range artillery strikes and ballistic missile launches to target areas around Taiwan in the coming days, official media here quoted the military as saying. On Wednesday, the PLA said it plans to conduct the war games in the region from August 4-7. The drills were expected to continue till Sunday.

This is the second time this week the Chinese military announced missile test plans in the Taiwan Strait. China views Taiwan as part of its territory, despite having never controlled it and has long vowed to reunify the island with the Chinese mainland, by force if necessary.

Taiwan has confirmed that the PLA has launched several Dongfeng tactical ballistic missiles capable of flying up to 500 km into waters northeast and southwest waters of the island on Thursday afternoon, a day after Pelosi left the island.

A statement from the island's

If other G7 nations follow in the footsteps of the United States over the Taiwan issue, then that means they themselves have no independence in their diplomacy and policies

HUA CHUNYING | SPOKESPERSON AT THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

defence ministry said the firing of multiple DF series missiles began around 1350 BJT. It is the first time mainland missiles have flown over the island.

Ukraine under pressure in east



REUTERS

Kyiv, August 4: Ukraine said Thursday it had repelled multiple Russian assaults on a strategic stronghold in the east of the country, and the head of the NATO military alliance said Moscow must not be allowed to win the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy this week described the pressure his armed forces were under in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine as "Hell". He spoke of fierce fighting around the town of Avdiivka and the fortified village of Pisky, where Kyiv has acknowledged its Russian foe's "partial success" in recent days.

The Ukrainian military said on Thursday Russian forces had mounted at least two assaults on Pisky but that Ukraine troops had managed to repel them.

Ukraine has spent the last eight years fortifying defensive positions in Pisky, viewing it as a buffer zone against Russian-backed forces who control the city of Donetsk about 10 km (6 miles) to the southeast.

The Russian defence ministry on Thursday confirmed its forces were on the offensive.

It said they had inflicted heavy losses on Ukrainian forces around Avdiivka and two other locations in Donetsk province, forcing Kyiv's mechanised and mechanised infantry units to withdraw.

- Russia tries to push forward on eastern front
- Ukraine says repels assaults, holds ground
- Moscow says it has inflicted heavy losses
- Ukrainian forces had to withdraw
- NATO chief says Russia must not win

If President Putin even thinks of doing something similar to a NATO country as he has done to Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine, then all of NATO will be involved immediately

JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

Reuters could not immediately verify either side's assertions.

Video footage released by the Russian defence ministry showed Russian rocket launchers in action and tanks advancing and firing at speed across open terrain. It was not clear where they were filmed.

Some unverified reports suggest that Russian-backed forces have reached Pisky's outskirts. Supplied with sophisticated arms by the West, Ukraine has been targeting Russian-backed forces in the area too.

Iran nuclear talks resume in Vienna

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vienna, August 4: Negotiators from Iran, the US and the European Union prepared on Thursday to resume months-long, indirect talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal, even as international inspectors acknowledged the Islamic Republic began a new expansion of its uranium enrichment.

The resumption of the Vienna talks, suddenly called on Wednesday, appears not to include high-level representation from all the countries part of Iran's 2015 deal with world powers. That comes as Western officials express growing scepticism over a deal to restore the accord and the EU's top diplomat has warned "the space for additional significant compromises has been exhausted".

Iran's top negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, had arrived in Vienna for the talks, Iranian state media reported. US Special Representative for Iran Rob Malley also was on hand, tweeting on Wednesday that "our expectations are in check".

As in other talks, the US won't directly negotiate with Iran, instead speaking through EU diplomat Enrique Mora. The US hasn't had direct talks with Iran since then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in 2018.

Mora also met on Thursday with Russian Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, who has represented Moscow's interests in the talks. Ulyanov also met with Bagheri Kani in a separate meeting.

"As always we had a frank, pragmatic and constructive exchange of views on ways and means of overcoming the last outstanding issues," Ulyanov wrote on Twitter. But going into the negotiations, Iran laid out a maximalist stance. Through its state-run IRNA news agency, Tehran denied that it had abandoned its effort to get America to delist its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organisation as a precondition to the talks.

US to probe Sikh turban seizures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 4: US authorities are investigating claims of human rights activists that turbans of nearly 50 Sikh asylum seekers were confiscated after they were detained along the Mexican border, according to media reports.

Sikhism requires men to wear turbans and do not cut their hair. According to human rights activists, nearly 50 Sikh migrants have had their religious headgear taken away by Border Patrol agents recently.

"We take allegations of this nature very seriously," Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Chris Magnus was quoted as saying in a statement to ABC News on Wednesday.

Magnus said the agency immediately began taking steps to address the allegations after they were raised in June. "Our expectation is that CBP em-

ployees treat all migrants we encounter with respect. An internal investigation has been opened to address this matter," he said. Earlier this week, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) wrote to the CBP Commissioner, urging officials to stop confiscating the turbans of Sikh asylum-seekers.

"We write to inform you of ongoing, serious religious-freedom violations in the Yuma Border Patrol Sector, where your agents are confiscating turbans from Sikh individuals during asylum processing," the ACLU wrote to CBP Commissioner Magnus on Monday, The Hill reported.

"In the last two months alone, our organisational partners in Arizona have documented nearly 50 cases of asylees arriving from Yuma who reported that their religious headwear had been taken by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and never returned or replaced," the letter added.

CURIOUS ONLOOKERS



People look at the lava flowing on Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland, which is located 32 kilometres (20 miles) southwest of the capital of Reykjavik and close to the international Keflavik Airport. Authorities in Iceland say the volcano in the southwest of the country is erupting just eight months after its last eruption officially ended

RAPID OPERATION

Was Pak airspace used in drone strike that killed Zawahiri?

Reports claim that the attack was launched from Ganci Airbase, a US transit facility at Manas in northern Kyrgyzstan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 4: The US drone strike that killed Ayman al-Zawahiri has raised questions over Pakistan's possible role in the raid amid reports suggesting that the country's airspace could have been used for carrying out the precision strike on the al-Qaeda chief's safe house in Kabul.

In the first high-profile US attack in Afghanistan since American troops withdrew from Afghanistan in August of last year, a drone strike in the Afghan capital this weekend killed Zawahiri, who helped Osama bin Laden plot the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. The attack has led to specula-

tion here whether Pakistani airspace was used by the CIA drone to attack Zawahiri in the neighbouring country

"A US drone flew into Afghanistan from the direction of the Gulf region - assuming Pak hasn't given bases yet (unless this govt has done so covertly) - but flew over which country's airspace? Iran does not give any airspace rights to US mly so was Pak airspace used?" senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shireen Mazari tweeted after some media reports that the American drone that eliminated Zawahiri was possibly launched from an airbase in Kyrgyzstan.

Reports claim that the attack was launched from Ganci Airbase, a US transit facility at Manas in northern Kyrgyzstan. Ganci is a former American military base in Kyrgyzstan, near the Bishkek international airport. It was operated by the US Air Force, which handed it over to the Kyrgyz military in June 2014.



The Biden administration, however, is still refusing to disclose where the drone take-off from and what route it used. The US Department of Defence only issued a brief statement, saying: "Zawahiri was killed in an over-the-horizon operation in downtown Kabul, where he was residing as a guest of the Taliban. The house was struck by two Hellfires missiles in a precision, counterterrorism operation at

6:18am Kabul time on Sunday." Michael Kugelman, a scholar of South Asian affairs at the Wilson Center, Washington, said that the drone strike has generated "lots of discussion" in the US on "Pakistan's possible role" in the raid. "Lots of discussion on Pakistan's possible role in the Zawahiri raid. I wouldn't overstate its role, but also would take w/some grains of salt Pak officials' contention that

Had no info: Taliban

Islamabad: The Taliban said Thursday they are investigating what they described as "claims" that al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a U.S. drone strike in the Afghan capital. However, the group insisted in a statement that it "has no knowledge of the arrival and residence" of al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan. The statement marked the first time the Taliban leadership addressed the U.S. Announcement that al-Zawahiri was the target of Sunday's strike. However, despite the Taliban denial of knowledge of al-Zawahiri's presence, U.S. Officials have said the al-Qaida head was staying at a Kabul safe house linked to the deputy leader of the Taliban.

there was no role at all. Two possible forms of support: Airspace and intelligence. Some thoughts on both," he tweeted. "The geography doesn't lie. If this

drone was launched from a US base in the Gulf, it wouldn't be able to fly over Iran. Flying over Central Asia is circuitous and hard to pull off if you're undertaking a rapid operation. This leaves Pakistani airspace as the most desirable option," he said. On the possibility of Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbours providing that support to the US, he said, "As for Afghanistan's other neighbours, Can't rule out the possibility that some Central Asian states helped on the intelligence side. As for Iran, in the past, it assisted the US a bit in Afg w/CT, but that wouldn't happen today, and esp. w/Biden's attempts at detente w/Tehran having failed."

He said that as for intelligence support, the US officials have indicated the planning and surveillance for this operation took months. "Could it do that all alone, with no on-ground presence?" he asked, adding that if not Pakistan, "some renegade Taliban members might have supplied that information to the US".

of the day quote

The demand environment remained stressed in view of the heavy inflation, which saw consumers switch to more affordable smaller packs of branded consumer goods

Certain commodities relevant to bakery business such as wheat and industrial fuel witnessed steep sequential inflation. While we actioned necessary price increases to cover this, the full impact of price correction should reflect in the ensuing quarter

We are targeting group revenues of ₹2,70,000 crore by FY26. The group recorded revenues of ₹1,56,521 crore during FY 2021-22, registering a growth of 15 per cent

SHORT TAKES

GAIL net profit jumps 51% in Q1

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Ltd, the nation's largest gas utility, Thursday reported a 51 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit on the back of bumper margins from gas marketing. GAIL posted a consolidated net profit of ₹3,250.95 crore, or ₹7.34 per share, in April-June compared to ₹2,157.15 crore, or ₹4.81 a share, net profit in the same period a year back, the company said. Sequentially, the profit was lower than ₹3,473.77 crore net earnings in the January-March quarter.

Adani Enterprises inks pact with IIA

New Delhi: Adani Enterprises Ltd Thursday said it has signed an agreement with the Israel Innovation Authority for cooperation in technological innovation between Israeli entities and the Adani Group. Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) is a public-funded agency overseeing Israel's innovation policy. The MoU will lead to the creation of a cutting-edge innovation platform that will allow Adani businesses to access tech solutions provided by Israeli startups, whereby selected innovation projects will be supported by the partnership, according to a statement.

Tiger Global sells stake in Zomato

New Delhi: Zomato Thursday said investment firm Tiger Global has reduced its stake in the company by almost half to 2.77 per cent by selling over 18.45 crore shares in the open market. Tiger Global's Internet Fund VI Pte Ltd had a holding of 5.11 per cent in the online food delivery platform before the sale. Between July 25- August 2, 2022, the fund sold over 18.45 crore shares aggregating to 2.34 per cent stake in the company in the open market, Zomato said. On Wednesday, ride-hailing app Uber had offloaded 61.2 crore shares of Zomato for ₹3,088 crore.

Reliance inks pact with Balenciaga

Mumbai: Reliance said that it had signed a long-term franchise deal with French fashion house Balenciaga. Reliance Brands Ltd, a unit of the conglomerate that also runs biggest retail chain, said it would be Balenciaga's sole partner in India. Reliance has been on a dealmaking spree, signing agreements with brands like Valentino, Gap and British coffee and sandwich chain Pret A Manager.



Adding a third ramp for disembarkation is a simple yet effective way to complete a smooth travel experience for our customers

SANJEEV RAMDAS | EXECUTIVE VP, INDIGO

MALAYSIA TO HELP INDIA MEET PALM OIL DEMAND

Malaysia said Thursday it was ready to help India meet its palm oil demand in view of potentially erratic supply from top supplier Indonesia. India is expected to see a surge in demand to around 800,000 tonne per month for the next six months, Malaysia's Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said



AMID LONG RECESSION WOES

BoE raises rates by most since '95

The BoE warned that Britain was facing a recession with a peak-to-trough fall in output of 2.1%, similar to a slump in the 1990s but far less than the hit from Covid-19 and the downturn caused by the 2008-09 global financial crisis



British consumer price inflation hit a 40-year high of 9.4% in June, already more than four times the BoE's 2% target

REUTERS

London, August 4: The Bank of England (BoE) raised interest rates by the most in 27 years Thursday, despite warning that a long recession is on its way, as it rushed to smother a rise in inflation which is now set to top 13%.

Reeling from a surge in energy prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 8-1 for a half percentage point rise in Bank Rate to 1.75% - its highest level since late 2008 - from 1.25%.

The economy would begin to shrink in the final quarter of 2022 and contract throughout all of 2023, making it the longest recession since after the global financial crisis.

Ushering in the slowdown, consumer price inflation was now likely to peak at 13.3% in October - the highest since 1980 - due mostly to the surge in energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

That would leave households facing two consecutive years of declines in their disposable incomes, the biggest squeeze since these records began in 1964.

The British central bank has now raised rates six times since December but Thursday's move was the biggest since 1995.

The pressure on Governor Andrew Bailey and colleagues to move in larger steps intensified after recent big rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and other central banks. Those moves weakened the value of the pound, which can add to inflation. The BoE repeated that it was ready to move forcefully if needed to stem more persistent inflationary pressures. But it stressed

With gas prices continuing to reach record levels, both households and businesses will see large increases in their energy bills throughout the winter and into 2023

JACK LESLIE | SENIOR ECONOMIST, RESOLUTION FOUNDATION

that there were "extremely large" uncertainties about the economy - which could make the slowdown more or less severe than its core forecasts - and it would judge what its next moves should be as events unfold.

"Policy is not on a pre-set path," the BoE said. "The scale, pace and timing of any further changes in Bank Rate will reflect the Committee's assessment of the economic outlook and inflationary pressures."

The BoE said it expected to start selling down its huge stockpile of government bonds, with active sales of around 10 billion pounds a quarter, shortly after its next meeting in mid-September. The gilt holdings peaked at 875 billion pounds in December and have since fallen to 844 billion pounds after the BoE stopped reinvesting the proceeds of maturing bonds in February.

Sensex snaps 6-day rally ahead of RBI's repo rate decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 4: The Sensex and Nifty snapped their six-session rally to close marginally lower Thursday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and energy counters ahead of the RBI's policy decision.

The Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel will announce its bi-monthly monetary policy Friday amid expectations of at least a 35-basis-point hike in the interest rate to check high inflation.

A depreciating rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said. In choppy trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 51.73 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 58,298.80. The broader NSE Nifty dipped 6.15 points or 0.04 per cent to 17,382.

NTPC was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 3.10 per cent, followed by SBI, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank and HDFC.

In contrast, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, Infosys, Dr Reddy's, Wipro, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel were among the major gainers, climbing up to 2.46 per cent.

"Profit-taking finally came into play after 6-session gains, as rate-sensitive sectors like banking and realty faltered ahead of the RBI's policy meet outcome on Friday. Key indices pared most of their losses towards the end as strength in other Asian and European indices aided sentiment," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge went higher by 0.29 per cent and the smallcap index advanced 0.25 per cent.



The rupee depreciated by 17 paise to close at 79.32 against the US dollar

From the BSE sectoral indices, telecom declined by 1.14 per cent, followed by realty (1.11 per cent), utilities (0.70 per cent) and power (0.64 per cent).

Among the gainers were health-care (1.93 per cent), IT (1.23 per cent), metal (1.01 per cent) and teck (1.05 per cent).

World stocks were largely positive as investors monitored corporate earnings as well as US-China tensions over US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's high-profile visit to Taiwan.

In Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green. European stocks were trading mostly higher during mid-session deals. The US markets had ended significantly higher Wednesday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.28 per cent to \$96.51 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital markets as they bought shares worth ₹1,474.77 crore Thursday, as per exchange data.

Automobile retail sales plummet 8% in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Automobile retail sales in India dropped 8 per cent on an annual basis in July on account of fall in registrations of passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and tractors.

As per data released by the automobile dealers' body FADA Thursday, the overall automobile retail sales last month stood at 14,36,927 units, as compared with 15,59,106 units in July 2021.

Passenger vehicle retail sales witnessed a dip of 5 per cent at 2,50,972 units last month, as against 2,63,238 units in the year-ago period.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Vinkesh Gulati noted that though there is a blip in July numbers, the segment continues to see introduction of new models, especially compact SUVs, aiding growth. "Along with this, a better supply in the coming months

will help in bringing down customer anxiety due to the long waiting period," he added.

Similarly, two-wheeler retail sales stood at 10,09,574 units in July down 11 per cent from 11,33,344 units in July 2021. "The two-wheeler retail run witnessed poor demand as rural India continues to underperform. This coupled with high inflation, erratic monsoon and high cost of ownership continues to keep bottom of the pyramid customers at bay," he noted.

BIZ BUZZ

50th b'day of Acharya Balkrishna celebrated as Herbs Day



Haridwar: 'Swarna Jayanti Festival', the 50th birthday of Acharya Balkrishna, the General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth and Vice Chancellor of Patanjali University was celebrated as 'Herbs Day'. On the occasion of the 75th year of independence, 75 texts composed by Acharya Balkrishna were dedicated to the public. Along with this, 51 new medicines were also released for the treatment of various diseases. Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh while sending best wishes to Acharya Balkrishna, said that these herbs cannot speak, but today Acharya has named them. Swami Ramdev said that in the field of Indian medicinal

knowledge, in the Ayurveda tradition, Acharya has not only written history but has also created history. With more than 5 lakh verses, he has done a wonderful job by composing the World Medicine Code according to the sage tradition, Soumitreya Nighantu, Saumitreyaya Nidanam. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami presented a statue of 'Panchmukhi Hanuman' to Acharya as a gift. Acharya Balkrishna pledged to serve the people through 75 research books to make the people of the country and the world healthy. On this occasion, saplings were planted by the Governor and the CM. E-scientist Vedapriya Arya and Soma Nair of Patanjali Anusandhan Sansthan explained in detail about the books written by Acharya. A voluntary blood donation camp was organised in which about 700 units of blood were collected. Ramdev, Acharya and Cabinet Minister Dhan Singh Rawat also took part in this camp. Apart from this, eye check-ups were also distributed to about 630 people in the free eye check-up camp.

TVS launches first modern-retro bike, Ronin

Bhubaneswar: TVS Motor Company, Thursday launched industry's first 'modern-retro' motorcycle the TVS Ronin at Hotel ITC here. Designed ground up, the TVS Ronin is a lifestyle statement that takes inspiration from the modern, new-age rider. The TVS Ronin is designed with the style, technology, and riding experience to promote an unscripted lifestyle. Marking the company's entry into the segment of premium lifestyle motorcycling, the motorcycle is an extension of its commitment to bringing in a new way of riding. The motorcycle is also one of many firsts with impressive technology and convenience features like dual-channel ABS, voice assistance, and enhanced connectivity. On the launch Vimal Sumbly, Head Business - Premium, TVS Motor, said, "Motorcycling at the global level is changing. It is moving from serving a functional purpose to enabling self-expression, freedom, and the willingness to explore. Inspired by our customers' need to chart 'unscripted' journeys, the TVS Ronin will carve a new segment based on an emerging lifestyle free from stereotypes, dated codes, and legacy baggage."



Bajaj Chetak EV unveiled in City

Bhubaneswar: Bajaj Auto's Chetak Premium electric scooters were unveiled at Sonthalia Motors (Chetak Mancheswar) by its Managing Director Saurav Agarwal in presence of Sales & Service ASM Gopala Sreevastav and Arpit Srivastava respectively along with store GM Ashish Patodia. The dealership is the first store in Bhubaneswar to sell Bajaj Auto's Chetak Premium electric scooters and has already delivered 60 vehicles on the first day of its launch. Customers have expressed that the vehicle has rekindled their past memories with the old Bajaj Chetak. On this occasion, Agarwal shared his happiness in delivering to the first set of customers and also shed light on the best in class exclusive workshop to cater to their customers. The electric vehicle comes with a fully metal body and gives a true range of 90 kms in ECO mode with a full charge of 4 hours and consumes close to 3 units of electricity. It also comes with a 3 year/50,000 kms warranty (whichever is earlier). Other features like keyless start, LED head lamps, sequential blinkers with comfortable stance and seating make it a great pick for customers. Patodia requested customers to take a test ride to experience the best scooter available in the market. He also shared that the interested buyers can book the vehicle by logging in to www.chetak.com.



Russia is India's 3rd largest coal supplier

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 4: Russia became India's third-largest coal supplier in July, with imports rising by over a fifth compared with June to a record 2.06 million tonne, data from Indian consultancy Coalmint showed.

Russia has historically been the sixth-largest supplier of coal to India, behind Indonesia, South Africa, Australia, and the United States, with Mozambique and Colombia alternately featuring in the top five.

India, the world's second-largest producer, importer and consumer of coal, has historically imported more coking coal — used mainly in steelmaking — from Russia, with Australia being the other key supplier.

However, steep discounts offered by Russian suppliers to Indian consumers in the recent months have incentivized higher buying of thermal coal — used mainly in power generation — especially as global prices have traded at near-record highs due to western sanctions choking traditional trade.

Thermal coal imports from Russia jumped 70.3% in July, compared with June, to a record 1.29 million tonne, while coking coal imports rose by over two-thirds to more than 280,000 tonne, Coalmint data showed.

Yes Bank charts growth roadmap after \$1bn capital raising

Moody's Thursday said it has upgraded Yes Bank's rating while changing outlook to 'stable' on the back of its equity capital raise plan

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 4: Two years after India's central bank had to step in to take control of Yes Bank to calm panicky depositors and stem systemic risk, the lender is aiming to expand its loan book and acquire smaller rivals to revive its business, its chief executive said. The expansion plan of the mid-sized lender comes after it raised \$1.1 billion last week by selling up

to a 10% stake to Carlyle Group and Advent International.

The fundraising marked a rare vote of confidence in Yes Bank, which had to be taken over by the central bank in March 2020 after months of deterioration in its financials and allegations of mismanagement.

Yes Bank is looking to increase its loan book by 15% in the fiscal year ending March 2023 as it sharpens its focus on mortgages, vehicle loans and small and mid-sized business loans, said CEO Prashant Kumar.

Its loan book expanded 8% in the last fiscal year, slightly lower than the 9.6% growth posted by the Indian banking sector, after having contracted in the preceding two years.

"We will definitely be growing



(the loan book) more than what the industry is, but we would not like to make any mistake," Kumar told Reuters, alluding to the bank's previous rapid credit expansion that was blamed for its woes.

"We may also explore opportunities in microfinance, as that is an area we are not present yet and it

will take time to build it internally so it may make sense to acquire instead," said Kumar, who took over the reins in March 2020.

LONG ROAD AHEAD

Set up in 2004, Yes Bank was the country's fifth-largest lender up until early 2020, after which it

Yes Bank is looking to increase its loan book by 15% in the fiscal year ending March 2023 as it sharpens its focus on mortgages, vehicle loans and small and mid-sized business loans

PRASHANT KUMAR | CEO, YES BANK

lurched from one crisis to another, including the arrest of its founder amid allegations of governance lapses.

Its gross bad loans as a percentage of total lending had risen to 18.87% as of December 2019, from 2.1% a year earlier. At the end of June 2022, the ratio was 13.9%. Other state-owned banks and private lenders had to step in 2020 to rescue the bank.

Yes Bank's stock has risen over 22% so far this year, after having fallen 23% last year and 62% in 2020. In fiscal 2022, the bank reported a profit of ₹10.66 billion (\$134 million) compared to a loss of 34.62 billion rupees the previous year. Kumar is confident that its stabilising capital position will lead to an improved rating of the bank, which in turn will bring in more business and aid profitability.

However, analysts and investors remain sceptical.

"Even if the Yes Bank turnaround works, it'll take at least six to seven years," said a fund manager, whose portfolio currently does not hold the bank's stock and who declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak to the media. "I don't think the latest developments will excite investors."

PANGHAL ASSURES MEDAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, August 4: Amit Panghal ensured a fourth medal for India from the boxing ring after winning his flyweight (48-51 kg) quarterfinal against Scotland's Lennon Mulligan at the Commonwealth Games Thursday. It was a unanimous verdict in favour of the Indian southpaw. Panghal had won a silver medal during the last edition in Gold Coast.

The bout wasn't of great quality but the 26-year-old India prevailed over his much younger Scottish opponent, tiring him out with a solid defence. He gained points with occasional ferocious counter-attack. In the first two rounds, Panghal employed a guard down approach to invite Mulligan to go on the offensive but swayed away from his reach with some nimble footwork. In between he did land a couple of left jabs to rattle the 20-year-old Scot and in the final round unleashed a barrage of 'one-two' combination (a left-jab followed by a right cross). Mulligan in fact got a standing count and by the end of round two, the writing was clear on the wall that Panghal will earn a second CWG medal. Later on the day, Sagar Ahlawat continued India's medal rush in boxing, joining Panghal and

Gurdeep bags bronze

BIRMINGHAM: Gurdeep Singh rounded off India's weightlifting campaign with a bronze medal in the +109kg event at the CWG here Wednesday. The 26-year-old debutant had a best effort of 390kg (167kg+223kg) for a podium finish. The gold went to Paksitan's Muhammad Nooh Butt for his Games record-breaking lift of 405kg (173kg+232kg). New Zealand's David Andrew Liti clinched the silver for his effort of 394kg (170kg+224kg).



Jasmine in the semifinals with a dominating win over Seychelles' Keddy Evans Agnes in men's +92kg competition.

The 22-year-old from Haryana notched up a 5-0 win over Agnes in the super heavyweight quarterfinal to take India's medal count in boxing to six at the showpiece.

Earlier, Jasmine beat New Zealand's Troy Garton by a 4-1 split verdict in the women's lightweight (60kg) quarterfinal.

Nikhath Zareen (50kg), Nitu Ganghas (48kg) and Mohd Hussamudin (57kg) have also reached the semifinal stage to be assured of medals in their respective categories.

SINDHU, SRIKANTH THROUGH

Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth sailed into the pre-quarterfinals of their respective singles events after scoring comfortable victories at the CWG, Thursday.

Sindhu routed Maldives' Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq 21-4, 21-11 in the women's singles first round, Srikanth outclassed Daniel Wanagaliya of Uganda 21-9, 21-9 in the men's singles event.

MANJU IN HAMMER THROW FINAL

Hima qualifies for 200m semifinals



BIRMINGHAM: Star Indian sprinter Hima Das qualified for the women's 200m semifinals after winning her heat with a timing of 23.42s at the CWG here, Thursday.

The 22-year-old Hima led the five-woman field from the start with Rhoda Njobvu of Zambia clocking 23.85s to finish second while Jacent Nyamhunge of Uganda finished third with a timing of 24.07. There are six heats lined up in the women's 200m and the top-16 will qualify for the semifinal.

Hima won heat 2 but Favour Ofili of Nigeria (22.71s in Heat 1) and the formidable Elaine-Thompson-Herah (22.80s in heat 5) had superior timings. At least six athletes have clocked better time, compared to Hima, en route their semifinal entries.

Meanwhile, in the women's hammer throw event, India's Manju Bala advanced to the final while compatriot Sarita Singh failed to make the cut. The 33-year-old Bala finished 11th in the qualification round with a best throw of 59.68m in her first attempt.

In the same event, the other Indian athlete Sarita failed to make the final after she finished 13th with her best throw of 57.48. According to the rules, best 12 performers advance to the final, which will be held Saturday, August 6.

Canada's Camryn Rogers topped the qualification round with best throw of 74.68m, which is a Commonwealth Games record.

BORGHAIN DISAPPOINTS

Mridul Borgohain failed to make the men's singles quarterfinals of the lawn bowls event

Tulika wins silver

BIRMINGHAM: Indian judoka Tulika Maan gave her all but came up short against Scotland's Sarah Adlington in the final to settle for a silver medal in the women's 78kg category in the CWG, Wednesday. Tulika, who won two fights earlier in the day to make it to the final, led for majority of the bout before Adlington pulled off a decisive move, an Ippon, to win gold. Adlington had Tulika on the mat with a forceful throw and the Indian landed on her back, ending the contest with 30 seconds remaining. A silver was still a creditable performance from the 23-year-old from Delhi who gave India its third judo medal in the Birmingham Games.



after losing his fifth round match against Jersey's Ross Davis at the CWG, Thursday. Borgohain suffered a 13-21 loss to Davis.

The Indian was 6-5 ahead after the end of round five but then allowed his opponent to make a comeback. Davis then kept surging ahead and eventually won the tie.

Borgohain had lost his first game to New Zealand's Shannon McIlroy but went on to win two games, Wednesday.

He had defeated Chris Locke of Falkland Islands 21-5 in his second round match before edging out Scotland's Iain McLean 21-19.

TEJASWIN OPENS UP ON PLANS FOR ASIAN GAMES

Birmingham: Indian high jumper Tejaswin Shankar Thursday said he has not been able to perform to his full potential owing to chronic tendonitis and it's now a "certainty" that he will compete in decathlon at next year's Asian Games. The problem, however, could not come in his way of winning the country its first-ever medal - a bronze - in high jump at the CWG. Tejaswin said he wants to compete in decathlon at next year's Asian Games. "That is a certainty. I want to compete in decathlon at the Asian Games. That is what I am going to do, going forward," Tejaswin said. Decathlon is a competition in which athletes participate in 10 sporting events - 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400m, 110m hurdles, discus throw, pole vault, javelin throw and 1500m - over two days. "Even if I do not compete at decathlon, I want to continue training in decathlon because it really works for me."



HARMANPREET & Co MAUL BARBADOS TO SAIL INTO SEMIFINALS

Renuka, Jemimah lift India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, August 4: Medium pacer Renuka Singh (4/10) ran through Barbados' top order with a four-wicket haul as India beat their lowly opponents by 100 runs to qualify for the semifinals of the women's T20 cricket at the CWG here, Wednesday.

Invited to bat, India posted a competitive 162/4 on the back of a fine unbeaten half century from Jemimah Rodrigues (56 n o, 46b, 6x4, 1x6) and a 26-ball 43 (7x4, 1x6) from opener Shafali Verma. Notably, an unbeaten 70-run fifth wicket partnership between Jemimah and Deepti Sharma (34 n o, 28b, 2x4, 1x6) was crucial for India to post a competitive total, despite being reduced to 92/4 in 13 overs.

The Indians then restricted Barbados to 62/8 in 20 overs with



Renuka bamboozling the Barbados batters with an impressive spell. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur (1/7), Sneha Rana (1/6), Meghna Singh (1/12) and Radha Yadav (1/10) chipped in with a wicket apiece.

Kyshona Knight was the top-scorer for Barbados with 16 while Shakera Selman made 12. Seven of their batters failed to reach double-digit figures. Barbados were dismissed for 64 in their nine-wicket defeat against Australia in an earlier match.

With the win, India finished second behind Australia (6 points from 3 matches) in Group A with four points from two wins. They had beaten Pakistan and lost to Australia in their earlier matches. The semifinals will be played Saturday.

BRIEF SCORES

India 162/4 (Jemimah Rodrigues 56 n o, Shafali Verma 43, Deepti Sharma 34 n o, Shanika Bruce 1/17) beat Barbados 62/8 (Kyshona Knight 16; Renuka Singh 4/10) by 100 runs.

Ghosal-Pallikal powers into quarters

BIRMINGHAM: Top seeds Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal sailed into the mixed doubles quarterfinals with a clinical 11-8, 11-4 win over the Wales pair of Emily Whitlock and Pater Creed at the CWG, Thursday. Earlier, Anahat Singh and Sunayna Kuruvilla entered women's doubles pre-quarterfinals, beating Yeheni Kuruppu and Chanithma Sinaly 11-9, 11-4. Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar also recorded a straight game win over Luca Reich and Joe Chapman of the British Virgin Islands to enter the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals. The experienced mixed doubles duo of Joshna Chinappa and Harinderpal Sandhu, however, suffered 8-11, 9-11 defeat in a round of 16 match against Australia's Donna Lobban and Cameron Pilley. Later on the day, Sreeja Akula entered the women's singles round of 16 with a 4-1 (12-10, 12-10, 4-11, 11-8, 11-8) win over Malaysia's Karen Lynne.

GOT LOT OF LOVE FROM INDIA: BUTT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, August 4: As soon as Nooh Dastagir Butt won Pakistan's first gold medal at the Birmingham Games, one of the first persons to lend a congratulatory hand was none other than Indian superstar Mirabai Chanu. As an Olympic medallist, Chanu has catapulted herself to superstardom and is not only an icon in India but also for weightlifters from the neighbouring nation.

"It was such a proud moment for me when she congratulated me and praised my performance," Butt told PTI after winning the gold in the men's 109+kg category with a record lift of 405 kg. The 24-year-old Pakistani shattered all the three Games record - 173 in snatch, 232 in clean and jerk and the aggregate. "We look up to Mirabai for inspiration. She has shown us that,



we from the South Asian countries can also win an Olympic medal. We became so proud of her when she won the silver at the Tokyo Olympics."

Gurdeep Singh won bronze in the same category and Butt considers the Indian as one of his close

friends. "We have been very good friends for the last seven-eight years. We have trained together in abroad a few times. We are always in touch," Butt let everyone know the bonhomie he shares with his Indian counter-parts.

For Butt, it was never an Indo-

Pak battle but an individual challenge to surpassing his best. "It was not that I was competing with an India lifter. I just wanted to give my best and win it here," he said of Gurdeep. Butt has been to India twice for international events. First was the Youth Commonwealth Championship in Pune, back in 2015 and the very next year for the South Asian Games in Guwahati.

"I've been to India two times and the support I received each time is unforgettable. I long to go back to India again," he added. "I think, mere Pakistan se jyada fans India mein hai (I think, I've more fans in India than back home)," he said in jest. It has been six years since that championship and Butt wouldn't mind visiting India again. "Definitely, I look forward to visiting again. I never enjoyed any other competition like the way I did in India," he added.

Harmanpreet treble takes India into semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, August 4: Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh slammed a hat-trick as the Indian men's hockey team beat Wales 4-1 in their final Pool B match to qualify for the semifinals of the CWG here, Thursday.

Harmanpreet (19th, 20th, 40th minutes) converted two penalty corners and scored one from the spot while Gurjant Singh struck a field goal in the 49th minute for India. Wales' lone goal was scored by drag-flicker Gareth Furlong in the 55th minute from a set piece.

After the win, India were on course to top Pool B as they enjoy a goal difference of 22 over England, who still have a match against Canada.

The Indians had the better share of possession in the first two quarters, but Wales gave a tough fight to their fancied opponents, especially in the first 15 minutes.

After a barren first quarter, India secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 18th minute, the second of which was put into goal by the ever-reliable Harmanpreet with a



SPLENDID DISPLAY: Indian players celebrate one of the goals, scored by Harmanpreet Singh (third from L), Thursday

low powerful grounded flick.

A minute later, India secured another penalty corner and Harmanpreet exhibited his bagful of tricks with another perfect conversion to hand his side a 2-0 lead at halftime.

In the 40th minute, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists earned back-to-back penalty corners, the second of which resulted in a penalty stroke, and Harmanpreet made no mistake from the spot. An agile Gurjant made the score-

line 4-0 two minutes later as he perfectly turned the face of his stick to deflect in Samsher Singh's high pass. Wales then secured two penalty corners in quick time and Furlong made use of the second opportunity.